

How Colvale, a sleepy village in Goa, fell in love with Wendell Rodricks and his zest for life

**SUNDAY STORY** PAGE 9

**On hold**

SC order asking private telecom companies to pay Rs 1.5 lakh cr in dues is the latest blow to a sector that's reeling under debts of Rs 8 lakh cr

**BIG PICTURE** PAGES 10-11

**V-Day**

The long fight that led to SC order entitling women Army officers to full job benefits and the women who waged it



**IDEA EXCHANGE**  
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MANOJ TIWARI, Delhi BJP president

**'Those who give hate speech must be barred from polls'**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

DAYS AFTER his party lost the assembly polls in the national capital, Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari has said politicians who give hate speeches should be barred from contesting — but the action should be across party lines.

Speaking at *The Indian Express* Idea Exchange, when asked why leaders such as Kapil Mishra, who raised slogans of "desh ke gaddaron ko, goli maro saalon ko", were given a ticket, Tiwari said, "Unhone jab lagaya tha toh meri jankari me aaya nahi... hum to chahate hain ki aise hate speech waale ko permanently hata diya jaye (When he raised [the slogan], it was not brought to my notice, but I want that people who give hate speech should be permanently removed)."

He added: "Ek aisa system bane ki jo bhi hate speech diya ho uski vaidhanik manyata hi samapt kar di jaye (let us start a system wherein people who give hate speeches lose the legal right [to fight polls]). And if such a system is put in place, I, as an individual and not as party president, will support it."

Asked why he was not taking

**U.S. PRESIDENT'S VISIT BEGINS TOMORROW**

## Trump will raise issue of religious freedom with Modi: US official

Says world looking to India to uphold democratic traditions, respect for religious minorities

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump will raise the issue of "religious freedom" and the shared tradition of democracy "certainly in private" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a US administration official said in Washington on Saturday, ahead of Trump's visit to India on February 24-25 — his first since assuming office.

While US officials said Trump will also raise these issues in his public remarks, there is not much opportunity for him to make such comments since the carefully choreographed media statement is not likely to have a question-and-answer session. However, there is a likelihood that the US President will have a separate press conference with the accompanying US media.

The US administration official also underlined that Modi, in his first speech after winning the elections last year, had talked about how "he would prioritise being inclusive of India's religious minorities". "And certainly, the world looks to India to maintain

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Security personnel conduct a rehearsal ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit, in Ahmedabad on Saturday. Javed Raja

## In boost for India-US defence ties, talks likely on key foundational pact

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

IN WHAT could turn out to be a major outcome in India-US defence cooperation, New Delhi and Washington are likely to move forward on negotiations for the final foundational agreement — the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA). US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are expected to discuss fast-tracking the pact and moving ahead on it as early as in March this year.

Officials from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Pentagon are expected to get together to expedite the negotiations. Sources said this would complete the "troika" of foundational

agreements, which will allow India-US defence partnership to be enhanced and completely move away from the traditional technology denial regime.

BECA largely pertains to geospatial intelligence requiring sharing information on maps and satellite imaging for defence purposes. The US has already submitted a draft pact, and India has sought more details on the extent of information needed to be shared under this arrangement.

If BECA is ticked off the list, Indian government sources told *The Sunday Express* that this will complete the chain of compatibility as two — out of three foundational agreements — have already been operationalised by the current Trump administration.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Adhir to skip banquet, says Govt has not invited Sonia



'Decency, etiquette inherent to democracy'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

ADHIR RANJAN Chowdhury, leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, said on Saturday that he has declined an invitation for the banquet to be hosted by President Ram Nath Kovind for US President Donald Trump on February 25, to protest against the government for not extending an invite to Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Melania will visit Delhi govt school, but without CM, Dy CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia will not be present during US First Lady Melania Trump's scheduled visit to a 'happiness class' at a Delhi government school on February 25, after the US embassy conveyed to the Delhi government that it does not want the event to "turn political", it is learnt.

Officials in the Delhi government claimed that the embassy had "initially agreed" to the CM and his deputy accompanying Melania, but conveyed on Thursday that they had changed their mind.

While Kejriwal and Sisodia did not react personally, the Aam Aadmi Party said the episode underlined the "pettiness" of the Union government. The US embassy declined to comment.

Melania is scheduled to spend about an hour in a happiness curriculum class, the flagship initiative of the Delhi government, which aims to help children relieve stress, meditate, and discuss things that are troubling them.

While inspecting one such class at an East Delhi school around 10.15 am on Saturday, Sisodia told reporters, "We got a request, and we had said that if she (Melania Trump) wants to come she is welcome. Facilities have also been checked in some schools for her, but I won't

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Modi is a versatile genius who thinks globally, acts locally: SC Judge Mishra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

JUSTICE ARUN Mishra of the Supreme Court on Saturday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "versatile genius who thinks globally and acts locally".

Delivering the vote of thanks at the inaugural ceremony of the International Judicial Conference, 2020 in New Delhi, Justice Mishra said: "India, i.e. Bharat, which is the biggest successful democracy of the world... is a responsible and most friendly member of the international community under the stewardship of internationally acclaimed visionary, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi."

He added that "India is committed to constitutional obligations and dedicated to a peaceful and secure world, free from terrorism."

Justice Mishra said that "in the process of development, preservation of the environment is considered supreme", and that



Justice Arun Mishra at the event on Saturday. ANI

the "Indus Valley Civilisation is a reflection of our long-cherished philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is a single family)."

He said that "dignified human existence" is India's "prime value".

Conveying his regards to the PM for inaugurating the conference, Justice Mishra said: "We thank the versatile genius, who thinks globally and acts locally, Shri Narendra Modi, for providing us inspiring thoughts which would act as a catalyst in initiating

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PM Narendra Modi with CJI SA Bobde and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

## Courts have said corrupt and terrorists have no right to privacy: Prasad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

UNION LAW and Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Saturday called for caution to ensure that terrorists do not abuse the digital ecosystem.

"...Internet is one of the finest creations of human mind. It should not be abused by a few. We need to acknowledge that some of the biggest terrorist threats have emanated by those who have abused this great innovation of human mind. I think that kind of balance has to be there," the Minister said at the inauguration of the International Judicial Conference 2020.

Hailing the SC ruling holding privacy to be a fundamental right, Prasad said: "Our courts have also stated that terrorists and corrupt have no right to privacy. Because the right to privacy has acquired critical proportions in the wake of digital landscape expanding globally."

He said that while one should speak his or her mind, criticise, and ask questions, "but it all should work in a manner that the identity of India as a country continues to remain strong..."

On the subject of populism, Prasad said that "in a democracy we welcome dissent. We welcome populism too", but "we have a problem also when populism impinges upon well settled

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**WORLD**



**CONCERN OVER GLOBAL SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS AS IRAN, SOUTH KOREA REPORT MORE CASES**

**AFGHANS MARK START OF ONE-WEEK PARTIAL TRUCE**

PAGE 15

**19-YEAR-OLD HELD AT ANTI-CAA PROTEST**

## Amulya to Azamgarh, sedition law used without questions, SC guidelines ignored

APURVA VISHWANATH  
 NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

TEN MINUTES past midnight on Thursday, police approached Shirin Javeed Ansari, Vth Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Bengaluru City, seeking the custody of 19-year-old Amulya Leona whom they had arrested under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code — sedition — for raising slogans of "Pakistan Zindabad" at a rally to



Amulya Leona has been sent to custody for 14 days. ANI

protest the new citizenship law only hours earlier.

In the presence of the teenager's two lawyers, Judge Ansari asked Amulya when she had been arrested and whether the police had beaten her, before sending the teenager to judicial custody for two weeks. The remand order and FIR are yet to be uploaded online, and Amulya's lawyers are yet to be given copies of these documents.

The facts of Amulya's case are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Behind Govt's claim of Naxal link: Father stood surety for 2 who joined mainstream in '14

JOHNSON TA  
 BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 22

AMULYA LEONA Noronha, the 19-year-old college student arrested in Bengaluru for sedition, is being investigated for alleged links with Naxal groups. Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa said on Friday that "preliminary investigations revealed that she had association with Naxal organisations in the past".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Rural Maharashtra: SHGs get sanitary pads on app, girls buy for Rs 5/packet

TABBASUM BARNAGARWALA  
 BEED, FEBRUARY 22

IN RAIMOHA village of Beed district, Sultana Shaikh's house is the centre of attention for shy teenage girls every time she logs in to a mobile application to place an order for a carton of 100 packets of sanitary pads. At just Rs 5 for each packet with eight pads, Sultana says the 100 packets are sold out in three days. She earns a profit of Re 1 per packet.

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through self-help groups (SHGs), have encouraged village girls to shift from cotton rags to sanitary napkins, and women like Sultana are driving that change, while also earning a livelihood. All Sultana has to do is place an order online, and the pads are delivered at her house.

Since March 2018, 2.75 lakh zilla parishad school girls have registered for this scheme under the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission. Each girl, in the 11-18 years age group, has been issued an identity card and can buy up to 13 packets in a year. Every time she buys a packet, her identity card number is fed into the mobile app.

The government pays a subsidy of Rs 19 per packet to the manufacturers. While three manufacturers — Smart Hygeia (Nagpur), Eternis Hygiene Products (Pune) and Shri Radhe Hygiene Products (Pune) — were selected earlier, the last one has



Sultana Shaikh opens a new carton of sanitary napkins, delivered at her house in Beed. Nirmal Harindran

since been removed for supplying inferior quality pads. SHGs can buy the packets online and sell them at the village level.

However, there is no subsidy for rural women, so the cost of the packet is higher — Rs 24, with the seller earning a profit of Rs 5 per packet.

The scheme had its share of trial and error. It was first launched in March 2018 as 'Asmita', but buyers complained of poor quality and absorption issues. So, hundreds of packets were left unsold at SHGs.

The Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission then got extra large size, leak-proof pads

with absorption capacity of 70 ml and sought feedback from its staff. The new pads, 'Asmita Plus', were launched in March 2019.

In less than a year, 1,879 SHGs have purchased 2,155 'Asmita Plus' cartons across the state. According to the data available, 57,081 school girls have availed of the scheme so far.

"It took months for us to convince villagers that the quality is better than the previous pads," said Shakeel Shaikh, in-charge of the scheme for Beed district. Another change this time was that SHGs could place orders on the mobile app, instead of visit-

ing the district office to collect the packets. The government has tied up with India Post for delivery.

The next step is an 'Asmita bazaar', which will allow SHGs to buy grocery and sell them locally to villagers.

"We are bringing about a social change while earning some money. For years, women in our village used cloth. The pads are so good that even women are asking district officials to provide them at subsidised rates," said Kalpana Pawar (26), who works with an SHG.

In Raimoha, the scheme has provided a lifeline for Sultana

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HOUSE OF HOPE: FORMER PASTOR, WIFE HELP REBUILD REMOTE AREA OF NAGALAND In the drug-ravaged and conflict-ridden district of Tuensang, Chingmak Kejong and Phutoli Shikhu have not only built roads and health care centres, rehabilitated drug addicts and treated HIV-patients, but created a lasting atmosphere of hope, love and trust.

TECH



WHATSAPP GROUP LINKS A simple Google search will reveal links to join these groups

EXPRESS EXPLAINED



WHAT IS DELHI'S 'HAPPINESS CLASS'? The curriculum is one of the flagship schemes of the Delhi govt

EXPRESS AUDIO What's killing India's elephants? NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

India has the world's largest population of wild Asian elephants. It also has a colossal human-animal conflict problem. India has the world's largest population of wild Asian elephants. It also has a colossal.

FROM PAGE ONE

Melania visit

comment on which schools (she might visit) and what preparations are being made because of security reasons. All of this will be done under the central government and the Ministry of External Affairs.

ment officials that it would like to extend the level of highest courtesy to the First Lady, as part of which the CM and Deputy CM will receive her at the school. Initially, they said yes," the aide claimed.

"However, later they got back saying this would make the event political in nature. We expressed our disagreement, but since they remained adamant, we said fine, go ahead. The event is on, but no senior functionary of the government will be present there. The principal of the school will officiate," the official said.

Adhir no to banquet

"Our party leader Sonia Gandhi has not been invited. President Trump is representing the biggest democracy of the world and the Indian Prime Minister is representing the largest democracy. Democracy has various implications, of which... inherent is decency and etiquette... When Modi visited America... both Republicans and Democrats were present on the podium at the Howdy Modi event," he said.

"But here, the meaning of democracy in the lexicon of Modi has changed. Here, it will only be a Modi show, as if India belongs to Modi... The Congress is a 134-year-old democratic party, and our leader is recognised by all democratic countries... But she has not been invited. It is a direct affront to the Congress. So, I cannot but refuse the invitation," he told The Sunday Express.

Manoj Tiwari

action against people in his own party, he said, "Ek ko punish kame se nahi hoga na, aur punish humein nahi karna hai, kanoon ko karna hai (punishing one won't solve the problem, and we don't have to punish, the law has to)".

He said everyone should be inspected, irrespective of party lines — be it Okhla MLA Amanatullah Khan or Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi.

Justice Mishra

the deliberations, and setting the agenda for the Conference. Justice Mishra said that under the "dynamic leadership" of Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, a large number of obsolete laws have been repealed. Justice Mishra also referred to the need for modern judicial infrastructure.

Trump to raise religious freedom issue

religious liberty and equal treatment for all under the rule of law," the official said, in a background briefing for the US-based media. Responding to a question on the CAA and NRC issues, the official said: "I think President Trump will talk about our shared tradition of democracy and religious freedom, both in his public remarks and then certainly in private. He will raise these issues, particularly the religious freedom issue, which is extremely important to this administration... we do have this shared commitment to upholding our universal values, the rule of law. We have great respect for India's democratic traditions and institutions, and we will continue to encourage India to uphold those traditions."

Boost for India-US defence ties

While the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) was signed in the last months of the Barack Obama administration in August 2016, it was actually operationalised under Trump's regime. It was the first of a set of three military agreements that the US considers "foundational" for a functional military relationship.

The LEMOA allows the military of each country to replenish from the other's bases. In September 2018, the second agreement — the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) — which enables access to advanced technologies from the US was signed. In a sense, it facilitates access to advanced defence systems and enables

the world is looking to India to continue to uphold its democratic traditions, respect for religious minorities. Of course, it's in the Indian Constitution — religious freedom, respect for religious minorities, and equal treatment of all religions in India. The official added that India has a "strong foundation" of democracy. "India is a country rich in religious, linguistic and cultural diversity. In fact, it's the birthplace of four major world religions," he said. While the US has not condemned the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, it has nudged New Delhi to act as per the Constitution and "democratic values". On December 13, while stressing that "respect for religious freedom and equal treatment under the law are fundamental principles of our two democracies", the US State Department said, "The US urges India to protect the rights of its religious minorities in keeping with India's Constitution and democratic values."

Behind Govt claim

mainstream in 2014. According to sources, about 15 years ago, Noronha was part of a group of mainstream activists in Malnad region of Karnataka involved with the welfare of local communities. He stood surety in his hometown of Koppa for two alleged Naxals, Sirimane Nagaraj and Noor Sridhar, who joined the mainstream under a government amnesty scheme in 2014.

ing to the anti-CAA protests, had said: "We are closely following developments regarding the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. We urge authorities to protect and respect the right of peaceful assembly. We also urge protesters to refrain from violence." However, New Delhi has maintained that it is an issue "internal to India", and Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, in his engagements as the Indian Ambassador to the US before he was elevated to the top post, conveyed this to US officials and Congresspersons. But this has not tempered the criticism in the US. Just three days ago, on February 19, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) — an advisory body to the US Congress — came out with a statement and a factsheet that said "there are fears that this law is part of an effort to create a religious test for Indian citizenship and could lead to the widespread disenfranchisement of Indian Muslims".

Boost for India-US defence ties

India to optimally utilise its existing US-origin platforms. The general agreement signed by the US is called the Communication and Information on Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA) but the name was changed to COMCASA to reflect its India-specific nature. Just before COMCASA was signed, India was elevated to Tier I of the Strategic Trade Authorisation (STA) licence exception list by the US government in August 2018. New Delhi considers the STA-1 list as the "holy grail" of Indo-US defence partnership. Insiders say joining this elite club of NATO and US allies is expected to lead to more high-technology trade and commerce. Sources said that once BECA is

Nagaraj, who did not have any serious case against him, is reported to have visited Noronha in 2015, along with Doreswamy and others. "There is no way Amulya could be linked to Naxals then, since she was a school student who only entered college in Bengaluru two years ago. Her father was concerned about her losing focus from studies after the anti-CAA protests began. Last month, he came to Bengaluru and I was there when he told her to focus on studies rather than activism. He feared that she was being misled by people," said a family friend in Bengaluru.

Amulya is the only daughter of her parents, whose source of income is a two-acre farm in Koppa, in Chikmagalur district of Karnataka. "Their family enjoys a good reputation in Koppa area, where they are second generation settlers from Mangalore. He (Noronha) has a brother in the defence forces; their grandfather finds a mention in the memorial for Kannada literary great Kuvempu for promoting literature. He and his family have continued the association with writers and thinkers," said the family friend.

"Amulya was always inclined towards writing and speaking. She began writing poems when she was in Class III," said Noronha. "What Amulya has done is not acceptable. I and my family will not agree with her statement. It has hurt the feelings of all Indians... but she also deserves a chance to correct herself," he said.

According to residents, Noronha earlier worked for a BJP candidate in the local elections, and was recently associated with a JD(S) candidate. Many people associated with the anti-CAA protests have distanced themselves from Amulya. "She has been very irresponsible. The women at Bengaluru's Bilal Bagh (where Muslim women have been on protest) are angry that their movement has been undermined by her slogans. They feel she should not have said what she did," said an activist associated with the Bilal Bagh protest.

Sedition law

similar to the ones in Balwant Singh vs State of Punjab (1995), in which the Supreme Court gave the landmark ruling that mere sloganeering does not amount to sedition. "...We find it difficult to hold that upon the raising of such casual slogans, a couple of times without any other act whatsoever the charge of sedition can be founded," the court said. The two accused in that case, Balwant Singh and Bhupinder Singh, had been accused of shouting "Khalistan Zindabad" and "Hindustan nun Punjab chon kadh ke chhadange, hum mauka aya hai raj kayam karan da (We will drive Hindus out of Punjab. The time has come to establish our rule)".

The court said: "The casual raising of the Slogans, once or twice by two individuals alone cannot be said to be aimed at exciting or attempt to excite hatred or disaffection towards the Government as established by law in India, Section 124A IPC, would in the facts and circumstances of the case have no application whatsoever and would not be attracted to the facts and circumstances of the case."

Section 124A criminalises exciting "disaffection" against the government established by law, or bringing it into "hatred or contempt", and is punishable by life imprisonment. Although the Supreme Court upheld the law in Kedarnath Singh vs State of Bihar (1962), it read the provision restrictively — saying only seditious "speech tended to incite public disorder" was punishable.

In its judgments, the Supreme Court has underlined that while ordering arrest of the accused, a magistrate must satisfy herself that the arrest is justified, and that prima facie the FIR has the ingredients that make the offence of sedition — clear and immediate incitement to violence. Also, the magistrate's order must speak for itself.

However, in the 25-odd arrests made on the charge of sedition in Uttar Pradesh (Azamgarh, 19 arrests), Karnataka (Bidar and Bengaluru, 2 arrests), and Assam (Guwahati, 4 arrests) since the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act began, the remand orders by magistrates have not asked these questions.

"The magistrate cannot treat a personal liberty issue in a routine or mechanical manner, and must be fully satisfied that a remand order is necessary. The gravity of the offence is not the only factor to be taken into consideration for declining bail or granting remand," former Supreme Court judge Madan B Lokur told The Sunday Express.

On February 5, Uttar Pradesh Police filed an FIR in Azamgarh's Bilariyaganj police station against 36 individuals under 19 sections of the IPC, including 124A (sedition), 147 (rioting), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups), 504 (insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 307 (attempt to murder), and 120-B (criminal conspiracy).

According to the FIR, the 36 persons named "raised slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath", and also abused Hindus with "maa behen ki gaaliyan". Nineteen people, all Muslims, were arrested. The prosecution sought custody, and submitted a one-page note before Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Pramod Kumar saying that in cases of sedition, the CJM is not competent to grant bail.

In a hearing that lasted barely five minutes, CJM Kumar gave the police custody of all the accused for 14 days. The order is yet to be uploaded on the court website, or given to the accused. The custody period is over, but there has been no change in the situation of the accused because the court has been hobbled by a hartal.

Under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the district court and High Court have concurrent jurisdiction to grant bail in cases where the offence is non-bailable and punishable by life imprisonment or death. However, the CJM has to be satisfied that the arrest is necessary. "The magistrate must consider whether the offender is likely to abscond or will be available for trial, past antecedents and if a prima facie case is made out," Justice Lokur said. In a rare instance, the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Imphal, Ningthoujam

Sedition law

Lanleima, passed a detailed order in February 2019 to release the Manipur student activist Veemon Thokchom, who was arrested for an allegedly seditious Facebook post. "I don't find any attempt or incitement to commit violence," the judge said in his order releasing Thokchom.

In Assam, special National Investigation Agency judge Mahmud Ahmed is hearing a sedition case against activist Akhil Gogoi, who was arrested on December 12 in Jorhat. "Heard both sides," judge Ahmed noted in his order granting the NIA 10-day custody of Gogoi.

"The remand orders do not state any reasons because there is barely any application of mind," Mumbai-based senior advocate and human rights lawyer Mihir Desai said. The time stamp on the Assam Police FIR is of 11.15 pm on December 13, and the Union Home Ministry transferred the case to the NIA just hours later. When the NIA sought Gogoi's custody for 20 days, his lawyer Shantanu Borthakur argued that the state police had had virtually no time to investigate the case. However, this argument found no mention in judge Ahmed's order.

Like the FIR, the one-page order passed on February 17 too, contained no specifics. Apart from Section 124A, Gogoi and three others have been charged under provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for having "links with the CPI (Maoist)" and having "knowingly abetted, conspired, advocated, incited the acts preparatory to the commission of terrorist acts".

The three-page FIR, however, does not mention any specific inflammatory speech or act by Gogoi. In Bidar, the police sought custody of two women — Fareeda Begum, headmistress of Shaheen Urdu Primary School, and Najamunnisa, the mother of the child who had allegedly made the purportedly seditious remark — for derogatory statements against the Prime Minister.

The two women did not seek bail before the CJM, anticipating refusal and a longer process. Custody was granted without any questions by the CJM, and the two women applied for bail before the district judge of Bidar.

Rural Maharashtra

Shaikh. Two years ago, when her husband divorced her, the 30-year-old BA graduate had no home, no job and two children to look after. Last year, she joined the Zareen Mahila Swayam Sahatya, an SHG with 10 women. Sultana was the only woman in the SHG who had knowledge of computers and mobile technology. She quickly mastered the app, and learnt how to link her bank account and make purchase orders.

"In a village, young girls feel shy to go to a pharmacy to buy pads. But they feel comfortable asking me," said Sultana. Over the last year, following various government schemes that the Zareen Mahila Swayam Sahatya implemented, Shaikh borrowed Rs 35,000 from the SHG to open an apparel shop at her home.

"I didn't know what a sanitary napkin was. My friend told me about this pad after she bought it," said Bushra Shaikh (15) of Raimoaha village. When she first started her menstrual cycle, she used cotton rags like her mother. A few months ago, she purchased her first packet from Sultana. She said it is so cheap that she does not feel bad asking her father, a daily wager, for money.

Her neighbour, Aisha Syed (17), said she waits for the delivery at Sultana's home every time an order is placed. "Earlier, I bought sanitary packets for Rs 28 each from medical stores," she said. While the market for sanitary napkins in the state is estimated at 2 crore women, only 34-35 lakh use them. R Vimla, CEO of Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission, said the aim is to reach 2 crore women in three years.

Meanwhile, the SHGs have demanded a hike in their margins. "If the profit margin is higher, we can place more orders. All the girls in our village have started using these pads," said Heena Pathan (28), an SHG member.



# Court dismisses plea of Dec 16 convict claiming schizophrenia

**ANAND MOHAN J**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

A DELHI court has dismissed the application of Vinay Sharma, one of the death row convicts in the December 16, 2012 gangrape-murder case, seeking medical treatment for schizophrenia, desiring that the convict be shifted to a psychiatric hospital.

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana dismissed Vinay's plea that he be shifted to the Institute of Human Behaviour & Allied Sciences (IH-BAS) in Shahdara as he was suffering from schizophrenia and had sustained head injuries. His lawyer A P Singh had submitted that Vinay was unable to recognise his own mother.

ASJ Rana wrote in the order, "It is categorically observed that according to his psychological assessment, no behavioural abnormality was noted. It is reported that the conduct of the convict is suggestive of deliberate disruptive behaviour. It is specifically reported that the convict was asking the psychiatrist for help for helping him commute his death sentence. On mental status examination, the convict was found to have dramatic and superficial demonstration of mental illness. No objective signs of psychological distress were observed. The convict desires himself to be falsely diagnosed to be mentally ill. Overall impression of his psychological condition is reported to be that of malingering."

In a reply to Vinay's application, Tihar Jail authorities told the court that his application is "a bundle of distorted facts".

Tihar Jail officials have submitted CCTV footage to the court, in which Vinay can be seen hitting his head on a wall. Additional public prosecutor Irfan Ahmad told the court that the related medical call made by Vinay on February 16 was false.



The court has set the execution of the convicts for 6 am on March 3

"In the call, he spoke about a fall in the bathroom and also complained about pain in his right hand, right side of head, decreased sleep, anxiety and agitation. When authorities perused the CCTV footage installed in barrack, it revealed that the condemned convict struck his head on the wall. It was a self-inflicted injury... Again, the same day at 4.15 pm, Vinay hit his head on the wall. Doctors attended to him and found an abrasion on his forehead," Ahmad told the court.

Vinay's lawyer told the court that Tihar Jail authorities had "concealed facts from the court since they submitted the report a day after the incident".

"He had a plaster on his right arm. At least five jail officials had to drag Vinay for his legal meeting. He is able to identify his lawyer and mother over the phone, and not in person," Singh told the court.

However, after perusing the CCTV footage, the court said, "Convict is seen conversing with his counsel and family members. The apparent tone and tenor of the convict is not suggestive of any abnormal behaviour."

The court has set the execution of the four convicts in the case - Vinay (26), Pawan Gupta (25), Mukesh Singh (32) and Akshay Kumar Singh (31) - at 6 am on March 3.

## SHAHEEN BAGH

# Amid mediation, small step forward: A road opens, allowing some traffic towards Noida

**ANANYA TIWARI**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

FOLLOWING MEDIATION between Supreme Court-appointed interlocutors and protesters at Shaheen Bagh, road number 9, a one-way route connecting Noida with Kalindi Kunj, was opened in the evening of day 70 of the protest. This would allow one-way traffic from the Shaheen Bagh-Jamia Nagar locality and Ashram towards Noida through the Kalindi Kunj bridge. Police, however, added that this would solve only a small part of the traffic problem - though it's a start.

Sadhana Ramachandran and Sanjay Hegde have been appointed by the top court to find a resolution to the issue. On Friday,



Barricades removed from road number 9 on Saturday; Supreme Court-appointed interlocutors Sanjay Hegde and Sadhana Ramachandran. Gajendra Yadav

Ramachandran had told protesters: "We know there are alternate roads that can be used. But you also said the canopy covers one

side of the road. Then why can't we tell the police to remove barricades from the other side?"

On Saturday, DCP (South East)



R P Meena said, "Around 4 pm, road number 9 going to Kalindi Kunj was opened. A group of protesters was against it, so it was

closed for a while, but opened again around 5 pm. One can go to Noida and Faridabad using this." "The Mithapur road was never barricaded and remains open, while the Mahamaya flyover continues to be barricaded by UP Police," Meena added.

The road runs parallel to the Yamuna and goes up north to Jamia Nagar, Okhla Vihar Metro station, Batla House and Jamia Millia Islamia on Okhla road. It also runs through the Kalindi Kunj Metro station to Noida through Kalindi Kunj bridge, and used to be taken by residents of Shaheen Bagh and Jamia Nagar colonies on a daily basis before the protest started.

Police officer stationed at the now opened barricades in front of Kalindi Kunj Park said, "This does

not solve even 1 per cent of the traffic problem. The main traffic is still blocked." Another police officer said the road opening "would mostly benefit locals".

Residents of the area attested to this. T Ahmed (42) an entrepreneur who lives in Shaheen Bagh said, "This road is used mostly by the local community; it serves as an exit for Shaheen Bagh."

Many of the travellers passing through the opened route on Saturday said they were visiting Shaheen Bagh or were residents of the area. Momin Khan (38) said, "I visit my friend at Shaheen Bagh regularly; now I'm returning to Noida. Earlier I would take the Okhla route." Rahil Malik (20), a resident of Jaitapur Khadar, said he too was returning home from the protest.

## 'Protesters know rights, not duties'

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

UNION MINORITY Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi Saturday termed the Shaheen Bagh protest against CAA as an example of a "dilemma" between rights and duties of the people.

"They (protesters) understand their rights but not their duties. I

do not think one can achieve their rights by hijacking (blocking) a road," Naqvi said at the Indian Student Parliament event held at Vigyan Bhawan here. "We will always be caught up in confusion if we do not understand our rights and duties," he said.

The protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), led by local women, started in Shaheen Bagh in mid-

December and has led to blocking of a road connecting South East Delhi areas to Noida. Petitions have already been filed in court in this regard.

"Our sisters are sitting in Shaheen Bagh for many days. This is a *kashmkash* (dilemma) between rights and duties," he said, adding that unless rights and duties are seen together, such "confusion" will continue to prevail.

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Monday, 24 February 2020 at 3.00pm  
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Nehru Memorial Museum and Library  
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For More info, please visit: Website: <http://nehruememorial.nic.in> or  
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All are Welcome

**THE MARINE PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MPEDA)**  
(Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India)  
MPEDA House, Panampilly Avenue, Kochi-682 036, Kerala.  
Tel: 0484- 2311979. Email: [ho@mpeda.gov.in](mailto:ho@mpeda.gov.in), Website: [www.mpeda.gov.in](http://www.mpeda.gov.in)  
**ACCOUNTS OFFICER (ON CONTRACT BASIS)**  
MPEDA proposes to select Accounts Officer on contract basis. Interested candidates having the following eligibility criteria may submit their application through online ([www.mpeda.gov.in](http://www.mpeda.gov.in)) notification-opportunities-apply online) by uploading the proof of date of birth, educational qualifications, experience and caste on or before 5.30 pm of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020.  
Educational Qualification : Intermediate CAICWA with three years experience in and Experience: Accounting and Taxation.  
No. of vacancy : 1 (One)  
Eligibility : The upper age should not exceed 35 years as on 29.02.2020  
Tenure : 1 year  
Remuneration : Rs. 45,000/- per month  
Date: 19.02.2020  
Sd/- SECRETARY.

**Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing (IIITDM) Kancheepuram**  
(An Institute of National Importance established by Govt. of India)  
Melakottaiyur, Vandalur - Kelambakkam Road, Chennai - 600 127, Tamil Nadu, India  
**FACULTY RECRUITMENT**  
Advt.No.IIITDMK/R/201 dated: 23.02.2020  
IIITDM Kancheepuram, located at Chennai (25km from airport) invites online applications for various faculty positions (Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors Grade I & II) under four tier flexible structure for the following streams:  
\* Computer Science and Engineering  
\* Electronics and Communication Engineering  
\* Mechanical Engineering  
\* Design  
\* Mathematics, Physics & English  
The applicants must have consistent academic record from reputed institutions with a commitment to teaching, research and product development.  
Online application and other details are available at [www.iiitdm.ac.in](http://www.iiitdm.ac.in)  
The last date for submission of online application : 27.03.2020  
DIRECTOR

**IDFC FIRST Bank Limited**  
(erstwhile known as Capital First Limited now amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)  
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792  
Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600031, TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | FAX: +91 44 4564 4022.  
Authorized Officer - Mr. Arunabh Singh Gill | Contact Number - 9999776185  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
This is with reference to Private Treaty Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the SARFAESI Act 2002.  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of IDFC First Bank Limited (erstwhile known as Capital First Limited now amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 12-03-2020 or thereafter, for recovery of INR 72271085/- AS ON 4-MAY-19 due to the Bank from AMBE AUTO, RAKESH KUMAR SARNA, ANURADHA BABBAR, BHARAT BHUSHAN BABBAR (Borrower & Co-borrower(s)).  
The Reserve Price will be INR 3,00,15,000/-.  
**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY NO. A-14, KHASRA NO. 570/1, DEVLJ ROAD KHANPUR EXTENSION, DELHI-110062  
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in website i.e. [www.idfcfirstbank.com](http://www.idfcfirstbank.com).  
Note: Borrowers and co-borrowers in particular and public in general are hereby informed, Please note that private treaty notice for selling the property on 27.02.2020 is hereby withdrawn by way of the present notice and the terms and condition of this private treaty notice shall remain valid.  
Sd/-  
Authorised Officer  
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited  
(erstwhile known as Capital First Limited now amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)  
Date : 22.02.2020

**INDIAN BANK**  
D. B. Gupta Road Branch, 2/7, Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Paharganj, New Delhi - 110055  
Phone: (011) 23584391, 23561681 Fax: (011) 23588001 Email: [dbguptaroad@indianbank.co.in](mailto:dbguptaroad@indianbank.co.in)  
NOTICE OF INTENDED SALE  
Date: 21.02.2020  
Notice of Intended sale under Rule - 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act - 2002.  
1. Mrs. Usha Sirohi W/o Mr. Vinod Sirohi, H. No. 503, Aman Castle, Vaishali, Sector - 4, I.E. Sahibabad S.O Ghaziabad - 201010  
2. Mr. Vinod Sirohi, S/o Shri Ramesh Singh Sirohi, H. No. 503, Aman Castle, Vaishali, Sector - 4, I.E. Sahibabad S.O Ghaziabad - 201010  
Subj: Loan Accounts M/s U V Exports Pvt. Ltd. with Indian Bank, IND MSME Branch, New Delhi.  
Mrs. Usha Sirohi and Mr. Vinod Sirohi are guarantor/mortgagor in the loan account. M/s U V Exports Pvt. Ltd., which availed loan facilities from Indian Bank, IND MSME Branch, New Delhi. The repayment of which are secured by mortgage/hypothecation of certain property(ies) including schedule mention property No.1, mortgaged (equitable) by Mrs. Usha Sirohi and property no.2 mortgaged (equitable) by Mrs. Usha Sirohi and Mr. Vinod Sirohi. M/s. U V Exports Pvt. Ltd. failed to pay the outstanding to the Bank, therefore a Demand Notice dated 19.08.2019 under Sec. 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (for short called as "The Act"), was issued by the Authorised Officer calling upon M/s. U V Exports Pvt. Ltd., Mrs. Usha Sirohi (guarantor/ mortgagor) and Mr. Vinod Sirohi (guarantor/ mortgagor) to pay the amount due to the tune of Rs.4,25,06,034 (Rupees Four crore twenty five lakh six thousand thirty four only) as on 31.07.2019 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon. In the meanwhile, M/s Ambe Agrofoods Pvt. Ltd. has filed IBC petition bearing No (IB)-1411 (ND) 2019 against M/s. U V Exports Pvt. Ltd. before the Hon'ble NCLT Delhi, which got admitted on 19.09.2019 and the moratorium has come into effect qua M/s. U V Exports Pvt. Ltd.. However, individual guarantor/ mortgagor as aforesaid failed to make payment despite notice dated 19.08.2019. As Mrs. Usha Sirohi (guarantor/ mortgagor) and Mr. Vinod Sirohi (guarantor/ mortgagor) failed to make payment despite Demand Notice, the Authorised Officer took possession of the schedule mentioned properties of individual guarantor/ mortgagor under the Act on 04.11.2019 after complying with all legal formalities. The physical possession of the properties (1&2 as given in the annexure) has been taken on 22.01.2020/23.02.2020 as per the CIM and DM orders respectively. As per Sec.13 (4) of the Act, Secured Creditor is entitled to effect sale of the assets taken possession of and realize the proceeds towards the outstanding balance. In accordance with the same, the undersigned/ Authorised Officer intend selling the schedule mentioned securities in the following mode. The sale proposed to be held in way of public tender/ auction adopting the e-auction mode. As per Rule 6 (2) and 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 framed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, 30 days notice of intended sale was given and the auction held on 28.01.2020, which failed due to want of bidder. As the sale is required to be conducted again, 15 days notice of intended sale as per Rule 9(1) of the security interest enforcement Rules 2002 is required to be given and hence we are issuing this NOTICE. The amount due as on 21.02.2019 is Rs. 4,52,16,593 (Rs four crore fifty two lakh sixteen thousand five hundred ninety three only) with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon. Please take note that this is notice of 15 days and the schedule mentioned properties shall be sold under the Act by the undersigned/ Authorised Officer any time after 15 days. \*\*The date of sale is fixed as 13.03.2020 which would be by e-auction mode. The inspection of the Schedule mentioned property and related documents and upto date EC may be had by the intending purchasers/ bidders at his expense on 03.03.2020 between 10 am to 5 pm. The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for the sale of the secured assets is fixed as mentioned in the schedule. The tender/ bid form with the terms and conditions can be had on-line from the website <http://www.bankauctions.com> and using the provision in the system software, the same could be procured using the "seal bid option" such that the activities could be done online. The tender form and terms and conditions will be available in the website from 02.03.2020 to 12.03.2020 from 10.00AM to 4.00 PM. The last date for submitting tender/ bids complying with all necessary terms along with EMD in the stipulated manner is 12.03.2020 by 4.00 PM. The bidders should be accompanied with EMD taken in DD/BP/RTGS/ NEFT/ Account Transfer and/ or any other acceptable mode of money transfer without time lag, failing which the tender becomes disqualified. The notal Bank account No./IFSC Code etc. for online money transfer is as under:  

