

**United against Islamic terrorism: US President** | **Takes swipe at China for power through coercion** | **Says Modi a true friend but tough negotiator** | **He thinks big, it's a new chapter in our ties: Modi**

# Good Morning Indiamerica

Rousing welcome in Ahmedabad, bilateral talks in New Delhi today

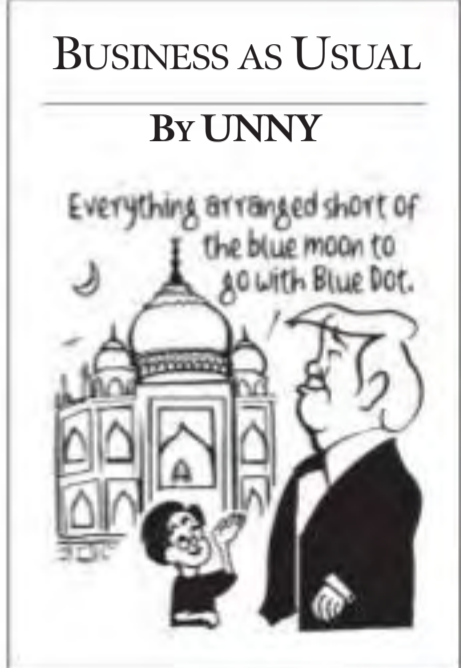
**SHUBHAJIT ROY & PARIMAL DABHI**  
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 24

SEEKING TO deepen ties with India, US President Donald Trump, starting his first State visit to the country Monday, hailed "India's rise as a prosperous and independent nation" as "an example to every nation", called out "radical Islamic terrorism", took an oblique swipe at China for seeking to claim power through coercion unlike India, and praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi as an "exceptional leader", a true friend but a "tough negotiator".

Accorded a colourful welcome in Ahmedabad where thousands lined the streets and packed the stadium in Motera on a hot afternoon to cheer him at the Namaste Trump event, the US President, who was accompanied by First Lady Melania Trump, daughter and advisor Ivanka Trump and son-in-law Jared Kushner, said both countries are "firmly united in our ironclad resolve to defend our citizens from the threat of radical Islamic terrorism".

His speech, that lasted nearly half hour, was punctuated by applause and cheers. Trump, who spoke of his administration's success against the ISIS and the "monster" al-Baghdadi, said US and India are "committed to working together to stop terrorists and to fight their ideology".

"Both of our countries have been hurt by the pain and turmoil of terrorism... In the United States,



FULL COVERAGE

**DDLJ TO SHOLAY, SACHIN TO VIRAT, HE STRIKES ALL CHORDS**

**'TAJ INSPIRES AWE, A TESTAMENT TO DIVERSE CULTURE'**  
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we have also made clear that while our country will always welcome newcomers who share our values and love our people, our borders will always be closed to terrorists and terrorism and to any form of extremism," he said.

"That is why we have taken historic steps to improve screening and vetting of applications for entry, and we are working to ensure that anyone who threatens the security of our citizens is denied admission and will pay a very, very big, costly price. Every nation has the right to secure

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At the Namaste Trump event in Motera stadium in Ahmedabad on Monday. ANI

## \$3-bn deal with India: 'Some of the most feared military equipment'

**SHUBHAJIT ROY & PARIMAL DABHI**  
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 24

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump announced Monday that the US will sign deals to sell the "absolute finest, state-of-the-art military helicopters" and other defence equipment to India worth \$3 billion.

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi and First Lady

Melania Trump on the stage at the Motera stadium, Trump also called Modi a "very tough negotiator" and said he is optimistic that they are in the "early stages of discussion" for an "incredible" trade deal.

"Over the course of my visit, Prime Minister Modi and I will also discuss our efforts to expand the economic ties between our two countries. We will be making very, very major — among the biggest ever made — trade

deals," he said. "We are in the early stages of discussion for an incredible trade agreement to reduce barriers of investment between the United States and India. And I am optimistic that, working together, the Prime Minister and I can reach a fantastic deal that's good and even great for both of our countries," he said. "Except that he's a very tough negotiator," he added, laughing.

