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THE EDITORIAL PAGE
EC CAN DO MORE ON HATE SPEECH
BY SY QURAISHI
PAGE 14

DECEMBER 16
Sinful to hang convicts when law lets them live: court

PRITAMPAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

A DELHI court Friday dismissed a fresh plea by the Delhi government and Tihar jail authorities seeking to fix a date of execution of the death warrants issued against the four Death Row convicts in the December 16, 2012, gangrape-murder case.

Citing the Delhi High Court's February 5 order, which permitted the convicts, in the interest of justice, to exercise their legal remedies within one week of the order, Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana said, "It is criminally sinful to execute the condemned convicts when the law permits them to live."

"I concur with the amicus for the convict Mukesh that the date of execution of death warrant cannot be fixed merely on the basis of surmises and conjectures...Applications at hand are premature and thus deserve to be dismissed. However, the State is at liberty to move appropriate application as and when required," the judge said.

Last week, the trial court had stayed "till further orders" the execution of the four convicts, Mukesh Singh (32), Pawan Gupta (25), Vinay Sharma (26) and Akshay Kumar Singh (31), who are in Tihar jail.

It had postponed the execution of the death warrants, saying the country cannot afford to discriminate against a death row convict in pursuit of legal remedies.

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'WORKING ON FRDI BILL'

Expect 80% of individual taxpayers to move to new slab regime, says Govt

On LTCG, FM wants to wait for one year to assess response

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 7

THE GOVERNMENT said Friday that its estimates show that about 80 per cent of individual taxpayers would switch to the new tax regime announced in the Union Budget last week and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the new tax regime is the first step towards a no-exemption lower tax system in India.

Revenue Secretary Ajay



Nirmala Sitharaman in Mumbai, Friday. PTI

Bhushan Pandey said that the Income Tax department had run a simulation on about 5.8 crore tax returns. It showed that 69 per cent of existing tax payers will benefit from the new slabs while 11 per cent would see no change in their tax outgo by switching to the new system. Thus, the government's expectation is that 80 per cent will switch to the new system, which some experts had criticised as being too complicated since it had more income slabs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
E. Govt hopes more money to spend, savings can be hit

THE GOVERNMENT expects the bulk of those who file I-T returns to shift to the new simplified tax regime which does away with exemptions for long-term savings. More disposable income is expected to boost demand, and give an immediate fillip to growth. But lower savings will affect growth in the long-term, since less savings would mean less funds available for investments by businesses.



The rally on Friday in Kokrajhar to celebrate the signing of a peace accord with National Democratic Front of Bodoland. AP

I assure you CAA won't lead to outsider influx: PM in Assam

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 7

ASSURING THE people of Assam that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act will not lead to outsiders settling in the state, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday that "certain forces" were spreading misinformation on the CAA and that the country will "neither tolerate nor forgive" them.

The Prime Minister was in Assam for the first time after the violent protests in December against the new citizenship law that left six people dead.

Amidst loud cheers, and fluttering Tricolours and All Bodo Students Union flags, Modi asked the gathering in Kokrajhar in Bodoland Territorial Region — he called it the largest rally in independent India — to celebrate the government's accord with Bodo groups signed last month. Following the signing, over 1,600 members of the Bodo militant outfit NDFB laid down their weapons.

"I have come to assure the people of Assam that the country will neither tolerate nor forgive anti-Assam and anti-India mentality and its supporters. These are the same forces that are spreading rumours in Assam and Northeast that through CAA people from outside will come to Assam and they will be settled here. I want to assure that nothing of that sort will happen," Modi said.

The Prime Minister said that a mentality has emerged to block roads, put barricades and create problems. He said the politics that encourages such mentality does "not know India nor do they understand Assam". "Assam and India are connected by heart and soul," Modi said.

He said that just like Bodo groups have come together to join the mainstream, others' "misconceptions too will get cleared soon".

Modi began his speech with lines in Bodo and Assamese, and by invoking Vaishnavite spiritual reformer Srimanta Sankardev.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Officials enter *Diamond Princess* to transfer a patient to hospital in Yokohama, Japan. Reuters

61 coronavirus cases on ship, Indian crew in quarantine: 'We are in fear...we want to leave'

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 7

A RESIDENT of West Bengal who is among several Indian crew members on board a luxury cruise currently quarantined near Yokohama port, Japan, with 61 confirmed cases of coronavirus cases, has appealed to Indian authorities for help, saying the infection on board the ship is spreading.

The 30-year-old belonging to Hatipa village in Uttar Dinajpur district has also put up videos on

social media, reaching out to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, urging them to get the Japanese government to separately quarantine those infected and uninfected on board the *Diamond Princess*.

In one of his social media posts, the 30-year-old said, "We are in fear. We are nearly 200 Indian crew on board. We have not tested positive. We want to disembark and be properly quarantined." He said he was speaking directly, breaking protocol, because he was scared. "If I do

not speak out, tomorrow I don't know if I will be alive or dead," he said in Hindi.

He told *The Indian Express* over WhatsApp, "Plz help us. All crew r waiting for our Govt response. They have rescued Indian citizens from Wuhan city in China, then why not rescue us from Japan? We can be kept in quarantine in India. India and Japan have good relations."

The Japanese government said Friday that 61 people on board the ship, with more than 3,700 passengers, had tested

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

In season of protests, BJP MP ducks out of tabling civil code Bill

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

AS THE government battles street protests across the country against the new citizenship law and changes in the National Population Register, a BJP member in Rajya Sabha on Friday appeared to abandon at the last moment his plan to introduce a private member's Bill on the Uniform Civil Code — an issue that has long been high on the party's agenda, but which would likely have only inflamed further the ongoing agitation.

A private member's Bill is sep-



Kirodi Lal Meena

arate from a government Bill, and is piloted by an MP who is not a Minister. Individual MPs may introduce private member's Bills to draw the government's attention to what they see as issues that require legislative intervention.

The Bill on Uniform Civil Code was listed on the agenda of the House, and was circulated to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Bidar school sedition case: Panel tells cops to stop questioning kids

JOHNSONTA
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 7

FOLLOWING AN inquiry into the questioning of children by police and the arrest of the widowed mother of a nine-year-old student in a sedition case against a school in Bidar over an anti-CAA play, Karnataka's child rights commission has pulled up the district police for a number of violations, including of norms under the Juvenile Justice Act.

Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSPCR) chairman Dr Antony



Shaheen Primary School in Bidar. File

Sebastian has sent a letter to Bidar officials, the SP and the deputy commissioner, with copies marked to the Karnataka

DGP, stating that an "atmosphere of fear" was created at the Shaheen Primary School by the police probe. It has asked police to stop questioning the school-children.

The KSPCR found that officials violated norms by sending the nine-year-old to be looked after by a neighbour without informing the local child welfare committee after the child's single mother was arrested along with the school's headmistress on January 30.

The KSPCR chairman's communication, sent Thursday,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WORLD



TRUMP CONFIRMS KILLING OF AL QAEDA LEADER IN YEMEN

AFTER IOWA, MUDDLED RACE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR DEMOCRATS
PAGE 17

Delhi decides today: In EC-silent zone, phones buzz with bulk text messages

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

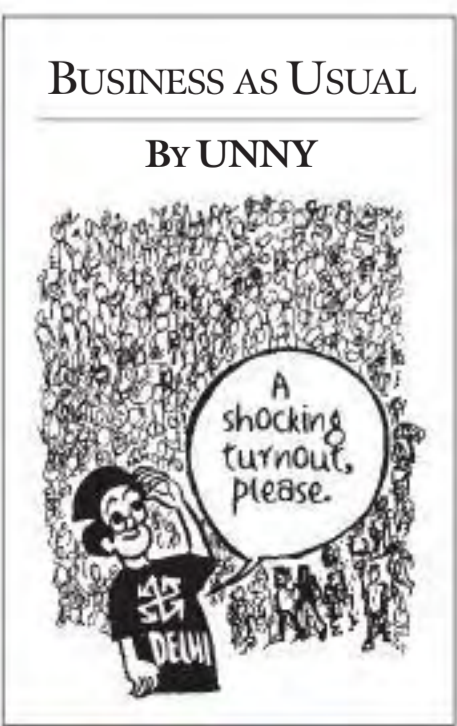
EVEN AS campaigning for the Delhi Assembly polls officially ended at 6 pm on Thursday, B-tech graduate Jitesh Bhardwaj (27) said the silent period doesn't affect his "business" with candidates from all three parties.

Equipped with booth-wise electoral rolls and phone numbers which, he said, are easily



Poll officials with EVMs at Gole Market in New Delhi, Friday. Praveen Khanna

available in the market, he acts as a middleman between telecom operators and candidates.



DECISION 2020
DELHI

He sends an average of 1 lakh SMSes or voice-recorded messages per candidate, at a price tag of 9-11 paise per message.

On Thursday, as CM Arvind Kejriwal's now-recognisable jingle played nearby, Bhardwaj picked up his phone and said: "That won't ring after today, but this will."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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EXCLUSIVE

DELHI ELECTIONS: HOW AAP DISSIDENTS SEE PARTY'S PERFORMANCE AND MORE

We spoke to some of the former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) members — Yogendra Yadav, Ashutosh and Prashant Bhushan — to know how they looked at the Delhi elections and the performance of the party they were once part of

DISPATCH FROM ASSAM



TAKING MEASURES FOR FLOODS

How an Assam village is building its own tank for safe water

EXPRESS EXPLAINED



KERALA BAN ON CFL AND FILAMENT BULBS

Behind the decision which comes into effect from November 2020

EXPRESS AUDIO
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NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

On the Our Own Devices podcast, our hosts dissect how the brand's value proposition, pricing structures, products like the Apple Watch and AirPods all lend to its success in India

After right-wing organisations warn of protests, Pune college cancels Tushar Gandhi's speech

ALIFIYANALWALA
PUNE, FEBRUARY 7

UNDER PRESSURE from various right-wing organisations, the Modern College of Arts Science and Commerce in Pune withdrew an invite to Mahatma Gandhi's great-grandson Tushar Gandhi to address a national seminar, "Revisiting Gandhi", at the college campus on Friday.

In a tweet on Thursday, Gandhi said, "Modern College Pune was forced to cancel a program scheduled for tomorrow celebrating the 150th anniversary of Babu because they invited me, Patitpavan Sanstha threatened to disrupt the program if I was present. The Goli Maro Gang in Action."

It later came to light that the seminar went on as planned and only the invitation to Gandhi, who was the chief guest and keynote speaker, was withdrawn.

College authorities admitted that they received letters from several organisations warning of "peaceful protests". They said due to the ongoing practical examinations and the presence of over 1000 students on campus, whose evacuation would pose a challenge if any violence broke out, they decided to call off the lecture.

Gajanan Ekbote, chairman of the Progressive Education Society, which runs Modern College said he has spoken to Gandhi and assured him the college would hold the same lecture within a week.

While college authorities claimed they had been advised by the Savitribai Phule Pune University pro Vice-Chancellor about the lecture, the latter denied the claims. Even SPPU Vice-Chancellor Nitin Karmalkar denied the college's claims. "We have nothing to do with either the organisation or the cancellation of the lecture..." he said.

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Kathua murder, gang rape case: SC stays JJB proceedings against 'minor'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday stayed the proceedings before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) against a 'minor' allegedly involved in the gang rape and murder of an eight-year-old nomadic girl in Jammu and Kashmir.

A bench of Justices N V Ramana, Ajay Rastogi and V Ramasubramanian stayed the proceedings after Jammu and Kashmir administration claimed that the J&K High Court had erroneously affirmed the order of a trial court holding him as juvenile at the time of the offence in 2018.

"Having heard senior advocate P S Patwalia, appearing on behalf of the petitioners and after perusing the averments made in the application for stay, we direct that the further proceedings pending before the Juvenile Justice Board at Kathua, titled as...shall remain stayed," the bench said, listing the matter for further hearing on March 16.

Senior advocate P S Patwalia, appearing for J&K administration, said the high court had on October 11, 2019, wrongly affirmed the trial court order of March 27, 2018, without appreciating that the date of birth recorded in the municipal and school records are contradictory to each other.

FROM PAGE ONE

Dec 16 case

The Ministry of Home Affairs appealed to the High Court against the trial court's January 31 order which was turned down saying the "death warrants of all the convicts be executed together but not separately".

The Centre rushed to the Supreme Court challenging the Delhi HC order rejecting its plea to execute the convicts separately and upholding the stay on their execution. It will hear their plea next week.

Meanwhile, the Delhi government and Tihar approached the Delhi court praying that a fresh date should be given to them for execution of the convicts.

The counsel for the state argued that the mercy of convict Akshay was also dismissed by the President of India on February 5 and as "on date there is no legal impediment to fix the date for execution of death warrants as neither any appeal nor any application/petition is pending before any competent authority qua the condemned convicts".

It was also argued that taking into consideration the seven days period granted by the Delhi High Court on February 5, this court must fix February 20 as the date of execution of death warrants.

The application by the Delhi government and Tihar was opposed by the counsel for the four convicts, in which advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for Mukesh told the court that "the seven days period is not only available to the convicts but is also binding upon the authorities including this court".

Advocate A P Singh, appearing for remaining three convicts, sought that the application be dismissed and the convicts deserve protection under Article 21 of the Constitution of India till their last breath.

As of now, Mukesh has exhausted all legal remedies including the clemency plea which was dismissed by the President. The appeal against the rejection was thrown out by the Supreme Court. The curative petitions filed by Vinay and Akshay have been rejected by the apex court. The President also had rejected the mercy plea of Vinay. Pawan is yet to file his curative and mercy petitions.

Appearing for the Centre, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had argued before the HC that there was a deliberate, calculated design by the convicts to "frustrate the mandate of law" by getting their execution delayed.

PM in Assam

Mahatma Gandhi and Bhupen Hazarika. He ended the nearly hour-long speech with chants of 'Bharat Mata ki jai' and 'Mahatma Gandhi Amar Rahe'.

"Friends, have trust in me, I am yours. Your sadness and pain, your hopes and aspirations, your children's bright future...I will not be behind in doing whatever I can for that," Modi said.

To celebrate his visit, Kokrajhar town was lit up with around 70,000 earthen lamps last evening, prompting the Prime Minister to wonder aloud whether so many diyas are lit even for Diwali.

"Sometimes people talk of hitting me with a danda (stick). But the Modi who has got the protection of such a large number of mothers and sisters, no matter how many dandas fall on him, nothing will happen," Modi said in an indirect reference to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's recent comment.

Modi pitched the recent Bodo accord as a way to "permanent peace" and welcomed all those who gave up arms and returned to the mainstream. He said it marked a new beginning for Assam and the Northeast in the 21st century.

The Prime Minister described how the accord and the Rs 1,500-

crore development package will benefit people, and said: "Every demand related to this movement [for Bodoland] has ended."

Pointing out that the earlier accords of 1993 and 2003 were not able to establish complete peace, he said: "Today is a new dawn, an occasion for welcoming a new inspiration. Today is the day to take a pledge to strengthen the streams of development and faith. Now, the darkness of violence should not be allowed to return to this world."

Before urging the audience to give a standing ovation for "peace", Modi said: "In this agreement, everyone has won. And the most important fact is peace has won and humanity has won."

The Prime Minister's visit comes weeks after two of his previous expected visits were cancelled following the protests. The Indo-Japan summit, which was scheduled to be held in Guwahati in December with Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, was cancelled. Modi did not visit Guwahati for the Khelo India Games — there was no official confirmation of the visit at the time, though.

On Friday, Modi said the government is trying to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord as soon as possible. "I assure the people of Assam, that after the Clause 6 committee submits its report, the Centre will speed up actions. We are not the sort of people who delay and vacillate," he said.

With anti-CAA protesters claiming that the Act threatens the interests of the indigenous people of Assam, the government has pitched Clause 6 as an antidote. The clause states: "Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people."

Modi said that previously the attitude towards the Northeast was of neglect and a disinterest towards solving problems, whether it was protests or violence. Such an attitude had distanced a section of society of Northeast so much that they lost faith in the Constitution and democracy, he said.

"After we came, most parts of Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh are free from AFSPA," Modi said, referring to the Armed Forces Special Powers Act.

Bidar school

followed an inquiry by a two-member panel of the commission led by child rights expert Dr Jayashree. "After interactions with parents, school officials, children and the police, and after studying photographs and CCTV footage, it is clear that the police violated the rights of children at the school," said Sebastian, a juvenile justice advocate.

"We have seen from pictures of the questioning of children that some policemen were present in uniform in violation of the law while some policemen were in civil clothes. When the children were being questioned, their parents or guardians should have been present," Sebastian said.

"The inquiry has also found that a child whose parent was arrested was sent to the home of a neighbour without informing the child welfare committee in violation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000," he said.

The child rights official said that many students had stopped going to the school after police began questioning children as part of investigations into the sedition case over the play that was staged on the school's annual day on January 21.

The KSPCR has asked Bidar Police to bring the plight of the nine-year-old to the attention of the court where her mother Najibunnisa's bail plea is pending.

'Expect 80% taxpayers to shift'

Under the new system, taxpayers who forgo deductions and exemptions such as those for housing loans, rent and so on, will have to pay income tax at lower rates.

Sitharaman also said that the new tax system is only a beginning. That's why it was "not compulsory" but optional for taxpayers.

The government introduced this new system with the intent of putting more money into people's wallets. In the budget speech, Sitharaman had said this would put around Rs 40,000 crore (the government revenue forgone) in the hands of taxpayers as the government tries to put the economy back on track.

Sitharaman also rebutted criticism on the dividend distribution tax (DDT) which the Budget had abolished at the company level. Earlier, DDT was taxed at the corporate level, the budget proposed that it is taxed as income in the hands of investors.

"When DDT was taxed at company level it didn't work, when it is taxed at shareholder level it is unacceptable. So should dividend be taxed or not?", said Sitharaman.

"Our plan is to put more

money in the hands of the retail investor and let them decide how they want to spend it," Sitharaman said in an interaction with industrialists and the media on Friday.

Separately, Sitharaman said that the government is re-working the FRDI (Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance) Bill but did not specify when it would be tabled in Parliament.

The FRDI Bill was initially introduced in 2018 to provide a way to limit the failure of financial firms such as banks, insurance companies and mutual funds much the same as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code acted for non-financial firms.

However, the government had to withdraw it in August 2018 after protests against a controversial "bail-in" clause which provided for depositors' money to be used in the event of a bank failure. At that time, bank deposits only up to Rs 1 lakh were insured.

Now, the Union Budget last week had proposed to increase the deposit insurance coverage to Rs 5 lakh setting the stage for the re-introduction of the bill.

"We are working on the FRDI bill but not sure when it can get

through the house", said the finance minister.

She also said it was too early to make changes to the long term capital gains tax (LTCG) which was introduced in 2018. In the run-up to the Budget, investors and traders had lobbied hard for abolishing LTCG.

"LTCG was introduced in 2018 and by definition LTCG is (for) one year and in that year both the markets and the economy have faced their challenges. I have not had a reasonable chance to assess what I could get out of LTCG as it stands now, but the clamour is to withdraw it even before I have burnt my fingers. The reason why we didn't go that far on LTCG because we want one year of reasonable response to it," she said.

The economic affairs secretary Atanu Chakraborty defended the Rs 2.1-lakh crore disinvestment target for FY21 set by the Budget. He said that government will get Rs 50,000-70,000 crore from minority stake sales in public sector units. He said the divestment target was reasonable and "fairly easy to meet."

In addition, banking secretary Rajiv Kumar said that the government had started consul-

tations with the department of investment and public affair management (DIPAM) for the initial public offer of the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

"A large majority of people will find the new regime advantageous," Pandey said.

The government introduced new tax slabs with reduced rates for an annual income of up to Rs 15 lakh for those foregoing exemptions and deductions under a simplified tax regime. The new income tax system is optional and a taxpayer can choose to remain in the existing regime with exemptions and deductions. Those earning up to Rs 5 lakh will not pay any tax either in the old regime or in the new regime.

Under the new tax proposal, people with an annual income of up to Rs 2.5 lakh will not have to pay any tax. For income between Rs 2.5 lakh to 5 lakh, the tax rate (as earlier) is 5 per cent.

Further, those with an income of Rs 5 lakh to Rs 7.5 lakh will have to pay a reduced tax rate of 10 per cent; between Rs 7.5 lakh and Rs 10 lakh 15 per cent; between Rs 10 lakh and 12.5 lakh 20 per cent; between Rs 12.5 lakh and 15 lakh 25 per cent; and above Rs 15 lakh 30 per cent.

BJP MP ducks out of tabling civil code Bill

all members. However, when his name was called to introduce the Bill, Kirodi Lal Meena, the BJP MP representing Rajasthan in Rajya Sabha, was found to be absent from the House.

But Meena did not stay away for long — he walked into the House the very next minute, and proceeded to introduce another, all together different Bill, seeking special financial assistance for Rajasthan.

While this second Bill too, was mentioned against his name, Meena did not ask to be allowed to introduce the first Bill that had been listed — The Uniform Civil Code in India Bill, 2020. Neither did the Chair give him the opportunity.

Meena's first Bill called for the "constitution of the National Inspection and Investigation Committee for preparation of Uniform Civil Code and its implementation throughout the territory of India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto". The issue of a Uniform Civil Code has found mention in BJP manifestos from the time of the party's inception. Sources said Meena was

asked to remain absent as the BJP and the government did not want attention on the Uniform Civil Code now, as it could trigger further unrest among the Muslim community which is already agitated over CAA and NPR, and the possible National Register of Citizens (NRC).

After repeated assertions from the government about a nationwide NRC earlier, the Prime Minister has announced that there is no discussion on this subject yet. BJP leaders have largely avoided making public statements on the NRC since the passage of the CAA in December triggered nationwide protests.

There was no mention of NRC in the President's Address to the joint sitting of Parliament this week. He had mentioned NRC in his first speech after the new government had taken office last year.

The Opposition in Rajya Sabha had planned to oppose the introduction of the UCC Bill by Meena. They protested when his name was called, but calmed down when they realised that Meena was not in the House. CPM MP Elamaram Kareen had submitted a letter to the Rajya

Sabha Secretary General requesting him not to give permission for the introduction of the Bill.

"This Bill violates the fundamental aspects of the Constitution and there is a chance to affect the communal harmony of the country. As you may be aware of the protests going on in different parts of the country against CAA; introduction of this Bill in the current circumstances will further aggravate the situation. Considering all these, you are earnestly requested not to allow permission to introduce 'The Uniform Civil Code in India Bill, 2020' by Dr Kirodi Lal Meena today in Rajya Sabha," his letter said.

Sources in the Opposition said the introduction of the Bill could have put the government in a spot. "Once discussion on a private member's Bill is over... usually the government requests the member concerned to withdraw the Bill, or else it is voted upon. How can this government ask Meena to withdraw a Bill for Uniform Civil Code? And how can the BJP members vote against it? At the same time, the BJP would ideally want that the government

bring a Bill on UCC with much shor sharaba (noise). Maybe they felt this is not the right time," an Opposition leader said.

The BJP's manifesto for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections said: "Article 44 of the Constitution lists Uniform Civil Code as one of the Directive Principles of State Policy. BJP believes that there cannot be gender equality till such time India adopts a Uniform Civil Code, which protects the rights of all women, and the BJP reiterates its stand to draft a Uniform Civil Code, drawing upon the best traditions and harmonising them with the modern times."

Interestingly, a similar Bill was listed on the agenda in Lok Sabha as well, by the Shiv Sena MP from Ramtek, Krupal Tuman. His Bill too, wants to "provide for the constitution of the National Inspection and Investigation Committee for preparation of Uniform Civil Code and its implementation throughout the territory of India". Shiv Sena is now an ally of the Congress in Maharashtra. Lok Sabha did not function in the afternoon due to (unrelated) Opposition protests.

The 30-year-old's mother said they had come to know what had happened from his social media posts, before he called up. Urging Modi and Banerjee to help, she said, "We are in shock. This is a killer disease and is spreading fast on the ship and I do not know what my son will do or if he will come home alive. The Chief Minister and Prime Minister should help not only my son but others who are stuck on the ship."

His brother, speaking over the phone from Siliguri, said he was in touch with the 30-year-old. "They are all very scared. In the ship, there is a high chance of the infection spreading. We have written to the Bengal government and also talked to BJP MPs in Raiganj and Darjeeling, who have promised help."

West Bengal officials said they had contacted the Japanese Embassy. Said State Forest Minister Rajib Banerjee, "We have asked the Japan Embassy to immediately take steps."

