

हरियाणा बजट 2020



हरियाणा बजट की प्रस्तुति का सीधा प्रसारण

न्यूज चैनल, सोशल मीडिया तथा वेबसाइट पर

दिनांक: 28 फरवरी, 2020
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

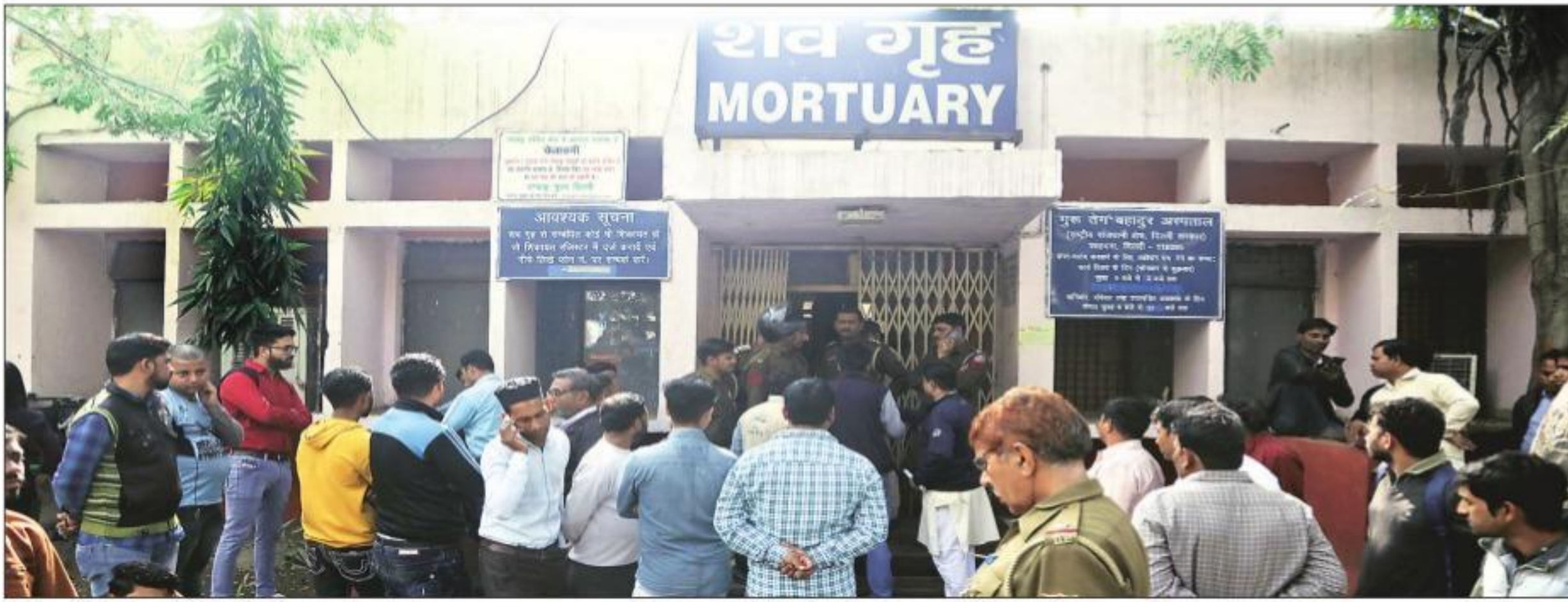
High Court gave Delhi Police one day to file hate FIRs, now gives it a month

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

PAGES 4, 5

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

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.

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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AFGHAN REFUGEES IN DELHI

Back home, most of them had never imagined earning their own keep. In India, they are using exile as an opportunity.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



PROTECT 'RAJ DHARMA' Congress to President Kovind over Delhi violence

EXPLAINED



KUNAL KAMRA FLYING BAN IndiGo panel halves Kamra flying ban: why, what circumstances

EXPRESS AUDIO Voices from the ground explain why Northeast Delhi burned for 3 days

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Reporters and locals detail what they experienced during the Northeast Delhi communal clashes and what police reforms are needed

FROM PAGE ONE

Taliban-US

implications for India. The matter was discussed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Trump during their bilateral meetings.

On February 21, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had said the US and Taliban would sign a peace agreement on February 29, at the end of a week-long period of reduction in violence in Afghanistan.

While India has never negotiated with the Taliban — except during the IC-814 hijack in 1999 — it was part of the Moscow-led talks with the Taliban in November 2018, which two former Indian diplomats attended as “non-official representatives”.

Former Indian envoy to Afghanistan Amar Sinha and former Indian envoy to Pakistan T C A Raghavan, both associated with government-run think tanks, participated in the talks as “observers”.

Though some within the strategic establishment have argued for engaging with the Taliban — who represent the new reality — the foreign policy establishment has so far shied away from doing so.

Significantly, India’s concerns on Afghanistan were “very well reflected” in the joint statement issued during Trump’s visit.

The two sides agreed on a common language, which was identical to India’s traditional position, and even talked about India’s role in development and security assistance to Afghanistan.

Interestingly, while the statement talks about Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, it does not mention Afghan-controlled — since the reality is that the process is controlled by other players, including the US.

“India and the US share interest in a united, sovereign, democratic, inclusive, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. They support an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process that results in a sustainable peace; cessation of violence; elimination of terrorist safe havens; and preservation of the gains of the last 18 years. President Trump welcomed India’s role in continuing to provide development and security assistance to help stabilise and provide connectivity in Afghanistan,” the joint statement said.

The last joint statement, issued during Modi’s visit to the White House in 2017, had said that Trump welcomed further Indian contributions to promote Afghanistan’s democracy, stability, prosperity and security. Recognising the importance of their respective strategic partnerships with Afghanistan, the leaders committed to continue close consultations and cooperation in support of Afghanistan’s future.

For New Delhi, the US-Taliban deal holds significance given that the return of Taliban in Afghanistan has harsh memories from the 1990s, especially the IC-814 hijack, which led to the release of terrorist Masood Azhar. Azhar later founded the Jaish-e-Mohammed, responsible for several terrorist attacks, including the attack on Parliament in 2001 and the Pulwama attack in 2019.

New Delhi has kept a close watch while the US and Taliban negotiators have been meeting for the last two years. It has been briefed by the US interlocutors, especially US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad who has travelled to India several times and met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the Munich Security Conference recently.

Apart from the US, India has been in regular talks with other active players like all political

forces in Afghanistan, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and China on the issue.

While many western observers believe the agreement could represent a chance for peace in the country, New Delhi has been more cautious as it gives strength to Pakistan — a long-time benefactor of the Taliban.

IB staffer

meanwhile, announced that Hussain has been suspended from the party.

Sharma had ventured out of his home Tuesday night and headed towards the Chand Bagh locality, but never made it back. Doctors at GTB Hospital said Sharma had been stabbed several times.

Asked about the allegations against Hussain, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said: “Take strict action against him (Hussain). Police is not under me or I would have. Be it people from AAP, BJP or Congress, those who fanned the communal fire, those who orchestrated riots, should all be punished even if it is someone from my Cabinet. If he is from AAP, give him double the punishment.”

Speaking to reporters Thursday, Hussain said: “I am very sad to hear about the death of IB officer Ankit Sharma. He should get justice. I am not involved in this incident. There should be a thorough investigation of this matter.”

Police also claimed to have found a cache of petrol bombs and cement packets filled with bricks from the office of Hussain in Mustafabad Thursday morning. But AAP’s Okhla MLA, Amanatullah Khan, tweeted that Hussain “is innocent”. “BJP is trying to save its own leaders by framing him in a false case,” Khan claimed.

Speaking to The Indian Express Tuesday, Hussain had said: “They (rioters) pelted stones from the road and other tall buildings too. This was around 2-2.30 pm on Monday, and when people saw this, they forcefully entered our house and went to the terrace.”

He had claimed that on Monday, he went inside his house on the ground floor, behind his office, and hid there with his wife and three children.

“A group of people tried breaking the gate of the house and we tried physically blocking it but they succeeded. I called the police several times and they helped us get out... We walked till we reached the house of a person we knew a few lanes away in Chand Bagh... We are staying there,” he had claimed.

Hussain had also claimed that he sought police security since his house is on the main road and “an easy target” as he is an AAP member. “Police personnel stood guard outside our house till Tuesday 4 pm but left again... I don’t know why they did that because the riot started again,” he said.

Senior officers visited the building Thursday morning for a “crime scene investigation”. At the site, police sources claimed the team found a liquid substance wrapped in several polyethylene packets on the second floor, crates filled with petrol bombs on the second floor, cement packets filled with bricks and a lone slingshot on the terrace.

Eyewitnesses told The Indian Express that they saw Ankit being caught by a mob Tuesday. Pradeep Verma, the parking manager of a building adjacent to Hussain’s office, claimed: “When the mob attacked we ran. I saw Ankit, he was waving his hands in the air. Then they beat him.”

Another eyewitness, Rahul, a neighbour, claimed: “I was going to get milk when the mob started pelting stones. I saw Ankit getting dragged. We could not do anything to save him.”

Coronavirus

Kashmir studying at the Tehran

HC gives police one month to file FIRs

comes registration of FIR in these cases? We want peace to prevail. This city has seen enough violence. Let it not repeat 1984.”

On Thursday, as the death toll in the violence climbed to 38, the Delhi Police announced it had constituted two special investigation teams of the Crime Branch to investigate the incidents. FIRs relating to arson and violence in the northeast district were transferred to the STs.

The bench of Chief Justice Patel and Justice Ch Hari Shankar granted the Centre four weeks to file a counter-affidavit to the plea by activists Harsh Mander and Farah Naqvi on registration of FIRs against BJP leaders Kapil Mishra, Anurag Thakur, Parvesh Sahib Singh and Abhay Verma and others over their hate speeches.

Unlike Wednesday, when Justices Muralidhar and Talwar Singh questioned the Solicitor General repeatedly over the delay in lodging FIRs and had video clips of the hate speeches played in open court with proceedings lasting through the day, the hearing Thursday was over in less than an hour.

The packed court room only heard submissions of the peti-

tions, Solicitor General Mehta and the counsel for the Delhi government.

“...Having heard and looking to the facts and circumstances of the case, the Union of India is impleaded as a party to the petition... Time to file counter-affidavit is granted to Union of India. Matter to be heard next on April 13,” the bench said.

This came after Mehta submitted that since they were the stakeholder “it’s our duty to maintain law and order situation”. Referring to Wednesday’s directions, he said: “In respectful compliance with the directions of this Hon’ble Court, the competent authorities have examined all audio/video CDs as well as material including Twitter which were made available.”

“After having carefully considered all these materials, a conscious decision is taken to defer the decision on the question. Considering the prevailing situation, it is the considered opinion of the police authorities that any decision at this juncture may not be conducive for restoration of normalcy. The decision will be taken at an appropriate stage in accordance with law,” he said.

“So far as other reliefs prayed for in the petition are concerned, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon’ble Court may grant a reasonable time to file an affidavit in reply. All law enforcing agencies including the police department are doing their best to ensure that normalcy is restored as early as possible... The condition is not conducive at this moment. FIRs will be registered at an appropriate time. Action will be taken against the hate speech,” he said.

His submission was, however, opposed by Delhi government standing counsel (criminal) Rahul Mehra. Pointing out that 48 FIRs have been registered regarding the riots and violence, he said, “Why not register FIR for hate speech?... The paramount concern should be the welfare of citizens at this moment. All of them are not here. They are suffering.”

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for the petitioners, opposed the SG’s submission and said that in line with the Supreme Court’s order, an FIR is must over a hate speech. “It (hate speech) is more than murder, these persons should be arrested and put in jail,” Gonsalves said, adding that

protest to the riots, the ongoing protests had been proceeding peacefully.

Meanwhile, the Lt Governor has appointed SG Mehta and three others to represent Delhi Police in this matter and all other matters relating to the law and order situation in northeast Delhi February 23 onward. The order was passed after Rahul Mehra objected to the SG representing the Delhi Police, saying that was his mandate under the law.

Several petitions have been filed in the High Court. Some seek impleadment in the plea by Mander and Naqvi. Former Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah, Bhim Army Chief Chandrashekhar Azad and others have sought intervention in the petition, citing concern about the safety of the people.

Another petition sought registration of FIRs against Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan, AIMIM leaders Waris Pathan, Akbaruddin Owaisi, advocate Mehmood Pracha, actor Swara Bhaskar, RJ Sayema for alleged hate speeches.

Police probe: At least 82 hit by bullets

On Thursday, the toll from the violence rose to 38, with hospital authorities having identified 29 bodies. Apart from bullet wounds, the list of victims shows that one man died after he was set on fire, while others received injuries from acid attacks, stabbing, assault and teargas shells.

“Police have found over 350

used cartridges from the spot. During investigation, we found cartridges of .32 mm, .9 mm and .315 mm calibre, and some used cartridges of toy guns from the spot,” a senior police officer told The Indian Express.

Preliminary police investigations suggest that “petty criminals” from the district had stocked country-made pistols

and bullets, and handed them out “to unemployed youths and labourers and incited them to join the violence”. During raids, police also recovered stockpiles of swords and molotov cocktails, it is learnt.

“Police have found sufficient technical evidence to show that local criminals, who have in the past been arrested

on the charges of robbery, snatching, pickpocketing, etc., were involved in procuring and distributing arms and ammunition. Police have started conducting raids at their homes and other locations. Many of them are on the run,” an officer involved in the investigation told The Indian Express.

University of Medical Sciences (TUMS). She said the students compiled a list of names and emailed it to the MEA earlier this week. “Some of our parents even approached the MEA in Delhi,” she said.

Another student, a 21-year-old from Kashmir, said classes and exams have been postponed for a month-and-a-half. “I booked an Air Arabia flight via Sharjah to Delhi but the flight was cancelled; another flight that I tried to book for next week was also cancelled,” he said. “Even direct flights are being cancelled, the border to Kuwait has been sealed off, and if we have to fly via Russia it will cost us at least Rs 2 lakh.”

Students said they contacted the Embassy of India in Tehran. “We were told that since it is not an emergency situation as yet, the Embassy cannot help us,” said a student.

On Tuesday, the Indian Embassy in Tehran said: “We are closely monitoring the evolving situation in Iran. All Indian nationals should observe advisories issued by Iranian authorities and World Health Organisation. All Indian nationals are requested to observe necessary hygiene sanitation measures, including wearing masks, and avoid going to crowded places and public gatherings. It is important that you remain calm, maintain caution and not fall prey to rumours.”

Many students said they were under self-quarantine and expressed concern over the shortage of N-95 masks and sanitisers — some said they were using a double layer of surgical masks to protect themselves.

Meanwhile, the TUMS administration, in a letter on Wednesday, appealed to the Indian Ambassador to Iran to make arrangements to facilitate the return of 159 students to India. “...I would like to inform you that

based on the request of TUMS Indian students and given the upcoming (Nowruz) holidays and the cancellation of classes and exams ahead, if possible please make necessary cooperation to provide or facilitate the process of Indian students’ return to India,” it said.

At the TUMS campus in Kish Island, a 22-year-old student, also from Kashmir, said many tourists head to the island during the Nowruz holidays. “Right now, none of the places have been quarantined. Our university has been really helpful and is providing us with food and doctors on call,” a student said.

Meanwhile, groups of pilgrims are among those stranded. “Our flight from Tehran to Mumbai was for Friday, 6.45 am. It has been cancelled. My father is a heart patient and suffers from paralysis. I only got his medicines for 10 days. We don’t know how we will manage,” said Kesar Tabassum, from Nagpur. She is also accompanied by her mother, who is wheelchair-bound.

“The Embassy officials said the Iran government is not allowing us to exit. The Iran Air officials said India has refused entry,” she said.

Another pilgrim, Inam Raza from Uttar Pradesh, said he was with 11 others. “I am on a train to Tehran. From the station, we were supposed to catch a bus to the airport. Now, we don’t know where to go in Tehran,” he said.

Raza said they tried to book their return journey as soon as they heard about the coronavirus outbreak, but could not find so many empty seats on the same flight. “We heard about the outbreak after we left Qom city. The panic has spread in the last four days,” he said, adding that his group includes a pregnant woman.

Afzal Heerji, a tour operator in Mumbai, said about 40 Indians

who had made their travel arrangements through him were stranded in Tehran. “They were supposed to fly back on Friday,” he said.

Ravi Pujari

an associate of former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in May 2016, when his party was in power in Karnataka. Revanna lodged a police complaint, saying he received a call from a person identifying himself as Pujari, who demanded Rs 10 crore ahead of the release of a Kannada film starring his son.

In August 2017, Congress MP D K Suresh was targeted, shortly after he and his brother, D K Shivakumar, were involved in guarding 44 MLAs from Gujarat ahead of a Rajya Sabha election and were subjected to Income Tax investigations. A personal assistant of the MP who received the extortion call filed a complaint.

The same year, two more complaints were filed against Pujari by JD(S) leaders SR Mahesh in Mysuru and CB Suresh Babu in Bengaluru alleging threat calls. Mahesh claimed he was warned not to contest the 2018 Assembly elections, and Babu alleged that a caller identifying himself as Pujari demanded Rs 10 crore from him in December 2017.

On June 22, 2018, a personal secretary of former Union Minister C M Ibrahim lodged a complaint of criminal intimidation with the Bengaluru police, saying that a person claiming to be Pujari sent a text message which said, “Don’t talk against country or my people will...”, to Ibrahim’s phone number.

On December 6, 2018, former Congress MP and mining baron Anil Lad lodged a complaint with police in Bengaluru stating that a man identifying himself as Pujari asked him not to demand the return of Rs 15.55 crore from busi-

ness associates — Lad had accused them of cheating him in a deal.

