# Weekend Business Standard 



AJAY TYAGI GETS 6-MTH EXTENSION AS SEBI CHAIRMAN

back page pro
Delhi death toll at 42 as city searches for peace has gone up to to 42 with four more fatalities
being recorded atthe city's $G$ TBB Hospital on
Friday, fficials said. The enumberstood at 38
till Thursday. More than 250 people were fill Thursday. More than 250 people were
injured and 148 firstinformation reports injured and 148 first information reports

## BS

ON SATURDAY WEEKEND RUMINATIONS Looking beyond green shoots While growth will bounce back from the
current sub- 5 per cent, it will stay lower average of 6.6 per cent, if long-neglected
tasks remain unaddressed, writes TN NINAN NATIONALINTEREST Root of a riot on the root caus ofthe reminder to reflect toxifying India. Unfortunately, it comes the Supreme Court. SHEEKARGUYTA planrites ECONOMY \& PUBLIC AFFAIRS P6 Telcos to wait as DCC fails to decide on AGR relief
$\qquad$
remained inconclusive on Friday over data Telecommunications (DoT) said.
companys P2
Ready for BS-VII roll-out on April 1: Indian Oil
Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) on Friday said the
company would meet the Aprild dadlline for
introducing SS-VI emission norms. The firm expected the issue of price hike for the Theaner rue to be settled before the roll-out. Petroleum and dilidustan Petroleum - h have
spent $¥ 35,000$ crore on refinery upgrade.

COMPANIES
India ahead of US with fewer FDA warnings drug regulator for Indian pharma is a long-term data shows that Indian sites have received few warning letters from the US

back page pro
IN TIMES OF DISTRUST, TOUGH
TASK FOR CENSUS SURVEYORS

UK FAST-TRACKS VISA PROCESS FORTHE BRIGHTESTAND BEST

## Black Friday for markets



Aviation firms rejig routes as skies shrink


Indigo, SpiceJet, Air In
flights to Saudi Arabia
Vistara faces challenge on launching its Tokyo flight, its first wide-body aircraft destination, Airlines Airlines may postpone launch of flights to destinations like Dammam and Ras Al Khaimah Shares of IndiGo and SpiceJet plunged $4.8 \%$ and $4.7 \%$, respectively on Friday

## ARINDAM MAUUMDER \& ANEESH PHADNIS

 New Delhimumbai, 28 februaryFor Tata-Singapore Airlines joint venture
Vistara, the deployment of the first
Boeing 787 Dreamliner is a milestone in
its journey. Medium and long-haul
international flights mark the second
phase of growth forthe airline, which has
faced severe challenges from low-cost
airlines in the domestic market. But
Vistara finds itselfcornered as Japan, the
airline's long-planned maiden
destination with Dreamliner, is
increasingly feelingthe coronavirusheat.
Industry executives say that with
Japan declaring a state of emergency,
bookings may be hit for the carrier though the route launch is more than a
month away.
"It seems a little worrying but by April "It seems a little worrying but by April
or May with the sun coming out in full or May with the sun coming out in full
force, I think the situation will improve," Vn airline executive said.
Vistarcelled 20 flights between Delhi and Bangkok and eight between
and Singapore


## GDP growth

 slowstonear 7-yr low in Q3 Growth at $4.7 \%$ as investments slump ABHISHEK WAGHMARE
quarters (Q2 and Q 3 )
respectively.
Responding

## 2

 FISCAL DEFICIT AT 128.5\%
OF FY20 TARGET itive growth in cores secto PAGE 4 manufacturing sector

Interestingly, the GDP estimates for FY19 have been revis ates fort significantly, pushing up quarterly growth esti mates for the current financial year.
'STEADINESS' IN ECONOMY ISA GOOD SIGN: SITHARAMAN

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## Lenders to seekfresh bidsfor Lavasa in debt resolution reset

| DEV CHATTERJEE \& RA Mumbai, 28 February <br> The lenders to Lavasa Corporation - the company developing a hill city near Pune - will invite fresh bids for the debt-laden firm and its 49 subsidiaries, after the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) decided to have a single consolidated resolution plan for all of them. <br> Lavasa and its subsidiaries defaulted on their debt obligations totalling about $₹ 7,700$ crore, which led the lenders to send the company to the NCLT for debt resolution in August 2018. <br> "All the previous bidders for Lavasa may not have the financial strength to take over Lavasa and its subsidiaries at the same time. Hence, the lenders have decided to call fresh bids from anyone who is interested in taking over the entire township along with its infrastructure," said a source close to the development. Several compa- |
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| DELAYED RESOLUTIO |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2018 | 2019 |
| AUG: Lavasa sent for debt resolution by lenders | May:Thr compani submit |
| Nov: Eols invited from potential bidders | solidation of Lavasa firms |
| 2020 <br> Jan: Oberoi Realty, US fund Interups join race | Feb: NCLT all Lavasa com |

[^0]The court was also told that duue to the symbi-
otic relationshis with the parent several of otic relationship with the parent, several of
Lavasas subbsidiaries would lose their revenue Laveasa susidianies would lose their revenue
streams. Hence it made sense to consolidate all
ert Lhesavasa, apanart from rumnining basicictranspport, maintaining and running the convention centre, and running retail operations on the premises of operating a luxury hotel.
$\qquad$ the inter-linkages and synergies between these companies to keep Lavasa as a running township
was important and, to achieve maximisation valwas important and, to achieve maximisation val
ue for all the companies, it was imperative that a
bidders made a single offer for these companies by way of a single offering.
Interestingly, the first set of three bidders had put consolidation as a precondition to the reso
lution plan. Therefore, it will be harder to find a
resolution plan for any of these companies on resolution plan for any of these companies on a
standalone basis if the supply and demand from Standalone basis if the supply and demand
the rest of the companies are not guaranteed.
"However, if the group companies of LCC are "However, if the group companies of LCL are
resolved in a coordinated/consolidated manner resolved in a coordinated/consolidated manner, a
much more value-maximising resolution could be
achieved," the NCLT said.

IN BRIEF
Amul Dairy to acquire Punjab plant of Heritage Foods


## Suzlon set to get $₹ 400$-cr infusion

ABHIITIELE
Mumbia 28 ee

Thep
ates
infus
equit enewable energy company,
through various securtites artof
the proposest estructuring plan of
The entities pumpining money
include Tanti Holdings Pvt (proThe entities pumping in money
include Tanti Holdings Pvt (pro-
moter), Shanghvi Finance and associates.
The board of directors, in a late
night meeting on Thursday, night meeting on Thursday,
approved a poposal for restructur-
ing ing debt of the company and its cer-
tain identified sussidiairis the
company sid in it filin with the
BSE Suy BSE. Suzlon's stock closed 55.9 per
cent lower at $₹ 2.69$ per share on the BSE on Friday.
Under the debt recast plan, the
Tulsi Tanti-controlled entity will issue seccurities - sharest, ononvert-
ible bonds and warrants - to 17 debt into equity. Some of the Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, ICICI January 7, 2020. Lenders are in the Bank, IDBI Bank and YES Bank. The process of executing the amend-
Pune-based entity will also dispose
ment agreement for extending the

vations in the filing with the BS the company continued to incur
losses during the current period, pri-
marily due to lower volumes, finance marily due to lower volumes, finance negative net worth of standalone financial results were The company defaulted o
reme eign currency convertible bonds
(FCCBs) of $₹ 1,263$ crore) and interest aggregating to ₹7,682 crore, as on
December 31,2019 . It also defaulted in making pay
ments to most of the trade creditors ments to most of the trade creaitors
out of the total outstanding of $₹ 1,149$
crore as on December 31, 2019. Some creditors have issued
notices to the company under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
and few have filed insolvency proceedings against the company with
the National Company Law
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$ (as on December 31, 2019) from the

## Price hike on BS-VI will not hurt consumers, says IOC

Patent office rejects Google's application for wearables

GIREESH BABU
Chennai, 28 February
The Indian Patent Office on
Thursday rejected Google's
application on wearable elec-
tronic devices, observing that
it lacks inventive steps and the
use and method by which it is
to be performed is not fully
described in complete specifi-
cation.
The company, in its patent
specification, said that the
invention comprises of elec-
tronic devices provided in
shoes or ankle bracelets.
The patent application for
'System and method for wear-
$\qquad$




## Instagram woos influencers to boost biz on platform

| AVISHEK RAKSHIT <br> Kolkata, 28 February <br> Facebook-owned Instagram is stepping up its presence across India by roping in more content creators and empowering influencers on its platform. It feels it can boost commerce on the platform in this way. <br> During the fourth quarter (Q4) earnings call, Facebook Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg said that commerce and payments were key focus areas for the company and its goal was to make sure every small business has the same opportunity and access to sophisticated tools that only big firms have had access to historically. <br> To further its presence, Instagram has rolled out the Born On Instagram initiative, which helps influencers and users on its platforms better leverage the app |
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Total gets 37.4\% in Adani Gas for ₹5,152 crore


AMRITHA PILLAY \& SHINE JACOB
upgrade while IndianOil
seeking 50 paise- ₹1 a litre.
Ungrade to Upgrade to BS VI is part of
India's attempt to curb vehi Part of this effort, starting
April this year, is allowing vehicles compliant with only tered in the country. Oil com-BS-M cuel available to ensur
a smooth transition to thes
new norms. pany's petrochemicals busi-
ness, Singh said he expected petrochemicals to contribute
around 30 per cent to profit In FY19, petrochemicals
contributed roughly 16 per (PBT).
Singh said the Singh said the company
was exploring battery man-
ufacturing based ufacturing based on India'
liquefied petroleum gas (LPG are owned by the companies IndianOil and Phinergy of
Israel signed a joint venture in February to produce metal air batteries.
It it also in discussion with leading auto companies
for field trials for this.


## FDA action: India ahead of US with less warnings <br> SOHIN DAS

| H eightened regulatory scrutiny by the US drug regulator for Indian pharma is a concern for the industry. However, long-term data shows that Indian sites have received fewer warning letters from the US regulator, compared to China and the US itself. <br> Between 2014-15 and 201819 (FY19), sites in India received 66 warning letters from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), while those in China received 73 warning letters, and plants in the US received 97 warning letters. <br> The data shared by Francis Godwin, director, office of manufacturing quality, office of compliance, USFDA, at an event here showed that India fared better than its neighbour China, even as it enjoyed a larger share of supplies of both formulations and bulk drugs to the US. <br> USFDA follows an October-September financial year. According to the USFDA, India accounted for nearly 18 per cent of the active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) sourced by the US, while China accounted for 13 per cent. The European Union (EU) had 26 per cent share, while US-based facilities accounted for 28 per cent. India accounted for 11 per |  |
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nambatacharrya
 capital infusion to fu man-cum-managing director of Oriental Insurance
Company, says the capital
would be needed to fund growth and maintain solvency ratio.
However, the actual
growth plan would be finalgrowth plan would be final
ised on the basis of capital support the insurer gets from the government. The company's board is
slated to meet on March 18 to Slated to meet or madget for
examine the budger
erowth in the coming fiscal "While we may require a
capital inthe vicinity of $z 3,000$ Capital in the vicinity of ${ }^{3} 3,000$
crore for growth and meeting
 plan (growth plan) would b made in line with the capita support that we get,"
Girijiakumartold newspersons on the sidelines of a asssion on organised by the Merchants
Chamer Chamber of Comme
Industry on Friday. Treme growth (in business ailored to the capital suppor we get," he addded.
The Union Budget for 2020 had earmarked $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { z6,950 crore } \\ \text { for recapitalisation ofthe three }\end{array}\right]$ public sector general insurance companies - National Insurance, Oriental Insurance The three firms are in dire need of capital to maintain solvencctratio.
According to Girijiakumar, company registered a loss of 50 crore, against $₹ 330$ crore Loss in $Q 2$. Also, the esolvency
ratio is iustat about the regyatory norm of 1.50 per cent tatio was 156 in 01 IFY20 The state-owned general
 ness in 2019 -20, is looking to grow marginally at aboutt per
cent this financial year, with cent this financial year, with
premium collection of about
14250 crore by March 2020 . Last financial year,
Oriental
inaw Oriental Insurance saw
business growth of over 15 per The insurer has been doing party cases, and has gone for price corrections in group health policy and property
insurance. Itis monitoringloss to reprice ethemes. Acitha view According to Giriakumar,
he focus has been on "economics of business" rather con focus this years has
ceen on reviewing claims and been on reviewing claims and can. We had set tatarget of conHiation of close third party cases this fiscal. of this pare have already
completed 18,000 cases and completed 18,000 cases and
are hopeful of achieving the remaining by the end of this
fiscal. This will give us a big relief", he said.
At present. health insur-
ance accounts for nearly 30 ance accounts for nearly 30
per cent of the total premium, notor accounts for $34-35$ per
cent, while croo insurance makes up around 17 per cent
of the total of the total business of the

firm. In the February 2018 | frm. In the eebruary 2018 |
| :--- |
| Budget, the Centre had | announced a plan to merge India Insurance and Oriental Insurance, and list the

nerged entity on the stock

## exchanges.

However, there has been even as finanancil healthotst firms deterioratated in therms of losses, falling market share nad poor solvency ratios.
The three insurers, under the aegis of the General
Insurance $\begin{aligned} & \text { Public } \\ & \text { Sector }\end{aligned}$ Insurance Public Sector
Association (GIPSA), had earliser appointed consultanat EY
to draw a blueprint for the

## April-Jan fiscal deficit Coresector outputrises $2.2 \%$ in Jan reaches $128.5 \%$ of RE <br>  <br>  <br> 

## Major segments dragdown GDPgrowth

MAIN INDICATORS FOR GDP CALCULATION

|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { OCT-DEC } \\ & \text { '18-19 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { OCT-DEC } \\ & \text { '19-20 } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { APR-DEC } \\ 18-19 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c} \text { APR-DEC } \\ 19-20 \end{array}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Production of coal | 5.1 | -4.3 | 7.9 | -3.8 |
| Production of crude oil | -4.3 | -6.2 | -3.7 | -6 |
| Production of natural gas | 1.5 | -6.6 | -0.2 | -3.2 |
| Production of cement | 12.9 | 0.6 | 13.9 | 0.7 |
| Consumption of steel | 8.2 | 0.3 | 9.1 | 3.5 |
| Sales of commercial vehicles | 6.7 | -17.3 | 25.9 | -21.1 |
| Cargo handled at major sea ports | 1.4 | 0.1 | 3.8 | 1 |
| Cargo handled atairports | 2.2 | -7.2 | 3.8 | -7.5 |
| Passengers handled atairports | 10.7 | 4.6 | 14.5 | 1.8 |
| Railways: nettonne kilometers | 5.7 | -4.7 | 6.9 | -3.6 |
| Railways: passenger kilometers | -2.4 | -1 | -0.6 | -1.1 |
| Aggregate bank deposits | 8.9 | 9.7 | 7.9 | 9.8 |
| Aggregate bank credits | 13.9 | 7 | 12.4 | 9.2 |
| CPlinflation | 2.6 | 5.8 | 3.7 | 4.1 |
| WPlinflation | 4.5 | 1 | 4.7 | 1.5 |
| GDPgrowth | 5.6 | 4.7 | 6.3 | 5.1 |
| Source: Nso |  |  |  |  |


tion of steel rose by ist 0.3 per cent
in the period, while it was 8.2 per
cose the other hand, CP inflation
roseto 5.8 per cent in Q 3, comparaed

Farm sector records 3.5\% growth on good harvest


## Dropin commodity prices is silver lining


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implication that the slowdown in the ditions. But, the lead indicators for
growth momentum continued in the e the industrial and services sectors
just-concluded quarter, belying our
eortray an unfavourable picture for
expectation that the GDP Growth had
January, including the 6 per cent
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## SBI sees green shoots in roads, citygas distribution, renewables

| NAMRATA ACHARYA ISHITA AYAN DUTT <br> Kolkata, 28 February <br> Even though corporate lending has been sluggish, there are green shoots in sectors like roads, city gas distribution and renewables, said P N Prasad, deputy managing director of commercial clients group, State Bank of India (SBI), on Friday. <br> "We are seeing fresh interest in several sectors on the project finance side - particularly in sectors like roads, city gas distribution and renewables. SBI has been involved in lending to |
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## Centre plans to promote 250 new FPOs in 2020-21

