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With savings rate falling, phasing out exemptions may hit it harder

UDIT MISRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

THE GOVERNMENT'S plan to gradually get rid of all exemptions and deductions under the personal income tax regime — in a bid to provide lower taxes and a simplified tax architecture as well as to boost consumption — will almost certainly hurt the already falling rate of savings rate in the Indian economy.

What's more, several sectors such as the cash-strapped real estate sector, as well as insurance sector, are also likely to feel an adverse impact of the move in which Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman offered an alternative income tax regime bereft of all exemptions and deductions but with lower income tax rates.

The savings rate, expressed as a percentage of the gross domestic product, reflects the pool of investible funds within the country that are available for the government and private businesses to use for investment purposes. In other words, a country's overall growth critically depends on having a healthy savings rate.

"The deductions for income tax purposes were brought in to encourage savings in the country. The idea was that these would channelise funds where they may be used for long-term projects. This new tax regime would adversely affect that intent and hurt the savings rate," said N R Bhanumurthy, Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy.

Over the past six years, data suggests that India's savings rate has been consistently declining. At the height of India's growth phase in 2012, the overall savings rate was around 36% but it is now down to 30%; during the 1990s, it was stuck at 23-24% of GDP.

"More significant is the decline in household savings. They were 23% in 2012 and by 2018, just 17%," says Sunil Sinha, principal economist of India Ratings. This is crucial because of the four

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED

Why savings rate matters

THE OVERALL savings rate in an economy refers to the pool of domestic savings available for investment. For sustaining high growth rate (say 8%) over a long period, a country must have a high savings rate. India should ideally have close to 36%-40% (of GDP) savings rate but's been falling over the past few years and is now 30%.

TO HARIDWAR VIA WAGAH

Hindu families from Pakistan enter India via the Wagah-Attari border on a 25-day visa to visit Haridwar, Monday. *ANI* **REPORT, PAGE 9**

CORONAVIRUS

3rd case in 5 days, Kerala declares state calamity, Centre forms GoM

SHAJU PHILIP & ABANTIKA GHOSH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

ON THE day Kerala reported a third case of the Novel Coronavirus (nCoV 2019) and declared the outbreak as a "state calamity", the central government set up a Group of Ministers (GoM) to monitor measures taken across the country to prevent the virus from spreading further.

Officials said the latest patient, from Kasaragod district, is a student in Wuhan — the Chinese city at the centre of the outbreak — and had travelled back to India 10 days ago. All the three cases are "out of danger" with "normal symptoms of infection", officials said.

State Health Department officials said the third patient, a 22-year-old man, took the same route to return home — via Kunming in China, Kolkata and Kochi — as the first two patients who were also students in Wuhan.

"But, he travelled on a different flight. In fact, the third case has thrown up a new batch of

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WORLD

GROUND ZERO WUHAN SHORT OF SUPPLIES

CHINA ACCUSES U.S. OF WHIPPING UP PANIC
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MODI SHARPENS ATTACK IN DELHI LAST LAP

Behind Shaheen Bagh, Jamia protests, design to divide India, says PM

DECISION 2020
DELHI

Slams AAP, Cong: Hiding behind Constitution, flag to give lectures

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

WITH HIS party making the anti-CAA protests a poll plank to target the ruling AAP in Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, mentioning the Shaheen Bagh protests for the first time, sharpened the attack Monday, saying there was a "design" to destroy amity in the country.

In his first campaign speech in Delhi which will vote for a new Assembly on February 8, Modi told a rally in Karkardooma: "*Seelampur ho, Jamia ho ya phir Shaheen Bagh, beete kayi dinon se Citizenship Amendment Bill ko lekar pradarshan hua. Kya ye pradarshan sirf ek sanyog hai? Ji nahi, ye sanyog nahi, ye ek prayog hai. Iske peeche rajneeti ka ek aisa design hai jo rashtra ke sauhard ko khandit karne ke iraade rakhta hai.*"

("Be it Seelampur, Jamia or Shaheen Bagh, the past few days have seen protests against the Citizenship Amendment Bill. Are these protests merely a coincidence? No, this is an experiment. Behind this is a political design which intends to destroy the amity of the country.")

Hitting out at the AAP and Congress, Modi said: "Had it been just a protest against a law, it would have ended after the government gave all assurances. The AAP and Congress are playing politics and everything is clear now. Keeping the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a rally in Delhi. *Tashi Tobgyal*

Javadekar calls Kejriwal a terrorist, AAP hits back: why not arrest CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

WITH UNION Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar also making a "terrorist" jibe at Arvind Kejriwal, days after West Delhi MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma made a similar comment, the AAP on Monday "challenged" the BJP to "arrest and jail" the Delhi Chief Minister. An AAP delegation also met Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora.

Addressing a press conference, flanked by Union Minister of State (Finance) Anurag Thakur, Javadekar said there is plenty of "evidence" to show that Kejriwal is a "terrorist", including the fact that the AAP chief had once called himself an anarchist.

"He (Kejriwal) is making a very innocent face and asking whether he is a terrorist. *Toh aatankvaadee ho iske bahut saboot hain. Aapne khud kaha tha main araajakvaadee hoon. Araajakvaad aur aatankvaad mein bahut zyada antar nahi hota. Aur Punjab ke chunav mein, jab ek hafta bacha tha, tab Moga mein, Khalistan Commando Force ke aatankvaadee, commander Gurinder Singh, ke ghar pe raat bhar ruke the* (There is plenty of evidence to prove you are a terrorist. You had called yourself an anarchist. There is not much difference between an anarchist and a terrorist. One

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CM Arvind Kejriwal at a roadshow. *Prem Nath Pandey*

FULL COVERAGE
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J&K YEARNING FOR CHANGE
BY RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD
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BUSINESS AS USUAL
BY UNNY

EXPLAINED

SIMPLY PUT
WHAT FINANCE PANEL HAS SAID
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EXPRESS NETWORK

108 MEMBERS OF PFI ARRESTED IN FOUR DAYS: UP POLICE
PAGE 9

Bail to Chinmayanand, judge refers to silence when 'virginity is at stake'

APURVA VISHWANATH & MANISH SAHU
NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 3

GRANTING BAIL to former Union Minister Swami Chinmayanand, who was arrested last September on the charge of sexually assaulting a student of a law college he runs in Shahjahanpur, the Allahabad High Court, in its order Monday, called it "a complete matter of quid pro quo" and said the young woman's conduct was "astonishing", and that she "tried to blackmail him for ransom".

Justice Rahul Chaturvedi, in his order, said: "A girl, whose virginity is at stake, not uttering a single word to her own parent or before the Court regarding the alleged incident, is an astonishing conduct which speak volumes about the ingeniousness of the prosecution story."

Relying on the final report of the police under Section 173 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Justice Chaturvedi noted that Chinmayanand who "once adorned the post of State Minister for internal affairs in the Government of India has got himself involved in a most discreet incident and that too for a considerable period of time".

On the woman's statement recorded under CrPC Section 164 — a statement made before a magistrate — the court said it "contains almost same flavour and texture with certain modifications hither and thither" as the statements made before police.

The order said "it is also noteworthy there are material on record where the family members of Miss "A" were being

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'Woman never shared anything with parents'

Rose Valley: KKR firm's bank account among those attached by ED

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

BANK ACCOUNTS of St Xavier's College, Kolkata and Knight Riders Sports Pvt Ltd, the holding company of IPL team Kolkata Knight Riders, are among those provisionally attached by the Enforcement Directorate in an alleged money laundering case linked to the Rose Valley chit fund scandal. The book value of the assets attached is said to be over Rs 70 crore.

The ED said movable and immovable properties of various entities and individuals who allegedly received funds from the Rose Valley Group and related entities have been attached. These include bank accounts of M/s Multiple Resorts Pvt Ltd, St Xavier's College, Kolkata, M/s Knight Riders Sports Pvt Ltd etc. The total amount attached in these bank accounts have been pegged by ED at Rs 16.20 crore.

Venky Mysore, CEO of KKR and Red Chillies Entertainment, did not respond to a text message from *The Indian Express* seeking comment.

The ED also attached 24 acres of landed property in Ramnagar and Mahishadal, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal; a flat at Dilkap Chambers, Mumbai and one acre of landed property at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Objections raised, SC says will frame larger issues in Sabarimala reference

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

DESPITE OBJECTIONS from some senior advocates, a nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court decided Monday to go ahead with the framing of legal issues to be adjudicated upon in the Sabarimala reference on the larger question of discrimination against women at different religious places. The Bench said it will also hear arguments on whether a reference can be made from a pending review petition.

Reference made on pleas to review Sabarimala order

"We will not abort hearing... We will frame the issues ourselves," said the Bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices R Banumathi, Ashok Bhushan, L Nageswara Rao, M M Shantanagoudar, S A Nazeer, R Subhash Reddy, B R Gavai and Surya Kant. It will meet again on February 7 to decide allocation of time for hearing different sides.

The Sabarimala reference to the nine-judge Bench followed the September 19, 2019 decision of a five-judge Bench, headed by then CJI Ranjan Gogoi, to keep review petitions, challenging its September 28, 2018 order that lifted age restrictions on the entry of women to the hill shrine in Kerala, pending till a larger bench took a call on certain

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

School 'sedition' arrests: 9-yr-old waits for mother to be freed, police seize slippers, question children

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

SREENIVAS JANYALA
BIDAR, FEBRUARY 3

THE NINE-YEAR-OLD breaks down when asked where her mother is. It's been three days since Najumunissa, a single parent, was put in jail on sedition charges after the Class 5 student spoke against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in a school play, and said she would hit anyone who asked for documents with shoes.

Apart from Najumunissa, police have held the school headmistress, Fareeda Begum, on sedition charges. It has also seized the slippers held up by a student as Najumunissa's daughter said "*joote marenge*" as "evidence".

Since police have been dropping in daily to question students at the Shaheen Urdu Primary School since the arrests, parents have been coming to ensure they are around when that happens.

On Monday, D N Nagesh took over as the Bidar Superintendent of Police after T Sreedhara was suddenly transferred on January 31, a day after the two women were arrested.

In between sobs, Najumunissa's daughter manages to say "*bhabhi*", referring to their landlord's wife who has been taking care of her with Najumunissa in prison.

Lodged at the Bidar District jail, Najumunissa, 35, who has no WhatsApp on phone, says she knows little about the CAA or the National Register of Citizens except what they had heard on TV and "once on someone's mobile".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Shaheen Urdu Primary School has 254 students. *Sreenivas Janyala*

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WEB EXCLUSIVE

KALKAJI VOTERS LOOK AT AAP TO RESOLVE TRAFFIC AND PARKING WOES

In Kalkaji, even as the AAP has a loyal voter base among the lower-income groups, the BJP's promise of 'Jahan Jhuggi, Wahin Makaan' could force many to rethink their support for Kejriwal.

VIDEO OF THE DAY

PM MODI ON ANTI-CAA DEMONSTRATIONS

'Protests in Shaheen Bagh, Jamia experiment to destroy harmony'

TECH

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE BBK GROUP?

India's largest smartphone firm has a notable market share

EXPRESS AUDIO

Behind the scenes of shootings at Jamia and Shaheen Bagh

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

A reporter details the events leading up to three incidents of shooting in just four days and whether there will be any action against "goli maaron"sloganeers.

JD(U) leader dies in communal clash in Bihar, four held: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, FEBRUARY 3

FOUR PEOPLE were arrested on Monday for allegedly indulging in stone-pelting on Saturday during a clash between two communities, leading to the death of a local JD(U) leader, police said.

According to the police, the clash broke out between a procession headed for Saraswati idol immersion and some local Muslim youngsters. JD(U)'s Sheikhpura block president Amit Kumar Biswas was hurt in the stone-pelting and later succumbed to his injuries, police said.

On Sunday, protests broke out in the area where several shops belonging to Muslims were torched and a shrine was vandalised, they said.

On Monday, the police lodged a case against eight people for Saturday's violence and later arrested four of them under IPC sections for murder, attempt to murder, criminal intimidation and causing injury. The accused were identified as Ismail Khan, Saiful Khan, Istiyaq Khan, Shehanshah Khan, Ashraf Khan, Asif Khan, Akbar Khan and Irfan Alam. Aslam, Shehenshah, Asif and Akbar.

Munger Range Deputy Inspector General of Police Manu Maharaj told The Indian Express: "Communal tension was averted with timely police intervention. We are trying to arrest four other accused and are identifying those who damaged personal and public property in (Sunday's) protests."

Rape of minor in Chennai: Five get life imprisonment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 3

A SPECIAL POCSO court on Monday sentenced five of 15 people convicted for sexually assaulting a differently-abled minor girl in an apartment complex in the city to life imprisonment. Of the five, four shall be in imprisonment till death.

On Saturday, the court had convicted the 15 — all of them used to work in the complex. The case, against 17 people, was registered in July 2018.

According to the police, the victim was subjected to repeated sexual harassment since January 2018 and the family filed the complaint after the girl narrated her ordeal to her elder sister.

The first four accused — Ravikumar, 56, Suresh, 32, Abishek,23, and Palani, 40 — will remain in prison for life without the possibility of parole. The fifth accused, Rajasekar, 40, is sentenced to life with entitlement to be released prematurely.

Erald Bross, 58, was sentenced to seven years and all the others were sentenced to five years of rigorous imprisonment.

CLARIFICATIONS & CORRECTIONS

03.02.2020, PAGE 9

IN THE report 'Reading Bodo: one language, three scripts, and a focus area in Accord', it was wrongly stated that Bodo is the only tribal language listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Santhali is another tribal language in the same list.

The error is regretted.

FROM PAGE ONE

Corona case

contacts to be traced. We have put other passengers of the flights under the high-risk category, and their status is under close observation," sources said.

Last Thursday, officials announced the first case and said that the patient is a 20-year-old woman from Thrissur. The second case, a 22-year-old man from Alappuzha, was reported Sunday. Their samples were among an initial batch of 20 tested in Kerala.

Confirming the "third positive case", the Union Health Ministry said in a statement: "The patient has a travel history from Wuhan in China...and is in isolation in the hospital. The patient is stable and is being closely monitored."

Kerala government officials said 2,239 persons from the state who had been to China recently have been put under observation, including 2,155 under home quarantine, while 84 have been isolated in hospitals.

State Health Minister K K Shailaja said the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) has decided to declare the epidemic as a state calamity. "There are chances of more positive cases emerging in the coming days. Surveillance and control measures have been strengthened across Kerala. As on Monday, 140 samples from patients isolated in hospitals have been sent to the National Institute of Virology in Pune for tests, and 46 have been negative," she said.

According to SDMA member secretary, Dr Sekhar Kuriakose, once a "state calamity" is declared, various aspects of administration come under the ambit of the Disaster Management Act. In effect, the move gives more powers to district collectors in taking decisions, with overall monitoring being done by a five-member team of senior government secretaries.

In 2016, a blaze set off by firecrackers, which killed over 100 at a temple near Kollam, was declared a state calamity.

In Delhi, meanwhile, five of those who were evacuated from Wuhan and quarantined at the Army's facility in Manesar were moved to the Base Hospital after they displayed symptoms of cough and cold. Their samples, which were taken to AIIMS, tested negative.

The central government's GoM comprises Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Puri, MoS Home G Kishan Reddy, MoS Health Ashwini Kumar Choubey, and MoS Shipping Mansukh Lal Mandaviya.

Officials told the GoM in its first meeting, which was chaired by Vardhan, that a total of 72,353 passengers on 593 flights arriving from China, Thailand, Hong Kong and Singapore have been screened so far.

They said 2,815 persons are currently under community surveillance. Of 338 samples sent for testing, three have been found positive and 335 negative, while 70 are being processed.

The GoM was informed that NIV-Pune has been made the nodal centre for coordinating diagnostics while 12 regional labs are involved in testing the samples.

The briefing also covered preventive measures put in place, status of positive cases, travel advisories, and the situation at the two quarantine centres with 645 persons evacuated from Wuhan.

Principal Secretary to the PM P K Mishra, NSA Ajit Doval, Principal Adviser to the PM P K Sinha, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, and secretaries of other ministries were also present in that meeting.

Sabarimala

questions arising from it.

The five-judge Bench pointed out that petitions seeking entry of women to mosques, challenging female genital mutilation among Dawoodi Bohras and practices in the Parsi community were still pending and these could be impacted by questions raised in the Sabarimala matter.

On Monday, the nine-judge Bench clarified it won't be deciding the review petition but only lay down the general law to be followed.

"We are not looking at it as negative as you are. We think it is good for many future situations that we lay down the law... We are only going to decide the interpretation of those Articles which have been invoked in Sabarimala and other cases... We are deciding the larger issue. That's what we propose to do," CJI Bobde said when senior advocate Kapil Sibal said the court could not decide any reference without a factual situation to back and that any observation may have widespread ramifications on facts in related matters.

Senior advocate K Parasaran tried to assail the reference order made on the review petition and said the question was whether this would be beyond the scope of a review.

Senior advocate F S Nariman said the five-judge Bench, in a 4-1 judgment, had already answered the questions in the Sabarimala matter. "The scope of a decision in review is extremely limited: Is the answer right or not? Whether there is an error apparent?"

He said the bench headed by then CJI Gogoi had made the reference to a larger bench by listing seven questions."This is not the practice which has been adopted by the Supreme Court since Privy Council days and there are several judgments to this effect," Nariman said.

Backing the nine-judge Bench taking up the reference, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the cases involve questions which may require a larger debate on the contours. "The contours would be decided which will be applied to the cases," he said.

CJI Bobde said "what have been referred to us are not the main petitions, but some questions". At this, Nariman said "but these questions don't arise in the Sabarimala matter".

The Bench asked Nariman if he was trying to say that while deciding review in a matter, the court cannot refer questions to a larger bench along with questions that have arisen in another case. "Yes, that's outside the scope of review," Nariman said, adding he was not questioning the power to set up the nine-judge Bench.

Senior advocate K Radhakrishnan, while supporting the reference order, said it will settle once and for all the recurring issues under Articles 25 and 26. He pointed out that the reference order will also help instil public confidence by settling those issues.

Senior advocate Shyam Divan said the court should not go ahead with the framing of issues, but first hear objections to the maintainability of the reference order. He said the reference raised speculative issues that may arise in future. This, he said, was not possible under the law.

Parasaran countered this, saying those questioning the reference order were forgetting that this was not an ordinary litigation, but a PIL. In a PIL, the court's powers, he said, were innovative and limitless and it was up to the court to exercise it or not. In a PIL, the court can look at the past, present and take the future into account, he said.

Shaheen Bagh, Jamia, Seelampur protests not a coincidence: PM

Constitution and Tricolour in the forefront, *gyaan baata ja raha hai* (people are being lectured). And an attempt is being made to divert attention from the real conspiracy."

Incidentally, in his rally at Ramlila Maidan on December 22, Modi had invoked the Tricolour in a different context: "When I see protesters wielding stones, I feel upset. But when I see some protesters out with the Tricolour in their hands, it brings some *sukoon* (peace) too. Those who are protesting with the flag in their hands, I am sure, will also speak out against Pakistan, against terrorism. Holding the flag is our right, but that also brings some responsibilities."

On Monday, Modi said that the anti-CAA protests were causing inconvenience to people travelling between Delhi and Noida.

"This is causing a lot of inconvenience to people commuting between Delhi and Noida. People of Delhi are watching. They understand, they are silent and are angry over this votebank politics. This mindset needs to be stopped here. If the number of conspirators increases, they will block some other road or lane tomorrow. We cannot leave Delhi in anarchy. Only people of Delhi can stop it. Every vote given to the BJP holds this power, only it can do this," he said.

"Supreme Court and High Courts have expressed unhappiness over the violence, arson, ruckus caused during demonstrations. These people don't care about the courts but speak of the Constitution," he said.

Javadekar makes terrorist jibe at Kejriwal

week before the Punjab assembly polls, you had spent a night at Khalistani commando force commander Gurinder Singh's house)," Javadekar said.

He said the "AAP is supporting Shaheen Bagh where slogans such as 'Assam ko azadi', 'Jinnah wali azadi' are being raised", adding that "supporting such slogans is also terrorism".

Saying that the Delhi government had still not granted sanction to the Delhi Police to prosecute former JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar and others in a sedition case, Javadekar said: "On January 26, you threatened that you would stop their prosecution. How much more evidence do you need? The people of Delhi now know that you are an anarchist and sympathise with terrorists. You are supporting Shaheen Bagh, JNU, the slogans being raised there and all such anarchists... then you are definitely a terrorist. This is your identity, no matter how much of an innocent face you make."

The last leg of AAP's campaign has been structured around the terrorist jibe, with the party hoping to generate a backlash against the BJP.

Later in the day, an AAP delegation met CEC Sunil Arora and demanded that FIRs be lodged against Javadekar, Verma and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who, while addressing rallies in Delhi, alleged that "Kejriwal and Pakistan are on the same page" on various issues, including the abrogation of Article 370.

Kejriwal had, in fact, welcomed the Centre's decision to scrap J&K's special status under Article 370.

On Monday, AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said BJP leaders were making such statements "out of desperation", saying it is becoming "increasingly clear" that the AAP is headed for a comprehensive victory in the February 8 Delhi Assembly elections.

"This is happening when the Parliament is in session. Such statements should attract FIRs. First, their MP (Verma) called the Chief Minister a terrorist, then their Haryana Chief Minister called Kejriwal a Haryana monkey, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath alleged that Kejriwal has links with Pakistan and also mocked his coughing issues. On Monday, Javadekar once again called him a terrorist. What is happening under the watch of the EC? How can a Union Minister speak such language? If Kejriwal is a terrorist, then I dare the BJP to arrest him. If Kejriwal is a terrorist, put him in jail. They have crossed all limits of decency," Singh said.

The AAP's poll in-charge said that through such statements, the BJP is making a mockery of election guidelines, which the EC is supposed to uphold. Singh also referred to the incidents of firing in Jamia Nagar and Shaheen Bagh areas, which, he said, were a stinging indictment of the Delhi Police, which comes under the Union Home Ministry.

"Their MP Anantkumar Hegde says Mahatma Gandhi's freedom struggle was a drama. I am sorry to say this, but the Prime Minister should know that he sits with people who are worshippers of Nathuram Godse and treat the Mahatma as a traitor," he said.

The AAP also raised with the EC a statement that BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra reportedly made during the course of a TV debate with Singh and Congress's Ragini Nayak. According to Singh, Patra said, "*Hinduon savdhaan ho jaiye, varna Hindu kaate jaayenge*". "This comes from the spokesperson of a party which controls the country's law and order. If you cannot even assure protection to people, then give up power and retreat to your homes," Singh said.

Speaking to reporters after meeting the CEC, Singh said: "BJP wants to create big trouble in the city and get the polls postponed. They don't have any issues at hand. We kept before the CEC statements made by Verma, Javadekar, Adityanath and Patra. We have demanded FIRs against all of them. These statements also amount to violation of the MCC and they should be barred from campaigning."

ceived from West Bengal Police against the Rose Valley Group of Companies and others. The FIRs and chargesheets, the ED said, reveal that the Rose Valley Group of Companies had been collecting deposits from the public with the intention to cheat them by falsely promising high returns on investment.

"Investigation under PMLA has revealed that Rose Valley Group of Companies collected more than Rs 17,520 crores from public throughout India by luring depositors with false promise of high return/interest on their deposits out of which an amount of Rs 10,850 crores was refunded and remaining Rs 6670 crore is still unpaid which constitutes the proceeds of crime. The Company diverted and siphoned the amount through cheating and had no real business that could repay this amount, " the ED said in a statement.

"The promoter/owner/chairman of Rose Valley Group of Companies, Gautam Kundu, was arrested by Enforcement Directorate in March 2015 and is still in judicial custody," the ED said.

Rose Valley

Jyoti Basu Nagar, New Town, Kolkata and one hotel on VIP Road.

The ED said it initiated investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act on the basis of FIRs and chargesheets re-

'Sedition' arrests

Her daughter was selected by the school along with six others to prepare a play on the Act, and Najumunissa says the nine-year-old decided to repeat what she had heard on TV. "We rehearsed the lines several times at home," she says.

Police say Najumunissa was arrested based on the Class 5 student's statement that it was her mother who had prepared the script, and that Najumunissa had told her especially to say "joote marenge" several times, including just before the play started.

Headmistress Fareeda Begum, 52, says she had no idea what the girl planned to say. "We decided to stage the play to inform students about the CAA. After giving a broad outline, I left it to the seven students to prepare their scripts. I did not know what Najumunissa had prepared."

The government-aided Shaheen Urdu Primary School has 254 students. The Shaheen Group of Institutions and Allama Iqbal Educational Society have over 50 branches in 13 states. CEO Thouseef Madikeri says 45 per cent of their over 2,000 students, including in Shaheen English Primary and Secondary School and Junior College branches in Bidar, are Hindus.

The headmistress now for 10 years, Fareeda Begum adds, "I would not have allowed those lines to be said had I known. Since I was in-charge of the play, I have been booked."

The mother of two, whose husband is a mechanic, had to be briefly hospitalised due to low blood pressure following her arrest.

The play was staged on January 21. After it was livestreamed on social media, 'social worker' Neelesh Rakshaal registered a complaint on January 26, and the arrests followed on January 30.

Najumunissa and her daughter moved to Bidar from the remote village of Hallikhed in Humnabad in the district just two months ago. Her husband M Aijazuddin, a farmer, died seven years ago, leaving her with three acres land and an infant daughter. "I moved here after giving the land on lease for Rs 15-20,000 per annum, and taking up work as a house help," says Najumunissa. Herself illiterate, she hoped the move would help her daughter get a good education.

The Shaheen Urdu school was a natural choice. Students from mainly economically and socially weaker sections study in institutions run by the Shaheen Group and many receive scholarships or fee waivers. The society runs a highly successful NEET programme integrated with Class 12, with 327 of its students clearing it last academic year.

Says CEO Madikeri, "We have never had this kind of an incident. Sometimes in Class 11 and 12 we have more Hindus than Muslims. Due to political pressure on police, this incident has been blown out of proportion."

Questioning the police interrogation of students, a school official said, "They are taking aside all students who participated in the play and those who saw it and questioning them. They don't let any teacher or management official to be present. The students are scared."

An investigation team led by Deputy SP Basweshwar Hira questioned students and teachers for 45 minutes on Thursday, three hours on Friday, questioned 60-70 students for about an hour on Saturday, and spent an hour on Monday, also seizing school CCTV and other records.

Asked what police were doing, Deputy SP Hira said, "When we have something to share, we will announce it."

Officials at the New Town Police Station where the case was registered said police are investigating if teachers were involved in spreading "false information" about the CAA, NRC and NPR. "From students we have come to know teachers have started a misinformation campaign and the play was a part of it," an official said.

Parents say police have been asking students questions like who took part in the play, who wrote the script, did teachers tell them to speak against the CAA and Central government and prime minister, and whether teachers had told them to urge parents not to show identification papers.

The parents say they are surprised. Said one, whose daughter was a part of the play, "In Delhi, a BJP Union minister says 'goli maaro (open fire)' and he gets away with it. Goons enter JNU and beat up students and no arrests are made. But a Class 5 girl says that if anyone asks for papers, 'usko joote maaro', and all hell breaks loose!"

Another parent says, "I don't understand how this is seditious. What is anti-national in 9-10-year-olds talking of the CAA?"

Savings rate

categories of savers in the economy — namely the government, the public sector, the private corporate sector and the household sector — it is the household sector which actually saves; the other three are dis-savers in aggregate.

The household sector refers to not only average families but also unregistered firms — kirana shops, for example — in the informal sector.

What's more, the "financial" savings of the households, as against savings in the form of physical assets such as gold, are not enough to even cover the government's borrowings (both on and off the books).

"That is why the interest rates are not falling in the country and businesses are stuck with a double whammy — that is, at a time when the demand is low, the cost of investment is also high — thus making us uncompetitive," said Sinha.

Bhanumurthy said that, given the falling trend of savings rate, he was expecting the government to launch tax-free infrastructure bonds to raise the level of savings.

"If we assume an Incremental Capital Output Ratio of 4, India needs a savings rate of at least 32% to grow at 8%. If you assume an ICOR of 5, the savings rate required for 8% growth will be 40%," he points out. The ICOR essentially maps the efficiency of capital and show how many units of capital (investment or savings) are required for getting an additional unit of economic growth.

Of course, one can borrow from outside India but it is not advisable to depend on too much foreign borrowings because such borrowings show up in higher current account deficit, which, in turn, will put pressure on the domestic currency, raise the crude oil bill and fuel inflation inside the country.

Chinmayanand

benefited out of the solipsistic behavior of the accused applicant. It is also noticeable that there is also nothing on record that during the period of the alleged atrocities committed upon Miss "A" she made any complaint or even any whisper to her family members against the accused applicant" and "therefore, at this juncture, this Court draws its conclusion that it was a complete matter of quid pro quo but over a span of time the greed for extracting "more", she along with her accomplices seems to have advanced for hatching a conspiracy against the applicant and tried to blackmail him for ransom, through the obscenic video clips recorded by herself".

The bail order also questions why the victim did not disclose the incident to her parents. "She never shared anything with anyone including her parents. On the other hand, during those dark period, on her own, purchased a spy-camera fitted goggles, from which she shot nude pictures and recorded videos of the accused, which were used by her in demanding the ransom money from the accused applicant, after blackmailing."

"What is mind boggling, disturbing and matter of concern is that a student of LL.M., i.e. Miss "A" comes into contact with the applicant, seeks and enjoys his 'patronage' and 'benevolence' as well as on her family members and in lieu of that she was said to be exploited physically by the applicant, keeps mum throughout the entire long period for almost 9-10 months," it noted, asking if "it is difficult to decipher as to who has used whom?".

The court also questioned the nature of relationship between the complainant and her father. "Beyond the aforesaid FIR, it is quite evident that only relying upon the evidence of the Facebook account and uploaded videos, father of the alleged victim has galvanized and prompted the present FIR. It appears from the text of the FIR, lodged by father that there was no direct contact between the daughter and her father. The relationship between father and the daughter seems to be quite strange as they were having no direct contacts and were alien to each other and the father was taking stock of the situation of his daughter through her Facebook account," it said.

Chinmayanand had accused the law student and her associates of blackmail, alleging that they tried to extort Rs 5 crore from him. The Special Investigation Team, formed to investigate the incident, has filed chargesheets in both cases. The law student, who is out on bail, has been chargesheeted with five others.

ANAND VIHAR	SIRIFORT	SHADIPUR	DWARKA- SECTOR 8
Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
288 AQI PM: 2.5	270 AQI PM: 2.5	238 AQI PM: 2.5	297 AQI PM: 10

0-50 Good | 51-100 Satisfactory | 101-200 Moderate | 201-300 Poor | 301-400 Very poor | 401-500 Severe

PAINTING ON THE WALL

A mural on the wall of a building in Shaheen Bagh. *Abhinav Saha*

Police seek clarity on midnight 'shooting' outside Jamia campus, security tightened

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

A DAY after reports emerged of a shooting near the site of the anti-CAA protests in Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi Police said they are yet to confirm if a gunshot was fired, and added that a probe to get more clarity is underway. As protesters surrounded Jamia Nagar police station late Sunday night, a case was registered under IPC section 307 (attempt to murder) and Section 27 of the Arms Act. But police said there was little clarity on the firing, the accused or the "two-wheeler and weapon" used.

Police have accessed CCTV footage from Jamia's gate number 7, which shows chaos as passersby rush to the spot of the alleged shooting, but does not capture the incident itself. A senior officer said, "We haven't found any evidence of a shooting yet. No shells, no cartridges. We are probing the video and vehicle registration number shared by people who claim to have witnessed the incident." Another officer said: "We are going through a bunch of registration numbers."

Security was beefed up at Jamia, Monday. *Abhinav Saha*

At 12.20 am on Sunday night, a message from the control room on the DCP's behalf directed all SHOs of the district and their staff to reach Jamia.

Sunday night's alleged incident came a day after two shots were fired in Shaheen Bagh, and three days after a shooting in Jamia. On January 30, a 17-year-old armed assailant shot at a Jamia student near Holy Family Hospital. On February 1, at least two gunshots were fired by a 25-year-old man 50 metres from the Shaheen Bagh protest stage.

On Sunday, the Election Commission relieved DCP (South East) Chinmoy Biswal from his current posting.

On Monday, Delhi Police beefed up security in Jamia Nagar. Joint CP (Southern Range) Devesh Srivastava told *The Indian Express*, "We have put two pickets — one near gate 17 of Jamia and the other near MAK Pataudi Sports Complex. Volunteers at Jamia and Shaheen Bagh have been asked to be in touch with us. Rapid Action Force and CRPF too have been deployed."

He said apart from him, Special CP (Law and Order, Southern Zone) R S Krishnia also met residents about security arrangements. Srivastava said, "We are communicating with Jamia alumni as well."

ATO (Jamia) Khalid Hussain and SHO (Jamia Nagar) Upender Singh supervised the pickets. "The picket is now there 24x7. We assure students that they are safe," Singh said.

The Jamia Coordination Committee also added an extra layer of security in the area. A volunteer said, "Near the stage at gate 7, there are two sections for frisking and checking — one each for men and women. We are checking their bags and IDs."

Wrestler who gave gun to teen shooter held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

DELHI POLICE'S Crime Branch has arrested a 25-year-old wrestler for allegedly selling a country-made pistol to the 17-year-old youth who shot at a Jamia student during an anti-CAA protest last week.

DCP (Crime) Rajesh Deo said the accused, Ajeet (25), is a wrestler who hails from Sahajpura village in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh district: "We have arrested the accused from whom the juvenile had procured the weapon. He will be produced in court Tuesday," the officer said, adding that further investigation is underway.

Ajeet is an arts graduate and is currently pursuing his BEd from a university in UP. He claimed to have won a junior wrestling championship in the 32-kg category, but police are verifying this.

During questioning, the juvenile had told police he was helped by one of his relatives, also a juvenile, to procure the country-made pistol from Ajeet for Rs 10,000.

A special investigation unit traced the relative to Gautam Budh Nagar district, who led them to Ajeet. "During questioning, he told police the juvenile had asked for help in procuring a pistol on the pretext of using it for celebratory firing at his cousin's wedding; he then took him to Ajeet. Ajeet claimed he got the gun from another man in his village," said an officer.

Police said a bag belonging to the youth was also recovered, in which he was carrying school books, notebooks, sample papers and his marksheet.

1 DEAD AFTER INHALING TOXIC FUMES

Worker injured in sewer mishap wanted to quit

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

A DAY after a sanitation worker died cleaning a sewer in CBD ground in Karkardooma, his colleagues claimed they were called in on Saturday to clean up the manhole and drain. They initially refused to clean it as the contractor didn't give them safety equipment, but claimed they were forced to do the job or forgo pay.

The victim, Ravi, died after he allegedly inhaled toxic fumes from the sewer, which was to be cleaned up as part of preparations ahead of the Prime Minister's rally on Monday. The second worker. Sanjay, who went in to save him remains critical. "Sanjay didn't want to clean the manhole. He went to quit and collect his wages from the contractor. But he got into the sewer after Ravi didn't come out and fell unconscious," alleged his wife, Seema (32).

Police said five men were pressed into service by a private contractor, Shanky, who is absconding. While the men alleged work was given by the Dehi Development Authority, officials at the DDA said they had not initiated the "cleaning".

In a statement on Monday, the DDA said: "We have constituted an enquiry committee headed by the Chief Engineer (East) to enquire into the incident which occurred near the Central Business District (CBD) Shahdara area on Sunday, where one person died and another was injured while cleaning the sewer line. Neither the cleaning work of sewer line had been assigned to any contractor/agency nor the persons cleaning the sewer line were engaged by DDA. The sewer line has not yet been handed over to the Delhi Jal Board, therefore, we will extend financial assistance to the families of the victim and injured. The DDA expresses its sympathy to the bereaved families..."

The victim Ravi (left); Sanjay remains critical

According to Bablu, one of the men at the site, they asked Shanky for safety gear on Saturday, but he refused. "On Sunday, he forced us to enter the manhole. He promised to pay Rs 350 a day for the job. We protested, but Shanky said he wouldn't pay if we didn't finish the job. So Ravi got into the sewer using a rope," alleged Bablu.

After Ravi descended into the 15-feet-deep sewer, he complained of uneasiness and asked his co-workers to pull him out. Before they could rescue him, Ravi lost consciousness.

"We shouted for help but the contractor and other officials fled. Sanjay said he would help Ravi and went inside... but he too fell unconscious," said Deepak (27), Ravi's cousin. He was also at CBD ground at the time, cleaning another drain nearby.

Workers approached bystanders, who called police and fire services. DCP (Shahdara) Amit Sharma said a police team used masks and other equipment to pull out the men.

Ravi lived in Sanjay Amar Colony in Shahdara with his brother. The two had recently lost their parents. Sanjay's brother Vishnu said he is the sole breadwinner of the family and wanted to work at a construction site: "He was planning to stop sanitation work as we told him it could be dangerous."

BRIEFLY

Verdict in PSO firing case on Thursday

Gurgaon: Nearly 16 months after a personal security officer shot and killed the wife and son of a judge he had been deployed to protect at a busy Gurgaon market, the verdict in the case will be delivered on February 6. The incident took place on October 13, 2018 at Gurgaon's Sector 49 market, where the PSO, Mahipal opened fire on the wife and 18-year-old son of judge Kishan Kant Sharma, as they were returning to their car after finishing their work. **ENS**

Man held with fake invoices

New Delhi: A man was arrested for allegedly using fake invoices worth over Rs 1,200 crore to get tax benefits, an official statement said on Monday. Daya Shankar Kushwaha, who was arrested by tax officers recently, used a network of 49 shell firms for defrauding the government, it said. **PTI**

8 admitted to RML Hospital test negative for coronavirus

New Delhi: Eight patients who were admitted to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital with suspected coronavirus were discharged Monday after their reports came back negative. "Thirteen people were admitted to the hospital's isolation ward. Eight tested negative and have been discharged. Reports of other patients are awaited," said Smriti Tiwari, spokesperson, RML Hospital.

On Monday evening, another patient with a suspected case of the virus was admitted to RML, taking the number of cases to six. At a quarantine facility in Manesar, five people with symptoms of cough and cold were moved to Base Hospital, Delhi Cantt. **ENS**

ALL ARE INVITED — ADMISSION FREE

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CRAFTS & TEXTILES
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WHOLE FOODS
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श्री राहुल गांधी जी और प्रियंका गांधी जी की

चुनावी जनसभा

4 फरवरी

जंगपुरा
दोपहर: 2 बजे
धरमबीर मान मार्ग, सनलाइट कॉलोनी पुलिस स्टेशन के पास, आईजी कैम्प

संगम विहार
शाम: 4 बजे
DDA पार्क, रतिया मार्ग, जामिया हमदर्द के सामने

5 फरवरी

कोंडली
दोपहर: 3 बजे
कल्याणपुरी बस स्टैंड

मटिया महल
शाम: 5 बजे
हौज़ काज़ी चौक

ISSUED BY : DELHI PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE.

EXPRESS Careers

Advt. No. 18/2020

Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
DIRECTOR (PERSONNEL & IR)
in
COAL INDIA LIMITED

Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is by 15:00 hours on 07th APRIL, 2020.

For details login to website
http://www.pesb.gov.in

Advt. No. 16/2020

Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
DIRECTOR (SHIPBUILDING)
IN
MAZAGON DOCK SHIPBUILDERS LIMITED

Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is
by 15.00 hours on 03rd April, 2020.

For details login to website
http://www.pesb.gov.in

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1	Assistant Administrative Officer (Hr&Admin) - 01 No	₹ 65,000/- pm	Initially on contract basis for two years which may be extended/ renewed further.
2	Office Assistant (Estate Department) - 01 No	₹ 35,000/- pm	
3	Project Officer (Research) – 01 No	₹ 65,000/- pm	
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Registrar

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The printout of application alongwith copies of testimonials should be sent by Regd. post/Speed post to "Director, MDI Murshidabad", Kullori, NH-34, P.O. Uttar Ramna, PS: Raghunathganj, Dist: Murshidabad, West Bengal - 742235 so as to reach latest by **29-Feb-2020**. Applications submitted through email will not be entertained.
The last date for online submission is **22-Feb-2020.**

Registrar

I HEREBY DECLARE

NARENDER NATH (75)
Congress, Shahdara

TOTAL ASSETS (2020)
₹4.10 CRORE
MOVEABLE ASSETS
₹60.97 LAKH
CASH: ₹1.45 L
JEWELLERY: ₹6.40 L
IMMOVABLE ASSETS
₹3.50 CRORE
Assets

Agricultural land	Nil
Houses	₹3.50 cr
Commercial buildings	Nil

TOTAL ASSETS (2015)
₹4.81 CRORE
MOVEABLE ASSETS
₹1.31 CRORE
IMMOVABLE ASSETS
₹3.50 CRORE
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION
BIMS, AU Tibbia College

KAPIL MISHRA (39)
BJP, Model Town

TOTAL ASSETS (2020)
₹59.99 LAKH
MOVEABLE ASSETS
₹9.99 LAKH
CASH: ₹ 96,000
JEWELLERY: ₹ 2.06 L
IMMOVABLE ASSETS
₹50 LAKH
Assets

Houses	₹50 L

TOTAL ASSETS (2015)
₹46 LAKH
MOVEABLE ASSETS
₹6 LAKH
IMMOVABLE ASSETS
₹40 LAKH
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:
MA (Social Work), DU

BALLOTIN

Mishra calls AAP 'Muslim League'

New Delhi: BJP leader and Model Town candidate Kapil Mishra Monday tweeted that AAP should be renamed Muslim League. "The new name of the Aam Aadmi Party should be Muslim League. Umar Khalid, Afzal Guru, Burhan Wani... and those who consider terrorists as their father are afraid of Yogi Adityanath," he tweeted. Mishra had earlier been pulled up by the EC for inflammatory tweets. **ENS**

COMPARES DELHI WITH PUNJAB

Free power, water no big deal, it's govt job: Captain

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

PUNJAB CHIEF Minister Captain Amarinder Singh took on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and said the latter has done nothing exceptional by giving cheap power, water and setting up mohalla clinics across the city. Addressing a public gathering at West Delhi's Hari Nagar Monday, he said that those with a limited vision talk about free water and power.

"Providing power, water at subsidised rates and offering better medical and educational facilities is the job of every government. Kejriwal says he will provide free water; in Punjab we have free water. He says new schools will be constructed. In Punjab, I have created 5,500 smart schools and in the next two years, all 13,000 schools will be converted into smart schools. If we talk about mohalla clinics, almost 70% of the wellness centres we had planned in the state have been completed and rest will be done by next year. This is also happening in other Congress-governed states...," he said.

"What has he (Kejriwal) done to create jobs for your children?" he asked, and said that the Punjab government has offered jobs to 11 lakh youth. Singh spoke in Punjabi in the constituency, which has a sizeable number of Sikhs and Punjabis, who came to Delhi after Partition.

Stressing on the need to focus on industry and commerce, Singh said that Delhi's power subsidy for domestic consumers comes at the cost of industry and commerce. "Commercial consumers in Delhi pay Rs 11-12 per unit. In Punjab, they are charged Rs 7-8 per unit. Industrial consumers in Delhi were paying Rs 10-11 per unit, as compared to Rs 5-7 per unit in Punjab," he said.

Punjab CM Amarinder Singh and Delhi Congress chief Subhash Chopra at a roadshow in Kalkaji, Monday. *Praveen Khanna*

"We need to look at the bigger picture. This country gave birth to leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Motilal Nehru, Rajiv Gandhi *ji*, Indira Gandhi *ji* who came with a vision for this country. But people with small vision are only concerned about free water and power supply," he said.

AAP is Congress's primary opposition in Punjab, the only state other than Delhi where they have managed to reach the legislature.

"People are saying that there is an AAP wave here... Earlier, people used to say that AAP wave will sweep everything in Punjab, but they were left behind," he said.

Singh also took on the BJP over the proposed NRC, saying: "The other party is casting the country in a new mould. They are talking about NRC. Look at the NRC experience in Assam. Of the 19 lakh in detention centres, 12 lakh are Hindus. Many people don't know where their ancestors have come from. Many of you came from Pakistan during Partition. How will you prove which village you came from? Did you bring certificates with you?... What will they do with the 19 lakh people in camps? If Burma and Bangladesh don't take the people in, will they keep sitting in the camps...?" he said.

A statement issued by the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee said that Singh also accused the BJP of using Shaheen Bagh to polarise elections in Delhi. "BJP is attempting to polarise the elections here with Shaheen Bagh but they will not succeed, as people have seen through their game," the statement quoted him as saying.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath at a public meeting in Mehrauli, Monday. *Praveen Khanna*

Yogi retakes Pak route; says AAP opened more liquor shops, less schools

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Monday asked a gathering in West Delhi's Uttam Nagar: "Would you do work that will bring prosperity in this nation or in Pakistan?" Campaigning for BJP's Uttam Nagar candidate in Bindapur, he said that Aam Aadmi Party chief and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal "becomes glad when Pakistan is happy".

Adityanath was speaking in the context of the abrogation of Article 370, which had granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir. He said that when the Article was scrapped, Kejriwal and Congress's Rahul Gandhi were "speaking the same language" as Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, who had termed the move "illegal" and liable to further spoil relations between the two nations.

Kejriwal had, in fact, welcomed the decision of the Narendra Modi government.

Adityanath said, "Three days ago, a Pakistan minister had said Modi should not win in Delhi. I want to ask you, what work would you do — that which brings prosperity in this nation or in Pakistan? *Aap desh ki khushali ke liye karya karenge na*?"

After repeating this question more than four times to hundreds of people gathered at the venue, he said: "Your happiness is in the country's happiness. *Lekin Arvind Kejriwal kab prasann hote hai? Jab Pakistan prasann hota hai* (Arvind Kejriwal is happy when Pakistan is happy). Should your sympathy be with Kejriwal?"

He then changed the topic to the ongoing protests against the new citizenship law and the proposed NRC at Shaheen Bagh, alleging that it has blocked traffic in "entire Delhi".

"Kejriwal is not providing any facilities to the people of Delhi, *lekin Shaheen Bagh mein baithe hue logon ko biryani khilane ka kaam Arvind Kejriwal kar rahe hain. Yeh vyakti woh har kaam karega jo desh ke khilaaf hoga* (He is feeding biryani to protesters at Shaheen Bagh. He would do everything that goes against the country)," he said.

Adityanath also claimed that instead of opening schools and classrooms in Delhi, Kejriwal has opened liquor shops in every locality.

Monday's address was consistent with Adityanath's speeches in the capital since February 1, with Shaheen Bagh, Pakistan and biryani common key words that find a mention almost throughout. AAP has already approached the Election Commission, asking that the UP CM be stopped from campaigning in the capital.

AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh had earlier said: "Yogi Adityanath should have been arrested by now. He is mentally sick and requires treatment, and he should know treatment is free in Delhi. Yogi's track record as a CM is dismal. In his own district, Gorakhpur, children died due to lack of facilities in a government hospital."

AAP party workers conduct a door-to-door campaign in BK Dutt Colony, Monday. *Amit Mehra*

In last lap push, AAP volunteers to reach out to 15,000 BJP loyalists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

IN THE run-up to the Delhi elections, the Aam Aadmi Party has tasked 5,000 party volunteers with reaching out to at least 15,000 BJP voters from across Delhi. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been appealing to BJP and Congress voters to "remain with their parties", but vote for AAP.

AAP is also likely to launch its manifesto on Tuesday. The BJP and Congress manifestos have already been released.

AAP's election in-charge Sanjay Singh made the announcement Monday while sharing the party's last phase campaign plan, during which the AAP also plans to hold 15,000 small meetings.

AAP's Sanjay Singh said in the last phase, the slogan will be *'Ache Honge Paanch Saal, Dilli Mein Toh Kejriwal'*. AAP is likely to release its manifesto Tuesday

He said that in the last phase, the AAP's campaign slogan will be *'Ache Honge Paanch Saal, Dilli Mein Toh Kejriwal'*.

"In the last phase, 5,000 AAP volunteers from every constituency will reach out to three BJP voters each and convince them to vote for AAP. This is how the AAP will reach out to 15,000 BJP voters from every constituency across Delhi," Singh said.

