

## हरियाणा बजट 2020



## हरियाणा बजट की प्रस्तुति का सीधा प्रसारण

न्यूज चैनल, सोशल मीडिया तथा वेबसाइट पर

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समय: दोपहर 12:00 बजे से (प्रश्नकाल के पश्चात)

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Next hearing April 13 | SG repeats: Not right time for FIRs | Centre becomes party to matter

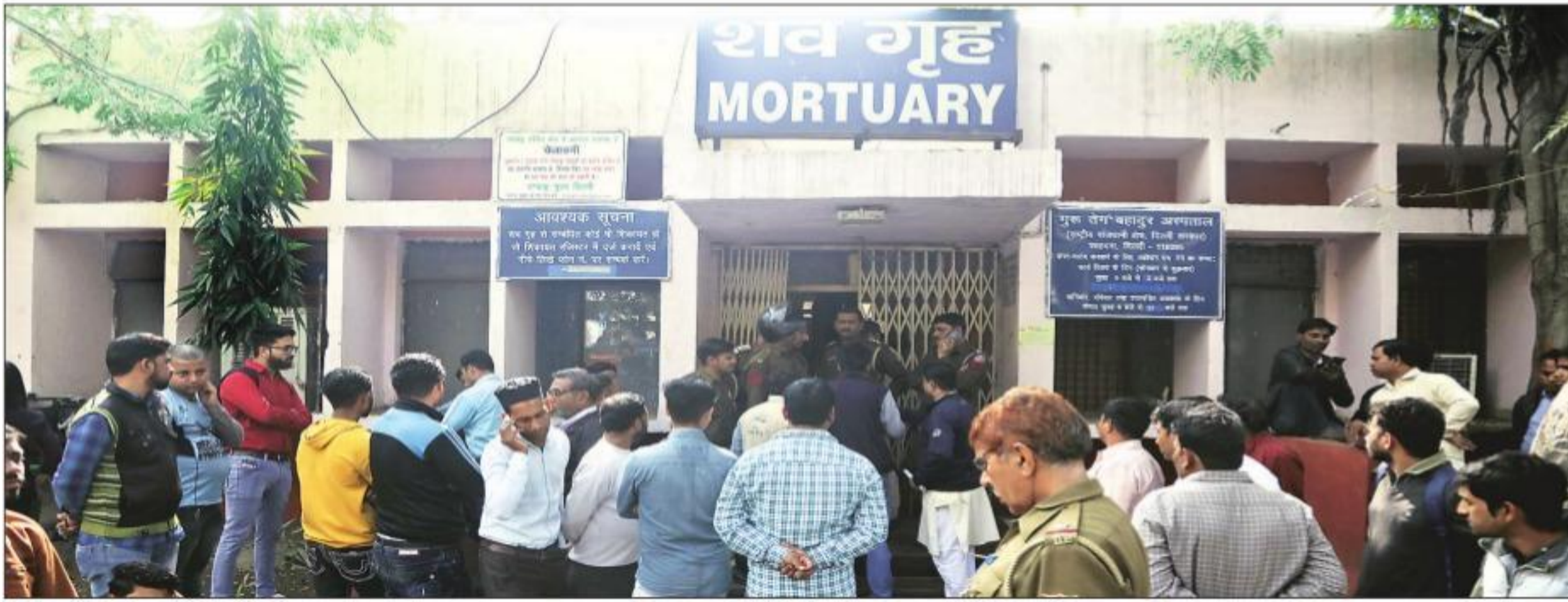
# High Court gave Delhi Police one day to file hate FIRs, now gives it a month

Police set up two SITs to investigate communal violence in northeast Delhi

PRITAMPAL SINGH  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

A DAY after it was directed by a Delhi High Court bench headed by Justice S Muralidhar to register FIRs against four BJP leaders and others who made hate speeches in the run-up to the communal violence in northeast Delhi, the Delhi Police and the Centre, which was made an impleader Thursday, repeated their claim that the "prevailing situation" was not "conducive" to lodge the FIRs.