The younger of two brothers, the 30-year-old studied hotel management. He started working as a crew member on luxury ships 10 years ago, and joined *Diamond Princess* two years ago. (WITH AGENCIES)

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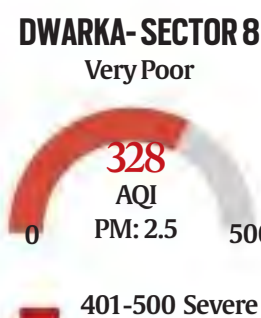
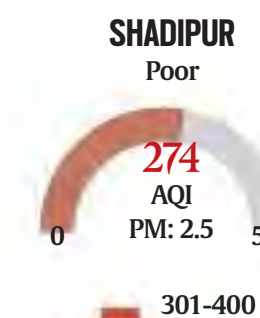
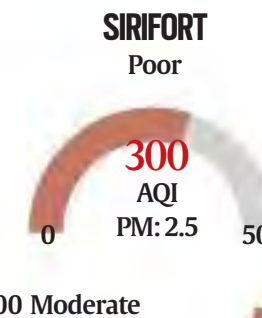
His brother, speaking over the phone from Siliguri, said he was in touch with the 30-year-old. "They are all very scared. In the ship, there is a high chance of the infection spreading. We have written to the Bengal government and also talked to BJP MPs in Raiganj and Darjeeling, who have promised help."

West Bengal officials said they had contacted the Japanese Embassy. Said State Forest Minister Rajib Banerjee, "We have asked the Japan Embassy to immediately take steps."

The younger of two brothers, the 30-year-old studied hotel management. He started working as a crew member on luxury ships 10 years ago, and joined *Diamond Princess* two years ago. (WITH AGENCIES)

The younger of two brothers, the 30-year-old studied hotel management. He started working as a crew member on luxury ships 10 years ago, and joined *Diamond Princess* two years ago. (WITH AGENCIES)

3 THE CITY



HC stays Delhi govt's decision to increase auto fares

New Delhi: In a major setback to the Delhi government ahead of voting in the capital for the Assembly polls, the Delhi High Court Friday stayed the operation of its decision to hike auto-rickshaw fares.

On June 12, 2019, the Delhi government notified new auto-rickshaw fares, effecting a 18.75% increase on existing rates. The per km charge was increased from the existing Rs 8 to Rs 9.5.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar issued the interim order staying the notification till May 21, the next date of hearing.

Hours after the proceedings, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said it was an old demand of Delhi's auto-rickshaw drivers to hike the fares, as the existing ones were inadequate. "The BJP always stood against auto-rickshaw drivers. They often tried to stop many of the AAP government's decisions in court. Today, they have stopped the decision to hike auto

fares," Singh alleged.

In its PIL, NGO Aiding Hands Foundation sought that the notification revising the auto fares be set aside, as it was issued without the approval of the competent authority — the Lieutenant Governor — and the hike would severely impact the public.

Advocate D P Singh, appearing for the NGO, argued that the Delhi government does not have the power to issue such a notification and being bad in law, it deserved to be set aside.

Delhi government's counsel Shadan Farasat, however, opposed the plea, saying the subject of auto fares falls under the transport department, thus empowering it to revise the rates.

But the bench said it was prima facie of the opinion that the L-G was the competent authority: "We are not concerned about the dispute between you two (Delhi government and L-G). But if you cannot do anything, it means you cannot do." **ENS**

AT GURGAON'S ARCADIA MARKET IN 2018 Death penalty for PSO who killed judge's kin

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, FEBRUARY 7



The accused, Mahipal

A GURGAON court Friday sentenced to death the Personal Security Officer (PSO) who shot dead the wife and son of an Additional Sessions Judge in 2018. The accused, Mahipal, was convicted by the court Thursday.

"The court has awarded him capital punishment under IPC section 302 (murder). In addition, in 201 (disappearance of evidence of offence) IPC, he has been awarded five years' rigorous imprisonment and Rs 10,000 fine, and under Section 27 of the Arms Act, he has been sentenced to three years imprisonment and Rs 5,000 fine," said Public Prosecutor Anurag Hooda.

During arguments in court over the last year, while the defence claimed the incident was a result of "accidental firing", the

prosecution alleged that Mahipal had "shot down two innocent people without any provocation".

In his judgment in the case Friday, Additional Sessions Judge Sudhir Parmar has stated, "The kind of act leading to murder of wife and young son of a judicial officer has far reaching consequences. It has not confined its adverse effects on the society alone but is fraught with wider ramifications of sending shivers down the spine of holders of judicial office."

"The horrendous act of the accused has not only taken away two lives but it has also the tendency to undermine the faith reposed by people in those who are supposed to safeguard them... The case squarely falls within the ambit of 'rarest of rare cases' doctrine," he stated.

Defence advocate PS Sharma, however, said they would file an appeal in the case. "We argued for leniency... At most, it is a case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder."

The incident had occurred in October 2018, at the busy Arcadia Market in Gurgaon's Sector 49. The PSO was accompanying judge Kishan Kant Sharma's wife, Ritu, and 18-year-old son, Dhruv, to the market.

An argument ensued when they returned to the car, following which he allegedly pulled out his service pistol and opened fire on them.

Woman SI shot dead outside Metro station

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7



SI Preeti Ahlawat (26) was posted at the Patparganj Industrial Area police station

A 26-YEAR-OLD woman sub-inspector was shot dead by an unidentified man near Rohini (East) Metro station on Thursday evening.

Police have found CCTV footage which shows a man following SI Preeti Ahlawat after she comes out from the Metro station, and shooting her from close range in the head.

According to police, Ahlawat, a 2018 batch sub-inspector, lived with her family in Rohini's Sector 8.

"She was posted at the Patparganj Industrial Area police station in East Delhi. Around 8.30 pm, she left from the station... she was not in uniform. She got out of the Metro station around 9.30 pm. She had walked around 50 metres when the incident took place. She was taken to a hospital where she was declared dead on arrival," said a senior police officer.

Additional CP (Rohini district) S D Mishra said, "We re-

Man says beaten up in Okhla

New Delhi: A 27-year-old man was allegedly thrashed by a group of men in Okhla, after he objected to a fight, said police.

The incident took place on Friday when the man, Javed, was walking with his friend. Though Javed, in a video, alleged the accused thrashed him because he was "a Shaheen Bagh protester", police denied the claims.

DCP (South East) R P Meena said, "We received a call from the injured. The man was with his friend when they saw an old man being beaten up. When Javed objected, the group attacked him. An MLC was done at a local hospital and a case has been registered."

In the video, Javed and his friend claimed the group had referred to their religion, and the fact that they were protesters. The man also alleged that he and his friend were "recognised" based on their clothes. He claimed that was part of the reason they were targeted.

Police said they are yet to make an arrest in the matter. **ENS**

Handicrafts Mega Cluster Mission (HMCM)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Handicrafts Mega Cluster Mission (HMCM) invites EOI from the reputed agencies/firms for supply of tool kit for Stitching & Embroidery Craft and high end stitching & fabrication machines for Common Facility Centre (CFC) as per the details given in the scope of work. Interested agencies/firms may submit their EOI along with their financial quotes on the above address. The detailed Terms of Reference are given in the Tender Document which has been uploaded in the office website www.handicraftmegacluster.org. Last date for submission of application shall be within Seven days of the date of publication.

Handicrafts Mega Cluster Mission (HMCM)
Hall No. 1, 3rd Floor, Rajiv Gandhi Handicraft Bhawan
Baba Kharag Singh Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001
Tel: 011-23341262/73, FAX: 011-23341265
Email: hmcm@handicraftmegacluster.in

लक्ष्मीबाई राष्ट्रीय शारीरिक शिक्षा संस्थान, ग्वालियर
(A++ नैक प्रत्यायित विश्वविद्यालय मानी गई संस्था)
भारत सरकार, युवा कार्यक्रम एवं खेल मंत्रालय

क्रमांक -RCS / S/ 2019 (Part-II) / 86 (H) दिनांक 06.02.2020

चल साक्षात्कार सूचना

संस्थान ने एक विस्तृत सूचना क्रमांक RCS/S/2019 (Part-II) 86 दिनांक 06.02.2020 जारी कर पाठ एवं इच्छुक उम्मीदवारों को विभिन्न पदों पर सविधा नियुक्ति हेतु चल साक्षात्कार में उन पदों के सम्मुख शिष्ट दिनांक एवं समय पर शामिल होने हेतु आमंत्रित किया है, जो पूर्णतः सविधा आधार पर होगी तथा स्थानों नियुक्ति की संभावना अथवा इस प्रकार का कोई अधिकार नहीं होगा।

पदों, दिनांक, योग्यताएँ, अनुभव एवं वेतन की विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये कृपया हमारी वेबसाइट www.ljipe.edu.in का संदर्भ लें। चर्चापत्र योग्यता/ अनुभव को सक्षम प्राधिकारों के विवेक पर अपवादस्वरूप स्थिति में शिथिल किया जा सकता है, यदि पर्याप्त संख्या में आवेदक उपलब्ध नहीं हों।

कर्नल जनक सिंह शोखावत (से.नि.)
कुलसचिव

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
अखंड अखण्ड, हरिद्वार- 249004, www.ukpsc.gov.in

पत्रांक :: 05/03(07) / डी०आर० / डि०पी / सेवा-०२ / २०१७-१८
दिनांक :: ०७ फरवरी, २०२०

विज्ञापित

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या : ०१ / ०३ / डी०आर० / सेवा-२ / २०१७-१८ दिनांक ०४ अगस्त, २०१७ द्वारा विज्ञापित असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर (समाजशास्त्र) पर वयन हेतु अर्ह अम्बुशियों को साक्षात्कार की तिथि दिनांक २४, २५ व २६ फरवरी, २०२० को निर्धारित की गयी है। अर्ह अम्बुशियों, अनुक्रमिकवार साक्षात्कार कार्यक्रम व साक्षात्कार ज्ञाप दिनांक १४ फरवरी, २०२० से आयोग की वेबसाइट से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। अर्ह अम्बुशियों को पृथक से डाक द्वारा साक्षात्कार ज्ञाप प्रेषित नहीं किये जायेंगे।

उक्त कर् अतिरिक्त अनर्ह घोषित अम्बुशियों एवं साक्षात्कार से पूर्व कतिपय वांछित अतिरिक्त उपलब्ध कराये जाने वाले अर्ह अम्बुशियों की सूची व विस्तृत विवरण आयोग की वेबसाइट www.ukpsc.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

(राजेश कुमार) सचिव

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax No.: 0135-2763588
CIN No. U40101UP200195GCC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

e-Tender Notice

Office of Executive Engineer (M&G), Kulhal Power Station, Dehradun invites online bids for following work -

Tender no. : e-19/UJVNL/EE(M&G)/KPS/2019-20, Procurement of self-lubricated bushes for Unit-B of Kulhal PH (3x10 MW)(3x10 MW)

Estimated cost : Rs. 14,00,000/- (GST Extra)

Earnest money deposit : Rs. 42,000/-

Tender Fee : Rs 1180/- only

Date of availability of bid document on website : 07-02-2020, 17.00 hrs.

Last date for submission of bid on website : 28-02-2020, 17.00 hrs.

Last date of submission of hard copy of bid : 02-03-2020, 11.00 hrs.

Date of opening of bid on website : 02-03-2020 at 13.00 hrs.

For downloading tender documents and other details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "https://uktenders.gov.in"

64/UJVNL/Adv1 Dated 07-02-2020 Executive Engineer, (M&G) Kulhal
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NOTIFICATION

No. 130220133 CT/GD Sonu S/O Sh. Dilbag Singh, VPO- Bhatgan, P.S.- Sonipat Sadar, District-Sonepat, State- Haryana who is serving in 37th BN attached with Central kabaddi Team, SS Bn ITB Police Force PO- Nathupura, District-Sonepat (Hry) pin code- 131029 is absenting From leave with effect from **10.09.19 (A.N)**. In spite of repeated directions, individual did not report back on duty till date. Therefore, he has been declared as deserter vide this office order No. 6611 dtd. 03.12.19 thereafter "Show Cause Notice" issued to him.

2. Before taking a final decision in this case, he has given a last opportunity through this notification to report for duty at SS Bn ITB Police Force PO- Nathupura, District- Sonepat (Haryana) pin code- 131029, within 15 days from the publication of this notification or submit his explanation in his defence, failing which he will be "Dismissed" From the ITB Police Force.

Sd/-
Commandant
SS Bn ITB Police Force

davp 19112/11/0441/1920

ऐसी होगी हमारी दिल्ली

कांग्रेस ने 15 साल के कार्यकाल में दिल्ली को बेहतर बनाया था, आओ, फिर से दिल्ली को वही कांग्रेस वाली दिल्ली बनाते हैं।

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| स्नातक युवाओं को ₹5000, स्नातकोत्तर युवाओं को ₹7500 प्रति माह बेरोजगारी भत्ता | शीला पेंशन योजना, प्रति माह ₹5000 बेहतर होगा बुजुर्गों का जीवन | गैर-प्रदूषणकारी उद्योगों को ₹6 युनिट की दर से बिजली |
| 600 युनिट बिजली पर सब्सिडी | दस नए AIIMS जैसे सुपर स्पेशियलिटी हॉस्पिटल का निर्माण | JJ क्लस्टर में रहने वाले सभी लोगों को 350 वर्गफीट के फ्लैट |
| छात्राओं की शिक्षा नर्सरी से पीएचडी तक मुफ्त | सरकारी नौकरियों में महिलाओं के लिए 33 प्रतिशत आरक्षण | NYAY योजना लागू करना |
| यारी स्टार्टअप के तहत स्टार्टअप के लिए ₹5000 करोड़ का फंड | दुकानों और प्रतिष्ठानों पर कोई अवैध सीलिंग नहीं | 10 नए विश्वस्तरीय कॉलेजों का निर्माण |

वादे निभाये थे, वादे निभायेंगे

कांग्रेस को वोट दें

INTENSE CAMPAIGN OVER, NOW FOR THE GRAND FINALE

Delhi decides today

Arrangements especially tight in areas witnessing protests, Shaheen Bagh set to vote in batches

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

AFTER A hectic and high-octane election campaign, the capital goes to polls today. To ensure safe polling, at least 40,000 Delhi Police personnel, 19,000 home guards, and 190 companies of paramilitary forces have been deployed across the city — apart from checking drives, flying squads and patrolling on boats in the Yamuna.

The days leading up to the elections have witnessed anti-CAA protests in parts of the city, two shootings at Jamia and Shaheen Bagh, and provocative sloganeering that earned the ire of the Election Commission.

In order to ensure that February 8 goes smoothly, especially at Shaheen Bagh, special security arrangements were put in place by police as well as volunteers at the 55-day protest site. On Friday, at least three SHOs of South East district were stationed at Shaheen Bagh, and the layers of barricades leading up to the site were guarded by the paramilitary force.

For 55 days now, hundreds of women have been protesting, and for Saturday, there's a plan in place — "sit-in time".

A volunteer at the protest and local resident Heena (45) said, "We don't want any violent party to take advantage of the election and disturb the women. In the morning, the youngsters will go and cast their vote while the elderly will sit here. After 2-3 pm, the youngsters will sit here and the old women

will go. To encourage a good voter turnout, we have booked eight e-rickshaws, which will ferry the women back and forth."

Help with the sit-in is also coming from farmers visiting from Punjab. "We don't trust the police and their security arrangements. We will sit here the entire day; we won't go to our tents or leave till there's an adequate number of people on the ground," said Gurwinder Singh, a protester from Munga, Punjab.

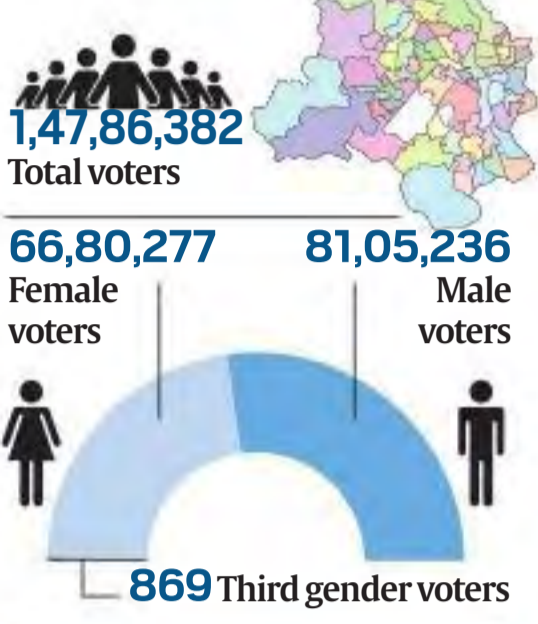
On election eve, hours before Carnatic musician T M Krishna performed at the protest site, a volunteer got on stage and said, "Though the whole idea of our citizenship is in danger, we can't forget that we still have to commit to our duties. We can make or break the government. Let's vote for people who care for us and will help us."

Mehrunisa (60), a protester visiting from Vasant Kunj, said that her aching knees had so far discouraged her from wanting to vote, but the protests have given her a boost of strength. "I will go at 8 am," she said. Post-voting, she plans to return to Shaheen Bagh.

While volunteers have opened up a carriageway for easy movement of Election Commission vehicles as the polling booth is 500 metres away, a few kilometres away at Jamia, the protests by students at gate number 7 has temporarily moved to another gate.

A member of the Jamia Coordination Committee said, "The polling booth is 100 metres away from the Jamia protest site so we have moved and will return on February 9."

ELECTORAL ROLL



11,608 Service voters
2,04,830 Voters aged over 80 yrs
147 Voters aged over 100 yrs
50,473 PwD* voters
3,875 Wheelchairs for PwD voters
9,997 Volunteers deployed for PwD voters
OLDEST VOTER IN NCT OF DELHI:
 Kalitara Mandal, Age 110,
 resident of GK

(*Persons with Disability)

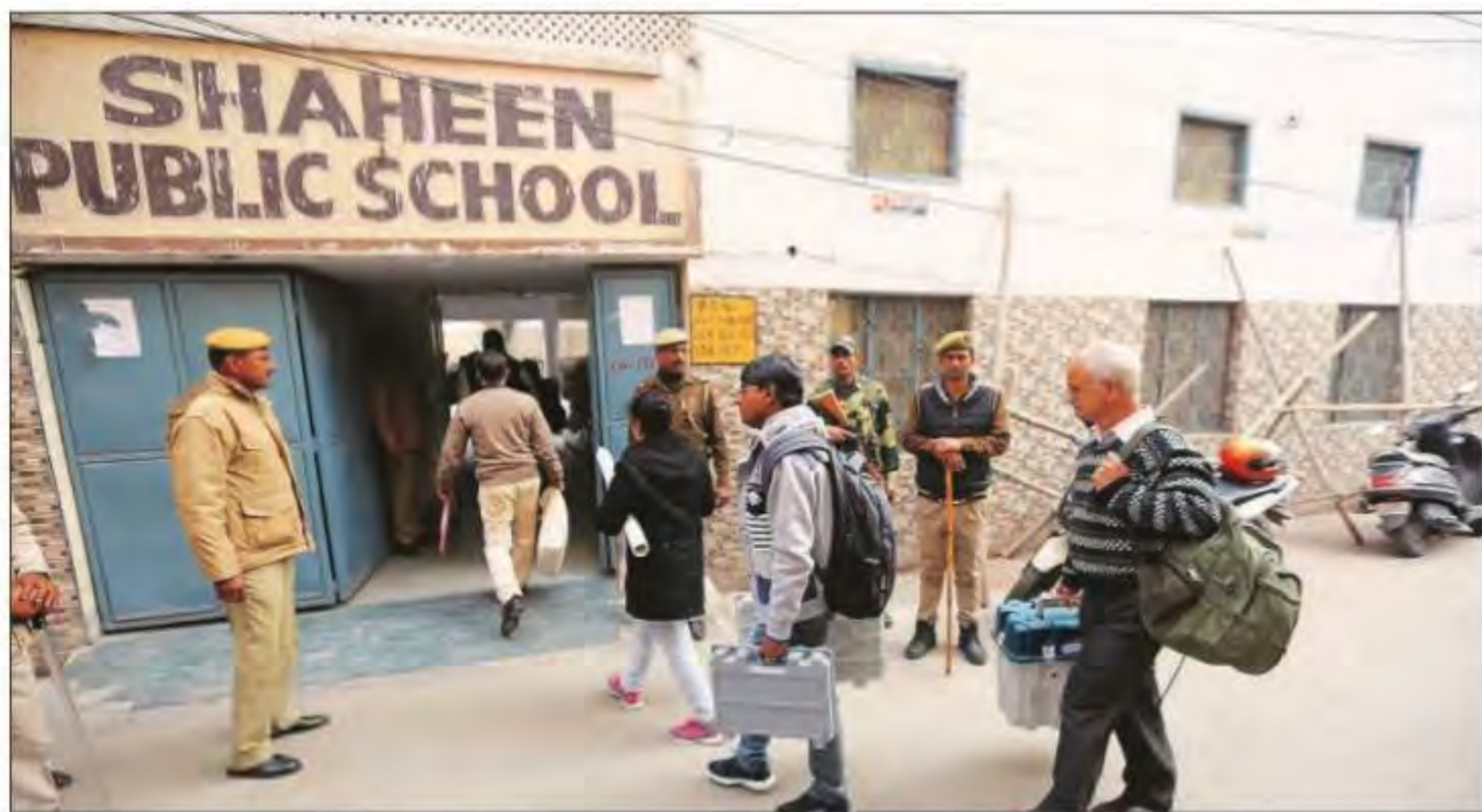
COMPLAINTS

12 complaints on Booth app
10,828 complaints on cVigil app
6,47,625 Hoardings/posters removed

POLLING STATIONS

13,571 Polling stations (including 1 auxiliary polling station in AC 40)
3,841 Critical polling stations
144 Vulnerable polling stations
102 Expenditure sensitive pockets
27 Counting centres
1,00,024 Persons deployed in polling stations

67.1% VOTER TURNOUT IN 2015; WILL NATIONAL CAPITAL GO FURTHER?



Poll officials arrive at Shaheen Public School, Friday. Abhinav Saha

SEIZURES

CASH
₹ 9,40,22,340
 by FS/SST/police and Income Tax

LIQUOR
₹ 2,30,98,676
 (87,022.91 litres) by FS/SST/state prohibition and excise department

DRUGS/NARCOTIC
₹ 5,54,06,500
 (160.96297 kg) by FS/SST/other police authority etc

POLICE ACTION

96,798.8 litres
 illicit liquor caught since enforcement of MCC

774.1 kg
 drugs caught since enforcement of MCC

EFFORTS TO SPREAD VOTER AWARENESS BY SVEEP

■ 1,679 cluster buses wrapped with voter awareness/ voting appeal messages

■ 1,084 Metro panels, 40 panels at Metro stations, 200 digital screens in post offices, 50 digital screens in Connaught Place, 154 bus queue shelters used for voter awareness

■ 19 radio jingles regularly aired on FM channels from Jan 8 to Feb 8

■ Voter awareness announcements/jingles also played at seven Delhi railway stations and auto tippers belonging to municipal corporations. 400 auto tippers in North DMC areas; 360 in East DMC areas; and 1,066 in South DMC areas used for this purpose

FREEBIES (laptops, cookers, sarees etc)
₹ 2,06,60,000

PRECIOUS METALS (gold, silver, ornaments etc)
₹ 31,66,06,910

Seizures in 2020:
₹ 50,97,94,425

Seizures in 2015:
₹ 2,42,79,766

POLICE ARRANGEMENTS

NUMBER OF POLICE PERSONNEL DEPLOYED

40,000
 Delhi Police personnel

190
 Companies of CAPFs

19,000
 Home guards

SURVEILLANCE ALSO BEING DONE BY FLYING SQUADS AND PATROLLING ON BOATS IN YAMUNA

494: Illegal firearms recovered
706: Illegal ammunition recovered
7,397: Licenced weapons deposited as a preventive measure



A poll briefing at Akshardham, on the eve of elections, Friday. Praveen Khanna

In complex capital landscape, vote for AAP may not mean disagreement with BJP

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

AS THE BJP and AAP battled it out over the past month, on ground zero, many voters perceived both parties as complementary and not antithetical to each other. And for many, a vote for AAP doesn't mean disagreement with the BJP's stand against protests at Shaheen Bagh, highlighted in speech after speech by Home Minister Amit Shah.

In the past two weeks, Shah has addressed 39 public meetings in different constituencies, making speeches with targeted attacks on the anti-CAA protest in the locality. Each of his speeches have begun with accusing AAP of not fulfilling its promises — construction of schools, CCTV cameras, new roads, free WiFi and new DTC buses.

Then comes the accusation that both AAP and Congress have shied away from backing strong decisions because of "vote bank politics" — abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir, attacks at Uri and Balakot, and the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. However, the centre-piece of his offensive against both AAP and Congress has been the claim that they are supporting protesters at Shaheen Bagh.

But the lack of a BJP chief ministerial face and appeals for votes in the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi feeds into a refrain



Home Minister Amit Shah at a rally in Nand Nagri, Thursday. Amit Mehra

echoed by many voters in different parts of Delhi — that while Modi should lead the country at the Centre, Arvind Kejriwal should be the state's chief minister.