Tracking down Pujari proved to be a difficult task since the gangster used voice over internet protocol for his communication. So, when he made these extortion calls, the records would show the calls originating in the Pacific region, western Europe and Africa, police sources said.

Pujari was eventually located in Burkina Faso, on the basis of information provided by informants, from where he was tracked down to Senegal. He was arrested on January 19 last year, and extradited to India earlier this week.

On February 24, Pujari was produced before a magistrate in Bengaluru in connection with the February 15, 2007 shooting of two workers of Shabnam Developers whose owner K S Samiullah, a businessman and local politician, had resisted his extortion bid. The gangster was remanded to 14 days of police custody in the case.

Adda

the growth rate is likely to again hit the 7 per cent mark. “Across the world, there’s a lot of research that shows that if you have a growth slowdown or a recession originates from the financial sector, it is far more prolonged than average. And the fact that what we’ve seen here is because the financial sector explains why we’ve had a slowdown for 13 quarters. So it is actually part of the business cycle phenomenon which then tells me that we basically are quite likely hitting the bottom,” he said.

“Look at the business cycles in India since 1991. On an average, the pace of acceleration has been 12-and-half quarters and the face of deceleration has been nine-and-half quarters. If you look at the recent cycle, which basically accelerated for 13 quarters — which is almost the same as a 12-

and-half average that I spoke about — and we’ve decelerated for 13 quarters. This is more than a nine-and-half quarters I mentioned. That’s why actually relating it to the financial sector is very critical,” he said.

Subramanian said the financial sector needs substantial reforms, structural reforms, which has been said in the FSLRC (Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission) report. “This is something that I acknowledge. If you really want to make the banking sector and financial sector proportional to the size of economy and contribute to the economy to make it even bigger, this (FSLRC), Narasimham Committee and Raghuram Rajan Committee reports need to be thought... and revisited,” he said.

India’s GDP growth is expected to plunge to 5 per cent in the current financial year, according to the Central Statistics Office’s first advance estimates. The International Monetary Fund has projected GDP growth this year at 4.8 per cent. However, its projections for the next two fiscal years are still below 7 per cent at 5.8 per cent for FY21 and 6.5 per cent for FY22.

According to the RBI data, non-food credit growth of scheduled commercial banks moderated to 7.1 per cent in 2019-20 (up to January 17, 2020) from 14.6 per cent last year.

Defending the government’s delayed response to the slowdown, Subramanian said between July 2019 and February 2020, the government announced a “slew of measures” after consulting the stakeholders to help revive growth. The Union Budget 2020, while being fiscally prudent, has also announced a lot of stimulus such as equity infusion in NIIF (National Investment and Infrastructure Fund) and IIFCL (India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited), tax breaks for individuals and the 16-point agenda for rural areas, he said.

“So the Budget has given a 50 basis point increase within the FRBM Act, a 50 basis points through the direct taxes, a 1 per cent through the basically the equity capital infusion (in NIIF and IIFCL) and that adds up to 2 per cent. Apart from that, there is an increase in the capital spending. So, when you put all these together, what the Budget has actually accomplished is providing the necessary fiscal stimulus without basically throwing caution to the wind on fiscal prudence,” he said.

On disinvestment and privatisation, the CEA said privatisation of profit-making public sector companies is a good move that shows a change in policy stance and will help the economy. “I think when privatisation is being done to cede space to the private sector, and thereby enhance efficiency in the economy, I think that is a sign that some important economic principles that people like us adhere to are actually being heard and being implemented as well,” he said.

At the Express Adda, Subramanian was in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, Indian Express Group, and P Vaidyanathan Iyer, Executive Editor — National Affairs, The Indian Express.

T20 World Cup

Sanjeev says this is just the start. “She is in the team because she scored big in domestic cricket. Now, just see what she does if she lasts 10 or 15 overs. See how many she scores and how many the team finishes with,” he says.

On Thursday, at the awards ceremony after the game, Shafali didn’t forget to mention all those who helped her become this T20 World Cup’s most talked-about cricketer: “I want to thank my dad and all the boys in my academy, who have helped me train well.”

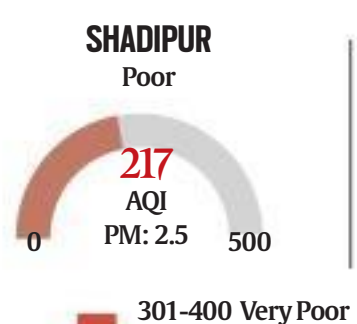
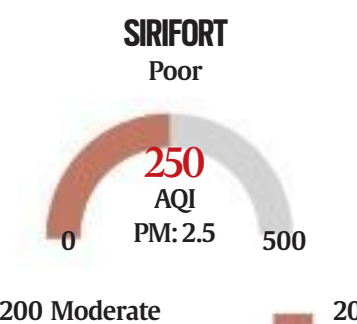
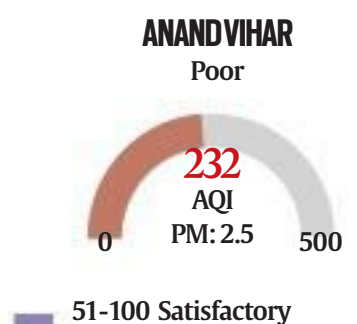
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DELHI GOVT ROUNDTABLE

States must work together to tackle air pollution crisis, experts suggest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

TO TACKLE the city's air pollution, experts Thursday suggested that the Delhi government form a joint action committee including representatives from various states as "the issue can't be tackled in states separately".

The suggestion was made during a round table conference on reducing air pollution, organised by the Delhi government and chaired by environment minister Gopal Rai on Thursday. Rai said, "The focus is now on

the airshed and the particular region that is impacted, not restricting it to a particular state but studying its impact on a given region and forming a joint action committee. Only then can we bring about a qualitative change."

An airshed is a region sharing a common flow of air. Experts have said even before that the measures taken to reduce air pollution in the city need to be applied across the National Capital Region, which also shares the same airshed as Delhi.

The minister was told during the conference that even though coal-based power plants have

been shut down in Delhi, pollutants from power plants in neighbouring states enter Delhi's airshed. Similarly, stubble burning in nearby states is a problem.

The conference was attended by representatives of agencies and institutes, including municipal corporations of Delhi, Delhi Jal Board, IIT Kanpur, TERI and the Washington University in St. Louis.

Rai said, "After listening to all experts, we have analysed three major components through which we can address the issue. All experts have identified four major sources of pollution in the city — vehicular, dust, biomass

and industrial pollution. They suggested that the government should first prepare an action plan to address these."

The experts also suggested that the government should prepare an action plan to tackle air pollution for the whole year to reduce pressure during winter months when there's a sharp dip in air quality. Among other suggestions were creating a construction awareness campaign, completing outdoor construction work before winters, focusing on last mile connectivity and increasing budgetary allocation for the environment.

Rai said the government is preparing a "Jan Charter", which will have a list of activities for the people to help control air pollution. "These suggestions are to be made operational at two levels. First, how to reduce the existing pollution and prepare an action plan, and secondly, awareness campaigning to encourage people to contribute to reducing air pollution," the minister said.

He added suggestions from the conference would be submitted to CM Arvind Kejriwal and the department would soon make an action plan for planting 2 crore trees in the next five years.

Police on alert in Haryana's Jhajjar

Gurgaon: In light of the violence in Delhi, District Magistrate and Deputy Commissioner of Jhajjar Jitendra Kumar issued an advisory Thursday calling for peace to be maintained in the district and issued instructions to all concerned officials to ensure compliance of the advisory.

"Many incidents of violence, stone-pelting and arson have been witnessed in the national capital in the recent past. Taking precautionary measures, the district administration has issued an advisory to all the police and administrative officers of the district. The police force has been asked to be extra vigilant and take all necessary precautionary measures to

prevent any attempts of violence in their respective jurisdiction," said Kumar.

"Senior officers in the district have been asked to mobilise maximum police force to maintain law and order. Patrolling has been increased, and vigil in areas adjacent to the national capital has been increased," he said. ENS

BRIEFLY

Law student arrested for 'molestation'

New Delhi: Police arrested a 36-year-old law student Thursday for allegedly molesting a woman in the Metro when she was travelling to Supreme Court.

Applauded

Noida: On its 21st annual day, Mata Bhagwati Chadha Niketan launched an iOS app for the speech-impaired and those affected by autism or cerebral palsy. ENS

NGT suspends clearance for 'city's tallest building'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

THE NATIONAL Green Tribunal Thursday suspended the environment clearance granted for the construction of the "tallest building in Delhi", a 37-floor residential high-rise near Vishwavidyalaya Metro Station, saying approval for it was given "without application of mind".

Observing the project does not appear to be viable, the tribunal noted that the "carrying capacity" of the area to sustain such a building has not been conducted. "...the air and noise levels are already beyond permissible limits, the building is located very close

to reserve forest, river Yamuna, premier educational institutions and hospitals and areas with high traffic density..." it observed.

The project area in Civil Lines was part of the 3.05 hectares of land the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation had acquired from the Defence Ministry in 2001. The station was built on 1 hectare of land and the rest was given to Young Builders Pvt. Ltd.

NGT has asked for an independent evaluation on the project viability by a panel comprising those from Environment ministry, Central Pollution Control Board, among others. It has sought a report within two months. The developer has been restrained from further activity until July 9.

Get women in Cabinet: NCW to CM

New Delhi: In an unprecedented move, the National Commission for Women Thursday asked Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to include women in his Cabinet.

In a letter, NCW Chairperson

Rekha Sharma said inclusion of women is essential for "gender responsive governance" and to "enable women to have equal say in decision making, that affects the lives of the citizens..." ENS

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CORRIGENDUM NOTICE - II

Sixteen posts of Stenographer advertised under Advt. No. -02/Non-Faculty/IGIMS/Estt./2020 & uploaded also on the IGIMS website <http://www.igims.org> under Memo No. 836/Adm dated 13.02.2020 is now decreased to Ten posts with new reservation points as under :-

Sl.No.	Name of Post	Earlier No. of post	Earlier Reservation points	New No. of post	New Reservation points
01	Stenographer	16	UR-08, EBC-03, SC-03, BC-02	10	UR-03, UR(F)-01, EWS-01, BC-01, BC(F)-01, EBC-01, SC-01, SC(F)-01

Number of all other posts & its reservation points will remain the same.
Director, IGIMS, Patna-14

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असाधारण
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भाग-खण्ड II 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II-Section 3-Sub section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

नई दिल्ली, बुधस्वतिवार, जनवरी 30, 2020/माघ 10, 1941
NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2020/MAGHA 10, 1941

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 28th January, 2020

S.O. 458(E). - Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, S.O.No. 615 (E) Dated 31.01.2019, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for construction of Road Maintenance, management and operation of NH58 on the stretch of land from Km 350.18 to Km 368.00 (Punad - Rudraprayag Section) (Office of the ADM, DM Office Rudraprayag) in the district of RUDRAPRAYAG in the state of UTTARAKHAND

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Dainik Jagran" and "The Indian Express" both dated 14 Feb 2019; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas objections have been received and the same have been considered and disallowed by the competent Authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government; Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose; And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the NH58 in the stretch of land from Km 350.18 to Km 368 of NH 58 (Punad - Rudraprayag Section) (Office of the ADM, DM Office Rudraprayag) in the district of RUDRA PRAYAG in the state of UTTARAKHAND

State: UTTARAKHAND		District: RUDRA PRAYAG			
Sr. No.	Survey Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectare	Name of the Land Owner/Interested Person Part Survey No.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluk: Rudraprayag					
Village: Dajji ka Mandia					
1	27	Government (Uttarakhand Government)	Jhadi	1.1025	Uttarakhand Government 27
2	29	Government (Uttarakhand Government)	River	0.008	Uttarakhand Government 29
Village: Jhirmolli					
3	148	Government	Road	0.005	Totaram S/o Badridutt, Lakshmi Dutt S/o Sriram 148
Village: Punad					
4	1039	Government	bhita	0.0032	Uttarakhand Government 1039
5	1040	Government	Shop/Bhita	0.0012	Uttarakhand Government/Prem Singh, Mahabeer singh, Dharm singh s/o Avtar singh, Ghungra Devi w/o Avtar singh 1040
6	220	Private	Non-irrigated	0.005	Lata S/o Nainu, Surendra Lal S/o Bachhu Lal, Suduli Devi W/o Bachhu Lal, Sudama Lal S/o Muli Lal, Dinesh Chandra S/o Sachhitanand, Suresh Chandra S/o Sachhitanand, Rakesh Chandra S/o Sachhitanand, Hari Singh S/o Tulsi Singh, Shishupal Singh S/o Bhupal Singh, Vikram Singh S/o Govind Singh, Usha W/o Surendra Singh, Shailendra S/o Shivi Lal, Pushpa Devi W/o Shivi Lal, Maan Singh S/o Jwar Singh, Navin Chandra, Prawin Chandra S/o Totaram, Shanti Devi W/o Totaram, Sushila Sharma S/o Shiv Prasad, Pushpa Devi W/o Kishan Sharma, Priti Negi W/o Ram Singh, Hema W/o Mahabir Singh, Sushma W/o Shishupal Singh, Pawan Kumar S/o Dataram, Chandra Devi W/o Dataram, Sate Singh, Harsh Singh S/o Narayan Singh, Navin Chandra S/o Govindram, Khel Das S/o Dharamdas, Vinod Kumar S/o Sachhulal, Himanshu S/o Manoj Kumar Grand Son Sachhulal, Rishabh Kumar 16 Years S/o Manoj Kumar Grand Son Sachhulal, Rajni Devi W/o Manoj Kumar Grand Daughter Sachhulal, Sushila Devi W/o Sachhulal, Sohan Singh, Pankaj Singh S/o Gopal Singh, Sunita Devi W/o Gopal Singh, Sanjay Devli S/o Chetram, Umesh Devli S/o Chetram, Pradeep Devli S/o Chetram, Lajjawati Devi W/o Chetram, Sureshlal, Harishlal S/o Gabru, Ganeshi Devi W/o Gabru, Roshan Lal S/o Mukesh Lal Grand Son Shyamal, Sunil Lal S/o Mukesh Lal Grand Son Shyamal, Subodh Lal S/o Mukeshlal Grand Son Shyam Lal, Shankri Devi W/o Mukesh Lal Grand Daughter Shyamal, Rakesh Lal S/o Shyam Lal, Rajendra Lal S/o Shyam Lal, Dhanna Devi S/o Shyam Lal, Sanjay Kumar S/o Amar Lal, Vijay Kumar S/o Amar Lal, Gulabi Devi S/o Amar Lal, Rishabh Age 16 Years S/o Suresh Chandra Sa.Ma. Narmata Devi, Narmata Devi S/o Suresh Chand, Satish S/o SachhidaNand, Ayush S/o Subhash Grand Son Sachhidanand, Meena Devi W/o Subhash daughter in law of SachhidaNand, Sakuntala Devi W/o Sachhidanand, Kamal Devli, Leela S/o Kishan Chand, Vinay Singh, Ajit Singh S/o Guman Singh, Sita Devi W/o Guman Singh, 220