Telcos need to wait more for relief on AGR


## Fight virus first, worry about stimulus later: Rajan to govts

Don't panic over supplies: Pharma Inc

| SOHINI DAS \& NEHA NEHAALAWAD Mumbai/New Delhi, 28 February | ble of making all the | Virus outbreak to impact gl smartphone sales: Report |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | dients that it now imports. S |  |
|  | chairman of Dr Red |  |
| virus (Covid-19), the captains of Indian |  |  |
| pharma industry on Friday said there was no reason to panic over drug |  |  |
|  |  | unterpoint Research. |
|  |  |  |
| market. The industry, |  |  |
| that high level of dep |  |  |
|  |  | months for things will get back to nor- |
| ence on one geography for |  |  |
| key raw materials had to be |  | ic |
| reduced to mitigate risks. |  | d 25 per cent, compared to our |
|  |  | original forecast. This is 18 per cent |
| has launched an acceler- |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| for developing a vaccine |  | cent compared to same period last |
| for Covid-19 with multiple |  | year. Overall we think Q1 and Q2 will |
| teams in India and Europe. Pankaj R | d not carry buffer stock du | show negative growth both globally |
| Patel, chairman of Cadila Healthcare, said the vaccine candidate should be |  |  |
|  | Managing Di | Peter Richardson, research director at |
| ready in 8-10 months with support from the regulators. "We felt a moral | ta said his company | Counterpoint, in a blog on Thursday |
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| responsibility to step in as we have other flu vaccines, including swine flu, | only one ma |  |
|  | Chise |  |
| in our portfolio." <br> Sun Pharma's Dilip Shanghvi said | imports. The industry said supplies | dia has temporarily suspended v |
|  | China had | on arrival services for nationals of |
| the industry and government were working closely to reduce dependence | uld |  |
|  | it stabilised. | n the number of coronavirus |
| on one country. | The National Pharmaceut | cases in the countries, the Indian |
| Plan is to build a few large clusters | ricing Authority (NP1) |  |
| to make bulk drugs where manufacturers would be given incentives to pro- |  |  |
|  |  | uated 119 Indians and 5 foreigners |
| duce low-value APIs. Concessions in terms of rates for power and water are | erials that are |  |
|  | China and used in the production of |  |
| likely to bring the industry on a par |  |  |

China reports 44 deaths, lowest rise in new cases

| 29 |
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5 countries report first cases, WHO says it's getting bigger
Friday, with five countries reporting theirf first cases, the World
Health Organization waraningit could spread worldwide and
Switzerland cancelling the giant Geneva car show. "The

Geneva car show cancelled in bid to contain outbreak


## 'IfChina cannot go back to work, firms there will need support'

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## The uses of violence

## TICKER

IHIRS SHARMA
 National Population Register
spread across urban India, the rul-
ing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)
has struggled to regain control of
the narrative. There was no easy the narrative. There was no easy
way of making villains of these
large crowds of non-violent proIt appears that testers, frequently led by women,
waving the national flag and read-
ing fron waving the national flag and read-
ing from the Constitution.
now discovered one possible way: what used to be called "direct action", followed by disinfor-
mation. This approach was debuted in New Delhi's north-
east, and has swiftly lived up to its dangerous potential. The east, and has swiftly lived up to its dangerous potential. The
violence there has now taken dozens of lives, both Hindu
and Muslim, including a policeman. The hope was that voters from the Hindu community
would begin to feel unsafe and insecure because of largewould begin to feel unsafe and insecure because of large-
scale Muslim mobisisation; but that end was not achieved
during the months of peacefulp protests. A concerted attempt was made to stir up anger against percecived inconveniences
caused by the protesters - but in a country accustomed to strikes, bandhs, political rallies, VIP movements, and just
general everyday inconveniences, it is hard for such dis-
content to congeal into outrage. Violence on the streets, content to congeal inth outrage. . Whence on the streets,
howeve, is quite another matter. When accompanied by
the appropriate narrative, it will channel public opinion in the appropriate narrative, it will channel public opinion in
the desired direction.
The disinformation that accompanies the violence is of The disinformation that accompanies the violence is of
a typically high order, as befits an operation that has been
at the cutting edge of the 21st century's alternative-facts
break breakthroughs. It is framed as uncontrollable mob violence
when reporters on the ground have carefully documented when reporters on the ground have carefully documented
that in the clashes, the police have often been inactive when
Muslims are being targeted. Even occasions when Muslims Muspar to have been acting in self-ceafence - say Mrom the
appeor ore
roof o house that is being threatened with siege - are
being spun as a story of Muslim aggression That this spin being spun as a story of Muslim aggression. That this spin
comes on the anniversary of the horrific death of Ehsan Jafri and his neighbours in Gulberg Society is a dark
reminder of where this method originates. After all, the reminder of where this method originates. After alt, the
Special Investigation Team investigating that matter had
said that Jafri, who had fired perhaps eight rounds from his said that Jafri, who had fired perhaps eight rounds from his
gun on the violent mob assaulting Gulberg Society, had pro-
voked his own death.
No statewide violence of the sort that took Jafri's life and No statewide violence of the sort that took Jafri's life and
hundreds of others is necessary in an age of rampant disin-
formation. Fewer, but targeted and carefully-publicised inciformation. Fewer, but targeted and carefully-publicised inci-
dents can achieve the same effect -of stiffening Hindu iden-
tity, intimidating Muslims, and inducing further ghettoisation tity, intimidating Musimms, and inducing further ghettoisation
and isolation of minorities. Collateral damage to the economy
and to individual reputations will also be correspondingly and to individual reputations will also be correspondingly
aess. It is easy therefore to see the appeal of these tactics. Of course, if a longer view is taken, the consequences of
such deliberately provoked violence and the state's com-
plicity in its execution are disastrous. It is obvious to any pility in its ebecution har it issastrous. It is obvious to any
reasonable observer that
sow alienation, disaffection and fear in a lo lorge retigious
and minority. So why has this course been chosen regardless? It
is more than political calculation, though surely that plays
a part on many, if not most, occasions. The true reason for a part on many, if not most, occasions. The true reason for
choosing such self-destructive tactics is simply that many
believe they are necessary. In other words too many people believe they are necessary. In other words, too many people,
including those in the establishment, simply believe that
Muslims are too distinctive, too assertive - and naturally Muslims are too distinctive, too assertive - and naturally
predisposed owards siolence. Such belieff throughout tis-
tory have led to the justification of "pre-emptive" acts, which tory have led to the justification of "pre-emptive" acts, which
is somehow magically rendered through this paranoid lens
into self-defence. into self-defence.
Two additional points need to be considered for a full
picture of this emerging model of social control. The first is picture of this emerging model of social control. The first is
that political campaigns are now not merely the end point of a process of incitement. The areas of northeast Delhi that
were wracked by violence are also those that saw the most
effective campigigig effective campaigning by the BJP in the recently concluded
Assembly elections; five of the eight seats the party won are
in the region. The campaign stoked hate; the hate exploded in violence. The violence begets more hate, which will then
be used in the next campaign - in Bihar later this year,
where many of the Purvanchali residents of the area will where many of the Purv.
exercise their franchise.
The second is the repeated reports of "outsiders" being
bused in to stimulate the locals into violence. This is not
the first time that this has happed the first time that this has happened in recent memory. phase of the general elections that also reportedly featured
"outsiders". As in war, in this strategy of sudden and targeted
violence, the aggressor with exceptional resources and abilviolence, the aggressor with exceptional resources and abil-
ity to move men has an unassailable advantage.
Essentially, this amounts to exporting the neuroses, the Essentially, this amounts to exporting the neuroses, the
resentments and the fury of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to the
rest of the country, through the use of shock troops from rest of the country, through the use of shock troops from
these heavily-populated regions. Thus the front lines being
opened are not just religious. They are regional. There appears to be no end to the errors that our leaders are willing
to commit and no risk they are unwilling to run.

Nationhood can't be built on charity alone
We can't afford the perception of a righteous judge being punished because he inconveniently refuses to act as guardian of a Hindu Rashtra


SUNANDA K DATTA-RAY
 question of whether Partition solved
anything. Putting it differently, can Hindu
and Muslim live in harmony as equals in the new India that we fondly believe was born
on August t5, $1947 ?$ It's a personally perti-
nent conundrum because of childhood
memories of Delli and communalism, fam--
ily traditions in East Bengal that I didn't ily traditions in East Bengal that I didn't
experience but whose constant retelling
shaped my consciousness, as well as of experience in Calcutta. In the late 1940s, my father was attached
to Pandit Hridya Nath Kunzru's railway inquiry committee and began a peripatetic
existence in Delhi, Simla and aboard the


Muslims complain of the difficulty of rent-
ing accommodation. Several marriages
across the religious divide in across the religious divide in my family say
as little about general inter-community relaas little about general inter-community rela-
tions as Indira Gandhi's elevation did about the female Indian condition.
There was an amusing exchange at one There was an amusing exchange at one
wedding. "Is the groom Bengali?" someone asked. No, "uslim, replied the Hindu
bride's aunt. "Asoolutely right," "he groom,
overhearing, interjected. "We are Persian!" overhearing, interjected. "We are Persian!
That was deliberately to rebut the suspicion
that many Muslims are lower caste Hindu converts.
Yet, that makes them even more of the soil of India and even less the ghuspaithiya
(intruders) that Amit Shah calls shem. There might have been less friction if Shah's unin-
formed view were not shared by the hooligans in saffron headbands and tilaks who recently roamed the streets of No th-easten-
Delhi, stoning people, looting shops, ran-
sacking houses and setting fire to a mosque
after planting a saffron flag - symbol of after planting a saffron flag - symbol of
Hindu supremacism - on its minaret to chants
Ram. If that rejectionist attitude persists, the
situation can only drift towards civil war through increasingly frequent conflagra-
tions. We can't afford the perception of a tions. We cant afford the perception of a
righteous judge eing punished because e
inconveniently refuses to act as guardian of a Hindu Rashtra. Hindus who provided
refuge for persecuted Muslims do suggest a refuge for persecuted Muslims o o suggest a
silver lining except that nationhood can't

LUNCH WITH BS - MARTIN SCHWENK I MD \& CEO, MERCEEDS-BENZ INDIA
Enjoying the ride
Schwenk talks to Pavan Lall about learning from foreign markets, issues that hold back luxury products sales in India and the route Mercedes takes to integrate with local systems and processes


## Some hard questions for us

A
PEOPLE LIKE THEM
GEEANAALI KRISHNA


Gujarat's guilty pleasures


## Weekend Business Standard

mumbal I 29 February 2020 WEEKEND RUMINATIONS

## Looking beyond green shoots

The government is probably right to argue that the economy has bottomed out.
That view gets support from the quarterly growth figures released on Friday,
and has been broadly endorsed by economists in the investment banks and has been broadly endorsed by economists in the investment banks.
International organisations like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund also forecast a mild recovery for India in the coming year. The consensus is that
the worst is over, and the downturn has ended. This has encouraged government spokes-
men to argue that what the economy has been through is little more than a cyclical men to argue that what the economy has been through is little more than a cyclical
trough - abetted by troubles in the financial sector, which too are coming to an end. We should be careful about such partial analysis of predominantly domestic factors.
For, however weak India's economic linkages are with the rest of the world, its economic
performance seems to move in line with global trends, though not in lock step. Thus the years of rapid growth for India in the first decade of the new century mirrored exceptional
global growth, which averaged 4.2 per cent (World Bank numbers). Compared with that, global growth, which averaged 4.2 per cent (World Bank numbers). Compared with that,
the five years till 2019 saw global growth drop by a third, to 2.8 per cent. Indian growth
too has dropped sharply in the most recent years.
The other Brics economies tell a broadly similar story, though not for exactly the same years. Russian growth has dropped from about 7 per cent in the high-growth years
to half of 1 per cent in the most recent period. Brazil, prone to large swings, recorded 4 per cent growth in the four years to 2013 before slipping deep into negative territory. It
has managed barely 1 per cent in the three most recent years. China too has slowed, managing growth at 1 ust half the rate in its best years, and will slip further in the wake of
the coronavirus.
Other emerging markets tell a similar story: Turkey's drop, for instance, is from 8
er cent in the best years to 5.5 per cent, and now to less than 3 per cent in the last couple per cent in the best years to 5.5 per cent, and now to less than 3 per cent in the last couple
of years. When these very different economies tell the same story of rapid growth yielding
to more modest numbers, we should be paying more attention to international trends, to more modest numbers, we should be pay
especially those in other emerging markets. Four issues are of note. The first is the danger of the coronavirus becoming a pan-
demic - a risk that has entered the consciousness of markets everywhere. The second is the slowdown in the global growth of trade. The World Trade Organization puts growth
in global merchandise trade at the same rate as economic growth, when for nearly two decades, trade growth had averaged a 40 per cent faster rate than that of the world econ-
omy. The change is partly because of friction between countries and consequential protectionism, but there are other reasons as well. No quick recovery of trade should be
expected.
A third factor is what the World Bank notes as a slowdown in productivity growth across emerging markets. This is certainly evident in India, since economic growth has
dropped more than investment rates. In other words, India now needs more investment dropped more than investment rates. In other words, India now needs more investment
than before, for delivering the same rate of growth. Finally, there are the risks that come with the global pile-up of debt, creating abnormal money markets with an abundance of
negative investment rates. A former chief economic adviser has suggested that India is of the countries more vulnerable to potential shocks.
All these come on top of the domestic challenges of raising savings and investment rates, improving human resources, boosting productivity levels on farms (mostly at
barely half of international levels), finding solutions for the worsening fiscal stress, creating jobs through the right mix of policies, and making government intervention in
markets less disruptive. Even as the cyclical factors play out, the speed and quality of the recovery will depend on these long-neglected tasks being addressed. Absent that,
while growth will bounce back from the current sub-5 per cent, it will stay lower than the already inadequate long-term average of 6.6 per cent. As unsatisfactory as that may be in the current global context it will nevertheless be something to be grateful for.

## OPINION 9

## Root of a riot

Delhi riots are an urgent reminder to reflect on the root cause of the CAA-NRC poison toxifying India. Unfortunately, it comes from a malevolent creeper bush planted by the Supreme Court

Hindu. That accord made no such distinction. Certainly, it wasn't also the jugges intention to
make one. The Bench was ruling on a petition
seeking the implementation of this key clause of make one. The Bench was ruling on a petition
seeking the implementation of this key clause of
the Accord that all its signatories had conveniently forgotten.
You can take a purely legal view and ask, quite You can take a purely legal view and ask, quite
justifiably, why the judges should let the sleeping
dogs lie just because it may be politically and pragmatically expedient?
$T$ he rest is a recent flashback and we can run it vised and expedited by a Suprecess Coart Benchwith a zeal matching that of the apex court's epo-
chal cricket Bench. I dare say, with about similar
results in the end. Except that one became a joke, results in the end. Except that one became a joke,
the other is a tragedy. the other is a tragedy.
The court had the head of the NRC process report to it directly, and put a gag on him so he
couldn't speak to anyone, including the media.
This gave the process an aura of fear and opacity. It also ordered that massive detention centres to house those found to be filegal be constructed.
And then, when the stuff hit the fan, or the truth
emerged, everything changed. Some were furious emerged, everything changed. Some were furious
with what the facts brought, but others more pow-
erful saw an opportunity.
$\qquad$ fraction of the old popular fantasy. Then, more
than two-thirds of those still not proven legal are
Hindu Bengalis. The ethnic Assamese won't accept Hindu Bengalis. The ethnic Assamese wont accept
the Hindus, nor would the logic of the 1985 Accord
or the Supreme Court order to implement it. And could the BJP ever expel the Hindus? Where do we stand now? The BJP spotted an
opportunity. The Hindu "infiltrators" of Assam could be protected with the new CAA and Muslims
dealt with. And now that the highest court had legitimised it for one state and also written a dia-
bolical chronology and playbook, right up to deten-
tion centres, why not take it across the nation? It was an all-conquering polarising dog-whistle.
That's where ewand now. Anew ball, the con-
that stitutionality of the CAA, is bouncing in the same
court. Meanwhile, the poison-ivy it sowed with
he best of intentions is creeping on India. Even unhappy with the NRC and intendst oc do it all over
again. The officer who led it, directly under the court's supervision and protection, is being
hounded. Probably because he didn't bring the
"right" numers "right" numbers. So far, we haven't seen the own watch, to say it won't allow a repeat NRC in
Assam, or gross undermining of its own intention
through the CAA
$\qquad$ Delhi was just one riot. Add Bengal, Assam,
Uttar Pradesh and you can count a few scores dead.
It could regrettably be iust the beginin It could, regrettably, be just the beginning of a very
long, dark phase for India. That's why the time to
reflect on the root cause is now.