The AAP has already carried out two rounds of a door-to-door campaign, under the supervision of former JD(U) leader Prashant Kishor's Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC).

Top BJP leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, have also been holding drawing-room meetings, some of which go beyond midnight, in many parts of the city.

"In the last phase of the election, 500 representatives each of our frontal cells for Purvanchalis, women, SC/ST communities and minorities will hold 10 meetings each per day over the next three days in all the 70 Assembly constituencies. Around 5,000 volunteers and supporters in each Vidhan Sabha seat will individually convince at least three BJP voters to vote for the Aam Aadmi Party," Singh said.

CAA, NRC: Mayawati says BJP making life of Muslims difficult

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

TARGETING THE BJP over the new citizenship law and proposed NRC, BSP chief and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati, in her maiden Delhi polls speech, asked voters not to be "lured" by "impressive" manifestos of other parties.

Mayawati, who was addressing a rally in Talkatora Stadium Monday, said the "BJP, through NRC and CAA, has made the lives of Muslims difficult". However, she made no mention of Shaheen Bagh or other protests during her speech.

The BSP leader said her party was fighting in Delhi "on its own", without any pre-poll alliance. She also alleged that both the BJP and the Congress have not worked for the betterment of marginalised communities in the past.

"Due to the collusion between BJP and Congress over the years, there has been less of an impact of reservation to tribals and Dalits. In the entire country, reservation has barely impacted the people belonging to such communities," she said.

"The poor, farmers, traders and other working class have been impacted quite badly due to the faulty policies of the BJP at the Centre and other states," said Mayawati.

She alleged the major national parties have got an impetus due to the support of the wealthy. "BSP is the only party in the entire country which has risen because of financial help from workers and not because of money provided by the rich. The party aims to benefit people in all aspects. That is why we were re-elected in UP time and again. Our government has been for the benefit and happiness of all," said Mayawati.

Mayawati at the public meeting, Monday. *Praveen Khanna*

She highlighted the development work carried out in the four terms they were elected in UP as a model to vote for their candidates in the Delhi polls. "We have provided stable employment to people in UP during our terms. We work for the marginalised communities in all aspects," she said.

NEW DELHI CONSTITUENCY

Tough fight for BJP, Cong as 'khas aadmi' charge fails to stick on CM

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

TAKING ON Chief Minister and face of the Aam Aadmi Party Arvind Kejriwal at the heart of the capital in the New Delhi constituency are two first-time candidates, projecting themselves as "*aam aadmis*" fighting against a VIP candidate.

In 2013, Kejriwal — then a first-time candidate — defeated then sitting Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit of Congress in New Delhi by 25,864 votes. Now, a little over six years later, residents said the contest is between AAP and BJP, with Congress out of the picture.

In 2015, BJP's Nupur Sharma had come in second in the constituency while Congress's Kiran Walia came in third. This time, BJP and Congress have changed their candidates, bringing in local, first-timers — BJP's Sunil Yadav is a resident of BK Dutt Colony while Congress's Romesh Sabharwal is a resident of Gole Market.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who has led the BJP campaign, made his foray into the campaign with a public meeting for Yadav in B K Dutt Colony last week.

"Yadav has been at the front of any BJP programme here and nearby areas. I think he will get some votes here... But Kejriwal will be ahead comfortably. No other government has worked for schools like he has or done things like give free bus travel for women," said Anil Soni (40), an auto driver who lives as a tenant in the locality.

Neither he nor Kishanchand (66), a shop owner there, knew the Congress candidate's name. "It (Congress) has faded from the area," said Kishanchand.

Amit Mehra

In 2013, Kejriwal defeated then CM Sheila Dikshit to win New Delhi

At his rally in the area, Yadav had emphasised that he is more "relatable". "I come from an ordinary family and used to live in a servant quarters... I know the problems of servants living here... The party in front of us sometimes says that the BJP has put a new boy who nobody knows. Media people have asked me 'You are up against a VVIP candidate... How will you challenge him?' I pointed out how when Kejriwal emerged from the Anna movement and formed the party after fooling Anna *ji*, he was an *'aam aadmi'*. In the course of six years, we did not even realise when he became a VVIP. We thought an *'aam aadmi'* was contesting from here... but this is the New Delhi constituency which made him win against Sheila Dikshit... If he has become high profile, people of New Delhi will teach him a lesson once again..."

CONSTITUENCY WATCH

Kejriwal's family — his daughter Harshita and wife Sunita — have campaigned in the constituency.

Jagriti (43), a housewife, said that she was pleased by Sunita's visit to her home in Ansari Nagar. "She came and spoke to everyone in the area. She discussed issues with us and asked us to vote for the broom... The party has done work too — prevented private schools from increasing fee and reduced electricity bills," she said.

While the constituency is known to be a hub of government offices and residential quarters of government employees, it also houses JJ colonies and a Gujjar-dominated village, Pillanji. The BJP deployed South Delhi MP Ramesh Bidhuri, who has a strong Gujjar following, to campaign in the village on Monday.

However, Hari Chaudhury (52), a resident, believes that the tide is more likely to flow towards Kejriwal. "Modi should definitely be our PM but Kejriwal should be CM. He has fixed sewers in our village, we don't have electricity cuts and the schools our children go to have improved a lot," he said.

Congress's Sabharwal dismissed claims of work done by AAP: "He has only misused Twitter, WhatsApp and Facebook. He's a *'khaas aadmi'* not an *'aam aadmi'*."

I HEREBY DECLARE

DINESH MOHANIYA (42)
AAP, Sangam Vihar

TOTAL ASSETS (2020)
₹35.28 LAKH
MOVEABLE ASSETS
₹27.28 LAKH
CASH: ₹4.10 L
JEWELLERY: ₹14.95 L
IMMOVABLE ASSETS
₹8 LAKH
Assets
Commercial buildings ₹8 L

TOTAL ASSETS (2015)
₹22.60 LAKH
MOVEABLE ASSETS
₹16.60 LAKH
IMMOVABLE ASSETS
₹6 LAKH
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:
BBA, Amity University

TAJINDER PAL SINGH BAGGA (34)
BJP, Hari Nagar

TOTAL ASSETS (2020)
₹18.90 LAKH
MOVEABLE ASSETS
₹18.90 LAKH
CASH: ₹10,000
IMMOVABLE ASSETS
NIL
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:
Pursuing bachelor preparatory programme from IGNOU; Diploma in national development course, National Defense University, Taiwan, Republic of China

BALLOTIN

HC seeks Centre stand on plea by 11 independents

New Delhi: The Delhi HC Monday sought to know the Centre's and the EC's responses on a plea by 11 independent candidates, challenging the rejection of their nominations from the New Delhi seat in the upcoming polls. A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar fixed February 6 for hearing of the appeal. The plea also sought setting aside of a single judge order dismissing their petition against the rejection of their nominations. **ENS**

CM Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia during a roadshow in Patparganj, Monday. *Prem Nath Pandey*

KEJRIWAL ADDRESSES BJP ATTACKS OVER SHAHEEN BAGH

Hard to believe man as powerful as Shah can't get road reopened: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that Home Minister Amit Shah does not want the Shaheen Bagh road to be reopened since the BJP is benefitting from the continuing blockade.

Speaking to *CNN-News 18* on Monday, the CM said: "*Vo jo rasta hai jiski vajah se sabko takleef hoti hai — baaki protesters apna protest kar rahe hain, unke jo bhi mudde hain unhe protest karne ka adhikar hai — uss raste pe bachche phans jaate hain, ambulance phans jaati hai, vo rasta zaroor khulvaana chahiye* (The road because of which everyone is being troubled — protesters have their issues and have the right to protest — where children and ambulances get stuck, should be reopened for sure)."

"The road because of which everyone is being troubled — protesters have their issues and have the right to protest — where children and ambulances get stuck, should be reopened for sure."

ARVIND KEJRIWAL, DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

He added: "*Ye poora ka poora mudda kendriya sarkar ke under aata hai. Mujhe samajh nahi aa raha ki kendriya sarkar kyun iss raste ko khulvaana nahi chahti. Main ye manne ko tayyar nahi hoon ki Amit Shah ji jaisa shaktishaali aur taakatvar aadmi Dilli ka ek rasta nahi khulva sakta. Vo chahein toh do minute main rasta khulva sakte hain. Vo rasta khulvaana nahi chahte. Shaheen Bagh se sabse zyada fayda kisko ho raha hai? BJP ko ho raha hai. Vo rasta khulvana hi nahi chahte. Vo ispe raajneeti karna chahte hain* (The whole matter comes under the Centre. I don't understand why the Centre does not want to reopen it. I refuse to believe that a man as powerful as Amit Shah can't get a Delhi road reopened. If he wants, he can get it reopened in two minutes. He doesn't want to reopen it. Who benefits most from the situation at Shaheen Bagh? BJP does. They don't want the road to reopen, they only want to indulge in politics over it)."

Over the past 10 days, Shaheen Bagh has been among the main rallying points for BJP leaders. On Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi too brought up the protest at the South East Delhi locality, which entered its 51st day Monday.

Previously, union ministers Amit Shah, Anurag Thakur, Smriti Irani, Prakash Javadekar, Hardeep Puri, and Harsh Vardhan have accused AAP and Congress of orchestrating and funding the protests.

While the Congress has openly supported the protesting women, AAP leaders have stayed away from the protest site.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia told a news channel that he stands with the protesters but no senior leader has visited the site so far. Only area MLA Amanatullah Khan has been seen in the area regularly.

On Monday, Kejriwal said the BJP had no agenda for Delhi and that is why it keeps bringing up Shaheen Bagh. "I say schools should improve, they say Shaheen Bagh, I talk about hospitals, they say Shaheen Bagh. They do not have an agenda. They want to mislead people and divert them from Delhi-related issues. The Shaheen Bagh issue must be resolved. I have said several times that the protesters have the right to protest, but blocking the road is creating problems," he said.

From model schools to swimming pools, Sisodia's education push boosts popularity in Patparganj

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

RIDING ON the goodwill of work done in schools in his constituency, sitting MLA and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's popularity in Patparganj is strong.

Patparganj has the largest number of voters among the East Delhi constituencies, with over 2,14,360 electors in the 2015 assembly election. It has a mix of middle-class localities such as I P Extension, Mayur Vihar Phase I and II; unauthorised colonies of Mandawali, Khichripur, East and West Vinod Nagar and Pratap Nagar; and slums such as Ravi Dass Camp, Nehru Camp, Khokha Patri and Shastri Mohalla.

Both the BJP and Congress have fielded first-timers — Ravi Negi (42), who is currently the BJP's Vinod Nagar mandal president, and Laxman Rawat (52), who has listed a computer business as his occupation.

"*Dekho yeh school, inhone chamka diya,*" said Mishri Pal (52), pointing towards the tall gate of a government school in Mandawali.

During his tenure as Education Minister, Sisodia has focussed on building infrastructure in a number of schools in his constituency. One of the seven Schools of Excellence — run by the Delhi government where the best teaching and infrastructure resources are deployed — was set up at Khichripur; one of the 54 pilot schools which were developed as model schools is located in West Vinod Nagar; and in 2018, Sisodia inaugurated two swimming pools in a school in Mayur Vihar Phase II and West Vinod Nagar.

Patparganj has the largest number of voters among the East Delhi constituencies. It has a mix of middle-class localities and unauthorised colonies. *Prem Nath Pandey*

A large number of migrants from Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand reside in the unauthorised colonies. Jagat Pal (36), who had migrated to Delhi from Kanpur when he was 13 years old and now lives in Fasalpur and sells vegetables by the road, said: "*Mera dil jhadoo-waalon ke paas hai.* I don't get electricity bills. Three of my children study in government schools. I haven't studied myself and I feel very happy to see they are studying in good schools. My son's school even has a swimming pool."

Many residents spoke of household savings because of a reduction in their electricity and water bills. "It makes a big difference in our household. Not just me but everyone in our gali is able to save money," said Tara Varma (42), who lives in West Vinod Nagar, and whose husband works as a labourer.

Some, however, said little work has been done. "Neither this government nor the Congress before it have done any work. I have always voted for the BJP and this time there's an added reason. You can see Muslims uniting and blocking roads — Shaheen Bagh to Khureji. Can we not unite? And all parties apart from BJP are taking their side," said Ram Kumar Sharma (62), a retired central government employee living in Mandawali.

However, most residents *The Indian Express* spoke to said the current polarisation around the anti-CAA protests at Shaheen Bagh is not likely to affect how they vote.

"Ravi Negi is good-natured and well-liked here. Only those who prioritise religion over anything else will vote for BJP based on what they're saying about Shaheen Bagh. We are all ordinary people and are concerned about who will improve our living condition," said Abhishek (23), whose family does business at Vinod Nagar.

A resident of a colony of DDA flats in Mayur Vihar Phase II said most residents of middle-class localities were not impacted as much by work done by the government as residents of unauthorised colonies.

"Barely 1% send their children to government schools or go to mohalla clinics. But Sisodia is still well-liked because he visits the constituency and talks to people, which is not something that any MP or MLA of the past has done," he said.

Shah speeches to CM bashing: New BJP app gains traction

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

WITH LITTLE publicity, the BJP Delhi has launched a new "experimental" content sharing app called Kamal Konnect, to send content "that has a lot of masala", the party's tech developers told *The Indian Express*. Launched a month ago, the simple content feed app now has more than 10,000 downloads and was trending on third place in user engagement on app stores.

"Apart from positive things, such as development, pro-Modi tweets, and more government-related content, this app also has Kejriwal bashing and third-party content," a source said. Two weeks ago, at least two banners sprung up at the Delhi BJP office promoting the application.

In the app, a flier being shared 2,000 times on WhatsApp reads "*Abki bar deshdrohi ko kare bahar*". Underneath it is a sign reading 'Shaheen Bagh' and a cartoon of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal watering a cactus that has heads with hijabs and skullcaps, saying "*Bharat tere tukde hazaar*".

Sources aware of the application's development said it reached almost 4,000 downloads in 20 days. They said they had motivated party workers to download the app by saying that AAP's IT cell had been managing to make content viral, while BJP Delhi was lagging behind. The app only highlights between six-ten posts a day, chosen by a small group of 15 party workers. After 48 hours, the posts are taken down and new ones are chosen.

There are three types of content on the platform, sources said. One is aggregated from official BJP pages, second are caricatures made in-house, and the third are quotes of Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda with their "angry pictures".

The party's top leadership agreed to the new app at the beginning of the Delhi election period. Party workers told them, during social media meetings, that it was becoming difficult to coordinate content throughout their massive hierarchical network. In their thousands of WhatsApp groups, viral content worth passing on was difficult to find, the volunteers had said.

Another poster on the app discussed the Anti-Corruption Branch investigation into AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan, for alleged irregular recruitment and misuse of funds allotted to the Waqf Board, attempting to link it with Shaheen Bagh.

To build and monitor an app that centralises the content, the party has used Jarvis Technologies — a Mumbai-based data analytics firm that coordinated call centres and information sharing during the Lok Sabha and subsequent state polls.

EC holds meet on poll prep with senior officials

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India (EC) Monday held a meeting via video conferencing on poll preparedness with senior officials of the Delhi government as well as those from neighbouring states, and the Delhi Police Commissioner. It was chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora.

Arora took an "in-depth review to ensure due steps have been taken for smooth coordination amongst various wings of the administration and police forces of adjoining states, particularly at the border check posts, to prevent illegal movement of cash, liquor, arms or anti-social elements", the EC said.

"The commission advised the state officers concerned to ensure due facilitation of cashless treatment, if required, to security forces deployed on election duty," it added.

The meeting was attended by the chief secretary, police chief and senior Delhi government officials, as well as by the chief secretaries, DGPs and senior officers of neighbouring states, namely Haryana and UP. **ENS**

3 DAYS TO POLLS

In 3 seats AAP lost to BJP, mohalla clinics, CCTVs on top of voters' minds

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

AMID THE resounding victory in the 2015 Assembly polls, AAP had lost three of the 70 seats to BJP. With three days to go for polling, *The Indian Express* visited the three constituencies — Vishwas Nagar, Rohini and Mustafabad — to understand the mood on the ground.

Mustafabad

"In Gokulpuri, barely a few kilometres from here, there are mohalla clinics, but there are none here. *Wahan toh saare kaam ho rahe hain*. Why not here? There is one in Shiv Vihar but that's far away; that's not the point of a mohalla clinic," said Vakil (55), owner of a mattress shop in Old Mustafabad.

The current Mustafabad MLA is BJP's Jagdish Pradhan, who has been pitted against AAP's Haji Yunus and Congress's Ali Mehndi this time.

A businessman in Old Mustafabad said, "A common complaint people have is that cases of snatching and eve-teasing are on the rise. CCTVs would help; we asked the MLA to install those but not a single one has been put up. We hear other areas have CCTVs."

In Amar Vihar located in Karawal Nagar, locals said Pradhan had started "work on sewer lines, pucca lanes" and that there was a mohalla clinic as well.

"The government school my daughter goes to has improved. There are more rooms, teachers are regular and there are extra classes too. It is because of AAP, but the MLA here also let work happen smoothly," said Sushma (42), a tailor.

In Prem Vihar, a group of men debated the "AAP's freebies". Ram Bind (50) said, "Low electricity bill in this weather is not an indicator of anything, let's wait for May-June when everyone uses coolers. The BJP MLA has built roads here, it's good enough."

At an AAP rally in Vishwas Nagar on Monday. *Gajendra Yadav*

Vishwas Nagar

A day after AAP announced its list of 70 candidates, including sweet shop owner Deepak Singla from Vishwas Nagar, flex banners and pamphlets with his name and photo cropped up, and a day-long rally soon ensued. In 2015, AAP's Vishwas Nagar candidate Dr Atul Gupta had a low-key campaign, and lost the seat to BJP's O P Sharma.

CONSTITUENCY WATCH

Like in Mustafabad, the conversation around MLA funds began with mohalla clinics in Swarn Cinema Hall area. "We hear so much about mohalla clinics but the MLA here hasn't used his funds to build even one. In places like Sangam Vihar, residents don't have to drive through traffic for a common cold or viral fever," said a 40-year-old guard. Of the 189 functioning mohalla clinics in the city, none exist in the constituency as per the Delhi government's list.

On Sunday, addressing a rally in the constituency, CM Arvind Kejriwal had accused the BJP MLA of blocking development work. "Last time, the whole of Delhi had voted for AAP but Vishwas Nagar voted for Mr O P Sharma. Other parts of Delhi have got many mohalla clinics, but Vishwas Nagar has only one because the BJP MLA did not want development of this area. He thought that people will vote for AAP if mohalla clinics are built here," said the AAP chief. BJP's Sharma denied the claim and said Kejriwal was "lying".

In Karkardooma, incidentally, the anti-CAA protest at South East Delhi's Shaheen Bagh makes it to the conversation. A trader in the area said, "We need a government that has a strong stand against such protests and so far only BJP has that. We have to think of the constituency, but we also have to think of the country." He added that Sharma's candidature again is "disappointing as his last five years have been lukewarm".

In the high-income Vihars, conversation steers towards "the urgent need for CCTVs due to a spike in snatching cases".

Rohini

This time too, the BJP has fielded Vijender Gupta, against AAP's Rajesh Nama Bansiwala and Congress's Sumesh Gupta. At a mall in sector 9, businessman A Bhatia said, "Usually, no one cares about apartment complexes but Gupta *ji* has built many guard rooms in such apartments in Rohini. He's fixed parks, made rubberised running tracks there... All these things have been noticed by residents, especially of sectors 9 and 13."

In sector 15, the conversation falls back to CCTVs. Stationery shop owner Ajay (40) said, "Women and children are scared of coming here because of so many cases of snatching... People have requested the MLA to install CCTVs because they are a deterrent but that hasn't happened. The market has no toilets either. In Pitampura nearby, where AAP has an MLA, there are CCTVs. The difference is visible."

FROM THE GALLERY

FROM THE CHAIR

RAJYA SABHA

"The issue you are raising slogans against, you are agitating, it is an opportunity to discuss that. You have the chance to speak on that."

HARIVANSH, Deputy Chairman, told leaders from Opposition parties when they were protesting in the Upper House after the Chair did not allow their notices for discussion on the countrywide protests against the new citizenship law.

LOK SABHA

"Hibi Eden Ji, You have not been sent to Parliament (by people) for shouting slogans. You have been sent for asking questions. Go to your seat and ask (your) question."

OM BIRLA, Speaker, told the Congress member from Ernakulam, who was in the Well, raising slogans, while the former called his name for asking supplementaries to his question on the Ujjwala scheme during Question Hour.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Have as many bank officers been arrested as businessmen in fraud cases? If their number is lower, why this discrimination? Why is the government shielding them?"

MALOOK NAGAR , BSP member from Bijnor, tells Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur during the Question Hour

5 QUESTIONS

BJD MP FROM CUTTACK, **BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB**, SPEAKS TO **PRADEEP KAUSHAL** ON THE LACK OF PROPER MONITORING OF NATIONAL COUNCIL VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSES, AN ISSUE HE RAISED IN THE LOK SABHA ON MONDAY

What deficiencies have you noticed in these training programmes?

The figure that is being given by the Central government does not match ground realities. The personnel trained through the programme have to be made employable, which means they have to be continuously engaged by an establishment for at least three months. Their number is not even five per cent.

What is the cause for this state of affairs?

Many people mentioned on the paper have not been imparted training. Many organisations supposed to be running training programmes exist only on the paper and have outsourced work to others.

Do you mean to say the government is not monitoring them?

This work is being done online. The sanctioning of funds is also happening online. This is, naturally, not adequate.

What do you feel needs to be done to improve the monitoring mechanism?

The sanctioning of funds and monitoring should be done at the state level and the district administration needs to play a greater role. NABARD, which conducts surveys with regard to employment and provisioning of banking support in rural areas, should be roped in.

What else do you suggest for strengthening the scheme?

Several ministries like Textiles, Industries, Labour and Employment, Water Resources and Minority Affairs are running similar training programmes. They all need to be brought under one umbrella. This would make their funding more fruitful and monitoring more effective.

MOTION OF THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Delhi polls echo in LS as BJP MP raises Shaheen Bagh: They say they'll kill PM

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

THE ISSUES relating to the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections resonated during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to President's Address in Lok Sabha on Monday, with BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma referring to the anti-CAA protest at Shaheen Bagh and saying "people who are sitting at the protest site say they will kill the Prime Minister and the Home Minister".

"Today, it is not a protest against CAA, people who are sitting at the protest site say that they will kill the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. They demand Jinnahwali Azadi. They raise slogans such as Pakistan Zindabad... They talk about separation of Assam and Kashmir... We will not withdraw CAA. This is the question of the country's integration," Verma said, while initiating the debate on the Motion of Thanks.

West Delhi MP Verma, who was recently removed by the Election Commission from the list of BJP's star campaigners for Delhi election over an inflammatory speech, also accused Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia of supporting the protests at Shaheen Bagh.

Attacking the Opposition, Verma said, "Nowadays Opposition leaders are giving us lessons in Constitution... But I want to ask them where was the Constitution when an ordinance approved by the cabinet was torn apart? Where was the Constitution when Sikhs were massacred in Delhi?"

"The Opposition leaders have not read the Constitution... Perhaps this is reason they call us communal whenever we take the name of Lord Ram. They have linked Lord Ram to a particular religion. They call us communal just because of the name of Lord Ram. I have the original copy of the Constitution which contains the photos of Lord Ram, Laxman and Sita. It is in the same Constitution which was passed by B R Ambedkar and the Constituent Assembly and was signed by then leaders, including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Will you call the Constitution communal?," he said, displaying a copy of the Constitution.

Verma said the Constitution also contains photos of Krishna and Hanuman. He also asked Opposition members to say "Jai Shri Ram" and said that by raising the slogan, "all of their sins will be washed away".

BJP MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma at Parliament on Monday. *Anil Sharma*

During an hour-long speech, the BJP MP also raised several issues related to the national capital and attacked the incumbent Aam Aadmi Party government.

"The Delhi Chief Minister is not giving permission to prosecute those who raised *tukde-tukde* slogans in JNU. The file is pending for one-and-a-half years," Verma said, adding that Delhi government has not implemented several central schemes such as Ayushman Bharat and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna.

Verma also hailed the Narendra Modi government's decision to scrap Article 370 and 35A. He also highlighted development work carried out by the central government in Delhi.

Referring to the protests against CAA, BJP MP Ram Kripal Yadav said, "There are some anti-Constitution and anti-national forces that have joined hands with foreign powers. They are trying to destabilise the country. They are trying to stall the development of the country... It should be investigated from this angle."

"Who is behind forces that are trying to disturb the peaceful atmosphere in the country? Is there an international conspiracy behind it?"

Oppn hits back: Person banned by EC is BJP's first speaker in debate

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

RAISING THE issue of inflammatory speeches by Union Minister Anurag Thakur and BJP MP Parvesh Verma, the Opposition on Monday targeted the government and asked why no action has been taken against them.

Participating in the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said, "People are shooting right in front of the police and nothing is happening. My question to you is, who is pulling the trigger? Is it the boy who held the gun? I do not think so.The person who pulled the trigger are the ministers provoking that boy. These are the ministers who make inflammatory speeches, ministers who should be booked under Section 153.."

"I also don't blame only the ministers.... because the ministers are also acting on the instruction of a political master...Why has no action been taken against the Union Minister? Why has no action been taken against an MP?," he added. Referring to Verma, who opened the debate, Gogoi said, "A person who is banned from campaigning by the Election Commission has been supported by the BJP to be the first speaker. If the Election Commission has deemed that the people of India, people of Delhi should not listen to that individual, why should the Parliament listen...That just shows the attitude of BJP towards the Election Commission and the norms of what governance and democracy means."

Earlier, Indian Union Muslim League member P K Kunhalikutty attacked the government for ignoring the protest against CAA and NRC.

"There are issues like CAA, NRC, and NPR. They (government) are not bothered about the agitations that are going on...The situation which prevails in this country is very serious. I do not think that the BJP will be able to get away with all this... A day will come when you will face serious consequences" Kunhalikutty said.

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi speaks in Lok Sabha on Monday. *PTI*

TMC's Mahua Moitra, too, raised objection to the BJP's choice of Verma as the opening speaker of the debate. "Today, you have let a person who was banned by the Election Commission from speaking for 36 hours to come to the floor of the House and present the manifesto of the ruling party for the Delhi Assembly elections," She said.

CPM member A M Ariff raised inflammatory speech by Thakur and said, "Ministers like Shri Anurag Singh Thakur are now spreading the politics of hatred and thereby calling your followers to gun down the people who are protesting against the CAA," Ariff said.

BSP member Ritesh Pandey raised the issue of police action against protesters in Delhi, Lucknow and other cities.

Uproar in both LS, RS over citizenship law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

BOTH HOUSES of Parliament witnessed disruptions on Monday, with Opposition members protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). While Rajya Sabha proceedings were washed out after several adjournments, Lok Sabha saw Opposition MPs protest in the Well against the new law.

The Upper House was adjourned twice in the morning and as many times in the afternoon, with Opposition MPs protesting after chairman M Venkaiah Naidu did not allow their notices for discussion on the countrywide protests against the CAA, National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR). Several MPs, including Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma and Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien, had submitted notices under Rule 267 and sought a discussion on the protests.

Declining to allow the notices, Naidu said, "...there is no need to suspend the business under Rule 267 and take up the discussion because there would be enough opportunities during discussion on the President's Address that is there before the House. Members can raise their points of concern during the discussion on the Motion on the President's Address. Also, in the President's Address itself, there is specific reference to the Citizenship Amendment Act and related issues."

(From left) DMK MP Tiruchi Siva, Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad and Anand Sharma, NCP's Vandana Chavan and CPM's K K Ragesh at Parliament. *Prem Nath Pandey*

When Opposition MPs protested, the House was adjourned. When the House reconvened, Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad asked, "Fundamental question is that this House is governed by rules and if no notices under Rule 267 are to be allowed, should that rule be deleted then?"

The House was adjourned two more times as the Opposition MPs continued to protest before being adjourned for the day.

Earlier in the morning, the House condoled the destruction caused by the Australian bushfires and also the death of Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said of Oman. Naidu also felicitated Padma Vibhushan awardee and Rajya Sabha member M C Mary Kom and remembered former ministers Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj and George Fernandes, who were honoured with the Padma Vibhushan posthumously.

In Lok Sabha, members belonging to the Congress, DMK and Left parties trooped into the Well soon after the House met and raised slogans against the government. They also displayed placards that read, 'Save Constitution', 'Save India' and 'No CAA'. Trinamool Congress members did not join the protest.

Despite the protests, Speaker Om Birla carried on with the Question Hour. After a brief Zero Hour, he adjourned the House, but emphasised that it was a "lunch-break".

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, when allowed by the Speaker to speak during Zero Hour, said, "The Government cannot silence people's boil (voice) with goli (bullet)."

In an apparent reference to the BJP, he said, "These are not real Hindus. Genuine Hindus do not kill others with bullets."

Govt informs RS about role of CDS, military affairs dept

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

THE CHIEF of Defence Staff (CDS) will be the Principal Military Advisor to the Defence Minister on all-tri service matters and the military advisor to the Nuclear Command Authority, the government told Rajya Sabha on Monday.

The government was responding to various questions regarding the functions of the CDS and the newly created Department of Military Affairs, which is headed by the CDS as secretary.

The government said the CDS is tasked with bringing jointness in operation, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance of the three services. The CDS will also be a member of Defence Acquisition Council.

The government also said the CDS will be appointed by the government from "among the serving officers of the three Services" — Army, Navy and Air Force — and "holding the three or four-star General or equivalent, if necessary, through deep selection".

The government said the CDS is a "four-star General with salary and perquisites at par with Service Chiefs" and will not "be eligible to hold any Government office after demitting the office of CDS". After demitting office, the CDS cannot "take up any private employment without prior approval of Government of India for the period of 5 years after", the government said.

Regarding the job of DMA, the government said the three services and the territorial army have been allocated to it, along with the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence comprising Army Headquarters, Naval Headquarters, Air Headquarters and Defence Staff Headquarters. It will also make all procurement exclusive to the services except capital acquisitions and will promote jointness in procurement, training and staffing for the services through joint planning and integration of their requirements, said the government.

The government said that about 160 civilian officers and staff have been transferred from Department of Defence to DMA.

In response to another question, the government stated that there are vacancies for 6,867 officers and 36,517 JCOs in the Army. In Navy, 1,500 officer posts and 15,590 sailor positions are vacant. In the Air Force, there are vacancies for 425 officers and 10,425 airmen.

93,000 hectares affected by forest fires in 2019: Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

RESPONDING TO a question in Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF) Babul Supriyo said on Monday that area covering 93,273 hectares was affected by forest fires in 2019.

In its answer, the MoEF, however, clarified that the fires have been "ground fires" burning ground vegetation. The number of forest fires differs in India from year to year.

A large number of forest fires was reported from across the world last year, including in Australia, Brazil, US and Canada.

In its answer tabled in Rajya Sabha, the MoEF has stated that it prepared a National Action Plan on forest fires in 2018 after several rounds of consultation with all states and Union Territories.

"The objective of this plan is to minimise forest fires by informing, enabling and empowering forest fringe communities and incentivising them to work in tandem with the State Forest Departments," said the MoEF.

The plan also intends to substantially reduce the vulnerability of forests across diverse forest ecosystems in the country against fire hazards, enhance capabilities of forest personnel and institutions in fighting fires and swift recovery subsequent to fire incidents, the ministry said.

Union Minister Babul Supriyo

While forests are managed by states concerned, the MoEF provides forest fire prevention and management measures under the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management scheme, the ministry said, adding that the Centre further provides funds for forest fire management.

Nodal officers for forest fire prevention and control have been appointed in each state, the ministry said.

Lok Sabha tightens belt for House panel study tours

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

A DAY before the Union Budget, the Lok Sabha Secretariat issued instructions to sharply curtail expenditure incurred by all Parliamentary Committees on logistics including travel and accommodation on their study tours.

The circular says that all arrangements related to travel and stay will be undertaken by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) which comes under the Ministry of Railways.

This is a departure from the current system where arrangements are made by Ministries concerned, state governments, organisations and PSUs.

The circular caps room rent for members and for the chairperson of the committee: Rs 10,000 in category of 5-star hotel; Rs 8,000 for 4-star and Rs 6,000 for 3-Star Hotel. For a suite for the Chairperson/Convener of the Committee, these rates have been fixed at Rs 20,000, Rs 16,000 and up to Rs 12,000 respectively.

Currently, there are no such caps on room/suite rents.

As for officials accompanying members the committee, the new guidelines stipulate "rooms on single/twin sharing basis as per eligibility." Current guidelines provide for a "separate standard room" for "each member/officer."

In case a member is accompanied by his/her spouse or a companion on "health ground" he/she may "on request, be provided a double occupancy room" however "expenditure "for the spouse/attendant will be paid by the member," says the circular. Room charges will be confined to rental only and any extra room service charge or laundry service will be recoverable from members and officials of Lok Sabha Secretariat accompanying the Parliamentary Committee.

A senior official in the Lok Sabha Secretariat said that the new guidelines will be implemented by the end of this month. Said a senior official in IRCTC: "We have given our consent (to the new arrangement). It will be followed by a formal agreement."

The new "centralized arrangement" of travel, the circular says, is for a period "February 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021," subject to "ongoing assessment on a tour to tour basis."

For transport, the circular says that "members and officials shall be provided local arrangements on twin-sharing basis (except Chairperson/convener of Sub-committee/Study group)." It clarifies that "mid-segment vehicles preferably Innova or equivalent shall be hired on per day basis."

Economy not in recession, Govt tells LS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

THE GOVERNMENT on Monday said the economy is not in recession and India recorded the highest average growth among the G20 nations during 2014-19. In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur said that according to IMF estimates, India continues to be among the fastest-growing economies and its GDP is estimated to grow at 5.8 per cent in 2020-21 and is further projected to surpass China with a growth rate of 6.5 per cent in 2021-22.

"No...the economy is not in recession. As per the National Statistical Office (NSO), GDP growth on average was 7.5 per cent in 2014-19, which is the highest amongst G20 countries," the minister said.

Thakur also said the government has linked over 30 crore Permanent Account Numbers (PAN) with Aadhaar number. The total PANs linked with Aadhaar as on January 27, 2020, is 30,75,02,824, Thakur informed Lok Sabha.

Asked if the government has extended the deadline for Aadhaar-PAN linking, the minister responded in affirmative and said the due date for linking PAN with Aadhaar has been extended from December 31, 2019, to March 31, 2020.

The Union Minister also said the government will protect the interest of policyholders of LIC, which is likely to go public in the next financial year. Listing of LIC will help bring in greater transparency, public participation and also deepen the equity market, he said. "Interest of LIC and policyholders will be safeguarded," he told PTI in an interview.

Thakur, meanwhile, faced heat in the House for his speech over which the Election Commission removed him from the BJP's list of star campaigners for Delhi election. At an election rally, Thakur had repeatedly chanted "*desh ke gaddaron ko*" and the crowd had responded, "*Goli maro saalon ko*".

On Monday, Congress members raised slogans against the minister and asked, "*Aapka goli kaha hai?* (where is your bullet?)". Some members shouted "*Goli maarna band karo*" (Stop shooting)". Whenever Thakur responded to supplementaries during the Question Hour, the members raised slogans.

Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas-Sabka Vishwas

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DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

CAMPAIGNING DOUBTFUL

CONGRESS PRESIDENT Sonia Gandhi's sudden illness could force her to stay away from election campaigning in Delhi. Sonia, who was admitted to Ganga Ram Hospital on Sunday with stomach infection, could be discharged on Tuesday, but party leaders appeared doubtful on whether she would be able to address a scheduled campaign rally in East Delhi on Wednesday. Sonia had similarly cancelled a rally she was scheduled to address in Haryana during the Vidhan Sabha polls in October last year. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who was in Delhi on Saturday to address a couple of campaign meetings, also could not do so after he felt unwell. So far, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh is the only senior leader to have campaigned for the party in the national capital.

ON POLL DUTY

IN AN unusual dinner meeting with personal assistants (PAs) of BJP MPs at the residence of a Union minister on Saturday, the PAs were asked to refrain from working for their respective MPs for the next few days leading up to the Delhi Assembly elections and "work for the party" instead. They were also asked to "ensure" that all votes from staff quarters of MP residences are in favour of the saffron party.

TOO LONG

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget speech was the longest ever. Since February 1 was a Saturday, many MPs did not anticipate the speech to last three hours. Some MPs, in fact, left before the last part of her speech, as they had to leave for the airport.

BJP MP triggers row with comments on Gandhi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 3

TRIGGERING A controversy, BJP MP Anantkumar Hegde, in an obvious reference to Mahatma Gandhi, termed his role in the freedom struggle as "drama" and an "adjustment" with the British. The BJP said it has issued a show-cause notice to Hegde.

Speaking at the inauguration of a literary event on V D Savarkar in Bengaluru on February 1, Hegde said: "India is a country that believes in weapons and brains — shastra and shaastra. We do not take up weapons without using our brains. We also do not believe in the philosophy of laying down our arms and offering the other cheek. The personification of this is Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. He had practical views for the future of the country."

While he did not name Gandhi, Hegde, in an obvious reference to him, said: "There is another freedom fighter who used to tell the British I will do as you say — adjustment and understanding — 20:20. We will pretend to protest against you and you can imprison us but treat us well. He was never beaten with a lathi, he did not know what it is to be beaten with a lathi. Such a person is a freedom fighter in the history books."

'Those who made adjustments with the British and were certified as freedom fighter are remembered in history'

"If you ask them how our country got independence, they say we sat on hunger strike... The British got scared and gave us independence and ran away. If we see this history, our blood boils. These are the great people of this country. Those who have fought for the country with weapons have all been relegated to darkness. Those who made adjustments with the British and were certified as freedom fighter are remembered in history," he said.

"This is the state of the country and there has been no way of correcting this... We were asked to study only this. Even if I thought someone was a lion, I was forced to believe he was a fox," he said.

Speaking to The Indian Express, BJP general secretary in charge of Karnataka, P Muralidhar Rao, said: "The party has expressed its displeasure over the remarks and a show-cause notice has been sent to Hegde."

Party sources, however, denied reports that Hegde would be asked to stay away from BJP meetings. "We will wait for his response. He has been asked to explain his remark. We should wait to hear what he has to say," said a source.

Hegde did not respond to requests for comments on the party's position regarding his latest remarks.

Last year, the BJP had issued a showcause notice to Hegde for briefly extolling Nathuram Godse on social media. He later claimed that his Twitter account had been hacked.

When the then Congress president Rahul Gandhi questioned the veracity of air strikes on terror camps in Pakistan last year, Hegde questioned Rahul's Hindu credentials.

In one of his most controversial statements, Hegde stated in 2017 that the BJP would remove the word 'secular' from the Constitution, but later apologised in Parliament after being confronted by the Opposition.

In 2016, he was booked in a hate speech case in Sirsi, his hometown, in connection with inflammatory statements he made about Islam.

PM must clarify stand on MP's remarks: Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

SEEKING ACTION against Anantkumar Hegde, the Congress on Monday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to clarify his position, in Parliament, on the BJP MP's remarks.

"Mr Prime Minister, why is such a thing allowed? Why is this happening? There is violence in the very ideology, mindset, thinking and language of the BJP. I am drawing a very clear distinction — the physical violence that they orchestrate, trigger and provoke, and what actually provokes or triggers the violence, it is this mindset, ideology and thought. They are desperate for the elections. They have inflicted deep wounds on the very soul of India only to get some votes in the Delhi elections," senior Congress leader Anand Sharma said.

He said senior BJP leaders were insulting the memory of Mahatma Gandhi and disparaging the national movement because they are "ideological descendants of those who were not only non-participants but actively opposed the freedom movement, opposed Mahatma Gandhi, opposed the Quit India movement and supported the British".

Sharma said "the Prime Minister, and the BJP leadership as a whole, has to apologise for these things... We demand that the PM comes to the House and makes his position clear."

"Such statements reveal their true mindset, that they use Gandhi's name just for show and have no regard for him," said Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said Hegde was "perhaps reflecting the views of his masters.

Rehearsals for DefExpo in progress in Lucknow. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate India's five-day biennial mega defence exhibition on Wednesday. *Vishal Srivastav*

India able to disrupt, deter activities of terror groups, patrons: Rajnath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

ADDRESSING THE Defence Attaches of various countries here, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said that terrorism and violence related to terror have posed serious challenges to the international security environment and the interplay between state and proxy non-state actors has further increased the threat.

In a reference to Pakistan, Singh said the continued presence of terrorist infrastructure and state support to terrorists in the neighbouring country has tested India's patience, but as a responsible and powerful nation, India had displayed that it was able to disrupt and deter the activities of terrorist groups and their patrons.

"We need to be more focused to secure our interests. We have adopted pro-active measures to promote peace and stability in the region as well as to increase defence and security cooperation with the Indian Ocean rim countries so as to create a stable maritime environment," Singh said, referring to the situation in the Indian Ocean and in the Indo-Pacific region.

Speaking about the DefExpo, the largest defence expo in India which will begin in Lucknow on February 5, Singh said that with the "establishment of two industrial corridors in the states of Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, it is expected that this will increase defence manufacturing and exports". He said there is a "lot of scope" for the Defence Attaches to "work and attract FDI in these corridors".

The minister said that India has also offered several defence Line of Credits (LOC) to friendly countries to allow Indian defence exports and increase their presence in the global market.

Singh announced the creation of 10 new defence wings so that 10 more Defence Attaches (DAs) could be appointed to further strengthen India's defence diplomacy.

In first Assam visit after CAA, PM set to address rally in Kokrajhar on Feb 7

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

IN HIS first visit to Assam after the Citizenship (Amendment) Act came into force, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to address a public rally at Kokrajhar in the Bodo Territorial Area District (BTAD) on February 7, days after the government signed the Bodo Accord for lasting peace in the region.

This is the third time that Assam has figured in proposed visits of the PM after the CAA was passed in Parliament. Two previous visits, including one with Japanese premier Shinzo Abe, were cancelled for various reasons.

Sources said Modi is likely to address the people on anxieties associated with CAA in the state. Assam was the first state to see protests against the CAA immediately after it was passed in Parliament. Assamese people have expressed fears that CAA would regularise citizenship of outsiders in the state and impact its demography and ethno-cultural integrity.

"The visit is a celebration of the Memorandum of Settlement the government signed with various Bodo groups, including militant groups, last week. There will be a speech by the PM and various cultural programmes will be organised," a home ministry official said.

Sources said the PM will fly to Guwahati and then take a chopper to Kokrajhar. He will subsequently fly to West Bengal and then to Delhi.

Last Monday, the government signed an agreement with the All Bodo Students Union, Assam government and five factions of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) for lasting peace and development of the Bodo region in Assam. The signing of the Bodo agreement led to the surrender of over 1,600 militants of the major insurgent groups.

Narendra Modi

EXPLAINED

Protests led to cancellation last year

PM NARENDRA Modi's earlier scheduled visit to Assam — for a summit meeting with Japan PM Shinzo Abe — was immediately after citizenship Bill was passed by Parliament in December last year, but it had to be cancelled due to violent protests in the state. Modi was also reportedly invited for the inauguration of the recently concluded 'Khelo India' games in Guwahati but did not attend it.

The agreement will pave way for reorganisation of areas under Bodoland Territorial Council region, enhancement of powers of the BTC, increase in Assembly seats from 40 to 60, rehabilitation of surrendered militants of NDFB, and a special development package of Rs 1,500 crore for the region.

Akali Dal expels RS member, his MLA-son for questioning Badals' rule within party

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 3

THE SHIROMANI Akali Dal Monday expelled veteran leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa and his legislator son Parminder Singh Dhindsa, days after suspending the duo for questioning the "undemocratic manner" in which the party was functioning under Sukhbir Singh Badal and his family.

Confirming the development, party spokesman Daljit Singh Cheema said the decision was taken after the Akali Dal's core committee meeting, presided over by Sukhbir, adopted a resolution moved in a party rally in Sangrur on Sunday.

Cheema said a "gathering of lakhs" had passed the resolution in Sangrur seeking the expulsion of the father-son duo.

On Sunday, addressing a rally in Sangrur, considered a stronghold of the Dhindsa, former CM Parkash Singh Badal had accused the duo of stabbing the party in the back.

"Sukhbir has given (them) a very correct name. They are not Taksalis, but *jaali* (fake), *dhokebaaj* (betrayer). They have cheated their own party. None would be allowed to weaken the SGPC (Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee) at any cost," the SAD patron had said.

After being suspended from the SAD, Dhindsa announced that his first fight was to ensure that SGPC was free of Badals' control.

Asked about the time period for which the Dhindsas have been expelled and whether the party would move to get their Rajya Sabha and Assembly membership cancelled, Cheema said, "We should not go into much details. The action (of expulsion) would be recorded and party would complete all formal requirements."

Dhindsa said, "I welcome it. Those who are not real Akalis are expelling the real Akalis. I will raise the real Akali Dal."

"I will remain an MP and Parminder will remain an MLA," he added.

In an earlier core committee meeting on January 11, the Akali Dal, while suspending the father-son duo had announced to issue show cause notices to them. However, the notices, under which the Dhindsas had to submit a reply within 15 days, were never issued.

Demand for CAA discussion denied, Goa Oppn walks out

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, FEBRUARY 3

THE OPPOSITION on Monday staged a walkout in the Goa Assembly after its demand for a discussion on the CAA was denied.

Opposition lawmakers, including those from the Congress and GFP, earlier rushed to the well of the House and caused Speaker Rajesh Patnekar to adjourn proceedings till 2.30 pm after he allowed a motion by MLAs of the ruling BJP to congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for passage of the Act.

"Since you are insisting on going ahead with the congratulatory motion, we are walking out," Leader of Opposition Digambar Kamat told the House as he walked out along with other opposition MLAs.

There was ruckus in the Assembly after BJP MLA Atanasio Monserrate started reading congratulatory note to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah regarding the CAA.

"This Act paves the way for safeguarding the lives of oppressed religious minorities such as Catholics, Parsis, Hindus from neighbouring countries, who have sought refuge in India..." Monserrate read from a written note. Patnekar stopped him to extend the House hours by "five additional minutes", and asked him to continue reading.

Congress MLA Digambar Kamat rose to object to the motion, saying it was "against the law" for it to be read as a proposal for discussion on CAA had been placed in the House.

"This is wrong," said former Deputy CM and GFP leader Vijai Sardesai, "You have a float of majority. Take your float and go congratulate. We have asked for a discussion on CAA, NRC and NPR. Moving this note without a discussion is completely illegal and beyond the rule book," he added.

The entire Opposition rose as Chief Minister Pramod Sawant asked Monserrate to keep reading the note.

"As much as this law is unconstitutional, what you are doing is also unconstitutional. Do not come under pressure from the ruling party. You are murdering democracy. This is decitizenation too," Sardesai told the Speaker.

"Democracy cannot be killed. Speaker sir, what these people are doing falls under the goli maaro category," he repeated.

As the commotion went on, Patnekar kept repeating, "Congratulatory motion is already admitted. I will give you chance to speak."

The House later continued with BJP leaders congratulating the CAA move with no Opposition on the floor.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant thanked the Speaker for giving over two hours to the motion and added, "There is no discussion on NRC anywhere... Those who are opposing or protesting have a vested interest of bringing politics of religion."

'Ambedkar mooted idea of Dalitstan'

Babasaheb Ambedkar had mooted the idea of a Dalitstan for Dalits, Deputy Chief Minister Manohar Ajgaonkar told the Assembly on Monday. "Babasaheb Ambedkar had said that there will be another Dalitstan for Dalits. But we are all together," Ajgaonkar said, asking everyone to believe in Narendra Modi.

Uddhav says no compromise on Hindutva, attacks BJP for not honouring seat-sharing promise

VISHWAS WAGHMODE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 3

CHIEF MINISTER Uddhav Thackeray Monday renewed attack on the BJP for failing to honour the promise to share the chief ministerial post in the state post the Assembly election in October last year while claiming that the Shiv Sena had not compromised on its Hindutva ideology.

"Have I converted to any other religion? Is it that whatever you (the BJP) say is the final word on Hindutva? Or has it been written in the Constitution that what they (BJP) say is Hindutva?" Thackeray told Shiv Sena mouthpiece Saamana. The interview to Saamana's executive editor Sanjay Raut is the first of a three-part series published Monday.

