

Classic IAS ACADEMY
SHAPING TALENT Since 2009
GENERAL STUDIES
CSAT
OPTIONALS
www.classiciasacademy.com
South Delhi Karol Bagh
9310034050 011-40536473

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY
CANTONMENT
PARLIAMENT
Army Chief Welcomes Women



GUNMAN KILLS 9 IN FAR-RIGHT ATTACKS IN GERMANY

UK IMMIGRATION RULES WILL HIT WOMEN
PAGE 14

TRUMP-MODI BILATERAL ON FEBRUARY 25

Pacts being readied: Homeland security to facilitation of trade

Joint statement on counter-terrorism, Indo-Pacific, space and nuclear issues

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

INDIA AND the United States are readying at least five pacts on homeland security, trade facilitation and intellectual property rights ahead of the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump in New Delhi on February 25.

While the pact on homeland security will tackle counter-terrorism cooperation, the trade facilitation pact will look at providing a single-window system for US firms wanting to do business in India.

The two sides will also issue a joint statement, which will put significant emphasis on counter-terrorism, Indo-Pacific, space and nuclear issues.

Sources said while 8-10 pacts are under "active consideration", about half-a-dozen are expected to be signed and announced during Trump's visit.

Both sides have indicated that a major trade agreement seems unlikely. "We have been engaging

ALL IN JUST 36 HRS

FEBRUARY 24

- Trumps land around noon in Ahmedabad
- PM likely to receive them; roadshow to Motera stadium
- Modi, Trump to address 'Namaste Trump'
- Trumps to leave for Agra 3.30 pm, visit Taj Mahal, go to Delhi

FEBRUARY 25

- Rashtrapati Bhavan reception at 10 am
- Visit to Rajghat
- Modi-Trump talks at Hyderabad House, lunch and press statements
- Meeting with business leaders
- Banquet hosted by President Kovind
- Departure from Delhi

with the US on trade talks for some time. We hope to reach an understanding with an outcome
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



In Ahmedabad Thursday, workers put up a hoarding welcoming US President Donald Trump. AP

Swachh Bharat fund got Rs 777 cr in 5 yrs, but just Rs 13.8 lakh came from abroad

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW
AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLEANLINESS FUND

Year	Total contribution (Rs/cr)	Foreign sources (Rs/lakh)
2015-16	253.03	Nil
2016-17	244.72	Nil
2017-18	175.31	3.79
2018-19	94.72	10
2019-20 (till January 22, 2020)	9.62	Nil
Total	777.4	13.79

*Swachh Bharat Kosh Trust was registered on April 24, 2015
Source: RTI/ Dept of Expenditure

AT A time when the diaspora is increasingly becoming a part of public diplomacy, the Swachh Bharat Kosh (SBK) for the central government's flagship cleanliness campaign received contributions totalling Rs 777.4 crore in five years — but only Rs 13.79 lakh came from "foreign sources", RTI records accessed by *The Indian Express* show.

RTI data from April 1, 2015, to January 20, 2020, provided by the Department of Expenditure under the Finance Ministry, shows that the contribution from "foreign sources" was "Nil" in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2019-20 (until January 20, 2020). It shows that Rs 3.79 lakh was received in 2017-18 and Rs 10 lakh the year after.

In total, the fund had Rs 158.29 crore on December 17, 2019, the data shows.

Referring to contributions from "foreign sources", the department, which is the nodal point for SBK, stated that "all foreign contributions are received in an exclusive designated bank account held in State Bank of India".

In its RTI response, the department said that the Chief Controller of Accounts (Finance)

"is entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining accounts" of the SBK Trust. "Mostly, foreign contribution is received through designated agencies such as Consulate General of India in various countries... Certain contributions are made directly to the designated bank account (maintained in SBI)," it said.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

2 Dalit youths beaten, tortured for 'theft' bid in Rajasthan, 7 held

HAMZAKHAN
JAIPUR, FEBRUARY 20

TWO DALIT youths were allegedly assaulted and tortured by some employees of a motorcycle service agency in Karnu village, under Panchodi police station area, in Nagaur district of Rajasthan. While police said the incident occurred on February 16, five persons were arrested on Wednesday and another two on Thursday after videos of the assault were circulated on social media.

In the videos, a group of men can be seen thrashing two persons with rubber belts. One of the victims is stripped and held down, and a screwdriver dipped in petrol is inserted into his anus. The accused can be heard laughing in the background.

Police said the victims were suspected to have stolen money. "The two youths, Bisha Ram (24) and Panna Ram (18) were allegedly trying to steal money from the cash register of the motorcycle agency. It was lunch time and most of the staff weren't around," said Panchaudi SHO Rajpal Singh.

In their complaint, the victims, who are cousins, said they had gone to the agency to get Bisha Ram's motorcycle serviced on Sunday afternoon, around 2:30 pm.

"After giving the motorcycle, I was passing by the cash counter
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Hesitation in Delhi over Assam panel report, so CM will accept it

TORA AGARWALA & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

TEN DAYS after the Centre-appointed high-level committee finalised its report on implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, the government has agreed to accept the report. The report, incidentally, will be handed to the state government, and not the Union Ministry of Home Affairs which constituted the committee.

Sources said there is unease in the central government over the report because the committee is learnt to have recommended a 1951 cut-off date to

EXPRESS NETWORK



SHAH IN ARUNACHAL: N-E SPECIAL STATUS WILL NEVER BE REMOVED

CHINA OPPOSES SHAH VISIT, INDIA HITS BACK PAGE 7

define "Assamese" people, and has also suggested an Inner Line Permit regime for the state. Based on the definition of "Assamese", the committee is said to have made quota recommendations for the state

Assembly, educational institutions and government jobs. The report has been kept in a sealed cover at the Implementation of the Assam Accord Department of the state
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

For producing key drug ingredients, Govt plans to revive old pharma units

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to revive old drug manufacturing units that produced key ingredients for crucial medicines in the past, but are now being imported from China. China contributes to almost 70 per cent of India's imports of key ingredients for medicines.

The move is significant in the backdrop of the novel coronavirus outbreak in China, and disruption of global supply chains.

Over the last three decades, most of the 7-8 manufacturing plants producing as many as 20 ingredients such as penicillin G, erythromycin, rifamycin, tetracycline, citric acid and vitamin B12, were shut down due to "cheaper alternatives from China". "The possibility of upgrading and restarting these plants is under consideration of the Department of Pharmaceuticals," said an industry executive requesting anonymity.

The idea is looking to wean away the Indian pharmaceutical industry from its heavy dependence on Chinese imports and strengthen its self-reliance. Industry and government

EXPLAINED

Why official backing is must

CHINA WAS able to build its cost-effective active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) capabilities due to various incentives like cheap land and electricity. India may have to consider similar incentives to ensure domestic manufacturers build scale and compete with lower Chinese prices.

sources told *The Indian Express* that while India had the capability to manufacture most key ingredients, there was no domestic manufacturer currently for fermentation-based ingredients. Fermentation-based ingredients are used in most antibiotics and vitamins. In response to the novel coronavirus outbreak, the Department of Pharmaceuticals constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Central
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MP govt to health staff: Get at least one man for sterilisation or lose job

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 20



His govt issued circular on February 11

IN AN unprecedented move to increase the participation of men in its family planning programme, the Madhya Pradesh government has warned male multi-purpose health workers (MPHWs), who failed to mobilise even one man for sterilisation in 2019-20, that their salaries would be withheld and they would be compulsory retired.

Citing the National Family Health Survey-4 report, which recorded that only 0.5 per cent men were opting for sterilisation in the state, MP's National Health Mission (NHM) has asked top district officials and Chief Medical and Health Officers

(CHMOs) to identify male workers with "zero work output" and apply the "no work no pay" principle — if they don't log at least one case in the 2019-20 period that ends next month.

The circular, dated February 11 and issued by the state's NHM Mission Director, states that if the situation does not improve, proposals recommending compulsory retirement of MPHWS will be sent through District Collectors to the NHM headquarters in Bhopal from where
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Collegium cleared 3 as permanent HC judges, but remains silent as one awaits

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

ON FEBRUARY 12, the Supreme Court Collegium issued a statement saying it had "approved the proposal for appointment of Shri Justice Rahul Chaturvedi, Additional Judge of Allahabad High Court on the same day — September 22, 2017.

Unlike Justice Chaturvedi, Justice Ali's term will now run out on March 21. He was one of three judges — along with Justice Chaturvedi and Justice Neeraj Tiwari — appointed as Additional Judge of Allahabad High Court on the same day — September 22, 2017.

On September 5, 2019, the Collegium, comprising then Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices SA Bobde and NV Ramana, recommended that Justices Tiwari and Ali "be appointed as Permanent Judges of the Allahabad High Court against

the existing vacancies; and Mr Justice Rahul Chaturvedi be appointed as an Additional Judge for a fresh term of six months w.e.f. 22nd September, 2019".

Subsequently, the Ministry of Law and Justice, in a notification on September 20, confirmed the elevation of Justice Tiwari following the Collegium recommendation. On the same day, it issued another notification saying Justices Chaturvedi and Ali will continue as Additional Judge for a period of another six months from September 22 — in effect,
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WHAT LIES BEHIND AAP'S SUCCESS
BY PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN
PAGE 12

EXPRESS NETWORK

19 KILLED AS TRUCK RAMS BUS IN TAMIL NADU PAGE 8

DEFEXPO 2020 AT LUCKNOW

A RED initiative appears in today's edition of *The Indian Express*. This page is an initiative of the marketing solutions team of *The Indian Express* Group and contains content paid for by advertisers. This page should be read as an advertisement.

'By arresting me, they have made my poem (CAA and govt) bigger than poet'

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

AMRITA DUTTA
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 20

WHEN FORMER chief minister HD Kumaraswamy was reading out his poem in the Karnataka Assembly, journalist-poet Siraj Bisaralli (43) was in a court in Koppal, where that very same poem was in the dock, and where his bail plea was being heard.

"After the judge granted us bail, I heard about it. I am happy he did so. But it is not just Kumaraswamy, anyone who is concerned about the rights of freedom of speech and expres-

sion should speak up now against the rights of people being trampled," Bisaralli said.

The poet was arrested Tuesday under Sections 504 and 505(2) of the IPC for the poem that he had read out at the Aneundi district festival, in Koppal district's Gangavati taluk on January 9. The editor of a local news website, *kannadanet.com*, Rajabaxi HV, who had uploaded a video of Bisaralli reciting the poem a few days later, was also arrested. Both were granted bail Wednesday after spending a day in police custody.

The poem, '*Ninna dakhale yaavaga needutte?*' (When will you show your documents?), is a series of rhetorical questions addressed to a government ma-



Siraj Bisaralli was released on bail, a day after ex-CM read out his poem in House

chine that is demanding hapless citizens to furnish documents. It refers to this machine as one that

"licked the boots of the British" and "believes in Goebbels".

"The BJP workers say the poem insults the Prime Minister, but I have not named any person, party or organisation," said Bisaralli, a resident of Bhagyanagara, a city in Koppal district. Soon after he read out the poem, BJP workers of the area presented a memorandum to police, asking for action against Bisaralli as well as the district administration that organised the cultural festival, alleging he had insulted Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"They say I misused government space. But even in a festival organised by the government, we have the right to speak. There has never been such
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SHUBHRA RANJAN
Always Ahead

Current Affairs Strategist Program
TARGET PRELIMS 2020 BY SANTOSH KUMAR
Prelims is becoming more and more current affairs oriented every year and has emerged as the most challenging aspect of the Civil Services Examination.

This program is a one stop solution for all your Current Affairs requirements.

- Weekly Class Tests
- Printed Notes in each class to ensure maximum coverage in minimum time
- All important Current Affairs sources like newspapers, PIB, Yojna, Science Reporter, Down to Earth, Budget, Economic
- Fee Structure

COURSE TYPE	FEE STRUCTURE
OFFLINE MODE	Rs 12,000/- only
ONLINE MODE	Rs 10,000/- only

22nd February 2020 to April 2020
8:00 A.M - 12:00 P.M. (Every Saturday and Sunday)

*** ALSO AVAILABLE IN ONLINE MODE ***

WORKSHOP AND DEMO CLASS
22 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 9:00 A.M.

REGISTER NOW!

COURSES BY AMIT GARG (EX-FACULTY VAJIRAM & RAVI)

COURSE	DATE	TIME	FEE	CLASSES
GEOGRAPHY MAPPING COURSE (OFFLINE & ONLINE MODE)	24 th February 2020	5 PM - 8 PM	₹ 2,500/-	12 - 13 classes 3-4 classes per week
CSAT CRASH COURSE (OFFLINE & ONLINE MODE)	29 th February 2020	2 PM - 4:30 PM	₹ 3,000/-	35-38 classes 5 classes per week

<https://www.shubhrranjan.com>
32 B, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110005
011-45612719

DOWNLOAD APP VISUAL STORIES DAILY BRIEFING PODCASTS CUSTOMIZABLE NEWS EXPERIENCE Indian Express 4.6 SCAN THIS QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP



KASHMIR'S PARI MAHAL: A PALACE THAT ISN'T, BUILT BY A KING WHO WASN'T Tucked away on the Zabarwan range in Srinagar is a spiritual retreat — and a story of what Prince Dara Shukoh did one summer.

VIDEO OF THE DAY ANDROID 11 FIRST DEVELOPER PREVIEW Can be downloaded only on select Google Pixel phones

EXPRESS EXPLAINED HANGING DELAY ON MEDICAL GROUNDS Delhi prison rules, 2018 have two provisions related to deferment

EXPRESS AUDIO Namaste Trump: What do the US and India want from this visit? NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY The Indian Express' Foreign Affairs correspondent and Washington Post's India bureau chief join us on the 3 Things podcast to discuss Trump's visit to India

Denying nod to Bhim Army meet amounts to suppression of fundamental right: HC

VIVEK DESHPANDE NAGPUR, FEBRUARY 20 THE NAGPUR bench of the Bombay High Court on Thursday questioned the police decision to deny permission to Bhim Army to hold a workers' meet on February 24 at a ground in front of RSS Smruti Mandir, saying no valid reason has been provided. Reserving its order for Friday morning, the court maintained that denying permission for the meet amounted to suppression of a fundamental right. It also rapped the police saying that they have left it to the court to decide the matter so that later, they could say that it was the court that had granted permission. Bhim Army founder Chandrashekhar Azad, who is scheduled to address the meet, is likely to speak on issues such as the CAA and NRC. The organisation had secured clearance from the Nagpur Improvement Trust, which owns the ground, as well as from CP and Berar Education Society, which controls it. But as the police went on to deny permission citing law and order problems, Bhim Army moved the HC on Tuesday. The court issued notices to the Nagpur Police and the state home department seeking their replies by Thursday. However, Assistant Government Pleader Ketaki Joshi on Thursday couldn't cite any specific reason for the denial. As the bench comprising Justice Sunil Shukre and Justice Madhav Jamdar asked if the police had any intelligence input or report regarding the event, Joshi had no answer. When the court asked on what basis did the police presume there was a possibility of a law and order situation, Joshi couldn't answer. Lawyer Firdos Mirza, appearing for petitioner Prafulla Shende, the district Bhim Army chief, argued that denial of permission to hold the meet was a violation of Article 19 of the Constitution. Mirza also drew the court's attention to the police affidavit, which stated that permission was being denied since the programme was to be held adjacent to RSS Smruti Mandir and could have been allowed elsewhere. Maintaining that denial of permission would amount to suppressing a fundamental right, the court said: "We can impose conditions but can't deny permission."

FROM PAGE ONE Rajasthan

when Bheev Singh pushed and threw me," Bisha Ram said in his complaint. Accusing him of theft, seven persons then assaulted him, he said. "They started beating me with a rubber fan belt, punched and kicked me. I apologised and asked them not to beat me," he said. Bisha Ram said he was then dragged further inside the service centre, where two men held his arms while one stood on his back. "Harman Singh took a cloth, dipped it in petrol with a screwdriver, and then inserted it in my private parts," he said, adding that he also sustained eye injuries. According to the complaint, the men also assaulted Panna Ram, hurled casteist abuses, and threatened to kill them if they told anyone about the incident. The two youths were allegedly held captive until a relative arrived. Ravi Prakash, Additional Director General of Police, Civil Rights, said Bisha Ram's brother, Durga Ram, was called to the service centre and made to pay Rs 5,100 as "fine". Bheev Singh and Harman Singh are among the seven employees who have been arrested. The Panchaudi SHO said an FIR was filed on Wednesday after videos of the incident went viral. "Initially, both sides had reached a compromise and no complaint was lodged. But once the videos went viral, we received a complaint and lodged an FIR," he said. The FIR has been filed under IPC Sections 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (wrongful restraint), 342 (wrongful confinement), 143 (unlawful assembly), 327 (voluntarily causing hurt to extort property, or to constrain to an illegal act), 355 (assault or criminal force with intent to dishonour person), 384 (extortion) as well as Sections of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Meanwhile, the agency staff have filed a counter FIR, accusing the youths of theft. According to their complaint, Panna Ram waited outside while Bisha Ram stole Rs 50,000 from the cash register and fled, while the staff were eating lunch. After scanning CCTV footage, they went looking for the duo. They said they caught the youths and brought them to the service centre "to make them speak the truth". The FIR has been lodged under IPC Section 380 (theft in dwelling house, etc). "It was mob mentality. During questioning, they (the accused) said they were angry and hence went so far in punishing the alleged thieves," said the SHO. Saying that the incident shames humanity, Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal (Rashtriya Loktantrik Party) said he had sought strict action against the accused. On Thursday, all three of his party MLAs boycotted Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's Budget speech in the Assembly. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi also tweeted: "The recent video of two young Dalit men being brutally tortured in Nagaur, Rajasthan, is horrific and sickening. I urge the state government to take immediate action to bring the perpetrators of this shocking crime to justice." Saying that "immediate and effective action has been taken", Gehlot said: "Nobody will be spared. The culprits will be punished according to the law and we will ensure that the victims get justice." "The case of brutal beating of Dalit youths which took place in Nagaur district is serious. The law and order in the state should remain strong and every citizen should feel safe, this is the priority of the government. If anyone tries to take law and order into their hands, strict action will be taken against them," tweeted Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot. He constituted a committee under

Pacts being readied: Homeland security

that strikes the right balance for both sides. We do not want to rush into a deal as the issues involved are complicated, with many decisions potentially having real impact on people's lives and long-term economic consequences. We do not want to create artificial deadlines," the Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson, Raveesh Kumar, said. On the broader aspects of trade ties, he said: "The India-US relationship is progressing from strength to strength. Our trade has already been growing at more than 10% per annum for the past two years, our trade deficit has been declining steadily. Our trade will become even more balanced with increasing imports of US oil and gas, and purchase of large numbers of civil aircraft by India over the next few years. The US is now our sixth largest source of crude oil imports, while we have become the US's fourth largest customer of crude oil." The MEA spokesperson said India and the US have a "long history" of cooperation in civil space arena, including earth observation, satellite navigation and space exploration. There is a joint Working Group to regularly review cooperation and identify new areas. "Currently, our sides are cooperating in Mars exploration, heliophysics and human spaceflight. On the commercial front, ISRO has launched 209 satellites from US, on-board PSLV, as co-passengers," he said. He said ISRO and NASA are together building a microwave remote sensing satellite with dual frequency (L and S band) Synthetic Aperture Radar. This joint mission, the world's first dual frequency SAR satellite, is planned for launch in 2022. "ISRO is also working with US government agencies for cooperation in safety of space flight through exchange of situational awareness information," he said. On nuclear cooperation with the US, he said Westinghouse and NPCIL are in talks to build six 1100 MW reactors at Kovvada, Andhra Pradesh. "Following resolution of Westinghouse's bankruptcy issues, the two sides are in discussions regarding the division of responsibility of the work. NPCIL has visited the US reference plant to understand Westinghouse's modular construction methodology," he said.

In 5 yrs, Swachh Bharat fund got Rs 774.4 crore

The SBK Trust was registered on April 24, 2015, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued a call on August 15, 2014, to achieve the objective of Swachh Bharat by 2019, the 150th birth anniversary year of Mahatma Gandhi. In order to facilitate contributions from foreign sources, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) gave the Trust exemptions under the Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Act (FCRA) on the condition that "all foreign contributions would be received in an exclusive bank account only." The MHA order, dated June 16, 2016, also said that "a separate set of accounts and records in respect of the foreign contribution received and utilised would be maintained". On February 20, 2019, the MEA responded to an RTI query from The Indian Express to state that it had transferred until then Rs 3.59 crore to SBK from the India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI). Created in 2008 as a not-for-profit Trust to facilitate overseas Indian philanthropy for social and development projects in India, the IDF-OI was administered by a Board of Trustees chaired by the Minister of External Affairs. But a message posted on the official Facebook page of IDF-OI on March 23, 2018, states: "With a view to enhancing synergies to channelise diaspora's contributions to Government's flagship programmes such as Namami Gange and Swachh Bharat Mission via Clean Ganga Fund and Swachh Bharat Kosh, a decision has been taken for closure of IDF-OI by March 31, 2018. Therefore, IDF-OI is no longer accepting contributions from overseas Indians. However, overseas Indians may contribute directly to Swachh Bharat Kosh and Clean Ganga Mission..." RTI data of December 2018 show that the biggest chunk of contribution in the SBK came from PSUs, such as Power Finance Corporation (Rs 49.24 crore), and private sources and companies such as the Mata Amritanandamayi Math (Rs 100 crore) and Larsen & Toubro (Rs 60 crore). On October 21, 2014, the Department of Public Enterprises had issued an order, stating that PSUs can list contributions to SBK under their CSR initiative.

TMC MP writes to House panel to take up 'arbitrary' flight ban on Kunal Kamra

ABANTIKA GHOSH NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20 TRINAMOOL CONGRESS (TMC) Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien has written to the Parliamentary standing committee of transport, tourism and culture to take up suo motu the issue of travel restrictions imposed by four airlines on stand-up comic Kunal Kamra. Kamra was banned from flying by the airlines after he filmed himself heckling journalist Arnab Goswami on board an Indigo flight last month. In a letter to committee chairman T G Venkatesh, O'Brien wrote: "I would like to draw your attention to the unlawful ban arbitrarily imposed by four major airline carriers on Mr Kunal Kamra for unruly behaviour, without conducting an inquiry into the matter..." Kamra had shared the video on social media. He was subsequently banned from flying by Indigo, which was followed by similar bans imposed by Air India, Go Air, and Spicejet. This



was triggered by Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Puri's "endorsement" of the Indigo ban, O'Brien insinuates in his letter. The TMC leader wrote: "Indigo took suo motu cognizance of the incident and imposed a six-month flying ban on the passenger calling his conduct 'unacceptable'. Mr Kamra was denied an opportunity to be heard. No inquiry was held, as is mandated by the applicable rules laid down by DGCA. The ban was endorsed by the Union minister, advising other airlines to impose similar restrictions... these bans were also imposed without any inquiry..." The rules on handling on unruly passengers list "three categories of unruly behavior". In all three cases, the complaint would need to be filed by the pilot-in-command. However, the pilot on Kamra's flight has denied filing any such complaint.

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Bhanwarlal Meghwal and asked it to file a report at the earliest. While the BJP hit out at the state government for the "deteriorating" law and order situation, Bhim Army Chief Chandrashekhar Azad asked Gehlot to resign and called for a shutdown in the state on February 23.

MP govt they will be forwarded to the Health Directorate for action.

The circular states that all MPHWS should mobilise at least five to 10 "willing beneficiaries" when camps are held in districts. The number of men opting for sterilisation has been declining in the state over the last five years. For 2019-20, the number was 3,397, as on February 20, 2020, compared to 3.34 lakh women. In 2015-16, the state conducted 9,957 vasectomies. In the three subsequent years, the numbers were 7,270, 3,719 and 2,925, respectively.

According to NHM Deputy Director Dr Pragna Tiwari, there was "almost no participation" of men in the family planning programme. "We are not saying you use coercive methods. We want them to strength advocacy. There are many who want to limit their family size but lack awareness. It's their job. If you can't motivate even one person in one full year it shows your work output. What's the use of spending tax payers' money on salary?" she said. Tiwari said that unlike auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMs), there was no monitoring of MPHWS until she started "vigorous monitoring" after taking charge of the family planning programme last October. Those who do well are rewarded under the "carrot and stick approach", she said.

Officials said the decline in male and female sterilisation figures began in 2015-16 when the courts ruled against a coercive approach and the state government did away with "targets". Deputy Director (Maternal Health) Dr Archana Mishra said male vasectomy was "very simple and yet few males come forward, especially in rural areas be-

cause they fear losing their masculinity or sex drive". "Instead of sterilisation, the focus should be on spacing methods," she said. Indore CMHO Dr Praveen Jadia said "it's for the first time that such a circular has been issued by the government". "Indore's total target was 22,500 and nearly 19,500 sterilisations have been done but the district is not likely to meet the vasectomy target of 2,250," he said.

Collegium not accepting the Collegium proposal to elevate Justice Ali.

The Collegium under then CJ Gogoi, in its September 5 statement, had provided an explanation on its decision to recommend the elevation of Justices Tiwari and Ali as Permanent Judge while deferring that of Justice Chaturvedi. This is what it said: "This relates to the proposal for appointment of Mr Justices (1) Rahul Chaturvedi, (2) Irshad Ali, and (3) Neeraj Tiwari, Additional Judges of the Allahabad High Court, as Permanent Judges of that High Court. The recommendation made by the Collegium of the Allahabad High Court on 18th February, 2019, for appointment of 19 Additional Judges as Permanent Judges including the above-named three Additional Judges was considered by the Supreme Court Collegium on 30th July, 2019, when it decided to defer consideration of the proposal in respect of above-named three recommendees."

"In order to ascertain suitability of the above-named recommendees for being appointed as Permanent Judges, we have consulted our colleagues who are conversant with the affairs of the Allahabad High Court. We have duly taken note of the opinion expressed by each of them... With a view to assess merit and suitability of the above-named three Additional Judges for appointment as Permanent Judges, we have carefully scrutinized the material placed on record including certain complaints received against one of the above-named recommendees." "On overall assessment based inter alia on the additional infor-

mation received from the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, the observations made by the Department of Justice in the file and having regard to all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the view that Mr Justices (1) Irshad Ali, and (2) Neeraj Tiwari, Additional Judges, are suitable for being appointed as Permanent Judges."

"As regards Mr. Justice Rahul Chaturvedi, having taken into consideration all relevant factors, the Collegium is of the view that his present term as Additional Judge be extended for a further period of six months. In view of the above, the Collegium resolves to recommend that: (A) Mr Justices (1) Irshad Ali, and (2) Neeraj Tiwari, Additional Judges be appointed as Permanent Judges of the Allahabad High Court against the existing vacancies; and (B) Mr Justice Rahul Chaturvedi, be appointed as an Additional Judge for a fresh term of six months w.e.f. 22nd September, 2019," the Collegium said.

Drug ingredients Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) Joint Drug Controller Eswara Reddy to assess and "closely monitor" the situation.

The committee has identified 58 active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), intermediates and key starting materials (KSMs) where India needs to build self-reliance. Considering the long gestation period to start a new plant, the government is considering whether upgrading older facilities with newer technology would help expedite the process, sources said. "We have the technology for these fermentation-based APIs, KSMs and intermediates, and even then the production has been closed and the manufacturing has been developed in China," said a senior government official, who did not wish to be named. While it would take up to two years to set up a new plant to manufacture these ingredients locally, restarting old ones would take "at least a year because the

machinery there would be obsolete", said a person aware of the development. "Unless the industry is incentivised at least for a few years the way China incentivised its own pharmaceutical industry, there is little chance of private investment in this sector," the person said. "Three decades back, China wasn't even in the picture in API production. But then, with full government support, they scaled up and sold to India at 20-25 percent less than domestic companies producing bulk drugs. Even with import duties, their products were cheaper, so our formulators began picking them over Indian manufacturers," the person said. "Setting up a new plant or even reviving an old one will entail an investment of Rs 150-200 crore. But if normalcy is restored in China in due course, and Chinese companies sell at 20-50 percent less price, imports might still be preferred," argued one of the industry executives cited earlier. While this executive felt there was "no chance" of reviving an old plant previously owned by a private pharmaceutical company — the plant may have been sold and repurchased by now — the person said it was possible to upgrade older government units like those belonging to Hindustan Antibiotics (HAL) and Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals (IDPL). On Wednesday, a meeting was held at government think tank Niti Aayog on India's dependence on imports of "critical" APIs, with the government seeking inputs from the industry on "various options" to make the country self-reliant. The industry had given some suggestions on environmental concerns and financial incentives like subsidies, which will be examined by the government, a senior official told The Indian Express.

Poet censorship before, said Bisaralli, who is also a district reporter of a Kannada channel, Praja TV.

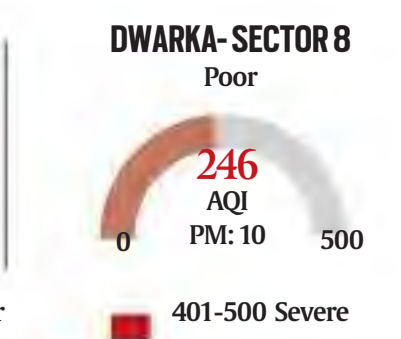
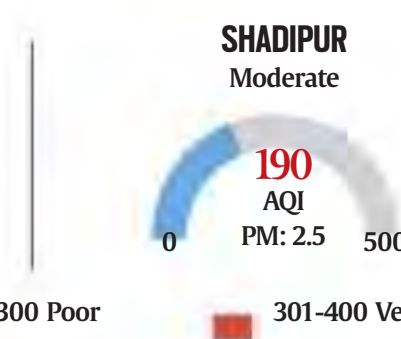
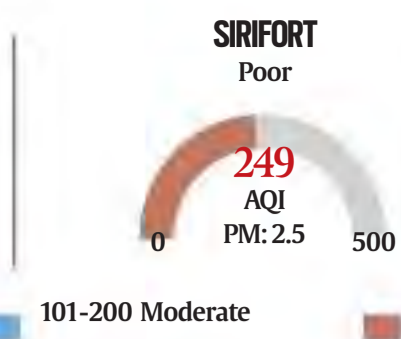
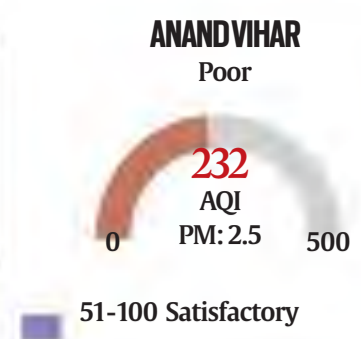
Nearly two weeks after he read out the poem, on January 24, BJP Yuva Morcha leader Sivakumar Arakeri filed an FIR, accusing Bisaralli of causing breach of peace and inciting enmity. The FIR also named Rajabaxi. "I had uploaded 20-25 other videos of poets and other people speaking. Why was this singled out? I was just doing my job. It is just a way to shut the mouths of those who are speaking up," said Rajabaxi, 42. Both Rajabaxi and Bisaralli were granted bail by the Principal Civil (Junior Division) and JMFC Court at Gangavati against a surety of Rs 50,000 each. In the Assembly, Kumaraswamy read out the poem and asked what was so offensive about it, comparing it to far more critical work by older Kannada poets like K S Nissar Ahmed, who once compared politicians to goats in a poem. "The British had arrested the great Kannada poet Da Ra Bendre for a poem. But that was a colonial government. This is for the first time in Karnataka that after Independence, a poet has been arrested for writing a poem. The BJP government's actions in Bidar, where a school played led to the arrest of a mother and a teacher, and in Siraj's case, show that they are selectively targeting the minority community," said writer K Neela, who had spoken out against the campaign against Bisaralli in the recent literature festival organised by the Karnataka government in Gulbarga. Bisaralli declined to comment on his motivations for writing the poem because "the matter is in court". "But it is a writer's responsibility to reflect what is happening in the society around him," he said. Though it does not mention the Citizenship Amendment Act or the National Register of Citizens, Bisaralli's poem is similar in spirit to the poetry being written across the country against the CAA-NRC. "It has been translated in more than 15 languages and shared by thousands. So, in effect, the poem has grown bigger than the poet," Bisaralli said. Assam panel government in Dispur. Clause 6 of the 1985 Assam Accord states that "Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people." Assam Finance and Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told The Indian Express: "Yes, they will submit the report on February 25 to the Chief Minister. He will receive it on behalf of the Government of India." Justice (retired) Biplob Kumar Sarma, chairman of the High-level Committee on Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, too said: "Yes, that's what I have come to know. Formal invitation is yet to be received." In New Delhi, officials said the report has put the Centre in a spot. If it were to reject or not accept the report and its recommendations, it could fuel the ongoing protests in Assam. But a 1951 cut-off date, official said, would not only exclude a large number of Bengali Hindus, but also many indigenous Assamese. "We are told the cut-off date they have set for defining Assamese is pre-1951 NRC. This means if we accept it, we will have to conduct another NRC in Assam. Also, we are not yet in favour of granting the ILP to Assam," one official said. The committee has written thrice to the MHA, seeking time to submit the report, but there has been no response. It tried to hand over the report to the Assam Chief Secretary who, it is learnt, declined to accept it. The term of the committee ran out on February 15 after being given an extension. It finalised its report on February 10. The committee was constituted by the Modi government during its first term. In the wake of the anti-CAA protests, several members resigned. It was reconstituted in July 2019.

Classifieds EXPRESS EDUCATION McGraw-Hill writer RAMESH SINGH'S GS ECONOMY Basics+Current updated with the latest Survey 2019-20 and Budget 2020-21 New batch: Mar. 02-Apr. 20 (2.30-4.45pm) Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service 23276901, 23282028 (M); 9212008155, 9212656841

3 THE CITY



0-50 Good



Ravidas temple: Contempt plea against DDA, govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

FORMER CONGRESS MP Ashok Tanwar moved the Supreme Court Thursday seeking contempt proceedings against the DDA and the Delhi government for allegedly "wilfully and deliberately disobeying" its orders allowing construction of a permanent structure for the Guru Ravidas temple at Tughlaqabad.

The temple was demolished by DDA following the apex court's August 9, 2019, direction. Later, the top court had passed directions on November 25 allowing construction of a permanent structure for the temple in Tughlaqabad forest, instead of a wooden porta cabin as suggested by the Centre.