## The flawed idea of eugenics





## Brands,goodandbad



## Commodities fall prey to sell-offs




Similarly, the three-month zin
prices fell by 2.1 per cent to $\$ 1,970.50$ a tonne, its lowest since June 2016 The three-month nickel prices fell by
1.5 per cent to trade at $\$ 12,185$ cont to $\$ 5,552$ a tonne on Friday.Lead
was dead
down
0.8
per $\$ 1,795$ a tonne in early Friday trade in
London. "Base metals have witnessed yet regarding coronavirus has sent shock
waves from equities to bullion, and rom energy to industrial metals,
aid Naveen Mathur, director (com modities and currencies), Anand
Rathi Shares and Stockbrokers. Gold prices fell marginally by 0.20
per cent to close at $\begin{aligned} & \text { } 42,354 \text { per } 10 \mathrm{~g}\end{aligned}$

## Market well-being tied to coronavirus remedy SAMIE MODAK



## WORST WEEK SINCE '08 AS GLOBAL INDICES NOSEDIVE


worstweekly setback since the 2008 global financial crisis, as the coronavirus outbreak triggered a
flight to safety among investors. flight to safety among investors.
While equity markets have tumbled bond markets have rallied, with the yield on the US treasury dropping below 1.2 per cent -
its lowest since 2016. The velocity of the fall in stocks has been sharp across markets in Asia, Europe, and America. The S\&P500 has made a record of entering
correction zone - a fall of over 10 per cent -in the correction zone - a fall of over10 per cent - in the
shortest time frame of justsix trading sessions. Indian markets, too, are close to entering correction territory On previous occasions in the past two years,
domestic markets have rebounded sharply after such fall. Whether the market will be able to bounce back this time as well will depend on whether the

INVESTORS' NIGHTMARE

| Most global markets have seen since the global financial crisis |  | -day fall (\% change) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Oneday | Oneweek | Yearto date |
| Dow Jones | -4.4 | -11.8 | -9.7 |
| Thai Index | -3.9 | -10.3 | -15.1 |
| Shanghai Composite | -3.7 | -5.2 | -5.6 |
| Nifty 50 | -3.7 | -7.3 | -7.9 |
| Nikkei 225 | -3.7 | -10.0 | -10.6 |
| Dax | -3.5 | -12.1 | -9.9 |
| Kospi | -3.3 | -8.1 | -9.6 |
| Euro Stoxx 50 | -3.1 | -11.9 | -10.6 |
| FTSE100 | -3.0 | -10.9 | -12.6 |
| İbovespa | -2.6 | -10.4 | -10.9 |

## VOICES



## MOHAMED EL-ERIAN

"UNLIKE PRIORSELLOFFFSSEEN THISAND LASTWEEK, TODAY'S TRADE HASTHE FEEL OFASHAKEOUT- THA
LEVERED
ILLDERS SFSTOKKS ADD OTHER LEVERED HOLDERSOFSTOCKSAND OTHER
WEAKER HANS BEING FORCED OUTOFMARKE
IN AN INCREASINGIYDISORDERY FASHON"


GAUTAM CHHAOCHHARIA
Head of India research, UBS
Head of India resea
"THESPREAD OFTHE
CORONAVIRUS HASTHEPOTENTAL
TOTAKEMARKEIS DOWN FURTHER MATERIALLY. IFTHEOUTBREAKI ISORE PROLONGED, ITWILL HAVEA BIGIMPACTONTHE GLOBAL ECONOMICACTVITY. HOWEVER, IFITIS
CONTAINED SHORTIY, THERISK-RENARD ISVERY ATTRACTVEAFTERTHELATESTCORRECTION"


Chetan ahya
Morgan Stanley
"WEVIIEN COVID-19 ASA
TRANSITORY, EXOGENOUSSHOCK ASOPPOSEDTOAN ECONOMICSLOWDOOWN WHICH ASCAUSEDVE ENDOGENOUSPUUSLAND
ISRESURESOFAN ECONOMYTHATIS PRESSURESOFAN ECONOMYTHATIS
OVERHEATNG AND DUNDAMENTALIY OVERHEATING AND FUNDAMENTALLY
CHALLENGED.WEREMAINOFTHEVIENTHATTHE


ROBERT BUCKLLAND
Citigroup
"GIVEN OBVIOUS FURTHER
RIIKSTO GLOBAL GDP, ITSEEM
PRUDENTTO FORECASTFAT GLOBALEPSIN 202
TOO OPTIMISTC"

THE COMPASS
No bottom-fishing opportunity even as outbreak intensifies

|  | Erat |
| :---: | :---: |
| a |  |
| as B |  |
| ourites such as |  |
|  |  |
| iance Ind |  |
| ndustan Unilever hich are also perceiv |  |
| be relatively insulate |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { sks macroes fell } 3-6 \mathrm{pe} \end{aligned}$ |  |
|  |  |
| the problem the market is |  |
| anticipating. |  |
| Amar Ambani, senior |  |
|  |  |
| warns that unless one hasa strong heart and wallet, |  |
|  | s |
| the 7 per cent correctionin the Sensex over the | Pa |
|  | Either ways, he |
| week doesn't present a buying opportunity. <br> "Only the brave can | believes that as against |
|  | double-digit revenue |
|  | growth anticipated in the |
| bottom fish in this scenario," he adds. | June quarter, the number |
|  | shrink to mid-single |
|  | dig |
| Ambani, Pankaj Pandey, head of research at ICICI | Reiterating Pandey's |
|  | views, analysts at |
| Securities, doesn't rule out the possibility of | Prabhudas Lilladher also |
|  |  |
| out the possibility of further correction if more coronavirus (Covid-19) | goods and sharp increase |
|  | in prices could impact |
| cases are reported across the globe. |  |
|  | quarter. |
| While a section of domestic investors is opti- | Citing Hero |
|  | MotoCorp's recent |
| mistic that the virus' spread in China could open up the manufactur- | announcement of 10 per |
|  | cent cut in production, |
|  | they say this is |
| ing floodgates for India, the near-term picture is | ndication of how it |
|  | n lead to delay in recov- |
| different. | ery if Indian manufactur- |
| For instance, whil | ing industries exhaust |
| China accounts for 14 per | their raw materials in |
|  |  |
| and 5 per cent of its | Moreover, coronavi- |
|  | rus' impact on other |
| exports, about 30-40 per cent of raw materials in sectors such as bulk | global economies and |
|  | and so India, isn't |
| drugs, electronic compo- | clear too. |
| nents, and engineering equipment comes | "At present, it is tough |
|  | to comment on how long |
| from China. <br> Even if the current | it would take for the situ- |
|  | ation to norma |
| quarter is protected in terms of raw material | Pandey adds. |
|  | Until there is a |
| supplies, the question is whether there is enough | decline/peaking in coro- |
|  | navirus cases reported |
| for production thereafter.Though migrating to | worldwide, experts say it's |
|  | tough to claim that |
| other countries for | equities have fully priced |
|  | in its impact on India |
| entails additional costs. | Inc's earnings. |
| Analysts say that considering the current demand scenario, it will be tough |  |
|  |  |
|  | experts concur that |
| for manufacturers to pass on costs. | investors shouldn't be |
|  | npted. |
| "Companies have two options - one is to sell | Normalisation is the |
|  | , |

## STREET TALK <br> Centre mops up F 400 crore

 via Rites OFS
## The government has moblilised nearly 740 crore by divesting a little over 5 per cent stake in state--owned engineering firm Rites. The stake sale was done through the offer for sale (OFS) route. The OFS got bids for 13.2 million shares against16.5 million shares against 16.5 million shares on offer. The offering saw pooor response from retail investors amid asell-off in the markets. BS REPORTER <br> ₹17- lakh fine levied on Motilal Oswal Financial Services

Friday slappedatar Sebi on lakan on Motilal Oswal
Financial Services for failin to comply with Sebis ircular to segregate the funds and
securities of clients.The order follows an inspection
conducted by Sebi betwee
April 2012 to March 2014 .

## Antony Waste Handling to go public on March 6

Antony Waste Handling Cell
will launch its $₹ 200$-crore
initial
week. The issue comprises of
₹35 crore worth of fresh fund secondary share crore worth of band for the IPO is $₹ 295$ to price, the firm is valued at 800 crore.

Sebi asks investment advisors operating in IFSC to have net worth of at least $\$ 700,000$


FROM PAGE



SHRIMI CHOUDHARY
New Delhi, 28 February
Ajay Tyagi will continue to
be the head of India's capital and commodities marand Exchange Board of months. The Centre extended the appointment
of Tyagi as Sebi chairman of Tyagi as Sebi chairman
for a period of six months.
This is beyond February This is beyond February
29, 2020, or until further
notice, whichever is earlier, he finance ministry said in, a notification. day the benchmark a day the benchmark
Sensex logged one of its
worst-ever crashes amid a worst-ever crashes
global selloff post.
Department of economic
affairs secretary Atanu Chakraborty, current Mhole-time member of Sebi porate affairs secretary lijeti Srinivas were tipped replace Tyagi.

SHARING A MEAL


解 Minister Amit Shah with Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Union Minister for Pet
break for lunch at Naveen Niwas, in Bhubaneswar, on Friday

## J\&J ordered by jury to pay $\mathbf{\$ 9} \mathbf{~ m n}$ in talc-cancer case

BLOOMBERG
28 February

by a Florida jury to pay $\$ 9$ million to an 82 -year-old woman who her cancer, the latest court loss for the company in U.S. litigation over Its Iconicrs in Miami con Jurors in Miami concluded on
Thursday that asbestos in baby powder used by Blanca Mure-
Cabrera over her lifetime contributed to the development of her mesothelioma, said David That type of cancer has been specifically linked to asbestos expo-
sure.The trial loss is the second for
J\&J this year over claims the com-
pany knew some of its talc-based pany knew some of its talc-based
products were laced with asbestos and hid it from consumers. Earlie own of New Brunswick, New Jersey, ordered the company to
pay $\$ 750$ million in punitive damages to four people. A judge late reduced that award to $\$ 186.5$ mil-
lion.J\&J -- the world's largest lion.J\&J -- the world's largest
maker of healthcare products -
said it will appeal the jury's liabilsaid it will appeal the jury's liabi
ity finding and damage award.
"Today's verdict is at "Today's verdict is at odds with the decades of evidence showing and was guided by sound science,"


RIL plans to wind down Venezuelan oil buys in April

REUTERS
Indian refiners Reliance
Industries and NayaraEnergy Industries and Nayara Energy are planning to wind down
purchases of Venezuelan oil purchases of Venezuelan oil
in April fearing future US sanctions could choke off all
avenues to trade with stateavenues to trade with state-
run oil firm PDVSA, three sources with k
matter said. Such a step by Reliance,
which operates the world's biggest refining complex, and
Nayara - part owned Nayara - part owned by
Russian oil maior Rosneft Russian severely curtail pur--
whases by one of Venezuela's chases by one of Venezuela's
last big export destinations. India accounted for about a third of Venezuela's oil ship-
ments in January The move comes as U.S.
President Donald Trump warned in New Delhi this week of an increase in sanc-
tions in a bid to oust
Venezuelas PresidentNicolas Maduro, whose 2018 re-election was considered a sham
by most Western countries. Washington last year
imposed tough sanctions on PDVSA that cut off Venezuela from the United States, its biggest customer, and severely
curbed trading with other curbed trading with other
major buyers of its oil, the nation's main export. Venezuela's once-strong
petroleum industry has with petroleum industry has with-
ered amid a years-long ecoered amid a
nomic crisis.
After several months with
little action, the White House this month added Rosneft TradingSA, the Geneva-based
unit Rosneft, to its list of sanctioned companies over accu-
sations that it hid the country of origin of oil cargoes loaded
at Venezuelan ports and later resold in Asia.
The U.S. set a May 20 deadline for companies to wind
down purchase down purchases fro
Rosneft. Reliance, a long-time cus-
tomer of PDVSA, has so far not placed requests for April car-
goes, one of the sources said goes, one of the sources said.
Nayara Energy, partially owned by Rosneft, is planning
tostop processing Venezuelan oil atits refineries after receiving two cargoes that are
scheduled for loading in March.
said.
It will lift no shipments of Venezuelan crude in April
"since RTSA (Rosneft Trading SA) was doing all that business and no one else will pick itup,"
one of the sources said, given one of the sources said, given
shipping times. PDVSA and Reliance did ment.
Nayara said it is in compliance with all relevant and
applicable U.S. sanctions. "We reaffirm our commitment to this position following the
recent announcements", it said in an email to Reuters. Rosneft did not immediately
respond to a request for com-

The caution over shipments comes as the United States steps up its pressure
campaign action against campaign action against glomerate controlled by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, and
Nayara have major Nayara have major opera-
tional and financial exposure in the United States.

Railway Board commissions survey to establish Mujnai-Nyoenpaling line

The Railway Board has com lish the Muinai - Nyoenpaling line that will provide a cross border rail link between India and Bhutan, an official state Minister of Railways, and Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal is in Bhutan, heading a business delegation in connection with the
Bhutan - India Start-Up
ummit 2020. The commerce ministry Railways will visit the neighbouring councry on Saturday State Mining Corporation of Bhutan on finalising an MoU
for export of railway ballast for export of railway ball The two sides also disThe two sides also dis-
cussed designation and notification of new transit cusoms stations at Jogighopa ment on making the hands-on training at the customs station was also dis cussed. Further, India will be
fully sponsoring training of 100 Bhutanese trainers and youth on entrepreneurship at the Entrepreneurship
Development Institute Development Institute of
India, Gandhinagar, Guiarat India, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
In light of the require ment of capacity building in packaging and branding, 30 Bhutanese entrepreneers
and start-ups will undergo
hands-on training

Nagarkatta as a permanent It said that India will com-
customs station was also dis- mission a feasibility study for Setting up Entrepreneursh
Development Bevelopment Institute in
Bhutan. Prominent business personalities, think tanks and academics will ideate, debate and collaborate on the
identified themes during Start-Up Summit in Bhutan on Saturday with an objective to forge stronger future business engagement across all
sectors.

## Power Minister dedicates 11 renewable energy

 management centres to nation[^1]

## Delhi death toll at 42 as city searches for peace

PRESS TRUSTOF INDIA

The death toll in the Delhi's communal vio-
lence has gone up to 42 now with four more
 umber stood at 38 till Thursday
Nearly 7,000 paramilitary personnel have been deployed in the affected areas of the northeast district
since Monday to assist hundreds of Delhi police men and women to maintain peace.
More than 250 people have been injured in the
ommunal clashes. The reas manly Jafrabad, Maujpur, Chand Bagh, Khureji Khas and Bhajanpura. A total of 148 FIRs have been registered and 630 people have been either arrested or detained so far in connection with the northeast Delhi com-
munal violence, the Delhi Police spokesperson said on Friday.
Delhi
Delhi Police spokesperson Mandeep Singh
Randhawa said forensic science laboratory (FSL) teams have been calledicin science laboratory (FSL) being revisited. Of the total cases, 25 cases
registered under the Arms Act, police said.
The Delhi High Court directed the AAP government and the police on Friday to ensure that there is no breach of security at board exam centres in northCentre and the AAP government on a PIL seeking National Investigation Agency probe under the unlawful activities law UAPA into the violence in northeast Delhi over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act he right to peaceful assembly of people and hold accountable those perpetrating violence following the Delhi riots over the amended citizenship act, saying that Washington has raised the issue at the highest
level with New Delhi. vel with New Delhi.
Meanwhile, Congress president Sonia Gandhi
deputed a five-member team to visit the riot-affected areas and submit a report to her after assessing the situation there.
The city government schools which were closed
in view of violence in Delhi will open principals and staff to assess the current situation, officials of the Directorate of Education said. The schools were earlier announced to be closed till
February 29. The situation is peaceful but there is February 29. The situation is peaceful but there is
"tension in the air", National Commission for Women chairperson Rekha Sharma said after a visit to Jafrabad, one of the worst affected areas in the riot-hit northeast Delhi, to look into the condition of
women.