The Sena had snapped ties with its pre-poll ally BJP last year over the issue of sharing the chief ministerial post in the state. Thackeray earlier claimed that a 50:50 formula was "agreed upon" between himself, the then BJP president Amit Shah and then chief minister Devendra Fadnavis ahead of the Lok Sabha polls last year.

"When they (the BJP) broke the promise in such a way, I did not have any other option. What did I ask from the BJP? Did I ask (for the) Moon and stars from BJP? I had asked the things that were decided between us during the Lok Sabha polls," he said.

'Have I converted to any other religion?'

On aligning with ideologically different parties like the NCP and the Congress, Thackeray said such tie-ups were made earlier also, and asked if the ideologies of BJP and (Lok Janshakti Party leader) Ram Vilas Paswan, (JD-U president) Nitish Kumar, (Trinamool Congress chief) Mamata Banerjee and (TDP head) Chandrababu Naidu were the same. In Kashmir, the Sena chief said, there was also an alliance with the PDP and talks were held with separatists.

"It is okay for you (the BJP) to induct leaders from other parties. Then, what is the problem in joining hands with that party? BJP inducted many big leaders from the Congress and made them MLAs, MPs or (gave them) other posts. So, were they also of the same ideology?"

Asserting that the interest of the state and country was bigger than any ideology, Thackeray added, "Everyone has their ideology. We are Hindutvavadi and will remain Hindutvavadi. Congress and other parties have different ideologies. But, do they have different ideology when it comes to the interests of the state and Centre? Don't we want to work for the state and nation's interest? Do we want to create anarchy in the state and country?" he said.

Thackeray also attacked the BJP for terming the Maha Vikas Aghadi government "immoral" and said the BJP should not teach morality to anyone.

He said that despite the seat-sharing issues during the Maharashtra Assembly polls, he had kept the alliance with the BJP for "Hindutva".

MP to host IIFA awards, BJP slams govt for 'wasteful expenditure'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 3

THE 21ST edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards, an event that celebrates Indian cinema, will be held in Madhya Pradesh at the end of March.

The IIFA awards will kick off with an event in Bhopal on March 21 and the main three-day event — IIFA Weekend and Awards — will be held in Indore from March 27 to 29.

Chief Minister Kamal Nath, who addressed a press conference with actors Salman Khan and Jacqueline Fernandez, said Madhya Pradesh will benefit from the event as it will be seen as an investment and tourist destination. He said the event will also help generate jobs.

Kamal Nath said the state may not have oceans and snowfall, but it has national parks, heritage and landscape. Dedicating the event to tribals and the poor, he said it will boost the state's potential.

Salman Khan, who was born in Indore, said Nath can stand up to anything and that several films will be shot in the state because the chief minister has offered to give rebates.

The BJP, however, criticised the Congress government for hosting the jamboree allegedly with taxpayers' money. "The government claims it inherited empty coffers from the BJP government, but it has money for such wasteful expenditure," said Leader of Opposition Gopal Bhargava. He claimed the event will cost the state government at least Rs 58 crore.

More than a year has passed since the formation of the Congress government, but it has not been able to waive off farmers' loans like promised, he said. "The claim that the event will generate jobs is laughable," he said.

BJP spokesperson Rajneesh Agrawal said the MP government will end up branding the awards with no benefits to the state. "This raises questions on the state's priorities," he said.

The Congress said the BJP was frustrated that it could not hold an event of this scale over its 15-year-rule in the state.

PROTEST WATCH

WEST BENGAL

A protest against CAA, NRC and NPR in Kolkata. *Partha Paul*

NAGALAND

NPF to move anti-CAA resolution in Assembly

Kohima: Opposition Naga People's Front (NPF) has decided to move a resolution against the CAA in the ensuing budget session of the Nagaland Assembly, a senior party leader said on Monday. The session is scheduled from February 7-15. During a consultative meeting of NPF legislators with party officials held in the residence of party president Shurhozelie Liezietsu on Saturday, it was decided that the MLAs will take up the matter in the Assembly, NPF secretary-general Achumbemo Kikon told reporters. Kikon said party workers will organise dharnas against CAA outside the Assembly. "Our legislators will give fierce arguments against the Act and move a resolution for withdrawal of CAA," Kikon said. **PTI**

UTTAR PRADESH

A protest against CAA, NRC and NPR at the Aligarh Muslim University on Monday. *Express*

Day 6: After 3 FIRs, cops issue notice to 153

Aligarh: Police Monday issued notices to 153 people to sign a bond with a warning of legal action if any untoward incident takes place outside Shahjamal Eidgah, where women have continued their sit-in against the CAA and NRC for the past six days. Among those who have been served a notice are several who are allegedly providing logistic support to the protesting women, police said. "We have issued notices to 153 persons (under section 107/116 of CrPC) to sign bond to ensure that no violence would take place in the ongoing protest," Aligarh SSP Akash Kulhary said. Police began the exercise after failing to convince people to withdraw the protest. Three FIRs have been lodged in connection with the protest at the Delhigate police station. **ENS**

GUJARAT

At a protest site in Tandalja area of Vadodara. *Bhupendra Rana*

Karnataka HC pulls up cops for eviction after Bangladeshi tag

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 3

A DIVISION bench of the Karnataka High Court Monday came down heavily on the Bengaluru Police for facilitating the eviction of people living on a private property on the city outskirts last month after labelling them as illegal Bangladeshis without investigation. A division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Sreenivas Oka and Justice Hemant Chandangoudar directed the state government to provide a plan to rehabilitate those who were evicted.

Several people living in tenements on a private property in Bellandur area were evicted through a demolition drive carried out on January 12, 18 and 19 by the authorities on the basis of a police notice on January 11 about the presence of illegal immigrants. Around 200 sheds on the property, which housed around 5,000 people, were demolished.

A petition was filed in court by the People's Union for Civil Liberties on behalf of the affected migrant workers — several of whom were from different parts of Karnataka.

"It is submitted that the residents of the property in question are not from Bangladesh but in fact are extremely poor migrant families, having migrated from districts of North Karnataka, including Raichur, Hubli and Dharwad and other states, including Assam, Tripura, West Bengal, and Bihar," the petition stated. "It appears that the bogey of Bangladeshi is being used to evict the innocent poor."

The court had last week sought records from the police and city corporation.

The court specifically asked the police to state the basis on which a conclusion was drawn that "illegal Bangladeshi migrants have been provided with shelter" in "the illegal sheds put up on the subject land".

While the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike submitted an affidavit that it was not involved in ordering the demolition, the police reported that residents of the tenements had voluntarily vacated their sheds after the property's owner asked them to leave.

However, the police admitted that a notice was issued by the Marathahalli police inspector stating that illegal Bangladeshis were living on the property. Police claimed that the notice was issued on the basis of complaints by residents and an alert issued by the MHA to sensitise officials about the presence of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in the area.

However, the court observed that the complaints were general in nature and did not specifically point to the property. "There is nothing on file to indicate that police inspector visited the site to verify if there are Bangladeshi immigrants," the division bench observed on Monday.

"It began with the letter of the police to the land owner to remove structures and in this situation we are of the view that the state will have to rehabilitate those who have been dispossessed," court said in an interim order while seeking the government's response on February 10.

The court asked the state advocate general how the police could act on mere suspicion. It said that strict action must be taken against the police inspector who issued the notice since the police had assumed the power of a civil court to issue the order.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao has frequently claimed that there a large number of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in Bengaluru.

NOTICE TO 6 MUMBAI PROTESTERS

The women-led sit-in against CAA entered Day 9 at Nagpada in Mumbai on Monday. Six people were issued notices under Section 149 of the CrPC, which gives police the right to take steps to prevent a cognisable offence. Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said the protesters do not have police permission and they must call off the stir. *Nirmal Harindran*

Sharjeel custody extended, cops to verify if 'enemy' guided him

PRITAM PAL SINGH & ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

Sharjeel Imam

A DELHI court on Monday extended JNU PhD student Sharjeel Imam's police custody by three days.

The police sought further custody on the ground that they want to verify whether Imam was delivering "inflammatory and instigating speeches" against the government on the new citizenship law and NRC "under guidance of enemy country/countries".

Imam, 31, was arrested from Kako village in Bihar's Jehanabad district on January 28 and brought to Delhi.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Purshotam Pathak had sent him to five-day police custody on January 29. On expiry of the earlier remand, the police sought further custody on the ground that Imam's custody was needed "to unearth the in-depth conspiracy and his association with any separatist groups/organisation and connect the chain of financial transactions, if any."

CMM Pathak passed the order granting three-day police custody after Imam was produced at the CMM's residence, adjacent to Saket district court.

In its January 29 remand application, while seeking six-day custodial interrogation, Delhi Police had stated that "details of bank transaction are to be identified and analysed to ascertain the conspiracy of funding or organising such gatherings."

Crime Branch has booked Imam under IPC Sections 124A (sedition), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, etc) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief).

During investigation, the police said they raided Imam's rented apartment in Delhi's Vasant Kunj. They found several pamphlets from his house — some allegedly containing what the police say are false information on CAA and NRC. The police have said that one of the pamphlets stated, "Thousands of Muslim youth are ready to disrupt Delhi which will give international media attention to our issue."

The police said Imam had distributed these pamphlets at several mosques. They sent notices to 15 others connected to Imam's WhatsApp group.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Anti-CAA protests: 108 PFI members held in 4 days, say UP cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 3

THE UTTAR Pradesh Police has arrested 108 members of the Popular Front of India (PFI) in the last four days for their alleged involvement in violence during protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in the state on December 19-20, senior officials said on Monday.

Briefing reporters, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi said these arrests are in addition to the 25 arrests made earlier. "This is just the beginning. We will get to the roots of the organisation. A probe is also going on about their financial dealings. We are in touch with central agencies and are sharing information with them," he said, adding that Uttar Pradesh was the first state to take this kind of action against the organisation.

Giving details of the arrests, acting Director General of Police (DGP) Hitesh Chandra Awasthi said 14 people were arrested in Lucknow, 21 in Meerut, 20 in Varanasi, 16 in Bahraich, three in Sitapur, nine in Ghaziabad, six in Muzaffarnagar, seven in Shamli, four in Bijnor, five in Kanpur and one each in Gonda, Hapur and Jaunpur.

He said the PFI has a prominent presence in Shamli, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Bijnor, Lucknow, Barabanki, Gonda, Bahraich, Varanasi, Azamgarh, Ghaziabad and Sitapur.

Asked whether the state police had obtained any information about the PFI's financial transactions from the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the acting DGP said, "We are collecting evidence". He said they were interacting regularly with the ED and other agencies but declined to comment further.

Last month, the state government had recommended a ban on the PFI, on the basis of a report prepared by the UP DGP's office which said members of the organisation were involved in the protests against CAA. The Centre is yet to to take a call on the recommendation.

Twenty people died during the anti-CAA protests in the state.

PFI's state president Waseem Ahmed, treasurer Nadeem Ahmed, division in-charge of Bahraich and Barabanki Maulana Ashfaq, division in-charge of Varanasi Rahees Ahmed and ad-hoc committee member Naseerudeen were among those arrested earlier. Many of them, including Waseem Ahmed, have since been released on bail.

60 Pak Hindus cross into India at Attari-Wagah border, some say may seek asylum

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, FEBRUARY 3

ABOUT 60 Pakistani Hindus Monday crossed over to India through the Attari-Wagah border carrying tourist visas with some of them indicating that they felt unsafe in the neighbouring country and hoped that India will grant them citizenship.

Shiromani Akali Dal leader and Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee president Manjinder Singh Sirsa received four "Dalit Hindu Sikh families" who he claimed had were facing religious persecution in Pakistan. He said he will urge the Centre to grant them Indian citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

"These families have come to India to take refuge as they are religiously persecuted in Pakistan... They were facing many hardships in Pakistan...the daughters of a family were kidnapped and forced to convert," Sirsa said.

"Right now I have four families which want to live in India. One of them is family of doctors. The have high hopes from CAA. There are many such families... I will meet Home Minister Amit Shah... and request him to grant them citizenship..." Sirsa wrote later in a Facebook post.

According to BSF officials, the number of Hindus from Pakistan using this border increased significantly after CAA was notified.

Most who crossed over on Monday belonged to the Sindh and Karachi areas.

Parkash Dev, in his mid 40s, said, "I have come along with wife and our two children. We are facing trouble in Pakistan. We have very limited economic opportunities there. Our daughters are threatened there... I have read about the CAA and I am hopeful that India will welcome us..."

Security agencies are keeping a close watch on those that have arrived in India in the recent past.

SDPI bid to foment communal hatred: CM to Kerala House

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEBRUARY 3

Pinarayi Vijayan

KERALA CHIEF Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Monday told the Assembly that the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), the political wing of the Popular Front of India (PFI), tried to foment communal hatred by intruding in peaceful protests against the amended citizenship law.

Replying to a question by a Congress legislator on arrests related to anti-CAA demonstrations, the Chief Minister said the SDPI has been trying to infiltrate into protests against CAA conducted by various mahallu committees. "Extremist outfits are trying to divert the issue on account of the protest (against CAA). Several mahallu committees had staged protests in a peaceful manner. However, SDPI is thinking on extremist lines. Those belonging to SDPI have intruded into the protests and created troubles. What is going on is an attempt to foment communal hatred on behalf of the protest which cannot be tolerated. There are attempts to divert the protest over CAA and divide society. The government would take stringent actions against such attempts," he said.

The Chief Minister was answering a question raised by Congress legislator Roji M John, who alleged that police had booked 200 persons over a protest organised by a mahallu committee.

The Chief Minister's remarks triggered a brief war of words between the ruling and opposition benches. "Why is the Opposition getting agitated when I mention the name of SDPI? Are they saying that I should not talk about SDPI and extremism?" Vijayan asked.

When UDF members alleged that police had registered cases against their leaders and party workers for taking part in anti-CAA protests, the Chief Minister said the law enforcers had to intervene as the protesters destroyed public property.

The Chief Minister also made it clear that his government had not registered a case against anyone who took part in the anti-CAA protests peacefully and in accordance with the law.

The SDPI denied the charge and asked the state government to cite any example where the SDPI had resorted to violence during anti-CAA protests. "The Chief Minister is trying to mislead the Assembly. Not even a single SDPI worker has so far been arrested in violent incidents related to the protests," SDPI state general secretary P Abdul Hameed said.

ANTI-CAA PROTEST

Kutch traders who supported bandh allege boycott, threats

GOPAL KATESHIYA
RAJKOT, FEBRUARY 3

SOME TRADERS and residents of Kutch district, who supported a bandh call in protest of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) on January 29, have alleged that they have been facing boycott from those supporting the new citizenship law.

While no complaints have been filed with the police, purported videos and messages calling for a boycott are doing the rounds of social media.

In Ratnal, a village in Anjar taluka of eastern Kutch, a group which identified itself as Akhil Bharat Desh Rakshak Samiti allegedly put up a hoarding that read "Jai Shri Ram: Anti-national elements shall not stop or park their vehicles and rickshaws in Ratnal village."

While the hoarding has been taken down, police said there is no organisation by that name. Parikshita Rathod, Superintendent of Police, Kutch (East), said: "The banner was against 'anti-nationals'. It does not require any action from our side."

"Ratnal is only 3 km from our village, but people have stopped going there as they have put up banners which prohibit halt there," said Juma Para, sarpanch of Chubdak village.

Para said that after the banner surfaced, he called up Trikambhai Varchand, husband of Ratnal village sarpanch, Sariyaben. "Trikambhai assured me that the matter will be sorted out and people would be able to go to his village. But the villagers are apprehensive," he said.

Ratnal is also home to Gujarat Minister for Tourism and Welfare of OBC, Vasan Ahir.

Two days after the bandh, messages originated from several pro-CAA social media accounts, calling the traders who joined the bandh "anti-nationals" and exhorting people to stop purchasing goods from their shops so that "they remain shut forever".

Bharat Sanghvi, a local BJP worker in Kutch, also forwarded in his social media group a message which asked people not to dine at a restaurant that remained shut on January 29.

Hussain Memon, a vegetable vendor of Pandhor village in Lakhtpat taluka of Kutch, alleged that he was stopped by a group of men when he entered nearby Navanagar village with his mini-truck on January 30 to sell vegetables. In a purported video of the incident that went viral on social media, one of the men is heard saying, "The village was shut yesterday. So we have decided that no one (who joined the bandh) will be allowed to enter our village from today."

Memon, from the driver's cabin, is seen trying to reason with the men, saying that people in Kutch have been living in harmony for years. But he is cut short by one of the men. "This is not for you alone. I swear by god, this has become a law for everyone..." the man tells Memon.

Another man tells the vendor: "Today, we are telling you politely that from tomorrow onward, the chhakdo (mini truck) should not enter the village..."

Navanagar, about 1.5 km from Pandhro, is part of Pandhro village panchayat.

Memon told *The Indian Express* that that he used to visit five to eight villages where he used to sell vegetables worth around Rs 5,000 everyday. But since that day, the 39-year-old vendor has not ventured out of Pandhro.

"I feel it is too risky to take my vehicle to those villages. I have stopped visiting those villages lest someone vandalises my truck. I spoke with Rajubhai, a leader of Navanagar, and Vikramsinh Sodha, a leader of the BJP youth wing. They told me I was free to visit villages to sell vegetables. But I have not mustered courage," Menon said.

"I've been visiting these villages for the past 13 years... Such a thing had never happened before... I have not filed a police complaint but I did convey details to our local community leaders. I am waiting for their response," said Memon, who supports his family of three daughters, a son, wife and parents.

Similar messages calling for a boycott also surfaced in Vadodara. The list of establishments to be "boycotted", including those from south Gujarat districts and Surat city, was also reportedly updated. The posts termed the bandh supporters as "traitors" and called for people to stop dining at restaurants run by them and buying from their shops.

While the posts were widely shared on social networking sites, Vadodara police claimed ignorance. Local political leaders said these were "attempts by anti-social elements to disturb the harmony of Kutch by exploiting religious divide".

Kutch, which shares a border with Pakistan, has a sizeable Muslim population.

Ibrahim Halepotra, president of Akhil Kutch Sunni Muslim Hitrakshak Samiti, a Bhuj-based organisation that works for the protection of rights of Muslims, said: "This is an attempt by a handful of anti-social elements to disturb peace. They want to tarnish the history of communal harmony in Kutch. We are protesting against the CAA because it is discriminatory, but protesting against this law does not make one anti-national."

"We are citizens first... some anti-social elements are making attempts to disturb the atmosphere of peace and harmony by exploiting religious divide... it is difficult to control social media these days," said Keshubhai Patel, president of BJP's Kutch district unit.

WITH INPUTS FROM VAIBHAV JHA IN AHMEDABAD

2 BJP workers among 3 held for attacking Union minister's house

Dibrugarh (Assam): Three persons, including two BJP activists, have been arrested for allegedly attacking the residence of Union minister Rameswar Teli during anti-CAA protests in Assam, police said on Monday.

The house of Teli, Union Minister of State for Food Processing, in Duliajan town was attacked on December 11 during the statewide stir against the contentious CAA. "Based on CCTV footages, Debajit Hazarika, Vicky Sonar and Arup Kahar were arrested. We had picked them up on Sunday," Dibrugarh SP Sreejith T said. A BJP source confirmed that Debajit Hazarika and Vicky Sonar are party activists. "These three persons were also involved in pelting stones on a police party during protests in Duliajan," Sreejith said. **PTI**

ELGAR PARISHAD: NIA FIR NAMES 11 ACCUSED

NIA wait for papers continues as state prosecutor seeks time

CHANDAN HAYGUNDE & SUSHANT KULKARNI
PUNE, FEBRUARY 3

AS MAHARASHTRA government is yet to respond to an application by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) seeking transfer of court documents and material in the Elgar Parishad case, the prosecution on Monday asked a special court in Pune to give it more time for filing its say on the application. The case, probed by Pune City Police for over a year, was transferred to NIA last month.

The Pune City Police has so far booked 23 persons in connection with the case for alleged links with the banned CPI-Maoist. But the FIR of NIA names only 11 of the 23 accused and does not include charges of sedition and waging war against the government.

District government Pleader Ujjwala Pawar told special judge S R Navandar Monday that Pune City Police have communicated with the DGP's office regarding the transfer of documents.

Pawar sought a week's time and told the court that the say can't be filed without instructions from the investigating agency. But Special Judge S R Navandar said the court can't wait long and scheduled the next hearing for February 6.

On January 29, SP of NIA-Mumbai, Vikram Khalate, moved an application, requesting for orders to send "all court records, seized articles from this court" to the NIA special court in Mumbai.

The NIA FIR charges the accused under IPC sections 153A (promoting enmity between groups), 505-1b (intent to cause alarm to public), 117 (commission of offence by more than 10 persons), 34 (common Intention) of IPC and sections 13, 16, 18 (B), 20 and 39 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). It does not include some sections invoked by Pune City Police in the draft charges filed in December against the chargesheeted accused, such as section 121 (waging war against government of India), 121A (conspiracy to commit offence under 121), 124A (sedition) of IPC and the UAPA sections 17, 18B, 38, 40.

The FIR is considered a primary document probe and more sections can be added later, said sources.

SNOW BITE IN HIMACHAL

A snow-covered NH-5 near Kufri, Shimla, on Monday. Cold wave conditions intensified in Himachal Pradesh on Monday, with minimum temperature dropping below normal range at many places, the Met department said. *Pradeep Kumar*

10% Indians to develop cancer, 1 in 15 will die of disease: WHO

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, FEBRUARY 3

ONE IN 10 Indians will develop cancer during their lifetime, and one in 15 Indians will die of cancer, according to a latest World Health Organization (WHO) report.

February 4 is World Cancer Day and the WHO has released two global reports on the occasion. There are an estimated 1.16 million new cancer cases, 7,84,800 cancer deaths, and 2.26 million 5-year prevalent cases in India's population of 1.35 billion, said the WHO report on cancer burdens and patterns in India in 2018, released on Monday. The report aims to set the global agenda on cancer, mobilise stakeholders and help countries set priorities for investing in cancer control and universal health coverage

According to the report, the six most common cancer types in India are breast cancer (1,62,500 cases), oral cancer (1,20,000 cases), cervical cancer (97,000 cases), lung cancer (68,000 cases), stomach cancer (57,000 cases), and colorectal cancer (57,000). Together, these account for 49 per cent of all new cancer cases, the report notes.

Of 5.70 lakh new cancer cases in men, oral cancer (92,000), lung cancer (49,000), stomach cancer (39,000), colorectal cancer (37,000), and oesophageal cancer (34,000) account for 45 per cent of cases. Of 5.87 lakh new cancer cases in women, breast cancer (1,62,500), cervical cancer (97,000), ovarian cancer (36,000), oral cancer (28,000), and colorectal cancer (20,000) account for 60 per cent cases, the report states.

Tobacco-related cancers account for 34-69 per cent of all cancers in men, and constitute 10-27 per cent of all cancers in women in most regions in India, the report notes. An increasing trend in the incidence of oral cancer has been observed among men in the fourth to seventh decades of life, possibly as a result of increasing consumption of unregulated flavoured chewing products that contain areca nut, such as paan masala. Dr Pankaj Chaturvedi, deputy director at Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, said states must have stringent measures to ensure a curb on smokeless tobacco.

EXPLAINED

Cancers linked to lifestyle

INCIDENCE RATES are increasing for cancer types associated with overweight, obesity and lower levels of physical activity — such as colorectal cancer, uterine cancer, ovarian cancer, and prostate cancer, the WHO report notes. Burden of cancer types associated with such lifestyle — such as breast cancer and colorectal cancer — is also increasing and there is a need to focus on creating more awareness, Dr Anil D'Cruz, former director of Head and Neck Services at Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, says.

One civilian dead in firing along LoC

Srinagar: One civilian was killed and another injured after a ceasefire violation led to exchange of firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in North Kashmir's Kupwara district on Monday, officials said .

A 60-year-old civilian, identified as Saleem-ud-din, was killed at Tadd village in Kupwara district's Karnah sector on Monday evening.

Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Karnah, Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, told *The Indian Express*, "A ceasefire violation was reported in the evening and one civilian was killed in the firing."

He said another civilian was injured.

There was heavy shelling in Karnah sector on Monday morning, which stopped after some time. Later in the evening, intermittent firing started again.

In Gurez, officials said that both armies exchanged fire again on Monday evening. There was, however, no report of any damage.

On Sunday, an Armyman was injured after a ceasefire violation was reported in Gurez sector of Bandipora district. The same day, there were reports of ceasefire violation in Karnah. **ENS**

4 arrested for 'assisting JeM militants'

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday said that they have arrested four people allegedly involved in assisting Jaish-e-Mohammad militants. A J&K Police spokesperson said that these associates were arrested by the Awantipora police.

They have been identified as Pulwama residents Mohammad Amin, Mohammad Rafiq, Fayaz Lone and Maqbool Dar, police said. "As per police records they are involved in assisting the active terrorists of proscribed outfit JeM operating in the areas of Awantipora," the spokesman said.

As per the investigations, the arrested associates "were providing logistic support and shelter to the active terrorists of JeM, including JeM Commander Qari Yasir and his other terror associates, who were recently killed in an encounter at Awantipora", police said. **ENS**

WEST BENGAL

Women tied up, beaten; two arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 3

TWO MEN were arrested on Monday for allegedly beating up a school teacher and her sister at Nandanpur village of Gangarampur block in South Dinajpur district.

The arrest comes after the video of the purported incident was widely circulated on social media. The incident reportedly took place on January 31.The video purportedly shows a group of alleged TMC workers tying hands and legs of the women with ropes and dragging them on the road in Gangarampur. They were also beaten up. The teacher claimed to be a BJP worker.

The women were opposed to widening of a proposed road as it encroached on their land. They filed a complaint against the alleged attackers on Sunday.

The arrested men have been identified as Gobindo Sarkar and Tapan Seal. One of the accused is Deputy Pradhan of Nandanpur Gram Panchayat Amal Sarkar, a TMC worker. On Sunday, TMC South Dinajpur district president and former MP Arpita Ghosh suspended Amal following the allegations. Police said Amal is on the run. "Two persons have been arrested. We are investigating the matter," said a senior police officer.

A screen grab of the purported video

According to the two women, they had agreed to give up a part of their land for the road with a width of 12 feet. However, they said when the panchayat decided to widen the road to 24 feet, they objected.

BJP MP from Balurghat, Sukanta Majumdar, had stated earlier, "She is our party worker. She was severely beaten up. Only TMC can inflict such horrific attack on our workers. This clearly shows why the law and order situation has worsened in West Bengal."

In Maharashtra, woman lecturer set on fire, critical

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NAGPUR, FEBRUARY 3

A 24-YEAR-OLD lecturer was critical after she was set on fire in Maharashtra's Wardha district on Monday morning, the police said. The incident has sparked an outrage in the area, and the state Home Minister has announced that the case will be tried in a fast-track court.

Wardha's Superintendent of Police Basavraj Teli said the woman, a lecturer at a college in Hinganghat, sustained 40 per cent burns in the incident and is undergoing treatment at Nagpur's Orange City Hospital.

"Around 7 am Monday, the accused, Vikesh Nagrale, accosted the woman near a bus stop in Hinganghat. He doused her with petrol and set her on fire," Teli said.

Nagrale, who had fled the scene of crime, was later nabbed from Takalghat village and charged under IPC Sections 307 (attempt to murder) and 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means), Teli said.

Both the woman and the accused are residents of Wardha district.

Hinganghat Police Inspector S M Bandiwar said prima facie it seems that Nagrale's advances were rejected by the woman. "On Monday morning, she had reached Hinganghat from Daroda by bus and was walking along the road when Nagrale intercepted her."

The accused, Bandivar said, is married and has a daughter. He said that three months ago, the victim's father had reportedly warned Nagrale to not trouble his daughter. "The woman's family had not lodged any police complaint against Nagrale at that time," he said.

A bulletin released by hospital authorities states that the woman suffered "grade-II deep dermal burns covering scalp, face, right upper limb, left hand, upper back, full neck with an approximation of 40 per cent burns with inhalation injuries affecting respiratory system also".

The State Commission for Women has asked the Wardha SP to submit a report on the incident. **WITH PTI INPUTS**

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. निविदा विस्तारिकरण सूचना इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा संख्या टी-225/2019-20 दिनांक 08.02.2020 को अवकाश होने के कारण दिनांक 10.02.2020 तक विस्तारित की जाती है। हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत पारेषण मंडल उ.प्र.पा.ट्रा.का.लि., 400 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र, पाली, ग्रेटर नोएडा। ''राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचाएं''। कृपया वेब साईट etender.up.nic पर सभी सूचना, अन्य संशशोधन/विस्तार हेतु निविदा खुलने की तिथि तक लॉग ऑन करें। पत्रांक 174 वि.पा.मं./ग्रे.ना./T-225/2019-20 दिनांक:- 01.02.2020

Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited (PuVVNL) (A subsidiary of UP Power Corporation Limited) Purvanchal Vidyut Bhavan, Vidyut Nagar, P.O.-D.L.W., Varanasi- 221004 Website: **http://www.etender.up.nic.in Tender Date Extension** The date of submission & opening of e-tender no., EAV- 145 & 146/18-19 is here by extended up to 18.02.2020 (15:00 PM) & 19.02.2020 (15:00 PM) respectively. Further details can be seen at website **www.etender.up.nic.in**. Other terms and conditions shall remain same. Sd/- **(Rajesh Kumar) Superintending Engineer (MM-I)** "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" पत्रांक: 361/पू.वि.वि.नि.लि.(वा.)/सा.प्र.-I/अअ-I/ विज्ञापन दिनांक: 03.02.2020

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना इस कार्यालय के द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य/सामग्री की आपूर्ति सम्पादन हेतु अनुभवी, दक्ष एवं जी.एस.टी. में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा वर्ष 2019-20 में आमंत्रित की जाती है। जिसका विस्तृत विवरण ई-टेंडर वेबसाईट **www.etender.up.nic.in site** पर उपलब्ध है। **ईटी-197/** विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अंतर्गत 132 के.वी. द्विपथ पनकी-आजाद नगर लाइन में मेट्रो के निर्माण के कारण टावर की ऊंचाई बढ़ाने का कार्य। **ईटी-198/** विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अंतर्गत 220 के.वी. उपकेंद्र (जी.आई.एस.) फूलबाग के अंतर्गत जी.आई.एस. हाल के वैन्टिलेशन सिस्टम का कार्य। **ईटी-199/** विद्युत प्रेषण खण्ड प्रथम के अंतर्गत 220 के.वी. द्विपथ पनकी-आर.पी.एच. तथा पनकी-बिठूर पारेषण लाइन में मेट्रो के निर्माण के कारण टावर की ऊंचाई बढ़ाने का कार्य। **ईटी-197** को दिनांक 25.02.2020 को खोली जाएगी एवं ईटी-198-199 को 04.03.2020 को खोली जाएगी। **हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियंता विद्युत पारेषण मंडल प्रथम पनकी, कानपुर ''राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें'' उपभोक्ता सेवा हेतु सम्पर्क करें- www.etender.up.nic.in, पत्रांक 173/ वि.प्रे.म.प. (का.)/ टी.-1 दिनांक 03.02.2020**

PURVANCHAL VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED VIDYUT NAGAR; POST OFFICE: D.L.W. VARANASI- 221004 E-Short Term Tender Notice E-Short term tender are invited for the following material. The tender will be accepted up to at 15.00 hrs. Please visit website **www.etender.up.nic.in** for details/ download and for any other corrections/amendments/modifications/extensions till the date of submission of bids. **Sl. No.** 1., **Tender Specification No.** EAV-75/2019-20, **Name of Material** 1. Single phase meter box suitable for different make energy meters., **Quantity (Nos.)** 200000, **Name of Material** 2. Three phase meter box suitable for different make energy meters., **Quantity (Nos.)** 10000, **Earnest Money (Rs.)** 5,20,000.00, **Tender Fee (Rs.)** 5,000.00 + GST @ 18%, **Last date & Time for online submission of tender document** 19.02.2020 15.00 Hrs, **Date & Time for online opening of tender part-I** 20.02.2020 15:00 Hrs. Sd/- **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-I)** "**Save Electricity in the interest of Nation**" पत्रांक: 368/पू.वि.वि/नि.लि.(वा.)/सा.प्र-I/अअ-I/विज्ञापन दिनांक: 03.02.2020

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

SRIPAL SINGH SUB-INSPECTOR SECR BILASPUR

20.12.1970 to 03.02.2011

On 01/02.02.2011, Sub-Inspector Shripal Singh was tasked to conduct a raid to recover stolen railway properties as well as to arrest the fugitive criminals at Pali village of Bilaspur District. When raid was in progress, he was attacked by some outsiders. Exhibiting extraordinary courage, SI Sripal Singh faced them with courage but sustained grievous injuries and attained Martyrdom on 03.02.2011. On the face of hostile situation, indomitable courage shown by him is an example of sheer guts and commitment to other member of the force.

HARI KRISHNA RAM CONSTABLE SECR NAGPUR

01.07.1957 to 04.02.1994

On 04.02.1994, Constable Hari Krishna Ram along with two staff of RPF Post Itwari were deployed to safe guarding of Railway property at Home signal, Bhankhed, Nagpur. Some criminals Intrude upon Railway line and tried to snatch the weapons of RPF staff. Sri Hari Krishna Ram faced the criminals with zeal and courage and responded to the criminals with firing to save the Railway property. He introduced amazing courage and forced the criminals to flee. During cross firing with criminals, one bullet hits Sri Hari Krishna Ram, which turned fatal and he attained Martyrdom.

"REMEMBERED WITH PRIDE
DG AND ALL RANKS OF RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE PERSONNEL"

सीएसआईआर – केन्द्रीय चर्म अनुसंधान संस्थान
CSIR - CENTRAL LEATHER RESEARCH INSTITUTE
वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद् Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
अड्यार, चैन्नै, तमिलनाडु Adyar, Chennai – 600 020, Tamil Nadu
दूरभाष Telephone : 91 – 44 – 24437420, 24337193, 24437257, 24437162. ई-मेल Email :spo@clri.res.in

No. 28(28)/2019/Pur **Global Tender Notice** 3rd February, 2020

Director, Central Leather Research Institute, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020, INDIA, (CLRI) invites sealed bids from Original Equipment Manufacturers, foreign Principals and Indian Agents of foreign principals for procurement, installation and commissioning of item listed below in **two bid format (Cover 1 - Techno-commercial Bid, Cover 2 - Financial Bid).**

Sl. No.	Tender No	Description of items	Qty	Single/ Double Bid	Bid Security (EMD)			
					INR	EURO	GBP	USD
1.	28(28)/2019/Pur/ T-95	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Powder X-Ray Diffractometer (XRD)	1 No.	Double bid	Rs. 350000	4417.28	3721.28	4892.25

Tender Closing Date : 3rd March, 2020 upto 12.00 P.M. (IST)
Tender Opening Date : 3rd March, 2020 3.00 P.M. (IST)

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 3.00 p.m. on 10th February, 2020 at Heritage Hall, CLRI Chennai.

All interested bidders are requested to attend. Modification if any in the Tender Document after the Pre-Bid Conference would be hosted on **www.clri.org** only.

Stores & Purchase Officer
For & on behalf of
COUNCIL OF SCEINTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

Superintending Engineer, Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr

No. 1675/96M/E-TENDER/BSR/ CIRCLE/2019-20 Dated. 25.01.2020

Short Term E-Procurement-Inviting Tenders

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, S.E., Bulandshahr Circle, U.P.P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate bid online through **http://etender.up.nic.in** from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with P.W.D. class as per column no. 10 below category as applied from Date 04.02.2020 to 11.02.2020 upto 12:00 Noon as per the prescribed T-2 of Govt. of U.P. The technical bids will be opened online on dated 11.02.2020 at 12:30 P.M. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day, at the same time any validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Time of Completion work including rainy season	Tender document fee including GST (In Rs.)	Address of Executive Engineer executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Category
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Special Repair Work year 2019-20								
1.	Construction of C.C. Road on Siyana Unchagaon Bhadkau Narsena Nahar Patri Road to Heerapur Kalan Nahar ki Patri Road (ODR) in Km. 27, 30, 31, 33, 37, 45, 46, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54(700) under special repair.	110.00	7.50	45 Days	Tender Cost Rs. 300 + 2000 + 18% G.S.T. + Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	Provincial Division, P.W.D, Bulandshahr	Bulandshahar Circle, P.W.D, Bulandhshahar	Chief Engineer Meerut Zone, P.W.D., Meerut	A, B, (Roads)
2.	Construction of C.C. Road on Bulandshahr-Anoopshahr Road to Jiroli- Malakpur Link Road in Km. 1, 2(500), 3, 4 under special repair	63.00	5.15	45 Days	Tender Cost Rs. 300 + 2000 + 18% G.S.T. + Rs. 414.0 = 2714.00	-Do-	-Do-	-Do-	A, B, C (Roads)

1. The Bid Security and Tender Document fee must be deposited through Internet Banking only.
2. All registered contractors have to upload Turnover certified by C.A. of last 5 years and details of maximum cost work satisfactorily completed in last 5 years on Chanakya Software before submission of tender.
3.. Details of e-tender uploaded on **http://etender.up.nic.in** shall also be uploaded on UP PWD Chanakya software, before last date & time of submission of bid.
4. Terms & other conditions related to bid are available on **http://etender.up.nic.in**

Sd/-
(Jagdish Prasad)
Executive Engineer
P.D. P.W.D Bulandshahar

UPID-148378 DATE. 01.02.2020
WWW.UPGOV.NIC.IN

Sd/-
(Ajay Shankar Singh)
Superintending Engineer
Bulandshahar circle, PWD
Bulandshahar

UJVN LIMITED
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)
H. O. "UJJAWAL" MAHARANI BAGH, GMS ROAD, DEHRADUN CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866
website: www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com , (Tele.: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508)

TENDER INVITATION NOTICE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Civil-II (SHP), UJVNL, Guptkashi, (Rudraprayag) invites sealed tenders from interested parties Brief summary of work and details of tender are given below:-

Tender Notice No.	10/EE (Civil-II)/SHP/ KG-I/2019-20	11/EE (Civil-II)/SHP/ KG-I/ 2019-20	12/EE (Civil-II)/SHP/ KG-I/2019-20
Name of work	Protection works of Forebay Escape Channel U/S of fall at Kaliganga-I SHP (2x2) MW in Tehsil-Ukhimath, District-Rudraprayag.	Protection of Forebay Escape Channel D/S of fall at Kaliganga-I SHP (2x2) MW in Tehsil-Ukhimath, District-Rudraprayag.	Protection works behind Power House at Kaliganga-I SHP (2x2) MW in Tehsil-Ukhimath, District-Rudraprayag.
Approximate value of Tender:	₹ 24.00 lac (excluding GST).	₹ 23.84 lac (excluding GST).	₹ 24.15 lac (excluding GST).
Earnest Money:	₹ 60,000.00 only	₹ 60,000.00 only	₹ 60,000.00 only
Cost of Tender document	₹1180.00 (including GST)	₹1180.00 (including GST)	₹1180.00 (including GST)
Last date for submission of Tender	25.02.2020 up to 16:00 hrs.	25.02.2020 up to 16:00 hrs.	25.02.2020 up to 16:00 hrs.
Time & date for opening of Tenders:	27.02.2020 at 11.00 hrs.	27.02.2020 at 11.00 hrs.	27.02.2020 at 11.00 hrs.

The tender documents of the above works can be downloaded directly from the Nigam's web site **www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com** and the cost of tender document should be paid at the time of submission of tender in the manner as described in the detailed tender notice. The eligibility criteria with full & further details are available on the detailed tender notice enclosed with the tender document.

पत्रांक सं0 54/दिनांक 03.02.2020 Executive Engineer, Civil-II (SHP), Guptkashi

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

RITES Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
REGIONAL PROJECT OFFICE, LUCKNOW
CIN:- L74899DL1974GOI007227

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

NIT No.: RITES/RPO-LKO/UPRVUNL/00009/Panki/P-2/R, date: 03.02.2020

The GM/P, RITES Limited, RPO-Lucknow on behalf of **Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVUNL)** invites online percentage rate tenders on two packet system for the following work:

Name of Work: Construction of workshop, store building, RCC floor and boundary wall including associated electrical works for 3x660 MW Panki Ex. Project, Panki, Kanpur (Package-2)

Estimated Cost: Rs. 13.45 Crore, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 13.45 Lac, **Period of Completion:** 15 (Fifteen) Months, **Last date of submission:** 19.02.2020 at 12:00 Hrs.

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app**. Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted online only.

TAMILNADU SLUM CLEARANCE BOARD
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CHENNAI CIRCLE-1
NOTICE INVITING SHORT RE-TENDER

Tender Notice No.SCB / 555 / HD / SE (CC-I) / 2019 Date: 03.02.2020

For and on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, one sealed tender consisting of two separate sealed covers one for Pre-qualification with EMD and other one for Technical Bid and Price Bid with name of work duly superscribed in both covers are invited from eligible Contractors who are in the field of Construction Industry and are registered contractors of TNSCB under Class –I and above or Government Departments / Government undertakings / Government / Semi Government Bodies / Quasi Government / Public Sector undertakings / Housing Boards / Corporation Undertakings / CPWD and registered as a legal entity in India, by the Superintending Engineer, Chennai Circle-I, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, No.5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai – 600 005 **upto 3.00 PM on 20.02.2020** and the same will be opened at **3.30 PM** on the same day in the presence of the Tender Scrutiny Committee and bidders / their authorised agents.

Sl.No.	Name of Work / Estimate No.	Approximate Tender Value including (GST@12% (Rs. in lakhs) Period of contract	EMD (in Rs.)	To whom EMD / Tender Schedule cost to be drawn
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Construction of **1260** tenements (G+2 and G+5 storied) with minimum 400 sq.ft of plinth area / unit **using Conventional Technology / Alternative Technology or a combination of both on Lump-Sum Turnkey Design & Build basis** including all services such as Internal water supply, sanitary, electrification and development works at **Murugamangalam** Village at Vandalore Taluk in Chengalpattu District under Housing For All (PMAY) **CER No.53 /HFA/2019-20**	**Rs.11411.89 ---------- 18 Months**	57,16,000/-	Executive Engineer / Kancheepuram Division, Kancheepuram

The EMD should be drawn as Demand Draft or Banker's cheque/Bank Guarantee from any Nationalised / Scheduled Banks, payable at Kancheepuram in favour of **Executive Engineer, Kancheepuram Division, TNSCB, Kancheepuram.** The tender documents can be obtained from the office of the Superintending Engineer, Chennai Circle-I TNSCB, No.5, Kamarajar salai, Chennai – 600 005 on written requisition along with cost of the tender documents to a value of Rs.16,900/- (Non-Refundable) in the form of Demand Draft or Banker's Cheque upto **3.00 PM** on **19.02.2020** drawn in favour of the Executive Engineer, Kancheepuram Division, TNSCB, Kancheepuram.

The tender documents are also available at **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** which can be downloaded from **12.02.2020 to 19.02.2020 upto 3.00 P.M.** The downloaded tender documents shall be submitted without any alteration, whatsoever it may be, in full shape or otherwise the tender will be liable for rejection. The tenderer shall keep a watch over the Website till the preceding date of tender for any corrigendum. If the due date of opening of the tender happens to be a holiday, the same will be received and opened on the succeeding working day without any change in time. Clarification, if any on Bid Criteria and other details regarding the tender can be had on all working days from the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Chennai Circle-I, TNSCB, Chennai – 600 005.

Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 13.02.2020 at 3.00 P.M. at TNSCB, SE(CC-I) Chamber.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board
No.5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai-600 005. DIPR/693/Tender/2020
Superintending Engineer
Chennai Circle - I

Oil leak sets Assam river ablaze

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 3

UPPER ASSAM'S Buri Dihing river caught fire following a crude oil spill from an Oil India Limited (OIL) pipeline in the area. Images of the raging fire — reportedly in the Sasoni area near Naharkatiya town in Dibrugarh district — have been circulating on social media since.

It is unclear how long the river, which is a tributary of the Brahmaputra, was ablaze. However, on Monday afternoon, OIL authorities have confirmed that the fire extinguished by itself after burning for a few "hours".

"No casualty has been reported," confirmed Dibrugarh SP Sreejith T, adding that the OIL had said a "technical glitch" caused the spillage on January 28.

A press release from OIL, headquartered in Duliajan, states that the problem originated in OIL's Central Tank Farm in Duliajan.

According to the statement, there was a "sudden closure of remote operated shut off valves & motor operator valves of inlets and outlets of all the Crude Oil Storage Tanks" leading to a "pressure build-up". This resulted in several leaks in the delivery pipelines. The incident occurred around 10.30 am on January 28.

"Somehow, probably the next day, the oil managed to trickle into the Buri Dihing river. It appears that some miscreants set fire to oil floating on the river," said Tridiv Hazarika. He added that they had received "one-two" reports of smaller fires on Monday too.

A joint team led by Circle Officer of Tengakhat Circle, Dibrugarh district, State Pollution Control Board, fishery department and experts from OIL are currently assessing the environmental damage to the river. "We are mopping and cleaning the spill in areas where it remains."

No casualty was reported in the fire on Buri Dihing river. *ANI*

Borewell deaths: SC issues notice to Centre, states

New Delhi: The Supreme Court issued notice to the Centre, states and Union Territories on Monday on a plea that sought action for failing to prevent fatalities due open or abandoned borewells. A bench of Justices Arun Mishra and M R Shah agreed to examine the plea filed by advocate G S Mani, who referred to instances such as a child being rescued by the Army from a borewell in 2006 as also last year's instance of a three-year old dying after falling into a borewell in Tamil Nadu.

The plea urged the court to act against authorities for non-compliance of directions given by the Supreme Court in 2010 to stop such incidents and to call for records regarding their implementation. It said citizens were being "victimised" due to the failure of administration to close these open borewells.

"A judicial verdict must be implemented by the concerned authorities in full letter and spirit. Mere compliance on paper will not give full effect of the implementation of court's verdict," it said. **ENS**

Day later, officials struggle to plug leak in Andhra gas well

RAHUL V PISHARODY
HYDERABAD, FEBRUARY 3

A GAS leak reported on Sunday afternoon in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh continued unabated throughout Monday even as authorities scrambled to find a solution.

The leak was reported from a rig well in Uppidi village under Katrenikona Mandal. Residents of Uppidi and Nagicheruvu villages have been shifted to relief camps and efforts to plug the leak were ongoing at the time of going to press. The well is operated by the PFH Oil and Gas Private Limited — a private agency.

On Monday, the team of experts from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) — drawn from Narsapuram, Rajahmundry and Tatipaka — dealing with the leak sought assistance from experts in Mumbai. Apart from around 100 ONGC personnel, over 20 fire brigades, 100 policemen and 100 revenue personnel, and medical teams are on the ground.

"It feels like the burning smell of diesel or thick smoke. The rig well is just 100 meters away from the village. We first asked the villagers not to light anything in their homes. Power has been cut in the entire Mandal. Around 350 families, including 700-750 people from Uppidi and Nagicheruvu villages, along with their cattle and livestock, have been shifted to relief camps around 8 km away," an official who was a part of the operation told *The Indian Express*.

Katrenikona Tehsildar, GVS Prasad clarified that the leak was from a rig well and not a gas pipeline, as thought earlier. According to him, the cause of the leak appeared to be lack of maintenance.

District Collector D Muralidhar Reddy said an inquiry is already underway.

OBITUARY

Corps of Signals salutes its following Signallers who left us for their heavenly abode during the month of Jan 2020.