7	2315	Government	Makaan	0.001	Daya Ram s/o sundermani 2315
8	2317	Government	Makaan	0.002	Uttarakhand Government 2317
9	2387	Government	bhita	0.005	Uttarakhand Government/ Ram Lat Chaudhry s/o SriRam chaudhry 2387
10	2404	Government	Bheeta	0.002	Uttarakhand Government 2404
11	2413	Government	Road	0.044	Lalita prasad etc. 2413
12	2470	Government	Bhita	0.0015	Uttarakhand Government 2470
13	2505	Private	Makaan	0.0048	Kailash Chandra, Mukesh Chandra, Manoj Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Dwarka prasad all s/o Narottam Prasad, Janardan s/o Narayan Datt, Prem Bhallabh, Ramesh Chandra, Girish Chandra all s/o Raghvanand, Om prakash s/o Damodar, Ashish, Amit all s/o Natha prasad, Vishveshwari devi w/o Natha prasad 2505
14	2515	Government	Rokhad	0.003	Uttarakhand Government 2515
15	2518	Common	Makaan	0.003	G.M.O.U. 2518
16	3241	Government	Roli	0.004	Uttarakhand Government 3241
17	3398	Government	Bhita	0.055	Uttarakhand Government 3398
18	716	Government	Charagaah	0.012	Uttarakhand Government 716
19	74	Government	Bhita	0.006	Uttarakhand Government 74
20	77	Private	Makaan	0.001	Sudha Devi w/o Sudhakar, Prem lai, Badri prasad all s/o Ram prasad, Mukesh kumar s/o Bhagwati prasad, Ramesh chandra s/o Bhaskaranand, Kanta prasad s/o Murlidhar, Sunil kumar s/o Jagdish Chandra, Sarveshwari devi w/o Jagdish chandra, Rishab 16 year s/o Suresh chandra Gardian Mother Namarta devi, Namarta devi w/o Suresh Chandra 77
21	848	Government	Bheeta	0.0015	Uttarakhand Government 848
22	93	Private	Non-Irrigation	0.001	Badri Prasad, Premlal, Manohar Chand S/o Ram Prasad, Suresh Kumar, Mukesh Kumar S/o Bhagwati Prasad, Ramesh Chand S/o Bhaskaranand, Kashiram, Prakash Chandra, Denesh Chandra S/o Madhvanand, Mahesh Chandra S/o Brahmanand, Kailash Chandra S/o Satya Prakash, Navin Chandra, Prawin Chandra S/o Tota Ram, Shanti Devi W/o Tota Ram, Sunil Kumar S/o Jagdish Prasad, Sarveshwari Devi W/o Jagdish Prasad, Charan Singh S/o Kunwar Singh, Sanjay Devli, Umesh Devli, Pradip Devli S/o Chetram, Lajjawati Devi W/o Chetram, Ashok Devli, Ramakant Devli, Sunil Devli S/o Bankeylal, Savitri Devi W/o Bankey Lal, Satish S/o Sachhidanand, Shakuntla Devi W/o Sachhidanand, Ayush S/o Subhash Grandson Sachhidanand, Meena Devi W/o Subhash Grand Daughter Sachhidanand, Kamal Devli S/o Kishanchandra, Leela W/o Kishanchandra 93
23	95	Private	Makaan	0.003	Badri Prasad, Premlal, Manohar Chand S/o Ram Prasad, Suresh Kumar, Mukesh Kumar S/o Bhagwati Prasad, Ramesh Chand S/o Bhaskaranand, Kashiram, Prakash Chandra, Denesh Chandra S/o Madhvanand, Mahesh Chandra S/o Brahmanand, Kailash Chandra S/o Satya Prakash, Navin Chandra, Prawin Chandra S/o Tota Ram, Shanti Devi W/o Tota Ram, Sunil Kumar S/o Jagdish Prasad, Sarveshwari Devi W/o Jagdish Prasad, Charan Singh S/o Kunwar Singh, Sanjay Devli, Umesh Devli, Pradip Devli S/o Chetram, Lajjawati Devi W/o Chetram, Ashok Devli, Ramakant Devli, Sunil Devli S/o Bankeylal, Savitri Devi W/o Bankey Lal, Satish S/o Sachhidanand, Shakuntla Devi W/o Sachhidanand, Ayush S/o Subhash Grandson of Sachhidanand, Meena Devi W/o Subhash Grand Daughter Sachhidanand, Kamal Devli S/o Kishanchandra, Leela W/o Kishanchandra 95
Village: Raitoli					
24	182	Private	Road	0.01	Guman singh s/o Bader singh 182
25	247	Government	Road	0.04	Gulab singh, Bhagwan singh s/o Amer sigh etc 247
26	248	Government	Road	0.0025	Smt.Ghungra mata, Sate singh, Guman singh, Pratap singh s/o Bhahadur singh etc 248
27	259	Common	Road	0.003	Chandra singh S/o Jaman Singh 259
28	320	Government	Road	0.01	Darmiyan singh s/o Lal singh 320
29	616	Government	Rock	0.011	Uttarakhand Government 616
Village: Sirobagarh					
30	137	Government	River	0.075	Uttarakhand Government 137
31	138	Government	Rock	0.585	Uttarakhand Government 138
				TOTAL	1,9563

NORTHEAST DELHI VIOLENCE

Four bodies recovered from drains, police search operations underway

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

A DAY after police recovered a body from a drain in Jafrabad, three more bodies were recovered from another drain in Gokulpuri Thursday. To ensure no more bodies are left in the drains in the area, police are seeking help from local divers.

Early Thursday morning, locals saw a hand jutting out of the garbage piled at the Gokulpuri drain and called police. Around 7 am, the patrolling team of around 50 personnel called local divers and told them to bring out the body.

An officer in the patrolling team told *The Indian Express*, "The divers took out the first body, which was decomposed. We suspected there could be more inside, so the divers were sent in again. After half-an-hour, another body was fished out. While the first one was found near the garbage, the second one was deep inside the drain."

Sources in the police said the third body was recovered around 10 am. The drain flows from Brijpuri and Mustafabad to other areas of Northeast Delhi over a length of a kilometre. There are small bridges over the drain which connect residential colonies. The main road at the end of the drain leads to Gokulpuri.

On Wednesday, police and divers pulled out Intelligence Bureau staffer Ankit Sharma's body from a drain in Jafrabad. Police said his body was discovered more than 12 hours after he went missing.

The three unidentified bodies found Thursday were de-



A drain in Bhajanpura. Police are seeking help from local divers to look for bodies. Amit Mehra

composed, police said. The bodies were sent to GTB Hospital and officials waited for police confirmation or for families to give a go-ahead to conduct post-mortem examinations.

A senior doctor at GTB said, "The three bodies were brought around 10.30 am. The deceased must have faced horrible conditions before their bodies were dumped in the drain. All three bodies are half-decom-

posed. It seems like they died around two to three days ago. Prima facie, there are injuries on the head, face and chest. There might be some burn injuries as well. Everything will be confirmed after a post-

mortem." A senior police officer confirmed, "We have found four bodies from drains in Northeast district. This is near areas where the violence took place on Monday and Tuesday. We

have a list of missing persons in the area and are looking to identify the people. Local police teams have been deployed to search houses and buildings. The drains will be searched to check for more bodies."

Police preoccupied with riots, pistol man slipped away



Shahrukh Khan (27) allegedly fired eight rounds at Maujpur while standing in front of a policeman. PTI

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

POOR COMMUNICATION between local police and their seniors on Monday afternoon gave Shahrukh Khan (27), who allegedly fired eight rounds at Northeast Delhi's Maujpur while standing right in front of a policeman, enough time to flee.

Four days after a video of Khan waving a country-made pistol at a police personnel went viral, he is yet to be traced. Ten teams of the Delhi Police, including the Special Cell, have been formed to arrest him.

According to police, Khan's father is local drug peddler who has been arrested by district police several times and has always been under scanner of local police. He is also a close relative of criminal Irfan alias Chhenu

Pehalwan (35), who is currently in jail. Chhenu's gang operates in the capital's trans-Yamuna area and last year, they had ended their hostilities with another gang leader, Abdul Nasir (34).

"Hours after photos and videos of Shahrukh firing the weapon went viral, local police had identified him and informed their seniors. However, no timely decision over his detention or arrest was taken by senior officers

of Eastern range since they were busy with the riots. In the meantime, he managed to escape along with his family members after locking his house in Arvind Nagar, Ghonda," an officer said.

On Thursday, *The Indian Express* visited the house, which was locked. Locals said Shahrukh lived with his parents and elder brother, and his father has stayed at the same address since 1985.

Shahrukh's father recently got out of jail. A number of cases under the NDPS Act are registered against his father in several police stations of Northeast Delhi. "Khan is fond of body-building and used to go to a prominent gym in Yamuna Vihar area. We were shocked when we saw that he was firing and waving a pistol," said his friend.

Meanwhile, Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik Thursday transferred all riot-related cases to the crime branch. Two Special Investigation Teams will now look into them.

"So far, we have filed 48 FIRs in connection with the incidents. The teams will be headed DCPs Joy Tirkey and Rajesh Deo. They will have four ACP-rank officers each and the probe will be supervised by Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) B K Singh," said a senior officer.

Violence at doorstep, several students say can't study, sleep

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

RIOTS THAT took place in parts of Northeast Delhi over the last few days have left many schoolgoing children scarred. With exams postponed, schools shut, and their neighbourhoods gripped with tension, several children are worried about their academics, friends and the future.

Aliyah Mansoori (17), a class XI student of a school in Dayalpur, said she has been traumatised since her home in Shiv Vihar was attacked by rioters. She and her family have since shifted to a relative's place in Mustafabad.

"On Monday around 3 pm, we saw a mob gathering outside our locality... we could see them going on a rampage. I had started calling police on 100 but nobody picked up. Somehow, by night, we grabbed whatever little we could and left," she said.

One of the only things Aliyah grabbed was her Business Studies course book. "My exam was due on February 26 but it got postponed because the school closed due to violence. I don't know what will happen when school opens because my uniform and other books are back home, and we are too scared to go there. These days, I sit with my book (Business Studies) open and just stare at the pages. Nothing is



Vehicles torched during violence in Mustafabad. Praveen Khanna

registering," she said.

At Shiv Vihar, Himanshu (18), a class XII student of the Government Boys Senior Secondary School at Gokulpuri, spoke of a similar fear. While his house and those next to it were spared, other houses in the area weren't as lucky.

"This is the first time in four days that I have even stepped outside my home and exited my lane. Otherwise, we are so scared that we haven't even been able to sleep. Everyone is staying up at night in turns to keep vigil in the area. I have forgotten everything I had studied for my English board exam that is to be held on March 3. But *padhai ki tension kum hai, jaan sabse pehle hai*," he said.

Ayush Kalauni, all of eight years old, had to run from one place to the next on the day of ri-

ots but hasn't been able to fully grasp what happened. At the time when the family was trying to escape a mob, he kept saying "papa gaon kab challenge", thinking the family is heading home to their native village.

Vishal Kumar, who studies in class V in a school in Bhagirathi Vihar, said his parents have asked him not to go towards Indira Vihar. The stretch that borders Indira Vihar and Bhagirathi Vihar saw riots Tuesday, with many houses being burnt.

Aman Verma, who also lives in the same locality, said, "We never taught our children who is Hindu and Muslim but now everyone talks about this. In last two days, our children have learnt to differentiate between these two religions. This is not a good thing."

(Inputs from Abhinav Rajput)

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

MORE THAN 500 people have been detained or arrested and 48 FIRs registered in connection with the Northeast Delhi violence even as 7,000 paramilitary personnel have been deployed to maintain calm, the Home Ministry said Thursday.

Home Minister Amit Shah took a review meeting of the prevailing situation in the capital and noted that there had been no major incident in the last 36 hours. The meeting was attended by Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Delhi Police chief Amulya Patnaik and Special CP S N Srivastava.

The Home Minister also made an appeal to citizens not to believe in rumours and said it was the responsibility of Delhi Police to protect people from all communities. "Shah appealed to citizens not to fall prey to the evil designs of miscreants and groups interested in precipitating communal tension... Delhi Police is mandated and obligated to provide security to all sections of society irrespective of caste and religion," said an MHA statement.

The Ministry also said after the meeting that "only 12 police stations" had been affected and the rest of Delhi was peaceful.

"Only 12 police stations out of the 203 in Delhi (about 4.2% of the geographical area) have been

Just 12 police stations affected, rest of Delhi peaceful: MHA

MISHRA TAKES OUT PEACE MARCH

New Delhi: BJP leader Kapil Mishra, accused of making a hate speech before communal violence broke out in Northeast Delhi this week, Thursday said he was being questioned for urging anti-CAA protesters to clear road blockades while those talking of "dividing" the country were not.

He also held a "peace march" from Jantar Mantar to Delhi Police headquarters. "We are here to pay homage to martyrs Ratan Lal, a policeman, and Ankit Sharma, an Intelligence Bureau staffer..." he said. PTI

affected by these riots, while normalcy and communal harmony has prevailed elsewhere in the national capital," it said.

The meeting also proposed to lift prohibitory orders under Section 144 for 10 hours on Friday given the improvement in the situation, MHA said.

"Police have detained/arrested 514 suspects for questioning so far. Further arrests would be effected in the course of investigation. Delhi Police has sep-

arately set up two SITs for investigating serious offences. Nearly 7,000 central paramilitary forces have been deployed in the affected areas of Northeast district since February 24," it said.

Apart from this, it said, Delhi Police has deployed three Special CPs, six joint CPs, one Additional CP, 22 DCPs, 20 ACPs, 60 Inspectors, 1,200 officers of other ranks and 200 women police under the overall supervision of Commissioner of Police to effectively guide and supervise police response so as to contain and normalise the situation.

The Ministry said 35 persons have lost their lives in these tragic incidents since February 24 but added that the situation was slowly returning to normal.

"Citizens are requested not to lay credence to any rumour. Delhi Police has set up helplines — 22829334 and 22829335 — for round-the-clock assistance. These numbers are being given adequate publicity so that information about miscreants and any emerging situation may be conveyed to police," MHA said.

According to MHA, while two security personnel have died, nearly 70 are injured. "As a confidence-building measure among different sections of society, Delhi Police has started holding peace committee meetings to normalise situation and improve inter-community harmony," it said.

Families make rounds of hospitals to look for missing relatives

JIGNASA SINHA
& SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

FOR THE last three days, Mahir (30) and his wife have been checking hospitals, police stations and bus stands nearby to look for their missing 13-year-old daughter. The teenager, a resident of Sonia Vihar, did not return from school on Monday.

Amid the riots that have ravaged parts of Northeast Delhi over three days, and reports of bodies in drains, police have received several missing persons complaints. Mahir, an autorickshaw driver, told *The Indian Express* on Thursday, "She had an exam on Monday... Her friends had seen her there but didn't know where she went later... I called police but nobody responded. At night, I went to the police station and filed a missing persons report."

"Police told us she might have gone to her friend's place... they also suspected she may have been kidnapped. They detained two-three boys but I still haven't found my daughter," said Mahir.

At 2.25 pm Tuesday, Matloob Alam (30) told his brother Mohd

Shahwaz (22) over the phone to take the bylanes of Karawal Nagar and get home to Hussain Vihar quickly. Alam said he has been running to hospitals and police stations with his missing brother's photo since.

Alam said one of Shahwaz's friends claimed he saw him being beaten mercilessly. He reached Khajuri Khas police station on Thursday after a beat-officer promised to accompany him to the spot. "I don't know if he is dead or alive... We hope it wasn't him," said Alam.

Sitting outside Mustafabad AAP MLA Haji Yunus's house was Nida Khan (27), who claimed police didn't help trace her husband and hoped the MLA would intervene. "My husband works at a welding shop. He went to work on Monday but didn't return."

Meanwhile, several people looking for their relatives waited to check the patients' list at Al-Hind Hospital in Mustafabad.

Police personnel at Khajuri Khas police station said they have received all complaints and registered FIRs on time. "We have been checking records at hospitals and other places," said a senior officer.

TAKING STOCK OF DAMAGE

'Rioters broke CCTVs, Rs 10 lakh worth of books and stationery gone'

ABHISHEK ANGAD
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

THURSDAY AFTERNOON is the first time Mohammad Azad of Azad Chicken Shop has come out of hiding to assess the damage after his shops and house were burnt and vandalised. His brothers lost a fruit shop and sweet shops, where squished oranges lay scattered on the floor. This is 10 metres from Khajuri Khas police help centre on Bhajanpura main road in Northeast Delhi.

Saying that nobody came to save him during the violence, he recounted Monday's mob attack and how he escaped with his

family, jumping from rooftop to rooftop. Saying that the fruit shop was set up by his father 45 years ago, he added: "*Crores ka nuksaan hua hai*. It was a wholesale business. Rs 8-10 lakh in cash and jewellery was looted... We don't even have clothes left to wear."

A few shops away on Chand Bagh main road stood Faizan Ashrafi, looking for documents at his burnt down shop, Ashrafi Dawakhana, set up two decades ago. "The shop had medicines worth Rs 2 crore and Rs 7 lakh in cash." Saying that he expected more help from the authorities, he added that the only thing truly burnt in the riots was "insaniyat". As DCW chief Swati Maliwal

arrived in the area on Thursday, angry residents refused to let her speak, with many chanting slogans of "go away".

When asked about an estimate of damages incurred by people, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said an assessment is yet to be made.

On Bhajanpura slip road not far away, Rakesh Sharma, an employee of Yohana automobiles, stared at two rows of burnt two-wheelers. A few metres away, a liquor shop operated by the Delhi government had been looted. Raj Kumar, the manager, said: "There is a loss of Rs 70-80 lakh... 1,800 beer bottles; the rioters used alcohol for arson."



A fruit shop owned by Mohammad Azad's brother was destroyed as well. Gajendra Yadav

At an Indian Oil petrol pump that lay charred, the owner said

the company will conduct a survey to assess the damage.

Between rows of burnt homes, shops and vehicles, the faultlines between people had deepened.

Dhuli Chand, owner of a pastry shop at Shiv Vihar, recalled a large crowd gathering at this shop and him running away after bringing down the shutters. He ran the shop, now vandalised, for 16 years. The far bigger loss was the murder of an employee in a godown across the road. "His body was found in the shop Thursday morning. He had come from Pauri Garhwal to work with me. Everything is gone now," he said, breaking down. "My niece's wedding has been called off; we are left with nothing."

Beside his shop, two private parkings were set on fire, with at least 50 vehicles destroyed. The EDMC had gathered to clear up the mess.

Gulshan Kumar of Chawla Books Centre laughed at his own plight: "Rioters broke CCTVs... Rs 10 lakh worth of books and stationery gone... I returned only on Thursday after we got to know that media and police were on the ground, after which I gathered some strength."

A few metres away, two schools stood side by side: DRP School and Rajdhani Senior Secondary School. Manager Dharmesh Sharma of DPR said that while classrooms were burnt

down, projects and computers were looted. "Student records are gone... The mob damaged the guard's room, pulled out his clothes to check if there was any money. His family escaped by jumping across rooftops."

At Rajdhani school, the entrance was set ablaze but classrooms survived. Rajkumar, the guard, said not one but two mobs had targeted the school.

Outside, DCW chief Maliwal tried to meet a few locals. Here, people were forthcoming, sharing their problems. She replied: "I'm here to listen to the entire problem. Please call the 181 helpline and we will definitely come to you."



Security personnel at a lane in Chand Bagh, Thursday. Amit Mehra

38 dead, 30 identified: Families say broken, many had young kids

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

ON THURSDAY, the death toll from the violence that rocked Northeast Delhi touched 38. While 34 deaths were reported from GTB Hospital, three were reported from Lok Nayak Hospital and one at Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital. Fifteen post-mortems have been performed by hospitals so far. *The Indian Express* spoke to families of 30 people who lost their lives in the riots.



Families of the victims at GTB hospital, Thursday. Abhinav Saha

MUBARAK ALI, 35

Ali worked as a painter and is survived by his wife and three children, two girls and a boy. His niece said, "He was returning from Bhajanpura, where he worked... We couldn't find him for three days... until today."