PULWAMA ATTACK
NIA arrests JeM operative


#### Abstract

NIA arrested on Friday an operative of Pakistan-based terror group $\begin{aligned} & \text { Jaish-e- } \\ & \text { Mohammed (JeM) } \\ & \text { for his }\end{aligned}$ alleged involvement in the Pulwama terror attack last year, officials said. Officials said that 22 -yearfurniture shop owner and resident of Hajibal, Kakapora in Pulwama, had provided shelter and other logistical shelter and other logistical Adil Ahmad Dar. Magrey was introduced to Dar in mid 2018 by Pakistani terrorist Mohammad Umar arooq and he became a full(OGW) of the JeM. During his initial interro- gation, Magrey disclosed that on several occasions he col- lected and delivered arms, lected and delivered arms, sive materials to JeM terror- ists, including those involved in the Pulwama attack, the NIA said. Magrey further revealed that he had harboured Dar and Pakistani terrorist and Pakistani terrorist Mohammad Umar Faroog in his house from late 2018 till the attack in February 2019, and assisted them in the preparation of the improvised preparation of the impro explosive device (IED). He was produced befo the NIA Special Court at Jammu on Friday and remanded to 15 days in NIA remanded to 15 days in NIA custody for his detailed interrogation. Further probe was rogation. F. underway.


NEW COMMISSIONER TAKES STOCK 'Will ensure people feel safe'


Shrivastava, who was this week appointed the special
commissioner of Police (Law and Order), Delhi Police, has been given the additional charge of Delhi Police com-
missioner, with effect from missioner, with effect from
Sunday, an official order said. Shrivastava, a 1985 batch IPS officer, will take charge from incumbent Amulya Patnaik, who
demits office on Saturd He said, "My primary job will be to ensure that there is a feeling of security and
people should also feel people should also feel
police are there for them police are there for them."
Shrivastava will hold the additional charge of the Delhi Police commissioner
with effect from Sunday and with effect from Sunday and
until further orders, the until further orders, the
order issued by the Unio order issued by the
Home Ministry said. Delhi Police Commissioner SN
Shrivastava and Lt Governor Anil Baija (right ) inspect Mauipur Chowk area of
northeast Delhi
PHoro: PTI

## UKfast-trackfor brightest \& best

## ASHIS RAY

London, 28 February
An Indian holding a PhD in a STEM subject (science, technology, engineerEnglish, with a salary offer of $£ 25,600$ or above in a high skill-cum-shortage area, is likely to be immediately
granted a five-year work visa by Britain granted a five-year work visa by Britain
under a "Points-based Immigration System", which is scheduled to come into effect on January 1 next year. The qualification would obtain for an individual 110 points, where 70
points is enough for a person to be elipoints is enough for a person to be eli-
gible to apply for residence in the United Kingdom.

Making a statement on the subject in the House of Commons, British
Home Secretary Priti Patel said "it will Home Secretary Priti Patel said it will the brightest and the best". She will in due course introduce a Bill to render
into law the proposed system. Given into law the proposed system. Given
the size of Prime Minister Boris the size of Prime Minister Boris
Johnson's government's majority, the legislation should have no difficulty in entering the statute.
for high-skilled Indians - together for high-skilled Indians - together
with a reformed "Global Talent" route with a reformed "Global
for leading scientists, researchers, and mathematicians - could be expensive at approval stage. The London-based
Institute for Government (IfG) thinkInstitute for Government (IfG) think-
tank estimates a work visa under the tank estimates a work visa under the
new scheme would cost $£ 1,220$ per person or $£ 900$ if he or she is filling a vacancy in a shortage sector.

A family of five with a five-year work visa for one individual would, accord-
ing to the IfG, have to pay $£ 21,299$ ing to the IfG, have to pay applicant the charge would be $£ 3,220$, with spouse $£ 6,500$. This would include since the migrants - not even doctors and nurses in the National Health Service (NHS) - would not be entitled to free health care as nationals and res-
idents of the UK are. The price tag is said to be double the cost of settling in Australia. Canada charges about $£ 710$ and Germany around $£ 760$.
The general salary threshold, though, is being reduced from the cur-
rent $£ 30,000$ per annum to $£ 25,600$ per annum. But remuneration offers as low as $£ 20,480$ will be considered to address inadequate manpower in c
ical areas, including the NHS. The Australia-type system govern international and therefore Indian students. If they can demon-
strate they have admission in principle


FACT OF THE MATTER A work visa under the new schen
would cost $£ 1,220$ per person or £900 if he or she is filling a vacancy in a sector that has shortage
The general salary threshold, though, is being reduced from the current $£ 30,000$ per annum to £25,600 per annum
Interestingly, the education threshold will be reduced to A-level (or High Secondary Schoo Certificate) from degree level The scheme appears to be more young couple than a family

BRIC seekers of UK golden visa double from 2015 despite Brexit

Indian and Chinese citizens willin invest at least $£ 2$ m million ( $\$ 2.6$ million) in the UK for a so-called golden visa has
almost doubled since 2015, even as the push for Brexit continued. A total 239 BRIC applicants were recorded in 2019 , comprising 64 per cen
of the global aggregate of the global aggregate, according to
data from the UK Home Office compiled by Shard Capital Partners LP. China (including Hong Kong and Macau) accounted for the bulk of these at 193 .
"The withdrawal of UK government
at a recognised educational institution,
speak English, and are able to support
themselves during their studies, they hemselves during their studies, they
will secure the necessary points and will secure the necessary points and after they graduate, they will also be permitted to stay in the UK for a furthe two years to work or look for work.
Interestingly, the education thre Interestingly, the education thres-
hold will be reduced to A-level (or High Secondary School Certificate) from degree level. But competence in English will be a key requirement, advantageously fetching

Responding to Patel
Rel
pposition Labour party spokesperson Bell Ribeiro-Addy described the salary threshold as "damaging". She added:
"There is no such thing as low-skilled work; just low-paid work."
She went on to allege the need to speak good English was "dog-whistle
politics". She asked: "Do the govern-
seen a shift tin applicants investing into managed U.K. corporate bond portfolios of mainly investment-grade
bonds," Farzin Yazdi, head of investor visa atShard Capital, said by email. ATier 1Investorvisa allows individuals to live in the UK for a maximum of y years and four months who want to settle in the country can do so after two years by investing an additional 10 million pounds.
bloomberg
ment also intend to block the recruit ment of scientists, mathematicians and IT specialists, for example, if they have
less-than-perfect English?" less-than-perfect English? work visas would not be tied to specific employers. And pointed out: "Otherwise, the Government will be creating conditions of bonded employ
ment, where the threat of dismissal implies the threat of deportation." Patel did not specifically reassure Ribeiro-Addy. Instead, in a feisty exchange she said: "The honourable
lady was obviously conflating several issues with a new immigration system that, as I have clearly outlined, is a phased approach that focuses on skills not on aspects of family reunion, bene, fits, welfare or access to puen of it, the
In short, on the face scheme appears to be more attractive to a single person or a young couple
than a family.

## SEDITION CASE <br> Delhi govt gives nod to prosecute Kanhaiya

o prosecute former INUSU president nine others in connection with a four-year-old sedition case as the ruling AAP denied the persistent BJP charge of blocking the proceedings in the matter.
AAP MLA and spokesperson Raghav Chadha said the Law Department of the Delhi government has given its opinion on this matter to the Home Department after due
diligence. The sanction was
February 20 , he said.


## The data problem

Surveyors beginning work on Census 2021 face an uphill task in a time of deep distrust of the state, writes Somesh Jha

We have been living in this
house for 9 y years. We are housefor o yeas. Weare.
citizens of this country.
You know the situation right now. Who will answer your questionnaire?" a resident of
Malakpet in Hyderabad is seen telling two Malakpet in Hyderabad is seen telling two
women surveyors in avideothat went viral on social media on February 26 .
on social media on February 26 .
The surveyors tell him they are collecting data only on tourism and related matters for the National Statistical Office (NSO), a central government body that has been
conducting surveys since the 1950s. But he conducting surveys since the 1950 s. But the man stands his ground: "Whenever you come iater, you canclad me ip. m couares gets
misters. But only when this chaos gets over. I requust yout to not collect any data in this area until then."
There is fear, suspicion and anxiety among people in different parts of the country since the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, or CAA, came into force on December 11, Ship to non-Muslim victims of freligious persecution from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, has triggered worries that if the government also brings in the National Register of Citizens (NRC), the fate of India's own Muslims might become uncertain. Such is the fear that any exercise to collect any kind of data is meeting with stiff resist
ance, especially in areas dominated by minority communities.
in January for the calendar year of 2020 . The 78 th round of the survey on "domestic tourism expenditure" "and "multiple indi-
cators" aimed to map for the first ine the cators" aimed to map for the first time the
various indicatorsthat need tose Various indicators that need tobe worked on
to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. This required collecting information that ranged from
housing facilities to access to schools an hospitals, as well as the migration patterns of citizens.
Ever sine the sur bo
headquarters in New Delhi has been receiv ing frantic calls and complaints from regional ofices across the country. The complaints
range from an enumerator being locked up in a house to another being surrounded or even assaulted by people who fared that the data being collected would be used for
determining their citizenship determining their citizenship. Atatistical Commission (NSC) member G C Statistical Commission (NSC) member GC
Manna, had thought its job was done when it designed the survey and approved it for fieldwork. But the committee had to meet for an urgent brainstorming session on February 19 to decide the fate
of the survey. It was present
of the survey. It was present--
ed with evidence of attacks EVER SINCE on surveyors from Uuttar THESURVEY Pradesh, Kerala, BEGAN,THENSO Maharashtra, Bihar and HEADQUARTERS Karnataka. In worst affected
West Bengal. fieldwork forall West Bengal, fieldwork for all ongoing household surveys HASBEEN had to be halted to ensure the
safety of data collectur safety of data collectors. FRANTIC CALL The lives of surveyors are
more important than the sur-
FROM REGIONAL more important than the sur-
vey. We have received the OFFICES most complaints from the
northern region of Bihar, which shares a border with
from Bihar.
The committee recommended deferting the survey till the situation normalises. advised to spread awareness through advertisements to assure people that the data from these surveys will be used for policymaking and not to determine or take away

The
$\mathrm{T}_{\text {restricted to suburban or rure, }}^{\text {he ral areas }}$ In Delhi, when enumerators approached a residential complex in Mayur Vihar last month, they were met with suspicion. The
data to be collected was related to the

Economic Census, a routine exercise that has been going on for years. Before responding to the field officers, residents called up ify the authenticity and journalists to ve "As a precaution, we have started informing the police station in the area concerned work" says Supriya Roy deputy directorgenwral at NSO's Mumbai office. "This ensures that the police are aware of the exercise in case they receive a complaint from locals." She adds that surveyors too have been instructed not to pressure people to participate in the surveys, and to return if they sense
That the 78th round of the NSO survey also has some questions on migration is not helping. These are some of ing questions that are making people wary: Did the
household memberever stay household member ever stay
continuously in the same continuously in the same
town or village for more than six months? What was the last place and country of residence? What was the main reason for which the household member left the previous place? Which documents
from the previous place of residence does from the previous
the person have?
"The NSO surveys are crucial for policymaking. They are not used for any other purpose," Roy says. "In fact, the personal data of the citizens are masked while preparing the findings of the survey reports." Not all surveys are conducted by NSO
staff. Some are outsourced. For instance staff. Some are outsourced. For instance,
the annual Periodic Labour Force Survey the annual Periodic Labour Force Survey,
which first began in July 2017, has mostly contractual staff collecting data. "They feel more insecure as it's a temporary job and they are comparatively inexperienced," says an NSO official.
press conference on February 24 to clear the air on the ongoing surveys. "We are doing our best to spread the message that ises of the government," says Sunith Bhaskar, NSO deputy director general in Thiruvananthapuram. "We are facing prob ems in conducting all the surveys. In som collection as surveyors were being shown he door. CAA and NRC will affect the mammoth Data collection for the Census, which is conducted every 10 years under the home ministry, is scheduled to begin in April. In the first phase, the enumerators will go to different households and number them. In the second phase, starting February 2021, headcount will be taken.
Training for the Census has started in al the states, and the same field officers wil Population Register (NPR). This is bein done to save costs.
"It will become difficult for citizens to distinguish between the NPR and Census. As a result, the quality of information migh get affected with the high likelihood of resistance from households," says forme
NSC Chairman PC Mohanan. Mohanan had quit the NSC in January 2019 after the gov ernment delayed the release of the Periodi Labour Force Survey, which showed the unemployment rate touching a 45 -yea high of 6.1 per cent in 2017-18 The Census Act of 1948 states that the information collected through this exerhat's how seret it is says Mourt of la " the government decides to withdraw the NPR and conduct the Census separately, it may instil some confidence in the people and protect the integrity of the exercise,

Census officials at a viliage in 2010. The big worry ahead is how the fear of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and th National Register of Citizens will affect the mamm

## State of affairs

Kerala

Oteacher from Edathala in Ernakulam, was going fom house to house for a family survey for the state vernment's Sampushta Keralam Programme that aims d covered more thildren below six. Over the day selongng to Muslims, without a hiccup. She was at her 120th , me at that time, besides a small child. Suddenly, a youn man from the neighbourhood arrived on the scene and ment waster the it would be used for CAA or NPR.
Susan, an anganwadi teacher for 29 years and a former member of the Edathala panchayat, knew the man and his family well. She answered all his questions and then asked him to leave and let her carry on with the duty assigned to er. He did, but soon returned with a group of 40 -odd peoshouting at her and tried to snatch her mobile phone, given oher by the government to collect the information, and ried to delete the data. They also threatened her. She called her office, which asked her to turn back. Soon, videos of this hident went viral and, before the end of the day, people ere divided into two groups.one for and ollecting information of any kind.
The anganwadi workers say they approached the police police allegedly did not act. They allege that neither the Social Justice Department nor the panchayat helped, and for a month nobody from the anganwadi went to the area. But since they were told that the survey had to be completed y the end of February, the teachers say they have been try ing to get the information without endangering their
Susan, who is the state treasurer of the Anganwadi Orkers and Helpers Association (affiliated to the Centre ndian Trade Unions, or CITU), says. "It is sad. We are just doing our duty and it is for the welfare of the people."
While the Kerala government has vehemently opposed AA and NPR and has said that it will not collect data for hese, people are anxious. More so as the Sampushta Keralam survey seeks information about the caste and religion of the residents. An anganwadi teacher, who was locked up in her Thiruvananthapuram people have put up boards outside their houses declaring that anganwadi teachers are not welbeen manhandled and their mobile phones snatched.

