### SHORT TAKES

### **RAPE VICTIM SUCCUMBS TO BURNS**

DC CORRESPONDENT BHOPAL, FEB. 26

tribal girl of Betul in Madhya Pradesh who immolated herself for being 'frequently harassed' by three youths, who had allegedly gang raped her three months ago, succumbed to burn injuries early on Wednesday

The 14-year-old girl set herself on fire after pouring kerosene on her on Tuesday evening, police said.

She suffered 95 per cent burns and was rushed to district hospital in Betul. She was later shifted to a hospital in Nagpur in Maharashtra where she died early on Wednesday, police said.

In her purported suicide note, she said she was raped by one Sandeep Hasane and two of his friends three months ago and was being frequently threatened by them that they would kill her if she reported the matter to the police, according to the police.

All the three accused were arrested, police said.

#### **MP TO BRING SEPARATE CHILD BUDGET**

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, FEB. 26

Kamal Nath government is planning to table a separate child budget in the forthcoming assembly session in Madhya Pradesh. This would be the first such move by a

state in the country.

The annual budget for 2020-21 to be tabled in the ensuing budget session of state assembly, commencing on March 16 will have a separate child budget, sources in state finance department disclosed to this newspaper here on

Wednesday.
"Chief Minister Kamal Nath
has directed the state finance department to prepare a separate child budget to be presented along with the annual budget for the state for 2020-21, indi cating that his government seeks to give priority to devel-opment of children," a senior state government officer said requesting not to be quoted.

### **CISF COVER FOR JAMMU, SRINAGAR**

Jammu, Feb. 26: The security tne Srinagar and the Jammu airports has been handed over to the CISF and all police personnel posted there have been called back with immediate effect, officials said on Wednesday.

All police personnel of executive and armed wings posted at the Jammu and the Srinagar airports are transferred to their respective wings and parent departments immediately, a order issued by ADGP S.J.M. Geelani said.

The order stated that gazetted officers who were posted at the twin airports should report to the police headquarters. However, helipads at Sanjichat and Katra, used for ferrying pilgrims to the cave shrine of Vaishnodevi, would be guarded by police personnel only. For security reasons, 10 police shall personnel

attached with the Jammu air-

port and 14 with the Srinagar

airport, the order said.

### **AZAM KHAN**, WIFE, SON SENT **TO CUSTODY**

Lucknow, Feb. 26: Samajwadi Party MP Azam Khan, his legislator wife Tanzin Fatima and MLA son Abdullah Azam were on Wednesday sent to judicial custody for allegedly faking Abdullah's birth certificate.

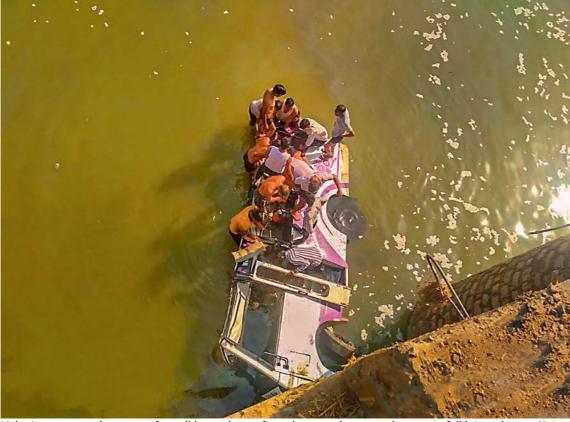
They have been sent to judicial custody till March 2, Rampur Superintendent of Police

Santosh Kumar Mishra said. The case relates to a forged birth certificate for Azam's son Abdullah, who allegedly gave a wrong date of birth while filing his nomination papers for the assembly elec-tions. The SP indirectly blamed the ruling BJP for the case against Azam Khan, sug-

gesting that it was vendetta. The Samajwadi Party doesn't consider any action taken in appropriate. Governments can't run on bias, the party tweeted in

"The Samajwadi Party also trusts the judicial process. We have faith in court, we will get justice, it added.

### 25 dead in bus mishap



Volunteers engage in rescue of possible survivors after a bus carrying a marriage party fell into a river on Kota-Dausa highway, in Bundi district, on Wednesday. At least 25 people died and three others sustained injuries in

## SC seeks J&K reply on Mufti's detention plea

Iltija Mufti had filed a habeas corpus petition in the SC

New Delhi, Feb. 26: The Court on response of the Jammu and Kashmir administration on a plea challenging former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti's detention under the Public Safety Act.

A bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra also asked Iltija Mufti, daugh-ter of the PDP chief, to give an undertaking stating that she has not filed any other petition before other judicial forum, including the high court, challenging the detention of her mother.

Iltija had filed a habeas corpus (bring the person) petition in the apex court challenging the govern-ment's order issued on February 5 for invoking the Public Safety Act provision against Mehbooba Mufti to keep her in detention.

Habeas corpus is a writ seeking production of a person, who has allegedly been in illegal detention, before a court.

The bench has now posted the plea for hearing on March 18.

During the brief hearlawyer Nitya Ramakrishnan appearing for Iltija, said the impugned dossier, which formed the basis for invocation of the PSA, was "manifestly biased slanderous, libelous" against the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister.

She also said that a person cannot be deprived of fundamental freedom and personal liberty on these grounds. The bench asked the

lawyer to give an affidavit as to whether Iltija or somebody else has filed any other petition in the high court against the detention order. The lawyer replied in

negative and undertook to file an affidavit in this regard in a day or two. She also said that Mehbooba Mufti has been accused of creating fear among majority of the population and playing

"cĥeap politics". She said that not a single incident of incitement has been referred in the dossier by the administration and the PDP chief has been wrongly under detention under the PSA.

Earlier, the same bench had issued notice to the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory administration on a similar plea filed against the government notification invoking the PSA against former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar

Abdullah. Mufti and Abdullah, besides two political leaders from the National Conference and its archrival PDP were booked under the PSA by the administration on Feb. 6, barely hours before their six-month-long "preven-

### Army chief praises soldiers along LoC

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR FEB. 26

The security situation along the Line of Control (LoC) and in the hinterland came under thread bare review at a series of meetings Army Chief General M.M. Naravane had with local Army commanders during his maiden visit of Kashmir

A defence spokesman here said that the Army chief during his two-day visit of the Valley beginning on Tuesday, visited the formations and units deployed along the de border. Accompanied by the Army Northern Commander Lt. Gen. Y.K. Joshi and Srinagar-based

Chinar (15) Commander Lt. Gen. Jeet Singh Kanwal Dhillon, the Army chief was briefed by the local commanders on the situation prevailing along the LoC, alleged ceasefire

tive detention" was to come to an end.

The grounds of detention against Abdullah claim that on the eve of reorganisation of the

violations, Indian "retaliations", counter-infiltration operations and operational preparedness of the Indian troops, the spokesman said. "During his interaction

with the soldiers on snow clad heights, he was appreciative of the sharp vigil and alertness along the LoC and high morale of the troops," the Rajesh Kalia said.

He added that Gen. Naravane "exhorted the soldiers to remain alert for any eventuality and further reinforced the need to be prepared to meet emerging security challenges effectively at all times.

Earlier, on Tuesday, the Army chief was briefed by the Chinar Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Dhillon in Srinagar's Badami Cantonment on the overall situation prevailing along the LoC and the

state, he had allegedly made attempts to provoke general masses against the revocation of provi-

sions of Articles 370 and

hinterland.

### **ELEPHANT PADMANABHAN**

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

Guruvayur Padmanabhan, the celebrity elephant of Kerala, who carried the "Thidambu or idol of presiding deity of Lord Krishna Gurvayur Temple, died in Thrissur district on

Officials Gurvayur Devaswom, which control the temple, said the 80 year old elephant Padmanabhan was undergoing treat ment for past few weeks following swelling on its body. The celebrity elephant of Kerala was also known "Gajaratnam."

### IAF aircraft takes off to China with medical aid

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 26

Finally, after receiving the green signal from China, an "Indian Air Force (IAF) special flight carrying about 15 tonnes of medical assistance comprising masks, gloves and other emergency medical equipment" left for the Coronoavirus-hit Wuhan city on Wednesday. The IAF aircraft will "also bring back Indian and foreign nationals, from some of India's neighbouring countries who had sought assistance in travelling to

This comes after Indian government sources had said that China was "delib-

clearance for the third evacuation flight" to evacuate Indian citizens from Wuhan. Beijing had then swiftly denied the allegations. 'The IAF flight will also

bring back some Indian and foreign nationals from some of our neighbouring countries who have sought assistance in travelling to India in keeping with Prime Minister Modi's neighbourhood first poli-cy," the MEA said, in a statement. "This assistance has been

provided in the wake of coronavirus outbreak in China and the request by Chinese government to provide supplies such as masks and medical equip-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had written to President Xi Jinping on 8 February 2020 expressing solidarity of the people of India and the Indian government with the people and government of China. Modi also offered assistance to China in this hour of need. The medical supplies will help augment China's efforts to control the outbreak of the virus which has been declared as a Public Health emergency by the World Health Organisation," the MEA said. "The assistance being sent today is also a mark of friendship and solidarity from the people of India towards the people of China," it added.

### Cabinet approves surrogacy Bill

Surrogacy (Regulation)
Bill, 2020, which allows
any "willing" woman to
be a surrogate mother
and proposes that widows and divorced women can also benefit from its provisions, besides infer-

tile Indian couples.

The bill incorporates recommendations made by a Rajya Sabha select committee, which studied an earlier ver-sion of the draft legislation, and is aimed at banning commercial surrogacy and allowing altruistic surrogacy, Union minister Prakash minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters. His cabinet colleague Smriti Irani said the bill proposes Indian couples, with both partners being of Indian

origins, can opt for surrogacy in the country

New Delhi, Feb. 26: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the With a liberal view on the issues of reproductive rights of women, be it medical termination of pregnancy, the Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation Bill or

the Surrogacy Bill. The amended bill is reformed version of the draft legislation which was passed by Lok Sabha in August 2019 but its provisions, including that only a close relative of a couple can be a surrogate mother, had invited criticism. The government then agreed to send the bill to a Rajya Sabha select committee, which is headed by BJP MP Bhupender Yadav, for holding wide consultations with various stakeholders. The amended bill is likely to be tabled in the second half of the Budget Session beginning next month. -PTI

### EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

**E-TENDER NOTICE** 

E-Tender Notice, E-Tender No. 2019/WP/ENGG/HZBN/CMD/WT-15 (Open), e-tender (open) are invited or behalf of the president of india with following details. 1. Name of the work with its location: Composite works (Civil, Electrical & Mechanical shed with Pre-Engineered Building (PEB), Washing pit line, Service building, Electric Sub Station (ESS), Major Bridge, extension of RUB, Track vorks, Electrification and illumination works. Procurement and commissioning of specified Mechanical Machineries & Plant and other associated civil, Electrical & Telecommunication works in connection with Provision of Coach Maintenance Depot at Hazaribagh Town Railway Station of ECR. 2 Approximate cost of the work : Rs 30,29,47,071.23 **3. Earnest Money to** be deposited: Rs. 16,64,700/- 4 Date & Time for closing of e-tender On 17.03.2020 at 13:00 Hrs. 5. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and downloaded : Tender can only be downloaded and Bidded from IREPS website: www.ireps.gov.in For an of Chief Engineer-I / Workshop Projects, Indian Railways, Chambe Bhawan, 4th floor (Engg. Deptt.), J.C.

CAO/WP/Chamber Bhawan, J.C. Road, Patna PR/2297/WPO/ENGG/T/19-20/48

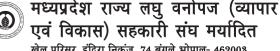
# DIES AT 80

Wednesday.

### TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS CHIEF ENGINEER OFFICE : TIRUPATI e - PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-tenders invited on e-procurement for Sixty Seven (67) works of TTD Engineering Dept NIT No: 119/SE-I/2019-20 S.E.-I (1 Work) S.E.-II NIT No: 616 to 632/SE-II/2019-20 (17 Works) NIT No: 110 to 113/SE-III/2019-20 (4 Works) S.E.-III S.E.-IV NIT No: 99/SE-IV/2019-20 (1 Work) NIT No: 161 to 165/FF-II/2019-20 E.E.-II (5 Works) NIT No: 117 to 119/EE-VI/2019-20 (3 Works) E.E.-VII NIT No: 98/EE-VII/2019-20 (1 Work) E.E.-IX NIT No: 95 to 98/EE-IX/2019-20 (4 Works) E.E.-XI NIT No: 148 to 154/EE-XI/2019-20 (7 Works) NIT No: 120 to 133/EE-XII/2019-20 (14 Works) D.E.(Elec)-I NIT No: 304 to 305/DE-(Elec)-I/2019-20 (2 Works) D.E.(Elec)-II NIT No: 400 to 407/DE-(Elec)-II/2019-20 (8 Works)

For details log www.tirupati.org or www.tirumala.org, for work details log in <a href="https://tender.eprocurement.gov.in">https://tender.eprocurement.gov.in</a>. **Executive Officer** Roc.No.PR4/13915/Adv.No.434/PRO/2020, Dt: 26-02-2020



खेल परिसर, इंदिरा निकुंज, 74 बंगले भोपाल- 462003 दूरभाष : 2674349, 2760858, फैक्स : 0755-2552628 ई-मेल : mdmfpfed@bsnl.in वेबसाइट : www.mfpfederation.com

वर्ष 2020 में मध्यप्रदेश में संग्रहित होने वाले तेंदूपत्ते के अवशेष लाटों के अग्रिम विक्रय हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदाओं की सूचना का सारांश

(1) ऑनलाइन निविदा का प्रस्तुतिकरण एवं खुलना : निविदा दिनांक 23.03.2020 से प्रारंभ होकर दिनांक 26.03.2020 को सायंकाल 3.00 बजे तक केवल ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल https://mfpfederation.abcprocure.com में ऑनलाइन जमा कर सकता है, जो दिनांक 26.03.2020 को सायंकाल 3.30 बजे से ऑनलाइन खोली जावेंगी।

निविदा हेत्, निविदा सूचना मय निविदा फार्म, निविदाकार का करारनामा, लाट सूची तथा अन्य परिशिष्टों सहित दिनांक 20.03.2020 से केवल संघ की ऊपर दर्शित वेबसाइट अथवा ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल https:// mfpfederation.abcprocure.com से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं। संशोधन/सूचनायें उपरोक्त वेबसाइट तथा ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध हैं। पूर्ण विवरण के लिये निविदा सूचना का अवलोकन कीजिये।

वर्ष 2018, 2019 में मध्यप्रदेश में विभागीय रूप से संग्रहित एवं गोदामीकृत तथा विगत वर्षों के करारनामा समाप्त तेंद्रपत्ते के लाटों के विक्रय हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना का सारांश

(1) ई-निविदा का ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुतिकरण एवं खुलना : दिनांक 16.03.2020 से प्रारंभ होकर दिनांक 18.03.2020 को सायंकाल 3.00 बजे तक केवल ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल https://mfpfederation.abcprocure.com में ऑनलाइन जमा कर सकता है, जो दिनांक 18.03.2020 को सायंकाल 3.30 बजे से ऑनलाइन

निविदा हेतु, निविदा सूचना मय निविदा फार्म, निविदाकार का करारनामा, लाट सूची तथा अन्य परिशिष्टों सहित दिनांक 12.03.2020 से केवल संघ की ऊपर दर्शित वेबसाइट अथवा ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल https:// mfpfederation.abcprocure.com से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं। संशोधन⁄सूचनायें उपरोक्त वेबसाइट तथा ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध हैं। पूर्ण विवरण के लिये निविदा सूचना का अवलोकन कीजिये।

वर्ष 2020 में मध्यप्रदेश में संग्रहित होने वाले तेंदूपत्ते के अवशेष लाटों के अग्रिम विकय हेतु ऑफर से विक्रय सूचना का सारांश

तेन्द्रपत्ता संग्रहण वर्ष 2020 के अवशेष तेंद्रपत्ते के निर्वर्तन हेतु दिनांक 13.04.2020 एवं 17.04.2020 को प्रत्येक दिवस में संघ मुख्यालय, भोपाल में अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे तक लाटवार ऑफर आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं, जो उसी दिन 3.30 बजे से उपस्थित आफरकर्ताओं के समक्ष खोले जावेंगे, भले ही इस दिवस को अवकाश हो। प्रतिदिन स्वीकृत लाटों को अगले दिन की लाट सूची से विलोपित कर दिया जावेगा। पूर्ण विवरण के लिये ऑफर सूचना का अवलोकन कीजिये जो संघ की www. mfpfederation.com पर भी उपलब्ध रहेगी।

म.प्र./माध्यम/96960/2020

प्रबंध संचालक

### Transgender can perform final rites: NHRC chief

A transgender who is the first child, should be allowed to perform the final rites of his or her parents as others do, maintained Justice H.L. Dattu, chairperof National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

He was addressing a conference on 'Human Rights of LGBTQ: Challenges and Way Forward' organised by NHRC in collaboration with National Law School of India University (NLSIU),

Bengaluru. Justice Dattu noted with pain that as soon as parents come to know that their child is a transgender, they are hesitant to even introduce them to guests. They force them into a corner and make them find shelter

The LGBTQ has suffered enough and more. Let us say they are also part of society, they are also kith and kin. It is possible only

said that it was the British who brought in discrimination of the transgender community in India.

after a change of mindset," he said. Justice N Professor. Rights Chair at NLSIU maintained that it was British brought in discrimination of the transgender community in India.

"Before the British came they were respected. With the advent of the British, they were discriminated. They introduced Article 377," he stated. Transgenders must be aware of their rights. Mere passing of a law will not change the minds of people, he

Akai Padmashali, a transgender rights activist explained on the sidelines that giving an opportunity to transgenders to conduct the funeral rites of their parents is a distant dream

elaborated.



#### Government of India

National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA) **Ministry of Rural Development** 5th Floor, 15 NBCC Tower, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066

Invites applications for engagement of Individual Consultants at NRIDA under the "World Bank Additional Financing for PMGSY Rural Roads Project" for the following posts:

S. No	Area of Expertise	Profile	No. of Posts	Period of Engagement (in Man Months)	Consultation fee for per man month
1	Technical	i) Team Leader-Project <b>Management Consultant</b>	1	24 Months	2,50,000/-
		ii) Assistant Project Management Consultant - Progress	1	24 Months	80,000/-
		iii) Assistant Project Management Consultant - Quality	1	24 Months	80,000/-
2	Institutional Strengthening	i) Team Leader - Institutional Strengthening	1	18 Months	2,00,000/-
		ii) Assistant Consultant - Institutional Strengthening	2	18 Months	80,000/-
3	Procurement	i) Prucurement Specialist	1	12 Months	1,20,000/-
4	Technical	ii) Pavement Design Consultant	1	18 Months	1,00,000/-

The Engagement for above posts is purely on contract basis. Interested domestic individual consultants may apply with detailed CVs to the undersigned latest by 25th March 2020 on the above cited address.

Details & eligibility criteria may be seen under "NEW" Icon of website www.pmgsy.nic.in

davp 35104/11/0021/1920

**Director (Technical)** 

### SHORT TAKES **Police to identify** 'think tank' behind Amulya

M.K. ASHOKA | DC BENGALURU, FEB. 26

The Special Investigating Team (SIT) probing the case of activist Amulya Leona, who was arrested on charges of sedition for shouting 'Pakistan Zindabad' during an anti-CAA programme in Bengaluru, has taken her into police custody for further interrogation.

Amulya was produced before the court where the investigating officers sought her custody based on the investigation in the case so far. The SIT has questioned her friends and gathered information from her native Chikkamagalur dis-

explained that Amulya shared a room with Arudra, another girl arrested for holding a poster asking for liberation of Kashmir during an anti-CAA function. Amulya and Arudra have reportedly denied any connection between them to the police so for Nor boye the police have far. Nor have the police been able to secure any information or photos of them when their mobiles were seized. It is said that recently, they moved to

separate rooms. Police sources say that after corroborating the evidence, they will start zeroing in on the persons who are allegedly behind these young women. They maintained that it is this 'think tank' which emboldened the young girls to make seditious statements and create disturbance in society.

### Rajini condemns **Centre over Delhi** violence

**Chennai, Feb. 26:** Superstar Rajinikanth on Wednesday lashed out at the Central government over the violence in Delhi that left 24 people dead, saying the riots should have

been dealt with an iron fist.

In a rare sharp attack on the
BJP-led Centre, Rajinikanth
also asked those in power to
"resign and go" if the violence could not be crushed with an

However, he did not name anyone.
"Definitely it is Central gov-

ernment's Intelligence failure. Central government," he told reporters here when asked about the violence in northeast Delhi.

"They should have been so careful when the US President (Donald) Trump had visited (the country). The Intelligence didn't do its job properly. It (violence) should have been crushed with an iron fist. We expect them to be careful at least from now on,' he added.

To a question, he said Intelligence failure meant failure of the Union home min-

#### Streets littered with mangled remains of vehicles

From Page 1

Frightened residents peeped from behind half-closed doors and windows. Shops, schools, and business establishments that had been spared remain

Streets were littered with mangled remains of burnt vehicles, bricks and burnt tires, mute testimony to the violence and bloodshed that continued for nearly three days while the Central and Delhi administration failed to

After over 72 hours of rioting that began on Sunday night hours, lathi-wielding and guntotting CRPF and Saharsha Seema Bal (SSB) jawans marched through the entire stretches of Jaffrabad Road.

They rained blows on anyone stepping out of their homes. "Curfew hai, bhag andar," they screamed while swinging their long lathis at those who ventured out.

Hindu-dominated In the pockets of Chand Bagh and Karawal Nagar many Muslim safer places under police pro-

In Karawal Nagar, at least 60 Muslim houses lay abandoned. Carrying a child in her arms, Rukhsana of Karawal Nagar, looked completely lost. She has been staying in a Hindu-dominated pocket for decades, but today police personnel were "urging" Muslims in the area

to move to a safer place "till the situation improves.' "I have not seen anything like this in the last 40 years," said 65-vear-old Rajendra Kumar Mishra. "We lived in perfect harmony till the BJP leader Kapil Mishra began provoking people," he said.

## If God wills, there will be peace: NSA

106 people arrested, 18 FIRs lodged; Prime Minister appeals for brotherhood

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, FEB. 26

The Delhi Police has arrested 106 people for their alleged involvement in the northeast Delhi violence and registered 18 FIRs, a senior police officer said on Wednesday.

"No untoward incident was reported on Wednesday and PCR calls from northeast Delhi have reduced,' additional commission-er of police (Crime) Mandeep Singh Randhawa told repor-

Police also released two helpline numbers oll-22829334, 22829335 —
for people to reach out during distress.

Meanwhile, National security advisor (NSA)

Doval Alit Doval on Wednesday visited the violence-hit areas of Northeast Delhi. This is his second visit to the riot-hit areas in less than 24 hours.