"Modi desh ke liye zaroori hai (Modi is nec-

essary for the country). He has strengthened the country and worked a lot for national security... AAP has the correct planks — of giving essential services such as electricity and water to people. Both have their own roles

at their own levels," said Hari Singh, a shop-owner at Sarojini Nagar market.

"Modi desh ke liye badhiya hai, Kejriwal Dilli ke liye," said Ajay Gupta, a resident at Shastri Nagar.

A similar sentiment had been seen during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections as well. At that time, many voters had said they were happy with the work done by the AAP government, particularly with regard to electricity, water, schools and mohalla clinics, but most added that they would vote for the BJP at the Centre, and the AAP in Delhi. "Desh ke hit mein Modi achha kaam kar raha hai," was a commonly heard phrase at the time.

On Shaheen Bagh, Bhaat Pal, a resident of Mandawali, said: "It (the sit-in) is a matter of concern, but I won't choose my MLA or Chief Minister on this... we are ordinary people and will vote for those who will make our everyday lives easier and who have worked."

At a public meeting by Shah in Pitampura, a group of young men had joined in eagerly to hear his speech.

They cheered him on and shouted along as he began his address by saying, "Itna zor se bolo ki Shaheen Bagh mein baithne wale tak pahunchen — 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'." But when he began criticising the AAP government and asking "Kya Kejriwal ne paanch saal mein kuch kiya hai?", he muttered to each other, "Haan, kiya toh hai".

SC will hear Shaheen Bagh road closure plea after polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

WITH THE Delhi elections in mind, the Supreme Court Friday deferred till February 10 a hearing on petitions against the closure of a key road in the capital due to the anti-CAA protests in Shaheen Bagh. "We understand there is a problem. Will take it up Monday," Justice SK Kaul, sitting with Justice KM Joseph, said as the plea by Advocate Amit Sahni and BJP leader Nand Kishore Garg came up.

One of the lawyers for a petitioner submitted that the polls were slated for February 8. "You read our mind... That's exactly why we are saying. By then, we will be in a better position to hear," Justice Kaul said on the plea citing difficulties to local residents, businesses and commuters due to the closure of Road No 13A between Mathura Road and Kalindi Kunj by police.

Earlier, the Delhi High Court had disposed of the plea by asking police to look into it.

In his appeal, Sahni sought to know "whether the protesters have unrestricted rights under Article 19 of the Constitution of India to protest on a busy road in violation of other persons' right to have a thoroughfare, and whether such protests can be permitted

to continue especially when a particular road is blocked for over a month".

He said that "there is no quarrel with the proposition that everyone has a right to protest but the same is subject to reasonable restrictions, which can be imposed looking into the larger public interest".

His plea said that a Delhi Police advisory dated December 16, 2019, had informed that the road was closed for traffic movement due to the demonstration and public was advised to take other routes.

It said that "the public at large is facing huge inconvenience/hardship as the said road is blocked since 15-12-2019 and the residents, shopkeepers, children and patients are facing extreme difficulties".

In his petition, Garg said the law enforcement machinery has been "held hostage to the whims and fancies of the protesters", and sought the court's intervention to formulate guidelines for protests in public places.

The petition said "it is urgently required that public places must not be allowed to be abused and misused for ulterior and mala fide purposes such as staging protest against the Constitution amendment in the heart of the capital city and, thereby, causing incalculable hardships and difficulties to the common people".

After infant's death, SC to look into protests with kids

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

FOLLOWING THE death of a four-month-old infant, allegedly due to exposure to cold as he was taken to the venue of the anti-CAA protests in Shaheen Bagh by his parents, the Supreme Court Friday decided to hold a hearing on February 10 to "stop involvement of children and infants in demonstrations". The top court took suo motu cognisance of the subject.

A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde, B R Gavai and Surya Kant will hear it.

After the child's death, National Bravery Award winner Zen Gunratn Sadavarte (12) had written to the CJ's office urging the court to intervene to protect the rights of children and said making them attend protest demonstrations "amounts to cruelty".

Sadavarte, recipient of the 2019 Indian

Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) National Bravery Award, said in the letter that the infants' parents and organisers of protests in Shaheen Bagh had "failed" to protect the rights of the child, resulting in his death.

She also contended that the protesters at Shaheen Bagh include newborns and children, who are exposed to unfavourable conditions, thereby violating their rights.

"The Shaheen Bagh protesters at New Delhi, include women, senior citizens, newborns and children, ignoring the fact that newborns need a lot of attention and care as they cannot express their pain in particular... thereafter, also ignoring the conditions unfavourable to the children, they are brought to the protest place which is violative of their child rights and natural justice," the letter said.

Sadavarte also questioned the alleged failure of the police in stopping such incidents.

BJP HAD FILED COMPLAINT

Case over AAP's Sholay video, featuring Shah

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

THE DELHI BJP's legal department has filed a complaint alleging that the AAP tried to tarnish the party's image by making a spoof video which shows Home Minister Amit Shah and other senior leaders as dacoits from the cult Bollywood movie Sholay. The Delhi Police Cyber Crime Cell has registered an FIR.

In his complaint, convener of the Delhi BJP's legal and legislative cell, Neeraj, alleged that the video contains morphed clips from Sholay and shows Shah as

Gabbar, the villain in the movie, and Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari, East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir and BJP Rajya Sabha MP Vijay Goel as the dacoits.

"They are spreading the deceptive Sholay spoof to tarnish the image of the BJP, which is derogatory, and are also violating the norms of election in order to take undue advantage for election," he alleged in his complaint.

After receiving the complaint, a case was registered under IPC sections 465 (forgery), 469 (forgery for purpose of harming reputation), 471 (using as genuine a forged), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and 505(1)B (with intent to

cause, fear or alarm to the public).

"The CCC has written a letter to YouTube and other social media websites to provide details of the server from where the video was uploaded. As of now, we are collecting evidence before making any arrest," said a senior police officer. After the police letter, the video has been removed from YouTube.

The complaint also alleged that the video is being projected and circulated on a large scale to influence voters of Delhi and get them to cast their votes in AAP's favour. The video also had hashtags like #SholaySpoof, #BeyondDustDigitalStudio and #ArvindKejriwal, it alleged.

The Delhi CEO office had earlier written to

the Election Commission (EC), flagging personal jibes being made by political parties and their social media handles through videos and memes.

They had flagged posts from all three parties — BJP, Congress and AAP — in which they had poked fun at each other, saying that such posts may vitiate the political atmosphere. They had asked the EC to clarify if such posts constitute political advertisement, since the EC does not recognise posts from party and individual handles as political ads.

EC sources had told *The Indian Express* that in response, the Delhi CEO had been told to check if the posts were violating the Model Code of Conduct.

BRIEFLY

Central Vista revamp may face legal hurdle, experts tell DDA

FIR lodged based on inputs of 'planned murders'

New Delhi: Delhi Police's Special Cell has registered an FIR on inputs that underworld gangster Chhota Shakeel has allegedly tasked his operatives to kill political leaders in the capital. An FIR was registered on January 27 on the complaint of a police officer, who received information from a source about the "planned killing". "No specific 'targets' have been named in the FIR or have come up during the investigation. We are probing the matter," said DCP (Special Cell) Pramod Kushwah. ENS

Prisoner hangs self at Tihar

New Delhi: A 21-year-old undertrial prisoner allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself inside the toilet at Tihar Jail on Friday. The incident took place inside Tihar's Jail number 3, police said. ENS

SHIVAMPATEL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

RAISING DOUBTS about redevelopment of the Central Vista, experts said the process adopted by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for changing land use in the project zone may not be "legally tenable". At a hearing Friday at DDA's INA office, members of the public said the Authority was proposing to make modifications in the area as per an old Zonal Development Plan.

The redevelopment plans include building a new, triangular-shaped Parliament house and moving all union ministries and offices to the Central Vista in 10 "doughnut-shaped" identical buildings on four tracts of government land between India Gate, and the Rail and Vayu Bhavans.

The DDA had called for submissions from the public for modifications to the use of seven plots falling under 'Zone D'—comprising mainly of Lutynies' Delhi and its extensions—and a plot under 'Zone C, also known as the Civil Lines Zone.

Poonam Prakash, head of the department of physical planning at the School of Planning and Architecture, told the board, "It's

legally not tenable you're modifying a 2001 plan within a framework of MPD 2021. 'Zone D' plan hasn't been notified (for 2021). The board should record the reason for delay of notification simply because all other zonal plans were notified in 2010." DDA vice-chairman Tarun Kapoor said the zonal plan for 2021 has been approved and was under notification: "These changes are based on the 2001 plan. We will look at it from the legal point of view as well... When the local area plan is delayed, the previous one is used."

Another objection raised was that the government did not share a technical study of the proposed revamp and its impact in the public domain, or hold public consultations, before issuing tenders to invite consultants. Balbir Verma of the Central Vista Committee, an advisory body to the Centre, said around two years ago the proposal for change of land use of a smaller plot in the Central Vista was first referred to the committee, but has not been done this time, when the land use of "whole area" is concerned.

The DDA received nearly 1,300 objections and suggestions against the project. It held a two-day hearing to record "oral evidence" of those making the submissions.



Statement of Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2019 (Rupees in Crore)

| Particulars | Standalone | | | Consolidated | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Quarter ended December 31, 2019 Un-Audited | Nine Months ended December 31, 2019 Un-Audited | Quarter ended December 31, 2018 Un-Audited | Quarter ended December 31, 2019 Un-Audited | Nine Months ended December 31, 2019 Un-Audited | Quarter ended December 31, 2018 Un-Audited |
| | 1. Total Income | 7178.84 | 23206.57 | 8052.46 | 7258.39 | 23494.96 |
| 2. Net Profit for the period before tax (before Exceptional items #) | 1011.53 | 3245.73 | 1138.42 | 1044.44 | 3296.18 | 1149.63 |
| 3. Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional items #) | 1011.53 | 3923.10 | 1138.42 | 1044.44 | 3973.55 | 1149.63 |
| 4. Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional items #) | 880.41 | 3012.55 | 769.10 | 905.13 | 3045.60 | 772.81 |
| 5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)) | 871.38 | 2985.46 | 765.92 | 900.08 | 3024.70 | 760.28 |
| 6. Equity Share Capital (face value ₹2/- per share) | 39.95 | 39.95 | 39.94 | 39.95 | 39.95 | 39.94 |
| 7. Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 8. Earnings per share on net profit after tax- face value ₹2/- each (In Rupees) | 44.08 | 150.83 | 38.52 | 45.15 | 151.88 | 38.82 |
| a) Basic | 44.08 | 150.83 | 38.52 | 45.15 | 151.88 | 38.82 |
| b) Diluted | - | - | 36.51 | 45.15 | 151.88 | 38.81 |
| # Refer note 2 and note 3 for Exceptional items | | | | | | |

Notes:-

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results is available on the Company's website www.heromotocorp.com and also on stock exchange websites, www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.
- During the nine months ended December 31, 2019, the Company had introduced a voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) and the Company had considered a provision of ₹60.11 crores for employees who have accepted to be part of VRS as exceptional item in the financial results.
- The Company had deposited and created provision for "National Calamity Contingent Duty" ("NCCD") including applicable cess in its Haridwar plant during prior years, while contesting the same on the ground that NCCD is in nature of excise duty and should be covered by Area based exemption Pursuant to favourable order from Hon'ble Supreme Court, the provision of ₹737.48 has been reversed as an exceptional item during nine months ended December 31, 2019.
- The Board at its meeting held on February 06, 2020 considered and approved an interim dividend @ 3250% i.e. ₹65 per equity share of ₹2.00 each for the financial year 2019-20.
- Based on the guiding principles given in Ind AS-108 on 'Operating Segments', the Company's business activity fall within a single operating segment, namely automotive segment. Accordingly, the disclosure requirements of Ind AS 108 are not applicable.
- The above results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2019 have been reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee meeting held on February 5, 2020 and approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on February 6, 2020.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

PAWAN MUNJAL
Chairman, Managing Director & CEO
DIN: 0004223

New Delhi
06/02/2020

Hero MotoCorp Ltd. - Regd. Office: Hero MotoCorp Ltd. The Grand Plaza, Plot No.2, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj - Phase -II, New Delhi - 110070, India.
Email: secretarial@heromotocorp.com | Telephone no- 011-46044100 | Fax no: 011-26143321 | CIN: L35911DL1984PLC017354 | Visit: www.HeroMotoCorp.com

L.C.K. | SAATCHI & SAATCHI

SML ISUZU LIMITED

Regd. Office : Village Aaron, Distt. Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar (Newansahar)-144 533, Punjab. CIN : L50101PB1983PLC005516, Website: www.smlisuzu.com, Email id : investors@smlisuzu.com, T : 91 1881 270255, F: 91 1881 270223

EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Rs. Crores, except per equity share data

| Particulars | Unaudited | | | Audited | | |
|--|---------------|------------|-------------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| | Quarter Ended | | Nine Months Ended | Quarter Ended | | Year Ended |
| | 31.12.2019 | 30.09.2019 | 31.12.2018 | 31.12.2019 | 31.12.2018 | 31.03.2019 |
| Total income | 177.37 | 236.16 | 232.76 | 885.82 | 982.67 | 1,413.71 |
| Net profit / (loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items) | (31.03) | (26.54) | (19.94) | (35.05) | (3.97) | 24.33 |
| Net profit / (loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items) | (31.03) | (26.54) | (19.94) | (35.05) | (3.97) | 24.33 |
| Net profit / (loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items) | (17.89) | (17.82) | (14.80) | (19.05) | (2.43) | 19.57 |
| Total comprehensive income for the period (comprising Profit / (loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)) | (18.22) | (18.61) | (15.49) | (20.35) | (1.06) | 18.15 |
| Equity Share Capital | 14.48 | 14.48 | 14.48 | 14.48 | 14.48 | 14.48 |
| Other equity (excluding revaluation reserves) | - | - | - | - | - | 399.11 |
| Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) | | | | | | |
| 1. Basic (Rs.) : | (12.36) | (12.31) | (10.23) | (13.16) | (1.68) | 13.53 |
| 2. Diluted (Rs.) : | (12.36) | (12.31) | (10.23) | (13.16) | (1.68) | 13.53 |

Notes:
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the websites of Stock Exchange(s) (www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.smlisuzu.com).



For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

(Yugo Hashimoto)
Managing Director & CEO
DIN: 08165797

Place : New Delhi
Date : 07.02.2020

हरियाणा लोक प्रशासन संस्थान प्लॉट नं. 76, सेक्टर-18, गुरुग्राम

हिप्पा हरियाणा एवं अन्य राज्यों के आईएस, आईपीएस, एचसीएस एवं अन्य अधिकारियों को प्रशिक्षण हेतु एक सर्वोच्च संस्थान है। हरियाणा लोक प्रशासन संस्थान, प्लॉट नं. 76, सेक्टर-18, गुरुग्राम में re-designing के लिए Architect/Interior Designer (वास्तुकार/आंतरिक साजसजा विशेषज्ञ) को पैलिक्करण के लिए आमंत्रित किया जा रहा है। कृपया करके अपने सभी दस्तावेजों समेत हिप्पा कार्यालय में दिनांक 10.02.2020, सांय 5.00 बजे तक जमा करवाएं।

महानिदेशक,
हिप्पा, गुरुग्राम।

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 896/2019

UCO BANK Versus APPLICANT MR SUNIT SINGH & ORS. DEFENDANTS

3. M/s Amrapali Centurian Park Pvt. Ltd. Having Regd. Office at : 307, 3rd Floor, Nipun Towers Community Centre, Karkardooma, Delhi-110092 Corporate Office : C-56/40, Sector-62, Noida (Near Forts) U.P.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and where as 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 28.03.2020 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 the Tribunal on this 27th day of Jan., 2020

By Order of the Tribunal,
Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, 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 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993. In the matter of OA. 445/2019/DRT-III

State Bank of India Applicant Versus Sh. Monu Jain & Anr Defendants

1. Sh. Monu Jain, S/o Sh. Ramesh Jain, Proprietor of M/s NA Traders S-38, Shop No.3, Shalimar Garden Ext.-I, Sahibabad, U.P.-201005

2. Mrs. Vimpy Jain, W/o Sh. Monu Jain Both are resident at:

Plot No.26, 2nd Floor, Shatabdi Puram, Ghaziabad, U.P. -201005 Also at: C-75, UG-II, DLF Colony, Pasonda, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, U.P. -201005 Also at: E-232, Swam Jayanti Puram, Govindpuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010 Also at : C-22, Plot No.22, SF-22, 1st Floor, Shatabdi Puram, Govindpuram, Ghaziabad, U.P. -201010

3. Sh. Raj Kumar Jain, S/o Jijha Lal Jain, Proprietor of M/s Raj Traders At: D-138, Swam Jayanti Puram, Govindpuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010 Also at : C-294, 1st Floor, Vivek Vihar, Delhi-110091 Also at : C-10, Ramprastha, Ghaziabad, U.P.

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 20.02.2020 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 03.12.2019.

By Order of the Tribunal, Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.

(A Navratna Undertaking of Government of India)

Regd. Office & Investors' Relation Centre : CONCOR Bhawan, C-3, Mathura Road, Opp. Apollo Hospital, New Delhi-110 076 CIN:L63011DL1988G01030915 Ph.: 011-41673093/94/95/96 Fax: 011-41673112 E-mail : co.pro@concorindia.com Website : www.concorindia.com

Share Transfer Agent & Registrar : M/s. Beetal Financial & Computer Services Pvt. Ltd. 99, Madangir, (Behind Local Shopping Centre), Near Dada Harsukh Das Mandir, New Delhi-110062 Ph.: 011-29961281, Fax : 011-29961284, E-mail : beetal@beetalfinancial.com



EXTRACT OF THE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2019 (₹ in Crore)

| S. No. | Particulars | STANDALONE RESULTS | | | | | CONSOLIDATED RESULTS | | | | | | |
|--------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED | | | FOR NINE MONTHS ENDED | | FOR THE YEAR ENDED | FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED | | | FOR NINE MONTHS ENDED | | |
| | | 31-DEC-2019 (Un-Audited) | 30-SEP-2019 (Un-Audited) | 31-DEC-2018 (Un-Audited) | 31-DEC-2019 (Un-Audited) | 31-DEC-2018 (Un-Audited) | | 31-MAR-2019 (Audited) | 31-DEC-2019 (Un-Audited) | 30-SEP-2019 (Un-Audited) | 31-DEC-2018 (Un-Audited) | 31-DEC-2019 (Un-Audited) | 31-DEC-2018 (Un-Audited) |
| 1 | Total Income from Operations | 1,527.58 | 1,738.65 | 1,657.07 | 4,905.16 | 5,047.62 | 6,881.91 | 1,544.74 | 1,755.61 | 1,673.07 | 4,955.11 | 5,107.51 | 6,956.06 |
| 2 | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) | 302.12 | 353.21 | 386.60 | 980.30 | 1,205.23 | 1,688.88 | 299.12 | 330.67 | 373.55 | 955.13 | 1,170.96 | 1,648.97 |
| 3 | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) | 302.12 | (507.84) | 386.60 | 119.25 | 1,205.23 | 1,688.88 | 299.12 | (530.38) | 373.55 | 94.08 | 1,170.96 | 1,648.97 |
| 4 | Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) | 175.49 | (322.02) | 274.68 | 81.30 | 863.10 | 1,215.41 | 179.34 | (332.71) | 275.60 | 89.14 | 866.43 | 1,224.59 |
| 5 | Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] | 175.30 | (322.15) | 274.17 | 80.85 | 863.98 | 1,213.55 | 179.09 | (332.90) | 275.01 | 88.47 | 867.11 | 1,222.66 |
| 6 | Equity Share Capital | 304.65 | 304.65 | 243.72 | 304.65 | 243.72 | 304.65 | 304.65 | 304.65 | 243.72 | 304.65 | 243.72 | 304.65 |
| 7 | Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year | | | | | | 10,063.22 | | | | | | 10,025.25 |
| 8 | Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 5/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) - | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1. Basic (Rs.) | 2.88 | (5.29) | 4.51 | 1.33 | 14.17 | 19.95 | 2.94 | (5.46) | 4.52 | 1.46 | 14.22 | 20.10 |
| | 2. Diluted (Rs.) | 2.88 | (5.29) | 4.51 | 1.33 | 14.17 | 19.95 | 2.94 | (5.46) | 4.52 | 1.46 | 14.22 | 20.10 |

The Standalone and Consolidated Financial results of the Company for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2019 have been reviewed by Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on February 07, 2020. The statutory auditors of the Company have carried out limited review of the above results for quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2019.

Note:- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarter and nine months ended Financial Results for December 31, 2019 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly and nine months Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchanges Websites www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com and on company's website www.concorindia.com.

For & on behalf of the Board of Directors

Place : New Delhi
Date : 07th February, 2020

Sd/-
(Manoj Kumar Dubey)
Director (Finance)



I HEREBY DECLARE



SURENDER KUMAR (62)
Congress, Bawana

TOTAL ASSETS (2020)

₹1.93 CRORE

MOVEABLE ASSETS

₹70.16 LAKH

CASH: ₹87,090

JEWELLERY: ₹4.16 L

IMMOVABLE ASSETS

₹1.23 CRORE

Assets

Agricultural land ₹45 L

Houses ₹78 L

Commercial buildings Nil

TOTAL ASSETS (2015)

₹1.84 CRORE

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

Higher Secondary, CBSE



HARI KISHAN JINDAL (55)
Congress, Wazirpur

TOTAL ASSETS (2020)

₹4.55 CRORE

MOVEABLE ASSETS

₹1.90 CRORE

CASH: ₹9.50 L

JEWELLERY: ₹8.54 L

IMMOVABLE ASSETS

₹2.65 CRORE

Assets

Agricultural land Nil

Houses ₹2.65 cr

Commercial buildings Nil

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

Class X

BALLOTIN

‘Union min caught distributing money’

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party Friday alleged that Union Minister Giriraj Singh was “caught distributing money” in the Rithala assembly seat, a charge dismissed by Delhi Police, which said the BJP leader “was buying jewellery”. AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh levelled the allegations against the Union Minister in a press conference at the AAP office Friday. Giriraj Singh, who is an MP from Begusarai, could not be reached for a comment. “I had expressed concern about BJP... before. It has made a mockery of MCC. Now, they are distributing liquor, money. We received one such report from Rithala,” the AAP leader alleged.

EC notice to CM

New Delhi: The EC Friday issued a notice to CM Arvind Kejriwal over a video clip he posted on Twitter. Responding to a BJP complaint, EC said the clip may “disturb communal harmony”. The CM has been asked to respond by 5 pm Saturday. **ENS**



CM Kejriwal along with his wife and daughter at the Hanuman Temple near Connaught Place, Friday. Praveen Khanna

BEFORE BIG DAY, SOME DIVINE BLESSINGS

Kejriwal visits Hanuman temple: ‘Results will be in favour of people of Delhi’

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

A MAN stood guarding a pair of black shoes, around which groups of men and women huddled purposefully. The crowd swelled as word got around. Around 4.15 pm on Friday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal came to visit the *prachin* Hanuman Mandir near Connaught Place.

“I took the blessings of Lord Hanuman and prayed for the development of Delhi and its people. *Hanuman ji ne kaha, achha kam kar rahe ho. Issi tarah logon ki seva karte raho, phal mujh par chor do.* I am hopeful that the results will be in the favour of people of Delhi. And whatever the results are, I will come to get his blessings again,” said Kejriwal, speaking to the media after performing *puja* with wife Sunita and daughter Harshita.

In response to a reporter referring to his recital of the Hanuman Chalisa during a TV show, Kejriwal replied: “I feel everyone will have a smile on their lips after paying obeisance to Lord Hanuman. In fact, everyone should recite the Hanuman Chalisa, it has a calming effect.”

On Thursday, Kejriwal had called BJP leaders “*farzi Hindus*” for questioning his intent behind reciting the Hanuman Chalisa.

While he was in the temple, people patiently waited outside to catch a glimpse of him.

“It is not everyday that one gets to see the Chief Minister. And when it’s someone whose work has impacted your life, you don’t want to miss the opportunity to greet him,” said Maya Singh, a resident of South Delhi’s Chhatrapur Enclave Phase I.

Asked about the AAP government’s policies that touched her life, she responded, with a smile: “*Main Chhatrapur se bus mein aayi.*” Last year, the AAP government had made bus rides free for women, which is one of the poll planks of the party in the February 8 election.

Even as the wait grew longer, the crowd remained hopeful. “*Lautenge toh idhar se hi,*” said Manju, pointing at the pair of shoes.

“I have my vote in Haryana. *Par jinhone*

mahilayo ke liye itna kiya hai, unko ek baar dekhne ka mann toh hai,” she said, also referring to the free bus rides scheme and the installation of CCTV cameras — initiatives that figure prominently in the AAP’s list of “accomplishments” listed in its ‘Report Card’.