S. No.	Notal Bank/AC No.	IFSC Code
1	703131015	IDIB000N022

  
The sale shall be confirmed on the person making highest offer/ tender/ bid, subject to confirmation by Secured Creditor. The undersigned/ Authorised Officer reserves right to accept or reject the bid/ tender without assigning any reason whatsoever. Once the auction/ e-auction is completed and sale is confirmed on the person making the highest offer/ tender/ bid, the successful bidder will be intimated in person/ by email, as the case may be, who has to remit 25% of the bid amount (less the EMD) immediately by DD/ BP/ RTGS/ NEFT/ Account Transfer and/ or any other acceptable mode of money transfer, failing which the EMD amount remitted will stand to be forfeited. The balance sale price shall be paid within 15 days of confirmation of sale or extended time in writing. If the balance amount is not remitted within stipulated/ agree time, the amount of 25% remitted will also stand to be forfeited. The sale is subject to confirmation by the secured creditor. The sale is made on "As is where is and As is what is" basis and no representations and warranties are given by the Bank relating to encumbrances, statutory liabilities etc. \*\* If the e-auction fails owing to any technical snag etc., the same may be re-scheduled by issuing 7 days prior notice. \*\*\* This notice is without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Secured Creditor.  
**SCHEDULE:**  
The specific details of the assets which are intended to be brought to sale are enumerated hereunder:  

Description	Date, time and Place of sale	Details of encumbrances, known to the Bank, to which the property is liable
1. For property at JA-0809, 8th floor, DLF Towers- Jasola (Tower A) , Non- hierarchical Commercial centre, Jasola, New Delhi - 110044 and bounded by: North - East : Staircase, South - West : Management Vertical Branch, New Delhi Passage then office No. 821, North - West : .Open.	13.03.2020 12.00-01.00 pm Stressed Assets Management Vertical Branch, New Delhi Office No. 810, South - East : Reserve Price : 190.00 Lakhs EMD : 19.00 Lakhs	Dues of Rs 60495/- (rupees Six Lakh Four Thousand Ninety Five) as on 12.02.2020 towards DLF authority.
2. For property at Flat No. 503, 5th floor, Aman Castle Apartments, plot No. 22, Sector 4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad (UP) and bounded by: North : G.H Prop. No. 23 / Flat No. 501, South : GH Prop. No. 21 / flat No 504, East : 30 metre wide road, West : 12 Meter wide road.	13.03.2020 12.00-01.00 pm : Stressed Assets Management Vertical Branch, New Delhi Office No. 810, South - East : Reserve Price : 50.00 Lakhs EMD : 5.00 Lakhs	NIL

  
\*\* Last date and time for submission of bid through e-auction mode : 12.03.2020 - 4 pm.  
\*\*\* Bidders are advised to visit the website (<http://www.bankauctions.com>) of our e-auction service provider M/s C1 India Pvt. Ltd for auction bid form and detailed terms and conditions which are annexed to the bid form. The helpline No. 0124-4302020 / 21 / 22 / 23 / 24 to get assistance during the entire process is support@bankauctions.com. Place: New Delhi, Date : 21.02.2020 The Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)

**SBI**  
**SBI MEGA E-AUCTION IS HERE.**  
**BIDS OPENING FOR 1,000+ PROPERTIES.**  
Date of e-Auction 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2020  
To register, log on to any of the below-mentioned websites:  

Website	Helpline
<a href="https://ibapi.in">https://ibapi.in</a>	033-22901004
<a href="http://www.sbi.auctiontiger.net">www.sbi.auctiontiger.net</a>	079 4000 5400 / 34 / 04
<a href="http://www.bankauctions.com/sbi">www.bankauctions.com/sbi</a>	0124 - 4302020 / 21 / 22 / 23 / 24
<a href="http://www.tenderwizard.com/SBIEAUCION">www.tenderwizard.com/SBIEAUCION</a>	18004256185

  
Auction of a wide variety of open plots, residential, industrial and commercial properties  
Loans available for successful bidders, subject to eligibility.  
For more information:  
<https://bank.sbi/portal/web/home/bank-e-auctions&>  
<https://bank.sbi/portal/web/home/mega-e-auction>  
<https://ibapi.in>

**Government of Rajasthan**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXCISE COMMISSIONER,**  
**RAJASTHAN UDAIPUR**  
NO. प. 32(क) 1 आब/एल/2020-21/5289 DATED 22.02.2020  
**ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR COUNTRY AND ENGLISH LIQUOR SHOPS**  
• Period for settlement of shops will be one year, which may be renewed for one more year.  
• The process and provisions have been simplified in the Excise and Liquor Sales Policy, so that a common citizen can do liquor business easily.  
• Margin to the retailers for selling IMFL and Beer increased upto 4% more. MRP rounded off to next 0 or 5, this difference will be given to the Retailer as Additional Retail Margin.  
• Applications can be filled through departmental web site <https://www.rajexciselottery.org> and <https://rajexcise.gov.in>, round the clock from 12/02/2020 to 27/02/2020 till 6.00 PM.  
• For the application fee deposited through Internet Banking or E-GRAS Challan, submission of physical copy of the challan and application form, in the office of District Excise Officer concerned, would not be required.  
**Excise Commissioner, Rajasthan**





0-50 Good

ANAND VIHAR

Moderate

104

AQI

PM: 10

500

SIRIFORT

Moderate

145

AQI

PM: 10

500

SHADIPUR

Moderate

121

AQI

PM: 2.5

500

DWARKA-SECTOR 8

Moderate

111

AQI

PM: 10

500

## BRIEFLY

## Woman shot dead by son-in-law

**New Delhi:** A man and his three accomplices allegedly shot his mother-in-law dead on February 14 in West Delhi's Mundka, after suspecting she was behind his wife's decision to terminate her pregnancy twice. One of the aides has been held.

## Four held for robbing senior citizens

**New Delhi:** Four members of the notorious 'Irani Gang,' who would impersonate police personnel and rob senior citizens, were arrested from Okhla Mandi Friday, police said.

## AAP's Chadha starts 'public grievances' department

**New Delhi:** AAP MLA from Rajinder Nagar, Raghav Chadha, has launched a public grievances department at his office, which, he said, seeks to understand issues at the grassroots and promote cooperation among all departments to ensure quality and timely service.

## Playschool booked for negligence

**New Delhi:** A case has been registered against a Greater Kailash playschool for their alleged negligence in not informing the parents of a two-year-old that he had fractured his leg. **ENS**



The lawns at Rajghat being spruced up ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit on Saturday. *Praveen Khanna*

## US, INDIAN SECURITY AGENCIES HOLD 2-HOUR MEET IN HOTEL BASEMENT

## Secret agents from US, night-vision CCTVs as capital gets set for Trump

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

AHEAD OF US President Donald Trump's visit to Delhi, 30 "United States Secret Service agents" have arrived in the national capital to ensure the tightest possible security arrangement during his stay, which will be spent at Hotel ITC Maurya Sheraton.

For the first time, Delhi Police is installing high-definition CCTV cameras with night vision in the Central Ridge area across the hotel to monitor the situa-

tion round-the-clock.

Sources told *The Sunday Express* that these agents are currently staying in the same hotel. They also held a meeting with officials from Indian intelligence agencies, where senior officers of the Delhi Police were also present to discuss the security plan at length.

"Ahead of the US President's scheduled visit, an advance security liaison meeting" was held in the basement of a hotel for around two hours, where security agencies informed them that they have decided to deploy anti-drone detachment of NSG, NSG snipers,

elite SWAT commandos, and kite catchers during his arrival and also around the hotel where he is staying. It was also informed that they would deploy a chopper of the Air Force during Trump's movement in Delhi," police sources said.

During the meeting, Delhi Police also informed them that they are conducting a security audit and verifying all people staying in and around the hotel, especially near the ridge area, to check their credentials. "Police also informed that they have installed over 200 CCTV cameras with night-vision and high definition in the Central Ridge area,

and are making a control room to monitor the situation. They are also installing high-definition licence plate recognition cameras at strategic locations on the stretch along the hotel, especially on Sardar Patel Marg and Patel Dham Manas Marg, which are the connecting roads with the hotel," said an officer, adding that the US Secret Service agents were satisfied with the arrangements of the Delhi Police.

During the meeting, the US agents told officials of the Indian intelligence agencies that the US President will be accompanied by his personal chefs and that his

room will be bulletproof.

"The officials from Indian intelligence agencies have given a code name to President Trump, which will be used to communicate on their wireless sets. They have also requested the US agents to use the same code name with their officials. A DIG rank officer has also been appointed by intelligence agencies, who will be part of the US President's cavalcade. He will work as a liaison officer and has been asked not to carry any weapon or mobile phone. He will carry only a wireless set for communication with security agencies," police sources said.

## PCR van just 10 metres away, man stabbed to death in Govindpuri: Probe

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

DAYS AFTER A 31-year-old man, Vishal Sharma, was stabbed to death in Govindpuri in the early hours of Wednesday, an internal enquiry by the Delhi Police has revealed that three policemen witnessed the incident 10 metres away, while sitting in a PCR van.

Police said two men stabbed Sharma around 20 times with a sharp-edged weapon before escaping in front of the cops. The incident has been recorded on a CCTV camera installed in a nearby shop. It shows a policeman come out of the vehicle, but step back after one of the attackers shows him a *khukri* (carved knife).

When contacted, DCP (PCR) Sharat Kumar Sinha said they are conducting an enquiry and no action has been taken against the three personnel so far.

During the enquiry, it also came to light that the first PCR call was made by the victim's brother, while the second was made by the cops in the PCR van themselves. However, they allegedly refused to take the victim's body in their van. "Sharma was taken by his brother to AIIMS Trauma

Centre, where he was declared dead on arrival. CCTV footage shows that after receiving the PCR call, local police rushed to the spot. At that time also, the PCR van was stationed there," a police source said.

DCP (South East) R P Meena said a PCR call regarding a murder near Hanuman Temple at Gurudwara Chowk was received around 3 am. "The deceased had a quarrel with Yash and Shubham, after which he was stabbed multiple times by them. Sharma was allegedly a local goon and used to beat up Yash and Shubham. The victim also suspected Yash of attacking him in 2017," he said.

Police sources in the PCR unit told *The Sunday Express*, "Around 2.20 pm, Sharma ran into Shubham and allegedly started beating him. At one point, he took him near the PCR van, where Shubham requested police to intervene. But police allegedly asked them to resolve their personal dispute and stay away from the PCR van," a source said.

Meanwhile, Shubham called up Yash for help. The source said, "He came with a *khukri* and started stabbing Vishal. CCTV footage shows the incident lasted 15 minutes."

## Fear of family made woman keep marriage a well-guarded secret

**SHIVAM PATEL**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

MARRIED FOR nearly five months, Sheetal Chaudhary (25) and Ankit Bhati (27) had kept their wedding a closely guarded secret. Neighbours living near Chaudhary's house were surprised to learn about it following the news of her death Friday, allegedly due to strangulation by her parents for "marrying in the same *gotra*".

On Friday police arrested Chaudhary's parents Ravinder and Suman, two paternal uncles, Sanjay and Om Prakash, and two cousins, Ankit and Parvesh, for allegedly kidnapping and murdering her.

Living in a crowded residential-market area in East Delhi's New Ashok Nagar, Chaudhary was regarded as an "educated and good natured" girl by her neighbours.

A woman living in the same lane said, "She taught my children for a year till Class V and was well-mannered. She would also play badminton with kids on the street here. We learned just now she was married. She didn't mention anything to anyone."

A police officer involved with the investigation said Bhati, who works as a milkman, would visit Chaudhary's house as her family also ran a dairy business, and that is how the couple are believed to have met.

Hailing from a village near UP's Bulandshahr, Bhati would visit the city every day to deliver milk from his farm there, said Bittu, one of his acquaintances in New Ashok Nagar.

"He recently completed his graduation in Bachelor of Arts and was planning to do a post-graduate degree. He did not mention anything about Sheetal. I only found out about her a couple of days ago," Bittu said.

Bhati's mobile phone was answered by one of his friends Saturday, who said he was away from home because "he is upset."



Sheetal Chaudhary

Chaudhary's neighbours said she was studying for a bachelor's degree and wanted to start working after completing her studies. "When we didn't see her for a few days, we thought she had gone somewhere. But when police came to her house Friday afternoon with her family members, we thought there was something wrong," the neighbour said. The house was locked and empty Saturday.

Police are probing if the killing was premeditated. An officer claimed, "Bhati's family had gone to speak with Chaudhary's family, and a relative is believed to have said they would rather see her dead than let her marry in the same *gotra*."

On January 30, Chaudhary had told her parents and the rest of her family about the marriage, and they allegedly strangled her. An investigation began after February 17, when Bhati filed a complaint that his wife was missing.

According to police, after allegedly killing Chaudhary, the family drove 80-odd kilometres to UP to dump her body, which was kept in the rear seat of a car her parents drove. Chaudhary's family, the officer added, hails from a village near Sikandrabad and the initial plan was to burn the body in the village. "They changed the plan on the way to the village after seeing the canal and fearing that people in the village might suspect that something was wrong," the officer said.



Outside the 25-year-old woman's home in New Ashok Nagar

## After Delhi win, AAP sets sights on national expansion

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

NEARLY TWO weeks into its emphatic victory in Delhi, the AAP Saturday announced a major plan to expand the party's footprint across 20 states through a "nation-building" campaign, which had seen a soft launch during Arvind Kejriwal's victory speech on February 11.

The party has already announced its decision to contest municipal polls in Mumbai.

AAP Delhi convenor Gopal Rai told a press conference that the mandate of the people of the national capital has clearly upended traditional politics driven by factors such as caste, religion and regionalism, while also signalling the acceptance of a "constructive brand of nationalism," as opposed to "politics of polarisation and negative brand of nationalism."

Rai said that as part of the expansion project, a poster campaign will be launched across 20 states on Sunday. "A dedicated number — 9871010101 — will be displayed in those posters, which will not only be in English, but Kannada,



**Rai said a 'nation-building' campaign will be launched across 20 states**

Tamil, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Bengali and many other regional languages as well," Rai said.

Rai said the Delhi verdict has sent out a few messages. "Instead of the traditional politics along lines of caste, religion and regionalism, politics of work can win you elections. The entire BJP top leadership, PM Narendra Modi and especially Home Minister Amit Shah, the entire Cabinet, and over 200 MPs and MLAs from across the country descended in Delhi and tried to polarise the electorate through negative nationalism. The people of Delhi have reposed their faith in the politics of love and constructive nationalism," he said.

"Thirdly, people from different states across the country live in Delhi. Delhi is mini-India," Rai said, adding, "The majority of

people from all over the country in Delhi have given their mandate for a new model of governance."

The decision to launch the campaign was taken on February 16 in a meeting chaired by Kejriwal, Rai said.

However, posters of the "rashtra nirman" campaign, carrying the dedicated number, were prominently displayed on the platform from which Kejriwal delivered his victory speech on February 11 as well. Rai said 16 lakh calls have been received so far by the party from those interested in joining it.

"The campaign will be conducted until March 23. Further strategies will be formulated with the coordinators of the states. Volunteers' meets will be organised. All our office-bearers will hold press conferences in their respective states to spread the model of positive nationalism and development," Rai said.

The AAP had gone for an expansion drive after its 2015 victory too. However, except in Punjab, where it managed to emerge as the principal opposition, its efforts in Goa, Gujarat and Rajasthan were largely unsuccessful.

## Sisodia swings by happiness class: World should try it



Education Minister Manish Sisodia interacting with students during a happiness class at a government school in Vinod Nagar on Saturday. *Amit Mehra*

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

AHEAD OF US First Lady Melania Trump's scheduled visit to a 'happiness class' at a Delhi government school, education minister Manish Sisodia Saturday said the school exercise can help reduce tensions in the world if it is held everywhere.

Sisodia, also the deputy chief minister, was speaking at a school in East Delhi's Vinod Nagar after interacting with the students, who told him how these classes have helped change their outlook and behaviour.

Sisodia said, "A process for developing *acche insaan* (good humans) is underway through happiness (classes) in the last one-and-a-half years. If people want to understand this on a national and international scale, then it makes me happy."

"If happiness classes are held in schools across the world — not necessarily the same as these or with the same name, we will learn a lot too — but if emotional

learning and meditation is taught to students, it will reduce tensions in the world a lot," Sisodia said.

The education minister had launched the Delhi government's flagship 'happiness curriculum' in July 2018, with the aim of developing mindfulness, critical thinking, self-awareness and life skills among students. The classes are held every day for the duration of an hour for students from nursery to VIII. During this time, students, supervised by a teacher, take part in activities including meditation and self-expression. They interact about the stories they read and take part in concentration-building group activities.

On Saturday, Sisodia said the classes were contributing towards the "overall personality development" of students, building focus, and inculcating in them a love towards society, people, parents and friends.

The teachers at the Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya in East Delhi, where the education minister paid a visit, also said the classes have helped make their

students calmer.

Radha Sharma, a teacher, said, "The way students communicated with us earlier was rough, but now they are much more calm. We teach them how to live in the present through meditation, discussions about stories and other activities. They adapt to them and apply these lessons in their lives. They also teach things they learn here to their parents, when, for instance, they see them quarrelling. The classes have helped us too. It has bridged the communication gap between teachers and students."

Sisodia interacted with students from Class V at the school Saturday, who told them about the impact of happiness classes. One student recalled that a story about a boy who gets his grandfather's spectacles repaired instead of buying something for himself helped her appreciate her grandmother more than before.

"Now when she loses her glasses and seeks my help, I am happy to find them for her, whereas earlier I would crib and complain," the student said.

**SHIVAM PATEL**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

WATER QUALITY of the Yamuna in Delhi was said to be "critically worse", after a recent analysis by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) found a declining trend in the last five years.

Data collected by the CPCB and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) from 14 river monitoring locations showed except for two points — Palla, from where the river enters Delhi, and Surghat, ahead of the Wazirabad

Barrage — the water quality failed to meet several quality parameters between 2015 and 2019.

The analysis was submitted to the National Green Tribunal this month by a monitoring committee it had set up for Yamuna's rejuvenation. The committee said: "Improvement in the Yamuna's water quality at Delhi will require stoppage of sewage and industrial waste water discharged, from both Haryana — about 500 million litres per day (MLD) from several townships — and UP — 65 MLD at Ghaziabad. Besides, the flow of sewage through Najafgarh and

Shahdara drains... and all other drains in Delhi has to be trapped."

Water drawn from the Yamuna for supply to the city is taken before the Wazirabad Barrage. After this, a 22-km stretch till Okhla accounts for a major share of its pollution as a number of drains join it.

At four locations below Palla, the CPCB found the minimum presence of faecal coliform, an indicator of sewage contamination, largely exceeding 1 lakh MPN (Most Probable Number)/100ml against the standard of 500 MPN/100ml or lower.



# 5 GOVT & POLITICS

## Ahead of Trump visit, US talks tough: Make in India has raised protectionism concerns

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

AHEAD OF US President Donald Trump's visit to India, the US administration on Saturday talked tough on trade and economy, stating that the Make in India programme has made the protectionism concerns in India "even greater".

US officials said they saw an increase in trade barriers, and it will "certainly come up" among the leaders. Washington also called it a "failure of the Indian government" to provide equitable and reasonable access to its markets in numerous sectors.

These comments are in line with Trump's comments earlier this week that India has not treated the United States "very well" on the trade front.

New Delhi, however, maintains that the criticism about tariffs is "unfair" since tariffs are at par with other developing countries, and should not be compared to Germany or Canada. Officials also said the US's close trading partners such as South Korea and Japan have higher tariff barriers.

In a briefing to preview Trump's February 24-25 visit, a senior US administration official in Washington said on Saturday, "The concerns that led to the revocation, suspension of India's GSP access remains a concern for us. And...it was really the failure of the Indian government to provide equitable and reasonable access to its markets in numerous sectors."

Generalised System of Preference, or GSP, is the US's trade preference programme to promote economic development.

The official said, "We continue to talk to our Indian colleagues about addressing these market access barriers. Our trade teams led by USTR have been in touch with their counterparts over the past several weeks. That engagement will continue."

US Trade Representative



Security personnel patrol the Yamuna ahead of Donald Trump's visit to the Taj Mahal. ANI

### EXPLAINED The ball is now in New Delhi's court

THE INDO-US trade partnership increased by 10 per cent last year, but lack of a predictable and stable tariff regime has frustrated many US businesses. As Trump heads to India, the administration has flagged these concerns publicly and expects the Indian side to address them. Much depends on New Delhi's approach on how it will be able to resolve these issues, keeping in view the interests of India's economy and the Indian consumer.

(USTR) Robert Lighthizer will not be part of the US delegation.

"Trade and economic relationship with India is critically important to the United States, and I think also access to the United States market is critical to the Indian government. We do want to make sure that we get this balance right. We want to address a bunch — a lot of concerns, and we are not quite there yet," the official said. "We will likely have discussion with the Prime Minister about these con-

cerns and continue the discussion beyond this visit."

One US administration official said, "We have had a number of announcements coming from India in the past several weeks, which are making the discussions a bit more difficult perhaps. Recent announcements on Make in India have made the protectionism concerns in India even greater. So we will be discussing those concerns. And what we see as an increase in barriers, not a decrease,

this will certainly come up among the leaders."

The official said: "Whether or not there will be announcement on a trade package is wholly dependent upon what the Indians are prepared to do. That said, we have a number of significant commercial deals, which are of great significance that we are very pleased to announce in a number of key sectors."

On the concerns, the official said, "I think many concerns about private sector are well documented. Certainly throughout the GSP process, you had a number of key market access issues raised by stakeholder communities in the United States. But the Make in India push of the Indian government, as I noted, has made the protectionism concerns even more of a concern to us. We have seen India's Budget process recently used to raise tariffs on products of interest in the United States. We continue to see important divergences on e-commerce and digital trade. So it's a pretty wide scope, frankly, of important service and goods access barriers that we need to address."

## 2 Indian-Americans part of Trump's 16-member delegation

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

AT LEAST two Indian-Americans are part of the 16-member delegation accompanying US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump, who are coming to India on a state visit on February 24 and 25. They will travel to Ahmedabad, Agra and Delhi.

These Indian-Americans are Ajit Pai (chairman of the US Federal Communications Commission) and Kash Patel (special assistant to the President and senior director for Counterterrorism).

The number of Indians and Indian-Americans in the US is estimated at around 4 million, which accounts for almost 1 per cent of the country's total population.

Ajit Varadaraj Pai is an American lawyer who serves as the chairman of the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) - the first Indian-American to hold the office. He has served in various positions at the FCC since being appointed to the Commission by then US President Barack Obama in May 2012.

Born in Buffalo, New York, his parents are doctors from India: Varadaraj Pai, a urologist, and Radha Pai, an anesthesiologist. Pai was born in the US after his parents moved there from India in 1971. His mother grew up in Bengaluru (then Bangalore), and his father was raised in Hyderabad, according to local media reports.

Kash Patel, special assistant to the President and senior director for Counterterrorism, is a lawyer who has in the past worked for the Republicans on the House

Intelligence Committee when California Republican David Nunes was its chair.

Patel has also worked as a counter-terrorism prosecutor for the Justice Department.

Born and raised in New York, Patel's parents are originally from Gujarat. The family immigrated to the US from East Africa by way of Canada during the 1970s.

According to the list of delegates, the visiting delegation comprises several top US officials. They are US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette, Acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien, daughter and advisor Ivanka Trump, son-in-law Jared Kushner.

Others are Stephen Miller (assistant to the president and senior advisor for Policy), Dan Scavino (assistant to the President and senior advisor for Digital Strategy), Lindsay Reynolds (assistant to the President and chief of staff to the First Lady), Robert Blair (assistant to the President and Special Representative for International Telecommunication Policy and senior advisor to the chief of staff), Stephanie Grisham (assistant to the President and press secretary and director of Communications for the President and First Lady).

Others, who will be part of the delegation during the bilateral meeting, will be Adam Boehler (chief executive officer of the US International Development Finance Corporation), Lisa Curtis (deputy assistant to the President for South and Central Asian Affairs) and Mike Passey, director for India, National Security Council.



Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray and Congress's Ghulam Nabi Azad at an event in Mumbai on Saturday. Amit Chakravarty

### DISCORD IN MAHARASHTRA COALITION

## Congress fumes at Uddhav's pro-CAA stand, Pawar steps in

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 22

DISCORD IN Maharashtra's ruling coalition over the National Population Register (NPR) and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) grew a day after Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing the media following his meeting with Modi on Friday, Thackeray had reassured his position in favour of CAA and NPR. His allies in Maharashtra government — the Congress and the NCP — are both opposed to their implementation.

On Thackeray's return to Mumbai on Saturday, NCP president Sharad Pawar held an hour-long deliberation with the CM at the latter's official residence. Sources said differences between the allies over CAA and NPR were the mainstay of the deliberations. "It was decided that leaders from the three parties will sit together to discuss the difference and remove angu- larities," a source said.

On NPR, sources said it was decided that the additional questionnaire shared by the Centre will first be discussed between the allies, and objections, if any, would be conveyed to the Centre.

Pawar's nephew and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, state NCP president and Water Resources Minister Jayant Patil, and Sena MP Sanjay Raut were also present in the meeting.

Indications that the Congress leadership was miffed with Thackeray's public posturing on NPR and CAA also came on Saturday. Congress MP and former Union minister Manish Tewari tweeted, "...Uddhav Thackeray requires a briefing on Citizenship Amendment Rules - 2003 to understand how NPR is basis of NRC. Once you do NPR, you cannot stop NRC. On Citizenship Amendment Act, he needs to be reacquainted with design of Indian Constitution that religion cannot be basis of

## Uddhav to visit Ayodhya on March 7

New Delhi: The Shiv Sena on Saturday announced that party president and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will visit the Ayodhya shrine on March 7 to mark the completion of 100 days of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra.

Sena Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut, who made the announcement through a tweet, said a "darshan" in the afternoon and a participation in the maha-arti on banks of the Sarayu in the evening are on the agenda. Raut called upon Sainiks to participate in the "historic event" in large numbers. ENS

Citizenship."

While Thackeray has denied any rift among the constituents of the Maha Vikas Aghadi, senior Congress leaders said the party high command was upset with Thackeray for having addressed the media immediately after his meeting with the PM before consulting the alliance partners.

The Congress, however, is hopeful that it will be able to convince the Sena regarding its stance. State Congress president and Revenue minister Balasaheb Thorat said, "The party's stand on CAA, NRC, and the NPR is very clear — we are opposed to these. We are opposed to anything that causes discrimination in the society or alters our rich diversity. We will convince our alliance partners."

State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh of the NCP said any decision on implementation of CAA and NPR in the state will be taken only after the issue is discussed at the state-level coordination committee between the allies.

## Over 3,000 artistes to perform during Trump's visit to Agra

AMIL BHATNAGAR  
NOIDA, FEBRUARY 22

IN LINE with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's directive to treat US President Donald Trump's visit to Agra as a "festival", more than 3,000 artistes will perform during the two-hour engagement in the city.

According to officials, Trump will be welcomed by more than

300 artists at Agra's Kheria Airport, while local residents, including children, will be present along his route to the Taj Mahal to cheer him.

"Our plan was to undertake the infrastructural changes as soon as possible. We have placed 16,500 plants and several changes have been made to the lighting system. Four dances have been approved and will be taking place at the airport itself,"

said a government official.

The artistes have been sent by Culture Department of the UP Government, an official said. The administration clarified that the last 500 metres of stretch is likely to be covered on battery-powered vehicles, rather than on Trump's own convoy of vehicles.

In terms of security, Agra district has been divided into 10 zones and more than 4,000 po-

lice personnel will be on duty.

Movement along the route will be completely restricted two hours prior to Trump's landing.

Agra police has also requisitioned for NSG and snipers teams that will be stationed close to the Taj Mahal and along the route taken by Trump. A team of officials will also be patrolling the Yamuna during the visit, an official said.

### US says Modi to accompany Trump to Taj, India says unlikely

New Delhi: A senior US administration official on Saturday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will accompany US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump to visit the Taj Mahal in Agra on Monday.

However, Indian official

sources said that Modi is unlikely to accompany the visiting dignitaries to the Taj.

Sources said the visit to the Taj by the US President and his family members will afford them the opportunity to view the historical monument suitably. Therefore, no official engagements or presence of senior dignitaries from the Indian side is envisaged there, sources said. ENS

### CMS CoP 13 CONCLUDES

## Call for post-2020 global biodiversity framework

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

GLOBAL COOPERATION and partnerships are required to achieve "ecological connectivity" and implementation of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), it was declared as the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) 13th Conference of Parties (CoP) on the CMS concluded in Gandhinagar on Saturday. It also called for a post-2020 global biodiversity framework to include a clear commitment to international, regional, bilateral and transboundary cooperation for implementation of the same.

The "post-2020 global biodiversity

framework" is to "effectively address" the conservation needs of endangered species and species with an unfavourable conservation status, whose survival is a key indicator of sustainable development.

The IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services has found that an estimated one million animal and plant species now face the threat of extinction.

The CMS is the lead intergovernmental agreement for international cooperation on the conservation of migratory species and their habitats. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework is likely to be adopted by the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in China's Kunming in October.

## 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai misused for militant, emotional idea of India'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

FORMER PRIME Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said nationalism and the slogan 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' are being "misused" to construct a "militant and purely emotional idea of India" that excludes millions of residents and citizens.

Addressing a gathering after releasing a book on Jawaharlal Nehru here, Singh also argued that attempts are being made to project India's first Prime Minister in "false light".

Singh said the book *Who Is Bharat Mata* by Purushottam



Manmohan Singh

Agrawal and Radha Krishna, which contains selections from Nehru's books, his speeches and his interviews, is an attempt to set the narrative in the right direction.

Quoting a speech made by

Nehru in 1936, Singh said Nehru believed that Bharat Mata is essentially the millions of people of India who live in India and "victory to her is victory of these people".

"It is a book of particular relevance at a time when nationalism and the slogan of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' are being misused to construct a militant and purely emotional idea of India that excludes millions of residents and citizens," he said.

Singh said Nehru had remained a true democrat despite the compulsions of politics. "His legacy continues to be of immense significance — perhaps more today than at any other time in our history," he said.

## Former MP Krishna Bose, Netaji's niece-in-law, dies at 89

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 22

FORMER TMC MP Krishna Bose, the niece-in-law of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, died in Kolkata on Saturday morning. She was 89.

The three-time MP was suffering from heart-related ailments. She was admitted to a private hospital in east Kolkata on February 19 and died around 10:20am Saturday.

Born on December 26, 1930, Bose was married to Sisir Kumar Bose, nephew of Subhas Chandra Bose. She had taught at City College in Kolkata for 40 years, where she

headed the English department and later served as principal of the college. She also chaired the Council of the Netaji Research Bureau till death and headed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs during her third stint as an MP.

She joined politics in 1996 and won the Jadavpur Lok Sabha seat on a Congress ticket. In 1998 and 1999, she was re-elected as an MP on a TMC ticket.

On Saturday, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee paid tributes to Bose and said, "Krishna Bose did a commendable job to restore documents of Netaji Subhas



KRISHNA BOSE  
1930-2020

Chandra Bose."

Earlier, Banerjee tweeted, "I lost someone respected, loved & admired by me. Saddened & shocked

to hear about the demise of Krishna Bose, ex-TMC MP & wife of freedom fighter Dr. Sisir Bose. Being a part of Netaji's family, she was a revered social reformer, renowned poet & a courageous educationalist."

Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar said, "Paid floral tributes at Netaji Bhawan to Krishna Bose member of parliament 11th, 12th and 13th Lok Sabha. A noble soul. Her passing is huge loss to society. Last met her at Navy Day Celebration on December 04. She was great source of inspiration to us. May her soul rest in peace."

Congress leader in Lok Sabha

Adhir Chowdhury said he had lost a sister in Bose.

"She was a famous politician, educationist, liberal and extremely confident on democracy. It is hard to believe that Krishna Bose is no more. I lost my elder sister. Her death is an irreparable loss for the country," he said.

CPI(M) leader Sujan Chakraborty said, "Mourn the sad demise of educationist Prof Krishna Bose. A committed social & political activist. A long term MP & a predecessor of mine in Jadavpur parliament constituency of West Bengal. I pay my regards to Krishna di."



Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Anjana Kumari W/o. Lokendra Singh R/o. 304-A, Pocket-J&K Dilshad Garden Delhi-110095, have changed my name to Anjana Singh 0040533216-8
I, Sonam Bhardwaj W/o Navneet Bhardwaj R/o H.No-7A, Gali No-8, Sarojini Park Shastri Nagar Delhi-110031 have changed my name to Sonam Sharma to Sonam Bhardwaj for all purposes. 0040533146-1
I, Sikha Yadav D/o Satish Kumar Yadav R/o SMQ M-37, Camero Subroto Park, New Delhi-110010 have changed my name from Sikha Yadav to Shikha Yadav vide affidavit dated 22/02/2020 before NCT Delhi 0040533179-1
I, Shourya Bindra S/o Kamal Bindra R/o-309, Second-Floor, Sainik Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Shorya Bindra 0040533196-2
I, Sarala Shahi D/o Babu Ram Mukhiya R/O-B-6/9 Extn., Safdarjung-Enclave, Delhi-110029 Have Changed My Name To Liza Shahi. 0040533216-1
I, Sanjay Kumar, S/O Ram Awtar Prasad R/O-129, Mohammadpur-Village, New-Delhi-110066. Have Changed My Daughter's Name, From Dolly Kumari to Kumari Naira. 0040533196-8
I, Sajjan S/o Pardeep Kumar R/o 108, Ward-10, Khasa Patti, Majitha, Amritsar-I, Punjab-143601, have changed my name to Sajjan Abhishek. 0040533171-1
I, Rohan Choudhary S/o Virendra Pal Singh R/O-Flat-288, FF-1, Sec-3A, Rachna-Vaishali Ghaziabad, have changed my name to Rohan Singh. 0040533211-2
I, Rishabh S/O-Rajiv Kumar Gupta R/O-A-2/20 Indian-Airlines Colony-Vasant-Vihar, New Delhi-110057, have changed my name to Rishabh Gupta. 0040533216-7
I, Ravi Vaths S/o Vinod Kumar Sharma R/o-461 Mohalla Maharam-Shahdara Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Ravi Vats. 0040533196-4
I, Rakesh Gunjan, S/O Late, Maheshwar Choudhary R/O-Flat-No-5-E-11, Raj-Nagar, Part-2, Street, No-14, Palam, New-Delhi -110077, have changed the name of my minor son Nishkarsh aged-23-10-2011 and shall hereafter be known as Arijit Choudhary. 0040533196-9
I, OMER ZIAUDDIN, S/O ZIAUDDIN, R/O-881 Farash-Khana, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to OMER ZIAUDDIN ANSARI, permanently. 0040533211-3
I, Manju Bajaj W/o-Darshan Lal R/O-123, South-Anarkali, Gali-5, Som-Bazar, Krishna-Nagar, Delhi-51 have changed my name to Manju, for all purposes. 0040533196-5
I, Kanwal Jeet Singh, S/O Late S.Man Mohan Singh, R/O-26-B/2, B.D.Gupta-Road, KarolBagh, New-Delhi-110005, have changed my minor daughter name, from Kavnoor Bhan to Kavnoor Kaur Bhan, for all future purposes 0040533211-10
I, Joginder Saini s/o Gauri Sahani R/O C-532/11, Om Nagar, Badapur, South Delhi-44 have changed my name to Joginder Sahani 0040533156-1
I, Indu W/o-Ranjeet Singh, R/O-H.No.-RZ-E-149/2, Gali-18G, SadhNagar, Palam-Colony, New Delhi-110045, have changed, my name, from Indu to Renu chauhan, for, all purposes. 0040533237-1
I, Imran Khan S/o Saud Khan R/O-H.No.149/5, Minto-Road, Railway-Colony, Delhi-110002, have changed my name to Chetan Verma. 0040533211-6
I, Ichchha Tiwari H/o Ajay Shukla R/o 399, West Gurga Angad Nagar Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 have changed my name Pooja Shukla for all future purposes. 0040533145-1
I, Harjeet Singh, S/o-Mansimar Kaur R/O-F-115, Sudershan-Park, Delhi-110015, have changed my minor daughter's name, from Mansimar to Mansimar Kaur. 0040533216-4
I, Harbinder Kaur Gandhi W/o Gurjitt Singh Gandhi R/O 1688, 2nd Floor, Outram Lines, GTB Nagar, Kingsway Camp, Delhi-110009 do hereby solemnly inform that Harbinder Kaur and Harbinder Kaur Gandhi both are one and same person, in future I will Known as Harbinder Kaur Gandhi 0040533181-1
I, Gurpreet Singh S/O Late, Gurmukh Singh R/O-902, 1st-Floor, Joshi-Lane, KarolBagh, New-Delhi-110005, have changed the name of my minor son from Ronak to Raunaq Singh. 0040533196-7
I, Gurpreet Singh S/O Chranjitt Singh R/O-2nd, B-75C, Rachna-Vaishali, Ghaziabad, have changed my name to Gurpreet Singh. 0040533211-1
I, Durgesh, S/O Sh.Sadhusran, H.No.Ab-48, Amar-Puri, Nabil-Karim, Paharganj, New-Delhi-110055, Have Changed My Name To Durgesh Kumar, For All Purposes. 0040533216-2
I, Jaswinder Kaur w/o Ashok Tuli R/O 6/11 west Patel nagar New Delhi 110008, have changed my name to Pooja Tuli, for all purposes. 0040528749-3

I, Trilochan Kaur, D/o Balwant Singh W/o-Gurpreet Singh R/o-1/9317, West Rohtash-Nagar, Shahdara Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Tarlochan Kaur, for all purposes. 0040533211-7
I, Syed Anjum Rizvi S/O Late Sh Umar Mujtaba R/O 619/9, L-24, Zakir Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 have changed my old name from Anjum Pervez, Anjum Pervez Rizvi, Syed Anjum Pervez Rizvi, A P Rizvi & S A P Rizvi to SYED ANJUM RIZVI for all future purposes. 0040533152-1
I, Sudhir Singh, S/O. Late Munna Singh, R/O. H. No. 103, Gali No. 3, Lakhpat Colony Part-I, Meethapur Extn, Badapur, New Delhi - 110044 do hereby solemnly declare that in my daughter's Birth Certificate my wife name is wrongly written as "BABY SINGH" instead of "BEBI KUMARI SINGH". BABY SINGH & BEBI KUMARI SINGH is one & same person. 0040533192-1
I, Shivam, S/O Shri Vipin Sharma R/O-House.No.B-1st/522, Madangiri, New-Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Shivam Sharma, for all future purposes. 0040533216-6

LOST & FOUND

I, Ishwar Chand S/o Lt. Shri Geeta Ram R/o I-136 Ashok Vihar, Phase I, Delhi-52 Inform that complete file containing all original documents & correspondence relating to Indl. Plot No.149, Pocket-N, Sec 5, Bawana Ind' Area, Delhi-39 allotted to me by DSIDC has been lost 0040533095-1
I, Pravash Kumar, S/O Veerender Kumar, R/O-10C/B3 Ashok-Vihar-III, New-Delhi, have lost DDA-Conveyance Deed and previous Sale-Deed of DDA Flat-10C/B3, Ashok-Vihar-III, New-Delhi. FIR has been lodged with LR.No.1493862/2019. Finder may inform. 0040533237-6
We, Devyani Sharma W/o Mr. Varun Sukumaran Nair and Mr. Varun Sukumaran Nair S/o Mr. K. K. Sukumaran, both R/O 101, Tower-3, Imperial Court, Jaypee Wishtown, Sector-128, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201304 have lost our Original Builder Buyer Agreement, Original Possession Letter and Original receipts of Payment on 24/12/2019 in Preet Vihar, Delhi at 11:30 hrs., which were issued by the Agarwal Associates (Promoters) Ltd. for the Flat No. C-1002, Aditya Mega City, Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014. If found contact Devyani Sharma, Mob.No.-9999110862 0040533221-1

BRAHMIN

Suitable match for Himachali Brahmin (Dutt) vegetarian girl 29/5'11" MBA (NMIMS) working MNC, package 12lac upper caste welcome, share kundli 8894988501, 9816467501 0050162462-1

KHATRI/ARORA

Professionally Qualified match for Convented Sikh Khatri Practising Advocate High Court Chandigarh 15.05.88, 5'-2.5" clean shaven Acceptable Father Doctor 8146565906. 0020403172-1

OTHERS

SM4 V. Fair b'ful NM, 5'3"/2-8-83 9:30 PM, Giddarbaha (Punjab), M. Phil, Govt. Teacher, 8LPA Delhi bsd b'ness family WA 9711970600 chhbara4marriage@gmail.com 0040529863-3

PUBLIC NOTICE

On behalf of my clients Shri Harjeet Singh and Smt. Bajaj, both resident of Village & Post Gubhana, P.S. & Tehsil: Badli, Jhajjar, Haryana-124507 caused this notice to the General Public, that my above named clients have debarred and disowned their son namely Shri Lall Kumar from all their movable and immovable properties because of his indecent acts, conduct and un-bearable behavior towards my clients and his own family & children. Now my above named clients and their younger son & his family have severed all social relations with said Lall Kumar and would have no concern with Lall Kumar in any manner whatsoever. If any person deals with said Shri Lall Kumar in any way or in any manner, he/she would be doing so at their own risk and consequences. UMESH BHARDWAJ, Advocate. Enrol. No. DI10912018 Ch. No. 455, Dwarka Courts, Delhi-75 0040533221-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to general public at large that my clients, Smt. Sarla W/o Ramesh Kumar & Ramesh Kumar both R/O-104 C, 2nd Floor, Old Gupta Colony, Delhi-110009 has severed their all Relations and disowned her son Deepak Kumar Gupta and his wife Parmjeet Kaur Bawa alias Poonam Gupta from all their movable & immovable properties. My client and their other family members shall not be responsible for any wrongful and illegal act done by Deepak and his family. Any person's deal with them shall be self responsible. S.K. Gupta (Advocate) Ch. No. D-209, Karkardooma Court, Delhi 0040533144-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

"General public at large" is hereby informed that in pursuance to Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated 28.12.2019, 15.01.2020 and Agreement to Sell and Purchase (Bayana) dated 03.02.2020 executed among all the parties concerned, my client, Sh. Amarjit Singh Khurana S/O Sardar Sajjan Singh Khurana R/O A-349, Meera Bagh, Outer Ring Road, New Delhi has purchased a built up plot/ portion measuring 111.11 sq. yds. forming part of Plot No. 9/46, Industrial Area, Najafgarh Road, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110015 and has paid entire agreed sale consideration to him and nothing remains due. Despite receipt of entire agreed sale consideration, out of his malafide, dishonest and fraudulent intention, said Sh. Abhay Tayal is not turning up for execution and registration of conveyance deed documents relating to property under sale in favour of my client. As the aforesaid property has already been sold to my client and he is in physical possession of the same since 1972 as such any person indulging in any kind of sale and purchase of aforesaid property with Sh. Abhay Tayal or anyone else shall be doing so at his/her own risk, cost and consequences which shall not be binding upon my client in any manner, whatsoever and any such sale shall be null, void, illegal and inoperative in law. (ANAND BHARDWAJ) ADVOCATE (ENL. No. D-315-91996) Ch. No. 51, Civil Wing Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54 0040533187-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the public in general that my client Mr. Bhupinder Singh S/o Shri Pyara Singh has instructed me that the property No. F-12/11, Malviya Nagar, 11rd floor, with terrace rights is jointly owned by Sh. Pyara Singh-father, Smt. Jasbji Kaur-mother, S. Charanjit Singh, S. Randhawa Singh, S. Bhupinder Singh, S. Khen Singh, S. Daljeet Singh (Sons), & Mrs. Bhupinder Kaur, Mrs. Sukhwinder Kaur, Mrs. Baljeet Kaur (Married daughters). However Sh. Charanjit Singh has already given his share of the said property to Sh. Bhupinder Singh, his real younger brother. The original papers/tittle documents of this property has been stated that it has been lost/stolen and not readily available, but now it seems that this property or any portion thereof is now being tried to be illegally sold at throwaway price by Mr. Pyara Singh and Mr. Randhawa Singh in connivance/collusion with each other without the consent and permission of the other co-owners, which has recently come to the knowledge of my client S. Bhupinder Singh. The public at large is hereby purchasing the said property is called upon to desist from dealing with the same as they may not be tried to be sold without consent of the other owners. In case anyone still purchases deals with the said property any portion thereof at his own risk, then he will be responsible for the consequences arising out of the same, and my client will not be responsible for any loss to anyone. Pankaj Bagga (Advocate) Ch.No. 51, Civil Wing Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054 0040533216-5

It is notified that, I, Sarita Jha, W/O-Sumit Nath Jha, R/O-A-178, GAIL-Apartments, Plot.No.B-9/1, Sector-62, Noida-201301, inform that my name has been wrongly written as Sarita Kumar Jha in Passport. No. F2934949. My actual name is Sarita Jha. 0040533216-5

I, Idris Ahmed Abbasi S/O Rais Ahmed R/O Flat No-2, Masjid compound G.R.G road, New Delhi 110001 do hereby solemnly inform that after the death of my first wife Uzma Abbasi Now I would like to change my wife's name in the records of my daughters i.e. Nabiba Abbasi & Isbah Abbasi for all future purpose as Fareha Abbasi instead of Uzma Abbasi. 0040533158-1

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I, Sushma Rani W/O-Rajinder Kumar Mittal R/O 323, A-1, Block Paschim-Vihar, Delhi-110063, changed my name to Sushma Rani Mittal. 0040533211-9

I, Sumi Shyamal, S/O Shri. Ganesh Shyamal, H.No.22, Zamrudpur, Greater-Kailash Part-I, New Delhi-110048, Have Changed My Name To Sumant Shyamal, For All Purposes. 0040533216-3

I, Renu Devi W/o Sh. Satish Kumar R/O-H.No.469, Gali No.12, Block-D, Sheela-Colony, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed my name to Renu for all future purposes. 0040532780-1

MATRIMONIAL



HINDU Hindu, Doctor BHMS, 44, 5'8", well-established seeks unmarried bride within 30, Religion no bar. Contact 09423216852. 0090270522-1

KHATRI/ARORA

Suitable match for Sikh Khatri (non-turbaned) boy, Aug 1990 / 6'-1", B.Tech (P.U.), MBA (IIM). Presently working with an MNC in Bangalore. Educated Status family, based in Chandigarh. Contact: 98145-04104. Email: bhathia13chd@gmail.com 0020402493-1

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Unnao DM suspended over 'anomalies' in school grant

Lucknow: The UP government on Saturday suspended Unnao DM Devendra Kumar Pandey on charges of irregularities related to the composite school grant in the district. The action was taken reportedly on the basis of the findings of an inquiry conducted by the Lucknow divisional commissioner.

A government statement said, "It had come to the notice of the government that Devendra Kumar Pandey... had taken an erroneous decision regarding Composite School Grant and there were anomalies in the execution and expenditure..." Pandey could not be reached for comment. ENS

Assam NRC data back on official portal

TORA AGARWALA GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 22

NRC DATA is back online on the official website, 10 days after it was reported to be inaccessible on the portal, NRC state coordinator Hitesh Dev Sarma has confirmed. The status of 3.3 crore applicants to the Assam NRC - published on August 31, 2019 - was inaccessible due to non-renewal of IT Services Contract with Wipro, the company which looks after the online data. To check (inclusion or exclusion) status, users have to key in their Application Receipt Number on the official website. When they did, it redirected them to an invalid page till Friday. Sarma confirmed that the data is back online since Friday midnight. Wipro was appointed as the "System Integrator for NRC" in Assam in 2014 after a "rigorous tender process", and was tasked with "providing the technical architecture and technology solutions for the project". Sarma had earlier alleged that the data had "disappeared" because the previous NRC coordinator, Prateek Hajela, failed to renew the contract with Wipro. While the data is back online, neither Wipro nor the NRC office confirmed whether the contract was renewed.

2 LeT militants killed in Anantnag

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 22

TWO LASHKAR-E-TAIBA (LeT) militants were killed in an encounter with security forces in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday morning.

Jammu and Kashmir Police officers in Srinagar said that there was a "successful anti-militancy operation in Anantnag". Addressing a press conference, J&K DGP Dilbag Singh said that two militants were killed in the operation.

The deceased were identified as Naveed Ahmad Bhat alias Furkan of Kulgam's Qoimoh, who joined the outfit in 2018, and Aqib Yaseen Bhat of Wanpora, Kulgam, who had joined LeT in June 2019, said police.

Singh said that 25 "terrorists have been killed in anti-militancy operations so far this year", and that currently, "there are around 240 to 250 listed militants". Singh also said that the number of listed militants has come down in the Valley.

J&K Police also said that they have arrested "an active terrorist" operating in the Baramulla. "During checking police and security forces intercepted one individual identified as Junaid Farooq Pandit..." a J&K Police spokesperson said. "According to police records, he is an active terrorist affiliated with... Hizbul Mujahideen."

TELANGANA STATE SEEDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. 5-10-193, 2nd Floor, "HACA Bhavan", Opp: Public Gardens, Hyderabad - 500 004. No. TSSDC/Inv/Proc-Tender/Kharif 2020/2019-20 Date: 22.02.2020. SHORT TENDER NOTICE. Bids are invited for e-tender conducted by CT India Pvt.Ltd, Haryana, for procurement of Soybean Certified seed and Green Manure T/L seed for supply during Kharif 2020. The bidder may visit https://tssdcil.eproc.in and www.tssdcil.telangana.gov.in from 23.02.2020. Contact: 7337346243/+91-124-43202033/36/37; email: tssdcilsupport@ctindia.com, Date of e-tender on 05.03.2020. R.O. No: 359-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2019-DT : 22-02-2020 Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

TIRUPPUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CORRIGENDUM TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE. Roc No. E1/8530(1)/2017 Date : 21.02.2020. Name of work: Smart Roads Phase-II in Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation under Smart city mission. It is informed that the due date of receiving tender fixed on 25.02.2020 up to 15.00 Hours (IST) has been postponed to 10.03.2020 up to 15.00 Hours (IST) and tenders will be opened on 10.03.2020 15.30 Hours (IST). Please visit our website https://tntenders.gov.in. Commissioner, Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation. DIPR/1032/TENDER/2020

अभियोजन निदेशालय, उत्तर प्रदेश शाहीमर टावर, विपुल खण्ड, गोमतीनगर लखनऊ। दिनांक: 20 फरवरी, 2020 // ई-निविदा निरस्तीकरण की सूचना// अभियोजन निदेशालय, उ०प्र०, लखनऊ के अनंतनगर लोक अभियोजकों के कोषाल एवं दस्ता विकसाल हेतु 14वें वित्त आयोग के अनंतनगर 943 कोष अभियोजकों को मानवीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय एवं मानवीय उच्च न्यायालय इलाहाबाद के समस्त निर्णय कच नींदर के साथ एवं एंटर एक्टर और उतर प्रदेश राज्य के नृगतन स्थानीय विधियों एवं माइजर एक्टर की अन्तलाइन एवं आफलाइन लीनल डेटाबेस सेवा उपलब्ध कराने के लिए विशेषज्ञ सेवा प्रदाताओं को ई-टेंडर व्यवस्था के अन्तर्गत निविदा में प्रतिभाग किये जाने हेतु आमंत्रित किया गया था। अर्थात्सर्व तकनीकी कार्यों से निविदा सं-2020\_DOPUP\_431891\_1 Dated 06-02-2020 परतुद्वारा निरस्त की जाती है। हस्ता./- (विनय कुमार) पुलिस उय महासिरीकल अभियोजन उ०प्र०, लखनऊ। UPID-149238 DATE: 21.02.2020 WWW.UPGOV.NIC.IN

Directorate of Prosecution, Uttar Pradesh Shalimar Tower, Vibhuti Khand, Gomatnagar, Lucknow Tender Notice No. Store-258-2016/781 /2020 Date- 20.02.2020 Notice for E-Tender. Directorate of Prosecution, UP is initiating to develop the efficiency and skill of its 943 Prosecuting Officers under 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission, through online and offline legal database specialised service containing judgments of Hon'ble Supreme Court and Allahabad High Court, Central Major and Minor Acts, and relevant local laws of State of UP. All specialised service provider in this field are invited to tender above mentioned services for one year i.e. 01/03/2020 to 31/03/2021. The details of submission of e-bid are available at the UP Government e-tender portal https://etender.up.nic.in. 1. E-Tender website of Govt. of UP shall be available for uploading and downloading of E-Tender from 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 2. E-Tender website of Govt. of UP shall remain open for uploading and downloading of E-Tender till 05:00 pm on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 3. The technical bid of bidders will be open before constituted technical committee at 11:00 am on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 4. Presentation and demo proceeding by bidders will be completed on the same day i.e. 02:00 pm on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 5. Financial bid of technically eligible will be open at 11:00 am on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 Sd/- (Vinay Kumar) Deputy Inspector General (Prosecution) UP, Lucknow UPID-149239 Dt. 21.02.2020 www.up.gov.nic.in

S. E. Railway Tender e-Tender Notice No. E-LCONKGP-MEMU-EMU-G-20-02\_dated 19.02.2020. e-Tender invited by the Divisional Electrical Engineer (Con), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works, which has been uploaded on website www.reps.gov.in. The e-tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on due date. Brief Description of works : Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of Electrical General services work for (I) KGP - Extension of MEMU shed (II) Kharagpur - Extension of heavy lifting shed & addl. stacking lines at Parsurur shed (Pt-1) (III) Tikalupa & Mansuara - Development of infrastructure for maintenance of 3 Ph. EMU rakes at EMU shed at TKPR & extension of EMU shed at PKU to accommodate 12 cars of Kharagpur Division, South Eastern Railway. Cost: ₹ 2,04,64,241.78. Completion Period: 12 (Twelve) months. Due Date : 16.03.2020. Interested tenderers may visit website www.reps.gov.in [E-Tender - Works - View tenders - by ORGANISATION - IR-Electrical - SOUTH EASTERN RLY/ DYCEE-C-KGP-ELECTRICAL] for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. NB : Prospective bidders may regularly visit www.reps.gov.in to participate in all other tenders. PR-1383

CORRIGENDUM-2. Some modification/correction has been done with reference to the tender notice of different packages issued vide this office letter No. 17148-57 on dated 20.01.2020 published in different newspapers on dated 21.01.2020 to 22.01.2020. Sr. No. Read as Instead of 1. L068-C/O Kotla Pujaria (Darla) to Kayari Pliughat km. 0/0 to 6/150 under PMGSY Stage-II. (SH- Removal of formation deficiency, C/o retaining structure, M/T, C.D.Work & C/o RCC slab culverts 4.00 mtrs., Span, V-Shape side drain, PCC Parapets, P/F Logo, sign board, i/c five years routine maintenance under PMGSY Batch-I). Package No. HP-11-103 (a) Construction Cost = 648.16 Lacs (b) Maintenance cost = 34.29 lacs (c) Uploading date = 17.02.2020 (d) Opening date = 20.03.2020 (e) Bid Security = 13.65 lacs

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE INDIAN AIR FORCE AIR HEADQUARTERS E- TENDER NOTICE. On behalf of the President of India, ONLINE BIDS on prescribed tender form UNDER TWO BID SYSTEM are invited from firms who are registered with ANY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION on Defence procurement portal using their personal digital signature and developed sources for supply of the following item. Details are as under- Description and specification PROCUREMENT OF IAF PUBLICITY ITEMS (SKAT) Specification as per RFP Tender ID 2020\_IAF\_327368\_1 Tender Reference No. Air HQ/55208/1/PO-3 (Pub) dated 21 Feb 20 Period and terms of delivery As per RFP terms and conditions Online Bid submission start date and time 27 Feb 2020 at 1000 Hrs. Online Bid submission end date and time 05 Mar 2020 at 1030 Hrs. Address of the website for bidding www.defeproc.gov.in\* Time and date for opening of Online bids 06 Mar 2020 at 1100 Hrs. davn 10802/11/0065/1920

Chief Medical Officer, Prayagraj Stanely Road, Prayagraj +91 532 2640645 / +91 94156338212, cmoaldmaghmela@gmail.com

Notice for Inviting



# 7 EXPRESS NETWORK

## India says Beijing is 'deliberately delaying' nod for IAF flight, China denies

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

A FLIGHT to send relief supplies to Wuhan and to bring back stranded Indians and nationals from neighbouring countries became a bone of contention between India and China.

Sources on Saturday said that China is "deliberately delaying" permission for an Indian Air Force plane to coronavirus-hit Wuhan. India had submitted its request with Chinese authorities on February 13 for the C-17 military transport aircraft while the flight plan was submitted on February 15 with a proposal mentioning February 20 as its date of departure.

When contacted, a Chinese Embassy spokesperson said there was no deliberate delay in grant of permission for the Indian plane to reach Wuhan, adding China always attaches great importance to health and safety of Indian nationals living in the country.

"China is deliberately delaying grant of clearance for the evacuation flight," a source said and questioned why the permission was not granted to India, while flights from Japan, Ukraine and France operated from Wuhan between February 16 and 20.

India has already evacuated 647 Indians from Wuhan in two separate flights. According to estimates, over 100 Indians are still stranded in Wuhan.

Sources said Indian nationals



**A health camp organised by Assam Rifles in Tripura's Dharmanagar. PTI**

### Govt issues new travel advisory

**New Delhi:** In view of the situation amid COVID-19, the government has advised citizens to avoid all non-essential travel to Singapore. There is already an existing advisory against travel to China, the epicentre of the outbreak. **ENS**

stranded in Wuhan are waiting to be brought back home and the uncertainty over the evacuation is causing them mental stress and anxiety. The aircraft was to carry a large consignment of medical supplies to China as well.

Sources said while the Chinese side continues to maintain that there was no delay in granting permission for the flight to go, the clearance has "inexplicably" not been given.

## Punjab DGP says no religious connotation in Kartarpur remarks

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
CHANDIGARH FEBRUARY 22

WITH HIS remarks on the security challenge being posed by the Kartarpur Corridor creating a storm, the Punjab Director General of Police, Dinkar Gupta, Saturday said he had only "red-flagged the obvious potential for misuse by elements notorious for their hostility towards India and their effort to exploit every opportunity, even the most pious one, to disturb peace and communal harmony".

Expressing "shock and outrage" at the reaction over his remarks made at The Indian Express Idea Exchange event on February 20, the DGP said that his words were "misunderstood or being willfully misconstrued".

The Opposition parties latched on to the DGP's remarks with Shiromani Akali Dal claiming that it "came from Congress headquarters" and the Aam Aadmi Party demanding that Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh dismiss Gupta.

The DGP, however, said that his remarks were strictly pertaining to the security and safety of

Punjab and India. There was absolutely no reference to any religion or community in his remarks but simply that some anti-national elements based in hostile neighborhood could misuse and exploit this opportunity and, therefore, "we" need to be vigilant to such potential dangers in the interest of peace and security of the people of the state, which had already suffered a lot in the past at the hands of "terrorism promoted by our hostile neighbour", he said in a statement.

The AAP's Leader of Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema said, "AAP demands that the Chief Minister should immediately dismiss the DGP and book him for causing unrest among the people of Punjab and dividing the communities." Cheema alleged that the DGP was acting as a 'mouthpiece' of the RSS and BJP and speaking their language.

SAD senior leader Bikram Singh Majithia said, "I see this coming from the Congress headquarters because this DGP was handpicked by overlooking several senior officers."

SGPC chief Gobind Singh Longowal said the corridor gave a message of peace.

## INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

# Participation of women in polls at its highest level, says PM

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

NO COUNTRY or society can claim to achieve holistic development, or claim to be a just society, without gender justice, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.

Delivering the inaugural address at the International Judicial Conference-2020, organised under the aegis of Supreme Court on the theme 'Judiciary and the Changing World', the Prime Minister said that India is among a few nations to have ensured the right to vote for women since Independence. "Today, after 70 years of Independence, the participation of women in elections is at its highest level ever," and their participation in other walks is also being encouraged, he said.

For the first time, enrollment of girls in the country's educational institutions is more than boys, he said and attributed this to the success of programmes such as Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, launched by his government.

India is also among a few na-



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI**

tions to allow paid maternity leave of 26 months to career women, he said. Modi said his government has brought in several measures to ensure gender justice — such as appointment of women in military service, selection process of fighter pilots, and on freedom of women to work in mines at night.

The country, the Prime Minister said, has also managed to shatter widely held notions that

development and environment protection cannot go hand in hand, and added that India's forest cover has increased simultaneously with its infrastructure growth.

Modi acknowledged the role played by the judiciary, "which has recognised the concept of balance between development and environment and also given guidance in this regard". Speaking on the rule of law, he said it has been a "core civilisa-

### 'Let sportspersons concentrate on performance'

**Bhubaneswar:** PM Narendra Modi on Saturday urged sportspersons to concentrate on giving their best performance, stating that the country will take care of their other needs. He was addressing a gathering via video conference on the inauguration of Khelo India University Games in Cuttack. **ENS**

tional value of Indian society since ages", and this ethos has been ingrained in the Indian psyche since centuries.

He said there were some critical judicial decisions recently which were discussed globally and that before they were delivered, apprehensions were expressed about the consequences. "But look what happened: 1.3 billion Indians wholeheartedly accepted the judicial verdicts."

## CBI announces Rs 2 lakh reward for info on Atiq Ahmed's son

**MANISH SAHU**  
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 22

THE CBI has released posters and announced a reward of Rs 2 lakh for information leading to the arrest of Mohammad Umar (21), son of jailed gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed, who is wanted for allegedly abducting a businessman from Lucknow and assaulting him inside Deoria district jail in 2018. Atiq Ahmed was then lodged at Deoria jail.

Posters have been put up across Prayagraj district carrying telephone numbers of CBI officials and offices.

Umar is wanted in the kidnapping and attempt to murder case lodged at Krishna Nagar police station in Lucknow. CBI is investigating the case on Supreme Court's directives.

Mohit Jaiswal had alleged that Atiq's associate kidnapped him and took him to Deoria jail on December 26, 2018 where Atiq and his aides assaulted him. He alleged that Atiq forced him to sign documents of firms worth Rs 48 crore in the name of two of his associates and took his SUV.

## Manuvaad will end only with ban on RSS: Bhim Army chief

**VIVEK DESHPANDE**  
NAGPUR, FEBRUARY 22

BHIM ARMY chief Chandrashekhar Azad on Saturday said the RSS believes in "Manusmriti" and that "Manuvaad" will end only with a ban on the RSS.

After Nagpur police had refused permission for the rally, the Nagpur bench of Bombay High Court had given permission for it on the condition that the workers' meet should not be turned into a "political" event.

Addressing a sizeable crowd comprising largely of Muslims on CP and Berar Ground, right in front of RSS's Smruti Mandir, Azad said, "Nagpur police rightly said it's a clash between two ideologies. We believe in the Constitution and the RSS believes in 'Manusmriti'. 'Manuvaad' will end only with a ban on the RSS."

The meet had become controversial after Nagpur police refused permission to hold it near RSS premises as "the two organisations (Bhim Army and RSS) held ideologies that were diverse and contrary to each other and hence there was a possibility of a law and order situation".



**Chandrashekhar Azad in Nagpur on Saturday. Express**

The high court rejected the police claim and granted permission with certain conditions: curtailing the rally from eight hours to three hours and restraining the Bhim Army from using the occasion for political purpose and making inflammatory speeches.

Azad also challenged the RSS to enter the electoral fray. "Nobody can stop me from holding a rally... I will go anywhere I want. We live in a democracy. The BJP is run by the RSS. I challenge (Mohan) Bhagwat to come and fight elections. Don't fire from others' shoulders. It will be-

come clear if 'Manusmriti' will reign or the Constitution."

"CAA and NRC are part of an agenda to harass Dalits, OBCs and minorities... Article 19 of the Constitution empowers citizens to protest against unacceptable government decisions. You fire at us, you lathicharge us. We will not budge... But I warn the BJP that the government will change and when it will, everything will be accounted for. Tomorrow the government of bahunas will come. (You) won't be spared." Azad alleged the RSS wants to "end reservation through backdoor".

## Jamiat resolution urges people to decline NPR enumerators

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

NOTED SCHOLARS and intellectuals under the aegis of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind unanimously passed a declaration rejecting National Population Register (NPR) for being in "gross violation

of Article 14 of the Constitution" and urged people to "politely decline" enumerators.

"We unequivocally reject NPR as it is a gross violation of Article 14 of Indian Constitution. NPR is the first stage of data collection to prepare NRC as per Citizenship Act, 1955, and Citizenship Rules, 2003. It is patently discrimina-

tory, divisive, exclusionary and unconstitutional and targets communities on the basis of religion, class, caste and gender," reads the resolution.

The brainstorming session chaired by Maulana Qari Usman Mansurpuri, president of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, was held on Saturday at the Jamiat headquar-

ters in the national capital.

The resolution also states: "We strongly condemn the targeted killings of peaceful demonstrators by police firing in various states, especially Uttar Pradesh. The state has become a laboratory of state repression on peaceful dissent... We salute the multi-religious peaceful protest..."

## UP BJP MLA gets clean chit in rape case, nephew held

**ASAD REHMAN**  
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 22

THREE DAYS after a gangrape case was registered in Bhadohi district against local BJP MLA Ravindranath Tripathi, his three sons and three nephews, the police on Saturday gave a clean chit to the MLA, two of his sons and two nephews, claiming that no evidence was found against them.

Tripathi's nephew Sandeep Tewari, who has been named as the main accused for rape and other offences, was arrested on Saturday. A total of seven persons were named in the FIR registered on Tuesday, including MLA Ravindranath Tripathi; his nephews Sandeep Tewari, Chandrabhushan Tewari, Deepak Tewari; his sons Sachin, Prakash and Nitesh Tewari.

The MLA's son Nitesh has been charged with criminal intimidation. The police have dropped the charge of forced abortion against Sandeep Tewari.

On Tuesday, police had lodged a case under IPC sections 376D (gangrape), 313 (causing miscarriage without woman's consent), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 506 (criminal intimidation) against seven people.

Speaking to mediapersons on Saturday, Bhadohi SP Ram Badan Singh said, "On February 10, a



**Ravindranath Tripathi**

woman had given a complaint that on the promise of marriage, she was raped by Sandeep Tewari and some of his relatives. She had also named Ravindranath Tripathi in the complaint. I got the matter investigated and a case was registered. During our investigation... only two people's involvement has come out. One is Sandeep Tewari and the other is Nitesh."

However, the woman said on Saturday that she would "continue her fight". "In the middle of the inquiry, the police have given them a clean chit... without hearing my side and completing the probe," she said.

The Bhadohi SP said, "All the evidence provided did not make it seem like the MLA or his sons were involved. The woman has refused to get a medical examination done. In her first complaint to us, she had alleged that she was assaulted. She later said that she was raped. We probed both allegations."

## Not 3k tonnes, only 160 kg gold deposits in Sonbhadra: GSI

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW/KOLKATA, FEB 22

THE GEOLOGICAL Survey of India (GSI) on Saturday distanced itself from reports of discovery of gold deposits estimated around 3,350 tonnes in Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra district.

The Kolkata-headquartered agency stated in a release that gold which can be extracted from 52,806.25 tonnes of ore is approximately "160 kg, and not 3,350 tonnes, as mentioned..."

Earlier, district mining officer K K Rai had claimed to have found 3,350 tonnes of gold.

GSI director-general M Sridhar on Saturday said, "The information of availability of 3,350 tonnes of gold in Sonbhadra and Hardi field of Sonbhadra district was shared by the State Directorate of Geological and Mining. The Geological Survey of India is not a party of the information published in the news."

The GSI said several exploration works for gold were carried out by the agency's northern region between 1998 and 2000, and resource of 52,806.25 tonnes of ore, with 3.03 grams per tonne gold was estimated. Sridhar also said GSI has never informed that there was 3,350 tonnes of gold in Sonbhadra district.

Work on finding gold re-

serves in Sonbhadra was started in 1992-93 by the GSI.

Sonbhadra District Magistrate S Rajalingam said a report was sent to him by the state Directorate of Geology & Mining on February 17, which stated that there is 29,431.25 tonnes of gold reserves in the district, and asked to form a team for the survey. A team working at the site to understand the geological structure of the areas finished its work today and the report will soon be sent to the directorate to move further with the process of e-auctioning, Rajalingam said.

Asked about the process to be followed after the report by the survey team is submitted, he said these are among major minerals and they have to receive further direction on what to do next. "Now there has to be e-auctioning, which will be from the side of the Government of India. At present, the team which came for survey has left," he said.

After news of the "discovery" emerged, Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri had tweeted, "India will now have the world's 2nd largest gold reserves."

If district mining officer Rai's estimates on gold deposits were correct, they would be five times India's current gold reserves (626 tonnes) and second largest in the world after the United States.

## Stuck in dry well for 6 hrs, leopard, dog rescued

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
SURAT, FEBRUARY 20

A THREE-YEAR-OLD leopard and a dog were trapped in a 30-foot-deep dry well for around six hours in Shahda taluka of Maharashtra, around 15 km from Nizar taluka in Gujarat's Tapi district, on Saturday before they were rescued by the Forest Department officials and later freed.

According to forest officials, three villagers were on way to their agricultural field in the morning when they heard a leopard roaring from inside a well. They also found a dog in the well. The villagers immediately informed village sarpanch Pappu Patil, who subsequently alerted Forest Department officials.

Vilas Patil, a villager who saw the rescue operation, said, "Forest officials reached the spot with a cage at 10 am. A trap cage, with its door ajar, was lowered into the well and placed strategically so



**Leopard stuck in well in Shahda taluka. Express**

that the leopard could walk in. The big cat walked into the cage within 20 minutes. The dog was also rescued in the same manner."

Shahda range forest officer Anil Pawar said, "Tembhe village is on Maharashtra-Gujarat border. The villagers here grow sugarcane, which is the safest place for leopards to hide. This big cat might have fallen into the well while chasing the dog. Since the leopard was scared, it didn't attack the dog. We have successfully rescued both animals and freed them."

## With students in panel, Bihar schools to have POCSO cells for harassment complaints soon

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
PATNA, FEBRUARY 22

ALL 75,000 Bihar schools from Class I to Class XII would have POCSO cells functioning from March to hear complaints involving inappropriate touching, sexual misconduct or exploitation at schools or home from students.

Every school will have to forward any complaint to the nearest police station if it merits a case to be registered under provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Kiran Kumari, special project officer, Bihar Education Project Council (BEP), told *The Sunday Express*: "This will work at two levels. We have already passed instructions to all district education officers to form a POCSO cell

**EXPLAINED**

### Training the trainers to prepare the children

UNICEF HAS been training school teachers to prepare a team of master trainers to teach other teachers about fine and simple legal points of POCSO and other laws related to physical harassment and sexual exploitation of children. The students will be also taught about adolescence, reproductive organs, bad touch, harassment, and about not misusing the internet.

in each school from Class I to XII by the end of February. It has to start functioning from March 1. From April, the DEO (district education officer) will start monitoring it."

Kumari said a school committee headed by a principal or headmaster would have a senior teacher, a girl student, a boy student and a clerk. "A student can either directly hand over any complaint of sexual exploitation or misconduct to the committee or leave it in the box with his or her identity, or without it. It

would be the committee's job to find out the identity of the complainant at the time of lodging an FIR. As per POCSO rules, anyway all records have to be confidential," she said.

This committee, she said, is being formed in the first phase in secondary schools (classes IX to XII) and would be replicated in primary and middle schools subsequently.

The BEPC special project officer said as Unnayan Bihar had already been monitoring attendance of students online, POCSO committees at senior secondary school would be linked to Unnayan Bihar for online and centralised monitoring. The complaint box kept at school would be open every week, she said.

According to her, the special focus on teachers' training is given on ways to not use porno-

graphic websites and make best use of the internet in consultation with parents.

UNICEF Bihar spokesperson Nipurn Gupta said: "We have provided technical support to BEPC in developing guidelines and training module for prevention of sexual abuse in schools, with support of expert agencies. Suitable teachers (at high school level) have been identified and trained as master trainers by BEPC. These trainers would train teachers in all schools during the next academic session. The aim is to ensure schools, teachers become sensitive and can support in preventing sexual abuse of children."

Gupta said mechanisms such as suggestion boxes, committees, counselling, linkages to appropriate support agencies are proposed to be set up in schools.



**A protest against Waris Pathan's remarks by Muslim Council, in Mumbai. Express**

## Waris Pathan withdraws '15 cr Muslims' remark

**Mumbai:** Hours after a criminal complaint was filed against him in a Bihar court, AIMIM national spokesperson Waris Pathan Saturday retracted his controversial 15 crore Muslims in Karnataka that 15 crore Muslims can "weigh heavy" on 100 crore Hindus, saying he had no intention to hurt any community.

Pathan, however, claimed that his comments had been "twisted" in a bid to target him and the party. **ENS**



“We used to have this discussion whether or not the party should have a CM face. It was a collective decision to not go ahead with it. The result is in front of us. We will ponder whether there was another way”



## WHY MANOJ TIWARI

Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari was at the centre of the party's election strategy in the recent Assembly polls in the state. With Tiwari at the helm when the BJP won the corporation polls in 2017 and all the seven Lok Sabha seats in 2019, the party was banking on the Bhojpuri star to draw the Capital's Poorvanchali vote to help it

return to power in the Capital where it has not been in government for over 20 years. The party, however, managed just eight of the 70 seats. One reason being attributed for the loss is the BJP, battling infighting, going in without a CM face. Several old-time leaders of the party are not happy with Tiwari's projection as BJP's Delhi face



“Shouldn't those spreading a *bhram* (myth) about Shaheen Bagh feel the current? A child died in the cold. Who is responsible? We are not saying anything to those who are sitting there, they are confused

**ABHINAV RAJPUT:** In the recent Delhi Assembly polls, the BJP managed to win only eight seats out of 70. Why did the party fail? Have you analysed the results?