The NSA also briefed Union home minister Amit Shah about the prevailing situation in Delhi where clashes over the contentious citizen-

ship law have so far claimed 24 lives. Immediately after vis-iting US President Donald Trump embarked on his return flight, 75-year-old Doval undertook a late night tour of the riot-hit areas on Tuesday accompanied by Delhi police commissioner Amulya Patnaik, newly-appointed special commissioner S.N. Shrivastava and other senior officers,

"Ťhe situation is under control and people are satisfied. We have confi-dence in law enforce-ment agencies. The police is doing their job and is alert. Only some criminals were involved in this. One should try resolving issues and not increasing them. There were incidents earlier but today (Wednesday) it is calm. Locals want peace. We have full faith there will be peace," the NSA told reporters

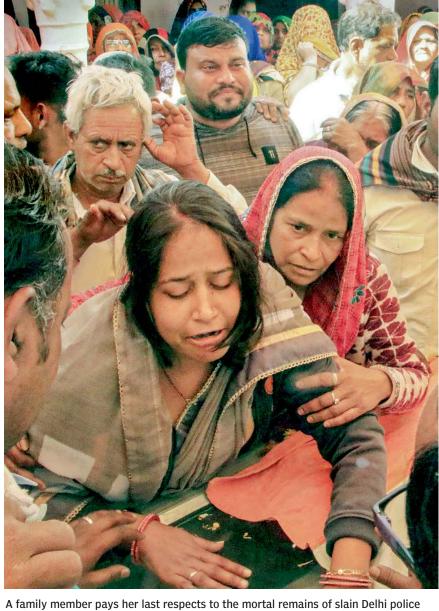
Doval visited Maujpur, Jaffrabad and some other affected areas after holding a meeting with senior officials of the Delhi police at the office of DCP Northeast. The NSA said he was there as per the instructions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

"If God wills, there will be peace and harmony here (Inshallah yahan par bilkul aman hoga)," said Doval.

In his first reaction to incidents of violence in Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday appealed for peace and brotherhood. and said he has held an extensive review of the prevailing situation in various parts of the national capital.

He said it was important that calm and normalcy was restored at the earliest.

"Had an extensive review on the situation prevailing in various parts of Delhi. Police and other agencies are working on the ground to ensure peace and nor-malcy," Modi tweeted.



head constable Ratan Lal, who was killed during communal riots over the amended citizenship law in east Delhi area, in Sikar district of Rajasthan on Wednesday. - PTI

### Delhi HC says we cannot let another 1984-like riots

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 26

In a strongly-worded message to the government both at the Centre and in Delhi — to work together to combat the unrelenting violence that hit parts of the nation's capital for the fourth consecutive day, the Delhi high court on Wednesday said it "cannot let another 1984-like riot to happen" in the country. The court also expressed "anguish" over the Delhi Police's failure to register FIRs against alleged hate speeches by three BJP leaders on the CAA-linked violence, asking the police

"conscious decision" on it by Thursday. The court asked the special commissioner police, who was present at the hearing, to forthwith convey its "anguish" to the commissioner and observed that the city had seen enough violence and should not see another

commissioner to take a

like situation. 'We can't let another 1984 scenario happen in this city; not under the watch of this court," Justice S. Muralidhar observed, adding: "We heard that one IB officer has been attacked. These things should be immediately looked into.

1984-type anti-Sikh riots-

The court was referring to the anti-Sikh riots that killed over 3,000 people in

THE COURT was referring to the anti-Sikh riots that killed over 3,000 people in Delhi alone.

Delhi alone. A bench of Justices Muralidhar and Talwant Singh said when the police can register 11 FIRs in incidents like arson, looting and stone-pelting, why did it not show alacrit when it came to alleged hate speeches by three BJP leaders Anurag Thakur (also a Union minister), Parvesh Verma and former Delhi minister Kapil Mishra.

The bench said: "Why are you not showing alacrity when it comes to registration of FIR in these cases?... We want peace to prevail. We do not want the city to witness another 1984 riots. This city has seen enough violence and anguish. Let it not repeat 1984.'

The court's comment came after it watched a video of Mishra, who has a history of making hatefilled communal rants. make yet another incendiary speech in northeast Delhi's Maujpur neighbourhood on Sunday afternoon, after which major violence erupted in the area.

The court noted in its order that special commissioner Praveer Ranjan has assured he will sit

with the police commissioner on Wednesday itself and view all video clips and take a conscious decision on the issue of lodging of FIRs and convey it to the court on Thursday.

It made it clear it was not confining the proceedings to the video clips of these three BJP leaders. and the court will look into other clips as well. local court.

Delhi Police said on Wednesday that prima facie no cognisable offence was found for lodging FIRs against Thakur and Verma for their alleged hate speech in relation to the anti-CAA protests at Shaheen Bagh.

The submissions were made in an action taken report, filed before additional chief metropolitan magistrate Vishal Pahuja. who was hearing a complaint by CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat seeking TRs against Thakur and

The court, reserved orders for March 2 on whether to direct the police to lodge FIRs, had on February 5 directed it to file an ATR.

In the ATR filed Wednesday, the police said legal opinion had been sought in the matter and requested the court to grant more time to file the final report, court sources

### BJP hits back at Sonia, recalls anti-Sikh riots

She also attacked the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) asserting that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his government are 'equally responsible for not activating the administration" to reach out to the people to maintain peace and harmony. "It is the collective fail-

ure of the two governments that has resulted in a great tragedy in the capital city which threatens to become worse by the day," she read out from the CWC resolution.

Mrs Gandhi also called out BJP leader Kapil Mishra for his statement which she claimed incited the violence in the city.

"The conspiracy was witnessed during Delhi polls and BJP leaders gave hate speeches creating an atmosphere of fear and hatred. On Sunday, a BJP leader has given inflammatory speech by giving a three-day ultimatum to Delhi Police," she said. The BJP hit back. It

ADDRESSING **CONGRESS** workers while she sat on dharna, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accused the Centre of having failed to maintain peace in the national capi-

 SHE ACCUSED the government of having "destroyed" Delhi.

THE CPI(M) demanded that the Army be immediately be called in to contain the situation.

accused the Congress president of "dirty politics" by targeting the Modi government over violence in Delhi.

Union minister Prakash Javadekar said Mrs Gandhi was politicising

the violence.

He also took a swipe at the Congress saying those whose hands are "tainted with the bloods of inno-

Addressing Congress workers while she sat on dharna, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accused the Centre of having failed to maintain peace in the national capital.

She also accused the government of having "destroyed" Delhi, where people from across the country come to seek employment.

The CPI (M) demanded that the Army be immediately be called in to contain the situation.

'There is nothing spontaneous about the violence. On Sunday, local BJP leader, Kapil Mishra, made a provocative speech in the presence of a senior police officer at Jaffarabad, threatening to remove anti-CAA protesters. Yet, the police was unprepared to meet the situation," the CPI(M) Polit Bureau said in a statement.

CPI General Secretary D cent Sikhs" are now talking about checking violence, a reference to the Raja said: "The line of "Raj Dharma" is being violated in Delhi now".

### **IB OFFICER KILLED IN STONE-PELTING**

**DC CORRESPONDENT** NEW DELHI, FEB. 26

Horror was witnessed on Wednesday after a Intelligence Bureau was found in a drain in Chandbagh, one of the areas worst hit by the violence that has swept northeast Delhi.
The officer, identified

as Ankit Sharma, a resident of the area was working as a security assistant with the Intelligence Bureau. According to sources,

on Tuesday at around 5.30 pm when he left his home, he was allegedly attacked by a mob at the Chandbagȟ bridge and beaten to death before his body was thrown into a drain.

Family members of Ankit Snarma nad alleged that a few people who were pelting stones from the building belonging to AAP leader and municipal councillor Tahir Hussain in Chand Bagh, had killed

Ankit's father Ravinder Kumar has stated that Ankit was attacked while he was returning from his duty.

"Ankit went at the site (ChandBagh) where stone-pelting was taking place. Around 15-20 peo ple came from Tahir's building and dragged 5-6 people inside. They also fired at other people who tried to save those taken inside the building, Kumar said.

"Tahir is an antinational person. People were pelting stones from that building. Ankit was attacked with knife. One more body was recovered from there. Ankit's body has been sent to GTB Hospital for postmortem," he added.

### Kerala HC bans campus politics GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THE HIGH COURT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB. 26

Kerala High Court on Wednesday banned strikes, gherao, marches, demonstrations and protests that adversely affect "academic atmosphere" in educational

campuses.
The high court directive came after hearing about 20 petitions that were filed by a cross section of college managements in Kerala over a period of three years.

The petitioners had pointed out the vitiating atmosphere in the campuses and disruption of academic activities due to frequent student agita-

acknowledging problems raised by the college managements, said in its verdict, "Learning is the fundamental right of students. Campuses are places for creating dialogues and discussions. They should not become venues of protests

"Education and politics should not go together. Strikes and satyagrahas should not be allowed. Those who organise expelled," the expelled," the bench headed by Chief Justice Prasad said Navaniti after considering a petition filed by MES College in Ponnani.

The high court decision to ban campus politics has been in for wide criticism from students organisations across ideological lines. The CPM-led Student

Federation of India which has a strong presence in Kerala campuses, said the court verdict against the rights guarantions that were filed by a cross section of college managements in Kerala over a period of three years.

directive came after

hearing about 20 peti-

teed to citizens under the constitution.
In a joint statement, SFI

state president and secretary V.A. Vineesh and K. M. Sachin Dev said, "The right to dissent forms the basis of Indian democracy and the court order is against the right of freedom of speech and expression granted by Article 19(A) and the right to assemble peacefully and without arms The high court while granted by Article 19(B)

> of Constitution. The Congress-led KSU opposed the court verdict KSU state president K.M. Abhijith said the government should challenge the high court verdict as it curbs the rights of stu-

Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala said though violence needs to be curbed in campuses, it does not mean that organisational activities and freedom to function should also be banned. CPI state secretary

Kanam Rajendran said similar judgments had been passed by the courts in the past to curb activities of student organisations.

He hoped the government will look into the issue and take steps to appeal against the ver-

It may be recalled that the high court had issued an interim order in 2017 banning politics and protests in college cam-

NEW ISSUE

### Ravi says post-CAA, those who desired for inequality in past now want equality

## Time ripe for Uniform Civil Code: K'taka mantri

**Bengaluru, Feb. 26:** Karnataka minister C.T. Ravi on Wednesday said "time is ripe" for bringing in Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the country, as there was demand for "equality" from across the board now.

Pointing at Opposition parties and those opposing Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens (NRC) seeking equality, he said, as those who desired for inequality in the past are now seeking equality, the time was right to bring in UCC now. "As a BJP spokesperson if I have to say-time is ripe to bring in Uniform Civil Code, why because, everyone is speaking about

equality; there is no time

ripe than this to bring in UCC," Ravi said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "There is some kind of acceptancy now, all these days those who were opposing are now asking for equality.

Those who were feeling that BJP had the lease on chanting Bharat Mata ki Jai are now saying Bharat Mata ki Jai and are also chanting *Vande Mataram*. They are holding national flag and roaming

around, so the time is ripe.

This is my opinion hold-

ing a responsible position in the party, he added. Responding to a query on whether there have been discussions on bringing in UCC in party forums and will they be sending any RESPONDING TO a

query on whether there have been discussions on bringing in UCC in party forums and will they be sending any recommendations in this regard to the Centre, the minister said, UCC has been part of party's agenda since the

time when BJP was born. recommendations in this regard to the Centre, the Kannada and culture minister said, UCC has been part of party's agenda since the time when BJP was born in 1980.

He said, "it continued to remain part of BJP's agenda in 2014 and 2019 (Lok Sabha polls), we have been saying it since the beginning, at that time no one was speaking about UCC, now everyone is speaking about equality, so the time

When pointed out that none of the Opposition parties or those opposing CAA and NRC are speaking about UCC, Ravi said, they are asking for equali-

ty.
"Noting that the laws (CAA/NRC) were against equality, they are demanding for equality. Their demand is equality and our demand is also equali-

y.."
Asked why BJP was not malamenting UCC, implementing despite coming to power second time at the Centre, Ravi said, "we don't have any fear, we have fulfilled the promises like — Article 370, on Ram Mandir issue Supreme Court itself has given a verdict that majority of the people in the country accepts, so at the right time we have been doing what is right"

"I'm saying the time is right now for UCC, as everyone is speaking about equality, those who were desiring for inequality are now wishing for equality," he added.

Condemning violence during anti-CAA protests in Delhi, the Minister said, despite Prime Minister and home minister reiterating that the law won't take away anyone's citizenship, rather it will be

given to those coming as

refugees after facing religious persecution, the agitations are happening as part of a larger conspira-

He claimed that there was a conspiracy to create anarchy in the country in the name of CAA.