ALOK TIWARI, 24

A native of Hardoi, Tiwari worked in a cardboard factory and lived in Karawal Nagar with his wife and two children. Standing outside the mortuary at GTB Hospital, his elder brother said: "I can't begin to express how our family is dealing with the news. He has gone too soon."

MOHD IRFAN, 32

Irfan is survived by his wife and two children and worked as a labourer. Outside the mortuary of GTB hospital, his mother Khuresha (57) couldn't stop crying. Her elder son Mohd Furkan (32) tried to console her. "He earned Rs 8,000 per month. Who will take care of his family now?"

RAHUL THAKUR, 23

A resident of Bhajanpura, Thakur was preparing to take the civil service examinations, to be held in April. He was the youngest son of his family. He was shot in the chest. His father is an RPF officer. "There was no ambulance in the area and we ferried him on a scooter to the nearest clinic. We were then referred to GTB Hospital. He was under observation for a few hours... he died later," said his cousin Ankit.

SULEIMAN, 22

A blacksmith, he hailed from Hapur. He had been missing since Monday. His elder brother Yunus reached GTB Hospital on Thursday to identify the body.

ANKIT SHARMA, 25

An Intelligence Bureau security assistant, Sharma's body was pulled out from a drain in Chand Bagh a day after he went missing.

MOHD SHAHBAAN, 22

A resident of Mustafabad, Shahbaan was shot dead when he was closing up his welding shop. According to his family, the mob also burned down his shop.

SANJEET THAKUR, 32

Thakur, who worked in a welding unit, is survived by his wife and two children. A resident of Khajuri, he was hit with stones at Chand Bagh while he was on

his way to home.

RATAN LAL, 42

From Rajasthan's Sikar, he joined Delhi Police as a Constable in 1998. He was currently posted in the office of ACP/Gokalpuri as a Head Constable. He is survived by his wife and three children.

AKBARI, 85

She died after her family's home in Gamri village was set on fire, said her family. Her son, Mohammad Saeed Salmani, operated a garments workshop on the first two floors of his house.

ANWAR, 58

A resident of Shiv Vihar, Anwar ran a poultry farm and is survived by his wife and two daughters. His relative, Salim Kassar, said his body was charred and it was tough to identify him at first. "I could tell it was him by looking at a mark on his leg," he said.

DINESH KUMAR, 35

Kumar worked as a driver and is survived by his wife and two children. Ashish Kumar, his nephew, said Kumar was on ventilator support for seven-eight hours. On Thursday, he was declared dead at 3.40 pm.

AAMIR (30), HASHIM (17)

Residents of old Mustafabad, brothers Aamir and Hashim had been missing since Wednesday afternoon. Their elder brother Sheruddin (31) came to the hospital to identify their bodies on Thursday evening.

MUSHARRAF, 35

From UP's Badaun, he was thrown into a drain by a group of people in Gokalpuri. Survived by his wife and three children, he used to work as a driver in Kardampuri.

VINOD KUMAR, 50

A resident of Arvind Nagar, Ghonda Chowk, he is survived by his wife and two sons. His elder son, Nitin Kumar (25), was with him when the mob attacked the two. His bike was also set on fire.

VIR BHAN, 48

A businessman, Bhan was shot in the head on Monday in Karawal Nagar. He is survived by his wife, 22-year-old son and 15-year-old daughter.

ZAKHIR, 26

A resident of Brijpuri, Zakhir

worked as a welder. He died on Tuesday evening after he suffered a bullet wound to his head and multiple injuries in his stomach.

ISHTIYAK KHAN, 24

A resident of Kardampuri, he used to build portable welding machines. He is survived by his wife and son, aged a year and a half, and daughter, aged three. He was shot in the stomach.

DEEPAK KUMAR, 34

He worked in a private factory in Jhilmil and is survived by his wife, son and daughter. He was shot in the head.

ASHFAQ HUSSAIN, 22

An electrician, Hussain sustained five bullet injuries. He is survived by his wife. The two got married on February 11.

PARVEZ ALAM, 50

A resident of Ghonda, he was shot in the stomach on Tuesday. He used to run a motor garage in Wazirabad.

MEHTAB, 21

A construction worker, Mehtab was killed by a mob on Tuesday. His family waited for two days outside GTB Hospital for his body. On Thursday, they took him home.

MOHD FURKAN, 32

From Uttar Pradesh, Furkan used to design wedding boxes. He is survived by his wife and two children — a girl aged four and a boy aged three and a half years.

RAHUL SOLANKI, 26

Solanki was pursuing civil engineering and worked in a private company. His father, Hari Singh Solanki (69), said the family was making preparations for his sister's wedding in April. Rahul died from a gunshot wound.

MUDASSIR KHAN, 35

He worked as an auto driver and is survived by two children.

SHAHID ALVI, 24

From Bulandshahr, Alvi died on Monday evening from a gunshot wound in the stomach. He worked as an autorickshaw driver and got married four months ago. His wife, Shaziya, is pregnant.

AMAAN, 17

He was brought to Lok Nayak Hospital. A group of lawyers at the hospital said his family was part of the sit-in protests at Seelampur.

MAHROOF ALI, 30

Hailing from Bhajanpura, Ali was shot in the head. He owned an electrical shop.

MOHD YUSUF, 52

A resident of Old Mustafabad, Yusuf was a carpenter. He is survived by seven children. He was returning home from Noida when he was attacked.

MAN IN HOSPITAL WITH GUNSHOT INJURY

A tense night in Shiv Vihar as armed men defy police curfew

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

FRESH INSTANCES of violence were seen in Northeast Delhi late Wednesday night and early Thursday morning, with one person reportedly being shot at. Police, however, said no major incident of violence has taken place over the last two days.

The communal violence in several areas of Northeast Delhi, which flared up on Sunday, has killed 38 people so far. Curfew has been imposed in the area.

According to residents, a mob that had mobilised in the lanes of Shiv Vihar around 2 am Thursday moved around sloga-

neering and wielding sticks. A motorcycle was set on fire in one of the lanes and smoke could be seen billowing from it till Thursday afternoon.

Officials at Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital, where several victims are already admitted, said patients with fresh injuries, including a case of gunshot wound, were brought to the hospital around 10 am. "A patient named Nahil was brought in with a gunshot wound on his leg. He was later discharged. Besides, two other people were brought in with abrasions on their faces. They too were given primary treatment and discharged. No patient was brought in after 10 am," the official said.

The atmosphere in Shiv Vihar remained charged through Thursday as police and RAF forces were deployed on main roads and crossings in Karawal Nagar area but not in the lanes leading to Shiv Vihar.

Through Wednesday night, several messages of people seeking help or facing the threat of violence in Shiv Vihar: Mustafabad, Ghonda and Maujpur were circulating on WhatsApp groups and Twitter.

Approximately four kilometres from Shiv Vihar, in Durgapuri Chowk, locals alleged that a similar mob had gathered. Residents shared videos shot by them on Wednesday night of a group of men walking around

with rods and sticks. However, no violence was reported.

A police officer said, "There was violence two days ago but nothing has happened since then due to heavy police presence. We responded to emergency calls and messages and went to the spot to maintain peace. However, there are stubborn groups of people that would come out on the streets again as soon as we left. The situation is calm and police are deployed at several points."

Messages seeking help and warning about violence and mobs emerged from Mustafabad area too, but locals dismissed them as rumours spread to create law and order issues. Amid heavy police presence in the area, residents said they are united and making efforts to ease the tension and ward off rumour-mongering.

"Yes, there was violence here on Tuesday, but the situation has been calm since. We have to live in harmony and condemn the false messages about violence and clashes," said Jawed, a resident.

"Distress calls were made earlier when there was violence and perhaps those fed rumours in the last 24 hours. With the forces present, there is calm in the region, and we are personally maintaining vigil so that no one creates tension in the area," said Akshit, a resident.

CM promises Rs 10 lakh for kin of deceased; free hospital treatment; books & uniforms for students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each for families of those who died in the communal violence in several parts of Northeast Delhi since Sunday.

The government has also decided to extend its Farishtey Scheme, under which victims of road accidents and acid attacks can avail treatment at private hospitals for free, to riot victims. Living arrangements for families whose houses are damaged are being made in night-shelters, Kejriwal said.

"The steps Delhi government could have taken, have been taken. Everyone has suffered in these incidents — Hindus, Muslims, police officers, many of whom have been injured. A police head constable died, another IB staffer died. No one gained anything. Since yesterday, incidents of violence have come down. I had visited the areas that were hit



CM at the press conference, Thursday. Praveen Khanna

by violence the worst. Curfew has been imposed in these areas," Kejriwal said at a press conference Thursday.

He held meetings with his ministers and top officials to discuss relief and rehabilitation measures. "If the injured go to private hospitals to be treated, they will not have to pay. Those affected by riots and crime will now be covered under the Farishtey Scheme, wherein the government will pay the hospital di-

THE COMPENSATION	
INDIVIDUAL	HOUSES
Death of major: ₹ 10 lakh (₹ 1 lakh ex-gratia to be given immediately and ₹ 9 lakh after documentation)	Fully damaged: ₹ 5 lakh (₹ 1 lakh to tenant and ₹ 4 lakh for house owner)
Death of minor: ₹ 5 lakh	Major damage: ₹ 2.5 lakh
Permanent incapacitation: ₹ 5 lakh	Minor damage: ₹ 15,000
Serious injury: ₹ 2 lakh	Uninsured Commercial Units
	Maximum ₹ 5 lakh
SDMs designated as nodal officers of helpdesks	
HELPLINE NUMBERS	
1077: Disaster Management at state-level	011-22827367: SDM (Seelampur)
011-22115289: DC Northeast District	011-22574469: SDM (Karawal Nagar)
011-22574468: SDM (Yamuna Vihar)	011-22111077: DC Shahdara
	011-22110029: SDM Shahdara
12 additional SDMs deployed for overseeing support, relief and rehabilitation	4 night magistrates deployed
	2 ambulances per sub-division shall be stationed round the clock

rectly for their treatment," he said. In areas where curfew has been imposed, officials will distribute supplies through NGOs, RWAs, councillors, MLAs and public representatives. The government is also starting helplines to coordinate relief and rehabilitation.

Kejriwal also said that for people who lost their papers such as income certificates in the fires, the Revenue Department will hold special camps to help make copies of the documents they might have lost.

The Delhi government will also provide books and uniforms to schoolchildren who lost them during the violence, announced Kejriwal. "If children have lost books, the Directorate of Education shall provide books and notebooks free of cost to children of both government and private schools," he said.

"Disbursement will take place from the respective schools. Similarly, new sets of uniforms shall also be provided free of cost," he said.

In Old Mustafabad, beliefs blur as residents unite to protect temple

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

WITH THREE mosques being targeted during the violence, a group of men from both communities have got together to prevent retaliatory attacks on a temple in Babu Nagar in Old Mustafabad, keeping watch 24x7.

Mohd Haseen (24), a BA student of Delhi University's Deshbandhu College, is among those who have been making sure communal tension in adjoining areas doesn't spread to their locality. "At any given time, we make sure there are enough people to deal with a mob if it comes this side. There is a lot of brotherhood and camaraderie in our area, and we don't want it

"There is a lot of brotherhood and camaraderie in our area, and we don't want it to be ruined at any cost," said Mohd Haseen, a BA student of Delhi University

to be ruined at any cost," he said. Kamruddin (52), who supplies snacks to tea shops and lives just a stone's throw away from the temple, is also part of the group of men that keeps vigil.

"It has been many years that we have been staying here, and

we never expected that such riots could take place. It is important now more than ever to safeguard *insaaniyat* (humanity). Our mosques were burnt but we won't let anyone destroy temples," he said.

Haseen said that those living next to temples take turns to make sure someone is keeping watch even at night. "Even on the days when violence took place in nearby areas, we made sure our lanes are not affected. Both communities made their own small teams with lathis in hand, and pushed away their own if they tried to create trouble," he said.

Reena (52), the caretaker of the temple, said to be at least 30-35 years old, said she has such trust in locals, that she even hands them the keys of the

temple, in case of an emergency.

Reena conducts pooja twice a day in absence of a pandit, and is also responsible for its caretaking.

"They are our own people. Even now I haven't been to the temple for the past few days, but I trust that they will make sure no harm comes to it. We are all part of a family and have been living as one, why will it change now? There may be different names for our gods, but ultimately he is the same," she said.

Despite hers being among the very few Hindu houses in a largely Muslim-dominated street, she said she felt secure. "There is a lot of love between everyone here, and I'm sure it will remain," said Reena.

Pregnant woman assaulted at home delivers baby, with help from neighbours

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD ALI giggled in his mother Shabana's ear, "Iska naam Sonu rakh do, Ammi." Next to Shabana (26) lay her day-old baby boy, who yawned in his sleep, unaware of the injury on his mother's arm, sustained a day before he was born, in a mob attack.

On Tuesday afternoon, a pregnant Shabana pleaded with the mob that had entered her house in Karawal Nagar's Mahalaxmi Vihar not to hit her in the stomach. "The mob beat me with lathis... Some kicked me in the stomach. They stopped after a while, destroyed the house, and left," said Shabana, as she lay on a bed at Al-Hind Hospital in

Old Mustafabad.

On Wednesday night, she gave birth to a healthy boy, who weighed 3.5 kg, and is likely named "Azad" or "Sonu".

Shabana said a neighbour, Sanjiv, dropped her off at Old Mustafabad on a bike after the attack on Tuesday, and then the rest of her family — two children, mother-in-law and other relatives — made it to the same place. "We stayed at a relative's house here and decided to drop off Shabana to her mother's house in Nangloi so she can deliver there. Police personnel agreed to drop us too but only till Yamuna Vihar. She went into labour, so we quickly rushed her to Al-Hind Hospital," said her relative Shama.

The doctor who treated Shabana said it was a compli-



Shabana with her newborn at the hospital. Express

cated delivery as she couldn't produce her medical history as all the papers got burnt in their house. "If we had access to her ultrasound, we may have recom-

mended a C-section. She is doing better now, but she is depressed, tense and her BP has been fluctuating," said the doctor.

While Shabana's husband has been informed that he had a baby boy, he has been unable to visit. Her uncle, Mujib-ur-Rehman, said, "He ran towards Loni and the atmosphere there is a bit tense. We have advised him to come later."

Rehman too managed to escape with Sanjiv's help.

Ali stared in wonder at the faces the newborn made, while Shabana asked her mother-in-law if anything from their burnt home was salvaged. "Where will I go with my newborn and my two boys now? *Sab toh khatam kar diya. Kabhi nahisocha tha yeh itni dehshat ke mahaul mein janam lega,*" she said.

6 GOVT & POLITICS



FILLING IN

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah was supposed to be the chief guest at an event on V D Savarkar on Thursday but cancelled his scheduled visit at the last minute due to an urgent meeting at North Block. As the packed auditorium kept waiting, the organisers tried to fill in the gap with a speech by former Union minister and former Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik. Ten minutes into his speech, however, Union minister Nitin Gadkari arrived at the venue. As soon as Naik saw Gadkari, he said, "I guess my job is over now."

TWEET, DELETE, REPEAT

AS THE BJP struggles to rein in its motormouth leaders, party general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh seems to be emerging as the new trigger-happy man on Twitter, only to retreat from his bravado. Two days ago, Santhosh declared on Twitter that "game starts now" after security forces cleared protesters from Jaffrabad in Delhi. But he deleted it soon and posted another tweet without this phrase. On Thursday, even before the MEA reacted to US Democrat Presidential candidate hope Bernie Sanders's remarks on the Delhi communal violence, Santhosh jumped the gun again. "How much ever neutral we wish to be you compel us to play a role in Presidential election. Sorry to say so...But you are compelling us," he tweeted. Moments later, Santhosh retreated from his threat to meddle into the US Presidential elections and deleted the post.

SET FOR SESSION

JOINT SECRETARIES in the Ministry of Health have been instructed to travel to states to see the level of preparedness for coronavirus. But with Parliament session due to start from Monday, Health Secretary Preeti Sudan has told them to travel over the weekend so that they are back in time for the session. Only Joint Secretaries dealing with finance, who are normally not directly connected to Parliament matters, will travel next Tuesday.

Azam, wife and son shifted to Sitapur jail, Akhilesh visits

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 27

A DAY after they were sent to judicial custody, the Rampur district administration shifted Samajwadi Party MP Azam Khan, his wife and party MLA Tazeen Fatima and son Abdullah Azam Khan from the district to Sitapur district jail in the early hours of Thursday, citing security reasons.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, along with other party leaders, reached Sitapur later in the day and met Azam. Rampur District Magistrate Aunjaneya Kumar Singh said, "Azam Khan, Abdullah and Tazeen Fatima were shifted to Sitapur around 4.30 am on Thursday... It was done for security reasons. Their home is situated very close to the jail in Rampur. Several prisoners in the Rampur jail were jailed when Azam Khan was a minister. The jail authorities had written to the district administration that it was not suitable for him to be kept in Rampur jail. We could not shift them to districts in western UP because these are sensitive due to anti-CAA protests. The police, too, gave an opinion that they should be shifted," Singh told *The Indian Express* on Thursday afternoon.

The DM added, "Another reason was that Azam had complained in court that his and Fatima's health was not good and there are no good hospitals in Rampur. Therefore, it was decided to keep him near Lucknow, where there are good medical facilities. All protocols were followed for his transfer."