The bench of Chief Justice D N Patel, accepting their submission, adjourned the hearing until April 13, in the process granting police a four-week breather. In C J Patel's absence Wednesday, the matter was listed before the bench of Justice Muralidhar who, questioning the conduct of police and making it listen to video clips of the hate speeches, had ordered that a decision on FIRs be taken by Thursday and the court duly informed. Late Wednesday, the government notified the transfer of Justice Muralidhar to the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Justice Muralidhar's bench had pulled up Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, telling him: "You say that it is not an appropriate stage. As per you, when will it be that stage? After the city has burnt down? How many more lives have to be lost?... Why are you not showing alacrity when it



Relatives wait for bodies of victims outside the GTB Hospital mortuary in Delhi on Thursday. Abhinav Saha

## At least 82 have bullet injuries, criminals gave weapons: Police

BUSINESS AS USUAL  
By UNNY



MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

AT LEAST 82 people sustained gunshot wounds during the violence in northeast Delhi over the last three days, *The Indian Express* has learnt. Of them, 21 people succumbed to their injuries, including Head Constable Ratan Lal who was the first reported casualty on Monday evening.

With police so far having prepared a list of about 250 victims, including the dead and injured, the figure suggests that one in

INSIDE

FOUR BODIES FOUND IN DRAINS, POLICE SEARCH FOR MORE

PREGNANT WOMAN ASSAULTED, GIVES BIRTH DAY LATER

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every three victims suffered bullet injuries — a number that has led to police investigating how so many rioters got access to guns.

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## IB staffer's killing: AAP councillor booked, CM says take strict action

ANAND MOHAN J & SOMYA LAKHANI  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

DELHI POLICE has registered an FIR under IPC Sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) against AAP councillor Tahir Hussain in connection with the killing of Intelligence Bureau staffer Ankit Sharma, whose body was pulled out of a drain in northeast Delhi Wednesday.

The FIR, which was registered Thursday at Dayalpur



Hussain was suspended by AAP

police station, was based on allegations by 25-year-old Sharma's family that Hussain was linked to the incident.

While police said that a probe is underway, Hussain denied the allegations and demanded a "thorough investigation". AAP,

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## Shift in geopolitics, so India to attend signing of Taliban peace pact with US

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

IN ITS first step towards engaging with the Taliban, India has decided to send its envoy to the signing of the peace pact between the US and Taliban in Doha on Saturday, according to sources.

This is the first time that an official representative will attend a ceremony where the Taliban representatives will be present. When Taliban was in power between 1996 and 2001, India did not recognise it diplomatically and officially.

Sources said India received an "invitation" from Qatar, and after deliberations at the highest level, the government has decided to send India's Ambassador to Qatar, P Kumaran.

While the decision is not

EXPLAINED  
First step to new reality

FACED WITH the new reality in Afghanistan, India is now moving to diplomatically engage with the Taliban. India's presence at the agreement-signing ceremony is the first sign of a possible diplomatic opening. New Delhi has vital strategic stakes in Afghanistan, where it has worked on several development projects.

linked to US President Donald Trump's recent visit to India, the signing of the pact will have strategic, security and political

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## Coronavirus: Iran flights cancelled, many students among Indians stranded

SOWMIYA ASHOK & TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA  
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, FEB 27

WITH INDIA on Thursday suspending all flights from Iran, where the coronavirus outbreak has claimed 26 lives so far, many Indian students — including several medical students from Kashmir — and pilgrims are stranded there.

There are roughly 250 Indian students across Iran, including in Tehran, Shiraz and Kish Island.

"We want to leave the country because our parents are re-



Indians evacuated from Wuhan, at the airport in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

ally worried. Since flights are getting cancelled, the only way out is with the help of the Ministry of External Affairs," said a 22-year-old third year student from

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### THE EDITORIAL PAGE

#### INDIA-US: FOCUS ON SUBSTANCE NOW

BY NAVTEJ SARNA  
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## Gangster Pujari's threat calls to 10 Cong, JD(S) leaders led to arrest

JOHNSON TA  
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 27

SHIFTING FROM his modus operandi of primarily targeting businessmen, gangster Ravi Pujari (59) made extortion calls to at least 10 politicians in Karnataka from 2015 to 2018, leading to pressure on the state police to find him. Pujari, who has 97 cases against him in the state, was eventually arrested in Senegal in January 2019, and extradited to India earlier this week.

Among the politicians who received extortion calls are



Was arrested in Senegal, extradited

Congress leaders U T Khader, Abhaychandra Jain, Ramanath Rai in 2015; HM Revanna in 2016; D K Suresh in 2017; Tanvir Sait, C M Ibrahim and Anil Lad in 2018; and JD(S) leaders S R Mahesh and C B Suresh Babu in 2017.

On July 18, 2018, when the JD(S)-Congress was in power, then state police chief Neelamani

Raju assigned the task of finding Pujari to Additional DGP Amar Kumar Pandey.