It might be recalled that recently, BJP MP Kirodi Lal Meena's private members Bill in Rajya Sabha seeking to kickstart the process of Uniform Civil Code could not be introduced as he remained absent when his name was called out.

Later, the Congress had said that such a contentious measure "cannot be thrust on people, but has to be done through a consensus".

### **AAP URGES CENTRE TO DEPLOY ARMY**

New Delhi, Feb. 26: Senior AAP leaders Sanjay Singh and Gopal Rai on Wednesday urged the Centre to deploy the Army in the violence-hit northeast Delhi, as it urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to take action and not just hold meetings for "for-

one hand, Shah was holding meetings and on the other hand, BJP leaders were making provocative statements. Both Singh and Rai asked the Centre why

Singh alleged that on

the borders areas were sealed despite repeated requests by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

#### **Strong quake hits** eastern Indonesia

Jakarta: A strong 5.9 magnitude earthquake hit a remote part of eastern Indonesia on Wednesday, the United States Geological Survey said, but there was no tsunami warning. The undersea quake struck at a depth of some 61 kilometres, about 280 kilometres southwest of the city of Tual in the archipelago's Maluku province. The Southeast Asian country is one of the most disasterprone nations on Earth. In 2018, a 7.5-magnitude quake and a subsequent tsunami in Palu on Sulawesi island left more than 4,300 people dead or missing.

#### **Jakarta floods: 5** dead, 3 missing

Jakarta: Five people were killed, three more are missing and thousands are unable to return to their waterloaged homes after floods submerged parts of Indonesia's capital, officials said on Wednesday. The muddy deluge inundated the presidential palace, a major hospital and entire neighbourhoods across Jakarta on Tuesday, only weeks after 70 residents of the low-lying megacity died in some of the deadliest flooding in memory. Two teenagers were among the five people drowned or electrocuted in hard-hit parts of the city, Indonesia's national disaster agency said. "The joint res-cue team is still searching" for three other possible victims, agency spokesman Agus Wibowo told AFP, adding that nearly 20,000 people were staying in emergency shelters. Floodwaters reached more than a metre in some parts of the capital but were receding by Wednesday, a day after rescuers combed drenched districts in pontoon boats to locate vulner-

#### 'No-contact' Ash Wednesday

Manila: Filipinos bowed their heads to be sprinkled instead of having a cross drawn on their foreheads to mark Ash Wednesday, as Asia's bastion of Catholicism guarded against the spread of Covid-19. Leaders of the Philippine church urged priests to adapt the rite to reduce the risk of fanning a contagion. Since the outbreak, which has resu-Ited in three confirmed cases and one death in the Philippines, churches have also discouraged worshippers from holding hands during mass. it makes me feel safe," said Wendy Tamidles, a 19-yearold student. She was among thousands of people, some wearing surgical masks, who lined up at Baclaran church in Manila for services on Wednesday. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the run-up to Easter, and includes Catholics having crosses drawn in ash on their foreheads. The Philippines is overwhelmingly Catholic, with some 80 percent of its people said to be believers. Loc-

al church officials have also

"strongly recommended" that Catholics do not kiss or

touch the cross during Good

Friday services, which is usu-

ally common practice, "We

are being cautious so that

the Covid-19 won't spread.'

said Victorino Cueto, rector

of Baclaran church.

River breach floods England homes

## 4 die in Iran as France has 1st casualty

One more succumbs in Italy, Greece gets first infection while S Korea reports 169 new Covid-19 cases

**Tehran, Feb. 26:** Iran on Wednesday reported four more novel Covid-19 deaths among 44 new cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of fatalities to 19 and infections to 139. Fifteen new Covid-19 cases surfaced in city of Qom, nine in Gilan, four in Tehran, three in Khuzestan, two each in Sistan and Baluchistan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyerahmad, and Fars, and one in Markazi, Kermanshah, Ardebil, Mazandaran, Lorestan, Semnan and Hormozgan.

Rouhani slams US for **fear-mongering Tehran, Feb. 26:** President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday accused the United States of trying to spread "fear" in Iran over a deadly outbreak of the novel Covid-19.

Covid-19 has claimed the lives of 19 people among 139 infections in Iran, including the deputy health minister — making it the deadliest outbreak outside China.

"We shouldn't let America mount a new virus on top of Covid-19 that is called... extreme fear," Rouha-ni told a weekly cabinet meeting, a day after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo accused Iran of suppressing information about the outbreak. The Americans "themselves are strug-gling with Covid-19. Sixteen thousand people have died of influenza there but they don't talk about their own (dead)," Rouhani said. Iran has been scrambling

to contain Covid-19 since Wednesday last week when it announced the first two deaths in Qom, a centre for Islamic studies and pilgrims that attracts scholars from abroad. Its authorities have closed schools, universities, cultural centres, sporting events and deployed teams of sanitary workers to disinfect buses, trains and public spaces. On Tuesday, Pompeo accused the Islamic Republic of concealing the true extent of the outbre-ak. "The United States is deeply concerned by information indicating the Iranian regime may have suppressed vital details about the outbreak," he told reporters in Washington.

He said Iran had been making progress in the fight against the virus as "we witness fewer (hospital) visits and progress in treatment". "If 100 people were hospitalised in the days, seven to eight could have died, but this number has dropped very much today," he said. The president also vowed to be transparent about the number of deaths and infections. Iran has reported at least one death and two cases every day since February 19.

**WE SHOULDN'T** let America mount a new virus on top of Covid-19 that is called... extreme fear. The Americans themselves are struggling with Covid-19. Sixteen thousand people have died of influenza there but they don't talk about their own (dead)

— HASSAN ROUHANI



Passengers wearing protective face masks arrive at the Hongqiao railway station in Shanghai on Wednesday. - AFP

ITALY SAW a fresh jump in the number of cases of the new Covid-19 outbreak Wednesday, with another death also reported to bring the total to 12 and 374 infections. The new toll is a jump from the 322 cases and 10 deaths recorded on Tuesday evening.

Tokyo, Feb. 26: Dozens of

passengers allowed off a

Covid-19-hit ship have dev-

eloped symptoms, including fever, and will be asked

to take tests for the virus.

Japan's health minister

said on Wednesday. The

news came as another dea-

th linked to the virus in

Japan was reported and

the government urged org-

anisers of major events in

the next fortnight to consi-

der cancelling or downsi-

zing them to help curb the

The government has con-

tacted 813 former passeng-

ers of the Diamond Princ-

ess cruise ship and found

"45 people had certain sy-

mptoms", Health Minister

Katsunobu Kato told Parli-

(with symptoms) to see a doctor and to take tests."

Around 970 people were

"we asked them

spread of infections.

• **GREECE ON** Wednesday reported its first Covid-19 case, a 38-year-old woman who had recently travelled to northern Italy. A health ministry spokesman said she was in a Thessaloniki hospital and in good condition.

SPAIN TRIED Wednesday to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 from Italy after eight cases were detected within a 24-hour period. Hundreds of tourists remained confined to a Tenerife hotel Wednesday for a second straight day as a precaution after a an Italian and his wife tested positive for the disease.

This is a situation of concern but we must not give in to panic. We must also be vigilant when it comes to misinformation as well as xenophobic statements which are putting in question the work of public

> — STELLA KYRIAKIDES **EU Health Commissioner**

### S'PORE CHARGES **MAN FOR LYING** TO HEALTH STAFF

ials said Wednesday. With nearly 2,800 confirmed deaths and more than 81,000 cases worldwide, Singapore has banned the entry of visitors who have travelled through China or parts of South Korea within two weeks of their arrival. Hu Jun, originally from Wuhan, arrived in Singapore on January 22 and later tested positive for the illness. The 38vear-old has since recovered and been discharged from hospital. His Chinese wife, a resident of the city-state, was issued a qu-

Singapore's health ministry said the couple "had given false information... about their movements and whereabouts" to officials investigating whether

ment if convicted.

In a separate case, immigration officials said they had withdrawn an unnamed foreigner's permanent resident status for violating an order to stay at home in self-quarantine after his recent travel to China. -AFP

#### Paris, Feb. 26: A 60-yearold man has become the first French victim of Covid-19 in the country, the health ministry announced on Wednesday. The man died overnight after being rushed to a Paris hospital in serious condition on

60-year-old man is

first French victim

tal in mid-February. France has reported four other new cases in the past 24 hours, including two returning from Italy, brin-ging the total number of infections to 17. Eleven others have recovered.

Tuesday evening, bringing

the death toll in the count-

ry to two, said the minis-

try's deputy head Jerome Salomon. The first victim was an 80-year-old Chinese

tourist, who died in hospi-

One of the four people being treated in hospital, a 55-vear-old man is listed in critical condition in Amiens. Two of the four had recently returned from the Lombardy region of Italy.

The French government has asked citizens returning from Lombardy and the neighbouring Veneto region to avoid "all non-essential outings" and keep their children at home and away from school.

The same recommendations have been issued for people returning from mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore and So-

### **GERMAN MAN** WITH VIRUS IN A **CRITICAL STATE**

Berlin, Feb. 26: Authorities in Germany said Wednesday that a man who contracted Covid-19 is in critical condition and has been taken to a hospital in Duesseldorf. The health ministry of North Rhine-Westphalia state said the man was first hospitalised Monday with serious pne-umonia in Erkelenz. He was then diagnosed with the new virus and isolated in an intensive care unit before being transported to Dusseldorf's University Hospital.

The man's wife was also isolated on suspicion of contracting the virus after showing symptoms. German news agency reported that the man was in his 40s and had a pre-existing condition. Dutch health officials were tracing the movements of a German man who tested positive for the new virus after learning that he visited Limburg last week. The national public heath institute tweeted that the local health authority is trying to trace anybody who came into contact with him.

Singapore, Feb. 26: A Chinese man infected with Covid-19 and his wife have been charged in Singapore for lying to health authorities investigating whether they had passed the illness to others, offic-

arantine order.

they could have passed the infection on to others.

They were charged because of the potentially serious risk their actions had posed to public health, the ministry added. The pair face a fine of up to \$7,150 and six-month imprison-

### 1st US soldier based in S Korea infected

**Seoul, Feb. 26:** The number of new virus infections in South Korea jumped again Wednesday and the US military reported its first case among its soldiers based in the Asian country, with his case and many others connected to a southeastern city with an

illness cluster. South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 134 of the 169 new cases were confirmed in Daegu, where the government has been mobilising public health tools to contain the virus. Another 19 cases were in neighbouring North Gyeongsang province towns.

A US military statement

said the 23-year-old soldier was in self-quarantine at his off-base residence. He had been based in Camp Carroll in a town near Daegu, and visited both Carroll and nearby Camp Walker in recent days, according to the statement. South Korean authorities and US military health professionals were tracing his contacts to determine if other people may have been exposed. About 28,500 US troops are stationed in South Korea as deterrence against potential aggression from North Korea.

United States Forces Ko-rea previously said a widowed dependent had the virus, the first case involving a USFK-related individual. South Korea's 600.000 COL. EDWARD Ballanco, commander of the US Army Garrison Daegu, said all restaurants at the bases, and also Camp Henry and Camp George in Daegu, could now provide only takeout meals with soldiers and family members prohibited from dining there.

member military has reported 18 cases and placed thousands of soldiers in quarantine as a precaution. Col. Edward Ballanco, commander of the US Army Garrison Daegu, said two bowling alleys at Camp Walker and Camp Carroll and a golf course at Camp Walker were closed after the soldier's case was confirmed.

All restaurants at the bases, and also Camp Henry and Camp George in Dae-gu, could now provide only takeout meals with soldiers and family members prohibited from dining there, he said. South Korea now has 1,146 confirmed infections of the virus and 11 fatalities.

The national government has been channelling medical personnel, protective suits and other supplies to Daegu, and there are concerns the local hospitals are being overwhelmed and fatigued doctors are becoming vulnerable to

### Air Canada extends suspension

Dozens allowed off ship

Katsunobu Kato

allowed off the boat last

week after testing negati-

ve for the virus, but sever-

al have subsequently been

diagnosed with the illness.