Among those gathered were naysayers too, including a trader from Paharganj. “Go around our area, you will find the roads all dug up. People get taken by freebies. We had voted for him for a good quality life, clean water. The quality of life has only gone down. *Saare neta ek jaise hai,*” he said.

Asked if he is a BJP supporter, he said: “Yes, I am a fan of Narendra Modi, but that is not the point.” He cited the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir among decisions that draw him towards the PM.

Meanwhile, Kejriwal headed out of the courtyard and security personnel announced that the CM has left the temple premises.

“*Kya chale gaye? jootin chor ke?*” asked the man guarding his shoes, in a mildly panic-stricken voice. “*Nahi wo pujari se milne gaye hain* (no, he has gone to meet the priest),” said the official.

Of 12,000 complaints, EC solved 11,000 within 100 minutes or less

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

DURING THE course of campaigning for the Assembly elections, the Delhi CEO office received over 12,000 complaints of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violation on the cVigil app, of which 11,000 were resolved within the stipulated 100 minutes.

Data accessed by *The Indian Express* shows that in almost all districts of Delhi, barring North West and South West, the percentage of cases solved within 100 minutes is over 90%. In Central district, the figure is 99% while South West recorded 87%, the lowest.

The cVigil app was launched in 2018 by the Election Commission (EC) during assembly elections, as a “fast-track complaint reception and redressal system”.

“The intent was to make citizens part of the election process. After downloading the app, users can click a photo or video of anything that they think is an MCC violation — from banners or hoardings to communal speeches. There are 16 categories from which they can select,” said OSD (IT) Vikas Ahlawat.

“When they submit a complaint, the geo coordinates go to the relevant district. The DEO then has to take a call within five minutes on which assembly constituency it pertains to, and the complaint is directed to the Flying Squad Team (FST) of that constituency, which then goes to the spot to check. From beginning to end, the ideal time is 100 minutes,” he said, adding that at any stage, the complaint can be discarded if not found genuine.

Ahlawat said maximum complaints they received were regarding hoardings or

ON THE APP

| DISTRICT | CASES ACTED ON | RESOLVED IN 100 MIN |
|------------|----------------|---------------------|
| CENTRAL | 3,483 | 3,464 |
| NORTH | 2,182 | 2,135 |
| NORTH EAST | 1,591 | 1,497 |
| SOUTH WEST | 1,246 | 1,089 |
| NEW DELHI | 1,110 | 1,087 |
| SHAHADARA | 514 | 475 |
| NORTH WEST | 481 | 423 |
| WEST | 436 | 405 |
| EAST | 205 | 196 |
| SOUTHEAST | 397 | 361 |
| SOUTH | 117 | 109 |

posters put up without permission.

Incidentally, the Central district also saw the maximum number of complaints. Of the 3,483 cases it acted upon, 3,464 were resolved within 100 minutes. A majority of these — 2,146 — came from Burari.

The South district received the fewest cases (117), of which 109 were resolved within 100 minutes.

“One of the interesting cases we dealt with was in Kirari, when a complaint had been received from a citizen of religious or communal messages. The FST reached the spot and disbursed the mob. This took only 8:38 minutes to redress,” he said.

Similarly in Patparganj, someone had reported the use of speakers beyond permitted time, and the FST stopped the use of speakers.



Security personnel deployed for poll duty in Gole Market, Friday. Praveen Khanna

At Shakur Basti, this election could see a close contest too

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

THE SHAKUR Basti Assembly constituency, falling in Chandni Chowk parliamentary constituency, is locked in a close battle between AAP’s Satyendar Jain and BJP’s veteran politician Dr S C Vats.

Jain (56), who holds the power, PWD and health portfolios in the AAP government, is a close confidante of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and his Deputy Manish Sisodia.

On the other hand, Dr Vats (75) won the seat in 1983 (Metropolitan Council), 1998 and 2003. The Congress has fielded Dev Raj Arora (64).

The name Shakur Basti is deceptive as the area is dominated by posh localities of Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar and Meera Bagh. There are some old refugee colonies in Rani Bagh and Multan Nagar, and a few jhuggi clusters near Shakur Basti railway station and Peeragarhi camp. The area has a large presence of Punjabi voters, as well as Purvanchalis.



CONSTITUENCY WATCH

SHAKUR BASTI

In the 2015 election, Jain had beaten Dr Vats by 3,133 votes. While Dr Vats is showcasing the infrastructure work he carried out in the area, Jain is focusing on social welfare schemes championed by AAP this time.

Rahul Sharma (36), who works at a shop, said, “I support the BJP because they have done a lot for the country... like cleaning of the Yamuna and Ganga.”

Shopkeeper Rakesh Choudhary (40) said “Thanks to AAP, electricity and water is free, and they have also done a lot in education, health, *teerth yatra* for senior citizens.”

Unlike in certain other areas, the BJP’s campaign here had focussed on development issues.

The constituency’s political profile can be judged from the inated by posh localities of Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar and Meera Bagh. There are some old refugee colonies in Rani Bagh and Multan Nagar, and a few jhuggi clusters near Shakur Basti railway station and Peeragarhi camp. The area has a large presence of Punjabi voters, as well as Purvanchalis.

The constituency has over 1.63 lakh voters and 143 polling booths. In 2015, it had seen a voter turnout of 72 per cent.

After arrest of OSD posted at Sisodia office, CBI raids IAS officer’s residence

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

A DAY after arresting a DANICS officer attached with the office of Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, the CBI Friday carried searches at the residence of an IAS officer of the Delhi government. The CBI raided the residence of 2007 batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, Udit Prakash Rai, in connection with the case.

Rai’s Civil Lines residence was raided after his name came up during the questioning of Gopal Krishna Madhav, the DANICS officer CBI arrested Thursday for alleged bribery in a matter related to GST. Madhav was an officer on special duty (OSD) in Sisodia’s office and was posted with the GST department last October.

Sources said over a dozen more officers of the Delhi government are under the agency’s scanner in the case. They added that the case has nothing to do with Sisodia.

Officials said Madhav was arrested Thursday night on the basis of information provided by a middleman, Dheeraj Gupta, nabbed on Wednesday, who allegedly collected bribes from transporters on his behalf.

During questioning, Madhav alleged the involvement of Rai, following which the

“This officer was posted as OSD in my office too. CBI should ensure strictest punishment for him. I have got several such officers arrested in last 5 yrs”

MANISH SISODIA
DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

agency carried out searches at his premises, they said. The agency is also carrying out searches at the offices of Madhav and other officials of the GST department located in ITO, as well as at the residences of Madhav in Rohini and Gupta in Wazirabad, sources said.

A transporter had approached the CBI claiming that GST officials of the Delhi government were demanding bribes for releasing trucks. Claiming that he had good connections with high-ranking GST officials, Gupta allegedly demanded Rs 3.5 lakh for getting the transporter’s two trucks released, sources said.

The agency registered an FIR against Gupta and laid a trap on Wednesday, in which he was arrested while receiving Rs 2.26 lakh of the bribe amount, said officials.

“CBI has arrested Dheeraj Gupta...and Gopal Krishna Madhav, GST Officer in Trade

and Taxes Department of Government of NCT Delhi, who is also the OSD to Deputy CM of Delhi, in a bribery case of Rs. 2.26 lakh,” said a CBI spokesperson.

“It was alleged that the private person (Gupta) was acting as a middleman on behalf of some GST department officers, including for the public servant (Madhav), for collecting illegal gratification from transporters for not charging GST,” said the spokesperson.

Gupta has been sent to judicial custody by a special court while Madhav will be produced before the court on Friday, they said.

Madhav, who joined the service as head clerk in August 2003 in the education department, was posted as OSD in Sisodia’s office since 2015, they said.

Reacting to the development, Sisodia tweeted, “I have come to know that the CBI has arrested a GST inspector while taking bribe. This officer was posted as OSD in my office too. CBI should ensure strictest punishment for him. I have got several such officers arrested during last five years.”

He also sent a legal notice to West Delhi MP Parvesh Sahab Singh, who alleged Friday that “the OSD is just a front and the money actually goes to Sisodia’s pockets and he feeds Shaheen Bagh biryani using that money”.

MANY NEW, SOME OLD PROMISES

After AAP’s push in schools, education features heavily in all manifestos

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

DEVOTING SIGNIFICANT space to criticising the Aam Aadmi Party’s education work, making big promises from free public education for girls up to the doctoral level to increasing the education budget by 10% every year — both the Congress and BJP have directly taken on AAP in the field of education.

Since its entry into politics, AAP has fronted education and health. In its 70-point 2015 manifesto, it had promised increased spending on funding; regulation of private school fees; transparency in nursery and KG admissions; improvement in standard of

government schools; arse in funding for students who wish to pursue higher education; 500 new government schools; and 20 new degree colleges.

Over the past five years, AAP has highlighted its work in constructing new classrooms, allotting 25% of the budget to education, introducing new curricula and training programmes for teachers, and disallowing private schools from increasing fees.

In its manifesto for this election, it has chosen not to reiterate any of its older or incomplete promises. Instead, it has introduced two new points — a “Deshbhakti Curriculum” which CM Arvind Kejriwal had announced in August 2018 as a means to instill a sense of “duty” and “responsibility” to-



AAP has promised a Deshbhakti curriculum in its manifesto

wards the country, and introducing spoken English and soft skills for students who have graduated from any Delhi school in the past five years to increase their employability.

The BJP’s campaign had been dominated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s public meetings, in which he had alleged that AAP has not fulfilled its education promises or built a single new school or college.

In its own manifesto, some of its promises have taken a leaf out of initiatives that AAP has already introduced. For instance, it has promised that “school curricula will introduce topics on entrepreneurship”. The AAP government had introduced a compulsory “Entrepreneurship Curriculum” for students of classes IX-XII in its schools.

It has also promised to simplify conditions for granting education loans to poor students for higher education. The Delhi government has a ‘Higher Education and Skill Development Guarantee Scheme’ for those taking an education loan of up to Rs 10 lakh to study in a higher education institute in Delhi.

The biggest promises the BJP has made in this field are to increase the education budget by 10% each year, and to open 200 new schools and 10 new colleges. It has also promised to introduce a “Sanskrit board” and Sanskrit learning in the Sanskrit medium.

The Congress manifesto claimed that under AAP, lakhs of students shifted from government to private schools. It also alleged “more publicity by the AAP government than

actual improvement in school”.

Its two principal education promises are “subsidised education for all students living in ‘Notified Slums and all Resettlement Colonies until Class XII’, in both public and private schools” and “free girl education in government schools and colleges, from Nursery to PhD”.

Meanwhile, the Congress has promised absorption of all guest teachers working in government schools and the BJP has promised them service till the age of 58.

The 58 years service policy had been drafted by the AAP government last year after a prolonged strike by guest teachers, and has been pending approval by the Lieutenant Governor.

ADVERTORIAL

An initiative by **RED** Read. Engage. Deliver.

VOTE FOR DELHI

M E S S A G E

RANBIR SINGH
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER (CEO), DELHI



IT'S A great pleasure for me to greet all the voters of Delhi on the occasion of General Election to the Delhi Legislative Assembly, 2020. Polling will take place on 8th February, 2020 from 8.00 AM to 6.00 PM at your polling station. I invite you to visit the polling station and enjoy our facilities for ease of voting. In a democracy, election is the mechanism through which the people exercise their sovereignty and decide their representatives who will make policies and programmes and run the Government for them. Vote is not only a right but also a duty. Every vote counts and every vote has equal weight. The success and strength of democracy depends on the level of electoral participation of the people.

Election Commission of India gives priority to the principles of inclusive, accessible, ethical and transparent election. In this election, we have taken various initiatives to ensure that all sections of voters including women, young voters, Persons with Disability, third gender voters, homeless voters and Senior Citizens participate in the election process. In order to ensure participation of Persons with Disability and senior citizens, the facility of postal ballot has been given to them for the first time. It is a matter of great pride for us that more than 2600 voters have availed this facility and we have conducted their voting at their homes by sending mobile polling teams. For the first time, 19 voters engaged in essential services have also availed the facility of voting by postal ballot. We are providing Pick and Drop facility on demand to all the Persons with Disability and senior citizens (above 80 years of age). Every polling station has been made accessible. Ramps, wheel chairs, trained volunteers, Braille sign language, medical facility and crèche facility have been provided at every polling station. Our first priority is to ensure that the voters get a pleasant experience at the polling station.

I call upon everybody to vote on 8th February, 2020.

1,47,86,382 voters will decide the future of Delhi

As a democratic country, India is built on the foundation of elections. Our Parliament and State Legislatures are of the people, by the people and for the people. Voting is a constitutional right that we are privileged to have

WHILE THERE are some who passionately cast their vote, many people sit back and relax on voting day, and others are cajoled into voting. The importance of voting is forgotten in the hustle and bustle of city life. While everyone sits and complains about this or that, and makes suggestions that the government should change this or that, the elections come and go without some people bothering to go to the polling station.

As a democratic country, India is built on the foundations of election. Our Parliament and State Legislatures are of the people, by the people and for the people. Voting is a constitutional right that we are privileged to have. We take it for granted, but the constitution has given us the right to elect who we want. Though it seems like an endless sea of people in there to vote, every vote counts. When the na-



tional attitude changes from thinking "my vote doesn't make a difference", then the numbers increase and that makes the difference. The responsibility lies on every individual.

This time a total of 1,47,86,382 voters can exercise their franchise in the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, according to the final electoral list for Delhi published on Monday.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Delhi, Dr. Ranbir Singh said the final publication of voters list shows there are total 1,47,86,382 voters in Delhi including 81,05,236 males, 66,80,277 females and 869 third gender voters. In addition, there are 11608 service voters. To boost voter turnout THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER does many things. Some of them are listed.

Voting facilities to boost voter turn-out

- Postal ballot facility to absentee voters — senior citizens of over 80 years, PwD voters and essential services has been provided for first time in Delhi. It's a matter of pride that 2,936 voters opted for this facility in the current election.
- Pick & drop facility is provided to PwD and over 80-years-old voters. About 700 voters have booked this facility.
- Booth app for poll management on the poll day is being introduced by ECI for the first time in Delhi will be implemented in 11 ACs (01 in each district) and some polling booths of AC-38 - Delhi Cantt.
- 24x7 control room have been set up at the district level as well as at the office of CEO for redressal of grievances.
- Assured minimum facilities such as ramps toilets, queue management, volunteers, help desk, crèche and medical kit with medical attendant will be provided in all polling locations.
- In pursuance of directions of ECI "Election verification programme (EVP)" was carried out in NCT of Delhi as per revision activity to special summary revision 2020. During the EVP house to house visit was carried out by BLOs using BLO APP in all assembly constituencies of NCT of Delhi to verify and authenticate the details of electors in NCT of Delhi.
- Intensive voter education programmes are being conducted throughout Delhi to motivate people to cast their vote on February 8 and increase voter turnout. Six state icons and several district icons have been appointed to appeal to voters to cast their vote. Voters are also being exhorted to vote through TV, Radio, outdoor publicity and mass mobilisation events.

SPECIAL VOTER AWARENESS CAMPS IN HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES FOR DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION, 2020

TO CREATE voter awareness in view of upcoming Delhi Assembly Election, 2020 Special Camps were organized in medical dispensaries along with Government and Private Hospitals by the Office of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Delhi in association with Director General Health Services (DGHS) of Government of NCT of Delhi.

The Special Camps are focused on sensitising citizens of capital regarding registration and voting pattern with regard to EVM and VVPAT. For this, standee/canopy, announcements and notices boards were used as a medium of tool to spread the message effectively. EVM and VVPAT machines were kept on display for the voters to provide them a first hand experience.



Railway public announcement system being used for spreading awareness

SEVEN DELHI RAILWAY Stations take lead in spreading awareness through public announcement system on exercising voting rights for Delhi Legislative Assembly Election, 2020

To create voter awareness keeping in view of upcoming Delhi Assembly Election, 2020, the Delhi CEO office has initiated the use of Railway Public Announcement System in railway stations of Delhi region.

Under this, seven railway stations are announcing the appeal to voters of Capital.

The announcement has already started in New Delhi railway station, Nizamuddin, Old Delhi, Anand Vihar, Shahdara, Delhi Cantonment and



Adarsh Nagar. The recorded announcement in Hindi will be made 24X7 for commuters.

For this initiative, the Office of Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Delhi has associated with Indian Railways.

The announcement primarily sensitises citizens of Delhi to cast their vote on 8th February 2020.

Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi, participated in World Book Fair

WITH an aim to create awareness amongst voters and facilitate voter registration for upcoming Delhi Legislative Assembly Election, 2020, the Office of Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi participated in World Book Fair (04-12 January) organized at Pragati Maidan, Delhi and put up a stall for Voter Awareness /EVM, VVPAT Awareness /Voter Registration /PwD Voter Sensitization /Voter Helpline App /Mobile App and others.

The stall was managed by District Election Office, New Delhi where the visitors to Book Fair were sensitised regarding voter registration and use of EVM & VVPAT as well as the importance of the right to vote. They were also educated about the Helpline number "1950"



which is a one-stop shop for information about all electoral services, giving feedback, making suggestions and lodging complaints.

STATE ICON

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 1 State Icon | Sh. Rishabh Pant | Cricketer |
| 2 State Icon | Monika Batra | Table Tennis Play |
| 3 State Icon | Sh. Naved Khan | RJ |
| 4 State Icon | Ms. Alaknanda | Kathak Dancer Dasgupta |

PwD Icon

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 State Icon | Sh. Neeraj Yadav | Para Athlete (PwD) |
| 2 State Icon | Sh. Ankur Dhama | Para Athlete (PwD) |

Turnaround-30 Initiative

CEO, DELHI starts special campaign in lowest voter turnout Assembly Constituencies.

To achieve greater participation of voters in 30 Assembly Constituencies in the NCT of Delhi that reported low voter turnout in Lok Sabha Election 2019, Dr Ranbir Singh, CEO-Delhi in association with District Election Officers has undertaken a mas-



sive mass mobilisation program.

A team from the Office of CEO, Delhi informs the audience about the steps taken to enlighten voters for maximum participation in Delhi

Legislative Election, 2020. The team educates about the registering grievances and answering queries of the voters. The team also promotes the mobile application c VIGIL.

A group of artists gives spectacular performance appealing the audience to actively participate on the date of polling i.e February 8, 2020.



National Voter's Day celebrated with much gusto

CELEBRATING THE 10th National Voter's Day, Dr Ranbir Singh, Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi, said, "The Constitution of India has given us the voting right. And it's the highest right of the citizen of our country" while addressing a cultural programme on the theme of 'Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy'. To ensure wider participation in voting process, Dr Singh also distributed Voter ID Cards to five new electors and appealed to voters to exercise their right on February 8, 2020. Parathletes Neeraj Yadav and Ankur

Dhama graced the occasion and were also facilitated by Chief CEO, Delhi. Dr. Singh briefed about the four Apps designed specially to assist voters namely Voter Helpline App, PwD App, cVIGIL App and Voter Turnout App. CEO Delhi also distributed State Awards-2020 to 11 election officers on this occasion. "Mitra Rang Manch" staged dances and also staged a Street Play sensitising voters to participate in the election. Eminent Kathak dancer Natyashree Alaknanda Dasgupta staged various performances with her students.



CORONAVIRUS EPICENTRE WUHAN

India offered to evacuate students from neighbouring countries: govt in RS

KRISHNA KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

WHEN INDIA sent two special Air India flights to evacuate Indian students from Wuhan in wake of the novel coronavirus outbreak in China's Wuhan, it offered to bring back anyone from neighbouring countries but only seven Maldivian nationals chose to return, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told Rajya Sabha on Friday.

"At the time when our two flights were going, we had told all the students and the larger community in Wuhan that we were prepared not only to bring back our own people, but bring back all the people in our neighbourhood who would like to come back. This was an offer which was made to all our neighbours. Of that, seven nationals of The Maldives chose to avail that offer. But the offer was made to everybody," he said.

He was responding to questions by two members regarding reports of India offering to bring back Pakistani nationals.

The minister also told the House that there are still about 80 Indians who are in Wuhan, of which 10 were not allowed by the Chinese authorities to leave as they were running a fever. He said, "About 70-odd people also chose voluntarily to stay in Wuhan and not get evacuated."

He assured the House and the families of the students still in Wuhan that the Indian Embassy "is in touch with all the students

and that "we regularly monitor their welfare".

Jaishankar spoke after Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan delivered a statement on the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Harsh Vardhan said the government has "provided support to other countries in tackling the challenge" posed by the virus. He said Indian Council of Medical Research has offered to test samples for other South-East Asian countries.

The government, he said, has formed a Group of Ministers to monitor the situation, which comprises the External Affairs Minister, Civil Aviation Minister and the Ministers of State for Home Affairs, Shipping and Health & Family Welfare. The group is chaired by Harsh Vardhan. He said that his ministry is "constantly reviewing the evolving scenario" and video conferences are being held with states every other day.

Harsh Vardhan also announced that all existing visas for foreign nationals travelling from China are no longer valid. He said passengers are being screened at 21 airports across the country, and a total of 1,275 flights have been screened, covering a total of 1,39,539 passengers till now. As many as 150 passengers identified with symptoms have been referred to isolation facilities, he said.

People are also being screened at major and minor ports, and at checkpoints for people coming from Nepal, he said.

Ruckus after Harsh Vardhan slams Rahul in Lok Sabha for remark on PM

Cong MP Manickam Tagore's behaviour highly uncalled for, says Parliamentary Affairs Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

MEMBERS OF the treasury and Opposition benches in Lok Sabha almost came to blows on Friday after Health Minister Harsh Vardhan slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Around 11.50 am, a question by Rahul about the establishment of medical colleges came up before the Health Minister. Vardhan said, "Sir, please excuse me that before I begin answering this question of dear Shri Rahul Gandhi, I want to condemn in no uncertain words the outlandish language that he has used against the Prime Minister of the country."

The Speaker asked the Health Minister to restrict himself to answering the question. But, he continued, "In a recent speech he (Rahul) used words like *chhah maheene baad is desh ke yuva Narendra Modi ko dande mar mar desh se bahar karege*. (After six months, the youth of this country will beat the PM with sticks and throw him out)."

"I am surprised that Mr Gandhi's own father was the Prime Minister of India and I don't think that in the worst of cases our party leaders made such outlandish personal remarks against him...The entire House present here must in unequivocal terms condemn his remarks against our Prime Minister," Vardhan said.

Vardhan's remarks triggered a protest by Opposition members and some Congress MPs rushed to the Well. Meanwhile, Congress

MP from Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu, Manickam Tagore, rushed towards the treasury benches. He entered the front row to reach near Vardhan, who was speaking from his seat in the second row. At this point, the treasury bench members started demanding an apology from Rahul. In the meantime, BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was sitting in the front row, confronted Tagore and the two almost came to blows before several MPs from both sides and Union ministers intervened.

Ruling party MPs were heard demanding action against Tagore. Vardhan continued to read his statement, but when the situation did not calm down, the Speaker adjourned the House till 1 pm. As soon as the House reassembled, Kirit Solanki, who was in the Chair, adjourned it till 2 pm. When the House assembled again, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi made a brief statement. "The behaviour of the Congress MP is highly uncalled for. They tried to come and snatch the paper. If at all, anything is wrongly stated, then it is the domain of the Speaker to decide. Instead of that, trying to come and attack the Minister is highly condemnable," he said. Following this, A Raja, who was in the Chair, adjourned the House till Monday.

Soon after the incident, Rahul tweeted, "The orchestrated ruckus in Parliament today was designed to prevent me from questioning the Govt. The youth of India can clearly see that the PM has no clue about how to tackle the unemployment crisis. To protect him, the BJP will keep disrupting Parliament, preventing debate."



Health Minister Harsh Vardhan outside Parliament on Friday. Anil Sharma

Cong seeks minister's apology

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

HOURS AFTER members of the Congress and BJP nearly came to blows in Lok Sabha, the Congress on Friday demanded an apology from Health Minister Harsh Vardhan. The party alleged that the minister displayed "uncouth" and "unparliamentary" behaviour by referring to a remark made by Rahul Gandhi outside the House instead of answering a question posed to him on an issue related to his ministry. Congress member Manickam Tagore alleged that he was manhandled by BJP members in the ruckus in the House.

After the House was adjourned, Rahul and other Congress leaders met Speaker Om Birla and

registered their protest.

Rahul, who is Wayanad MP, told reporters that the ruckus was "orchestrated" to prevent him from questioning the government. "There is an issue in Wayanad about them not having a medical college... I wanted to raise that issue... BJP obviously doesn't like me to speak in the House. So, in a completely unparliamentary manner, the Health Minister raised something that I said outside which he has no business doing during Question Hour..."