TALKING POINT


## A victory for \#MeToo

H
 in the first degree and third-degree rape was a moment of vindication for the more than
90 women who had alleged that he had sexually 90 women who had alleged that he had sexually mogul was let off on the more serious charge of first-degree rape, and will doubtless appeal the court's decision (he faces up to 25 years in prison), Weinstein's conviction is a landmark event in the evolving trajectory of the \#MeToo movement.
\#MeToo's perfect storm was sparked, ironically, by none other than Weinstein himself In Cally, by none other than Weinstein himself. In story on allegations of sexual misconduct against Weinstein. And at once, legions of women started coming forward with their own harrowing tales of being harassed, groped, assaulted or even raped by the big daddy of Hollywood, who, for decades, had taken advantage of his power to
make or break the careers of young actresses by treating them as his prey. This is turn seemed to flip a switch in women the world over - they now felt that they too needed to tell their stories, they too needed to end their petrified silence and call out the men who had used their power and position to sexually abuse and exploit them.
Since then, \#MeToo has felled many a man. Men who had gone about demanding sexual favours from women in the workplace, confident that their gender and influence would protect them from blowbacks, were suddenly being held to account. The cultural shift was nothing short of seismic. Women were breaking out of generations of social conditioning that taught them not
to talk about unwanted sexual attention from to talk about unwanted sexual attention from
men. And men were waking up to the uncom men. And men were waking up to the uncom-
fortable reality that they could never again rely on


## Harvey weinstein's indictment event for the \#MeToo movement

a female colleague or subordinate to keep mum after being subjected to sexual intimidation.
Which, one hoped, would make them think twice before behaving like sex pests.
Harvey Weinstein's indictment is important because it sends out the message that a sexua predator can be brought to justice even if the crime occurred years ago, when the victim did not
have the courage or the agency to speak out have the courage or the agency to speak out.
However, mighty as he was, Weinstein was the easy one. Once he had been outed as a serial sexual aggressor, and outed by a flotilla of women, including such influential stars as Ashley Judd, Uma Thurman, Gwyneth Paltrow, Salma Hayek, Angelina Jolie and others, Weinstein's retribution was more or less assured. Unfortunately, in
most other cases, the road to justice is proving to be long, complicated, and uncertain. And tinuing to find ways to silence complainants. In India, where the movement gusted ferociously in 2018, many of those accused of harassment have segued back into male-dominated workplace power structures. Others, such as for-
mer Union minister M J Akbar, who was called mer Union minister M J Akbar, who was called while colleagues, have resorted to criminal defamation suits to intimidate accusers. Recently, the son of a prominent person with links to the ruling party obtained a court order to take down all references to allegations of sexual misconduct against him that appeared in the media and socia media. R K Pachauri, the environmentalist who
had a long-running sexual harassment case against him, died this month - before the coun try's infernally slow legal system could punish him for his alleged crimes.
There is no doubt that \#MeToo is fraught with consent theomplications. It involves questions of consent that are hard to legally ascertain since a woman's apparent acquiescence may be influenced by the unequal power dynamic of the rela
tionship, that is to say, when she is in a subordinate position to the man - socially, at the workplace, or in academia. There is no doubt,
too, that a woman may maliciously accuse a man of harassment even after a consensual encounter amplify it via social media, and potentially destroy him. But then anything is open to abuse
\#MeToo is a work in progress, its contexts and contours are still being defined. And if's worth staying the course because the movement has
given women a voice and dented the male sense of impunity. The guilty verdict on Harvey
Weinstein is a powerful milestone in that journey.
$\qquad$

## Retiring, not quitting

retiring from why Maria Sharapova 32, it helps to know what she can no longer endure. "I look at photos of mysel and of the motion where 'm just about to making contact" she said, "and I can"t even look at it because it makes me cringe. I have so much pain
The pain has been a near-constant companion over the last two years for Sharapova, a former No 1 player who ally recognisable athletes of the 21st cen ally recognisable athletes of the 2 1st cenreturn to the top of the game after a suspension. Since then, she has dealt with recurring tendon damage in her right shoulder and inflammation in her orearms
She was suspended in 2016 for using meldonium, a drug that Sharapova said of a magnesium deficiency, dizziness and a family history of diabetes. She claimed o be unaware that meldonium

Anti-Doping Agency's list of banned sub There will be no farewell tour. "I don't feel I need to go on the court for the entire my last timery fan to know that this is said.
Sharapova said she knew it was time tire as she flew home to Los Angele from Australia. Kobe Bryant's death in helicopter crash on January 26 made it even clearer. "We were supposed to see aid Sharapova why after the crash," Bryant had been an "incredible sound ing board" throughout her career A 6 -foot-2 Russian who punctuated her flat groundstrokes with piercing shrieks, Sharapova made one of the most extraordinary journeys in sports. If not for the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, she would Yuri and Yelena were living in porel in present-day Belarus in April 1986 when the reactor exploded in nearby Chernobyl. They eventually fled to Nyagan in distant Siberia to live near famy. Sharapova was born there in Apri


## sunnier Sochi on the Black Sea

 Soviet Russia was in turmoil, she and her father moved to Florida with less than 1,000 in Yuri's pocket. It was a wild gam bier Sharapova, who was separated from because of American visa restriction showed remarkable steel, drive and talent as she worked her way to the top at IMG cademy in Bradenton, Florida. Sharapova became a global star in 2004 winging Wimbledon at age 17, upset hard-hitting final. She won five Grand Slam singles tites in ant, incluang the Australian Open in 2008 and the French Open in 2012 and 2014, despite clay being her least-favoured surface.I feel like a cow on ice, she said demonstrating a wit that was often slammed no-nonsense tour as she avoided forming bonds with her peers maintain a competitive edge
She won 36 tour singles titles in tota an Olympic silver medal in singles in 2012 and the Fed Cup title with Russia in 2008. She was ranked No. 1 for the first time in top spot. She was the world's highest earning female athlete for 11 consecutiv years. She earned the majority of her income in endorsements from comp nies like Nike and Evian, started her ow candy company and reporte
It is time now for new challenges and pleasures - for more time with he boyfriend, the British businessman to study architecture later this year well as focusing on growing her cand businesses.

## Pushing the envelope

With his solo project,Lifafa, and his band, Peter Cat Recording Co,Suryakant Sawhney is both loner and teamleader. Amrita Singh on the man whose experimental indie musichas become essential listening for the woke youngster of today


SIyakatsam neyloonseveryb the archeypyal "atrist. With his


 projects - the Peter cat Recorring C (PCRC) and Lifafa. While the former is

Music wasn't always his first choice of artistic expression. Sawhney was studying animation in San Francisco when he decided to take the plunge. "In 2010, it became clear that I would never have enough money to make films and so music felt like a good way to start my journey," he says. However, he didn't entirely abandon his love of film almost requires you to close your eyes and work with the imagery created by the powerful, philosophical lyrics.
Sawhney was born in Gurugram and spent a major part of his childhood aboard a commercial ship that sailed around the Mediterranean as his father was in the merteenager he moved back to live in Gurugram with his mother. His musical roots had been established by then, as his early years were spent in a family that gave ear to both Western and Indian music. His mother was an ardent bhajan singer while his father introduced him to Western music. The result: a
musician inspired by a wide-ranging pantheon of musical greats from Mohmmed

Rafi and Mukesh to Dean Martin. "I'm clear ly a product of two worlds colliding," says Saw band and as Lifafa is crarked by its with his band and as Lifafa, is marked by its abilisounds and even languages.

His musical journey began with the Peter Cat Recording Co in 2009 (the name was birthed in Kolkata's famous Peter Cat restaurant). Sawhney is lead vocalist and guitarist,
Karan Singh plays the drums Dhruv Bhola Karan Singn plays the drums,
the bass and samples, Rohit the bass and samples, Roh pet, and Kartik Sundareshan Pillai plays everything from the keyboard to the guitar and man ages electronics. The band
released its first albm tith released its first album titled
Sinema (here's the cinematic Sinema (here's the cinematic
motif) two years later The motif) two years later. The song Hindi as "Jaanam" for Dibakar Banerjee's film Detectiv Byomkesh Bakshy! (2015).
Sawhney is an old-school singer, one
whose deep voice isimpresiv whose deep voice is impressive, moving and
expressive. The lyrics, almost always in expressive. The lyrics, almost always in
English, are melancholic, but set to cheerful, often foot-tapping melodies and rhythms. His music, while inspired by jazz, rarely sticks to the genre and has elements of rock, synth, electronica, and gypsy music (this is not an exhaustive list). From performing a trestaurants in Delhi's Hauz Khas village to creating live music in
Paris in 2019 at RockenSeIne, PCRC hascome Paris in 2019 at Rock en Selne, PCRC has come

HINDILYRICS ARENOBAR TOTHE GLOBAL APPEALOF LIFAFA'S LIFAFAS
KIND OF
released in June last year and is one of their smoothest and most accessible albums, cataularity. PCRC's tracks have become essential music for the woke and hip youngster. Alarge crowd attended their gig in October 2019 to celebrate the success of Bismillah in Delhi at Qla, a large, upscale restaurant that overlooks he Qutb Minar
Sawhney's "artistic process" is almost assically chaotic. "I always archive or record little fragments of ideas or
melodies which come to me and melodies which come to me and
at some point in time, they at some point in time, they
transform into songs. A part of my brain is constantly thinking about music, I suppose." His unstructured musical methods found a new avenue in electron-
ic music, in Lifafa. Sawhney chose the name - lifafa means "envelope" in Hindi - also because it refers to "enveloping" in electronic music, which is the

## way a sound

 The scattered, spatial electronic music might have been a little tol electronic music Indian audiences when it first launched in 2015. But in January last year, Sawhney dropped his self-produced album Jaago onto instant popularity. Overtly political Hindi lyrics, old Indian pop-inspired sounds, lowfidelity production quality (in which elements usually regarded as imperfections of arecording or a performance are audible) and ecording or a performance are audible) and
traffic, suddenly made him an "it" artist. Sawhney has taken inspiration from major
British electronica artists Burial and Jame British electronica artists Burial and James
Blake but has made Lifafa a homegrown projBlake but has made Lifafa a homegrown proj-
ect that steers clear of exoticising a bygone era of Indian music. One of the album's songs, also called Jaago, is almost a political anthem that begins with "Doob raha hai yeh desh" (This country is drowning).It is a hard-hitting, groovy beast of a song that even
dislike electronica are drawn
disilike electronica are drawn to.
Hindi lyrics are no bar to Hindi lyrics are no bar to the global
appeal of his kind of electronica. "Lifafa, of appease, works best in India, considering the
course language and context, but I've had some fantastic shows abroad with it, including one in Portugal where a couple decided to get married during my performance and
then asked me to announce it for them," he then asked me to announce it for them," he
says. As both PCRC and Lifafa have mansays. As both PCRC and Lifafa have man-
aged to appeal to niche and mass audiences in India and abroad, Sawhney can focus on writing new music and traversing the world to connect with people and cultures through his music while French-label Panache and Indian-label Pagal Haina manage marketing
and promotions. and promotions.
On being asked
d what he likes more, being the frontman of PCRC or being Lifafa,
Sawhney says creating live music and travelling with band mates is always more fun, even though Lifafa is a project that he can call his own. "While PCRC has grown up in
India, I do feel it is something India, I do feel it is something meant for the entire planet and not just here. That is the
real goal of the project, to become some thing transcultural and transnational."


VERSEAFFAIRS


UTTARAN DAS GUPTA

## Root poetry

In the helpful note that Sharmistha
Mohanty adds at the end of this slim vol ume under review, she writes: "One of the
spirations for this book was the Rig Veda, which historians date from approximately 1200-900 BCE. ...The Rig Veda is the oldest religious and spiritual text still in use and it Hinduism." She adds: "At the time when the Rig Vedic hymns were composed there was belief that new hymns must continually be made for use in rituals and worship." On read ing this, one might imagine
continuation of this tradition
The structure of the words. It is unlike most others you might have encountered. The contents page lists 58 poems, but the individual lyrics do not identify themselves with a title. While reading it, one
might imagine they form a sort of continuum might imagine they form a sort of continuun - and perhaps, that is the intended effect. In hazarded failure: Mohanty not only manage to pull it off but does so with great craft
The poems themselves are not greatly accessible; there is no obvious structure anc the linguistic callisthenics Mohanty chooses to perform make the lyrics as different from conversational speech as one can hope poetry to Absurdist plays.) A reader can choose to backward and forward, trying to make sense of it by looking at the endnotes the poet has provided. Or they might do what I chose to do: to surrender to the river of beats and sounds that this book of hymns succeeds in becoming. Sound - especially of the human voice erary theory Since one of the inspirations fo Mohanty's book is the Rig Veda, it is perhap helpful to read out the poems, enunciatin the words, allowing their rhythms to tak shape on one's tongue, in one's throat. Isn't th best poetry supposed to be oral anyway? begins with the lines: "Paddy field the book

ploughs / us, us.
The duo "us, us The duo "us, us"
keeps recurrin in this shor
poem - no
longer than longer than
page - like
refrain tis a refrain. It is a sor
of claim to con of claim to con-
sciousness, like a
Cartesian declaCartesian decla-
ration: "line of spiders moving
lines from then lines from then to now / crossing
the ground / of THE GODS CAME
AFTERNARDS Author: Sharmistha
Mohanty Publisher: Speaking Price: $₹ 29$ Pages: 77 time / us, us"
The move from the image of ground furrowed
by a plough and by a plough and
of spider footprint is unusual
and startling and startling. To
move boldly between these images - and then on to others such as scales of fish, flowers of dung, crescen moon, garland of leaves - displays the versa tility of the poems.
This is also a reference, perhaps, to the function of poetry in creating memory and
immortality. The furrows in the field, the flow ims of dung scales of fish are fiemewhe tom porary in providing immortality, but poetry performs that duty. The hymns of this book or of the Rig Veda - bear evidence to a socie ty, a culture, of a people.
To publish a book that harks back to the roots of Hinduism is in itself a task not devoic of political choices - especially now, when weaponised. One of the sources of the book weaponised. One of Wendy Doniger - in 2014 her book On Hinduism ran into trouble with Hindutva supporters and was pulped by it publisher. One of the lines that seemed to offend her detractors was: "The linga [Shiva'
phallus] in this physical sense is well know phalus in this physical sense is well
throughout India, a signifier that is understood across barriers of caste and language linga franca, if you will.'
Mohanty's book brings us to darkness and end, but gently: "When the fires / can no longer / be seen / someone has walked / fa enough." If the previous poem I quoted was about claiming the self, the last lines are abo
self-effacement: "the paths into the forest self-effacement: "the paths into the forest
are charred / their length invented / by the feet that walk / to be away to / be awake to be / no one." The desire to be no one is, in othe words, a surrender to immortality.

THEWINECLUB


ALOK Chandra

## Undercover wine tasters

Iisations that are commercial: Vikram Achanta's Tulleeho Wine \& Spirits Academy, Magandeep Singh's Wi-Not Beverage Solutions,
Nikhil Agarwal's All Things Nice, and even Gargi Kothari's Magic Cellars.
They organise wine-related events (tastings, fairs and festivals, dimners) for the public at large for a small margin. All can be contacted direct-- just googe their numbers. Then there are wine clubs in the major cities:
Delhi has the Wine Society Delhi and Delhi has the Wine Society Delhi and the Delhi
Wine Club: Bengaluru boasts of The Bangalore Wine Club, the Rotary Wine Fellowship of India, and the Chaine de orotisseurs. There are also wine clubs in Kolkata, Chennai, Chandigarh, Pune, Hyderabad, and even Nagpur; doubtless there are clubs in other cities that one has not heard of. Clubs organise wine events for their members (plus suests) on a not-for-profit basis and
make very valuable contributionsto promoting make very valuable contributionsto promoting
wine and wine culture. Some like The Wine Society Delhi) have been around for over 30 years but tend to stay out of the public eye, while others are more media-friendly.
There are also what Iterm "undercover wine
asters": small groups of wine enthusiasts in tasters": small groups of wine enthusiasts in
which participation is on an invitational basis which participation is on an invitational basis.
They operate on a self-1iquidation principle of hoy operate on a self-liquidation principle of no (naturually) wine.
The Wine Connoisseurs Bangalore is one such group: 21 friends who get together monthy for a small ( 10 people to a table) wine-anddine event, with the wines coming from the personal cellars of the participants. Seven to eight wines may be presented at an event, and related food course.
Another small group, based in Chennai, is
called "Munnakka aur Murabba": "Munnakka" is a raisin made from red grapes, while "murabba"


The Chateau Sociando Mallet eant, a fifthgrowth from the Haut-Medoc region of Bordeaux, France, is not something drinker is a candied fruit pre-
serve (as in "Ame ka
murabab"), with whom
I attended an impromp-
. attended an imprompsession at Sanjay dence in Bengaluru. We tasted the followng wines: Luce Lucente 2015 up in the 1990s as a joint venture between
Frescobaldi and Robert Frescobaldi and Robert
Mondavi in the Montalcino area of Tuscany, Italy. A 50:50 Merlot (the ratios change very vintage), rated at Suckling, this is the second wine of the estate, barriques. Luscious, with firm tannins and a medium+ body. Not Mouchao Ponte das Canas 2012 from the Herdade do Mouchao winery of Portugal, owned by the British Reynolds family since
the 1850s: the estate spans 2,250 acres, of vine. Rated at 93 points by Wine Enthusiast, the wine comprises relatively unknown grapes: 30 per cent Syrah, 25 per cent Touriga Nacional, 25 per cent Alicante Bouschet, and the rest are other local grapes. The wine and firm tannins that kept softening in the glass. mported by Wine Park, available only in Mumbai for $₹ 4,740$
Chateau Sociando Mallet Jean Gautreau 200. A fifth-growth from the Haut-Medoc gin Borcaux, Fance, the 87-point wine fruit, minerals, anise, and wood. on the patate the wine had firm tannins that were quite ausWine Park priced for $\neq 10$ f finish. Imported by is not something for the casual drinke Its a pity that good imported wines are so anper per in Incia due to the cascading effect of marketing and distribution costs the duties, and prices here 2.5 to three times that of internationI rates. Talk about reduced duties on Americ ines may be the thin edge of the wedge.