Japan has come under inc-

reasing pressure over its

handling of the crisis on

the vessel. Those allowed

off the ship after a 14-day

quarantine were asked to

stay inside, but no formal

movement were imposed.

have symptoms: Minister

Montreal, Feb. 26: Air Canada announced Tuesday it is extending its suspension of flights between Canada and the Chinese cities of Beijing and Shan-ghai until April 10 due to the new Covid-19 epidemic. Flights from Canada to the two cities had been temporarily suspended from January 30 to the end of February after the foreign ministry advised Canadians against non-essential travel to China in light of the virus's rapid spread there. The Air Canada we-

bsite says the company and health authorities will continue to monitor this evolving situation closely" and "will adjust its schedule as appropriate".

The airline usually offe-

rs direct flights from Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver to Beijing and Shanghai. And the company also extended the suspension of daily flights to Hong Kong from Toronto until April 30, citing "reduced market demand". Flights to and from Taipei "remain unaffected". — AFP

### **RUSSIA'S TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR VIRUS-HIT NATIONS**

have blamed the governm-

ent for failing to impleme

nt a fresh 14-day quaranti-

ne after the passengers left

the cruise ship — as was required by countries that repatriated citizens from

the boat. Infections have

also continued to rise insi-

de Japan, and Prime Mini-

ster Shinzo Abe on Wedne-sday said hosting large ev-

ents should be reconsider-

ed. "In light of the signifi-

cant infection risks, we

will ask that national spor-

ting or cultural events that

will attract large crowds

be either cancelled, postp-

oned or downsized for the

next two weeks," Abe told

The government has rep-

a cabinet task force meet-

eatedly said that the comi-

ing on the outbreak.

measures restricting their ng weeks will be critical in

Opposition lawmakers virus in Japan.

Moscow, Feb. 26: Noting the rise in Covid-19 cases in Italy, South Korea and Iran, Russia's consumer safety regulator Rospotrebnadzor urged Russians against travelling to the three nations "until the epidemiological situation stabilised".

### **NEW IFNDING** The tiny, less than 10-celled parasite lives in salmon muscle This animal doesn't need oxygen

A picture shows a canoe outside a flooded home in Ironbridge, Shropshire, in central England after further rain pushed already high water levels following Storms Ciara and Dennis even higher and caused the river Severn to breach emergency defences.

Jerusalem, Feb. 26: Scientists have discovered an animal that does not need oxygen to produce energy needed for its survival, a finding that changes one of science's assumptions about the animal world. The tiny, less than 10-celled parasite Henneguya salminicola lives in salmon muscle, according to the finding published in the journal *PNAS*.
As it evolved, the animal, which is a relative of jelly-

fish and corals, gave up breathing and consuming oxygen — or became anaerobic — to produce energy. "Aerobic respiration was thought to be ubiquitous in animals, but now we confirmed that this is not the case," said Dorothee Huchon, a professor at Tel Aviv University (TAU) in Israel. "Our discovery shows that evolution can go in strange directions. Aerobic respiration is a major source of energy,

and yet we found an animal that gave up this critical pathway," Huchon said. Some other organisms

like fungi, amoebas or ciliate lineages in anaerobic environments have lost the ability to breathe over time, the researchers said The new study demonstrates that the same can happen to an animal — possibly because the parasite happens to live in an anaerobic environment, they said. The researchers noted that the parasite's anaerobic nature was an accidental discovery.

While assembling the Henneguya genome, Huc-hon found that it did not include a mitochondrial genome. The mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell where oxygen is captured to make energy, so its absence indicated that the animal was not breathing oxygen. Until the new discovery, there was debate regarding the pos-



H. salminicola is a fairly common parasite, causing 'milky flesh' or 'tapioca' disease in salmon that results in unsightly but harmless cysts on its flesh. - Agencies

sibility that organisms belonging to the animal kingdom could survive in anaerobic environments, the researchers said.

The assumption that all animals are breathing oxygen was based, among

other things, on the fact that animals are multicel-lular, highly developed organisms, which first appeared on the Earth when oxygen levels rose, they said. "It's not yet clear to us how the parasite gener-

"It may be drawing it from the surrounding fish cells, or it may have a different type of respiration such as oxygen-free breathing, which typically characterises anaerobic non-animal org-

anisms," she said.
According to Huchon, the discovery bears enormous significance for evolutionary research. "It is generally thought that during evolution, organisms become more and more complex, and that simple single-celled or few-celled organisms are the ancestors of complex organisms,"

she said. "But here, right before us, is an animal whose evolutionary process is the opposite. Living in an oxygen-free environment, it has shed unnecessary genes responsible for aerobic respiration and become an even simpler organism,

### IN BRIEF

### **Attack plot: Two**

### **Russian teens held**

Moscow: Russia's security service on Wednesday said it had detained two teenagers on suspicion of plotting a deadly attack on a school with weapons and home-made explosives. The pair both born in 2005 and Russian citizens - had been active on websites where they propagated an ideology of mass murder and suicide, the FSB security service said in a statement. It said they had been planning an attack on an "educational institution" in the Volga River city of Saratov. They were arrest-ed in a hideout where they were keeping a sawn-off shotgun and had also planned to use homemade explosives, the instructions for which they had found on the internet, it said.

#### **STATE FUNERAL FOR HOSNI MUBARAK**

**Cairo, Feb. 26:** Egypt was holding a full-honours military funeral on Wednesday for the country's former autocratic President Hosni Mubarak, who was for decades the face of stability in the Middle East but who was ousted from power in the 2011 Arab Spring uprising that swept much of the region.

A few dozen Mubarak supporters, clad in black and carrying posters of the former president, had gathered since morning hours at a mosque complex in an eastern New Cairo neighborhood, where Mubarak's body was brought

for the funeral service.

Military pallbearers carried
Mubarak's casket wrapped in the Egyptian flag into the mosque for prayers. Outside the sprawling mosque, a military phalanx waited to receive his coffin for burial. The 91-year-old Mubarak died on Tuesday from heart and kidney complications, according to medical documents obtained.

He was admitted to hospital on Jan. 21 with intestinal obstruction and underwent surgery, after which he was treated



Afghan security personnel gather at the site of a bomb explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan. Afghan officials say the bomb placed in a motorbike wounded nine people.

## **US ready to sign deal** with Taliban: Def secy

### US to withdraw troops, winding down America's longest war

Washington, Feb. 26: prepared to consider an er an agreement with the Taliban after they have agreed to dramatically reduce violence across the war-torn Afghanistan, US Defence Secretary Mark Esper told lawmakers on

Wednesday.
The US plans to sign an agreement with the Taliban on Saturday in Qatar. The historic deal would see the US withdraw thousands of troops, winding down America's longest war which was launched after the September 11, 2001 attacks but has grown increasingly unpopular at home. "If the Taliban demonstrate the willingness and capability to do so, the US is

agreement that advances the peace process," Esper told members of the House Armed Services Committee ahead of a hearing on defence posture statement.

'Should, intra-Afghan peace dialogues progress, the US will reduce our force posture as appropriate, based on conditions on the ground," Esper said. In Afghanistan, he said, the US remain committed to ending the war through a political agreement that ensures Afghanistan cannot be that ensures used as a safe haven for terrorist groups to attack the United States.
"As we have previously

tions with the Taliban have advanced, and they have agreed to dramatical ly reduce violence across the country," he said.

On Saturday, the US and the Afghan Taliban startseven-day partial truce ahead of a possible peace deal to end more than 18-year-long war, raising hopes for a resolution to America's longest

The agreement struck during negotiations between the US and the during Taliban, if maintained, may secure a peace deal that would lead to a withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan. In November, US President Donald Trump

announced the resumption of peace talks with the Taliban, but refused to give a timeline for the drawdown of the US troops from Afghanistan, as he made an unannounced visit to American soldiers stationed in the war-torn country.

war-torn country.

After nine rounds of negotiations with the Taliban, Trump anno[unced in September that he was calling the peace talks off after a US service member was killed in a suicide attack in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul. The US currently has less than 14,000 troops in Afghanistan, but military officials would not confirm the exact number.

### SC: ADMISSIONS AT HARVARD 'RACE-CONSCIOUS'

Washington, Feb. 26: The "expansive use of race" in the admission process of the presti-gious Harvard University violates the civil rights law, the Trump administration has told the US Supreme Court as the justice department continues its probe into the allegations that the Ivy League college dis-criminated against against Asian-Americans.

The US Department of Justice (DOJ) in 2017 launched an investigation into Harvard's admission process after a complaint of discrimination was filed by more than 60 Asian-American organisations.

Indian-Americans feel that they get discrimi-nated by the Massachusetts-based university under its current admission policy. The investigation remains underway. Assistant Attorney General Eric Dreiband for the Civil Rights Division said that race discrimination hurts people and is never benign after the DOJ on Monday filed an amicus brief in Students for Fair Admissions, Inc.

### Imran: Do not harm minorities

Islamabad, Feb. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday warned that anyone targeting minorities in the country would be dealt with strictly, as he condemned the ongoing violence in India.

At least 20 people have been killed since Sunday in violence in Northeast Delhi, triggered after clashes between pro and anti-protestors over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

"I want to warn our people that anyone in Pakistan targeting our non-Muslim citizens or their places of worship will be dealt with strictly. Our minorities are equal citizens of this country," he said. Khan also condemned the violence in India and said the world community "must act" now.

'Now 200 million Muslims in India are being targeted. The world community must act now," he tweeted. "Whenever a racist ideology based on hatred takes over, it leads to bloodshed," he said. Khan also referred to his address to the UN General Assembly



Imran Khan

last year in which he warned the international community ignoring the situation in Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 in August last. India has defended its move on Kashmir in August, saying the special status provisions only gave rise to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan has been trying to internationalise the Kashmir issue but India has asserted that the abrogation of Article 370 was its "internal mat-ter". New Delhi has also asked Islamabad to accept the reality and stop its anti-India rhetoric. —PTI

### Bail violation: Pak calls ex-PM Sharif 'absconder'

**Islamabad, Feb. 26:** Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has been declared an "absconder" by the government for violating the bail requirements by not presenting his medical report from his doctors in London, according to a media report on

Sharif, 70, left for London in November last for treatment after the Lahore High Court allowed him to go abroad

four weeks.

According to Sharif's physician, the three-time prime minister is suffering from complex multivessel coronary artery disease and substantial ischemic and threatened mvocardium for which he is due to undergo surgery.

The government on Tuesday decided not to extend the bail of Sharif and declared him an absconder for violating the bail requirements by

not presenting his medical report before a board formed on the order of Islamabad High the

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the federal Cabinet presided by Prime Minister Imran Khan. "After Nawaz Sharif failed to submit his medical report of any hospital in London, the medical board rejected a medical certificate sent by him and govt declared him an absconder. —PTI

LIC IPO may

be delayed,

warns Fitch

FALAKNAAZ SYED

The government's proposed Initial Public Offer (IPO) of public sector behemoth LIC may get delayed between the government's production of the government's proposed in the government of the governm

yond the government's

target deadline of end-

March 2021 said Fitch Ratings on Wednesday. The delay could be

due to the procedural

and legal bottlenecks

in terms of amending certain sections of the LIC Act, conducting

independent valua-tions as well as obtain-

ing regulatory appro-

However, the ratings agency said that the IPO would improve

the accountability and transparency of LIC

and benefit the insur-

ance industry.
The benefits of list-

ing could also trickle

down to the entire

domestic insurance

industry in terms of

vals, it said.

MUMBAI, FEB. 26

# # FINANCIAL Chronicle

## Moody's warns of global recession due to Covid-19

Chinese business travel and tourism has all but stopped

New Delhi, Feb. 26: A global recession is likely if coronavirus becomes a pandemic, and the odds of that are uncomfortably high and rising with infections surging in Italy and Korea, Moody's Analytics Wednesday. said

"The coronavirus has been a body blow to the Chinese RAVI RANJAN PRASAD economy, which now threat- MUMBAI, FEB. 26

The outbreak of the virus, officially called COVID-19, was first detected in Wuhan in China in December and has since affected thousands of people across the globe.