During their meeting with Birla, Rahul and Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury demanded that the Health Minister be asked to apologise. They argued that it was the "right and privilege" of a member to ask questions, which has been "tram-

pled upon" by the minister.

Tagore wrote to the Speaker, alleging that he was manhandled and requested him to go through the CCTV footage.

At a press meet, Chowdhury and Congress's deputy leader in Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma alleged that the BJP asked Vardhan to make the statement with an eye on the Delhi elections.

"Maybe the way some of our members were protesting was wrong, but the fact is that genesis of today's disturbances... lies with Minister Harsh Vardhan... if anything is found wrong with our members... we are also ready to express our regret. Without any provocation, the senior minister displayed uncouth behaviour which is unprecedented..." Chowdhury said.

FROM THE GALLERY

FROM THE CHAIR

RAJYA SABHA

"Whenever any member speaks in their mother tongue, I feel immensely happy in my heart of hearts. Slowly, translation facility will become available, do not worry. In the starting, people used to speak in English. Did people understand? It happened slowly"

M VENKAIKHA NAIDU, Chairman, after BJD MP Sasmit Patra spoke in Odia while raising a matter

LOK SABHA

"All of you should ask questions in brief and the reply should also be given concisely because we have to raise the number of questions being asked during Question Hour."

OM BIRLA, Speaker, to MPs

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"... If at all anything is wrongly stated, then it is the domain of the Speaker to decide. Instead of that, trying to come and attack the minister is highly condemnable."

PRALHAD JOSHI, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, after the ruckus in Lok Sabha



5 QUESTIONS

BJP MP FROM EAST TRIPURA REBATI TRIPURA SPOKE TO HARIKISHAN SHARMA ON EXTENDING THE COVERAGE OF AYUSHMAN BHARAT.

What issue did you raise in the House?

I asked about the coverage of Ayushman Bharat during Question Hour. There are four states — Delhi, Telangana, West Bengal and Odisha — which have not implemented the scheme, due to which a large number of poor people from these states are not able to avail the facility. So, I wanted to know from the Health Minister whether he has put in place a mechanism to ensure that the poor in such states also get benefits of this scheme.

What was the response?

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan informed that he has written to the chief ministers of all four states.

You said people in the APL (above poverty line) category should also get benefits of Ayushman Bharat. Why do you think it is required?

Under Ayushman Bharat, beneficiaries are from Antyodaya (weaker sections) and BPL (Below Poverty Line) categories. But there are many poor people in the APL category who cannot afford medical expenditures.

Health is a state subject. Have you raised this issue with Tripura government?

Yes, I met the Chief Minister and raised the issue of poor people in APL category being deprived of health benefits. He told me there are about 2.57 lakh poor people in Tripura who are not covered under Ayushman Bharat. Now, the Tripura government has decided to implement a scheme for such people. It will be rolled out after March.

What'll be your next step? I plan to meet the Health Minister shortly...

In rare move, comment expunged from PM's speech in Parliament

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

RAJYA SABHA Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, in a rare move on Friday, expunged from official proceedings a remark from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech the previous day, as well as from comments made by Leader of Opposition in the House Ghulam Nabi Azad.

On Thursday, Modi, while speaking on the National Population Register at around 6.20 pm, had said that the Congress-led UPA government had also conducted the exercise.

"Did we ever raise questions regarding any NPR? We also have the record, do we not?" the Prime Minister said. He then claimed that the Opposition was changing its stand on NPR, and

questioned why the Opposition was being dishonest. Naidu has removed the euphemism used for the accusation.

Naidu has also expunged a remark made by Azad from Thursday's proceedings. Azad, speaking at around 6.30 pm, had claimed that the BJP tries to push Hindus away from the Congress. The Chair has expunged a remark that Azad made after this.

"Chairman was pleased to direct expunction of a certain portion of the proceedings of Rajya Sabha dated February 6 at about 6.20 pm and 6.30 pm," the order on Friday said.

The Chairman of Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha Speaker have powers to expunge from official records any remarks made by members after going through the day's proceedings.

In RS, MP moves Bill for those who lose jobs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

A BILL aimed at helping employees terminated by employers was introduced in Rajya Sabha on Friday by BJP MP Rakesh Sinha. This was one of the seven private member's Bills introduced in the Upper House on Friday.

The Terminated Employees (Welfare) Bill assures at least nine months' pay and medical benefits to terminated employees, arguing that this will give them enough time to find new jobs. "At present, there is no law to ensure that the employers provide terminal benefits in time," the Bill said.

A Bill seeking amendments to criminal laws and another for establishment of a national council for waste management were among the other private member's Bills introduced in the House on Friday.

Mahesh Poddar of the BJP moved the National Council for Waste Management Bill, which proposes establishment of a national council to manage waste and to suggest required policy measures.

A Bill to amend the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act



Rakesh Sinha

was introduced by BJP member Saroj Pandey. Congress member Husain Dalwai introduced a Bill to provide for establishment of an effective system to protect refugees and asylum seekers by means of an appropriate legal framework to determine claims for asylum. He introduced another Bill seeking amendments to the IPC and the CrP.

Kirodi Lal Meena of the BJP moved a Bill to provide special financial assistance to Rajasthan for the welfare of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

Anil Desai moved a Constitution (Amendment) Bill to insert a new Article 47A — Article 47 deals with the duty of the state regarding malnutrition and standard of living of people.

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Telephone:- 01975-238883 e-mail:- hp-una@nic.in

Corrigendum No.-1
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-II)

In continuation to this office IFB issued vide this office letter No. SE-XV-TENDER/PMGSY-II/Batch-I/2019-20-14167-14216 dated 22-01-2020, the following dates is postponed due to administrative reasons.

| Sr. No. | Division/District | Package No. | Name of Work | Starting Date for Downloading Bid | Deadline for Submission of Bid | Opening Date of Bid |
|---------|-------------------|-------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Bharwain/Una | HP-12-174 | T08-Brahmpur Bherkalki Jallo di Bar Chintpurni Road | 17.02.2020 | 09.03.2020 upto 10.30 A.M. | 09.03.2020 at 11.00 A.M. |
| 2. | Bharwain/Una | HP-12-175 | MRL01-Nehri Majri Jowar Road | 17.02.2020 | 09.03.2020 upto 10.30 A.M. | 09.03.2020 at 11.00 A.M. |
| 3. | Bharwain/Una | HP-12-177 | MRL03-Shivbani to Dawali upto NH 503 | 17.02.2020 | 09.03.2020 upto 10.30 A.M. | 09.03.2020 at 11.00 A.M. |
| 4. | Bharwain/Una | HP-12-175A | C/O 25.00 mtr. span T-Beam Bridge over Main Khad on Nehri Majri Jowar Road at Km. 1/400 | 17.02.2020 | 09.03.2020 upto 10.30 A.M. | 09.03.2020 at 11.00 A.M. |

The other conditions shall remain unchanged.
4584/HP
Superintending Engineer, 15th Circle, H.P.R.W.D., Una-174303.

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-operative
(Directorate of Dairy Development)
Jharkhand, Ranchi

Re-expression of Interest (EoI) for empanment of Manufacturing firms / Authorized Distributors / Authorized Dealers for supply of Hand Operated Chaff Cutter (IS 7898:2001) & Power Operated Chaff Cutter (IS11459:1985 & IS 15542:2005) in different districts of Jharkhand State.

Short e-Procurement Notice
Short e-Re-eoI Reference No.- Dairy/08/2019-20

Name of Work:-
Date:-03.02.2020

| S.No. | Particulars | Details |
|-------|---|--|
| 1 | Estimated Nos. | i. Hand Operated Chaff Cutter - 10,000 Nos. ii. Power Operated Chaff Cutter - 5,000 Nos. |
| 2 | EoI Fee | Rs. 10,000/- (Ten thousand only) (non-refundable) in the shape of Demand Draft drawn on any Nationalized bank in favour of Director, Dairy, Directorate of Dairy Development, Jharkhand, Ranchi. |
| 3 | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) | Rs. 2,00,000.00 (Two Lakh only) (Refundable) in shape of Demand Draft drawn on any Nationalized Bank in favour of Director, Dairy, Directorate of Dairy Development, Jharkhand, Ranchi or in shape of Bank Guarantee of any Nationalized Bank. The bidder who have already submitted EMD earlier need not to submit again only they will mention the details of earlier submission report. |
| 4 | Date of uploading of EoI on Website. | 03.02.2020 |
| 5 | Online bid submission Period | 03.02.2020 to 13.02.2020 upto 14:00 hrs. |
| 6 | Submission of Original Copy of EoI Fee, EMD & Sample. | 13.02.2020 at 14:00 hrs. The bidder who have already submitted samples earlier need not to submit again, only they will mention the details of earlier samples submission. |
| 7 | Technical bid opening | 14.02.2020 at 15:00 hrs. |
| 8 | Opening of Financial Bid | Will be informed later on |
| 9 | Name & Address of the Office inviting EoI (Procurement Officer) | Director, Dairy, Directorate of Dairy Development, Training & Extension Institute Campus, Sector-2, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004, Jharkhand 9835310935 |
| 10 | Contact No. | |

Note:- Only e-EoI Proposal will be accepted. Estimated Nos. may increase or decrease. Details can be seen in website- <http://www.jharkhandtender.gov.in>
PR 224819 Animal Husbandry (19-20)_D

Sd/-
Director, Dairy Directorate of Dairy Development Jharkhand, Ranchi

Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.,
Victoria Park, Meerut.

TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE

The Date of opening of tender specification no. PVVNL-MT/COM/17/19-20 for supply of 1,50,000 nos. Single Phase Two Wire Electronic energy meter (5-30 Amp. (Along with pillar proof box & Seals) is hereby extended from 07.02.2020 to 22.02.2020. Time of opening tender and other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged. For detailed information please log on www.pvvn.org & E-tendering website www.etender.up.nic.in till the date of submission of bids. Superintending Engineer (Commercial) "Help Line Number for Information of Theft of Electricity: "1800-180-3002 (Meerut) & 9412207451" Remark :- www.etender.up.nic.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Commercial) For Managing Director
Date: 14/02/2020

"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION"

UNIVERSITY OF KOTA, KOTA
M.B.S. Marg, Near Kabir Circle, Kota Ph : 0744-2470880 e-mail ID: Estate.uok@gmail.com

BID INVITING NOTICE
Date: 05.02.2020
(NIB NO. 34-2019-20)

University of Kota, Kota hereby invites E-bids for Preparation and supply of Main Examination Answer Books and Practical Answer Books for the year 2020 examination. The bid may be downloaded from 06/02/20 (11:00 AM) and last date of submission of the bid is 17/02/20 (12:00 AM). Details of the same may be seen on www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or University website www.uok.ac.in

Registrar

DIRECTORATE OF SPORTS & YOUTH WELFARE
T.T. Nagar Stadium, Bhopal- 462003
Tel. : 0755-2773012, 2761448, 2778151, Fax : 0755-2775256

E-TENDERING NOTICE

1. The Director, Directorate of Sports & Youth Welfare, M.P. Bhopal invites bids from individuals/organizations with sports management background and experience to provide PROVIDING TALENT IDENTIFICATION RELATED SERVICES to MP DSYW.
 2. The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained on www.mptenders.gov.in. If there are any queries regarding participation through e-tender process, interested bidder may contact on Toll Free No. 18002588684.
 3. The corrigendum and agendum issued (if any) related to this bid will be published on e-tendering portal only.
- M.P. Madhyam/96763/2020
DIRECTOR

HARYANA GOVERNMENT

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

| Sr. No. | NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH | OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO. | NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM | WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH | NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL |
|---------|------------------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | DHBVN, PALWAL | 01/SE/OP/PWL/2019-20 | Date extended up to 11.02.2020 at 13.00 Hrs. | www.dhbvn.org.in | 01275-242536 sepalwal@dhbvn.org.in |
| 2. | DHBVN, PALWAL | 02/SE/OP/PWL/2019-20 | Date extended up to 11.02.2020 at 13.00 Hrs. | www.dhbvn.org.in | 01275-242536 sepalwal@dhbvn.org.in |
| 3. | DHBVN, PALWAL | 03/SE/OP/PWL/2019-20 | Date extended up to 11.02.2020 at 13.00 Hrs. | www.dhbvn.org.in | 01275-242536 sepalwal@dhbvn.org.in |
| 4. | DHBVN, PALWAL | 04/SE/OP/PWL/2019-20 | Date extended up to 11.02.2020 at 13.00 Hrs. | www.dhbvn.org.in | 01275-242536 sepalwal@dhbvn.org.in |
| 5. | DHBVN, PALWAL | 05/SE/OP/PWL/2019-20 | Date extended up to 11.02.2020 at 13.00 Hrs. | www.dhbvn.org.in | 01275-242536 sepalwal@dhbvn.org.in |
| 6. | DHBVN, PALWAL | 06/SE/OP/PWL/2019-20 | Date extended up to 11.02.2020 at 13.00 Hrs. | www.dhbvn.org.in | 01275-242536 sepalwal@dhbvn.org.in |
| 7. | DHBVN, PALWAL | 07/SE/OP/PWL/2019-20 | Date extended up to 11.02.2020 at 13.00 Hrs. | www.dhbvn.org.in | 01275-242536 sepalwal@dhbvn.org.in |
| 8. | HVPNL PANCHKULA | ENIT NO. 23/TSYNR/2019-20 TENDER NO. 2019_HBC_115119_2 | Corrigendum-1/Extended of due date of submission upto 15.02.2020 upto 13:00 Hrs | https://www.hvnpn.org.in | 0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in |
| 9. | MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, NISSING | JAN/01/2019-2020 + 8 OTHER WORK | Tender Cancelled due to Administrative reason | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 07145-271608 |
| 10. | HVPNL, GURUGRAM | E-TENDER ENQUIRY NO. 04/CWG/2019-20 DATED.06.11.2019 (ONLINE TENDER ID-2019_HBC-107835_1) | Corrigendum No.05 date of bid Submission 24.02.2020, at 01:00 PM. Opening 28.02.2020 at 01:00 PM | https://www.hvnpn.org.in | 0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in |
| 11. | HVPNL SONIPAT | E-NIT NO- 12/CWS-2019-20 DT- 17.01.2020 | Corrigendum no-01 date of opening 14.02.2020 | https://www.hvnpn.org.in | 0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in |

79766/HRY.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

9 GOVT & POLITICS



ON THE MOVE

FORMER UNION Minister and BJP MP from Noida Mahesh Sharma seems to have an invisible connect with Rashtrapati Bhavan. After he became a member of 16th Lok Sabha, the house allotted to him was 10, Rajaji Marg, where former president A P J Abdul Kalam lived till his death. Sharma had to vacate the double-storey heritage building for Pranab Mukherjee when he retired from the presidential post in 2017. Sharma then moved to 10, Akbar Road. When the BJP picked Ram Nath Kovind as its presidential candidate, Sharma had to leave that house for him so that he could prepare for the presidential election. He got the house back, but he lost the ministerial post when the BJP returned to power in 2019. On Friday, Sharma moved to his new official residence at 13, Talkatora Road, where Pranab Mukherjee stayed for a long time before moving to Rashtrapati Bhavan.

NEW INNINGS

AFTER A five-year stint as Prasar Bharati chairperson, A Surya Prakash, who is retiring on Saturday, will soon come up with a book on the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. The former journalist has been looking at the institution from Nehruvian times and the book will have a critical view of its functioning since then. Surya Prakash, who has always taken interest in the Constitution and parliamentary matters, also has plans to continue vlogging on these topics in Hindi, English and Kannada.

HOUSE MATTERS

PRIVATE MEMBERS' business is rarely taken as seriously in Parliament as the government's legislative business. On Friday, a Bill moved in Rajya Sabha by Narendra Jadhav related to foreign investment in financial services, critical infrastructure and technology affecting national security was being discussed. The government did not seem too keen for a minister's response or a vote on it. BJP member Mahesh Poddar spoke for over 25 minutes and BJP had overshoot its time by 45 minutes just as the day's business was about to end. As Poddar finished speaking, MoS, Finance, Anurag Thakur turned to him and said, "You are today's Man of the Match" and gave him a thumbs up. Earlier, Cabinet Minister Piyush Goyal was seen telling Anil Agrawal to speak longer when his turn comes. But just as Agrawal started speaking, the Chair moved on to a statement to be made by the Health Minister.

'Govt stated NPR, CAA and NRC are inter-linked... futile to de-link now'

KERALA CHIEF Minister PINARAYI VIJAYAN speaks to LIZ MATHEW about Kerala's protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, National Register of Citizens (NRC) and National Population Register (NPR). Excerpts from the interview:

The Prime Minister on Thursday said the protests against the CAA are a road to anarchy, as the protest marches are against a law duly passed and notified by Parliament. What do you have to say about it?

It is high time that the Prime Minister realises the genuineness behind the protests against the CAA and the NRC.

Large chunks of population, irrespective of any religious and political affinities, have come out against the CAA and their concerns need to be addressed... The Prime Minister and his colleagues are trying to tarnish the agitation by depicting them to be religious-centric...

The agitation that sprang up in different places were peaceful. However, there were heinous attempts to crush them. Fact-finding teams comprising of respected persons which toured Uttar Pradesh have given a detailed report regarding the atrocities committed on people who were protesting peacefully. The ruling party at the Centre always used to communalise anything and everything, and their only intention is to ensure reli-



gious polarisation in the country...

The Prime Minister said those who are opposing it are anti-poor with vote-bank politics and vested interests in mind. Your comment?

As a responsible (state) government, we have every right to point out how a decision adversely affects the secular character of the country.

As the Government of India itself many a time stated that the whole process of NPR, CAA and NRC are inter-linked, it would be a futile attempt to de-link them now. The intent of the ruling party has been very clear. In fact, it is their attempts that are going to create unrest and anarchy in this country...

We earnestly wish that the Modi government should walk the talk... let them get the econ-

omy on track and think about the livelihood and well-being of the people. The slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' has to be adhered to, instead of dividing the country and the people.

Do you think the state's decision to not go for NPR despite the notification would have legal backing?

Since many state governments have expressed their concerns and reservation, the Centre should rethink it. We were the first state Assembly to come out against the divisive agenda and we are happy that many state governments have come forward to adopt a similar stand. As things stand, the Central government should consider this genuine reservation instead of di-

verting the topic and zeroing down on some religious issues. The protests over CAA, NPR or NRC have nothing to do with any religion. But it is concerning the Constitution of the country and its survival as a secular democratic republic.

What next for Kerala? If the Supreme Court decides in favour of the Centre with respect to CAA, does the state have a plan to proceed?

As the Supreme Court is seized of the matter, I do not want to comment on this. However, the people of Kerala stand as one in opposing this. When a resolution was put to vote, even the lone BJP MLA in the Assembly did not oppose it. This emphatically shows the sense of the state.

How about census operations? Will the state ensure security for officials?

We have already made our stand clear. We will do everything required for the smooth conduct of census operation.

The Prime Minister quoted your statement regarding the role of "extremist groups" in the agitations.

I am sorry to say that the Prime Minister has misled the Rajya Sabha about my statement in the Kerala Assembly. What I have said is in the public domain and anyone can go through it... Kerala has shown the nation how we can peacefully agitate to pro-

tect the democratic, secular fabric of the nation. Having said that, I had also cautioned against the attempts of organisations like SDPI (Social Democratic Party of India), which tried to create communal issues and dent peaceful protests... As the Chief Minister, it was my bounden responsibility to caution the people against such attempts. Now you can very well understand what I had said and what the Prime Minister has interpreted.

The Congress had alleged that the CPI(M) was trying to take political mileage out of the protests but slapped cases against protesters. There is also criticism that the CPI(M) has taken credit for the protests just to swing Muslim voters towards the party.

In the beginning, they had joined us and we created a model for the nation by launching a united protest. Later on, there were internal differences within the Congress, wherein one section led by the PCC president Mullappally Ramachandran came out against the joint protest. We wish all the secular and democratic organisations had jointly held hands on an issue of such national importance. Nevertheless, if the Congress has any issue because of their differences within, they are free to charter their own course...

FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

75% quota in pvt sector jobs only for unskilled workers: Khattar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, PANCHKULA, FEBRUARY 7

THE HARYANA government will first "persuade" the private sector industrialists to implement a proposal to grant 75 per cent reservation in jobs to local residents, instead of making it mandatory by enacting a law, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday said.

Khattar also made it clear that the proposed scheme will not apply to skilled workers.

"We have decided to give 75 per cent reservation to unskilled workers in private jobs. We have decided to implement it," Khattar said at a press conference to mark 100 days of the BJP-JJP government in the state.

Khattar said the government will first seek information from private companies and indicated that there will be no mandatory quota — at least to begin with.

"When we have to make it mandatory, we will make it so. But as of now, it is persuasion. And under this, we will seek data from the industry. We will give facilities to the industries so that they don't feel burdened," Khattar said also making it clear that those already employed persons won't be dismissed on the basis of the proposed quota.

"We wish to give employment, the legislation is not such a big issue. I have neither said yes for it, nor no," Khattar said, adding that if private firms are unable to get 75 per cent of their unskilled workers from within state, then will be free to hire from outside.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee after the Governor's Budget speech in Kolkata on Friday. Partha Paul

Dhankhar sticks to state govt's script: 'Intolerance threatens unity'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 7

STICKING TO the speech prepared by the state government for his Budget Session address in the Assembly, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday said there is an "air of intolerance, bigotry and hatred" in the country.

"There is a general air of intolerance, bigotry and hatred that is straining the variegated thread of unity tying together all the linguistic, religious and ethnic diversities in the country," he said.

His speech reflected the TMC government's policies and its stand on various issues — from economy to citizenship to secularism. In a departure from tradition, the state did not broadcast his speech.

Dhankhar's strained ties with the government raised speculation in the TMC that he might follow Kerala Governor Arif Mohd Khan, who had qualified his address with a disclaimer that he did not agree with portions of his speech, said a TMC member.

The governor also spelt out the Mamata Banerjee government's stand on the issue of citizenship. "The state government is strongly against the division of people in the name of steps such as the National Population Register or National Register of Citizens or Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019... The state government urges the Centre not to undertake NRC exercise and immediately withdraw NPR exercise."

Dhankhar's speech also mentioned the economic slowdown. Later in the day, Dhankhar

tweeted saying, "I delivered the address in the high traditions of the Constitution. I do hope all will pay due obedience to the Constitution."

The Opposition slammed the TMC and Dhankhar, and claimed that they had a quid pro quo understanding. Congress leader Abdul Mannan said, "It's clearly a case of match fixing, and reeks of a give and take policy. The Governor read out the speech because it took a soft stand on the Central Government."

CPM's Leader of the House Sujan Chakraborty said, "The Governor basically gave a Budget speech. There was no politics. The state government has double standards. Sometime, it shows black flags to him, and sometime, he is given a helicopter. They have a hidden agenda."

Vijayvargiya, other BJP leaders detained during pro-CAA rally, released

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 7

BJP NATIONAL general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, senior party leaders Mukul Roy and Joy Prakash Majumder were taken into preventive custody by Kolkata Police during the start of a rally in support of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in the city on Friday. According to police, the rally was being held without permission. Police later released those detained.

The party claimed it had informed the police about its rally. As the party's leaders and workers tried to take out the rally from Tollygunge Phari to Hazra Crossing, a scuffle broke out between them and policemen, who later detained the party leaders.

"In West Bengal, permissions are given to hold rallies against CAA, but not in support of the new citizenship law when the entire country is supporting it. In Mamata Banerjee government's autocratic rule, police are not allowing a peaceful and democratic rally. However, the BJP cannot be intimidated," said Vijayvargiya.

Police said they took the three with other workers into custody as the party was organising a rally without permission. BJP leader Mukul Roy said in a tweet, "@mamataofficial devi, you have shown your true face and faith in democracy by arresting me and Shri @KailashOnline ji before taking part in rally in support of CAA. Kolkata police is taking us to police headquarter. #CAAJanjagran."

Ayodhya: VHP may demand memorial for karsevaks

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

THE VISHWA Hindu Parishad (VHP) may push for a memorial in Ayodhya naming all karsevaks who died during the Ram Temple movement. The VHP was at the forefront of the movement, and its national vice president, Champat Rai, is facing charges in the Babri mosque demolition case.

"Hundreds of karsevaks died during the movement and their contribution must be recognised. It would be a good idea to build a memorial for them in Ayodhya," VHP joint general secretary Surendra Jain said, when asked whether the outfit had any plans to build a memorial for those who died during the movement.

He remained non-committal on the issue of VHP getting representation in the Ram Temple trust announced by the government to manage the erstwhile disputed property in Ayodhya and build the Ram Temple. The Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas, which spearheaded the temple movement in the 90s has also not been given any representation.