[^2]Wth fashion, change is the only constant. Every few
years, there comes a compelling voice, or concept
that fuels this change o ative. Monisha Jaising, for instance, did this when she brought the kur ti centre stage. Textile revivalists and design ers engaged in slow, sustainable fashion are also doing this. And so are some voices from the fringes. Among them is a handful of designers from the textile-rich Northeast who are making
statement with their modern interpretations of traditional weaves and cuts. Easternlight Zimik, who comes from Manipur's Ukhrul district, has for example taken the traditiona Assamese mekhela chador and turned it into a modern outfit. "Our region has a lot of potential", says Zimik, 27 , who trained at the Nationa
Institute of Fashion

and has been living in Mumbai since also retails aut of Ato in Bandra and Zimik experiments with silhouettes and his largely ready-to-wear collection
(costing with colourful motifs from Manipur. Then there's the men's wear design er Jenjum Gadi. "For my last collection, I took patterns from various tribes of Arunachal Pradesh (his beautiful home state which is often his inspiration) and
made a collage of them," he says. "To made a collage of them," he says. "TO
give it a contemporary look, I went for give it a contemporary look, I went for
golden embroidery all over." The collec tion has a punk/disco vibe to it. Gadi retails out of his studio in Shahpur Jat, New Delhi, and his collection (starting ₹ 9,000 ) is also ava
stores such Aza
Like him, Utsav Pradhan and Teresa that though they do Western ready-to wear, their approach and work process is rooted at home. They work closely
with weavers and artisans from Mani-
 pur. "Textiles in Manipur are associat-
ed with social and ritualistic events fro early times. Without hindering the heritage of these beautiful textiles, we wanted to explore their commercial potential," say the 32-yearolds. "Our vision was to introduce a modern and contemporary version of Manipur's hand--
woven textiles to a global audience and in the process improve the skills and working condi-
tions of the weavers." Pradhan is from Sikkim and Laisom from Manipur. They debuted at
the Lakme Fashion Week Spring/Summer13 and now have a studioin Sector 6/Noida Their designs ( 7,000 to 25,000 ) are also available online at Aza. Munkee.see.munkee.doo began as an off-
alist approach. The focus is on clean aesthetics with attention to detail. The label is a sweet
mashup of contrasts - the old and the new mashup of contrasts - the old and the new,
masculine and feminine elegant and relaxed sculptured tailoring and a rebellious edge. Sonam Dubal from Sikkim, who was the fir st to bring Northeastern designs on to a mainstream fashion platform in 2003 with a debut at Lakme Fashion Week, says, "The world's power centre is
shifting towards Asia. And the Northeast is our doorway to Northeast is our doorway to
the Asian market." Dubal, who took his collection to Tokyo few years ago, knows this from experience. Pradhan adds,
"Northeasterners have an affinity for K-pop,Cosplay an affinity for K-pop, Cosplay, Korea
'THE POPULARITY OF DESIGNS FROM THE REGION IS FUELLED BY THIS NEED TO FIND ONE'S IDENTITY. FOR IT TO STAY, WE NEED TO MAKE PEOPLE CULTURALLY AWARE' EASTERNLIGHT ZIMIK

## Faraway feel

A clutch of designers from the Northeast is giving a contemporary twist to traditional wear from back home, writes Meeta Mishra
 cultural appropriation."
4An Easternlight Zimik design

O
 ing water to the sun. He turned his
them and began to pour water in the opposite direction. When asked why, he
oper remarked that if water could reach the sun Punjab's Kartarpur.
The fable serves to illustrate how the found ing guru of the Sikh faith questioned unex-
amined rituals. But for MaheepSingh, a write amined rituals. But for Maheep Singh, a writer and comedian, it's an example of humour tha Indians have now forgotten how to appreciate This is particularly tr
areas such as religio
Areas year ago, while talking to Jaskaran Sing a printer, Maheep felt humour was fast disap pearing from our society. That's when the two thought about starting a festival dedicated to Khushwant Singh, the celebrated writer who was known for his ribald humour and irreve ent wit. Khushwant Singh's son Rahul Singh the chief mentor of the forthcoming event. The three-day-long Khushwant Singh next week, and promises to bring together
 panel discussis. It will include umour in media, an amusine history of Delhi, humour in the unlikely arena of law book launches and shavari (poetry). There is a session

One of the sessions at the fest, called 8pm Bottoms Up Club will have participants sharing anecdotes of the litterateur who will have participants sharing anecdotes

We could use some laughs
humour in these

or Urdu satire and humour. People alway associate Urdu culture with love and fantasy but forget that it has a very strong element of
satire," says Maheep Singh Two women will satire," says Maheep Singh. Two women will
read out Hindi satirist and humorist Harishankar Parsai from a feminist point of
view. Among other performances with humour and laughter as central themes, ther will be quissagoi (traditional Urdu storytelling and Kyunki Ladkiya Funny Nahin Hoti comedy performance based on women's issues by Mahila Manch from Gujarat). The festival will also feature some of the best known names in the stand-up comedy circuit, such as Amit Tandon, Neeti Palta

Raineesh Kapoor, Gursimran Khamba, Atul Khatri and Zakir Khan.
There is humour in every aspect of our life, and in all fields, be it journalism, law, poetry, storytelling or theatre. Delhi is home to Ghalib, who was also known to be funny and witty. He used to drink and criticise religious practices. But we have lost our sense of
humour and have turned into a nation of offence takers," says Maheep Singh.
Khushwant Singh is remembered not only as a writer and journalist but also for his contribution to the considerable oeuvre of jokes about Sikhs. Maheep Singh points out that many readers of his syndicated column, "With
Malice towards One and All", would first turn to the joke at the end of it.
There is already a lit fest named afte Khushwant Singh, held every year in Kasauli. But there has never been a humour-based event in his name, says Jaskaran Singh, who is also a distant relative of the late writer. "He was very outspoken and also very
punctual. He famously turned away former President Giani Zail Singh for arriving late because it was past his bedtime," he says. One of the sessions at the fest, called 8pm Bottoms Up Club, will have participants sharing anecdotes of the litterateur who retired to bed strictly at 8 pm every night.
The organisers concur that religion and
politics have made politics have made people overly sensitive,
quick to take offence. "In the last seven-eight years, you could face consequences for anything you say," observes Jaskaran Singh. But they promise that the festival will pull no punches, keep the spirit of Khushwant Singh alive, and ensure that people leave with a smile on their faces and laughte leave with a smit

cinephilefiles


RANITA GANESAN

## Mind control

$C$ Cmanman December. Given how accomplished the series is, it is astonishing that these eight episodeswere the
first she ever wrote and acted for television. The first she ever wrote and acted for television. The 5 -year-old acknowledges the concept issemi auto-
biographical, and self-identifies her always-in-a-slight-panic character Abby as a "fat queer dyke" McEnany and co-writer Tim Mason have onMcEnany and co-wnter Mor Mason and ongoing
screen Abby working through past and ond
anguish - of the mental physical familial, and anguish - of the mental, physical, familial, and
professional varieties - with some help from that professional varieties - with son
beautiful nonsense we call love.
In McEnany's world, queer, lesbian, trans and
non-binary characters are cast in important roles Abby's new lover Chris (Theo Germaine) is a trans Abby's newlover Chris (Theo Germaine' is a trans
man, a first for her. The protagonists' struggles, which include but are not limited to gender and
sexuality, are depicted in a way that embraces sexuality, are depicted in a way that embraces
confusion and erasesshame. This is unsurprising confusion and erases shame. This is unsurprising
because producer Lily Wachowski is one half of because producer Lily Wachowski is one half of
the Wachowski siblings, who both came out as the Wachowski siblings, who both came out as
trans women and have addressed questions of trans women and have addressed questions identity in their oeuvre (Senses, Bound). Although
Work in Progress is streaming on Hotstar, the platform's interfacee hides it in the back of beyond very effectively. Imagine being a talent disco
ered late in life, only to have your labour of love ered late in life, only to have your labou
stowed away buried by bad algorithms.


Abby is funny, still talks to her dead therapist,
has fluctuating weight has fluctuating weight, and a boring temp job -
hardly tropes that have never appeared in hardly tropes that have never appeared in
American series before but the makers' flourishes make them special. Among their artful touches are a finite number of almonds, a great joke involving Lyft, and Abby's confrontation and, lat-
er, friendship with $S N L$ star Julia Sweeney, whose er, friendship with SNL star Julia Sweeney, whose
insensitive character Pat had made teenagehood insensitive character Pat had made tee
especially difficult for the protagonist.

The series was born from a storytelling show home of improv comedy in the US. She shares he alma mater Second City is the same as that of UNCLEAR Stephen Colbert, Tina Fey, and Bill
Murray. Like herself in real life, her character also Murray. Like herself in real life, her character also
deals with obsessive compulsive disorder and deals with obsessive compulsive disorder and
depression. She glosses over her problems in public, discusses them earnestly with confidantes, lic, discusses them earnestly with confict
and dissects them frenetically in private. The brave vulnerability underlining this show
reminds is reminiscent of Tig Notaro who rose to fame after performing a set about having breas cancer, and Australian Hannah Gadsby, who go her due only recently after speaking of why compersonal pains. In other ways, it bringsto mind the personal pains. Inotherwas,
work of Maria Bamford, who extracts humou
equally from the cacophony and the stillness of her equally from the cacophony and the stillness of he
bipolar condition. One result was Lady Dynamite a wild, and gentle, fever dream-like Netflix series starring Bamford and based on her life. She also found success relatively late in her career of some
20 years doing stand up and playingthe minor part She had remained mostly a Dovic's conic even if her The Maria BamfordShow, alow-budget web series, and Homemade Chistmas Stand $U p$, a comedy special performed and taped on the living room couch with her two pugs, pushed
boundaries. A mix of body comedy and funny boundaries. A mix of body comedy and funny
voices let hersneakinthe heavier stuff about menvoices let hersneak in the heavierstuff about mey had on-screen Maria setting off on a doggedly upbeat search for healing and love, post-rehab "That's not weird at alll" she says cheerfully, comforting one of her particularly awful dates."I miss the energy of mania!" Some of that mania is
glimpsed ashershow travels back and forthinto an glimpsed as her show travels back and forth into an
energy-filled early career, the grey-and-blue energy-filled early career, the grey-and-blue
depressive period in an asylum, and colourful depressive period in
McEnany and Bamford, slowed by bad periods have earned their big moments. Their Work in
Progress and Lady Dynamite establish also the significance of support systems. The cast of charac ters including parents, siblings, friends and coworkers helps Abby and Maria along, at times
gracefully and at other times ineptly. The overar ching theme is balm-like: That it is okay to no have everything figured out. No one else knows what they're doing either

## Dancing like men

Sooni Taraporevala's new film is a tale of the resilience and kindness buried under sordid everydayness, writes Nikita Puri

Right from the word go, with an evoca-
tive shot that opens with Mumbai's tive shot that opens with Mumbai's
Bandra-Worli Sea Link and then zeroes in on a group of teenage boys b-boyestablishes that her new film is a portrait of a city and people well-loved. These
teenagers, who have patches of their wild teenagers, who have patches of their wild
hair dyed blonde, fear nothing except the women who chase them away They want the space cleared
so they can dry fish where the boys dance. boys who impress with their skills in the opening scenes of Yeh Ballet
is Asifi (Achintya Bose) Hisfanil lives in Mumbai's slums and strus gles to make ends meet. Elsewhere, in cir-
cumstances not very different from Asif's Nishu (Manish Chauhan) who's been going behind his parents' backs to compete in dance shows. A love for dance and a burning
desire to rise above their less-than-mediocre desire to ise above their less-than-mediocre
lives is what binds them when they are lives is what binds them when they are
brought together by Israeli-A merican ballet teacher Saul Aaron (Julian Sands). Besides newcomers Bose and Chauhan,
the film also stars Jim Sarbh, Viiay Maurya and Heeba Shah, and a host of other promising actors.
Now stre

Original, Yeh Ballet is screenwriter Sooni
Taraporevala's second outing as a director Taraporevala's second outing as a director
(she made Little Zizou in 2008). With due (she made Litte LIzou in 2oss). With due
credit to cinematographer Kartik Vijay, Yeh Ballet is a beautiful coming of age story that
shines in its portrait of Mumbai Adding to shines in its portrait of Mumbaii. Adding to this is the fact that the film is inspired by true
events. The film's lead characters, the boys events. The film's lead characters, the boys
who love to dance as well as theirteacher, are numerous all based on living, breathing $\begin{array}{ll}\text { Despite numerous } & \begin{array}{l}\text { people who've influenced a gen- } \\ \text { eration of youngsters to report }\end{array} \\ \text { cenes set in } & \end{array}$ Mumbai's slums, edly flock to dance academies the film doesn't in Mumbai stray anywhere ear poverty porn $\begin{gathered}\text { One wonders how inspired } \\ \text { the characters really are, espe- }\end{gathered}$ cially with the teacher Saul's He's a man so bitter and agitated that Nishu has to convince aggrieved locals that his teacher is unwell and is physically in pain. This is a lie, but it gets a few laughs. Taraporevala takes upon herself the great
challenge of tackling multiple themes in the challenge of tackling multiple themes in the
film: religious intolerance, poverty, clasfilm: religious intolerance, poverty, clas-
sism. Then there's ballet, an elite dance form unheard of in the environment the boys grow up in. At least one of them has to fight off stereotypical criticisms about ballet's femininity. The occasionally abrupt edges to the film are perhaps because there wasn't
enough time to flesh all these themes out in


## 117 minutes.

Nevertheless, if for nothing else, the
arresting sight of the two young dancers soaring across the stage mid-routine makes one wish the film was being shown on the big
screen. Such is their skill (in real and reel screen. Such is their skill (in real and reel
life) that even Nishu's once-apathetic father life) that even Nishu's once-apathetic father
remarks, "Tu aadmi hai ki hiran (Are you a man or deer)?"
One has to also acknowledge Despite numa's sensitivity as a filmmaker. slums, she'serous scenes set in Mumbai's anywhere near povetty film doesn't stray picture of the many ways one chooses a

Stories inspired by true events, and eve fictionalised tales with heroes overcoming
great odds, often fall prey to completely great odds, often fall prey to completely writing out the big and small acts of
kindness that shape so many of our lives. This is where Taraporevala shines, in ten derly knitting together the efforts of those in kindness of almost-strangers. And this she does without diminishing the resilience shown by the protagonists of the story. One can only wish more lives could have
second beginnings, such as the

## Asporting sorority

In Bengaluru，India＇s largest community of amateur women footballers doles out lessons in life and sport，finds Nikita Puri


Every 7 hursday evening afer the

 | women from different walk of |
| :--- |
| life gathers together．They do | stretches and some side shuffling．They run are part of their warm－up routine，after which they launch into a game of football． The whole event takes about an hour and a their young children run around the group before the game starts，playing and petting the indie dogs watching patiently．

It＇s fabulous to be in the middle of the nice to run like grounds like this．It＇s just so nice to run like a child．We cheer when some－
one scores．We cheer when someone runs slowly．We cheer when someone＇s fast． There＇s no judgement here，＂says Schonali
Rebello，a founding member of city－based JobsForHer，an online portal that helps women with their careers，and now also the month－old HerKey，a members－only club for women leaders（in any field）． Rebello is part of a Bengaluru－based com－
munity which munity，which comprises women who want－
ed to play football though many had never played any sport before．But the community， called Sisters in Sweat，has since initiated them not just into football，but also given rise to a sorority of sorts that is continuing to grow． group has just grown organically，＂says Sweth Subbiah，who co－founded the group
with Tanvie Hans．While Subbiah is one of four Nike－certified fitness instructors in the country，Hans is a professional football play－ er who has previously played for English clubs such as Tottenham Hotspur and Fulham．Originally from Delhi，Hans moved back to India in 2016 and to Bengaluru a year later．She is now captain of the Karnataka
state women＇s football team． state women＇s football team walking into a bar would be the build－up to a joke，but in this particular case it was Subbiah introducing her long－time friend Rebello to Hans．＂So，you are a footballer，
right？Can you teach us how to play？＂Rebello right？Can you teach us how to play？Rebello vided they could get a few women together．
One week later they had their first class with