In October it had accepted the Centre's revised offer of 400 sqm land in Tughlaqabad forest for construction of the temple. Tanwar moved the apex court Thursday claiming that none of the directions given by the court have been implemented by the authorities.

Jain pushes for more mohalla clinics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

DELHI HEALTH Minister Satyendar Jain has directed officials to expedite work on setting up more mohalla clinics in the capital, besides installing CCTV cameras inside diagnostic laboratories to keep an eye on alleged malpractices.

In a meeting held on Thursday, Jain reviewed the working of mohalla clinics and stressed on the need for digitising prescriptions for diagnostic tests through test referral reports.

At present, there are over 450 mohalla clinics to ensure primary healthcare facilities in neighbourhoods. "Digitisation of prescriptions and reports will smoothen the functioning of these centres. As the state-run healthcare facilities that offer free medicines and tests expand in number, the monitoring systems too will need regular upgrading, which the ministry is ensuring," a statement from the minister's office stated. He also emphasised on the need to strictly monitor the availability of medicines.

KEJRIWAL, SISODIA EXPECTED TO ACCOMPANY US FIRST LADY

Melania to attend happiness class at Delhi govt school

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20



Melania Trump will attend the class on Tuesday

US FIRST Lady Melania Trump will visit a Delhi government school during her brief visit to the capital next week, sources said. She is expected to attend a happiness curriculum class on Tuesday, and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister Manish Sisodia are expected to accompany her.

US President Donald Trump and Melania Trump will fly to Ahmedabad on February 24. They are then expected to travel to Agra and Delhi.

The happiness curriculum has become one of the flagship

programmes of the Delhi government in the education sector and aims to help children relieve stress, meditate and discuss things that are troubling them.

"The Delhi government is keen on showing Melania Trump a few other programmes that have started, such as the entrepreneurship curriculum, but her visit is expected to last just an hour or so. She and her team have expressed a desire to witness a happiness class as it happens, so that is definitely on the cards," said a source.

The curriculum was started in July, 2018. Under the programme, students spend 45 minutes a day meditating, telling stories and sharing their experiences. A teacher oversees the session.

Last year, a teacher in a school in Brooklyn, New York, read about the happiness curriculum and connected with a teacher in

a Delhi government school. The two schools have, since then, been connecting over Twitter, with a happiness classroom also being replicated in the New York school sometimes.

"Happiness classes have been a big hit with people across the world. Whenever our officers go abroad for any education-related conference, they are asked about the innovative programme. In this case, too, there is interest in this specific programme," said a senior official who did not want to be named.

In 2018, the education ministers of Afghanistan and UAE, along with officials from several other Asian countries, had attended a happiness class in a Central Delhi school.

Real-time data will help pinpoint sources of pollution, says Rai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

THE DELHI government is awaiting a report from a US university, on real-time technology to assess sources of pollution and use it to tackle the deteriorating air quality in the capital.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai Thursday said the government will "move forward" towards getting real-time data after experts from the University of Washington in St Louis, US, who have been studying air pollution sources in the capital for a year, submit their findings.

"Real-time data is important because we cannot control pollution levels until we know what is causing it and when. Until the source is not identified, a mechanism cannot be made to reduce it," said Rai.

The report on real-time source apportionment technology is expected in March.

ADPCC official said the technology is expected to be operational by June: "Until now we had been relying on old data — from 2016 or 2017... but this will give us an hourly picture."

Rai also said that the government will hold a conference with officials and experts on February 27 to find solutions to the air pollution issue. The government also plans to invite environment ministers of UP, Haryana and Punjab in March to discuss air pollution.

Rai also said that on February 28, the government will hold a meeting of land-owning agen-

AVG CONCENTRATION OF POLLUTANTS

PM10	
2014	324
2015	295
2016	303
2017	277
2018	277
2019	230

(Standard: 60 µg/m³)

PM2.5	
2014	149
2015	133
2016	137
2017	130
2018	128
2019	112

(Standard: 40 µg/m³)

*2014-2017 data from 4 stations; 2018-2019 data from 24 stations



cies in the capital for coordination in the annual tree plantation drive. It has set an annual target of about 40 lakh trees this time, much higher than its previous target of about 25 lakh.

Western disturbance brings rain to capital

New Delhi: A western disturbance (WD) over Himachal Pradesh brought rain to parts of Delhi, Thursday evening. According to IMD officials, the WD is expected to bring light rain to the city on Friday as well, and snow in the higher reaches of Himachal Pradesh.

On Thursday, the maximum temperature was recorded at 27.5 degrees Celsius, three degrees above normal. The minimum temperature was 13.6 degrees Celsius, three degrees above normal.

Day	Forecast
Fri	Cloudy, light rain
Sat	Mist
Sun	Mist
Mon	Mist
Tue	Mist
Wed	Mist

On Friday, the temperature is expected to be between 24 and 13 degrees Celsius. **ENS**

NETAJI SUBHAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
(FORMERLY NETAJI SUBHAS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY)
Azad Hind Fauj Marg, Sector-3, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078
Phone No. +91-11-25099050; Ext.- 3004

PRESS NOTICE

INVITATION TO ARCHITECTS/ ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS FOR EMPANELMENT
Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT) invites applications for empanelment of Architects/Architectural Firms possessing requisite professional qualification and experience alongwith specialization & expertise in planning, designing and execution of educational buildings like Schools, Colleges, Universities Campuses including landscaping. Application forms duly filled and complete in all respects with a list of important works executed, credentials from clients and other details as per prescribed application format should be submitted to the Executive Engineer, Administrative Block, NSUT campus, Sector-3, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078 upto 1700 hrs on 12.03.2020. The applicant shall submit a fee of Rs. 3,000/- (non-refundable) in form of Demand Draft issued from a Scheduled Bank favouring Registrar, NSUT payable at New Delhi along with application. The interested eligible architects/architectural firms can download the form from NSUT website: www.nsut.ac.in.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Netaji Subhas University of Technology,
Sector-3, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078
DIP/Shabdarth/1371/19-20

Dec 16 rape convict seeks treatment for schizophrenia

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

CONVICT VINAY Sharma, on death row in the December 2012 gangrape-murder case, has moved a Delhi court seeking medical treatment, claiming he is suffering from schizophrenia and has sustained head injuries inside Tihar Jail.

Vinay's lawyer A P Singh moved an application before Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana, praying that his client be shifted to IHBAS, Shahdara, for better treatment. The court has listed the matter for February 22 and sought Tihar Jail superintendent's reply.

Singh told court that Vinay failed to recognise his own mother and has fractured his arm. "Yesterday, at the time of legal meeting with counsel and convict, and family and convict...the convict Vinay Sharma could not identify his counsel and his mother," Singh submitted.

Additional Public Prosecutor Irfan Ahmad told the court that the application was not maintainable and that jail rules already provide for giving medical assistance to inmates.

When contacted, Tihar DG Sandeep Goel said they have documents to prove that Vinay was physically and mentally fit: "He tried to hurt himself on February 16 and sustained minor injuries on his head and hand. He had hit his head against the wall... Doctors inside the jail treated him, he's fine now." In his plea, Singh stated that

The convict's lawyer told the court that he has failed to recognise his own mother and has fractured his arm

Vinay had "sustained grievous head injury, fracture in his arm, and suffers from insanity, mental illness and schizophrenia". He also submitted that Vinay was "suffering from decreased sleep, anxiety" and was referred to a psychiatrist in 2018. As per his plea, from 2016 to 2019, he thrice attempted suicide and self-harm. Singh also submitted that as per medical records, Vinay was "diagnosed with adjustment disorder... and (prescribed) a dose of anti-psychotic medicine". "The convict's symptoms of anxiety and self-harm indicate considerable distress... The convict has expressed feeling of low self-esteem, uselessness, guilt. These... indicate the convict has suffered from severe depressive episodes," read his plea.

On February 7, when the court set a fresh date of execution for March 3, Singh had submitted that Vinay sustained head injuries and was suffering from mental illness. However, the court disposed off his plea after it perused a medical report which certified that Vinay was "psychologically well adjusted". Meanwhile, Singh also moved a plea before the Election Commission, questioning the rejection of his mercy petition during Delhi elections.

Man held for 'offensive' post on Yogi Adityanath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, FEBRUARY 20

A 26-YEAR-OLD man was arrested in Greater Noida on Wednesday for allegedly sharing an offensive post against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on social media.

The man, identified as Jewar resident Chand Quraishi, was arrested after a local BJP worker filed a complaint.

"A complaint was received at Jewar police station about a local who had shared an alleged wrongful post on Facebook against the CM. The FIR was filed and the accused was arrested in a short time. During questioning, the accused said he had shared the content by mistake," said an officer from Jewar police station.

The man was booked under Section 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) of the Indian Penal Code. According to the police, the complaint was filed by a member of the local BJP unit who had seen the Facebook post.

The privacy setting of the post had been set to public, instead of private, because of which other people took notice, police said. In June 2019, two people were arrested in UP's Gorakhpur district for allegedly making objectionable comments on social media against the CM.

A Noida-based journalist was also arrested earlier for posting alleged defamatory content against the CM.

INDIAN AIR FORCE OUTSOURCING OF MEDICAL SERVICES

1. On behalf of President of India, Commanding Officer, Air Force Station Subroto Park, New Delhi-10 invites application from the eligible candidates for engagement of Lady Medical Officer for the period from 01 Apr 20 — 31 Mar 21 on contractual basis for the following disciplines:-

Unit	Discipline	Essential Qualification	Place of engagement	Engagement details
WAC (U), Subroto Park New Delhi-10	LMO	MBBS	Station Medicare Centre Subroto Park New Delhi-10	22 visits per month

2. The candidate's ae required to intimate their remuneration (Payment) they expect per visit for the fixed duration. The candidate will be selected on the basis of their performance in personal interview and the lowest payment per visit asked by them/negotiated at the time of selection. The candidate has to furnish the following details along with the application as per the format:-

Discipline	Essential Qualifications as per advertisement	Qualification of the applicant (3)	Details of certificate attached	Remuneration required/expected per visit (Rs.)	Sign of applicant
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)

3. Interested candidates may apply on plain paper along with photocopies of qualification and experience certificates, bio-data with mobile number, two recent passport size photographs addressed to respective Stns/Units for the respective services by hand/post within ten days of publication of advertisement. After verification of documents, eligible candidates will be informed telephonically regarding date, venue and time of the interview.

davp 10802/11/0059/1920

INDIAN AIR FORCE OUTSOURCING OF MEDICAL SERVICES

1. On behalf of President of India, AOC/Station Commanders/Commanding Officers, invites application from the eligible candidates for engagement of Dentist and female nurse for under mentioned units for period 01 Apr 20 — 31 Mar 21 on contractual basis for the following disciplines:-

Unit	Discipline	Essential Qualification	Place of engagement	Engagement details
230 SU, AF Amritsar	Dentist	BDS	Air Force Station Amritsar Cantt	10 visits per month
3 Wg, AF Palam	Nurse	Degree/Diploma in Nursing	Air Force Station Palam	22 visits per month

2. The candidate's ae required to intimate their remuneration (Payment) they expect per visit for the fixed duration. The candidate will be selected on the basis of their performance in personal interview and the lowest payment per visit asked by them/negotiated at the time of selection. The candidate has to furnish the following details along with the application as per the format:-

Discipline	Essential Qualifications as per advertisement	Qualification of the applicant	Details of certificate attached	Remuneration required/expected per visit (Rs.)	Sign of applicant
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)

3. Interested candidates may apply on plain paper along with photocopies of qualification and experience certificates, bio-data with mobile number, two recent passport size photographs addressed to respective Stns/Units for the respective services by hand/post within ten days of publication of advertisement. After verification of documents, eligible candidates will be informed telephonically regarding date, venue and time of the interview.

davp 10802/11/0060/1920

INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Enterprise - Mini Firm)
CIN: MUMB010000100
Advertisement No. 23/2020
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
Invites application for the post of
Chairman & Managing Director
in
INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING & TOURISM CORPORATION LTD.
Last date of receipt of applications in
PESB is by 15.00 hours on 23rd April, 2020 for details login to website <http://www.pesb.gov.in>

Petronet LNG Limited
Is looking for dynamic professionals for the position of **GM/DGM (Business Development)**
Date of Walk In Interview - 2nd March, 2020 (Monday)
Interested candidates have to mandatorily apply online at our website www.petronetlmg.com
Portal shall be open from **21.02.2020 - 27.02.2020**.
Shortlisted candidates for the interview shall be informed via e-mail latest by 28.02.2020.
Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, shall be notified in above website only.

INDIAN AIR FORCE PART TIME DENTIST AT AIR FORCE DENTAL CENTRE AIR FORCE STATION HINDON

1. Application are invited for the under mentioned posts at Air Force Dental Centre at Air Force Station Hindon from qualified and experienced candidates. Desire qualification, experience and emoluments are as follows:-

Post	No. of Vacancy	Essential Qualification	Experience	Honorarium
Dentist	01	BDS from a DCI Recognized Dental College	Minimum 5 Yrs	Rs. 20,000/- per month (10 visits per month x Rs. 2000/-)

2. Willing to work for 04 hrs from 0900h to 1300h on days fixed by the authorities of Air Force Station Hindon at Air Force Dental Centre and at any place at Air Force Station Hindon as and when required.

3. Applications along with the degree certificates, Registration, Final year Mark sheet and Experience certificate to reach to Commanding Officer, Air Force Dental Centre, Air Force Station Hindon by 1000hrs on or before 28 Feb 2020 by post or by hand and interview will be conducted on 06 Mar 2020 at 1000h at Air Force Dental Centre, Air Force Station Hindon.

4. Applicants are to present their testimonials in original on the day of interview.
5. For further clarification contact Commanding Officer, Air Force Dental Centre on Tele-0120-2569600/4295.
davp 10802/11/0061/1920

Brihanmumbai Police Sahakari Gruhanirman Sanstha (Ltd)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLY OF CEMENT AND STEEL

WE are a registered Co-operative Housing Society for Constables and their Widows as **Brihanmumbai Police Sahakari Gruhanirman Sanstha (Ltd)** (BPSGNSL) vide Register No. RGD/KLR/MSG(TC)/4194/2019-2020, dated 17.07.2019 intending to self-develop Megatowship Projects largest in the country, registered exclusively for welfare of Mumbai Police Constables and their Widows who lost their husbands on duty. Each of the members contributed their personal funds to purchase about 119.20.2 acres of land in Village-Vayal, Tal-Khalapur, Dist-Raigad adjoining Mumbai-Pune Expressway where we intend to construct about 10,000 houses of 60 sq.mtrs Carpet Area each using Mivan/Aluminum Shuttering Technology. On 04.09.2019, the Government of Maharashtra published this scheme in Government Gazette as a Police Megatowship. A Letter regarding 'Letter of Intent' was also issued by Office of the Collector, Alibag, Dist-Raigad, vide Ow. No. MS/LNA1(B)/AKNV/BRIHANMUMBAI POLICE/2019, dated as on 16.11.2019. **This is a welfare project for constables and their widows. The companies intending to contribute through their C.S.R. Funds may also express their interest accordingly.**

Under the guidance of our PMC, M/s. Shashi Prabhu & Associates, we have appointed M/s. Cube Construction of Baroda as our contractor to construct this Megatowship. The construction is intended to commence within few months and will complete within 4 years. Once completed, this will be the largest welfare Megatowship for Police Constables and their Widows in the world. For this noble and Philanthropic project, we require Reinforcement Steel of various diameters and Cement of various grades, which we intend to purchase directly from qualified and reputed manufacturers. Interested parties may send their Expression of Interest to our PMC at the following address. Tender documents will be sent to the shortlisted manufacturers who may then quote through sealed bids.

Project management Consultant
Shashi Prabhu & Associates, A & B Block, Wankhede Stadium, D. Road, Churchgate, Mumbai 40
T: 66199999, E-mail: mail@spsaee.com

Dr. Pratap Dighavkar, IPS
Spl. Inspector General of Police, M.S. & Chairman, (BPSGNSL)

Ramrao Pawar, IPS (Retd.)
Spl. Inspector General of Police, M.S. (Retd.) & Secretary, (BPSGNSL)

Govt renews tenure of DDC vice-chairperson

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

THE DELHI government Thursday renewed the term of Jasmine Shah as the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) Vice-Chairperson.

An advisory body formed in 2015, days after the Arvind Kejriwal government took power, DDC has contributed in formulating the Delhi Solar Policy, Outcome Budget, e-vehicle policy, among other interventions.

It will also work on the 10-point guarantee card promised by AAP. Shah, appointed vice-chairperson in 2018, was with the MIT's Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) earlier. "DDC's focus over the next five years will be to work closely with citizens to make Delhi a 21st Century city that every Indian can be proud of," said Shah.

UNDER NEW EXCISE POLICY, BEER AND WINE CHEAPER TOO

Bars in Gurgaon, Faridabad can now stay open till 1 am

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 20

BARS IN Gurgaon, Faridabad and Panchkula will soon remain open till 1 am under Haryana's new excise policy, which also makes beer and wine cheaper and reduces licence fees for hotels and restaurants serving liquor. Country made liquor, however, would be costlier in the state. Bars can stay open till 3 am, if the licence holders pay a one-time additional fee of Rs 10 lakh per hour.

Currently, bars in these cities remain open till midnight. The timings have been extended in view of the timings in Delhi, where bars stay open till 1 am. The new rules will come into

NEW RULES WILL KICK IN ON APRIL 1

■ Bars in Gurgaon, Faridabad and Panchkula can extend closing time by another 2 hours by paying additional annual licence fee of Rs 10 lakh per hour



mild' beer created; will attract a duty of ₹ 35 per BL

■ Excise duty on beer across categories slashed by ₹10 per bulk litre (BL)

■ Country-made liquor to cost more. No change in duty on hard liquor (IMFL)

force on April 1. Soon after the state Cabinet's approval, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, who also holds the excise and taxation portfolio, released the excise pol-

icy for the year 2020-21. Chautala pegged the revenue from excise duty at over Rs 7,500 crore in 2020-21 against the expected revenue of Rs 6,600-6,700 crore for the current financial year.

He informed that duties on various categories of low alcoholic drink beer have been reduced. The duty on beer with an alcoholic content between 3.5%-5.5% has been reduced from Rs 50 per bulk litre (BL) to Rs 40 per bulk litre. The duty of BL containing alcoholic content more than 5.5% has been reduced from Rs 55 per BL to Rs 45 per BL. A new category of super mild beer has been created with alcoholic content up to 3.5%. The duty of super mild beer has been fixed at Rs 35 per BL.

But country-made liquor will cost more. According to an official, there would be increase in the rates of country made liquor by Rs 3 per bottle following increase in the excise duty.

4 turtles found abandoned in Mori Gate parking lot

New Delhi: In a car park in North Delhi's Mori Gate, police found four turtles abandoned inside a cardboard box and later handed them over to the National Zoological Park Friday afternoon.



The turtles are now at the Delhi Zoo. Express

Three of them were identified as Indian Tent Turtles by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB).

"These three turtles are of the rarest of rare species. Its possession is strictly prohibited as it is a scheduled species under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972," said Rajesh Deo, DCP (Crime Branch). Police are looking into who

left the turtles at the car park. The turtles are now under observation at a hospital in the zoo, where they have been found to be healthy.

Delay in notifying NCZs: HC raps Haryana govt

SOFI AHSAN CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 20

THE HARYANA government Thursday once again faced the ire of the Punjab and Haryana High Court for delay in notifying the Natural Conservation Zones (NCZ) in its districts falling under the National Capital Region.

"You are morally and constitutionally responsible for their protection but you have been an instrument of destruction," the division bench of Chief Justice Ravi Shanker Jha and Justice Arun Palli observed, adding while the state government was not notifying the natural conservation zones, the construction was increasing and more areas were being taken over by builders. "Ultimately, nothing will be left," the court said.

In 2014, the High Court had disposed of a petition regarding developmental plans on Haryana's land falling in the NCR,

with the observation that all the activities can carry on subject to them being in conformity with the regional plan of the National Capital Region Planning Board. The Haryana government was also told to prepare a sub-regional plan. With the state failing to do so, the court in 2015 directed that no further licence or change of land use be granted in the NCR falling within Haryana without prior approval of the court.

While the order was vacated later on the assurance that issues regarding sub-regional plan have been addressed, the matter related to the NCZs — also connected to the sub-regional plan of NCR region — has remained pending till date.

During the resumed hearing, the division bench questioned the state and asked why its sub-regional plan was not in conformity with the regional plan of NCRPB. "You keep on passing the buck while the NCZs will vanish," observed the court.

BRIEFLY

Jessica Lall murder convict seeks early release

New Delhi: Manu Sharma, who is serving a life term for model Jessica Lall's murder in 1999, moved the Delhi HC Thursday seeking his premature release. The court directed the Delhi government to submit its response with reports of all departments on his conduct, based on which the Sentence Review Board rejected his 2019 plea for release.

Need more youth in politics: MP

New Delhi: Speaking at the youth parliament at Hindu College Thursday, Rajya Sabha MP Anil Jain said youth from across the country should participate in politics in increasing numbers. He said the world is watching India and wants a good relationship with it.

SUV mows down man

New Delhi: A 33-year-old man on a bike was mowed down by an SUV after being dragged for around 300 metres in Shahdara's Krishna Nagar Sunday. Police have arrested the car driver.

Court extends judicial custody of Shaheen Bagh shooter

New Delhi: A Delhi court extended the judicial custody of Kapil Baisala, who allegedly opened fire at Shaheen Bagh, till March 5. ENS

Uphar case: SC dismisses plea by victims

New Delhi: The top court Thursday dismissed the curative plea filed by an association of victims of the 1997 Uphar Cinema fire, sparing the Ansal brothers further jail term. PTI

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड निविदा सूचना संख्या-64/विजा04पा0म0/आ0/2019-20

WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING, RECONDITIONING OF POINTS & CROSSINGS & PROVIDING S & T STRUCTURE

E-Tendering Notice U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. E-Tender Notice-62/ECTC/AGRA/2019-20

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (A Government of Karnataka undertaking)

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड निविदा सूचना संख्या-63/विजा04पा0म0/आ0/2019-20

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अनुभवो फर्मो/ ठेकेदार/ कार्यदायी संस्थाओं से विद्युत पारेषण मंडल मेरठ के अंतर्गत निम्न कार्यो/आपूर्तियों हेतु मोहर बंद ई-निविदाएं

DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NORTH WEST)-I H-BLOCK UDYOG NAGAR INDL. AREA PEERA GARHI CHOWK NEW DELHI-41

Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee, Narela (An Undertaking of Govt. of NCT of Delhi) New Grain Market, Narela, Delhi-110040

DEFENCE EXPO 2020 LUCKNOW

Over 200 MoUs inked in DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow

23 MoUs worth Rs 50,000 crore signed between UP government and participating companies



Approx. 12 lakh people are estimated to have visited these venues to enjoy various air and naval shows put up by defence forces

Uttar Pradesh is going to be one of the biggest defence manufacturing hubs in India in times to come. Youth will get employment on a large scale in the defence corridor that fulfills the dream of Make in India.

Our mantra is Make in India, for India, for the world. In 2014, the export of defence equipments from India was about Rs 2,000 crore. In the last 2 years, it has gone up to Rs 17,000 crore. In the next five years, our target is export of US 5 billion dollar, which is about Rs 35,000 crore.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



By successfully organising Kumbh, Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas, National Youth Festival and now DefExpo 2020, UP has proven its might. It now stands for 'Unlimited Potential'.

Rajnath Singh
Union Defence Minister

UP in association with defence ministry has been able to hold DefExpo 2020 on a grand scale, in sync with UP's rising stature. None should question UP's capability any more.

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh held the biggest Defence Expo ever hosted in India at Lucknow between February 5 to 9, positioning itself as the upcoming defence manufacturing hub of the country. Defence Ministers of nearly 40 countries, 1,028 exhibitors including 172 from abroad, over 3,000 delegates from 70 countries and over 1,000 companies participated in the event. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the event on the first day.

The theme of the Expo was 'India an emerging defence manufacturing hub' and 'The Digital Transformation of Defence'. On February 6 and 7, business conferences took place and the venue was thrown open to the public on February 8 and 9.

More than 200 partnerships including 71 MoUs and 18 technology transfers were signed on the third day of the 11th edition of the biennial event. As many as 23 MoUs worth Rs 50,000 crore were signed between the state government and participating companies. According to Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, DefExpo 2020 in its history has recorded the maximum numbers of MoUs, technology transfers and

product launches.

The first ever Indian-African Defence Ministers conclave also took place, which concluded with signing of the 'Lucknow Declaration'.

Speaking at one of the sessions, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, "This event has shown that the new India is ready to move forward with the major powers of the world. Following the unprecedented success of this year's DefExpo, we will be able to achieve the 5 trillion dollar target by 2024," he said.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath termed DefExpo as 'Maha-Kumbh' of defence equipment manufacturers and projected UP as the next defence production hub in India. He hailed 23 MoUs signed by his government that will pave way for the investment of Rs 50,000 crore and generate 3 lakh job opportunities. The Chief Minister further said that in the last two years, the state government along with the Defence Ministry had organised events related to the defence corridor and formulated a defence aerospace policy.

An MoU was signed between the Uttar Pradesh Express-

ways Industrial Development Authority and the DRDO for providing technology support for UP Defence Industrial Corridor.

Largest Defence Exhibition

The 11th edition of DefExpo was the largest defence exhibition ever organised in India in terms of number of

exhibitors, area and achievements. Only 702 companies had participated in Defence Expo 2018 in Chennai, just 40 MoUs were signed against a target of 100 MoUs.

This time around, not only the target was exceeded but it also doubled, showing the keen interest of both domestic and foreign companies in defence

and aerospace business in India.

Amazing Air and Naval shows

Various shows were put up on Gomti riverfront and DefExpo venue by the Army and Navy commandos. Approximately 12 lakh people are estimated to have visited these venues to enjoy the shows.

There were several live demonstrations of tanks, aircraft and weapons for the land forces during the Expo. People waited in long queues with an excitement for their turns to pose with battle tanks, aircraft and missiles on display.

UP Bags Key Investment Proposals

- **TITAN AVIATIONS AND AEROSPACE INDIA LTD:** The firm has sought 6,000 acres in Jhansi. It deals in manufacturing of components and engineer air frames.
- **HANS ENERGY SYSTEMS LTD:** About 5-10 acres of land is sought in Kanpur. Deals in smart technology for securing the weapons.
- **TATA TECHNOLOGIES LTD:** The firm wants 20 acres of land in Lucknow and Kanpur for common facility centre.
- **SPICEJET TECHNIC PVT LTD:** MRO, precision manufacturing, advanced engineering and development centre in NCR.
- **NITYA CREATION INDIA:** About 1.2 hectares is needed in Aligarh for new manufacturing unit for precision engineering products for defence sector.
- **STUMMPS SCHUELE AND SOMMPPA LTD:** It wants 100 acres of land in Chitrakoot or Jhansi. Deals in manufacturing of ammunition cases of cartridges and explosives.
- **ANCHOR RESEARCH LABS:** About 25 acres of land is sought in Aligarh for manufacturing testing complex for defence and aerospace systems.
- **ALLEN AND ALVAN PVT LTD:** It has asked for 25 acres in Aligarh for setting up of drone and safety manufacturing unit.

172 firms from 70 countries showcased technologies in DefExpo'20

During DefExpo2020, as many as 172 companies from abroad, including the US, Russia, France, Israel, Korea, UKrain etc put up their capabilities on display, participated in different seminars and entered into various agreements.

India-Russian Military Industrial Conference was held on the sidelines of the event wherein a total of 14 MoUs were exchanged between Russian OEMs and Indian Companies. Airbus and Adani Defence & Aerospace

signed an MoU at DefExpo 2020 to leverage synergies in the aerospace and civil aviation sector.

In a seminar on India-Israel Opportunities in Defence Cooperation organised by FICCI and SIBAT, Dr Ron Malka, the Israeli ambassador, stressed on the need for more joint ventures between the two countries.

On the sidelines, HAL signed an MoU with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and Dynamic Technologies for marketing and manufacturing of the

Israeli unmanned aerial vehicle for Indian customers from the government.

Korea-based KPC Metal Co Ltd presented forging solutions for aerospace and defence using titanium, nickel alloys and other super alloys for critical engineering. Korean Aerospace Industries presented their recent innovations. The Ukrainian Defence Industry attracted the visitors with their range of guidance equipment, sighting systems and devices.



UP's Defence Industrial Corridor offers immense opportunities

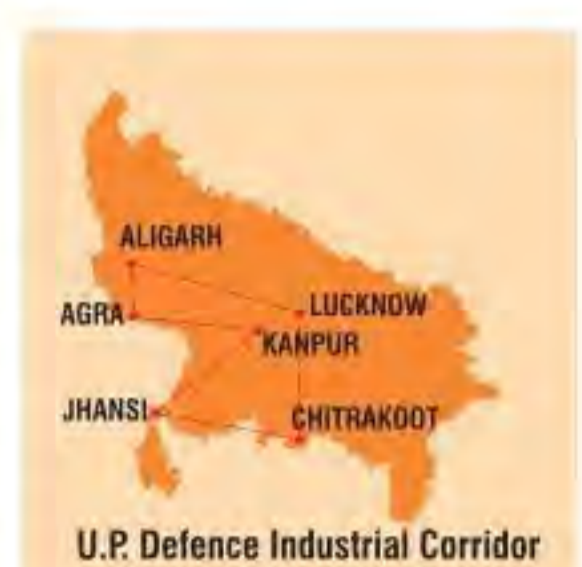
In the Defence Expo 2020 held in Lucknow, Government of Uttar Pradesh got a chance to showcase its Defence Industrial Corridor policy and potential. During the Investors' Summit held in February 2018 in Lucknow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced a Defence Industrial Corridor for the state of Uttar Pradesh and set a target of Rs 20,000 crore for investment in the region. Following the announcement, the UP government took the quick steps towards setting up the corridor.

As much as 5,071.17 hectares of land was notified for the purpose. Out of which 25,000 acres land is already available.

During the UP Defence Industrial Corridor Investors' Summit held in Aligarh, an investment of Rs 4,000 crore was announced. Apart from this, during an expo held in Kanpur, several defence manufacturers had submitted their investment proposals.

Among those who have announced investments are Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Ordnance Factory Board, MKU, BEL, Bharat Forge and PTC Industries. During DefExpo 2020, more companies like Kalyani Group, Titan Aviation and Aerospace India Limited, Tata Technologies, Allen and Alvan Pvt Ltd etc. has shown interest and signed different MoUs with the state government.

Thales and MKU have announced the co-development of the ELFIE Night Vision Device (NVD) for the armed forces in India and across the



world during the event. This cooperation involves co-development of these devices at MKU's facility in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

"With the setting up of the Defence Industrial Corridor of UP, our strategic association with MKU will strengthen the ecosystem while also contribute towards job creations in the country," said Pascale Sourisse, Senior Executive Vice President, International Development, Thales.

Diplomats and representatives of various countries met CM Yogi Adityanath and expressed their keen interest in partnering with the state for investments in the Defence Industrial Corridor. Speaking to the media persons in Lucknow, Kenneth I Juster, US Ambassador to India, said that US firms participating in the event were partnering with companies across India, including in Uttar Pradesh's Defence Corridor to produce defence equipment not just for his country's militaries, but also for the partnerships.

UP to play an important role in defence production: CM Yogi Adityanath

Chief Minister addressed the seminar organised by UPEIDA and FICCI at Defence Expo-2020



Addressing the seminar organised by UPEIDA and FICCI at DefExpo-2020 on second day of the event, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that Uttar Pradesh provides immense possibilities and opportunities of investment. Here,

industrialists can succeed in making India self-dependent in defence production, and also help develop their business and the state. "Our policy is much better than other states and it will attract investment here," he said.

He also said that the eastern and western corridors being built in the country are passing through Uttar Pradesh. The junction of the two is at Burari, Uttar Pradesh. The investors who invest here will benefit from it. "We will develop 17 cities as 'Smart and Safe Cities' in the state, in which Integrated Command and Control Centers will be established and there will be huge investment possibilities", he added.

The road connectivity of the state is very good because of its direct connectivity to the national capital and air connectivity across the world. The state government is developing infrastructure facilities in the state at a fast pace.

Expressways are being established on a large scale. Presently, the work of Purvanchal Expressway is in progress and it will be operational by the end of this year. In addition, the construction

work on Bundelkhand Expressway will be started from this month. Also, the survey work for the Ganga Expressway from Meerut to Prayagraj has been completed. Its construction will begin by the end of this year as the CM assured.

UP has an able captain: Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that Uttar Pradesh will play an important role in fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of making the country a \$5 trillion economy. Uttar Pradesh is steadily moving forward on the path of development. The rail, air and road connectivity has improved in the state and the single-window system is working better in UP.

The Defence Minister said that the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh is working as an able captain, so investors will no longer have to face difficulties in UP.

Cops suspect gang rivalry behind Rohini murder

JIGNASA SINHA NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

A DAY after a 26-year-old man was shot dead by assailants in Rohini, police have identified two sharpshooters and suspect the incident to be a fallout between the victim and the Deepak Titar gang.

According to police, the victim, Anchil Thakur, who has a crime record, was hit by over 15 of the 50 bullets fired at his Scorpio car on Wednesday evening.

Police believe a total of eight persons are involved in the murder and said no arrest has been made so far.

Additional Commissioner of Police (Rohini) S D Mishra said: "We have registered a case of murder at Kanjhawala police station. We are scanning CCTV footage and conducting local enquiries to identify the accused and ascertain the sequence of events. We suspect a gang war led to this. We have identified a few more suspects. The accused will be nabbed soon."

According to police, around 8.30 pm, Thakur was driving home when the assailants, who were in two cars, blocked his way near Ladpur in Kanjhawala and fired at him.

A video circulating on social media shows passersby trying to drag the victim out of the car. Eyewitnesses said they found him dead, and there were bullet injuries on him and blood on the seats.

Police said CCTV footage shows two cars - a Hyundai Xcent and i20 - at the spot. "We suspect the involvement of the Deepak Titar gang. Titar was arrested in 2016 and a few of his gang members were involved in a fight with Thakur earlier. Two sharpshooters have been identified. We conducted raids on Wednesday night and Thursday but the men are absconding," said an officer.