"VHP has no organisational desire to be represented in the trust. Our job was to bring the movement to this level and that has been completed. Now we want whoever is entrusted with the job must ensure early and participative completion of the temple. However, there are still

EXPLAINED: Unease over exclusions from trust

THERE HAS been disquiet within the Sangh Parivar and among several religious figures from Ayodhya associated with the temple movement over non-representation of some key people in the trust.

two posts vacant in the trust announced by the government and one cannot rule out the Nyas or the VHP getting a representation," Jain said.

"It is natural for some people to have some opinion on the composition of the trust. Some people may be disappointed. But we must understand that the temple was a national movement and people from across the country were involved. If the government begins to give representation to all the people, meetings would have to be held in stadiums. I am sure the government will take all opinions into account and take correct decision," Jain said.

The trust announced by the government has 15 members, with former attorney general and lawyer for the Hindu side in the Ayodhya case, K Parasaran being the first member. The trust will currently operate from his residence.

Dissent in India's DNA: Chidambaram

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, FEBRUARY 7



Former Union minister P Chidambaram

FORMER UNION minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Friday said protest, dissent and civil disobedience is in India's DNA and was given to it by Mahatma Gandhi.

The Congress leader was delivering a lecture at the Tilak Smarak Mandir on 'CAA, NPR, NRC and Union Budget' organised by the Joint Action Committee Against CAA-NRC (Pune).

Chidambaram also accused the BJP of misleading the country by saying that those opposing the CAA were opposing the emigration of persecuted Hindus and Sikhs of Pakistan and Bangladesh. He said the protesters and the Congress is not against those who have been included, but in support of those excluded.

"Yesterday, Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi said street protests were leading to anarchy in the country. He should be around when Mahatma Gandhi was alive and he should have

given this advice to him. To protest, dissent and to do civil disobedience is in India's DNA and was given to the country by Mahatma Gandhi... It's true that CAA has been passed by Parliament but even Rowlatt Act was an Act of the law. It was opposed because it was unjust..." said Chidambaram.

Speaking on the Union Budget, Chidambaram said it was like a movie that flops on the first day. "It disappeared from the headlines in two days," he said.

"Our economy is demand-constrained and investment-starved. For the demand to pick up, the easiest way would have been to put money in the hands of poor people. It's well-known that as they have low propensity to save, they spend most of the additional money that comes to them..." said Chidambaram.

TN minister apologises to boy for asking him to remove sandals

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 7



The incident occurred when the minister was on an official visit. Screenshot

A DAY after Tamil Nadu Forest Minister Dindigul Sreenivasan was caught in a controversy for making a teenage boy unbuckle his slippers during an official visit to the Nilgiris, the minister on Friday conveyed his deep regret to the boy and his family.

Following the apology, the boy's parents agreed to withdraw a police complaint they had filed in connection with the incident on Thursday evening.

The incident occurred at the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve near Udhagamandalam while the

minister was on a visit to inaugurate a rejuvenation camp for elephants in captivity.

According to a video of the incident that surfaced on social media, the minister asked the boy to unbuckle his slippers when he was about to enter a temple.

Sources and officials in Udhagamandalam said the minister met the boy — who hails from a tribal community in Mudumalai — at a government guest house in Udhagamandalam on Friday morning and personally conveyed his regret. The boy had come to the meeting with his parents and around 50 members from his community, they said.

On Thursday, after the video clip went viral, the minister had said he did not mean to insult the boy.

KERALA

Budget presented with painting of Gandhi's final moments

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEBRUARY 7

THE COVER of the state Budget, presented in the Assembly by Finance Minister T M Thomas Isaac on Friday, has a painting based on the final moments of Mahatma Gandhi.

The painting, Death of Gandhi, was by artist and illustrator Tom Vattakuzhy, which he posted on his Facebook page last year. It went viral on January 30 after Congress leader and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi and several others shared the painting on social media.

While presenting the Budget,



The cover page of the Gender Budget Overview Report had a painting by Anujath, a class IX student from Thrissur. Twitter

Isaac thanked Vattakuzhy for allowing the government to use the painting. The minister said

the painting was used to make a political statement. "We are sending out a message that we

will not forget who murdered Gandhi," he said.

The cover page of the Gender Budget Overview Report, which was presented as part of the Budget, had a painting by Anujath, a Class 9 student from Thrissur.

Referring to the painting, Isaac said "The colour combination and composition reminding the Mughal era surely will attract eyes. But what struck my mind was not that. It was the neighbourhood activities of the mother and peer mothers that Anujath painted."

Isaac read out the Budget with his comments on contemporary politics. "Democracy and dictatorship

are standing face to face in India. The rulers in Delhi speak only in the language of hatred and rancour. Their followers consider violence and attack as their karma. The administrative set up has completely yielded to communalism. Generally speaking, this is the India of today. Which Keralaite can't be enthused by the fact that Kerala provided the moral leadership to these agitations? Kerala is already a model to India in many areas. Kerala shall create a new model of unity, when the country is facing a threat to its very existence," he said.

WELFARE SCHEMES IN BUDGET, PAGE 19

10 EXPRESS NETWORK



NORTH

Farrukhabad hostage case: Yogi lauds children's patience

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday rewarded the 23 children who were held hostage in Farrukhabad's Karthiya village on January 30 as well as the police team involved in the operation that ended with the accused being shot dead and all the children being rescued. In a function at his official residence in

Lucknow he gave each of the 23 children a school bag, toys and sport items while praised their courage. He also presented Rs 10 lakh cheque and certificates to the police team involved in the successful operation. Administrative officials involved in the operation were also awarded certificates.

ENS



A boy clicks a selfie with ISRO chief K Sivan (extreme right) during the HK Firodia Memorial Foundation awards in Pune on Friday. Pavan Khengre

WEST

Gaganyaan: ISRO chief says 4 IAF men selected for training

Pune: ISRO chairman K Sivan said on Friday that the procedure to select astronauts for India's maiden manned mission Gaganyaan has been completed and the four officers from the Air Force are set to leave for Russia for training. "After rigorous medical and psychological screening process, four officers from

the Indian Air Force have been identified and they will depart for Russia today (February 7) for their 15-month training," Sivan said during a function in Pune, where he was awarded the HKF Vijan Ratna Award by the H K Firodia Memorial Foundation.

ENS

EAST

Assam Rifles man held with narcotics worth Rs 2.3 crore

Imphal: An Assam Rifles jawan has been arrested for allegedly possessing and transporting Rs 2.3 crore-worth 'World is Yours' tablets, a powerful stimulant drug popularly known as 'Yaba', in Manipur's Thoubal district, police said on Friday. During regular vehicle checking on the Imphal-Moreh highway, police commandos

stopped the car of Yengkhom Bikram Singh, a jawan of the 6th Assam Rifles, at around 8.30 pm on Thursday, a police officer said. "While searching his vehicle, the commandos found 2.3 lakh Yaba tablets concealed in an airbag of the car. The seized drug is worth Rs 2.3 crore in the international market," the officer said.

PTI

SOUTH

18-yr-old Maoist surrenders before police in Telangana

Hyderabad: An 18-year-old youth, associated with the Maoists, on Friday surrendered before the police here. Podium Santhosh alias Vikram joined the outfit in 2018 as a militia member under the influence of Sodi Jogaiah-militia commander of Cherla area, a press release said. Santosh wanted to live a peaceful

life with his family, and hence surrendered, the police said. The Bhadradi Kothagudem police, in an appeal to the underground Maoists, requested the ultras to give up their activities and approach police either directly or through their relatives or known persons.

PTI

MP: SDM arrested for faking attack on office, vehicle

Police say he wanted to implicate private educational institute owner out on bail

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 7

THE MADHYA Pradesh police on Friday arrested a sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) in Chhatapur for allegedly faking an attack on his office to implicate the owner of a private educational institution. It is alleged that he got his accomplices to vandalise his own office, fire in the air and damage his official vehicle.

On Wednesday, SDM (Chhatapur) Anil Sapkal turned up at his office at 8.50 am, much before his usual time, claiming he had many files to clear, and sat with a revenue inspector and a reader. "Within minutes, four or five masked men broke the windowpanes of my cabin and threatened to take my life," he said in a police complaint later. When the two juniors bolted the door from inside,

the attackers ran outside and damaged his official car.

"I came out of the chamber and was going towards my car when few rounds were fired. They said you were lucky today but won't survive the next time," he said in the complaint and named contractor Javed Akhtar, two labourers and his driver as eyewitnesses. He said he suspected people at the receiving end of his ongoing campaign against land mafia.

Immediately after the incident, he informed the Collector and an additional superintendent of police. The police registered an FIR under various sections.

Local television channels and reporters immediately got information about the attack. One of the witnesses said the attackers had named one (Abhay Singh) Bhadoriya (chairman of SBN Group).

Chhatapur Superintendent

of Police Tilak Singh told *The Indian Express* that the police got suspicious after questioning Bhadoriya, against whom the SDM had filed a complaint of land grabbing in the past. Bhadoriya recently got bail. When the police questioned him Bhadoriya denied involvement in the attack. Singh said the SDM wanted to implicate Bhadoriya and later move an application to get his bail cancelled. The SDM was placed under suspension.

The police arrested Pushpendra Gautam, a rival of Bhadoriya in education sector. Gautam told the police that the SDM had asked him to arrange four or five men to vandalise his office. Gautam alleged he had given nearly Rs 15 lakh to the SDM since his posting to Chhatapur. The police claimed Gautam was worried that an upcoming educational institution of Bhadoriya would reduce ad-

missions to his own institute.

Another accused Javed Akhtar, an office-bearer of BJP minority cell, told the police that his land had been acquired for a highway project and an amount of Rs 40 lakh was due in compensation.

He said he has not only given some money to the SDM but also got his cabin renovated at his own expense.

The police said the SDM briefed one of the attackers at the Chhatapur circuit house on how to enter and leave and the spot from where he was to fire. The police said after local reporters were called and the attack highlighted.

The police have seized a country made weapon and cartridges, a baseball bat and two wooden sticks used in the attack. The police said CDR revealed that the accused were in constant touch with each other.

DEFAMATION CASE

Ramani jumping on #MeToo bandwagon, Akbar tells court

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

FORMER UNION Minister M J Akbar told a Delhi court Friday that journalist Priya Ramani — against whom he has filed a defamation case — did not bring up sexual harassment allegations so far and was now "jumping onto the #MeToo bandwagon".

Ramani had levelled allegations of sexual misconduct and harassment against Akbar, who subsequently resigned as Minister of State for External Affairs and filed a defamation case against her.

Senior advocate Geeta Luthra, appearing for Akbar, was making her final arguments before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vishal Paruja. The arguments could not be concluded and will be taken up on February 28.

So far, the prosecution and defence have both produced their evidence in court. Lawyers from both sides will be submitting their final arguments before the court reserves its judgment.

Luthra started off her arguments by reading Akbar's original complaint to the judge and added: "Unless the person has some defence, on the face of it, it (the allegation) is defamatory. When a person says I have an M J Akbar story and you don't name him... why name him now? What could be the public good you are doing? Unless you are jumping onto the bandwagon... There was no reason for her (Ramani) to keep quiet all this time. Why are you speaking up now? Are you speaking up genuinely? Are you speaking up because #MeToo has come or because he has become a minister?"

Through the course of the hearing, Luthra read out excerpts from Ramani's article from *Vogue* magazine, which she said was generic in nature and never clarified that the whole piece was not about Akbar. Reading further from Akbar's complaint, she added: "This is not a communication... in the interest to warn someone. It is deliberately malifide, malicious... Can you ask a man to answer for these incidents that you allege took place 25 years ago. Did anybody understand that it was a generic article? Did anybody understand it that way? Did my wife or witnesses understand it that way?"

Luthra went on to say that if Ramani had a grievance, she should have raised it with the concerned authorities. "Can you tarnish anybody's life without evidence? That person will not have phone records, registers, you can actually say anything. There has to be some fairness. We can't be a social media country," Luthra told the court.

Luthra also questioned if Ramani could call Akbar a predator. She read out the definition of a predator and a pervert to the ACMM and turned to the original complaint: "My readers do not understand that only one line pertains to me. What sense does a layman get? It says that the man is a predator, a pervert, and it is about M J Akbar," she read.

Luthra also referred to subsequent tweets by Ramani pertaining to Akbar's resignation. "You want him to resign from the government. This is what you say is your victory. What is your motive? It is just to tarnish his image, bring down the person," Luthra stipulated.

Wrapping up her arguments for the day, Luthra also told the court that Akbar had built his reputation over years and wrote extensively on south Asia. "In that sense, the country needs such people," she said.

DECEMBER 20 VIOLENCE IN BIJNOR

Looking into Cong leader's role: police

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 7

THE BIJNOR police are probing the role of district Congress president Sherbaaz Khan for allegedly inciting people that led to violence during a CAA-NRC protest on December 20 in which two persons had died and 26 others, including 20 policemen, were injured.

Police said Sherbaaz is suspected to have instigated people involved in the violence. His alleged role cropped up during questioning of those arrested after the violence, claimed police. Police had picked up Sherbaaz on Wednesday and questioned him on the basis of the inputs. He was later let off with an instruction that he should appear before the SIT investigating violence cases when called.

"We are probing the role of Sherbaaz... It is suspected that he instigated the protesters," said Bijnor SP Sanjeev Tyagi. Sherbaaz Khan, who has nine

criminal cases against him, had unsuccessfully contested the 2017 Assembly elections on Congress ticket from Chandpur seat in Bijnor.

When contacted, Sherbaaz Khan said, "On Wednesday, policemen stopped me while I was on my way home after attending a court hearing. I was taken to the Kotwali police station where cops accused me of instigating people. I denied the charges and asked them to show evidence, which they failed to produce. I asked the policemen to check if I had made any calls to protesters on December 20.

"Police let me go with a warning to appear whenever called," said Sherbaaz, alleging that all cases against him were "politically motivated."

Additional Superintendent of Police, City, Laxmi Niwas Mishra said, "Sherbaaz was called by police on Wednesday and later he was let off. Investigation about his role is going on." He refused to share further details about the investigation.



LANKAN PM RAJAPAKSA ARRIVES

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa is greeted at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport by Minister of State Sanjay Dhotre. During his five-day visit, Rajapaksa will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to explore ways to further boost bilateral ties. After his official engagement in Delhi, Rajapaksa will travel to Varanasi, Sarnath, Bodhi Gaya and Tirupati. Amit Mehra

ANTI-CAA PROTESTS

In Deoband, admin panel faces 'go back' chants from protesters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, NOIDA, FEBRUARY 7

A COMMITTEE formed by the district administration to convince women sitting on protest against CAA-NRC in Deoband area of Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur to call off their sit-in faced chants of "go back". A sit-in by women has been going on at Eidgah ground under the Deoband police station for the past 11 days.

One of the committee members, Jamal Ansari, son of Municipal Chairman Zia-ud-din Ansari, said the women did not listen to the committee members. "We had gone there yesterday (Thursday) and were met with slogans of 'go back'. The women threw their bangles at us and we had to retreat," claimed Ansari.

"The committee, which has 11

members, was formed by the district administration and police to speak to people about CAA-NRC. We had gone there on the directions of police and district administration. The committee has some clerics, political leaders and intellectuals," Ansari added.

Saharanpur DM A K Pandey said, "The committee is an informal one formed to convince the women to call off the protest. They had gone there but the women refused to speak to them and asked them to wear bangles that they gave the committee members."

"A team was sent to have a conversation with them (protesters). We are trying to convince them that the Act is not going to be applied at present and that the protest can be called off. They have refused to do so. The main place of the protest is Eidgah in Deoband. We have

been in constant touch with those heading the protests and will continue to have conversations to persuade them from calling it off. No strict measures will be used," said Vidya Sagar Mishra, SP (Rural) Saharanpur.

Circle Officer, Deoband area, Rajneesh Kumar Upadhyay, said, "They (members of the committee) told us that they were not heard by the women. They were asked to leave the protest site."

The protesters have formed a panel called Murtahida Khawatin Committee for the purpose of coordination with media for disbursement of information. The committee is run by four women. "It is a matter of our children and their future. Women have come in large numbers and it is important we become a part of this resistance", said one of the members.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 7

THE LUCKNOW police on Friday produced before a local court three people in the murder case of Hindu outfit leader Ranjeet Bachchan.

All three — Bachchan's second wife Smriti Srivastava, her alleged paramour Deependra Verma and driver Sanjeet Gautam — have been sent them to judicial custody.

"All three accused — Smriti Srivastava, Deependra and Sanjeet — were today produced before a local court of Lucknow which sent them to judicial custody," said Hazratganj Additional Police Commissioner Abhay Kumar Mishra.

Police are still conducting



Ranjeet Bachchan was shot dead in Lucknow last week.

searches to trace Deependra's cousin Jitendra Verma, the alleged shooter. They said they have announced a reward of Rs 50,000 on his head.

Last week, Bachchan, the head of the Vishwa Hindu Mahasabha, was shot dead in Lucknow's Hazratganj area,

while his cousin was injured. His first wife Kalindi Sharma Bachchan accused members of another community killing her husband as he was a "Hinduwaadi leader".

On Thursday, police said they had cracked the case and arrested Smriti, Deependra and Sanjeet.

They ruled out any terror motive and said that the murder was planned by Smriti, who was having an extra-marital relationship with Deependra and wanted to marry him.

Police said Smriti and Deependra hatched a conspiracy of murder because Bachchan was not ready to leave Smriti.

Pandey said during their investigations, police came to know that Bachchan's relation-

Ahmedabad airport deploys staffer in bear costume to chase away langurs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, FEBRUARY 7

THE SARDAR Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad has deployed a staffer dressed in a bear costume to scare away langurs that stray on to the runway, delaying flights.

The airport management says the method has achieved the desired results in ensuring hassle-free take off and touch-down of planes.

The management did "meticulous planning, involving studying the behaviour pattern of langurs" and sought the opinion of wildlife experts, identifying what scares the animals. Speaking to *The Indian Express*,

The airport management got the idea from reports that people in Delhi had hired langurs to scare off monkeys

Ahmedabad airport director Manoj Gangal said the plan emerged from reports on people hiring langurs to chase away monkeys in Delhi.

"In Delhi, the monkey menace was kept under check using that's when we realised that langurs were scared of bear. We already have a team of 'bird and wildlife' chasers, which is a third party agency on contract.

So we came up with this unique initiative, where we asked one of the staffers from the chasers team to don the outfit of a bear and chase away the langurs. Earlier, villagers used to call madari and his pet bear to chase away langurs and monkeys," said Gangal.

He added that the staffer employed for the purpose is not made to work the entire day. "We studied the psychology and behaviour patterns of langurs and realised that they enter the airport premises only during a specific time of the day. During that time, the staffer in bear outfit is deployed to chase away the animals," Gangal said.

According to the airport officials, langurs have been creating trouble at the airport for the past

one year. In April, a group of langurs entered the runway, leading to the diversion of two flights that were about to land and delaying the take-off of 10 other flights.

"Although we have installed barbed fencing and electric fencing and have a dedicated team of chasers who are equipped with acoustic devices to scare away wild animals and birds, we realised that langurs can jump great heights. Hence we decided to go traditional in our approach. This was implemented on an experimental basis and has generated good results in the past one week when there was no flight disruption due to the wild animals. We will consider implementing it on long term," the official added.

NALASOPARA ARMS CASE

Lankesh murder accused in Maharashtra ATS custody

JOHNSONT A
BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 7

A KEY accused in the 2017 murder of journalist Gauri Lankesh, who was recently arrested by the Karnataka SIT from Jharkhand, has been taken into custody by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad for investigations in the Nalasopara arms case — a terrorism case filed in 2019.

In the Nalasopara case, 18 country-made guns and dozens of crude bombs were found in the possession of persons affiliated to radical Hindu groups.

Rushikesh Deodikar (44), a former co-ordinator of the Sanatan Sanstha-affiliated Hindu Janajagruiti Samiti for the Aurangabad region, was taken into custody on the basis of a body warrant issued by a Mumbai sessions court, police sources said.

The former HJS activist is likely to be added to the list of 12 persons already named in the Maharashtra ATS case. The list includes nine of 18 accused in the Lankesh murder case.

Deodikar was arrested from

Dhanbad where he was working at a petrol pump after going underground in the wake of arrests of several persons linked to a Hinduva group involved in the murders of Lankesh and 3 others.

According to SIT sources, Deodikar was a key figure in the Maharashtra operations of an extremist group — with strong connections to the Sanatan Sanstha — accused of carrying out four murders between 2013 and 2017 in Karnataka and Maharashtra.

The probe into the Lankesh case has revealed that Deodikar was instrumental in the recruitment of radically inclined youths in Maharashtra such as Sharad Kalaskar (26) of Aurangabad, who is accused of shooting down rationalist Narendra Dabholkar in Pune on August 20, 2013.

The probe into the Lankesh murder has revealed that Deodikar, who was also known as Shiva and Murali, was allegedly part of a conspiracy meeting involving several right wing activists which was held in December 2017 in Pune to target the Sunburn Music Festival.

A group of over 20 persons

were allegedly brought together, including Deodikar, to target the Sunburn Festival and were divided into teams by Amol Kale, a key leader of the group, according to statements given to the police by several persons arrested in the Lankesh case.

A team headed by bomb expert Prathap Hazra, a leader of the Bhavani Sena, a radical outfit from West Bengal, who was arrested last month by the Maharashtra ATS from Kolkata in connection with the Nalasopara case, was allegedly tasked with making bombs to target the Sunburn Festival, according to a statement given by the accused Kalaskar.

The team allegedly prepared around 30 country-made bombs but the attack was called off by Kale after realising that two members of the group were captured on CCTV cameras near the venue of the event while carrying out a recce.

PRIVATISATION RUMOURS

Bihar to enforce ESMA against staff if they go on strike on Feb 11

Patna: The Bihar Energy Department has threatened it will enforce provisions of the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) against employees of the department who have decided to go on a day-long strike on February 11 amid speculation of privatisation.

After Union Minister of State for Energy (I/C), RK Singh, on Thursday scotched speculation of having received any privatisation proposal, the state's Principal Secretary (Energy) Pratyaya Amrit said on Friday: "We do not know where the rumours of privatisation were floated from. And we cannot tolerate our employees going on a strike on basis of these rumours. We will enforce ESMA if they go ahead with the strike." The Power Engineering Services Association that has called the strike was not a recognised body, he said. **ENS**

शुद्धि पत्र
सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि दैनिक भास्कर पत्र में दिनांक 06.02.2020 को जो निविदा सूचना का प्रकाशन करवाया गया था, में बिन्दु नं. 4 में निविदा खोलने की तिथि 20.02.2020 अपराह्न 2.00 बजे समझा जाए।

मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी,
जिला परिषद, सोनीपत।

79759/HRY

आवश्यक सूचना
सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक 17.02.2020 को बाद दोपहर 15.00 बजे नगर परिषद भिवानी के कार्यालय में शीशम के 3 पेड़ मिश्रित के 21 पेड़ व पुराने खण्ड के मलबे की खुली बोली लगाई जानी है। अतः आप सभी से अनुरोध है कि बोली से पहले मु. राशि 30,000 रूपए नगर परिषद भिवानी के कार्यालय में जमा करवाकर अधिक से अधिक संख्या में खुली बोली में भाग लेना सुनिश्चित करें।

नोट:- बाकी शर्तें किसी भी कार्यदिक्क में नगर परिषद भिवानी के कार्यालय में देखी जा सकती हैं।

हस्ता./-
सचिव
नगर परिषद भिवानी।

79758/HRY

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Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chelpet, Chennai - 600031. TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | FAX: +91 44 4564 4022, Authorized Officer - Mr. Amritpal Singh | Contact Number - +91-9999776185

APPENDIX-IV-A - [See proviso to rule 6 (6)]
NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Private Treaty Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of IDFC First Bank Limited (erstwhile known as Capital First Limited now amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 27-02-2020 or thereafter, for recovery of INR 72271085/- AS ON 4-MAY-19 due to the Bank from AMBE AUTO, RAKESH KUMAR SARNA, ANURADHA BABBAR, BHARAT BHUSHAN BABBAR (Borrower & Co-borrower(s)).

The Reserve Price will be INR 4,50,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Lacs Only).