(a) 15690538K Sigmn Basavaraj Hiremath
(b) 15728092M Sigmn Vyshal KK
(c) 15724216Y Sigmn Thirumal Kannan C
(d) 15756949L Rect Bopanna CS
(e) 15665880Y Hav Pero Kujur
(f) 15728082K Nk Sreejith KM

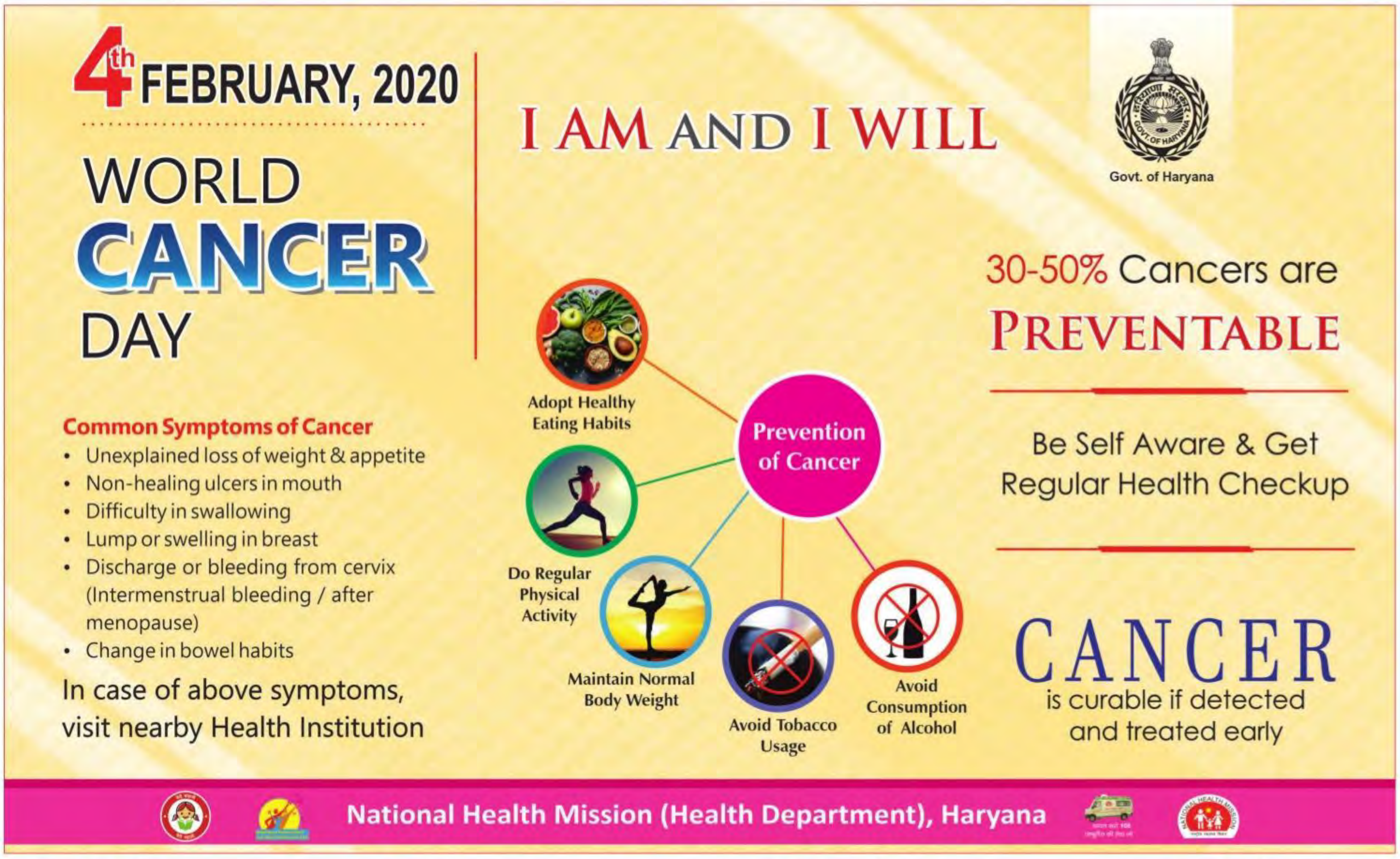
On behalf of the Corps, we sincerely pray to Almighty for peace to departed souls & strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library
cordially invites you to a **Public Lecture**
on
"Climate Change and Future Impact on India"
by
Prof. R.K. Ganjoo
University of Jammu

Wednesday, 5 February 2020 at 3.00 pm
Venue: Seminar Room, Library Building
Nehru Memorial Museum and Library
Teen Murti House, New Delhi-110011

For More info, please visit: Website: http://nehrumemorial.nic.in or
Contact us on: ccs2nmml@gmail.com
For live webcast, please visit: www.facebook.com/Nehru MemorialLibray/;
www.youtube.com/user/nehrumemoriallibrary

All are Welcome



THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

NEVER THINK THAT WAR, NO MATTER HOW NECESSARY, NOR HOW JUSTIFIED, IS NOT A CRIME.
— ERNEST HEMINGWAY

The Indian EXPRESS
FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA
BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

CENTRE VS STATES

Fiscal contagion threatens to spread to state capitals and strain their already tense relations with New Delhi

THE RIPPLE EFFECTS of the fiscal crisis faced by the Centre are now being felt by state governments. This could potentially strain the already deteriorating relationship between the two. The stress on state finances comes from multiple sources. First, with the Centre's tax revenues falling short of expectations, it has significantly lowered tax devolution to states in 2019-20, upsetting the latter's budget maths. Second, the Budget speech seems to suggest that shortfall in states' GST collections will be compensated only to the extent of collections through the compensation cess, and no more. And third, with the government accepting some of the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, the share of some southern states in the divisible tax pool has declined. Along with this, other proposals by the Commission, which could impact transfers to state, are also likely to be contested.

In 2019-20, as against a budgeted target of Rs 8.09 lakh crore, the share of states in gross tax revenues fell by Rs 1.53 lakh crore to Rs 6.56 lakh crore. Part of the shortfall, Rs 58,843 crore, is because the Centre had transferred a higher amount to the states in 2018-19. The remaining is because of lower tax collections this year. This shortfall will have a bearing on states' spending. They can either opt to borrow more to finance their expenditure, in which case their net borrowings will exceed that of the Centre, or they can cut back on spending, further aggravating the slowdown. Another source of contestation has been the issue of GST compensation. The Budget speech notes that, "hereinafter, transfers to the fund would be limited only to collection by way of GST compensation cess" — hinting at the possibility that states will be compensated only to the extent of collections through the compensation cess. This move, presumably because the Centre's own finances are under pressure, will amount to the Centre reneging on its promise of protecting states revenue, and could be a justiciable matter.

Another bone of contention has been the use of 2011 population estimates for estimating tax devolution. While the Finance Commission has chosen to minimise criticism by factoring in demographic performance, the share of many, mostly southern states such as Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, has fallen. This will further strain these states' finances. Further, while the Commission recommended special grants to ensure that no state receives a lower amount in absolute terms post devolution, the Centre has not accepted it. Moreover, the possibility of setting up a non-lapsable fund or an alternative mechanism for defence and internal security — also on account of the Centre's limited fiscal space — if carved out from gross tax collections will further reduce the divisible pool for states, and could emerge as yet another stress point in Centre-state relations.

EXILE AND RETURN

The Kashmiri Pandit narrative is not singular. A resolution to the trauma of exodus has to be political, not communal

IT IS 30 years since the Kashmiri Pandit exodus from the Valley, but time has not healed the pain of loss of home and "homeland" even though most who left then, have through their sheer grit and determination, rebuilt their lives from scratch in their new homes. An exile's yearning for the homeland is a remembrance of home: The loss of a way of life is central to the imagination of the "migrant" Pandit, as it is for most exiles. The pain is undiminished. At the time of their flight from the Valley, the Pandits were a tiny community of less than 80,000 families. They had shared a common ethnic heritage with Kashmiri Muslims, but the exodus and the circumstances that surrounded it have separated the two in a manner that neither side imagined was possible.

The Kashmiri Pandits left with a heightened consciousness of being a minority in a majority. Their desire to return is layered with this self-awareness. But it is also clear that this has been fuelled in no small part by the Hindu majoritarian sentiment in the rest of the country, where there is little realisation that the more communal the issue becomes the less likely are the chances of a Pandit return. The removal of J&K's special status was an ideological Hindutva project. Many Kashmiri Pandits cheered and said it would make it easier for them to return. But with Kashmiri Muslims as alienated as ever, if not more, the Pandit vision of return is not to the idyllic past of living as an organic part of the Valley. The vision has narrowed to "Pandit colonies" surrounded by barbed wire and police guards, which can mark them out as the "other" in their homeland, rather than give them any sense of belonging.

However, there is clearly more than one Pandit narrative, and the one that is struggling to make itself heard is that of the Pandit who never left the Valley. The stories of families who have continued to live in Kashmir through the darkest of moments, and who resisted the urge to flee for several reasons, provide another way to look at the issue of return. The "non-migrants" are not the correct ideological fit for Hindutva's project Kashmir, but they cannot be wished away or ignored. Their suffering as well as resilience through the years, along with their Kashmiri Muslim neighbours, reiterates that the problem in the Valley is political, not communal.

REMAINS OF THE DAY

In times of Brexit, '1917', a film that recalls a war fought by young men for a free Europe, sweeps BAFTA

TWO DAYS AFTER Brexit, a film about two footsoldiers who ran the breadth of the trenches between Britain and Germany during World War I, to prevent a bloodbath, swept BAFTA. The seven BAFTAs to Sam Mendes's *1917* are, of course, an acknowledgment of the power and breathtaking finesse with which the British writer-director and his cinematographer Richard Deakins portray the futility and tragedy of war, and its demands of honour and sacrifice from essentially very young men. However, it is hard not to see in the honour a lament for a Europe that, a hundred years later, again has a line running through it.

Mendes conceded as much a year after England voted for Brexit, in 2017. Talking about the family stories that inspired *1917*, he said, "I'm afraid that the winds that were blowing before the First World War are blowing again. There was this generation of men fighting then for a free and unified Europe, which we would do well to remember." *1917* is a good reminder — of that generation, that Europe, and that spirit. In the present though, the awards left BAFTA stinging over accusations of lack of diversity, both in race and gender. It took an absent Brad Pitt to address the elephants present in the room. The Best Supporting Actor winner, who has been having quite a run with *Once Upon A Time in Hollywood*, Pitt remarked both on Britain's newly "single" and one-prince-minus status. In the audience, guests of honour Prince William and wife Kate Middleton, chuckled.

Still, some divides can be bridged, as noted by Bong Joon Ho who won two BAFTAs for his Korean film *Parasite*, incidentally about class differences. "I spent a lot of time writing in cafes. I never imagined I would be standing here at the Royal Albert Hall," Ho said in his acceptance speech. Royal Albert Hall, incidentally, was one of the few London buildings to survive the German Blitz.

Yearning for change

People of J&K, particularly the aspirational youth, want a new narrative — effective, accountable governance

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD

I VISITED SRINAGAR, Baramulla and Sopore during the course of an extraordinary outreach programme of the central government envisioned by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who directed more than 30 Union ministers to visit various parts of Jammu and Kashmir. It was my first visit to J&K after the revocation of Article 370 and a unique one indeed — in minus five-degree temperature in the Valley. The cold was biting but the warmth and openness of the people of J&K was energising. The areas which I visited had seen some of the worst terrorist activities in the past and repeated instances of public alienation. I was keen to see the ground reality myself.

I met hundreds of people at Srinagar, Baramulla and Sopore, which included more than 30 formal delegations. Besides interacting with nearly a hundred newly-elected panches, sarpanches and chairpersons of block development councils, representatives of the municipal councils and various representatives of the civil society, including young people. Apart from holding formal consultations, I also met some civil society leaders and had free and frank exchanges with them. These deliberations helped me form an idea of the changing narrative on Jammu and Kashmir, post the abolition of Article 370.

One professional made a critical comment: "*Hamein hamare netaon ne poori sach hai kabhi nahin batai* (our leaders never told us the entire truth)". There was one group of elders in the Valley who had an emotional connect with Article 370 and who were made to believe by elderly leaders that it was only in this provision that their redemption lay. Hence, the entire polity of J&K revolved around the nuances of Article 370, regardless of whosoever was in power. The other was the deliberately stoked narrative of alienation fomented by the separatists and terrorists actively patronised by elements across the border, which also created a cloud of uncertainty, violence and killings.

One of the strongest comments I heard was about how separatists sent their children to study abroad and engineered the burning of schools in the Valley. With the opening of the border during the Vajpayee regime, when Kashmiris from the Valley got to know of the pathetic condition of Kashmiris in PoK, the hollowness of the promise of a new dawn became evident. All this was further compounded by an abject lack of governance and accountability towards the people and widespread corruption. A favourite refrain of governance I heard was, "Markaz se paise le lenge (will take funds from the Centre)".

> This was the vicious scenario when the President's Rule was imposed and despite the strong opposition from the conventional political parties of J&K, the prime minister and home minister took the bold initiative to hold elections to local bodies and gram panchayats. Despite many threats, a large number of voters participated in the polls. It was so assuring for me to see the enthusiastic participation of young men and women, who faced all odds including physical threats, to contest elections.

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There has been a divide in J&K between the Kashmir and Jammu regions for variety of reasons but I distinctly noticed a yearning for change, a quest for a new narrative and an overpowering desire for development and good governance. This was evident when I inaugurated a 24,000 square feet incubation centre of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) at Srinagar, laid the foundation of girls and boys hostels in the campus of National Institute for Electronics and IT (NIELIT) and most importantly, the glowing smile of women employees of the post office when I inaugurated the first all-women post office in Srinagar.

However, the most striking and emotional moment for me was the experience I had while inaugurating the indoor stadium in Baramulla. I noticed the creative and athletic energies of young boys and girls of Baramulla. Dozens of boys and girls were engaged in yoga, boxing, badminton, karate, table tennis and host of other games. I could clearly see, in their eyes, a lurking question: Why was this denied to them for so long? I noticed the same yearning in Sopore, where the first demand of the people was to have a good indoor stadium for young people to play in. This was quite natural because with heavy snow, sports activities can happen only in an indoor stadium.

A bigger surprise was in store for me when I learnt the details of apple production and commerce. Nearly 300 varieties of apple exist in Baramulla and Sopore and the apple mandi in Sopore transports 450 apple-laden trucks to different parts of India and also to Bangladesh every day during the harvest season. Their demand was so simple — make our mandi an e-mandi — which I readily agreed to. The obvious question troubling me was why this was not done for so long. Everywhere there were demands for roads, for new electricity connections, hospitals, ambulances, snow cutters, schools, degree colleges and a common demand for a more meaningful involvement of the panchayat and urban body representatives in governance. Representatives of the Pahadi communities, Gujjars and Bakarwaals openly conveyed that they were left out of the social, political and governance architecture of J&K for a long time, though they have a substantial population. Now, their voice too shall be heard.

J&K, particularly the Valley, is keen for a new narrative — effective and accountable governance with timely delivery of results on the ground. They are also becoming aspirational. There was demand for an IT park in Baramulla. In Sopore, I also mentioned the extraordinary cultural and civilisational heritage of J&K, beginning from the philosophy of Shankaracharya to the profound springs of Sufi Islam. We need to reclaim this culture and heritage, which was paralysed with the pain inflicted by terrorism. I could see some moist eyes too. Therein lies both hope and redemption.

The writer is Union Minister for Law & Justice, Communication and Electronics & IT

OLD FAULTLINES, NEW WEST ASIA

The region today is rife with small state, non-state actors pitted against each other

RAMIN JAHANBEGLOO

MORE THAN HALF a century ago, when analysts talked about war in the Middle East, they referred to a single overarching and permanent tension which existed between Israel and Arab countries like Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Today, in the new Middle East — and despite the unsolved tension between Israelis and Palestinians — the defining war is a broader struggle among multiple players seeking regional hegemony.

Among these, there are fractious groups of militias, religious groups and tribal forces that exercise power in much of the region. These groups have grown vastly in the past 20 years, and many of them have been and continue to be financed and controlled by Iran and Saudi Arabia. The Iranian revolution of 1979 galvanised Islamists across the region. But the civil war in Lebanon and Islamist insurgency against the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, and the eight years war between Iran and Iraq, also strengthened the hand of armed groups outside the control of governments. As a result, contemporary West Asia has been shifting constantly between state actors (Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq and Israel) and non-state actors (the militia groups and local forces) that actually controlled much of the land. At times, non-state actors like the Hezbollah of Lebanon have been more influential than the national governments.

As for the Islamic Republic of Iran, its preeminence in proxy wars was born out of the Iran-Iraq war. It is in opposition to the American-Saudi support for Saddam Hussein that the Iranian government decided to create its Shiite proxies and militias in the region.

> With Soleimani killed and an imminent danger of an American military response to an Iranian proxy aggression, Tehran will certainly expand the model it perfected in Syria and Iraq — namely, fostering the creation of numerous smaller groups and placing them under the general umbrella of the IRGC.

Today, Iran considers itself as a model state, presenting itself as the self-appointed leader of the world's Shiite Muslims, with an emphasis on those in Iran's near abroad. In this process of self-affirmation, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and, more specifically, the Quds Force of Qassem Soleimani, played a key role. This is why, in all the conflicts managed by the Quds Force, Iranian authorities have always given priority to their national-ideological interests over regional security and stability. This could also explain why there has been a constant preoccupation with and fear of Shiite groups among the Sunni states in the region. The Saudis viewed Iran as a domestic threat from 1979 onwards. Seeing the threat as intolerable, they began looking for a way to strike back. In the 1990s, Saudi Arabia, wishing to contain Iran's influence on the region's minority Shiite populations, sought to harden Sunni-Shiite rifts.

After the American invasion of Iraq and the fall of Saddam's government, Iran was convinced that the US and Saudi Arabia would install a pliant Iraqi government, so it raced to fill the post-war vacuum. Iran's leverage with Iraqi Shiite groups (Shiites are Iraq's largest demographic group) allowed it to control Baghdad politics and undermine the American-led occupation.

The Shiite success in Iraq reflects the effectiveness of IRGC doctrine regarding the construction, support, and use of sectarian political and military proxies as a central tool of Iranian policy. The late Quds Force chief, Qassem Soleimani, played a special role within Iran's hegemonic enterprise in the Middle East. With Soleimani killed and an imminent danger of an American military response to an Iranian proxy aggression, Tehran will certainly expand the model it perfected in Syria and Iraq — namely, fostering the creation of numerous smaller groups and placing them under the general umbrella of the IRGC.

However, despite the Iranian hegemonic presence in Iraq and Syria, some of its proxies, like the Lebanese Hezbollah, have been suffering from decreased resources and personnel, particularly after losing many elite commanders in the Syrian war. As for Iran's hardliners, despite increased regional tensions and harsher American sanctions, they are suspicious of any mediation by countries that are allied with the US.

At the end of the day, even an ideologically-oriented country like Iran needs a breakthrough with the Donald Trump administration if regional calm is to be restored. Maybe this is the key to understanding the geopolitics of the new Middle East.

The writer is Noor-York Chair in Islamic Studies, York University, Toronto

FEBRUARY 4, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

INDIAN EXPRESS

FATE OF STATES

THE UNION GOVERNMENT is likely to take a decision on the controversial issue of dissolution of state assemblies on February 5. According to informed sources, the political affairs committee of the cabinet and senior Congress (I) leaders are expected to discuss the crucial issue on Tuesday. The Union home ministry is understood to have "studied all legal and constitutional aspects" on the issue of dissolution of state assemblies. Home Minister Zail Singh has reportedly discussed the matter with his cabinet colleagues.

ZIA WANTS MORE

TALKS BETWEEN PAKISTAN President General Zia-ul-Haq, and the US presidential adviser on national security, Z Brzezinski, are reported to have run into difficulties on the second day. According to BBC, the difficulty was said to be two-fold: One relating to the quantum of the military and economic aid, and the other about the defence agreement between the two countries. The US was reportedly willing to offer $400 million in military and economic aid over the next two years, but General Zia is said to be asking for a bigger aid packet.

DESAI'S SON INDICTED

THE ONE-MAN VAIDIALINGAM Commission has indicted Kantilal Desai, son of former Prime Minister Morarji Desai, for having functioned as an extra-constitutional authority and pressurised the governmental machinery for his own self-aggrandisement. The Commission has held that his wife, Padma Desai, also utilised her position as the daughter-in-law of the PM and the special authority enjoyed by her husband for pressurising the income tax authorities for a favourable assessment of her tax dues. The Commission, set up by the Desai ministry to probe the doings of the relatives of both Desai and his then colleague, Charan Singh, has also said that Gayatri Devi (wife of Charan Singh) misused her position to interfere in the administration and to derive pecuniary benefits.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

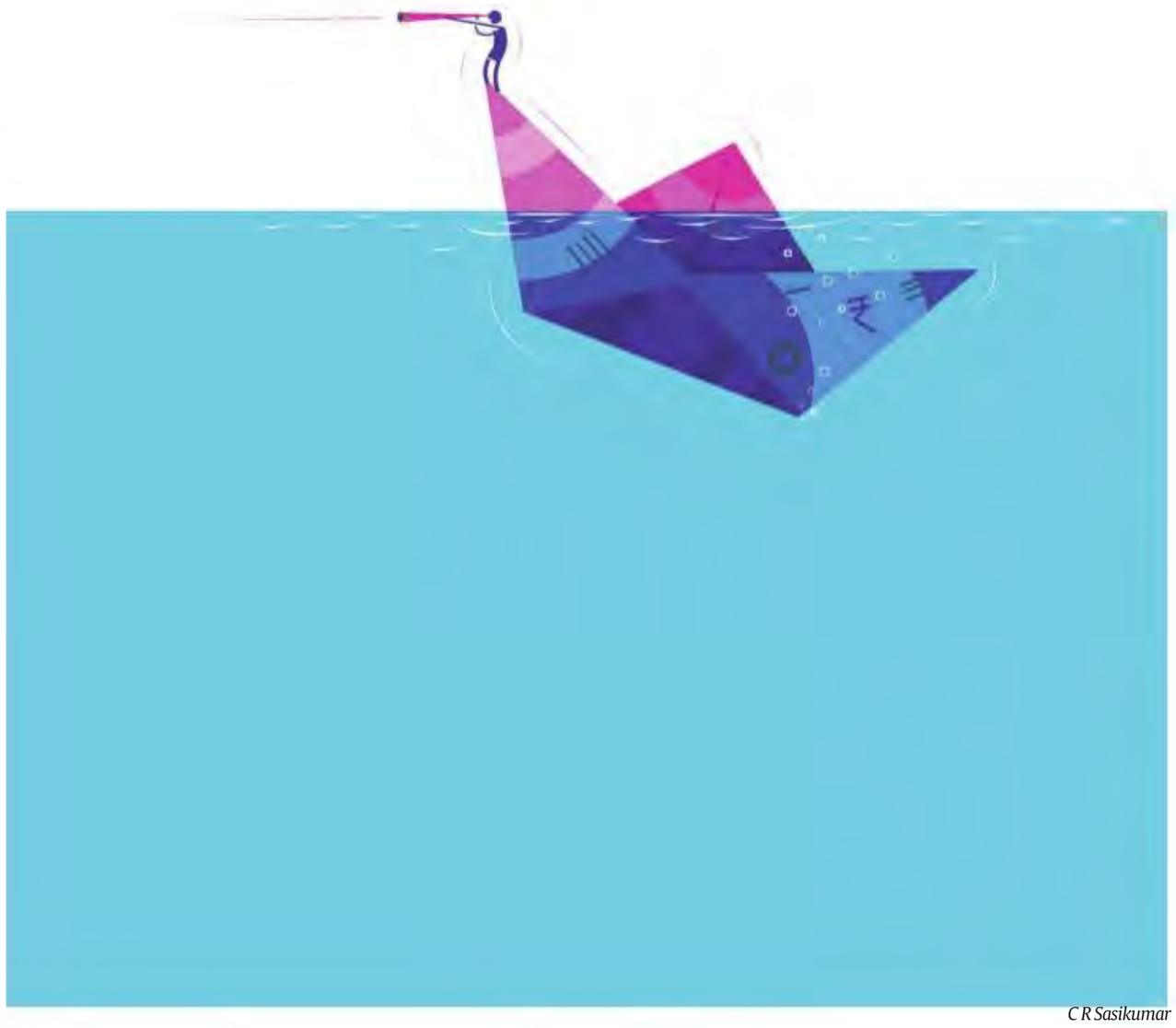
"The pandemic will finally pass. Many people badmouthed China during SARS 17 years ago, but what happened after? Nobody should underestimate China's ability to fight a public health crisis."

— GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

No rescue in sight

There was hope that the Budget will increase allocations in infrastructure, which in turn will trigger investment demand. But the numbers are not promising

M GOVINDA RAO



C R Sasikumar

THE 2020 BUDGET was presented against the background of slowing economy, poor investment climate, declining consumption demand and stagnant exports. The steady deceleration in growth, which registered at 4.5 per cent in the second quarter of the current fiscal — the lowest in the last 26 quarters — presented a challenge as well as an opportunity. Monetary policy, by reducing the repo rate by 135 basis points since January last year, has traversed quite a distance. The Budget provided a great opportunity to propel the economy to lift consumption demand, revive the investment climate and accelerate growth by initiating structural reforms. The hope was kindled even more as the Economic Survey made a reasonably objective analysis of the slowdown and stated, "The government must use its strong mandate to deliver expeditiously on reforms, which will enable the economy to strongly rebound in 2020-21".

Although over the years there have been differences of focus between the Economic Survey and Budget, the disconnect is much greater this year. While the Survey makes a detailed analysis to identify the causal factors and states, "A sharp decline in real fixed investment induced by a sluggish growth of real consumption has weighed down GDP growth from H2 of 2018-19 to H1 of 2019-20", the Budget speech states, "the fundamentals of the economy are strong and that ensured macroeconomic stability". Not surprisingly, when the existence of the problem itself is denied, it is difficult to find solutions.

The Budget speech by the finance minister ran for over two-and-a-half hours, until she could not carry on any longer. Unfortunately, it fell short. It did not contain what is required to revive the investment climate and growth. In fact, most of what she read in the Part A related to the subjects that come within the constitutional domain of the states and the action will have to be taken by them. Even with respect to subjects like agriculture, irrigation and rural development, a careful analysis reveals that the allocations appear higher mainly in relation to the sharply reduced expenditures in 2019-20. Not surprisingly, the market response to even the measures like an increase in insurance cover for bank deposits, reduction in individual income tax rates and abolition of dividend distribution tax was not very enthusiastic.

The hope was that there will be a substantial increase in infrastructure investment, which in turn will trigger investment demand, but the actual allocations are not promising. This was particularly surprising in the wake of the recent announcement that there will be an investment of Rs 103 trillion in the next five years to leapfrog India to a $5-trillion economy. Much of the investment for this will have to be made by the private sector and it is hoped that the allocation of Rs 20,000 crore in equity in specified infrastructure finance companies will help them to leverage more than Rs 1 lakh crore of investment support.

The budgetary allocation for capital expenditure for the current year, which is estimated at 1.7 per cent of GDP this year, is budgeted at 1.8 per cent in 2020-21. This is not very different from the past trend. The Budget also contained 16 action points on agriculture, irrigation and rural development and the Rs 2.83 lakh crore allocation is higher than the budget estimate for the previous year by just 2.5 per cent and revised estimate by 13.2 per cent. In other words, the allocation looks impressive only because there was a massive cut (Rs 26,000 crore) in the budget estimate over the revised estimate. Similarly, the allocation to transport infrastructure in the Budget — at Rs 1.7 lakh crore — is just 7.6 per cent higher than the revised estimate for 2019-20. Not much is expected in terms of propping up the consumption demand and the allocations to schemes like the MGNREGA has been cut from Rs 71,002 crore (RE) in the current year to Rs 61,500 crore in 2020-21 and for schemes like PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, it is just as much as was budgeted for 2019-20.

The slippage in fiscal deficit from the target set in the budget estimate in 2019-20 was expected. This is mainly because: Nominal GDP growth was 7.5 per cent as against the estimated 12 per cent in the budget; overestimation in the growth of tax revenue at 18.3 per cent over the pre-actuals of the previous year and the slippage in achieving the disinvestment target of Rs 1.03 lakh crore. Thus, it is not surprising that the fiscal deficit for the current year stands estimated at 3.8 per cent of GDP and for the next year at 3.5 per cent. The major concern is that the reported off budget financing is almost 0.85 per cent. This does not capture the bills and refunds payable by the government. There are also questions about whether the revised and budgeted estimates would be realised. The disinvestment revenue is estimated at Rs 65,000 crore though the realisation so far has been just Rs 18,000 crore, which implies another Rs 47,000 crore will have to be mobilised in the next two months. Also, the RE of tax revenue for the current year is over 14 per cent higher than the actual for 2018-19 and this is perhaps predicated on the hope that the scheme, "Vivad se Vishwas", which allows the settlement of disputed tax to be paid without interest and penalty.

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On tax reforms, while the abolition of dividend distribution tax was expected, the reforms in individual income tax complicates the tax by creating six brackets. The best practice approach to tax reform is to broaden the base, reduce the rates and reduce the number of brackets to make it a simple tax. Clearly, the main objective of any tax is to raise revenue. The government could have simply phased out the tax concessions, indexed the brackets for inflation and reduced the rates of tax with appropriate adjustment in the brackets. Raising of customs duties is clearly retrograde. Rather than integrating the economy with global value chains and making it competitive, it takes us back to the import substitution era in the name of "Make in India".

The impact of fiscal developments on the states' finances is clearly adverse. The shortfall in tax devolution in 2019-20 from the budgeted amount works out to Rs 1.53 lakh crore and the total shortfall in transfers amounted to Rs 1.41 lakh crore. Besides starving funds for various projects, this has serious repercussions on budget management at the state level. It seems the wait for a rescue of the slowing economy has become longer.

The is former director, NIPFP and member, Fourteenth Finance Commission

Challenge of new American politics

Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders represent insular tendencies in US politics. Delhi should find ways to step into spaces this politics open up

RAJA MANDALA

BY C RAJA MOHAN

AS INDIA prepares to host US President Donald Trump in the next few days, Delhi would want to factor in two important developments this week in America. Trump's visit is an opportunity for Delhi to limit the potential negative fallout from these two developments and take advantage of the emerging possibilities.

One is the impeachment drama that is expected to conclude on Wednesday with the Senate acquitting Trump of the charges framed by the House of Representatives. A liberated president is expected to pursue his political agenda with greater vigour. The other is the challenge posed by Senator Bernie Sanders' in the contest for Democratic Party's presidential nomination. While Trump is now unconstrained, the Democrats are heading towards a political blood bath. Together, the two underline the accelerating changes in America's internal and external orientation.

Free from the prospects of impeachment, Trump is expected to lay out an optimistic vision for America's future in his annual State of the Union address to the US Congress on Tuesday. Meanwhile, the Democrats are heading towards a major struggle for the political soul of the party. The Democratic Party establishment is nervous that the radicalism of Sanders — who has long identified himself as a socialist — will only help Trump win a second term in the White House. There is widespread suspicion that the grandees of the party will rig the rules against Sanders and deny him the nomination like they did in 2016.

Although the radical platform of Sanders has generated much concern in the Democratic Party, socialism is not new to American politics. Socialists and progressives had significant influence in the early decades of the 20th century. In the post-war era, the two traditions lost out amidst unprecedented expansion of economic prosperity at home and the prolonged confrontation with international communism. In the decades of deregulation and globalisation that came after the Cold War's end, socialism had become a dirty word. Sanders, however, appears to have broken the taboo amidst the widespread economic discontent that has enveloped the US in the 21st century.

While Trump and Sanders could not be more different as individuals, they are alike in one respect: They promise or threaten — depending on one's perspective — to overturn the established order in the US. Both are "outsiders" who rose to prominence in the teeth of the insiders' opposition.

Trump managed to defeat far more powerful candidates in the Republican race for the presidential nomination in 2016 and has consolidated his position against all odds. He has survived the attempts by the so-called "deep state" and the Democratic Party to undo the results of the 2016 presidential elections in which Trump secured a majority in the electoral college while losing the popular vote to Hillary Clinton by a large margin of three million votes.

If the initial attempt focused on Russian interference in the elections in favour of Trump, the more recent one focused on Trump's alleged abuse of presidential power for personal gain in Ukraine and obstructing Congressional investigation into it. Trump, however, has reveled in his confrontation with the establishment and has crossed many red lines on US domestic and foreign policy. He has dismantled much of the regulatory state that constrains domestic capital and overturned the conventional wisdom on trade, migration and American role in the world. Whether it was the result of his policies are not, Trump has claimed credit for the accelerated economic growth in the last few years and the falling unemployment rate.

Unlike Trump, Sanders' critique of the American system is comprehensive and deep. Pointing to the growing concentration of wealth and the declining opportunities for those at the bottom of the pyramid, Sanders is calling for radical remedies. On his agenda are a significant increase in the minimum wage for workers, renewal of trade unions, universal healthcare, abolition of college debt and free tuition, shift away from fossil fuels to hundred per cent renewable energy and massive taxes on what he calls "extreme wealth". While this agenda frightens the Democratic Party's leadership, it has fired up the young and the working people to rally behind him in large numbers.

There are two things, however, that are common to the agenda of Trump and Sanders. Both oppose free trade and agree on ending America's "endless wars". The shift away from free trade in the US demands that India adapt to the new dynamic where bilateral trade deals are supplanting the multilateral regime. Delhi, which had been slow to respond to this change, now has an opportunity to make amends during Trump's visit. Media reports say a trade deal worth $10 billion is on the cards when Trump comes to India. That is much too modest and Delhi needs to be ambitious in imagining its commercial ties with the US the transformation of global trade politics.

Both Trump and Sanders are also calling for a measure of retrenchment from the costly global burden that America has borne since the middle of the 20th century. Both are eager to withdraw US troops from the Middle East and Afghanistan. While an American retrenchment could create a potentially dangerous vacuum, it also opens space for India to step in and take larger responsibility for regional and global security affairs.

India has always claimed such a role and in more recent years, its capability to undertake such a burden has improved. Trump's visit is an opportunity for New Delhi to think boldly about expanding Indian contribution to the stabilisation of Afghanistan and the Gulf region. In the past, the US tended to discourage India's role in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean. Today, Washington is urging Delhi to do more for peace and security in India's near and extended neighbourhood.

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

Mother India

Anti-CAA protests by Muslim women are about where, how and why you belong

RITU MENON

"I NEVER stepped out of my house, not even to buy vegetables," 75-year-old Noor-un-Nissa is reported to have said, "Now that I have, I have no plans of retreating."

"What they did to our children in Jamia is intolerable," says Mehrunissa from Sabzibagh, Patna. "I, too, am a mother... will he (PM Modi) give his eye to the child who lost his? We will fight and we will snatch our rights."

"The money that will be spent on a countrywide NRC is ours," said Nusrat Ara, from Kanpur, "We will not let this happen."

Shaheen Bagh. Sabzibagh. Khureji Khas. Mansoor Ali Park. Delhi. Mumbai. Kanpur. Gaya. Goa. Lucknow. Chennai. Bengaluru. Hyderabad. Kochi. Kolkata. Patna. Banaras... "The fire started by the women of Shaheen Bagh is no longer limited to Delhi," said Kanhaiya Kumar, "it has spread all over India."

But what was the spark that lit the fire of consciousness for the women of Shaheen Bagh, of Sabzibagh, of Goa and Gaya, and the scores who have come out spontaneously, in protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act, the NRC and the NPR? There have been serious issues in the past, there has been grievous injury, and terrible humiliation. How is it that women like Noor-un-Nissa left home and hearth, raised their voices, and smashed the stereotype? Not only have these primarily home-based women crossed the line, they are in the frontline. How did this happen?

One of the many powerful posters from the protest at Shaheen Bagh says: "Ab Nari ke Naron se Inquilab Ayega" (Women's slogans will herald the uprising). There is another chant that is being heard in the protests about azaadi (freedom), and although the women at Shaheen Bagh may not be familiar with it, it has been the slogan of the women's movement across South Asia for the last many decades. Its very first lines are: "Meri behne mange azaadi/ Hai haq hamara, azaadi/ Hum leke rahenge, azaadi" and so on. Azaadi, of course, from patriarchal oppression, now expanded to include freedom for all, from state oppression.

The Constitution of India is hardly a document that we read every day, and even its Preamble is little known to most of us. It exists mostly in abstraction, a reassuring guarantee of protection from discrimination and injustice. Its defence has never made for the kind of protests we are seeing today, and certainly ordinary — or even radical and politically active — women have not poured into the streets in their lakhs to lay claim to it. Why now?

Three critical factors have coalesced to make, and mark, this moment as significant, three concerns that have particular and specific meaning for women: Religion/community; citizenship; and nation/homeland.

The deliberate and morally reprehensible exclusion of Muslims from the CAA on grounds of religion has been thoroughly exposed and turned on its head by the refusal of protesting women and men to be strait-jacketed into religious identity. When the women demand azaadi, they demand it for all women, of all religions. When they say "Nari ke Naron se..." they mean an uprising of all women. When they call for the repeal of CAA and NRC, they include all citizens, not just Muslims. These are secular demands, and we would be misreading them if we think they proceed from communitarian affiliation alone. Without in any way repudiating their Muslim identity — after all, the collective rozas that are being observed against a "black law" is an example of the clarity with which they have understood the importance of both in their lives. "Jab pareshaaniyan aati hain," said Arfa, "tab hum roze rakhte hain. Is baar, qaum ke liye, mulk ke liye." Fasting for their community, yes, but equally, fasting for the nation. It's been a long time since anyone did that.

But what is nation in the abstract? A rather remote entity, removed from everyday experience. But homeland, where you have been born and live and work, a place you belong to, that's a different proposition altogether. Women know intuitively, and experientially, what it means to be displaced, to be rendered homeless. They know, that should they be uprooted from the place they call home, the dislocation will be physical, yes, but also profoundly emotional and psychological. Repeated and egregious references to Partition's "unfinished business" by proponents of the "black law" resurrect long dormant fears of the kind of destitution and violence that wreaks havoc in very particular ways, on women. They know how their religious identity can be made to turn against them.

This is why their protest this time is not about religion, it is about safeguarding their citizenship. It is about where you belong. It is about how you belong, and about why you belong. You belong not only because you have been born in this country, but because you have laid claim to its foundational values, you have owned them. By embracing the flag and the Constitution, the women of Shaheen Bagh — and the tens of thousands of men and women, of all faiths, who have joined them — have imbued the notion of Mother India with new meaning.

The writer is with Women Unlimited, Delhi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WANTED: EMPATHY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Us vs us' (IE, February 3). The BJP's willingness to reach out to protesters in Delhi has to be taken with a pinch of salt. After the talk of reaching out, the UP CM equated protesters with terrorists and the partry's top leadership has been spewing venom. For the government, the need of the hour is to be compassionate and patient.

Deepak Singhal, *Chennai*

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Us vs us' (IE, February 3). The Centre's willingness to talk to Shaheen Bagh protesters must be accompanied by the assurance that the agitators are not seen as "anti-national". The dialogue must begin before campaign for the Delhi election concludes. The rallies by Prime Minister Narendra Modi are an opportunity to assuage the fears of minorities.

L R Murmu, *Delhi*

STATUS QUO

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'In slowdown, Budget slows down on growth', (IE, February2). No one expected the Budget to be extraordinary, but Nirmala Sitharaman's latest offering must go down as one of the most lacklustre budgets in recent times. It was a painstaking reiteration of status quo and gave ominous signals of destroying patiently-built public institutions like the LIC, Railways and the BPCL.

Basudev Mazumdar, *Kolkata*

FLYING LOW

THIS REFERS TO the editoral, 'No, minister' (IE, February 1). There is no doubt that comedian Kunal Kamra's behaviour on an Indigo plane with journalist Arnab Goswami was uncalled for. But the reaction to it from of a few airlines is over the top.

Bal Govind, *Noida*

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

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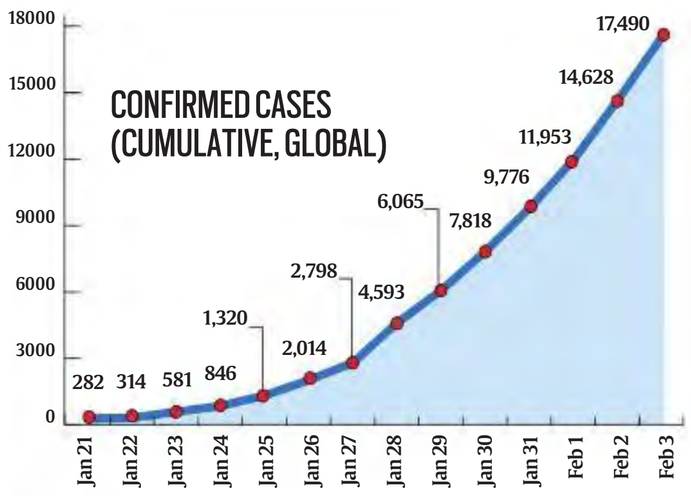
If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to **explained@indianexpress.com**

TELLING NUMBERS

Spurt of infections takes global numbers past 17,000

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS UPDATE FEBRUARY 3



WHO & Johns Hopkins University

COUNTRY	COUNT		
China	17,335	UAE	5
Japan	20	Canada	4
Thailand	19	India	3
Singapore	18	Italy	2
South Korea	15	Russia	2
Australia	12	Philippines	2
United States	11	United Kingdom	2
Germany	10	Nepal	1
Taiwan	10	Cambodia	1
Malaysia	8	Spain	1
France	6	Finland	1
Vietnam	6	Sweden	1
		Sri Lanka	1

Source: Johns Hopkins University
China includes mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macau
India and world figures updated to 3 after Kerala confirmed its third coronavirus infection on Monday. This was in the district of Kasargod.

THIS WORD MEANS

GROUNDHOG DAY

A purported prediction, a popular tradition

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, was observed as Groundhog Day in many parts of the US and Canada, marking an annual tradition in which a groundhog is believed to predict whether winter would be prolonged, or spring would arrive early.

THE MOST famous of these prognostication ceremonies is held in Punxsutawney in Pennsylvania, and is attended by thousands of people. If it is sunny on February 2, and a groundhog (a rodent native to North America) emerges from its burrow and sees its own shadow, another six weeks of winter weather follows, goes the tradition. On the other hand, if the animal doesn't see its shadow, milder weather is forecast for the following weeks, indicating an early onset of spring.

THE PUNXSUTAWNEY event began in 1887, and receives significant media attention. On Sunday, around 7.25 am, the designated groundhog "Punxsutawney Phil" emerged from its burrow in Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, and apparently did not see its shadow. A top-hatted member of Phil's "inner circle" then read from the groundhog's prediction scroll: "Now my forecast on a day that's a palindrome (02.02.2020) will cause some to cheer and some to moan. So do I hope you think it's neighbourly, for there is no shadow of me, spring it'll be early, it's a certainty." *(picture above)*

AP

THE 'PREDICTION' is obviously prepared in advance — and Phil, who has been taking a shots at forecasting the change of season for more than 130 years, has been accurate on less than 40% of times. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration cautions that the groundhog has "no predictive skill".

GS SCORE
An Institute for Civil Services
www.iasscore.in

SIMPLY PUT

What Finance panel has said

The 15th Finance Commission has reduced the vertical devolution from 42% to 41%. It has used the criterion of 'demographic effort' to offset the population parameter, but its impact is not entirely clear

NUSHAIBA IQBAL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

THE FIFTEENTH Finance Commission (FC) has considered the 2011 population along with forest cover, tax effort, area of the state, and "demographic performance" to arrive at the states' share in the divisible pool of taxes. As had been widely anticipated, shares of the southern states, except Tamil Nadu, have fallen — with Karnataka losing the most.

In the Constitution

The Finance Commission is a constitutionally mandated body that decides, among other things, the sharing of taxes between the Centre and the states. Article 280 (1) requires the President to constitute, "within two years from the commencement of this Constitution and thereafter at the expiration of every fifth year or at such earlier time as the President considers necessary", an FC "which shall consist of a Chairman and four other members".

Under Article 280(3)(a), the Commission must make recommendations to the President "as the distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be, or may be, divided between them under this Chapter and the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds".

Accordingly, the Commission determines a formula for tax-sharing between the states, which is a weighted sum of the states' population, area, forest cover, tax capacity, tax effort and demographic performance, with the weights expressed in percentages.

This crucial role of the Commission makes it instrumental in the implementation of fiscal federalism.

15th Finance Commission

The report of the Fifteenth FC, along with an Action Taken Report, was tabled in Parliament on Saturday.

The Commission has reduced the vertical devolution — the share of tax revenues that the Centre shares with the states — from 42% to 41%. The 1 per cent decrease in the vertical devolution is roughly equal to the share of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, which would have been 0.85% as per the formula described by the Commission.

15th Finance Commission chairman N K Singh *(centre)* meets with representatives of banks and financial institutions at the RBI in May last year. *Amit Chakravarty/Archive*

LOSERS AND GAINERS

STATE	SHARE IN TAXES, 14th FC	SHARE IN TAXES, 15th FC	INCREASE/DECREASE
Karnataka	4.71%	3.64%	– 1.07
Kerala	2.50%	1.94%	– 0.56
Maharashtra	5.53%	6.13%	0.61
Rajasthan	5.49%	5.98%	0.49
Bihar	9.66%	10.06%	0.40

The Commission has said that it intends to set up an expert group to initiate a non-lapsable fund for defence expenditure. The terms of reference of the Commission included considering the Centre's demand for funds for defence and national security. It may do so by creating a separate fund from the gross tax revenue before computing the divisible pool — which means that states would get a smaller share of the taxes.

The population parameter

The population parameter used by the Commission has been criticised by the governments of the southern states. The previous FC used both the 1971 and the 2011 populations to calculate the states' shares, giving greater weight to the 1971 population (17.5%) as compared to the 2011 population (10%). The Fifteenth FC has reasoned that the terms of reference leave it with no choice but to use the 2011 population; it has also argued that in the interest of fiscal equalisation, it is necessary to use the latest Census figures.

The use of 2011 population figures has resulted in states with larger populations like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar getting larger shares, while smaller states with lower fertility rates (the number of children born to a woman in her life) have lost out.

The combined population of the Hindi-speaking northern states (Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jharkhand) is 47.8 crore. This is over 39.48% of India's total population, and is spread over 32.4% of the country's area, as per the 2011 Census. They also get a slightly more than the proportional share of the divisible pool of taxes (45.17%).

On the other hand, the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and undivided Andhra Pradesh are home to only 20.75% of the population living in 19.34% of the area, with a 13.89% share of the taxes. This means that the terms decided by the Commission are loaded against the more progressive (and prosperous) southern states.

The demographic effort

In order to reward population control efforts by states, the Commission developed a criterion for demographic effort — which is essentially the ratio of the state's population in 1971 to its fertility rate in 2011 — with a weight of 12.5%. States such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana have fertility rates below the replacement rate, or the number of children that have to be born to a woman of reproductive age in order for the population to maintain itself at the current level without migration.

However, the effect of the demographic effort in increasing states' devolution is not clear. Shares of states like Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, along with Tamil Nadu, all of which have fertility rates below the replacement level, have increased slightly. On the other hand, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, and West Bengal's shares have fallen, even though their fertility rates are also low.

Incidentally, Karnataka, the biggest loser in this exercise, also had the highest tax-GSDP ratio in 2017-18, as per an RBI report on state finances. Tax effort was also used by the Commission to decide the states' shares, with a weight of 2.5%.

Income distance criterion

The total area of states, area under forest cover, and "income distance" were also used by the FC to arrive at the tax-sharing formula.

Income distance is calculated as the difference between the per capita gross state domestic product (GSDP) of the state from that of the state with the highest per capita GSDP, with states with less income getting a higher share in order to allow them to provide services comparable to those provided by the richer ones.

The Commission used the per capita GSDP of Haryana as the reference for calculating the income distance, and gave it a weight of 45%, down from the 50% assigned by the 14th FC. The weight assigned to state area was unchanged at 15%, and that of forest cover was increased from 7.5% to 10%.

The race begins: why Iowa caucuses matter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

THE IOWA caucuses, traditionally the first event in the US presidential election calendar, are scheduled for Monday evening (Tuesday morning in India). The Iowa caucuses signal the start of the long process by which the two major parties choose their nominees for the presidential election.

The election takes place on the first Tuesday of November in the election year — this year, the election will be held on November 3. The two nominees will be formally announced at the Democratic national convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, between July 13 and 16, and the Republican national convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, between August 24 and 27.

Caucuses, primaries

Caucuses and primaries are the processes available to the 50 American states (plus Washington DC and outlying territories) to choose the two major parties' nominees for President. The contests — referred to as the primary race — are being held this year between February 3 and June 2. After Iowa will be the New Hampshire primary on February 11.

Since the Republicans all but have their nominee already — President Donald Trump — the 2020 primary race holds meaning only for the Democratic party.