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav reached the Sitapur jail around 2 pm and met the three for about 15 minutes, said a jail official. Asked what they discussed, Akhilesh said, "Nobody knows about it better than you (the me-



Azam Khan

Assembly declares son's election as nil

Lucknow: The election of Azam Khan's son Abdullah Azam Khan from Swar Assembly seat in Rampur district was declared as nil from September 16, 2019 — the date on which High Court declared his candidature as "zero" — and the seat vacant, according to a notification by the UP Assembly on Thursday. The notification said Khan's election will be considered nil under Section 107(1) of the Public Representative Act, 1951, as no stay order has been received against the High Court order. The notification has been issued by UP Assembly Principal Secretary Pradeep Dubey.

He is being targeted as part of a political conspiracy. A BJP leader has complained against Azam Khan. Will the BJP deny that he (complainant) is a BJP leader?" On Wednesday, Azam, Tazeen Fatima and Abdullah were sent to jail after they surrendered before a local court in Rampur as their bail applications were rejected in connection with a case related to alleged forgery of Abdullah's birth certificate. The next hearing in this matter will be held on March 2.

Delhi violence: Congress goes to President, BJP hits back

Call upon Centre to protect raj dharma, Cong tells Kovind

MANOJ CG NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

ALLEGING THAT there was "complete inaction" on part of the Centre in quelling the communal violence in Delhi, a high-level Congress delegation led by Sonia Gandhi Thursday asked President Ram Nath Kovind to call upon the government to "protect and preserve" its raj dharma. The Congress urged the President to call for the removal of Home Minister Amit Shah, saying he "abdicated his duty and allowed the situation to escalate through his inaction."

The Congress delegation also pointed fingers at the Arvind Kejriwal government in Delhi, saying the Chief Minister and the government was completely missing in action. "Instead of taking active steps to remedy or diffuse the situation, the Central government as also the... Delhi government, have remained mute spectators as completely mindless rage, designed violence and organised looting of property has continued unabated," the Congress said in a memorandum to the President.

"We called upon... the President... to suggest to him that what is happening in the last four days in the capital of India, is a matter of deep concern. It is also a matter of national shame... a reflection on the total failure of the Central government to control the situation. We requested the President to use his power to call upon the Central government to protect and preserve its raj dharma so that the citizens of this country and this national capital are assured of peace, tranquility and justice," former PM Manmohan Singh said after the meeting.



A Congress delegation led by party president Sonia Gandhi after meeting President Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday. Anil Sharma

'Selective silence': BJP says Cong, AAP politicising violence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

ON A day when the Congress president along with senior party leaders met President Ram Nath Kovind to call for the Union Home Minister's resignation, the ruling BJP alleged that both the Congress and AAP were "politicising" the communal violence and that there were attempts to instigate violence.

Addressing a press conference at the party office, senior BJP leader and Union Minister Prakash Javadekar asked why other political parties were silent on the attack on the policemen and on the death of Intelligence Bureau staffer Ankit Sharma. "In such a situation, the duty of all political parties should be to consolidate peace," Javadekar said. Javadekar termed the



Prakash Javadekar

Congress's demand for Shah's resignation as "petty politics". The BJP leader asserted that peace was restored within two days due to Shah's effective handling. "The situation in North-East Delhi is under control. Arrests have been made, inquiries have been fast-tracked, and it will bring out the real culprits behind this violence," he said.

Javadekar said that in such a situation, the duty of all political parties should be to consolidate peace and to have a dialogue with people. He alleged that attempts to instigate violence had been made for the last two months since Sonia Gandhi gave the call for "fight to the finish" at a rally.

The BJP leader attacked the ruling AAP which just returned to power in Delhi with a landslide victory and said its MLAs should have worked for peace instead of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal identifying riot victims by religion in the Assembly.

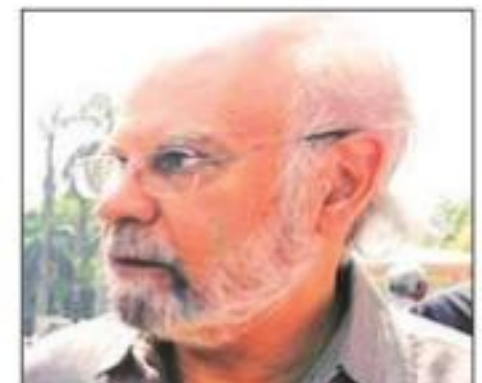
Accusing the parties of "selective silence" on issues such as the recovery of explosive material from the house of AAP corporator Tahir Hussain, Javadekar said their leaders were misleading people on CAA.

BJP allies seek action over provocative speeches

LIZ MATHEW NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

DEMANDING THAT the situation in communal violence-scarred Delhi be brought under control at the earliest, leaders of three key BJP allies on Thursday sought action against leaders who have made provocative remarks and condemned the "apathy" and "inaction" of Delhi Police.

JD(U) leader KCT Tyagi said the police did not show "any interest in controlling the situation or containing violence. He also said there was neither enough deployment nor a "clear direction" on how to contain the violence. Naresh Gujral, Rajya Sabha MP and leader of ally Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah about a personal experience on the unresponsive nature of Delhi Police. He narrated an incident in which his calls, identifying himself as an MP and seeking help for some Muslim people "trapped in a house near Gonda



SAD MP Naresh Gujral wrote to Amit Shah about a personal experience related to police inaction in Delhi

Chowk in Maujpur", met with no police response.

"I would urge you to look into this matter so that serious complaints receive the urgent attention that they deserve and the situation in Delhi is brought under control expeditiously," he stated. Gujral marked copies to Delhi L-G Anil Baijal and Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik, too. Tyagi said his party con-

demns all provocative comments by political leaders, be it from BJP's Kapil Mishra or AIMIM's Waris Pathan. Pointing out that Mishra's ultimatum to those protesting against CAA led to clashes in the area, Tyagi told *The Indian Express*: "There should be action against people like Mishra and Pathan. It's time parties expel them — such elements should be removed from the political system."

Tyagi also said there was no violence "before Mishra arrived". Another NDA ally, LJP's Chirag Paswan, has said statements of BJP leaders such as Mishra had incited violence and sought action against them. On his PCR call after being informed that 16 people were "trapped...and a mob was trying to break in", Gujral stated that there was no police action, even though he had told the operator that he is an MP. "They fortunately managed to escape only because some Hindu neighbours came to the rescue," he added.

Riots keep happening, says Haryana minister

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Power Minister Ranjit Chautala stoked a controversy Thursday by stating that "riots keep happening" and "are part of life". Chautala was speaking to journalists in the Haryana Assembly complex about the riots in Delhi.

He said, "Dekhiye, dange to hote rahte hain, pahle bhi hote rahe hain (See, riots keep happening, these have been taking place earlier too). The entire Delhi was burning when (former PM) Indira Gandhi was assassinated. These (riots) are part of life which keep taking place. The government is controlling this matter vigilantly and curfew had been imposed at all places (in Delhi) yesterday."

Son of former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, Ranjit Chautala (74) is an Independent MLA from Rania constituency of Haryana. Asked to comment on the transfer of a Delhi HC judge, the minister said, "I would not like to say anything as it's a judicial matter and belongs to Delhi..."

Cong, CPM slam late-night transfer of Delhi HC judge, Govt calls it routine

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

WITH THE Opposition terming the timing of transfer Justice S Muralidhar of Delhi High Court as "shameful", the Union government and the BJP accused Opposition leaders of politicising a "routine" transfer.

The judge had questioned the Delhi Police for not registering a case against three BJP leaders for their alleged hate speeches in the run-up to the violence this week. The Congress slammed the government for the "sudden and vindictive" transfer of the judge and said this has exposed the "intimidation and vendetta politics" of the Narendra Modi government.

The notification of Justice Muralidhar's transfer came late Wednesday. The CPI(M) demanded that the transfer order be kept in abeyance to reinforce people's confidence. While noting that the transfer is part of a recommendation of the SC Collegium, the party said the "post-haste implementation appears to be a selective response for what unfolded in the Delhi High Court yesterday."

Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad tweeted, "Transfer of Justice Muralidhar was done pursuant to the recommendation dated 12.02.2020 of Supreme Court collegium headed by Chief Justice of India. While transferring the judge consent of the judge is taken. The well settled process have been followed. By politicising a routine transfer, Congress has yet again displayed



Justice S Muralidhar

Lawyers bid him farewell

New Delhi: Before Justice S Muralidhar delivered his last judgment as a judge of the Delhi HC in a matter relating to commercial activities being carried out from residential areas on Thursday, many lawyers gathered in his courtroom and wished him the best for the future. Delhi government additional standing counsel Gautam Narayan said it was a privilege to work with him while young lawyers said he was an "inspiration". The staff had already communicated to the lawyers that Justice S Muralidhar will not sit after pronouncement of the verdict. **ENS**

its scant regard for the judiciary." The Congress, he posted, is "hell bent on destroying the very institutions India cherishes by constantly attacking them". **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

India rejects criticism from US panel, OIC

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

AS A possible US Presidential candidate from the Democratic Party, chair of the US House Foreign Affairs committee, a US Congress advisory body on religious freedom, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation criticised the violence and riots in Delhi, India on Thursday retorted sharply and called these "factually incorrect" and "misleading" statements, and urged that such "irresponsible comments are not made at this sensitive time".

MEA official spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said, "We have seen comments made by USCIRF (United States Commission on International Religious Freedom), sections of the media and a few individuals regarding recent incidents of violence in Delhi. These are factually inaccurate and misleading, and appear to be aimed at politicising the issue."

Stressing that law enforcement agencies are working on the ground to "prevent violence and ensure restoration of confidence and normalcy", the senior representatives of the government have been involved in that process, and

that the Prime Minister has publicly appealed for peace, Kumar said, "We would urge that irresponsible comments are not made at this sensitive time."

While US Congressmen and other organisations slammed the government, the US administration gave a more nuanced statement. US Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia, Alice G Wells, said, "Our hearts go out to the families of the deceased and injured in New Delhi. We echo PM Narendra Modi's call for calm and normalcy and urge all parties to maintain peace, refrain from violence, and respect the right of peaceful assembly."

Earlier in the day, Democratic Party Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders tweeted, "Over 200 million Muslims call India home. Widespread anti-Muslim mob violence has killed at least 27 and injured many more... This is a failure of leadership on human rights."

USCIRF Chair Tony Perkins said, "...We urge the Indian government to take serious efforts to protect Muslims and others targeted by mob violence."

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation condemned the "recent and alarming violence against Muslims in India..."

Bihar govt should withdraw NPR notification, says Kanhaiya

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, FEBRUARY 27

DAYS AFTER the Bihar Assembly passed resolutions to not implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the state and to implement the National Population Register (NPR) in its 2010 format, CPI leader and former JNU Students' Union president Kanhaiya Kumar on Thursday demanded that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar withdraw the gazette notification on NPR. Kanhaiya had started a statewide tour under the banner of Joint Forum Against NPR-CAA-NRC on January 30 and held public meetings in all districts. On Thursday, his tour culminated in a meeting at Patna where he shared stage with Congress MLAs Awadhesh



Kanhaiya with social activist Medha Patkar in Patna. PTI

Singh and Shakil Ahmed Khan, great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi Tushar Gandhi, Narmada Bachao Andolan leader Medha Patkar and former IAS officer Kannan Gopinathan, among others. Addressing the gathering, Kanhaiya targeted the BJP on issues such as unemployment and farmers' distress. "Hume chahiye rozgar, nahi chahiye NPR," he said.

"What is the need of pro-CAA rally when the CAA is a law? They are seeking polarisation... Do you know most of those killed in Delhi were migrant labourers from Bihar and UP? Do not see their religion, they were doing the same thing to earn their livelihood outside their states," said Kanhaiya.

Hailing the Bihar Chief Minister for getting passed in the Assembly a resolution for NPR in the old format, he said the state government should also withdraw the gazette notification in this regard. "Let me make it clear that this rally is not for a leader. I am not in support of any particular community as NPR-NRC-CAA would hurt the poor from all religions. It would hurt Kamrans as much as Kanhaiyas and the ones in burqas and veils alike," said Kanhaiya.

Open to alliance with AIUDF to fight communal forces: Gogoi

TORA AGARWALA GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 27

AHEAD OF the Rajya Sabha polls in March, former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi has said that he is open to an alliance with the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) to fight "communal forces". "This is my personal opinion. I am open to an alliance and understanding with the AIUDF and happy to field a candidate to fight against communal forces," Gogoi told *The Indian Express*.

On Tuesday, the Election Commission issued a notification announcing elections to 55 Rajya Sabha seats across 17 states. In Assam, polling for three seats (represented by the Congress's Bhubaneswar Kalita and Sanjay Singh and Bodoland People



Congress leader Gogoi, AIUDF's Badruddin Ajmal

Front's Biswajit Daimary) will be held on March 26. While Kalita and Singh resigned from Congress to join the BJP, Daimary's term will end on April 9.

AIUDF general secretary Aminul Islam said that since the party president was out of the country, no internal discussion has taken place on this development. "We, too, want to field a candidate that opposes the CAA. We aim to get the BJP out," he said.

Congress's Debabrata Saikia, Leader of the Opposition in Assam Assembly, said, "The fight is against the idea of BJP and the CAA. The point is to field a candidate who opposes the CAA. Not just AIUDF, but there is a scope for three (AIUDF, ACP and Congress) to get together and field a common candidate."

Gogoi said that he had "personally" not approached the AIUDF yet. "But all I want to say is that I am in favour of it," he said.

In 2018, when the AIUDF hinted at a tie-up with the Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, Gogoi dismissed it as a "rumour". He had said that he considered the AIUDF "communal". "Those were their (AIUDF's) initial days... Being fundamental and talking about minority interests are two different things," Gogoi said.

7 EXPRESS NETWORK

Police question four Kartarpur pilgrims, row in Punjab House

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 27

THE PUNJAB Vidhan Sabha witnessed an uproar Thursday over the questioning of four Sikh pilgrims by the Gurdaspur police after their return from Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan.

SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia said that the SSP Gurdaspur and the concerned SHO should be suspended and dismissed from service.

The Jails Minister, who read out the contents of the letter sent by the IB and took names of four Sikh youth who were to be questioned by the police, said that the state government will take strict action against the SSP and the SHO if they are found at fault. "If SSP is to be blamed then the government should take action against him," he said.

Leader of Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema termed this development as a move by the DGP to spoil the atmosphere of brotherhood in Punjab. "The CM should make a statement on the floor of the House regarding this issue," said Cheema.

J&K govt cancels recruitment process of banking associates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 27

ACTING TOUGH on irregularities in recruitments, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday cancelled the ongoing process for the selection of 250 probationary officers and 1,200 banking associates, initiated by the J&K Bank in 2018.

The government also announced an amnesty for electricity consumers, asking them to clear their arrears via three installments by May 31.

Planning Development and Monitoring Department Principal Secretary Rohit Kansal said the decisions were taken at a meeting of Advisory Council chaired by Lt Governor G C Murnu.

Kansal said that to ensure that the recruitments are made in a time-bound and transparent manner, the council directed the Finance Department to advise J&K Bank to "initiate afresh, new, fair, norm-based and transparent

thorities," said Dhillon.

Jails and Cooperation Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa intervened at this stage and said that the Gurdaspur police had acted on an input received from the Intelligence Bureau. He said the February 17 letter should be called for and placed before the House.

SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia said that the SSP Gurdaspur and the concerned SHO should be suspended and dismissed from service.

The Jails Minister, who read out the contents of the letter sent by the IB and took names of four Sikh youth who were to be questioned by the police, said that the state government will take strict action against the SSP and the SHO if they are found at fault. "If SSP is to be blamed then the government should take action against him," he said.

Leader of Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema termed this development as a move by the DGP to spoil the atmosphere of brotherhood in Punjab. "The CM should make a statement on the floor of the House regarding this issue," said Cheema.

MoU inked for developing ghats in Badrinath, Gangotri

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

A MEMORANDUM of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), the State Program Management Group-Uttarakhand (SPMG) and the Indorama Charitable Trust for development of the ghat at Badrinath and ghats and crematoriums at Gangotri at a total cost of Rs 26.64 crore.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, U P Singh, Director General, NMCG, Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Executive Director (Finance), NMCG, Rozy Agarwal and other seniors officials of the ministry and NMCG.

The MoU was signed by Ashok Kumar Singh, Executive Director, NMCG; Rajeev Kshetrapal, Director, Indorama Industries, and trust member of Indorama Charitable Trust and Uday Raj Singh, Project Director, SPMG-Uttarakhand.

Shekhawat said the project is being taken up under the government initiative 'Har Kaam Desh Ke Naam'. The activities under the project will include construction of bathing ghats and crematoriums, repair and modernisation of the existing ghats and crematoriums, providing public amenities on the ghats and work to protect banks from erosion. Work on the project is expected to start by March.

Close to breakthrough in Pulwama attack case: NIA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

THE NIA is close to a breakthrough in the Pulwama attack case, the agency claimed on Thursday. It also clarified that it had found no evidence against Yousuf Chohan, one of seven over ground workers arrested in connection with a terror case, and that this man was not linked to the Pulwama case.

"In the Pulwama attack Case... in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed in the suicide attack, significant leads have emerged and a breakthrough in the case is expected shortly," a statement by the agency said.