Police said Thakur was granted bail three months ago in a case of attempt to murder. He was arrested along with two others in March 2019 for allegedly attacking a man over a financial dispute. Police said he was involved in other cases of robbery and violence too.



The victim, Anchil Thakur, was hit by over 15 of the 50 bullets fired at his Scorpio car on Wednesday evening

Thakur's family reached Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital for his post-mortem Thursday.

His father, Rajbir (50), said, "He had gone to Jaunti for some work and told me he would return. He has bullet injuries on his head, hands, chest and back. We knew there was some trouble. He was being threatened by some men who were demanding Rs 40-50 lakh. He didn't do anything wrong."

Thakur's brother, Sachin, said, "After Anchil got bail, he was handling property disputes in the area. I told him to be careful as local gangsters are often involved in the same business. Titar's men were harassing Anchil over money. We told him to file a complaint but he said the matter wasn't big."

Anchil lived with his family in Karala village near Kanjhawala. He is survived by his parents, wife and two-year-old child.

SIX-STOREY STRUCTURE VIOLATED NORMS: SDMC

Residents evacuated after building in Munirka tilts

ABHINAV RAJPUT NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

PANIC BROKE out in South Delhi's Munirka early Thursday morning after a six-storey building tilted, following which 45 of its residents and 100 people living in houses nearby were evacuated.

Police said they were informed about the incident at 5.30 am and that teams from the South Delhi Municipal Corporation and the National Disaster Response Force, along with the sub-divisional magistrate, are at the spot.

According to a senior official of the South MCD, the building, which is opposite the JNU campus, violates civic body rules as no house above 15 metres is allowed to be constructed. He said the building is older than 15 years and that two floors were added five-six years ago, without seeking permission.

"It tilted by half an inch in the morning; by afternoon it tilted eight inches... it seems stable for now," said the official, adding that several other buildings in the village violate the height rules.

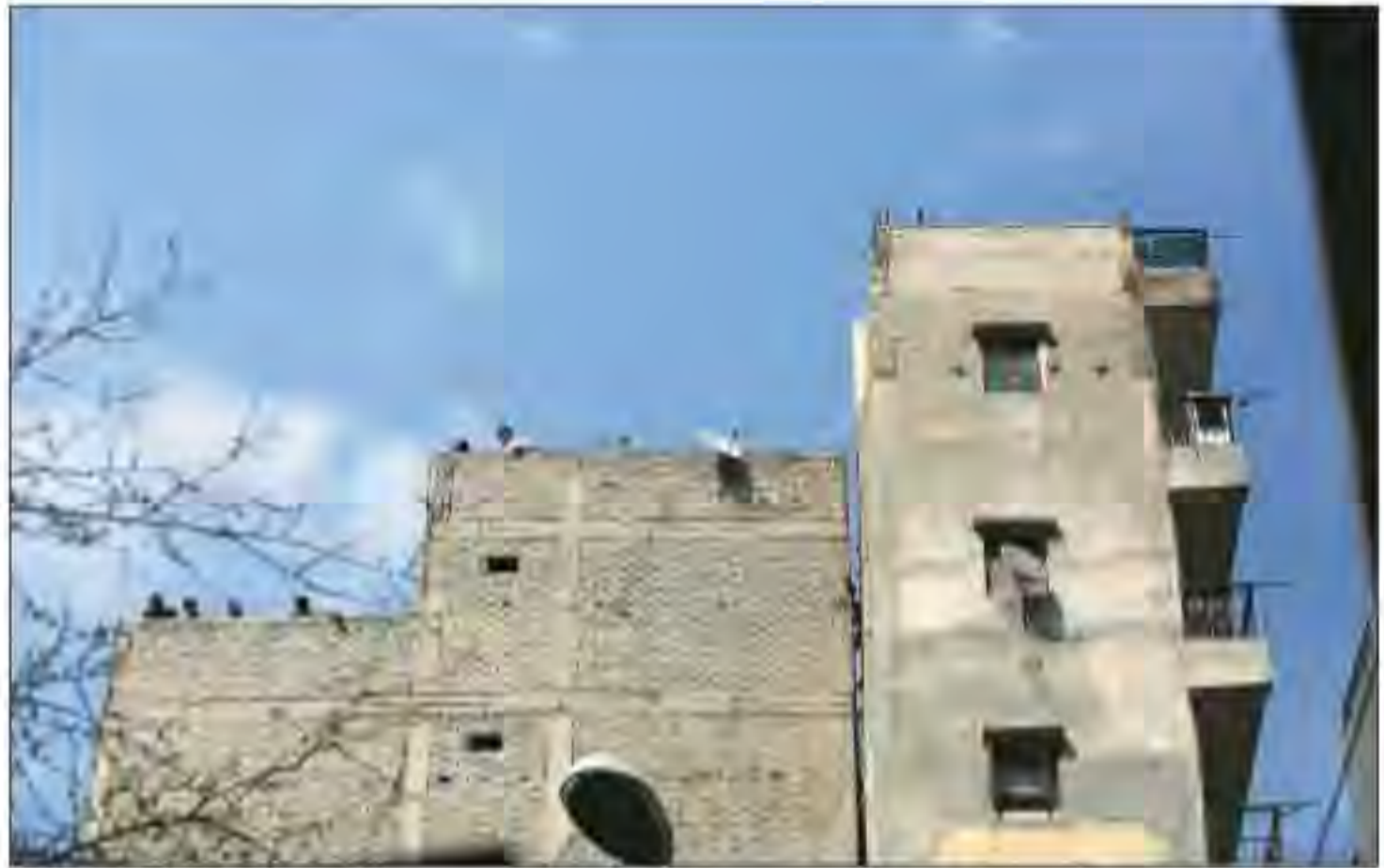
Police have identified the building owner and said a case will soon be registered against him.

The South Corporation is responsible for checking height violations and identifying dangerous buildings in its jurisdiction.

South Delhi Mayor Sunita Kangra said the building was declared dangerous but people were not ready to vacate it.

"It is only after it tilted that the building was vacated. The corporation is keeping watch and it will be demolished soon," she said.

According to the official, the houses in the village are on a hillock, which makes the area even more dangerous as the base is not uniform or flat like other



Officials said the building on the right, which has tilted 8 inches, was built in violation of civic body rules; (right) families wait on the pavement near JNU.

Gajendra Yadav

Officially said the building on the right, which has tilted 8 inches, was built in violation of civic body rules; (right) families wait on the pavement near JNU.

areas in Delhi. He also said violations mostly go unchecked as villagers don't allow officials to investigate the houses and due to the nexus between civic body officials, politicians and house owners. "When zonal officials take action, politicians question them," he said.

Another official said it was difficult to identify the building as an illegal structure as there were no cracks. "Prime facie, it appears to have tilted because of seepage in the foundation," he said.

"For us, lives are more important than anyone's belongings. We cannot allow anyone to enter the building. Once it is strengthened and partially demolished, then a decision will be taken on whether people can enter the flats and take their belongings," said the official.

'Heard shouts at 4 am and rushed outside'

ABHINAV RAJPUT NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

ON THE pavement next to the main gate of the JNU campus Thursday, several families who were evacuated from the six-storey building across the road, which had tilted, looked distressed on not being able to take their belongings. Many of the residents work as auto drivers, assistants in shops or as domestic helps in nearby localities.

Neetu Devi, who hails from Aligarh and works as a help at teachers' homes in JNU, said, "We don't have any relatives here to stay with. Officials aren't telling us if we will be allowed to take our belongings or not." She and her husband sat on the pavement, looking at the building. Neetu, however, is thankful that she and her five-member family are safe.

Next to her sat Ashok Mahto, who works in a grocery store as a helper, along with his wife.



"Around 4 am, we heard people shouting that cracks had developed in the building. We immediately rushed outside," he said, adding that cracks have developed inside the house as well.

Residents said they pay Rs 5,500 as rent for a one-bedroom flat. There were two such flats on each floor.

Sneh Lata, whose husband works as an auto driver, said, "We don't have anything to eat... we just left with the clothes on our backs. Our children too are outside in this cold."

MEDIATORS RETURN FOR DAY 2 OF TALKS

'Let's solve Shaheen Bagh road closure, then fight CAA'

JIGNASA SINHA NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

A DAY after initiating a dialogue with the protesters at Shaheen Bagh, the two-member mediation panel appointed by the Supreme Court returned to the site Thursday and promised to "inspect the area and help the protesters". The panel was appointed by the top court after petitions were filed against the protesters for blocking the road.

At 3 pm, the mediators, Sanjay Hegde and Sadhana Ramachandran, sat on the stage at Shaheen Bagh for the second round of talks. They explained to the protesters that their fight against CAA and NRC will be heard by the court in a different case. "The SC is looking at the road closure issue. Let's solve this and then fight a bigger case, that is the CAA and NRC. We are with you but you need to understand that people are against the road closure," said Hegde.

A man and a woman stood up and told the mediators that there are alternate routes that people can take. "We cover 200 metres of Road 13 A. The Kalindi Kunj Khadar road and Mahamaya fly-over are alternate roads barricaded by police... The SC must consider this; why should we move when there are roads that can be used?" said the woman.



SC-appointed interlocutors Sanjay Hegde and Sadhana Ramachandran at Shaheen Bagh, Thursday. Gajendra Yadav

The group once again reiterated that they cannot shift the protest elsewhere.

A woman told Hegde, "This protest is part of my identity. I can't leave before CAA is removed. It took you 65 days to come here and listen to us... if we move from here, nobody will ever come and listen to our demands. We too don't want to disturb people by blocking the road, but this movement is too big for us and we won't quit."

A few of the protesters also shouted out that mediators aren't helping them. Addressing the gathering, Ramachandran said, "Aapne bulaya aur hum aapko humara haath pakadna hai ya nahi. We are mediators and can't make a decision about CAA here. We support your protest, but we also need your support in understanding the issue. People are upset with the road closure, the government may take action against you. Before that, please listen to us, let us talk in groups to make the matter clear."

After a moment of silence, the crowd said they don't want to speak in groups. "Jo baat karna hai karo, sabke saamne!" said a girl. Two volunteers then joined the mediators and took them to the alternate roads.

The mediators said they will inspect the routes and then give their opinion.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED. General public is hereby informed that one female named Kamla W/o Sudan R/o J-1880 C.R. Park, New Delhi, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Chitranganj Park, Delhi since 12.12.2019. In this regard, a case vide DD No. 18A dated 29.12.2019 has been registered at P.S. Chitranganj Park Delhi.

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY. General Public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely Nitin Tiwari S/o Daya Nand Tiwari R/o H.No.21, Sunday Market Ph-IV, Aya Nagar, New Delhi Aged-14 Years has been reported missing since 05.02.2020 from the area of P.S. Fatehpur Beri, New Delhi vide FIR No.45/20 Dated 06.02.2020 u/s 363 IPC registered at Police Station Fatehpur Beri, New Delhi.

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON. General public is hereby informed that this person namely Deepak S/o Sh. Jai Singh R/o H.No. E-1st/110, Madangir, New Delhi Age : 19 years, Complexion : Sallow, Height : 170 cm, Build : Thin, Face : Long, wearing grey colour Jacket, blue colour Jeans and chappal in feet, has been missing since 29.01.2020 from the area of P.S. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi. In this regard DD No. 47-A dated 30.01.2020 P.S. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi has been lodged.

Delhi Tourism & Transportation Development Corporation Limited. e-Tenders invited for: 1. Installation of Hot (Tea, Coffee, Soups), Cold Beverages and Soft Drinks vending machines at Coffee Home, Connaught Place and other Delhi Government Offices.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES, Telangana, Hyderabad. Specimen copies of the books published during the Calendar Years 2017, 2018 and 2019 only (both Indian and Foreign publications) are invited from the Publishers / Authors for selection and purchase under the scheme of Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation (RRLRF).

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH. MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION & URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT. ANDHRA PRADESH SECRETARIAT. AMARAVATI. NOTIFICATION. Applications are invited for filling up of the post of one (1) Member of the AP Real Estate Regulatory Authority.

Office of Satna Smart City Development Limited (SSCDL) Municipal Corporation, Satna (M.P.)-485001. E-TENDER NOTICE. NIT No. SSCDL/2019/Tender/110 Satna Dated : 19.02.2020. Tender No. 2020_UAD_80880_1

EASTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF A.P.LTD. e-Tender Notice. Supply and Fixing of LT TVR Meters (DLMS) with 5 years warranty / Smart Meters, AMR Meters with 5 years warranty, implementation of MDAS Software to 1,78,860 Three Phase Transformers.

Tender Notice. Dholera Industrial City Development Limited (DICDL). Request for Qualification cum Request for Proposal for Enhancement of Side Slope of Storm Water Drainage Canal in Activation Area in DSIR.

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WEST-I. O.H.T. BERIWALA BAGH, SUBHAS NAGAR NEW DELHI- 110064. PRESS NOTICE TENDER NO. 82/W-I/(2019-20).

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE. OFFICE OF JOINT DIRECTOR, DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, ROHTAK. Application are invited from Indian Citizens for filling up the post of Legal Assistant in the Office of Joint Director District Industries Centre, Rohtak on purely contract basis on DC rates applicable in District Rohtak.

Three held for Rs 60 crore property fraud in Gurgaon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE GURGAON, FEBRUARY 20

THREE PEOPLE have been arrested by Gurgaon Police for property fraud of Rs 50-60 crore, with officials saying the accused would prepare false documents related to plots owned by others, transfer those to people they knew, and then sell them to unsuspecting buyers.

According to police, the accused have been identified as Faridabad resident Vibha; Rajendra, a resident of Gurgaon; and Delhi resident Lucky Uppal.

"The three were arrested following investigation into a case registered at Sushant Lok police station on January 23, where the complainant had stated that somebody had prepared false documents, impersonated him, and sold his plot," said PRO of

Gurgaon Police Subhash Boken. Police said Vibha and Rajendra are property dealers and would allegedly conduct recess to find plots and houses whose owners did not visit often. They would prepare false documents after taking details of the owner from the society, said police. Uppal would prepare the false seal on the documents, and transfer the property to either themselves or someone they knew. They would then sell the properties to unsuspecting buyers, said police.

"The accused also revealed that they have a gang involved in this kind of fraud in Delhi... amounting to Rs 50 to 60 crore," said the PRO, adding that Rs 10 lakh, false allotment papers, and fake stamps have been seized. "The woman was produced in court and sent to prison, while the others have been remanded in police custody," he said.

Protest at Jantar Mantar

ARMOND FEFFER NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

DOZENS GATHERED at Jantar Mantar Thursday to protest against the imposition of the Public Safety Act (PSA) on political leaders and residents in Kashmir. They also demanded restoration of Article 370 and internet services in the valley. The lockdown in Kashmir was announced last August and has persisted into the new year.

The protest, which was organised by a group of NGOs, youth alliances and students, also saw performances of traditional Kashmiri music and songs. A statement issued by the groups said, "Recognising that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are facing a repressive onslaught... we, concerned citizens of India, on this 200th day of the abrogation of Article 370 & 35A and lockdown of Kashmir, register our protest through poetry, songs of resistance and solidarity with the people of J&K, to demand the release of all political leaders and restoration of communication channels."

7 GOVT & POLITICS



MAKING A BEELINE

AFTER PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's impromptu visit to Hunar Haat at the India Gate lawns on Wednesday afternoon, a plethora of VVIPs have started making a beeline for the artisans' fair that has been on for some time now. First, it was Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu who went to the fair along with his wife. Later in the day, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani, too, visited the fair.

TOUGH TASK

ITBP DIRECTOR General SS Deswal is giving a tough time to his colleagues. A fitness enthusiast, Deswal has trekked over 450 km in the past one year in the high reaches of the Himalayas. Since he makes all these journeys officially, his immediate subordinates have to accompany him on foot. What makes it worse is that Deswal is able to complete these treks in record time and this means no one accompanying him gets much rest. On Friday, Deswal will again lead a contingent from Bikaner to Jodhpur with an aim to cover 100 km in 24 hours. The highest trek that the 58-year-old IPS officer has undertaken has been at 18,000 feet.

THE ORGANISERS

THE MUCH anticipated nine-judge bench hearing in the Sabarimala review case began on February 17. However, the proceedings were unexpectedly put on hold the very next day. The court issued a notification that the bench will not sit on Thursday without giving any reasons and with Friday being declared a holiday for Mahashivaratri, the hearing can now only happen next week. The reason that the judges are busy organising an international conference, "Judiciary and the Changing World", where judges from other countries, President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also be in attendance.

Leadership debate on, Cong hits out at Tharoor, Dikshit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

SENIOR CONGRESS leader and Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor Thursday renewed his call for leadership elections in the Congress, a day after former Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit's son and ex-MP Sandeep Dikshit argued that the biggest challenge faced by the party is the "leadership question" and accused senior leaders of failing to find a new president because they are "scared who will bell the cat".

Dikshit and Tharoor were rebuffed by the party even as a senior leader asserted that Rahul Gandhi, who had stepped down as Congress president following the party's Lok Sabha election defeat, is set to return to the helm "very soon". "There is no other leader to lead the party at this juncture... no other leader to fight the BJP... we will be expediting his return," the leader said without giving a time frame.

While the Congress constitution says that 12 of the 23 members of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) will be elected by AICC delegates, the last time elections to the CWC were held was more than two decades ago

in 1997 when Sitaram Kesri was the party president. Sonia Gandhi, who became Congress president in 1998, always nominated the CWC members—a practice many in the party believe promoted a culture of patronage. "What Sandeep Dikshit said openly is what dozens of party leaders across the country are saying privately, including many with responsible positions. I renew my appeal to CWC to hold leadership elections..." Tharoor said.

Dikshit, in an interview to *The Indian Express*, had slammed senior leaders for not electing a new leader after Rahul stepped down and argued that there were others capable of leading the party.

Tharoor called for elections for the 12 elected seats in the CWC as well as for the party presidency.

The party, meanwhile, criticised both Dikshit and Tharoor. "It was the CWC which elected the Congress president. If anybody has any illusions, they should read the resolution of the CWC..." Congress communication department head Randeep Surjewala told reporters.

"My request to all my colleagues is that...instead of pontificating to the whole country...first they take advantage of their work in their respective constituencies."



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu during the 34th Statehood Day celebrations, in Itanagar on Thursday. PTI

Shah in Arunachal: N-E special status will stay

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah Thursday assured the North-East that Article 371, the Constitutional provision that grants special status to some states, "will never" be abrogated. The provision is aimed at protecting the ethnic and cultural rights of tribals.

Speaking in Itanagar Thursday during an event to commemorate the foundation day of Arunachal Pradesh, Shah said: "I want to assure Arunachal Pradesh that it is the duty of our government to protect the rights, traditions and culture of the 27 castes and 120 tribes of the state. In August last year, when Narendra Modi took the decision to abrogate Article 370 in Kashmir, rumours were spread in the North-East that Article 371 would also be removed. On the occasion of the foundation day of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, I want to tell the North-East that no one can remove Article 371, nor does anyone harbour such intentions. Those who want to create differences between India and the North-East through these rumours will never be successful." Apart from Arunachal, the states in the region covered under the provision include Nagaland, Assam, Mizoram, Manipur and Sikkim.

"Without the cultural prosperity of the North-East tribes, Indian culture is not only incomplete but also handicapped. Before 2014, the North-East was connected to India only administratively and geographically. But now, it is also integrated with India culturally. Now, there is no difference between the North-East and India," he said.

"All Indians believe that the progress of the North-East and the welfare of its people is the responsibility of the entire country. And the entire North-East today believes that security of the borders and acknowledgement of Indianness is the responsibility of the North-East," he said.

Shah went on to attack previous governments for failing to reach out to the region.

"The region was just used to take MPs to Delhi to help form governments. Under the Narendra Modi government, initiatives have been taken to rid the North-East of its problems, to develop it, to make it an impenetrable wall of the border and to make its culture a beautiful part of Indian culture," he said.

"In just five years, this process of integration has surged ahead. When PM Narendra Modi took charge, he decided that a Union minister will visit the North-East every 15 days. Before I arrived here, as many as 200 ministers have visited Arunachal. The PM

himself has toured 30 times..." he said.

The Home Minister said that through the Land Boundary Agreement with Bangladesh, the Bru-Reang agreement and the Bodo Accord, the government had solved many problems. He announced that by 2020-21, all North-East capitals would be connected by road and air.

Shah also inaugurated a slew of projects and schemes for the state, including the launch of the Arunachal Pradesh Industrial and Investment Policy 2020 and laying of foundation stone for the police headquarters at Itanagar, among others.

Talking about the government's efforts to bring a lasting solution to the problems of the North-East, he said that before the Modi government came to power, the region was identified by insurgency, extremism, separatism, blockades, corruption, ethnic tensions, drugs and arms trafficking.

"The region is now famous in the whole world for its infrastructure development, connectivity, boost to sports, Act East policy and organic farming," he said.

The Home Minister said that under the Modi government, the developmental budget allocation for the North-East in the latest Finance Commission (FC) saw a sharp rise of over 200 per cent from the previous panel.

China raises Shah trip, India says Arunachal Pradesh integral part

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

AS CHINA "firmly opposed" Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, saying that it "sabotaged political mutual trust", India hit back and said that objecting to the visit "does not stand to reason and understanding" of the Indian people.

This is at least the third time over the past one year that China has objected to the visit by an Indian leader to Arunachal Pradesh.

The Home Minister is in Arunachal Pradesh to attend the 34th Statehood Day function and launch a number of projects related to industry and roads.

China, which claims Arunachal Pradesh as a part of south Tibet, objected to Shah's visit to attend the statehood day on Thursday, saying it is "firmly opposed" to his trip as it violated Beijing's "territorial sovereignty and sabotaged political mutual trust".

"China's position on the eastern sector of the China-India boundary, or the southern part of China's Tibet region, is consistent and clear," China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at an online media briefing on Thursday while replying to a question.

"The Chinese government has never recognised the so-called 'Arunachal Pradesh' and is firmly opposed to the Indian politician's visit to the southern part of China's Tibet region as it violated China's territorial sovereignty, undermined stability of the border area, sabotaged political mutual trust, and violated relevant bilateral agreement," he said.

"The Chinese side urges the Indian side to stop taking any action that may further complicate the border issue and take concrete actions to uphold peace and tranquillity of the border area," he said.

Responding to Beijing's statement, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said, "Our position on Arunachal Pradesh is clear and consistent. Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India. Indian leaders routinely travel to the state of Arunachal Pradesh as

EXPLAINED A lot at stake for bilateral relations

BY OBJECTING to Home Minister Amit Shah's visit, Beijing reiterated its position on Arunachal Pradesh for at least the third time in the last one year. China, which usually only objects to the visits, went a step ahead this time and said that it "sabotaged mutual political trust". Delhi, predictably, retorted sharply. Diplomatic rhetoric aside, both Beijing and Delhi have enough at stake to not let such public contestations affect their bilateral ties.

they do to any other states of India. Objecting to the visit of Indian leaders to a state of India does not stand to reason and understanding of the Indian people."

This is not the first time China has objected to the visits by Indian leaders. Last November, China had objected to the visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Arunachal Pradesh, saying the Chinese government never acknowledged the Northeastern Indian state, which it claims to be a part of South Tibet. Singh visited Tawang in November 2019 for the Maitree Diwas celebrations to boost civil-military friendship in the region bordering China.

In February last year, China "firmly opposed" Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, asserting that it has never recognised the sensitive border state and the Indian leadership should refrain from any action that may "complicate the boundary question".

Prime Minister Modi had inaugurated and laid foundation stone of projects in Arunachal Pradesh worth over Rs 4,000 crore and said his government was giving a lot of importance to improve connectivity in the border state.

On both these occasions, India had responded and said Arunachal Pradesh is an "integral and inalienable" part of India.



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat at an event in Ranchi on Thursday. PTI

Don't use word nationalism, some link it to Nazism: Bhagwat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA RANCHI, FEBRUARY 20

THE WORD "nationalism" can lend itself to different interpretations and could be equated with "Nazism and Fascism" by some, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Thursday.

Bhagwat's remark came amid continued protests in several towns and cities of the country against the new citizenship law and probable pan-India NRC, moves branded by those opposing them as a reflection of "Hindutva nationalism" that is detrimental to Muslims.

Addressing an RSS event here, Bhagwat recalled how a Sangh volunteer advised him against using the word during a visit to the United Kingdom.

"I was on a visit to the UK. A karyakrta advised me not to use the word nationalism as English is not our language and it could have a different meaning in England. It's okay to say nation, national and nationality but not nationalism. Because it means (alludes to) Hitler, Nazism and Fascism (in England)," he said.

"Problems of radicalism, environment and the belief that one is right while the rest are wrong are the basic issues disturbing world peace," he said.

Only India has got the experience to think holistically to find solutions to these problems, Bhagwat added.

The RSS chief said different countries had different languages, religions and models of economic development and someone not accepting those cannot be its national.

"You can be (their) guest, host, minority, anything, even enemy, but not its national," he said without elaborating.

RAJASTHAN BUDGET

Farmers to women, Gehlot zooms in on 7 areas

HAMZA KHAN JAIPUR, FEBRUARY 20

CRITICISING THE Union government's economic policies that said have translated into "losses" for the state, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot presented his government's second Budget on Thursday with a focus on health, farmers, jobs, and without any new taxes.

Gehlot said Rajasthan is losing out on nearly Rs 10,362 crore from its share in Central taxes. "The Centre has many sources (to generate revenue), such as borrowing from the RBI, disinvestment, reducing its share in LIC, but states do not have any option," he said.

Gehlot listed seven focus areas of his government for the coming fiscal: health; farmers; development of women, children and senior citizen; labourers and students/youth; education; water/electricity/roads; and skills and technology.

A provision of over Rs 14,533 crore has been made for health-



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot with MLAs in the state Assembly on Thursday. Rohit Jain Paras

related services. This includes a 'Nirogi Rajasthan Prabandhan Kosh' of Rs 100 crore, and early intervention centres at district level, as well as increase of 1,000 beds in hospitals.

Gehlot announced that construction of 15 new medical colleges would be completed in the next four years at an expenditure of approximately Rs 5,000 crore.

Gehlot announced over Rs 3,420 crore for the Agriculture Department, which includes setting up of 12,500 farm ponds with an expenditure of Rs 150 crore to increase groundwater levels.

For Women and Child Development, he said that an "A-3 application" will be developed for better coordination among aanganwadi karyakartas, ASHA

sahyogini and Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery (ANM).

For Social Justice and Empowerment Department, the Budget provisions Rs 8,500 crore and says a Board for the Economically Backward Classes will be constituted. G

For minorities, he announced a grant of Rs 5 crore to the Waqf Board and construction of residential school buildings for minority boys and girls at Masuda and Kaman blocks of Bharatpur with Rs 41.60 crore, as well as a 100-bed boys' hostel in Jaipur with Rs 5 crore.

For tribals, he announced setting up of skill development centres in Pratapgarh, Dungarpur and Udaipur, as well as a subsidy of Rs 45,000 each to tribal farmers for installing solar pumps, with a ceiling of Rs 22.50 crore.

He announced 53,181 jobs, with as many as 41,000 of them in the education sector. The CM also said no new tax has been imposed but instead a relief of about Rs 130 crore has been given.

Mamata to PM: Centre owes Bengal Rs 50,000 cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 20

EXPRESSING "DEEP concern" over "inordinate delays" and a "steady reduction of funds from the Central government", West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene as the state is yet to receive its share of central funds, totalling Rs 50,000 crore till January 2020.

Stating that the state has not received Rs 36,000 crore "due till date" for various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), she asked PM to release the funds "at the earliest" as "these schemes cater mostly to the poorest population of our state", and added that West Bengal is yet to receive Rs 2,330 crore under Backward Regions Grant Fund.

The BJP called the letter a "political ploy to befoul people" ahead of civic polls — expected in April.

BJP national secretary Rahul Sinha said, "What was the state government doing for so long? Just ahead of the municipal elections, all of a sudden, it has realised that it has been deprived of funds. This is merely a political ploy to befoul the people of the state."

Outlining the "outstanding dues", Mamata said, "The GST

compensation due to us for the month of October-November, 2019 has just been released in February 2020. Such irregular compensation release is having a serious negative impact on the management of finances of the states..." she wrote adding that the GST dues till January 2020 amounted to Rs 2,400 crore.

Stating that the state has not received Rs 36,000 crore "due till date" for various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), she asked PM to release the funds "at the earliest" as "these schemes cater mostly to the poorest population of our state", and added that West Bengal is yet to receive Rs 2,330 crore under Backward Regions Grant Fund.

The BJP called the letter a "political ploy to befoul people" ahead of civic polls — expected in April. BJP national secretary Rahul Sinha said, "What was the state government doing for so long? Just ahead of the municipal elections, all of a sudden, it has realised that it has been deprived of funds. This is merely a political ploy to befoul the people of the state."

US THINK TANK STUDY

US increasingly preferred by Indians over China: Report

KARISHMA MEHROTRA NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

SUPPORTERS OF THE BJP are more likely to "voice confidence" in US President Donald Trump than their Congress counterparts. However, regardless of the party, almost half of Indians disapprove of Trump's policy on increasing tariffs or fees on imported goods — a point of contention between the two nations. This opinion, on the other hand, is counterbalanced by an increasing negativity towards

China and a consistent positivity towards the US over the past five years.

The new findings are from a report of US think tank Pew Research Center about public opinion in India. The recent face-to-face survey, conducted yearly since 2014 as part of a larger Global Attitudes Survey, involved 2,476 randomly sampled respondents who spoke Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Tamil, and Telugu. The survey was conducted between June and October 2019.

Asked to choose between the US and China for important economic ties, the US has consistently been chosen by roughly 60 per cent respondents since 2014, and those choosing China slashed in half — from 14 to 7 per cent — in 2019.

Those describing their opinion of China as "very" or "somewhat favorable" has dipped from 35 per cent to 23 per cent and "very" or "somewhat unfavorable" opinions have risen from 41 to 46 per cent.

Lack of confidence in Chinese President Xi Jinping has consistently remained at roughly 35 per cent, with a slight uptick of 7 per cent in those who are confident. On the other hand, confidence in Trump since 2016 has risen from 14 per cent to 56 per cent. These numbers are potentially due to more people now offering an opinion about the US President than before.

Indians' opinion on the two countries' influence on the economy presents another clear picture. Roughly 60 per cent of the respondents agree that the US and China are influencing their economy, but China's growing

economy was deemed a "bad thing" by 61 per cent, up from 46 per cent in 2014. On the other hand, three-quarters overwhelmingly believe economic ties with the US are positive in 2019.

India's confidence in Trump's foreign policy is matched or surpassed by very few surveyed countries. The Global survey found that those who had more consistent positivity towards the US maintained greater confidence in Trump.

With regard to several other foreign policy issues, India did-

not care as much as other countries. For example, when asked about Trump's wall between the US and Mexico, India had the lowest disapproval rate of 33 per cent.

That being said, foreign economic influence overall seems to be dipping in Indian public opinion. The respondents were asked about foreign companies purchasing Indian companies. From 2014 to 2019, the percentage favouring it dipped from 56 to 43 per cent, while the disapproving opinions climbed from 30 to 47 per cent.

'Courtesy visit': Uddhav to meet PM in Delhi today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 20

NEARLY THREE months after he was sworn in as the Maharashtra chief minister, Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray will be heading for his first official visit to Delhi, where he will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday. Sources said Uddhav may also meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

The meeting with the PM assumes significance as this will be the first one-on-one meeting between the two leaders after Sena and BJP broke their 30-year-old al-

liance and Uddhav formed the government with NCP and Congress in Maharashtra.

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut termed the meeting as a "courtesy visit". In December 2018, Uddhav met Modi for the first time after becoming the CM when the former had come to Pune to attend the national conference of DGPs.

The meeting comes in the backdrop of some friction between Sena and allies Congress and NCP over Sena's stand on National Population Register (NPR). "At the meeting, many issues, including CAA, NPR and NRC as well as financial assistance may be discussed," said a Sena leader.

8 EXPRESS NETWORK



NORTH Woman killed, six injured in Meerut land dispute

Meerut: A 25-year-old woman was shot dead and six others sustained injuries in a clash between two families over a piece of agriculture land in Meerut's Thiro village early Thursday morning. The injured have been admitted to the district hospital. The police said that families of Wahab (40) and



Border Roads Organisation launched a snow-clearing operation on the Manali-Leh national highway at Darcha in Lahaul, Himachal Pradesh, on Thursday. PTI

EAST Land officials thrashed during searches on trucks in Bengal

Kharagpur: Two land department officials were seriously injured after being assaulted with sticks by truck drivers in West Bengal's West Midnapore district, police said on Thursday. The team led by sub-divisional land reform officer Prabir Kumar Roy on Wednesday night were carrying out searches in trucks carrying sand, alleged

WEST Maharashtra: Six killed, seven hurt as SUV rams into truck

Chandrapur: Six people were killed and seven others injured when their SUV rammed into a stationary truck in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district in the early hours of Thursday, police said. The victims included three women and a two-year-old boy, they said. The mishap took place around 12.30 am when the

SOUTH First coronavirus patient of India discharged

Thiruvananthapuram: The person who first tested positive for novel coronavirus in India was discharged from a hospital in Kerala's Thrissur on Thursday. The 20-year-old medical student, who had returned from China on January 24, was discharged from the medical college hospital after her latest diagnostic tests reported negative

19 killed in TN as truck rams into bus

Bus was on way to Ernakulam from Bengaluru, truck driver held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 20

NINETEEN PEOPLE, including five women, were killed and 25 injured when a speeding container truck rammed into a Kerala Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus near Coimbatore early on Thursday morning. All the victims were from Kerala and were in the KSRTC bus travelling to Ernakulam from Bengaluru.

According to police, there were 48 passengers in the bus. Preliminary inquiries indicate that the driver of the container truck, which was carrying floor tiles from Kerala, slept at the wheel and this led to the accident, officials said.

"The truck hit the road median, entered the opposite lane and rammed into the bus. We also suspect there was a tyre burst in the truck because of which it crossed the median. Truck driver Hemaraj has been detained," said a senior police officer.

At least seven rows of passenger seats on the right side of the bus, including the driver's seat, were completely damaged in the accident. Most seats on the left side were intact, except those in the front portion of the bus.