Some American states hold primaries, some hold caucuses, and a third group holds a combination of the two systems. Primary elections are conducted by governments; caucuses are private events held by the parties.

In primaries, voters go to polling stations and check the box against the name of their favoured candidate. Caucuses are lengthier processes in which voters attend meetings at public places such as school gymnasiums, churches, and community centres, debate candidate preferences and, when it comes to voting, openly raise their hands for their choice.

The caucus system favours candidates with strong, active bases over those with broader support — and is often criticised for being vulnerable to intimidation, and inconvenient for employees who work in shifts and parents who might find it difficult to attend an in-person meeting of unpredictable length.

Until the 1970s, most states held caucuses, but primaries are more popular now. Besides Iowa, nine other states and three territories have a system of caucuses. This year, however, the Democrats will hold caucuses in just four states — Iowa, Nevada, North Dakota and Wyoming.

Iowa: first in the calendar

Iowa has always had caucuses, but they moved into the national spotlight in the 1970s. As the Democratic party tried to become more inclusive, the process of holding precinct meetings became more elaborate. This required an earlier start, and in 1972, when George McGovern became the Democratic nominee Iowa ended up becoming the first state to hold caucuses. It has since ensured that it remains the first in the nation, even when other states have brought forward their dates.

Democratic hopeful Joe Biden in Des Moines, Iowa on Sunday. *Reuters*

The Democratic (and Republican) caucuses in Iowa will begin at 7 pm central time on Monday (6.30 am on Tuesday in India) at most locations. Voters will meet at over 1,600 locations, and the casting of votes could take up to two hours. Results from across the state will be tallied once they are done. In 2016, when Hillary Clinton edged out Bernie Sanders by a thin margin, the result was announced only the following morning; on the Republican side, Ted Cruz beat Trump comfortably, and was declared winner within a few hours.

A momentum builder

It is vital to note, as *The Des Moines Register*, published from Des Moines, Iowa, underlines in a video explainer on its website, that the Iowa caucuses are not first because they are important; rather, they are important *because* they are first.

Being first brings a lot of attention from the media — who provide Americans with their first idea of the support that a candidate enjoys. This is especially significant given the wide and fractured field on the Democratic side in 2020. The winner in Iowa will get a large shot of media attention; failure for a perceived frontrunner will almost certainly deliver a blow to their campaign.

The disproportionately large media attention — at 41, the state has fewer delegates than many others — means many candidates build their election strategies around Iowa. That Iowa can point to the direction a run might take has been recognised since McGovern (1972) and Jimmy Carter (1976) — and Barack Obama said that the Iowa caucuses had given him the early momentum for the successful run that ultimately took him to the White House.

Why Budget proposal on tax on Indians working abroad triggered confusion

UDIT MISRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

AN AMENDMENT to the Income Tax Act proposed in the Finance Bill 2020, has created confusion about Indians who primarily work and earn their living outside India.

The broad import of the amendment, as understood on February 1, was that all Indians who were working abroad and not paying any income tax in those countries — like the many Indians who work in jurisdictions like the UAE — would be liable to be taxed in India. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi recording his government's "strong disagreement" with the provision, which he said "will hurt those who toil and bring foreign exchange to the country".

On February 2, the Finance Ministry issued a clarification, and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman sought to reassure non-resident Indians that they would not be unfairly targetted.

What is the existing law?

Two parameters determine whether India levies income tax on an individual.

The first is "residency". Unlike in the United States where citizenship also implies residency, in India, residency requires a person to actually live in the country for a specified number of days in a year.

The other parameter is the "source" of the income — the country where the income is being generated.

The difference between the treatment of a resident and non-resident Indian citizen is that for a resident Indian citizen, the income tax law applies to that person's worldwide income — that is, any income earned in any jurisdiction is used to calculate the taxable income, and such a resident Indian is required to pay tax on all of it.

But for a non-resident Indian, the income tax law applies only to the income earned from within India.

As such, if an Indian national lives in New Delhi but earns rental income from a house she owns in London, then, along with all other income that she earns within India, this rental income too, will attract tax.

However, if an Indian citizen stays and works in London — making her a non-resident Indian — and additionally earns a rental income from a home in Delhi, then the Indian income tax would apply only to the rental income from that Delhi home.

This difference between residents being taxed on their global income and non-residents being charged only on their "Indian" income lies at the heart of the confusion.

What is the amendment proposed by the government?

The proposed amendment to the IT Act has three parts.

The first cuts the number of days that an Indian citizen can stay in India without becoming a "resident", to 120 from 182. The Memorandum to the Budget said this provision was being misused: "Individuals, who are actually carrying out substantial economic activities from India, manage their period of stay in India, so as to remain a non-resident in perpetuity and not be required to declare their global income in India."

The second impacts the "Not Ordinarily Resident" category of taxpayers. The Memorandum has clarified that "this category of persons has been carved out essentially to ensure that a non-resident is not suddenly faced with the compliance requirement of a resident, merely because he spends more than specified number of days in India during a particular year."

Imagine now an NRI who has stayed out of India for the past seven years and then spends 183 days at one stretch in the eighth year. The NOR status ensures that such an individual, who is "not ordinarily a resident" is not taxed as a resident. The amendment states that an NOR would be someone who has not been a resident of India for seven of the past 10 years. Under the existing law, it is nine out of the past 10 years.

The third proposed amendment is the one that created the confusion. This amendment said: "An Indian citizen who is not liable to tax in any other country or territory shall be deemed to be resident in India."

What is the problem with this?

The amendment was seen as trying to tax non-residents as residents. As mentioned above, residents are charged income tax on their full global income while non-residents are charged only on their "Indian" income.

This led to panic because, in the absence of clarifications, all non-residents working in tax-free jurisdictions concluded that all their income in those jurisdictions will now attract the Indian income tax rate. Apart from the likely harrassment, this undermined the whole point of people leaving their homes in India to work in tax-free jurisdictions.

Why did the government propose this?

The government has clarified that its intention is not to target *bona fide* workers, rather to catch tax evaders who game the residency provisions to evade all taxes. "The issue of stateless persons has been bothering the tax world for quite some time. It is entirely possible for an individual to arrange his affairs in such a fashion that he is not liable to tax in any country or jurisdiction during a year. This arrangement is typically employed by high net worth individuals (HNWI) to avoid paying taxes to any country/jurisdiction on income they earn. Tax laws should not encourage a situation where a person is not liable to tax in any country," said the Memorandum to the Budget.

Following the clarification, the government would be expected to now tweak the proposed amendment.

MEANWHILE

GRETA THUNBERG NOMINATED FOR NOBEL

Two lawmakers in Sweden have nominated Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg for the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize. Jens Holm and Hakan Svenneling, both members of the Left Party, said Thunberg "has worked hard to make politicians open their eyes to the climate crisis" and "action for reducing our emissions and complying with the Paris Agreement is therefore also an act of making peace."

TOP OF THE WORLD

SRI LANKA

No national anthem in Tamil for I-Day celebrations

Colombo: For the first time since 2016, there will be no Tamil national anthem at the 72nd Independence Day celebrations in Sri Lanka and it will only be rendered in Sinhalese, the government announced on Monday. The then Sri Lankan government in 2015 started including the Tamil national anthem as a means of achieving reconciliation with the Tamil minority community. This will be the first time since 2016 that there will be no Tamil national anthem at the Independence Day celebrations in the country. The national anthem will be sung only in Sinhala, officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs, said.

USA

1 dead, 5 injured in shooting on bus in California

Lebec: A gunman killed one passenger and wounded five others before dawn Monday on a Greyhound bus travelling from Los Angeles to the San Francisco Bay Area and the bus driver somehow managed to get the gunman off the bus, the California Highway Patrol said. The suspect was taken into custody without incident and the motive was not immediately known, police said. A 911 caller reported the shooting, saying a person on board the bus with a gun had shot several passengers. But the driver was somehow able to coerce the suspect to leave the bus, police said.

IRAN

EU top diplomat holds talks in Tehran aimed at de-escalation

Tehran: Top EU diplomat Josep Borrell on Monday held talks in the Iranian capital on a mission aimed at lowering tensions over the Islamic republic's nuclear programme. Borrell's trip, his first to Iran since taking office, follows a spike in tensions between arch foes Washington and Tehran following the January 3 assassination in Baghdad of a top Iranian general in a US drone strike. The two-day visit opened with a meeting with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

HONG KONG

HK's economy shrinks for first time in a decade

Hong Kong: Hong Kong confirmed Monday it plunged into recession in 2019, suffering its first annual contraction in a decade as the city buckled under the twin pressures of the US-China trade war and months of furious pro-democracy protests. Last year was the worst for Hong Kong's growth since 2009, when the financial hub was hit hard by the global financial crash. The crisis was initially sparked by the trade war between Beijing and Washington, hitting the export-heavy economy. But the hard times were made worse by months of protests seeking greater democracy.

CORONAVIRUS

At Ground Zero of outbreak, Wuhan gasping for supplies and support

Residents say nearly impossible to get treatment for, or even diagnose, illness

AMY QIN
WUHAN, FEBRUARY 3

WEAK WITH fever, An Jianhua waited in line for seven hours outside the hospital in the cold, hoping to get tested for the new coronavirus, which doctors suspected she had contracted.

An, 67, needed an official diagnosis from a hospital to qualify for treatment, but the one she and her son raced to last week had no space, even to test her. The next hospital they were referred to in Wuhan, China, the city of 11 million people at the center of the outbreak, was full, too, they said. They finally got an intravenous drip for An's fever, but that was all.

Since then, An has quarantined herself at home. She and her son eat separately, wear masks at home and are constantly disinfecting their apartment. An's health is declining rapidly, and even keeping water down is a struggle.

"I can't let my mom die at home," said her son, He Jun. "Every day I want to cry, but when I cry there are no tears. There is no hope."

People wait for medical attention at a hospital in Wuhan. *NYT*

As countries race to deal with an outbreak that has begun spreading around the world, inciting panic and disrupting the global economy, the residents of Wuhan are waging a daily battle to survive an illness that has sickened more than 4,100 people and killed 224 in their city alone.

Last month, the government put Wuhan in a virtual lockdown, sealing off the city and banning most public transportation and private cars from its streets in a desperate effort to contain the outbreak. Now, many residents have said it is nearly impossible to get the health care they need to treat — or even diagnose — the coronavirus.

Expressing exasperation, doctors said there is a shortage of testing kits and other medical supplies, and it is not clear why more are not available. The ban on transportation means some residents have to walk for hours to get to hospitals — if they are well enough to make the journey. Layers of bureaucracy stand between residents and help. And the long lines outside hospitals for testing and treatment suggest that the outbreak is spreading far beyond the official count of cases.

Ambulances, too, are hard to come by, residents said. In recent days, some said, they have called 120, China's emergency number, only to be told that there were already hundreds of people in the queue.

Those who have made it to the hospital said they have been squeezed together for hours in waiting rooms, where infections are easily spread. But the shortages have meant that many are ultimately turned away and sent home to self-quarantine, potentially compounding the outbreak by exposing their families.

Hospital built in 10 days

Many doctors and residents are putting their hopes in the two new coronavirus hospitals that China has been racing to build in Wuhan in just a matter of days. One of them was built in just 10 days, has 1,000 beds and opened Monday. The government said 1,400 military medical workers will be deployed to work there, potentially helping with the shortage of health professionals on hand to combat the outbreak. **NYT**

Indian woman stranded in Wuhan appeals for evacuation

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, FEBRUARY 3

AN INDIAN woman, preparing to marry next month, has appealed to the Indian government to evacuate her from China's virus-hit Wuhan city, days after she was stopped from boarding the special New Delhi-bound flights due to high body temperature.

The woman was among 10 Indians who were stopped from boarding the special Air Indian flights last Friday and Saturday organised by the India government to evacuate stranded Indians from Wuhan.

The Indian embassy is in touch with the Indians who could not be evacuated along with 647 others due high body temperature, officials here said.

One of them, Annem Jyothi hailing from Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh, made a video appeal to the Indian government to arrange her exit from the city, saying that her body temperature is normal now and she is fit to travel.

She was part of a group of 58 Indian employees of a Chinese electronic company to board the Friday flight. While others made it, she and her colleague could not do so due to high body temperatures, she said.

"We are asked to stop and not to take the flight. They said that we can take the next flight. But today in the afternoon they called and said that we were not even allowed to take that flight because of yesterday's body check... We are stuck," said the mask-wearing young woman who is in her 20s. **PTI**

UK to announce new rules for militants after street stabbing

Islamic State claims responsibility

DANICA KIRKA
LONDON, FEBRUARY 3

THE BRITISH government plans to announce new rules for the imprisonment of convicted terrorists after an Islamic militant who was recently released from prison stabbed two people in south London, the second such attack in less than three months.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the government would release its plans Monday. Following Sunday's attack and a Nov. 29 attack in which two people were killed in central London, the government said it would effectively stop the early release of convicted extremists, double terror sentences and overhaul the conditions under which they are released back into the community.

"This is a liberal country, it is a tolerant country," Johnson said. "But I think the idea of automatic early release for people who obviously continue to pose a threat to the public has come to the end of its useful life."

A man police identified as 20-year-old Sudesh Amman strapped on a fake bomb and stabbed two people on a busy London street Sunday before being shot to death by police.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi said Amman had been convicted of publishing graphic terrorist videos online and had stockpiled instructions on bomb making and knife attacks.

The intelligence think tank SITE reported that the Islamic State group claimed that the south London attack was perpetrated by one of its "fighters".

ATTACKER IDENTIFIED

SUDESH AMMAN, the man shot dead by police in London after going on a stabbing spree, was a 20-year-old Briton with family links to Sri Lanka. He was convicted in 2018 under terror-related charges and was released from jail 10 months ago.

WHEN OFFICERS examined his computers and phone, they found material about making explosives and carrying out terrorist attacks, court documents show.

China accuses US of whipping up panic

Death toll from coronavirus rises to 361, an increase of 57 from previous day

KEVIN YAO & WINNI ZHOU
BEIJING, SHANGHAI, FEB 3

CHINA ACCUSED the US on Monday of whipping up panic over a fast-spreading coronavirus with travel restrictions and evacuations as Chinese stocks plunged on the first day back from the extended Lunar New Year holiday.

The death toll in China from the newly identified virus, which emerged in Wuhan, capital of the central province of Hubei, rose to 361 as of Sunday, up 57 from the previous day, the National Health Commission said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) last week declared the flu-like virus a global emergency and it has since spread to 23 other countries and regions, with the first death outside of China reported on Sunday, that of a 44-year-old Chinese man who died in the Philippines after travelling from Wuhan.

Wuhan and some other cities remain in virtual lockdown with travel severely restricted, and China is facing increasing international isolation.

China accused the United States of spreading fear by pulling its nationals out and restricting travel instead of offering significant aid. Relations between the two sides had just begun to recover after a long and bruising trade war.

Washington has "unceasingly manufactured and spread panic", Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said, noting that the WHO advised against trade and travel curbs.

"It is precisely developed countries like the United States with strong epidemic prevention capabilities and facilities that have taken the lead in imposing excessive restrictions contrary to WHO recommendations," she added, saying countries should make reasonable judgements. **REUTERS**

Dems kick off Iowa caucuses amid worry over beating Trump

Final phase of impeachment trial begins

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DES MOINES, FEBRUARY 3

A DEMOCRATIC campaign that has cost more than $1 billion, dashed the ambitions of veteran politicians, forced conversations about race, gender and identity and prompted fierce debate over health care and taxes crests Monday in the Iowa caucuses.

By day's end, tens of thousands of Democrats will have participated in the famed Iowa caucuses, the premiere of more than 50 contests that will unfold over the next five months. The caucuses will render the first verdict on who among dozens of candidates is best positioned to take on President Donald Trump, whom Democratic voters are desperate to beat this fall.

It is a moment thick with promise for a Democratic Party that has seized major gains since Trump won the White House in 2016. But instead of optimism, a cloud of uncertainty and deepening intraparty resentment hangs over Monday's election, which, after a multi-year buildup, will finally begin to reveal who and what Democrats stand for in this tumultuous era.

"If anybody tells you they know who's going to win, either they've got a whisper from God or they're loony, because nobody knows," said Deidre DeJear, the first black woman to win a statewide primary in Iowa.

Polls suggest that Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders may have a narrow lead, but any of the top four candidates — Sanders, former Vice President Joe Biden, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg — could score victory in Iowa's unpredictable caucus system.

LISA MASCARO & ERIC TUCKER
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 3

CLOSING ARGUMENTS in US President Donald Trump's impeachment trial are unfolding Monday as much for history as any effort to sway votes, one final chance to influence public opinion and set the record ahead of his expected acquittal in the Republican-led Senate.

Senators acknowledge the House Democratic managers have essentially proven their case, that Trump abused power and obstructed Congress, by leveraging US military aid to push Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden to thwart the 2020 election.

But key Republicans have decided the President's actions toward Ukraine do not rise to the level of impeachable offences that warrant the dramatic upheaval of conviction and removal from office. His acquittal in Wednesday's vote is all but assured.

All that's left, as the Senate opened for four hours of final arguments is for Americans to decide what they think as the third presidential impeachment trial in the nation's history begins to close. Democrats argue "right matters", while Trump's GOP allies contend it is time to end the partisan proceeding.

House managers opened with a plea from Jason Crow, a Democrat, who told the chamber: "We cannot and should not leave our common sense at the door." **AP**

Turkey, Syria regime in deadly flare-up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BEIRUT, FEBRUARY 3

TURKISH AND Syrian troops traded deadly fire in Syria's northwest on Monday, further raising tension between Ankara and regime backer Moscow over the war-torn Idlib rebel enclave.

An airstrike also killed at least nine civilians in the same area, where the latest government offensive has caused one of the nine-year-old Syrian conflict's worst waves of displacement.

The tit-for-tat shelling between Damascus and Ankara was the deadliest since Turkey deployed troops in Syria in 2016 and escalated tensions between the conflict's two top foreign brokers.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan offered rare criticism of Russia last week, accusing it of "not honouring" agreements to prevent a regime offensive on the northwestern region of Idlib.

The overnight exchange began with regime shelling on Turkish positions in Idlib, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The attack killed four Turkish soldiers and wounded nine others despite previous coordination on where Ankara's forces would be in the region, Turkey's defence ministry said.

EXPLAINED

Dangerous escalation

THE KILLING of Turkish soldiers in Idlib as a result of Syrian regime shelling marks an escalation of tensions in an already tense region. Turkish soldiers are in the last rebel-held area of Syria as part of the 2018 de-escalation agreement between Ankara and Moscow. But the intensified push by the Syrian regime — with Russia's backing — to retake Idlib from rebels raised tensions between Syria, Russia and Turkey. With the tensions now escalating to direct military attacks, the residents of Idlib face the possibility of shelling and airstrikes from all sides.

Ukraine says recordings show Iran knew jetliner hit by a missile

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV, FEBRUARY 3

A LEAKED recording of an exchange between an Iranian air-traffic controller and an Iranian pilot purports to show that authorities immediately knew a missile had downed a Ukrainian jetliner after takeoff from Tehran, killing all 176 on board, despite days of denials by the country.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy acknowledged the recording's authenticity in a report aired by a Ukrainian TV channel on Sunday night.

A transcript of the recording, published by Ukrainian 1+1 TV channel, contains a conversation in Farsi between an air-traffic controller and a pilot reportedly flying a Fokker 100 jet for Iran's Aseman Airlines from Iran's southern city of Shiraz to Tehran.

"A series of lights like ... yes, it is missile, is there something?" the pilot calls out to the controller.

Iranian officials should have immediately had access to the recordings and Zelenskiy said "the recording, indeed, shows that the Iranian side knew from the start that our plane was shot down by a missile, they were aware of this at the moment of the shooting."

Indians among ISIL-K foreign fighters who surrendered last year: UN report

YOSHITA SINGH
UNITED NATIONS, FEBRUARY 3

INDIAN NATIONALS were among the over 1,400 fighters of a blacklisted faction of the Islamic State terror group who surrendered to Afghan authorities last year, according to a UN report.

The UN Security Council's 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee in May last year blacklisted Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan (ISIL-K), which is also known as ISIL's South Asia Branch, ISIL Khorasan, Islamic State's Khorasan Province and South Asian Chapter of ISIL.

The 25th report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities said Afghan security forces and Taliban fighters were able to inflict "severe damage" on the ISIL-K, displacing it from large areas of the Nangarhar province.

"More than 1,400 people surrendered to the Afghan authorities, including dependants of ISIL-K fighters. Most males were Afghan nationals, but there were also foreign nationals from Azerbaijan, Canada, France, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan," the January 2020 report said. **PTI**

KOREAN FILM *PARASITE* WAS THE NIGHT'S OTHER BIG WINNER

WWI drama *1917* dominates BAFTAs, wins seven awards

ALEX MARSHALL
LONDON, FEBRUARY 3

1917, SAM Mendes' visually extravagant World War I drama that takes viewers into the chaos of the trenches, was the big winner at the EE British Academy Film Awards on Sunday, taking seven awards including best film.

Mendes was also named best director at the event, better known as the BAFTAs, Britain's equivalent of the Oscars.

The haul adds to the movie's wins for best drama and best director at the Golden Globes and will increase hype around the movie in the run-up to the Oscars.

"In the midst of all this hoopla, it's sometimes easy to forget the actual experience of shooting a movie," Mendes said, accepting his best director award. "I had a kind of director's paradise in this film that I think I'll never, ever have again."

The sweep for *1917* came despite the film receiving mixed reviews in Britain. Kevin Maher, writing in *The Times of London*, called it "two hours of amphetamine-rush cinema" and "instantly, an Oscar-night front-runner."

The cast and crew of *1917* at the BAFTAs in London. *Reuters*

Bong Joon Ho's *Parasite* — a thriller about a poor family who insinuate themselves into the lives of a pampered household, and the first Korean film to be nominated for the best picture Oscar — was the night's other big winner, taking the awards for best film not in the English language and best original screenplay.

Bong, accepting the screenplay prize, said he used to write in coffee shops. "I never imagined I'd be standing here at the Royal Albert Hall," he added, clearly overjoyed.

Joker, the movie based on the comic book character, had been tipped to win big at the awards, after it secured 11 nominations in January, the most for any film. In the end, it won only three, with Joaquin Phoenix as best actor for the title role being the biggest.

The run-up to the BAFTAs was dominated by complaints about the lack of diversity among the nominees. No person of colour was nominated in the best acting categories, and no woman was shortlisted for best director.

Such complaints have also hit this year's Golden Globes and Academy Awards, but in the case of the BAFTAs, even Amanda Berry, chief executive of the body that organises the awards, said she was "very disappointed" by the situation. The body had "hoped we'd see at least one female director," she told the BBC in January.

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts quickly announced a full and thorough review of its voting procedures. **NYT**

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Parveen Kumar Jain S/o Salek Chand Jain R/o 74, Bank Enclave Near Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 Have Changed My Name to Parveen Jain. 0070696124-1

I,Shyam S/o Shri Babu Singh,R/o C-7/3,Motia Khan,Pahar Ganj,New Delhi-110055,have changed my name to Shyam singh for all purposes. 0040530083-1

I,Rajni Devi Punj W/o Deepak Sarin R/o H.No.157,Yamnotri Enclave Gopal Nagar Najafgarh,New Delhi-110043 have changed my name by virtue of marriage as Rajni Devi Sarin for future purposes. 0040529994-2

I,Raj Rishi Gupta S/o.Ram dutt Gupta R/o-1308,Sector-17,Faridabad,have change my minor daughter name Niti Gupta to Neeti Gupta for all purposes 0040529990-2

I,Pawan Kumar Yadav,S/o,Lt.Tula Ram Yadav,R/o-RZB-209,Nihal Vihar,Nangloi,New.Delhi-41,have informed that,Pawan Kumar Yadav,Pawan Yadav and Pawan Kumar all,the names,to one and single person. 0040530048-11

I,Pankaj Mahna R/o WZ-44-E/19,2nd Floor, Mukherjee Park,Tilak Nagar,New Delhi-110018 have changed the name of my minor son from Tushar to Tushar Mahna for all future purposes. 0040529994-1

I,No-15672687P,Rank-Naik,Name-Radheraman Sharma Unit-PMO Suraj IHQ Of MOD Army camp,Delhi-10,R/O-Vill-Pahleja,Po-Jaipur,Dis-Arwal,State-Bihar-804428,Have changed my minor son name Achutanand Abal To Utkarsh Sharma and.Date-of-Barth-10.02.2008. 0040530048-10

I,Nisar Ahmad S/o Late Abdul Jabbar R/o-H.No.329A, Street.No.6/3,Zakir Nagar,P.O.-Jamia Nagar,Okhla,New Delhi-110025(Adhar-Card.No.-275332361698),Inform that my Grand Father Name-Late Abdul Hafiz S/o.Late Suban Alias Late.Subana Khan R/o-H.No.-119,Bhaina SadarPur,Garh Mukteshwar-10,Distt.-Hapur-245205(U.P.)-India,(sold to Late Taslim)and,Late.Abdul Hafeez Alias Mohd. Hafiz S/o-Late.Suban alias Subana Khan are same and one Person that is Late. Abdul Hafiz S/o.Late Suban alias Late Subana Khan. 0040530032-3

I,Mohammad Irshad S/o-Abdul Subhan,DOB-05/09/1984 R/o-220/B Savitri-Nagar, Malviya-Nagar New Delhi-110017.have changed my name to Mohd Irshad,for all future purposes. 0040530038-2

I Gulferoj W/O Faeem Ahmad R/O-NA-77, NA-Block Vishnu-Garden Tilak Nagar Delhi-110018. changed my name to Gulforoj Qureshi. 0040529924-1

I Naushad Miyan S/O Kallu Khan R/O New F-230, Gurudwara ke piche wali gali Raghubir nagar Khyala Delhi-110027 changed my name to Naushad Khan. 0040529924-2

I,Manjit Kaur Sandhu,W/O-Inder Jeet Singh Sandhu,R/O-49,Rameshwar-Nagar,Azadpur,Delhi-110033,Have Change My Name.To,Manjeet Kaur W/O-Inder Jeet Singh And.My Husband Inder Jeet Singh,And Inder Jeet Singh Sandhu Are Name Of,Same Person. 0040530048-9

I,Garima Jindal W/o.Saurabh Garg R/o-B-1/485,Janak Puri,ND-58,have changed my name to Garima Garg after marriage for all future purposes. 0040529990-1

I,Gajendra Mohan S/o-Kartar Singh Saini,R/o-WZ-39,DadaChhattri Wala Marg,Rajnagar-1,Palam Colony,New Delhi-110045,affirms that Gajendra Mohan and Gajendra Saini are,the same person,and both names,belong to me. 0040530032-5

I,Devender Kumar S/o.Ram Brichh Kharwar R/o-RZG-112,G-Block,Gali.No-3,Vijay-Enclave,Palam Village,Delhi-45,mine and my father Name has been wrongly written as Devender and Ram Virksha in My 10th-Class Certificate,the actual name of mine and,my father is Devender Kumar,Ram Brichh Kharwar 0040529993-1

I,Deepak Raj Shrivastava S/o.Desh Raj Srivastava R/o-B-27/S3,DLF-Dilshad,Extn-2 Sahibabad,Ghaziabad(U.P)-201005,have Changed my Name to Deepak Raj Srivastava for all future purposes. 0040529993-2

I,Belote Prerna spouse of Belote Vijay Sahebrao R/o-VPO-Devibhoyare, Teh-Parner, Distt-Ahmednagar,have changed my name from Belote Prerna to Belote Prerana vide affidavit.Dt.-22.01.2020,before Jhansi. 0040530032-6

I,Bebejanamma Basha,W/o Cherukuru Allabasha,R/o-SMQ.No.355/1 Air-Force Station-Rajokari,New Delhi-38,have changed my name,from Bebejanamma Basha to Cherukuru Beebijanamma vide-affidavit dt.29-Jan-2020 in Kapashera New-Delhi-110037. 0040530071-8

I, Zakee Begum D/o Mohammed Ziaul Haque R/o 11-37-7 , Azeemabad, Kanithi Road New Gajuwaka Visakhapatnam Urban Andhra Pradesh-530026 declare that my Name Of 10th Certificate has been wrongly written as Zakee Begum in my 10th Certificate. The actual name of my is Zakia Begum, which may be amended accordingly. 0070696109-1

I, Vivek Kumar S/o Mahender Kumar R/o H.No.388 Block No.13,Geeta-Colony Delhi-110031,have changed my name to Vivek Kumar Sardana,for all purposes. 0040530038-3

I, Virender Kumar Yadav S/O Lakhpat Singh Yadav R/O C-26s, Vijeta-Vihar, Sector-13, Rohini Delhi-110085, Changedmy Nameto Virender Yadav. 0040530038-9

I, Vikas Jatav S/o Sh. Chhatra Singh Jatav R/o H No. 168-K Paragaon Road Gariaband Bindranawagarh Raipur Chhattisgarh-493889 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vikas Chandoliya. 0070696125-1

I, Veena Kumari W/o Gurcharan Pathania R/o A-302, Plot -14, Hum Sub Appartment, Sector-4 Dwarka Delhi-110078 Have Changed My Name to Veena Pathania. 0070696119-1

I, Vandana Kashyap W/o-Ramesh Kumar Punn,R/o-3072/2H, First-Floor, StreetNo.10, Ranjeet-Nagar, N.Delhi-110008.have changed my name to Vandana Punn. 0040530071-2

I, Uzma Saeed,W/o Iqbal Husain R/o-H.No.1585, GaliPeepal-Wali, Chitli-Qabar, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Uzma. 0040530071-1

I, Surabhi Kanojia D/o Pritam Kumar R/o-633, Niti Khand-3, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014, have changed my name to SURBHI KANOJIYA. 0040530032-1

I, Suboor Ahmad S/o Mohammad Yahya R/o 2107 Ahata Kaley Sahib gali Qasim jan Delhi-6 have changed my name to Saboor Ahmad. 0040529997-1

I, Shatrughan Jha S/o Subhasn Jha R/o 86, Village Chajjarsi, G.B. Nagar U.P. have changed my name from Shatrudhan Jha to Shatrughan Jha for all purpose in future.0040530032-4

I, Shahida Parveen W/O Mohd. Irshad R/O-C-44, Street No.12/2, Chauhan Bangar, New Seelampur, Delhi-110053 Have Changed My Name To Shahida. 0040530048-7

I, Senthil Kandeepan Subramaniam S/o Sh. Subramaniam R/o 16/21, First Floor East Patel Nagar Central Delhi-110008 have changed the name of my minor daughter Kandeepan Vanshika aged about 10 Years and she shall hereafter be known as Vanshika Kandeepan. 0070696106-1

I, Rushinarada Subramanian Narayanan S/o R V Subramanian R/o 188-E, Pocket A-3, Mayur Vihar, Phase 3, Delhi-110096, that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Rushi Narada Subramanya Narayana and R V Subramanyam respectively in my Educational Documents. The actual name of mine and my father is Rushinarada Subramanian Narayanan and R V Subramanian respectively 0070696104-1

I, Rohit Kumar Ram S/o Birendra Ram R/o 31/1/23A, Bhujanga Dhar Road,Howrah Municipal Corporation, Liluah, Howrah-711204 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rohit Singh. 0070696135-1

I, Ritesh Kumar R/o-20, Village-Nanakpura,Moti Bagh, Delhi,declares that correct name of my daughter is Dakshika instead of Dashika. 0040530032-2

I, Ravi Majety S/O Chidambaram Majety H.No-7b, Ber-Sarai Near-Bersarai Children-Park, N.Delhi-110016.Have Changed My Name To Ravi Majeti. 0040530048-3

I, Ranjan Periwal S/o Suresh Periwal R/o F-25 Sej Plaza, Marve Road, Ne Nutan School, Malad, West Mumbai, Maharashtra – 400064, have changed the name of my minor son Meesh Periwal aged about 18 day and shall hereafter be known as Mirav Periwal. His date of birth13th-January-2020. 0070696091-1

I, Ramesh Ram S/o Bhusi Ram R/o Vill- Kahinaur, Post-Kahinaur mohalla Shri Bhusi Ram Nagar Kahinaur, Kahinaur mau Uttar Pradesh-275101, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ramesh Dev 0070696100-1

I, Quibuddin S/0-Mohd Sadiq R/0 J-3/346 J.J.Colony Wazirpur Delhi-110052 Changed My Name To Quatubuddin. 0040530038-5

I, Pryag Prasad Gupta S/o Rama Shanker Prasad R/o B-736, Gali No-15, Jeewan Park Siras Pur, Delhi-110042 Have Changed My Name to Prayag Prasad. 0070696116-1

I, Prateek Singotiya S/o Sh. Jagdish Singotiya R/o Jaiswal Colony, Chhapara, Dist. Seoni. M.P.-480884 Inform that in my School Certificates my Father's name is wrongly mentioned as Jagdish Prasad Singotiya but my Father's actual and correct name is Jagdish Singotiya. 040530103-1

I, Neelam Chaudhary W/o Shailender Singh R/o A-408, A-Block, Gali No-2, Meet Nagar, Gokal Pur, Delhi-110094, have changed my minor daughter's name from Yashvi Sangwan aged 8 years to Naira Choudhary forever 0070696111-1

I, Moni Devi D/o Shree Ram Sajeevan R/o G-7/68, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi have changed my name to Savita W/o Shri Sarvesh Kumar After marriage (both are same person). 0040530011-1

I, Mahesh S/o Ghanshyam R/o B-455, J.J.Colony, Hastsal, Uttam-Nagar, New Delhi-59, Have Changed My Name to Mahesh Kumar. 0040530071-7

I, Madhu W/0 Rajesh Kumar Malhotra R/0 D-583, Avantika Sector-1 Rohini Delhi-110085, Changed My Name To Madhu Malhotra. 0040530048-6

I, Kunta Rani W/o Mangat Singh R/o-56-C, Badhai Kalan,Muzaffarnagar,UP have changed my name to Kunta Devi for all purposes. 0040530038-1

I, Kumud Mathur W/o Late.Rang Bahadur Mathur R/o R-303,Anupam-Apartments-4 CBD,East Arjun-Nagar,Shahdara Delhi-110032,have changed my name to Kumud Bahadur,for all purposes. 0040530038-4

I, Kulwinder Basran W/O Dharamvir R/O-F-14, Road.No-5, Andrewsganj, New Delhi-110049.Have Changed My Name To Kulvinder Kaur. 0040530048-8

I, Km Hema Kushwaha, W/o Jai Bhagwan Singh R/o SECTOR-8, Near IMT Manesar, Village-Bashariya, Gurgaon-122503 Have Changed My Name to Hema. 0070696122-1

I, Jaskaran Singh Sachdev S/o Lt. Shri Onkar Singh R/o V-274, 2nd Floor, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027 have changed my name from Jaskaran Singh Sachdeva to Jaskaran Singh Sachdev vide affidavit No. IN-DL14436096291709S, dated: 23/01/2020 for all future purposes. 0040530109-1

I, Eliyas Nag S/o Francis Nag R/o A-68 Gali No-6, Phase-5, Aya Nagar, Delhi-47, have changed my name to Elias Nag for all Purposes. 0040530029-1

I, Devpreet Singh Wahla S/o Manohar Singh R/o C-2186, C-Block, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar, Punjab–143001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Devpreet Singh. 0070696121-1

I, Binaya Kumar Singh S/o Subedar Singh R/o Best Home, Flat No-201, Second Floor, Upper Ground Floor, Garhi Chaukhandi, Sector-121, Noida, UP-201301 Have Changed My Name to Binay Kumar Singh. 0070696115-1

I, Bharat Suresh Sharma S/o Suresh Chand R/o House No-136 Gali No-1A Bhudatt Colony Ballabgarh Faridabad Haryana-121004 0070696138-1

I, Adesh Goel S/o Navin Kumar Goel R/o Flat No-377, Pocket-6-II, Sector-2, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Mehul Goel for all future Purposes. 0040529991-1

I Tanya Saxena W/o Nipun Jindal R/o H-142, Rama Krishna Vihar, Patparganj, IP Extenion, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Tanya Jindal 0070696101-1

I Swarnjeet Kaur W/0-Deep Singh R/0 D-33 Swarn Park Nangloi Delhi-110041, Changed My Name To Swarnjit Kaur. 0040530038-6

I Sudha Devi W/O Sunil Kumar Flat.No.1202, Tower-H Park, Grandeura Sector-82, Escortsnagar, Faridabad, Haryana-121007, Changed My Name To Sudha Singhal. 0040530038-10

I Sonu,S/o Prem Kumar R/o-C-26, Budh-Vihar Phase-II, Mange Ram-Park,Extn., Delhi-110086,have changed my name to Sonu Kumar. 0040530078-6

I Sanjay Kumar/Sanjay S/o Kimti Lal Gulati residing BA-8, West Shalimar Bagh Delhi 110088 have changed my name to Sanjay Gulati for all purposes. 0040530007-1

I Iqbal Mahamed Abdul Ghulam Hussain Roomi S/O Ahtisham Ali R/O RZC-187, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, New Delhi-110041 declare that my name is written in some documents as Ghulam Husain Roomi, Ghulam Hasan Roomi, Gulam Hussain Roomi, Gulam Hasan Roomi and G H Roomi. I sworn before Tehsildar that my correct and real name is Ghulam Hussain Roomi 0040530003-1

I Sandeep Kumar S/o Ved Prakash Chabra R/o Flat No-1103, Tower No-T-7 / Aman, Royal Heritage, Sector-70, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana-121004, have changed my name to Sandeep Chabra 0070696129-1

I Rena Kumari W/O-Saroop singh R/O-G-111 2nd-Floor gali.no-10, HariNagar Janakpuri-B-1 N.Delhi-110058.Changed My Name to Rena Kaur. 0040530048-1

I Rehana W/O Meharbaan Qureshi R/O-4,Racquet Court-Road Civil Lines Delhi-110054,Changed My Name To Rehana Baby. 0040530078-1

I Rajesh Kumar S/0 Banarsi Lal Malhotra R/0 D-583, Avantika, Sector-1 Rohini Delhi-110085.,Changed My Name To Rajesh Kumar Malhotra. 0040530048-5

I Punit Gambhir f/o-Kabir Gambhir r/o-B-99 Amar-Colony Lajpat-Ngr-IV N.D-24.have to change my minor son name Kabir Gambhir to Kabbeer Gambhir. 0040530048-2

I Om Prakash Sarolia S/0 Parma Ram R/0 H.No-85 Pkt-A-1 Sector-11 Rohini Delhi-110085, changed My Name To Om Prakash. 0040530038-7

I Mohd Amarbin Akhter S/o Anis Ansari R/o House No-127G, Makhdoompur, Amroha, UP-244251, have changed my name to Mohd Rihan Akhter 0070696113-1

I Md Wasim Ahmad S/o Md Jamil Akhtar R/o Shah Ki Imli, Jinnati Masjid, Patna City, Patna, Bihar-800008, have changed my name to Wasim Ahmad 0070696110-1

I Jasmeet Kaur D/o Pavinder Singh and W/o Vikash Kumar Pathak R/o RZQ-140B, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, Nilothi, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Jaanvi Pathak 0070696114-1

I Aysha Souda W/o Sh. Sunil Kumar Souda R/o House No. 6285, Gali No. 3, Block No. 6, Dev Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi – 05 has been changed my name from Ashu to Aysha Souda for all future purpose. 0040530000-1

I Ashna Punihani D/O-Manjeet Singh punihani R/O M.137, g.floor-Greater Kailash-part-2New Delhi-110048.Have Changed My name to Aashna punihani. 0040530048-4

I Anju Bala W/O-Vijay Kumar H.No-76, 2nd-Floor Street.No-3, Krishna Nagar Safdarjang Enclave, Delhi-110029.Changed My Name To Anjali Sharma. 0040530078-2

I Ambedkar Sharma S/o Balwant Sharma R/o S-4/613, Extention-1, Shalimar Garden, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, UP-201001, have changed my name to Raghav Sharma 0070696112-1

I Alka Gupta W/0-Manish Gupta H.No-31 1st-Floor Kapil-Vihar Putampura, Delhi-110034.Changed My Child Name Kanishka Gupta To Kanishk Gupta. 0040530038-8

I Abhishek S/o Anil Kumar Singh R/o At-Madhuban Garments, Cinema Road, Anwarpur, Hajipur, Vaishali, Bihar-844101, have changed my name to Abhishek Singh 0070696123-1

I Ramsha Naz D/O Abdul Razzaq Add-25/1 Kucha Bela Mal Naya Bans Delhi-110006, Changed My Name To Ramsha Naaz. 0040530071-6

I Raghwendra Kumar,S/O Makinan Prasad Tiwari Address-Rz-A-67,Nand-Ram-Park Uttamnagar West/Delhi Delhi-110059,Changed My Name To Raghwendra Kumar Tiwari. 0040530071-4

I Manisha Bansal W/O-Sunit Garg Add H.No.162/34 Janta-Colony Near-Vishwakarma-Park Rohtak Haryana-124001,Changed My Name To Manisha Garg 0040530071-5

I, Geeta Dewakar W/O Deepak Kumar R/O-7A HariNagar Ashram Delhi-110014.Have Changed My Name To Geeta Vats. 0040530071-3

I, Surendra Ram S/o Rupnarayan Ram R/o 31/1/23A Bhujanga Dhar Road, Liluah, Howrah, Howrah, WB. 711204 0070696117-1

I, Niraj Singh W/o Shashi Kant Singh R/o 370/H-4 Camero Complex Subroto Park New Delhi-110010 have changed my name form Niraj Singh to Neeraj Singh vide Affidavit Dated 03.02.2020 before NCT Delhi 0040529996-1

I, Jay Gobind Tiwari R/O J-12, 3rd Floor, SharmaColony Budh Vihar Phase 2, Delhi-110086 HaveChanged My Name To Jay Govind Tiwari For All Future Purposes 0070695953-1

I, A Eashan S/o Avutapalli Ramesh Babu R/o-Flat. no-81 Vrindavan-Park Phase-I S.No.48-1/4, Diamond-Water Park Road Lohegaon Pune-411047 have changed my name to A EAshaan RAO, for all future purposes. 0040527345-7

LOST & FOUND

Lost my original Share Certificate,Allotment-Letter,Possession-Lettet of my Flat-No.B-61, Second-Floor, Shakti-Apartment,Secror-9,Rohini, Delhi-110085,finder may Contact-Surinder Singh Saini at above noted address. 0040530071-9

I,Roopa Sharma,W/o Sudhir Vashishtha,R/o-H.No.-32/52, Street.No.-11,Vishwas-Nagar,Shahdara,Delhi-110032,have lost my SAS Agency-Licence bearing.No.SS/2135.issued by Govt.Of India F.I.R.No-91254/2020 Dated-25/01/2020. 0040530071-10

I, AJAY Sikand S/o Jagmohan sikand R/o-Flat.no-102 Coral-hights Rama-prastha green sec-7 vaishali-ghaziabad up-201010,have lost my original-certificate/marksheet class-10th year-1992 Rollno-6102966 CBSE-Delhi 0040530078-8

I, VIVEK Kumar,S/o Pardeep Singh,R/o-54/94 st.no-5 new-chanderwal kamla-nagar Delhi-07.have lost my original-certificate class-10th year-2015 Rollno-8666834 CBSE-Delhi. 0040530078-7

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is hereby given to general public that Sh. Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, Smt. Prabjit Kaur & Smt. Manpreet Kaur who claimed to be owner and in possession of Entire Third Floor (with roof rights) "said floor" Part of Property Bearing No B-381, area measuring 297 Sq. Yards, situated at Mansarover Garden, New Delhi by virtue of Sale Deed dated 21.11.2017. And now Sh. Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, Smt. Prabjit Kaur & Smt. Manpreet Kaurhave approached to ICICI Bank Ltd. for financial assistance and therefore the above mentioned "floor" shall be mortgaged with the said Bank. All person's having any claim regarding in respect of the said property or any part, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mention below within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which claim, if any, of such persons will be consider to have been waived and/or, abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of Mortgage in respect thereof.

Sunil Parsad (Advocate)
For Juris NextGen Law Offices
E-56, GreaterKailash Enclave Part-1
New Delhi-110048

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all general public that my client **Mr. Bharat Bhushan S/o Hans Raj** R/o C121, Ramesh Nagar, Double Storey, New Delhi-110015 have disowned / debarred their elder son Nishant Gupta & his wife Niti Gupta from their all movable and immovable properties with immediate effect. My client and his family members shall not be responsible for their any acts and deeds. Anybody dealing with them will do at his/ her own costs and risks.

MOHINDER DHAWAN
Bar Room No. 3, Civil Side, Near Gate No. 1, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi - 110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be all know that Sh. Navin S/o Late Sh. Gordhan Dass R/o PLOT NO. D-2, BLOCK-F, SITUATED IN THE LAY-OUT PLAN OF THE NAJAFGARH ROAD RESIDENTIAL SCHEME, NOW KNOWN AS TAGORE GARDEN, N.D-27. measuring 149.33 Sq. Yards. Vide DDA File No. F 6(34)1962/LAB, and DDA original documents has been lost i.e ALLOTMENT CUM DEMAND LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER, SITE POSSESSION LETTER, COMPLETION CERTIFICATE, C & D FORM, BUILDING SESSION PLAN AND ALL OTHERS DDA ORIGINAL RELATED DOCUMENTS LOST/ MISPLACED ETC. Related papers. And FIR to this effect has been done in the Police Station (Crime Branch, Delhi) vide LR No. 100862/2020 on dated 28/01/2020 any person claiming any right interest having any objection or found in possession of original document may contact with above named person Sh. Navin Ph. No. 9582482904 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. the person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property can personally inform to with DDA Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be known to all that my clients Sh. Ram Avtar Rathore and his wife Smt. Soda Rathore both R/o B-1440, B-block, Near main market, Shatri Nagar, Delhi- 110052 has disowned their son namely Sunny and his wife Aarti from all their moveable and immovable properties and further severed all relations from them due to their disobedient, cruel and neglecting acts and conducts towards my above said clients. If any person deals with them then he is hereby cautioned to do so entirely at his own risk, cost and consequences. My clients will not be responsible for the acts, deeds and conducts of the aforesaid persons.

Sd/-
VIJENDRA KUMAR (Advocate)
Ch. No. 674, Western Wing
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLITC NOTICE

Know all men by these presents that my client Sardar Kripal Singh S/o Late Natha Singh R/o J-161 C, Vishnu Garden, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 do hereby disown and debar his daughter Ravinder Kaur alongwith her son Chanpreet Singh (Aged Approx. 24 years) from all his movable and immovable properties, Jewellery, Bank Balance, LIC Policies, Fixed deposits etc. with immediate effect because they are out of control and not having any connection with my above named client for long time.

Anybody dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her/their own risk, cost and responsibilities. My clients will not be held responsible for their any acts, deeds and things done by them in future.

Sd/- B.B.N. DEO, ADVOCATE
SR IInd, B Campus,Janakpuri, N.Delhi-58

"IMPORTANT"

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WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAVNAGAR DIVISION

VARIOUS WORKS OF SEAT/BERTH OF BG POH COACHES

For and behalf of The President of India, Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Bhavnagar Para, Carriage Repair Workshop, Bhavnagar Para, invites E-Tender as per the details given below : **E-Tender Notice No. BVPW-2019-20-SEAT-15R3 (1) Name of Work:** Dismantling, stripping, repairing, handling and re-fitment of seat/berth of BG POH coaches in Carriage Repair workshop, Bhavnagar Para. **(2) Approx. cost of work: 89,24,677.48/- (3) EMD:** ₹ 1,78,500/- **(4) Date and Submission of bid and opening of bid:** Submission: 13-02-2020 up to 15:00 hrs. Opening: 13-02-2020 after 15:30 hrs. **(5) Website particulars and Address of the office:** CWM-BVP's Office, Carriage Repair Workshop, Bhavnagar Para-364003 Website: www.ireps.gov.in 184

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केनरा बैंक CANARA BANK

RECOVERY & LEGAL SECTION
CIRCLE OFFICE, BAYSITE 17-18, SECTOR 12
KARNAL 132001 HARYANA
PHONE NO. 0184-2205177, 2267031,
Email: rlcokar@canarabank.com

CORRIGENDUM

Attention of the concerned party (ies) and general public is requested to E auction Notice published in **The Indian Express(Eng.) & Dainik Jagran(Hindi) on dated 30.12.2019** in the Sr. No. 1 (**M/s Ascent Machining Works**) in Reserve Price For Property No. 1 + 2 Rs. 294.00 Lakh may read as **For Property No. 1 + 2 Rs. 249.00 Lakh** & EMD Price For Property No. 1 + 2 Rs. 29.40 Lakhs may read as **For Property No. 1 + 2 Rs. 24.90 Lakhs**. Other terms and conditions of auction shall remain unchanged.

Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act. 1993 read with Rule 12 &13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.)

In the matter of **O.A. NO. 225/2019**

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK — **APPLICANT**

Versus

M/S JAGDAMBA ENG. WORKS & ANR. — **DEFENDANTS**

To, **D-1** M/s Jagdamba Engineering Works a sole Proprietor Firm Through Its Sole Proprietor R/o Plot No. 39, Kh. No. 30/7, Block No. A, Near 66 Ft. Road, Gali No. 4, Industrial Area, Libaspur, Delhi-110042

D-2 Sh. Sunny Chauhan S/o Shri Richhpal Singh Sole Proprietor M/s Jagdamba Engineering Works R/o 31 Luhar Mohalla Near Power House, Village Khera Kalan, Delhi-110093

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on **09.03.2020 At 10.30 A.M.**

Take Notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the **01st day of Dec. 2019**

By Order of the Tribunal,
Assistant Registrar, DRT - III, New Delhi

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI

4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act. 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993).

In the matter of: OA NO.463/2019

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA .... Applicant

Versus

SHRI AJAY PRAKASH DHUSIYA & ORS. .... Defendants

(D-3) M/S. AVJ DEVELOPERS (INDIA) PVT. LTD.,
Through Its Authorized Signatory
Registered Office at: Plot No.C, Community Centre, Anand Vihar, Opp. Yamuna Sports Complex, Delhi-110092.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on **06.03.2020 at 10:30 A.M.**

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the **21st Day of December, 2019.**

SEAL OF COURT

By Order of the Tribunal
Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer,
TLMD-IV, Pampore JKPTCL Kashmir

Corrigendum to NIT No. TLMD-IV/e-NIT-29/ of 2019-20
Dated: 20.01.2020

(A) Please read Accounts Officer with Chief Engineer, JKPTCL, Kashmir, Bemina Srinagar Kashmir, J&K instead of Accounts Officer with Chief Engineer, S&O Wing Kashmir, PDD, Complex Bemina Srinagar Kashmir, J&K in above mentioned e-NIT.

(B) **Item 3 of BOQ, amended here & may be read as,**
145kV, 50c/s, 2000 Amp, 31.5kA for one second, Ac Motor Operated Horizontal double break outdoor type 3 Pole Isolators with Earthing Blades as specified in the Technical Specification. (Isolator to be supplied by JKPTCL).

(C) **Item 4 of BOQ, amended here & may be read as:**
Nil

(D) **Item 10 & 10.1 of BOQ amended here & may read as:**
36kv, 50c/s, 2500 Amp, 25kA for one second, Ac Motor Operated Horizontal Double Break, Outdoor Type 3 Pole Isolators without Earthing Blades as specified in the Technical Specification. (Isolator to be supplied by the successful Bidder)
Supply/Erection/Civil, Testing and Commissioning Works Total Unit, Amount (Including WCT, LC)

(D) **Item 11 & 11.1 of BOQ, amended here & may be read as:**
36kV, 50c/s, 2500 Amp. 25kA for one second, Ac Motor Operated Horizontal Double Break, Outdoor Type 3 Pole Isolators with One Earthing Blades as specified in the Technical Specification. (Isolator to be supplied by the successful Bidder)
Supply/Erection/Civil, Testing and Commissioning Total unit, Amount (Including WCT, LC).

(E) **Clause 1.1.2 of SBD, Amended here & may be read as:**
Minor Civil Works (If any) include minor repairs of equipment foundations, however the major Civil Works are not covered in this contract.

(F) **Clause 18(ii) of SBD, Amended here & may be read as:**
The minor Civil Works on the site if any, to be provided by the JKPTCL shall be in a condition suitable for the reception, movement, installation and maintenance of the Works within the time or times indicated in the programme. The minor Civil Works required for complection of the works, shall however be carried out by the Contractor under the Contract. No major Civil Works are covered in this contract.

(G) **Item 25 of BOQ, amended here & may be read as:**
300 mm2 PVC insulated Cable 1.1KV Grade, 3.5 Core, armoured, Aluminum Conductor, FRLS as specified in the Technical Specification.

(H) **Item 49 of BOQ amended here & may read as:**
100 KVA serve stabliser 3-phase 4 wire copper wond indoor type for balanced load, input voltage range 220-460V, output 400V+ 1% in two parts of oil cooled and air cooled having, Digital Control, Response time <10ms, Automatic Switch-Off against:- Under/Over-Voltage-Over-Load & Short-Circuit Single Phasing, Class C Type Secondary Surge Protection No. 1 2.65 2.65 6 Power Cables for AC/DC Network Control Room for 132/33KV Grid Station Lot 1 5.00 5.00

(I) **Item 50 of BOQ amended here & may be read as:**
Supply and Installation of Air Conditioner (2T) (Hot & Cold).

No.: TLMD-IV/2075-76
Date: 27.01.2020

Sd/- Executive Engineer
TLMD-IV, Pampore (JKPTCL)

DIPK-NB:-2376/M

महर्षि दयानन्द सरस्वती विश्वविद्यालय, अजमेर

क्रमांक एफ. 2( )/सा.प्र./मदसविवि/2020/2699 — दिनांक 3.02.2020

ई–निविदा सूचना सं. –16

UBN-MDU1920WSOB00014

महर्षि दयानन्द सरस्वती विश्वविद्यालय, अजमेर की वर्ष 2020 मुख्य एवं पूरक परीक्षाओं में प्रयोग हेतु 20 लाख उत्तर पुस्तिकाओं की आपूर्ति हेतु पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी फर्मों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–टेन्डरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा ऑन–लाईन निविदाऐं आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र विश्वविद्यालय की वैब साईट www.mdsuajmer.ac.in तथा राज्य सरकार की वैब साईट sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। उक्त कार्य के निविदा प्रपत्र, निविदा आवेदन डाऊनलोड करने की अवधि दिनांक 05.02.2020 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे से दिनांक 14.02.2020 को अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे तक एवं ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 14.02.2020 को सायं 4.00 बजे तक एवं हार्ड प्रति कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 15.02.2020 को 12.00 बजे तक रहेगी। ई–निविदा दिनांक 15.02.2020 को अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे खोली जावेगी।

कुलसचिव

ODISHA COMPUTER APPLICATION CENTRE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Enq. No.: OCAC-NEGP-MNT-0001/2014/20003

OCAC invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of an Agency for Industry Standard DBA Support of ORACLE Database with RAC for Odisha State Data Centre (OSDC).

The interested firms may download the RFP document from **www.ocac.in & www.odisha.gov.in.** Last date for submission of proposal is **28.02.2020, 05:00 P.M.**

General Manager (Admin), OCAC, Plot No.-N-1/7-D, Acharya Vihar, P.O.-RRL, Bhubaneswar-751013, Ph.: 0674-2567280/2567064/2567295

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(Irrigation Wing)

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The tenders are invited online in the prescribed form for supply of material as detailed below, upto 3:00 P.M. on 19/02/2020.
NIT No: e-50/BSL/P&S/PR-1904
Name of Office: Superintendent/Sr. Xen, Proc. Store & Disposal Division, BBMB, Sundernagar, Distt. Mandi (HP).
Name of Work: Procurement of Spud Jack Set Plunger for IHC-1500 Dredger with installation and commissioning.

Approx. Cost in ₹	₹ 7.75 Lac
Earnest Money in ₹	₹ 7750/-
Last date of Receipt of Tender	19.02.2020 up to 3:00 P.M.
Cost of Tender Form in ₹	₹ 1000 + 18% GST = 1180/-

The detailed NIT may be seen/downloaded from BBMB website www.bbmbeproc.abcprocure.com & www.bbmb.gov.in

858-PR-BSL-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

DLF CYBER CITY DEVELOPERS LIMITED
Regd. Office:10th Floor, Gateway Tower, DLF City Phase-III, Gurgaon-122002

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) Haryana, Bay No. 55-58, Prayatan Bhawan, Sector-2, Panchkula, Haryana vide their letter No. SEIAA/HR/2020/27 dated 24th January 2020 has accorded the Environmental Clearance to M/s DLF Cyber City Developers Limited (the Developer) for Buildings C,D,E & F as Expansion of "DLF Cyber City" at Sectors 24, 25 & 25A, Gurgaon, Haryana in accordance with the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. General Public is further informed that copy of the said Environmental Clearance letter is displayed in the website of MoEFCC/ SEIAA. This public notice is issued in compliance to the Miscellaneous Condition no. (i) of the Environmental Clearance letter.

Place: Gurgaon
Date: 29.01.2020

Giri Raj Shah (Authorized Signatory)
for DLF Cyber City Developers Limited

कार्यालय मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, निर्माण विंग
उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) 403/1 इन्दिरा नगर, देहरादून–248 001
दूरभाष/फैक्स 0135–2764075 e-mail: cgmnirmanwing@yahoo.com, gmnirmanwing@gmail.com

PRESS NOTE
Government of Uttarakhand "e" procurement Notice

Bid Identification NO. 358/Nivida Suchna/49 — Dated : 03.02.2020

1.	Name of the Works :-	SITC of Hi-Tech Green House, Anti Insect net Houses, seeds germination chamber, Automation & Fertigation system and other Associated Facilities at CAP Selaqui, Dehradun
2.	Estimated Cost :-	Rs. 140.60 Lacs
3.	Period of Completion :-	06 Months
4.	Date and Time of Availability of bid documents in the portal:-	04.02.2020 - 15.00 Hrs.
5.	Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids in the portal:-	22.02.2020 - 17.00 Hrs
6.	Name and Address of Officer inviting the Bid:-	General Manager, Construction Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, 403/1, Indra Nagar, Dehradun
7.	Pre bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place :-	10.02.2020 - 15.00 Hrs.
8.	Details of subsequent addendum/ corrigendum / cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website :-	

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **"https://tendersuttarakhand.gov.in"**

General Manager

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS)

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. ECHS invites applications to engage following staff on contractual basis in ECHS polyclinic Mathura, Aligarh & Hathras for a period of one year, renewable for additional period:-

Sr No	Post	ECHS POLYCLINICS			Salary (in Rs)	Qualification	Minimum Experience (in years)	Remarks
		Mathura	Aligarh	Hathras				
(a)	Medical Officer	03	01	01	75000	MBBS	03 after internship	60% reserved for ESM
(b)	Dental Officer	-	-	01	75000	BDS	-do-	
(c)	Dental Tech	–	01	–	28100	DMLT	03	70% reserved for ESM
(d)	Pharmacist	01	–	01	28100	B Pharma	03	
(e)	Nursing Asst	01	01	01	28100	GNM Diploma	05	
(f)	Driver	01	-	-	19100	8th	05	
(g)	Clerk	01	01	01	16800	Graduate	10	
(h)	Peon	01	-	-	16800	8th	05	
(i)	Safai wala	01	-	01	16800	Literate	05	

2. For Terms & conditions, application form, Remuneration kindly see our **website: echs.gov.in.** For details please contact ECHS Cell Stn Headquarters Mathura at Tele No – 0565-2470041 **Email– echsmathura1@gmail.com.** Last date of receipt of application is 24 Feb 2020. Self attested photocopies of experience, Medical, educational/degree and attempt certificates as applicable will be attached with application and ensure to bring all original documents and two PP size photographs at the time of interview. Date of interview of eligible candidates will be intimated later.

epaper.indianexpress.com

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹41,748	₹71.38	$58.02	₹47,506

*Indian basket as on January 31, 2020

SENSEX: 39,872.31 ▲ 136.78 **NIFTY:** 11,707.90 ▲ 46.05 **NIKKEI:** 22,971.94 ▼ 233.24 **HANG SENG:** 26,356.98 ▲ 44.35 **FTSE:** 7,311.54 ▲ 25.53 **DAX:** 13,000.58 ▲ 18.61

*International market data till 1900 IST

Since FY15, banks write off ₹6.66L cr, over twice the amount infused by govt in PSBs

Recoveries, however, are on upswing; public sector banks recover ₹3.83L cr during April 2014 to June 2019

ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL banks have cumulatively written-off an amount of Rs 5.85 lakh crore in the five years since 2014-15, according to government data for 76 public sector, private and foreign banks operating in the country.

Add to that the Rs 80,893 crore that public sector and private banks wrote-off during the first six months of current financial year 2019-20 (April 1-September 30), the cumulative write off amount crosses Rs 6.66 lakh crore.

To put the write-offs in perspective, this number is well over twice the Rs 3.13 lakh crore infused by the government in PSBs since April 2014 to recapitalise them.

The amount written off by banks during the five-and-a-half-year period — the 21 PSBs that account for around 70 per cent of the total banking assets contributed over 80 per cent of the total write-offs — is nearly four times the Rs 1.71 lakh crore allocated in Budget 2020-21 for the healthcare, education and skill development sectors on a cumulative basis.

The only silver lining: the progress by the government on resolution and recovery, primarily on account of the enactment of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and other recovery related reform measures. As a result, public sector banks (PSBs) are reported to have recovered Rs. 3.83 lakh crore over the period from April 2014 to June 2019, including record recovery of Rs. 1.27 lakh crore claimed in the last financial year, according to government estimates.

Recoveries take place on the total cumulative write-off and not only on write-off for a specific period. In 'Technically Written Off' accounts, loans are written off from the bank books, without foregoing the right to recovery. Further, write-offs are generally carried out against accumulated provisions made for such loans. Once recovered, the provisions made for those loans flow back into the profit and loss account of the bank.

WRITE-OFFS BY SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANKS

YEAR	TOTAL
2014-15	55,149
2015-16	67,037
2016-17	1,01,886
2017-18	1,48,129
2018-19	2,12,485
2019-20*	80,893

(All figures in ₹ crore)

Write-off amount from FY15 to FY19 is for 76 scheduled commercial banks (PSBs, private and foreign banks)

**Data for FY20 is provisional and only for PSBs and private banks for the April 1-Sept 30, 2019 period*

Source: Government data

According to a senior government official, the decision to write off loans, either fully or partially, is a business decision taken by banks to clean up their balance sheets, based on various viability factors such as scope of upgradation of an non-performing asset (NPA) into standard category, chances of recovery from such assets, market conditions, availability of security, and its valuation. At times, such decisions are taken keeping in view the available taxation benefits and also to manage the level of NPA ratios of banks. In case of technically written-off accounts, the recovery efforts "continue as usual", an official said.

While the government has been trying to shore up PSB books through equity capital infusion and other measures, stressed assets have registered a steady rise since 2011. However, when it comes to NPAs, the growth was muted until 2014, followed by a dramatic rise since, particularly after 2015-16 because of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) undertaking an Asset Quality Review of banks in 2014. This led to the recognition of many bank loans as NPAs, considered by banks as standard assets till then.

As a result, the gross NPAs of PSBs, according to RBI data on global operations, rose from Rs 2.79 lakh crore as on March 31, 2015, to Rs 6.85 lakh crore up to March 31, 2017 and Rs 8.96 lakh crore by March 31, 2018.

Since then, the NPA numbers are reported to have declined to Rs 7.27 lakh crore till September 30, 2019, primarily on account of recoveries made under IBC.

Alongside action through the IBC, PSBs have also been directed to created Stressed Asset Management Verticals to focus on recovery, segregated monitoring from sanctioning roles in high-value loans, and entrusted monitoring of loan accounts of above Rs 250 crore to specialised monitoring agencies for "effective monitoring". They have also been asked to also create online end-to-end One-Time Settlement platforms for timely and better realisation, an official said.

DoT may toughen stance, push for contempt against telcos

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

THE DEPARTMENT of Telecommunications (DoT) is of the view that the telcos who failed to pay their share of the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues by January 23 are in "contempt of court". It is likely to take this stand when the case will be heard by the Supreme Court, senior officials from the Ministry told *The Indian Express*.

"While the telcos were at liberty to approach the court anytime they wanted to, the deadline for payment of AGR was never extended. That stands at three months from October 24. So in my view, they are in contempt of court," one of the officials quoted above said.

The stand taken by DoT is in contrast to an earlier decision of not pursuing any coercive action against telcos for not paying the AGR dues in time. On January 23, when the three-month SC deadline to pay AGR dues was about to end, the Licensing Finance Policy Wing of DoT had sent out a letter stating that no action should be taken against telcos.

The DoT had then also said that any decision on initiating a contempt against the telcos would be taken in due course of time as there was no question of "immediate contempt".

"Not even once did the companies come to the DoT to sort out the issue. Once the case has gone to the SC, and there is an order from them, there is precious little we can do. The judgment is binding on all," an official said.

Apart from pushing for holding telcos in contempt of SC's orders, it is also unlikely that the DoT will give them any major relief as far as payment of the dues is concerned.

Senior Ministry officials in the know said the decision has been reflected in the Budget for financial year 2020-21.

In the Budget for the next fiscal starting April, the government has estimated revenue of Rs 1.33 lakh crore under the 'other communication services' head.

This amount is nearly 125 per cent higher than Rs 58,989.64 crore mentioned by the government in its revised estimate of 2019-20.

The government defines receipts from 'other communication service' mainly as license fees from telecom operators and receipts on account of spectrum usage charges. The DoT collects recurring licence fees from various telecom service providers for spectrum usage and the AGR is calculated depending upon the quantum assigned for their network.

Most experts have estimated that this higher payout could be a part of the AGR that the government is expecting to receive as soon as it gets appropriate directions from the apex court.

Ministry officials in the know said they wanted to push for a part of the payment, which may include the payment of AGR principal, while deferring the penalty and interest on penalty part to the next fiscal.

A "concrete decision" on that issue, and whether non-telecom companies will also be asked to pay the entire amounts had, however, not been taken so far, an official said.

The SC had, on October 24 last, while upholding DoT's definition of AGR, given the licensees three months time to pay all the dues which included the principal amount, interest on principal amount, penalty and interest on penalty due to delay in repayment.

The three-month deadline ended on January 23, before which the telcos had unsuccessfully tried to persuade the Telecom Department to give them more time to pay the dues. Having failed there, the telcos again approached the apex court seeking a review of the October 24 judgment, which was also turned down.

EXPLAINED

AGR dues: Telecom Dept may seek at least principal amount

THE GOVERNMENT is of the view that the telcos should have approached the Telecom Department for negotiations on the AGR dues issue, instead of moving the courts.

With the Supreme Court now ruling that the telcos will have to pay the dues, the ball is now completely in DoT's court, which has nearly firmed up its mind on seeking at least the principal payment.

MARKET WATCH
VOLATILE SESSION

Post Budget Day fall, Sensex rises on DII support; FPIs continue to sell

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

AFTER A volatile trading session, the benchmark Sensex ended Monday with a gain of 136 points, or 0.34 per cent, after a sharp fall of 988 points on Saturday, as the Indian markets witnessed strong support from domestic institutional investors (DIIs) even as foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) continued to sell for the second consecutive day since Budget announcement on Saturday.

The Sensex was volatile on Monday. While it hit an intra-day high of 40,014, it touched a day's low of 39,563, before closing at 39,872. While FPIs sold equities worth a net of Rs 1,200 crore on Monday, DIIs made up for it with net investments of Rs 1,286 crore, as per provisional data provided by the stock exchanges.

On Saturday, after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget presentation for 2020-21, FPIs sold domestic equities worth a net of Rs 4,375 crore, resulting in a sharp decline of 2.4 per cent in the BSE Sensex and 2.5 per cent in Nifty at the National Stock Exchange.

Even as markets fell sharply on Saturday, the FM had expressed confidence that the Budget will have a positive impact on stock market on Monday, when it is fully open. Her optimism found the markets endorsement on Monday.

While the Sensex rose 0.34 per cent, mid and small cap indices were up 1.1 per cent and 0.1 per cent, respectively. While the total number of companies traded at BSE stood at 2,645, the advance to decline ration stood at 945 to 1,522.

Meanwhile, at a FICCI conference on Monday, to a query on why Sensex was not happy on Budget day, Sitharaman said, "But I see them being happy today … Monday's is the true working mood and today's mood is that they are happy. Aren't they, today they are happy, not exuberant, but happy somewhat."

The Indian markets rose on Monday even as major Asian indices traded under pressure, amidst growing concerns over coronavirus and its impact on the economy. While the Shanghai Composite in China fell 7.7 per cent, Nikkei 225 in Japan fell 1 per cent. Even the SET Composite in Thailand and Straits Composite in Singapore fell 1.2 per cent.

Despite rising on Monday, experts say that the Indian markets may remain under pressure. "We believe absence of any major announcements in the Budget may weigh on the investor sentiments in the short-term and we may continue to witness volatility ... Rising concerns regarding coronavirus may continue to cause uncertainty in the markets," said Ajit Mishra, VP—research, Religare Broking.

'Corporate downgrades more than double in first 3 quarters'

Credit profile of companies has also sharply deteriorated in the first three quarters, with the downgrades-to-upgrades ratio more than doubling to 1.82, an India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) report said

DOWNGRADES-TO-UPGRADES RATIOS DURING FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF FY20:

Q1: 1.59
Q2: 2.03
Q3: 2.75

188 Number of issuers downgraded till December in FY20

103: Number of issuers upgraded till December in FY20

MAIN REASONS FOR RATING DOWNGRADES IN OVER HALF THE CASES:

- Sharp drop in private consumption
- Increasing working capital intensity and resultant drop in profitability
- Continuing low investments

₹1.53 LAKH CRORE: Rated debt that downgrades amounted to

₹49,600 CRORE: Rated debt that upgrades amounted to

5% GDP forecast for current fiscal, revised down from 7.5 per cent, which also sharply increased corporate rating downgrades during this period

4.9% of all issuers: Percentage of defaults among all issuers, rising from 2.9 per cent last year

The extent of the sharp and sudden changes to macroeconomic parameters resulted in higher-than- expected deterioration in the credit profiles of leveraged entities across sectors. Not only did the downgrades-to-upgrades ratio increase to one of the highest levels, the ratio also rose with every passing quarter, as GDP kept heading south: Report

30% Increase in ratings volatility in first three quarters, from 24 per cent last year

Source: Ind-Ra/PTI

Manufacturing PMI at 8-yr high in Jan amid rise in production, hiring

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 3

THE ECONOMY seems to be showing signs of a revival with India's manufacturing sector activity climbing to a near eight-year high in January, driven by sharp rise in new business orders amid a rebound in demand conditions, leading to a rise in production and hiring activity.

Despite the downturn in the economy, the IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) jumped from 52.7 in December to 55.3 in January, its highest level in just under eight years.

Last month saw growth of new business, output, exports, input buying and employment following a sharp improvement in demand. Simultaneously, business sentiment strengthened and there were softer rises in both input costs and output charges. "Manufacturing sector growth in India continued to strengthen in January, with operating conditions improving at a pace not seen in close to eight years," said Pollyanna de Lima, principal economist, IHS Markit.

India's annual growth in gross domestic product (GDP) fell to 4.5 per cent for the quarter ended September 2019, down from 5 per cent in the previous three months and 7 per cent for the corresponding period of 2018. Many experts had criticised Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget, unveiled on February 1, for lack big announcements for revival of the economy. The Economic Survey 2019-20 projected India's economy to grow in the range of 6-6.50 per cent in the 2020-21 financial year.

While analysts were surprised by the sudden jump in manufacturing PMI, it is for the 30th consecutive month that the manufacturing PMI has remained above the 50-point mark. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction.

IHS Markit said companies noted the strongest upturn in new business intakes for over five years, which they attributed to better underlying demand and greater client requirements.

We are putting money where assets will be created: Sitharaman

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman Monday said the government has tried to maintain a fine balance between being fiscally prudent and ensuring that additional resources being spent go into asset creation and capital expenditure, which has a multiplier effect on improving growth in the economy. Speaking at a FICCI conference, she said the government is willing to support the industry and Budget has tried to improve the trust between the taxpayers and the government.

"Although the Budget has not given you anything sector specific, it has worked with the macro picture…we are putting money where assets will be created," she said.

It is better to use the additional leeway available under the FRBM law to push spending towards asset creation, she said. Capital expenditure is set to rise 18.1 per cent to Rs 4.12 lakh crore in Budget Estimate for 2020-21 over 2019-20 revised estimate. Government has also announced a pipeline of infrastructure projects to be done over the next five years.

"The money being raised through disinvestment will go towards infrastructure creation," she said.

The Budget 2020-21 presented Saturday announced an ambitious disinvestment agenda, aiming to raise Rs 2.1 lakh crore through stake sales next year, including plans to sell part of the Centre's stake in the country's largest insurer Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) through an initial public offer (IPO).

"Although the Budget has not given you anything sector specific, it has worked with the macro picture...we are putting money where assets will be created ... The money being raised through disinvestment will go towards infrastructure creation"

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
FINANCE MINISTER

The Centre also proposed to sell the government's equity in the stressed IDBI Bank to private, retail and institutional investors through the stock exchange.

For the current year, the government has revised down the disinvestment target to Rs 65,000 crore in RE from Rs 1.05 lakh crore in BE.

Even as the government has taken additional leeway to expand the deficit by 0.5 percentage points, it is not splurging money like it was done in the past (2008-09) when the previous government expanded the deficit massively, she said. The entire Budget has tried to ensure that the steps are completely thought through and there is a blueprint to revive growth.

The government breached the fiscal deficit target by 0.5 percentage points to 3.8 per cent of GDP for 2019-20. For the next financial year, it is pegged at 3.5 per cent of the GDP as against the earlier estimate of 3.4 per cent.

On boosting trust between the taxpayer and the taxmen, she said the government has over the years expanded the usage of technology to make the tax system objective. Earlier, speaking at the same event, Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar also stressed that the Budget making process was based on promoting a trust-based environment and that the government did not go overboard in making any projections. He said the direct tax dispute resolution scheme has been designed to end litigation with government and that directions have been issued to banks to differentiate between genuine business failure and fraud.

Elaborating on details of the Budget, Department of Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty said that the Union Budget has not considered the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) of telecom companies while making the budget calculations.

SHANGHAI COMPOSITE INDEX PLUNGES NEARLY 8 PER CENT — ITS BIGGEST DAILY FALL IN MORE THAN FOUR YEARS

Coronavirus fears wipe $393 bn off China's stock market despite govt intervention

WINNI ZHOU & NOAH SIN
SHANGHAI/HONG KONG, FEB 3

INVESTORS ERASED $393 billion from China's benchmark stock index on Monday, sold the yuan and dumped commodities as fears about the spreading coronavirus and its economic impact drove selling on the first day of trade in China since the Lunar New Year.

A nearly 8 per cent plunge on the Shanghai Composite index was its biggest daily fall in more than four years. The Chinese yuan blew past the 7-per-dollar mark, Shanghai-traded commodities from palm oil to copper hit their maximum down limits.

The wipeout came even as the central bank made its biggest cash injection to the financial system since 2004 and despite apparent regulatory moves to curb selling.

The total number of deaths in China from the coronavirus rose to 361 as of Sunday. It had stood at 17 when Chinese markets last traded on January 23.

"You wanted to know what a real decoupling from China might look like, or what a 'what if everyone just stayed at home and didn't buy anything?' economic thought-experiment looks like? Well here you are, folks," Rabobank strategist Michael Every said in an afternoon note.

The yuan began onshore trade at its weakest this year and was down 1.2 per cent by the afternoon, sliding past the symbolic 7-per-dollar level to 7.0155. The new virus has created alarm because it is spreading quickly, much about it is unknown, and authorities' drastic response is likely to drag on economic growth.

More than 2,500 stocks fell by the daily limit of 10 per cent. The Shanghai Composite closed down 7.7 per cent at 2,746.6, its lowest since August and a modest recovery from being down nearly 9 per cent in early trade.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng, which shed almost 10 per cent in two weeks, was steady.

Amid the selldown, the PBOC had injected 1.2 trillion yuan ($173.81 billion) into money markets through reverse bond repurchase agreements, the largest such move since 2004 according to DBS analysts. **REUTERS**

An electronic board showing the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock indexes, on Monday. *Reuters*

Oil falls as virus hits demand

REUTERS
LONDON, FEBRUARY 3

OIL PRICES fell on Monday, dragged down by concern over demand in China after the coronavirus breakout, though the possibility of deeper crude output cuts by OPEC and its allies offered some price support. Brent crude was down $1 at $55.62 a barrel by 1434 GMT, its lowest since January last year.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell 58 cents to $50.98 after hitting a session low of $50.42, also the lowest since January last year. As the coronavirus outbreak hit fuel demand in China, the world's biggest crude oil importer, refiner Sinopec Corp told its facilities to cut throughput this month by about 600,000 barrels per day (bpd). The OPEC and its allies are considering a further 500,000 bpd cut to their oil output, sources said.

Govt move to ignore FDI hike in sector disappoints insurers

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 3

The domestic insurance industry was expecting FDI to be hiked from 49% to 74%

THE DOMESTIC insurance industry, which was eagerly awaiting Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to raise the foreign direct investment (FDI) in the sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent in her Budget 2020-21, is clearly disappointed as the government failed to make the much-awaited announcement. The Centre had last year allowed 100 per cent FDI in insurance intermediaries like broking firms and third party administrators, as a precursor to the hike in FDI to 74 per cent in the entire sector.

Insurance sector sources expressed surprise that higher FDI in the sector didn't find any mention in the Budget, as the Centre had been working on the proposal for the same for six to eight months. "The timing for such a move was quite ripe as not only the government wants larger FDI inflow into the country, the private sector insurance industry is also badly in need for capital to maintain growth," said an official.

Life Insurance Council, in its pre-Budget survey, had found that all life insurance players favoured higher FDI at 74 per cent and some even wanted 100 per cent. Earlier, a government document prepared had indicated about the directions the Centre may be heading for. For the insurance sector, the document proposed that investment of up to 74 per cent should be allowed with necessary government approvals, above the current 49 per cent limit that is allowed without approval under a so-called automatic route.

The move would have come as a boost to two dozens of foreign companies such as Germany's Allianz, Italy's Generali Group, France's AXA and US insurer MetLife Inc, which already are already operating joint ventures in India. Explaining the rationale, the document said the private banking sector was "financially more sensitive" but allowed up to 74 per cent foreign investment, and so limits for insurance sector should be relaxed to provide parity.

An Assocham report had said the Indian insurance industry is expected to grow to $280 billion by FY19-20. An rise in FDI limit would mean an inflow of funds from existing foreign JV partners and entry of new players.

Insurance is a capital-intensive sector. When the insurance FDI rose in 2015, there was an expectation that almost Rs 60,000 crore would flow into the sector. However, the actual flows were less than half that number. India's move corresponds well with the deregulatory measures some other countries in APAC have undertaken, particularly in easing restrictions on foreign ownership of domestic insurance companies. China had indicated in July 2019 that it will permit foreign firms.

Meanwhile, the Budget has two proposals that can potentially affect the growth and profitability of life insurance firms. One is the withdrawal of Section 80C deduction for assessees who opt for the new tax regime and the other is withdrawal of dividend distribution tax (DDT) and transferring the tax liability of dividend income to investors. "While the former one will impact new business volumes, we expect the impact to be limited due to relatively reducing relevance the 80C deduction. Withdrawal of DDT will increase the tax liability of life insurance companies, though the same may be partially managed by setting off dividend paid to its shareholders," said a Kotak Research report.

Fitch pegs FY21 growth at 5.6%: Budget has not 'materially altered' outlook

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

FITCH RATINGS Monday said India is expected to clock a GDP growth of 5.6 per cent in the next fiscal, lower than the projection made by the government's Economic Survey, as Budget 2020 has not "materially altered" its view on the country's growth outlook.

The Economic Survey, released a day before Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Budget for 2020-21 on February 1, had projected a GDP growth of 6-6.5 per cent, up from 5 per cent estimate for 2019-20.

"The fiscal slippage announced in the government's new FY21 budget is modest relative to its previous targets, and is consistent with our expectations when we affirmed India's 'BBB-' rating with a stable outlook last December, given slowing growth momentum," said Thomas Rookmaaker, director and primary sovereign analyst for India, Fitch Ratings. The Budget missed deficit target for the third year in a row, pushing shortfall to 3.8 per cent of GDP in FY20 as against 3.3 per cent previously planned.

GOVT TALKING TO UNIONS TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES

AI divestment: 'Reasonable level of protection' for staff

PRANAV MUKUL & AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

"You have to balance it between the point of view of investors, the flexibility which you have to give to the investors and the security of the employees. There has to be a balance"

TUHIN KANTA PANDEY
SECRETARY, DIPAM

THE GOVERNMENT will offer a "reasonable level of protection" to the employees when it divests its stake in Air India, but at the same time offer flexibility to the investors, Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Tuhin Kanta Pandey said. In an interview with *The Indian Express*, Pandey said "there has to be a balance" on protection for employees.

When asked if the new investor will be compelled to retain the national carrier's employees, Pandey said: "Those things have been worked out in the SPA (share purchase agreement) and they would be revealed to the investors and their views would be taken on that. Of course, there will be certain protection for the employees but only a reasonable level."

Further, in run up to the disinvestment, the Civil Aviation Ministry has been in discussions with Air India unions to iron out certain differences. "You have to balance it between the point of view of investors, the flexibility which you have to give to the investors and the security of the employees. There has to be a balance," he added.

The Centre last month floated the expression of interest (EoI) for Air India, seeking bids from interested parties by March 17 for a 100 per cent stake in the flag carrier.

This is the second attempt for sale of Air India after the failed attempt in 2018. Losses notwithstanding, it has some lucrative assets that include prized slots at London's choked Heathrow airport, a fleet of more than 100 planes and thousands of trained pilots and crew.

In the last disinvestment attempt, those potentially looking at bidding for the airline had also raised issues of the airline's employee strength.

The airline has 17,984 employees, of which 9,617 are permanent staff. According to the preliminary information memorandum, 36 per cent of the permanent staff are set to retire in the next five years.

However, Air India's Chairman and Managing Director Ashwani Lohani had earlier stated that the airline did not have any excess employees.

Shortly after the EoI was released last month, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri had said that the government was open to revising, refining and tweaking its terms of sale.

The government has set an ambitious target of Rs 2.1 lakh crore from disinvestment receipts in the Budget for 2020-21. A chunk of this amount — nearly Rs 90,000 crore — is expected to be raised from the sale of Life Insurance Corporation and IDBI Bank.

Additionally, the Centre is banking on proceeds from the big ticket sale of Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd, the EoI of which is likely to be floated in the next few days, Pandey told this newspaper.

BRIEFLY

Last monetary policy for FY20 on Thursday

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will unveil its last monetary policy for the current fiscal Thursday. The sixth bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2019-20 would be the last one for the current financial year. The Monetary Policy Committee will meet during February 4-6 for the policy review, the RBI said Monday.

Bank credit rises 7.21%, deposits 9.51%

New Delhi: Banks credit and deposits grew 7.21 per cent and 9.51 per cent to Rs 100.05 lakh crore and Rs 131.26 lakh crore, respectively, in the fortnight ended January 17, according to the latest Reserve Bank data. In the year-ago fortnight, banks advance stood at Rs 93.32 lakh crore while deposits at Rs 119.85 lakh crore.

Re derivatives trade at IFSCs: Position limit set

New Delhi: Paving the way for trading in rupee-linked currency futures and options at international financial services centres (IFSCs), Sebi on Monday fixed position limit of up to $1 billion for brokers, institutional investors and eligible foreign investors. The move will benefit Indian bourses at IFSCs by bringing rupee trading to India, as such derivative contracts are presently dominated by exchanges in Dubai and Singapore.

IDBI Bank raises ₹745 cr through bonds

New Delhi: LIC-owned IDBI Bank Monday said it has raised Rs 745 crore via issue of Basel III compliant tier 2 bonds which will help improve its capital position. The 10-year bond was priced at a coupon rate of 9.50 per cent per annum payable annually, the bank said in a statement. "The amount mobilised would be counted as part of tier 2 capital and enhance the capital adequacy of the bank." **PTI**

Prabhakar takes charge as Canara Bank MD-CEO

New Delhi: Canara Bank announced that LV Prabhakar has assumed office as Managing Director and CEO of the public sector lender. Prabhakar holds a Master Degree in Agriculture and is a Certified Associate of Indian Institute of Bankers. Prior to his appointment, Prabhakar served as Executive Director in Punjab National Bank, where he oversaw its recovery efforts. During his tenure, the gross domestic business rose by Rs 1 lakh crore to landmark figure of Rs 11.45 lakh crore, with gross recovery of over Rs 20,000 crore. **ENS**

Anti-dumping duty sought on MEG: Textile cos' body opposes move

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

A GROUP of textile companies on Monday approached the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) against a move by Reliance Industries Ltd and India Glycols Ltd seeking imposition of anti-dumping duties on a raw material used to make polyester.

In a letter to DGTR Director General BS Bhalla, an association representing companies like Indo Rama Synthetics India, Filatex India, Garden Silk Mills and Bombay Dyeing had argued that imposing such a duty on the material — mono ethylene glycol (MEG) — would lead to a "significant" loss to India's textile units.

"... there exists a huge demand supply gap in India because of which imports are essential to meet the requirements of our members," stated the PTA Users Association (PTAUA) in the letter dated February 3, a copy of which *The Indian Express* has viewed.

"The imposition of anti-dumping duty would increase the cost of textiles and as you are aware, the ability of textile units to increase the prices commensurate with the increase in costs is very limited," it said, adding that, under these circumstances, levying anti-dumping duty on MEG would not be in public interest.

"While the levy may help the petitioner company in a limited way, it will cause irreparable damage to our members," said PTAUA.

The association, which represents 21 end users claiming to account for two million metric tonnes per year of MEG consumption, also submitted that India's current MEG production capacity fell short of the demand of the product by around 36 per cent.

India imported around $532 million worth of ethylene glycol from countries in 2018-19, and around $320.18 million between April and November 2019, according to data from the Commerce Ministry. Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and United Arab Emirates were the top exporters of this product to India last fiscal.

Last year, Reliance Industries — in a petition supported by India Glycols — had alleged that there was dumping of MEG from the abovementioned countries as well as Oman.

"The petitioners have claimed that domestic industry has suffered material injury by way of adverse price effects as evidenced by price undercutting and price depression leading to accumulation of inventories, deterioration in profits, decline in return on capital employed and cash profits," stated the DGTR's December 9 initiation notification on the matter.

"The petitioners have claimed that the material injury has been caused due to the dumped imports from the subject countries," it stated, adding that the authority considered that there is "sufficient" prima facie evidence of material injury to justify initiation of an anti-dumping investigation.

'Apple supplier Wistron to assemble key iPhone part in new India plant'

REUTERS
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

TAIWAN'S WISTRON Corp plans to assemble printed circuit boards (PCBs) for iPhones at its new plant in southern India, two sources said, highlighting Apple Inc's push to expand manufacturing in the country.

The local assembly of PCBs by Wistron's India unit will be a first for the contract manufacturer, which began making Apple's low-priced SE model in the southern tech hub of Bengaluru in 2017. It currently assembles the 6S and 7 iPhone models there as well.

A PCB is a bed for key components such as processors, memory and wireless chip sets that are the heart of an electronic device. Once assembled, or populated with components, PCBs account for about half the cost of a smartphone. Wistron's second iPhone plant, some 65 km (40 miles) from Bengaluru, is expected to become operational by April, the sources said, adding that it will make iPhone 7 and 8 models, some of which will be exported.

The facility will be capable of producing up to 8 million smartphones annually, they said. The plan is part of Wistron's $422.12 million investment proposal submitted to the Karnataka state government in 2018.

Adani group may take over Ahmedabad airport operations in April 2020

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 3

OPERATIONS AT Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International airport may be taken over by Adani Group in April 2020, said Ahmedabad Customs Principal Commissioner Kumar Santosh on Monday. Addressing media persons, Santosh said, when asked on the takeover, "I am told that the operations of the Ahmedabad airport is being handed over to Adani group from April 1 2020".

When contacted, officials from the Adani group said there was no written intimation as yet about the takeover.

Santosh added that his department was working with Chennai and Mumbai customs to stop smuggling of rare animals like turtles, snakes and leopards from being smuggled out of India.

In his media briefing, the customs official also disclosed four GST violation cases of "city-seizures" registered at ICD Khodiyar and Air cargo complex in Ahmedabad, where cases were pertaining to systematic smuggling by overvaluation of export goods and mis-declaration of quantity of the goods.

NTPC raises 'largest ever' Samurai loan for new projects

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

$750-MN TERM LOAN IN JAPANESE YEN

- **Samurai loans allow non-Japanese firms to tap into the investment capital available in Japan and borrow funds in yen, which is among the currencies with the lowest interest rates**
- **The cross border syndicated loan provides the borrower with capital to either enter the Japanese market or the ability to convert the proceeds into the firm's local currency for use in existing operations**

INDIA'S LARGEST power generator NTPC Ltd Monday said that it has raised a $750 million-worth term loan in Japanese yen, claiming it to be the "largest ever" Samurai loan raised by any Asian corporate. The funds raised would be used towards implementing systems that would help the state-owned power giant bring about a "substantial" reduction in toxic sulphur oxide emissions.

It would also be invested in NTPC's new hydro projects as well as projects using ultra-supercritical technology, which are plants that require less coal per megawatt-hour and, therefore, lead to lower carbon emissions.

Samurai loans allow non-Japanese firms to tap into the investment capital available in Japan and borrow funds in yen, which is among the currencies with the lowest interest rates. The cross border syndicated loan provides the borrower with capital to either enter the Japanese market or the ability to convert the proceeds into the firm's local currency for use in existing operations.

NTPC said the loan was raised under the automatic route of RBI's External Commercial Borrowing regulations and has been fully underwritten by the State Bank of India in Tokyo, Sumimoto Mitsui Banking Corporation in Singapore and Bank of India, Tokyo.

The facility has a door-to-door maturity of 11 years — the period within which the amount would have to be paid back — under two tranches.

"In an endeavour towards sustainable and cleaner environment, NTPC would utilise these loan proceeds to fund capex for installation of Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) system that helps in substantial reduction of SOx emission, new hydro projects and projects using ultra supercritical technology with low carbon emission," stated NTPC in a release.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Saturday said in her Budget speech that utilities running thermal power plants with high carbon emission levels are advised to close those plants with emissions above pre-set norms.

McDonald's picks Sanjeev Agrawal as new partner for north, east India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

US FAST food chain McDonald's has selected MMG Group chairman Sanjeev Agrawal as its new partner to operate outlets in north and east India, the company said.

The development comes almost nine months after McDonald's bought estranged partner Vikram Bakshi's 50 per cent stake in Connaught Plaza Restaurants Ltd (CPRL), which has the licence to run its restaurants in north and east India.

D1/D3 gas field in RIL-BP's KG-D6 block shuts down

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

D1/D3 GAS field, India's first deepwater gas field, ceased to produce on Monday after a $1 billion investment and mammoth technological intervention by Reliance Industries and its partner BP Plc of UK extended the life of dwindling fields by four years.

In a late evening statement, Reliance-BP confirmed that it has completed the safe cessation of production in a planned manner from D1/D3 field.

"The RIL-BP joint venture has successfully worked to extend the life of production from the D1/D3 Field which otherwise would have ceased production in 2015 due to issues of reservoir pressure and water ingress. Through innovation and application of 'first-of-their-kind solutions, the field's life was extended for almost five years, to February 2020, maximizing the recovery from the field," it said.

The first-gas from new fields in the block is expected in mid-2020, it added.

D1/D3 field, in Block KG D6 (KG-DWN-98/3) located in the Bay of Bengal, was India's first deepwater gas field to be put on production in April 2009.

Output, which peaked at over 61 million standard cubic meters per day in 2010, had been on a decline as sand and water ingress forced wells to shut down one after the other.

Airbus 'bribery' probe: AirAsia CEO, chairman to step aside for some time

REUTERS
KUALA LUMPUR, FEBRUARY 3

AIRASIA GROUP CEO Tony Fernandes and Chairman Kamarudin Meranun will step aside for at least two months while the airline and authorities investigate allegations Airbus paid a bribe of $50 million to win plane orders from the company. A committee comprising non-executive members of AirAsia's board will review the allegations and take any necessary action, Asia's biggest budget airline said on Monday.

Fernandes, one of the aviation industry's best known executives, and Kamarudin will remain advisers. Senior company executive Tharumalingam Kanagalingam will be the acting CEO, with the changes effective immediately. In a joint statement, Fernandes and Kamarudin denied any allegations of wrongdoing or misconduct as directors of AirAsia. "We would not harm the very companies that we spent our entire lives building up to their present global status," they said. Shares of AirAsia and unit AirAsia X fell on Monday after the allegations by Britain's Serious Fraud Office (SFO) came to light.