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY NO. A-14, KHASRA NO. 570/1, DEVI ROAD KHANPUR EXTENSION, DELHI-110062

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in website i.e. www.idfcfirstbank.com.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

Date: 06.02.2020

TATA
TATA STEEL LIMITED
Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001 India
Tel.: 91 22 6665 8282 • Fax No.: 91 22 6665 7724 • Email: cosec@tatasteel.com • Website: www.tatasteel.com
CIN: L27100MH1907PLC000260

NOTICE
Extract of Standalone Financial Results for the quarter/ nine months ended on 31st December 2019

₹ Crores

| Particulars | Quarter ended on 31.12.2019 | Quarter ended on 30.09.2019 | Quarter ended on 31.12.2018 | Nine months ended on 31.12.2019 | Nine months ended on 31.12.2018 | Financial year ended on 31.03.2019 |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Audited | Audited | Audited | Audited | Audited | Audited |
| Total revenue from operations | 15,262.04 | 14,871.18 | 17,173.87 | 46,224.54 | 51,481.37 | 70,610.92 |
| Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items) | 2,065.51 | 1,891.37 | 3,513.63 | 6,400.78 | 12,465.24 | 16,341.48 |
| Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items) | 2,414.74 | 1,888.79 | 3,773.30 | 6,706.68 | 12,362.03 | 16,227.25 |
| Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax | 1,803.83 | 3,837.81 | 2,456.09 | 7,180.63 | 8,042.10 | 10,533.19 |
| Total comprehensive income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)) | 1,767.05 | 3,759.84 | 2,351.15 | 7,016.32 | 7,953.13 | 10,482.97 |
| Paid-up equity share capital [Face value ₹ 10 per share] | 1,146.13 | 1,146.12 | 1,146.12 | 1,146.13 | 1,146.12 | 1,146.12 |
| Reserves excluding revaluation reserves | | | | | | 69,308.59 |
| Basic earnings per share of ₹ 10 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items) | 15.30 | 33.00 | 21.05 | 61.35 | 69.04 | 90.41 |
| Diluted earnings per share ₹ 10 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items) | 15.30 | 33.00 | 21.05 | 61.35 | 69.03 | 90.40 |

Extract of Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter/ nine months ended on 31st December 2019

₹ Crores

| Particulars | Quarter ended on 31.12.2019 | Quarter ended on 30.09.2019 | Quarter ended on 31.12.2018 | Nine months ended on 31.12.2019 | Nine months ended on 31.12.2018 | Financial year ended on 31.03.2019 |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Unaudited | Unaudited | Unaudited | Unaudited | Unaudited | Audited |
| Total revenue from operations | 35,520.41 | 34,579.18 | 38,853.88 | 1,06,046.70 | 1,15,245.13 | 1,57,668.99 |
| Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items) | (216.10) | 27.02 | 3,190.92 | 1,613.93 | 11,785.68 | 16,026.69 |
| Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items) | (544.74) | (6.54) | 3,223.33 | 1,267.73 | 11,653.22 | 15,905.72 |
| Net Profit / (Loss) after tax from Continuing Operations | (1,165.78) | 4,043.45 | 1,816.68 | 3,572.86 | 6,833.85 | 9,187.29 |
| Net Profit / (Loss) after tax from Discontinued Operations | (62.75) | (741.14) | (63.61) | (785.05) | (30.78) | (88.96) |
| Total comprehensive income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)) | (2,778.04) | 4,483.11 | 1,925.28 | 2,093.30 | 6,911.75 | 9,106.12 |
| Paid-up equity share capital [Face value ₹ 10 per share] | 1,144.95 | 1,144.94 | 1,144.94 | 1,144.95 | 1,144.94 | 1,144.94 |
| Reserves (excluding revaluation reserves) and Non controlling interest | | | | | | 67,869.60 |
| Earnings per equity share (for continuing operations): | | | | | | |
| Basic earnings per share ₹ 10 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items) | (9.43) | 35.71 | 20.01 | 32.02 | 67.46 | 88.32 |
| Diluted earnings per share ₹ 10 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items) | (9.43) | 35.71 | 20.01 | 32.02 | 67.45 | 88.31 |
| Earnings per equity share (for continuing and discontinued operations): | | | | | | |
| Basic earnings per share ₹ 10 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items) | (9.91) | 29.25 | 19.58 | 25.23 | 67.31 | 87.75 |
| Diluted earnings per share ₹ 10 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items) | (9.91) | 29.25 | 19.58 | 25.23 | 67.30 | 87.74 |

Note:
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Standalone and Consolidated results for the quarter/nine months ended on 31st December, 2019 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone and Consolidated results for the quarter/nine months ended on 31st December, 2019 are available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges (www.nseindia.com/www.bseindia.com) and the Company's website (www.tatasteel.com).

T V Narendran
Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director
Mumbai: February 07, 2020

Koushik Chatterjee
Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer

TATA STEEL

Central Institute of Technology Kokrajhar
(Deemed to be university under MHRD, Govt. of India)
Kokrajhar, BTAD, Assam-783370

ADMISSION NOTICE - 01/2020
Applications are invited from aspiring candidates for admission into Diploma, B. Tech, B. Des, M. Tech, M. Des and Ph. D courses for the session: 2020-21 at CIT Kokrajhar. For details, visit www.cit.ac.in, www.admission.cit.ac.in

Sd/- Member Secretary, Admission Committee

सी एस आई आर - केन्द्रीय यांत्रिक अभियांत्रिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान
(वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद्)
महात्मा गांधी एवेन्यू, दुर्गापुर - 713 209 (पश्चिम बंगाल)
CSIR-CENTRAL MECHANICAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
Mahatma Gandhi Avenue, Durgapur - 713 209 (West Bengal)

सं./No. 4/18/2020-Rct दिनांक/Date : 05.02.2020
Advertisement No. 01/2020

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
FOR PROJECT-SRF/JRF/PROJECT ASSISTANT

A Walk-in-interview will be conducted at CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur during 17th - 18th February, 2020 to select around 18 (Eighteen) candidates for engagement under different projects as 'Project-SRF/JRF/Project Assistant' having Masters/Graduate/Diploma qualifications in various Engineering and Science disciplines and to provide an opportunity of working experience in various R&D projects, an avenue of skill development at CSIR-CMERI, Durgapur, West Bengal and at its extension centre CSIR-CMERI-CoEFM, Ludhiana, Punjab. For detail advertisement and other information such as, disciplines & vacancies, consolidated remuneration, eligibility criteria, age, tenure, date of Walk-in-Interview, application form etc. the interested candidates may log on to the Institute website : www.cmeri.res.in → Opportunity → Career → Vacancy → Advt. No. 01/2020

Administrative Officer

Government of Jharkhand Department of Mines & Geology
Directorate of Mines
Nepal House (Yojna Bhavan), Doranda, Ranchi - 834002, Email jhr_mines@yahoo.in

Notice Inviting Tender
"Invitation of Bid for grant of Mining Lease"

In exercise of the power conferred by Section 10B(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (subsequent amendments till date) notified thereunder, Government of Jharkhand has identified a Limestone & Dolomite block for the purpose of grant of mining lease in Garwha District, Jharkhand, through electronic auction and hereby invites bids in digital format only, from eligible bidders.

Terms and conditions, deadlines etc. for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. The Model Tender Document for the Mineral Block and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost in electronic form and can be downloaded from website of MSTC (<http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mic/index.jsp>) for the purpose of information only. Timelines, notification, updates and other details of the e-auction process are available on the website of MSTC and from the website of Department of Mines & Geology, Govt. of Jharkhand <http://jhrkhandminerals.gov.in/>

The details of the mineral block are summarize below

| Block | Concession Area Ha. | Resource (Million Tonnes) | Tender Document No. | Last Date of sale of Tender Document on MSTC website | Last Date of submission of technical bid & IPO on MSTC website | Date of opening of Tender |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--|---------------------|--|--|---------------------------|
| Khutla Limestone & Dolomite Block | 84.37 Ha. | Limestone - 0.44 MT Dolomite - 1.528 MT | | Feb 19, 2020 | March 20, 2020 | March 23, 2020 |

Those interested and eligible for bidding can participate in the bidding only after online purchase of the Tender Document on payment of the tender fee of INR 4,95,600 (Indian Rupees Four Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Six Hundred only) which is inclusive of GST@18%, from the website of e-auction platform provider. After purchase of the Tender Document, eligible bidders can register themselves on the above mentioned website. On successful registration, eligible bidder will obtain Login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process.

Sd/-
Director, Mines Department of Mines & Geology Govt. of Jharkhand

PR 224845 (Mines and Geology) 19-20 (D)

जिला आर०सी०एच० कार्यालय, दुमका
Walk in interview

अभियान निदेशक, राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, झारखण्ड, रौंसी के पत्रांक 1024 (MD) दिनांक 18/09/2019 के आलोक में दुमका जिला अंतर्गत संचालित अटल क्लिनिक हेतु चिकित्सक (Part Time) तथा 01 सर्पोट स्टाफ (Part Time) की सेवा प्राप्त करने हेतु जिला स्तर पर Walk in interview के माध्यम से नियुक्ति/सुचिबद्ध किया जाना है। इच्छुक चिकित्सक तथा व्यक्ति से निम्नांकित शर्तों के अधिन आवेदन आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं।

| क्र०सं० | विवरण | आवश्यक शर्त |
|---------|--|---|
| 1 | न्यूनतम शैक्षणिक योग्यता (चिकित्सक पद के लिये) | मेडिकल कॉन्सिल ऑफ इंडिया से मान्यता प्राप्त किसी भी संस्थान से M.B.B.S. की डिग्री। |
| 2 | उम्र सीमा | अधिकतम 67 वर्ष (सिविल सर्जन के माध्यम से निर्गत मेडिकल फिटनेस प्रमाण पत्र के आधार पर 70 वर्ष तक के चिकित्सकों की सेवा प्राप्त की जा सकती है। फिटनेस प्रमाण पत्र की वैधता एक वर्ष तक के लिये मान्य होगी। |
| 3 | मानदेय (चिकित्सक पद के लिये) | ₹ 700 प्रति दो घंटे के लिये। (एक पाली में) |
| 4 | कार्य का समय | 08:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न तक एवं 06:00 बजे अपराह्न से 08:00 बजे अपराह्न तक। (दो पाली) |
| 5 | सुचिबद्ध किये गये चिकित्सक को देय मानदेय से नियमानुसार T.D.S. की कटौती कि जाएगी। | |
| 6 | न्यूनतम शैक्षणिक योग्यता (सर्पोट स्टाफ पद के लिये) | किसी भी मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थान से मैट्रिक पास। तथा >रखण्ड के स्थायी निवासी होना चाहिए। |
| 7 | मानदेय (सर्पोट स्टाफ पद के लिये) | ₹ 3000 प्रति माह। |
| 8 | सुचिबद्ध किये गये चिकित्सक एवं सर्पोट स्टाफ द्वारा भविष्य में नियमितकरण हेतु किसी भी प्रकार का दावा मान्य नहीं होगा। | |
| 9 | Walk in interview में उपस्थित होने के किसी भी प्रकार का यात्रा भत्ता देय नहीं होगा। | |

इच्छुक उम्मीदवार Walk in interview के लिये अपना बायो डाटा तथा सभी मूल प्रमाण पत्र एवं छाया प्रति के साथ सिविल सर्जन कार्यालय, दुमका में दिनांक 15.02.2020 को 11:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न से 02:00 बजे अपराह्न तक उपस्थित होना सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक -सह-मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी, दुमका।

P.R.224849 Health Med Edu and Family Welfare(19-20):D

ACC Limited
CIN:L26940MH1936PLC002515
Registered Office: Cement House, 121, Maharshi Karve Road, Mumbai - 400 020
Tel. No.: 022-41593321; Fax No.: 022-66317458; Website: www.acclimited.com; e-mail: ACC-investorSupport@acclimited.com

Extract of Consolidated Audited Results for the Quarter and Year Ended 31-12-2019

(₹ in Crore)

| Particulars | 3 months ended 31-12-2019 | Preceding 3 months ended 30-09-2019 | Corresponding 3 months ended 31-12-2018 | Current year ended 31-12-2019 | Previous year ended 31-12-2018 |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | (Refer Note - 2) | Unaudited | (Refer Note - 2) | Audited | Audited |
| Total Revenue from Operations | 4,060.31 | 3,528.31 | 3,895.60 | 15,657.55 | 14,801.62 |
| Net Profit for the period before tax | 413.31 | 443.49 | 343.24 | 2,052.52 | 1,510.11 |
| Net Profit for the period after tax | 273.28 | 302.56 | 732.35 | 1,377.54 | 1,520.62 |
| Total Comprehensive Income for the period | 256.90 | 294.62 | 724.73 | 1,328.31 | 1,515.78 |
| Paid-up Equity Share Capital | 187.99 | 187.99 | 187.99 | 187.99 | 187.99 |
| Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet | | | | 11,355.78 | 10,343.91 |
| Earnings per share of ₹ 10 each (not annualised): | | | | | |
| (a) Basic | 14.55 | 16.11 | 39.00 | 73.35 | 80.97 |
| (b) Diluted | 14.52 | 16.07 | 38.90 | 73.17 | 80.77 |

Key numbers of Audited Standalone Results of the Company are as under :-

(₹ in Crore)

| Particulars | 3 months ended 31-12-2019 | Preceding 3 months ended 30-09-2019 | Corresponding 3 months ended 31-12-2018 | Current year ended 31-12-2019 | Previous year ended 31-12-2018 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | (Refer Note - 2) | Unaudited | (Refer Note - 2) | Audited | Audited |
| Total Revenue from Operations | 4,060.27 | 3,527.57 | 3,895.35 | 15,656.65 | 14,801.35 |
| Profit before tax | 407.35 | 440.53 | 339.35 | 2,031.47 | 1,494.29 |
| Profit after tax | 269.22 | 299.97 | 730.47 | 1,358.91 | 1,506.63 |
| Total Comprehensive Income | 253.08 | 292.03 | 722.77 | 1,309.93 | 1,501.78 |

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the websites of the stock exchanges www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and also on the Company's website www.acclimited.com.
- The figures of the quarters ended December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2018 are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial years ended December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2018 and the unaudited published year-to-date figures up to the third quarter of the respective financial years.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Place: Mumbai
Date: February 07, 2020

ACC

(Neeraj Akhouri)
MANAGING DIRECTOR & CEO
DIN: 07419090

17-yr-old from Kashmir dies in Jaipur after assault by co-worker

HAMZA KHAN JAIPUR, FEBRUARY 7



Basit alias Gulam Mohideen Khan, was a resident of Kupwara

A 17-YEAR-OLD boy from Kashmir succumbed to injuries after he was assaulted by a co-worker in the early hours of February 5, police said on Friday.

Basit alias Gulam Mohideen Khan, a resident of Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir, had finished work as part of a catering team at a wedding venue when he was assaulted. The son of an Armyman, he is survived by his mother, four sisters and a brother.

Additional Commissioner of Police Ashok Gupta said one Aditya Kumar, a resident of Mau in Uttar Pradesh, was arrested, while two others are being interrogated. However, police have ruled out any lynching angle. "It is not as if the accused had planned the assault beforehand, nor was it motivated by religion or because he hailed from a particular state," Gupta said.

Basit's colleague and eyewitness Sufiyan, 19, who hails from Baramulla in J&K and on whose complaint an FIR was lodged at Harmara police station, said, "We worked in catering with Faisal Khan, who is our contractor. On the days he has no work, he sends us to his friend Maslukh who gives us work. So that day, the two of us

[Basit and Sufiyan] went to work for Maslukh, who already had eight other people... Once it was done, we had our meal and proceeded to the vehicle outside [which was to drop us home]."

"As the driver was sleeping inside the vehicle, Basit knocked on the door. Then, one of Maslukh's men, who was from Mumbai, asked Basit not to knock on the door... Basit said he was tired and wanted to sit inside. Then that man shoved him and held him by his collar. Then two others, who were with this man, held Basit... he was constantly hitting Basit on the head," Sufiyan said.

"Once we reached home [in Jaipur's Hasanpura], he [Basit] started crying, and said that his head is hurting. He also started vomiting," he said.

Basit was then taken to the government-run Sawai Man Singh Hospital where, after a CT scan, the doctors said he had sustained injuries on his head and would require an operation.

Basit, however, died at about 11 pm on Thursday.

Faisal Khan, the contractor said, "Kashmiri youths come here for work during holidays. This was Basit's first time here..."

ACP Gupta said that the body was handed over to the family after a post-mortem, and that they left with the body for their hometown on Friday.

Kavita Srivastava, the Rajasthan president of the People's Union for Civil Liberties, said PUCI will institute a fact-finding committee "as the hospitality and food business in Jaipur has over a thousand Kashmiri people and they are vulnerable."

In Kupwara, one of Basit's relatives said, "He had gone to Jaipur a few months ago because the family has a poor financial background. His father passed away several years ago... He was working as a caterer in Jaipur. We were informed two days ago he was unwell and today came to know that he has died," said the relative.

Meanwhile, a J&K Police spokesperson on Friday said reports of Basit's lynching are "factually incorrect".

"Basit was working in Jaipur as a caterer and had a fight with a co-worker. He was taken to hospital where he succumbed," the statement said.

Mumbai man dies after 7 months of wait, police find daughter's body

MOHAMED THAYER MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 7



Aarti's mother Manju in Mumbai. Express

FOR SEVEN months, 45-year-old Pancharam kept visiting the Nehru Nagar Police Station in Kurla (East), Mumbai, asking about his missing daughter. In October, he killed himself, leaving behind a purported suicide note naming, among others, a police officer. Now that the probe has been shifted to the Crime Branch, officials have found that his daughter died the same day in March that she disappeared, just 5 km from home — her death going unnoticed between different departments, even as police went looking for her as far away as Rajasthan.

Says an officer at the Nehru Nagar Police Station, "From day one, we thought the girl had run away... That is what her father told us as well. In hindsight, we made one basic mistake: we did not think the girl could be dead."

Aarti Rithadiya's mother Manju remembers clearly that the 17-year-old was dressed in a yellow kurta and black leggings the day she last left their one-room house in Kurla (East), around 7.30 am on March 30. Having dropped out of school, Aarti helped her father run a

small footwear-making unit at home — a profession most of their Regar community in this area does.

By the end of that day, the family had registered a missing person's complaint. Aarti's elder sister Pooja said Aarti had left soon after a phone conversation with a neighbour, Bhagchand Fulwaria. The family believed Aarti was in a relationship with the married Fulwaria and, as per police, they had been trying to break them up. Incidentally, Fulwaria also left home for some days after the incident, and the family told police that he had called them up on March 31 saying Aarti was safe.

Still, says the family, instead of taking them seriously, police mocked them, with a senior inspector saying it was "the season of girls going missing".

Fulwaria returned home on April 5, and was promptly detained by police. Senior Inspector Vilas Shinde says he denied any involvement in Aarti's disappearance, adding, "He told us that Aarti had told him her parents knew about their affair and that her father had gone to Rajasthan to look for a boy to marry her off... He had nothing to do with the girl being missing. Hence we let him go."

As no leads came about Aarti, Pancharam kept visiting the po-

lice station, DCP Shashi Meena as well as the Police Commissioner's office. Says Manju, "The DCP would chide us for chugli (complaining) against him with higher-ups."

Chasing the angle that Aarti had run away, police sent teams multiple times to Rajasthan, the family's native state. As police kept finding out Pancharam saying they were doing their best, on October 13, he was found dead on the railway tracks near his home, with a six-page suicide note. It named five people, including Fulwaria, people Pancharam believed had helped him, and Senior Inspector Shinde.

The death led to an uproar among the Regar community, and on the day of his final rites, at least 2,000 people went on a rampage against police, damaging property and leaving two injured. Many asked how Pancharam, who was illiterate, left a suicide note.

Under pressure, police registered an abetment to suicide case and arrested the five named by Pancharam. They also sent his suicide note for handwriting analysis; the report is yet to come. In addition, police arrested 53 for rioting at Pancharam's funeral. While the 53 continue to be behind bars, the five held later are out.

Eventually, the family approached the Bombay High Court and, in December, the court transferred the probe into the deaths of both Aarti and Pancharam to the Crime Branch. Within days, the Crime Branch stumbled upon the case of a girl "around 22 years of age" who had been found on railway tracks with her skull smashed on March 30. Since no one claimed it, police carried out the last rites.

The investigators asked to see a photograph of the girl, taken as per procedure. She was wearing a lemon-yellow kurta. More digging showed police even had CCTV footage of Aarti walking towards the Kurla Railway Station, while the body was found a station away.

The Wadala Government Railway Police and Nehru Nagar police blame each other for lack of coordination. Meanwhile, one question remains unanswered: was Aarti's death a case of suicide or murder? An investigator says Aarti might have been "scared" after she was caught by Pooja talking to Fulwaria. A Crime Branch officer claims Fulwaria had told her in that call that she should listen to her father and get married, angering her. Fulwaria has gone back to helping his uncle make footwear.

कानपुर विद्युत आपूर्ति कम्पनी लिमिटेड 14/71, सिविल लाइन्स, केसा हाउस, कानपुर अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा विस्तारण सूचना

कानपुर विद्युत आपूर्ति कम्पनी लिमिटेड 14/71, सिविल लाइन्स, केसा हाउस, कानपुर अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा विस्तारण सूचना

कानपुर विद्युत आपूर्ति कम्पनी लिमिटेड 14/71, सिविल लाइन्स, केसा हाउस, कानपुर अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा विस्तारण सूचना

HC dismisses J&K Bar Association president's plea against detention

ADILAKHZER SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 7

THE JAMMU and Kashmir High Court in Srinagar has dismissed a petition filed by J&K High Court Bar Association president Mian Qayoom, presently detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) and lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail, challenging his detention.

"A Court is not a proper forum to scrutinise the merits of administrative decision to detain a person. The Court cannot substitute its own satisfaction for that of the authority concerned and decide whether its satisfaction was reasonable or proper, or whether in the circumstances of the matter, the person concerned should have been detained or not... this Court does not sit in appeal over decision of detaining authority and cannot substitute its own opinion over that of detaining authority when grounds of detention are precise, pertinent, proximate and relevant," Justice Tashi Rabastan said while dismissing the petition in the judgment released on Friday.

Qayoom, through his counsel, had filed a habeas corpus petition, challenging his detention after he was booked on August 8 and shifted outside the Valley.

An application was also recently filed in the court for "for preponing the date of hearing was filed with the plea that directions were required to be issued with a view to ensure proper medical attention to the petitioner". In the plea it was stated that Qayoom was suffering from a coronary disease, prostrate malfunction as also hyper-tension; has only one functional kidney and is also suffering from diabetes and was being administered high doses of insulin.

Subsequently, Qayoom was shifted from a jail in Uttar Pradesh to New Delhi's Tihar Jail.

Qayoom's advocate Zaffar Shah told The Indian Express that they will file an appeal in the court.

Hurriyat Conference calls for J&K shutdown on February 9, 11

ADILAKHZER SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 7

THE HURRIYAT Conference on Friday called for a shutdown across Jammu and Kashmir on February 9 and 11 — the first such call the group has made since the state's special status was revoked on August 5.

The Yasin Malik-led Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), which was banned by the Centre last year, also called for a shutdown in valley on the same days. While February 9 marks the anniversary of the hanging of 2001 Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru, February 11 is the anniversary of the hanging of Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front founder Maqbool Bhat — hanged on February 11, 1984.

A statement issued by the All Party Hurriyat Conference on Friday also called upon the "international community to take note of the happenings in and the clampdown unleashed by the Government of India (GOI)".

It urged world bodies, especially global human rights organisations, to facilitate "the return of the mortal remains of Bhat and Guru to their families for burial in their own land in Kashmir."

Since August 5, all top separatist leaders in the Valley have been detained. Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq are presently under house arrest in Srinagar.

3 arrested for Feb 2 Srinagar grenade blast

ADILAKHZER SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 7

THREE PEOPLE from south Kashmir, including the relative of a mainstream political leader, have been arrested from the Valley for their alleged involvement in "terror-related activities", the J&K Police said Friday.

According to police officials in Srinagar, the trio were involved in the recent grenade attack in Srinagar in which nine people, including two CRPF personnel, were injured on Sunday.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, Srinagar SSP Haseeb Mughal said the three men — identified as Naveed-ul-Lateef Padroo and Shakeel Ahmad Band of Pulwama and Shamshad Manzoor of Shopian — were identified as "active cadres of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)".

Police said Band told them during questioning that he is related to three-time legislator and former PDP leader Mohammad Khalil Band, who switched to National Conference last year. Khalil Band has also been a minister in two governments, and that he stayed in his government quarters for some time.

"During our questioning, the boy has said that he stayed at Tuls Bagh quarters. Since his (Khalil's) accommodation has been used and he (Shakeel) did the recce while staying there, we will call him (Khalil) for questioning," Mughal said while speaking to reporters after the conference.

When The Indian Express reached out to Khalil Band for comments, a person who iden-

One of the arrested is allegedly related to three-time legislator Mohammad Khalil Band, who switched to NC from PDP last year

ified himself as a worker, answered the phone. "He is unwell and can't talk," he said.

During the conference, Mughal said Naveed was pursuing coaching for NEET exams in Srinagar and had scored nearly eighty per cent in his class X examination. He added that it was Naveed who had lobbied the grenade on Sunday at Lal Chowk.

The police said during the investigation, they found that the trio were connected "with terrorists across the border using internet and VPN (Virtual Proxy Networks) and on directions of Pakistan-based terrorist Shaheen, they were extending the terror network in the Valley."