Karishma K, who was travelling in the bus and escaped without injuries, told *The Indian Express* that the accident took

place around 3.15 am on Thursday. "I was sitting right behind the conductor's seat near the exit door. It was the second row on the left side. The conductor died in the accident. When I opened my eyes, I had a totally open view on my right side as that side of the bus and a part of its roof were gone," she said.

Karishma said she managed to come out of the bus through the baggage chamber which was broken open by rescue teams. "Some passengers managed to jump through the broken windows and some were seen trying to break the window panes," she said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit and Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami condoled the deaths.

The authorities managed to identify 12 bodies on Thursday morning, but with relatives of the victims reaching the spot, all the victims were identified by the evening.

A senior Tirupur district official, who was coordinating rescue operations, said the Kerala government had sent 20 ambulances to Tirupur to receive the bodies. "One person is still critical," the official said.

Kerala Transport Minister A K Saseendran and Agriculture Minister V S Sunil Kumar, too, reached Tirupur to support the families of the victims and those injured.



At the accident spot in Tamil Nadu's Tirupur district on Thursday. PTI

2 yrs ago, driver, conductor who died in mishap were saviours for passenger

VISHNU VARMA KOCHI, FEBRUARY 20

THE DEATH of driver V D Gireesh and conductor V R Baiju in the accident in Tirupur district of Tamil Nadu on Thursday led many of their colleagues in Kerala to recall their services towards passengers, especially of an incident in 2018 for which the two were commended by the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC).

On June 3, 2018, Gireesh and Baiju were aboard the Ernakulam-Bengaluru overnight Volvo service when a passenger, Dr Kavitha Varier, boarded the bus from Thrissur. Dr Kavitha began to experience seizures and became ill by the time the bus



VD Gireesh, VR Baiju

reached Hosur near the Karnataka border. Gireesh, as recommended by passengers, turned the bus around to reach the nearest hospital.

After Dr Kavitha was hospitalised, Baiju spoke to his seniors in Bengaluru and Thrissur and was told to take care of the passenger. The two deposited the admission fees at the hospital with doctors informing them that the patient was critical. Since the

family of the patient would have taken several hours to travel from Thrissur to the hospital, Baiju agreed to stand in at the hospital till they arrived. Gireesh then took the remaining passengers and continued with the journey.

Dr Kavitha was shocked when she heard the news of their death on Thursday. "He (Baiju) was very supportive, just as a father would behave... He assured my mother over the phone that there was nothing to worry... At a time when we hear so many reports of assault against women, I feel so lucky that it was a person like him who helped me that day."

The incident was first reported in a community blog of KSRTC in 2018 and then KSRTC MD Tomin J Thachankary, in a letter, had praised the two for their efforts.

Student raises pro-Pak slogans, Owaisi disowns her remarks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 20

BENGALURU POLICE on Thursday filed a case of sedition against a student activist who allegedly raised "Pakistan Zindabad" slogans at a protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) attended by AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi.

Amulya Leona, a student of a south Bengaluru college, raised the slogan on the stage of an anti-CAA protest at Freedom Park, Bengaluru. After she raised the slogan a few times, the organisers snatched the microphone from her.

Soon after the slogans were raised and Leona was detained, AIMIM chief Owaisi addressed the rally. "My dear friends and elders, we have no connection with the words uttered here. We have no connection with this — neither me nor my party have any connection to this. As long as we are alive we will shout the slogan of Bharat Zindabad. We have no connection with Pakistan and will never have."

The state BJP and Congress called for legal action. State BJP chief Nalin Kumar Kateel said in a statement, "Today at an anti-CAA rally in Bengaluru, a young woman by the name Amulya Leona shouted pro-Pakistan slogans and behaved in an anti-national manner. The police must take action."

In its Twitter official handle, the state BJP unit said: "Anti-CAA



Ruckus erupted after a woman shouted 'Pakistan zindabad' at a protest rally against CAA and NRC in Bengaluru where Asaduddin Owaisi was present. ANI

activist Amulya Leona shouts Pakistan Zindabad in the presence of AIMIM Chief at Bengaluru. Truth is that protests against CAA are a joint venture between Pakistan & Anti-National Forces led by @INCIndia. Those who support Pakistan should go there forever."

The state Congress unit, too, condemned the incident on social media and called for legal action.

The incident took place at a time when a video of former AIMIM legislator from Maharashtra Waris Pathan addressing an anti-CAA rally is doing the rounds on social media.

Speaking at Kalaburagi region of Karnataka recently, he purportingly said, "...kattha hoke chaina padega, azadi leni padegi aur jo cheez mangne se nahin milti, usko chhin ke lena padega. yeh bhi yaad rakhna... humko bola ma-behno ko aage bhej diya... abhi toh siif sh-

erriya bahar nikli hain aur tumhare paseene chhoot gaye, samajh lo agar hum logsaath mein aa gaye toh kya hoga, 15 crore hain lekin 100 ke upar bhari hain, yaad rakh lena yeh baat (We have to take freedom, and when you don't get something by asking for it, you have to snatch it... they said we put the women in front... only the tigresses came out and you have started sweating... imagine what would happen if all of us came along... we are 15 crore but weigh heavy on 100 crore.)"

Slamming the remarks, the BJP's Karnataka unit tweeted, "Hiding behind children and women, legends are seeking 'Azadi.' What more Azadi do they want? Aren't they enjoying every kind of Azadi since 1947? Waris Pathan and other leaders of AIMIM should come out of their Aurangzeb's World. These threats don't work in New India."

Voter card sufficient proof of citizenship: court acquits 2 accused of being infiltrators

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 20

MAINTAINING THAT an electoral photo identity card or voter card is sufficient proof of citizenship, a court in Mumbai recently acquitted two persons accused of being "Bangladeshi infiltrators" by police.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate A H Kashikar on February 11 acquitted Abbas Shaikh and his wife Rabiya Khatoon Shaikh, who were booked for breach of passport rules. The court noted in its order that while Aadhaar card, PAN card, voter identity card, passbook, health card and ration card, Rabiya Khatoon had submitted her Aadhaar card, PAN card and voter identity card. The court held that these documents are admissible in evidence.

"It is necessary to note that the Aadhaar card, PAN card, driving licence or ration card cannot be termed as documents proving citizenship in a sufficient manner as the said documents are not meant for the purpose of citizenship," the court said. "...the election card can be said to be sufficient proof of citizenship, as while applying for the election card or voting card, a person has to file declaration with the authority in view of form 6 of the Representation of the People Act that he is a citizen of India and if the declaration is found false, he is liable for punishment."

"To my mind such a declaration is sufficient to prove the citizenship unless contrary is proved by the prosecution," the judge said. The court acquitted the accused while noting that the prosecution had "utterly failed" to prove the charges levelled against them under Passport Rules and Foreigners Act.

documents to prove Indian citizenship. Additional Public Prosecutor S C Lingayat, appearing for the police, had argued.

The court noted that while Abbas Shaikh had submitted his Aadhaar card, PAN card, voter identity card, passbook, health card and ration card, Rabiya Khatoon had submitted her Aadhaar card, PAN card and voter identity card. The court held that these documents are admissible in evidence.

"It is necessary to note that the Aadhaar card, PAN card, driving licence or ration card cannot be termed as documents proving citizenship in a sufficient manner as the said documents are not meant for the purpose of citizenship," the court said. "...the election card can be said to be sufficient proof of citizenship, as while applying for the election card or voting card, a person has to file declaration with the authority in view of form 6 of the Representation of the People Act that he is a citizen of India and if the declaration is found false, he is liable for punishment."

"To my mind such a declaration is sufficient to prove the citizenship unless contrary is proved by the prosecution," the judge said. The court acquitted the accused while noting that the prosecution had "utterly failed" to prove the charges levelled against them under Passport Rules and Foreigners Act.



Kamal Haasan outside a mortuary in Chennai. PTI

3 killed as crane crashes on sets of Haasan film

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 20

THREE PEOPLE were killed and nine injured when a crane came crashing down on the sets of actor Kamal Haasan's upcoming film *Indian 2*, police said.

An assistant director was among the three killed in the accident on Wednesday night. A case has been registered against the crane operator, who is absconding, under various sections of the IPC, including causing death by negligence, police sources said.

Those dead were assistant director Krishna, art assistant Chandran and Madhu, a production assistant, said Lyca Productions, producer of the movie, in a statement on Thursday. Haasan, the film's heroine Kajal Aggarwal and others condoled the deaths. Haasan also visited the injured at a hospital late Wednesday night.

On Thursday, he said he escaped death by a "whisker" and that director Shankar could have also died had he not moved away from the spot seconds earlier. "We escaped by a whisker. Four seconds before (the incident), the director and cameraman moved away and I was standing nearer along with the heroine (Kajal)," he said.

The accident took place at suburban Nazarethpattinam when the crane employed to erect the sets crashed, the police said. The shoot was underway at a private cinema studio, they said.

On Thursday, Haasan and Lyca Productions condoled the deaths. Haasan also announced Rs 1 crore as immediate relief to the families of the victims and those injured.

Haasan said the cinema industry may boast of Rs 200-300 crore ventures but it was a matter of "insult" that it could not protect its own.

SC stays death warrant of Surat rape-murder convict

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

THE SUPREME COURT on Thursday stayed the death warrant issued against a man convicted of raping and killing a three-year old girl in Surat as it was issued before the expiry of the limitation period for appealing to the top court.

Senior Advocate Aparajita Singh told a bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant that the Gujarat High Court had confirmed the death sentence on December 27, 2019 and the death warrant was issued 33 days later on January 30, 2020. The warrant was issued even before the expiry of the statutory 60 days limitation period for filing an appeal against the High Court order, she said.

The CJ I wondered how the trial court could issue a warrant despite a judgment of the apex court already clarifying on the issue.

"Why this has happened again after a judgment of this court?... Now we have to stay this and the matter will go on... In spite of the reported judgment, how is it that such orders are passed?" the CJ I told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who said he will assist the court in the matter.

During trial, the prosecution had sought the death penalty for Anil Yadav for murder, unnatural sex and attempt to destroy evidence, citing the brutality involved in the crime committed in October 2018.

Yadav was sentenced to death by a POCSO Special court in Surat and it was subsequently upheld by the High Court.

SC may hear plea against Chinmayanand bail on Feb 24

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

THE SUPREME COURT is likely to hear on February 24 a plea challenging the bail granted to former Union minister Chinmayanand, who has been accused by a law student of sexually exploiting her.



Granted bail on Feb 3

urged the court to take up the case on priority. The bench said it will consider listing it for February 24.

The complainant had alleged that she was sexually exploited by Chinmayanand when she was a student in the college run by him. He was arrested on September 21 last year after police booked him under Sections 364 (kidnapping or abducting in order to murder) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC. He was later booked under Section 376C of the IPC.

The SIT had booked the girl, who is out on bail, over allegations that she tried to extort money from Chinmayanand.

PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT

Lawyer points to court's 'bad mood', gets adjournment

SOFI AHSAN CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 20

AN ORDER passed by a single bench of Punjab and Haryana High Court detailing an advocate's request for adjournment on the presumption of the court's "bad mood" went viral on Internet on Thursday. What preceded the unusual request was dismissal of at least four other cases by the bench.

In the order passed on February 4, Justice Rajiv Narain Raina said: "Counsel assuming the mood of the Court is bad this morning dismissing the first four urgent cases one after the other with orders dictated in court, prays that time may be granted to him to argue the case on some

other day. I grant permission for an adjournment, but not without saying that those cases were not worth admission."

On Thursday, the case was again adjourned on the counsel's request before a different single bench.

While the young advocate, who is in his fifth year of practice, declined to comment, saying it was a matter between the bar and the bench, the orders passed by the bench show how the events unfolded that day.

The case listed at number 1 in the cause list was simply adjourned. Case number 2, which was heard by the bench on that date, was not only dismissed for being "frivolous", but the petitioner — Haryana State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural



Justice Rajiv Narain Raina

Development Bank — was also directed to pay more interest to an employee from whom an amount of Rs 50,723 had been recovered violating principles of natural justice. The court also imposed a cost of Rs 20,000 on the bank for filing the appeal and ordered the amount be paid to that retired employee.

The order copy of the case listed third in the cause list was not available, but it was not dismissed. Another case, listed at num-

ber 4 that day, filed by a Punjab Police official against forfeiture of five years of service and denial of promotion was dismissed.

Another case, listed fifth and dismissed by the judge, was of an education volunteer in a school run by Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan. While the court ruled that he was a contractual employee who could be dealt with according to the pleasure of the employer, it also noted, "I refrain from going into the words recorded in the note so that they do not come in this order to be read publicly against him in his future life."

The sixth case, preceding the young advocate's case, was a civil revision petition. The order shows an application was allowed, but the main case was adjourned. It was after this that the young ad-

vocate pleaded for adjournment and had his request granted.

Justice Raina, who passed this order is known for being candid and shares light moments. When an advocate in November 2017 sought adjournment in a case on ground of respondent party's marriage, he not only acceded, but also ensured to put on record the court's wish of "happiness" for the couple.

In a stay order passed in December 2017 in land acquisition case, the judge said, "Mr Toor (advocate representing Amritsar Improvement Trust) will hold his horses not only at the Trust, but also at his farm."

A lawyer since 1982, Justice Raina was elevated to the bench in 2011 and made permanent in 2014. He is set to retire in July.

TELLING NUMBERS

Bottles, bags and other plastic packages S Asians consume

A NEW report by the World Wide Fund (WWF) analyses the volume of plastic packaging placed on the market in six rapidly growing Asian economies — China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The report was commissioned by German consultancy GVM, which specialises in the packaging market.

ANNUAL PER CAPITA PLASTIC PACKAGING CONSUMPTION (KG)

China	14.08
Indonesia	12.5
Malaysia	16.78
Philippines	12.4
Thailand	15.52
Vietnam	12.93

(1,281), Vietnam (1,223), Thailand (1,069) and Malaysia (523). In China, plastic films and bags are the most used type of packaged plastic, followed by PET bottles and plastic cups and other containers. In the other countries, household usage of plastic films and bags and PET bottles is the highest. Overall, the total annual household plastic packaging consumption in these countries is at 27 million tonnes.

The report estimates that 60% of marine plastic pollution originates in these countries and 8 million tonnes of plastic enters the oceans every year. It has projected a 300% increase in plastic packaging between 2010 and 2050.

The report finds 93% of the waste of low-income countries is dumped in the environment, compared to 4% in high-income countries. Single-use plastics and packaging for consumer goods, particularly, increase plastic pollution. Globally, 36% of plastic usage is for packaging and over a third of it lands up into the environment.

Of the six countries analysed in the report, Malaysia's per capita plastic packaging consumption is the highest, at 16.78 kg. It is followed by Thailand (15.52), China (14.08), Vietnam (12.93), Indonesia (12.5) and the Philippines (12.4).

China's annual household packaging consumption is the highest, at 19,765 million tonnes. It is followed by Indonesia (3,265), the Philippines

TOTAL ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD PACKAGING CONSUMPTION (IN 1,000 TONNES)

Country	PET bottles	Other plastic bottles	Plastic film/bags	Plastic cups/other containers	Other plastic packaging	Total plastic packaging
China	5,474	1,017	5,852	3,777	3,644	19,765
Indonesia	845	141	1,012	654	612	3,265
Malaysia	108	37	168	107	104	523
Philippines	416	51	360	217	237	1,281
Thailand	318	63	289	194	204	1,069
Vietnam	436	40	332	202	214	1,223

TIP FOR READING LIST

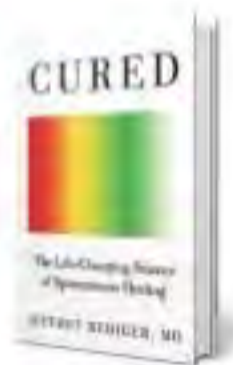
WHY MIRACLE CURES HAPPEN

NOW AND then, a doctor comes across a patient who improves unexpectedly from a disease that usually progresses, such as cancer, and at times is even cured. This is called spontaneous healing, spontaneous regression or spontaneous remission. In their 1966 book *Spontaneous Regression of Cancer*, W H Cole and T C Everson defined it (in cases of cancer) as "the partial or complete disappearance of a malignant tumour in the absence of all treatment, or in the presence of therapy which is considered inadequate to exert significant influence on neoplastic disease".

Such cases notwithstanding, the medical fraternity is often sceptical and takes "miraculous" recoveries as flukes. Very few study such cases such or take them into account when treating patients. Among these few is Dr Jeffrey Rediger, MD, a psychiatrist who also holds a master's degree in divinity. He has spent over 15 years studying spontaneous healing, the results of which he has put down in his new book.

Cured: The Life-Changing Science of Spontaneous Healing explores patterns behind healing illnesses such as the deadliest kinds of cancers, and lays out physical and mental principles associated with recovery. These include physically healing diets and immune systems, and mentally healing stress responses and identities. Rediger argues that much of our physical reality is created in our minds and perception changes our experiences, sometimes to the point of changing our bodies. Therefore, Rediger argues, healing our identities may be a key tool to recovery.

Mark Hyman, MD, hails the book: "*Cured* is a rare glimpse into the mysteries of human health and disease. Why do some people with incurable disease suddenly heal? This phenomenon has been ignored by medicine rather than investigated. Dr Rediger finally asks what we can learn from these cases of spontaneous remission and how can we activate the power of the human body using the mind to harness our body's own healing systems."



SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

How crop insurance changes

The Cabinet has limited the premium subsidy it pays under its flagship crop insurance schemes. How did the schemes work, what has now been tweaked, and what will be the likely fallout on states and farmers?

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

ON WEDNESDAY, the Centre decided to restrict its premium subsidy in its flagship crop insurance schemes to 30% for unirrigated areas and 25% for irrigated areas (from the existing unlimited), and to make enrolment of farmers in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) voluntary from the 2020 Kharif season.

What were the schemes?

At present, under PMFBY and RWBCIS, farmers pay a premium of 2% of the sum insured for all foodgrains and oilseeds crops of Kharif; 1.5% for all foodgrains and oilseeds crops of Rabi; and 5% for all horticultural crops. The difference between actuarial premium rate and the rate of insurance premium payable by farmers, which is called the Rate of Normal Premium Subsidy, is shared equally between the Centre and the states. However, states and Union Territories are free to extend additional subsidy over and above the normal subsidy from their budgets.

Until now, there was no upper limit for the central subsidy. On Wednesday, the Cabinet decided to cap the Centre's premium subsidy under these schemes for premium rates up to 30% for unirrigated areas/crops and 25% for irrigated areas/crops.

Why changes with this move, and why has the government taken it?

One interpretation of this decision is that the burden of premium subsidy will go up for the states. For example, in the old regime, if a farmer's Kharif crop was insured for Rs 1,00,000 and the rate of actuarial premium was 40%, then the premium paid by the farmer was 2% (Rs 2,000), and the remaining premium was shared by the Centre and the state equally (19% or Rs 19,000).

In the new regime, for the same sum insured (Rs 1,00,000) and the same rate of premium (40%), the Centre will give subsidy for premium rates up to 30%. This means that from the Kharif 2020 season, the Centre will have to pay premium at the rate of 14% (out of



Groundnut is a crop where the premium rate is usually high. Prashant Nadkar/file

30%, the farmer's share is 2%, and the Centre's and state's 14% each) instead of the 19% it paid (out of 40%) in the last Kharif season; the state has to bear the entire burden of the premium subsidy in cases where the rate of premium goes beyond the threshold of 30%.

A second interpretation is that the Centre may stop supporting insurance of certain crops in certain areas where the rate of premium is more than 30%. This interpretation emanates from Paragraph 'L' of the press note issued by the government on February 19, which states: "Besides above, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare in consultation with other stakeholders/agencies will prepare/develop State specific, alternative risk mitigation programme for crops/areas having high rate of premium."

While the average premium rate under PMFBY and RWBCIS at the national level was 12.32% for 2018-19, for some crops in certain districts, the rate of premium has been higher than 30% in recent years. For instance, the rate of premium for Kharif groundnut has reached 49% in Rajkot of Gujarat, and the rate for Rabi paddy crop Ramnathapuram (Tamil Nadu) has reached 42%.

During 2018-19, an amount of Rs 29,105 crore was collected as gross premium under

PMFBY and RWBCIS, which included farmers' share of Rs 4,918 crore, the Centre's share of Rs 12,034 crore, and the states' share of Rs 12,152 crore. After the new changes come into effect, the share of the states is expected to go up in those states in which such crops are cultivated.

Sources said that by capping the subsidy for premium rates up to 30%, the Centre wants to disincentivise certain crops in such areas where growing these crops involve high risks in terms of crop insurance premiums.

How many farmers are covered under these two schemes?

During 2018-19, about 5.64 crore farmers are enrolled with PMFBY for an insured sum of Rs 2,35,277 crore, and 30% of the gross cropped is insured. When the government approved PMFBY four years ago, it was described as "a path-breaking scheme for farmers' welfare" under which there was no upper limit on government subsidy. "Even if balance premium is 90%, it will be borne by the Government," said a statement released on January 13, 2016. For 2020-21, the government has allocated Rs 15,695 crore for PMFBY.

While PMFBY is based on yield, RWBCIS is based on proxies and farmers are provided insurance protection against adverse weather

FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

What did the Harappan people really eat?

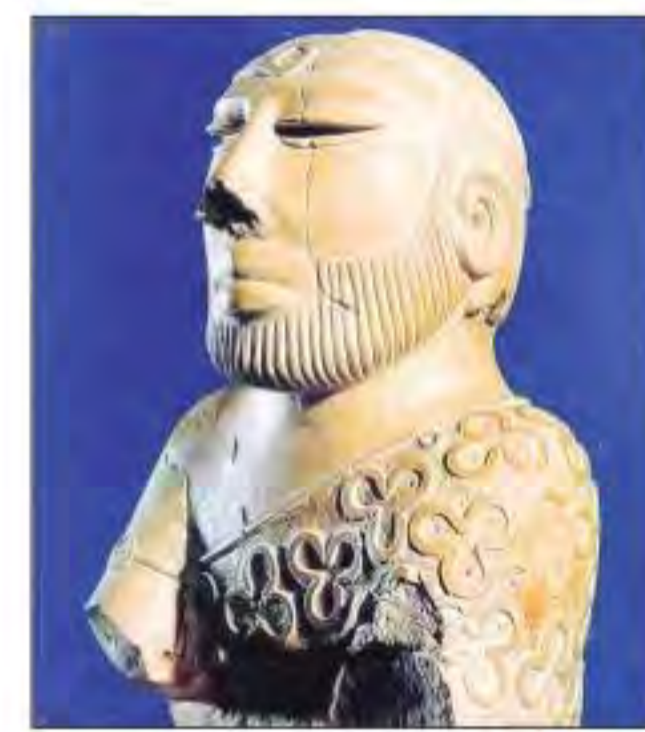
present-day India and Pakistan suggests that a purely vegetarian meal will not provide a complete picture of what the Harappan people ate.

"To judge from the quantity of bones left behind, animal foods were consumed in abundance: beef, buffalo, mutton, turtles, tortoises, gharials, and river and sea fish," food historian K T Acharya recorded in his magisterial history of Indian food, *Indian Food: A Historical Companion* (Oxford University Press, 1994).

Apart from meat, the people of the Indus Valley Civilisation grew and ate a variety of cereals and pulses. There is archaeological evidence for cultivation of pea (*matar*), chickpea (*chana*), pigeon pea (*tur/arhar*), horse gram (*chana dal*) and green gram (*moong*). Several varieties of wheat have been found at Harappan sites, as well as barley of the two-rowed and six-rowed kinds. There is evidence that the Harappans cultivated Italian millet, ragi and amaranth, as well as sorghum and rice.

Acharya writes that oilseeds such as sesame, linseed, and mustard were also grown.

Food made with many of these ingredients finds a place in the menu curated by OSMS. There are rotis made of millet and saktu (barley meal), and dishes like boiled



On his plate, and ours

lentil stew, barley griddle cakes, fermented vine or spinach leaves stuffed with millet, chickpeas and *moong*, puffed rice tossed and flaxseed tossed with honey, barley bread, brown sesame seed and jaggery *laddu*, and a drink made of *saktu*.

Condiments use ingredients that have

conditions such as excess rainfall, wind and temperature. The number of insured farmers under RWBCIS is relatively low.

How well-placed are states to raise their share of premium subsidy?

The states are already defaulting on their share, and the Centre's new cap will put an additional financial burden on them. Madhya Pradesh has not paid its share of premium even for Kharif 2018, which comes to Rs 1,500 crore. As a result, farmers have not got their claims. In fact, most states have delayed the payment of their share of premium. Sources said that in some states, the expenditure on premium of PMFBY is more than 50% of their budget for agriculture.

What can be the fallout of making the schemes voluntary?

That move will lead to a rise in the rates of premium, as the area covered under insurance and the number of enrolled farmers are expected to come down significantly. As of now the schemes are compulsory for all loanee farmers and optional for other farmers. Non-loanee farmers under the crop insurance schemes are much fewer than loanee farmers. If the latter opt out of the schemes, the number of insured farmers will drastically come down. Sources say that in such a scenario, the rate of premium of certain crops in some areas may go beyond 30%.

Which are the other changes in crop insurance schemes?

The government has given flexibility to states/UTs to implement PMFBY and RWBCIS, and given them the option to select any number of additional risk covers/features like prevented sowing, localised calamity, mid-season adversity, and post-harvest losses. Earlier, these risk covers were mandatory. Sources said this change will have two main impacts. First, it may bring down the rates of overall premium as the state governments now will not be required to invite bids factoring these risks. Second, it will make these schemes less attractive for farmers.

However, states/UTs can offer specific single peril risk/insurance covers like hailstorm etc under PMFBY.

POOJA PILLAI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

THE NATIONAL Museum in New Delhi has decided to keep meat out of the 'Historical Gastronomia' event that it is hosting on its premises until February 25, allegedly after "a couple of MPs" reacted to the menu posted online by the Ministry of Culture. (*The Indian Express*, February 20)

The last-minute diktat has resulted in dishes such as fish in turmeric stew, quail/fowl/country chicken roasted in *saal*/leaf, offal's pot, *bati* with dry fish, meat fat soup, lamb liver with chickpea, and dried fish and mahua oil chutney being knocked off the table.

Food of Harappans

The event, presented by the Museum along with One Station Million Stories (OSMS), claims to treat visitors to "The Indus dining experience" through a "specially crafted menu that strictly includes ingredients that were identified by archaeologists & researchers from sites of the Indus-Saraswati Civilisation".

However, archaeological evidence from Indus Valley sites (c. 3300 BC to 1300 BC) in

In the works, an EU data strategy with echoes across the world

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

ON WEDNESDAY, the European Commission released a "European strategy for data... to ensure the human-centric development of Artificial Intelligence" and a white paper on artificial intelligence. The new documents present a timeline for various projects, legislative frameworks, and initiatives by the European Union, and represent its recognition that it is slipping behind American and Chinese innovation.

The release follows a series of meetings between Silicon Valley executives and Brussels regulators. Facebook even released its own proposal for content regulation after CEO Mark Zuckerberg met with officials in Europe. The European regulators rejected his move.

What are the major takeaways?

The strategy lays out "why the EU should act now". The blueprint hopes to strengthen

Europe's local technology market by creating a "data single market" by 2030 to allow the free flow of data within the EU.

To aid a "data-agile economy", the Commission hopes to implement an "enabling legislative framework for the governance of common European data spaces" by the latter half of the year.

By the beginning of 2021, the Commission will make high-value public sector data available free through Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) — a pathway for two different applications to speak to each other.

Between 2021 and 2027, the Commission will invest in a High Impact Project to jump-start data infrastructure. Several other initiatives are laid out, including a cloud services marketplace.

What's the purpose behind this?

"The EU has the potential to be successful in the data-agile economy. It has the technology, the know-how and a highly skilled workforce. However, competitors

such as China and the US are already innovating quickly and projecting their concepts of data access and use across the globe," the strategy states.

With American and Chinese companies taking the lead on technological innovation, Europe is keen to up its own competitiveness. European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen wrote: "...I believe we need a digital transition which is European by design and nature... As part of this, big commercial digital players must accept their responsibility, including by letting Europeans access the data they collect. Europe's digital transition is not about the profits of the few but the insights and opportunities of the many. This may also require legislation where appropriate."

Has India done anything similar?

Yes. The Union Cabinet approved the National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP) in 2012. As part of the initiative, the government worked with the US government to release *data.gov.in*, a site of

government data for public use.

The Economic Survey of 2018 envisioned a similar use of non-personal data. Just as the EU's strategy discusses "data for public good", the chapter titled "Data Of the People, By the People, For the People" advocated that the government step in to sectors that private players ignore, marking the first time India's Economic Survey has isolated "data" as a strategic focus.

Other data integration efforts have been announced or implemented by NITI Aayog (the National Data & Analytics Platform), the Smart Cities Mission (India Urban Data Exchange), and the Ministry of Rural Development (DISHA dashboard). In 2018, the National Informatics Centre worked with PwC and other vendors to create a Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics aimed at providing data analysis help to government departments.

What does the EU move mean for legislation?

Europe has been a frontrunner when it

comes to technology regulation. Its General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) released in 2018 was a game-changer across the industry. In the recent strategy, the GDPR is seen as giving the "solid framework for digital trust."

Parliamentarians are discussing India's current Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill in a joint Select Committee. The recent draft of the PDP introduced a clause on non-personal data, mandating entities to hand over such data to the government on command. This was not included in the draft proposed by the Justice BN Sri Krishna Committee in October 2018.

Some of the movement around the PDP Bill comes from a desire to strengthen India's own data economy, similar to the EU's desire. At the IAMAI digital summit in early February, IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said: "I am very keen that India should become a centre for data processing."

What does it mean for governments and technology companies?

Beyond the specifics of the documents, the politics at play between governments and technology companies is making headlines more and more often.

Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai and Microsoft's Brad Smith visited Brussels last month. Zuckerberg's high-profile meetings with top officials, including EU Commissioners and the EU justice chief, were reportedly tense. A Reuters report quoted EU industry commissioner Thierry Breton as saying 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 EU's icy reception to Zuckerberg harkens to India's own recent tension with Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos. "They (Amazon) may have put in a billion dollars but if they make a loss of a billion dollars every year, then they will have to finance that billion dollars. So, it is not as if they are doing a favour to India when they invest a billion dollars," Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said in January.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

PUBLIC TO PRIVATE

Unless government steps up reforms, public sector banks will continue to see erosion in their value

THE PACE AT which private sector banks are gaining market share at the expense of their public sector counterparts is staggering. As reported in this paper, deposits of the top eight private sector banks rose by Rs 2.68 lakh crore between July and December 2019, higher than the Rs 2.58 lakh crore increase in the top eight public sector banks. Over the past few years, incremental growth of private banks in both deposits and advances has far outstripped that of public sector banks. In 2016-19, the share of private banks in incremental deposits rose to 81 per cent, up from 19 per cent in 2011-15, while their share in incremental loans stood at 69 per cent in 2018-19. Though, at the aggregate level, public sector banks accounted for roughly 65 per cent of total deposits at the end of 2019, if these trends persist, it is conceivable that in the coming years, the share of private banks in both deposits and advances will be at par with that of public sector banks — fundamentally altering the structure of the banking sector in India.

There are several possible explanations for this dramatic shift which has accelerated post 2015. First, the Reserve Bank of India's determined push to clean up the balance sheets of public sector banks, which forced them to recognise the true extent of bad loans in the system, left them with little funds for expansion. Then, placing several of these banks under the RBI's corrective action framework restricted their banking activities. Along with these, other factors such as personalised services, the extensive use of technology, and the relatively higher interest rates offered by private banks could have aided in this shift. This shift, dubbed by some as privatisation by stealth, will have far reaching ramifications for both public sector banks as well as their owner, the government, as gains by private banks will come at the expense of public banks, leading to an erosion in their value.

So far, the government's strategy of turning around public banks, which rests on four pillars — recognition of bad loans, resolution and thus recovery of value from these stressed loans, and recapitalisation and reforms in banks — hasn't had the effect it had hoped for, largely because of the lack of reforms to address structural issues that continue to plague state-controlled banks. While improving governance standards and allowing banks to function as independent and autonomous entities should be a top priority, it is unlikely to happen with the government continuing to hold a controlling stake in banks. Since outright privatisation does not appear to be an option that is being considered, the government should consider transferring its stake to a bank holding company along the lines suggested by the P J Nayak committee. This would help create a wall between ownership and management, allowing banks the freedom to take commercially viable decisions without interference from the government.

PARTY'S BLIND SPOT

Conversation within Congress on its own decline is overdue, but those who are talking are part of the problem

THE WASHOUT in the Delhi assembly election appears to have provoked many leaders in the Congress to speak out about the party's steep decline. The remarks have ranged from reproaching senior leaders who seem content with the BJP's defeat at the hands of the AAP while overlooking the terrible Congress withering, to a deeper questioning of the ideological stasis and leadership deficit in the Congress. The open admission of a crisis is significant — at the very least, it breaks with the complacency so far, which projects the electoral decline of the Congress as a cyclical phenomenon that will get corrected on its own. But the belated questioning has evident limits — those asking for solutions seem to be part of the Congress problem.

Congress leaders started taking public aim at each other after P Chidambaram congratulated the AAP for defeating the BJP and Delhi leader Sharmistha Mukherjee tweeted: "With due respect, sir, just want to know — has (the Congress) outsourced the task of defeating BJP to state parties?" It has continued, with another leader of Delhi Congress, Ajay Maken, responding to a tweet by Milind Deora, in which the former Mumbai PCC chief praised the AAP government's fiscal management, by urging him to "leave the party". Prominent leaders like Veerappa Moily, Jairam Ramesh, Manish Tewari and Sandeep Dikshit have expressed concern that the party has been unresponsive to repeated electoral defeats. Tewari has spoken of Congress failure to ideologically and politically address issues ranging from economic liberalisation and secularism to public perceptions that it is a party of dynasts. His suggestion that the party of PV Narasimha Rao, Manmohan Singh and P Chidambaram, key players in the reforms saga, is yet to figure out where it stands on the new economy, is provocative. Dikshit has blamed senior leaders for being scared to "bell the cat" on the leadership issue.

