

## Youth who helped, sheltered Pulwama bomber arrested: NIA

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

SIGNALLING A major breakthrough in the Pulwama terror case, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said Friday that it has arrested a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) operative who allegedly tracked movement of security convoys and helped assemble the bomb used in the attack that killed 40 CRPF personnel in February last year.

NIA identified the alleged operative as Shakir Bashir Magrey, a 22-year-old furniture shop owner from Pulwama. NIA sources said Magrey allegedly drove the bomb-laden car till 500 m from



He tracked CRPF convoy, drove car till near site: NIA

the attack site before handing it over to Adil Ahmed Dar, who was identified by the agency as the suicide bomber.

Magrey was produced before the NIA Special Court in Jammu **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## AMIT SHAH ASKED FOR IT IN DELHI POLL CAMPAIGN

# AAP rethink: Kanhaiya, nine others to face sedition trial

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

SEVEN MONTHS after its standing counsel advised against prosecution sanction to Delhi Police in the 2016 JNU sedition case against former JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar and nine others, the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP government has given police the go-ahead.



Kanhaiya calls for speedy trial

In an order Thursday, the Deputy Secretary (Home) stated: "Whereas on perusal of the chargesheet under Sections 124-A and 120-B IPC at Vasant Kunj (North) police station, and

on consideration of the allegations made in case, and other material and evidences placed on record, it appears to the government of NCT of Delhi that the accused, Kanhaiya Kumar, Syed Umar Khalid, Anirban Bhattacharya, Aquib Hussain, Mujeed Hussain Gattoo, Muneeb Hussain Gattoo, Umair Gul, Rayees Rasool, Basharat Ali and Khalid Bashir Bhat, have prima facie committed an **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** AAP's nationalism pitch

THE PROSECUTION sanction, coming as it does after its comprehensive electoral win in Delhi, signals AAP's recalibration of politics around nationalism.

### REAL ESTATE GUIDE

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## In Chhattisgarh, war breaks out: Cong vs BJP, state vs I-T

GARGI VERMA  
RAIPUR, FEBRUARY 28

THE INCOME Tax department conducted searches at more than 50 locations in Chhattisgarh, including premises of senior IAS officials, Deputy Secretary to the Chief Minister and the Mayor of Raipur, on Thursday and Friday.

The ongoing searches have unsettled the state bureaucracy and increased tensions between the ruling Congress and the Opposition BJP, each accusing the other of corruption and vengeful politics.

Income Tax teams, sources said, are being assisted by CRPF **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

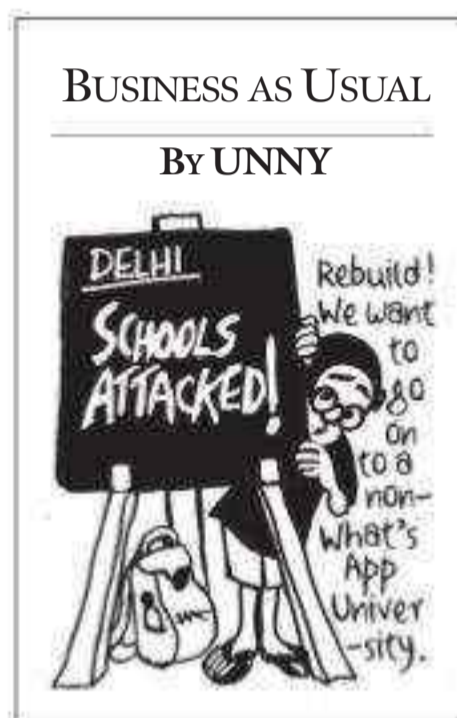
## 60-year-old man beaten to death, Delhi toll rises to 42

123 FIRs filed, 630 detained, 47 peace meets in affected areas

SUKRITA BARUAH & AMIL BHATNAGAR  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

THE DEATH TOLL in the violence that broke out in northeast Delhi five days ago reached 42 after a 60-year-old man was beaten to death in Shiv Vihar early Friday morning, despite heavy police deployment in the area.

According to police, 123 FIRs have been filed so far following the violence in the area, 630 people detained and 47 peace committee meetings held in affected localities. "We have controlled



the situation in northeast Delhi," Additional CP M S Randhawa told reporters.

Police identified Friday's victim as Ayub Ansari, a scrap collector and resident of Loni in **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Video showed men being made to sing anthem, one is now dead

SOMYA LAKHANI  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

A 24-YEAR-OLD man, seen lying injured on the ground in a video clip which also has men in police gear telling him and four others to sing the national anthem and Vande Mataram, has died of injuries.

The video began circulating Tuesday and families of two other men seen in the clip told *The Indian Express* that it was shot at Kardam Puri Monday evening when police were **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Third quarter GDP growth slows down to 4.7 per cent

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

THE COUNTRY'S Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate slumped to a 27-quarter low of 4.7 per cent in October-December even as the government retained the 2019-20 forecast at 5.0 per cent, an 11-year low, in the second advance estimate released by National Statistical Office (NSO) Friday.

The slowdown in GDP **CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**

### ECONOMY

SENSEX CRASHES 1,448 POINTS **PAGE 21**

## Foreign Secy dashes to Kabul as Taliban, US sign pact today

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 28

A DAY ahead of the signing of a peace pact between the US and Taliban in Doha, the government Friday sent Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla to Kabul where he conveyed "India's support to the government and the people of Afghanistan" in their efforts to bring "peace and stability through an inclusive & Afghan-led, Afghan-owned & Afghan-controlled efforts".

Shringla told President Ashraf Ghani that India stands with Afghanistan for "strengthening national unity, territorial integrity, democracy, plurality and prosperity" in the country and bringing an "end to externally sponsored terrorism", MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said — "externally sponsored ter-



Afghan policemen keep watch in Kabul, Friday. Reuters

rorism" is a reference to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

Besides Ghani, the Foreign Secretary also met Afghanistan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, First Vice President-elect Amrullah Saleh, Acting Foreign Minister Haroon Chakhansuri and National Security Advisor Hamdullah Mohib. Essentially, he is meeting **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**