THE TEAM IS BUSY PREPPING FOR THE LAUNCH OF THEIR WEBSITE， BESIDESFIGURING OUTHOW TO HAVEMORESESSIONS，MEETMORE OFTEN，AND EVEN ADD MORE SPORTS，SUCH AS BASKETBALL

18 women playing football on a Saturday in September 2017．Today the group has over
300 members，who vie to get into the two weekly sessions the group holds．Thursdays
is for intermediate players，Sundays for is for intermediate players，Sundays for
beginners．The oldest beginners．The oidest of he women whove
been part of these games is 58 ；the youngest． 14．The average age of the group is 35 ． Subbiah and Hans themselves first met years ago，the one with the catchy tune（ $D a$
ya Da Ding）that featured athletes and sports women of stature，and also had Deepika
Padukone playing badminton． Padurne playg badminton， prepping for the launch of its website prepping for the launch of its website，
Sistersinsweat．in，besides figuring out how to have more sessions，meet more often，and


Sweat when she isnt working as a video analyst，documenting games to study them Such is the influence of the community hat Saachi Shetty 19 ，who grew up in Duba and returned to India last September，has put off pursuing a degree in exercise and health sciences from Australia．＂I joined the group in October and have stayed on（longe than intended）to get more experience．It＇s just so inspiring to see successful mothers ball and staying fit，＂she says．Besides help ing the team organise the sessions，Shetty also handles the group＇s social media． Sisters in Sweat is all about women build－ ing each other up，echo members of the com－ munity，＂However much we talk about women＇s empowerment，at the end of the day
it＇s often another woman questioning your life choices．Being part of a healthy commu－ nity like this changes you，＂says Ramani． The sport has advantages other tha physical fitness alone，say the amateur play－ ers．It＇s almost meditative in the sense that have to be in the momplete attention．You thoughts wander，＂says Sarah Nicole Edwards，one of the earliest people to sign up with the group．A chef and a food consultant who runs a brand called Copper＋Cloves， Edwards is from London．She has always been fond of solitary fitness activities，such
as running and cycling，and had never given as running and cycling，and had never given
team sports a chance before．＂A friend team sports a chance before．＂A friend
brought me along for a match，which is pret－ ty much how a lot of people joined the group． Turns out I really love team sports，＂she says． Back on the ground，Rebello＇s six－year－
old，who sometimes steps onto the ground to old，who sometimes steps onto the ground to play，asks his mother why there aren＇t any
girls in the football class he attends．＂He says girls play so well and that he wants girls on his team．I＇m proud of him，＂says Rebello， A lesson in parenting fits in seamlessly as the Even as the women advance on the field，so do relationships．
＂The women in this group support each other personally and also with each other＇s businesses，＂says Edwards．＂This is my
support system．This is my family，this is support system．This is my family，this is
my sisterhood．＂

## Across：

## Cut short revolutionary hackneyed idea（6） Leaves a group of musicians on course（8） Material provision for Consumer protection（6） last of Murdoch＇s obiterates $(6,2)$ teacher used to be behind the iron curtain（4） Sprayed whisky in fine rain An old ager ran riot in $\underset{(6,6)}{ }$

has of life？（ $4-4,4$ ）
Sort of five－foot rule in verse？ increasing lumbago pains（4） 4 One might nail it in this rate， but never for the defence（8） 25 Fashionable greetin
over－affected（6）

## over－affected（6） Ross gets beaten

 most flagrant way（8） 27 Drink，for example，before gong is struck（6）
## Down：

1 Beats in a child＇s game（8） Taking advantage is grand（8）
succeeding（4） blow here could lead to disqualification（12） map（10）
Single drink for Pushkin＇s Eugene $(3,3)$
What metal worker does is very fishy（6）
1 Game officia
Game officials who stock musical instruments（5－7） 4 A spear＇s got
tolerances（10） 6 Old puffer able to hold some drink（8） Surmounting difficultie 2001，dance around（8） siven a direction to crushth
plane（6）
Dye used by woman at Tobago
3 Bird，cut up and smoked（4）
SOLUTION
SOLUTION \＃3305

CHESS \＃1390
By devangshu datta

Athh strong Aerofototopen，Moscow
Bharathtsuburamany liarathubramaniyam，120－2 nai，beat threestrong GMs before helos： to Rauf Mamedov in the fifth round．After eight rounds，Mamedov shares the lead with Aydin Suleymanli（both 6）．Baskaran Adhiban and Aravindh Chithambaram are in
a pack of eight players sharing second（all 5.5 each）．Bharath（4．5）has probably madea GM norm．Another prodigy，DGukesh won the Hillerhød in Denmark in January and followed up by winning the Cannes Open las week．Gukesh scored $7.5 / 9$ for a rating performance of 2667 disastrously for Vidit Guirathi Guirath was sole leader until he lost in the secon last round to David Navara from a winning position．Jan－Krzystzof Duda beat him again in the last round．There was a five way tie between Alireza Firouzja，Vidit， David Anton Guijarro，Sam Shankland and Duda（all 5）．Firouzja won the tie－break
beating Vidit in blitz．Despite the poor finish，Vidit gains Elo．
The Candidates has an interesting prize structure．The total prize fund is Euro 500,000 （\＄542，158 approx），net of local

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taxes．All prize money will be divided equally between players who have the
same scores．There can be no draws before move 40 except via repetition The winner will of course，be the next Challenger and there will be a tiebreak，if required． There＇s controversy brewing around
Regium Chess，anew＂chess－tech＂company Regium claimsto manufacturee－boards and recently offered to sponsorone of Chess．com popular speed events whereHikaru
Nakamurabeat WesleySo inthe finals． Imagine a physical board，which can b hooked up to play online．A player makes physical moves and the embedded software transmits the moves，pick up the replies，etc．Several companies－Square off is one－are working on providing such
functionalities functionalities
Regium Ch
Regium Chess claims to have develope such aboard．Doubts have been raised Lichess which say those claims are unverified．Phil Wang at
thispersondoesnotexist．com claims generated by Nvidia＇s Deepfake program！ generated by Nvidia＇s Deepfake program！
The Diagram，White to Play，（White： Guirathi Vs Black：Navara，Prague Master 2020），is the set up for a combination． White played 15．Bxf7＋！Kxf7 16．e6＋！ Kxe6 17．Qe2＋Kf7［Apparently 17．Qa4
strongerl 18．0－0－0 Bf6 19．Ne4 Qe7［Now 20．Qc2 with a threat of Rhel is crushing but Vidit＇s line is good enough］ －xe7＋Bxe722．Nxb7 Nf6 23．Ne5 Nd524． Kb1 Rc8 25．Rhe1 Bxa3！？［Black is trying to confuse the issue］26．Nxc6！Bb427．Nxb4 Nxb428．Rd7 h529．Nd6 Ra830．Ree7 Amazingly white lost this position（0－1， 64 moves）
Devangshu Datta is an internationally rated
chessand correspondencchespplaer
BS SUDOKU \＃2986

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Very easy：$\star$

## HOW TO PLAY

 Fill in the grid so that every row，every columnand every $3 \times 3$ box contains the digits 1 to 9



Berlin-based comics expert Ralph Trommer takes Kavitha Shanmugam into a fantastical, multi-layered, some times political, some times biographical world

conduct a masterclass on the history and art of
the graphic the graphic novel at the annual City Scriptsfes-
tival at the Indian Institute of Human Settlements. The festival focuses on the cre ative exploration of cities and public spaces,
Trommer, who comes from Europe where comics are celebrated as the ninth art explains how comics are "visual literature" with a rich, long history dating back to the 19th century. It is this history that he largely talks about, starting with what might be the
first ever real comic by Swiss cartoonist and first ever real comic by Swiss cartoonist and
caricaturist Rodolphe Topfer These are caricaturist Rodolphe Topffer. These are
short, brilliantly sketched black and white short, brilliantly sketched black and white
cartoons with speech balloons, and are really the precursors to the modern comic. But one of the stunning samples of that
time are the highly imaginative and well-crafted pictorial broadsheet narratives with short verse
texts of the great German texts of the great German artist
and humorist, Wilhelm Busch We are introduced to his iconic
series Max and Moritz on two young rascals, which first appeared in 1864 .
"The satiric, rhyming verse
which accompanies the amazing which accompanies the amazing portrayals inside the panels are
excellent, and even modern," excellent, and even modern,
says Trommer, who is clearly a devoted fan. The simple plot revolves around the tricks the two
pranksters play on people in the village. They kill the widow's chickens and fill up thei teacher's pipe with gunpowder,
but finally meet a dark and gory but finally meet a dark and gory
end at the hands of a miller. (No comic relief here!) The boys, however, became so popular that they inspired a German cartoonist, Rudolph Dirks, to create a comic strip on another naughty pair of
boys titled the Katzenjammer boys titled the Katzenjammer
Kidd in the Sunday edition of the Kids in the Sunday edition of the
New York Journal. By the end of the 19th century, comic strips had become staple fare in American newspapers.
By 1905, another great talent popped up on the newspaper
comic strip, says Trommer.It was comic strip, says Trommer.It was
American cartoonist Winsor McCay, whose most famous creation, Little Nemo in Slumberland, graphically captures the surrealistic dreams of a young male protagonist. Set in the back drop of a big city, in one story strip, the tall buildings on a stree develop long legs and demonimate Before they are crushed to death, the boy falls off his bed and wakes up. It is only a dream.
so, when did comics get real So, when did comics get real?
It was in 1929, says Trommer, with It was in 1929 , says Trommer, with
the entry of the lord of the jungle the entry of the lord of the jungle

- Tarzan (adapted as a newspa per comic strip from Edgar Rice Burroughs's novel Tarzan of the
Apes). In the '30s, the masked, mysterious Phantom; Jungle Jim and the nemesis of evil; the intergalactic explorer Flash Gordon by Alex Raymond dominated the landscape. And, by 1938,
superheroes had swooshed in to save the world. In the first comic version, Superman was superfast and mighty but he could not fly, and in the earlier versions, Batman and Spiderman were fighting real villains like Hitler. Incidentally, Trommer's
favourite comic hero happens to be the spinach-chomping, heav ily muscled sailor boy, Popey

mics became an industry with the arrival of the fear

sterix and the lov
who turned 90 last year. Popeye was created
at the same time as Tintin in 1929. "Ilike him because he's fantastic, funny and beats up

Comics became an industry only with the warrival of the fearless and famous Gaulish a wave of horror, sci-fi and crime stories had entered the frame. But not before humorous tales of Spirou and Fantasio and cowboy Lucky Luke, who can shoot faster than his own shadow, had captured the ima.
adults alike in the 1940s.
inary city of $G$ othom familiar with the imag

Trommer says that Franco-Belgian sci-fi comics by Jean Giraud (Moebius) have creat ed even more fanciful, mind-bending and futuristic visions of cities.
"In The Incal, which Moebius illustrated,
the pictures are explosive, unconventional with the pictures are explosive, unconventional with
indescribable stories situated in a futuristic city. He is one of this generation's best artists," affirms Trommer, giving other examples of comics with cities in the background like Will Eisner's fictional Central City in his The Spirit series and French cartoonist Jacques Tardi's adventure series, The Extraordinary
Adventures ofAdele Blanc-Sec, set in pre-World War 1 that always captured quaint and inter esting facets of Paris.

ForTrommer, the first bestgraph-
ic novel, a literary comic strip was,
however, sketched by a Vential however, sketched by a Venetian
master illustrator, Hugo Pratt master illustrator, Hugo Pratt. He cre
ated the cult figure of Corto Maltese ated the cult figure of Corto Maltese,
a rakish looking sailor who prefers a rakish looking sailor who prefers
freedom and imagination to wealth
arorthe firstime "For the first time, abstract elements were introduced in comics, which
had a dreamlike quality," Trommer observes. "The styles were elegant and artists were using less lines. In one comic, Prattgets philosophical in
a dialogue between the protagonist a dialogue bet
and a leopard."
By the end of the ' 80 s , anothe
talent came to the fore: American talent came to the fore: American
author and illustrator Art Spiegelman's holocaust narrative, Maus, based on his parent's experi-
ences in a Nazi concentration camp. ences in a Nazi concentration camp.
It was a compelling and dark comIt was a compelling and dark com-
ic, portraying Jews as mice and Nazis as cats, and it went on to Introducing politics in comics is not uncommon, says this
comics aficionado. "In the 1990s, we had the provocative, subver-
sive anti-racist comics by Robert sive anti-racist comics by Robert
Crumb. In 1934 in Tintin' The Blue Lotus, Hergé made a political statement against Japan's
aggressive policies towards China. aggressive policies towards China.
But this was because he had a Chinese student, who was helping him to learn about China and their culture. Hergé, howeve
received alot of criticism for this, recounts Trommer.
Trommer is full of admiration
for the fine and expressive work of Paris-based Lorenzo Mattotti Edgar P Jacobs for his memorable
Blake and Mortimer Blake and Mortimer detective
series; the New York-based immiseries; the New York-based immi
grant stories of American comic book artist, Will Eisner, widely regarded as the pioneer of the graphic novel in its classic sense
and Maltese-American cartoonist and Maltese-American cartoonis
and journalist Joe Sacco's reportage on inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza in his comic books.
Sacco's drawings are actually journalistic reports of conflict zones like Palestine. "It is factual but cre-
ative too in many ways and is filled ative too in many ways and is fille
with satirical humourt," he says. Among the new generation of
comic artists, he regards German comic artists, he regards German
cartoonist Reinhard Kleist as one cartoonist Reinhard Kleist as on
of the best for his biographies of not just musicians like Johnny Cash
and Nick cling - in a araphic novel, Knock
Out! - the life of a gay boxer who Out! - the life of a gay boxer who
was stigmatised for killing a fellow was stigmatised in 1962 .
boxer in the ring
It's an intriguing peek into the It's an intriguing peek into the
fantastic, energy-packed kingdom of comics teeming with
etched, timeless characters.

## Speaking up to survive

A collection of NGOs and craftspeople in India is making itself heard in important places and influencing policy, writes Geetanjali Krishna

he silken sheen of a Banarasi sari, the gossamer lightness of Chanderi, the
robust weaves of Nagaland and the stuning double ikats of Guiarat - these are just a few among India's impressive repertoire of handwoven textiles that face an uncertain
future. On the one hand, they bear the brunt of future. On the one hand, they bear the brunt of
steadily decreasing government support - as steadily decreasing government support - as
per statistics from the Ministry of Textiles, the per statistics fiom the Minder Handloom Weavers
funds set aside for the om 220 crore in 2019-20 to ₹10 crore in 2020 21. On the other hand, craftspeople find themselves unable to compete with the cheaper and faster machine and powerloom alternatives in a price-sensitive market. "Because of these fac-
tors, the livelihood of over a crore Indian tors, the livelihood of over a crore Indian
weavers and artisans is in danger," says weavers and artisans is in danger," says
Macherla Mohan Rao, who spearheads the National Federation of Handlooms and Handicrafts (NFHH).
This collective of NGOs and craftspeople from across India is creating interfaces where Chey can explain their concerns to legislators
and policymakers. Their advocacy seems to and policy lakers. Their advocacy seems so
have worked: in the last parliamentary session, Rao estimates that over 130 MPs raised ques-
tions pertaining to the handloom and handicraft sectors in both houses. The issues raised ranged from whether the government had devised policies to extend housing schemes to weavers and craftspeople and if it had increased the number of beneficiaries of the health insur-
ance scheme (the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Sima Yoiana) to broder question abouncs
revenues from the crafts and handloom sec- often misled into buying powerloom fabric tors. "This is a way of yetting our voice acrossto being sold under the eusise of handloom!", The people who can actually make a difference,
says Rao NFHH grew out of Rao's own experiences in 2016. "My family members are all weavers in Chirala, Andhra Pradesh," he says. "Over the years, I have seen the younger generation's dis
illusionment
with the sector and today with th unemployment crisis, many of them want to return home to work for the
want of other, better jobss." NFHH advocates for more policies and schemes to benefit craftspeople. Many weavers are uneducated and rely solely on their skills that have been passed on to them by the
previous generations," he says. "It previous generations," he says. "It
our and the government's respons bility to preserve this traditional knowledge.'
NFHH is also advocating for leg-
islative amendents. islative amendments to strengthen the position of handloom weavers. The
Handlooms (Reservation of Articles Hancioons (Reservation of Articles types of traditional textiles must be exclusively produced by handloom alone. "However, the
powerloom lobby violates this law with impunity," says Rao. Powerloom textiles are much cheaper and faster to produce. They have severely affected the livelinoods of handloom weavers, many of whom are being forced out" of business in different pockets of the country," he
 reviving the
once-vibran Indian handicraft and handloom sector could be a critical step in developing a mor robust economy
ly depend dFHH's on individual donations to cover urgent urgent vo
are heard."