These are valid questions and concerns. But the problem is that those who are raising them are part of the problem. The Congress crisis has been building and over the years, few, if any, of its leaders have been self-critical in addressing the leadership, organisational and ideological issues plaguing the party. Hardly any of them has been working at the grass roots or in the organisation, to find a way out of the Congress standstill. Any honest reckoning of the collapse of their party's political fortunes must begin with Congressmen and women acknowledging their own complicity.

NON-VEG JOKE

Time-travelling to a Harappan kitchen is politically fraught in a country at war over food habits

ALL NATIONS HAVE vegetarians, but India is unique in also harbouring non-vegetarians, a term which is unknown elsewhere. The collision of this nutritional thesis and antithesis has dogged national politics, and has now cast a judgemental shadow over an interesting but problematic prehistoric feast arranged at the National Museum, which had partnered with a private body to recreate an Indus Valley kitchen. Under the onslaught of nameless but familiar forces, the non-veg dishes have vanished from the menu.

They had sounded interesting if occasionally transgressive — bati with dried fish, quail roasted in sal leaves, offal pot, fish in turmeric stew (peace, Bengalis, peace!) and the mysterious "meat fat stew". But trying to recreate Harappan cuisine is problematic, because the chef must rely exclusively on archaeological evidence. With no textual sources, it is a shot in the dark. Besides, trying to eat like the ancients can have unexpected consequences. Our culture and beliefs have changed repeatedly over the last five millennia, since the Indus Valley civilisation flourished. Back then, going by the contents of middens that have been excavated, people ate food that could invite provoke in the present day. Alas, there was no golden age. But our ancestors ate well.

Why this fascination for ancient cuisines? The enthusiasm for "Vedic foods" was masochistic enough, since a three-course Vedic meal closely resembles three kinds of porridge. Fortunately, since those times, medieval cultural exchanges and European adventurism have brought us foundational elements of modern Indian cuisine, such as South American potatoes, tomatoes and chillies, apart from stalwart creations like the samosa. The Harappans did not know of such things. We are luckier. Let go of the past. Enjoy your chilli potato in the present. It's fully imported, and so scrumptious that you may not care that "meat fat stew" has vanished from an archaic menu.



PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

THERE WAS SOMETHING of David and Goliath in the recently concluded elections in Delhi. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) faced a mightier rival in the BJP with its vastly greater resources, including state power, and won hands down. It also braved hostility directed at it during an unprecedentedly vicious campaign. However, not all commentators seem satisfied, echoing a comment made very early in the history of the party that the AAP lacks ideology, which they assert is the hallmark of a political party.

Thus it is pointed out that during the election campaign Arvind Kejriwal did not challenge aggressively enough the BJP's Hindu nationalism. This is largely true. He has also been silent, perhaps strategically, on some crucial issues of the day such as the Citizenship Amendment Act, which has sparked protests across the country, not least in Delhi. Then, he had nothing to say about the recent police violence in the city, even if he is not accountable as the police answers only to the Union home ministry. Finally, there was the ostentatious temple visit. While one cannot deny faith to the politician, in a secular republic one would hope that holders of political office keep their religious observances private and avoid approaching clerics, even when they represent religions other than their own.

Disappointing as Kejriwal's silences may be, it cannot be overlooked that he had a programme. This was one of empowering Delhi's most vulnerable sections by supplying them with water and electricity, improving government schools, enhancing transportation and at least taking a stab at the pollution problem, which predates his arrival by over two decades. To suggest, as has been done, that improving the lives of ordinary people is not politics — as even Hitler built an autobahn — is no different from rejecting the ideal of a secular state on grounds that some authoritarian regimes in history have been secular. Why shouldn't a commitment to improving the lives of ordinary people count as politics? If a democracy cannot improve the lives of people when it is possible to do so, it is not worth having. Political parties with ideologies cannot change this feature.

Not by ideology alone

Disappointing as Kejriwal's silences may be, AAP succeeded because it has a programme

Around the world, the political parties that have been successful in turning around the fate of their countries are parties which had a programme. Thus, Roosevelt's New Deal was the beginning of a taming of capitalism through regulation and provision of a modicum of welfare. He was elected president of the United States for three successive terms and was instrumental in the defeat of fascism worldwide. And Britain's Labour Party changed the social order of a tired, old country through its health and education policy, initiated at a time when the country was reeling under after-effects of the Second World War.

In the Westminster model that we find ourselves in, citizens expect political parties to not just have an ideology, a set of beliefs that they are committed to, but one that they actually articulate. Citizens choose among parties on the basis of their ideology. But, especially in India, where daily life is a grind for most, they also look for a programme. That citizens expect political parties to contribute directly to their lived experience is nowhere more evident than in Kerala, where the electorate has experimented with one of two Fronts in every electoral cycle for decades by now. It would hardly be wise to conclude from this that the common person is somehow fickle and not so steadfast in her beliefs.

Around the world, the political parties that have been successful in turning around the fate of their countries are parties which had a programme. Thus, Roosevelt's New Deal was the beginning of a taming of capitalism through regulation and provision of a modicum of welfare. He was elected president of the United States for three successive terms and was instrumental in the defeat of fascism worldwide. And Britain's Labour Party changed the social order of a tired, old country through its health and education policy, initiated at a time when the country was reeling under after-effects of the Second World War. By comparison, India's left parties may have invested more in ideology and less in improving the lives of people, as is evident in social indicators in the part of the country where they have been in power continuously for the longest number of years.

While the AAP is nowhere close to having transited to the levels of public provision found in the welfare states of western Europe, it has not just positioned itself politically, it has actually made a beginning not seen elsewhere in this country. When stating this, it would also be right to recognise that Delhi is somewhat unique among India's states when it comes to committed expenditure. Not having an agricultural sector to attend to leaves it free of an expenditure head that for most states has ended up serving as some kind of a blackhole. Delhi is also one of India's richest states, with substantial human capital and

therefore taxable incomes. However, this cannot take away from the AAP's smart fiscal management.

It has consistently turned in a revenue account surplus. This has the implication that it has managed to finance its welfare and establishment expenditure from current revenues. This cannot be said of the Centre or even of states known for high levels of welfare spending, both turning in substantial revenue account deficits. In Delhi under the AAP, the state has mostly registered a fiscal surplus. Thus, with the revenue account in surplus, fiscal deficits have arisen only due to capital spending. It would appear that the AAP has been able to attain this impressive fiscal outcome due to an explicit choice made to first build the capabilities of the population before venturing into social security. This is a cruel dilemma for any caring society but the party appears to have bitten the bullet and gone for schools and hospitals first, relying on family networks to take care of the old and indigent.

However, the AAP's success is not as much in having gathered the funds to spend as in having implemented an effective programme of health and education provision. Of the two, the latter has received greater notice. Central schemes such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan have for over a decade ensured heightened spending on public schools across the country but tests conducted by the educational foundation, Pratham, show worsening learning outcomes. It would be too early to declare that the AAP's educational thrust has been a success but an impressive beginning appears to have been made. Hopefully, it will have a demonstration effect on the governments of the neighbouring states.

It is not that it would be a little too idealistic to play down the need for a "constructive programme", to borrow a phrase from Gandhi, in a political party. It would also be a failure to see that democracy without empowerment in the form of better living conditions is hollow. The result of the Delhi elections shows that this is exactly how the citizen sees it.

The writer is professor, Ashoka University and senior fellow, IIM Kozhikode



PRASHANT BHUSHAN AND CHERYL DSOUZA

THE RIGHT TO NOT RETURN

Sending Rohingya back would mean violating the right to life, constitutional morality

IN A SIGNIFICANT ruling on the January 23 in *The Gambia v Myanmar*, the International Court of Justice held that the authorities in Myanmar must take steps to protect its minority Rohingya population from genocide. Taking note of the UN fact finding mission on Myanmar and various General Assembly resolutions, the world court ruled that Myanmar shall take all measures to prevent the killing of members of the Rohingya population or causing any bodily or mental harm to them.

This world court order ought to have significant moral and legal implications for the pending case in the Indian Supreme Court (SC), which challenges the government's proposed deportation of Rohingya refugees from India and seeks state amenities for their dignified existence. Not only is the principle of non-refoulement or not sending people back to a place where they are being persecuted — a Right to Life, Article 21, guarantee — available to all persons within India whether citizens or otherwise, this principle has been elevated to a *jus cogens* or non-derogable norm of international law.

Any national security exception to this principle must be rigorously and carefully proved. Infringements of Article 21 must satisfy the procedural and substantive due process test of being "fair, just and reasonable". Refoulement does not. It is arbitrary, discriminatory, and abhorrent to constitutional morality. It is arbitrary because the policy has been decided capriciously, as a sudden volte-face to long-established policy. Discrimi-

minatory, because the only credible explanation for the volte-face is that the Rohingya are mostly Muslim. Such treatment of refugees is abhorrent to constitutional morality as it violates the absolute right to freedom from torture and non-refoulement.

Though India has not signed the Convention on the Status of Refugees, 1951, it has in place a Standard Operating Procedure of 2011, to deal with foreigners who call themselves refugees, who may be granted long term visas (LTV), if it is found that prima facie their claim is justified on account of persecution on the basis of race, religion, sex, nationality, ethnic identity, membership of particular social group or political opinion. Based on this, the MHA started issuing LTVs to persons recognised as "refugees" by the government or UNHCR. These included people from various countries, religions or ethnicities. However in 2015 and 2016, this government amended the Passport (Entry into India) Rules and the Foreigners Order, exempting Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian illegal migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, seeking shelter in India due to religious persecution, from the consequences of non-compliance with the provisions of the Passport Act, 1920 and the Foreigners Act, 1946. These discriminatory notifications conspicuously omit Muslim refugees and became the precursor for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) passed in 2019.

In the last significant hearing in the Rohingya case in October 2018, the SC refused

to stay the deportation of seven Rohingya men detained in Assam since 2012, despite constitutional protections, humanitarian obligations and binding international law commitments. This resulted in the first return of refugees to Myanmar since the outbreak of the extreme violence. The government of India, in a brief affidavit claimed that Myanmar had accepted the refugees as "citizens" and the men had orally agreed to be repatriated. The SC sadly refused to interfere in the deportation despite these claims being grossly incorrect, since the men were denied access to legal counsel or to the UNHCR to determine whether their consent was freely expressed. Media reports from Myanmar later claimed that these men had not been given citizenship, as our government swore on affidavit, but the controversial National Verification Cards (that does not recognise their ethnicity).

The treatment of Rohingya refugees by this government, read along with the notifications amending the Passport Rules and Foreigners Order of 2015-2016, and the CAA, all display a discriminatory and hostile attitude towards Muslims. With the SC nearly abdicating its responsibility in protecting persecuted ethnic minorities fleeing genocide by allowing for their refoulement in October 2018, the consequences on the Rohingya population in India could be serious.

Bhushan and Dsouza are counsels for the Rohingya refugees in the Supreme Court of India

FEBRUARY 21, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

JANATA CRISIS
DIFFERENCES IN THE Janata Party seemed to be heading towards a flash point with Jagjivan Ram finding himself in a minority over the vital issue of rapprochement with the Lok Dal. While party president Chandra Shekhar said he favoured unity with the Lok Dal and the Congress to fight the Congress (I), Ram said such a move would be against morality. That Chandra Shekhar was holding advanced negotiations with Lok Dal leaders was evident when he met Chandrajit Yadav over lunch.

ATAL ON RAM
ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE said Jagjivan Ram

was making excuses to leave the party. Apparently referring to the February 23 meeting called by Ram, he said: "Those who want to leave the Janata Party do not have to invent excuses for doing so." Addressing a news conference in Lucknow, he said: "Such people should be frank enough to say that they have neither the strength nor determination, nor the time due to old age to fight the emergence of authoritarianism. There is no room for fence-sitters in the party." Vajpayee said: "The choice is clear — they have either to join Mrs Gandhi's camp and support Sanjay Gandhi in his bid to capture power or oppose the calculated bid to monopolise power in the hands of one family.

PM ON SOVIET TROOPS
PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi said that she had taken up with the Soviet leaders the question of withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The Soviet position was that Russian troops would be pulled out of Afghanistan the moment Pakistan stopped training raiders and sending them into Afghan territory.

US BOYCOTT
THE US WILL not participate in the Moscow Olympics since there is no sign that the Soviets will meet its deadline to remove troops from Afghanistan, the US State department spokesman, Hodding Carter, said.



Putting neighbours first

India has promoted regional cooperation in South Asia in a spirit of generosity, without insisting on reciprocity



SUJAN R CHINOY



CR Sasikumar

Geography plays a determining role in creating inter-dependence. Even as Nepal, like other South Asian countries, seeks closer ties with China, there is a much better appreciation today that India's role as a key economic and developmental partner is unique and indispensable.

India's relations with Bangladesh under Modi and Sheikh Hasina have evolved into a model partnership, consolidated by high-level exchanges, mutual trust and enhanced cooperation on security matters. Incidents of border firing, though rare, have an adverse fall-out on public perception and need to be handled with sensitivity. The India-Bhutan friendship runs deep, with growing cooperation in the vital hydro-power sector providing it a fresh impetus. Notably, the centrepiece Mangdechhu project (750 MW) was completed on schedule last year. The introduction of the RuPay card in Bhutan and elsewhere in the neighbourhood will further cement economic and people-to-people ties. When India shortly hands over to Myanmar the INS *Sindhuvir*, a Kilo Class submarine, it will propel security cooperation to a higher pedestal. Close coordination with Myanmar was evident earlier in the cross-border strike on insurgents by Indian forces in 2015.

Modi's neighbourhood policy is predicated on his "sabka saath, sabka vikas" vision for inclusive growth, development and prosperity. South Asia has 1.8 billion people and a combined GDP of nearly \$3.47 trillion, with India's economy the largest by far. South Asia has great potential but has been held back by Pakistan, which has not only denied India and Afghanistan the overland transit route for trade, but has also thwarted Modi's efforts to place at centre stage the common struggle against poverty, illiteracy and natural disasters. It has held to ransom cooperation within SAARC by raising extraneous matters, perpetuating terrorism and rejecting the ineluctable logic of intra-South Asian trade, which remains abysmally poor. Islamabad decided to opt-out of the SAARC satellite project proposed by Modi, and it was finally launched in 2017 without Pakistan's participation. Pakistan also played the role of a spoiler at the 18th SAARC Summit in November 2014, preventing progress on the proposed Motor Vehicle Agreement for the regulation of passenger and cargo vehicular traffic amongst SAARC member states.

Pakistan's intransigence on connectivity impairs Afghanistan's ability to link up with other countries in South Asia. The air corridor between India and Afghanistan cannot cater to the full potential of trade ties. Recent tensions between the US and Iran have cast a shadow on the sustainability of Chabahar port as an alternative maritime supply route to

Afghanistan at a crucial juncture in its history. India's proactive role in recent years in building much-needed infrastructure and capacities in Afghanistan is widely recognised. Defence cooperation too has deepened under Modi, with India dropping its traditional coyness in such matters. Much more may have to be done, though, to help Afghanistan achieve stability through economic prosperity. Afghanistan's true destiny lies with South Asia.

India's Foreign Minister S Jaishankar has underscored some key aspects of the Neighbourhood First Policy in Modi's second term. He spoke of India's willingness to respond to security challenges with new grit and to be an enthusiastic responder in providing humanitarian assistance and conducting disaster relief operations in Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and the extended neighbourhood. Even more important is the steady progress made by India to expand developmental assistance and improve project execution based on collaborative partnerships.

The stasis in SAARC is entirely due to Pakistan's recalcitrance. Even so, between 2014 and 2018, India's developmental assistance to six South Asian countries was over Rs 21,100 crore. BIMSTEC, the other regional grouping, has done well. In February this year, delegates and rescue teams from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Myanmar enthusiastically participated in disaster management exercises conducted at Ramachandi Beach at Puri in Odisha. The signing of the MoU on BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection at the fourth BIMSTEC Summit, attended by all seven nations in Kathmandu in August 2018, provides a fillip to cross-border electricity trade.

India's focus on BIMSTEC and its Act East Policy have served to highlight India's key role in promoting cooperative growth and development in several parts of South Asia. In a world increasingly characterised by a "my country first" approach, India has endeavoured to harness the impulse for regional cooperation in a spirit of generosity, without insisting on reciprocity, to realise Modi's motto of Security And Growth For All In The Region (SAGAR).

If Pakistan were to shed its fetish for terrorism and malevolence, it too might join others one day as a responsible actor in regional cooperative efforts aimed at fulfilling the Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs), particularly eradication of poverty and hunger, and ensuring health, education, clean water, energy, gender equality and employment for South Asia's teeming millions by 2030.

The writer is director general of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. Views are personal

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Some US political elites have been strengthening political mobilization against China and trying to rope in more Western forces to oppose China. Their most prominent act is to attack the leadership of the Communist Party of China." — GLOBAL TIMES CHINA

Conquering the green frontier

India's growth transformation has to be green. The economy must be competitive as well as sustainable



JAYANT SINHA

THE FORCES OF liberalisation and globalisation have transformed the Indian economy in the past three decades. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has accelerated these trends by implementing a set of far-reaching reforms, which have led to macro-economic stability, a robust safety net for all and strong growth. We now have one of the most open market economies in the world and are poised to get to \$5 trillion in GDP in the next few years.

We must now consider how our economy can deliver sustainable prosperity in the next few decades. Just as liberalisation and globalisation transformed the economy in the past, two different yet intertwined forces will likely transform the economy in the future. First, India must have globally leading companies across a range of key sectors such as financial services and manufacturing. These super competitive businesses should define the global productivity frontier so that they can surpass the production processes of the best companies in the world. Second, India must also adopt a resource-efficient, low-carbon development pathway to utilise scarce natural resources effectively. There is no other way. Apocalyptic air pollution, dire water shortages, rising temperatures, and extreme climate events have already brought us to the brink of an environmental crisis. Moreover, note that the world needs India's leadership to achieve the 2 degree Celsius global warming target. In short, India's growth has to be green.

No nation has ever attempted these twin transformations — high competitiveness and long-term sustainability — simultaneously. The traditional development model has been a farm-to-factory development model with economies transitioning from traditional agriculture to resource-intensive, urban manufacturing. India has to forge a different development model — one that will shift India's workforce from agriculture to globally leading, resource-efficient businesses. Also, these companies must use the most advanced green technologies and business models. India's development model will, therefore, need to take the Indian economy from "the farm-to-green frontier".

The Modi government has made impressive progress in ending crony capitalism and strengthening entrepreneurial forces. India has the third-largest start-up ecosystem in the world and our larger companies are also pursuing innovation-driven growth. The productivity transformation driven by super competitive businesses is well underway. We now need to consider a comprehensive policy package that will enable us to simultaneously undertake a green transformation. Global best practices and India's own experiences suggest three focus areas for such a transformation.

First, specific and stable policy goals

need to be established to set detailed green targets for various sectors. A macro-economic model that factors in current skills, sectoral connections, relative emissions, and financial constraints is necessary to inform such targets going forward. Such a model can then be used to evaluate various green growth scenarios. Decarbonisation approaches in the green frontier scenario will drive the growth of green industries, green jobs, green skills, green entrepreneurs and green finance.

Global and Indian experience highlights that green targets will have to be pursued in a stable manner across decades. Most large emitters and pollutants are associated with long-lived (20-30 plus years useful life) assets. Investments in green assets will only be possible if there is sanctity of contracts, pricing stability, and consistent policies that are backed up by the full force of law. Finally, these specific and stable policy goals need to be implemented urgently to avoid lock-in with high-carbon assets.

Second, India may need to revamp its existing institutional framework for environmental governance in order to align it with the country's green transformation. As demonstrated by global best practices, a comprehensive institutional framework could include four levels — super sovereign, sovereign, state/province and city. An independent council or board may also be required to monitor, report, and verify green targets.

Third, Indian policymakers and entrepreneurs will unleash market forces that will drive the growth of waste management, solar panels, electric vehicles, super-efficient appliances, recyclable food packaging, clean coal, etc. These green industries will require massive investments and appropriate financing capacity will have to be created to support their growth. Preliminary estimates suggest that India's green transformation may require an average investment of \$95 billion to \$125 billion per year, aggregating over \$1 trillion in the next decade. A "green super fund" could be established to jumpstart green investments by pooling together international and domestic capital. Such a financial institution could play a dual role in mediating and mitigating risk for global capital, as well as identifying sectoral project pipelines.

Indian financial institutions have been very successful in building up new industries (such as microfinance, EdTech, and affordable healthcare), which have delivered both financial and social returns; however, financial support for green industries will have to be orders of magnitude larger. Moreover, the "green super fund" may have to be able to invest across the capital structure (debt plus equity) as well as across the company lifecycle (early stage, growth capital, infrastructure investments, and so on).

Our future depends on how we resolve our environmental challenges. Further, we are the world's third-largest carbon emitter and will play a crucial role in getting the planet to a low-carbon trajectory. Simply put, we must urgently transform our economy to get to the green frontier.

Sinha is the chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance in Parliament and a Lok Sabha MP from Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. Views are personal



FIROZ BAKHT AHMED

My dear Shaheen Bagh

There is no reason for you to fear the CAA or, if it comes, the NRC

Dearest dadis Bilkis, Asma and Sarwari,

TO START OFF, dearest dadis, let me share with you the agony I've been suffering — that, for the last 70 days, you have been sitting under these tents in the biting cold, at a time when a century-old winter record was broken. A four-month-old infant died at this altar. With folded hands, let me very humbly request you, dear dadis, to go back to your homes: You are the ones who have suffered more. Please go as proud women whose message has been conveyed to the government, the United Nations and even Allah.

Here's a reminder of the events that finally led to this impasse. On December 15, 2019, vehicles were torched by rioters in New Friends Colony in the aftermath of the "Bharat bachao rally". Members of the "Gandhi dynasty" poured vitriol then, the negative impact of which is still burning the legacy of Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb.

There was violence between the Delhi Police and Jamia Millia Islamia students. Some miscreants entered the Jamia campus and were taken to task after they stoned the policemen. This resulted in students getting beaten up — where some innocent students,

too, were victims. One student lost his eye. Some are accusing the police of entering the campus without the vice-chancellor's permission. But they entered only after the stone-pelting started.

Let me come to the CAA: It has nothing to do with Muslims or, for that matter, any other community. Some people with vested interests — and for their political agendas — have been instigating our Muslim brethren because the political rug has moved from under their feet.

Before Shaheen Bagh happened, the blocked road in front of gate number seven of Jamia saw a flurry of anti-CAA/anti-NRC slogans. Most of these were against the government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the RSS and the BJP. Even at that time, the student community was misled by opposition leaders, members of the actor fraternity and assorted members of some apologist platforms. I condemn all this. However, I believe since the government is ready to have a meaningful dialogue, things will improve.

You have also been provoked into believing that the CAA is the first step before the introduction of NRC. There cannot be a bigger farce than this as the NRC draft is not even

ready — as stated by the prime minister during his Delhi rally. Even if it is ready, let me assure you: None of you in Shaheen Bagh, or anywhere in India, will suffer.

Whether you furnish the papers or not, nobody will be sent to detention camps. Nobody will be thrown out of the country or have his/her citizenship taken away. Another fallacy that has been doing the rounds has been that the CAA, NPR and NRC have been created to turn India into a "Brahminical society", or that the "Hindutva" mindset will rule supreme. That Indian Muslims will be deprived of their land, property, voting rights, etc. This is all gibberish propaganda by the Opposition that has lost its ground. The NRC will affect not you, but only the real illegal migrants, who need to be taken care of.

The detention camps are not for you, my Muslim brethren. I promise that none of you will be disturbed. Let me also tell you that the NRC and the detention camps have been there in India since 1955, the time of the Congress, but they are not for law abiding people like you.

Finally, please wait for a couple of months and do give the establishment an opportunity to finally patch up and manage the country —

it is only in the interest of all of you and, above all, our beloved India whose flag has been such an endearing symbol to all of you. I was told that, apart from others, those who have suffered the most from this blockade, have been the Shaheen Bagh residents themselves, many of whose businesses have been disrupted. Apart from that, the Supreme Court, too, has requested you to take care of your homes and families. I reiterate, the CAA is irrelevant for you. It is for the depressed and harassed minorities of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

The NPR is just a census and it is a very safe survey. All countries do it. It will help the government to better understand how many elderly, young and unemployed people are there among the citizenry. Please try to understand, this list is not to throw you into a detention camp. In fact, it may be to help you out. The prime minister, home minister and, in fact, the entire government, loves you all.

Your son,
Firoz

The writer is the chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CREDIBILITY FIRST

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A fine line' (IE, February 20). During Ujjit Patel's time relationship between the RBI and the government was anything but rosy, and it is critical that relationship should be warm. Having said that, the RBI — whose main responsibility is to secure monetary stability and the credit system — must not suffer a loss of credibility.

Bal Govind, Noida

TAIWAN AND INDIA

THIS REFERS TO the article 'A force for global good' (IE, February 20). As a democratic country, India should strengthen its relationship with Taiwan without compromising its relationship with China. Along with a free trade agreement, India should offer more ITEC slots to Taiwanese students and officials.

Rup Narayan Das, via email

ACTIONS SPEAK

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Misreading the Mahatma' (IE, February 20). The author has selectively referred to Gandhiji's notes. He also didn't mention the Centre's stand on NRC/NPR as announced by the home minister in Parliament. The government's intent is clear through actions like the ongoing preparations for the NPR and the reported construction

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

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

of detention camps.

Vasant Nalawade, Satara

MARY COUNTS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The greatness game' (IE, February 20). While I may agree that there haven't been many memorable moments in sports for India, we would be greatly remiss to not mention the iconic figure who deserves the limelight. The only boxer (male or female) to win eight World Championship medals — Magnificent Mary. After all, she's an Indian too, right?

Jubilee Faiheng, Delhi

14 THE WORLD



BRITAIN HARRY, MEGHAN FIX MARCH 31 FOR ROYAL EXIT Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have announced they will formally exit as Britain's frontline royals on March 31 following discussions with Buckingham Palace on formalising their new financially independent roles. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex will no longer have an office at Buckingham Palace as they stop carrying out formal royal duties from April 1.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Roger Stone

USA Trump ally Stone gets 3-yr jail term

Washington: A federal judge on Thursday sentenced President Donald Trump's long-time adviser Roger Stone to three years and four months in prison for charges that include lying to lawmakers investigating Russian interference in the 2016 US presidential election. US District Judge Amy Berman Jackson handed down the sentence after Stone's lawyer asked that the veteran Republican operative receive no prison time in a case that has drawn Trump's ire. "He was not prosecuted — as some have complained — for standing up for the president. He was prosecuted for covering up for the president," Jackson said.

YEMEN 19 children among dead in recent strikes

Sanaa: Nineteen children were among at least 31 civilians killed in air strikes on rebel-held northern Yemen last week, the United Nations said on Thursday. "UNICEF is sad to confirm that the recent attack in Al-Jawf, north of Yemen, on February 15, took the lives of 19 children and injured another 18," the UN children's agency said in a statement. "It was an attack on a civilian populated area where children were in the vicinity," UNICEF regional communications chief Juliette Touma said.

SOUTH SUDAN Citizens being deliberately starved: UN

Nairobi: South Sudan's government forces and other armed groups have "deliberately starved" civilians by denying aid access and displacing communities, a report from a United Nations rights probe said Thursday. "Today in South Sudan, civilians are deliberately starved, systematically surveilled and silenced, arbitrarily arrested and detained and denied meaningful access to justice," it said. The commission looked into abuses during the signing of a peace deal in September 2018 and December 2019.

SHOOTING IN HANAU CITY NEAR FRANKFURT

Gunman kills at least nine in far-right attacks in Germany

Assailant found dead at home after targeting 2 bars in immigrant neighbourhood

JACK EWING & MELISSA EDDY HANAU, FEBRUARY 20

THE MAN who was believed to have killed nine people when he opened fire on two bars in heavily immigrant neighbourhoods in the central German city of Hanau was likely driven by a "xenophobic motive," security officials said Thursday. The suspect, a 43-year-old German who has not been publicly identified, and his mother were both found dead with gunshot wounds in his apartment early Thursday. Peter Beuth, the interior minister for the central state of Hesse, told regional lawmakers in the state capital, Wiesbaden. Federal prosecutors took over the investigation of the shooting in Hanau, a city of about 95,000 people that is 10 miles east of Frankfurt, on suspicion that the shooting was a terrorist attack amid indications of "a far-right motive," Beuth said. Kemal Kocak, a cashier at a convenience store next to the Arena Cafe & Bar, the second to be attacked, said that he had arrived at the scene soon after the shootings and found a "catastrophe." "Afghani, Bosnian, Pole, two Turks, a Roma," said Kocak, who said he had known virtually all of the victims. Beuth declined to confirm reports from German news organizations that the gunman had left a video and a letter about the at-



Forensic experts work around a damaged car after a shooting in Hanau, near Frankfurt, Germany, on Thursday. Reuters

BEFORE ATTACK, HE TARGETED INDIA, PAK

AMONG THE documents that the gunman posted on a website was a 24-page, rambling manifesto in German. "We now have ethnic groups, races or cultures in our midst that are destructive in every respect," he wrote. He said he envisioned first a "rough cleaning" and then a "fine cleaning" that could have the world's population. He wrote: "The following people must be completely exterminated: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Israel, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, the complete Arabian Peninsula, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and the Philippines."

tack, but said that authorities were examining a website attributed to the suspect, who had not previously been on their radar, either as a far-right extremist or a criminal. "Initial results point to a xenophobic motive," Beuth said. The attacks were among the bloodiest in the country's recent memory and come at a time of growing concern about an increasingly emboldened and violent far right. NYT

EXPLAINED Concern in Germany over rising far-right extremism

THE ATTACK on bars in a neighbourhood heavily populated by immigrants has highlighted concerns in Germany about increasing far-right extremism. Rising unemployment levels, especially in the eastern part of the country, and a large influx of refugees have created a resentment that has been exploited by far-right parties that have grown in influence. These parties have targeted immigrants and Chancellor Angela Merkel, who opened up Germany in 2015 to around 1.5 million refugees from Africa and Asia. Since then, numerous instances of Nazi salutes and other illegal symbols have been reported in the country, which has, since the fall of Hitler, sought to keep the far-right out of mainstream politics.

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

S Korea reports 1st virus death as 2.5 mn urged to stay home

'Super-spreading event' reported from church in Daegu city

HYONHEESHIN & RYAN WOO SEOUL, BEIJING, FEBRUARY 20

THE STREETS of South Korea's fourth-largest city were abandoned on Thursday, with residents holed up indoors after dozens of people caught the coronavirus in what the authorities described as a "super-spreading event" at a church.



Workers spray disinfectant in front of a church in Daegu, South Korea, on Wednesday. AP

The deserted shopping malls and cinemas of Daegu, a city of 2.5 million people, became one of the most striking images outside China of an outbreak that international authorities are trying to prevent from spreading into a global pandemic.

New research suggesting the virus was more contagious than previously thought added to the alarm. And in China, where the virus has killed more than 2,100 people, officials changed their methodology for reporting infections, creating new doubt about data they have been citing as evidence of success in fighting its spread.

Daegu Mayor Kwon Young-jin told residents to stay indoors after 90 people who worshipped at the Church of Jesus the Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony showed symptoms of infection and dozens of new cases were confirmed.

The church had been attended by a 61-year-old woman who tested positive, known as "Patient 31". Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention described the outbreak there as a "super-spreading event". "We are in an unprecedented crisis," Kwon told reporters, adding that all members of the

2 passengers from cruise ship die; 1 more Indian tests positive

Tokyo: Two elderly passengers became the first people from aboard a cruise ship moored near Tokyo to die of the coronavirus, the Japanese government said on Thursday, as hundreds more passengers disembarked after two weeks' quarantine. The 621 coronavirus cases aboard the Diamond Princess cruise liner are by far the largest cluster of infection outside China. The ship has been held since Feb 3 with initially 3,700 people on board.

The two patients who died, an 87-year-old man and an 84-year-old woman, had both tested positive for the

church would be tested. "We've asked them to stay at home isolated from their families."

Describing the abandoned streets, resident Kim Geun-woo, 28, told Reuters by telephone:

"It's like someone dropped a bomb in the middle of the city. It looks like a zombie apocalypse." South Korea now has 104 confirmed cases of the virus, and reported its first death. REUTERS

Taliban No. 2 writes in NYT, says group committed to peace

AGENCIES KABUL, FEBRUARY 20

THE DEPUTY leader of the Taliban, and one of the world's most wanted militants, has written an opinion piece for the New York Times in which he says the Afghan insurgents are "fully committed" to a deal with Washington. The article, headlined "What the Taliban Want", represents the highest-level statement from the group on months of negotia-

tions with the United States, and comes as they are believed to be days away from signing an agreement that would see America begin to withdraw troops from its longest war. It is also believed to be the first time that Sirajuddin Haqqani — who doubles as head of the Haqqani network, a US-designated terror group that is one of the most dangerous factions fighting Afghan and NATO forces in Afghanistan — has given such a lengthy statement in English. In the article, Haqqani repeats many Taliban talking points from the negotiations, including how women would have rights "granted by Islam" — the problem being, as many observers have pointed out, the group's repressive interpretation of the faith. The leader of a group known for masterminding some of the most deadly attacks during the war and the frequent use of suicide bombers also says he is "convinced the killing and the maiming must stop".

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Gloves off as Warren, Biden go all out, Bloomberg is their target

ALEXANDER BURNS & JONATHAN MARTIN LAS VEGAS, FEBRUARY 20

THE DEMOCRATIC presidential candidates turned on one another in scorching and personal terms in a debate Wednesday night, with two of the leading candidates, Sen. Bernie Sanders and Michael Bloomberg, forced onto the defensive repeatedly throughout the evening.

In his first appearance in a presidential debate, Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York City, struggled from the start to address his past support for stop-and-frisk policing and the allegations he has faced over the years of crude and disrespectful behaviour toward women. Time and again, Bloomberg had obvious difficulty countering criticism that could threaten him in a Democratic Party that counts women and African Americans among its most important constituencies.

Two candidates who have shied away from direct conflict in past debates, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and former Vice President Joe Biden, mounted something of a tag-team onslaught against Bloomberg, several times leaving him visibly irked and straining to respond.

From the first seconds, when Sanders used the initial question to attack what he called Bloomberg's "outrageous" policing record, it was clear that this

SPARKS FLY IN LAS VEGAS



Reuters

CORDIALITY ENDS

After eight debates that had sparks of conflict but were relatively cordial, Wednesday night brought two hours of nonstop political battle. Every candidate got attacked, portending a new, nastier phase of the campaign.