We are working on assessing the situation... The primary reasons that we have understood so far... With 33 per cent vote share, we had won over 30 seats in Delhi (Assembly polls) in 2013. We thought if our vote share goes beyond 38 per cent, we would be able to cross 36 seats (more than the halfway mark of 35). In 2015, a new party had come to power. The environment was different and people had not tested the party's work. But after five years in power, their work would have been tested in different fields. So we thought that the elections this time would not be like that of 2015... Despite our vote share being nearly 40 per cent (38.51%), almost 8 per cent more than what it was in 2015 (32.3%), we could not translate it into seats because the election was totally bipolar.

We didn't figure that a party (the Congress) that once had over 9 per cent of the votes (9.7% in the 2015 Assembly polls) would come down to 4.2 per cent.

**ABHINAV RAJPUT:** But weren't there other factors as well that affected the results?

I have been in politics for the past six years. Small reasons like anger over ticket distribution don't matter much... In fact, several Aam Aadmi Party supporters were angry with their party as well. Some AAP leaders who were sidelined were against the party. But the public voted for the party they wanted to vote for.

**RAHUL SABHARWAL:** Many political experts believe that people voted for the AAP because they had a CM face. If you had named a CM candidate too, would it have improved the BJP's chances in the elections?

We used to have this discussion whether or not the party should have a CM face as well. It was a collective decision to not go ahead with it. The result is in front of us. We will ponder whether there was another way... Right now we accept the results.

**LIZ MATHEW:** After the defeat, many BJP leaders and workers pointed out that when they met people, they were informed that the local leaders never visited them. As a state leader, do you hold meetings often?

There can be no success if you don't connect with the people on the ground. We are assessing as well as collecting information from the ground as to what happened — why didn't we convey the Central schemes... Even if people were aggrieved about ticket distribution, we don't believe that one person can make a difference.

**MALLICA JOSHI:** Who were the people working against the party?

We do not believe that a person can deliberately get someone defeated or make a big difference. When we were fighting the Lok Sabha polls (in 2019), there were several people who opposed us. Some even opposed the party openly. But our candidates won by big margins. Currently, the result is being reviewed and we are also trying to find out if there are instances where lack of enthusiasm on the part of some MPs, contestants or prominent workers has led to such a result. The review is not just for the sake of review. You will see the effect of these meetings in time to come... This time, based on the feedback of the review meetings, the matter will be dealt with strictly.

**MALLICA JOSHI:** Which policy of the AAP government do you think resonated the most on the ground?

There was a lot of noise around freebies... The BJP also gives out a lot of things for free. But there is a capping and the freebies are for the economically weaker sections like gas connections (the Ujjwala Yojana), toilets, medical treatment worth Rs 5 lakh (Ayushman Bharat). But in the last three months, the way the AAP made bus rides free for women showed good impact on the ground, especially among daily travellers.

**ABANTIKA GHOSH:** Recently, Union Home Minister and BJP leader Amit Shah said that statements like 'goli maaro' affected the party's result. So why did the party's top leadership end up making statements such as 'press the button so hard that the current is felt in Shaheen Bagh'?

On Shaheen Bagh, the party's stand is same today as it was yesterday. The BJP disagrees with those who have misguided

## ‘Whatever the context, it was hate speech, it cost the party... such people must be permanently removed’

Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari asserts that the Opposition made Shaheen Bagh an issue and not BJP, denies that one of the reasons for the party's Delhi loss was lack of enthusiasm among cadres, and claims that the NDA government has never said no to any immigrant



Delhi BJP president and MP Manoj Tiwari with Principal Correspondent Abhinav Rajput in *The Indian Express* newsroom. Gajendra Yadav

innocent people and made them sit for protest in Shaheen Bagh.

**ABANTIKA GHOSH:** But why doesn't the BJP talk to the protesters?

On different occasions, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has invited them (the protesters at Shaheen Bagh) for talks. We cannot talk to 10,000 people. We can talk to their representatives. We have called them many times, but they did not turn up. Later, even the Home Minister invited them. There did not participate.

Yes, there were hate speeches and we do not support them. When it was from our side, we have condemned the speeches and those involved were pulled up. We also condemn the hate speeches given by protesters or people sitting in Shaheen Bagh.

**ABHINAV RAJPUT:** BJP MP Parvesh Verma in a speech called Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal a terrorist. Union minister Prakash Javadekar defended that speech in a press conference which you also attended.

I have condemned that (speech). And I did that before the elections. The Prime Minister and Home Minister have also condemned it. There are provisions in our Constitution to punish *gaddars* (anti-national) and I have full faith in them.

Yes, he (Javadekar) sat beside me and said so. But I have two points to make here. Whatever the context, it was hate speech and our party had to face losses due to that. We condemned that speech then as well as today.

**ARANYA SHANKAR:** In an interview to *The Indian Express* prior to the Assembly polls, you said that police had entered the campus of Jamia Millia Islamia on December 15 while chasing rioters but that it had not entered the library. But, in the past few days, CCTV footage has emerged showing policemen hitting students and breaking CCTV cameras in the library. Do you stand by what you said?

The videos that have emerged say everything — the circumstances under which they (police) had to enter the library... I have seen the videos, and (they show) how people, with their faces covered and stones in their hands, are brought inside the library and made to sit. Then the policemen come in. We have

asked for an investigation. If anyone is found acting against the law, action will be taken against them.

**SOMYA LAKHANI:** In December last year, BJP leader Kapil Mishra took out a pro-CAA rally in Delhi's Connaught Place, where he and his supporters kept raising the 'goli maaro' slogan.

It did not come to my knowledge when he raised the slogan. I want those who make such hate speeches to be permanently removed. Let us start a system where people who give hate speeches lose their legal right (to fight polls). And if such a system is put in place, I, as an individual and not as party president, will support it. And everyone should be inspected, be it (Okhla MLA) Amanatullah Khan or (Hyderabad MP) Asaduddin Owaisi. Our country is the most beautiful country.

When the War Memorial was being inaugurated, I saw that a Hindu pandit first recited a *mantra*, followed by a Christian priest, a *maulvi*, a Buddhist priest and someone from a *gurdwara*. I felt very proud. We have been successful in stopping terrorist attacks in our country and securing our borders. But when political leaders spread hatred or attack homes, cases should be filed against them and they should be punished.

**SOMYA LAKHANI:** Is 'Shaheen Bagh mein current lagna chahiye' not hate speech?

Shouldn't those spreading a *bhram* (myth) about Shaheen Bagh feel the cur-

rent? A child died in the cold. Who is responsible for it? We are not saying anything to those people who are sitting there, they are confused. But no one's citizenship is being taken away by the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARI:** The RSS has criticised your election campaign and strategy. In its weekly, *Organiser*, it termed the BJP campaign language 'horrific' and compared it to Sonia Gandhi's '*Maut ka saudagar*' statement. The RSS said that it was because of this that many voters distanced themselves from the BJP. The other thing that was pointed out was that while Kejriwal campaigned on local issues, and spoke of schools, colleges and hospitals, you were preoccupied with Shaheen Bagh, Pakistan and Article 370.

Let me read what they have written. The RSS is an organisation whose comments we pay close attention to. It is an organisation which is dedicated to serving the country. We will read what they have said. But I want to say that we didn't make Shaheen Bagh an issue. Read our manifesto. It talks of providing clean water to every home, ending pollution in Delhi, making bus transport system more efficient, giving flour, currently priced at Rs 10 per kg, at Rs 2 per kg to the poor, giving cycles and scooters to girl students from poor backgrounds in schools and colleges respectively. We didn't make Shaheen Bagh an issue; the Opposition made it and also benefited from it.

“I want to congratulate AAP for Sundarkand. But why do this only for media?... You give wages to the *maulvi* and not *pujari*. If you pay both, I will agree your ideology is correct... Whatever you do, do it for everyone

I am that MP who was beaten up and shooed away from the inauguration of a bridge (the Signature Bridge in Wazirabad) in my own constituency. How is this an action of '*sabka mukhyamantri*' (everyone's chief minister)? Protocol dictates that the MP and MLA of the constituency should be invited.

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARI:** Don't you think the government has failed to explain the CAA to the public?

You could be right that despite many efforts we were not able to explain it. I spoke to many people and they said they don't have a problem with the CAA but with the NRC (National Register of Citizens). But the NRC has not come... Now what can we do about this? So roads are blocked for something that has not been introduced. The PM has said that even the draft of the NRC has not been prepared... If we have failed to explain the CAA, then even media organisations have failed. I don't think that people didn't understand the CAA, everyone understood it.

**ABHINAV RAJPUT:** AAP MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj has said that Sunderkand (a chapter from the *Ramcharitmanas*) will be recited on the first Tuesday of every month in areas in his constituency. How do you see this?

I feel happy and want to congratulate him. But why are you doing this for the media?... We are not stopping anyone. But you give monthly wages to the *maulvi* and not the *pujari*. If you give them both their wages, then I will agree that your ideology is correct. In Delhi, a *maulvi* gets Rs 18,000 per month. Give it also to the Hanuman temple, Valmiki temple and Ravidas temple priests. Whatever you do, do it for everyone.

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARI:** You mentioned that people still haven't understood the CAA and NRC. But Home Minister Amit Shah, who was earlier the party president, said that the NRC will be implemented. The party manifesto also says that the NRC will be implemented.

The CAA and NRC shouldn't be linked. That is a mistake. The Union Home Minister did say that we must stop illegal immigrants and we abide by that. If any member of the Opposition thinks otherwise, I would like to talk to him. We want

to stop illegal immigrants but the NRC hasn't even been drafted yet. They (illegal immigrants) can be terrorists too. There are stringent laws and heavy security at the India-Pakistan border in Kashmir only because of these people. We have never said no to any immigrant. People like Salma Agha and Adnan Sami have been given citizenship. We are not denying citizenship to anyone... The government is working towards providing facilities to everyone. People from different religions like Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism are a part of this country and the Narendra Modi-led government will never hurt them.

**RAHUL SABHARWAL:** How do you plan to play the role of a constructive opposition in the Assembly for the next five years?

In the last five years, we have never been biased towards anything. We kept working to improve the Metro services. The state government tried to stop the progress but we continued and constructed the Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways. Over 60,000 trucks that would come into and drive around Delhi have now been diverted to routes outside the city. We are also working on cleaning water (in the city). The Shahdara Jheel is being made. Who benefits from this? The state government can take the credit for it. We are making the Bharat Vandana Park in Dwarka, which will be spread over 200 acres... We are constituting a Colony Vikas Board for development of the now-regularised unauthorised colonies.

**BADSHA RAY:** Since 2019, the BJP has lost many Assembly polls though in these states, PM Modi had campaigned extensively. While at the national level, the Modi factor looks to be working for the BJP, at the state level, it seems to have failed. Has the overdependence on Modi backfired for the BJP?

If you look at the history of a few years ago, you will realise that Modi magic works powerfully. Before 2014, whenever a BJP government came to power in any state, it would fall by the next term. But now, we are positively moving forward in every state... People are very intelligent. While they have made Narendra Modi the Prime Minister, in states, they keep experimenting.



# SUNDAY STORY

## On hold

The recent Supreme Court ruling asking private telecom companies to pay Rs 1.5 lakh crore in dues is the latest blow to a sector that's reeling under debts of Rs 8 lakh cr. PRANAV MUKUL & AASHISH ARYAN examine the events that have ended with one of the biggest players teetering on the brink of a collapse. Can the industry, with 117.3 crore cellphone subscribers at last count, survive this crisis?

**T**HE STORY of India's telecom sector is a bit like a football knockout tournament, where clubs lined up against each other get eliminated in every round till only the winner remains. But behind that win are often reasons beyond just good football — ranging from a club's financial capacity to match-day conditions and decisions by match referees.

In the deeply contested space that India's private telecom companies have been inhabiting for the last 28 years, there have been no clear winners or losers, but a combination of government policies, court verdicts, regulatory decisions, entry of competition and rapid change in technology has led to these players executing and undergoing a series of goals, tackles, saves, shots and sometimes, even a few self-goals.

The latest blow to this industry that's struggling under a mountain of debt — more than Rs 8 lakh crore, as of date — came in the form of a Supreme Court ruling, which rejected pleas by leading telecom companies to review the court's October 24 verdict, asking them to pay Rs 1.47 lakh crore in past licence fee and spectrum usage charges. These dues are calculated as a percentage of the telecom company's adjusted gross revenues (AGR), that is, an operator's total revenue minus roaming charges, service tax and access charges, among other things.

On February 14, the court came down heavily on the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) as well as telecom companies, including Airtel and Vodafone for failing to comply with its order and said the way everyone was behaving suggested there is "no law left in the country". While Bharti Airtel is expected to pay Rs 35,500 crore, Vodafone Idea is expected to pay more than Rs 53,000 crore (though recalculation of the companies' dues is currently underway).

Even as the companies have started making the first set of payments after the Supreme Court's rap on the knuckles, sector analysts suggest Vodafone Idea may not have the financial headroom available to pay the full dues by March 17. This could potentially lead to a duopoly situation with only two private players — Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel — surviving in the market. Experts have also pointed out that such a situation will prove to be disadvantageous to consumers, who could expect the two players to increase tariffs in order to make good on their investments.

So how did the telecom industry — arguably one of the biggest beneficiaries of the 1991 opening up of the country's economy — end up here?

### In the beginning was the licence fee

At the heart of all the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats the sector has witnessed is the telecom licence, its conditions and the legal interpretations of those conditions.

The current plight of the mobile services industry traces back to 1991, when the Centre started liberalising the licensing norms to allow private players to enter the sector.

In 1992, the government for the first time invited bids from companies for licences to offer cellular mobile services in the four metros of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. Licences were awarded to eight players, two in each circle, but even before the industry could begin operations, the companies that did not get a licence moved the Supreme Court. This would go on to be the first in a series of interventions by the Supreme Court in cases that have shaped the sector. In its judgment two years later, the apex court said that it would not interfere with the government's decision-making process unless any such decision was arbitrary in nature.

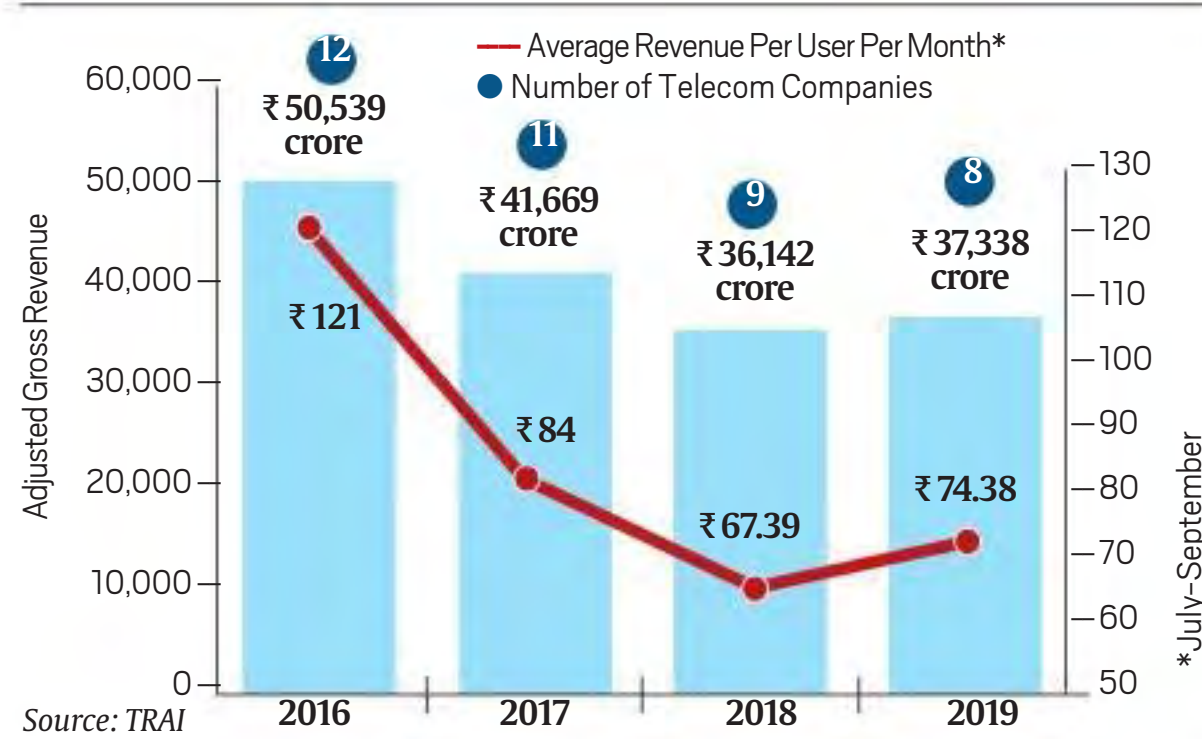
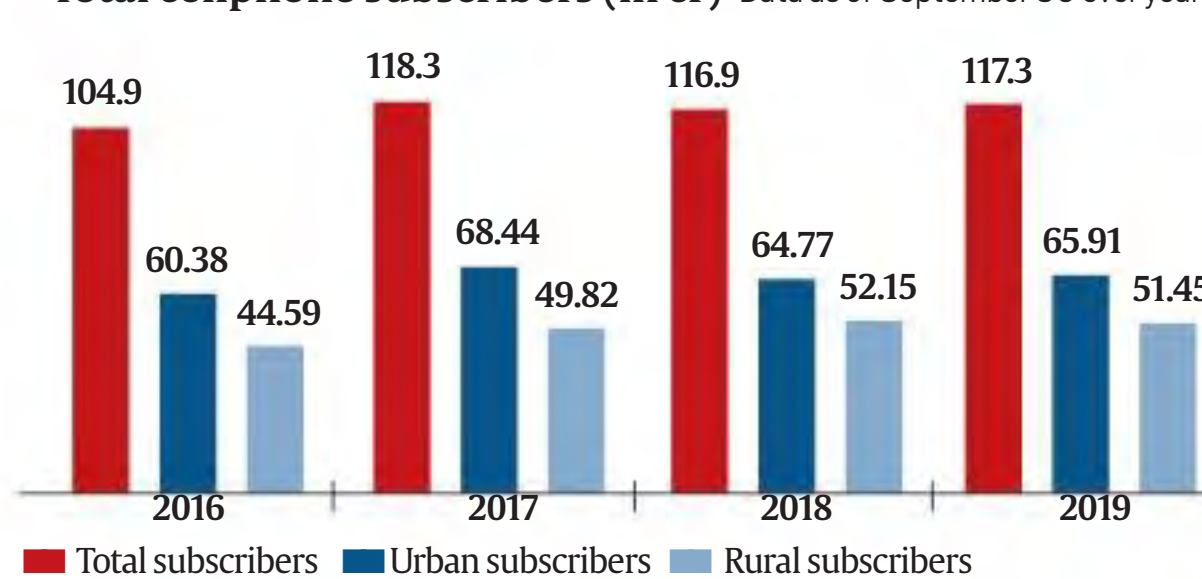
Finally, after a delay caused by the lawsuit, in 1994, the DoT came out with the first National Telecom Policy, which, among other things, targeted that "all value-added services (which include cellular mobile services) available internationally should be introduced in India... preferably by 1996".

On July 31, 1995, the then telecom minister Sukh Ram made the first-ever mobile call in India to West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu. It was a landmark moment that was made possible by the telecom policy, but other than that, the 1994 NTP was seen as a gross overestimation of the sector's capability to grow and invest. One of the primary constraints was the licence fee.

In 1994, the fixed licence fee arrangement of the DoT was set circle-wise — Rs 3 crore for Mumbai, Rs 2 crore for Delhi, Rs 1.5 crore for Kolkata and Rs 1 crore for Chennai.

### TELECOM STORY IN NUMBERS

Total cellphone subscribers (in cr) Data as of September 30 ever year



The fee was revised every year, and by 1999, it had become Rs 24 crore for Mumbai, Rs 16 crore for Delhi, Rs 12 crore for Kolkata and Rs 8 crore for Chennai. However, after having doled out more than 30 licences, by 1998, the government saw eight operators default on their licence fee payments.

The first round of elimination took place.

### A different model

The exit of these operators got the government to take a hard look at the situation and it asked the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to conduct a study on the financial stress in the sector. In its report, the regulator highlighted the high licence fee as one of the pressure points on the telecom companies.

The TRAI report led to the NDA government in 1999 to come out with a new telecom policy that envisaged a move from fixed licence fee model to a revenue-sharing model, where companies paid a certain percentage of their AGR as licence and spectrum fee. Besides, TRAI also regulated telecom tariffs, thus pushing the growth of cellular services for the first time.

Shortly thereafter, in 2001, the government issued licences for basic telephone services that used WLL, or wireless in local loop, technology that enabled landline operators at that time, such as Tata and Reliance, to offer wireless services. This was also the first time licences were issued on a first-come-first-serve basis — a policy, which had consequences that later led to a complete upheaval of the sector.

The telecom sector's golden period had just begun. The number of cellular subscriptions per 100 people ballooned from less than one to nearly 70 over the next 10 years. A number of foreign players bought licences. The incumbents also saw revenues rise multi-fold. The intense competition in the sector saw regulatory interventions such as the introduction of an interconnect usage charge that effectively allowed operators to do away with the incoming call charges.

In 2003, DoT raised the first AGR-related demand, saying all revenue earned by telcos from dividend from subsidiaries, interest on short-term investments, money deducted as trader discounts, discount for calls, etc. — essentially, activities beyond the domain for which they obtained the licence — would be included in their AGR. Such a calculation effectively increased the levies that the telecom players had to pay.

The operators, under a unified front, ap-

proached the Telecom Disputes Settlement Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), which in July 2006 ruled that the matter must be sent back to TRAI for fresh consultations. TDSAT rejected the government's contention and the Centre moved the Supreme Court.

The period also saw the entry of Vodafone Group into India in 2007 with its acquisition of Hutchinson Essar for \$11 billion, giving the company access to nearly 22 million subscribers. The bet was mainly on the immense potential that the Indian telecom sector was seen to be having at the time, for which Vodafone paid about \$500 for every subscriber it acquired. Various companies were also experimenting with different strategies, offering novel products to consumers such as the per-second billing plans, Rs-10 recharge packages, etc.

But this honeymoon lasted only till 2012, when the Supreme Court cancelled 122 telecom licences in the now infamous 2G scam case. The cancellation of licences by the Supreme Court prompted the key stakeholders — government and telecom operators — to revamp the sector, with spectrum now being allocated through auctions.

The verdict also forced many corporates, especially foreign players, to cut back on their India exposure. It thus impacted bank books, with loans to telecom companies and infrastructure providers comprising nearly 3 per cent of the portfolios for lenders at that time. The companies that saw their licences being cancelled included those with investments from foreign

players such as Telenor, Etisalat, Sistema, Bahrain Telecommunications, Malaysia's Maxis, etc.

The second round of elimination took place.

### Enter Jio

For the survivors of the 2012 judgment, including players such as Bharti Airtel, Vodafone India, Aditya Birla Group company Idea Cellular, Reliance Communications, Tata Teleservices, Telenor India, Videocon Telecom, Aircel, etc., growth continued, albeit in a way that significantly leveraged their books. Though the proliferation of mobile services continued to happen, the process of acquiring costly spectrum partly contributed to the financial stress in the sector.

Another period of growth continued till 2016, during which a voice-heavy telecom industry saw an uptick in tariffs, backed by

TRAI's move to not interfere in tariff setting.

In September 2016, Reliance Industries Ltd announced the launch of Jio with an introductory offer of free voice and data services that rattled the incumbents. Just months before the nationwide commercial launch of Jio, a wave of consolidations and exits hit the sector. While bigger players started to combine their firepower, the smaller ones began to jump ship.

The data wars began and led to two of the three biggest companies in the country — Vodafone India and Idea Cellular — joining hands. All this happened even as operators continued to underestimate 4G and overestimate the survivability of legacy services such as 2G and 3G.

"No one had imagined that a company with such deep pockets would come in at such a large scale and start offering free services. Even from a regulatory and policy perspective, we were caught off-guard," said a senior TRAI official.

Jio officials underlined the high efficiency of 4G that brought down costs. However, incumbent operators heavily criticised TRAI's move to reduce interconnection usage charge from 14 paise a minute to 6 paise per minute. This is the fee that the operator, from whose network a call is made, pays to another operator, to whose network a call is made.

Mails seeking comments from Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Reliance Jio did not elicit a response. Queries sent to TRAI also went unanswered.

The consolidation led by the so-called data wars pushed even more companies out of the sector. Post the Vodafone-Idea merger, only three private players remained in the Indian mobile services market.

The third round of elimination took place.

### What next?

With its back pushed to the wall, Vodafone Idea's top leadership has been talking about the inability of the company to continue as a going concern, causing a panic situation among the operator's subscriber base.

For the fiscally strained government, the Supreme Court ruling on AGR dues of telecom companies has created a Catch-22 situation. While on the one hand, it has a strategic sector to protect, on the other hand, the government has to manage a fiscal deficit situation while also complying with the Supreme Court's orders.

In a recent note, Bank of America Securities postulated certain scenarios going ahead. "We believe the market could be surprised if Birla or Vodafone group inject equity in Vodafone Idea. Both parent companies have consistently maintained the view that they are unlikely to inject more cash for the next 18-24 months; if the government potentially takes an ordinance route in Parliament and decides not to charge penalty/interest from telcos; if there is any asymmetric regulation favouring Vodafone Idea given its balance sheet is more stretched and needs relief. We see low possibility of these events," it noted.

From a consumer perspective, a duopoly would not only mean costlier telecom services but also constrained incentives for operators to maintain quality of services.

In December 2019, even with three players in the market, all of them almost simultaneously announced increased tariffs in the range of 15-40 per cent. Now, one player less would mean that the survivors could have greater pricing power — a factor that makes their stocks more attractive, according to those tracking the sector.

The quality of services is also a matter of concern, with the sector coming under fire from both by the government and the TRAI over the last few years for the call drop situation. However, beyond minor penalties, neither the Centre nor the regulator have the necessary legal teeth to compel operators to improve services.

TRAI, in 2016, had come out with regulations imposing mandatory compensation by telecom operators to subscribers for call drops. But later that year, the Supreme Court struck down TRAI's order, calling it "arbitrary, ultra vires, unreasonable and not transparent".

Experts suggest any move to save or bail out the telecom sector will require strong political willpower on behalf of the government and policymakers, considering it will need to find a fine balance between the health of the sector, consumer interest and its own fiscal headroom.

**EXPLAINED**

## E.

### Chances of duopoly

AN IMMEDIATE fallout of the Supreme Court verdict, asking telecom companies to pay their dues, could be a cut in investment in operational infrastructure, which could affect quality of services for consumers. It could result in further consolidation of the sector, effectively leaving only two players in the fray.



# 10 BIG PICTURE



Women officers are not adjuncts to a male-dominated set-up: Court ruled

## WOMEN IN DEFENCE

**ARMY**  
**6,868**

**3.8%**  
OF TOTAL STRENGTH  
(As of July 1, 2019)

- Streams: All non-combat officer branches
- Entry through Short Service Commission. Candidates have to go through Services Selection Board (SSB) interview to join as SSC officers; can opt for permanent commission now
- Trained at Officers Training Academy, Chennai
- Training of first batch of 99 women for Corps of Military Police (non-officer) underway at Corps of Military Police Centre and School, Bangalore

**AIR FORCE**  
**2,302**

**13.28% (8 FIGHTER PILOTS)**  
OF TOTAL STRENGTH  
(As of November 1, 2019)

- Streams: All; entry through Common Admission Test, Selection Board tests, interview, medical test. Can opt for PC.
- Trained at IAF Academy, Dundigudi; Air Force Administrative College (AFAC), Coimbatore; Air Force Technical College (AFTC), Bengaluru

**NAVY**  
**1,077**

**6.7%**  
OF TOTAL STRENGTH  
(As on November 15, 2019)

- Streams: All non-sea going branches under SSC
- Entry through Navy Entrance Test, SSB tests and interview; can opt for PC later
- Trained at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Kerala

## OTHER COUNTRIES

- 16 other countries have women in combat roles, including the US, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Israel, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Sweden, Poland, Finland and North Korea
- In 2016, the US lifted Pentagon's ban on allowing women in frontline combat roles; 2,906 women hold positions in ground combat
- China's People's Liberation Army Ground Force, the world's largest Army, has 5% or less women officers (53,000 of 1.4 million troops)
- Pakistan has 3,400 women serving in its armed forces as per International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). Pakistan, Serbia, South Africa, South Korea, and the UK recently deployed women as fighter pilots
- Canada, Denmark and Israel opened combat roles to women in the mid and late '80s. Israel does not allow women to hold command positions
- Women comprise 10% of the Russian Armed Forces (IIS)



## Women are ready, says Cadet No. 1



Priya Jhingam wrote to the Army chief seeking to join the force 3 yrs before it opened doors. Express

### KRISHN KAUSHIK

SOMETIME IN 1989, as a 21-year-old student at Shimla's St Bede's College, Priya Jhingam chanced upon a newspaper advertisement urging men to join the Army. She immediately shot a letter to then Army chief General Sunith Francis Rodrigues, asking him "Why are you calling only men, why not women?" "I told the chief that I would like to join the Army," she recalls.

To her surprise, Rodrigues wrote back saying that he was "very happy to hear from a woman who is so enthusiastic to join the Army", and that "it will happen soon".

Three years later, in 1992, her dream came true. "I saw another advertisement calling for women recruits. The ad said 'Indian Army Beckons You'. I applied along with 25,000 others. Finally 250 of us reached the interview round, and 25 were eventually selected," says Jhingam, whose father was a police officer. "I was Cadet No.1," she smiles.

Born and raised in Shimla, she had her first brush with the Army as a Class 9 student. "Once, when the Governor visited our school, he was accompanied by an Army officer, his Aide-De-Camp (ADC). On seeing him, all my friends started saying I am going to get married to an Army officer. I snapped, and said, 'I will become an Army officer,'" says the officer.

"At my first posting in Lucknow, one of the jawans didn't salute me... I came up with a plan. I started saluting him. Soon he started saluting me too"

ficer who was commissioned into the Judge Advocate General stream. "But I was officer No. 2. Captain Anjana Bhaduria was officer No. 1."

As a JAG officer, Jhingam conducted Court Martials, advised generals on the Army's legal matters and, as the officer in charge in the legal cell, also took care of cases filed by Army officers in civil courts.

Despite being one of the first women officers to enter the Army, she says she never faced any discrimination, barring one incident at her first posting at the Headquarters Central Command in Lucknow. "The jawans there would not salute me, it was a little disheartening. So I came up with a plan. I started saluting the jawan who did not salute me. Soon, he was saluting me too," she laughs, recalling the incident.

After that, she says, there were mostly pleasant memories. Like the time her boss, a Brigadier, "called all the officers and said this lady is not 'ma'am', she is 'sir' for all of you. He ensured that every called me sir, since ma'am was reserved for the wives of the officers."

She did her bit too. "I never made male colleagues feel that they needed to treat me differently," says Jhingam, who retired as a Major 10 years after joining service, and counts her time in the Army among the "best days of my life".

Like many of the petitioners, she dismisses most of the government's arguments in the Supreme Court, and says she would have "absolutely gone for it, no question about it", if she had the option to serve again.

In fact, in 2004, a year after she retired, when the second batch of woman officers were asked to rejoin and serve for 14 years, she wrote a letter to the then Army chief and the defence minister.

"I asked why they were not calling back the first batch of women officers who set an example for the others. I never got a reply from anybody," says Jhingam.

But those days are behind her, and she is now busy with her job at an adventure sports company. "As for women officers taking up combat roles in the future, she says, "Women are ready. It's the men who have to change their mindsets."

the field, I use abuses too, just like the men," she chuckles, adding that it's mission accomplished if her troops start addressing her as "sahab" or "adkhikan", and not "ma'am".

She describes it as being like the Nana Patekar character from the film *Prahar*, where he plays a tough commander who moulds his team into a formidable unit. "It's my favourite film."

The Lt Col from Uttarakhand says that over the years, she developed a "three-fold mantra" to ensure that her largely male-platoon came to respect her. "If they see that their leader is competent, fair, and takes care of their training, they give respect. It doesn't matter if you are a man or woman. When I prove myself on these counts, I become just another soldier, not a woman."

The two women officers also dismiss the Centre's argument in court that the largely rural rank and file of the Army will have problems with women as commanding officers. "Women have a higher EQ (emotional quotient), they are better leaders," argues the Uttarakhand officer.

Adds the officer from East India, "I have had soldiers come to me to sort out all kinds of issues, from fights with other jawans to their wives not conceiving."

Lekhi says she tapped into this, and the larger picture, to make her case in court. "I was hearing all these stories of strength and courage, but we needed more. Finally, I found that nearly 30 per cent of women officers serve in the field."

In their petition, the officers listed distinctions earned by women officers on the field, like the Gallantry Award (Sena Medal) for Major Madhumita (Army Education Corps), the first woman officer to receive the honour, for fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan; the UN Peacekeeping Medal to Major Gopika Jit Singh Pawar for her stint in Lebanon; the Sword of Honour at the Officers Training Academy, Chennai (the only training centre for SSC male and female officers) to Lieutenant A Divya; and the 2007 Sewa Medal by the President to Captain Ashwini Pawar (Army Ordnance Corps) and Captain Shipra Majumdar (Army Engineer Corps).

Noting that men and women "serve as equal citizens in a common mission", the court mentioned some of this in its judgment. "To deny the grant of PCs to women officers on the ground that this would upset the 'peculiar dynamics' in a unit casts an undue burden on women officers... The written note also relies on the 'minimal facilities for habitat and hygiene' as a ground for suggesting that women officers in the services must not be deployed in conflict zones. (But)

The respondents have placed on record that 30% of the total women officers are in fact deployed to conflict areas. Their track record of service to the nation is beyond reproach."

While "the sky may be the limit" now as one petitioner said after the verdict, the women officers remain aware that the battle is only half won. Even as they celebrate, they are careful not to ruffle too many feathers. One wrong move can mean being "dragged down", or worse "end of career", many say. "We are not supposed to interact with the media," a Lt Col said sternly at a celebration party after the order.

While Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was quick to "wholeheartedly welcome" the Supreme Court verdict, the Army's initial silence was remarked upon. Finally, three days later, Army Chief General MM Naravane welcomed the order, telling reporters that "the force has been championing gender equality". "It (the order) brings a sense of clarity and purpose to gainfully employ officers for better efficiency of the organisation. I must assure that everybody in the Indian Army including women officers will be given equal opportunity to contribute to the nation as also progress in their careers."

The Army remains tightlipped about the adjustments that the fiercely regulated force with its tight hierarchies will be needing forward. "It could learn from the examples of other countries where induction of women in combat roles faced a lot of resistance. While

could aspire to, she adds. "A whole new world has opened up for us... I will now be officially eligible to lead from the front."

It didn't come as a shock, she adds. Her parents, including her mother who taught at a government school, never discriminated between their son and their three daughters. Despite the tough financial situation, they all went to English-medium convent schools. "I was into basketball in school, I was very outgoing, very bold. At the time, boys only spoke to boys, and girls to girls, but I interacted with everyone... For me, joining the Army was not about breaching a male bastion. Also, in Uttarakhand, women shoulder all the responsibilities," she says.

In her first attempt, she cleared the Services Selection Board exam, becoming "the first woman from Garhwal region to get selected in the Army". She believes it were these values that "made me challenge the rules in court."

Meenakshi Lekhi, a senior advocate and BJP MP who has been representing the pe-



the Army started taking in women officers, her father, a government employee, told her it was the right career for her.

Since last year, girls can take admission in Sainik Schools, seen as easing the way to defence forces. Last month, the Army began training the first batch of 99 women personnel for induction into military police. While institutional resistance to allowing women in combat roles, such as the infantry and artillery, continues, those 99 would be the first women to be inducted at the level of jawans in the service.

Twenty-three years later, that door stands thrown wide open, among the first petitioners seeking permanent commission (PC) for women in the Army. By the time the case came to the Supreme Court, the total number of petitioners had crossed 100. On February 17, the apex court ruled in their favour, directing that women Army officers be given the same Short Service

Commission (SSC) be considered for PC, and command posts in non-combat areas.

Calling for a "change in mindsets", Justices D Y Chandrachud and Ajay Rastogi said the "absolute exclusion of women" from command assignments was "indefensible". "The time has come for a realization that women officers in the Army are not adjuncts to a male dominated establishment whose presence must be 'tolerated' within narrow confines," the court said, putting an end to a legal tussle that began with a PIL in 2003.

India's journey to giving women a role in the defence forces has been long and arduous. The Army first began taking in women officers in 1992 under the Women Special Entry Scheme for a five-year period. However, it held out on giving PC to women officers. Following a government order in 2008, the Navy and IAF gave its SSC officers the option of PC, but have gone to court against doing so for officers who joined before 2008.

# V-Day

Nearly 30 years after they first entered the Army, a Supreme Court order has entitled women officers to full job benefits, including command postings. ANKITA DWIVEDI JOHRI with KRISHN KAUSHIK on the long fight that led to this and the women who waged it, proving themselves "again and again"

REMEMBER MY first posting clearly. It was a unit of 700-800 men. I was the only woman officer. There weren't even toilets for women, and I would walk long distances to find one. I was always late because of it and would get pulled up. I couldn't talk to anyone," recalls a 1996-batch Lieutenant Colonel. "But it was the '90s, a difficult time for career women, not just in the forces. The male officers had never worked with women. They lacked sensitivity, had prejudices... It was like opening the doors of your home to a new person."