The statement from the agency came in the wake of reports that a special court had

ACB raids Andhra hospitals, finds patients diverted to pvt facilities

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, FEBRUARY 27

STAFF AT several public hospitals were diverting patients to private hospitals and diagnostic centres for treatment and tests, according to officials of the Andhra Pradesh Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), which raided 39 public health facilities, including 13 government hospitals and 22 primary and community health centres across 13 districts of the state on Thursday. The ACB teams also found glaring dis-



President Ram Nath Kovind, Myanmar President U Win Myint, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Myanmar's First Lady Daw Cho Cho at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday. Anil Sharma

India, Myanmar ink pact on bus service, developing Rakhine

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

BUS SERVICE between Manipur's Imphal and Myanmar's Mandalay, more Rakhine state development programme projects, medical radiation equipment for treatment of cancer patients, cooperation on petroleum, including in refinery, stockpiling, blending and retail — these are some of the major takeaways as visiting Myanmar President U Win Myint met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday.

The two sides on Thursday signed 10 agreements with a focus on socioeconomic development of Myanmar.

According to the joint statement, the two sides will start co-

ordinated bus service between Imphal and Mandalay on April 7. Bus operators on both sides have already signed the agreement.

India's assistance in the construction of Integrated Check Point at Tamu, Myanmar, bordering Manipur, will also be done. For ease of people-to-people movement across the border at Moreh Tamu, the two countries signed the Land Border Crossing Agreement in 2018, which allowed bona fide travellers with valid document to cross the border at two international points of entry/exit: Moreh-Tamu and Zokhawathar-Rih.

India will offer medical radiation equipment Bhabhatron II for treatment of cancer patients, and strengthen cooperation in the health sector. The two sides also agreed to have government-

to-government cooperation in petroleum, including in refinery, stockpiling, blending and retail.

They also decided to extend the Quick Impact Project schemes to Myanmar. Under this, India takes up capacity development work in the form of small projects which yield quick beneficial results for the local people.

On the side of governance, India will help Myanmar with the project of e-ID cards, modelled after the Aadhaar project.

The two sides decided to provide more projects to Rakhine State Development Programme. India had committed \$25 million grant assistance to Myanmar over a period of five years and phase-I involved completion of 250 pre-fabricated houses in Rakhine state.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

VISVA-BHARATI UNIVERSITY

Bangla student gets Leave India notice over 'anti-govt' activities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 27

THE MINISTRY of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked a Bangladeshi student of Visva-Bharati University in West Bengal's Santiniketan to leave the country for reportedly engaging in "anti-government activities".

Having received the 'Leave India Notice' — dated February 14 — on Wednesday, Afsara Anika Meem on Thursday met Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRRO) officer Karma Tshering Bhutia to request him to review the decision.

The meeting reportedly lasted an hour, but Meem refused to speak on what transpired.

The FRRO comes under the MHA. The notice asks Meem to leave the country within 15 days.

The notice states, "Afsara Anika Meem... Bangladeshi national, is present in India on the strength of S-1 (Student) visa... studying at Visva Bharati University... she is found to have engaged in anti-government activities. And such activity being a breach of her visa, has thus committed visa violation..."

The notice does not specify the anti-government acts concerned. In December last year and

January this year, students and a section of Visva-Bharati teachers had taken out several rallies on the campus against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Meem allegedly joined the protests and also posted images on social media.

Visva-Bharati declined to comment on the issue.

Sources in Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata said they are neither aware of the notice nor did Meem meet them on Thursday after the meeting at the FRRO office.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Trump told PM he was asked by Imran Khan to mediate but said no

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump is learnt to have told Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he doesn't intend to mediate between India and Pakistan although Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has been seeking mediation by the US.

This has been one of the major takeaways of the bilateral conversation between the US President and the Prime Minister on Monday and Tuesday.

A government source privy to the discussions said that the US President told Modi that Khan keeps pressing him to mediate every time they meet, but made it clear that he is not going to do it.

Sources said that New Delhi understands that the US needs Pakistan to fulfill its objectives in Afghanistan, but asked it to keep a "close eye" on Pakistan. The Indian side is learnt to have conveyed that Washington must continue to put pressure on Pakistan in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and also take action against the terror infrastructure in the territory under its control. Trump is said to have reiterated India's right to defend itself when faced with terrorist attacks.

Modi raised the totalisation agreement between the two countries. Sources said this issue was raised for the first time between the two leaders although



PM Modi and Trump

it has been discussed between officials.

The totalisation pact is about Indian professionals who pay their contribution to the social security, but are unable to bring it to India. This amount, parked in the US, is to the tune of \$12 billion, sources said. The US President, who was apprised of this issue for the first time, "took note" of the Indian concerns. According to sources, the US side will have to change their laws to have the pact signed.

Sources said the two leaders also agreed to "freeze the negotiations as is where is basis" and then convert the negotiated text to a "legal text". The two sides are hoping to have the Phase I of the trade deal as early as possible, and then work on the "big" trade deal.

The Indian side also took up the issue of H1B visas. Modi, sources said, shared the role of the Indian American community and their contribution in the US, and the fact that they not only brought in tech knowledge and

EXPLAINED

Clearing the air

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump and PM Narendra Modi had comprehensive discussions this week. While the talks covered all major issues between the two countries, Trump cleared the air about mediation during his conversation with Modi. This is of importance since the issue has been coming up since last July.

innovation skills, but also added democratic values.

Sources said that while China was not directly discussed, it was one of the issues that was in the shadows. The US President and the Prime Minister had some discussions on Blue Dot Network, an answer to China's Belt and Road Initiative. Sources said the concept, at a certain level, fits into the broad vision of Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy, but India has not yet taken a decision to join in.

Telangana govt to not begin NPR work, to move resolution opposing CAA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, FEBRUARY 27

THE TELANGANA government will not start work on the National Population Register at present, and will move a resolution in the Assembly opposing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and appeal to the Centre to implement NPR in the old format.

The state government is of the opinion that the NPR in the

old format is better than that in the new format and will request the same of the Centre.

On February 16, the state cabinet appealed to the Union government to not discriminate on the basis of religion for according Indian citizenship. It also requested that all religions must be treated as equal before the law. The state further requested the Central government to take measures to abrogate the CAA, which will lead to discrimination

on the basis of religion while granting citizenship and thereby jeopardising secularism as envisaged in the Constitution.

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao had earlier stated that his government will pass a resolution in the Assembly opposing the CAA. "We are against the CAA. The Centre has to withdraw CAA. What will they achieve by dividing people? We will not implement it..." he had said.

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS) EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. ECHS invites applications to engage following staff on contractual basis at ECHS Polyclinic, Almora, Bageshwar and Ranikhet from 01 April 2020

S.No.	Post	Essential Qualifications Requirements	Age Limit
ALMORA			
(A)	OIC	Syrs work experience in health care institutions or managerial positions	Graduate
(B)	Medical Officer	Min 05 years after internship preferable additional qualification in medicine/surgery	MBBS
(C)	Medical Specialist	Min 05 years in the speciality after PG	MD/MS in Speciality Concerned/DNB
(D)	Gynaecologist		
(E)	Dental Officer	Min 05 years work experience	BDS
(F)	Pharmacist	Min 05 years experience in Pharmacy	B Pharmacy from a recognized institute
(G)	Physiotherapist	Min 05 years experience	Diploma/class 1 Physiotherapy course
(H)	Driver	Min 05 years experience	Education 8 class/ class 1 MT/ driver (Armed Forces) Possesses a civil driving license for LMV & Two Wheeler
(I)	Female Attendant	Min 05 years work experience in Health/Civil/Army health institution	Literate
(J)	Chowkidar		Education Class 8 or GD trade for Armed Forces personnel
(K)	Clerk	Min 05 years experience	Graduate/Class 1 clerical trade (Armed Forces)
ECHS Polyclinic, Bageshwar			
(A)	OIC		As above
(B)	Medical Officer		As above
(C)	Dental Officer		As above
(D)	Clerk		As above
ECHS Polyclinic, Ranikhet			
(A)	Nursing Assistant	Min 05 years experience	GNM Diploma/Class 1 Nursing Assistant Course (Armed Forces)

Candidates not meeting QR will not be allowed to participate in selection process. Candidates should apply only on the application form downloaded from www.echs.gov.in. The employment is initially for a period of 12 months for ESM and 11 months for Civilians. For vacancies reserved for ESM Civilians candidates can also apply. If no ESM candidate applies civilian candidates will be considered for the said post on basis of merit. For more information, please contact ECHS Cell, Station HQ Ranikhet in person on Tel. No. 0596 222898. Last date of receipt of application at Station HQ Ranikhet is 18 Mar 2020. Interview will be held on 20 Mar 2020 at 10:00H at Conference Hall, Kumaon Regiment Centre Ranikhet. Candidate will bring original certificates/degree in support of basic education qualification, six photocopies of all certificates/degrees, photocopy of testimonials/experience & Three passport size photographs. The sanctioning authority can employ the selected candidate at any of the Polyclinics. For terms and conditions of service, application form, remuneration etc, kindly see our website www.echs.gov.in

कार्यालय: परियोजना निदेशक, ग्रामीण जलापूर्ति एवं स्वच्छता परियोजना
झारखंड राज्य जल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन सोसाईटी (JSWSMS)
(येजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग)
तृतीय तल, पानी टंकी परिसर, डोरंडा बाना के बगल में, डोरंडा, राँची-834001
Email ID-jharkhand.worldbankproject@gmail.com

Very Short EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Tender Notice No. 03/2019-20 dated **20.02.2020**
JHARKHAND STATE WATER AND SANITATION MISSION SOCIETY (JSWSMS) DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HIRING OF Consulting firm/agency for preparing a Detailed Project Report on Solid-Liquid Waste Management and Faecal Sludge Management for 38 GPs serviced by Chhotogobindpur and Baghera Rural Water Supply Schemes, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand Country — India.

Name of the Project - Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project-Low Income States (RWSSP-LIS) - (P132173) Loan No./Credit No./Grant No.: CR 5345-IN

Assignment Title: HIRING Consulting firm/agency for preparing a Detailed Project Report on Solid-Liquid Waste Management and Faecal Sludge Management for 38 GPs serviced by Chhotogobindpur and Baghera Rural Water Supply Schemes, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand. (as per Procurement Plan): IN - SPMU - JHARKHAND - 158329-CS-QCBS dated 18.02.20.

1. A complete set of REOI Documents including the detailed TOI can be downloaded from the website, <http://rwsspjhr.smartrepublic.org/circular.php> and dwd.jharkhand.gov.in Any update to the EOI documents shall also be hosted on website.

2. The Client reserves the right to amend or withdraw any of the terms and conditions contained in the tender document or to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any notice or reason thereof. The decision of the client in this regard shall be final and binding on all.

3. **Procedure for Submission of EOI** : Detailed EOI along with documents confirming compliance with short listing requirements is to be submitted in sealed Envelope on or before 4 PM on 11th March 20 at the address indicated below (by post/in person)

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT DIRECTOR, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION PROJECT (JSWSMS, Drinking Water and Sanitation Department) 3rd Floor, Water Tank Campus, Near Doranda Police Station, Ranchi-834002

Email: jharkhand.worldbankproject@gmail.com
Project Director
Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Project,
Drinking Water & Sanitation Department,
Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi

PR 226055 Drinking Water and Sanitation (19-20)_D

Short TERM TENDER Notification No. 38(KW-5)

As per K1TP Act-2000 and Amendments the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division, Bangalore has invited the TURN-KEY BASIS TENDER on behalf of The Governor of Karnataka for the following work in E-Procurement Portal System. The two-cover bid submission procedure as per Rule 28 of K1TP Act shall be followed. The bidders are requested to submit their bids in two cover system.

(1) PROVIDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF LIFT IRRIGATION SYSTEM FROM KANVA RESERVOIR TO MAKALI, MAKALI HOSAHALLI, KRISHNAPURA & OTHER SURROUNDING VILLAGES OF TANKS IN CHANNAPATNA TALUK, RAMANAGARA DISTRICT (2ND STAGE), KARNATAKA (INCLUDING DETAILED INVESTIGATION SURVEY, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF CIVIL WORKS SUCH AS CONSTRUCTION OF MANIFOLD, SUPPLY, FIXING & ERECTION OF REQUIRED CAPACITY OF PUMPS AND MOTORS, RISING MAIN, DISTRIBUTION MAIN, DELIVERY CHAMBER, THRUST BLOCK, SERVICE ROAD, APPROACH ROAD, OFFICE/QUARTERS BUILDINGS, CHAIN LINK FENCING AROUND PUMP HOUSE, TANK IMPROVEMENTS ETC.) INCLUDING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMMISSIONING ON TURN-KEY BASIS FOR Rs. 24.52 Crore, EMD Rs. 24.85 Lakhs including a) work completion period is 12 months (including Rainy season)

(1) Date of Pre-tender meeting: 26-03-2020 in the office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division, Bangalore at 11.00 AM (2) The details of the works and other conditions may be obtained in the Division Office or E-Procurement Help Desk 080-25501216 up to 30-03-2020. (3) The Tender will be received in <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> on or before 30-03-2020 upto 16.00 hrs. (4) The tenders Technical Bid (cover-I) will be opened on 01-04-2020. (5) The Contractors should submit all the Documents as uploaded in Original on or before 01-04-2020 to this office failing which such Technical Bids shall not be evaluated. (6) Date of opening of financial bid of prequalified contractor (cover - II) will be opened After obtaining approval to the technical bid from Competent Authority. Note: All other conditions and norms are as published in e-procurement portal.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
M.I. & G.W.D. Division

DIPR/DDU/2605/2019-20

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (Procurement)
PLANNING & PROCUREMENT WING
KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED

EXTENSION NOTICE

In view of poor response, the Last Date of Sale/Download, Receipt/Submission and the Bid-Opening of below mentioned e-NIT for the Purchase of the Material detailed below is extended as under:-

- Last Date of Sale/Downloading & Receipt/Submission of e-Bid Documents below mentioned Tender (Extended): 07.03.2020 upto (14.00 Hrs.)
- Commercial/Technical Bid Opening of e-Bid Document of the below mentioned Tender (Extended): 10.03.2020 upto (14.00 Hrs.)

Sr. No.	NIT NO.	Tender ID	Description of Material	Techno-Commercial Bid-Opening Date (Extended)
1.	SE/Proc/06/2019-20	2020_PDD_91685_1	Purchase of EHV Grade Transformer Oil	10.03.2020 14.00 Hrs.

The complete NIT/Tender Documents/BOQ can be downloaded from the website: www.jktenders.gov.in. All other terms and conditions as stipulated in the original NIT shall remain same:-

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
(Procurement)

DIPK-NB-2921/M

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Office of The Executive Engineer (Project)
Karol Bagh Zone, Under Zakhira Flyover, New Delhi-110035

NIT No. 12/EE/Pr/TC/KBZ/19-20 Dated: 26.02.2020

For on line tendering time table please refer to www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER, sealed percentage/ Item Rates tenders are invited for the execution of the following works by the North DMC from approved and eligible contractors registered with the MCD (General Wing) as per following schedule and will be received as per time table and will be opened at 3.15 PM 06.03.2020 on website <http://mcdetenders.com> by undersigned.

Starting date of purchase of tender document : 27.02.2020 3.00 PM
Last date of bid submission : 06.03.2020 3.00 PM
Opening of financial bid : 06.03.2020 3:15 PM

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Amount (Rs.)	Tender Amount (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Head of A/c	Tender Cost	Time of Completion	Rate hold good
1.	Re-Construction of road and drain from Z-195/1 to Z-174 & Z-196 to Z-226 in Z-Block, Loha Mandi, ward No. 104 N, Karol Bagh Zone. (Rajinder Nagar, AC-39)	15649000	14472639	313000	XL-VIII-S(d) 1000/-	04 Months	05 Months	
2.	Re-Construction of road and drain from Y-1 to Y-14 & Y-46 to Y-74/1 in Y-Block, Loha Mandi ward No. 104 N, Karol Bagh (Rajinder Nagar, AC-39)	16600500	15352436	332000	XL-VIII-S(d) 1000/-	04 Months	05 Months	

All the circulars issued from time to time by MCD/North DMC up to the date of issue of this NIT shall be applicable. The detail of the tender can be seen at www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER.

RO No. 233/DPI/North/2019-20 EE (Pr)/KBZ

SALEM CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
TENDER POSTPONED

The Salem Smart City Limited has already issued a tender notification in THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS (DIPR/871/TENDER) for 3 Works on 13.02.2020. By the administrative reasons, the serial number 2 and 3 works tenders have been adjourned.

Commissioner, Salem Corporation.
DIPR/1126/TENDER/2020

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

e-TENDER NOTICE
(Tender ID: 2020_AAI_44274_1)

Airports Authority of India invites item rate tenders through the e-tendering portal by Asstt. General Manager (EE), AAI, NSCBI Airport, Kolkata on behalf of Chairman AAI from the eligible contractors for the work of "Rehabilitation work of 'K' - Taxi and some portion of 'A' - Taxi & Secondary Runway at NSCBI Airport Kolkata. SH : Electrical works" for an estimated cost of Rs. 1,18,33,924/- (excluding GST) with a period of completion 5 (Five) Months Last date and time of submission of bid document is 16.03.2020 upto 1800 hours. For detailed information log on to CPP e-procurement Portal reference <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> Further clarification / corrigendum if any will be notified through e-procurement portal at <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>.