BLOOMBERG DEBUT

It was Bloomberg's debut on the debate stage. He did not make a good first impression, being forced on the defensive from the opening gun. He sounded uncomfortable both

defending his stop-and-frisk record and his very recent change from Republican to Democrat.

WARREN SHINES

In Las Vegas, Warren not only spoke more than any of her rivals, but she also often set the terms of the debate. It was the kind of aggressive performance that allies and even some of her campaign advisers had been hoping for, even if it marked a sharp shift from her recent strategy of appearing as an above-the-fray candidate who could unite Democrats.

President Donald Trump.

"I'd like to talk about who we're running against: a billionaire who calls women fat broads and horse-faced lesbians," Warren said. "And no, I'm not talking about Donald Trump. I'm talking about Mayor Bloomberg." NYT

debate would be far more heated than any of the previous forums.

Warren landed the most stinging blows against Bloomberg throughout the debate, starting with an opening broadside that likened him to the figure most reviled among Democrats:

Lawrence Tesler, who invented 'cut, copy and paste', dies at 74

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY 20

SILICON VALLEY on Wednesday was mourning a pioneering computer scientist whose accomplishments included inventing the widely relied on "cut, copy and paste" command.

Bronx-born Lawrence "Larry" Tesler died this week at age 74, according to Xerox, where he spent part of his career. "The inventor of cut/copy & paste, find & replace, and more was former Xerox researcher Larry Tesler," the company tweeted. "Your workday is easier thanks to his revolutionary ideas. Larry passed away Monday, so please join us in celebrating



Tesler spent 17 years at Apple, rising to chief scientist

him." A graduate of Stanford University, Tesler specialised in human-computer interaction, employing his skills at Amazon, Apple, Yahoo, and the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC).

The cut and paste command was reportedly inspired by old time editing that involved actually cutting portions of printed text and

affixing them elsewhere. "Tesler created the idea of 'cut, copy, & paste' and combined computer science training with a counterculture vision that computers should be for everyone," the Computer History Museum in Silicon Valley tweeted Wednesday.

The command was made popular by Apple after being incorporated in software on the Lisa computer in 1983 and the original Macintosh that came the next year. Tesler worked for Apple in 1980 after being recruited away from Xerox by late co-founder Steve Jobs. He spent 17 years at Apple, rising to chief scientist.

He went on to establish an education startup and do stints in user-experience technology at Amazon and Yahoo.

'NEW SYSTEM GIVES PRECEDENCE TO OCCUPATIONS IN WHICH WOMEN ARE UNDERREPRESENTED'

Women to be hard-hit by new UK immigration rules: experts

CEYLON YEGINSU FEBRUARY 20

THE BRITISH government's plan for a post-Brexit immigration overhaul was designed to wean the economy off its reliance on cheap foreign labour. But in the process, women's groups warned on Thursday, women will suffer disproportionately.

The new points-based system will give precedence to occupations in which women are underrepresented, favour male migrants over female and

deepen gender inequality, according to the Women's Budget Group, an independent network that promotes gender equality.

"The new immigration system roundly fails to understand the lived experience of women, many of whom are prevented from accessing paid work by the weight of unpaid work — caring for children, older people and those with disabilities — that successive governments rely upon them to do," said Sophie Walker, the chief executive of the Young Women's Trust, a British feminist organisation. Under the new rules, which



Under the new rules, which will be implemented next January, applicants will be required to receive a job offer with a salary of at least £25,600. Reuters

will be implemented next January, applicants will be required to receive a job offer with a salary of at least £25,600, about \$33,300. The salary threshold will be lower in special cases where there might be a shortage in skills, such as in nursing.

By and large, however, that requirement will work against women, who are more likely to work in sectors like home and senior care that are relatively poorly compensated, even though the skill levels of such women are relatively high, ac-

tivists say. "Care workers' average annual salaries stand at just £17,000, not because care work is 'low-skilled,' but because the work force is 80 per cent female and therefore undervalued and underpaid," says Mandu Reid, the leader of the Women's Equality Party.

Imposing the salary requirement would mean "shutting out care workers, piling pressure on women to take on yet more unpaid care, and widening the existing social care gap between need and provision," she said.

Women are also four times more likely than men to leave paid work to shoulder unpaid caring responsibilities for children and older relatives. This is one cause of the gender pay gap and gender inequality, the Women's Budget Group found.

In the points-based system, the government gives top priority to scientists, engineers, academics and graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, once again to the detriment of women because of the gender disparities in those professions. NYT

Google, Facebook, Twitter and other digital companies have been forced under a spotlight as regulators and customers examine just how much the companies know about their users and what they do with that information.

Facebook last year updated its terms of service to clarify how it makes money from user data. Google says it hasn't changed anything significant in the document, but rather used plain language to describe who can use its products and what you can post online. "Broadly speaking, we give you permission to use our services if you agree to follow these terms, which reflect how Google's business works and how we earn money," the document reads. The document is now about 2,000 words longer than it was before, in part because Google included a list of definitions and expanded it to cover Google Drive and Chrome. The new terms take effect in March. Google's privacy policy is separate and was substantially updated in 2018 after Europe enacted broad-reaching privacy laws. AP

WILL TALLY OWN CALCULATIONS WITH COS' SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORTS ON AGR

DoT pushes telcos to make full payment before March 17 Supreme Court hearing

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

THE DEPARTMENT of Telecommunications (DoT) is likely to push for the entire payment of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues from telcos before the March 17 hearing in the Supreme Court (SC), senior DoT officials said.

"It (entire payments) may not be as easy, but we will push for as much as possible before the court hears this case again," one of the officials said.

The DoT, which is currently in the process of internally calculating the dues owed by all telcos, will also tally with the self-assessment reports on AGR submitted by the companies and then call them for clarifications in case of discrepancies, the officials said.

As of Thursday, Bharti Airtel had paid Rs 10,000 crore of the over Rs 36,000 crore it owed to the DoT, while Vodafone Idea paid Rs 3,500 crore of the Rs 53,000 crore AGR dues it owed. Vodafone Idea paid another Rs

VODAFONE IDEA PAYS ₹1,000 CRORE MORE

■ As of Thursday, Bharti Airtel had paid Rs 10,000 crore of the more than Rs 36,000 crore it owed as AGR to the DoT, while Vodafone Idea had paid Rs 3,500 crore of the Rs 53,000 crore it owed to the government

■ Meanwhile, Bharti Airtel chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal met Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad again on Thursday, where he sought "cut in taxes and levies for the sector"

1,000 crore on Thursday, DoT sources confirmed. The Rs 3,500 crore paid by Vodafone Idea is half of its self-assessed AGR principal.

Meanwhile, Bharti Airtel chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal met Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad again on Thursday, where he sought "cut in taxes and levies for the sector".

"This has been a demand for a long time and the regulator has been supporting it," Mittal said while talking to the reporters.

Thursday's meeting between Mittal and Prasad was the second between them amid

employment, government taxes. The only thing that the government needs to focus now is how to ensure the sustainability of the sector," Mittal said on Wednesday, adding he would not speak anything about AGR dues as of now.

Mittal and Birla, over the past week, have been meeting officials from the DoT. On Wednesday, Mittal also met DoT Secretary Anshu Prakash, before meeting Sitharaman. Birla, meanwhile, met Prakash on Tuesday, accompanied by Vodafone Idea managing director and chief executive officer Ravinder Takkar.

Both Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea are under pressure to complete the remainder of their AGR payments before March 17. The deadline is the next date of hearing in the SC, which had on February 14 slammed the DoT as well as the companies for failing to make any payments before the stipulated deadline of January 23.

During the hearing on February 14, the SC had lamented that its orders had

not been followed and that the way everyone was behaving suggested there was "no law left in the country".

On October 24, 2019, the SC 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 delay in payments. The top court had then given the telcos three months to clear their AGR dues.

That three-month deadline ended on January 23, before which the telcos had unsuccessfully tried to persuade the DoT to give them more time to pay the dues. Having failed there, the telcos again approached the apex court seeking a review of the October 24 judgment, which was also turned down.

Two days before the stipulated deadline was to end, the telcos moved the top court again, seeking to "work out feasible terms mutually with DoT" to ensure that they remain a "going concern".

GMR to sell 49% stake in airports business to France's Groupe ADP for ₹10,780 cr

An earlier deal with Tata Group fell through due to conflict of interest involving Tatas' stake in Vistara and AirAsia India

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

GMR INFRASTRUCTURE Ltd said Thursday it will sell 49 per cent stake in its subsidiary GMR Airports Ltd to Groupe ADP — a French company that manages three airports in Paris — for a sum of Rs 10,780 crore. The deal values the operator of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport at Rs 22,000 crore. The debt-ridden firm GMR Infrastructure had earlier entered into an agreement to divest the same amount of stake in the airports arm to a consortium led by Tata Group, a deal that fell apart due to a conflict of interest involving Tatas' stake in Vistara and AirAsia India.

The deal also marks the entry of yet another foreign airports operator in the Indian sector in addition to firms such as Zurich Airport, Frankfurt airport operator Fraport AG and Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA). While Zurich Airport recently won the rights to build and operate the upcoming Jewar airport, the second aerodrome in the national capital region, it had also placed a bid for privatisation of Guwahati Airport. Australian infrastructure investor AMP Capital, which manages Newcastle, Leeds and London Luton airports in the UK, and Melbourne and Launceston airports in Australia, had bid for operations, management and development of Guwahati Airport. Fraport and ACSA own minority stakes in Delhi and Mumbai airports, respectively.

Unlike the Tata deal, GMR said the partnership with ADP will be a strategic one that will enable exchange of expertise, personnel, knowledge and market access.

This investment by Groupe ADP comprises Rs 9,780 crore towards secondary sale of shares by GMR group, and Rs 1,000 crore equity infusion in GMR Airports Ltd.

DEAL VALUES GMR AIRPORTS AT ₹22,000 CR

■ The deal values the operator of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, GMR Airports, at Rs 22,000 crore

■ This money will help de-leverage the GMR Group further and result in improved cash flows and profitability

"Groupe ADP has also pegged earn-outs up to Rs 4,475 crore linked to achievement of certain agreed operating performance metrics as well as on receipt of certain regulatory clarifications over next five years. Thereby, total valuation assuming all above earn-outs are successfully consummated, may reach Rs 26,475 crore on post money basis. The first tranche of Rs 5,248 crore will be received by GMR Group immediately. This money will help de-leverage the (GMR) Group further and result in improved cash flows and profitability," GMR Infrastructure said in a statement. As of December 31, 2019, GMR Infrastructure had a consolidated net-debt of Rs 25,660 crore.

For Groupe ADP, the deal gives the firm access to a portfolio of GMR's airport assets including Delhi Airport, Hyderabad Airport, the upcoming greenfield airports in Goa and Bhogapuram in Andhra Pradesh, along with Mactan Cebu International Airport in the Philippines, and Crete airport in Greece.

While GMR will retain management control over the airports business, Groupe ADP will get the rights and board representation at GMR Airports and its key subsidiaries. "Groupe ADP will be granted extended rights including the presence of board members at GMR Airports' board equal to that of GMR Infrastructure Ltd board members. Groupe ADP will also

have the right to appoint predetermined key executives within GMR Airports," the French company said in a separate statement.

In a recent research note, Crisil Ratings said "an unprecedented Rs 38,000 crore capital expenditure" is being undertaken by airport operators between 2020-2024. "The capex, the highest to be incurred in any continuous five-year period, is largely debt-funded," it said. "Increasing footfalls at airports provide a leg-up to non-aero streams such as advertising, rentals, food and beverage and parking, which comprise around half of the revenue of airports already. These are expected to grow strongly at over 10-12 per cent, also supported by increased monetisation avenues coming along with current capex," Crisil added.

Augustin de Romanet, chairman and CEO of Aeroports de Paris SA-Groupe ADP said: "The acquisition of a 49 per cent stake in GMR Airports fits within Groupe ADP's strategy. It sets a robust industrial partnership and enables Groupe ADP to build, only two years after taking control of TAV Airports, a unique worldwide network of airports with a solid industrial expertise and strong development capacities. This acquisition will constitute a growth driver in the medium term, and also a transforming position for the group in one of Asia's and the world's most dynamic and promising countries."

Centre not to ban export of drugs, may impose limits in case of surge

PRABHARAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

THE GOVERNMENT "will not ban" exports of medicines and their ingredients in the wake of the recent novel coronavirus outbreak in China. Instead, it will limit the quantity allowed out of the country if it feels there is a sudden surge in shipments, senior government officials told *The Indian Express*.

The restrictions would happen by requiring exporting companies to furnish no objection certificates (NOCs) to ship these products, allowing for the possibility of these products to continue moving out of the country, they said.

"There is no question of a ban. What we have sought is a restriction on exports," said a senior government official close to the development on condition of anonymity. If it becomes operational, the restrictions would be reviewed after 15 days, said another official.

"We've already asked them (industry) to provide details of APIs (active pharmaceutical ingredients) in stock. During this period, we have asked DGFT to restrict the exports while we understand the situation (of availability of these products)," the official said.

The clarification follows reports that the Department of Pharmaceuticals had asked the Directorate General of Foreign Trade to ban the export of 12 drugs and their key ingredients.

According to the DGFT, an export ban means the company is not permitted to export any quantity of the product. A restriction on exports means the product can be exported only after obtaining authorisation from the offices of the DGFT.

Supply routes hit: Trade with China under pressure

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus in China has disrupted supply chains, which has hit key industries. Crisil expects the impact to subside in China by April 2020. In the worst case, the outbreak may extend through the first quarter of fiscal 2021. The epidemic may have a knock-on effect on the world economy, as per Crisil

The novel coronavirus epidemic is bad news for Indian importers. Supply disruption in key segments is the biggest threat. Exports to China are taking a hit, too.

Some factories in Hubei province have reopened post Chinese New Year but these units are yet to scale up to their full potential due to labour shortage. Shipping and air transport operations to many Chinese cities remain suspended

from and to India, or are operating with low frequency. That's delaying shipments between the countries.

Besides, some impact on exporters of products such as cotton yarn, sea food, petrochemicals, gems and jewellery is inevitable, given that China is among the biggest markets for these products.

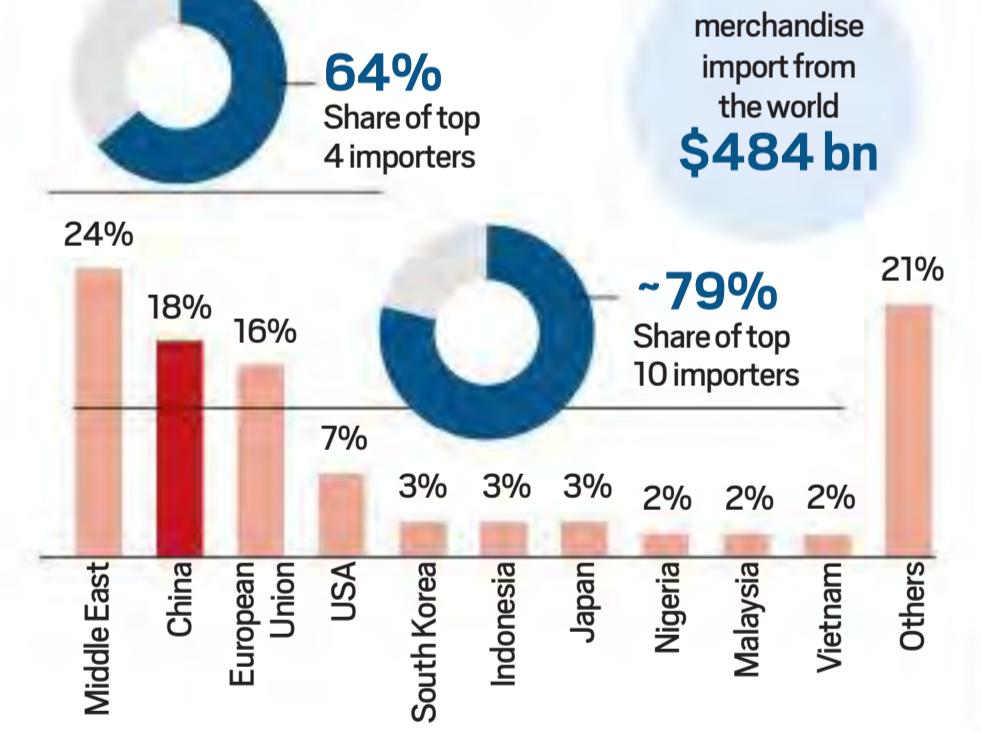


Note: 1. Data for calendar 2019; 2. *data is for calendar 2018; 3. Hong Kong considered part of China in the above chart

Source: Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Crisil Research

Crisil assesses that some sectors in India have stocks that may last 1-2 months such as auto components and pharmaceutical bulk drugs. Hence, we expect the interim impact of supply disruption to be neutral for these sectors

dependent on supplies from China. But, a delay beyond 2-3 months due to continued low production or an extended lockdown would impact Indian corporates much more severely.



Note: 1. Hong Kong considered part of China in the above chart; 2. Chart reflects share of India's merchandise exports/imports for calendar 2019

Source: Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Crisil Research



Export-import trade between India and China (including Hong Kong) was \$115 billion in calendar year 2019.

Consumer durables, electronics, solar panels would be most hit, as these heavily depend on imports from China, with no immediate alternatives available.

Source: CRISIL

With growth still under pressure, some RBI MPC members push for structural reforms, more stimulus

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 20

WHILE THE RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided it appropriate to maintain status quo on the interest rate front, given the evolving growth-inflation dynamics, some members called for structural reforms and more stimuli in the economy as growth hasn't revived with the cut in policy rate, as per the meeting's minutes.

According to MPC member Chetan Ghatge, if growth hasn't revived with a 135-basis point cut in the policy rate, and a tax stimulus amounting to 1.2 per cent of GDP, then "the need of the hour is more structural reform". "Having said this, fiscal deficit uncertainty may require the MPC to accept tighter than desired monetary conditions to ensure our commitment to the medium-term inflation target," Ghatge said, as per the minutes.

The RBI panel, which projected a 5 per cent growth in 2019-20, kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.15 per cent at the policy review on February 6.

The MPC minutes quoted RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das as saying, "While the macroeconomy needs further monetary stimulus, the inflation outlook continues to be uncertain. The Union Budget has sought to provide countercyclical support to the economy while broadly adhering to fiscal prudence. Monetary transmission and bank credit flows have improved, but they need to become stronger."

"Considering the overall evolving growth-inflation situation, it would be prudent to continue the focus on growth in the context of the expected moderation in inflation. This would indeed be in sync with the concept of flexible inflation targeting," Das said.

According to the MPC minutes, Ravindra H Dholakia, another member of the MPC, said, "While monetary policy is important for

EXPLAINED

No rate cut in near term

WITH INFLATION remaining at elevated levels, chances of another rate cut are bleak. The RBI is using unconventional methods like LTRO to bring down interest rates in a bid to boost demand and growth. Further measures are likely to be data dependent.

'Monetary transmission and bank credit flows have improved, but they need to become stronger'

SHAKTIKANTA DAS
RBI GOVERNOR

short run revival of aggregate demand, the long-term growth revival depends critically on the fiscal policy and structural reforms."

According to Das, the seasonal winter softening of vegetable prices has been delayed, even as onion prices have begun to soften. Also, the prices of several other food items such as pulses, milk and edible oils have continued to rise.

"While demand conditions remain weak, there is uncertainty about the likely behaviour of inflation excluding food and fuel, given the recent cost push shocks, especially of mobile charges, prices of automobiles and essential medicines. The path of headline inflation is expected to moderate, but given the prevailing uncertainty, it is prudent to await more clarity based on incoming data," he said.

"Monetary policy has headroom to respond to the evolving macroeconomic configuration, but a good fix is needed on the shape of the inflation hump it has chosen to look through. Hardening prices of proteins and pulses and a range of cost pushes to core inflation are new and ominous risks to the inflation outlook if they persist," said Michael Patra, Deputy Governor, RBI.

"Incoming data will have to be carefully parsed for this purpose. The endeavour now should be to improve transmission of the cumulative 135 bps rate reduction effected since February 2019 and seize the opportunity when it opens up to act judiciously and effectively to support the economy," Patra said.

According to the minutes, while there is a need for adjustment in interest rates on small saving schemes, the external benchmark system introduced from October 1, 2019 has strengthened monetary transmission. "These developments should amplify the effects of the cumulative policy rate reductions undertaken by the Reserve Bank since February 2019 and pull up domestic demand going forward," it said.

The MPC recognised there is policy space available for future action. "The path of inflation is, however, elevated and on a rising trajectory through Q4:2019-20. The outlook for inflation is highly uncertain at this juncture... economic activity remains subdued and the few indicators that have moved up recently are yet to gain traction in a more broad-based manner," it said.

'Strict bank-type rules on NBFCs may either shut off capital or shift systemic risk to another part of system'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

IN LIGHT of the recent failures at IL&FS and PMC Bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is in the process of improving supervision, including risk management and governance, at non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and harmonising the regulations for housing finance companies with the NBFC regulations, according to a Finance Ministry discussion paper released Thursday.

However, it cautioned that imposing stringent bank-type regulations on NBFCs could either shut off capital to a significant part of the economy or shift systemic risk to yet another part of the financial system. Only a nuanced regulatory trade-off with active and flexible supervision

'RISK OF SHIFTING MARKET ACTIVITY'

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC Adviser Sanjeev Sanyal said an unintended consequence of ever-increasing bank regulations is that it shifts market activity to shadow banks from main lenders



can be made to work in such a scenario, said Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Adviser in the finance ministry, while releasing the paper. The discussion paper is part of fresh initiative by the Finance Ministry to encourage debates on various issues.

Sanyal said an unintended consequence of ever-increasing bank regulations is that it shifts market activity to shadow banks

from main lenders as the latter become more averse to lend to high risk borrowers. But since banks are also lenders to NBFCs, there are inter linkages in the system which can pose challenges even for the better regulated entity.

For instance, the share of bank borrowings in NBFCs' funding has increased from 21.2 per cent in March 2017 to 29.2 per cent as of

March 2019 as banks compensated for reduced capital market access for NBFCs. In addition, the top 10 NBFCs (of 9,659 NBFCs) accounted for more than 50 per cent of the total bank lending to NBFCs as of March 2019, as per the paper.

Sanyal said part of the reasons behind the recent failures at NBFCs such as IL&FS and cooperative lender PMC Bank can be attributed to lack of effective supervision. Even the 2008 global financial crisis has revealed that the institutions that went belly up were not tightly regulated, rather they were properly regulated, but imposing uniform regulations and risk weights can cause problems for the entire financial system, he said, while trying to ignite a debate on what should be appropriate balance between regulation and effective supervision.

"The regulation versus supervision trade-off requires a mindset change such that the first order of policy should be to ensure that legitimate entities, i.e., the "compliant", can carry out business activity without any encumbrance. This requires simpler regulations combined with greater emphasis on supervision to detect improper activity, determine the extent of the problem, and penalize the "non-compliant". This applies to all fields of policymaking and concerned ministries and regulators need to invest in supervisory capacity," he wrote in the paper.

However, the problem with supervision is that it requires active monitoring and accountability from the government department of regulatory body, which pushes them to keep adding top-down regulations regardless of their effectiveness.

ARMSMAKERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

From muskets to missiles

The battle for the Middle Eastern arms market is heating up

THE FLOW of foreign arms to the Arabian peninsula began in earnest 150 years ago. As European armies adopted modern breech-loading rifles, a stock of old-fashioned weapons was left surplus to requirements. Rivalries among Arab tribes created a ready-made market for ageing arms. A combination of the region's chronic instability and oil riches has since continued to fuel weapons sales. Most of them still come from the West. Now the shifting sands of geopolitics have left an opening for others.

At the Dubai air show last November Viktor Kladov of Rostec, a state-run firm that handles exports from Russia's defence companies, told *The Economist* that Russian weapons exports to the Middle East apparently hit an all-time high of \$13.7bn in 2018. With a candour unusual in his industry, Mr Kladov put this down to Russia's willingness to sell most things to most people. Europeans and Americans can indeed be queasy about sending some weaponry to places with mixed human-rights records. The war in Syria, Mr Kladov said, was a chance to "showcase" Russian arms. Chinese firms, similarly unconstrained, are also piling in. And Middle Eastern countries are keen to build their own defence industries. The battle for the world's fastest-growing arms market may be about to heat up.

War powers

Big Western defence firms mostly rely on their domestic markets for sales and profits. Exports account for less than a third of revenues for Lockheed Martin, the world's biggest armsmaker. But the global export market is big—and getting bigger. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a think-tank, put it at \$100bn in 2018. Overseas revenues help smooth over downswings in domestic defence budgets and support the gargantuan investments required for big projects.

A growing share of these revenues comes from the Middle East. In 2014-18 the region received a third of the world's arms exports, second only to Asia Pacific, according to SIPRI. Countries there imported 87% more weapons in that period than they had in the previous five years. In 2018 Saudi Arabia splurged \$68bn on military kit, more than anyone bar America and China. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was the seventh-biggest spender in 2014-18; tiny Qatar and Oman made the top 20.

America's massive weapons-makers, whose home market is responsible for 36% of global defence spending, dominate the industry. All but eight of the world's 20 biggest defence firms by sales are American. America's industry accounted for 36% of global exports in 2014-18, reckons SIPRI. Countries in the Middle East snapped up over half of American exports in that period, as well as 60% of Britain's, 44% of France's and 25% of Germany's. In 2018 the Middle East contributed \$3.6bn, or around 7%, to the revenues of Lockheed Martin. Raytheon, the fourth-biggest producer, made 15% of its overall sales in the region (including north Africa), which were worth roughly \$4bn.

Most Middle Eastern cash goes on air power. Buying, arming and maintaining



Sukhoi SU-35 jets of the 'Sokoly Rossi' (Falcons of Russia) aerobatic team during a rehearsal for the airshow in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, on August 1, 2019. Reuters

combat jets is an expensive business, accounting for nearly two-thirds of global exports in the past decade. Saudi Arabia has amassed the world's eighth-largest fleet of combat aircraft. A contract signed in 2011 for 84 new F-15 fighters and upgrades to 70 existing planes is worth \$24bn to Boeing and its suppliers, which include Raytheon and Britain's BAE Systems. BAE sold 72 Typhoon jets to the desert kingdom in 2007 in a deal said to be worth around \$7bn (which the firm is keen to extend). Saudi Arabia has procured antimissile systems from Lockheed Martin and Raytheon.

But there are some things that American firms will not—or cannot—sell. International arms treaties to which America is party bar signatories from exporting ballistic missiles, as well as certain cruise missiles and armed drones. China, which has stayed away from these compacts, faces no such constraints. Once limited to supplying communist revolutionary movements with small arms, it has become one of the world's biggest arms exporters.

Dragon flies

Strategic rivals like India (the world's second-biggest arms importer behind Saudi Arabia), will not touch Chinese wares. But China's armsmakers are making forays into Africa and the Middle East, especially with armed drones. Although these may not be as advanced as American ones, they can be just as effective—in 2018 the UAE used a Chinese drone to kill a Houthi rebel leader in next-door Yemen, where it is fighting an insurgency in a Saudi-led coalition. And they cost a quarter as much.

Peter Navarro, President Donald Trump's trade adviser, has complained that the Wing Loong II, made by the Chengdu Aircraft Industry Group, is a "a clear knock-off" of the Predator drone built by America's General Atomics (GA). Rainbow CH-4 drones, developed by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, look an awful lot like GA's smaller Reaper. Mr Trump has sought to ease restrictions on exports of the American models. Nevertheless, points out Pieter Wezeman of SIPRI, the deals allow the

Chinese to build relationships in the region, paving the way for future sales of other systems. Qatar already has Chinese-made ballistic missiles.

Russia, with domestic sales in decline since 2016, also covets more Middle Eastern custom. Like Chinese kit, some of its technology is cut-price and comes with no strings attached. Though a lot of it is no match for the best European or American equipment, "it's good enough", sums up one industry insider.

Russian firms have yet to break into the Gulf's lucrative market; in Dubai the affable Mr Kladov seemed keenest to flaunt non-military kit, such as a wine-storage system made of military-grade materials and a Kalashnikov passenger hydrofoil. But they have been supplying deadlier products to Egypt, temporarily denied American arms after a military coup in 2013, as well as to Syria and Iraq. Russia's government says it is in talks to sell Sukhoi's SU-35 combat jets to the UAE (though Emirati airmen would prefer, and will probably get, America's snazzier F-35s). The Saudis are discussing acqui-

sition of the S400 anti-aircraft missile systems made by Russia's Almaz-Antey. America would be miffed if the kingdom turned to Russia. When Turkey (a NATO ally) agreed to buy the S400s, America reacted by refusing to sell it F-35s.

Chinese and Russian firms also look poised to benefit from an arms embargo which some northern European countries have imposed on Saudi Arabia over its conduct of the war in Yemen and the murder of a dissident journalist. Germany has banned weapons made or co-developed by German firms, or containing German components, from going to the Saudis. Canada's government is under pressure at home to block an \$11bn contract to furnish Saudi Arabia with armoured vehicles made by General Dynamics. Britain has suspended new export licences for equipment that might be used by the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen. BAE's £5bn (\$6.5bn) deal to sell more Typhoons may be in jeopardy.

The last threat to Western dominance may come from the importers themselves.

Big defence contracts typically involve joint ventures with local companies. These, says Lucie Béraud-Sudreau of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, another think-tank, enable the customers to develop weapons themselves. Australia, Pakistan, South Korea and Turkey have all developed local defence industries from scratch, notes Strategy&, a consultancy, partly through off-sets but also because of policies to help domestic suppliers.

At the Dubai show the UAE unveiled Edge, a consortium of 25 defence firms. Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI), another national group, was set up in 2017. The Saudis want to localise half their spending on arms by 2030, from 2% in 2017. They are enlisting foreign executives and experts. China has built a drone factory there; SAMI is run by a German. It will be a while before local companies rival the Western giants. But the days when the West could sell the sheikhs out-of-date muskets are not coming back.

©The Economist Newspaper Limited 2020

LEXINGTON

Mike Bloomberg's moment

The former mayor of New York's lavish spending and weak rivals make him a contender

ON A rainy afternoon in Chattanooga, the queue for Mike Bloomberg trailed around the block. Eleven weeks into his presidential campaign, the former New York mayor and world's 12th-richest man is already well known in Tennessee. This was his fourth visit to the state, one of 14 that will hold its primary vote on March 3rd. He is also dominating its airwaves, with television ads touting his criticisms of Donald Trump, mayoral record and philanthropic support for gun control and climate-change policy running on a loop. "It's almost like it was with Obama," said a sodden Chattanooga retiree, marveling at the size of the crowd.

The back-to-front oddity of Mr Bloomberg's campaign has drawn a lot of scorn. Presidential primaries have traditionally been decided by the first four early-voting states which, because of his late entry to the race, he is sitting out. His politics, as a former Republican, once synonymous with racially insensitive policing, also looked hopeless to many leftist commentators. Yet self-made billionaires tend not to be bad at reckoning their odds. And, sure enough, while Mr Bloomberg's rivals knocked lumps out of each other in Iowa and New Hampshire, his aggressive campaigning in the Super Tuesday states has produced the biggest, fastest polling surge of the contest.

He sits third in *The Economist's* national polling aggregate, at 16%. And with Joe Biden falling, he may soon be second to Senator Bernie Sanders, the winner in New Hampshire. This has already attracted an impressive ripple of endorsements, including from three members of the Congressional

While Bloomberg's rivals knocked lumps out of each other in Iowa and New Hampshire, his aggressive campaigning in the Super Tuesday states has produced the biggest, fastest polling surge of the contest

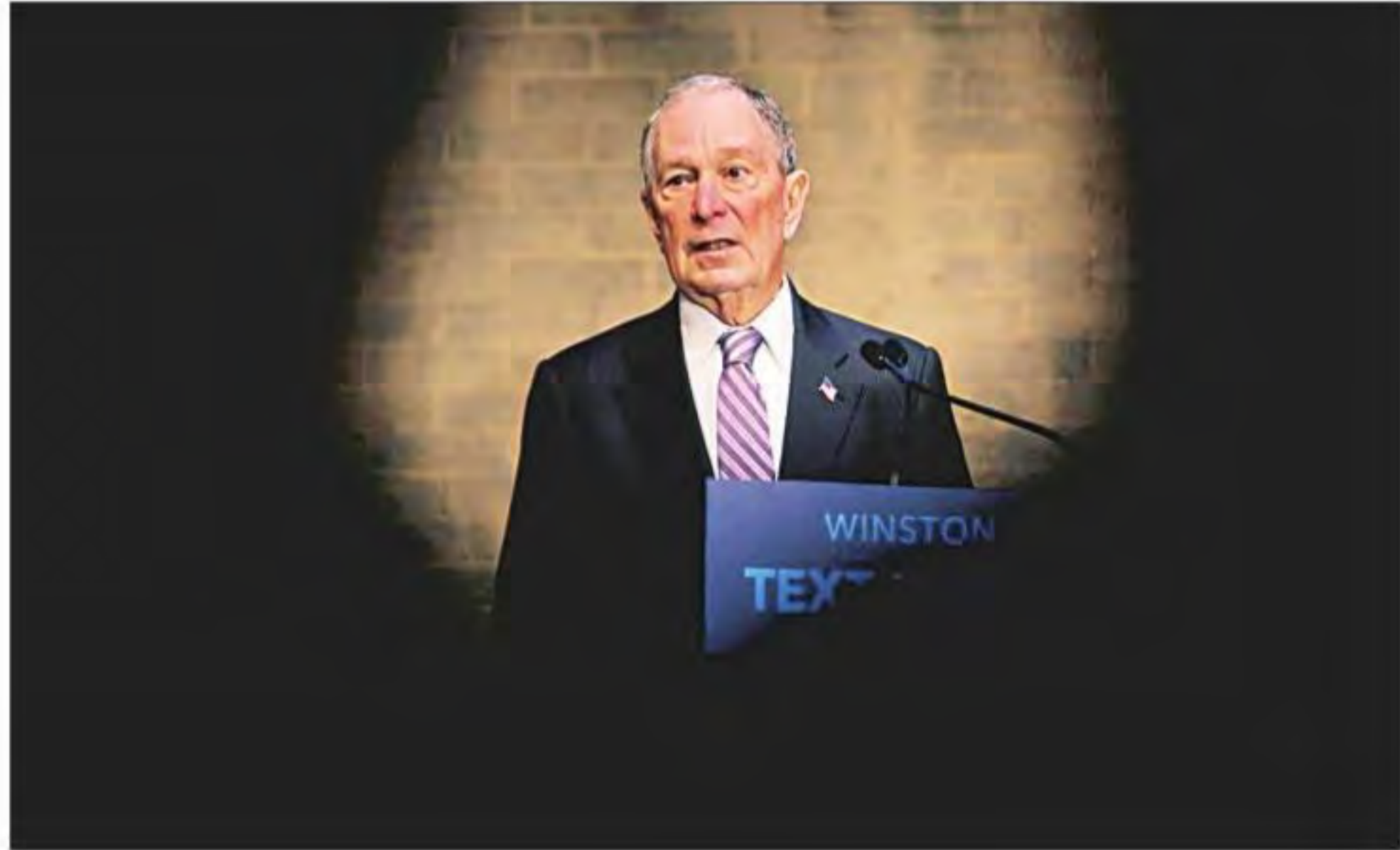
Black Caucus—hitherto Mr Biden's biggest champion—this week. And if the primary were indeed to start looking like a face-off between Mr Bloomberg and the widely mistrusted Mr Sanders, many more would follow. Diminutive, prickly and poor at public speaking, Mr Bloomberg is almost nothing like Barack Obama—save potentially in one regard. Unlike their more uniform opponents, Democrats' first concern is to find a leader capable of uniting their party's ethnopolitically divided coalition. Mr Obama did so magnificently—which is why Mr Biden, his bumbling deputy, has been afforded such an extended stab at assuming the role. The nascent enthusiasm for Mr Bloomberg, before he has contested a primary or debated any of his Democratic rivals, suggests he might soon be auditioned for it.