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**EXPLAINED**  
**E** This could be main takeaway

DEFENCE DEALS with the US is a win-win for both sides. While India is able to diversify its defence acquisition — away from dependence on legacy Russian equipment — the US President can leverage this to create jobs in America. This deal could turn out to be the main takeaway of the visit.



Trump, Melania, his daughter Ivanka and her husband Jared Kushner with UP Governor Anandiben Patel and CM Yogi Adityanath in Agra, Monday. PTI

## On table for today: several pacts and talks on a future trade deal

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 24

WHEN US President Donald Trump meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Tuesday, an ambitious trade deal in future will be top of the agenda for the two leaders.

Some of Delhi's decisions in the last few months have contributed to Trump's frustration that India has not been treating

the US well. One such decision was the retaliatory tariffs on walnuts, imposed in the wake of the US withdrawal of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). Since India is a huge market for California walnuts, the fate of about 35 consignments was jeopardised — the announcements came while these consignments were on their way.

This is one example of India's unpredictable tax regime which

has bothered Washington, and has now snowballed into a major talking point for the US President.

While the Indian side was happy to conclude a "limited trade deal", the US had a more "ambitious" deal in mind. This has led to conflict between negotiators from both sides. Although the US Trade Representative is not part of the delegation, he has had at least

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**HIS DAY TODAY**  
**10 AM:** Reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan  
**10.30 AM:** Wreath laying at Rajghat  
**11 AM:** Meeting with PM at Hyderabad House  
**12.40 PM:** Exchange of agreements/press statement  
**3 PM:** Meeting Indian business leaders  
**7.30 PM:** Meeting President Ram Nath Kovind, banquet  
**10 PM:** Departure

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**NEEMRANA CALLING**  
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## Ally Nitish says NPR should stick to 2010 format — no parent details

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
PATNA, FEBRUARY 24

ASSURING MINORITIES that there is no reason to fear the National Population Register exercise, which his government will conduct from May 15-28, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has said that the NPR "should be implemented as per the 2010 format".

This puts a question mark on three key additional questions in the latest exercise — date of birth and place of parents, and last residential address, of the applicant



**'Won't allow injustice against any minority'**

— that had sparked fears of the NPR leading to a countrywide National Register of Citizens (NRC).

JD(S) chief Kumar also reiterated that the NRC will not be implemented in the state.

Earlier this month, the Bihar government had written to the

Registrar General of India, saying that the state has not received the format of questions for the proposed NPR.

On January 4, the NDA state government's Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi had first referred to the "three additional questions in the new NPR" while announcing the implementation of the exercise in Bihar.

But on Sunday evening, speaking at a function organised by the state's minority welfare department in Darbhanga,

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## On February 26, third flight heads to Wuhan to evacuate Indians

**SOWMIYA ASHOK**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

WHILE INDIA is likely to send a military aircraft carrying relief items to Wuhan, Ground Zero of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, on February 26, amongst the group of Indians waiting to be evacuated is an Indian businessman, his Chinese wife and son. "I drove over from Shenzhen where I have an export business to visit my wife's family in Hubei

for six days but I got caught in the lockdown," he told *The Indian Express* via WeChat.

"We couldn't be evacuated in the first round since I was still waiting for my wife and son who hold OCI cards to be eligible for travel," the businessman who did not wish to be named said.

Nearly 100 Indians are on stand-by since February 20 to be evacuated out of Hubei province though many among them are students, the third evacuation

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At Bhajanpura in northeast Delhi Monday night. Amit Mehra

## CAA PROTESTS, COUNTER-PROTESTS Head Constable is among 5 killed; 78 injured as violence hits northeast Delhi

**SOMYA LAKHANI, ANAND MOHAN J, DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & ANANYA TIWARI**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

A DELHI Police head constable and four civilians were killed and as many as 78, including a DCP, were injured as several parts of northeast Delhi turned into a battleground and violence spiralled over the new citizenship law. Rival mobs, armed with sticks, rods and petrol bombs, torched vehicles, shops and homes. Until midnight Monday, violence was still on, a petrol pump in Bhajanpura was allegedly set ablaze.

This is the second day of clashes in the city where US President Donald Trump arrived in the evening for the main leg of his two-day India visit.