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In the past few years, the pace has quickened. Last year, Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth became the first IAF woman pilot to fly a fighter jet solo. The Navy now deploys women for all duties, including firing missiles, though this is restricted to shore billets and shore-based aircraft.

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## SUNDAY PROFILE PRASHANT KISHOR

## The Un-Politics of PK

From Modi to Mamata, Nitish to Kejriwal, Jagan to Amarinder, the political consultant who travels light is out of the shadows, seeking the limelight in Bihar. If it is not ideology, what drives the 43-year-old?

SOURAV ROY BARMAN

ON FEBRUARY 18, minutes before the cameras rolled, Prashant Kishor sat intently, prepared to spell out his action plan for a "new Bihar". In the backdrop was an image of Mahatma Gandhi and a quote: "The best politics is right action". The reason for this emphasis on the Mahatma emerged barely three minutes into the press conference. "As a leader, I wanted Nitish Kumar to choose between Gandhi and Godse," Kishor said, talking about his "ideological rift" with the Bihar Chief Minister and the JD(U), the first party he formally joined, in September 2018, and of which he was vice-president until his expulsion for "indiscipline" in January this year.

In India's fragmented political landscape, the last person one would expect to pick a side is perhaps Kishor, the brain behind 'Brand Modi' to 'Beta Kejriwal', 'Didi ke Bolo' for Mamata Banerjee to 'Halqa vich Captain' for Amarinder Singh, 'Jaganna's Navratmalu' for Jagan Mohan Reddy to 'Phir Se, Nitish' for Nitish — a spectrum of ideas so wide, a set of personalities and principles so disparate that it's hard to brand the man and his politics.

It was as a 33-year-old, fresh from a stint as a public health professional attached with the United Nations in the north-central African country of Chad, that Kishor joined Team Narendra Modi. Kishor, who grew up in small towns in Bihar and UP, has in the past said that it was a paper he authored while in the UN — on some of India's high-growth-rate states having high levels of malnutrition, with Gujarat faring the worst — that caught the eye of the then Gujarat CM. This led to Kishor, or "PK" as his aides call him, being offered a position in Modi's team in 2011, with a year to go for the state elections.

In 2012, an English daily in Ahmedabad carried a story on Kishor "without any picture, as no one had one, so low key was his presence", said a source close to him.

While Kishor's visibility went up after Modi's rise, his separation from the BJP after the 2014 win and his joining hands with Nitish the following year brought him and his political consultancy firm, I-PAC or Indian Political Action Committee, into full public glare for the first time.

"He is a big believer in lateral entry into governance. And that is something he proposed to Modi as well. Kishor wanted a team of professionals led by him and his team to work with the PMO. Modi was initially receptive, but that plan did not materialise," said an I-PAC insider on the various theories around his separation from team Modi.

In the 2015 elections, which the JD(U) fought in a Mahagathbandhan with the RJD and Congress, Kishor handled the JD(U) campaign. His imprint was seen in how the alliance came out as a cohesive force. His supporters point to how he even won over Lalu's trust as proof of his ability to negotiate the personal egos of leaders.

"One evening, I went to meet Lalu and he

introduced me to Kishor, praising him profusely," recalled a senior RJD leader.

The Mahagathbandhan's win in the 2015 elections burnished Kishor's reputation as a doer, one that got amplified with successes in Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Delhi. His I-PAC also works with the Trinamool Congress in Bengal and DMK in Tamil Nadu.

"Once I-PAC is on board, there are no no-go zones. And it is fascinating how powerful leaders like Mamata or Kejriwal are willingly making way for external interventions to that extent. I-PAC not only uses a party's volunteers for campaigning, it uses supporters, who are not known to campaign, as force multipliers," an I-PAC executive said.

An I-PAC associate who worked with Kishor in Gujarat said his enthusiasm for every election is the same. "It doesn't matter whether he subscribes to the party's ideology or not. He believes in leadership — he feels the country needs charismatic leaders. He gets agitated when he doesn't see the leader following a plan. For instance, he almost gave up on the Congress during the 2017 Uttar Pradesh elections because the effort was way too one-sided... The failure of the Congress in accepting Kishor's 14-point formula, which included projecting Priyanka Gandhi's face, prevented us from making even a decent shot."

However, Kishor's seemingly effortless transition from one political camp to another has also earned him critics. Leaders of multiple parties talk of Kishor's "take it or leave it" style of functioning. He is also known to maintain tight control over information and access, a tactic, several say, that's intended to amplify his importance. So if he operated from Ahmedabad during Modi's 2014 election campaign, he worked from Nitish's 1, Aney Marg, residence for the 2015 Bihar elections.

He has also progressively become less self-effacing about success. While it took some time for Kishor to emerge out of Modi's shadows, in 2015, he got himself photographed with Nitish as the trends began consolidating in the JD(U)'s favour. In Delhi, his picture with Kejriwal made it to social media even as Deputy CM Manish Sisodia was struggling.

A senior BJP leader in Gujarat calls Kishor "extremely opportunistic and ambitious". "When he was introduced Narendrabhai by a real estate tycoon from Mumbai in 2011, he was not covert about his ambition to be an integral part of politics. Over the years, he has gone to everyone as a consultant and now runs a company doing that... For him it is not about ideology but opportunity. Parties know that and only trust his grey matter, which is definitely worth the cost," he said.

Other professionals in the policy and governance sphere also find PK's style of functioning problematic. The co-lead of a policy forum working closely with CM Hemant Soren in Jharkhand said, "Shaping the political economy of a state should not just stop at elections. It should also be about shaping policy and governance initiatives. That's what we are trying to do in Jharkhand."

Countered a PK confidant, "People are quick to point out that he has no moral high-ground to differentiate between Gandhi and



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

Godse, having helped an RSS *pracharak* become the country's PM. But it is equally true that PK has defeated the BJP or NDA in more direct battles than any other leader today."

About the charge that PK just latches on to winning sides, the aide added, "People should ask Kejriwal or Jagan or Nitish or Amarinder to say they would have won anyway. Also, if arithmetic is everything in Hindi heartland, what explains the fate of the mahagathbandhan in UP (the BSP-SP were trounced by the BJP)?" He says that the changing reality of politics and nature of campaigning makes the role of a US-style PAC like I-PAC essential.

Reached for his comments, the 43-year-old chose to address only the perception of him being overly ambitious. Asked if he wants to be successful, Kishor, who lives with his wife and son in Delhi, said, "Yes, like any other individual. Success for me is the ability to influence the lives of people. Success

to me is not any post or resources."

Sources close to Kishor insist that nothing drives him more than the "belief" that he is effectively controlling policy-making — be it through Kejriwal's 10 guarantees, Nitish ke 7 *nishchay*, Captain *de 9 nukte* or Jagan's *navaratmalu*. "Once a leader makes those promises, as suggested by Kishor, his or her entire tenure hinges around them in a way," said a source.

But it is not just PK the individual who is hard to decipher. The organisational structure of I-PAC, registered as a company in April 2015, has no mention of Kishor. Its day-to-day affairs are run by an executive council and team of leaders, including its co-founders Rishi Raj Singh, Pratik Jain and Vinesh Kumar Chandel. In May 2016, I-PAC was served notices by the Income Tax Department. The last AGM of I-PAC was held in September 2019.

"I-PAC works on a zero equity model. It takes money from parties as reimbursements, which helps it cover the cost of campaigns and to sustain itself. The organisation employs over 2,500 people," an insider said.

Cut to Bihar, which goes to polls in another nine months, Kishor made it clear last week that he was open to all options in achieving his "objective of ensuring Bihar breaks into the league of India's top 10 states in 10 years".

At one point, during his Patna press conference, Kishor declared, "*Chunav ladna, ladana, jeetna, ye kaam toh main roz karta hoon* (Fighting elections, winning, helping others win, I do this every day). But today I am not here for that... I want youngsters to live that dream of a new political leadership."

To *The Sunday Express* on his Bihar plan, PK said, "To my mind, the game is wide open."

Leaders of multiple parties talk of Kishor's "take it or leave it" style of functioning. He is also known to maintain tight control over information and access, in what several call a tactic to amplify his importance. He has also progressively become less self-effacing about success

## 'Pakistan World Cup's sitara is now in our midst'

They live kabaddi, as do their fans. In a Punjab joined by passion for it on either side, should borders matter, ask players on the mat for a 'World Cup' in Lahore

NITIN SHARMA

AS TARINDER Singh a.k.a 'Nanni Gopalpuria', 27, makes his way into the stadium at village Nihal Singh Wala in Punjab's Moga, the public address system bursts into life, with excited commentators announcing the arrival of the 'lion'. The 15,000-strong crowd, many of them sitting on trucks, let out a roar. From the back, rings out a shout: "*Aagaya Pakistan World Cup da sitara maidan vich* (The star of the Pakistan Kabaddi World Cup is in the ring)".

Earlier this month, an 'unofficial' 12-member India team made its way to Lahore through the Attari-Wagah border for a 'World Cup' organised by the Pakistan Kabaddi Federation and Pakistan's Punjab government. Singh was the captain of the team, a manager and three officials.

With all ties between India and Pakistan off, the news coming from Lahore left many faces on this side of the border. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju asked the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India to conduct an inquiry. The federation as well as the Indian

Olympic Association made it clear they had not sent any team. The International Kabaddi Federation termed the Pakistan tournament un-recognised.

The previous six Kabaddi 'World Cups' were all held in India, with the Punjab government organising them. Pakistan's 'World Cup' wasn't recognised.

In Nihal Singh Wala for a 'Kabaddi Friendship Cup', representing his club Doaba Warriors, Singh dismisses the row. "I went to Pakistan to play and I am here to play kabaddi as well," he says, waving to the crowd with a bruised elbow. As the commentators remind that the injury was sustained at the Lahore final, which the 'India' team lost to Pakistan 41-43, there is more applause.

'Circle-style' kabaddi, Singh adds, has "given me everything". Across the world there are around 12 federations that organise 200-odd tournaments of this style kabaddi, including in the US, Canada, Malaysia and Australia. Pakistan mostly organises a national-level tournament.

"Competing here and abroad is the only thing we aim for. The Pakistan Kabaddi Federation sent invites to the Punjab Kabaddi

Federation (India) as well as to players individually and I decided to go... If not the team kit of India, which team's should we have worn at Pakistan stadiums? That's what I want to ask everybody," Singh adds, on the controversy.

Circle-style kabaddi has 'raiders' from one team venturing into the circle of the rival side, who have to be blocked by 'stoppers' of that side. There can't be any empty raids like in the Pro Kabaddi League or national-style kabaddi where players queue up in lines on two sides.

One of the stars of the Punjab kabaddi scene, Singh, from Gopalpur village near Kapurthala, has won 45-50 motorcycles, three cars and two tractors over seven years of playing circle style. The season in India runs from September to March, and the 27-year-old plays up to 150 matches over the seven months, before the action shifts abroad.

Among the members of the team that went to Lahore was Vinay Khatri, a 22-year-old 'raider' from Kharak Jattan village in Haryana. Also a highly valued player, Khatri has turned out for teams like the USA California, comprising India-origin players from America, at local competitions in Punjab.



At Kabaddi Friendship Cup in Nihal Singh Wala, Moga, where players who returned from Pakistan were cheered, including for their injuries. Jaipal Singh

His winnings include 60-65 motorcycles, a car and 20 LED TVs, apart from cash prizes.

Arguing that it's unfair to target them, Khatri says, "Since kabaddi is not played at any international competition, we look forward to tournaments like the Global Kabaddi League or Kabaddi World Cup. In Pakistan, fans told me they had watched my games on YouTube."

The prize money sustains them, he adds. "Most of us don't have jobs and there are expenses, on fitness, injuries, travel."

Malwinder Singh Gobindpuria, who also went to Lahore, has played in leagues in England and says kabaddi is their bread and butter. "Competing in Pakistan's Punjab meant we played in front of kabaddi fans as passionate as the ones in India."

Incidentally, a day after the others went to Lahore, Yadha Surakhpur, Khushi Duggan and Dulla Baggapind realised their application for Pakistan visas had been denied. Says a rueful Surakhpur, "I was scheduled to play in a village tournament and to join the team later. We had prepared for this tournament."

Satpal Singh Kharia, who travelled to Pakistan as a commentator, wishes the government would support the players. "In Pakistan, the kabaddi players told us that all of them had government jobs. In India, players participate in different leagues with no formal body in-charge or compete in club tournaments and events termed 'unofficial' by the government... The players are ready for any inquiry, but circle kabaddi needs to be organised."

## TAKE 5

FACES ON THE FRINGES OF NEWS

B.COM STUDENT (19),  
SHREE SAHAJANAND GIRLS  
INSTITUTE, BHUJ

'Parents feel their girls being checked for periods is better than them having affairs'



The all-girls institute. Express

The principal, a hostel rector and a peon of the Shree Sahajanand Girls Institute in Bhuj have been arrested on the charge of 'outraging the modesty of a woman' after 66 girl students were made to undress on Feb 11 to prove they were not menstruating after a blood-soaked sanitary napkin was found outside a hostel toilet.

The 19-year-old, who was among them, is a B.Com student from Anjar in Kutch, and came to the all-girls institute, managed a trust linked to the Shree Swaminarayan Mandir, when in Class 1. The student, who did not want to be identified, hopes to become a chartered accountant

## 1 Can you describe what happened?

The principal abused us for breaking rules (menstruating students are isolated and kept away from the common dining hall as well as prayer areas) and threatened to rusticate us if we did not agree to the inspection. We were made to go into the washroom and strip so that the peon could check us... We have never had such an incident before, though now I think we should have objected earlier to records being kept of menstrual cycles of all hostel girls (an institute official, Laxman Shiyani, said he was not aware of such a record)...

## 2 Given a choice, would you have opted for this institute?

My family cannot afford to send me to a better college. They do not want me to live far either (Anjar is about 40 km away), or study in a co-ed. Many families here feel the same. It is mandatory for students above Class 8 to stay at the hostel... When I joined, I was uncomfortable about discussing my menstrual cycle with anyone. The whole attention of the administration appeared to be on when you menstruate... And then everyone knew you were having your periods because you were moved to a room in the basement and served food separately. The authorities keep telling us how we must stay away from things when 'impure'. Over time, we came to accept it as normal.

## 3 Did any women staffers offer support after the episode?

None. The trustees are men and they refused to listen when we went to complain. Instead, they accused us of forcing them to take the drastic step. We are constantly told we do not respect their religious beliefs, especially those of us who do not belong to the Swaminarayan sect.

## 4 How did your and your friends' families react?

They feel this is better than girls getting into relationships with boys. A family urged my parents to not join the protest saying the institution was run by women and the checking too had been done by women, and therefore, 'it is not such a big issue'... I admit I am not sure if they are completely wrong either. At home too women are not allowed to visit temples or touch prayer articles when having their periods...

## 5 Do you want to leave?

I want to complete my graduation. At least my family is not forcing me to get married and has given me the freedom to study, if with conditions. It is up to me now to be bold and strong enough to break such taboos later.

ADITIRAJA



Across THE AISLE



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The magic words are 'national interest'. They do not signal correctness, they signal finality. Because the PM has declared that the decisions were taken in national interest, he expects that all criticism should cease and all debate should end...  
With the government working overtime to take so many decisions in national interest, it is only a matter of time before India's GDP will swell to USD 5 trillion and it will become the foremost power in the world

# All in the national interest

ON FEBRUARY 16, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking at Varanasi, referred to the decisions to revoke Article 370 of the Constitution and to enact the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, and said, "In national interest, these decisions were necessary. Despite the various international pressures, we stand by these decisions and will continue to stand by them."

The magic words are 'national interest'. They do not signal correctness, they signal finality. Because the PM has declared that the decisions were taken in national interest, he expects that all criticism should cease and all debate should end.

I looked back over the BJP/NDA years and tried to count the decisions and actions taken by the Central government that the government claimed were in national interest. The list is long and controversial. Here is what I was able to compile:

## DEMONETISATION & GST

■ Demonetisation was in national interest, the government asserted repeatedly. Critics said it was a monumental blunder and had disastrous consequences: cash was sucked out of the system, crippling cash-driven sectors of the economy such as agriculture, construction, retail trade and self-employment. Owners of micro and small enterprises were forced to shut down their businesses and many of them continue to remain shut. Those who lost their jobs remained

jobless for a long time thereafter. The jury is out on whether demonetisation was in, or against, national interest.

■ GST was a law passed, according to the government, in national interest. It was a plausible argument if the law had been designed carefully, the rate had been a single moderate rate, the software had been ready, and the administrative machinery had been trained and prepared. Nearly two years later, GST collections are below estimates, GST compensation cess is insufficient to compensate the states as promised, and refund has become a major bone of contention between the government and business. It would not be in national interest to roll back GST, it would also not be in national interest to persist with the current design and rates. So, what is in the country's interest?

## ARTICLE 370 & NRC-CAA

■ Using Article 370 to get rid of Art 370 was in national interest, argued the government. Fracturing the state of Jammu & Kashmir into two Union territories was in national interest. Putting the Valley in a lockdown since August 5, 2019, was in supreme national interest. Detaining three former chief ministers without charges for six months and then invoking the Public Safety Act to detain them, without charges, for a further period up to two years was of paramount national interest. Stalling the hearing of the *habeas corpus*

petitions for over seven months was in national interest. The list is long but no one in Kashmir seems to agree.

■ Constructing a National Register of Citizens for Assam was in national interest, the government claimed. Identifying 19,06,657 persons as foreigners or illegal migrants was in national interest. Calling them 'termites' and vowing to throw them out by 2024 was to advance national interest. Finding that over 12 lakh among the so-called foreigners were Hindus and striking upon the diabolical idea of amending the Citizenship Act, 1955, was a 'solution' devised in national interest. Drafting and passing a law in 72 hours that will allow non-Muslims to remain while Muslims would have to leave (or be thrown out) was in the highest national interest. These national interest decisions have thrown the whole country into unprecedented turmoil.

■ Rejecting Ms Jabeeda Begum's claim based on 15 documents to be a citizen of India was to protect national interest.

## SEDITION & BUDGET

■ Slapping sedition charges on those who spoke against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act was in national interest. Using *lathis* and water canons and firing bullets on peaceful protesters (23 persons were killed in Uttar Pradesh alone) were in national interest. Detaining a teacher and a parent for enacting a play that obliquely criticised CAA was in national interest.

■ Goading the gathering at election rallies to shout back *goli maaro* and calling a serving chief minister a 'terrorist' were in national interest. Describing the contest between the BJP and AAP as a fight between India and Pakistan was to protect national interest.

■ Reading out a 160-minute Budget speech (albeit leaving it incomplete) was in national interest. Handing out an estimated Rs 1,45,000 crore to a few hundred corporates in the form of a reduction in the corporate tax rate was in national interest. Cutting the expenditure (revised estimates) on agriculture, food security, mid-day meal scheme, skill development, Ayushman Yojana (healthcare scheme), etc was in national interest. Suppressing the NSSO surveys that reported rising unemployment (6.1 per cent in 2017-18) and falling consumption (by 3.7 per cent in 2017-18) was to safeguard national interest. Chanting slogans is to create awareness of national interests.

■ Allowing Mr Nirav Modi, Mr Mehul Choksi, Mr Vijay Mallya, Mr Jatin Mehta, the Sandesara brothers and others to quietly slip out of the country was in national interest. Not pressing the UK government to deport Mr Lalit Modi is also in national interest.

The national interest list is unending. With the government working overtime to take so many decisions in national interest, it is only a matter of time before India's GDP will swell to USD 5 trillion and India will become the foremost power in the world.

Fifth COLUMN  
TAVLEEN SINGH  
Twitter @tavleen\_singh

# Dissent is not sedition

AT A time when dissent is being equated with sedition by too many of our political leaders it was wonderful to hear Justice Dhananjaya Chandrachud on the subject last week. While delivering the 15th Justice P D Desai Memorial Lecture at the Gujarat High Court, he described dissent as the 'safety valve' of democracy. Then in an article that appeared in *The Times of India*, he had this to say. "The silencing of dissent and the generation of fear in the minds of people go beyond the violation of personal liberty and a commitment to constitutional values — it strikes at the heart of a dialogue-based democratic society which accords to every individual equal respect and consideration."

The Supreme Court judge's words come as a warning. They are particularly important today when those who took to the streets in Uttar Pradesh to express their dissent against what they consider a bad law have been subjected to huge fines and the confiscation of their property. How better to crush dissent than to cause economic harm to people who are being identified by facial recognition in crowds of protesters? How better to crush dissent than to start arresting actresses and poets for being seen at protests?

Students protesting on campuses have been charged with sedition and the ladies of Shaheen Bagh have been treated as traitors. With the campaign for Delhi now ended, there should be no reason for this to happen, but on a daily basis we see BJP spokesmen on television charging them with working at the behest of Pakistan. This kind of talk seems to have the blessings of powerful leaders. These leaders appear to believe that democracy is limited to winning elections.

Having said this, I believe it is important to remember that the infrastructure for this kind of repression has existed since India became a modern nation. The reason why it is important to keep this in mind is because there are too many retired officials and former ministers who have been making smug pronouncements that they have no right to be making. If in those long decades of supposedly liberal Congress rule repressive laws imposed on us by our colonial masters had been thrown into the trash can of bad laws, we would perhaps not found ourselves in the situation we are in today.

It is not a good situation. Journalists who dare to disagree with a government policy find themselves targeted. And, this has resulted in some private TV channels sounding more loyal to the king than Doordarshan used to. One of the first rules of journalism is that the relationship between the media and government is fundamentally adversarial, but it is a rule that too many of my compatriots appear to have forgotten. Some of them have started to sound like government spokesmen and this is truly scary.

Businessmen are afraid to speak because they risk being raided if they dissent with the government's policies. Once more it is important to remember that the machinery to destroy businesses through raids and regulations was created under 'liberal' Congress prime ministers. It should have been dismantled when the licence raj was dismantled but somehow never was. Since Narendra Modi likes to repeat that he wants to create an economic atmosphere in which there is 'ease of doing business', he needs to ask himself why he has taken no steps to end the raids and regulations that strangle private enterprise. If totalitarian communist China can dismantle these things, why not democratic India?

Why does the Indian State still have in place the tools to crush dissent both in the arena of politics and business? These are questions that we have almost stopped asking in the past few months because of the growing atmosphere of illiberalism. And, because of a nasty kind of 'nationalism' that seeks to make everyone speak in one voice.

Once more the words of Justice Chandrachud come to mind. He says, 'Homogeneity is not the defining feature of Indianness. Our differences are not our weakness. Our ability to transcend these differences in recognition of our shared humanity is the source of our strength. Pluralism should thrive not only because it inheres in the vision of the Constitution, but also because of its inherent value in nation building.'

In recent months there have been too many attempts to impose homogeneity on a country that has never had it. These have usually taken the form of testing people's patriotism by asking them to say 'Bharat Mata ki jai'. And, testing people's religious loyalties by ordering them to say 'Jai Shri Ram' or risk being called a traitor or getting beaten to death.

If there has been dissidence against the amendment to the citizenship law, it is because of this kind of ugly nationalism. Those who have taken to the streets have been mostly Muslims because they know that this aggressive nationalism is directed mostly towards them. They know that Hindu will not be asked to prove their Indianness. Only they will.

So thank you Justice Chandrachud for speaking up for dissent and for reminding us that India has always been a liberal democracy and hopefully will always be. Dissent is truly the 'safety valve' of democratic countries.

# Inherent untouchability in planning for SC/STs

## Dalitness

PAUL DIVAKARN, BEENA PALLICAL, ADIKANDA SINGH

AS INDIA supposedly transitions to a fast-growing economy, the numbers show growth has nearly come to a standstill. Despite this, India added 17 new billionaires last year. Indian billionaires' wealth increased by Rs 4,89,100 crore to over Rs 20,67,600 crore as per the inequality report of Oxfam — almost equivalent to the Union Budget in 2017-18.

It is in this context that the Budget 2020-21 again failed to utilise a window of opportunity to bridge inequality through the legacy of targeted provisions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These were known as Special Component Plan for SCs and Tribal Sub Plan (SCP and TSP). Under the two schemes, the Union government was to allocate funds in schemes towards the welfare of SCs/STs proportional to their population.

With such focused guidelines, *what went wrong?* Is it due to gaps in policy or lack of policy concerns where SC, STs are concerned? Or is it bias among officials? Or is there no leverage built into the policy enabling the right to plan and right to access budgets for SCs/STs?

The effective implementation of this policy has four major barriers — quantum of allocation as per NITI Aayog's own policy, 'notional allocation' instead of real allocation, absence of people's participation in design, planning and implementation, and the absence of accountability.

While due allocation for SCs in this year's budget should be Rs 1,39,172 crore as per NITI Aayog guidelines, the allocation was Rs 83,257 crore, or 60%. This trend has been on for several years.

Even within the allocation, only Rs 16,174 crore has the potential of reaching the community. These are targeted schemes with clear benefits for SCs/STs. The rest are general or obsolete schemes with no welfare component for them.

How can one justify for example 'Compensation to Service Providers' for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure for which Rs 644 crore has been allocated this year? This is termed as *notional allocation*. In 2018-19, a four-lane road from Raipur to Visakhapatnam was billed under the Tribal Sub Plan.

There is not only no participation of SCs/STs in the design of the schemes but

no planning either. It is a *post-facto* accounting exercise!

The other hurdle is treating these schemes as a showcase for amounts under SC/ST budgets, though these are in fact existing general schemes. A massive Rs 12,597.48 crore was allocated for PM-Kisan for SCs. This has not been designed keeping the needs of SCs in perspective.

Another covert exclusion is through starving important schemes designed for SC, STs, with negligible allocation. Only Rs 8 crore was allocated for tribal students' scholarships for college, Rs 40 crore for the National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Corporation.

Yet another major hurdle is the gross negligence of Dalit and Adivasi women's development, which is critical to empowerment of the community. Women from these communities are particularly vulnerable to discrimination and violence. The 2018 NCRB data reveals that a minimum of eight cases of rape against SC women and three cases against ST women are reported every day, showing an increase from last year. Despite this, there is only a marginal allocation of Rs 46 crore towards providing them access to justice. Only one scheme pertains to the same, 'Strengthening of Machinery for Enforcement of PCR Act, 1955 and PoA Act, 1989', that too primarily on sensitisation programmes and not equitable redress mechanisms.

The 2020-21 Budget allocates 0.8% (Rs 7,986.34 crore) for Dalit women and 0.34% (Rs 3,174.91 crore) for tribal women from the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes.

There is an urgent need for communities to reclaim the rights to planning for their resources. Exclusion of the right to plan is part of 'untouchability'. The government as well as the authorities concerned need to enable this right to planning to the communities.

Provisions need to be made to build in social audit and accountability. There should be transparency in allocation, fund flow, and in details of names of those accessing the schemes. There should be participation of the community at all levels.

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Suraj Yengde, the author of Caste Matters, curates the fortnightly 'Dalitness' column

## Life & WORK

WILLIAM ASQUITH

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WITH SPECULATION THAT the coronavirus outbreak may have travelled to humans from exotic animals, worldwide efforts to conserve wildlife from poaching and illegal trafficking have got a boost. Over the years, India has dedicated much efforts to securing its national parks and sanctuaries from human encroachment and poaching. While I was working in Rajasthan, the state opened a new sanctuary, Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve, and successfully translocated a tiger to its core area of 417 sq km. The aim now is to create a safe and accessible corridor network that connects the greater Ranthambore National Park to this tiger sanctuary.

Although hugely important, it is easy to focus too much on creating safe corridors on a macro-scale by designating large tracts of land solely for wildlife passage and habitation. With increasing human population and targeted increase of all wildlife, it is becoming more and more difficult to find the required land to do both of these. Most of the land earmarked for protecting wild animals will be under severe competition from humans, who would want to use it for own economic benefit.

A plausible and effective answer to this comes from a unique area in Rajasthan. For two years, I was a ranger at SUJAN, one of the most successful safari camps based in a little-known area called Jawai. There was a resident population of farmers and shepherds living in small villages surrounded by large granite outcrops. Nominally, this area fell within the Aravalli mountain range, but in reality the rock composition and location made it distinct.

Within these towering granite outcrops, there was a high population of Indian leopards who also regarded Jawai their home. It must also be said that the relationship between the villagers and their spotted neighbours was totally harmonious. Those who worked at SUJAN had a priority: to re-wild the area in whatever way they could. They understood that small steps can make a huge difference in the long run.

They set up a camp at the end of 2013 and from then to now, have worked wonders in transforming the land into a natural habitat for wildlife. These small plots had previously been over-tilled and bore little yield. But nature has a tendency to correct itself. Once left alone, this land returned to its original state: meadows of thick grass sprouting where you would have once seen fields tangled with wheat or lentils or castor, *dhok* trees (*Anogeissus*

# Bit by bit, reclaiming a forest for its wildlife



Aim is to create a corridor between Mukundara reserve, Ranthambhore (above)

*pendula*) growing where there would have once been a fence post, or even a yellow *Senna auriculata* flower growing where mustard used to be.

There were times we had to get our hands dirty to rectify past human interference. There were areas we ourselves had to sow grass seeds. Most important, however, was combating the invasive plant species: *Prosopis juliflora* or mesquite. Large areas of Rajasthan and even in and around Delhi have been overrun by the thorny intruder. There are many reasons why they are so damaging to the environment, including the fact that they are one of the most drought-hardened trees and grow very quickly, pushing out the slower-growing native species such as *Acacia nilotica* or babul, and that they deplete the water table faster than endemic flora.

Delhi has made massive efforts to reduce these trees originating from Mexico by using known vines that suffocate them. We acted mostly just before and after the monsoon, going out and removing as many of the alien trees as we could. We would then use the debris for brush packing. Brush packing is a very simple way to regenerate the small flora growing on the ground by layering the cut branches or sometimes trunks over the bare ground. This action creates almost a small ecosystem for grasses and seedlings to grow by protecting the space from further deterioration from soil erosion. Local villagers too know that these trees are foreign and serve no purpose as regards their own livelihood: their goats don't eat their leaves and prefer depleting babul trees, or farmers find small sprouts of mesquite growing in their fields stealing the

ground's nutrients from their crops. They then chop down these trees and use the larger logs for firewood and the thorny spindles for fencing their land boundary.

In the two years I was there, the results were striking. With all our efforts, those small actions rejuvenated the ecosystem. The water table gradually lifted and natural watering holes appeared after the monsoon stayed around for longer. As for the trees, there were more acacias to be seen, which prompted a more diverse bird life to nest in their branches. For instance, the blue-cheeked bee-eater became a regular sight, having been sighted there for the first time in my last year. More and more scrub hares were seen in the area, prospering from a ground more concealed from vegetation. Nilgais were seen more often.

With a more diverse and balanced ecosystem, the Jawai leopards had more wild prey to hunt, and thus we saw a decline of livestock predation. The areas SUJAN re-wilded were specific areas that became corridors for leopards to move undetected from one granite hill to another. Eventually what we saw was what we call transient leopards, ones that did not take up residence in the area but used Jawai as a passage from one area to another.

A majority of the land in Jawai is still farmland; however, the small unproductive areas that SUJAN leased, seemingly fragmented from one another, with small efforts aimed at returning them to their natural state, eventually created a network of small corridors, that in turn became a regenerated ecosystem with a stronger biodiversity.

The writer is a wildlife consultant

## Out of MY MIND

MEGHNA DESAI



MOHAN BHAGWATJI is unusual in the long tradition of RSS *sarsanghchalaks* in as much as he raises issues which need widespread discussion. Given the fragility and complexity of Indian politics, this is not always a safe thing to do. When over four years ago, he raised the question whether reservations by *jati* status were divisive, he faced a storm of criticism as *jati* vote banks are the battle grounds of political parties in elections. The BJP had to quickly disown his remarks as Bihar elections were round the corner.

Once again, he has raised an interesting issue — the meaning of nationalism.

# Don't need a single story of nationhood

He expressed the fear that nationalism is equated with Nazism, especially in Western countries. Obviously this is so because Nazism is just a shortened word for National Socialism. There was a Socialist Workers Party in Germany which was founded in the 1870s. Hitler took the same name for his party but added the word National, thus giving birth to the notion of National Socialism. Nationalism is no more Nazism than Socialism is.

Bhagwatji says that he was warned against using the word nationalism while in the UK, as this was an unwelcome word for the locals. The fact is that the United Kingdom is a Kingdom, not a nation. Over the last 50 years there has been

a rise of Scottish Nationalism and Welsh Nationalism, which have secured devolution of power. But the English have a peculiar aversion to nationalism. The main allegiance is to the Monarchy, which is the fulcrum of the Constitution. The UK is after all the oldest continuous kingdom in Europe, going back to 1066. The main parties do not endorse English nationalism. English nationalism is an extreme right-wing movement which is nostalgic about the lost Empire, is White Supremacist and opposed to all non-white immigrants.

The UK has never needed to be a nation. But after 1857, the imperial historians developed an argument that India was not a nation, but just a collection of

racess and regions and linguistic groups. The English Clergy had argued that Hinduism was not a proper religion as it had no single Book or God. Hindu Renaissance led by Dayanand Saraswati, Swami Vivekananda gave priority to defining what it meant to be a Hindu. Stories or histories of Indian nationhood were created by political movements.

The Indian National Congress in its early Loyalist phase had a syncretic story. India was a nation because by securing its boundaries and giving an administrative unity, plus English language, it was the British who had created a nation where there was none before they came. The Bengal Partition gave a fillip to Hindu nationalism as

Anushilan Samiti was a religious nationalist movement, as was Abhinav Bharat in Maharashtra. Gandhiji used religion but in an ecumenical fashion. The Khilafat cause sought to combine Hindus and Muslims against the British suspected of planning to abolish the Khalif's position. Gandhiji's suspension of the movement after Chauri Chaura led to a major Hindu-Muslim split.

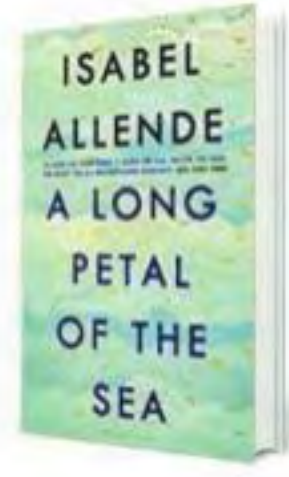
India is a civilisation. It does not need a single story of its Nationhood. India is large enough to accommodate many stories of Nationhood. Indeed each linguistic region has its own story of Nationhood. That is its strength. The task is to weave these multiple regional stories into a rich garland that is India.



## 14 BOOKS

## ‘As an eternal foreigner, I don’t take anything for granted’

Peru-born Chilean writer Isabel Allende, 77, who describes herself as a ‘novelist, feminist, and philanthropist’ on carrying her family name with pride, immersing herself in poetry before a new work and her latest novel



A LONG PETAL OF THE SEA  
ISABEL ALLENDE  
Bloomsbury  
336 pages  
₹ 550

SEEMA CHISHTI

**Your latest book, *A Long Petal of the Sea* (Bloomsbury) has strong elements of both journalism and fiction. How much of a journalist or fiction writer do you feel you are today?**

I am a fiction writer but in my work, I use the skills I learned as a journalist. Like conducting an interview, researching, editing, etc. As a journalist, I had to grab raw readers by the neck and keep them interested to the end. I don’t forget that when I write novels. I want my readers to stay with me and be engaged with my story. Also, I think that I have a journalist’s curiosity about the world, so my books are based on meticulous research. Although I have been labelled a writer of magic realism, I try to portray reality in all its complexity.

**Contrary to the idea that magic realism is a Latin American genre, you have always maintained that elements of it are found in literature from all over the world. Does it still remain a special device that can be made effective in today’s times? Or do we need more realism now and less magic?**

Artists and writers accept that the world is a mysterious place, we don’t have explanations for everything, we control very little. Our job is to dwell on the unknown and try to interpret it. That always has a place in the world, not only in Latin America, not only in the past. I recently read a novel by Ta-Nehisi Coates, *The Water Dance* (2019). It is about the brutal reality of slavery but it is also a magic story.

**Two of your finest works include your debut novel — *The House of the Spirits* (1982) and your non-fiction tribute to your daughter, *Paula* (1994). In the first, you wrote letters to your deceased grandfather, and, in the other, you dwell on the loss of your daughter. How difficult was it to write these deeply personal books?**

I wrote my first book, *The House of the Spirits*, with ease, quickly, without planning it or even realising that it was a novel. I thought it was a chronicle or a memoir. I had never read a book review or taken a writing class. I had no idea that the book industry was almost a minefield. I’ll never have that confidence and innocence again. Writing *Paula*, the memoir about my daughter, was painful but necessary because it helped me to understand what had happened during that terrible year of her illness and accept that her only way out from the prison of her inert body was death.

**You tried to write a book jointly with your ex-husband, a writer of crime fiction. Then in another book, you worked closely with your partner to get into a man’s head. How hard or easy is it to involve**



Lori Barra

**intimate partners in your work?**

My agent had the idea that I could write a crime novel with my husband. That didn’t work at all. I learned that I can’t write with another person. Writing for me is a very intimate and private endeavour, I don’t even talk about the story or share the manuscript until it’s finished.

**You are related to Salvador Allende (president of Chile, 1970-73). Considering all that has happened in Chile since 1973, how hard has it been to be Allende’s niece?**

It has not been hard at all. I carry my surname with pride. Maybe during the military coup in Chile in 1973, it was liability, but it never crossed my mind to change it or to use my husband’s name.