COVID-19 is battering the global economy in numerous ways. Chinese business travel and tourism has all but cruise lines are cancelling most Asia-Pacific itineraries. This is a huge problem cases on Wednesday, numbers for major travel destinations, including in the US, where some 3 million Chinese tourists visit each year," Moody's Analytics said.

Chinese tourists to the US are among the biggest spenders of any foreign tourists. Travel in Europe is also sure to be severely impacted as Milan, Italy, the centre of the new infections in that country, is a major travel hub for the Continent. Shuttered Chinese facto-

ries are also a problem for countries and companies fastened into China's manufacturing supply chain. Apple, Nike and General Motors are some prominent American

will likely result this spring, meaning higher prices for

### Heavy selling due to virus drags Sensex below 40,000

ens to take out the entire global economy," Chief Economist at Moody's Markets on Tuesday and weak Analytics Mark Zandi said.

MoMBA, 725.28

A fall in the overnight US markets on Tuesday and weak Asian markets triggered further slide in the Indian equity market as investors weighed the impact on the global economy as coronavirus continue

to spread rapidly.
While France reported its first death from the epidemic, Spain confirmed eight new cases in the past 24 hours. New infections have been reported in Croatia, Austria stopped; global airlines are reported in Croatia, Austria not going to China and Switzerland, reports said. Although China announced

a decline in new confirmed soared in South Korea to over 1,200. Heavy selling by the FPIs led to one per cent drop in Sensex and Nifty-50 indices have sold share worth over and over total three per cent

fall since Monday.
On Tuesday, US market benchmark Dow Jones benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Averages had fallen 879.44 points or 3.15 per cent on coronavirus' rapid spread, which led to panic sell off in other markets on Wednesday. The Sensex closed below

40,000 levels at 39,888.96 losing 392.24 points or 0.97 per cent after a gap down opening while Nifty-50 closed at 11,678 down 1.01 per cent or 119.40 points. Benchmark indices fell to one-month low levels seen on February 1, when the Union Budget had triggered a sell off. FPIs sold equity shares worth ₹3,336.60 crore as per provisional data. FPIs

₹6,800 crore since Monday.

All sectoral indices barring BSE Telecom index closed in the red, chemicals manufacturing firms also bucked the trend. Analysts said the market was waiting for policy measures to be announced by the government that would provide some relief to the impacted sectors. "The news that is affecting the market is the ebb and flow of the news on the spread of COVID-19. We have yet to get the engagement of policy makers to significantly ease policy apart from Singapore. These measures will provide some short term relief to the markets,' said Gary Dugan, chief investment officer, Sanctum Wealth Management.

things we buy at Walmart and on Amazon, it said. "US exports to China will

suffer given slumping Chinese demand. China is supposed to ramp up its imports of US products as part of the Phase One trade deal signed by the two countries late last year.

"How much the Chinese would actually purchase from the U.S. was already an open question. Given COVID-19, it is even more question-able. President Trump has suggested that the federal government will cut another check to hard-pressed US farmers to make up for the losses," it said.

Because China is the biggest buyer of many of the world's commodities, including oil, copper, soybeans and pork, and will be buying a lot less of these and many other

things, prices are slumping.

Americans will pay less at the gas pump, which is a plus, but it will be hard on the energy, mining and agricultural industries. Emerging economies, especially in Latin America and Africa, that rely on commodity production for their livelihoods will be slammed.

"Global businesses can't

seem to catch a break. They

have been grappling with the trade war, the Brexit transition, and the economic poli-cy implications of the fastapproaching US presidential election," it said.

"COVID-19 is now another on this lengthening list of concerns, making it even more likely that already-cautious business executives will continue to sit on new investment and expansion plans. Moreover, they will likely be slow to ramp up their operations, fearful of the implications if they move too quickly and their workers get sick," it said.

### **Self-charging Hybrid EV**



Toyota Kirloskar Motor MD Mr. Masakazu Yoshimura along with vice chairman Vikram Kirloskar at the launch of the New Vellfire in Hyderabad on Wednesday -DC

### ATMs starts disposing more of ₹500 notes than ₹2000

New Delhi, Feb. 26: Banks have started dispensing more of ₹500 notes than ₹2,000 denomination notes, a move seen as gradual phasing out of the high denomination currency note.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in an RTI response last year had said that the central bank had stopped printing ₹2,000 denomination currency notes.

Although there has been no dictate from the finance ministry, banks on their own have decided to fill their ATMs with smaller denomination notes for the convenience of customers, sources said. banks have Some

already started recaliberation of their ATMs and other banks will also follow the suit, sources said.

State-owned Indian Bank has already announced that its has decided to stop using ₹2,000 notes in their

When asked if the finance ministry has asked banks not to push ₹2,000 notes via ATMs, Nirmala Sitharaman said the ministry has not issued any instruction to banks in this regard. "As far as I know, no such

instruction has been given," the finance minister said on the sidelines of an event here.

Getting change for a ₹2,000 note has become an issue and due to that some banks have stopped using ₹2,000 notes in their ATMs, sources said.

According to the RBI's RTI reply, 3,542.991 mildenomination were print-

However, 2017-18 saw a substantial reduction in printing and only 111.507 million notes were produced, which further reduced to 46.690 million notes in 2018-19.

This indicates that while these high denomination notes would continue to be a legal tender but will

be phased out eventually. The move is seen as an attempt to prevent hoarding of the high-value currency and thus, curb black money. The government had in November 2016 demonetised ₹1,000 and ₹500 denominations notes. Replying to a question in Parliament, MoS (finance) Anurag Singh Thakur in December said there is no proposal ₹2,000 denomination attracting more for-eign interest, which could result in an increase in foreign capital inflows into the industry.
The IPO once executed, may also encourage some of the other private sector insurance companies to list some of their shares in the stock market over the medium although the current insurance regulation does not require all insurers to be listed publicly. The govern-ment had proposed to issue shares in LIC via an IPO to meet its high-

est ever disinvestment

TAKES

### **Du Plessis out of SA's ODI squad**

Johannesburg: Former captain Faf du Plessis will not play for South Africa in a three-match one-day international series against Australia but remains part of the country's future plans, Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced on Wednesday. Du Plessis, who

stepped down from the captaincy in all forms of the game earlier this month, is being rested along with recent regular players in Rassie van der Dussen and Dwaine Pretorius, according to a CSA statement. The first match in the series will be in Paarl on Saturday, following the conclusion of a Twenty20 series in Cape Town on Wednesday. Test left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj has been rewarded for good form in a domestic one-day tournament with his first one-day international call-up

#### away. – AFP **Smith will lead Welsh in Hundred**

since 2018. Coach Mark Boucher

said the squad was picked with

an eye to the future with the next World Cup still three years

London: Steve Smith will skipper Welsh Fire in English cricket's new Hundred competition two years after being stripped of the Australia captaincy for his role in a ball-tampering scandal. Smith will lead a side that includes Australia fast bowler Mitchell Starc as well as **England World Cup-winners** Jonny Bairstow and Liam Plunkett, together with rising star Tom Banton and West Indies paceman Ravi Rampaul. Smith lost the Australia captaincy for his role in a ball-tampering scandal in 2018 during a Test in Cape Town and was given a year-long ban by Cricket Australia. Wednesday's announcement came with Smith and David Warner, his then vicecaptain who was also banned for 12 months for his part in the incident, back at the Newlands ground in Cape Town for a

#### Fernando, Mendis help SL win series

series-deciding third Twenty20

international against South

Hambantota: Sri Lanka crushed West Indies by 161 runs in the second one-day international to clinch the series in Hambantota on Wednesday. Chasing 346 for victory, West Indies were bowled out for 184 in 39.1 overs with wrist spinners Wanindu Hasaranga and Lakshan Sandakan taking three wickets each. Avishka Fernando, who blasted 127, and Kusal Mendis, who made 119, put on 239 runs in Sri Lanka's highest third-wicket stand as the hosts amassed 345 for eight after being put into bat. Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne went for one and Kusal Perera fell for nought in his 100th ODI before Mendis denied Cottrell a hattrick and combined with Fernando to thwart the opposition bowling. Sri Lanka took an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match series after edging the first game by one wicket. The third match is in Kandy on Sunday.

# Shaw must go on?

### Skipper Kohli throws his weight behind misfiring Prithvi

Christchurch, Feb. 26: Trent Boult and Tim Southee have exposed the chinks in Prithvi Shaw's armour but India skipper Virat Kohli is ready to wait and watch before any corrective analysis as he does not see a pattern in the young opener's dis-

missals so far.
There are a few shortcomings that experts have noticed in Shaw's batting after the 20-year-old righthanded batsman scored just 16 and 14 in the two innings of the first Test against New Zealand in Wellington, which India lost by 10 wickets.

"I think we can sit down and analyse, maybe after 8 or 10 similar dismissals. I don't think (it's fair to the guy), who is playing away from home for the first time and is probably experiencing different kind of bowling attack at international level compared to playing at home," Kohli had said, when asked about Shaw's dismissals at the end of the first Test.

"I don't think at this stage, we need to sit down and discuss what's going wrong because I don't see anything wrong. It's the execution of things which was not there.

Shaw has, probably, the biggest back-lift in this current crop of top-order batsmen and often when the New Zealand bowlers are employing the short ball tactic, his bat face tends to close by the time the delivery reaches him. Scott Kuggeleijn got him

out in the first innings in the warm-up game in Hamilton



Prithvi Shaw (left) and Rishabh Pant in this file photo.

and Trent Boult also used the tactic successfully in the second innings. think as a batsman until you are committing the same mistake about seven or eight times, you can't really sit down and worry about things too much,

Kohli said. International cricket is about finding one's own straps and Shaw also will work out what is best for him, feels the captain who has 70 hundreds to his credit in all formats. "He (Shaw) will figure out. He will find ways to score runs because he is a natural stroke-player and he

scores runs. It is not that he gets small runs (when he gets them). He gets big runs and knows how to get runs.'

The reason why Shaw faltered could be due to the lack of understanding of the pace of the Basin Reserve track but the former U-19 World Cup-winning skipper was not alone as some of the team's other big names also failed to gauge the nature of the pitch.

"It is just a matter of understanding the pace of the wicket and conditions as soon as possible."

Shaw will figure out. He will find ways to score runs because he is a natural stroke-player and he scores runs. — VIRAT KOHLI

### **India struggling** to counter pace & bounce: Wagner

Christchurch, Feb. 26: Indian batsmen will get a liberal dose of "chin music" in the second Test at the seamerfriendly Hagley Oval, senior New Zealand pacer Neil Wagner declared on Wednesday, harping on the visitors' struggles when faced with pace and bounce.

Wagner pulled out of the first Test to be with his wife for the birth of their first child, daugh-ter Olivia. With India troubled by short balls bowled from round the wicket, the 33-year-old Wagner promised that they will employ the same strategy during the second match start-

ing Saturday.

"It's obviously tough for them to come here and play where there is obviously a bit more bounce and pace," said

"Obviously, playing in India where there is not that much bounce and pace around and so it is something new for them to adapt to," he added.
Wagner, just like his coach Gary Stead, believes that Indians

will be better but he expects the home side to be relentless in its endeavour to compound the agony for the visi-

"Hopefully, we can keep the squeeze on and bowl the way the boys bowled in Wellington and if we can keep piling the pressure on, we will make the job a lot easier for ourselves," he

The series is a short one and that's why it's taking time for the Indians to get used to the Test match conditions.

"...sometimes when you tour overseas, it takes a match or two to get used to the conditions and adapt from there. No doubt they will be better and they will come back stronger.'





A file photo of Jasprit Bumrah (left) and Ishant

### McGrath backs Bumrah & Co.

Mumbai, Feb. 26: Australian pace legend Glenn McGrath on Wednesday said India's bowling attack remains a "world class" one despite the recent debacles against New Zealand and blamed the under-whelming performance on factors such as injury layoffs and toss. India lost by 10 wickets in the opening Test against New Zealand in Wellington.