There are two reasons for his rise. First, the vastness of his spending. He is estimated to have splurged over \$300m on TV, radio and digital advertising alone. To put that in perspective, Amy Klobuchar, a rival moderate,

recently had \$5m in hand. Mr Bloomberg has also assembled a huge and talented campaign team—with so far 2,100 employees, many of whom earn twice what other campaigns pay. The resources and professionalism of his rallies are on a different level from his rivals'. When it became clear that the venue in Chattanooga could not accommodate at least 200 of those queuing, his technicians rigged up a sound system outside the building within minutes. At a later event in Nashville, over 1,000 attendees were served a barbecue supper and all the "I like Mike" badges and T-shirts they could carry.

The second thing in Mr Bloomberg's favour is that the verdict of the earliest states is far from decisive. The centre-left is currently split between Pete Buttigieg, Ms Klobuchar and the fading Mr Biden. This has made Mr Sanders, through his dominance of the smaller left-wing faction, a weak front-runner. To challenge him, either Mr Biden would have to rally his erstwhile non-white supporters, or else Mr Buttigieg or Ms Klobuchar would have to win them. Yet Mr Biden looks blown. And, notwithstanding their attributes, Mr Buttigieg and Ms Klobuchar are still giving many voters pause. Neither a gay mayor nor a woman has yet made it to the White House. The fact that Mr Bloomberg is himself a "short, divorced Jewish billionaire from New York", as he once self-deprecatingly termed himself, does not now seem disqualifying.

In reality, no candidate looks able to unite Democrats as Mr Obama did: Mr Bloomberg would certainly alienate many Sandernistas. Yet the best argument for his candidacy may be that he is unusually able to focus wander-



Democratic presidential candidate Mike Bloomberg at a campaign event in North Carolina, on February 13. Reuters

ing Democratic minds on the common enemy: Mr Trump. The many symmetries between the two New Yorkers are glaring and unflinching to Mr Bloomberg's credit. He is a self-made billionaire; Mr Trump inherited his wealth and bankrupted his companies. Mr Bloomberg has a record of improving government by bringing business-like efficiencies to it; the president is a wrecker. Mr Bloomberg is one of America's most generous philanthropists; Mr Trump used his family foundation to buy a portrait of himself to hang in one of his golf clubs. And if Democrats doubt that such comparisons are important, they should reflect that, if Mr Bloomberg were his opponent, Mr Trump would think

about little else. A recent quip by Mr Bloomberg about Mr Trump's lesser wealth (asked about the prospect of two billionaires vying for the presidency, he asked: "Who's the other one?") was plainly intended for an audience of one.

Bloomberg terminal

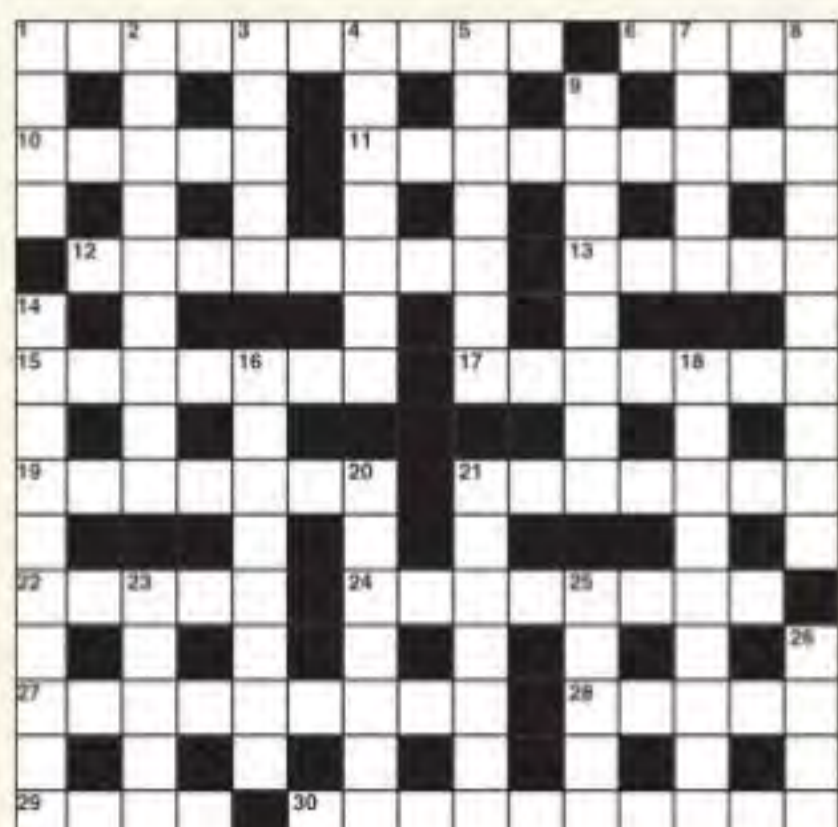
There are still huge questions about his candidacy. His support has been inflated by high name-recognition in places where his opponents are absent. If he performs badly in his first clashes with them—starting with a televised debate in Las Vegas on February 19th—it could shrivel. Having been largely ignored by his rivals thus far, he is also due some

potentially damaging attention. The unearthing this week of some past thuggish remarks by Mr Bloomberg in support of his controversial policing was an early taste.

A bigger fear is that, instead of capitalising on the Democrats' divided field, he may fracture it further. He could nab enough of Mr Biden's support with non-whites to stop Mr Buttigieg or Ms Klobuchar uniting the centre-left, yet be unable to do so himself. Perhaps his qualities are worth the risk. But if it backfires, he will have done more than almost anyone to make Mr Sanders the nominee.

©The Economist Newspaper Limited 2020

CROSSWORD 4047



ACROSS

- 1 Off-putting food? (3,7)
- 6 A direction to lower a boat (4)
- 10 Heaven-sent sustenance for many a girl (5)
- 11 Bring mule that's clumsy and awkward (9)
- 12 Drawn out in the wrong order - that's awkward (8)
- 13 Frightfully large fairy tale characters (5)
- 15 Sees trouble, grabs a hat and gets out (7)
- 17 If a man is willing, this may be added (7)
- 19 A murder suspect, one hears (7)
- 21 Disorderly crooner in court (7)
- 22 A classical type (5)
- 24 Countryman may help you when lost (8)
- 27 Realise it is translated into Hebrew (9)
- 28 Labour to replenish the dairy farmer's stock (5)
- 29 Take it on holiday (4)
- 30 If one doesn't enter it, one's pulled through (6,4)

DOWN

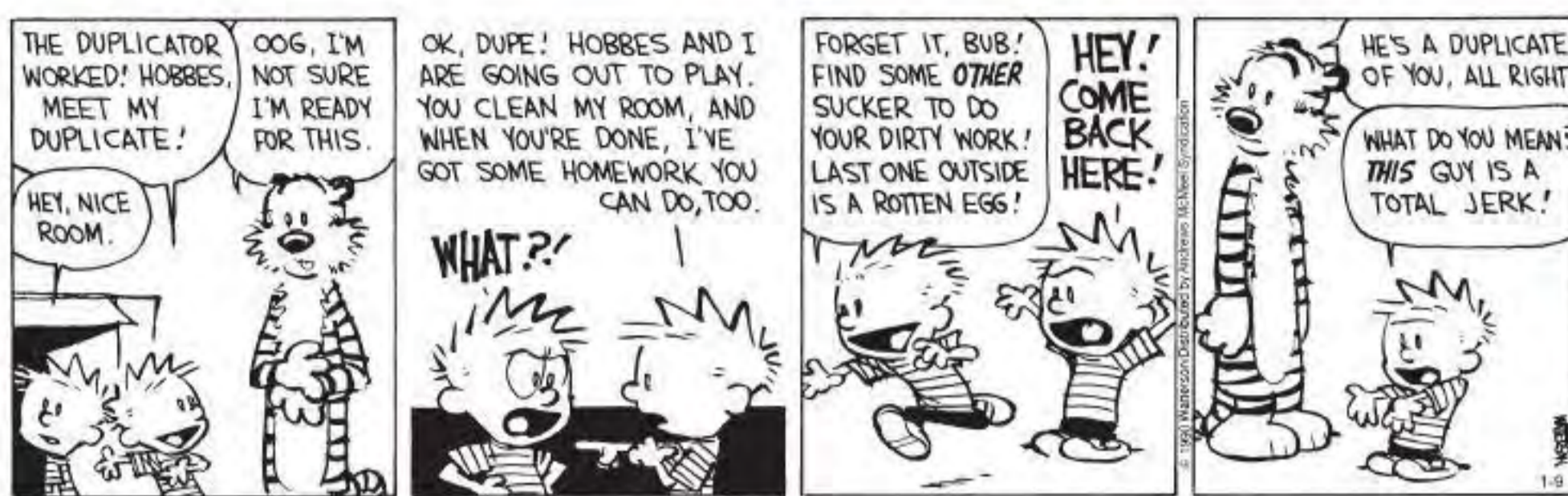
- 1 Rising old city politician gets behind (4)
- 2 For those who like to travel, but not fast (6,3)
- 3 Bend an ear to the Muse of poetry (5)
- 4 Puts in charge again (7)
- 5 The sort of people who are always on the go (7)
- 7 He called to give the news (5)
- 8 Office worker who pays out much more than he earns (5,5)
- 9 Instrument used by one making an entry (8)
- 14 Speak about nothing in particular (10)
- 16 Shared in a perfect round of golf (8)
- 18 She's a singer of low songs (9)
- 20 Sea mail going astray causes uneasiness (7)
- 21 Study the actual words, and whatever goes with them (7)
- 23 Breaks up the band (5)
- 25 May start with excellent cards in clubs (5)
- 26 Buck up at the back (4)

Solutions Crossword 4046: Across: 1 Hostage, 5 Locum, 8 White flag, 9 Odd, 10 Dali, 12 Describe, 14 Signet, 15 Tenths, 17 Restrain, 18 Grab, 21 Pea, 22 Eliminate, 24 Evens, 25 Guesstimated. Down: 1 Hewed, 2 Ski, 3 Aces, 4 Eileen, 5 Legacies, 6 Chorister, 7 Maddens, 11 Legislate, 13 Heartens, 14 Scruple, 16 Dining, 19 Breed, 20 Kite, 23 Ass.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLLED WORDS

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

Matrimony - the ___ for which no ___ has yet been invented. - Heinrich Heine (4,3,...7)



SOLUTION: ADAGE, OASIS, CRAMPS, THOUGH
Answer: Matrimony - the high sea for which no compass has yet been invented.

SUDOKU 4127

Difficulty Level 5s
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

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4126



NOTICE BOARD

EDUCATION

CELEBRATIONS, EVENTS, APPOINTMENTS, HONOURS



FEST- GGSIP UNIVERSITY

The renowned film producer Anil Sharma, who produced 'Gadar' like super hit film, inaugurated the 21st Annual Cultural festival of IP University 'Anugoonj 2020' at the Dwarka campus of the University recently. Delving down the nostalgia, he said such type of functions remind me of my childhood. He called upon the students participating in this cultural festival to go ahead to achieve their goals in life. Presiding over the function the Vice Chancellor of the University Prof. Mahesh Verma said we learn a lot of things outside the classroom. "Festivals are fun but it involves a lot of good things to learn like healthy competition, leadership, confidence, esteem etc. The education combined with culture is essential for life," said Prof. Verma.



JOINT AGREEMENT- GAUTAM BUDDHA UNIVERSITY

Gautam Buddha University (GBU) has entered into a joint agreement with Signi Advanced Technology to promote Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain Technology. The agreement was signed between the representatives of Signi Advanced Technology, Gurugram and the officials of GBU. The agreement aims to bridge the vocational skills gap arising among the student community and provide employment opportunities in the field of blockchain technology with artificial intelligence. According to this agreement, students are to be trained on soft skills so that they can develop the capability of industrial work in a complete way. GBU will include Artificial Intelligence & Blockchain Technology in the syllabus of Engineering & Management courses.



AUTO EXPO 2020- SHARDA UNIVERSITY

This year the students of Sharda University displayed their all-new E-vehicle concepts: VAAAN - an Electric Hubless Bike & VISION- E computer sports bike at the Auto Expo 2020. A signature event, witnessing innovative minds from the automotive industry coming together on one platform to showcase the best for automobile lovers. Looking at the current Indian mobility & environmental scenario, the vehicles are designed in a unique approach to enhance the customer experience. The expo drew huge attention from people across the globe.



CONVOCATION- NORTHCAP UNIVERSITY

The NorthCap University, Gurugram recently conducted its 8th Convocation for its Under Graduate, Post Graduate students & Ph.D. scholars, for the Batch of 2019 at NCU campus. The Chief Guest for the Convocation was General (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.), Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India. The ceremony began with a majestic and grand academic procession followed by the Saraswati Vandana and Vande Mataram sung by the university choir. The convocation ceremony was declared open by the Chancellor V Daulat Singh. Also, in attendance were other dignitaries from the academic world and industries. A total of 806 students were awarded the degree during the ceremony.



EVENT- AKGIM

AKGIM along with GMA recently organized "Management Simulation Business Game: CHANAKYA" on at its campus. This game was conducted by All India Management Association (AIMA). The game was steered by Vijay Singh & DK Gupta from the games division of AIMA. Business Game 'Chanakya' is a simulation game where teams of four persons each are made to represent the decision makers of a company. They are required to take the most profitable decision for their company under circumstances and vagaries created to simulate the actual business scenarios that can prevail. In this event, participation was in form of 8 teams from management cadre of Industries.



COMPETITION- SOMERVILLE SCHOOL NODIA

Somerville School Nodia recently organised Inter House English Choral Recitation for Classes 6 to 8. The theme was humour and the poems were selected painstakingly to ensure that they were humorous and unique. Every house had equal distribution of students from classes 6, 7 and 8. The judges were very impressed with the pronunciation, expression and dramatization. They had a tough time choosing the winning team. The house that came first was Mark House and the poem was Mother and the mouse.



EVENT-K.R MANAGALAM WORLD SCHOOL, FARIDABAD

In its journey of discovery of excellence in the field of education, K.R MANAGALAM WORLD School Faridabad has always nurtured the values of 'Explore, Learn and Create' and has encouraged the young learners to 'Learn, Live and Lead' in their thoughts, words and actions. In tune with this thought, the students of grade III displayed their Annual Presentation on Panchatva - the essence of nature, to showcase the synergy between environment and humans and the role they play in sustaining the ecosystem. The Chief Guest at the event was Ms. Anu, Principal of Swadhyay Childcare, and Principal Ms. Manmit Behel Sabharwal. Students presented a salutation in the form of a welcome song to the audience.



SEMINAR- GGSIP UNIVERSITY

University School of Architecture and Planning (USAP) and University School of Environment Management (USEM) of the University jointly organized a Seminar on Landscape Architecture at J's Dwarka campus. Johanna Gibbons, a Landscape Architect and founding member of J & L Gibbons LLP, London fellow of Landscape Institute and Royal Society of Arts delivered a talk on the topic 'Second Nature'. She explored how practice develops design and critical engagement strategies to connect city communities with natural processes and urban forest. Apart from faculty members, research scholars and students of both the Schools, the Vice Chancellor of the University Prof. Mahesh Verma also graced the occasion.



EXHIBITION- BILLABONG HIGH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, NODIA

Billabong High International School, Nodia recently organized its two-day Annual Exhibition - Matrix 2020, Utopia, - a step towards Climate Action in the school premises. The event was graced by eminent guests like Dr Ajit Tyagi, President, Indian Meteorological Society, Advocate Sanjay Upadhyay, a prominent Environmental Lawyer & Founder of Enviro-Legal Defence Firm, Ranveer Tanwar, a distinguished Environmentalist & Dr Pranab J. Patar, a renowned Environment & Development professional.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Divl.Rly. Manager, Engineering, N.W. Railway, Jaipur for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works upto 15:30 hours on the date shown as below -
Name of work with location: 1. ENGG-JP-2019-20-246. JP-Shifting of bore well & water pipe lines in 22 godam station in connection with Bais Godam/Sanganer- Provision of Stabling lines. Approx Cost of work: 13445790/-; Earnest money : Rs. 217200/-; 2. ENGG-JP-2019-20-247. Bandikui-Construction of 120 bedded staff barrack, 30 bedded ladies barrack & 20 bedded officers barrack for RPF training center. Approx Cost of work: 65264580/-; Earnest money : Rs. 476300/-; 3. ENGG-JP-2019-20-248. JP Div: Up Gradation of LC's No. 63, 72, 207 & 213 in Jurisdiction of ADEN/REGS. Approx Cost of work : 1751322/-; Earnest money : Rs. 35000/-; 4. ENGG-JP-2019-20-249. JP Division-Supply including AMC of Weld tester ultrasonic weld testing machine with supply of spares for a period of Seven year, (Modsonic or equivalents RDSO approved make). Approx Cost of work: 4028428/-; Earnest money: Rs. 80600/-; 5. ENGG-JP-2019-20-250. ADEN/RGS Sub Divn- Remedil action required for miscellaneous deficiencies at existing LHS. No. 70, 73, 75, 81, 84, 86, 87, 90, 91, 94, 99, 104, 105, 106, 113, 114, 116, 117, 118, 122, 125, 126, 127, 128 And 129 in Jurisdiction of SSE (Work) RGS. Approx Cost of work: 37532333/-; Earnest money: Rs. 337700/-; 6. ENGG-JP-2019-20-251. JP Divn- Setting up of quick watering arrangement at Rewari station. Approx Cost of work: 2191039/-; Earnest money: Rs. 43800/-; 7. ENGG-JP-2019-20-252. Reconditioning of wheel burns, scabbd rails, cup weld and low joints in the section of SSE/PW/RGS, NMK, and AEL under jurisdiction of ADEN/RGS. Approx Cost of work: 802274/-; Earnest money: Rs. 160500/-; 8. ENGG-JP-2019-20-253. Jaipur- Repairs of sewer line in Loco colony & Ganpat Nagar Jaipur. Approx Cost of work : 759274/-; Earnest money: Rs. 151900/-; 9. ENGG-JP-2019-20-254. Jaipur Division - Conversion of SWR into LWR of loop lines - 35.20 Km in RPC section. Approx Cost of work: 25412642/-; Earnest money: Rs. 277100/-; 1. Other terms & condition will be shown on N.W.Rly website - www.ireps.gov.in. No any manual tender will be accepted. 2. Payment of earnest money deposit (EMD) & tender document cost (TDC) in respect of E-tendering should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only.) The payment is to be made in favour of FA&CAO, NWR, Jaipur, other wise tender will not be considered. 3. Detail is available on N.W.Rly website - www.ireps.gov.in and Notice Board in WA section, DRM Office, NWR/Jaipur. 4. Tender No ENGG-JP-2019-20-246 to ENGG-JP-2019-20-254 is to be closed on 12.03.20 at 15:30 hrs. & opened on 12.03.20 at 16:00 hrs. 5. Ms. RADHA KISHAN YADAV, WARD NO-7, BHURA BADIGARO KI DHANI, TIGARIYA CHOMU, JAIPUR- 303804 in Tender No. ENGG-JP-2019-20-250 shall not be participated.

198-AM/20
Please join us on /NWRRailways

21 TALK

ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD



SECOND LIFE

Designer brand Alexander McQueen will auction 72 archival pieces. It includes a Military Matador Coat from 1996 and a nude silk mesh top from 'The Hunger' SS96 collection. Former head of the studio, Ruti Danan, has been conserving these for years.

AROUND TOWN



Art Talk

AT THE festival "Arth - A Culture Fest", that opens today, Indian culture will be celebrated through art, culture, literature, politics and society, at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. Geeta Chandran, Madhavi Mudgal, Methil Devika and Shovana Narayan will be in a discussion titled "Understanding Indian Classical Dance" with Sujoy Prosad Chatterjee at 12.30 pm. At 2.15 pm, songs of the desert will reverberate as the Langas, Manganiyars and Kalbeliyas of Rajasthan will perform. It will be followed by another discussion, at 3 pm, "The Pain of Separation: Partition Pangs", with panelists Kishwar Desai, Meenakshi Jain and Saradindu Mukherji in conversation with Makarand Paranjape. The day will end with a performance by Shubha Mudgal (pictured) at 8 pm.



Here and There

A COLLABORATIVE exhibition between India and France titled "In. Fra.", which was inaugurated by Adwaita Gadanayak, Director General of National Gallery of Modern Art and veteran artist Sakti Burman, has art works by 10 artists, including Krishnendu Porel, Kosal Kumar, Madhu Mangal Basu, Istvan Nayg and Nadya Bertaux. On till February 23 at Alliance Française de Delhi, Lodhi Estate.



The New Modern

THE PROJECT "Visions in the Making" seeks to create "a space of mutual inquiry, transformation and translation between cultures". The works of the six participating artists from Italy and South Asia, including Amina Ahmed, Natascia Fenoglio, Marta Roberti and Gopa Trivedi, "provide a framework for a new modernity that is emerging and is reconfigured to an age of hybridisation". At Italian Culture Centre, Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri, till February 28.



Step by Step

SUKHMANCH FESTIVAL will stage *Seven Steps Around The Fire*. The play directed by Shilpi Marwaha revolves around the murder of Kamala, a eunuch, and Uma Rao, a student who uncovers the truth while working on her research paper. Written by Mahesh Dattani, it throws light on the plight of eunuchs and the misuse of power. On February 22, 7 pm, at Shri Ram Centre, Mandi House. Tickets on bookmyshow.

Cut in Stone

SAFFRONART STUDIOS is hosting an exhibition of fine jewellery by designer Vishal Anil Kothari from February 20 to 23. A third generation creator of artisanal handcrafted jewellery, Kothari works with rare gemstones to create sculptural wearable art pieces. From 11 am to 7 pm at Saffronart, The Oberoi, Dr Zakir Hussain Marg.



Shardul Bhardwaj in a still from *Eeb Allay Ooo!*; (below) Naina Sareen

Classmates, Collaborators

As *Eeb Allay Ooo!* readies for its Berlinale premiere, actors Shardul Bhardwaj and Naina Sareen talk about their involvement with this sociopolitical satire

ALAKA SAHANI

AHEAD OF the movie *Eeb Allay Ooo!*'s shoot, its director Prateek Vats gifted Shardul Bhardwaj — who was to play the role of a reluctant 'monkey repeller' in Central Delhi — a birdwatching book. The idea behind this gift was to familiarise Bhardwaj with the mind space of someone who watches birds. During the days that followed, the actor accompanied real-life monkey repeller Mahinder Nath as the latter went from one area of Delhi to another, chasing the primates and using his vocal cords to create sounds — "eeb", "allay" and "ooo" — to drive them away.

For Bhardwaj, preparation for the role of Anjani, a contract labourer who frowns upon his job of chasing monkeys and is also scared of them, started immediately after Shubham — the movie's screenwriter and acting coach — narrated the script to him. "I had to reach Delhi a month prior to the shoot for the movie's pre-production. I wanted to put in all that I had learnt about character-building at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, where I studied acting, but Prateek and Shubham told me to take it one day at a time," recalls Bhardwaj, who graduated from FTII in 2017. He received the Best Actor (male) award for the role at MAMI Mumbai Film Festival last year. He also worked on the film's costumes and subtitles.

What also helped Bhardwaj understand the character of Anjani were his costumes — that he roamed around and slept in. "Since I grew up in Delhi, I knew the city and its streets. However, people's gaze towards me



changed when I was in Anjani's attire, making me aware of the class distinction," recounted the actor while speaking to the audience at the Dharmashala International Film Festival (DIFF), where it was the opening film.

Later, seated in the courtyard of Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA), Dharmashala, Bhardwaj shared details of his process. "When people see you in certain kind of clothes, they perceive you in a certain way and they place you in a certain class. Initially, it was shocking. Gradually, it began helping me build the character," said the actor who graduated in English from Kirori Mal College, Delhi, in 2015. Naina Sareen, his acting course batchmate at FTII and co-actor in *Eeb Allay Ooo!*, joined the conversation to talk about their involvement in this sociopolitical satire, which is being shown at the Berlin International Film Festival in the Panorama section. The film will also be screened at Red Sea International Film Festival in Jeddah in

March and Indian Film Festival in Los Angeles in April.

When Sareen joined the team, they had already shot for nearly 20 days. "Prateek and Shubham always had the idea that Anjani would have a love interest, if not a romantic relationship. However, they had not developed the character till then. Initially, they asked me to assist the team but I ended up acting in the film," says Sareen. She plays the role of Anjani's neighbour and a nurse who tries to comprehend his problems and also scoffs at his conceited attitude. Being friends, their familiarity with each other helped them improvise certain scenes — Sareen cites a scene where she is looking for a hair-clip in the dark with the torch on her phone while talking to Anjani about his travails with the monkeys; also one where they are sharing a set of headphones while travelling in a metro.

The team of *Eeb Allay Ooo!* mainly comprises FTII alumni, barring a few. "It helps being part of the FTII community. Shardul is a friend while the film's producer Shwetaabh Singh, is my acting course senior. Initially, it was Shwetaabh who had asked me to assist Prateek," says Sareen, who features in the 2019 releases *Hotel Mumbai* and *Warrior Queen of Jhansi*.

Bhardwaj, who is currently working on a movie titled *Tehvi*, echoes similar sentiments about the FTII community. He says, "All of us in this team are a product of a public institution with subsidised education and a certain kind of free thinking. Instead of meddling with institutions such as FTII, Jawaharlal Nehru University or Jamia Millia Islamia, the government should create more such spaces."

'We need to develop a sense of history'

Writer-director Saif Hyder Hasan's latest production explores the marital life of Kasturba and Mahatma Gandhi



DIPANITA NATH

A FEW days ago at the rehearsal of the play *Dearest Babu, Love Kasturba*, theatre director Saif Hyder Hasan joked, "Why don't we replace Azad Maidan (a site of speeches and protests in Mumbai during the freedom struggle) with Shaheen Bagh (in Delhi, where a large gathering of women has been protesting the CAA-NRC since December 2019)? At the end of the day, isn't it the same thing?" Hasan's understanding of the present begins by staring at the past. His "relationship plays" *Ek Mulaqaat*, about the unfulfilled love of Amrita Pritam and Sahir Ludhianvi, and *Gandish Mein Taare*, about the turbulent marriage of Guru Dutt and Geeta Dutt, were also journeys into the histories of art, films and literature. Now, Mumbai-based Hasan is exploring the marriage of Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba in the play *Dearest Babu, Love Kasturba*. Starring Zeenat Aman as Kasturba and Arif Zakaria as Gandhi, the story begins with the Quit India Movement and Kasturba writing a letter, where she tells Gandhi, "You weren't an easy man to live with". Excerpts from a conversation with Hasan:



Saif Hyder Hasan (left); a scene from *Dearest Babu, Love Kasturba*

You have directed film actors Deepti Naval, Shekhar Suman and Satish Kaushik in plays. What prompted you to bring back Zeenat Aman in a new role?

When I was coming up with names for the role, I thought of the usual ones who were similar to Kasturba. Then, I thought, 'Nobody will link Zeenat to Kasturba'. She has been a huge star and an actor who isn't done and dusted. You would want to watch her perform. I knew she had done theatre. Ramesh Talwar had directed her in the play, *Chupke Chupke*, and Divya Palat in a Broadway-style show, *The Graduate*, where

she played Mrs Robinson. I had met her 10 years ago for another play, *Mirror Mirror On The Wall*.

What drew you to the story of Ba and Bapu?

Three years ago, I wanted to write a three-woman story on the wives of Ghalib, Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi. Then, I realised that I would be devoting only half an hour to each of these women. The play is about companionship of 65 years and talks about the moments of togetherness and upheavals. I find this interesting, especially since relationships are failing left, right and centre.

What are the characteristics of Kasturba that you bring out in your play?

She is a woman of her times but, at the same time, she has a voice of her own. About Gandhi's vow of celibacy, she says, 'It was not easy for me to go with it. It pained me but I went along with it, as with all the other things'. She was a young woman in her 30s when he took the vow. I had to edit out a lot of portions but there is a part when she says, about Mahatma Gandhi and their son, Harilal, that the former became a father to a nation but not so much to his children.

How would these relate to the feminist ideas of the modern woman?

Whenever Gandhi would fast, she would go on a one-meal diet and fall sick. At Aga Khan Palace in Pune, Gandhi went on a fast. Kasturba, who had already suffered a heart attack, went on a diet of bananas and milk once a day, and collapsed. She did not recover. Today's woman, would she do it? I doubt. You have to see this according to the times in which she was living. History fascinates me. My problem with contemporary society is that people have no sense of history. When right-wing talks about Babar destroying a temple, I do not justify it but I say, 'Those were pre-Constitution times. Those were medieval times'. We need to develop a sense of history. Why do we keep looking at the past through the spectacles of the present?

The play opens at NCPA, Mumbai, on February 21, and at Siri Fort auditorium on February 22, 5 pm and 8 pm

Phantom of the Forest

In a new film, wildlife filmmaker Shaaz Jung follows the only blank panther in Kabini



SURBHI GUPTA

FOR AN entire generation, the black panther who had caught their imagination was Bagheera, Mowgli's friend and mentor, brought alive by Rudyard Kipling in *The Jungle Book*, and the subsequent films based on it. In a new documentary, titled *The Real Black Panther*, we meet a real one named Saya in the Kabini region of Karnataka's Nagarhole Tiger Reserve. Many assume that the big cat belongs to a different species, however, it is just a melanistic variant of the leopard. It also has spots, but they are not easily visible.

Saya is a new king on the rise and, in the film, we get acquainted with his plans to dethrone Scarface. The twist in the tale is that to win he has to woo the female leopard, who engages only with the ruler. Apart from the drama and the chase, what sets the film apart is that we get to see the species up-close, for there aren't many that document the Indian leopard.

The one-hour film, produced by National Geographic WILD, has wildlife filmmaker Shaaz Jung in the team. He has been following the leopards of Nagarhole for the last 10 years. Son of former cricketer Saad bin Jung, he belongs to the royal families of Bhopal and Pataudi, and the Paigah family of the erstwhile Hyderabad state. Saad turned to conservation in the '90s, and converted their hunting lodge in Bandipur to an eco resort. While Shaaz studied economics and law, he also turned to the wild "the moment he saw a leopard for the first time".

Saya was first spotted in 2015 and the trackers have still not deciphered how did he land in Kabini, as no black panthers have been recorded earlier in the area. "We have theories, but it is impossible to tell. These forests merge into the ones in Kerala, which are evergreen, thicker forests and more conducive to melanism," says Shaaz, speaking

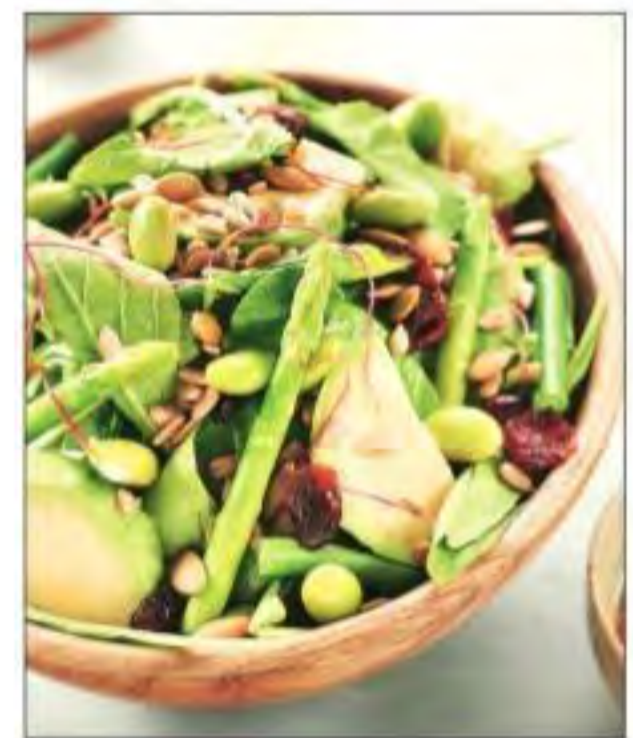


A still from *The Real Black Panther* (top); Shaaz Jung

on the phone from Africa's Serengeti. "The melanistic black panther has usually been studied for research through camera trapped footage in the forests of Malaysia. So Saya is the first to be studied like this," he adds.