**Should writers be political? And frankly in today’s times all over the world, do they even have a choice?**

I cannot speak for other writers. In my

novels, there are unavoidable political and social issues because my stories are placed in a certain reality; they are not floating in a void untouched by the events of the world. The last thing in my mind is to deliver a message or preach. That’s not the role of fiction. However, the person I am, my ideas and feelings are clearly expressed between the lines and in the themes I choose to write about. For example, my last three novels deal with migrants, refugees, and displaced people looking for a safe haven. That’s political.

**Speaking to a journalist in France in 1985, Milan Kundera said that writers living away from home should not just become ‘migrants’ focussed on the aspect of ‘displacement’ in their lives. Does the idea of finding ‘home’ or being in exile cast a burden on the lives of writers?**

It depends on the writer and the circumstances. There is no rule for how one should feel about displacement. In my case, getting

away from my country has been very important. Exile made me a writer. My first novel was an exercise in nostalgia. I wanted to recover the world and the people I had lost. As an immigrant and an eternal foreigner, I don’t take anything for granted, I observe carefully, I listen and I ask questions. That’s how I get my stories.

**You write in Spanish, but you now live in a predominantly English-speaking country (the United States). How does that impact your work?**

Living in the US makes my work more difficult. On my desk, you will find several dictionaries and grammar books. Before starting a new book — always on January 8 — I spend a week reading poetry in Spanish. That brings back the rhythm, the flavour and the richness of my language. When I send my manuscript to my agent in Spain, it is checked by someone who makes sure that I am not using sentences translated from English.

## CHAPTER 1, LINE 1

“Once upon a time, in a far-off land, I was kidnapped by a gang of fearless yet terrified young men with so much impossible hope beating inside their bodies it burned their very skin and strengthened their will right through their bones.” — *An Untamed State* (2014), Roxane Gay

## Dark Places

Sri Lankan writer Shehan Karunatilaka returns with a crackling whodunit a decade after his debut



ROSHAN ALI

THE BRUTAL cynicism that permeates every moment of Shehan Karunatilaka’s second novel, *Chats with the Dead*, could have easily been paralytically depressing in the hands of a lesser writer. But such is his skill — and wit — that terrible truths and cruel ironies are handled with an enviable effortlessness, that gives the book a surprising and charming buoyancy. A line like this — “Follow any turd upstream and it leads to a member of Parliament” could have been terrifying on account of its truth, instead it is funny.

Malinda Alberta Kabalana — “photographer, gambler, slut” — is the main figure in this book. Currently, he is dead and caught in the afterworld, where, upset and confused dead people are made to stand in queues and fill out paperwork before being ushered off for further processing. The banality and government office feel of this place is a pitch-perfect subversion of the conventional, religious idea of going to a better place after death. This is one of many fittingly harsh comments made on religion’s false promises in this book. One particularly wonderful section titled ‘Chats with the Dead Atheist’ makes this seldom acknowledged but inescapable point: “We are a flicker of light between two long sleeps.” In this “flicker” of life, Malinda was a war photographer. But now he has to solve his own murder, because he can’t remember how he died.

The idea of a dead person solving his or her own murder is not new in fiction but the logic of this afterworld is unique: A ghost (or spirit) can only travel to places where his name is being or has been spoken; and when not actively trying to appear in such places, a ghost is at the mercy of winds (leading to some delightful “bus surfing” scenes). This is an elegant and brilliant solution to the eternal problem with the logic of ghosts: why are they where they are and where can they go? What kind of agency do they have? Using this supernatural ability to travel, Karunatilaka solves another eternal problem in fiction: how to make a character navigate time and space. The genius of this travel arrangement is that Malinda races from relevant scene to relevant scene and thus completely eliminates the need for filler narration such as: “X opened the door and entered the room,” or “he walked down the dusty road”. This is also a new way of experiencing an omniscient narrator.

This narrative technique has the effect of supercharging the story. There is hardly any breathing space and this, strangely, left me slightly unmoved. This could have been a profound book, but its pace makes that impossible. Some lines were so good that I felt sad they weren’t deemed worthy of

deeper exploration and are instead raced over in the breathless pace of the plot.

The strength of this novel lies in its social realism. The background to this spiritual murder mystery is the Sri Lankan situation of 1989: The government is in an all-out war against the LTTE. A brutal and cruel Indian Peacekeeping Force lurks in the north and although present at the behest of the government, have become so bad that even the government wants them out. The JVP, a student-led, armed Communist rebellion is attempting to take power for the second time. All sides view human rights as some kind of joke or fantasy and the UN is useless as ever. Questionable NGOs, shady individuals, foreign spies and corrupt policemen play their own little games. The nexus between government, goons and the police, that is so common in the developing world, has seldom been explored in a funnier or more terrifying way.

In the middle of this grand theatre of cruelty and massacres are Malinda’s fake girlfriend Jaki, real boyfriend DD and his pitiless mother, who are trying to find their “disappeared” loved one, illustrating among other things, the fate of civil war-torn Sri Lankan families, and the ever present question of the meaning of life — a question that becomes all the more pressing in death.

Malinda’s sexuality and his relationship with Jaki as his friend and DD as his lover make for the most touching parts of the book (apart from one specific war scene which is so sad that I wish I could tell you what it is so you can skip it and avoid crying for hours). It also explores the question of what it was like to be a closeted gay man in 1989 Sri Lanka and also what it is like to be, in his

own words, a “slut”.

The terrific pace of the plot and the energetic flow of Karunatilaka’s language is upset at times by the occasional clunky or clichéd phrase or clichéd image. I was particularly disappointed by the image of the Mahakali, who after a tense build-up, ends up looking like any other black, bloody, flesh-wearing beast from any number of lesser fictions. But these complaints are minor. Karunatilaka’s brutally effective mix of sharp observation and sharp humour doesn’t spare anyone. Moments of deliciously funny social commentary like this — “At least Muslims don’t kill Muslims,” says Cassim and the other two stare at him. “In Sri Lanka, I mean,” he clarifies” — are commonplace.

It is clear that Karunatilaka is a fearless writer, perhaps the most important quality in a writer. It also helps that he is astonishingly funny. Together, these qualities make *Chats with the Dead* a fascinating read.

Roshan Ali is the author of *Ib’s Endless Search for Satisfaction*



CHATS WITH THE DEAD  
SHEHAN KARUNATILAKA  
Penguin Hamish Hamilton  
400 pages  
₹ 599

## In Our Mad and Furious City

Gautam Bhatia’s new book takes a layered and nuanced look at the palimpsest that we perceive Delhi to be

ALKA PANDE

GAUTAM BHATIA’S *Delirious City* is a must-read book for all who have a connect with the vibrant, culturally and historically complex city of New Delhi. Eminent artist and muralist Anjolie Ela Menon sums it up beautifully: “*Delirious City* is an extraordinary opus that establishes a new literary and artistic genre altogether. It encapsulates the diverse attributes of its author, the multifaceted Gautam Bhatia, who is the prolific proponent of many disciplines. He is at once a brilliant wordsmith, architect, sculptor, cartoonist, painter but above all an insightful critic of our times and particularly of the burgeoning urban matrix that is modern India.”

Replete with historical facts, the book is witty, sarcastic, tongue-in-cheek and generally humorous. Bhatia portrays the essence of the city with simple anecdotes, architectural drawings and descriptions of daily observations, bringing to the reader’s attention instances that often remain unnoticed. “Delhi’s



India Gate in other worlds Photo courtesy: Niyogi Books

mean streets are stalked by two disparate groups — an agrarian underclass that moves between sewer pipes and the low huddle of slums and flyovers, and an instant aristocracy that rides in BMWs and Jaguars between malls and tennis clubs, perpetually stuck in

traffic between cows and camel carts. The rush to eradicate history thrives in the breasts of both,” he writes.

The author accords a voice to the hustle and bustle of daily life in the city, as well as to distinctive personalities that reside in it,

such as politicians, bureaucrats, labourers, builders, the rich and the poor. In doing so, he combines the narratives of tragedy, urban despair and personal desire to present the reality of this city and its people. He begins with a comment on urban life through an unusual description of New Delhi — “Delhi. Old and dying, yet reborn everyday in a new skin. An old, wrinkled woman painting her nails. This great city I call home belongs neither to history nor to imagination. It is described instead by dimensions. One day a small town, then a suburb, eventually a megacity.” He then oscillates between past, present and future, to uncover and make sense of the multifaceted capital city, all the while provoking the reader with his savage sense of humour.

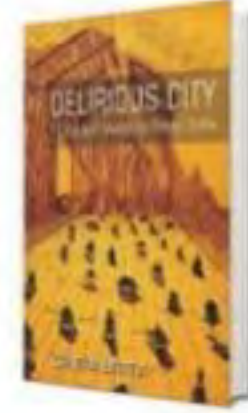
Bhatia is the author of an architectural trilogy — *Punjabi Baroque* (1994), *Silent Spaces* (1994) and *Malaria Dreams* (1996) — that conveys the many social, cultural and anthropological aspects of architecture, with a focus on India’s architectural legacy. The format of this book is different, too. It is not confined within structures or genres. It is neither a coffee table nor non-fiction. Part memory, part art history, part visual culture, the book truly defies definition. What it reflects is the character of the city. Seen through a contemporary lens, it is rather “delirious” itself.

The table of contents lay out the tone and

texture of the book which is rhizomic/lateral/horizontal rather than linear. For instance, the chapter heads, such as ‘People, People, People’, ‘Consumptive Life’, ‘Us and Them’, ‘By Invitation Only’, ‘Ghetto, Nothing Goes Nowhere’, ‘A Welcoming Brothel’, ‘Hopeless Optimism’, and so on, offer a more experiential understanding of the book and of the city — more in the nature of the architect’s manifesto of the 1920s. Bhatia elaborates his take on this particular book in the opening lines of his preface, gently guiding the reader to unpack his personal manifesto of the city of Delhi.

He links the story of architecture to the sequencing and frame-by-frame approach of filmmaking. Thus, his *mise en scene* is quite unusual, too. His book is not a simple reading of the city. It is deeply layered and nuanced, like the palimpsest that we perceive the city of Delhi to be.

Delhi has been the muse of writers and photographers alike. A number of books have been written about the capital city — Khushwant Singh’s *Delhi* (1990), William



DELIRIOUS CITY: POLITY AND VANITY IN URBAN INDIA  
GAUTAM BHATIA  
Niyogi Books  
312 pages  
₹ 995

Dalrymple’s fictionalised accounts of Delhi in *City of Djinns* (1993), JP Losty’s *Delhi: Red Fort to Raisina* (2012), which features essays by Salman Khurshid, Ratish Nanda and Malvika Singh celebrating the history of the city, and Malvika Singh’s light and breezy *Perpetual City*. With the several drawings, cartoons, paintings as well as handwritten notes which have gone into the art of book-making, *Delirious City* does stand apart.

However, at first glance, the book appears to be content-heavy, perhaps because of the condensed font and design. The busy design detracts from the author’s thoughtful, witty, dry sarcasm. An example is on pages 192-193, where three different kinds of fonts nestle with each other, in different sizes and structures. Not an easy mode for communicating with the reader. Detailed attention should have also been paid to the photographic reproductions in the book, which could benefit from editing and colour correction.

Alka Pande is an art historian and curator



# 15 THE WORLD

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Jeff Bezos

### USA

#### Amazon urged to stop selling Nazi propaganda

**New York:** Two organisations that educate the public about the Holocaust are calling on Amazon to stop selling Nazi propaganda, rekindling a debate over what should be sold through the world's biggest digital marketplace. On Friday afternoon, Amazon did not appear ready to commit to a course of action. "We believe that providing access to written speech is important, including books that some may find objectionable, though we take concerns from the Holocaust Educational Trust seriously and are listening to its feedback," a representative told *NYT*.

### SOUTH SUDAN

#### Rebel leader sworn in as vice president

**Juba:** South Sudan rebel leader Riek Machar was sworn in as first vice president on Saturday, formally rejoining the government in the latest bid to bring peace to a nation ravaged by six years of war. "I do hereby swear that I shall be faithful and bear diligence to the Republic of South Sudan," Machar said in his oath in front of a room packed with diplomats, the leader of Sudan, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and other regional representatives. Machar embraced and shook hands with his bitter rival President Salva Kiir.

### USA

#### Weinstein trial jury 'split' on 2 serious charges

**New York:** Jurors in Harvey Weinstein's rape trial sent a note to the judge suggesting that they were deadlocked on the most serious charges in the indictment, but also that they might have reached a verdict on three other counts. In their note, on the fourth day of deliberations, the jurors asked if they were allowed to return a unanimous verdict on the three lesser charges on their verdict sheet, which include rape and criminal sexual act, but remain split on the two charges of predatory sexual assault.

## CHINA FLAGS DIP IN NO. OF NEW INFECTIONS

# Concerns over spread of virus amid new cases in Iran, S Korea

AGENCIES  
BEIJING, FEBRUARY 22

CHINA REPORTED a sharp decrease in new deaths and cases of the coronavirus on Saturday but a doubling of infections in South Korea and 10 new cases in Iran added to unease about its rapid spread and global reach.

Meanwhile, a second person in Italy has died from complications from the new coronavirus, Italian news agency ANSA said on Saturday. The death of a woman in the northern region of Lombardy follows that of a 78-year-old man who died on Friday. The new wave of cases in Italy's northern regions have triggered shut-downs of shops, offices and community centres.

The death toll in China climbed to 2,345 with 109 more deaths reported, while the confirmed cases rose to 76,288 as a team of WHO experts, currently in the country to investigate the covid-19 outbreak, is expected to visit the worst-affected Wuhan city on Saturday, Chinese health officials said.

Mainland China had 397 new confirmed cases of coronavirus infections on Friday, down from 889 a day earlier, but only 31 cases were outside of the virus epicentre of Hubei province, the lowest number since the National Health Commission started compiling nationwide



Near a hospital at Chuncheon, South Korea, Saturday. Reuters

data a month ago.

But infection numbers continued to rise elsewhere, with outbreaks worsening in South Korea, Italy and Lebanon and Iran, prompting a warning from the WHO that the window of opportunity to contain the international spread was closing.

South Korea saw another spike in infections, with 229 new confirmed cases, taking its tally to 433. Officials warned that could rise substantially as more than 1,000 people who attended a church at the centre of the outbreak had shown flu-like symptoms.

Iran, which had no reported cases earlier this week, saw 10 new cases, one of which had died, taking the number to 28 infections and five deaths.

Two more people in the UAE

have tested positive for the deadly coronavirus, taking the total number of such cases to 11, health authorities said on Saturday.

The two male patients include a 34-year-old from Philippines and a 39-year-old from Bangladesh, who got infected as they were in direct contact with the Chinese patients recently diagnosed with coronavirus, the UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP) said in a statement.

Japan confirmed 14 new coronavirus cases on Saturday, among those a teacher who had shown symptoms while working at her school. It is facing growing questions about whether it is doing enough to contain its spread, and concern about whether it could scupper the Tokyo Olympics.

## EXPLAINED Outside China, no. of cases small, but causality a worry

EVEN AS the WHO welcomed a reported drop in new cases in China with cautious optimism, the growth of the virus abroad has worried experts, particularly when it comes to causality.

Though the number of cases outside China is relatively small, it is growing at a rapid pace, with an increasing list of countries reporting first cases of infection. Of these cases, the ones that are raising the most flags, as per the WHO chief, are those in which the epidemiological link is not clear. As per reports, this includes cases wherein patients have no travel history to China and no contact with a confirmed case. These unknown factors could potentially complicate efforts to combat the virus.

## PREPAREDNESS IN AFRICA: WHO SOUNDS ALARM, POINTS TO ILL-EQUIPPED SYSTEMS

**Addis Ababa:** The World Health Organisation warned Saturday that African health systems would be ill-equipped to respond to the deadly coronavirus outbreak should cases start to proliferate on the continent.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called on African Union member states "to come together to be more aggressive in attacking" the virus, known as covid-19.

"Our biggest concern continues to be the potential for covid-19 to spread in countries

with weaker health systems," Tedros, speaking by video link from Geneva, said during a meeting of African health ministers at AU headquarters.

The WHO has shipped more than 30,000 sets of personal protective equipment to several African countries, and is ready to ship almost 60,000 more sets to 19 countries, he said.

The WHO has also appointed two specialists as special envoys to help African countries prepare for the potential arrival of the virus. **AGENCIES**

## AHEAD OF US-TALIBAN PEACE DEAL

# On day 1, partial truce mostly holds across Afghanistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KABUL, FEBRUARY 22

A PARTIAL truce marking a potential turning point in Afghanistan's gruelling war appeared to be holding Saturday, with only isolated attacks threatening to mar a process that drew jubilant civilians across the shattered country onto streets to celebrate.

The Taliban, US and Afghan forces have all agreed to a so-called "reduction in violence", marking only the second lull in fighting since the US-led invasion of 2001.

"It is the first morning that I go out without the fear of being killed by a bomb or suicide bomber. I hope it continues forever," Kabul taxi driver Habib Ullah said, while in other parts of the country people danced in the streets after the truce kicked in.

However in Balkh province in the north, Taliban fighters attacked a district headquarters near the provincial capital of Mazar-i-Sharif, killing two Afghan soldiers, a local official told AFP. There were also reports of a separate incident in central Uruzgan province.

General Scott Miller, who leads US and NATO forces in Afghanistan, did not directly address those incidents, but stressed that Western forces would continually monitor the situation.



## UN REPORT ON CASUALTIES

**100,000** civilians killed in 10 yrs  
**IN 2019**  
**3,493** civilians killed  
**6,989** civilians injured  
**21%** increase in civilian casualties by Taliban  
**18%** rise in casualties blamed on Afghan forces, US allies

"We've stopped our offensive operations as part of our obligations," Miller told reporters.

In the event of any breaches of the truce, Miller said the US would communicate with the Taliban through various channels set up in Doha, where the insurgents have a political office. "As more days go on we will have a better understanding of what trends are," Miller said.

"Very clearly this is a conditional effort, this is a trial period."

## HE WARNS MOSCOW

# Russia said to be interfering to aid Bernie in primaries

JULIAN E BARNES & SYDNEY EMBER  
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 22

RUSSIA HAS been trying to intervene in the Democratic primaries to aid Senator Bernie Sanders, according to people familiar with the matter, and Sanders said on Friday that intelligence officials recently briefed him.

The disclosure came a day before the Nevada caucuses, where Sanders is a favourite, and followed revelations a day earlier that Moscow was interfering on President Trump's behalf this year, as it did in 2016.

Sanders denounced Russia in a statement, calling President Vladimir V Putin an "autocratic thug" and warning Moscow to stay out of the election. Drawing a contrast with Trump, he said he would stand against any efforts by Russia or another foreign power to interfere in the vote.

"The intelligence community is telling us they are interfering in this campaign right now in 2020," Sanders separately told reporters in Bakersfield, California, where he held a rally on Friday. "And what I say to Putin: 'If elected president, trust me, you are not going to be interfering in American elections.'"



**The intelligence community is telling us they are interfering in this campaign right now in 2020... And what I say to Putin: 'If elected president, trust me, you are not going to be interfering in American elections.'**

—BERNIE SANDERS

Sanders said he was briefed about a month ago. Asked why the disclosure came out now, he said: "I'll let you guess about one day before the Nevada caucus. Why do you think it came out?"

On Friday, the president aggressively disputed that Russia was interfering on his behalf. He called the disclosures a hoax and part of a partisan campaign against him. At a campaign rally in Las Vegas, Trump suggested that Putin would prefer Sanders, "who honeymooned in Moscow." **NYT**

## HARDLINERS TAKE EARLY LEAD IN IRAN POLLS



Poll workers empty full ballot boxes after the parliamentary election voting time ended in Tehran on Saturday. Reuters

■ Candidates affiliated with Iran's Revolutionary Guards looked on course to win a majority on Saturday, reportedly leading the race after a vote stacked in favour of anti-American hardliners

■ An Interior Ministry official said a list of candidates affiliated with the Guards led in the capital. Lists linked to hardliners captured 83 seats in towns and villages, as per a tally

■ A clean sweep for hardliners would confirm the political demise of the country's pragmatist politicians, weakened by a US decision to quit a 2015 nuclear deal and reimpose sanctions.

## Pak must crack down on terrorists: White House

LALIT K JHA  
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 22

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump is encouraging a reduction in tensions between India and Pakistan, the White House said on Friday, emphasising that any successful dialogue between the two neighbours would be possible only if Pakistan cracks down on terrorists and extremists on its territory.

"I think what you'll hear from the President is very much encouraging a reduction in tensions

between India and Pakistan, encouraging the two countries to engage in bilateral dialogue with each other to resolve their differences," a senior administration official said.

The White House official's comments came after the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) retained Pakistan for four more months on the 'Grey List' with a stern warning from the global anti-terror financing watchdog to complete the 27-point action plan it has been given by June 2020 or face being put on the 'Black List'. **PTI**

## 'WAR AGAINST TERRORISM TO BE CONSOLIDATED'

PAKISTAN ARMY chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa said the war against terror will be consolidated to achieve enduring peace in the country and region

THE REMARKS came on the third anniversary of Operation Radd ul Fasaad, a counter-terrorism operation launched under his leadership in Pakistan

AN ARMY spokesman said it consolidate gains of all past operations and 'indiscriminately eliminating residual and latent threat of terrorism...'

OPERATION RuF, involved the military carried out over 49,000 intelligence based operations to foil terror attacks and prevent militant attacks

## 70TH EDITION OF THE BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL — DAY 2

# Full of warmth and fun, 'Onward' is about coming to terms with grief, loss



EXPRESS IN BERLIN  
SHUBHRA GUPTA  
FEBRUARY 22

IN THE usual course, I would have plumped for Jeanette Nordahl's debut feature *Wildland*, which promises to be a dark Nordic drama about a matriarch who presides over a family of small-time hoods, and a young woman who may have unusual criminal tendencies of her own.

But it's an overcast rainy

morning, and I want to chase away the greys with something warm and fuzzy. So I head into Pixar's *Onward*, and am immediately enveloped by warm fuzziness. It's a fantasy featuring elves, unicorns, centaurs and more mythical creatures. All the primary colours and their combinations can be seen, all at once. Our hero is an awkward, gangly teen elf called Ian (voiced by Tom Holland) and his loud, overbearing big brother Barley (Chris Pratt) as well as their cuddly, caring mom (Julia Louis Dreyfus). The father is a photo on the wall. Ian misses his dad, and is to be found shying away from his brother's and mother's ministrations.



'Onward' actors Tom Holland (left) and Chris Pratt. AP

It's a film about growing up and finding yourself. What else, it's a Pixar film. Within minutes, I'm finding all the talking a little too much: all the characters keep

explaining everything, and that's the bane of all animated films. But soon, despite myself, I'm charmed. Ian and Jack set out On An Adventure, On A Path Of Peril,

to find a shiny object which will lead them to their father. For One Day Before The Sun Goes Down.

All those capital letters! All those blinding colours! All the cuteness! *Onward* cannot be more clear about where it wants to go and the place it nudges us towards: to let go of the past, make peace with ourselves and go on. Director Don Scanlon lost his father when he was very young, and the story is also about coming to terms with loss and grief, and that's where it locks into true feelings, making us moist-eyed.

Before this teary-eyed denouement, the film manages to be a lot of fun. The two brothers use spells as they go on their quest, leaving behind the free-

way: one of the most telling moments is how young Ian learns to merge into rushing traffic. That requires confidence and fearlessness: no magic wand will help.

Finally, Ian and Barley face down a monster, with help from their mom and a jovial mantico-re — a combination of a winged dragon and scorpion (Octavia Spencer). They get their moment with their dad, who has been just a pair of legs until then (the upper half is missing). That figure is one of the more unusual things about this movie. It starts off making one uncomfortable, and then we start looking at this incomplete person with affection. It's a smart way of telling us that no one is perfect. And that

imperfections matter.

*Onward* also manages to slip in some boys' stuff, the kind that family-oriented animations don't usually touch. How it's alright to say what you feel and to show those feelings. Yes, it's Okay For Boys To Cry. That is a moment which is truly moving, and makes up for ducking dark crime dramas.

But darkness is never far, especially at the Berlinale, and I make up for my sins with Natalia Meta's psychosexual Spanish drama, *The Intruder*. How does the mind deal with trauma? Ines, a dubbing artist who is also part of a choir, finds herself battling nightmares. A holiday with a domineering lover which ends

in a tragedy has led to sleepless nights. The microphone keeps picking up strange noises: where are they coming from? Who is inside her?

That the mind plays games, we have known. And that fevered minds beat their own drums is also something we know. Ines, wonderfully played by Erica Rivas, is on the verge of a breakdown, and we see her getting inexorably to the edge: who controls us? Are we really ever in control? And what is for real?

It leaves us with an even more provocative question: is a relationship which refuses to be equal and respectful the most long-lasting intruder in our lives?



# 16 ECONOMY

## 'NEED TO MOVE TOWARDS FAR MORE OPEN TRADE POLICIES'

# Stay away from pro-crony policies, RPTs need to be tracked most: CEA

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 22

CHIEF ECONOMIC Advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian on Saturday said "pro-crony policies are something that we have to stay away from" and "related party transactions need to be tracked the most" to increase the governance standards in the country.

"Pro-business policies are those that enable fair competition in the country. We have some distance to go in terms of enabling that fully," Subramanian said. "Pro-crony policies on the other hand just help incumbents and that is something that we have to stay away from in enabling the invisible hands of the market," he said while speaking at the alumni conference of IIT-Kanpur.

He said India is not fully out of policies that benefitted crony interests, and more work needs to be done on the shift to be fully pro-business. It will be the pro-business policies that will enable the hand of the "invisible hands of the market" and also take the country to achieve the US\$ 5 trillion GDP goal, he said.

Subramanian said investor re-

EXPLAINED

## Focus on improving transparency, better governance

SEVERAL FRAUDS like the one at mortgage lender DHFL and infrastructure firm IL&FS had recently created problems in the financial sector. A Sebi panel had recently proposed stringent measures to curb the misuse of related party transactions.

CEA Krishnamurthy Subramanian's comments put the focus on better governance of such transactions. He said if the governance standards in the country have to be improved, there has to be a greater focus on disclosing the related party transactions.

turns from "connected companies" — or crony companies — have been very low as compared to the broader indices. The problem with cronyism is that it is not a better business model and processes which drive the growth, he said, adding we should aim for "creative destruction" where the incumbents are challenged.

As per Subramanian, if the governance standards in the country have to be improved, there has to be a greater focus on disclosing the related party transactions. "In our country, related party transactions are what really need to be tracked

most... disclosures of related party transactions are far worse among willful defaulters when compared to non-defaulters or distressed defaulters," he said.

Several frauds like the one at DHFL and IL&FS had recently created problems in the financial sector. A Sebi panel recently proposed strict measures to curb the misuse of related party transactions.

"Scholarly work isn't something that was written in the last 100 years but dates back millennia," he said making a strong case for not depending only on recent work in economics to make our

choices and neglecting age-old texts like the Arthashastra.

The Arthashastra stresses on ethical ways of creating wealth, he said, adding that "we need to focus on creating trust in the markets as well."

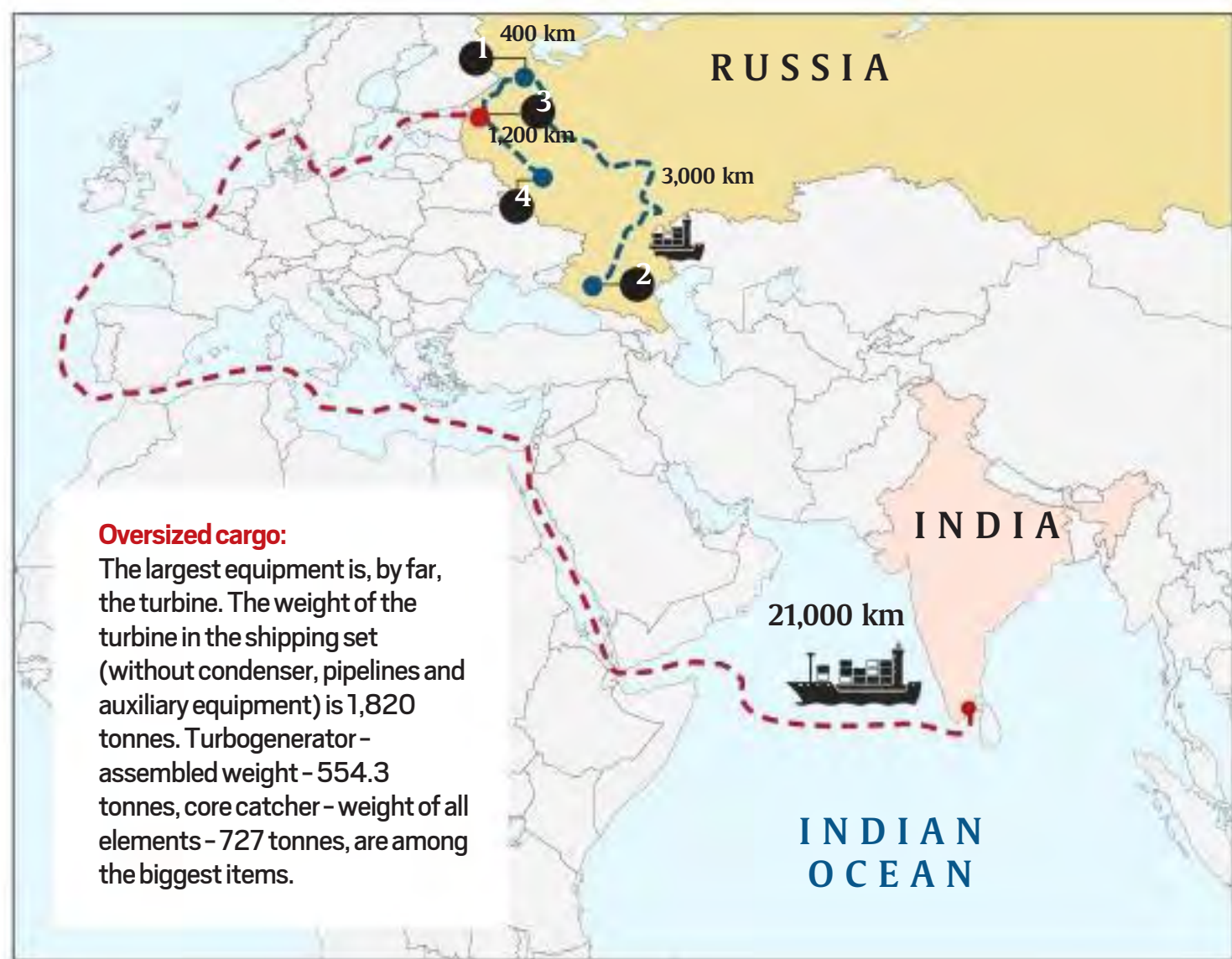
He said the Budget's thrust on assemble in India should not be seen as substitute to the government's flagship 'Make in India' programme, but as a complementary aspect which will act as a precursor to other goals. Asked about the Budget's thrust on imposing tariffs on certain sectors and how it is criticised as being protectionist, he said, "We need to make a distinction on those that are imposed on finished products against those on raw materials or intermediate goods which hurt exports."

"We need to move towards far more open trade policies on intermediate goods and raw materials to enable exports," he told reporters on the sidelines of the event. To a question on the plea of some RBI Monetary Policy Committee members for more structural reforms and stimulus, Subramanian said all the work, like rate cut and reforms, function with a lag and we should allow time for the benefits to accrue.

## From Russia to India: The month-long trip nuclear equipment headed for KNPP takes

Russia's integrated nuclear power company Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation said last month it had completed the production of steam generator for the fourth unit of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KNPP) in Tamil Nadu. Here is a look into the details

The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) is building four plants of 1,000 MW units each — Units 3, 4, 5 and 6 — with Russian assistance, and the first two units of similar power generation capacity have already started generating power.



**Oversized cargo:** The largest equipment is, by far, the turbine. The weight of the turbine in the shipping set (without condenser, pipelines and auxiliary equipment) is 1,820 tonnes. Turbogenerator - assembled weight - 554.3 tonnes, core catcher - weight of all elements - 727 tonnes, are among the biggest items.

**The route:** Heavy equipment is transported from the manufacturing plants in Russia by freight forwarding companies. Steam generators, for instance, are loaded on specialised vehicles on the territory of the manufacturing plant, then transported to the specialised river

berth in Volgograd, where they are reloaded on tug-and-tow boats. The tug-and-tow boats go along the Volga-to-Don Channel, then upstream, then via a system of river sluice-gates they get to the port of St. Petersburg. The average duration of transportation by river is 25-30 days.

All equipment is then shipped by sea vessels nominated by NPCIL, from the port of St. Petersburg. Vessels with equipment travel for about one month to the port of Tuticorin in India, after which, heavy equipment is delivered to the berth at the construction site of Kudankulam NPP Units 3-6.

Rosatom uses a number of group firms to supply the key items — reactor, turbine, steam generator and fuel.

3 heat-exchange items were shipped to KNPP in 2019; fourth one will be shipped in April 2020.

Note: 1,2,3 and 4 represent the factories; Source: Rosatom

## BRIEFLY

### Samsung plant shutdown in South Korea

Seoul: Samsung Electronics has said one of the virus cases has been confirmed at its mobile device factory complex in Gumi, causing a shutdown of the facility there until Monday morning. Samsung's factory in Gumi accounts for a small portion of its total smartphone output, as it produces most of its products in Vietnam and India. REUTERS

### Clarification on 'Vivad se Vishwas'

New Delhi: Income tax cases being arbitrated abroad will be eligible to be taken up under the proposed 'Vivad se Vishwas' scheme to settle disputes between the taxpayer and the taxpayer, the department said on Saturday.

### UPL Corp's overseas arm raises \$400 mn

New Delhi: Agro-chemical firm UPL Saturday said its Mauritian arm has raised \$400 million by issuing bonds, and the amount will be used to retire existing debt. PTI

## G20 FINANCE MINISTERS, CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS' MEETING

# Need to enhance global risk monitoring: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday emphasised the need to enhance global risk monitoring and explore the scope for policy co-ordination to deal with such risks.

Speaking at G-20 Finance Ministers and central bank governors meeting in Riyadh, she called upon all the member countries to enhance their efforts aimed at empowering women, youth and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

"Finance Minister Smt @nsitharaman called upon the G20 to enhance global risk monitoring and explore the scope for policy co-ordination to deal with such global risks," a tweet by the Finance Ministry said.

Sitharaman was the lead speaker during the session on "Enhancing Access to Opportunities for All" in the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors

Meeting on Saturday.

"Finance Minister Smt @nsitharaman emphasised that growing inequality has slowed down the pace of inter-generational mobility globally. She pointed out that identifying the causes and developing solutions require co-ordinated policy solutions," the ministry tweeted.

The minister also highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the Indian government for empowering women such as 'Stand Up India' and STEP scheme.

She emphasised the risk and collateral free MUDRA scheme for SME segment in the meeting, the ministry said.

Sitharaman held bilateral talks with her counterparts from other countries and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development officials on the sidelines of the G20 event.

Meanwhile, finance ministers and central bank governors from across the globe weighed the potential impact of the coronavirus epidemic on the world economy as they met in Riyadh.



Saudi Arabia central bank governor Ahmed al-Kholifey at the meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday. Reuters

## 'Let's come together to tax tech giants'

Riyadh: Leading world economies must show unity in dealing with aggressive "tax optimisation" by global digital giants like Google, Amazon and Facebook, G20 officials said on Saturday.

Global rules are being developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to make digital companies pay tax where they do business, rather than where they register subsidiaries.

The OECD says this could boost national tax revenues by a total of \$100 billion a year.

"There is no time to wait for elections," German FM Olaf Scholz told a tax seminar on the sidelines of a meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bankers. "A coordinated answer is not the better way forward, but, given the alternatives, the only way forward," OECD head Angel Gurría said. REUTERS

## MEANWHILE

### Kuroda blames yen's fall on strong dollar

Riyadh: Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda said on Saturday the yen's recent declines were largely driven by a strong dollar, shrugging off some market views that the widening coronavirus epidemic is triggering an outflow of funds from Asia.

### 'Safe harbor proposal not optional tax'

Riyadh: US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Saturday his "safe harbor" proposal for US companies was not an optional tax and he hopes the OECD will agree on a global tax reform this year.

"Our proposal has been referred to as an optional tax. It's not an optional tax... it's a safe

harbor," Mnuchin told an economic conference in Saudi Arabia, which is hosting finance leaders of the world's 20 largest economies.

"People will pay a price for certainty. I think that's something there's a lot of support for. I think this is hopefully something we can get done this year."

### 'US blocking mention of climate change'

Riyadh: The United States is against mentioning climate change in the communique of the world's financial leaders, G20 diplomats said, after a new draft of the joint statement showed the G20 are considering including it as a risk factor to growth. REUTERS



Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari (fourth from left) presents the MMS Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020 to Pranav Parikh, chairman and founder of TechNova, in Mumbai on Saturday. Anand Limaye, former president and chairperson of the Awards, said: "The Lifetime Achievement Award... is conferred on an industry stalwart who inspires all of us." He added, "This year the Award goes to one of print gurus, Pranav bhai. A plate manufacturer and technocrat, Pranav bhai is basically a printer in his heart of hearts." Source: @printweekindia Twitter handle

# Buffett says Berkshire is '100% prepared' for his, Munger's departure

REUTERS  
NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 22

WARREN BUFFETT Saturday defended Berkshire Hathaway Inc's decision to invest heavily in stocks of companies such as Apple Inc as he labors through a four-year drought since his last major acquisition of a company.