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. NIT/2019-20/30931-40 Date 03.02.2020
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या-338/19-20
निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों द्वारा पंजीकृत एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:

कार्य का विवरण	आरक्षित राशि (रु.)
Renovation, Modernization of Humanities Hall at Rajasthan University, Jaipur. UBN No. RRC1920WSOB00738	268.00 Lac

ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की अवधि दिनांक 01.02.2020 प्रातः 09.00 बजे से 10.02.2020 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in तथा http://roads.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है।
महाप्रबंधक

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Enterprise)
Kagithapuram – 639 136, Karur District, Tamil Nadu.
Phone : 04324-277001 - (10 lines) Extn: 4206 / 4295
E-mail : pmd.civil@tnpl.co.in , Web: www.tnpl.com
NOTICE INVITING BID for
"Structural fabrication, erection and roofing works for Hardwood fibre line building at TNPL Unit II under MEP"
Due Date for submission at Kagithapuram - 20/02/2020
Interested bidders may purchase a complete set of Bid Document, against submission of a written application to TNPL and upon payment of applicable non-refundable fee of Rs.1,180/- (including GST) by way of Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque in favour of "TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED", payable at Trichy. Alternatively, details of the bid may be viewed at TN Govt. / TNPL website and a soft copy of the Bid Document can be obtained against request by e-mail.
DIPR/676/Tender/2020
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GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION VIZAG
'e' Procurement Tender Notice No.22/2019-20/SE(WSM)/EE-II(WS-M)/DB. Dt:31-01-2020
01. Number of works : 3 Nos
02. Value of works (ECV) : Rs.394.48 Lakhs
Tender Notice

01	Schedule Sale opening Date	01-02-2020 @ 05.00 PM
02	Schedule Sale closing Date	17-02-2020 @ 03.00 PM
03	Bid submission closing Date	17-02-2020 @ 03.30 PM
04	Technical Specification Bid Opening Date	17-02-2020 @ 04.00 PM
05	Price Bid opening Date	20-02-2020 @ 05.00 PM

Note: Further details @ www.apeprocurement.gov.in.
O/o EE-II(WS-M) Sd/-xxxxx SE(WSM)

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Notice Inviting E-Tender
E-tenders are invited on behalf of Chairman, AAI for granting the following licenses at Jaipur Airport:

S. No.	Name of facility	E.M.D.	Minimum Reserve Licence fee Per Month. + Applicable Tax	Period of Licence	Tender Cost	Period of Tender Sale
1	Vehicle Parking Rights License Tender ID-2020 _AAI_41785_1	₹4,80,000/-	₹10,15,000/- PM + Applicable Taxes	Up to 31.03. 2020	₹25000/-	04.02. 2020 to 10.02. 2020

Tender documents indicating full details of the licence are available on www.aai.aero & https://etender.gov.in/eprocure/app.
Airport Director, Jaipur

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
DONIMALAI COMPLEX, PO - Donimalai, Pin-583118
Taluk-Sandur, Dist-Ballari, Karnataka
OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION
Sealed tenders in two bid system are inviting from the competent and experienced bidder for the following works;

Tender No. & Name of Work	Estimated Cost & EMD (₹)	Sale/ download period From-To	Last date of Submission upto 15:00 Hrs
DNM/PLM/HK/SP-LP/OTE/2020-21 Date 04.02.2020 "House Keeping and other peripheral work at Screening and Loading Plant for a period of one year i.e. 2020-21"	75.71 Lakhs / 75710/-	04.02.2020 To 05.03.2020	05.03.2020
DNM/PLM/WT/LP/OTE/2020-22 Date 04.02.2020 "Hiring of Water Tanker with sprinkling system at Loading Plant area for a period of two years"	29.16 Lakhs / 29160/-	04.02.2020 To 06.03.2020	06.03.2020

The detailed NIT and tender document can be viewed and /or downloaded from NMDC's website https://www.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender/default.aspx or Central Public Procurement Portal https://www.eprocure.gov.in. Further, for any enquiry you may contact diomplant@nmdc.co.in or 08395232568. And also, for any corrigendum, amendment, clarification etc. may please follow the above website.
For and on behalf of NMDC Limited
Date: 04.02.2020 JGM (Mech.) Plant

NOTICE No. 11/February /2020
Enlistment/ Registration of Vendors/ Contractors for Supply/ Services in the CIDC – Construction Industry Database
CIDC was established as an autonomous council by the Planning Commission (Now NITI Aayog), Govt. of India and the Indian Construction Industry, to introduce system improvements in the construction industry. Members of CIDC include, PFC Ltd, HUDCO, BHEL, HDFC, Engineering Projects (India) Ltd., LIC Housing Finance, NBCC Ltd, BPCL, RITES, E-in-C's Branch (Army HQ), Airports Authority of India Ltd, Central Warehousing Corporation, CPWD, GAIL, NTPC Ltd, NHPC Ltd, Engineers India Ltd., ONGC, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and Railways etc.
Keeping in view, the focus of the government, on providing impetus to infrastructure development, a tremendous opportunity exists in the development process of supplying goods & services to the major Project Owners & their Contractors & Service providers. To meet the same, CIDC is preparing a National Database of Vendors & Contractors.
To meet the same, CIDC is preparing a National Database of Vendors & Contractors. The names and details of all enlisted vendors is hosted on www.cidcdatabase.com along with their details and free microsite. The list of enlisted vendors is also shared with a large group of government and private project owners and implementers.
The 11th Phase registrations in the CIDC National Database is now open. Competent and experienced **Consultants, Manufacturers** for supplying **Materials, Accessories, Consumables,** etc., and **Contractors** for providing **Services,** or **Manpower** for construction projects for river, highway bridges , tracks for railways, sports stadia, industrial buildings, residential and commercial complexes, integrated projects for power generation and distribution systems, air conditioning systems, finishing/ interiors works, piling etc at various locations across India and other South Asian nations are encouraged to enlist in the Database, to enhance their visibility amongst both National & International Stakeholders.
The Database hosted on **www.cidcdatabase.com** is accessible to all project owners & stakeholders. Applications for Registration are invited from OEMs/ Vendors/Contractors/Consultants/ Manufacturers to enlist in the database.
Only those Organizations meeting the criteria of enlistment shall only be registered in the database. For list of Items / Services required, Criteria for Registration, Application Forms and other details please log on to the website **www.cidcdatabase.com / www.cidc.in.**
Application for registration along with forms duly completed in all respect should reach latest by **29th February 2020** to the address mentioned below.
Enlistment Division, Construction Industry Development Council
801 (8th Floor), Hemkunt Chambers, 89, Nehru Place, New Delhi – 110019 India
Tel.: 011-2623 4770, 2648 9992, 4161 7971 Fax: 011-2645 1604,
Email: enlistmentcidc@gmail.com Web: www.cidcdatabase.com / www.cidc.in

DONALD TRUMP'S PEACE PLAN

Steal of the century

Trump gives Israel the green light to annex occupied lands

FOR MONTHS THEY said the timing was simply wrong. Members of the Trump administration, led by the president's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, worked for two years on a plan to solve the decades-old conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, finishing last year. Then they waited for an opportune moment to release it.

On January 28th that moment arrived. Never mind that Israel was headed for its third election in less than a year, with a prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, facing trial for bribery, fraud and breach of trust. Or that, while Donald Trump unveiled the plan at the White House, senators at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue listened to arguments in his impeachment trial. Or that the Palestinians had not spoken to America in two years.

The plan Mr Trump's administration presented was unexpectedly detailed, with more than 50 pages of proposals and maps. But as a blueprint for a two-state solution it was dead on arrival. It would not give the Palestinians a sovereign state immediately; that might come only later, after they built a government that satisfied both Israel and America. They would retain only about 75% of the West Bank, divided into three cantons linked by highways; a tunnel would connect it to Gaza, and to two remote plots of land in the western Negev desert swapped in exchange for Israeli settlements, which would remain in place (see map).

This land is your land

Israel would keep control of the Jordan valley and most of Jerusalem. The Palestinian capital would be established in a few grim neighbourhoods, such as Abu Dis and Shuafat, that sit on the other side of a hulking concrete separation barrier. No Palestinian refugees would be allowed to return to Israel, only to Palestine or unnamed Muslim countries that would accept up to 50,000 each. Israel would commit not to build new settlements in the land allocated for a future Palestine for four years; in return, though, it received an implicit American recognition of its claims to the rest of the West Bank. Mr Netanyahu declared that Mr Trump was "puncturing this big lie" that Jewish settlements in the West Bank were illegal. His cabinet may begin voting in early February to annex some of the American-allocated land.

The Palestinians rejected the proposal outright. It will end up "in the dustbin of history", says the president, Mahmoud Abbas. His reaction should be no surprise. There is much to criticise about the decrepit Mr Abbas, now in the 16th year of what was meant to be a four-year term. But no Palestinian leader could accept a deal that in effect cedes Jerusalem and relegates his people to further statelessness. Far from a good-faith effort to solve the conflict, Mr Trump's plan was a sop to hawkish ideologues in Jerusalem and Washington.

Perhaps it was never meant to be more. On March 2nd Israelis will go to the polls again. The previous two elections, in April and September, left Mr Netanyahu without a majority for his coalition of right-wing and religious parties. By presenting the plan now, so close to the vote, Mr Netanyahu's American backers hope it will dominate the campaign and energise his Likud base. He seems to need the help: polls so far show a slow but continuing erosion of his support. Hours before the plan was unveiled, Israel's attorney-general filed formal charges against the prime minister in a Jerusalem court.

Over the next five weeks Mr Netanyahu will use the plan as his main platform (and a welcome distraction from his legal trouble). His allies are pushing for a swift vote on annexing parts of the West Bank. "What is postponed until after the election will never happen," says the defence minister, Naftali Bennett. But legal concerns may slow the process: the cabinet plans to ask the attorney-general if an interim government can approve such a drastic step. (Mr Kushner hopes Israel waits until after the election.) The cabinet cannot vote on implementing the full Trump plan, because that calls for relinquishing territory, which under Israeli law requires a referendum.

Regardless of the delays, mere talk of annexation could benefit Mr Netanyahu politically. His main challenger, Benny Gantz, ran on a vaguely centrist platform in the past two elections, absorbing parts of Israel's "peace camp". That won him a plurality of seats in September, but he too failed to form a coalition. In recent weeks he has moved sharply to the right, hoping to attract disgruntled Likud voters. Mr Gantz says he too would implement the Trump plan. Some members of his Blue and White party are more cautious. If they balk at annexation, Mr Netanyahu will paint them as weak and unpatriotic, liable to miss a "historic opportunity" that he likens to David Ben-Gurion's decision in 1948 to declare Israel's independence.

The Palestinians see all this not as an opportunity but a disappointment, one both historic and predictable. For a time they were guardedly optimistic about Mr Trump. Despite his pro-Israel campaign rhetoric, some Palestinian officials hoped an unconventional president might take an unconventional approach to diplomacy. His special envoy at the time, Jason Greenblatt, held a well-received listening tour of the West Bank in 2017, meeting Palestinian leaders and ordinary citizens.

But the relationship suffered a lasting rupture in December 2017, when Mr Trump broke decades of precedent and announced that he was moving America's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Palestinians claim part of Jerusalem as their future capital; most countries keep their embassies in Tel Aviv, arguing that to do otherwise would prejudge the status of the city. The following year Mr Trump closed the Palestinian diplomatic mission in Washington. He has also cut all American aid to the Palestinians. Relations have not been this bad since 1987, when America labelled the Palestine Liberation Organisation a terrorist group.

Mr Kushner and his aides did not seem to mind; they came to view the Palestinians more as a nuisance than a negotiating partner. Their plan would impose immediate costs on the Palestinians, with the benefits (such as a proposed $28bn in aid, none of which has yet been pledged) coming years, perhaps decades, in the future.

Instead they proposed an "outside-in" approach: encourage other Arab states to embrace the plan, then hope they would press the Palestinian leadership to accept it. This was always a far-fetched idea. Jordan has rejected the plan. The Gulf states, which have worked hard to court Mr Trump, will not want to anger him by publicly criticising it. Ambassadors from Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates attended its release (Saudi Arabia was notably absent). But they are unlikely to do much to promote a proposal that the Palestinians have so firmly rejected.

On the eve of his inauguration, Mr Trump expressed almost preternatural confidence in his son-in-law, a property developer with no diplomatic experience. "If you can't produce peace in the Middle East, nobody can," he told Mr Kushner. Perhaps no one can. Mr Kushner is unlikely to bring peace, but his plan may still bring lasting change. If Israel annexes large parts of the West Bank, it will be all but impossible for the Palestinians to establish a viable state. The two-state solution, on which decades of American peacemaking had been built, has long been a fading dream; it would finally be buried. Mr Trump may yet go down in history, not for making a deal, but for making one impossible.

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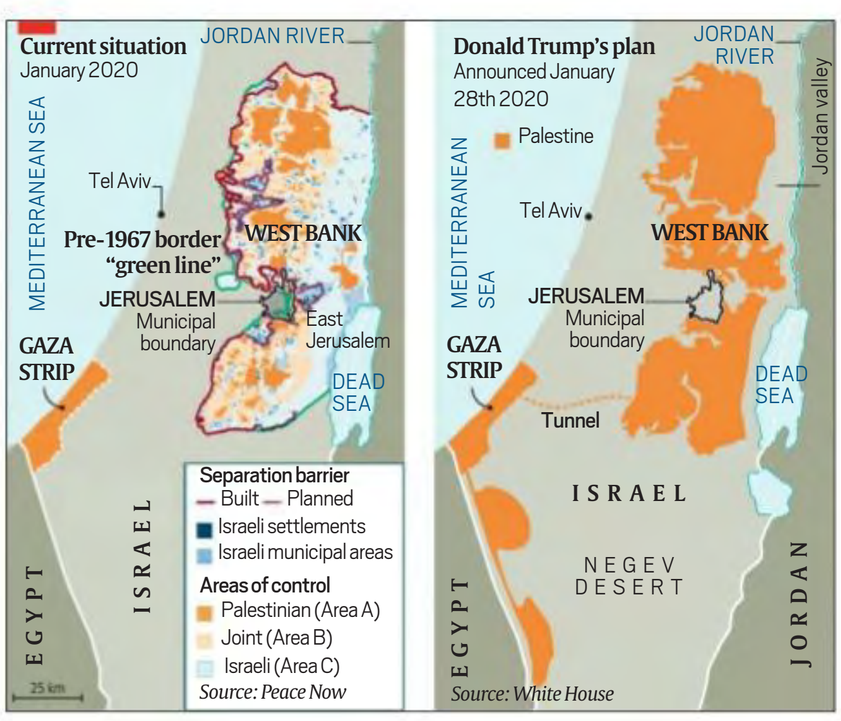
Jared Kushner watches US President Donald Trump talk to Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House in Washington in March, 2019. *Carlos Barria/Reuters*

No Palestinian leader could accept a deal that in effect cedes Jerusalem and relegates his people to further statelessness. Far from a good-faith effort to solve the conflict, Mr Trump's plan was a sop to hawkish ideologues in Jerusalem and Washington. Perhaps it was never meant to be more. On March 2nd Israelis will go to the polls again.



BAGEHOT

The English problem

The Tories need to put the genie of English nationalism back in the bottle

BREXIT IS A Rorschach blot into which everybody reads their own preoccupations; one of the few interpretations universally accepted is that it was a triumph of English nationalism. The English voted in favour of Brexit by a big margin while the Scots and Northern Irish voted against. The Welsh, who also voted in favour, did not play a large part in the campaign, which was run by self-consciously English politicians: Jacob Rees-Mogg with his double-breasted suits and Edwardian vowels; Nigel Farage with his pint and fag; Sir John Redwood and his excruciating attempt, as Welsh secretary, to mouth the words of the Welsh national anthem. The whole thing was saturated in English iconography, from the flag of St George to the white cliffs of Dover.

If foreigners are confused by the distinction between Englishness and Britishness, that is hardly surprising, because the confusion is deliberate. For centuries, as the senior partner in "our island story" in terms of both size and power, the English used "England" as a synonym for "Britain". J.R. Seeley, a great Victorian historian, entitled his history of the British Empire, "The Expansion of England". George Orwell's essay on the national mood during the Blitz is "England, your England". The Scottish and Welsh put up with being marginalised because they did well out of empire, industry and the Labour Party. It was when they stopped putting up with it that English nationalism, too, grew teeth.

Although thanks to a combination of geography and religion English nationalism has been around since Henry VIII declared that "this realm of England is an empire" that didn't have to bow to a foreign pope, in its modern form it has been forged by three great blows to the national psyche. The first was the loss of empire, which lent it its dominant tones: an elegiac sense of loss of past greatness and fury at power that has been wrongly snatched away. The second is the rise of Scottish and Welsh nationalism, which won the smaller nations parliaments. This not only made it impossible to keep using "England" to mean "Britain" but also gave birth to the English question. Why should the Scots and Welsh have a parliament and not the English? Why should England continue to subsidise such ungrateful satraps?

The Tories need to repair the damage that their flirtation with English nationalism has caused. This means folding English nationalism into the wider carapace of British nationalism and forging a broader patriotism that can appeal to all sides of the Brexit argument.

But it was Europe's determination to transform itself from a trading bloc into a political union that most infuriated the English nationalists. Eurosceptics such as Sir Bill Cash were convinced that Europe was bent on castrating Parliament and subordinating English common law. Andrew Roberts, a Tory historian, published a novel about the heroic struggle of the English Resistance League against a European Reich that had renamed Waterloo Maastricht Station and forbade women from shaving their armpits.

Euroscepticism and English nationalism proved self-reinforcing. Mr Farage succeeded in distilling English nationalism into an insurgent party, with the misleading name of UKIP (he seldom went north of the border) and the revealing slogan "we want our country back". The three and a half years of parliamentary stalemate after the referendum result further stoked the fires of English nationalism. The Daily Mail summoned all the fury of Middle England against "traitors". Mark Francois, the Captain Mainwaring of the European Research Group of MPs, railed against Germans on television. Mr Rees-Mogg talked of "vassalage".

In its new form, it is a dangerous concoction. It has destabilised geopolitics by robbing the EU of one of its biggest members. It has divided the British Isles and exposed constitutional problems that wise statesmen have done their best to conceal. Britain has always been a peculiar multinational kingdom because one of its component parts, England, accounts for 84% of its population and more than 85% of its income. Brexit has thrown this contradiction into sharp relief and revealed growing weariness with the union. In 2018 a poll showed that three-quarters of Tory voters would accept Scottish independence and the collapse of the Northern Ireland peace process as a price for Brexit.

For Scottish nationalists, the fact that Scotland voted to remain constitutes irresistible grounds for holding another referendum. If the government agrees to one, they might well win, particularly given that Britain's reckless decision to leave the EU has neutralised the Unionists' strongest argument, economic prudence; if it doesn't, the belief that they were dragged unwillingly out of the EU will continue to fester. In Ireland the Unionists feel betrayed by Boris Johnson's decision to, in effect, put the border in the Irish Sea. That weakens Ulster's links with the mainland at a time when the demographic tide is turning against the Protestants.

The Tories need to repair the damage that their flirtation with English nationalism has caused. This means folding English nationalism into the wider carapace of British nationalism and forging a broader patriotism that can appeal to all sides of the Brexit argument. The party brings some distinctive resources to this battle. The Conservatives' commitment to the Union is enshrined in its official name, the Conservative and Unionist Party. Mr Johnson is loved by provincial Tories but was a successful mayor of London. He demonstrated that there was no contradiction between hanging on a zip wire waving tiny Union flags and reaching out to ethnic and sexual minorities. The government is already mulling over a host of projects designed to bring a fractured United Kingdom back together: embracing a global and forward-looking version of Brexit; making the border in the Irish Sea as invisible as possible; devolving power to the English regions. But none of this will work if the Conservative Party does not return the more bellicose advocates of English nationalism—Rees-Mogg, Francois, Cash and their ilk—to the obscurity from which they came.

Noisy English nationalists are enjoying their moment of triumph this weekend with "Independence Day" shenanigans on the white cliffs of Dover. Mr Johnson must make this their last hurrah and engage in his greatest piece of political alchemy to date: turning English nationalism back into British patriotism.

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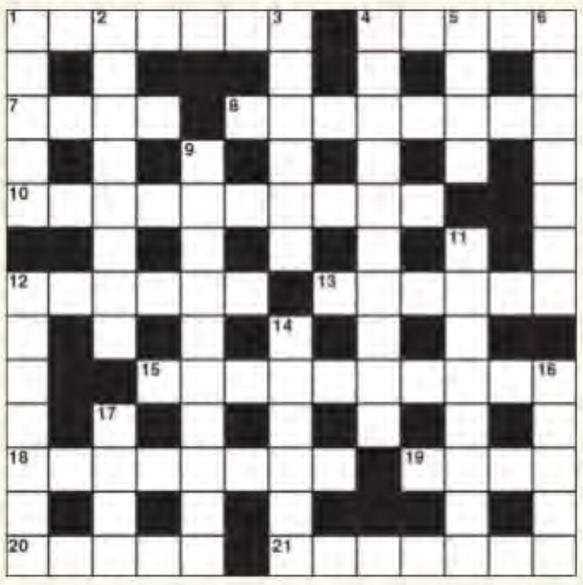
A girl looks at an artwork attributed to street artist Banksy, depicting a workman chipping away at one of the 12 stars on the European Union, at the ferry port of Dover, Britain. *Reuters*

CROSSWORD 4032



ACROSS

1 More adroit city-dweller (7)
4 King Alfred's spoils? (5)
7 Keel over in the vegetable patch (4)
8 Plainchant? (8)
10 Introductory offer at a sale (7,3)
12 To occupy oneself, go into battle (6)
13 Got involved in someone else's business (6)
15 Champions in five shows (10)
18 Take part in a dramatic trial (8)
19 A man to turn to (4)
20 Start with pain (5)
21 Refusing to settle? (7)

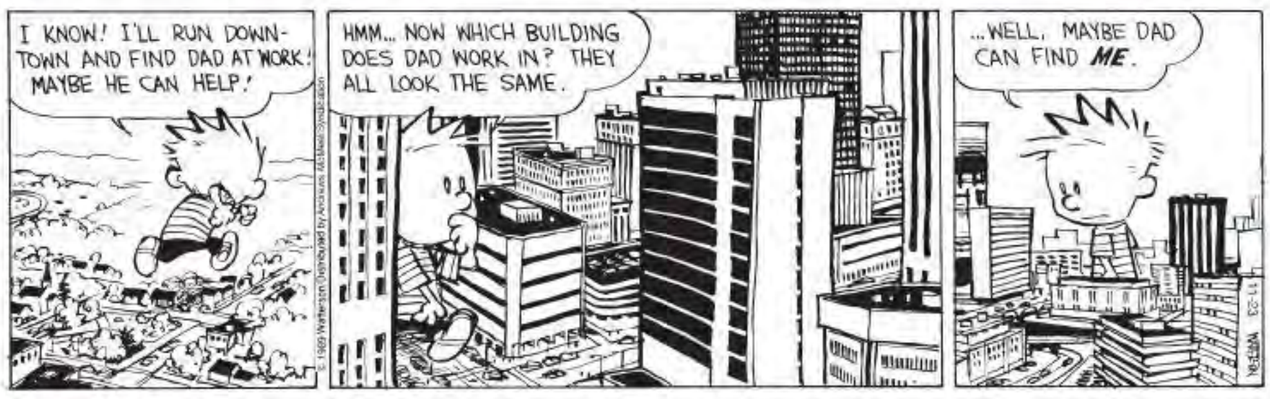
DOWN

1 It uses rounds or ovals (5)
2 Their tips cover a lot of additional trouble (8)
3 Plunder a grave perhaps (6)
4 The secret is boldness (10)
5 Speed of ship steaming to tie up (4)
6 Seen to be audibly located (7)
9 Journey taken for a very good reason (10)
11 Shaken and upset (8)
12 You may be surprised if it goes up (7)
14 When this inventor turns up, the game's over (6)
16 Part of it turns to ice, a good bearer (5)
17 It's just a question of time (4)

Solutions Crossword 4031: Across: 1 Torchbearer, 9 Debussy, 10 Cargo, 11 Eats, 12 Mutineer, 14 Thrift, 16 Hectic, 18 Spaceman, 19 Ammo, 22 Rated, 23 Panacea, 24 Address book. **Down:** 2 Orbit, 3 Cast, 4 Bay rum, 5 Archives, 6 Earnest, 7 Advertisers, 8 Poor scholar, 13 Offender, 15 Roasted, 17 Campus, 20 Macao, 21 Snub.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Today's Sun-Moon angle is moderately stressful, yet helpful for some of your personal interests. A number of areas will therefore benefit, especially if you or a loved one are planning a long journey. Actually, it's good to talk, so keep people you're close to informed of your movements.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
It's now time to think about financial issues in great detail. You don't have to be rushed and may leave things at the planning stage if you wish. Yet property deals should proceed much faster if other people stop fiddling around over aspects that should have been worked out long ago.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
If life seems like an uphill struggle, all well and good. You should find that, if you put in a super-human effort to overcome all emotional challenges and obstacles, the results will be stunning. If you really and truly believe in yourself then you might even find that other people take you more seriously.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
It's a day which encourages anarchy, if only in a mild manner, and I'd therefore advise the need for self-discipline. If you don't organise your affairs properly now, you'll give someone else the chance to take control. And, if you don't arrange your own time, then you can't complain if you lose out.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
A cherished ambition is still at the planning stage, but if you're already on the launch-pad you should get off to a flying start. If you are sure of your ground, you may feel ready to take a risk. See to it that the people who can help you, know what you're up to.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Today's planetary patterns are strong enough to encourage sweeping changes at home, even a move of residence. However, this is a passing phase, and your interests will have changed by tomorrow. They'll probably shift further by the day after, so keep an open mind.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Your nomadic tendencies will be at a peak, so unless your schedule is fixed and unchangeable, take some time off for a stimulating trip. If you're at work, meetings and conferences will go well. And, wherever you are, try to make extra time for the pleasures that make life worth living.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
The fact that one particular person is becoming more stubborn and dogmatic doesn't mean that they're right, but neither does it mean that they're wrong. Listen carefully to what is being said. After all, just because they don't make sense at first, that doesn't mean that they don't have a point.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
It's a powerful time of month, and a moment to remember that even little actions now will be magnified over the coming three months, so think carefully about exactly what it is that you want. The first step could be to sort out the financial implications.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
It's a secretive day, but I hope you will be happy if there's a little confusion. A slight muddle may be annoying, but will help you bring about the day's romantic promise, perhaps indulging in a little nostalgia. You might also be able to worm your way out of an unwanted commitment.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Security is vital, but the personal situation is looking increasingly changeable. Don't be too concerned if life seems fraught, as very pleasant opportunities will be woven in amongst the difficulties. Besides, rather than being unduly bothered by people who are in a bad mood, you should be able to take the lead and cheer them up.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
You may have just cause to complain about people at work, but take a sensible approach and offer assistance to people who don't deserve it. Remember all those wise sayings about loving your enemies. If you're nice to someone who has been mean to you, than you might completely disarm them.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Nothing lasts forever - not even your ___.- Arnold H. Glasow (8)

OEBWR

EELPLT

ADLOS

EJJUBU

SOLUTION: BOWER, LOADS, PELLET, JUJUBE
Answer: Nothing lasts forever - not even your **troubles**.- Arnold H. Glasow

SUDOKU 4110

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

2			9					6
	8				1			
				5		8		7
	5				9		8	3
		2				7		
8	1		2				9	
4		5		2				
			1				3	
9					8			4

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4109

6	4	1	2	5	8	9	7	3
9	2	8	1	3	7	5	4	6
3	7	5	9	4	6	8	2	1
2	8	9	3	1	5	4	6	7
1	3	4	6	7	9	2	5	8
5	6	7	4	8	2	1	3	9
7	5	3	8	9	4	6	1	2
4	9	6	7	2	1	3	8	5
8	1	2	5	6	3	7	9	4

Nivida No. 12 of 2019-20
CORRIGENDUM No. 1

Following rectification is made in Tender Notice No. 12 of 2019-20 of Executive Engineer, Ver-II, Project Division, Vyara PIN CODE No. 394 650, Phone No. 02626-222090, Dist. Tapi.

	Event	Old Date	New Date
1	2	3	4
1	Online Tender Upload Date:	08/01/2020 to 07/02/2020 upto to 18.00 Hrs.	08/01/2020 to 15/02/2020 upto 18.00 Hrs.
2	Submission of Document Date	Upto 14/02/2020 at 18.00 Hrs.	Upto 24/02/2020 at 18.00 Hrs.
3	Opening of Pre Qualification Bid Date	15/02/2020 in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Ukai Circle (Civil), Ukai at 12.00 Hrs.	25/02/2020 in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Ukai Circle (Civil, Ukai at 12.00 Hrs.

All other conditions remain unchanged.

No. Mahiti/Surat/1446

KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDCL)
(Fully Owned Government of J&K Undertaking)
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (Procurement)
PLANNING & PROCUREMENT WING, KASHMIR
Phone No. 0194-2493881; email: epc2ndsrinagar@gmail.com

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE

e-NIT No.: SE/Proc/06/2019-20:

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDCL, Superintending Engineer, Procurement Circle P&P Wing, KPDCL invites online e-bids from Govt. Registered original equipment manufacturers for supply of Purchase of EHV Grade Transformer Oil as depicted below for the requirement of KPDCL as under.

Sr. No.	Material Description	For ECSD Pampore (Qty. in KL)
1.	Purchase of EHV Grade Transformer Oil	168 KL in 800 Steel Barrels

The complete tender document is available at website: http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested Bidders/Tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online upto the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Document contain qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bills of Quantities & Terms and Conditions of the contract and other relevant details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale (Start) of Tender Document	01.02.2020; 10.00 hrs.
ii)	Date & Time of Download/ Sale (End) of Tender Document	21.02.2020; 14.00 hrs.
iii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/ Clarifications	02.02.2020; 10.00 hrs. to 04.02.2020; 16.00 hrs.
iv)	Date & time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	05.02.2020; 10.00 hrs. to 21.02.2020; 1400 hrs.
v)	Submission of Hard Copy (End) Date & Time	24.02.2020 in the Office of CE P&P Wing, KPDCL Srinagar
vi)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	26.02.2020 at 14.00 hrs.
vii)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the Technically qualified Bidders
viii)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Soft Copy Electronically
ix)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred only) for local Firms of J&K and Rs. 3,000.00 (Rupees Twhree Thousand Only) for Firms outside the J&K (Non-refundable)
x)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 5000.00 (Rupees Five Thousand Only) for local Firms of J&K and Rs. 3,45,000/- (Rupees Three Lac Forty Five Thousand only) for Firms outside the J&K.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer Procurement (KPDCL)

2392/NB/M

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act. 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.
In the matter of
OA NO. 537/2019
STATE BANK OF INDIA APPLICANT
Versus
MR. SHIV SHANKAR GUPTA & ANR. DEFENDANTS

To, D-1 Mr. Shiv Shankar Gupta S/o Sobha Ram Gupta, 12/1361, Shankar Vihar, Radha Colony, Lal Kuan, G. T. Road, N. H.24, Ghaziabad.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal **10.02.2020 at 10.30 A.M.**
Take Notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above-mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the **26th day of Dec.,2019.**

By Order of the Tribunal,
Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDCL)
(Fully Owned Government of J&K Undertaking)
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (Planning)
PLANNING & PROCUREMENT WING, KASHMIR
E-mail: epndcs@gmail.com

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE

e-NIT No: SE/EPL/E-NIT-03 of 2019-20 **Dated: 30.01.2020**

For and on behalf of the managing Director, KPDCL, Superintending Engineer, Planning Circle, P&P Wing, KPDCL invites online e-bids from Govt. registered original equipment manufacturers for supply of 11 KV, VCB Switchgear panels-INDOOR TYPE for the requirement of KPDCL as under:

S. No.	Material Description	FOR ECSD Pampore (Qty in No's)
1	500 MVA, 1250 A, 11 KVVCB, Incoming panel with CT ratio 750-375/5-5-5A, INDOOR TYPE	15
2.	500 MVA, 1250 A, 11 KV VCB, Outgoing Feeder panel with CT ratio 600-300-150/5-5-5A- INDOOR TYPE.	46
3.	500 MVA, 1250 A, 11 KV Bus-Coupler Panel with CTs and VCB as per SBD INDOOR TYPE.	3

The complete tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online upto the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other deails.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/Sale (Start) of Tender Document.	31.01.2020: 14.00 Hrs.
ii)	Date & Time of Download/Sale (End) of Tender Document.	20.02.2020: 15.00 Hrs.
iii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/Clarifications	03.02.2020, 10.00 Hrs to 06.02.2020: 16.00 Hrs.
iv)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	07.02.2020, 10.00 Hrs to 20.02.2020: 15.00 Hrs.
v)	Submission of Hard Copy (End) Date & Time.	22.02.2020, 16.00 Hrs in the office of CE-P&P Wing, PDD complex, Bemina, Srinagar.
vi)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time.	24.02.2020 at 14.00 Hrs.
vii)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the Technically qualified bidders.
viii)	Venue of Commercial/Technical Bid Opening.	Soft Copy Electronically and Hard Copy in the Office of CE P&P Wing, KPDCL.
ix)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred only) for local firms of J&K and Rs. 5000.00 (Rupees Five thousand Only) for firms outside the J&K (Non-refundable)
x)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 5000.00 (Rupees Five thousand only) for local firms of J&K and Rs. 610000.00 (Rupees Six lacs Ten Thousand only) for firms outside the J&K.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer, Planning (KPDCL)

DIPK:NB: 2363/M

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DESIGN & PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

NCDPD invites EOI from the reputed agencies to carry out feasibility study for setting up of Bamboo University at Agartala, Tripura. Interested agencies having experience of conducting feasibility study / Detailed project report for similar job may submit their proposal. The detailed ToR for the same can be obtained from the website: www.ncdpd.in or may write to NCDPD at ncdpd@ncdpd.in. The last date for submission of proposal is within 3 days of this publication.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DESIGN & PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT
Hall No.1 (3rd Fl.), Rajiv Gandhi Handicrafts Bhawan,
Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001
Email: ncdpd@ncdpd.in Website: www.ncdpd.in

India Trade Promotion Organisation
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Pragati Bhawan, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi-110 001 (India)

Tender No. ITPO/ITSD/ONLINE FS-I/2020 **Dated 30.01.2020**

Notice Inviting Tender

India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) invites online bids in two bid system (Technical and Commercial) for Development and maintenance of web-based software for overseas events management. The last date for online submission of bids is **19/02/2020 (3:00 p.m.)**. For further details please visit ITPO's website **www.indiatradefair.com"** or **"www.eprocure.gov.in"**.

Sd/-
General Manager (IT)

संत लौंगोवाल अभियांत्रिकी एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
लौंगोवाल, जिला – संगरूर (पंजाब–148106)
(मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय भारत सरकार के अधीन, समविश्वविद्यालय)
SANT LONGOWAL INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
LONGOWAL- 148 106 (SANGRUR, PUNJAB)
(Deemed-to-be-University under MHRD)

TENDER NOTICE NO. PUR/e-Tender/24/2019-20

E-tender is invited for purchase of equipments under projects & GIA in two bid system from manufacturers, authorized distributors / dealers / suppliers having GST/IGST & PAN number etc. Detail can be downloaded / seen at website of Institute **www.sliet.ac.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/SLIET.**
For any query please contact Mr. Pavitar Singh on 08146699866 or e-mail: **pavitar.s@etenderwizard.com, eprocsangrur@gmail.com**

DEPUTY REGISTRAR (Store & Purchase)

छत्तीसगढ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता
महानदी गोदावरी कछार, रायपुर (छ.ग.)
ई-प्रोक्युरमेंट निविदा सुचना
eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in
(प्रथम आमंत्रण)

सिस्टम निविदा क्र. 59996/निविदा सुचना क्र.17/वलेलि/2019-20
बेमेतरा दिनांक: 01.02.2020

निम्नलिखित कार्यो के लिए दिनांक **24.02.2020 17.30** तक ऑन लाईन निविदाए आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

कार्य का नाम:- बेमेतरा जिले विकासखण्ड साजा की डोटू नाला पर खम्हरिया स्टापडेम एवं पचरी निर्माण कार्य।

अनुमानित लागत:- रु. 292.51 लाख

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छत्तीसगढ शासन की ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब साइट - https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in पर दिनांक **10.02.2020** समय **17.31** बजे से देखे तथा डाउनलोड किये जा सकते है।

नोट: निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु ठेकेदारों को ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेबसाईट https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in पर नामांकित/पंजीयन तथा लोक निर्माण विभाग की एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत ठेकेदार को उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीयन कराना अनिवार्य है।

हस्ता/-
कार्यपालन अभियंता
जल संसाधन संभाग, बेमेतरा
कृते मुख्य अभियंता महानदी गोदावरी कछार,
जल संसाधन विभाग, रायपुर, छ.ग.

G-76545

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

SRIPAL SINGH
SUB-INSPECTOR
SECR
BILASPUR

20.12.1970 to 03.02.2011

On 01/02.02.2011, Sub-Inspector Shripal Singh was tasked to conduct a raid to recover stolen railway properties as well as to arrest the fugitive criminals at Pali village of Bilaspur District. When raid was in progress, he was attacked by some outsiders. Exhibiting extraordinary courage, SI Sripal Singh faced them with courage but sustained grievous injuries and attained Martyrdom on 03.02.2011. On the face of hostile situation, indomitable courage shown by him is an example of sheer guts and commitment to other member of the force.

HARI KRISHNA RAM
CONSTABLE
SECR
NAGPUR

01.07.1957 to 04.02.1994

On 04.02.1994, Constable Hari Krishna Ram along with two staff of RPF Post Itwari were deployed to safe guarding of Railway property at Home signal, Bhankhed, Nagpur. Some criminals Intrude upon Railway line and tried to snatch the weapons of RPF staff. Sri Hari Krishna Ram faced the criminals with zeal and courage and responded to the criminals with firing to save the Railway property. He introduced amazing courage and forced the criminals to flee. During cross firing with criminals, one bullet hits Sri Hari Krishna Ram, which turned fatal and he attained Martyrdom.

"REMEMBERED WITH PRIDE
DG AND ALL RANKS OF RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE PERSONNEL"

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE
TALAB TILLO, JAMMU. TELE- 2595291/ FAX- 2552145
E-mail-Id: dbtagrljammu@gmail.com

Extension Notice-III

Due to poor response to the e-NIT No. Acctts/UT/PS/NIT/2019-20/53-58 dated 06/12/2019 for **Supply of Raw Material for Government Agriculture Workshop, Talab Tillo, Jammu for the year 2019-20 (Group-I)**, is hereby extended as per the details given hereunder with same Terms and Conditions:

Last date of Download of e-Tender	Last Date of Submission of Hard Copy/Online Submission	Date &Time of Opening of Tender
12.02.2020 upto 04:30 P.M.	13.02.2020 upto 04:30 P.M.	14.02.2020 at 01:00 P.M. or Subsequent Convenient Date

No. Acctts/UT/PS/NIT/2019-20/188-93
Dated: 28/01/2020
DIPJ-13169

Accounts Officer,
Member Secretary,
Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu.

Associate Director (Extension)
Directorate of Extension Education
CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar-125004 (Haryana)
[Established by Parliament Act 16 of 1970]
Phone: 01662-255234, 9053068379, 9416482401

TENDER NOTICE

Tender are invited for Display Material/ Infrastructure/ Tentage for "Agro-Industrial Exhibition" at Krishi Mela (Kharif) to be organised by CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar (Haryana) dated 17-18 March, 2020. For detailed information, please visit University website: **https://www.hau.ac.in** or Contact: O/o Associate Director (Extension), 1st Floor, Gandhi Bhawan, CCSHAU, Hisar-125004 (Haryana) or Contact on above mentioned Numbers. **Last Date of Submitted Tender is February 17, 2020 till 05.00 P.M.**

Sd/-
Associate Director (Extension)
CCSHAU, Hisar

HAU-62

LOST AND FOUND

A rare book, the size of a matchbox, written by English novelist and poet Charlotte Brontë at the age of 14, will be displayed for the first time at the Brontë Parsonage Museum in Britain. The 20-page book contains three short stories.

SNAP SHOTS

Getting Aboard

ACTOR OWEN Wilson has joined the cast of Disney Plus' much-awaited *Loki* series. Tom Hiddleston will be reprising his role of Loki, the God of Mischief, in the series that will be directed by Kate Herron. *Rick & Morty* scribe Michael Waldron is penning the pilot episode and will also serve as executive producer. The six-episode series will take place after the events of *Avengers: Endgame* and explore a different version of the story with Loki at its centre. The show will also feature British actor Sophia Di Martino in a pivotal role. The series will premiere in 2021. Wilson's other film credits include *The Royal Tenenbaums* and *Midnight in Paris*.

In a New Light

AN EXHIBITION on Florence Nightingale, which marks 200 years since her birth, will throw light on her as an older woman. She is often pictured in her 30s, when she nursed wounded soldiers in the Crimean war. The highlights will include her famous lamp and a recording of her voice when she was in her 70s. Other items include a photograph showing her in bed at the age of 86, four years before she died at the age of 90, her medicine chest containing glass jars of homemade remedies, and her writing case. The exhibition that will take place in March is at the Florence Nightingale Museum, which is a part of St Thomas' hospital in London.

Art Matters

A DAY after their booth was sealed by the police, following an anonymous complaint at the India Art Fair (IAF), artists Gargi Chandola and Yaman Navlakha, behind the performative project "The Wall", released a statement on Instagram. "The Art Fair is NOT a safe space. The police overreacted initially, and instead of quiet inquiries chose to shut down the performance. Only after reasoning and explaining did they take cognisance of what actually was happening, see reason and close the matter," they said. The artists also dismissed the organisers' claim that they were unaware of the details of the work. Being showcased at the Italian Embassy Culture Centre booth, the work (*pictured*) featured paintings and several songs, including Faiz Ahmad Faiz's *Hum Dekhenge*. "What happened yesterday was intimidation. There was no question of legality behind it, because nothing illegal was being done. The complaint made to the police — was it by some 'concerned citizen' or are we now all being watched for perceived 'infringements' even in so-called safe spaces," the statement said.

The statement released by the IAF organisers said, while they "embrace the freedom of expression", ensuring safety and security of their visitors was "paramount". It read: "Post the incident, the Fair Director spoke with the Italian Ambassador in New Delhi, who confirmed that they too had not been informed of the activities taking place in their booth."

Sunday was the last day of the IAF, which began on January 30.

Shilo Shiv Suleman's mural at Shaheen Bagh *Amit Mehra*; (below) the artist at the India Art Fair with a painting from the series "Buraq"

Let the Walls Speak

Artist Shilo Shiv Suleman's mural painted with the women protesters at Shaheen Bagh salutes unity

PALLAVI CHATTOPADHYAY

A YOUNG girl wearing a leopard print scarf is seen with the Constitution of India in her hand in a 40-ft mural painted in Shaheen Bagh, where protests against CAA-NRC have been on for over a month in Delhi. Her creator, artist Shilo Shiv Suleman, tells us that the protagonist is based on Khushboo, a six-year-old who visits the protest site every day. When asked by Suleman why does she come there, the little girl replied, "For my grandchildren", trying to act like an adult. "My grandfather was also barely six when India became independent. He would watch Mahatma Gandhi speak during the protests in Madhya Pradesh," says Suleman.

The Bengaluru-based artist has spent the last week painting the mural. While slogans of protest against CAA-NRC can be heard from the nearby tent, Suleman is assisted by more than 10 women protesters and her mother, artist Nilofer Suleman.

Accompanying the young girl on the mural is an elderly woman, inspired by the dadis at Shaheen Bagh, and the falcon. "They say that *shaheen* is a falcon that flies so high above everybody that no other bird can catch it," says Suleman, 31. Spending more than eight hours on site each day, the artist shares how the women protesters were apprehensive about wielding the brush initially, with no prior knowledge of how to paint on a wall and never having climbed huge scaffoldings. "But within minutes they were on the top. They covered the entire background in blue paint in no time. When they came down, I told them they had done an incredible job, and they said, 'We have done *jhadu pocha* for so many years, it's the same hand' and laughed," says Shilo. Related paintings, comprising the series "Buraq", depicting women with wings, flying from an unsafe land to a faraway place, were on display at the recently concluded India Art Fair.

> **The mural is a kind of public monument, a way of keeping alive the history of what is happening now**
>
> **SHILO SHIV SULEMAN**
> ARTIST

Trained in animation from Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology, Shilo began with conducting a workshop in the tents of Shaheen Bagh, where she spoke to several protesters to understand the essence of the movement. "This is a temporal space and always under the threat of being removed, but its mythology is eternal. This (mural) is a kind of public monument, a way of keeping alive the history of what is happening now," says Shilo. Seven years ago, after the 2012 Delhi gangrape, she started the Fearless Collective to create artistic interventions in the public space, encouraging participation from women and "misrepresented" communities in making the murals. She says, "While women are being presented all the time, it is usually other people — storytellers, media, artists — who represent them. I encourage self-portraits. It becomes self-determining."

Over the years, the artist has worked with Syrian and Palestinian refugees, daughters of sex workers in Delhi and the transgender community to create socially-relevant works. In 2014, she painted a 40-ft portrait of Bubbli Malik, a transgender, riding a motorcycle, in Rawalpindi. The mural featured the words: "*Hum Hain Takhleeq-e-Khuda* (I am a creation of Allah)". Shilo says, "Bubbli had been living on that road for 35 years. In the process of painting that mural, for the first time she was invited into her neighbour's house for a cup for tea." In 2017, she was at Sassine Square in Beirut, painting a mural of two gay men holding each other. She shares that the government has now built a park near the mural, and installed a bench that is now popular as the "kissing bench". "Nine years ago, two men were arrested for kissing there. Now that park has become a hotspot for the gay community in Lebanon," she adds.

Closer to Shaheen Bagh, in Delhi's Lodhi Colony, is her mural of two women — a young girl and her mother — with the word 'Fearless' spread across the wall. It was painted in collaboration with the NGO Sewing New Futures that works with sex workers and their daughters to provide employment to them. "These daughters stitch so that their mothers don't have to engage in sex work," says Shilo, adding, "Very often the streets themselves are a site of fear for women. Through the murals we want to reclaim the space."

Photographs by Madan Mahatta (left) and Randhir Singh *Courtesy: Photoink*

Living With Modernism

A photography exhibition of IIT Delhi looks at the principles of modernist architecture activated in the building and its reality six decades later

SHINY VARGHESE

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN visual absolutes and anti-heroic frames sits the Photoink exhibition, "IIT Delhi: A Modernist Case Study designed by Chowdhury and Gulzar Singh". The show pulls out the chairs for two photographers — Madan Mahatta and Randhir Singh — as they dialogue across time about an institution that was symbolic of engineering innovation and enterprise in independent India. Set in the context of India's narrative of building temples of modernity, Mahatta's photos acknowledge the making of a new nation. The stark backdrop against which his frames are composed tell of the monumentality each building on the 320-acre affords — be it the auditorium or the Dogra Hall, with its hyperbolic paraboloid roof or the main administration building. The black-and-white photographs present the stage on which modernity will play out. That's where Singh's photographs in colour come in, where he demystifies the grandiosity and makes it more real. If nation building was about the iconic, living with modernism has been about habitation, the lived-in, the soiled and the sweat and the chai stops of everyday. Singh presents his frames as an understanding of that experience, where students stop to chat, and spaces in the building become spots to pause and ponder. The exhibition finds place for both, Mahatta's abstract geometry and Singh's contextual photos.

The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) project was a competition winner for architect JK Chowdhury (JKC) and structural engineer Gulzar Singh, who came together in the early '60s to set up their eponymous firm. The project, that won the duo many others after this, took nearly eight years to build. RN Dogra, then director of IIT-D, worked closely with Chowdhury and Singh to develop many artistic elements to the buildings, including the sculptural staircases that he insisted should be without support. So one sees different types exemplified in the photographs of both, Mahatta and Singh — the helical, the spiral ramp, the cantilevered, the L-shaped. That IIT-D was a collaborative project between the Indian and British governments is amply suggested in an archival photograph that shows Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, laying the foundation stone for the institute on January 28, 1959.

"The challenge was not to hold the past and present as binaries. Randhir (Singh) had to find his own relationship to the buildings, and not look at Mahatta's frames as a reference. Our aim was to enter the architecture of these modern buildings through photography," says Devika Daulet-Singh, Director, Photoink. "In Mahatta's photos, there are no trees or plantation. These buildings have just been made. The black-and-white frames add to the stark representation. Singh presents a different way of seeing the building, he brings an architect's eye."

Singh, who is also trained as an architect, has been documenting water towers and government housing in Delhi for over five years. "My aim was not to see Mahatta's work in comparison or opposition. I revisit the project nearly six decades after he documented it. Many of the buildings that Mahatta has shown can't be seen today because they are hidden behind trees or inaccessible. Also, the campus has evolved as generations of students have lived there. When I photograph a building, I'm thinking of what the drawing by the architect might have been. So some of my photographs actually look like elevations," says Singh. And that holds true when you see his tight frames of the main building, the close-up of the vertical sun breakers, in the details of the jaali-capsuled stairs or the mushroom columns in the soil mechanics lab.

That much of Chowdhury's archives have been lost is something both Devika and Singh are concerned about. "There's very little documentation of JKC's work. He bought out architect Walter George's practice, and nothing of that survives. How do we then write the history of architecture, and what role do photographs play in helping future generations in understanding history and context," says Devika. Singh concurs, "There is a lack of discourse in the history of modernist architecture in India. To keep them alive, we need to constantly re-evaluate and revisit these buildings through writing and photography."

The exhibition at Photoink, Vasant Kunj, Delhi, is till February 20

The Write to Dream

Naveen Chourey on his anthology *Kohra Ghana Hai* and writing protest poetry

EKTAA MALIK

Aur yeh koi jumla nahin hai, vastavik qanoon hai/ Humse kaahe poochhte ho, kyun sadak par khoon hai? Poochho iss ungli se tum, kya yahaan ghatna ghati/ Jurm isne kya kiya thha jism se yeh kyun kati?

THESE LINES from Naveen Chourey's poem *Vastavik Kanoon* went viral in 2017. Since then, these words have been recited at numerous protests and public meetings across the country. "The poem stemmed from anguish at the various instances of violence in the country. I was aghast at the lynchings," says the poet. It is also one of the several works that Chourey, 27, has included in his anthology of poems titled *Kohra Ghana Hai* (Penguin, Rs 199), which released recently. "This anthology has come out from the need of our times, because if we don't speak up now, then are we even human? As a poet, I write more about inner conflict, identity and searching for one's inner purpose," says Delhi-based Chourey.

Naveen Chourey (top); cover of *Kohra Ghana Hai*

Included in the book is *Main Sarhad Pe Khada Hun*, a poem that extols the virtues of an Indian soldier. *Main, Woh aur Main*, meanwhile, harnesses existential questions. Three key points precede every poem — depicting the *bhaav, shaili* and *ras*. The poem *Pinjra*, written in *Rudra ras*, and recited in *Krodh bhaav*, is now a fixture of sorts at NRC-CAA protests across India. The poem talks about how we as people cannot be silent when gruesome cruelty surrounds us.