Reference may please be made to the Global e-Tender for the "Supply of 33 Nos. Airfield Crash Fire Tenders of 10,000 Litres Water Tank Capacity with 07 year CAMC including 02 Year Guarantee Period for use at various Airports in India" published in the newspapers. In order to facilitate wider participation, the provision of "Make in India" has been incorporated in the ongoing Tender. The Last date for submission of Tender is also extended upto: 13.03.2020, 1600 hrs. IST. For further details please visit CPP Portal: <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> (N-116/2019-20)

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

GLOBAL e-Tender Notice (ID No. 2020_AAI_39818_1)

CORRIGENDUM

Reference may please be made to the Global e-Tender for the "Supply of 33 Nos. Airfield Crash Fire Tenders of 10,000 Litres Water Tank Capacity with 07 year CAMC including 02 Year Guarantee Period for use at various Airports in India" published in the newspapers. In order to facilitate wider participation, the provision of "Make in India" has been incorporated in the ongoing Tender. The Last date for submission of Tender is also extended upto: 13.03.2020, 1600 hrs. IST. For further details please visit CPP Portal: <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> (N-116/2019-20)

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
1st & Ground Floor, I.T. Bhawan, Mehli, Shimla -171 013
Tel. No. 0177-2623259
2623513, 2626320, 2623513 2623043,
FAX:0177-2626320
Website: www.hpsedc.in

No. HPSEDC/CC/ST/DSLRL/2K19- Date: 24.02.2020

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for procurement of DSLR Camerastor various Government organizations in the State. Last date for online e-bid submission is 20.03.2020 (upto 02.30 P.M.) and shall be opened on the next day on 21.03.2020 at 11.30 A.M. Detailed Tender Document containing Technical Specifications and Terms & Conditions are available on HPSEDC website: www.hpsedc.in and <https://hptenders.gov.in>.

General Manager (Technical)

0792/H.P.

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)

TENDER NOTICE

e-tenders are invited for the supply of following items

- Outsourcing of Cable Jointing/Termination Work, (2) Banking of Daily Earnings of Traffic & Electric Supply Branch for the period of 5 years,

Re-invited e-tenders

- 44795, (4) 45596, (5) 45998, (6) 46084, (7) 67285, (8) 44381, (9) 46085.

Note: For more details, at (Sr. Nos. 1 to 7) log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> & (8 & 9) www.besttender.com

PRO/AAM(M)/160/2020 GENERAL MANAGER

CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar
(Established by Parliament Act 16 of 1970)

Tender Notice

CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar is inviting Tender for following Equipments/Items :-

- Procurement of Double Chamber Vacuum Packaging Machine for the Department of Processing and Food Engineering, CCSHAU, Hisar.
- Purchase of Audio System for Smart Class (8 No.) under IDP Project, Director of Research, CCSHAU, Hisar.
- Purchase of BOD Incubator with Accessories (One) for office of DDUCE-OF.
- Purchase of Automated Cell Counter (One) for office of DDUCE-OF.
- Procurement of Digital Colorimeter for the Dept. of Processing and Food Engineering, CCSHAU, Hisar.
- Procurement of Super Seeder for the Department of FMPE, COAE&T.
- Procurement of Precision Seed Planter for the Department of FMPE, COAE&T.

For detail information and e-tendering schedule, please visit the website: <http://etenders.hry.nic.in> and University website: <http://hau.ac.in>.

Date of start of bid preparation and submission on 29.02.2020 (09:00 hours) and Closing on 20.03.2020 up to 17:00 hours. Opening of Technical Bid on 21.03.2020 at 10:00 AM. Opening of Financial Bid on 24.03.2020 at 10:00 AM.

- Note: 1. All Updates, Amendments, Corrigenda etc. (if any) will be posted only on the CCS HAU Website/Tender website. There will not be any publication of the same through Newspapers or any other Media.
2. Interested Bidders are advised to Deposit Bid Security/EMD on or before 48:00 hrs. of expiring Date and Time of Bid Online so as to get the payment verified.

Sd/-
Director (Store & Purchase)
CCSHAU, Hisar

80078/HRY

No. PR/Advt./48/09/Vol-VIII

HARYANA WAQF BOARD
(Established by Home and Administration of Justice Dept., Government of Haryana)
50, Sardar Patel Marg, Ambala Cantt. - 133001

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

The Haryana Waqf Board invites bids from the prospective lessees under Rule (6) of the Waqf Properties Lease Rules, 2014 as amended by the Waqf Properties Lease (Amendment) Rules, 2015 waqf properties located in Ambala, Gurugram, Sonapat, Faridabad, Rewari, Karnal, Hisar & Panchkula Circles of Haryana Waqf Board. Circle-wise details of these waqf properties, which includes nature of the property, location, area, purpose of lease, period of lease, reserve lease rent etc. are given in the table below.

Name of District	Sr. No. of Property	Kh. No./ M.C. No.	Area description & location of the waqf property	Location	Purpose of Lease	Period of lease	Reserve Lease Rent per Month/ per annum in Rs.	Reserve % for Increase in Lease Rent Per Annum	Earnest Money (20% annual reserve lease rent in Rs.)
Ambala	1	341	285 Sq. Yds.	5	Commercial	Three years	7450/- PM	5%	17880/-
	2	541, 542	285 Sq. Yds.	5	Commercial	Three years	7450/- PM	5%	17880/-
	3	3751/10	32 Sq. Yds.	5	Commercial (Shop)	Three years	2700/- PM	5%	6480/-
	4	Property No. 4651	8/0 Sq. Yds.	5	Commercial (Shop and Room)	Three years	10500/- PM	5%	25200/-
	5	Kh. Nos. 19/18/2, 19, 20/2, 21, 22, 23/2, 25 min, 27/6, 15, 16, 25, 28/10, 11, 12, 21/1, 29/1, 30/4, 5, 6, 7	113K-00M	27/6, 15, 16, 25, 28/10, 11, 12, 21/1, 29/1, 30/4, 5, 6, 7	5	Agriculture	Three years	2,62,206/- PA	5%
Gurugram	6	Kh. No. 317	08K-11M	6	Agriculture	Three years	17,100/- PA	5%	3420/-
	7	Kh. No. 205	832 Sq. Yds.	6	License	Three years	25,000/- PA	5%	5000/-
Sonapat	8	Kh. No. 198	566/36 Sq. Yds. (Comm. - 26/22 Sq. Yds. + Res. - 540/14 Sq. Yds.)	7	Residential	Three years	1200/- PM	5%	2880/-
	9	Kh. No. 137	600 Sq. Yds.	7	Residential	Three years	1500/- PM	5%	3600/-
Rewari	10	EP No. 406	24 Sq. Yds.	7	Commercial (Shop)	Three years	2000/- PM	5%	4800/-
	11	Kh. No. 539	142 Sq. Yds.	7	Residential	Three years	1500/- PM	5%	3600/-
Hisar	12	Kh. No. 3498 MC No. 1194	614 Sq. Yds. (111/44 Sq. Yds. - Comm. + 502 Sq. Yds. - Res.)	8	Commercial - cum - Residential	Three years	10,800/- PM	5%	25,920/-
	13	Kh. No. 3498 MC No. 1194	68.5 Sq. Yds.	8	Residential	Three years	5710/- PM	5%	13704/-
Panchkula	14	Kh. No. 30/25	164 Sq. Yds.	8	Commercial (7 Shops)	Three years	9500/- PM	5%	19,200/-
Total	14								

The Interested persons may enquire the terms & conditions of the bids from the concerned Estate Officers and may quote their rates for lease of waqf properties under Sealed Cover superscribing "Application for Bid of Waqf Property (Sr. No. of property mentioned in the advertisement)" shall be dropped by 11-03-2020 at 1.00 PM:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Circle/ District Waqf Office	Name of the Estate Officer	Address & Tel. No.
1.	Ambala	Sh. Ayaz Mehmood	District Waqf Office, Haryana Waqf Board, Dargah Sam Yawakali Shah, Sabzi Mandi, Ambala City, (M) 94616308786
2.	Gurugram	Shri Jamaaluddin	District Waqf Office, Haryana Waqf Board, Paltaudi Road, Near Police Chowk, Gurugram (M) 8168104813
3.	Sonapat	Shri Khurshid Ahmed	H. No. 524/24, Mission Road, Sonapat, (M) 9466114973
4.	Faridabad	Shri Shamsher Ahmed	District Waqf Office, Haryana Waqf Board, Idgah, Sector-6, Faridabad (M) 9466114960
5.	Rewari	Shri Waseem Ahmed	District Waqf Office, Haryana Waqf Board, Jama Masjid, H. No. 1314, Mohalla Maharwara, Rewari, (M) 9467634986
6.	Karnal	Shri Abdul Jabbar	District Waqf Office, Haryana Waqf Board, Dargah Qalandar Chowk, Karnal (M) 9466113786
7.	Hisar	Sh. Ishaq Khan	District Waqf Office, Haryana Waqf Board, Krishna Colony, Opposite SP Residence, Hisar (M) 9466114972
8.	Panchkula	Sh. Mohd. Arif	District Waqf Office, Haryana Waqf Board, Jama Masjid, Sector-21, Panchkula

The bids will be opened on the same day i.e. 11-03-2020 at 2.00 PM in the above mentioned District Waqf Offices in presence of the bidders present, if any. Separate bid shall be submitted for each waqf property of each circle. Each bid shall mention reserve lease rent and also percentage of annual increase.

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer
Haryana Waqf Board

80078/HRY

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
P.W.D. (B&R) AMBIKAPUR CIRCLE AMBIKAPUR

Invitation Date : 24.02.2020

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

- Earnest Money and Tender form fees should be paid in favour of Executive Engineer of concerned Division.
- For tender detail please visit <http://cg.nic.in/pwdraipur>

S. No.	N.I.T. No.	Name of work	P.A.C. in lacs	Cocerned Division	No. of invited Call	Capable Contractor	Bid Due Date
1	262	OLS Survey as per DGCA requirements for Code 3C-VFR in Ambikapur airport Distt. Surguja C.G. (Around the Airport Area Complete)	10.00	Ambikapur	Second Call	Survey Agencies empanelled By AAI	11.03.2020

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer

P.W.D. Ambikapur Circle Ambikapur

77317

Himachal Pradesh.

E-TENDER NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES, UDYOG BHAWAN, BEMLOE, SHIMLA-171001

E-TENDER NOTICE NUMBER: 03/2019-2020(SP)

Official Website: www.emerginghimachal.hp.gov.in, TELE/FAX No. 0177-2812613, E-mail ID: tenders-ind-hp@nic.in

Tenders bids are electronically invited for the supply of following stores items up to 10:30AM on the dates referred against each item and will be opened on same date at 11:00AM. If the opening date happens to be a closed day then the tenders will be opened on the next working day.

The descriptions given below are in brief. The Complete details including tender form, tender schedules (referred in e-tendering as Bill of Quantity) and terms & conditions will be available for downloading from 03.03.2020 at 05.00 PM onwards from website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. The bid shall be filled in electronic format on the schedule-"A" (BOQ) of the concerned item on the website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. The cost of tender form Rs.500/-per set which is non-refundable and Earnest Money shall be submitted in the tender(s) by using of net banking/ RTGS & NEFT modes of payments only.

S. No.	Item code	Name of item	Who can participate in the tender	Date of opening of tender
1.	C-01	Acids & Chemicals	Only Manufacturers can participate.	24-03-2020
2	M-118	Gabion Boxes & Gabion Mattresses	Only Manufacturers can participate.	24-03-2020
3	T-05	Jute Mat (Darrie Patti)	Manufacturers/ Authorized Dealers can participate.	24-03-2020
4	M-124	Water Proofing Material	Only Manufacturers can participate.	24-03-2020
5	M-118(01)	Mechanically Gabion Boxes (Mechanical Woven, Double Twisted, Hexagonal Mesh Gabions)	Only Manufacturers can participate.	25-03-2020
6	M-27	Agriculture Machinery	Only Manufacturers can participate.	25-03-2020
7	M-28	Agriculture Implements/Tools	Only Manufacturers can participate.	25-03-2020
8	M-29	Agriculture Equipments (Storage Bins and Atla Boxes)	Only Manufacturers can participate.	26-03-2020
9	M-30(01)	Road & Forest Tools	Only Manufacturers can participate.	26-03-2020
10	E-18	Electric Motor (ISI Marked)	Only Manufacturers can participate.	26-03-2020
11	M-43	Sheet Metal Products	Only Manufacturers can participate.	27-03-2020
12	C-40	HDPE Water Storage Tanks (ISI Marked)	Only Manufacturers can participate.	27-03-2020
13	C-33	High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Pipes (ISI Marked)	Only Manufacturers can participate.	27-03-2020
14	M-02	Mild Steel Wire for General Engineering purpose as per IS: 280-2006 (ISI Marked)	Only Manufacturers can participate.	27-03-2020
15	M-03	Barbed wire and U-Nail Staples (ISI Marked)	Only Manufacturers can participate.	28-03-2020
16	M-30(02)	Interlink Chain (ISI Marked)	Only Manufacturers can participate.	28-03-2020
17	M-61(02)	Highway Guard Rail System (Crash Barrier)	Manufacturers/ Authorized Dealers can participate.	28-03-2020
18	M-127	Bicycle	Only Manufacturers can participate.	28-03-2020
19	M-127(01)	Induction Heater	Manufacturers/ Authorized Dealers can participate.	30-03-2020
20	M-08	Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) Pipes & Collars (ISI Marked)	Only Manufacturers can participate.	30-03-2020
21	M-58	Fire Fighting Equipments	Manufacturers/ Authorized Dealers can participate.	30-03-2020
22	M-116	L.P Gas Infrared Heater	Manufacturers/ Authorized Dealers can participate.	30-03-2020
23	E-(06)	Electric Appliances	Manufacturers/ Authorized Dealers can participate.	31-03-2020
24	M-78	Tread Rubber Tyre Retreading	Only Manufacturers can participate.	31-03-2020
25				

KARNATAKA SEDITION CASE AGAINST KASHMIRI STUDENTS

Preventing lawyers from representing accused to be seen as contempt: HC

JOHNSON T A BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 27

THE KARNATAKA High Court on Thursday said preventing advocates from representing three Kashmiri students accused of sedition will be treated as contempt of court.

Basit Aashiq Sofi, Talib Majeed and Amir Mohiuddin Wani, who are pursuing an engineering course at a college in Hubballi, were arrested on February 15 and charged with sedition over a video in which they were purportedly heard singing along a song that had the words "Pakistan Zindabad". Since their arrest, they have been unable to file a bail plea owing to a resolution by the local Bar association that no lawyer will represent them. Lawyers who tried to file a plea

on behalf of the youths were prevented from doing so by other lawyers, despite a February 20 high court direction.

"If a situation is created and accused cannot be represented it will affect the image of the entire judicial system of the state. Ensure normalcy that is seen any other day in the court and let bail application be taken up like any other bail application," a division bench of the high court featuring Chief Justice Abhay Chandra Sreenivas and Justice Hemant Chandangoudar said on Thursday after summoning office bearers of Hubballi Bar Association. The office bearers informed the high court that they would pass resolutions cancelling a February 15 resolution barring lawyers from representing the three Kashmiri youths.

The court observed that if the situation persisted, police would have to pro-

vide a report of lawyers who prevent defence lawyers from appearing in court. Preventing advocates from representing the accused "will be treated as contempt of court", Justice Oka said. "In view of the gesture of the members of the bar association, I am sure there will be no difficulty for advocates to represent accused in the case. However, considering the fact that despite the arrest on February 15, no bail petition could be filed, we continue order extending police protection for lawyers while filing their plea on Friday," the court stated.

On February 20, the high court quoted the Supreme Court order in AS Mohammedi Rafi vs State of Tamil Nadu case and said resolutions opposing representation as "passed by the Bar Associations are wholly illegal" and against traditions of the Bar and professional ethics.

Gadkari praises Savarkar's nationalism, warns against fundamentalism

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

UNION MINISTER Nitin Gadkari on Thursday praised V D Savarkar's nationalism and warned that if fundamentalists continue to gain power, socialism, democracy, or secularism will not survive.

Speaking at an event organised by Savarkar Darshan Prasthithan for promotion of literature on Savarkar's ideas, Gadkari said, "If we do not respect the nationalism of Savarkar today, then we have seen the division of this country once... The way conversions have happened in the world and fundamentalists have got the reins of power... if that keeps happening then neither socialism, nor

democracy, nor secularism will survive," he said.

Quoting former RSS chief Balasaheb Deoras, he said, "Balasaheb Deoras had said once in his speech that whichever country has 51 per cent Muslims has no democracy, no socialism and no secularism. There are multiple examples of majority Muslim nations to prove this, from Pakistan to Turkey." However, he noted that there were many "progressive" Muslims who needed to be supported. "They want education to spread. But such Muslims are in a minority. In Pakistan such people get killed. But there is also Bangladesh, which is very different. We must support progressive and liberal Muslims across the world," Gadkari said.

Coronavirus: 124 evacuated from Japan

New Delhi: As many as 124 people, including 119 Indian citizens and five nationals from Sri Lanka, Nepal, South Africa and Peru, have been evacuated from Japan by an Air India flight. All of them were quarantined onboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship at Yokohama after a person who disembarked in Hong Kong in January was diagnosed with a coronavirus infection.

Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said, "Of the 138 Indian nationals on board of cruise ship Diamond Princess, 119 out of 122 who were tested and found negative as per latest PCR test have been brought back. Three Indian nationals opted not to come back," he said, adding that the 16 others who tested positive are being treated at hospitals in Japan.

He said that in view of the evolving situation, in addition to the previous travel advisories, additional instructions have been issued.

Indians have been advised to avoid all non-essential travel to Singapore, Republic of Korea, Iran and Italy. Also, people coming from Republic of Korea, Iran and Italy or having such travel history since February 10, 2020 may be quarantined for 14 days on arrival to India.