Today's violence came after clashes erupted in the same district Sunday, barely 30 minutes after BJP's Kapil Mishra held a rally to counter protests against the law and warned of action if anti-CAA protesters didn't clear



**Head Constable Rattan Lal is survived by his wife and three children**

the road. Maujpur, Jaffrabad, Bhajanpura, Yamuna Vihar, Chand Bagh and Gokalpuri saw heavy stone-pelting between two communities. While Sunday's violence was largely set off by a clash between those opposing and those in favour of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, Monday's clashes were more communally charged. The first

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## Day after BJP's Mishra warning, how violence erupted across the divide

**SOMYA LAKHANI & ANAND MOHAN J**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

THE 12 HOURS of violence in northeast Delhi on Monday in which five people were killed, including a head constable, painted a grim picture of how protests over the new citizenship law took a communal turn.

The area had been on edge since Sunday when a rally by BJP's Kapil Mishra to counter anti-CAA protests in the area had been followed by waves of stone-pelting. Mishra couldn't have been clearer in his warning — he released a video threatening anti-CAA protesters; he gathered with his supporters next to the protest venue; he tweeted after the violence that "till (Trump) is in India, we are leaving the area peacefully... after that, we won't listen to you (police)".

Despite this, when violence first erupted Monday, with young men from two communities gathering on either side of a wide road under the Baburpur-Maujpur Metro line, Delhi Police personnel found they were out-

numbered. While there is little clarity on who cast the first stone — both communities blame each other — by 11 am, stones were flying thick and fast in Maujpur. Around noon, among those who were seen throwing stones were also some policemen. Asked about this, a senior Delhi Police officer declined to comment.

Several Muslim residents in the area alleged that since Sunday night, members of their community had been targeted. "This is a mixed colony. We saw our own neighbours throwing stones at us. On Sunday night, men were being pulled out of autos and Hindu households were collecting stones," claimed a resident holding a metal rod, his face

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## After 200 days, Valley wakes up to bustling classrooms

**ADIL AKHZER**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 24

AFTER OVER 200 days, Kashmir Valley woke up to a heart-warming morning scene: school buses making their way through roads and classrooms filling up with children.

Officially, Monday marked the end of the winter break. But in reality, it was the first time after the abrogation of Article 370 and the shutdown that schools opened fully and reported near-full attendance.

"I met my classmates after a

long time and it was an awesome feeling. I had missed my teachers and my classroom," said Eram after classes at Presentation Convent School for girls in Srinagar's uptown Rajbagh locality.

"My school bus came in the morning to my house in the old city to pick me up. I was waiting for my school to open so that I could return to class," said Amir, a student from Srinagar's Tyndale Biscoe School in Lalchowk.

Weeks after the Centre's decision to bifurcate J&K, the state administration had ordered the

opening of schools in a gradual manner after restrictions across the Valley were eased. However, students had largely stayed away with parents fearing for their safety. In December, several schools in Srinagar started seeing a slow rise in attendance — until the winter break was announced.

There are approximately 13,000 government and private schools in Kashmir region, with around 12 lakh students enrolled. And education officials in Srinagar described Monday's response as "very good".

"I visited several schools today, including in Shopian.



Morning assembly at a school in Srinagar. Shuaib Masoodi

Wherever I went, I saw students in classes," Mohammad Younis Malik, Director, School Education (Kashmir) told *The Indian Express*.

"Other than the fact that all schools have opened today, a welcome sign is that parents are cooperating at every level," said G N Var, who heads Kashmir's private schools association.

There were similar reports from across the Valley. "Nearly 60 per cent of students attended school today. Some areas are still snow-covered, so it will take at least a week for all the students to come," said Sajad Ahmad,

principal, Rainbow International educational institution in South Kashmir's Shopian. The school, which has classes up to Class 10, sent all of its 35 buses on all routes in the morning to pick up students.

A senior official from St Joseph's Higher Secondary School in North Kashmir's Baramulla reported "100 per cent attendance". "Now prayers are needed for the situation to remain normal so that schools can continue to function," said Mohammed Yousuf Wani, chairman, Green Valley School, which

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