While Ishant Sharma returned with a five-wicket haul, his pace colleagues Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami managed just one wicket each as New Zealand posted a match-deciding first innings score of 348 despite being 216 for six at

one stage. "I still have total faith in the Indian (bowling) lineup. They had a few injuries of late. Sharma is coming back and he did get five wickets. Bumrah had a couple of injuries and he is coming back," McGrath said.

"So, yeah, I think the Indian bowling attack is world class and there is no doubt about that," he

'I don't have any issues with the bowling attack, you don't lose form overnight. It was just one of those things where the toss made a huge difference. (in the first Test in New Zealand), but you still got to get and score runs." McGrath praised Ishant for "reinventing" himself and also lauded Shami and Bumrah.

"...the way he's (Ishant) comeback in the last couple years, it's been impressive. I thought his career might have been finished at international level, but he has reinvented himself and he is bowling well," said the 50-yearold, who is in the city for Tourism Australia

"Jasprit is unique with the way he goes about it short run up, powers through the crease, can swing the ball, good control and good pace (in)



then on top of that the other quicks and spin-

**'INDIA WILL FACE THE** 

#### **HEAT IN AUSTRALIA**

Pace great Glenn McGrath believes that with the explosive duo of David Warner and Steve Smith back in the Australian team, India are in for a tough time during their tour Down Under later this year.

"Australia are playing good cricket. Steve Smith and David Warner — both are playing well and we saw what Warner is capable of in the Australian summer. Having a batsman like Warner back, and a quality batsman like Steve Smith, it's a totally different game," McGrath said.

India are set to tour Australia later this year for four Tests.

"...it's gonna be tougher for India. That's not to say they they can't perform well. They have got confidence of playing in Australian conditions now and they know how

### **MCGRATH BACKS**

McGrath said the growing popularity of the T20 cricket is good for the sport and probably the new fans with embrace the challenging Test format.

"I am a big fan of Test cricket. To me, Test cricket is still the ultimate and we got to keep the game fresh, people enjoying it. T20 has taken the world by storm, it is bringing a lot more people to cricket and that is brilliant and hopefully that will filter

#### and told me to run in, Christchurch, Feb. 26: A specialist batsman during wasn't until he met the then New Zealand U-19 which kind of shifted me towards becoming more of his formative years before

shifting to fast bowling. New Zealand's imposing pacer Kyle Jamieson wants to transform into an allrounder going forward.

a dream debut against India in the first Test, played as a batsman in his younger days, and it coach Davle Hadlee that he was asked to seriously consider focusing on fast bowling as a primary "I was pretty much a bat-

ter all through high school 25-year-old, who and then made the New Zealand U-19s, and Dayle Hadlee got a hold of me

seasoned

matches

Poonam Yaday —

Shikha Pandey ably support-

ing her with five scalps so

far. New Zealand, though,

have a better head-to-head

record against India in

recent years, having won the

with pacer

a bowler," Jamieson was quoted as saying by the ICC's official website. "I always liked batting, it

Jamieson wants to turn into allrounder

was probably what I grew up admiring the most - whilst I did bowl, I did not think of that as my career option growing up. Now I'm a bowler who can bat.

trying to get to the allrounder stage, that's where I ideally want to be," the 6-ft-8-inch tall fast bowler said.

**Kohli loses** 

top spot in

**Test rankings** 

Dubai, Feb. 26: India

skipper Virat Kohli lost

the top spot in the ICC Test Player Rankings after managing only 21 runs in the first Test which his side lost to

New Zealand by 10 wick-

Kohli, who has 906 points, slipped to the second position in the list which also features

Ajinkya Rahane, Pujara

and Mayank Agarwl at

the eighth, ninth and 10th place respectively. While Rahane, returned

to a career-best 10th

ets in Wellington.

Jamieson with his bounce and abilitv to extract movement in the first innings of the Wellington Test against India, where he picked up

### Neil Wagner -PTIsecond third spells. And into Test cricket." — PTI India women eye hat-trick of wins as they meet Kiwis

Melbourne, Feb. 26: On a high after two easy victories on the trot, including one against defending champion Australia, the Indian women's cricket team will aim to inch closer to a semifinal berth when it takes on New Zealand in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup here

on Thursday.
The Indians have hardly broke a sweat in their 17-run and 18-run wins over hosts Australia and Bangladesh in their previous two matches, and they are perched at the top of five-team Group A standings with four points from two matches.

A win against New Zealand on Thursday will take the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side on the threshold of a knockout stage spot, to be competed among top two teams from Group A and B.

In the two matches so far, the Indian team has been impressive both in batting and bowling.

The 16-year-old sensation Shafali Verma has been the standout batter with a whirlwind 17-ball 39 against Bangladesh, following her 29 against Australia. One-down Jemmiah Rodrigues has also been among the runs with 26 and 34 in the two matches so

Only captain Harmanpreet, among the top order batters, has not scored big and she is due a big innings. India is

### LIVE on TV

India vs New Zealand on STAR Sports 2, 2HD

FROM 9.30 AM

also likely to be bolstered by the return of star opener Smriti Mandhana who missed the match against Bangladesh due to fever. The middle-order has

also done its bit with Deepti Sharma playing a major role against Australia with an unbeaten 49 while Veda Krishnamurthy hit a match-defining 11-ball 20 not out for a late flourish gains



The bowling department run win against New Zealand in the previous edition of the T20 World Cup in 2018 in the West Indies. has been led admirably by leg-spinner seven wickets in the first two

Harmanpreet had struck a memorable 103 to lead her side to victory. New Zealand have some top class players in their ranks in the form of captain and all-rounder Sophie Devine and top-order batswoman Suzie Bates while pacer Lea Tahuhu and leg-spinner Amelia Kerr will lead the bowling department. They will go into this match on a high after an easy sevenwicket win over Sri

Devine had led her side from the front with an unbeaten 75 off 55 balls at the top of the order in that



### Smriti doesn't mind sharing limelight with young Shafali

Melbourne, Feb. 26: She has been the backbone of Indian women's cricket team's batting but swash-buckling India opener Smriti Mandhana is delighted that teen prodigy Shafali Verma is steal-

> 23-year-old Mandhana, who has been a key player for the Indian team in the last two-three years, said Verma is showing she is capable of filling her boots. "I used to score a lot of our runs in the last two of three years,

especially in the Powerplay, but now with Shafali coming in, she's getting the runs in the way I do. It makes the team more bal-anced," Mandhana

a huge positive coming into the T20 side. The way she's going about her batting, it's so easy to bat along-

side her," she said on the eve of India's match against New Zealand on Thursday.

Verma has already announced her emergence on the global stage. The 16-year-old has scored 68 runs across two games in this World Cup, including five sixes and seven fours, at an impressive strike rate of 212.

The teenager, who is making her ICC Women's T20 World Cup debut in Australia, picked up the Player of the Match award for her 39 runs against Bangladesh, a game which Mandhana missed after picking up viral fever.

"I used to have a major role in Powerplays, but Shafali is getting the quick runs in those first overs now too. She's made a huge impact and the team has become more balanced thanks to her,' said Mandhana.

She said Verma's best attribute is the "routine she likes to follow and no one has gone in and told her she has to change



England's Heather Knight with her Player of the Match award after scoring an unbeaten 108 against Thailand in the Women's T20 World Cup.

#### **KNIGHT HITS TON AS ENGLAND WIN**

Canberra: Captain Heather Knight's maiden T20 International century helped England notch up a record-breaking 98-run victory over debutants Thailand in the Women's T20 World Cup here on Wednesday, Knight blasted a majestic 108 not out from 66 balls to become the fourth batter to make a hundred at the event and send records tumbling. Both England openers were dismissed

for ducks for just the sec-

ond time in T20Is. — PTI

### **PAKISTAN BEGIN WITH A BANG!**

Canberra: Skipper Bismah Maroof anchored the chase with an unbeaten 38-run knock as Pakistan thumped former champions West Indies by eight wickets in their opening match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup here on Wednesday. Diana Baig's fierce spell of fast bowling exposed a struggling Windies top order as they posted 124 for seven, courtesv Stafanie Taylor (43) and Shemaine Campbelle

### **Head Quarters beat South Zone**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Head Quarters and North Zone won their respective matches in the Food Corporation of India's All-India Inter-zonal Cricket Tournament being played at the Gymkhana Grounds here on

Tuesday In the first match, Sumit Mathur (43) and Rajinder Bist (41) helped Head Quarters post a mammoth total of 186/2 in their stipulated 20 overs on a

flat batting strip. Chasing 187 for a win, South Zone (138/9) lost the match by 48 runs. Vishnu was the lone bright star for South Zone as he made 48 while Chevron D. Selva contributed 45 to his team's score.

Rajinder snared four wickets for just nine runs. In the other match, riding on Nitin Saini's 94 and S. Yatharth's 50, North zone (184/5) defeated East Zone (167/4) by 17 runs.

Karan Lal remained unbeaten on 69, Sudeep G. added 31 to the team's tally and Indranil B. played his part with a brilliant 24 for East Zone.

#### **BRIEF SCORES**

Head Quarters 186/2 in 20 overs (Sumit Mathur 43, Rajinder Bist 41, Subham C 33, Chetan Sharma 26) bt South Zone 138/9 in 20 overs (Vishnu 48, Chevron D Selva 45). North Zone 184/5 in 20 overs (Nitin Saini 94, Yatharth S. 50, Nilava Debnath 2/24) bt East zone 167/4 in 20 overs (Karan Lal 69 n. o., Sudeep G. 31, Indranil B. 24 n. o., Mayank M.

#### **Mamtha shines**

as city side win

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

Uttar Pradesh's decision to bat first backfired as they lost to Hyderabad by two wicktes in their BCCI Women's Senior One Day Trophy tournament played at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium in Surat on

Wednesday. Electing to bat first, Uttar Pradesh posted 147/10 in 48. overs. Aditi top-scored with 35 while V. Kavya Mahesh picked

Chasing 148 for a win, Hyderabad won the match in the last ball of the innings and with two wickets to spare. For Hyderabad, Mamatha Kanojia impressed with 67.

#### **BRIEF SCORES**

Uttar Pradesh 147 in 48.4 overs (Aditi 35, V. Kavya Mahesh 3/27, Bhogi Shravani 2 /38) lost to Hyderabad 148/8 in 50 overs (Mamtha Kanojia 67, Rashi Kanoiiva 3/22. Kaial 3/27). Points: Hyderabad 4, Uttar Pradesh 0

#### **SBI Hyderabad** make semifinal

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

The State Bank of India, Hyderabad blanked SBI, Ahmedabad, 3-0 at the State Bank of India Inter-Circle Football Tournament being played in Visakhapatnam. Mohd Fareed found the back of the twice while Mohd Qiazr scored a goal to help Hyderabad triumph. SBI, Hyderabad, who remained unbeaten in the league state have directly qualified for the semifinal stage of the tournament and will take on SBI, North East, for a place in

### **Athletics trials in** city on March 2

DC CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD, FEB. 26

The Hyderabad District Athletics Association is going to organise selection trials for both the under-20 boys and girls at the Nizam College Grounds on March 2. Selected athletes will represent Hyderabad at the Federation Cup Telangana State Athletics Championship to be held on March 11 and 12 in Warangal.

Interested athletes must report to K. M. Chisty. Organising Secretary at venue along with date of birth certificates by 7.30 am.

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# London still red

### **Gnabry tweets post Bayern's win over Blues**

London, Feb. 26: Serge Gnabry fired Bayern Munich to the brink of the Champions League quarterfinals as the German's double inspired a superb 3-0 rout of Chelsea in the last-16 first leg at Stamford Bridge. Gnabry had tormented Tottenham Hotspur with

four goals in Bayern's 7-2 victory in north London earlier this season and the former Arsenal winger returned to the English capital to push Chelsea to the brink of elimination.