Born and brought up in Hoshangabad, Chourey graduated in 2015 from IIT Delhi with a degree in chemical engineering. "I didn't grow up reading literature. I discovered myself in IIT-D, where I started dabbling in theatre and writing. They (IIT-D) don't want thinking individuals, we are all part of a factory, but we worked around the rules. I destroyed my academic life because of extra-curricular activities," says Chourey. He recalls being always socially and politically aware. "Maybe because I grew up around the Narmada river. I also thank my school textbooks. I went to the local Hindi-medium government school. I still remember the lines written by Shrikrishna Saral: *Tum apna apna tanik hatar do mujhko, main manavta ki jholi bar dunga, in alhad dewaano mastano main se, Main Bhagat Singh, Azaad khada kar dunga*. It is self explanatory," he adds.

Having spent some years in Mumbai, he also dabbled in theatre after IIT. Chourey also aspired to sit for the UPSC examinations. "My father used to serve in the Madhya Pradesh police and I come from a very simple family. When I dropped a year after my school to prepare for the IIT exams, they were like '*koi clerk ka form bhar do*'," says he.

The past few months have been rather hectic for Chourey, who has been performing at protests and public meetings being held against NRC-CAA across the country. "I am humbled to see such fervour, passion and fearlessness," says he.

U-19 World Cup
India vs Pakistan
Live on Star Cricket from 1:30 pm

Making ground to breaking ground

From preparing pitches to hurdling over various setbacks and self-doubts, Jodhpur boy Bishnoi takes flight at Under-19 WC

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 3

RAVI BISHNOI still recalls the day when he rushed outside Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, crossed the road, past a tea stall, and into a small untenanted space and broke down. He was still teary eyed when he reached his home and startled by the sight, his father Mangilal, called his coach Shahrukh Pathan and said, *"Mera bacha mujhe vaapis de do* (please give back my son)".

Pathan knew the reason behind the tears: yet another rejection in a cricket trial in Rajasthan Under-19 circuit. The legspinner was sent back after bowling just four balls. The father, a headmaster at a school, couldn't bear his son's hurt and Pathan, a former Rajasthan U-19 player and a coach, convinced the father and son that they had to persevere, fight on.

The 19-year-old Jodhpur boy has become India's breakthrough man for India U-19 team; in three games he has taken 10 wickets, twice getting four-wicket hauls. But the journey to the world cup in South Africa has been anything but easy.

For the last three years, Bishnoi had been training year-long and would walk in for trails and would walk back dejected. In fact, the weariness had set in because though he was picked for two games in U-16 in 2016-17, he wasn't given an opportunity to play despite Rajasthan failing to qualify for knock-out stage. And during his formative cricketing years, the context of turmoil within the association, after Indian board had banned them after Lalit Modi was elected in 2013, didn't help either.

By 2018, two groups had claimed to be the RCA stake holders and two selections trials were called. Bishnoi had taken 15 wickets in five selection matches in the period leading up to the big selection trials. The Indian board too had organised a selection match and Bishnoi taken five wickets and hit a hundred while opening. But that effort wasn't enough for him to get into U-19 or even get a fair chance at the main trials.

That's when he broke down.

"I just kept crying thinking why they are doing this to me? I wasn't given a chance, and when I got, I had performed but I still wasn't picked. You need an opportunity to become big, right? (*Bada ban-ney ke liye ek mauka toh chahye na*). I was shooed away after taking first step," Bishnoi recalls those down times.

Supportive father

Seeing how the youngest of his four kids was on the edge emotionally, his father decided it would be for the best if Bishnoi focussed on studies and forget about cricket.

It was then that the coach Pathan convinced him to give one more year to cricket. Khan spoke to Dishyant Yagnik, a former Rajasthan first class player and fielding coach of Rajasthan Royals, to put in a word to the authorities to have a look at Bishnoi once again.

Bishnoi was called and he got a talented U-19 batsman of the state team twice in his first two balls. That freakish effort convinced that selectors that he does have talent. In the first game of Vinoo Mankad Trophy, Bishnoi grabbed five wickets and hasn't looked back since. Such was his golden run that he was picked by Kings XI Punjab for Rs 2 crores.

Interestingly, Bishnoi says spin was never his first choice, he had wanted to become a medium pacer. His two coaches whom he addresses as brother - Pathan and Pradyot Singh- felt Bishnoi doesn't has physique to become a pacer. "They told me to bowl leg spin, I started to bowl and soon they felt I should take this seriously," Bishnoi explains.

Ravi Bishnoi (white sweater) and his friends had to construct a ground in their neighbourhood; with coaches.

NOT HEAVYWEIGHTS, BUT PACE-HEAVY

In the tradition of great Pakistan sides, they have an artillery of fast bowlers

ABBAS AFRIDI
(RIGHT-ARM FAST)

A strapping fast bowler, he might not push the speed gun to its outer limits, but has plenty of variations to torment batsmen. He has a well-disguised slower ball, leg-cutter and a skiddy bouncer, all allied with stifling accuracy and an awareness of the situation that belies his age. The highest wicket-taker for Pakistan in this campaign—nine wickets at 14--he is also a resourceful hitter down the order. The lad from Fata will be keen to make amends for the caning he got in the U-19 Asia Cup final at the hands of Indians batsmen last year.

MOHAMMAD HARIS
(MIDDLE-ORDER BATSMAN)

Pakistan's man for crisis—little wonder that he idolises the irrepressible Misbah-ul-Haq. He usually comes down the order and starts counter-punching straightaway. In the group game against Zimbabwe, he hammered 81 off 48 balls to help Pakistan post a respectable total. He can modulate his innings like few others in the side—he can stonewall as well as carnage the bowlers--and has a variety of strokes at his disposal. Watch out for his pulls, his favourite shot. He's also their best six-hitter.

TAHIR HUSSAIN
(LEFT-ARM FAST)

Though from Vehari--the village in Punjab that produced Waqar Younis and Mohammad Irfan—Tahir Hussain grew up idolising Mohammad Aamir. He never had any formal coaching, but developed the game watching the footages of Aamir. His action is slightly different, he is more round-arm though he has carefully groomed his hair like Aamir's wavy locks. He also has a wicked inswinger to the right-hander and doesn't bleed easy runs, as his economy rate of 3.72 testifies.

MOHAMMAD WASIM
(RIGHT-ARM FAST, BATSMAN)

The youngster from North Wazirastan started off as a medium pacer, but later realised that he has incredible ball-hitting abilities. He can tee straightaway, which he did during a whirlwind 20-ball

55 against Kuwait last month. But it's bowling that he wants to focus, and is fast emerging as a canny bowler at this level. He's not express pace, but can rankle batsman with his stifling line and length. He can keep bowling on the spot ball after ball. His choke tactics frustrated Scotland, against whom he took five.

Pathan explains his rationale: "There were hardly any leg spinner in India around four-five years ago. We felt there were more chances for a legspinner to play higher cricket, especially a leggie who can bat. Leg spin is an art and it takes time and perfection. At the same time, he was too small, he used to run like a medium pacer, he didn't have strong shoulder or strong legs."

What impressed the coach was the trajectory of the deliveries. "It was natural for him. What happens is a leg spinner if you go by book than left hand should come up straight like a clock hand at 12 o'clock. Ravi (Bishnoi) would come from say 11 o'clock. A bit like Anil Kumble, I would say, tilting a touch to his left side. Also, a legspinner would normally take a run-up of around seven yards, Ravi's goes to 12-14 yards," Pathan says. That angle of release has helped the trajectory being a touch different from usual, and has also made the googly a bit more difficult to pick, says the coach. "The googly skids in, not much time for the batsmen to adjust," Pathan says.

"If you have seen the U-19 World Cup games, you can see a few batsmen seem to realise that the ball is going to come in but the skid and the pace at which it comes, has made things difficult for them. You can't play Ravi on backfoot, he will invariably rush on to the pads. Since the action and release is so natural for him, the speed on the ball does the trick," Pathan says. A few years ago, some coaches at the RCA had tried to change his action, to get it more conventional, but Pathan convinced him not to listen to them. "Listen to them, say yes yes but don't change."

Mending ways

Some coaches had tried to change him into a more regular leggie, making him practise flighting the ball for hours and hours. "But he is a different style of bowler and I told him to stick to his strengths."

A little bit of help from Rahul Dravid at the National Cricket Academy too has helped. Dravid advised against changing action and that if any coach tries, ask them to speak to him first. Not only did Dravid tell the youngster that he was reminded of Kumble but also offered a suggestion: "Rahul sir told me that try to make the ball come back to you. As in, don't offer width outside off and allow the batsman to cut or use the pace and work in the gaps. Attack the stumps, keep it straight and make the batsman drive back to you," Bishnoi recalled. Or in other words, bowl the Kumble line.

He owes a lot primarily to the attention and care given by the coaches Pathan and Singh. For a boy who used to play at a RTO ground where the ticketed (challan) cars were parked, if it wasn't for the two coaches, who left jobs to open a cricket academy, he would have been lost to the game.

Even the story behind the academy says a lot about the state of affairs. Since they didn't have much money to spare, the coaches and the young cricketers laboured for six months to spruce up the ground. On their own, just to reduce the labour cost. A lanky Bishnoi too was one of those 'labourers'.

His father is now a relieved man and can't stop laughing as he shares his own doubts and worries from the past. "Seeing him crying did break my heart then. I told him to forget cricket, take up studies - *yahan sey kaun ladka India khela hai?* (who has played for India from these parts?). I am a headmaster of a school, I guide hundreds of children's future but at my home, my own son doesn't like to study," he laughs. "I thought he will at least get some job but life had other plans." Master-*ji ka ladka* is making the father proud these days.

Mousley, Goldsworthy shine as England win ICC U-19 WC Plate Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENONI, FEBRUARY 3

DAN MOUSLEY scored a century before Lewis Goldsworthy picked up a five-wicket haul as England lifted the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup Plate Trophy after beating Sri Lanka by a comprehensive 152 runs here on Monday. Riding on Mousley's 135-ball 111, England posted a competitive 279 for seven from their 50 overs and then Goldsworthy returned with impressive figures of 5 for 21 to bowl out Sri Lanka for 127.

England dominated from the outset with the perfectly-paced ton from Mousley that was aided by sparkling half-centuries from Jack Haynes (68) and Joey Evison (59). Evison's 45-ball knock contained four boundaries and three maximum blows for six.

Seamers Dilum Thilakarathna (two for 39) and Dilshan Madushanka (two for 41) were the pick of the Sri Lankan bowling. Chasing the target, the Asian nation scored quickly but lost wickets at regular intervals with most of the top order back in the hut by the 14th over and the score reading 79 for five. Other than 66 from Ravindu Rashantha -- now the tournament's leading run scorer with 286 runs -- the next best score came from Kamil Mishara (15).

Goldsworthy, the off-spinner, was chief destroyer as England finished with a flourish to win the Plate and end the competition in ninth overall. "It was my first international century for England, so I'm excited with that. I've had starts previously but never kicked on," said Mousley.

"It was disappointing not qualifying to the Super League stages, everyone was down after defeat to Australia but we feel pleased with winning some silverware."

BRIEF SCORES: England 279-7 (Mousley 111, Haynes 68, Evison 59) defeated Sri Lanka 127 in 31.0 overs (Rasantha 66; Goldworthy 5-21) by 152 runs.

India would do well against Pakistan: Zaheer

Mumbai: Former India speedster Zaheer Khan is hopeful that the talented bunch of India juniors will bring their A game to the fore against arch-rivals Pakistan in the ICC U-19 World Cup semi-final on Tuesday. India have comprehensively beaten Australia by 74 runs in their quarter-final while Pakistan beat Afghanistan in another quarter-final.

"Well, the U-19 kids are doing very well. They have been in some tough situations and they have fought back from there, so that goes a long way in a tournament like (the) World Cup, when you are competing against different nations," Zaheer said at a promotional event.

"When you are talk about India-Pakistan (matches) that brings out extra edge also to the whole competition. So I am sure the boys will be geared up for the big occasion and they will do well," Zaheer said at the National Cricket Club here.

He was speaking after interacting with the children, who are playing the 'MI Junior 2020', an inter-school cricket tournament, organized by four-time IPL champions Mumbai Indians. He also had words of praise for Yashashvi Jaiswal, who has been giving consistent starts to the India-U19 team, which will face Pakistan in the semi-final of the World Cup on Tuesday.

"He (Jaiswal) has been doing well. In domestic ODI competition also he has made that impact. So, I wish him all the luck and (he) has got the potential and at the moment (he is) serving for U19 Indian team.

Injury woes

Agarwal set to replace injured Sharma; Gill in line for Test recall

Mayank Agarwal, who has yet to make his ODI debut, has a list A average of 49.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 3

IN A blow to India, limited-overs vice-captain Rohit Sharma was on Monday ruled out of the upcoming ODI and Test series against New Zealand after sustaining a calf injury during the fifth T20 International in Mount Maunganui. Rohit retired hurt after scoring 60 off 41 balls after he pulled his calf muscle while going for a quick single during the match that India won on Sunday.

"He is out of the tour. Right now, it's not looking good. The physio is assessing him. We will get to know how bad it is but he is not taking any further part in the series," a top BCCI source told PTI on conditions on anonymity.

India are set to play three ODIs, starting Wednesday, and two Tests after that. It has been learnt that Mayank Agarwal will be replacing Rohit as the third opener in the ODI set-up along with KL Rahul and Prithvi Shaw. Agarwal was the logical choice in the white-ball format since he was the reserve opener in the side during the home ODI series against the West Indies when Shikhar Dhawan was absent due to knee injury.

In the Test squad, Shubman Gill will join KL Rahul and Prithvi Shaw as the third opener in the absence of Rohit. During India's last two Test series at home (vs South Africa and Bangladesh), Gill was the back-up opener to Rohit and Agarwal. His place was sealed in the squad after scores of 83 and 204 not out in a drawn first 'A' Test against New Zealand in Christchurch. The Test squad is yet to be officially announced but it is learnt that it has already been selected and only the official announcement is due.

Gill was the back-up opener to Rohit and Agarwal. His place was sealed in the squad after scores of 83 and 204 not out in a drawn first 'A' Test against New Zealand in Christchurch.

The old selection committee under MSK Prasad picked the replacements but it might take some time for the official announcement as convenor of the selection committee, secretary Jay Shah, is on his way to New Zealand along with treasurer Arun Dhumal. "Once the secretary's approval comes, the replacements will be officially announced. But the selectors have already sent the names," the source added.

It has still not been ascertained whether Rohit has endured a calf muscle tear but he looked in severe pain even after physio Nitin Patel attended to him. Despite that, he smacked a six off Ish Sodhi but had to be replaced after it became unbearable for him. Rohit's injury is a big blow to the Indian team especially after his stupendous show across formats in 2019. He continued his match-winning efforts first against Australia at home followed by two fine knocks in the recently concluded T20 International series against New Zealand, which India won 5-0.

It included a stellar Super Over performance where he hit back-to-back sixes.

No vulnerability in the India side: Hesson

An all-weather bowling attack and batsmen's improved ability against pacers in overseas conditions have made India a formidable unit across formats, feels former New Zealand head coach Mike Hesson. Hesson, who will take charge of Royal Challengers Bangalore in the 2020 IPL season, also said the 5-0 rout of New Zealand in the T20 series shows the current lot of Indian players is exceptionally talented.

"India are far better side now at present and they are improving all the time. Their bowling attack now suits all conditions around the world because their bowlers, pacers and spinners, are so good. That's something they haven't always had," Hesson told PTI in an interview.

"And their batsmen's ability to play pace bowling has also got better the more they have toured. So this group of players is exceptionally talented group. This series' win will help them (for the World Cup in Australia later this year)."

Up next is a three-match ODI series, and India-New Zealand will play the first match in Hamilton on Wednesday. Hesson said New Zealand's new-look pace attack will have its task cut out. However, he feels the subsequent two-Test series will be a different proposition despite New Zealand's recent 0-3 loss in Australia. "New Zealand had a poor tour of Australia and they would be hurt with that. But up to that point, their Test cricket was exceptional."

FROM THE RANJI ARCHIVE

The Ranji Trophy, which is in its 86th edition, has witnessed many an epic contest. In this series, *The Indian Express* sifts through the sands of time and brings back some of those unforgettable moments.

HYDERABAD VS KARNATAKA - 1998 SEMIFINAL - HYDERABAD

Sweat equity

Karnataka and Hyderabad have been friendly foes over the years. The 1998 semifinal featured several players who had played, or went on to play, for India, including one Rahul Dravid. The nervous energy and the heat & humidity tested the teams' resolve and fitness, as the match went down to the wire and had an unlikely hero.

SANDIP G

A privately-treasured 51-second footage remains the only material proof, apart from the scorecard, of one of the most thrilling finishes in Ranji Trophy history —when Karnataka beat Hyderabad by one wicket to reach the 1998 final. The film is bright but grainy, recorded from the television with a handy-cam, and the commentators' voice comprises incoherent mutterings.

The clip consists of two deliveries. The last two balls of the game, shot from behind the batsman.

It begins abruptly. Venkatapathy Raju jumps into the frame, pitter-pattering from around the wicket, almost brushing the umpire. The camera then pans to a batsman in a white baggy shirt that's almost twice as large as his frame. He hangs back and cuts the ball behind point with enough power to reach the fence, through a largely brown outfield. A few men in white t-shirts and tracksuits intrude on the pitch. The camera flickers to the pavilion where skipper Rahul Dravid is frantic, gesturing something at the batsmen in the middle, then high-fiving with teammates. The lens is back on Raju's approach to the wicket. The batsman thrusts his front foot and drives him emphatically through mid-off. He turns back and smiles wistfully.

He is Dodda Ganesh, who treasures the 51-second recording. Dravid goes wild, waves his arms as furiously as Sourav Ganguly on the Lord's balcony, but without removing his t-shirt. Ganesh is swarmed by his teammates. The footage ends as abruptly as it begins.

The story ends with the two balls. Rather, the two balls end what's a remarkable story.

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It's the scorching Hyderabad that's still fresh in Dravid's memory. When the players came out of the flight, they felt they'd jumped into a furnace. Their skin was fleecing, the eyes were burning and shirts sweat-soaked. "It was unbelievably hot, dry, draining heat. I felt an immediate sympathy to our pace bowlers," Dravid recollects to The Indian Express. A week later, soon after the match concluded, a severe heatwave swept across Andhra Pradesh and its then capital, claiming hundreds of lives and culminating in one of the harshest droughts the state endured in the last century. The intense heat prompted the organisers to shift the match from the concretised Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium to the more leafy Hyderabad Gymkhana Stadium, lined with still trees.

The heat, Dravid knew, would give an immediate advantage to Hyderabad. On two fronts. "Ours was a predominantly medium-pace-centric attack, as Anil (Kumble) was on India duty and Sunil (Joshi) had just returned to the team. So it was on (Dodda) Ganesh and Mansur (Ali Khan) to get us the wickets. Hyderabad at that time had two of the finest spinners around, Kanwaljit Singh and Venkatapathy Raju. We were the clear underdogs, I felt," he says.

The Hyderabad spin twins had a telepathic understanding of each other's craft. "With a bowler of Raju's quality at the other end, you don't have to worry. A disciplined bowler at the other end makes your job easier and the other way around. We switched roles, when he could attack, I would support, and vice versa," says Kanwaljit.

It also meant that with the sun beating down mercilessly, the strip would deteriorate rapidly. The first sight of the pitch and the outfield confirmed Dravid's worst fears. "I've never seen such a barren outfield. There was hardly any grass, and given their strengths, I knew the pitch would be incredibly difficult to bat last. If you don't win the toss, you have already one feet out of the match," he says.

Hyderabad's concerns were different; missing were two of their finest-ever batsmen, Mohammad Azharuddin and VVS Laxman, away in Sharjah, where Sachin Tendulkar would whip up the Desert Storm. The latter was in the middle of his breakthrough season, having blasted 611 runs - including a triple hundred - at an average of 203. "Probably if those two were around, we could have won the Ranji Trophy," opines Raju. But Karnataka would disagree — they were without Javagal Srinath, Kumble and Venkatesh Prasad. In the end, there was an equilibrium of sorts.

As fate played out, Hyderabad won the toss and batted first without hesitation. It was a long, tiring day in the middle, and the hosts ended the first day on 200/3. "By tea, I was so tired that I felt we had been on the field for two days. We bowled a lot of loose balls and failed to sustain pressure," confides Ganesh.

By that time, Ganesh had played the last of his four Tests and an ODI for the country. But he was still fuelled by the dream of representing India again, and moments like these, he thought, would define him. "I thought these are the challenges I should pass to return to the team. So I analysed where I had gone wrong and realised I was bowling way too outside the off-stump. I needed to bowl more at the stumps, because the odd ball was keeping low. I also realised that bowling short intense four-five over spells was better than bowling 8-9 at one stretch," he remembers.

So began Ganesh —"one of the toughest fighters I have seen," according to Dravid – on the second day. He came first change and ran through the middle order. From 231 for 3, Hyderabad plunged to 233 for seven. Though No.10 Narender Singh freewheeled to a counter-punching 28, swelling the total to 283, Dravid felt the score was within their grasp. Ganesh, not for the first time in the match, returned to the dressing room a hero. "There was something in him, a desire to prove his critics wrong perhaps. It was still a very good total, but if we could manage a lead of 100-120 more runs, we would have the upper hand,"says Dravid.

They seemed to be on course, after Sujith Somasundar and J Arunkumar got them off to a rollicking start. Realising that batting on the track could become progressively worse, they latched onto anything that was marginally loose. But once Kanwaljit struck rhythm, Karnataka began to lose wickets in a heap. His three-wicket burst restored the balance at stumps on the second day.

That night at the hotel, Dravid kept visualising the way he would approach his innings. "Use the feet, disrupt the length, don't let them make use of the rough," he told himself. But he also knew that both Kanwaljit and Raju were good enough to get wickets even without much assistance from the surface.

Soon upon resumption, Karnataka lost their last recognised batsman, Vijay Bharadwaj. But with Sunil Joshi, Dravid blunted Kanwaljit. It was an engrossing battle of wits, a master batsman encountering a masterful bowler. Dravid knew he couldn't look to play the off-spinner out, for he could keep bowling unchanged throughout the day. Kanwaljit did bowl nearly 40 overs. Dravid endured a couple of close shaves, but soon grew in confidence and occasionally counter-attacked too. "He read me beautifully and made me think hard. He would defend soundly, but he would punish the loose balls ruthlessly. Anything tossed up, he would come down the track and defend. Anything short, he would late-cut. And he was not letting me bowl at the rough," recollects Kanwaljit.

Finally, the virtuoso off-spinner caved in. Dravid, who had lost count of the pair of gloves and shirts he had changed, sensed liberation. Karnataka were just 50 runs short of eclipsing Hyderabad's total. "Yeah, I thought I could play with a bit more freedom, but then I played a loose shot to get out. A rank short-ball by Danny (Daniel Manohar) and I pulled it straight to square leg where Nand Kishore took a tumbling coach. I cursed myself in the dressing room as I was the guy the team was relying to get a big hundred. I was so aghast that I kept cursing the shot until I reached the hotel."

With Dravid gone, Kanwaljit wiped off the lower order. Though the visitors managed a 26-run lead, it was hardly a consolation as they had to bat last on what was turning out to be a wicked turner. Karnataka was feeling the heat again, both literal and metaphorical. The very thought of the heat, dust and turn had Dravid's head whirling.

■ ■ ■

After the second day, the teams dined together at the residence of Hyderabad manager and one of their heyday stalwarts ML Jaisimha. Though both teams were South Zone powerhouses, in perpetual competition to outmatch each other, they were friendly foes outside the turf. Dravid corrects: "Even on the field, we always kept sportsmanship first. Despite this being a close match, we hardly sledged each other. The game was always played in the right spirit."

But the next day, they would compete fiercely, Hyderabad grimly stretching their lead and Karnataka fighting to keep it within their reach. The pitch had turned into a dust bowl, and Karnataka opened with Sunil Joshi. But it was Ganesh again who put on a heroic act, out-bowling both Joshi and Bharadwaj. "I remember Rahul was thinking to open with two spinners, but I went up and snatched the new ball from him. I can easily tell you, this is easily the best I have bowled. Heat, slow pitch, but I kept pounding in. I think I bowled a long first spell at full tilt."

Everyone of the Hyderabad top six got starts, but couldn't cross 39. How they missed the stability of Laxman and the effervescence of Azhar! In the end, they set Karnataka 154, a target they felt was not insurmountable but defendable. "The way Kanwal was bowling, the rhythm he had struck, I thought we had a great chance of winning the match. It was a minefield to bat on, but the key was getting Dravid out cheaply," Raju says.

Kanwaljit and Raju spent the entire evening plotting his dismissal. Finally, they arrived at a plan. The pitch was turning and there was uneven bounce too. So rather than luring him into a stroke with flighted deliveries, keep bowling faster and flatter on off-stump so that he could miss a delivery and get trapped in front. Early on, even Dravid could miss one. The intuition worked perfectly, as Kanwaljit nailed him in front of the wicket. Karnataka, after the opening stand of 43, were hurtling headlong into the abyss of defeat. Joshi was their last flame of hope but part-time offie Santosh Yadav snuffed him out. Karnataka were still 37 runs adrift with just three wickets remaining. "That's it, I thought. Hyderabad would win this match and probably go on to win the Ranji Trophy. This was their best chance in several years," reflects Dravid. But for Ganesh's last stamp of heroism, captured in the 51-second reel.

■ ■ ■

A few days before the match, Ganesh had a dream. Recoiled in the corner of a room, he was weeping. The images kept recurring throughout the match. It reflected his mindset — axed from the Indian team after a disappointing series in the West Indies and unsure of whether he would get another shot in India stripes. "I was in a negative state of mind. I felt I could have done better and that was eating into me. People were saying he has the skills to play for the country but lacked the composure," he says.

Ganesh wasn't the only one nursing grouses. Dravid was overlooked for the one-day series as the selectors thought he batted too slowly for this format. Kanwaljit had missed out on the tour to West Indies. Though India captain Sachin Tendulkar had specifically asked for him, the selectors instead dispatched his state-mate Noel David. Raju, too, was desperately bidding for a comeback. It's natural then that the climax of the contest was full of accumulated nervous energy. "I was all fuelled by the India snub and desperate to do anything to be back in the reckoning," Ganesh says.

So in the direness of the situation — Karnataka were 127 for 8 when he marked his guard — Ganesh sensed a shard of hope. "If I could hit the winning runs, people would stop saying that I crack under pressure, which I did on my Test debut. I just wanted to show that I have nerves of steel," he says.

His game-plan was simple. Knock the ball around and give the strike to P Srinivasa Murthy, who had the reputation of hitting big shots. But the latter was all at sea against Kanwaljit. So Ganesh swapped roles. "I went and told him that I will go for the big shots and just run the last ball for a single, no matter what."

It worked for three overs, before Raju dived and stopped a single off the last ball of his over. Kanwaljit snared Murthy in the next over. In walked the now Karnataka bowling coach Mansur Ali Khan, who then had a batting average of four. Karnataka were 17 runs away. "I had to take risks, somehow find a couple of boundaries and run singles off the last ball," remembers Ganesh.

Hyderabad would bring the field up for the last two balls. All nine outfielders were trying to save the single. Dravid sensed something historic unfurling, though he could hear his heart pounding. And then Ganesh nicked one between the wicket-keeper and slip. Ganesh thought he would run three, but the ball had enough speed to reach the boundary.

The next six balls were the longest in Ganesh's life. Ali confidently blocked the first ball, Kanwaljit beat him with the second and third. The fourth turned big on Ali and took his glove to the short-leg fielder. "It was a dolly, hung in the air for a long time, but Danny (Manohar) somehow dropped it," dusts up Dravid, who now surely thought the match was theirs. A nudge here, a clip there, and Karnataka was within touching distance. Seven runs to win the match. Six would suffice, as they had the first-innings lead.

In walked Raju. "We were still confident. All it takes is one ball." A close lbw shout was turned down. Off Raju's arm-ball that fizzed into Ali's pads. Ali went for the big heave, but miscued it straight into the air. Raju was shouting at Manohar, who spilled it again. "We were simply destined to lose the match." A stolen single and Karnataka was one shot away.

At the other end, Ganesh decided to take destiny into his own hands. Just one boundary, he muttered to himself and scanned the field. His eyes met the vacant space behind point. "Bowlers don't expect tail-enders to late cut. So I did just that, waited on the back-foot and employed the late-cut. It's the first time I played that shot in a real match. Of course, I learned it watching Dravid."

It's the first shot of the 51-second footage. It levelled the scores and Karnataka were through. Some of the Karnataka supporters and players thought the match was over and invaded the pitch. "Just a single", shouted Dravid and Co. from the pavilion. But Ganesh knew knocking singles around wasn't his stuff. He went for an ambitious off-drive. Uppish but away from the fielders. Ganesh's mind went blank. "I had a blackout or something like that." The next thing he remembers was weeping in the corner of the dressing room, albeit tears of joy.

■ ■ ■

Of those India hopefuls and rejects, only Dravid went on to forge a remarkable career. Raju and Joshi played a few more Tests, but as stopgaps when either Kumble or Harbhajan Singh was injured.

Raju, though, played his role in the epic 2001 Eden Gardens Test in Kolkata, where he prised out Mark Waugh with an arm-ball on the final afternoon. He was also a part of the dressing room discussion between manager Chetan Chauhan and Laxman, where the latter said he was confident of pulling off a victory when all seemed lost.

Kanwaljit lived with the regret that he could never represent India; Manohar became an international match referee, Nand Kishore an umpire; Vijay Bharadwaj had his days, but his shortcomings at the international level were exposed.

And then there was Ganesh, whose best efforts went unrequited. But if he felt so, he would just flick his fingers through the 51-second footage.

Karnataka snatch exciting win

N JAGANNATH DAS
HYDERABAD, APRIL 13

DODDANARASAIAH Ganesh may have bigger first-class knocks against his name, but none can match his unbeaten 18 that helped Karnataka script one of the most memorable victories in the 64-year Ranji Trophy history. The Indian discard's thundering drive to the long-off fence off left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju signalled Karnataka's one-wicket victory over Hyderabad in an exciting semi-final at the Gymkhana here today. The first-time winners take on Uttar Pradesh in their 10th entry into the final, beginning April 19 at Bangalore.

In a tension-filled fifth day's play, Karnataka, requiring 154 for victory, nearly stumbled before clinching a short-lived wicket as it dressing room was one man who was absent in team — Hyderabad off-spinner Kanwaljit Singh. The 39-year old sardar had done everything in the unbearable hot conditions but, as luck would have it, ended up on the losing side.

Kanwaljit finished with an incredible 14 wickets in the match, seven in each innings.

Daniel Manohar, fielding at short-leg, turned out to be the villain-of-the-piece. He spilled two catches at 146 and 148 in successive overs when Karnataka were gasping for clear breath.

RANJI SEMI-FINAL

It was a great escape. The fielder was banished to the deep but by then the damage had been done. Ganesh, in the next over, trilled with luck in a more aggressive fashion. He cut Raju dangerously past the outstretched hands of M V Sridhar at slip to the third man boundary to level the Khan were known in the final act, then the exciting Fazal Khaleel played a pivotal role in the drama.

He made the victory possible with a matured knock of 51 (173ts, 120b, 6x4, 1x6) even as Kanwaljit (7 for 65) was slicing through the Karnataka batting order.

Scoreboard

Hyderabad (1st innings): 283.
Karnataka (1st innings): 309.
Hyderabad (2nd innings): 179.
Karnataka (2nd innings): Sujit Somasunder c MV Sridhar b Kanwaljit 17, Arunkumar c and b Kanwaljit 23, Fazal Khaleel b Raju 51, Anand Katti c Nanda b Kanwaljit 2, Rahul Dravid lbw Kanwaljit 1, V Bharadwaj b Kanwaljit 2, Sunil Joshi c Pratap b Yadav 24, S Sirajpurkar c MV Sridhar b Kanwaljit 0, S Murthy c Pratap b Kanwaljit 1, D Ganesh (not out) 18, Mansoor Ali Khan (not out) 4. Extras (b 9, lb 5) 14. Total (for 9 wkts) 157.
Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-48, 3-68, 4-78, 5-86, 6-117, 7-117, 8-127, 9-138.
Bowling: NP Singh 8-3-14-0, Manohar 7-3-14-0, Kanwaljit 32-16-38-7, Raju 26-9-65-1, Yadav 2-0-12-1.

The Indian Express's sports page on April 13, 1998 is a reminder of Kanwaljit Singh's herculean effort which went in vain, as Dodda Ganesh took Karnataka to the Ranji Trophy final.

HYDERABAD 1ST INNINGS 283
KARNATAKA 1ST INNINGS 309
HYDERABAD 2ND INNINGS 179

GA Kumar c Khaleel b Joshi	21
DS Manohar c Joshi b Ganesh	16
MV Sridhar c Murthy b Khan	35
AN Kishore c Somasunder b Joshi	39
V Pratap c Somasunder b Katti	16
BSK Yadav c sub b Katti	12
NA David c Somasekhar b Ganesh	9
Youraj Singh lbw b Ganesh	1
NP Singh b Ganesh	8
V Raju not out	15
Kanwaljit Singh b Khan	4

Extras 3 (w 1, nb 2)
Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-43, 3-73, 4-99, 5-121, 6-132, 7-136, 8-154, 9-170, 10-179.

BOWLING
Ganesh **21-3-74-4**
Joshi **19-4-45-2**
Bharadwaj **3-0-11-0**
Khan **11.2-3-34-2**
Katti **8-1-15-2**

KARNATAKA 2ND INNINGS
157/9 (TARGET154)

S Somasunder c Sridhar b Kanwaljit	17
J Arunkumar c & b Kanwaljit	23
FR Khaleel b Raju	51
A Katti c Nand Kishore b Kanwaljit	2
R Dravid lbw b Kanwaljit	1
V Bharadwaj b Kanwaljit	2
S Joshi c Pratap b Yadav	24
S Somasekar c Sridhar b Kanwaljit	0
PS Murthy c Pratap b Kanwaljit	0
D Ganesh not out	18
M Khan not out	4

Extras 14 (b 9, lb 5)
Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-48, 3-68, 4-78, 5-86, 6-117, 7-117, 8-127, 9-138

BOWLING
NP Singh **8-3-14-0**
Manohar **7-3-14-0**
Kanwaljit **32-16-38-7**
Raju **26-9-65-1**
Yadav **2-0-12-1**

■ **Karnataka won by one wicket.**

"I was in a negative state of mind. I felt I could have done better and that was eating into me. People were saying he has the skills to play for the country but lacked the composure. I was all fuelled by the India snub and desperate to do anything to be back in the reckoning."

DODDA GANESH
FORMER KARNATAKA AND INDIA SEAMER

Comeback for the ages

Kansas City quarterback Mahomes leads late fightback at Super Bowl to help team shock San Francisco

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MIAMI GARDENS, FEBRUARY 3

Kansas City Chiefs' Patrick Mahomes celebrates with the Vince Lombardi trophy after winning the Super Bowl. *Reuters*

THEY WERE celebrating the passage of time as much as football at this Super Bowl: 100-year-old war veterans at midfield for the pregame coin flip, a 50-years-young pop diva handling halftime, and, of course, a quarterback who turns 25 this year saving the best part of the show for last.

That quarterback is Patrick Mahomes of the Kansas City Chiefs.

It is easy, especially after the improbable, blink-and-you-miss-it escape act he engineered to win the title Sunday, to say Mahomes _ a mobile, dual threat with a rocket arm _ is what the perfect quarterback will look like as the NFL gets ready to embark on its second century of football next season.

But what Mahomes did on a cool, crisp evening in South Florida was grounded in the most basic of sports concepts, one that harkens to the days of leather helmets and long bus rides to the games.

"My mindset," Mahomes said, "is always to play and compete to the very end."

And so he did. He injected life into a stymied offense that looked all but done-for, coaxed three touchdowns out of that offense over the short span of 5 minutes, 1 second late in the fourth quarter and pulled out a 31-20 victory over San Francisco in a game that seemed all but lost.

Three times during this postseason, Mahomes and the Chiefs have trailed by 10 points or more, and all three times they've come back to win by double-digits themselves. That's a first. But even that history-making feat doesn't do justice to what Mahomes pulled off in the final game of the NFL's much-celebrated centennial. After Mahomes threw the first postseason interception of his three-year-old career — "I hit him right between the '5' and the '4," he said of the pick to linebacker Fred Warner — the 49ers drove 55 methodical yards to take a 20-10 lead.

There was 2:35 left on in the third quarter and the Chiefs, used to buzzing up and down the field to the tune of 51 and 35 points in the two earlier games this postseason, had gained 187 yards and amassed only 136 passing. They had scored a measly touchdown and a field goal and hadn't cracked a single play longer than 19 yards.

"I wasn't feeling good about it at all," said receiver Tyreek Hill, who would soon prove critical in turning around the game. "I told Pat, 'It's 20-10 with seven minutes left _ c'mon bro,' And all Pat did, he just told me to believe."

> **We never lost faith, I think that's the biggest thing.Everybody on this team, nobody had their heads down. Coach Reid told me after both of 'em to keep firing. Keep believing and keep firing."**
>
> **PATRICK MAHOMES**
> ON HIS MATCH-WINNING PERFORMANCE

Hill believed. And he started running.

Up against a defense that had allowed a total of eight completions on downfield throws all season, the receiver with track-star speed somehow found a soft spot deep in the 49ers secondary.

Mahomes, harassed all night into quick, off-target throws, dropped 13 yards behind the line of scrimmage, surveyed the field — then stepped up and heaved it. The ball dropped soft as a feather into Hill's arms. Four plays later, Kansas City, only moments earlier thinking of concession speeches, was within three points.

There was 6:13 left in the game.

"I'm not sure exactly what happened," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said, when asked to reflect on the play that swung the momentum.Rarely has a game turned so rapidly. Rarely has a team still behind on the scoreboard seemed so destined to win.

It all happened so fast, in fact, that everything before it felt like a mirage.

Hours earlier, to celebrate its 100th year, the NFL brought four centenarian World War II veterans to midfield to preside over the pregame coin flip.

Halftime featured a hip-shaking, pole-climbing celebration of Latina heritage, courtesy of 43-year-old Shakira and Jennifer Lopez, who hardly looked like the 50-year-old she is, where has the time gone?

Chiefs fans had been asking the same question for a while now.

It had been 50 years since their team last appeared in, and won, the Super Bowl. Mahomes, the quarterback who coach Andy Reid handpicked and traded away draft picks to get, was supposed to change all that.

But when the smoke cleared from J-Lo and the third quarter started, he was no better. "We knew it would be a close game, and there would be some challenges," Reid said. "He kept firing. That's what he did. The guys around him just believed in him. We all did."

After the touchdown that made it 20-17, it took all of three plays for the Chiefs defense to get the ball back to Mahomes.

On the next possession, he struck for another long play _ this one to receiver Sammy Watkins who torched the 49ers premier defensive back, Richard Sherman, at the line of scrimmage and got behind him for the easiest 38-yard catch he'll ever make. Three plays later, it was 24-20.

Less than 90 seconds after that, it was 31-20, and long-suffering Kansas City had won the Super Bowl.

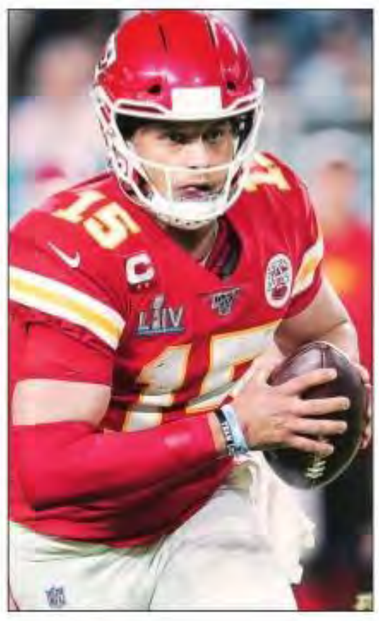
It didn't take long for the questions to start coming about a young team with a young quarterback and a grizzled old coach in Reid who thinks young: Could this be the first of many?

"I mean, obviously, I've had a great start to my career," said Mahomes, who finished with 286 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions, in flicking it away.

Does he see himself as the new face of the NFL? "There are a lot of young quarterbacks, and still a lot of veteran guys that are playing at a very high level," he said. "So, I just try to be the best Patrick Mahomes I can be."

Quarters given, quarter snatched back

Chiefs trailed Niners 10-20 after three quarters, but a Patrick Mahomes show was inevitable. With his first Super Bowl ring now secured, the question is how many more.



GENERATIONAL TALENT

Son of former Major League Baseball pitcher Pat Mahomes Sr, Junior — a top prospect for the 2014 MLB draft — could have easily taken the mound too. He chose football, and NFL's all the richer for it. In essentially his second season (Mahomes got one game in 2017), the 24-year-old became the youngest Super Bowl MVP on Sunday, one year after he had become the youngest league MVP. He had an erratic 3/4th of the game but nobody dared rule out the league's best quarterback (along with Baltimore Ravens' Lamar Jackson). Speaking of, what exactly makes...

...A QUARTERBACK?

A quarterback can never be flawless. Not even Tom Brady, he of eternal youth and six Super Bowl rings, made every pass on those manic Sunday nights. Rest of the team is responsible for their own actions. A quarterback, the leader of men, has to orchestrate and oversee every play. Relying on a concoction of arm strength, accuracy, speed, dexterity, rapid visual processing and decision making, a quarterback has to figure out the best course of action to drive his team up field within seconds — all while the 6'5, 120kg pass rushers — paid millions a year to flatten a quarterback — hulking after him. Mahomes is 6'3, the average but not the ideal height for a quarterback. But it's his quick offensive play and the ultrafast receivers that have helped the Chiefs excel.

TURNAROUNDS

What would have been a great escape for many was a routine prison break for Mahomes, and he had pulled off two coming into Sunday's final. In the first post-season game against the Houston Texans, Chiefs fell behind by 23-0 and won 51-31. In the AFC (American Football Conference) championship game against the Tennessee Titans, the Chiefs were down 17-7 before winning 35-24. After completing the trifecta on Sunday, Kansas City became the first NFL team to overturn a 10-point (or more) deficit in three different games during the same postseason.

> **The game is just too slow for him. He can make any play he wants, he never panics, he never gets rattled. We were down 20-10 in the fourth quarter, and he routed off 21 points. That kid is special. "**
>
> **TERRELL SUGGS,** CHIEFS DEFENSIVE END ON MAHOMES

SPARE A THOUGHT

The numbers must have been flashing hard for Niners' coach Kyle Shanahan: '28-3'. That was the lead his Atlanta Falcons blew three years ago as Brady's Patriots architected the largest comeback ever.

His father Mike was the offensive coordinator in the San Francisco 49ers 1995 Super Bowl win and head coach for the Denver Broncos' 1998 and 1999 wins. Following in his father's footsteps and becoming the first father and son Super Bowl champion coach duo remains a dream for now. "Those guys are hurting in there, just like I am," Shanahan said. "It's tough when you lose a Super Bowl... It's tough that it had to end today in the way it did." **ENS**

Nagal wants to learn the hard court way

SHAHID JUDGE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 3

Nagal, eager to improve his hard court game, went down fighting to Troicki in the Tata Open on Monday. *Daniel Stephen*

"REPETITION IS the mother of learning," goes a Latin proverb. Doing the same thing over and over again till it becomes perfect. On a tennis court, it becomes a weapon. Sumit Nagal had made it very clear that his forehand is his killer shot. He goes inside out, inside in, cross court – playing it all with pace, topspin, and more often than not, impressive accuracy.

He had learnt that skill on courts in Canada, where he'd belt entire buckets at the end of each practice session. Against Roger Federer at the US Open last year, he hassled the 20-time Grand Slam champion with his biggest weapon.

But in that match, when all the odds were stacked against him, the idea was to go on court to have fun, 'enjoy the game,' as they say. On Monday, in the first round at the Tata Open Maharashtra, the intent before the match was different; he wants to learn the art of playing on hard courts. And repetition will help him understand it better – repetition of playing the shot he understands the most, and repetition of playing on that surface.

At centre court of the Balewadi Tennis Stadium in Pune, he came up against former world no 12 Viktor Troicki. Nagal, a clay court frequenter, launched forehand after forehand, winners at most, against the veteran Serbian, making the match difficult for a Davis Cup and ATP Cup winner who is looking for a ride back up the ranking ladder (he's currently 191 in the world due to a string of injuries). If this match was to go in Troicki's favour, the 22-year-old was not going to go down too easily.

And after a three-setter that took two hours and 20 minutes to complete, Nagal eventually folded 2-6, 7-6, 1-6.

In the 2019 season, Nagal decided to play clay tournaments to help consolidate his return to the tour after a long bout with shoulder problems. It helped him rise in the rankings -- from 361 at the start of 2019 to a career high 125 on Monday. But as he gets closer to the top 100 mark, he acknowledges the need to get out of his comfort zone.

"I have to develop my game on the hard court as well. It's the right thing to do right now," he says.

"I'm still young, still learning. So, for me picking hard court (in Pune) over clay (the Cordoba Open) is something big."

Of the 25 tournaments he played last year, including two Davis Cup ties, 18 events were on clay. This time though, he aims to play more on hard courts.

"Normally if someone asked me what I'm comfortable playing, I would say going to South America (for clay events). This year I'm going to be on hard courts till the end of March," he says. "I have to keep in mind that a lot of Slams and a lot of big events are also on hard courts. So I have to at least be able to play on two surfaces. Grass, there's one slam and two ATP events. But if you look at it, it's either hard or clay. That's why I pushed myself to play the first three months on hard."

> **I have to develop my game on the hard court as well. It's the right thing to do right now. I'm still young, still learning. So, for me picking hard court (in Pune) over clay (the Cordoba Open) is something big."**
>
> **SUMIT NAGAL**
> INDIA NO. 2

Accordingly, he took a longer pre-season to prepare himself for the long, multi-court haul, he's hoping to play this year.

"Last year what I did in Thailand (for pre-season) was literally 10 days. That's all the time I had," he says. "This year was more around like three, three and a half weeks. So that was a good thing. It was about keeping my body in shape, just staying healthy. Just working on every aspect of the game, doing it in reps."

Reps. That's the trick. He's practiced the same stroke countless times in practice, making it strong enough for even Federer to compliment it. Now the repetition will be outside the comfort zone. But for Nagal, that's the way forward.

Mbappe undermines boss Tuchel's authority

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS, FEBRUARY 3

PROBLEMS OFTEN seem to occur before important games for Paris Saint-Germain.

Brazil star Neymar was ruled out of Champions League matches against Real Madrid and Manchester United because of injuries over the last two seasons. Now Kylian Mbappe is at the center of controversy only two weeks ahead of a crucial European meeting with Borussia Dortmund.

Usually praised for his down to earth attitude, frenetic pace and exciting dribbles, Mbappe showed a less attractive side this weekend at the Parc des Princes.

He sulked. After scoring a fine goal during a lopsided 5-0 French league win against Montpellier, Mbappe looked furious when coach Thomas Tuchel replaced him with Mauro Icardi midway through the second half. Mbappe barely acknowledged Icardi, giving him only a perfunctory handshake.

Ahead of a busy period, including a trip to Nantes on Tuesday and just a fortnight before the first leg of the last-16 Champions League match against Dortmund, Tuchel's decision looked logical. Especially since he made a double substitution, also bringing on Edinson Cavani. Since the arrival of Icardi, there has been much less involvement for Cavani, the club's record scorer with 198 goals, so it was wise for Tuchel to bring him on.

Considering Cavani almost left the club to join Atletico Madrid, it may have been more appropriate for Mbappe to encourage him — and Icardi — when they came on.

But the 21-year-old Mbappe appeared not to like it at all with the cameras picking up every reaction. France's World Cup-winning forward ignored Tuchel and tried to walk past him on his way to the substitutes bench, and the German coach had to force him to stop twice to listen to his explanations. After the final whistle, Mbappe did not celebrate the win in front of PSG fans. It is the third time this season he has reacted with public dissatisfaction after being substituted by Tuchel, who dropped him from an away match at bitter rival Marseille last season because Mbappe arrived late for a team talk. Mbappe's apparent tantrum on Saturday tarnished the win and undermined Tuchel's authority at a time when PSG needs to be united, having experienced three last-16 Champions League exits in a row.

It's unclear whether Mbappe will be sanctioned for his behavior, but Tuchel expressed his disappointment at his striker's attitude — all the more so because it eclipsed a sixth straight win in all competitions for PSG, which is now unbeaten in 19 games.

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