In his widely-read annual letter to Berkshire shareholders, the 89-year-old Buffett also assured that his conglomerate is "100 per cent prepared" for the eventual depart-

tures of him and Charlie Munger, his 96-year-old vice chairman. Berkshire also posted record full-year earnings of \$81.42 billion, boosted by unrealised gains from its stock investments, though operating profit fell 3 per cent to \$23.97 billion.

Berkshire ended the year with a \$128 billion cash hoard, having had no major acquisitions since paying \$32.1 billion in January 2016 for aircraft parts maker Precision Castparts. It repurchased \$5 billion of its own stock in 2019, the most ever.

# 'US prosecutors investigating if Boeing pilot knowingly lied'

AGENCIES  
BENGALURU/CHICAGO, FEB 22

FEDERAL PROSECUTORS investigating Boeing Co are examining whether the US planemaker knowingly misled the Federal Aviation Administration while it was seeking approval for its 737 MAX jet, the New York Times reported, citing two people familiar with the matter.

Boeing said it was cooperating with the US Department of Justice investigation.

The prosecutors have questioned several Boeing employees in recent months, focusing on whether Mark Forkner, a top pilot at the company, intentionally lied to the regulator about the nature of new flight control software on the jet, according to the report.

Meanwhile, debris has been found in the fuel tanks of 70 per cent of grounded Boeing 737 Max jets that have been inspected by the company, Boeing confirmed on Saturday. REUTERS & AP

## INTERVIEW WITH MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA

# 'Wealth creation will lead to growth... That's what the govt needs to focus on'

PAWAN GOENKA, managing director of Mahindra & Mahindra, says technology and innovation will drive the automobile industry in the coming years. In an interview to GEORGE MATHEW on the sidelines of IIT Kanpur Alumni conference, Goenka spoke about the economy and the industry. Edited excerpts:



The automobile industry was facing a slowdown in the last so many months. Has the situation returned to normalcy?

I think we have bottomed out and everybody in the industry believes that we will start seeing an upturn. It probably would be a slower upturn for the next, I would say, six to seven months, and, after that, we should see faster growth.

How is the demand from the rural sector now?

There's not much of a difference in rural and urban right now. However, the rural crop is likely to be very good and revenue from the crop, because of MSP (minimum support price), should also be very good. In Kharif, all indications, right now, are that it will not be deficient. Therefore, the rural economy should do well in the next four to six months. My belief is that even this year tractor industry is also down by about right now about 9 per cent, but it will reduce to 7 per cent by the end of the year, and so they start seeing a positive growth from next year.

How do you visualise the automobile industry or in other words where is it heading towards in the next five years?

In a nutshell, accessibility of mobility, clean, electric, safety and shared — these are the words that will define the automatic industry. Without technology and innovation, the industry cannot get to where it needs to get. Whichever one of these words should pick up... let's say you've got clean. The technology is very high end advanced technology that has emerged only in the last four or five years. If you look at electric, it's all about technology. So everything to take the industry forward to the future is all about technology. In fact, the auto industry people don't realise how technology intensive the industry is. We see what is on the surface. What is not seen is what's behind it to get that vehicle to you. And everything that we do, has a lot of technology embedded.

There is a perception that demand/sales of electric vehicles have not picked up or the growth is not up to the expectations. Do you agree?

I agree with that, for the kind of effort the government is putting into electric vehicles. I think the results have not been proportionate to that effort. I think we are at the inflection point. And the take-off should happen. However, we need to be clear on which is the area of focus and put all our resources on that area of focus. For example, if you think that the three-wheeler and the buses is where we need to focus on electric vehicle, that's mass mobility. That's where you will get the maximum benefit of electric vehicles. So, India needs to decide whether personal mobility and shared mobility — both need to move forward. Or, for India, shared mobility is more important. Let's focus on that first. And then we'll get to personal mobility.

What about the infrastructure for electric vehicles like electric charging points?

Power supply is not an issue at all. The problem is getting the power to the car and that is coming very slowly. The government cannot put up charging infrastructure and it has done enough to facilitate and private entrepreneurship to come forward and see a business opportunity in this. Now, many startups are setting up localised charging infrastructure. And again, we should not underestimate the power of startups. And this time, when I went to the Auto Expo so at least half a dozen startups are working only on charging infrastructure. So maybe charging infrastructure will not come by some big bang businesses, but come by multiple startups in different parts of the country.

Do you see a potential for driverless cars in India now?

For India, probably it is not the priority right now because we have to sort out many more things first. And for India, pollution, safety and accessibility — these three things which perhaps are not as important for developed economy as it is for India. We need to focus on those things. Electric vehicles should become a solution for clean and accessibility.

Has the coronavirus outbreak impacted the auto industry in India?

The initial impact appeared to be large. Now, it seems that the supplies are starting slowly. Okay. So I think by the time we have to wrap up the quarter... at the worst, we will probably lose few hundred vehicles, but that's okay.



# BRIDGE

Dealer South, NS vulnerable.

<b>NORTH</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
♠ A J 6	♠ K Q 10 8 7 5 3
♥ J 8 6	♥ A Q
♦ 9 4 2	♦ A 7
♣ J 10 5 4	♣ A K

<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♣	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

South is declarer in 6S, and West leads the DK. A heart finesse will give you a 50% chance of making 12 tricks, but if it loses, West will cash the DQ. Can you find a better play? You appear to have a diamond loser and a heart loser, and 11 tricks. Will the 12th come from the heart finesse or somewhere else? The Hideous Hog would not take the finesse early, but looks for other chances. That chance appears in the club suit.

Once the CA and CK are played, dummy's CJ or C10 can be promoted into a winner by forcing out the CQ. So, win the DA, and draw only one round of trumps with the SK. Next play the CA and CK to get them out of the way. Play a spade to dummy's SJ and then the CJ. If East covers with the CQ, you ruff, and return to dummy with the S and play the C10, discarding the D7.

If the CJ is not covered, as here, then don't trump at all, but discard the losing D7. It doesn't matter if West wins this trick with the CQ, because the C10 is now a winner, and the HQ can be discarded on it. There's no need to take the losing heart finesse at all. So this way, you improved your chances from 50% to 100%.

Dealer West, NS vulnerable.

<b>NORTH</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
♠ A 4 3 2	♠ J 8 6
♥ Q 9	♥ A 5 4
♦ A J 10 8	♦ 9 6 4
♣ A Q J	♣ K 10 6 2

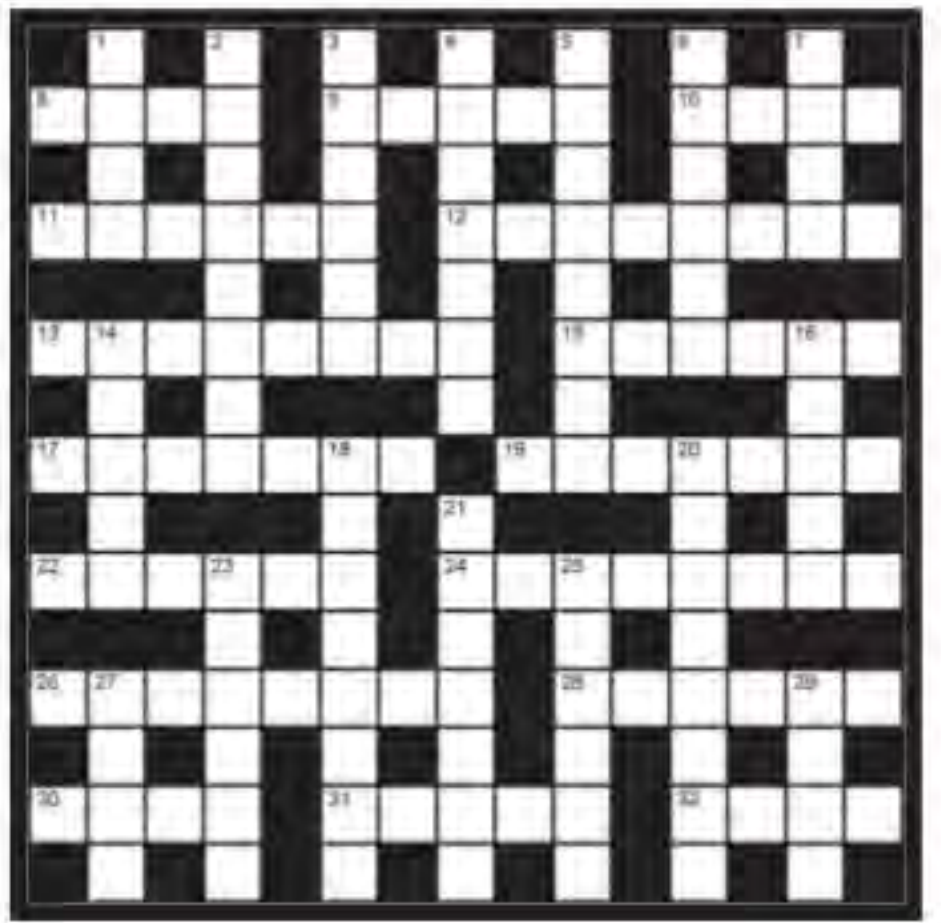
  

<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

West leads the H2. You try dummy's queen, but East covers with the HK. How do you plan the play?

# SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2257

- QUICK CLUES ACROSS**
- Go bankrupt (4)
  - Water wheel (5)
  - Egg cell (4)
  - Day nursery (6)
  - Disaster (8)
  - Objects (8)
  - Big toe (6)
  - Financial aid (7)
  - Compelling or constraining (7)
  - Totals (4,2)
  - Arrived at a logical conclusion (8)
  - Jumping game (4,4)
  - Swamp (6)
  - Broad smile (4)
  - Choice group (5)
  - Ex-India cricket captain Contractor (4)
- DOWN**
- A hit to the boundary in cricket (4)
  - Teaches, tutors or indoctrinates (8)
  - Buries (6)
  - Exact (7)
  - Blatant advertising (8)
  - Conventional (6)
  - Golf stroke (4)
  - 18 holes (5)
  - Forearm bones (5)
  - Left (8)
  - Comic drawings (8)
  - A traveler to a holy place (7)
  - Flat on one's back (6)
  - Encourage (6)
  - Bring in (4)
  - Circular course (4)



26. A Florida voice is agitated (8)
  28. He's in front of the tailor on the stones (6)
  30. Opposing cutting benefit, though keen enough (4)
  31. Do cattle salute at the river-bend? (5)
  32. Way of working or turning around in space (4)
- DOWN**
1. Mid-off on field in jumper (4)
  2. Arab emirate has an immature flower in a habit yet incomplete (5)
  3. Generous whip-round for a girl (6)
  4. Pretty heavy, starting with 80 (7)
  5. Country long restricted by revolutionary voices (3,5)
  6. Peter makes a name for himself in Russia (6)
  7. Sports clubs naturally active by night! (4)
  14. Cheers with plaything vowels? (2,3)
  16. Port and orange (5)
  18. Putting party before country is a gift (8)
  20. Back again among the free-lancers in the dailies (8)
  21. They take in the rebel leaders because of that (7)

23. Money paid out only by sovereigns? (6)
25. Higher residential area now put out (6)
27. Most popular female on the street? (4)
29. Bone black, said the poet (4)

### Solutions to 2256

**QUICK CLUES ACROSS:** 1 Enhances, 5 Scorch, 10 Vrat, 11 Recording, 12 Eudition, 13 Lisle, 14 Bigger, 15 Sashimi, 18 Compact, 20 Cudgel, 22 Users, 24 Originate, 25 Entailing, 26 Edits, 27 Tamed, 28 Odysseus, 29 Enriled, 2 Notions, 20 Pepper, 22 Plumb, 24 Accretion, 25 Nicknames, 26 Image, 27 Dutchy, 28 Spyglass, 29 1 Supple, 2 Hip pocket, 3 Opposition bench, 4 Exhales, 6 Misinterpreting, 7 Halli, 8 Lethargy, 9 Globes, 16 Americans, 17 Unopened, 19 Swarms, 20 Packs up, 21 Kneels, 23 Uncut.

# If it's your Birthday

**Sunday February 23**  
The Sun's movement is keeping you on the straight and narrow. Yet, you could also be facing a burst of the emotional wobbles, so stay out of trouble over the next few weeks.

**Monday February 24**  
This is a sociable period. If you don't set aside time for enjoyment, you'll be missing the fun. A new person you meet now could become a friend for life.

**Tuesday February 25**  
Life is looking up. You may expect a generous invitation in six months' time. Don't take it for granted because the window of opportunity may be brief.

**Wednesday February 26**  
Life is packed with potential. It seems clear that even the tiny, trivial events which happen in your life today will be magnified over the coming months.

**Thursday February 27**  
If you have intense feelings then the chances are that they're going to keep coming back all year. Next twelve months will be your tendency to examine your relationships.

**Friday February 28**  
Today's stars are more lively than yesterday's and you really do seem to be facing chances to make a completely fresh start. There is an outside possibility of an unusual offer.

**Saturday February 29**  
It's a positive moment and you can afford to take your time when it comes to deciding where you go from here. You will be able to implement changes in almost whatever area of life you wish.

# YOUR WEEK AHEAD

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
It's time to look around and broaden your field of activities. Perhaps you'll even have a chance to travel, and a quick trip does seem to be on the cards. You just need a break. In any event you should be true to your beliefs.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
You will benefit from with Venus' discreet contact with your sign. While this is a powerful aspect for all romantic aspirations, you may take a back seat, allowing friends to enjoy the limelight. A little humility will impress loved ones on end.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
Mercury, the planet responsible for your bright ideas, links with the Moon, symbol of family happiness. There could be invitations, suggestions and random opinions floating through the air waves, and you'll have your work cut out deciding just what you should do. Within weeks you'll be dashing around from one engagement to another.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
Those of you who have already taken on major responsibilities will be feeling the effects of partners' criticism. If so, don't sweep your doubts under the carpet, but sit up and take notice. Essentially, energetic Mars will introduce a mood of intensity to your relationships. Someone you haven't seen for a long time will bring good news.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
The celestial signs are positive, and you'll be in a prime position to arrange to entertain at home, although the outcome of any family gatherings could be very different from what you intended. There are even indications that you will be considering a move of home. Or perhaps you're just ready for a well-earned change of scene.

**VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
The Moon and Mercury, that fabulous pair of planets, support your activities this week, an indication that you'll be under less pressure than at certain times in the past. In fact the imminent build-up of planets in your chart will heap untold benefits on your life and aspirations. All you have to do is make the most of them.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
Mars is aligned with parts representing money and partnerships, challenging you to assert yourself in relationships and see to it that partners respect your desire for love and affection. But could you be spending other people's money? Perhaps you'll be lining up some joint investments.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
A fine way to make a success of the future is to clean up the mistakes of the past. There's more than a grain of truth in the claim that your relationships and friendships often fail because you refuse to put in the required effort. If you look at why this happens, you'll see that it's all bound up with your hopes for the future.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)**  
Venus will be in a most auspicious position, suggesting that relationships will be going through a popular phase. But it also gives you the ability to present yourself at your best. There could be some extra stress at home, and people you live with are piling on the pressure.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
The phase which you're now entering could turn out to be an interesting period. Nobody is pretending it will all be roses, yet what is certain is that after another few months have passed you'll be much older and wiser. This is a prospect to be relished because it means that you'll be able to live without uncertainty.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
You know you're an individualist, and you must have realised by now that this can sometimes generate frustrations if you're forced to obey other people's orders in your personal and public life. Yet if you want to get on you must heed the necessity for co-operation. You know there is no other choice.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
You are eager to do more than your fair share: now is your chance to move forward in every sphere of life. The days to watch are Monday and Tuesday, at which time your natural enthusiasm may run away with you. You know you're an individualist, and you must have realised at this can generate frustrations.

# JUMBLED WORDS

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

is the soul of business. - Thomas Chandler Haliburton (11)

<b>ORAIT</b>	<b>KRSCUU</b>
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □	□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
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Answer: Punctuality is the soul of business. - Thomas Chandler Haliburton

# SUDOKU 4129

**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

4								
	8		5					
9		7	1		8	3		
	3		5	4				
9			2	6			7	
		7	9		2			
8	1		5	3		2		
		6			5		1	

# SOLUTION SUDOKU 4128

9	2	5	1	3	8	4	7	6
8	3	4	5	6	7	2	1	9
1	7	6	4	9	2	8	3	5
5	9	7	8	2	1	6	4	3
2	8	1	3	4	6	9	5	7
6	4	3	7	5	9	1	2	8
4	6	2	9	7	3	5	8	1
3	1	9	2	8	5	7	6	4
7	5	8	6	1	4	3	9	2

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 / 83 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Richard S/o Sh. Eramesh R/o J-3/79B, Khirki Extension, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi** has Committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR No. 528/18 u/s 307/34 IPC & 14 Foreigners Act**, registered at **P.S. Mehrauli New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Richard** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Richard** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Richard of FIR No. 528/18 u/s 307/34 IPC & 14 Foreigners Act**, has been registered at **P.S. Mehrauli New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **25.03.2020**.

By order  
**Sh. Harjot Singh Bhalla**  
Add. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,  
South, Room No.215  
Saket Court Complex, New Delhi

DP/02/SD/20

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER

MARTYRS OF CISF ON 23RD FEBRUARY

CT/GD A V FALGUNAN  
RSTPP RAMAGUNDAM  
23-02-1998

CT/GD S C KONNUR  
RSTPP RAMAGUNDAM  
23-02-1998

CISF proudly remembers the supreme Sacrifice of these brave-hearts. On this day, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty while fighting with PWG outfits. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noblest deeds.

**U.P. STATE BRIDGE CORPORATION LIMITED**  
4, Madan Mohan Malviya Marg, Lucknow (UP)  
Ph. 85232948 Email: procurement@upbridgecorp.com

**Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)**

EOI is invited for empanelment from the interested major manufacturers for the supply of following materials on rate contract basis:

[A] EOI Notice 768/1260/AMBC/19-20 dt.22-02-2020  
(1) Prestressed Concrete, uncoated stress relieved low relaxation (12.7mm & 15.2mm dia) 7 ply strands  
(2) Elastomeric Neoprene bearing pads (B). Expansion Joint (single/modular strip box seal & compression seal) (4). Prestressing Materials (Anchorage & Sheathing)  
[B] EOI Notice 769/1217/MBC/19-20 dt.22-02-2020  
(1) OPC 43-Grade & PPC Cement.  
Last date & time of submission of EOI at UPSSSC HQ: 12-03-2020, upto 4:30 pm. For more details viz. visit our website: <http://www.bridgecorporationltd.com>.  
Ravi, Dy. Project Manager (M)

कार्यालय प्रबन्ध निदेशक  
परिचयालय विद्युत वितरण निगम लि.  
विद्युतीया मार्ग, मेरठ

अत्यक्तनीय ई-निविदा सूचना निविदा विधिचौकण संख्या: पवि/विनि/लि/ मे/ पु/ 23/ Swift Dzure/ Tours/ 2019-20 के अन्तर्गत पवि/विनि, मुहल्लाप, मेरठ पर निम्न अधिनियमों हेतु 06 नम नई वार्षिक पब्लिक Swift Dzure/ Tours (Dishes) वाहन, वाहन वाहन वाहन वाहन वाहन वाहन हेतु निविदा 05.03.2020, 12.00 बजे तक ई-प्रबन्ध के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की गई निविदा अधिनियम है।  
निविदा के सम्बन्धित विवरण में सभी जानकारी, विवरण/ सार्वजनिक तथा अन्य कितनी भी प्रकार के संशोधन/ विवरण वेब साईट [www.pvvn.org](http://www.pvvn.org) एवं [www.eender.up.nic.in](http://www.eender.up.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

अधीनस्थ अधिवक्ता (पु.)  
सुने प्रबन्ध निदेशक  
पत्रांक 2025 दिनांक: 22.02.2020  
सूचना में निम्नलिखित ब्यापक "विजयी होती की सूचना हेल्पलाइन नम्बर पर दै: 1800-180-3002 (मेरठ) 1800-180-8752 (लखनऊ)"

**"IMPORTANT"**  
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## HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer, Una Division HPPWD Una H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned works from the eligible and approved contractors / Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Time Limit	Cost of Tender	Eligible class of Contractor
1.	Construction of Panjwar Bathri road to Mata Ka Mandir Lower Badehra via Rajesh House, Saloh Nalka to Kumhara Abadi Km 0/00 to 2/700 (SH: C/o earth work, Retaining wall, CD works, Metalling & Tarring, Drain, Parapets, Road sign board and Kilometer stone etc.) Under Nabard RIDF-XXV	1,60,93,030/-	1,93,500/-	One Year	5000/-	Class-A & B

- Date of Release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 26.03.2020.
- Cost of Bid Form: As per detail in column No. 6 in form of demand draft in favour of Executive Engineer, Una Division HPPWD, Una payable at Una.
- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <http://hptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register on the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <http://hptenders.gov.in> Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

- KEY DATES:**

1. Date of Online Publication	26.03.2020 (10:00 HRS)
2. Document Download Start and End Date	26.03.2020 (10.30 HRS) upto 03.04.2020 (17:00 HRS)
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	26.03.2020 (10.30 HRS) upto 03.04.2020 (17:00 HRS)
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	04.04.2020 (10:30 HRS)
5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid, followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	04.04.2020 (11:00 HRS)
- TENDER DETAILS:**  
The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:  
i) Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all Technical Documents/Eligibility Information...  
ii) Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will Quote his offer for each item.
- Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/ Earnest Money (EMD) duly pledged in favour of undersigned and other Technical Documents in Executive Engineer, Una Division, HPPWD, Una H.P. as specified in Key Dates Sr. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.
- BID OPENING DETAILS:** The bids shall be opened on 04.04.2020 at 11.00 HRS in the office of Superintending Engineer, 15th Circle, HP: PWD, Una by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The date for opening of financial bids will be intimated separately after evaluation of technical bids.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Executive Engineer  
Una Division, HP: PWD, Una.  
On behalf of Governor of H.P.

**DAKSHINANCHAL VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED**  
(UNDERTAKING OF U.P. GOVERNMENT)  
(CIN: U31200UP2003SGC027460)

**e-Tender Extension Notice**

पत्रांक: 627/अधीनस्थ अधिवक्ता/विद्युत वितरण निगम लि./विद्युतीया मार्ग, मेरठ दिनांक: 22.02.2020

Tender No.	Short Description	Estimated Cost in Rs.	Revised Earnest Money in Rs.	Revised Tender Fee in Rs.	Tender Opening Date & Time
60/2019-20	Providing Testing Operator at workshop under EWC, Agra	Approx. Rs. 35,00 Lac	Rs. 35,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	06.03.2020 16:00 Hrs.
61/2019-20	Hiring/Providing of Diesel Run Vehicle for SE/EE/AE Officer workshop under EWC, Agra	Approx. Rs. 50.52 Lac	Rs. 25,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	06.03.2020 16:00 Hrs.
62/2019-20	Providing Testing Operator at Workshops under EWC, Agra	Approx. Rs. 160.00 Lac	Rs.80,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00 (GST Extra)	06.03.2020 16:00 Hrs.
77/2019-20	Supply of Computer Set with UPS, Printer, Computer Table and Chair etc. at newly workshop Una (Jalain) under EWC, Jhansi	Approx. Rs. 1.71 Lac	Rs. 2,000.00	Rs. 1,000.00 (GST Extra)	06.03.2020 16:00 Hrs.

Other Terms & Conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit at procurement portal of UP Government <https://eender.up.nic.in> or contact us at given address as follows:

Uja Bhasan, 220 KV Sub-Station, Bye Pass Road, Sikandra, Agra-202007(UP) Ph. No. 966944455	Superintending Engineer (Workshop) D.V.V.N.L. AGRA
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## Corrigendum No.2

Some modification/correction has been done with reference to the tender notice of different packages issued vide this office letter No. 17094-17103 on dated 18.01.2020 published in different newspapers on dated 19.01.2020 to 20.01.2020.

Sr. No.	Read as	Instead of
1.	L145-Construction upgradation of road from Kuru Nallah Magarwari Bami Ki Bainsk Bajhot Ghariah road at 0/0 to 6/000 under PMGSY Stage-II. (SH: Removal of formation deficiency, C/o Retaining structure, M/T, C.D.work & C/o RCC Slab culverts, 4.00 mtrs span, V-Shape side drain, PCC Parapets, P/F Logo, sign boards under PMGSY Batch-I).	L145-Construction upgradation of road from Kuru Nallah Magarwari Bami Ki Bainsk Bajhot Ghariah road at 0/0 to 6/000 under PMGSY Stage-II. (SH: Removal of formation deficiency, C/o Retaining structure, M/T, C.D.work & C/o RCC Slab culverts, 4.00 mtrs span, V-Shape side drain, PCC Parapets, P/F Logo, sign boards under PMGSY Batch-I).

**Package No. HP-11-102**  
(a) Construction Cost = 486.17 Lacs  
(b) Maintenance cost = 33.46 lacs  
(c) Uploading date = 18.02.2020  
(d) Opening date = 21.03.2020  
(e) Bid Security = 10.40 lacs

**Package No. HP-11-102**  
(a) Construction Cost = 552.76 Lacs  
(b) Maintenance cost = 33.46 lacs  
(c) Uploading date = 15.02.2020  
(d) Opening date = 19.03.2020  
(e) Bid Security = 11.72 lacs

**The Cement/Steel/Explosive materials etc. shall be arranged by contractor at his own level.**  
The other terms and conditions will remain the same.

Superintending Engineer,  
3rd Circle, HPPWD, Solan.

NO. PW SE-III/CTR/ TENDER (PMGSY)/2020-21-4965/HP Dated:-

## CORRIGENDUM-2

Some modification/correction has been done with reference to the tender notice of different packages issued vide this office letter No. 17175-84 on dated 21.01.2020 published in different newspapers on dated 22.01.2020 to 23.01.2020 and corrigendum No. 1 letter No. 18056-67 dated 13.02.2020 published in different news papers.

Sr. No.	Read as	Instead of
1.	L115-Upgradation of Redu Jhiriwala Bhanglan road km. 0/0 to 7/300. (SH:-P/L WBM, BM, PCM with seal coat, C.C. Paver blocks, road side parapets, Hill side drain, road furniture & providing new technology with IRC specifications in between Km. 0/0 to 7/300) i/c five years routine maintenance under PMGSY Batch-I).	L115-Upgradation of Redu Jhiriwala Bhanglan road km. 0/0 to 7/300. (SH:-P/L WBM, BM, PCM with seal coat, C.C. Paver blocks, road side parapets, Hill side drain, road furniture & providing new technology with IRC specifications in between Km. 0/0 to 7/300)

**Package No. HP-11-105**  
(a) Construction Cost = 383.84Lacs  
(b) Maintenance cost = 40.71 lacs  
(c) Bid Security = 8.49 lacs  
(d) Uploading date = 22.02.2020  
(e) Opening date = 23.03.2020  
(d) Period of completion of construction = 365 days

**Package No. HP-11-105**  
(a) Construction Cost = 429.91 lacs  
(b) Maintenance cost = 55.89 lacs  
(c) Bid security = 9.72 lacs  
(d) Uploading date = 15.02.2020  
(e) Opening date = 18.03.2020  
(d) Period of completion of construction = 510 days

**Package No. HP-11-106**  
(a) Construction Cost = 269.32Lacs  
(b) Maintenance cost = 27.87 lacs  
(c) Bid Security = 5.95 lacs  
(d



# 18 SPORTSLINE



1983

Mrugesh Jaikrishna, man behind Motera, with then President Giani Zail Singh at inauguration of the stadium. (R) Mrugesh with Gavaskar, part of the advisory group to track construction.



1984

Then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who had even visited the site during construction, felicitates Mrugesh Solanki for the stadium in 1984.



2005

Congress' Narhari Amin, who was GCA president for 16 years from 1993 and joined BJP in 2012, cuts a stadium-shaped cake along with captains Sourav Ganguly and Inzamam-ul-Haq.



2009

Narendra Modi became GCA president in 2009 with Amit Shah as the vice-president. In 2014, just after Modi became the Prime Minister, Shah took over as the president of the association.

## They also play politics here

Donald Trump loves BIG things. Nothing in Indian Test cricket got bigger than Gavaskar's 10,000 runs & Kapil going past Hadlee, both at Motera, where the US President is set to strut about in a *Kem Cho* Trump event. But political games have always sprung up from the ravine of the world's new largest stadium since its inception in 1980s. SRIRAM VEERA digs up the story of the old Gujarat Stadium, the epicenter of all political goings-on which refuses to go down as a footnote in history

FOR THE past few weeks, all routes from Ahmedabad airport to the new cricket stadium in Motera have been the most fussed pathways in India. For the 'Kem cho Trump' event (Howdy Trump, in Gujarati), some roads have been resurfaced, a few narrow lanes widened out to act as alternate routes, and pretty flowers flutter atop a newly constructed six-foot-tall and kilometre-long wall that would curtain out slums from Donald Trump's vision. Not just Trump and Narendra Modi but even the venue's an eye-ball grabber. The shiny new wonder can host a lakh and ten thousand people and will become the largest cricket stadium in the world.

The old stadium though refuses to remain a mere footnote in India's cricket and political history. The 63 acres of earth, a ravine land in 1982, a large pit of banjar aar *khadda zameen* that transformed into a stadium in just eight months, has thrown up a fascinating potboiler: ambitions of Mrugesh Jaikrishna, then 38-year-old president of Gujarat cricket association and a fast-rising textile mills scion, his wife Parul, who went on to become a renowned industrialist, cameos by Congress politicians like Indira Gandhi as well as Narhari Amin who administrated sports organisations.

Motera was the magical cauldron that stirred up cherished Indian cricketing landmarks – panama-hatted Sunil Gavaskar breaching the 10,000-run barrier in Tests, toothy-grinned Kapil Dev watching 432 balloons floating out of the stadium just after he went past Richard Hadlee's most Test wickets, Javagal Srinath's reverse-swinging spell from hell that dismantled South Africa, and Rahul Dravid's 11,000th Test run.

It also fired up a debate on another pitch, the political one, in Lok Sabha when Prof Madhu Dandavate, a physicist and a Janata Party politician, brought up Mrugesh's political connections pointing fingers at the Motera.



Mrugesh Solanki is now 76. The avuncular voice – soft, calm, friendly – and a gentle ease pervades his anecdotal memory. In his heyday with cricket in the early 80's, Mrugesh was also vice-president of the Indian cricket board (BCCI). His industrialist father Jaikrishan Harivallabhdas started textile mills when Ahmedabad was renowned as a cotton town but which were in terminal decline by the mid 80's.

The desire for a stadium partly stemmed from humiliation he faced in a meeting with the veteran officials of the Indian cricket board. In 1981, he had just come back from Pakistan, where India were playing a bilateral series. "When I rose from my seat to offer some suggestion at a board meet, the senior members shouted, 'you sit down, you are young, what do you know?'"

"Self-respect *bhi koi cheez hoti hai*," Mrugesh pauses. "It was also said around that time that only associations which have their own cricket grounds would be able to host matches." A rankled Mrugesh returned to Ahmedabad with one thought. "I requested the chief minister that we should build a stadium."

Mrugesh's father had already been mayor of the city for many years. In political circles Mrugesh came to be known for his proximity with the Congress Chief Minister of Gujarat Madhavsinh Solanki.

"If I was considered so close to the CM, then the land should have been free. Or at least, at a prime location as stadiums are in Mumbai, opposite Marine Drive, and in Bangalore, on MG Road in city centre," Mrugesh says now. "In fact, not a single paisa was given by the Gujarat state government for construction. We had to scramble around for money. And the land given was not only in the outskirts of the city (Ahmedabad has spread out in 37 years that Motera isn't that off) but it was a ravine." Photographs attest to that and while the land wasn't free, it was reportedly given at Rs 8 per square metre.

It took Rs 29 lakhs to fill up the ravine and level the land, says Mrugesh. "No money from government, remember, and that was 1982, the Indian cricket board's coffers weren't so full as it is now," Mrugesh says.



The shiny new wonder, Motera stadium, can host a lakh and ten thousand people and will become the largest cricket stadium in the world. Javed Raja

Mrugesh hit upon a plan. To sell air-conditioned corporate boxes for Rs 4.5 lakh each. "No one came forward to buy in this so-called industrialised city," he recalls. He bought two boxes and decided to tap his industrialist friends and relatives for the rest. "Sintex company was run by my *maasa* (mother's sister's husband), Nirilon (my father was chairman), Mafatlal, my *maasa* again, and then from a friend. In all we sold just eight boxes, five to relatives. Now, they are selling corporate boxes for Rs 4 crores – and people are lining up. How times have changed!"

With Rs 35 lakhs in the kitty, he plunged into filling up the ravine. 15 bulldozers were put to work. Since it was a race against time – they had to be ready in eight months to host the Test against West Indies – Mrugesh was under the kosh. "I hired three contractors to cook food and snacks for workers on site. I am so thankful to the workers who toiled all day for months."

Money might not have come for the construction but state patronage was extended by other means. Many governmental public sector organisations were asked to become Life Members of the Gujarat cricket association by contributing money. Even the Slum Clearance department.

Rest of the money was obtained from loans from co-operative banks says Mrugesh. "I had to give personal collateral. Nothing came from the government; it's not as if I could walk into any bank and money was given."



Even before his stylishly-late cut in 1987 that brought up his 10,000th Test run and tattooed itself in the minds of Indian cricket fans, Gavaskar had a connection with the ground. Part of the advisory board set up by Mrugesh to track progress of the construction, he had walked in the rubble and holes of the ravine that was transforming into a stadium where he would accomplish his historic barrier-crossing.

That 10,000th run had come in March 1987 on back of anxious wait for the fans as

runs weren't flowing in the customary 'SMG' way. Luckily, there exists a YouTube video with a news clip about the crossing – the panama hat dug into his chest can be seen and the faces of those who have watched him bat would crease into a smile at the sight of how quickly Gavaskar recovers from his relief-tinged-joy to look for more runs; he brings down the raised bat around mid-pitch during the first run, and dashes not just for the second but also casts a glance at Dilip Vengsarkar exploring the possibility of the third. Only after resigning to the fact that an extra run can't be squeezed, does he turn, pump his bat up, and raise his left hand to acknowledge the applause.

Kapil Dev conjured a champagne bottle in the dry state that evening to celebrate Gavaskar's tryst with history.



Even in the first match at the new stadium in '83, Gavaskar had scored a valiant 90 in the first innings against West Indies though India lost in four days. That Test series was part of the Gavaskar folklore. Malcolm Marshall's lifter knocked his bat off his hands in the first Test at Kanpur, casting a dark pall for the moment but would eventually be talked up by his fans for years as the moment that triggered his thrilling counter-attacking knocks that followed in the series. He roused himself in the next Test in Delhi, hooking and pulling Marshall and Holding.

Mrugesh fondly remembers the evening after the first game at the new stadium when players from both teams landed up at his house for a party. The evening to remember had come on the back of a lot of turmoil. The politics had continued to unravel. The state Congress was split into two factions – pro CM and anti-CM or as Mrugesh saw it, "those who wanted the stadium and those who didn't. Some 15 petitions were filed by random organisations against the construction on one silly pretext or other. Since our cricket association members had day jobs, I had to run from court to court."

It was then his wife Parul – who would

by the end of decade start a chemical company Asahi Songwon that would rise to become world leader – stepped in. "She would be walking around the construction, from morning to night, supervising the work. Every day, for months. The cases were disposed off one by one but it was draining."

More trouble awaited. Mrugesh had begun to fret about the various governmental arms that would demand free passes in thousands. Else, he feared that blackmails of cutting off water supply or security would throw spanners in the works.

"I wasn't a *bewakoof*, a fool. I went to Chief Minister Solanki and asked them to issue statements to newspapers as a way to encourage a new stadium, we will buy tickets. No passes. They agreed. I am telling you on oath, I had two young boys then and in spite of buying two corporate boxes, I bought tickets for them, just to set an example."

The stadium was supposed to be named after Indira Gandhi but Gujarat Chief Minister Solanki's critics, they say, persuaded her to not lend her name. Eventually, it was called 'The Gujarat Stadium'.



In between Gavaskar's memorable moments at the stadium, spread over four years, Mrugesh's fortunes would rise and sink. The euphoria of the stadium was briefly punctured in 1985, his name mentioned in the parliament.

On March 29th 1985, in the Lok Sabha, Prof Madhu Dandavate, the socialist from Janta Party kicked up a storm, by raising an Attention to Motion to VP Singh, the union finance minister then, on a confiscation of foreign currency and travellers' cheques worth Rs 46 lakhs. Police had swooped down on those involved, including Mrugesh.

Thirty-four years after the scandal, Mrugesh reiterates his innocence. "It was a political thing. Nothing was found in any section of law. And as for money for construction, I told you what kind of ravine land it was. And how I had to raise all the

finances for it."

In the parliament, after he mentions the incident at the Customs and police action, Dandavate brought up the stadium: "I want to know whether the Chief Minister of Gujarat obliged Mr. Mrugesh Jaikrishna, who is the Vice President of BCCI and the President of Cricket Control Board of Gujarat, in constructing a new stadium near Gandhi Nagar by giving away 50 acres in throw-away prices."