The 24-year-old's time with Arsenal was a disappointment and he even flopped during a loan spell at West Bromwich Albion.

But he has been reborn with Bayern and his two goals in the space of three minutes left Hansi Flick's side within touching distance of the last eight.

Robert Lewandowski got Bayern's third before Chelsea defender Marcos Alonso was sent off in the 83rd minute on Tuesday.

Chelsea will need another Munich miracle in the second leg on March 18 to overturn the deficit at the Allianz Arena, where they famously beat the German club in the 2012 Champions League final.

Bayern's pressure was mounting and Mueller drifted onto Gnabry's cross to flick a back header against the bar.

Lampard had kept faith with Olivier Giroud after the 33-year-old marked his first start since November with a goal in Saturday's win against Tottenham.

But retaining Giroud at the expense of Tammy Abraham was a big gam ble and the Chelsea strik-er's muscular but immo-bile presence offered little to unsettle Bayern.

Bayern deservedly took the lead in the 51st minute with a superbly crafted goal. Gnabry's deft control and pass sent Lewandowski into the Chelsea area and when he cut the ball back, his teammate made a perfectly-timed run to fire low past Caballero.

#### INSPIRED NAPOLI HOLD

Antoine Griezmann rescued a 1-1 draw Barcelona at Napoli in the leg of Champions League last-16

Frenchman Griezmann struck just before the hour mark in Naples after Dries Mertens had put the hosts ahead in the 30th minute with his 121st Napoli goal, drawing level with Marek Hamsik as the club's all-time top scorer.

Barcelona ended the game with 10 men after Arturo Vidal was sent off with two minutes to go after picking up two yellow cards, following an angry clash with Napoli defender Mario Rui.

The clash was the first between the two teams and also a Champions League debut for both Setien and Napoli counterpart Gennaro Gattuso, who took over after the group stage

Messi failed to score on his first appearance at the Stadio San Paolo, where Napoli legend Diego Maradona reigned supreme three decades ago. The 32-year-old Messi scored four goals at the weekend in Barcelona's 5-0 win over Eibar.

**SHUTTLERS RAVI,** 

**RITHVIK WIN AT** 

**DUTCH TOURNEY** 

Haarlem (the Nether-

lands), Feb. 26: Young

Indian shuttlers Ravi and

Rithvik Sanjeevi Satish

straight-game victories in

the U-19 men's singles

opening round at the Dutch Junior

ment here on Wednesday.

Haryana wrapped up the

match 21-11 21-8 comfort-

Indonesian opponent Made Deco Setya Atmaja,

Гатіl Nadu's Rithvik

thrashed Zhiyuan Lee 21-

against

Kumar

International

registered

tourna-

opponent

Ravi from

CAS said in a statement

to appeal.

Lausanne,

Wednesday.

Manchester City's appeal

against their two-year

European ban for breach-

es of financial regula-

tions has been officially

Arbitration for Sport,

The Premier League

club, who were also fined

30 million euros (\$32.5

million) by European foot-

ball's governing body

UEFA earlier this month,

had immediately contested the "flawed" process

and stated their intention

announced on

City file appeal with CAS Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has registered an appeal filed by Manchester City football club against the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).

Barcelona's Lionel Messi (centre) fouls Napoli's goalkeeper David Ospina (right) dur-

ing their UEFA Champions League pre-quarterfinal first-leg match at the San Paolo

Stadium in Naples on Tuesday. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.

Bayern Munich's Serge Gnabry celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during

their UEFA Champions League prequaertfinal first leg match against Chelsea at the

Stamford Bridge in London on Tuesday. Bayern won 3-0.

registered by the Court of "The appeal is directed against the decision of the adjudicatory chamber of the UEFA Club Financial Control Body (CFCB) dated 14 February 2020 in which Manchester City was deemed to have contravened UEFA's Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations."

CAS said it was not possible to say when the matter would be resolved but Wednesday: "The it is expected to take sev-

eral months.

The adjudicatory chamber said on February 14 City had broken the rules by "overstating its sponsorship revenue in its accounts and in the breakeven information submitted to UEFA between 2012 and 2016.'

Pep Guardiola's City face losing hundreds of millions of pounds in prize money, TV revenue, gate receipts and sponsorship income should their appeal fail.

Last week, City Football Group CEO Ferran Soriano said the club hoped to have their appeal heard by CAS.

### **SARRI CALLS FOR CALM AMIDST VIRUS THREAT**

Lyon, Feb. 26: Juventus coach Maurizio Sarri rejected suggestions that supporters of his side should not be allowed to attend Wednesday's Champions League clash with Lyon in France due to the coronavirus outbreak in Italy. The virus had claimed

11 lives in Italy by Tuesday evening, with 322 confirmed infections, and authorities have said upcoming matches in Italian league will be played behind closed doors to combat its spread, as well as

Thursday's Europa League game between Milan Ludogorets of Bulgaria.

The mayors of the two towns in the Lyon suburbs across which the Groupama Stadium, the venue for Wednesday's game, is situated have called for away fans to be banned from attending as a result. However, close to 3,000 fans from Italy are expected at the game.

'In my opinion it is a European problem, not an Italian problem," said Sarri, as the first question at Tuesday's press conference before the Champions League last 16, first leg focused on the coronavirus outbreak.

"In Italy we have done 3,500 tests and we have a certain number of positive cases. In France about 300 tests have been done, so probably if they had done as many tests as us there would be as many positive cases.

### **JAPAN CALLS OFF LEAGUE GAMES DUE TO CORONA**

Tokyo, Feb. 26: Japan suspended its football league on Tuesday, making it the latest sporting victim of the deadly coronavirus with just five months to go before the Tokyo Olympics.

All J-League and cup games were postponed until mid-March as Japan joined China and South Korea in putting domestic football on hold in a bid to stem the outbreak

"J-League made a big decision over the spread of infections of the new coronavirus," the league's chairman Mitsuru Murai told a news conference.
"We have decided to

postpone Levain Cup games scheduled for tomorrow and all the official games... scheduled until March 15."

On Monday, a medical panel advising Japan's government warned the coming weeks will be "critical" in preventing the outbreak from spreading out of control.

At least 156 people have tested positive for the virus in Japan, along with nearly 700 on a cruise ship that was quarantined. Four people who fell ill on the ship have died. Domestically, Japan has reported one fatality linked to the virus.

Three-time world junior

Vitidsarn, who reached

the Barcelona Spain

Masters final this month.

will be one of the young

guns capable of causing

For Saina Nehwal the

tournament will be cru-cial as she would look to

bag some valuable rank-

Former Commonwealth

Games gold medallist Parupalli Kashyap, HS

champion

an upset.

ing points.

# Goodbye tennis, says Sharapova

### Diva announces retirement

Paris, Feb. 26: Five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova, one of the world's most recognisable

world's most recognisable sportswomen, on Wednesday announced her retirement at the age of 32. "Tennis — I'm saying goodbye. After 28 years and five Grand Slam titles, though I'm yeady to cale though, I'm ready to scale another mountain — to compete on a different type of terrain," Sharapova said in an article for *Vogue* and Vanity Fair maga-

Sharapova burst onto the scene as a supremely gifted teenager and won her Grand Slams before serving a 15-month ban for failing a drugs test at the 2016 Australian Open. When she did play she lost as many matches as she won and was dumped out in the first rounds at Wimbledon, the US Open and, most recently, the Australian Open in Melbourne. Sharapova shot to fame

as a 17-year-old Wimbledon winner in 2004, the thirdyoungest player to conquer the All England Club's hal lowed grass courts.

She became world number one in 2005 and won the US Open the next year. "One of the keys to my

success was that I never looked back and I never forward,' Sharapova said Wednesday. "I believed that if I kept grinding and grinding, I could push myself to an incredible place," Maria added.

But in 2007 Sharapova began her long on-off battle with shoulder trouble. She would win the 2008

**MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS** 2004: Wimbledon win-2008: Tour Finals

2006: US Open winner. 2008: Australian Open 2008: Fed Cup winner. 2012 & 2014: French

Open winner. 2012: Olympics silver

Australian Open before a second shoulder injury kept her off tour for the second half of the season. In 2012, the Siberian-born Sharapova captured the French Open to become the 10th woman to complete a career Grand Slam. She

added Olympic silver to her resume that year. More fitness troubles fol-lowed before the bombshell announcement of her positive test for the banned heart drug meldonium.

"In giving my life to tennis, tennis gave me a life," Sharapova said in her retirement missive.

"I'll miss it everyday. I'll miss the training and my daily routine: Waking up at dawn, lacing my left shoe before my right, and closing the court's gate before I hit my first ball of the day. I'll miss my team, my coaches. I'll miss the moments sitting with my father on the practice court bench. The handshakes – win or lose - and the athletes, whether they knew it or not, who pushed me to be my best," she added.



Maria Sharapova in this file photo.

### Sonam defeats Sakshi again

Lucknow, Feb. 26: Proving her mettle yet again, young Sonam Malik downed Sakshi Malik for the second time in a row, this time by pinning the Olympic medallist, to make it to the Indian team for next month's Olympic Qualifiers here Wednesday.

Asked to re-appear in trials after not-so-strong performance at the Rome Ranking series event and recently-concluded Asian Championships, the 18-year-old Sonam tore apart the challenge of established seniors in the 62kg competition.

She first got past Radhika and then caring little for reputations, Sonam beat the Asian Championship 59kg gold medallist Sarita Mor (3-1) in the semifinals before winning by fall against Rio Olympics bronze medallist Sakshi in

the final. She pinned Sakshi in the second period when she was trailing 1-2 and one

minute left in the bout. Nine wrestlers appeared in the 62kg trials, Pooja Dhanda and a few from

upper weight categories. There was no nervousness before the bouts. I was



determined to compete hard. I have fought against them before and I knew I had to battle it out. So I was prepared," Sonam said.

"And I have already fought with Sarita in Bawana in 2018 during a *'Dangal'*. I had to fight hard, you can't say it's easy for me. The competition was definitely better at the Asian Championships but our wrestlers are also get-

ting better." Sonam said she needs to hone her style before the Bishkek Qualifiers.

"I will try my best. I need to work on my leg defence and ground attack before the Bishkek Qualifiers," she added. Sonam also said that she will seek guidance from seniors, including Sakshi and Sarita, before the qualifiers.

#### Yufei, Axelsen to play India Open were cleared to participate in upcoming BWF another of the star shuttlers vying for the title.

New Delhi, Feb. 26: World No.1 Chen Yufei and defending men's singles champion Viktor Axelsen will headline a star-studded international contingent when the 10th edition of the India Open Super 500 tournament will begin here on March 24.

With the Olympic qualification cut-off set to end on April 26, the \$400,000 event will see a galaxy of stars, including eight of the world's top 10 women singles and three of top 10 men singles players, descending at the Indian A number of top

Chinese players, who

in Europe, are expected to participate in the USD 400,000 event, despite the fears surrounding the deadly coronavirus, which began spreading from Wuhan, China. Besides Yufei, world number eight He Bingjiao and former All England

World Tour tournaments

International Stadium.

champion Shi Yu Qi are the other stars of the Chinese squad who are expected to compete at the Indira Gandhi

Yufei will be leading eight of the world's top 10 women's singles shuttlers with the others being

Yamaguchi, China's He Spain's Bingjiao, Carolina Marin, Korea's An Se Young, Canada's Michelle Li, three-time champion Ratchanok champion Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand and India's very own world champion P. V. Sindhu, besides former World No.1 Saina Nehwal.

Among the men, while Axelsen will be gunning for his third title, he will have to contend with fellow top-10 players, India's B Sai Praneeth and 2018 winner Shi Yuqi of China.

Prannoy, Sourabh Verma, Sameer Korea's Son Wan Ho, a 2012 champion and for-

Lakshya Sen are the other Indians to compete

mer World No. 1, will be at the event.

Verma and

# IN A WORLD OF FAKE NEWS, WELCOME TO THE REAL NO.1

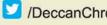
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