Tracking him was like finding a needle in a haystack. In a dense forest like Nagarhole, the animal would be seen for only 10 to 15 seconds before disappearing into the shadows. Following him for a year gave Shaaz only 45 minutes of footage. "We would catch him only twice a week, while spending over 10 hours in the forest everyday. But what is magnificent about him is that he is not only surviving in the forest but also thriving against the odds of natural selection. And he has to do this in a deciduous forest, where he doesn't belong," says Shaaz.

The film screens on Hotstar. It will be shown today on National Geographic WILD at 1 pm



Signature Green Salad; (right) the interiors of the restaurant



Fishing for Taste

Fig at Museo has a hard time reconciling taste with the quest for health

POOJA PILLAI

HOW HARD is it to get fish and chips wrong? One only needs to batter fish, fry it to crisp, golden perfection and serve it with chips and tartar sauce. Unfortunately, the simplest dishes are the easiest to get wrong, precisely because they are so simple. Getting that satisfying crunch on the deep-fried crust is a matter of good judgment, which only comes with experience. Neither of those things seem to have been at work in the kitchen of Fig at Museo when our order of Beer Battered Fish and Chips was being prepared, because the fish that we bit into was doughy and disappointing.

Of course, it is possible that our disappointment had something to do with the contradiction between the name of the dish and its description on the menu. A beer batter is breadier when fried, whereas a tempura batter — which was promised in the menu description — is more delicate.

In any case, as we chewed on our depressingly thick-crusted fish, we asked ourselves whether the dish was worth the Rs 990 that we would pay for it. The answer is "no".

Fig has a hard time tying together the different threads of its ambition: we're told that the cafe is designed around the idea of creating "delectable healthy, guilt-free comfort food". Healthy food can be tasty, but those responsible need to know what they are doing. They shouldn't, for instance, send out a salad in which the meagre dressing pools at the bottom, instead of properly coating the ingredients. This is what happened with our Signature Green Salad. They should also understand that the lemon in the hollandaise sauce is crucial to make the eggs benedict sing with flavour, but the British Eggs Benedict we ordered tasted only of butter, with an occasional hit of extra salt from the ham.

This was the other problem with the food at Fig: except when it was oversalted — as in the mushrooms that topped the Trio Tartines — it was unsalted. Too much salt is unhealthy, but seasoning is essential to bring out the flavour of food. A good restaurant knows to strike this balance.

Fig at Museo is overpriced — Rs 540 for the Signature Green Salad — and despite its undeniably lovely setting (especially the al fresco area), is not a place we would revisit unless we hear of significant improvements in the food it serves.

PRICE FOR TWO: Rs 3,000 ADDRESS: Shri Ganesh Mandir Marg, DLF Phase IV, Sector 28, Gurugram



FOOD REVIEW



ANTI-CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION
UMAR AKMAL SUSPENDED
 The Pakistan Cricket Board suspended batsman Umar Akmal on Thursday pending an anti-corruption inquiry.

NZ favourites, but 320 a good score for India: Rahane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 WELLINGTON, FEBRUARY 20

A FIRST innings total in the range of 320 on a bouncy Basin Reserve track is what India vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane is aiming for despite calling New Zealand favourites going into the first Test starting on Friday.

"I think New Zealand are favourites in their home conditions. I feel the host country remains favourite because they know what to bowl and batsman are aware of what shots to play. As a unit, we need to learn and adapt quickly as New Zealand grounds have different angles," Rahane said on a cautious note on the eve of the Test.

India's 2014 win at Lord's and the 2018 victory in Adelaide had come with first innings scores of under 300 (295 at Lord's and 250 at Adelaide), a template that can be executed in Wellington also, feels the Mumbaier.

"When you bat first, your mindset is always positive, not saying that it's not when you bowl first. If you get 320 to 330 outside India in the first innings, it's a very good total. All the matches if you see we won (in England and Australia), we got around 320 to 350 on the board in the first innings," said Rahane.

While 320 may not be a big score, Rahane's confidence is based on India's world-class pace attack, which has shown its ability to pick 20 wickets in overseas conditions.

"We know that our bowlers can take wickets in any conditions but suppose you lose the toss and have to bat first, you should know that you are in the right kind of mindset to actually go out there and tackle those situations. Keeping the mindset right in seaming conditions even if you lose the toss is really important. The same goes for bowlers who should keep their mindset right on flat wickets. They should actually have the belief to take 20 wickets on flat tracks," said the veteran of 63 Tests.

While he called the home team favourites, Rahane and his teammates are enjoying a phase where the current batch under Virat Kohli is expected to win Test series outside the sub-continent following their historic triumph in Australia last year.

"There is no awe about conditions anymore. Every conditions is home conditions for us. Irrespective of victory or defeat, expectation is bound to be there. As a team, we want to enjoy this phase where people feel that we are favourites wherever we go," the confident deputy of Kohli said.

It is more or less clear that Ravichandran Ashwin will be preferred over Ravindra Jadeja and Rahane reckons there will be some turn on offer due to the moisture underneath the surface.

"It might spin a bit because of the moisture and dampness of the wicket, may be during the first session every day. I am not sure about the other sessions. New Zealand tracks generally after two days become good to bat on. Spinners' role will be crucial because both Ashwin and Jadeja are wicket-takers. If any of them gets an opportunity, they will do well," expects Rahane.

The Basin Reserve brings happy memories as Rahane hit his first Test hundred here back in 2014. "That was a really special moment for me, getting that first hundred. I keep watching my maiden hundred," he fondly recollected. I remember that my back-lift was changing because of the wind and that was a challenge to control it. This is a new challenge playing after 4-5 years. That team was a comparatively young team."

While Mayank Agarwal and Prithvi Shaw's relative inexperience is being talked about, Rahane — just like his skipper — feels the two youngsters will succeed because of their positive approach.

"They both are comparatively young, but are naturally attacking player. Their attitude is very good in general about cricket. I don't think they would need much of advice."



EXPRESS IN NEW ZEALAND

SANDIP G
 WELLINGTON, FEBRUARY 20

LEAFING THROUGH the 2001 yearbook of the Palmerston North Boys High School, one stumbles on Ross Taylor's photograph twice. Page 36: Taylor wears a broad smile while being with the school cricket team. Page 52: Taylor standing in the back row, with a stiff, obedient-boy expression on his face.

Underneath the photographs are micro-profiles of Taylor and his teammates. The one on the cricket page describes him thus: Ross has continued on from where he had left off last summer. He rarely fails. He hits the ball long and hard. He is a true match-winner. He continues to work on strategies, his off-spin has real potential. And he's an outstanding slip catch.

All of these are virtues that still shine in Taylor, who nearly two decades later is set to play his 100th Test, making him the first cricketer to reach the milestone in all three formats.

But it's his catching that's still stamped on the mind of the school's physical education teacher and Taylor's mentor Paul Gibbs. "In that particular match, he took four-five wickets with his off-spin, and then took a couple of sharp catches at first slip that made me sit up and think, 'wow this boy is special.'" He wasn't supposed to play that game, but for a vacancy left by a senior player who went vacationing with his parents. The story goes that he never got the spot back.

The profile under the hockey team photo reads: Ross Taylor. Strike Forward, 21 goals. Adjudged the best forward in the John Dentice Cup. Raw talent and skill are the first words that come to mind. Ross has awesome speed and acceleration. He has often out-run opposition players while dribbling the ball. If Ross makes the mental and tactical adjustment to play more as part of the whole team, he will be a better player.

The last sentence was another way of putting that Taylor was a selfish player but Gibbs words it differently. "He was lazy, but had good pace and because of the cricket swing, he used to hit the ball really hard. I didn't want to be the goalie then," admits Gibbs, chucking. When the cricketing dream began to burn brightly than ever, he ditched hockey for good.

The century-old school, a lovely neo-Victorian structure lined with swinging trees and spacious courtyards, is crammed with Taylor memorabilia. In Gibbs' room, there is a cartoon of Taylor with arms folded and a sanguine expression and Mike Hesson, in umpire's clothes, with a raised index finger. "This happened during the Hesson-Taylor episode (in 2012), when Taylor was the captain and Hesson wanted him to resign," says Gibbs.

There is a framed Royal Challengers Bangalore jersey. "He wants to be back there. I don't know why he went unsold in the auction. He'll surely get there." There is another one with Jacob Oram, Taylor, Matthew Sinclair and Jamie How — all old boys of the school playing together in Tests.

But more than the photographs and trophies that suffocate the cabinet, it's Taylor's memories that swirl in the quiet corridors of the school. Gibbs takes you to the ground, sprinkled with kids playing rugby and football, flanked by the school on one side and the boys' hostel on the other. He points out to an ash-coloured, wooden window, from the centre of the wicket at deep-midwicket, and says: "This was his room and he used to hit a lot of sixes in that region." He still does in international cricket.

The hostel days, he says, have a special place

Triple centurion

Nothing came easy for Ross Taylor, who mastered the game on the go to become the first man with 100 appearances in all three formats



The Wellington Test match will be Ross Taylor's 100th. Old boys (L to R) Jamie How, Jacob Oram, Taylor and Matthew Sinclair.

in Taylor's heart. "It happens, the boys bond very fast. Tight with friends. Still very very friendly, they still meet up, probably reminisce and probably feel safe with them. Some of them are teaching, good businessmen, a lot of them still play, like Ian Smith's son Jarrod, who became a footballer in the US," he says.

Taylor wasn't a naughty, restless kid. Gibbs

describes him as a "quiet, respectful, cheerful boy, always acknowledges you, saying good day even to people whom he didn't even know too well. He was a good, reliable young guy. Nice sense of humour." He runs out of superlatives in describing him.

The only instruction he didn't follow used to be the time goals he set. "I remember set-

For a boy of that age, it was remarkable. Not a single edge, everything off the middle. I was not half as good as he was at this age. I was so impressed with him, that I talked to a few people around the Central Districts age-group system about getting the boy some better cricket."

MARK GREATBATCH,
 ON A YOUNG ROSS TAYLOR

ting time goals. You can whack these guys around, but you need to be there during lunch, you need to set up for the afternoon session, I would tell him. Then he would get out two overs before lunch, but would have a hundred. What do you tell him? "Ross, you didn't get your goal?" He was a busy accumulator of runs and his influence on the game was not just a time thing," he recalls.

In his early international days, Gibbs would get slightly twitchy watching him. These days, he sits backs and enjoys him. With a satisfactory grin, he says: "The greatest feeling for a

teacher is to see the students doing extremely well in life. So whenever I watch him on the ground, I just sit back and enjoy him," he says. And sometimes, he would leaf through the glossy pages of the year-book and get overwhelmed with a sense of pride.

In the last year of his first-class career, Mark Greatbatch stumbled on a shy boy, who asked him whether he could do the drinks duties on the ground for free. Slightly bemused, he granted the boy's wish. "It was the strangest request I've ever heard, so for a moment I was shocked. But later, I realised that the boy might be really interested in the game," he says.

After the day ended, he took him aside and queried more about him. "Do you play?" And he said: 'yeah.' And I said: 'well, bring your gear down'. So he did a day's work with us in the dressing room and he was great and a good kid. Then I went out after the day's play with him and his gear and started throwing some balls to him. And this 12-year-old started hitting them back rather firmly so I thought I better go back three or four yards and I ended up having to do that another couple of times."

Two technical aspects registered in Greatbatch's sharp eyes. His firm front-foot stride and his timing. "For a boy of that age, it was remarkable. Not a single edge, everything off the middle. I was not half as good as he was at this age. I was so impressed with him that I talked to a few people around the Central Districts age-group system about getting the boy some better cricket."

He got him into the Central Districts U-13 cricket team, but soon he was playing for the U-15s and smashing kids around. "Almost every match, he got a hundred. With a bit more polish, I thought he would play for the first-class team. But I wanted his progress to be steady rather than push him straight-away into the big boys' league."

So Greatbatch decided to find him a good school with cricketing background. And in a few months' time, he found himself at North Palmerston High School, from where his career soared. "Back then, I never thought the boy would go on to become one of the greatest cricketers of our country," he says.

Soon after quitting first-class cricket, Greatbatch took up coaching duties of the Central Districts team. He would occasionally watch U-15 games to trace Taylor's progress. "I used to go there with a notebook to list down my observations. Then after a while, I would throw the notebook away. It was so good to watch him bat," he says. Even now, each time he watches him, Greatbatch sees in front of him the shy boy who came up and requested to ferry the drinks.

New Zealand, as a country, doesn't indulge in deification. Even their greatest, Richard Hadlee and Martin Crowe, were never placed on a superhero pedestal. They see them as heroes, but humans too, prone to flaws and fallible. In that sense, Taylor conforms to their concept of heroism, though the faces of New Zealand's surge in the post-aughts era would be Brendon McCullum and Kane Williamson.

But in a different way, Taylor's narrative is more compelling than either of them. For cricketing fulfillment, he had to travel to different parts of the country, from Wellington to Napier to Palmerston. He also had to fight self-doubts and cop knee-jerk criticism. He also fought injuries and had to undergo multiple surgeries.

Taylor mastered the game on the go. Unlike Kane Williamson, who inherited a side closer to reaching its prime, Taylor found one in transition. That he outlasted his setbacks is a testament to his will. In that sense, he's a more everyday hero than most heroes of this country.

RANJI TROPHY QUARTERFINAL

Anustup ton bails out Bengal as Odisha let it slip

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
 CUTTACK, FEBRUARY 20

ANUSTUP MAJUMDAR scored a brilliant unbeaten century to lead Bengal's fightback. Shahbaz Ahmed once again showed resolve lower down the order to stitch an unbroken 167-run seventh-wicket stand with Majumdar. But the biggest talking point of the first day of the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal at the DRIEMS College ground, Tangi, was how Odisha let it slip, when they should have grabbed the game by the lapels.

The good work that the hosts did in the first hour-and-a-half to reduce Bengal to 46/5, after winning the toss, gradually lost its value because poor cricket replaced the initial surge. The pitch eased out all right, but Odisha also committed silly errors.

Majumdar stood at least three feet outside the batting crease to neutralise the movement in the air and off the deck. The Odisha seamers bowled at military medium but 'keeper Rajesh Dhuper refused to walk up to the stumps to disallow the leeway to the Bengal batsman.

Bengal bounced back to finish the day on 308 for 6, with Majumdar batting on 136 and



Anustup Majumdar during the first day of the quarterfinal against Odisha.

Ahmed on 82 not out. It was Majumdar's eighth century at this level and his first since the 132 not out against Gujarat in 2017-18. Earlier, Abhimanyu Easwaran once again

got out cheaply, caught down the leg side off Suryakant Pradhan. His opening partner Koushik Ghosh lobbed a catch to Poddar at first slip against Mohanty. Out-of-form Abhishek Raman played from the crease and missed a straight delivery from Pradhan to be trapped leg-before. Amab Nandi couldn't handle the extra bounce from debutant seamer Kanwar Singh Chohan and Manoj Tiwary got a good ball from Debabrata Pradhan — it broke back late off the seam — to be caught plumb in front.

Bengal were staring down the barrel and would have lost Shreevats Goswami before lunch if Dhuper hadn't dropped a regulation catch behind the stumps. The visitors were on 82 then, with Goswami on 15. He went on to score 34, adding 95 runs for the sixth wicket with Majumdar.

Ahmed came and played fearlessly. Odisha barely had a close-in fielder in front of the wicket. And their 'keeper was still standing so far behind that a few edges didn't carry to the slips. Ahmed is a street-smart cricketer, who revels under pressure. His emergence has given Bengal the required balance.

Brief scores: Bengal 308/6 (Anustup Majumdar 136 not out, Shahbaz Ahmed 82 not out) vs Odisha

PARTHIV GOES BIG

Valsad: Skipper Parthiv Patel led from the front with his 27th first-class century and helped Gujarat reach 330 for four on the first day against Goa. **Brief scores:** Gujarat 330/4 (Parthiv Patel 118 not out, Bhargav Merai 84) vs Goa.

SAURASHTRA STRUGGLE
Ongole: Vishvarajsinh Jadeja, Chirag Jani and Sheldon Jackson helped Saurashtra reach 226 for 6 against Andhra. **Brief scores:** Saurashtra 226/6 (Vishvarajsinh Jadeja 73, Chirag Jani 53 batting, Sheldon Jackson 50; Prithvi Raj Yarra 3/51) vs Andhra.

J&K SCALP TWO IN 6 OVERS
Jammu: Karnataka were wobbling at 14 for 2 after only six overs were possible due to bad light. **Brief scores:** Karnataka 14/2

Chawla to be interrogated at Tihar only, till Feb 28

PRITAM PAL SINGH
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

THE DELHI High Court on Thursday allowed Delhi Police to interrogate bookie Sanjeev Chawla at Tihar jail only and that too only till February 28, in connection with the 2000 cricket match-fixing scandal involving late South Africa captain Hansie Cronje.

Modifying the trial court's February 13 order, remanding Chawla to 12 days of police custody, Justice Anu Malhotra said, "order of the trial court, granting police custody remand of 12 days of the petitioner, is modified to the effect that the petitioner during the entire stage of pre-trial detention, trial and conviction, if any, would continue to be lodged at the Tihar jail complex".

The court observed that in adherence with the terms of the Letter of Assurances given by the Indian government to its UK counterpart, Chawla "cannot be allowed to be taken out of the Tihar jail complex for the purpose of investigation or interrogation in police custody, though the investigating agency in the matter is permitted to conduct the interrogation of the petitioner at the Tihar jail complex only".

The court also clarified that the interrogation period should not exceed 15 days from

the date he was produced before the court, February 13.

"...which period would thus end on February 28, 2020 at 2am, whereafter no further interrogation of the petitioner in relation to the FIR, can be granted nor is granted," it added.

The High Court, in its 76-page order, noted that the investigating agency may resort to video conferencing as submitted by Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Sanjay Jain, appearing for the home ministry, for conducting the investigation and interrogation.

"The investigating agency shall, however, take care to ensure that the petitioner is treated with dignity during the investigation and interrogation conducted," it said, adding that the Tihar jail superintendent shall adhere to the Letter of Assurances issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs "in letter and spirit".

The order came after senior counsel Vikas Pahwa and advocates Vineet Malhotra and Hemant Shah, appearing for Chawla, approached the Delhi High Court appealing against the trial court's February 13 order remanding him to 12 days of police remand. The High Court, however, in its interim order the next day, had cancelled the trial court's remand order and sent Chawla to judicial custody at Tihar, till its further order.

Haryana Hurricane

Even before the T20 World Cup started, India's 15-year-old opener Shafali Verma's assault on top Aussie pacers created a buzz. SANDEEP DWIVEDI travels to Rohtak to find out who and what helped her go the distance.

IN A span of two months, Sanjeev Verma lost his entire life's savings of Rs 7.5 lakh, that he had kept aside for his children's crickering careers, and his wife's 50 grams gold jewellery to a conman. It was in 2016 that Verma got fooled by a swindler who called himself a RAW official, flaunted photo-shopped frames with the Prime Minister, promised the struggling small-time goldsmith a permanent job at an airport, made unending demands of cash and then disappeared with the loot.

"I still remember all I was left with was Rs 280 in my wallet. I didn't have anything else," says the strongly-built proud 43-year-old, who looks away as his eyes well up.

Sanjeev was broke but all wasn't lost. No cunning, deception or adversity could steal the Verma household's priceless jewel - the in-born sporting talent in the family's middle child, teenaged batting prodigy Shafali. At 15, she is the most exciting batter in the Indian team at the T20 World Cup starting in Australia on Friday.

It's been more than three years since Sanjeev went bust. He's now healed, his savings account relatively replenished. Penury is now an early chapter of yet another Haryana sporting tale from the 'hamari chhorian chhoro se kam nahin' genre. One has heard this story before, watched it on the silver screen, and knows the end but still these unique father-daughter journeys remain endearing and keep tugging at heart-strings.



Shafali's parents Sanjeev and Praveen Bala at their home in Rohtak's Sunaar Gully. (Below) Academy owner Anish Kumar.



WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

WHERE: AUSTRALIA

When: February 21 to March 8

TEAMS

Group A: India, Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Group B: England, South Africa, Pakistan, West Indies and Thailand.

■ **Top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals followed by the final at the MCC.**

TODAY'S MATCHES

Australia vs India (Group A)
Sydney, 1:30 pm onwards

If you want to win a big tournament like the World Cup, you have to come up as a team and that's what we're looking to do."

HARMANPREET KAUR
INDIA CAPTAIN

ness in his daughter. Like many from the region, he is blunt. The only sugarcroaching that's done around here is by the halvais. That's how they are, they don't believe in pretence.

"Maine bola tha Shafali ko, seedha hi hisaab hai, agar naam wale ko peet degi toh tera hi naam ho jaayega. Aur woh toh number one bowler hai world ki, usko 'seven five' ka maarna badi baat hai." (I told Shafali, it is very simple. If you smash a reputed bowler you will make a name for yourself. And she hit the world's No.1 bowler for a 75-metre six).

One asks: "What's seven five?" One of the coaches replies: "Seventy-five metres ka chhalka, he means."

Schutt's more famous new-ball partner Ellyse Perry too had figured in the father-daughter game-plan. For the uninitiated, Perry is the world's only double World Cupper - she has represented Australia in both cricket and football at the highest level. She is also an Ashes legend.

After Shafali got out to Perry in the first game of the tri-series against Australia, she got a yelling from her father. "I said 'are you mad? How come you got bowled. You should have followed the ball closely.' Next game against Australia, she hit four boundaries in one Perry over. I had told her 'sahi kiya, yeh Perry poori aave na toh unko tod diyo.'" (You did right, whenever you face the likes of Perry, just smash them) If Shafali makes it big, scriptwriters are going to have it easy. Her father speaks in punchlines.

We are now on Sanjeev's motorbike that's climbing a flyover. He is talking about the early days of coaching Shafali and his son Sahil. Every morning, the father would wait for the first sliver of sunlight and the three would hit the road looking for any strip of land where they could train. "Below this flyover, there is a very narrow lane. In the morning, the shops are closed so we would play there."

There isn't a park, field, school, parking area, street or any clearing in Rohtak where the Vermas haven't planted their stumps. Sanjeev stops the bike close to a pebble-strewn ground that has a partially disassembled shamyana and other remains of revelry from the previous day. "We would play in such a mess. The ground would be *tuta-phuta* and I would give endless throw-downs to them. I knew making Shafali play at varied places and pitches would help her adjust to conditions better. See, we always played in narrow lanes

or roads so you need to hit straight. You see how commentators and everyone talks about her straight six, it's all because of that training," he says.

In the days following the conman's disappearance and the family budget sinking to a mere Rs 280, Sanjeev and his two tiny tots would start early. The father had no money to buy balls. "There used to be an English school where senior kids used to play in the evening. Often they would lose the ball in the marshes. So the three of us would first go searching for the ball so that we could train," he says.

The motorbike now reaches 'Sunaar Gully', where the Vermas live, surrounded by their extended family. Father, brothers, cousins, they are all around. Sanjeev has a two-room abode that also doubles up as his workplace. "Kaarigar peshwa hai hamara," (We are craftsmen) he says pointing to the corner that displays imitation gold necklaces and his work tools. But this looks like the home of cricket.

It used to be a three-room set-up but Sanjeev brought down the walls of his workshop so that the kids had more space to knock around the cricket ball at home. From the iron grill ventilation on the roof hangs a leather ball stuffed inside an old sock. The wooden storage bed in the living room has huge dents, the heavily-chipped sumica kept together by cellotape and cartoon stickers.

Mother Praveen Bala appears briefly, talks about Shafali. She says she used to get worried when her daughter would be away from home for a few days. Now she's used to it. These days she watches her on television, so it helps. Father Sanjeev follows her to the kitchen. It's time for another round of steaming milky tea with three kinds of namkeen.

Sanjeev enquires about his youngest daughter, 7-year-old Nancy. Mother says she is sleeping. While we are still discussing the choice of name, and Sanjeev gives no concrete reason for finalising Nancy, the girl walks into the living room. Still rubbing her eyes, she gets on the storage bed and from Shafali's trophy display gets her tiny bat out.

She informs her father that she has hit the stuffing out of the ball in the sock last night. On the dustpan near the garbage bin sits a battered leather ball, split into two with cotton threads hanging out.

Father gets a new ball and Nancy gets into action. If not Shafali or Sahil, then there's Nancy. Cricket balls don't get a rest in this house at Sunaar Gully. For a seven-year-old, Nancy's strokes have raw power. With every



Shafali's straight six off Aussie pacer Megan Schutt in a tri-series T20 game has been playing on loop on social media for a while now. Her father Sanjeev says that the hours spent playing the game on Rohtak's narrow streets has helped his daughter send the ball over the sight screen. Kamal Sharma

hard hit, the ball returns to her menacingly. Once it just misses her unprotected head.

Sanjeev isn't too perturbed. It's a cue for the father to recall a very innocent question Shafali once asked him. It was within days of her batting with a helmet. The young girl wanted to know what it feels like when one gets hit on the helmet. Within days, she would experience it. Facing a 22-year-old male pacer at nets, the 13-year-old got hit on the visor. The helmet got a big dent, the metal grill got mangled. She would return home to tell her father: "Arre, kya yahi hota hai lagna... bas! Kuchh hua hi nahin." (So this is what getting hurt is... that's all, I didn't feel a thing). Cricketers suffer head-blow trauma for long. They start fearing short balls, they become circumspect to move forward and meet the ball on the front foot. In case of this extraordinary Rohtak girl, she became fearless.

On the way back to the club, Sanjeev gives a guided tour of more spots where he and his two kids would hit rubber, tennis, hard balls and even the 'andaa'. "You mean egg!" you ask. "Nahin, nahin! that's what we call that white hard plastic ball," replies the father with a grin.

By now, the four indoor nets have come alive. The trainees range from a few boys who are stump-high to players who have just returned to their base after Haryana Ranji games. Owner Anish, while acknowledging 'namastes', keeps an eye on everyone. When told that the run-down peeling outside walls don't prepare one for fancy facilities inside, he talks about how it is the players who make a academy, not exteriors.

"See, we give a number of players every year to various Haryana teams across age groups. Most top performers in the team that won the U-16 national title for Haryana last year were from here."

Anish says that the club named after his great grandfather runs like a giant joint family. Every high of a club trainee and religious festivals are occasions to sing and dance. He points to a collage where Anish's father, mother, wife, brother and even his infant daughter are seen in pictures with Shafali. That was a function to celebrate her inclusion in the World Cup team.

The star of the evening is standing close to a rangoli made by the club cricketers on the floor of the reception. On the club's Facebook page are videos of cricketers in colourful tra-

ditional wear shaking a leg, with parents and coaches sitting cross-legged on mattresses, on the same indoor artificial turf where they bat and bowl all through the year.

Sanjeev says the 'Making of Shafali' had a lot to do with her benefactors in Rohtak. Within days of joining the academy and asked to join the 'high-as-stumps' kiddie group, the coaches had second thoughts. Coaches Sanjay, Sant and Sandeep all say that they knew very early on that Shafali needed to play with kids much elder to her. Both Sanjay and Sant say the girl's power-packed shots risked injury to the junior bowlers.

After a couple of years at the academy as Shafali's power multiplied, the staff had a jury meeting of sorts. "Me, my father, one-time coaches sat to decide if she should be put in the group with our elite players. My father had just one simple stand 'in case you guys think of putting her with the best players, don't go back on your decision as it will really discourage the young girl'," says Anish. The U-turn was never needed, Shafali kept climbing.

These days, she faces the likes of Ashish Hooda, Haryana Ranji Trophy new-ball bowler who consistently clocks 135 kph. Coach Sanjay says, "She doesn't look out of place when facing Ranji bowlers. And I know the bowlers too are going all out."

During his thanks-giving, Sanjeev keeps mentioning BCCI's former office-bearer Anirudh Chaudhry and his father, one-time BCCI president Ranbir Singh Mahendra. "They have supported her always, even if she scores a hundred or a zero," he says.

The father says he doesn't get into things he doesn't understand. "Maine woh sari tension sir logon ko de di hai. (I don't take tension, now it is their responsibility). I have spoken to Anirudh sir and Ashwani sir, I don't take any decision without a discussion with them." That conman's blow of 2016 comes to his mind again as he says, "Hum toh sab loota chuke hain ek baar, doosri baar nahin loota sakte." (I have lost everything once, I don't want to lose it again).

Anirudh recalls the day when Shafali won the 'best newcomer award' at the BCCI function. The Indian board's old hand has attended several such events in the past but as luck would have it he missed this one. "It was due to a clerical error, I couldn't be there. But I was following it very closely on my phone and was in constant touch with Shafali. When you have followed her journey so closely, it was a very emotional moment for me," he says.

Within days of her record-breaking knock

and the award, the marketing men started making calls to Rohtak. Anirudh, by virtue of his long stint as BCCI treasurer, doesn't want to say much about how he helped the Vermas decide on the agents and sponsorship deals but words like 'vultures' and 'raw deal to player' do crop up in his guarded comments. For the record, Shafali now has an agent, an attractive bat deal plus a Rs 10-lakh retainer contract with the BCCI.

Not far from where the discussion about his sister is taking place stands Sahil. With the natural awkwardness of a teen, he walks across but the mention of Shafali brings a smile to his face. His father had said that they all often pull Sahil's leg saying how Shafali took his place in the team. The boy laughs about it, and says he can't wait to see his kid sister play the World Cup in Australia.

Do the siblings talk cricket? He shakes his head and cracks up. "When she returns home, I tell her at times that she didn't play a certain shot well and she replies 'Bas, tu chup ho ja'. Her answer is the same even when I tell her she hit a great straight lofted six," blurts out the shy boy.

The stroke that Sahil mentions has been Shafali's trademark. With Sanjeev and the coaches together, a highly-informative conversation on the 'lofted stroke' starts.

Question: From where does Shafali get all her power?

Father: Woh toh hamein nahin pataa, coach saab se poochho. (I don't know, ask the coach)

Coach Sanjay: It's the forearms.

Father: Haan, haan, inko jyada pataa hai. (Yes, he knows better)

Coach Sanjay: Have you seen her powerful forearms. It's natural, she has heavy arms. It is God-gifted. It helps her get a firm grip of the bat and that means the bat doesn't move in the hand when she connects.

There's a small pause, the father seems to be thinking. Now he speaks again.

Father: We worked on it. It was a year back, there is this police ground here. I used to take Shafali there. I would make her flip truck tyres there. There was also a gundaasa there that could be tightened and she used to work on that. You know what's a *gundaasa*? It's that manual machine with wheels used to cut cattle feed.

So tomorrow when India play Australia, if you see a fearless 15-year-old hits Perry for a 'Seven five', you know why the ball flew.

Kakran seals the bout with her signature move

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

DIVYA KAKRAN'S gold medal bout came so quick, and so sudden, that many did not even realize it until she pinned her Japanese opponent, sprinted to the corner of the mat and hugged her coach.

To her credit, Kakran was in top form, winning each of her four matches by fall. Her decisive win - the one that assured her of the gold - in the fourth round over reigning junior world champion Naruha Matsuyuki of Japan.

Kakran, thus, opened the floodgates for the home country on the first day of women's wrestling. Heading into the Asian Championship, India had just one gold medal in women's wrestling.

Both, however, are non-Olympic categories. As was the case in Kakran's category, the number of entries in the 55kg class, which Pinki won, was just six while there were only seven competitors in the 59kg category.

Pinki and Mor defeated Mongolian wrestlers to win gold, with Japan too fielding inexperienced wrestlers in Thursday's events. That could change on Friday, though, with several top stars in contention.

Jayaram gets the better of edgy Srikanth

Former World no. 1's wretched form continues as he goes down to fellow compatriot

SHIVANINAIK FEBRUARY 20

AJAY JAYARAM knows a thing or two (to be precise - 2012 and 2016) about Olympic qualification. He's missed out narrowly on heading to the Games twice - edged out by a sliver of a margin in 2012 in fact.

"Srikanth looked tentative and I pounced on his nervousness in the beginning. The second game got closer and trickier in a few places but I maintained the pressure. He didn't seem like in the game, so I sensed that nervousness and gave him no chance," Ajay said.

Indian men's singles is attempting to qualify two entries for the first time ever, and the country's most fluid shuttler when on song, is hitting such jarring notes in the qualification sing-along that a cacophony of criticism rains down on Srikanth expectedly every time he takes to the court and botches yet another outing.

Ajay played his part in presenting a stern test to Srikanth on Thursday in what is a proper smelting process going on out there; he will need to face the heat to test his mettle in this one. Nothing's easy about the Olympics.

Training with 2008 Olympian Anup Sridhar in Bangalore for just under a year now,

Ajay wants to return to the Top 20. He was amongst the first Indian males to make a mark on the pro circuit - reaching the Korea finals in Super Series, but has battled the familiar injury setbacks over the years.

"I've known Anup as a player and before I was with Tom John. We had a healthy discussion, and I knew I needed a coach and someone to take charge as coach after a couple of years home in Mumbai," he says of training under Anup.

Ajay had a decent PBL and had rediscovered his groove - complete with the attacking end-game aggression, even as he negotiated the fitness concerns. "I realised the aggression hasn't dropped from the game. And I've grown a little more patient in long rallies," he says.

Ajay was chuffed about the win but perhaps best understands the enormity of the pressure Srikanth is facing. "Over the years Srikanth has been the most exciting Indian player with a wonderful variety in attack everyone loves to watch. But like anyone else, he's going through ups and downs which is part of any athlete's career.

Making finals has its own tempo. "You can manage that one off good win, but winning matches one after another in a week is not easy," he says of something likes of Srikanth, Sindhu and Saina managed on the world tour. "Mental focus has to be high all the time and intensity of practice can never match a real game. Recovery needs to be perfect," he stresses.



WHERE NEWSMAKERS DROP IN FOR A CANDID CHAT.

Express Adda hosts Krishnamurthy Subramanian Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India

Anant Goenka Executive Director Indian Express Group P Vaidyanathan Iyer Executive Editor, National Affairs The Indian Express

Entry by invitation only. Use #ExpressAdda & join the conversation, live and exclusive on: Corporate Partner IIFL WEALTH Associate Partner Ballantine's GOLF RETREAT

MARUTI SUZUKI ARENA S-CNG PERFORMANCE MEETS SAFETY with Factory-Fitted S-CNG Technology. Advertisement for Maruti Suzuki cars (Alto, WagonR, Ertiga) featuring BS6 compliance, improved performance, enhanced safety, and unmatched convenience. Includes a list of dealerships across India.