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD INVITATION OF BIDS - TWO COVER - ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM

PRAYAGRAJ MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 1-Sarojini Naidu Marg, Civil Lines, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh-211001 NOTICE INVITING EOI FOR SETTING UP PROCESSING PLANT OF 100 TPD CAPACITY FOR C&D WASTE MATERIAL IN PRAYAGRAJ VIA EPC FINANCING MODE

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय उत्तर प्रदेश प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड कमल सिलेमा बिल्डिंग, रेलवे स्टेशन रोड, मुजफ्फरनगर

MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI EA Notice no. 19/EA/2019-20 Dated: 25.02.2020 e-AUCTION NOTICE NO-19

Municipal Corporation Kota (Rajasthan) Rajeev Gandhi Bhawan Dushera Ground Kota Tel Ph. No. : 0744-2500197, Email : nnkota@gmail.com, website : www.kotamc.org

Dalit dies in custody, family alleges murder

DEEP MUKHERJEE JAIPUR, FEBRUARY 27

A 26-YEAR-OLD Dalit man from Barmer district of Rajasthan died in police custody Thursday. His family members have accused police of murdering him.

SHO of the police station where Jitendra Khatik was kept has been suspended and staff of the police station have been sent to the lines, said officials. Officials said a case of murder has been registered against the SHO and others on the basis of a complaint by Khatik's family.

"We run a scrap shop. Yesterday, officials from Barmer rural police station took my brother after accusing him of possessing stolen goods. When we went to the police station, Jitu told us to take him home," said his brother Champalal. He said that when they went to the police station Thursday, they were not allowed to meet Khatik. "We were waiting when police said he is ill and told us to take him to the hospital. Doctors declared him dead," said Champalal.

"Police murdered my nephew... He was beaten up so badly that he died in the police station," alleged Khatik's uncle Manglilal.

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FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

AN EXPERT EXPLAINS

US ANTI-LYNCHING BILL: WHY NEEDED, HOW PREVIOUS EFFORTS HAD FAILED

ON WEDNESDAY, the US House of Representatives passed an anti-lynching Bill called the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, which makes lynching a federal hate crime punishable by up to a life term in prison, a fine or both. Murder used to be an offence usually prosecuted at the state or local level. The new law, which will make lynching a federal offence, is the result of a century of efforts in the wake of incidents of lynching in which the victims have been primarily African-Americans. The House passed the Bill with an overwhelming majority of 410-4. The Senate had passed a version called the Justice for Victims of Lynching Act last year. Once the Bills are formally reconciled, the legislation can be sent to the Oval Office, where President Trump is expected to sign it into law, according to *The New York Times*.

Long history

The Bill notes that between 1882 and 1968, at least 4,700 people, predominantly African-Americans were reportedly lynched in the United States, and that 99% of the perpetrators of these lynchings were not punished.

Yet, since 1918, of the more than 200 anti-lynching Bills introduced in the US Congress, none had been passed until the current legislation. The 1918 Bill had been introduced by Representative Leonidas C Dyer, "to protect citizens of the United States against lynching in default of protection by the States". It was Dyer's Bill that provided the blueprint for subsequent anti-lynching measures by the National Association for the

Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). But in Congress, the legislation was "displaced by the indifference of its friends and the strategy of its enemies", a US government website quotes historian Robert Zangrando as saying. All such Bills were "consistently blocked, shelved or ignored, and the passage of time has rendered anti-lynching legislation increasingly symbolic", *The NYT* said.

Who was Emmett Till

Representative Bobby Rush, the Democrat representative who introduced the Bill in the House, said in a statement: "Being from Chicago, the death of Emmett Till sent shockwaves through my community and personally affected me and my family. However, his death would not be in vain, for it was the spark that ignited the long arc of the civil rights movement, leading us to this very moment."

Emmett Till was 14 years old when he was lynched in Mississippi in 1955. Visiting relatives in Mississippi, Till and cousins had gone to a grocery store where he is said to have whistled at a white woman, Carolyn Bryant. Later, Bryant's husband and brother-in-law kidnapped Till, beat him up and shot him. NAACP issued a statement saying it found Till's "mangled corpse, with a seventy-five-pound cotton fan tied to the neck" from the bottom of the Tallahatchie river on August 31, 1955. Photographs were circulated nationwide and resulted in an uproar for change and for an end to discrimination.

Later, Bryant's husband and brother-in-law were later acquitted of the charges against them. The jury was all-white.



C RAJA MOHAN

NOT SINCE the 1950s has India serenaded a foreign leader with such gusto as the US President Donald Trump this week. This in spite of the fact that none of India's major power relations have been as deeply contested and controversial as those with the United States.

If public rallies with visiting leaders are a rarity now, they were the norm during the 1950s, when large crowds joined Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in welcoming world leaders like Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai, the Russian leader Nikita Khrushchev, and US President Dwight Eisenhower.

The receptions of the 1950s were about exploring newly sovereign India's international possibilities. The historic welcome to Trump was about ending the residual domestic reservations in India about partnering with the US.

The attention and warmth showered on Trump at Motera and Delhi marks a definitive turn in India's thinking about America. Despite much progress over the last two decades, distrust of the US was entrenched in the bureaucracy, the political class, and the intelligentsia.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent predecessors, including P V Narasimha Rao, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and Manmohan Singh, were all eager to transform the relationship with the US, but ran into deep internal resistance against even the simplest forms of co-operation with Washington.

Security partnership with the US in particular was, by mainstream definition, a deviation from the foreign policy canon. What was perfectly all right with Russia or China was just not kosher with America. Put another way, collaboration with Russia and China was "progressive" and partnership with the US was "regressive".

Modi has finally broken through that systemic prejudice against the engagement with the US.

In his address to the US Congress in the summer of 2016, Modi had claimed that India's "historic hesitations" with the US were over. If that was a declaration of intent, Motera

was a demonstration of that transition. Modi's affirmation that the US was the most important relationship for India was based on the fact that there is a new level of trust between Delhi and Washington. This was the key to overcome India's past inhibitions about partnering with the US. It is this new trust that let Modi go all out to publicly flaunt the new possibilities with America.

Sceptics will continue to argue that India tends to be emotional about its international friendships. They might recall the intensity of India's fellowship with China in the 1950s — marked by the slogan "Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai". That sentiment came crashing down in less than a decade amidst the structural contradictions between the two nations on Tibet, territory, and a host of other issues.

Modi's strategic embrace of Trump looks quite similar to India's enthusiasm for Soviet Russia during the Cold War. Although no one tagged it as "Hindi-Russi, Bhai-Bhai", the Russian partnership was quite central to India's foreign policy for decades.

Trump's visit this week should remind us of the extended travels through India by the Secretary of the Communist Party of the

Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev, and Prime Minister Nikolai Bulganin in 1955. As the two Russian leaders travelled across the nation from Ooty in Tamil Nadu to Srinagar, massive crowds showed up everywhere.

As Soviet Russia tried to break away from international isolation in the mid 1950s, its leaders were delighted by the affection they received in India. Trump too, appeared touched by the huge turnout at Motera.

Trump's visit is also similar to Khrushchev's in the signalling the visitors did on Kashmir. In their public meeting in Srinagar, the Russian leaders proclaimed their strong support for India's stand on Kashmir at a time when the Anglo-American powers were trying to put pressure on India at the UNSC. Nothing developed trust between Delhi and Moscow more than the frequent Russian veto at the UNSC on Kashmir.

In the obsession with Trump's talk on mediation, the Indian discourse misses the extraordinary support that Delhi has received from Trump's White House on the Kashmir question and on pressing Pakistan to stop cross-border terrorism.

America's support was critical in fending

Reading the Trump visit

Modi has broken through systemic prejudice against US engagement. But an India at war with itself can't take advantage of the possibilities presented by the 'Hindi-Amreeki, Bhai-Bhai' phase in the relationship



PM Modi and President Trump at Sabarmati Ashram on Monday, White House

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America's support was critical in fending

off the Pakistani effort to get the UNSC to discuss Kashmir after India changed the constitutional status of the state last August. It was also crucial in sustaining the pressure on Pakistan at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Even more important is Trump's implicit endorsement of Modi's recasting of the Kashmir question. Since August, the US has not questioned the constitutional change in Kashmir.

That the American backing has come amidst China's support for Pakistan on Kashmir and protection against international action on terrorism, is one part of the unfolding story of the India-US alignment. The other is about China itself.

If support on Kashmir brought Soviet Russia closer to India in the 1950s, the rift between Moscow and Beijing in the 1960s consolidated the Indo-Soviet partnership. Today the deepening schism between Washington and Beijing and the growing imbalance between India and China have set the stage for Delhi and Washington to work together to stabilise the Asian balance of power.

To be sure, this theme has been in the background for the last two decades as Presidents George Bush and Barack Obama reached out to India. But it is under Trump that the Indo-Pacific strategy was formalised and Washington has ended its own ambivalences in cooperating with India on a range of issues, from technology transfers to Kashmir and terrorism.

Unlike the leaders of many of America's traditional allies, who tended to treat Trump as an American political aberration, Modi saw significant possibilities in the President's "America First" approach that opened up space for India in the subcontinent, the Indo-Pacific, and on security and defence cooperation.

Unlike many of America's friends, the Modi government was willing to take some political risks in appearing to endorse Trump's reelection at the 'Howdy, Modi' rally last September in Houston. This has certainly generated some bad blood with the opposition Democrats in the US. But the real threat to the deeper partnership comes not from Washington, but Delhi. An India at war with itself can hardly take advantage of the huge possibilities presented by the 'Hindi-Amreeki, Bhai-Bhai' phase in the US relationship.

(The writer is Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for *The Indian Express*)

THIS WORD MEANS

MINI-MOON

A 'second moon' has been discovered, orbiting Earth. Actually an asteroid, it will break free at one point.

ASTRONOMERS HAVE observed a small object orbiting Earth, which they have dubbed a "mini-moon" or the planet's "second moon". It is actually an asteroid, about the size of a car; its diameter is about 1.9-3.5 m. And unlike our permanent Moon, the mini-moon is temporary; it will eventually break free of Earth's orbit and go off on its own way.

Dubbed 2020 CD3, the mini-moon was discovered by Kacper Wierzbach and Teddy Pruyne of the NASA-funded Catalina Sky Survey (CSS) in Arizona on the night of February 15. The Minor Planet Center of the International Astronomical Union acknowledged the discovery: "Orbit integrations indicate that this object is temporarily bound to the Earth... Further observations and dynamical studies are strongly encouraged."

When an asteroid's orbit crosses Earth's orbit, it can sometimes be captured into the latter orbit. This is what happened with 2020 CD3. It is now orbiting at a distance farther from Earth. Such an asteroid is called a Temporarily Captured Object (TCO). The orbit of such objects is unstable. They have to contend with the gravitational influence of our permanent Moon as well as that of the Sun. Once caught in Earth's orbit, such ob-



Simulation of the orbit of "mini moon" 2020 CD3. The thick white band is the orbit of our permanent Moon. Astronomer Tony Dunn/Twitter

jects usually remain for a few years before they break free and go into independent orbit around the Sun.

According to the researchers, 2020 CD3 was captured into Earth's orbit over three years ago. For CSS, it is only the second such discovery. It previously discovered 2006 RH120, which orbited Earth for some time that year, before it escaped in 2007.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

THE UNITED States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has said the world is "on the cusp of a [coronavirus] pandemic", and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the country's primary federal agency responsible for tracking and responding to outbreaks of disease, believes that a pandemic is now "not so much a question of if... but rather more a question of when".

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and other health authorities have so far been referring only to a COVID-19 "outbreak", which WHO on January 30 declared was a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern".

DEFINITIONS: While an outbreak is understood to be a sudden rise in the cases of a disease in a particular place, and an epidemic as a large outbreak among a particular population or region (such as the current situation in China), a pandemic, according to the WHO,

is "the worldwide spread of a new disease".

On February 24, Dr Michael J Ryan, a senior WHO official, told reporters that the word "pandemic comes from the Greek 'pandemos', which means everybody", CNN reported. "Demos means the population. Pan meaning everyone. So 'pandemos' is a concept where there's a belief that the whole world's population will likely be exposed to this infection and potentially a proportion of them fall sick," Dr Ryan said.

While the WHO looks for sustained outbreaks causing a larger-than-expected number of cases on multiple continents, there is no specific number of countries that a disease must touch for WHO to classify it as a pandemic. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of WHO, has said that COVID-19 isn't a pandemic yet.

"Does this virus have pandemic potential? Absolutely, it has. Are we there yet? From our assessment, not yet," he said. "We are not witnessing uncontained global spread of the virus, [therefore] using the word pandemic does not fit the facts."

SPREAD: The novel coronavirus disease that emerged in Wuhan, China, in the final days of last year, is now in at least 47 countries around the world, spanning every continent except Antarctica. More than 82,000 people have been infected, and over 2,800 are dead. On Thursday, Saudi Arabia, for the first time in living memory, suspended pilgrimages to Mecca and Medina for people outside the country. Japan has shut all schools until April, and the Olympic Games, scheduled to begin in Tokyo on July 24, are in danger of being cancelled.

Infections have been confirmed in countries from Brazil to Sweden, Canada to Australia. Iran has confirmed 26 deaths, South Korea 13, Italy 12, Estonia, Norway, Denmark, and Romania have reported their first cases, and in two new cases in the UK, the infection has been traced to places as far apart as Italy and the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean.

SEMANTICS: Many experts believe that irrespective whether the WHO makes a formal "declaration", a pandemic is in effect already upon us. CNN quoted Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, as saying there was no definitive definition of what constitutes a pandemic, it "means different things to different people", and "it really is borderline semantics". Commentators have pointed out that declaring a pandemic will not bring in more money to fight the disease or bestow extra powers on the WHO.

In June 2009, the WHO declared a global pandemic of novel influenza A (H1N1), commonly known as swine flu. The WHO has abandoned that system of classification now, even though the term pandemic can still be used "colloquially". Spokesperson Tarik Jasarevic told CNN that "groups in various organisations are working to define pandemic for this novel virus, which could take some time". The WHO continues to advise countries "to enact plans based on national risk assessments of local circumstances, taking into consideration the information provided by WHO's global assessments", CNN quoted Jasarevic as saying.

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Why it's a leap year, and why our great-grandparents skipped one of them

KABIR FIRAQUE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

FRIDAY IS February 29, a date that comes approximately once every four years. Approximately, not exactly, for there are exceptions to the leap year's cycle of four years.

Rules and exceptions

Leap years are always multiples of four — 2016, 2020, 2024 — but a year that is a multiple of four is not always a leap year. There are exceptions, such as 1900 and 2100, both multiples of four, yet neither a leap year.

A year ending with 00 is obviously a multiple of four, but is usually not a leap year. These are the exceptions. But again, there are exceptions to such exceptions. For example, 2000 ended with 00 but remained a leap year. As a result, many people alive today — except some who are very young — are likely to spend their lifetimes

without skipping a leap year. Our ancestors skipped a leap year in 1900, while our descendants will skip one in 2100.

What is the reasoning behind the rule for leap years, the exceptions to the rule, and the exceptions to the exceptions?

Why have leap years

Our solar calendar is supposed to reflect one orbit of Earth around the Sun. This helps in anticipating the seasons, maintaining crop cycles, setting school schedules, etc.

Earth takes 365 days and a few hours to orbit the Sun, which is why a year is usually 365 days long. The actual period of the orbit is close to (not exactly) 365 days and 6 hours, which means that the calendar year is about 6 hours shorter than the actual solar year. To compensate, we have leap years.

The leap year was introduced by scholars engaged by Julius Caesar in 46 BC, and made more precise from 12 AD. The reasoning went thus: if the calendar year is 365

days long, it is missing 6 hours. These 6 hours keep adding up, year after year. By the end of 4 years, the calendar years will have missed a total of 24 hours, or one full day. So, why not add an extra day once every four years, the scholars reasoned.

Thus, the Julian calendar had a year that was usually 365 days long, with a 366th day

added once every four years. It appeared to make sense. Only, it was never going to work in the long run.

This is because 365 days and 6 hours is an approximation. It is a very small approximation, but even these tiny errors were going to add up one day.

The errors pile up

To be more precise than earlier, Earth completes one orbit in 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds. However, with three years of 365 days and one leap year of 366 days, the average length of a year in the Julian calendar was 365 days and 6 hours. This was longer, if ever slightly so, than 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds.

In effect, the leap year formula was an overcompensation. Leap years were introduced because the calendar year was short, but they ended up making the average calendar year longer than the solar year. The difference: a small matter of 11 minutes and

14 seconds.

Minute by minute, second by second, the errors piled up, year after year, century after century. In the 16th century, it was calculated that the calendar years until then had accumulated 10 extra days. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII ordered a drastic compensation by dropping 10 days from the calendar, and October 4 that year was followed by October 15 the very next day.

The need was for further reform, so that the minutes and seconds would not accumulate again in the future. The obvious thing to do was to reduce some leap years — about one leap year every century. And the obvious candidates were the years ending with 00. But if all "00 years" ceased to be leap years, calculations showed, it would result in another over-compensation. Therefore, some "00 years" needed to remain leap years.

Eventually, the reform led to the Gregorian calendar, which we follow today.

The formula:

■ A year that is a multiple of 4 is a leap year; except:

■ A year ending with 00 is not a leap year; except:

■ A "00 year" in which 00 is preceded by a multiple of 4 (1600, 2000, 2400 etc) remains a leap year.

That is why 1900 are 2100 are not leap years, but 2000 is one.

Is that it, finally?

It can never be perfect. We try to clock the Earth's orbit precisely down to the last second, yet we follow a calendar with a whole number of days. The calendar today is about 26 seconds off from Earth's orbital period, which adds up to one full day in 3,320 years.

There have been proposals for a future correction — remove a leap year once every 4,000 years, or once every 3,200 years. Years 3200 and 4000, however, are still a long way away. As of 2020, not everyone is bothered.