There was one more political drama involving the stadium that tumbled out in the parliament. Dandavate again, "Is it not a fact that Shrimati Indira Gandhi responded favourably and persuaded the chief minister to dissociate her name from the stadium," he asks. The debates from each day's sitting of the Parliament have been digitalised, an engrossing rabbit hole to disappear in for hours.

When the stadium was eventually ready, President Giani Zail Singh, a friend of IS Bindra's, agreed to inaugurate it. By then, Mrugesh also was part of a new power centre in BCCI with the leadership of Jagmohan Dalmiya and Bindra. "I remember when we crossed over and had just four-five members in a board where majority of power lay with Mr Wankhede. *The Times of India* carried a story, headlined, 'Gujarat defects from majority to minority!'"



"You know what is Indian politics? People move towards power. Simple," Mrugesh says. "I knew my end was near. I had alienated the passes-hungry people and a whole lot of others in construction. And they hit back with other politicians." In 1993, ten years after he had built the stadium, Mrugesh was replaced by the Congressman Narhari Amin; the Deputy Chief Minister in the cabinet of CM Chimanbhai Patel, who became president of the cricket association.

Amin had his own battles to face. In particular, the financial crunch in the association. "Mrugesh did build the stadium against all odds, no doubt about it, but we were in debt when I came on board. Also, the other infrastructure needed to be built," Amin tells *The*

*Sunday Express*. "It had a debt of Rs 8 crore."

Amin and his men, that included the diligent Hitesh Patel, known as 'Pochi bhai' and eventually the joint-secretary of the association, got to work. "Amin sir met with all the banks and private individuals who had lent money, some of whom had gone for litigation," Patel says. "Most of them agreed that they would take back the principal, and forget the interest. Indian Bank and co-operative banks were paid back."

Four grounds came up around the main stadium, within the 63 acres. An indoor stadium, a club house, grounds where age-group matches can be held all sprang up. Cricket began to flourish locally. Amin held the post for 16 long years, and when he was replaced by BJP's Amit Shah in 2009, Amin says the association was in Rs 45 crores profit. For the first few years of Shah's rule, Amin would fire criticisms about how it was run and how cricket at districts were lagging but in 2012, he joined BJP in presence of Modi.

Motera stadium continued to throw up special moments. In Amin's tenure, Kapil became the highest wicket-taker in the world on this ground.

On an impulse, his wife Romi had flown to Bangalore the evening before the last day of the preceding Test when Kapil still needed three wickets to break Hadlee's record. Sri Lanka had just three wickets left and Romi saw her husband pick up two next morning to equal Hadlee.

In the dressing room, Kapil threw a towel over his head and cried his heart out. "This was probably the safety valve working. For years, I had been the strong man, unable to shed a tear, unwilling to let my heart bear the burden of the world. As I wept, I saw world differently," Kapil would say later. A cake on which 431 was inscribed was cut by Kapil that evening.

Along with family and friends, Romi reached Ahmedabad. The city, in particular the stadium, was flooded with images of Kapil. One boundary hoarding at the ground during the match read: "One 'Vital' wicket left! Come on Kapil!". When the Sri Lankan Hashan Tillakaratne thudded his bat on the ground as Kapil ran in for that wicket-taking ball, an hour or so into morning's play, that hoarding flashed on the deep mid-wicket boundary. A moment later Kapil was leaping, both arms in air just after Sanjay Manjrekar took the catch off the inside edge at short leg.

432 balloons were released by the cricket association. *Doodardarshan* celebrated the moment by playing a song in Kapil's tribute – "*Haqeeqat hai ye khwab nahin / Kapil Dev ka jawab nahin*." That evening, a party was thrown at sports club in the city. In the dressing room, before that, the team celebrated and images of Kapil dancing on top of a table, a glass of drink on his head and supported by his left hand, would freeze in minds of fans.



All the Motera characters continued to have interesting lives. Pochi bhai runs a cricket club and still has his afternoon tea topped with sugar and gossip with the current office bearers.

Parul Mrugesh perhaps had the most spectacular rise of them all. When the textile mills of her husband and father-in-law shut down, she sent her two kids Gokul and Munjal to study postgraduate degrees in Finance and Marketing abroad. She started a flourishing chemical company; they have just signed a joint venture with a major UK company to start a plant in England.

Mrugesh is part of the board of directors and their sons and grandsons take care of the companies. They stay in a lovely farmhouse near the Ahmedabad airport. "It was a son of a big textile businessman, yes. But at that stage in my life, I was a young civilian who had a brush with politicians and sportstars, and constructed a special stadium. That phase wasn't always rosy but it was a great journey," Mrugesh says.

The gaping hole in Motera has filled so many people, administrators, politicians, and players with joy and is now shape-shifting into the largest stadium in the world. Not bad for a ravine.



**WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP**  
**Devine ensures White Ferns open with a thumping win**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
PERTH, FEBRUARY 22

SOPHIE DEVINE once again proved unstoppable as her sixth consecutive 50-plus score steered New Zealand to victory in their ICC Women's T20 World Cup opener against Sri Lanka here on Saturday. Chamari Atapattu (41) and Hasini Perera's 60-run first wicket — Sri Lanka's best opening partnership in T20Is — gave them a bright start but Hayley Jensen's career-best bowling sent middle-order wickets tumbling at the WACA Ground in Perth.

It took time for New Zealand to get the 128-run chase going but captain Devine led by example, becoming the only player, male or female, to register more than five consecutive 50-plus scores in the format, en route to the seven-wicket victory.

The Sri Lanka openers put on an impressive 60 for the first wicket, with Devine, Leigh Kasperrek and Lea Tahuu all unable to find a Powerplay breakthrough. But up stepped teenager Amelia Kerr to cause problems on the fast track, the 19-year-old claiming the first wicket of the evening when she bowled Perera for 20 in the eighth over.

Perera didn't fall without her fine moments though, her scoop over wicket-keeper Rachel Priest giving the Sri Lanka contingent at the WACA plenty of reason to cheer.

Atapattu's 41, which included five fours and two sixes, built a solid base but the Sri Lanka captain was caught and bowled by the pacy Tahuu. The White Ferns were able to put the brakes on thereafter, Jensen claiming two wickets in an over when Anushka Sanjeevani's attempt over the top was caught by Bates running back before Devine caught Shashikala Siriwardena at short mid-wicket.

Nilakshi de Silva was the next to fall as the middle-order crumbled, Kerr taking the catch at backward point for Devine's first wicket before the spinner got a second breakthrough of her own. Harshitha Madavi kept fighting with an unbeaten 27 off 26 balls but Sri Lanka finished at 127 for seven as Jensen bagged her third. The White Ferns chase started slowly, openers Devine and Priest failing to take advantage of the powerplay. Held at 25 for one after six overs, New Zealand were lagging a fair way behind Sri Lanka who were 51 without loss at the same stage, with Devine not at her fluent best.

But the skipper ground it out, joining up with Bates for a 40-run second-wicket stand to steady the ship. Bates perished at the hands of Kavisha Dilhari but Maddy Green came in at four and guided the chase superbly, taking the pressure off her skipper with a career-best 29 off 20. With less than a run-a-ball required, Devine freed her arms — two sixes finishing off the chase with two overs to spare.

**BRIEF SCORES:** New Zealand 131/3 (Sophie Devine 75\*) beat Sri Lanka 127/7 (Chamari Atapattu 41, Hayley Jensen 3-16) by seven wickets.

**AWA & ADMIRATION**

**As Williamson bats, New Zealanders pour raw emotions**

**SANDIPG**  
WELLINGTON, FEBRUARY 22

SOMETIME DURING the backend of Kane Williamson's masterful 89, a spectator intruded the pitch, threatening to remove his clothes and touch Williamson. He was promptly out-wrestled by the guards and dragged away into the office, even as he kept on pleading: "Can I touch him once? Can I shake hands? I am harmless, you know. I will pay the fine."

His pleas went unrequited and was immediately thrown out of the stadium with a stern warning: "Next time, you'll be counting the bars." It's a different story that he kept lurking around the stadium bare-chested complaining the police had torn his shirt apart and looking for any unguarded inlet into the stadium.

It served as comic relief to the crowd clutched with a nervous intensity as Williamson approached the three-figure mark. By this time, the pre-evening revelry had given away to serious cricket watching, the hitherto wandering spectators were glued to their seats, be it the plastic chair of the revamped enclosure or the wooden seats of the stadium's antique remains.

The crossovers between the stands over the sight-screen became rarer, whoever attempted was scorned, the newspapers and beer glasses, gossips and crosswords, were kept aside, and they were fully soaking in the agony and joy of watching Williamson.

He is a tiny speck on the field, distant and detached, safely tucked away in a Zen zone designed to limit the highs and lows to which he is naturally inclined. And Williamson takes them through a transcendental zone of visual experience.

Not quite the feverish frenzy that Sachin Tendulkar plunged Tendulkar-ians or the



**EXPRESS IN NEW ZEALAND**

**SANDIPG**  
WELLINGTON, FEBRUARY 22

IN A pragmatic tone, his index finger drawing zig-zag lines on the table, Ishant Sharma turned philosophical: "Getting injured is a destiny. You can slip in the toilet and break your leg." He was referring to the ankle injury that he incurred during a Ranji Trophy against Vidarbha last month. It was a blow that put his New Zealand tour in jeopardy.

At the Ferozshah Kotla that day, Ishant had twisted his ankle while he was animatedly appealing. Once on the treatment table, a support staff member had put a very practical question to the team's star pacer: Why you appeal so vociferously? Ishant would reply: "Aur kaise appeal karega?" Later that evening, the word from the dressing room was that Ishant would be out minimum six weeks. "Uska pair football jaisa ho gaya hai," a member of the support staff had said. The X-rays revealed that it was a grade three tear.

There was skepticism when he was picked for the New Zealand tour. A volley of doubts whirled: How match fit will he be? Later, Ishant's inclusion for the Wellington Test too was questioned, even as Virat Kohli kept reiterating his pacer's expertise and reliability. And so was his selection in the Playing XI, precisely three days after he landed in Wellington, barely the time to knock off jet-lag. But Ishant knew he was match-ready. "Before I came here, I tested myself. I bowled 21 overs in two days in Bengaluru and then I got to know that yes, I am fit. That's why I came here and bowled one and a half hours here to check that I am alright," he said.

**Diligent display**

Had he not been India's standout bowler on the second day, whose diligence and craft are the chief reasons India are still clinging onto the match, the team management would have been searching for hollow excuses. Ishant looked the sharpest and fittest bowler on show today. Each of his three strikes came at junctures when the match seemed to drift away to a point of no return for India. There was a touch of fortune with the first scalp, when the doughty Tom Latham gloved a leg-side-bound delivery to the keeper. But Ishant was incrementally building the pressure on him, stifling the runs and treading tight lengths on a sun-baked surface that was blinking gleefully at the batsmen.

Twenty-five overs later, in his third and most riveting spell of the day, he nabbed Tom Blundell, who along with Kane Williamson was building a stable alliance. Comprehending that this wasn't a pitch where you could bowl magic-balls, Ishant went for the double-bluff trick. He softened Blundell with a number of away-seamers at good length, before sneaking the full-length nip-backer that ripped through the tiny gap between his bat and pad.

The third, and the most influential, blow he inflicted was the Ross Taylor wicket in the second session. Taylor and Williamson were on cruise mode, not only looking solid but adding runs swiftly. New Zealand had just sneaked



Even a severe jet-lag could not wane Ishant Sharma's powers at the Basin Reserve. The pacer finished Day 2 with figures of 3/31. Reuters

**ISHANT'S BOWLING AVERAGES**

2014	31.37
2015	31.50
2016	28.73
2017	37.71
2018	21.80
2019	15.56

■ As his bowling averages indicate, Ishant Sharma shed the perennial underachiever's tag with back-to-back splendid seasons that began with the India-SA Test in January 2018.

**I could only sleep for 40 minutes yesterday night. The night before that, I slept for only three hours. I was struggling a lot. The more you can recover (from jet lag), the better effort you can put in on the ground. There's no better recovery than sound sleep.**  
ISHANT SHARMA AFTER THE DAY'S PLAY.

past India and the pair was rattling four runs or thereabouts an over. All wicket-taking avenues seemed blocked — Bumrah was erratic; Shami disoriented and Ravi Ashwin bereft of rhythm. It seemed to turn out to be that kind of a session in away Tests that encapsulated all that's going wrong for the team.

If India were to lose the series, it could have been one of the reference points. In the 17 overs, when he wasn't bowling, New Zealand plundered 61 runs. But Ishant turned up for another spell, his fifth of the day. Instantly, he extracted more response from the strip. Suddenly, there was more bounce and movement, though the seam of the Kookaburra was no longer prominent.

The extra bounce off a good-length delivery deceived Taylor. He was comfortably defusing balls of similar length from Bumrah, around the knee-roll. But Ishant's struck a couple of inches higher. Later, he laughed off when asked about the height factor: "That's why tall bowlers are always in demand. You need them for the bounce they can extract." The impact of Taylor's dismissal couldn't be emphasised more. For it changed the dynamics of the match. Suddenly, India gathered their collective voice. There was more spunk and vibrancy on the field, fielders lunging and leaping around.

There was a sense of belief that they would

still claw back into the game. Runs dried out and the boundary-flow stopped, culminating in Williamson's departure.

**Leading the way**

Gradually, Ashwin and Shami grew more threatening, and New Zealand endured a few anxious moments to ensure that they didn't lose another wicket on the second day. It was another instance when Ishant's leadership stood as much as his skills.

He always downplays his leadership skills, but like a true leader, he not only covered up the vulnerabilities of his colleagues on an off-day but carried them under his wings. Seldom do you see him more involved in the game, always beside the bowler, especially if it's Shami or Bumrah, encouraging and advising them. At the end of the day, he looked utterly fatigued. All he wants is to catch up with some sleep.

"I could only sleep for 40 minutes yesterday night. The night before that, I slept for only three hours. I was struggling a lot. The more you can recover (from jet lag), the better effort you can put in on the ground. There's no better recovery than sound sleep. The sounder your sleep is, the better your body will respond on ground," he says.

The memories and worries of that January night seem gone long ago. Or it would make his Wellington memories warmer.

**SCORECARD >>**  
**NZ vs India**

1st Test | Wellington | Toss: NZ

**INDIA 165 ALL OUT (68.1 OVERS)**  
(Overnight 122/5)

- A Rahane** c Watling b Southee **46** (138b, 5x4)
- R Pant** run out (Patel) **19** (53b, 1x4, 1x6)
- R Ashwin** b Southee **0** (1b)
- I Sharma** c Watling b Jamieson **5** (23b)
- M Shami** c Blundell b Southee **21** (20b, 3x4)
- J Bumrah** not out **0** (3b)

■ **Extras:** (lb 1, w 3) **4**  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-16 (Shaw, 4.2 ov), 2-35 (Pujara, 15.3 ov), 3-40 (Kohli, 17.5 ov), 4-88 (Agarwal, 34.3 ov), 5-101 (Vihari, 41.1 ov), 6-132 (Pant, 58.2 ov), 7-132 (Ashwin, 58.3 ov), 8-143 (Rahane, 62.3 ov), 9-165 (Sharma, 67.3 ov), 10-165 (Shami, 68.1 ov)

■ **Bowling:**

<b>T Southee</b>	20.1-4-49-4
<b>T Boult</b>	18-2-57-1
<b>C de Grandhomme</b>	11-5-12-0
<b>K Jamieson</b>	16-3-39-4
<b>A Patel</b>	3-2-7-0

**NEW ZEALAND 216/5 IN 55 OVERS**

- T Latham** c Pant b Sharma **11** (30b)
- T Blundell** b Sharma **30** (80b, 4x4)
- K Williamson** c sub b Shami **89** (153b, 11x4)
- R Taylor** c Pujara b Sharma **44** (71b, 6x4, 1x6)
- H Nicholls** c Kohli b Ashwin **17** (62b, 2x4)
- B Watling** not out **14** (29b, 1x4)
- C de Grandhomme** not out **4** (2b, 1x4)

■ **Extras:** (b 1, lb 1, w 5) **7**  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-26 (Tom Latham, 10.2 ov), 2-73 (Tom Blundell, 26.4 ov), 3-166 (Ross Taylor, 52.1 ov), 4-185 (Kane Williamson, 62.4 ov), 5-207 (Henry Nicholls, 69.5 ov)

■ **Bowling:**

<b>J Bumrah</b>	18.1-4-62-0
<b>I Sharma</b>	15-6-31-3
<b>M Shami</b>	17-2-61-1
<b>R Ashwin</b>	21-1-60-1

**THE NUMBERS GAME**

**1** This is the first time that India have conceded a 50+ stand to the pair of Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor in 8 innings that they have batted together.

**The run-out of Rishabh Pant was a big this morning. With him being such a dangerous player and leading into that second new-ball, he could have scored quickly along with Jinks Rahane.**

TIM SOUTHEE



Kane Williamson scored a masterful 153-ball 89. AP

ethereal world that Roger Federer hypnotised the Federer-ites, but Williamson takes them to a trip that only Martin Crowe has hitherto taken them to.

The Crowe-Williamson debates swirl on, whenever Williamson is batting. "Crowe was more elegant, though Williamson's more diligent," an old-timer chimes in. At

the exact moment, he unfurls a gorgeous cover drive off Jasprit Bumrah, leaning into the shot and opening his bat phase at the exact moment of contact, so that he could beat the short cover. His grandson picks up the elegance thread: "Could he play a cover drive like that?" His slightly irritated grandfather gave an admonishing glare and

**Not quite the feverish frenzy that Sachin Tendulkar plunged Tendulkar-ians or the ethereal world that Roger Federer hypnotised the Federer-ites, but Kane Williamson takes them to a trip that only Martin Crowe has hitherto taken them to.**

snapped him: "You want to pick up a fight with me or watch him bat?"

It's when watching Williamson and rugby that his countrymen shed their fabled reserve and pour raw emotions. "If Williamson were a rugby player, he would have been the greatest Kiwi ever," opines a spectator. Williamson, a decent rugby player in school, would have looked out of place doing the haka. Not for him the brawny beauty of haka.

They'd rather take him as a batsman, whose batting on Saturday was a tessellation of skills and sophistry in the most perfect union. Every time he scored a run, they nodded, applauded, palms up and arms outstretched. A better measure of his genius might be sought in reactions like these.

For all the tangibles, the astonishing stats, it's the intangibles that are more eloquent. What the face registers on those occasions is nothing quite like what it might when anyone else is in action. Awe, admiration, reverence, joy, a whole gamut of emotions flickered through the faces.

In the long-room beneath the RA Vance stand, a wine glass slipped out of the bearer's hand as his eyes were entranced by Williamson.

No one bothered. No one cared. The chatter between deliveries or when he was



## BRIEFLY

## Jayaram ousted in Barcelona semis

**Barcelona:** Indian shuttler Ajay Jayaram on Saturday crashed out of the men's singles semifinals of the Barcelona Spain Masters after suffering a straight-game loss to Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn. The unseeded India gave a tough fight in the opening game before surrendering 20-22 12-21 in the last-four clash of the BWF World Tour Super 300 event. With Jayaram's defeat, India's campaign in the tournament came to an end.

## Late goals help ATK hold Bengaluru

**Bengaluru:** Two late goals by ATK cancelled two scored in the first half by Bengaluru FC as their Indian Super League match ended in a 2-2 draw here on Saturday. Bengaluru FC ended their league stage campaign with 30 points and could possibly finish fourth, should Chennaiyin FC win their final league game against NorthEast United. Meanwhile, Kolkata giants Mohun Bagan on Saturday defeated Churchill Brothers FC Goa 3-0 at the Fatorda Stadium here to inch three points closer to their second Hero I-League title.

## Giroud on target as Chelsea beat Spurs

**London:** Chelsea's Olivier Giroud and Marcos Alonso returned to the starting lineup with stunning effect by grabbing a goal apiece in a crucial 2-1 home win over Tottenham Hotspur in the battle between the London rivals for fourth place on Saturday. It was only Chelsea's sixth win in 14 home Premier League games this season but it was fully deserved as they remain in fourth, the last Champions League qualification spot, with 44 points from 27 games. Tottenham have 40 points.

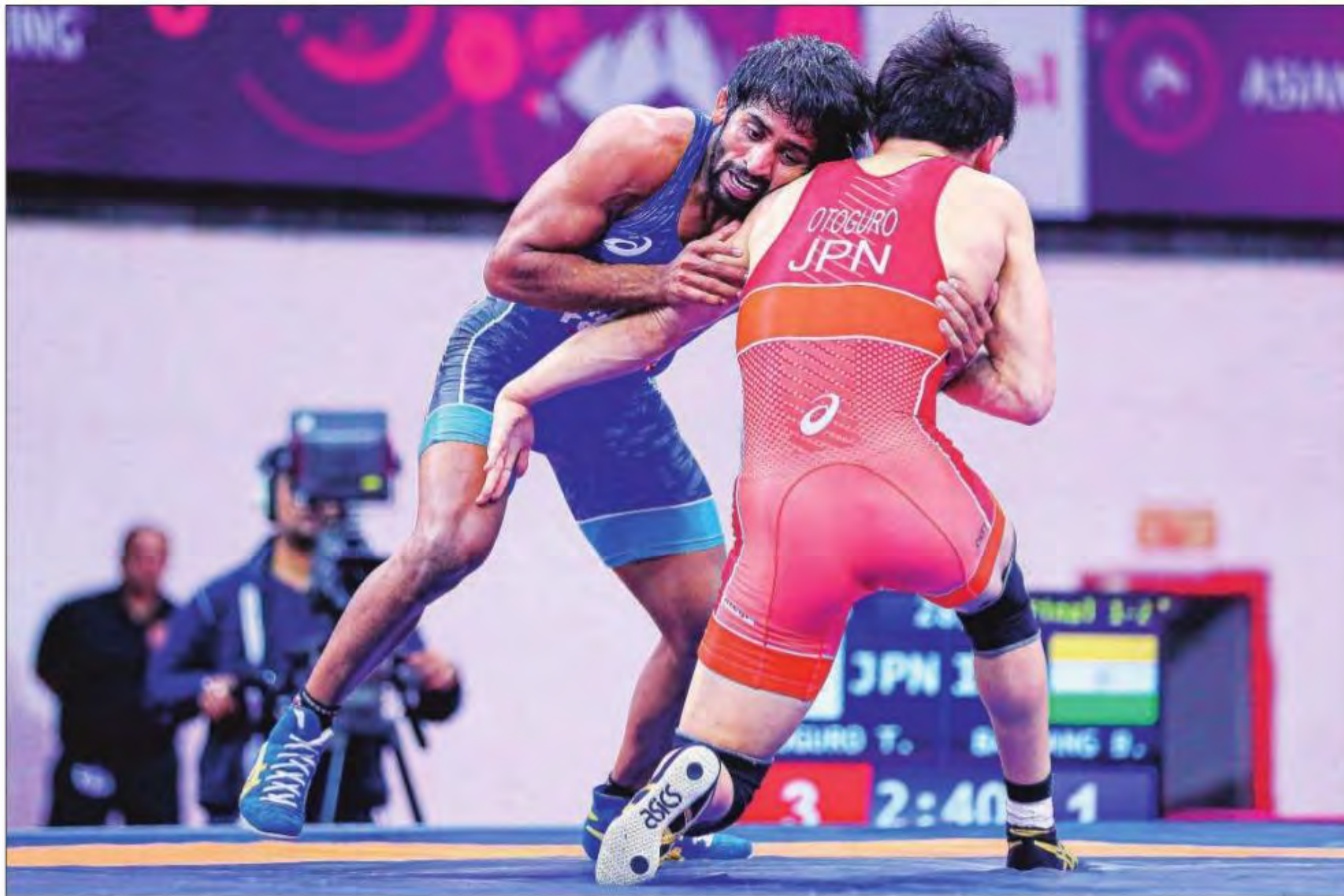
## 3400 athletes for Khelo India

**Cuttack:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched the first-ever Khelo India University Games at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium here on Saturday. As many as 3400 athletes from 159 universities across the country will vie for top honours across 17 disciplines, including rugby which is among the six team events. Ace sprinter Dutee Chand, who is a student of KIIT, the host university, was also a part of the event. Besides Dutee, there are other talented athletes like Mangalore University's triple jumper Jay Shah, his team-mate long distance runner Narendra Pratap Singh, Pune University's long distance runner Komal Jagadale and Acharya Nagarjuna University's sprinter Yarraji Jyothi, who can lift the quality of the competition in track and field sport.

## Sharan-Sitak lose to Bryan brothers

**Florida:** India's number two doubles player Divij Sharan and his partner Kiwi partner Artem Sitak lost to top-seeded defending champions Mike and Bob Bryan in the quarterfinals of the Delray Beach Open here. The Indo-Kiwi duo lost 2-6, 6-4, (3-10) to the Bryan brothers who are playing their last Delray Beach Open as they are set to retire post the US Open this year. Sharan and Sitak lost the first set 2-6 to the Bryan Brothers. They made a comeback in the second set, winning it 6-4 to set up a Super Tie Breaker clash.

AGENCIES



## ACTION REPLAY

India's biggest Olympic medal hope Bajrang Punia lost 10-2 at the hands of his nemesis Takuto Otaguro in the final of 65 kg event in the Asian Wrestling Championship. This was Bajrang's second straight loss to the Japanese No. 1, who had also beaten the Indian in the 2018 World Championship final.

## Dahiya sets the gold standard

Worlds bronze medallist strengthens claim as Olympic contender by winning continental title

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 22

FROM AN Indian perspective, the Asian Championship – despite losing a bit of sheen after China and North Korea pulled out, and the rest sending depleted teams – offered multiple storylines. From an Olympics point of view, though, just one mattered: the performance of the Tokyo-bound quartet.

After Vinesh Phogat's loss to her nemesis Mayu Mukaide of Japan on Friday, before eventually settling for a bronze medal, the focus shifted to men's freestyle, with defending champion in 65kg class Bajrang Punia, and world championship bronze medallist Ravi Dahiya taking the mat on Saturday. And the bouts offered enough for both wrestlers to build on in the run-up to the Games in July.

On one hand, Dahiya continued to live up to the hype around him by winning his maiden Asian Championship gold. Bajrang, on the other hand, surrendered his title to old foe Takuto Otaguro of Japan in a repeat of the 2018 World Championship final result.

And while Bajrang's defeat will serve as a warning sign for him, even though it doesn't diminish his chances to medal at the Olympics, Dahiya is emerging as another medal potential for India. And his performances on Saturday en route to claiming the 57kg gold have added to his credentials.

Most categories in this competition have had just one or two top-ticket wrestlers competing, given that the Asian Olympic qualifiers are scheduled to be held just next month. But Dahiya's field was among the toughest, comprising of a former world champion and a tricky Kazakh.

He began the day by beating 2017 World champion from Japan Yuki Takahashi (14-5) before pinning Mongolia's Tugs Batjargal in the



Ravi Dahiya's field was among the toughest, comprising of a former world champion and a tricky Kazakh.

quarterfinals. In the semifinal, Uzbekistan's Nurislam Sanayev too could not challenge Ravi much. In the final against Tajikistan's Hikmatullo Vohidov, he claimed the gold with ease, registering a victory by technical superiority. "I am doing well and hopefully we will come up with a good performance at the Olympics too. The key for me is to stay injury-free as of now," Dahiya said.

Dahiya's medal, in a way, isn't a surprise given the form he has been in. What did shock the home fans, though, was Bajrang's loss to Otaguro. India's top medal contender in men's freestyle had conceded just two points on his way to the final against the Japanese wrestler, who had emerged on top even in

the 2018 World Championship title clash between the two. World number two Bajrang entered the event as defending champion and conceded only two points on his way to the final but could not avenge his defeat to Otaguro in the 2018 World Championship title clash.

Back then, Bajrang's leg defence was seen as an issue but on Saturday he lost in a different manner. In the fast-paced bout, Bajrang's leg defence was not a problem but he lost points on smart counter-attacks by Otaguro. Much to the shock of home fans, Bajrang suffered a comprehensive 10-2 defeat against the world number nine.

An upset Bajrang said he could not fight the way he wanted. "It was important to fight

with all these wrestlers because I will wrestle with them at the Olympics. I have taken my lessons from this. I could not fight as I wanted. It was a very different fight. His counter-attacks were good and this is an area I need to work on to," he was quoted as saying by Press Trust of India.

Bajrang's coach Shako Bentinidis admitted that Otaguro emerged stronger. "Bajrang was slow, Otaguro was stronger. But I am happy with silver. It's difficult to maintain intensity and a high level of performance for two years. We still have five months and he remains a contender at Olympics," PTI quoted Bentinidis as saying.

"If you see all top wrestlers even in Europe have slowed down a bit. It's happening now and not two weeks before the Olympics, so it's okay. Wrestling is tough, it's not like football or basketball. In 65kg all wrestlers are almost at the same level."

Apart from Bajrang, Gourav Baliyan (79kg) and Satyawart Kadiyan (97kg) also had to be content with silver medals.

On Sunday, Deepak Punia – the fourth Indian wrestler who has already qualified for the Tokyo Games – will be in action along with Jitender Kumar, who will have a chance to secure a place in the team for Olympic qualifiers ahead of Sushil Kumar if he finishes on the podium. **WITH PTI INPUTS**

## Sreejesh secures another shoot-out win for India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BHUBANESWAR, FEBRUARY 22

INDIA BOUNCED back in style to beat title holders Australia 3-1 via a shoot-out in the second match of the two-leg FIH Pro League match on Saturday.

Both the teams were locked 2-2 at the end of regulation time at the Kalinga Stadium. India converted two penalty corners through Rupinder Pal Singh (25th minute) and Harmanpreet Singh (27th), while Trent Mitton (23rd) and skipper Aran Zaleski (46th) were the scorers for Australia in the regulation 60 minutes.

India had lost 3-4 to the visitors in the first game on Friday. By virtue of this win, India earned three points from the game while Australia pocketed one.

Both India and Australia have 10 points from six games but the Kookaburras are a rung above the Manpreet Singh-led side at third spot in the standings on goal difference.

In the shoot-out, Harmanpreet, Vivek Sagar Prasad and Lalit Upadhyay scored for India, while only Daniel Beale found the net for the visitors. Australia made a positive start, earning a penalty corner inside the opening 30 seconds of the match, but Jeremy Hayward's flick was saved by India goalkeeper P R Sreejesh.

After that it was all India with the hosts pinning the Kookaburras deep in their own territory but failing to create clear-cut opportunities. In the eighth minute Australia secured back-to-back penalty corners, the second of which was converted by Lachlan Sharp with a rebound, but the goal was ruled out after India called for video referral for obstruction on goalkeeper Sreejesh.

The Kookaburras won another penalty corner in the 12th minute but Sreejesh once again came to India's rescue by denying Hayward. Three minutes into the second quarter, Harmanpreet Singh missed a glorious chance to put India ahead, slapping his first-time shot just wide of the left post after he was picked out by Amit Rohidas' searching cross from the right.

Seconds later, the Indians defended a fifth Australian penalty corner. Mitton broke the deadlock for Australia in the 23rd minute after beating second-choice India goalkeeper Krishan Pathak at his near-post with a powerful slap-shot.

Australia earned their sixth penalty corner soon but failed to convert. Five minutes from half time, Rupinder equalised for the hosts, converting a penalty corner with a low drag-flick that went through the legs of Australia goalkeeper Tyler Lovell.

Two minutes later, Harmanpreet converted another set piece to hand India a 2-1 lead going into the halfway stage.

Two minutes into the second half, Australia secured two penalty corners in succession, but Hayward's shot on goal from the second chance was disallowed. A minute later Tim Brand missed a penalty stroke for Australia. In the 43rd minute, Ramandeep Singh fired high and wide of the rival goal.



India 'keeper P R Sreejesh, who played a key role in the win, celebrates with fans.

## RANJI TROPHY

## Bengal secure first-innings lead but doors not shut on Odisha yet

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
CUTTACK, FEBRUARY 22

ODISHA UNDONE themselves bit by bit to concede an 82-run first innings lead, but they are still in the game – just an outside chance – because Bengal went into a shell, meandering to 79/2 in 45 overs in their second innings when stumps were drawn on Day 3.

The hosts had some fantastic opportunities in this Ranji Trophy quarterfinal. First, when they had reduced Bengal to 46/5 during their first innings on Day One. Then, on the second day, they had been riding on a 125-run second wicket partnership.

Even on Saturday, a bit of positivity could have changed the complexion of the game. Resuming at 151/4, Odisha missed a trick by not taking the attack to the opposition, when Bengal still had to bowl at least 12.5 overs with the old ball.

The pitch was sluggish, offering little assistance to the bowlers. But Odisha batsmen played for survival rather than scoring quickly. Half-volleys had been played half-heartedly, long-hops weren't punished and twos weren't converted to threes. Odisha missed out on at



Bengal pacer Ishan Porel snapped three wickets, giving away 72 runs. PTI

least 40 runs, which eventually became their bugbear. To Bengal's credit, unlike their rivals, they kept things tight, when wickets weren't coming. Then again, with the batsmen oozing negativity, the three Bengal medium pacers – Mukesh Kumar, Nilkantha Das and Ishan Porel – bowled virtually without any pressure. The Odisha first innings that lasted for 102.1 overs, had 32 fours and a six. They were all out for 250. Anustup Majumdar alone had hit 22 boundaries for Bengal during their first innings. Night-watchman Debabrata Pradhan was

the first to depart today, chasing a wish delivery outside the off-stump from Das. Bengal had just taken the second new ball and Pradhan, after doing the hard work, perished to a poor shot.

The experienced Biplab Samantray tried to play across the line to a straight delivery from Kumar and was trapped leg-before. Rajesh Dhuper committed the same mistake and Odisha's tail had been exposed. The elementary cricket intelligence appeared to be missing. Suryakant Pradhan tried to use the long handle and when he hit a few boundaries, eyebrows were raised in the Bengal camp. It just showed how calculated aggression from the Odisha top and middle-order could have made a difference. For a tail-ender like Pradhan, though, the task was beyond him. A yorker from Kumar breached his defence and the last two wickets fell in quick succession.

Yet again, the Bengal bowlers did the job for their team. They are the reason why Bengal have one foot in the semifinal. Das, Kumar and Porel returned with three wickets apiece. Porel, despite not being at his best, showed heart.

Collectively the four frontline Bengal pacers – the injured Akash Deep is not playing in this game – have taken 71 wickets so far this

season. Here, they showed skills and nous to tough out the conditions.

"There was nothing much for the bowlers on the wicket and that's why our target was to bowl wicket-to-wicket, leak less runs. Not many wickets fell in the morning session, the wicket became slow. There was a point of time when the wicket became completely dead." "When you are bowling on a dead wicket, keeping a tight line but not getting wickets; suddenly your brain goes blank. Manoj Tiwary, who holds a huge experience, came to me and shared a few advices. It really helped," Kumar said after the day's play.

"The wicket was dead. After the first day, nothing was happening. We forced them to make mistakes. We bowled as a unit and bowled well. We are quietly confident of moving to the semifinal," Porel added.

Somehow, the Bengal openers, Abhimanyu Easwaran and Koushik Ghosh, came out with a similar negative mindset in the second innings. Both have been going through a lean patch and maybe, they wanted to use the batting-friendly conditions to get back to form. The ball is turning at one end and also keeping low, but the door hasn't been slammed shut on Odisha yet.

## Gaja's five-for flattens Goa

MEDIUM PACER Chintan Gaja's five-for blew away Goa, but rather than enforcing the follow-on, Gujarat opted for batting practice, with an eye to the Ranji Trophy semifinal. Against Gujarat's 602/8, Goa's first innings folded for 173. Only Amit Verma showed some fight, scoring 56. In Gujarat's second innings, Samit Gohel scored a half-ton and at stumps he was batting on 70. The hosts now lead by 587 runs. **Brief scores:** Gujarat 602/8 decl. and 158/1 (Samit Gohel 70 not out) vs Goa 173 (Amit Verma 56; Chintan Gaja 5/19)

## Saurashtra on cruise mode

ODISHA: Saurashtra all but secured a place in the Ranji Trophy semis after bundling out Andhra for 136 in their first innings. Saurashtra, too, didn't enforce the follow-on and batted again. The Andhra innings had 7 single-digit scores including three ducks. Jaydev Unadkat was Saurashtra's most successful bowler with four wickets.

Saurashtra finished the day having a lead of 376 runs. **Brief scores:** Saurashtra 419 and 93/2 (Avi Barot 44 not out) vs Andhra 136 (C Gnaneshwar 43; Jaydev Unadkat 4/42, Dharmendra Jadeja 3/27)

## J&amp;K to play party poopers

Jammu: The match resumed on the third day and Jammu & Kashmir did enough to create the chance of causing an upset. First, they restricted Karnataka to 206. With KV Siddharth's 76, the visitors would have been on the mat. For J&K, Auqib Nabi, Mujtaba Yousuf and Parvez Rasool took three wickets apiece. At stumps on Day Three, the hosts had moved to 88/2. A good morning session tomorrow can set up their march to the Ranji Trophy semifinals. **Brief scores:** Karnataka 206 (KV Siddharth 76, Manish Pandey 37; Parvez Rasool 3/36, Auqib Nabi 3/45, Mujtaba Yousuf 3/45) vs Jammu & Kashmir 88/2 (Shubham Khajuria 39 not out). **ENS**