# Light bulb moments 

Smart lighting is about to revolutionise the way we think of the humblebulb.Veer Arjun Singh offers a starter's guide



I

 be beontroled through a smal Perhaps the lamp on the other side bee shouldassoc change from a
brightw white to a warm yello in sync with this one, or maybe you can frially put an end to
that $f$ ginh that fight. Some hearty banter
betwen mum and dad two between mum and dad, two
chiryy chidren andad aloof chiry hidren anda lotoof
laughter in the living room laugherinime invnitoon happy picture.A bulub changed
here a downlighter thera and here, adown ingter there a
voila! There you have it, a beautiful family and a smart home, all working in perfect sync. If only things were that uncomplicated.
If you are will ing to throw money around and get your home fixed with al kinds of smart lights, speakers, locks and switches that communicate with one
another, I suggest you hire a person to your time in understanding how to go big on "smart", it's kind of dumb to invest in them. This guide will hopefully ake you through the basics. It coes start with a bulb, though. Before you fit smart LEDS into your
favourite chandelier, it's wise to give single unit a try. Skip the Bluetoothenabled bulbs that only work within a small range and buy Wi-Fi bulbs, instead. They can be controlled through in the same Wi-Fi network Some can even be switched on and off from anywhere in the world if you leave your home Wi-Fi on and your phone or laptop is synced to a cloud service. Pretend you are at home and fool lurking thieves. A Jaquar Vivid smart bulb that costs $₹ 1,800$ will soon be coming to e-commerce platforms. More widely avail Amazon) and a similar Wipro Garn (Amazon) and a similar Wipro Garnet
smart bulb is even cheaper. If you are
ordering one online, make sure the sock et type is compatible with your light fix-
ture. It's either the phasing out B22 that ture. It's either the phasing out B22 that
fixes into the socket with a single twist or fixes into the socket with a single twist or
the new and more popular E27 that takes a few twists to lock in. Get this right and you won't need an electrician.
Both these RGB bulbs have standalone apps (iOS and Android) that con nect to your phone via wi-Fi. You can
change colours, adjust brightness and switch them on and off remotely. next step is to choose a smart home plat form with a voice assistant. It could be Apple HomeKit (Siri), Google Home or Amazon Alexa. Their native apps let you Although you can do it through your phone, it really helps to have a smart speaker so that more people can control
the lights, let's say, in the living room. A the lights, let's say, in the living room. A
Google Mini speaker costs $₹ 2,999$ and an Amazon Echo Dot (3rd gen) ₹3,499. You can buy a bunch of lights from
different brands and control them separately, but if you are serious about turning your home into a more smartly lit ing your home into a more smartly lit
place, it's wise to invest in a single brand and build on it. Philips Hue is a good case in point. The brand not only lets you control hundreds of smart lights through a single app but also gives you
the option of buying decorative light fixthe option of buying de
tures fitted with them.
You can start with buying a Philips
Hue starter kit ( (10,999, Amazon) It


## Philips Hue smart lights

comes with three 10W LED bulbs and a Philips Hub - a tiny box that connects to your Wi-Fi router through a LAN cable. You can wirelessly connect up to 50
smart lights with a single hub and add multiple hubs to your router. Additional bulbs are around $₹ 2,499$ a piece. Either fit these bulbs into your existing light fix-
tures or consider buying new ones. Philips also has some nice pendant lights and sleek floor lamps for the living room that come retrofitted with smart lights. Once you have the lights in place, connect them to the Philips Hub through the Philips Hue app. It's a fairly simple process: connect the hub and the router
though a LAN cable, switch the hub on and search the lights on the app. But and search the lights on the app. But
before you are ready to say "Alexa, dim the living room lights to 20 per cent"" or "change the colour to blue", you have to create a virtual "living room" or a "master bedroom", etc, on the app and add the required lights to it. It's the same thing we do for our smart TVs and speakers.
can't possibly offer a guide to it, iust go to the app and you'll figure it out. So I am going to assume that you


Artize Rainjoy +
Price: $\begin{aligned} & \text { 260,000 }\end{aligned}$
understand the basics. Let's move to more exciting stuff. Bulbs in wall fittings and lamps are one part of it; Philips also has smart White Ambient and RGB light 32 ft that you fan tit tinide false ceilings and cabinets, around bed headboards and wherever else they seem to fit. and wherever else they seem to fit.
The smart lights together can be used in many ways. For instance, bedroom lights can be integrated with your alarm to fade in slowly to imitate the rising sun. Living room lights can be connected to your smart TV to change colours
according to the scenes and with your according to the scenes and with your music system to create a "disco lights" (for smartphones) and the Hue Sync app (for smartphones) and the Hue Sync app
(for computers). While the playful stuff might not be for all, mood lighting is a real thing. If not colour, smart lights also come with just shades of white and yellow, and also with a remote control for the smartphone-averse Now that the living areas are set tone, bathrooms need not be dull.
Among the smart lights and lamps can create a desirable ambience, a oneoff luxury product from the Jaquar Group, the Artize Rainjoy+, comes fitted
with RGB lights around the shower head, with RGB lights around the shower head which can be controlled with a water-
proof remote control The brand calls it proof remote control. The brand calls it chromotherapy, which is over and above
the features that adjust the intensity of the shower - rain, intense, mist and message. The luxury baths will set you back by $₹ 2,60,000$.
Unlike quad cameras and processor
cores, the Internet of Things (ioT) cores, the Internet of Things (IOT), and especially smart lights, isn't beyond the
scope of comprehension. The technology is pretty basic, still. A good time to get gy is prety basic, still. Agood time to get
started on it. Light a single colourful
bulb and let the light take you there.

## State of affairs

TJusticespite the state Health and Social Justice minister KK K Shailaja urging peo-
ple not to get swayed by rumours."There relation between the anganwadi family IS no relacion Net", she has said. "The govern-
survey and
ment is doing the survey for the benefit of the ment is doing the survey for the beventit of the
common man. It is not mandatory to mention common man. It is in
your religion or caste."
Similar protests against teachers have been reported from Thrissur, Malappuram and other districts of Kerala.
There are, however, also those from across
religions who understand the benefits of providing information for the survey and are cooperating, says $G$ P Vrinda Rani, district president of Thiruvananthapuram.
picion, how the enumerators will go about collecting data for Census 2021. Primary school teachers are mainly expected to be employed for the
task. The state government has directed district task. The state government has directed district listof of 31 questions released by the Centre for collist of 31 questions released by the Centre for col-
lecting Census details does not have any question that could connect it to citizenship. Even so, the teachers are anxious.
"We have not been intimated about the Census
duty so far, but we are not sure if we will aceppt it duty so far, but we are not sure if we will accept it
evenifitis sasignedto us. We arevery worried, says evenifitis sasignedto us. We are very worried, says
P Haritiovindan of the Congress-affiliated Kerala P Harigovindan of the Congress-affiliated Kerala
Pradesh School Teachers Association. He says a
 discussthe issue. The association has 65.000 mem-
bers, a maiority of them primary school teachers. bers, a majority of them primary school teachers.
Harikumar K J president of the Kerala School Teachers Association, which is affiliated to the ruling Left Democratic Front, dismisses these fears.
Thestategovernment, he says, hastaken adecuate Thestate government, he says, has taken adequate
steps to reassure the public and no questions that can spark fears of NPR or NCR will be asked
GiRESSH BABU

## Uttar Pradesh

$\mathcal{C}_{\text {data for the evoevnnmentor or oling martet }}^{\text {numet }}$ greater scrutiny in in compar Prades, beecheause of anxiety over CAA and confusion over the proposed N Lucknow resident Akash Awasthi (name
Land changed), whose job entails collecting market
and socioeconomic data for social organisations
and semi-government agencies, says collating been tougher.
"Peoplenow view anyone visiting their localities with a writing pad and pen with suspicion, and at timest they become aggressive. While thisi is broad-
ly true in minority-dominated areas sish Iy true in minority-dominated areas, such reac-
tion is not uncommon other areas too" he eays. He recalls an incident in the old city of tucknow where a team had gone to collect data about domestic electricity connections. A group of local people, he says, surrounded them and they were fored to hastily retreat, although no one was hurt. "Collecting market statistics for FMCG products such as toothpaste, too, has become diffi-
cult," adds Deewakar Pal (name changed), cult," ${ }^{2}$ adds
micro-entrepreneur.

Maharashtra
A $\begin{aligned} & \text { nNGO that has been working for the e du- } \\ & \text { cation of disadvantaged children for more }\end{aligned}$ than 20 years in Mumbai sends its voluneerstosurvey neighbourhoodst orecord instances their children for learning programmmes. In the last month, in one out of every 2 foiteld visits on average, someone has raised questions about whether the information being gathered has anything to do
with CAA or NRC. This is particularly the case in with CAA or NRC. This is particulary the case in areassuch as Govandiand Agripada that have large
Muslim populations. "People want to know in Musim populations. "People want to know in Some a ak usto show our ID cards, and ask for general information about what the organisation does," says a senior member of the organisation. "It think itis good that people ask and want to know. I don't
think anybody in my team has had an issue where think anybody in myteam has had an
people have withheld information y
explain the NGO's effortstsolocals. "One thiningthat works in its favour is that the team is in the field five to six days a week and meets people on a regular basis. Soeven ifpeople don't know them by name, their faces are familiar,'s says the senior member, who asks to remain unnamed.
An order dated February 25 has, meanwhile,
informed Mumbai municipal schol principls informed Mumbai municipal school principals
that no leave is to be granted to teachers between that no leave is to be granted to teachers between
March 10 and June 15 this year since they will be on Census duty.
Enumerators have all experienced some amount of suspicion and are bracing themselves or it this time too. "When ads start running on TV

FROM PAGE ONE

houses, it creates some awareness," a Dahisar-
based municipal school teacher says based municipal school teacher says, based on "That helps us convince them."

Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand
W $\begin{aligned} & \text { peassed a tesolution to say no to NRC, } \\ & \text { officials heaved }\end{aligned}$ passed a resolution to say no to NRC ,
officials heaved a sigh of relief. But then passed aresolution fihor Assembly unanimously in 2021. "Caste Census has its pros anded cons, buty you do not know how people will receive it and whether they will cooperate with the enumerators," sas senior Patna-based administrative official.
Among the urban elite, caste is private information, neither relevant nor sought to be known in anonymous spaces like workplaces, he says. And in
ural areas it is public knowledge he says, adding that data collectors might face some problem com-
piling such a census.
In Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, the concerns
aren't about CAA or NRC but about the security of enumerators in the face of armed rebellion against the government.
mevemencern in Jharkhand is the Pathalgad movement - a practice in which the tribal com-
munities declare self-rule and which is spreadin mast in the mineral-rich state. Huge stone plaques and signboards on the outskirts of remote villages warn "outsiders" that they are not welcome. There are hundreds of such installations, some
carrying excerpts from the Panchayats Extension carrying excerpts from the Panchayats (Extension
to Scheduled Areas) Act and the Fifth Schedule of to Scheduled Areas Act and the Fifth Schedule of administration and control of "scheduled areas" and Scheduled Tribes residing in those areas. They all signify self-rule by the local gram panchayat, and declare these villages as sovereign territories The supporters of the movement treat the
gram sabha as the highest authority and refuse to gram sabha as the highest authority, and refuse to
acknowledge the authority of the state and central acknowledge the authority of the state and central in Khunti district, had installed such stone panels announcing self-rule. Police personnel have repeatedly faced the wrath of villagers. Many have been assaulted or held hostage for challenging
the practice of Pathalgadi.

The incidents targeting government employPathalgadi villages will be the real challenge for the administration in compiling data," says RanchiThe new Hemant Soren-led government has perhaps made the task even more difficult by declaring on the first day of taking charge that the cases registered against the Pathalgadi supporter would be withdrawn. The previous government had cracked down on the supporters of the move-
ment and had registered cases against over 10,000 ment and had registered cases against over 10,000 unnamed persons.
Shrivastava says that anti-social elements invor they will be the biggest challenge as the authorities get down to collecting Census data. Women surveyors, meanwhile, avoid going to these villages and consider them dangerous. In
June 2018, six women working with an NGO were June 2018, six women work ing with an NGO were
kidnapped from a missionary school and raped in kidnapped from a missionary school and raped in
Kochang village. Rupa Kuwar, a schoolteacher, and three other women were deputed for collectand three other women were deputed for collect-
ing data for a health scheme. "We did not have th courage to visit these places," she says.
Even the policee refuse to escort the surveyors
in these areas where the Adhaar card too is treatin these areas where the Aadhaar card too is treat
ed as an anti-tribal document. ed as an anti-tribal document.
Conducting surveys and collecting data in the
Naxal-infested pockets of Jharkhand and Naxal-infested pockets of Jharkhand and
Chhattisgarh is relatively easier the authorities Chhattisgarh is relatively easier, the authorities
say. It's the inaccessible terrain and not the fear of Naxals that prevents the authorities from reaching the people. In the little-known Naxal zone of Abuimarh, it is said that even Akbar - who conducted the first revenue survey - failed to map the area because of the difficult terrain. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has,
announced that he will get the job done
Anshuman Bhadoriya, a senior police officia with a long tenure in the insurgency-hit Bastar region, says that Naxals do not usually disturb survey work, unless they are suspicious of it. N incident of a survey team being assaulted has been reported from these restive areas, he adds. Meena Markam, a healne whteer from Sukma
district, recalls an incident when rebels took her hostage along with another surveyor They let them go after questioning them.
A senior official in the Dantewada district administration says survey teams normally invite the sarpanch and village secretary with the voters
lists. Data is compiled from this list by adding lists. Data is compiled from this
deleting or updating information.
deleting or updating information.
A Raipur-based political commentator say there is no reason for the Naxals to oppose the
CAA or NPR. "In fact they will cooperat CAA or NPR. "In fact, they will cooperate as this
will ensure they remain citizens of India." If at all, they might oppose it on the grounds that it has been BJP's agend


[^0]:    alone debt of LCL worth $₹$ 6,200 crore. However,
    the resolution professional informed the tribunal that taking a call on such conditions was not in Lavasas control because there weres several other

[^1]:    icated to the nation 11 Re on Friday dedManagement Centres (REMCS) for renewable energy integration. Singh also inaugurated Management Centre (NR-REMC) at a func tion here. "On the occasion, the Minister ded icated to the nation, eleven REMCs, placing
    India among a league of few nations, which have state-of-the-art management centers for renewable energy integration," a power ministry statement said.
    Speaking on the occasion, Singh congrat-
    ulated all those who planned the Green Corridors and REMCs and said that they are showing more vision than that shown by Europe and US when they started renewable

    Te government'starget of 175 GW rene able energy ( RE ) capacity by 2022 poses challenges to grid management due to intermit-
    tent and variable nature of RE generation The REMCS are equipped with artificial intelligence-based RE forecasting and scheduling tools and provide greater visualisation and enhanced situational awareness to the
    grid operators. The REMCs are co-located with the State Load Dispatch Centres (SLDCs) in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan; and in Regional Load Dispatch
    Centres (RLDCs) at Bengaluru, Mumbai and Centres (RLDCs) at Bengaluru, Mumbai and Centre (NLDC) here. Presently, 55 GW of renewable power (solar and wind) is being
    monitored through the eleven REMCs. pil

[^2]:    Then we could truly say "Namaste Trump