As a fugitive in Senegal and Burkina Faso, the gangster "continued his extortion and threat business, targeting people from the film industry, businessmen, builders and developers, doctors and other professionals as well as meddling in political activities — such as making threat calls to people in political life or people with opinion," said Pandey.

Among those to be targeted first was former minister and Congress legislator HM Revanna,

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### WORLD



CORONAVIRUS: SAUDI CUTS ACCESS TO HOLY SITES, JAPAN SHUTS SCHOOLS PAGE 14

### GOVT & POLITICS

CONG, CPI(M) SLAM TRANSFER OF HC JUDGE, GOVT SAYS ROUTINE PAGE 6

## Slump in growth part of business cycles, now bottoming out: CEA

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 27

THE GOVERNMENT'S Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy V Subramanian has said the deceleration in economic growth for 13 quarters is part of business cycles that stem from more "prolonged than average" slowdown in the financial sector which has now started showing signs of bottoming out.

Speaking at the Express Adda in Mumbai on Wednesday, Subramanian said: "Credit in the public sector like space is starting



CEA K V Subramanian at the Express Adda. Amit Chakravarty

to pick up. There are steps that have been taken on trying to reduce this risk aversion. Changes in sentiment, you know, happen over time and I am seeing some

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signs of it and I am hopeful." He said the economic slowdown stems from the financial sector and over a period of time,

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### PAGE 1 ANCHOR

# 16-year-old storms T20 World Cup: 'She reminds me of Sehwag'

VISHAL MENON  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

A COUPLE of years ago, Shafali Verma, just 14 then, was asked to face Haryana's Ranji team pacer Ashish Hooda at Rohtak's Shri Ram Narain Cricket academy. Coach Ashwani Kumar wanted to test his star student against top-class bowling. But, worried that the girl might get hit, Hooda came up with an easy, slow ball. Shafali stepped out and smashed it back over his head. Hooda's next ball was close to 130 kph but even that posed no problem. "I knew then this little girl has

it in her to do really well at the T20 World Cup," says Hooda, who has opened the attack in over 50 first-class games.

On Thursday in Melbourne, Shafali won her second Player of the Tournament award in three games at the women's T20 World Cup. Her 34-ball 46 against New Zealand took India to their third win in three games — and the semi-final.

So much so, that former cricketers in the commentary box were blown away by the 16-year-old who has been raining sixes. "This girl can seriously play," former England captain Naseer Hussain tweeted.

Former India captain Diana Edulji says, "Shafali is a player who will draw a crowd to watch the women's game. It's not good to compare but she reminds me of Virender Sehwag. The attacking approach brings freshness to women's cricket."

For long, the women's game hasn't been known to throw up big-hitters but Shafali, with eight sixes in three games, is changing that. After just 17 T20 internationals, she has a career strike-rate of 148, the best in the world.

Hooda, 30, still remembers that first "gentle" ball. "After that, the coach told me 'Kya kar raha hai, jaan laga ke bowl kar' (What



Shafali Verma won her second Player of the Tournament award in Melbourne on Thursday

are you doing, bowl with some life). She seemed to have more time than others to play her shots. To think that she was only 14 back then, and the manner in which she was stepping out and hitting me, was mind-boggling," Hooda says.

Coach Ashwani recalls the early days of the daughter of a small-time Rohtak goldsmith, Sanjeev Verma who was obsessed with making his daughter a world-class cricketer. Since the time she was five, the father, at the break of dawn, would wake Shafali up. Then, Sanjeev, his daughter and son Sahil would be on the bike searching

for empty roads, parks or parking lots to play cricket.

Once, when an ill Sahil couldn't make it to an all-boys tournament, Sanjeev asked Shafali to cut her hair short so she could pass off as her brother. That proved to be a turning point as Shafali outsmarted every boy on the field to finish as Player of the Tournament.

The next step: Ashwani's academy. "At first, I asked her to face girls of her age on our concrete pitch. Such was her hitting that at one point, I got worried that she would injure some of the girls. In a couple of months, I shifted her to the turf wicket,

where she faced boys between the ages of 15 and 18," the coach says.

The experience of playing against first-class players has now come in handy. Her quick starts have seen India maintain an all-win record in Australia despite the team's seasoned pros, captain Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana, not being among runs.

Mandhana, in fact, has acknowledged the contribution of the "baby of the team". "I used to score a lot in the Power Play in the last two years. But now, Shafali is getting the runs in the way I do."

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