"The trio conspired to carry out the attack in Srinagar and obtained a grenade. On February 2, the trio lobbed the grenade at Pratap Park. The purpose of their activities was to derail activity picking up across the Valley and to create sense of terror among the general public," said Mughal.

He also appealed to parents in the Valley to be more vigilant about their children. "If students are staying here for tuitions, parents need to check their mobile phones and also their friends circle," he said, adding that they are investigating if the trio were involved in other attacks as well.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Buildings (C&M) Circle, (Medical Works), Madurai - 625 002. EXTENSION NOTIFICATION NO.16SE/BCMC (MW)/MDU/2019-2020, DATE: 07.02.2020

MADHYA PRADESH POWER GENERATING CO. Ltd. O/o S.E.(P&W), SHREE SINGAJI THERMALPOWER PROJECT, MPPGCL, Dongalia Distt. Khandwa, MP

Table with 5 columns: Tender Particulars & Tender No., Estimated Cost (Rs.), EMD & Tender Cost Rs., Last date and time for submission of tender.

E-Tendering Notice U.P POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. Sort Term E-Tender Notice-61/ECTC/AGRA/2019-20

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उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. निविदा विस्तारण सूचना

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Farmers protest against 'irregularities' in paddy procurement process

GARGI VERMA RAIPUR, FEBRUARY 7

A PROTEST by farmers in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district claiming irregularities in the government's paddy procurement process went on for the second day on Friday with the Opposition BJP demanding that the deadline for the process be extended.

The saffron party claims that more than half the farmers registered for procurement are yet to sell their produce.

More than 85 lakh metric tonnes of paddy are to be procured from over 19 lakh registered farmers. State Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat however said on Friday that around 72 lakh metric tonnes have already been procured.

But, farmers in Bijapur, Dhamtari and other districts claim that they are not being issued tokens to sell at the collection centres. "It's raining and we can't keep our crops in the open. The centres have asked us to come on Monday now as they have run out of sacks to measure and keep the grains," a protesting farmer in Bijapur told The Indian Express, requesting

The BJP has demanded that the deadline for the process be extended, claiming that more than half the farmers registered for procurement are yet to sell their produce

anonymity.

Around 18 collection centres in the district have reportedly stopped procurement claiming a shortage of sacks.

According to an official at a centre in Bijapur, there are around 2,000 sacks for over 1,400 quintals or 140 tonnes of produce.

The BJP Kisan Sabha wrote to Governor Anusuiya UIkey and Chief Minister Kamal Nath demanding that the deadline for procurement be extended from February 15 to February 29. "There is no way all the procurement will finish in the next five days. The CM needs to be sensitive to farmers' issues," Sharma said.

"There are more than 32 lakh quintals of paddy stuck at centres

across the state. Poor transportation and mismanagement has led to a delay in procurement and the government is busy covering it up. The farmers will suffer a huge loss due to the government's failure," he added.

The Congress reacted saying the Opposition was faking its support to the farmers. "We have procured more than last year already. The BJP is just trying to gain political mileage and is shedding crocodile tears. If they are really so worried for farmers, why don't they speak inside the Parliament to increase the amount being paid by the Centre?" Congress spokesperson Shailesh Nitin Trivedi said.

Minister Bhagat said an extension of the deadline may not be needed. "We are working with daily figures. If there are cases where the procurement process has not finished, we will look into it. I will discuss this issue with the CM in the Cabinet meeting on Saturday. His decision will be final," he added.

When asked about the claims of lack of sacks at centres, Bhagat said, "I haven't received any complaint yet. If the people are facing problems, they are welcome to bring it to my notice."

ELGAR PARISHAD CASE Maharashtra opposes transfer of records to NIA court

DEFEXPO 2020

200 partnerships signed, Rajnath stresses \$5-bn defence exports aim

CHANDAN HAYGUNDE PUNE, FEBRUARY 7

THE MAHARASHTRA government on Friday urged a special court in Pune to reject an application filed by the NIA, seeking transfer of all the court documents and seized objects in the Elgar Parishad case to the NIA special court in Mumbai.

District government pleader Ujjwala Pawar told the special court that the NIA's application was "not legally tenable under the provision of law and particularly according to the provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) 1967 and NIA Act 2008".

Pawar also claimed the probe agency had "not given legal and sufficient reasons for transferring the said proceedings to the special court NIA, Mumbai."

Arguing before Special Judge S R Navandar, Pawar submitted that the offence in this case was committed within the jurisdiction of the Pune court. She further cited a Supreme Court judgment in response to the petition by historian Romila Thapar, opposing the arrests of the accused in the case, in August last year. Pawar pointed out that the Supreme Court had held, "It is not a case of arrest because of mere dissenting views expressed or difference in the political ideology of the named accused, but concerning their link with the members of the banned organisation and its activities."

She submitted that there was ample evidence against all the accused present before the court, as well as the absconding accused, and accused Gautam Navlakha and Anand Teltumbde, whose application seeking anticipatory bail is pending before the Bombay High Court.

NIA's counsel Namdev Taralgatti then presented his arguments seeking transfer of records to the NIA court in Mumbai.

Special Judge Navandar said he will pass an order on the NIA application on February 14.

MAULSHREE SETH LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 7

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Friday said Uttar Pradesh will play a big role in achieving the target of \$5 billion defence exports by 2024.

Speaking on the third day of the five-day DefExpo-2020 in Lucknow, he claimed that defence exports increased seven times between 2017 and 2019.

"In 2018-19, defence exports have reached Rs 10,745 crore, which is seven times compared to 2016-17. Following the unprecedented success of this year's DefExpo, we will be able to achieve the \$5 billion target by 2024," Singh said.

Earlier, while inaugurating DefExpo on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India aims to achieve a defence export target of \$5 billion in the next five years.

Claiming that policies of the government in the defence sector have started showing results, Singh said that the defence offset policy has been streamlined. He admitted that it can be streamlined further. He expressed hope that the liberalised licensing regime will attract more investments from Indian and global companies.

More than 200 partnerships, including 71 MoUs and 18 tech-

nology transfers, were signed on the third day of the biennial event. As many as 23 MoUs worth Rs 50,000 crore were signed between the Uttar Pradesh government and companies. Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar said this edition of DefExpo has recorded the maximum number of MoUs, technology transfers and product launches.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the 23 MoUs signed by the state government will create job opportunities for 3 lakh people. The MoUs are related to the upcoming defence corridor in the state.

The Chief Minister further said that in the last two years, the state government has, along with the Defence Ministry, organised events related to the defence corridor, and large, small and micro industries have been set up. "We have tried to attract investment by preparing a policy of different focus centres in Uttar Pradesh besides formulating a defence aerospace policy," he said.

He said in the last two years, his government has attracted investment worth more than Rs 2.5 lakh crore and this will provide employment to over 33 lakh people. Adityanath assured investors that their money is safe.

The proposed Defence Corridor will run through six nodes — Aligarh, Jhansi, Agra, Chitrakoot, Kanpur and Lucknow.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and UP CM Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on Friday. Express

DRDO brings missiles, indigenous tech

KRISHN KAUSHIK LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 7

THE DRDO installations at the DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow have proven to be among the largest crowd-pullers.

The Anti-Satellite (ASAT) missile — successfully tested last year, making India only the fourth country to successfully attack satellites — is attracting a lot of attention. So are the Akash Missile systems and the tanks.

However, the installations are not restricted only to its defence systems — it has also brought some of its latest technologies that will be used by the country's armed and paramilitary forces not just in combat zones, but also in counter-intelligence, surveillance and sanitisation operations.

While some of the technologies displayed are ready to be inducted, others are still at the trial stage, and a few others are still at the proposal stage.

Among the installations is that of its latest Daksh robot, also called the Unexploded Ordnance Robot. The Daksh Defuser, DRDO scientists said, is the world's first machine that can not only handle unexploded bombs remotely, but can also defuse them. Scientists said that the machine can be operated from a distance of up to 2 km, and while one arm of the machine can extricate a bomb from the ground, another arm can defuse or cut it.

Kerala withdraws 'state calamity' status on coronavirus infections

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEBRUARY 7

THE KERALA government on Friday withdrew the 'state calamity' status it had declared after three novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection cases were reported in the state, as no new

cases have been reported so far. The decision to withdraw the declaration was made after 67 of the 72 people who returned to the state from China — the epicentre of the outbreak — tested negative for nCoV infection and the condition of the three positive cases remained stable.

After a meeting of the state's disaster management authority,



Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja

Health Minister KK Shailaja said as no fresh positive cases were reported in the state so far, the decision to withdraw the

'calamity' status was taken. However, she added that the high state of surveillance and response would continue.

Those in primary as well as secondary contact of the positive cases are under strict observation but they have not reported any symptoms so far. A team from the National Disaster Management Authority has vis-

ited the state and expressed satisfaction to the state's response.

On February 7, the number of those suspected to be exposed to the virus rose to 3,014 in Kerala. Of them, 2,951 are under home quarantine and 61 are isolated in hospitals. Of the 285 samples sent for testing, 261 samples have reported negative for nCoV infection.

COIMBATORE SMART CITY LIMITED SMART CITIES MISSION NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT) Tender Notice No. e-23 / Smart City /19-20/ SCM Date : 07.02.2020

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The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

NO NORMALCY

Continued detention of leaders, slapping of draconian law, pose serious questions about Centre's policy and intent in J&K

THE CENTRE HAS acted unconscionably in extending the custody of two former chief ministers of Jammu & Kashmir and two other politicians of the former state under the Public Safety Act, as their continued detention under CrPc 107/151 was becoming untenable after the passage of six months. The draconian Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978 is a preventive detention law, used against those from whom the authorities fear a threat to "the security of the state or the maintenance of the public order". Those arrested under this law can be held for up to two years, need not be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours, cannot apply for bail in a criminal court, and cannot engage a lawyer to challenge the arrest. The government has not said what threat mainstream Kashmiri politicians, including former chief ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, pose to national security. Certainly, no such threat was perceived when Abdullah and his father, Farooq Abdullah, also a former chief minister and serving Rajya Sabha member — he has now spent four months as a PSA prisoner — called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 3, just two days before the government stripped J&K of its special status and bifurcated it into two UTs. What is becoming increasingly clear, though, is that for all their claims that the August 5 decision is popular in J&K, Prime Minister Modi and his government are afraid to put this to a democratic test.

The Modi government's "new Kashmir" does not appear to have space for established J&K politicians who could challenge its plans. With each passing day, the government lowers the bar of democratic conduct further by acting with impunity. Its actions in Kashmir belie the claim of "normalcy restored in the Valley" that ministers routinely parrot. Indeed, no place can be normal when its elected leaders are imprisoned only for opposing the government's policies, and when its people do not have the means to access or disseminate information because of a communications blockade which has been relaxed in name only.

How long can the government continue with this? And what are the consequences of these actions? Whatever the PM may say about them now, mainstream political parties like Abdullah's National Conference and Mufti's People's Democratic Party were the Centre's allies in the difficult terrain that Kashmir continues to be. The government may have served narrow political considerations by removing them from the scene, but it is not serving India's interests. Such actions erode the foundations of a federal democracy, and will leave long-lasting damage — if they have not done so already — that will be hard to repair. It is disquieting that there is no concerted voice of protest from other political parties for the unconditional release of all politicians who remain in detention in Kashmir.

BEYOND IMPEACHMENT

Trump's potential to engineer major realignment of American politics must not be underestimated

THAT THE US Senate would dismiss the impeachment of President Donald Trump initiated by the House of Representatives was never in doubt. But few had anticipated that it would come amid the president's rapidly rising political fortunes. The Democrats needed two-thirds of the 100-member Senate to pronounce the president "guilty" of abuse of power and obstructing Congress. Their hope lay in splitting the Republican majority of 53. They just about got one Republican Senator to support them on the first charge. With no other Republican defecting, the impeachment motion against Trump was easily defeated. The real objective of the Democrats was to extend the impeachment trial during the election season and delegitimise the Trump presidency. But they could not get a simple majority in the Senate to call additional witnesses to prolong the impeachment drama.

The Democratic Party had never reconciled to Trump's unexpected victory in 2016. It has tried to undo the result by any means. Trump has not only survived but come out stronger from the battle, thanks to a thriving economy. His presidential ratings are now higher than those his predecessor Barack Obama enjoyed in the fourth year of his first term. One can argue if the methods Trump has used — gutting environmental regulations, tax cuts for the rich, and trade wars against China and other major economic partners abroad — are wise and sustainable. For now, though, they have given Trump a great start for his campaign to retain the White House.

Although elections are nearly eight months away, Trump's moment of triumph has coincided with political disarray in the Democratic Party. In the primary season that began this week in Iowa, Trump got nearly 97 per cent support among the Republicans but the Iowa Democrats could not even organise a quick count of the votes cast. When they did announce the results, the frontrunner, Joe Biden, a former vice president, ended in fourth place. Competing for the top slot were Bernie Sanders, a self-proclaimed socialist, and Pete Buttigieg, a former mayor of a small town in Indiana. While the Democrats might yet find an effective challenger, they have barely acknowledged, let alone come to terms with, Trump's potential to engineer a major realignment of American politics. His war against free trade has helped win support from the trade unions, normally a Democratic bastion. The sustained economic boom has encouraged Trump to make a bold bid for the support of the minorities — African-Americans and Hispanics — that traditionally vote against the Republicans. The much-derided Trump presidency, then, could well go down as a major turning point in America's political history.

THE SIXTIES MAN

Loss of Krishna Baldev Vaid marks the end of one of the most vibrant eras of Hindi literature

KRISHNA BALDEV VAID, who has died in the US, was a giant with a very light step. He was armed with the sharpest weapons that a radical writer could wish for — an eye for the absurd and the humour in which to array the bizarre in our midst. He was armed and dangerous. Had he been a contemporary writer, he could have been found disreputable, problematic and seditious. And he would have proudly accepted such denunciations as battle honours.

Vaid's work articulated the voice of the Sixties, a period of social, political and creative radicalism the world over. In the US, it meant drugs, sex and rock and roll. In north India, it ignited the quest for a new idiom to articulate the stories of a country which was impatiently seeking a new identity, as urbanisation, industrialisation and new political ideas altered human relations. Vaid sought the new idiom by experimenting in a variety of genres, including short fiction, novels, diaries and plays. His language lab was extensive, holding curiosities as diverse as *Bimal urf Jayen to Jayen Kahan*, a stream of consciousness novel reminiscent of French fiction of the period, and *Bhookh Aag Hai*, agitprop for the stage which exposed economic progress and urbanisation as harbingers of inequality, which would split India into two nations. He also translated Samuel Beckett, naturally.

In Hindi literature, that period was marked by the Nayi Kahani movement, a new wave led by writers like Rajendra Yadav, Nirmal Verma and Kamleshwar. Its membership is eternally debated, but Vaid's experimental approach puts him somewhere on the wavefront. With the exception of a few like Mannu Bhandari of *Mahabhoj* fame, the pioneers who had forged a new idiom are gone.



S Y QURAISHI

TWELVE DAYS OF campaigning for elections to the Delhi Assembly have come to an end. Most Indians were, no doubt, waiting for the culmination of this campaign in which the development debate was overshadowed by hate mongering and outpouring of communal vitriol. Shaheen Bagh remained the bone of contention, a protest site that incited many of our politicians to make sinister comments like "Desh ke gaddaron ko...", there were references to "suicide bombers", and the incumbent chief minister was accused of being a terrorist. Such language should not be used in private space, let alone in public forums.

After the flurry of such hate speeches, I have been flooded with queries about the nature of the Election Commission's (EC) response. I was asked whether the Model Code of Conduct is toothless or the EC is ineffective and whether these offences are also under the purview of other laws of the land. My answer is these offences violate not only the MCC but also the Representation of People Act (1951) and Indian Penal Code, 1860.

Let's first understand the Model Code of Conduct. It is a set of behavioural guidelines for political parties and candidates for the peaceful conduct of elections, to prevent hate speech, malpractices, corruption and misuse of government machinery by the ruling party. Since it is not an Act passed by Parliament, the Code is not judicially enforceable. The action against a violator usually takes the form of an advice, warning or censure. No punitive action can be taken. No wonder, many consider the Code as toothless. That, however, is not true. Its moral authority far outweighs its legal sanctity. Political leaders worth their salt are scared of inviting a notice for a violation, as it creates negative public opinion. Besides, unlike the legal processes, its impact is instant.

The legality of the code has been judicially tested. Its first judicial acceptance came in 1997, when the Punjab and Haryana High Court gave the EC the power to enforce the code. "Such a code of conduct when it is seen that it does not violate any of the statutory

A weak rebuke

It's unfortunate Election Commission didn't go the distance in punishing hate speech in Delhi campaign

provisions, can certainly be adopted by the Election Commission for the conduct of free and fair election, which should be pure as well," the Court said. The SC has repeatedly held that this must be enforced strictly.

The very first section of the MCC lays down the following:

Part I (1): "No party or candidate shall include in any activity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic." (Emphasis mine, throughout the article).

(2): "...Criticism of other parties or their workers based on unverified allegations or distortion shall be avoided."

The Representation of the People Act (1951) categorically defines the above two as corrupt practices in Section 123 (3A) and Section 123 (4) respectively. With hate speech, the Act goes a step further and prescribes punitive measures in Section 125: "Promoting enmity between classes in connection with election — Any person who in connection with an election under this Act promotes or attempts to promote on grounds of religion, race, caste, community or language, feelings of enmity or hatred, between different classes of the citizens of India shall be punishable, with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both."

It is important to note that Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code has a similar provision: "Promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony. Whoever (a) by words... or otherwise, promotes or attempts to promote, on grounds of religion, race... caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious... groups or castes or communities, or (b) commits any act which is prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony between different religious... groups or castes or communities, and which disturbs or is likely to disturb the public tranquillity, or (c)... whatsoever causes or is likely to cause fear or alarm

or a feeling of insecurity amongst members of such religious, racial, language or regional group or caste or community, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both."

Now that we are well-equipped with the provisions of the laws and the Model Code of Conduct, we must analyse the action taken by the Election Commission.

It must be appreciated that the EC was prompt in its action against the leaders accused of hate speech. While it instantly, *suo moto*, deprived the two leaders of their star campaigner status, it also punished them with a gag order, using the ultimate weapon provided by Article 324. Moreover, the Commission categorically noted that it "strongly condemned" the statements by the two leaders.

The EC flexing its muscle outside the so-called "toothless" MCC and invoking Article 324 is indeed a refreshing change. In earlier instances, it often had to let the culprits go with a mere "warning, caution or censure". In its notice to BJP leader Anurag Thakur, the EC cited Sections 123 and 125 of the RP Act. What is baffling, however, is that if the Commission had found them guilty of offences deserving punishment, why did it stop short of filing FIRs?

Historically, the EC has always taken simultaneous action under the Model Code of Conduct and the other two provisions. While the MCC produces instant results, the penal provisions involve endless judicial processes. Not taking action under the IPC encouraged the worthies like Parvesh Sahib Singh Varma to commit a repeat offence of indulging in a vitriolic diatribe against the Delhi CM for which the EC indicted him a second time within a week. That such small-time leaders repeatedly defy the Commission should be a matter of concern. The answer also lies with the EC.

Quraishi is a former chief election commissioner of India and author of *An Undocumented Wonder: The Making of the Great Indian Election*

THE RADICAL EXPAT

How the United Kingdom has been a laboratory for a brand of Islam



KHALED AHMED

ON NOVEMBER 29, 2019, five people were stabbed on the London Bridge. The attacker, Usman Khan, had been released from prison in 2018 "on licence". A known extremist boasting ISIS and Al-Muhajiroun flags at the age of 15 didn't alarm the authorities enough then. Khan's hatred was British-born, though, and unrelated to Pakistan.

Pakistanis get radicalised after migrating to the UK. Their children get radicalised growing up in labour-class communities where Islam is practiced in more intense forms. One such "transformed" person was Al-Muhajiroun's founder, Anjum Chaudhry, of Pakistani origin, who is now in jail. The son of a taxi driver, Khan was his disciple when he was arrested in 2010. It is said that Khan was affected by the bullying he got from his schoolmates. He was ultimately shot dead after the London Bridge stabbings but not before a section of the Indian media linked him to Pakistan, where religious extremism is rampant. The British media, however, knew better: Muslim extremism grows out of the melting pot of extremist Islam in Britain.

In 2010, too, three terrorists had stabbed to death seven innocent people on London Bridge. One of the terrorists turned out to be of Pakistani origin, Khurram Shahzad Butt: A typically radicalised boy in his 20s, maladjusted in his East London milieu, Butt was reported when he told a neighbour, "I'm ready to do whatever I need to do in the name of Allah. I am ready in the name of Allah to do what needs to be done, including killing my

own mother". He had reportedly also entered a local mosque and demanded obedience while parroting Chaudhry's line that Muslims refuse to vote as democracy was an enemy of Islam.

It appears that religious radicalism didn't go from Pakistan to the UK, but actually came to Pakistan from London. Al-Muhajiroun had come to Pakistan along with its British-based sister terrorist organisation, Hizb ut-Tahrir, in the mid-2000s, and recruited a number of people inside the Pakistan army till the Musharraf government banned them. Brigadier Ali Khan was arrested for his alleged ties with Hizb ut and, before that, Colonel Shahid Bashir, commanding officer of the Shamsi air force base, was apprehended by the military police in May 2009 for keeping links with this banned pan-Islamic political outfit.

French scholar Gilles Kepel has studied the "reverse" phenomenon in his books on expat Islam. In the UK, Islamisation of the immigrant Muslim community was an early postcolonial trend stemming from the British experience in India. "Communalisation" rather than "integration" suited the UK because it could then farm out the menial jobs to a community formed especially for them.

Workers' mosques came up in the 1950s in the industrial areas of the UK. In the 1950s and 1960s, the mosques were divided against each other on the basis of Barelvi-Deobandi religions. There were even Pathan and Punjabi, Mirpuri, Bengali and Gujarati

mosques. Then came the individual charismatic figures like Barelvi Pir Maroof Shah who built a number of mosques for his followers in Bradford, founding the World Islamic Mission in 1973. Sufi Abdullah built himself a similar Barelvi empire in the area in the early 1980s. The Bradford Council of Mosques in the 1980s was already "separating" the community on such questions as halal and girls' education, and the Labour Party was the popular party for the Muslims.

Next came the Rushdie affair in 1988: The protest that was organised against Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* united the fragmented Muslim community in the UK — toppling its less educated leaders in favour of the anglophone radical ones.

The Islamic Foundation of Leicester sent out the call against Rushdie's blasphemy, but the man who finally ran away with the collective Muslim response was ex-journalist, Kalim Siddiqui, of Jamaat Islami background, who set up his Muslim Parliament and issued what was termed the Muslim Manifesto in 1990, actually challenging the British system. This caused Labour politician Roy Jenkins, who had described the British policy of integration as equal opportunities with cultural diversity in 1965, to say in 1989 that the policy had failed to effect any integration of the Muslim culture and religion within the British society.

The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan



FEBRUARY 8, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

INDIRA CRITICISM

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi declared in Gorakhpur that the Banarasi Das government in Uttar Pradesh had no right to exist. It was "most extraordinary", she said, that instead of going to Narainpur and seeing things, the UP government had accepted the version of the police, who were themselves responsible for the outrage there. Indira Gandhi was talking to newsmen at the airport in Gorakhpur after her return from Narainpur, the scene of alleged police outrage on January 14. She said: "These governments in the states have not been functioning for the past three years. To be in government does not mean to remain sitting

in a chair."

LALDenga As CM

MIZORAM CHIEF MINISTER Brigadier T Sailo has had it conveyed to the Union government that he would not hesitate to resign if the government decides to install the Mizo National Front chief, Laldenga, as chief minister as part of a settlement with the MNF. This development, along with the new government's conciliatory move to withdraw sedition and treason cases pending against Laldenga brightens the chances of a settlement to end the 14-year old Mizo insurgency. Brigadier Sailo met Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in Delhi soon after she was sworn in

and assured her of his full cooperation in sorting out the Mizo problem.

AUTHORITARIAN SIGNS SPEAKERS FROM OPPOSITION parties warned the people against the growing "authoritarian tendencies" of the Congress (I) government at the Centre and urged them to resolutely fight for democracy. Five opposition parties — Janata party, Congress, Lok Dal, the CPM and the Akali Dal — jointly organised a "protest procession" from India Gate to Boat Club where it terminated into a rally. The rally however could not attract much crowd. Scheduled speakers like Jagjivan Ram and YB Chavan did not turn up.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Doubtless Mr Trump will lose the popular vote again. But the (US) electoral system is appallingly skewed, and becoming even more so. Only a cohesive opposition has any hope of winning." — THE GUARDIAN

Cut tax rates, increase revenue

Forecast of most experts was that the bold corporate tax cut of September 2019 would lead to a decline in tax collections, would not help economic growth. Opposite seems to have happened



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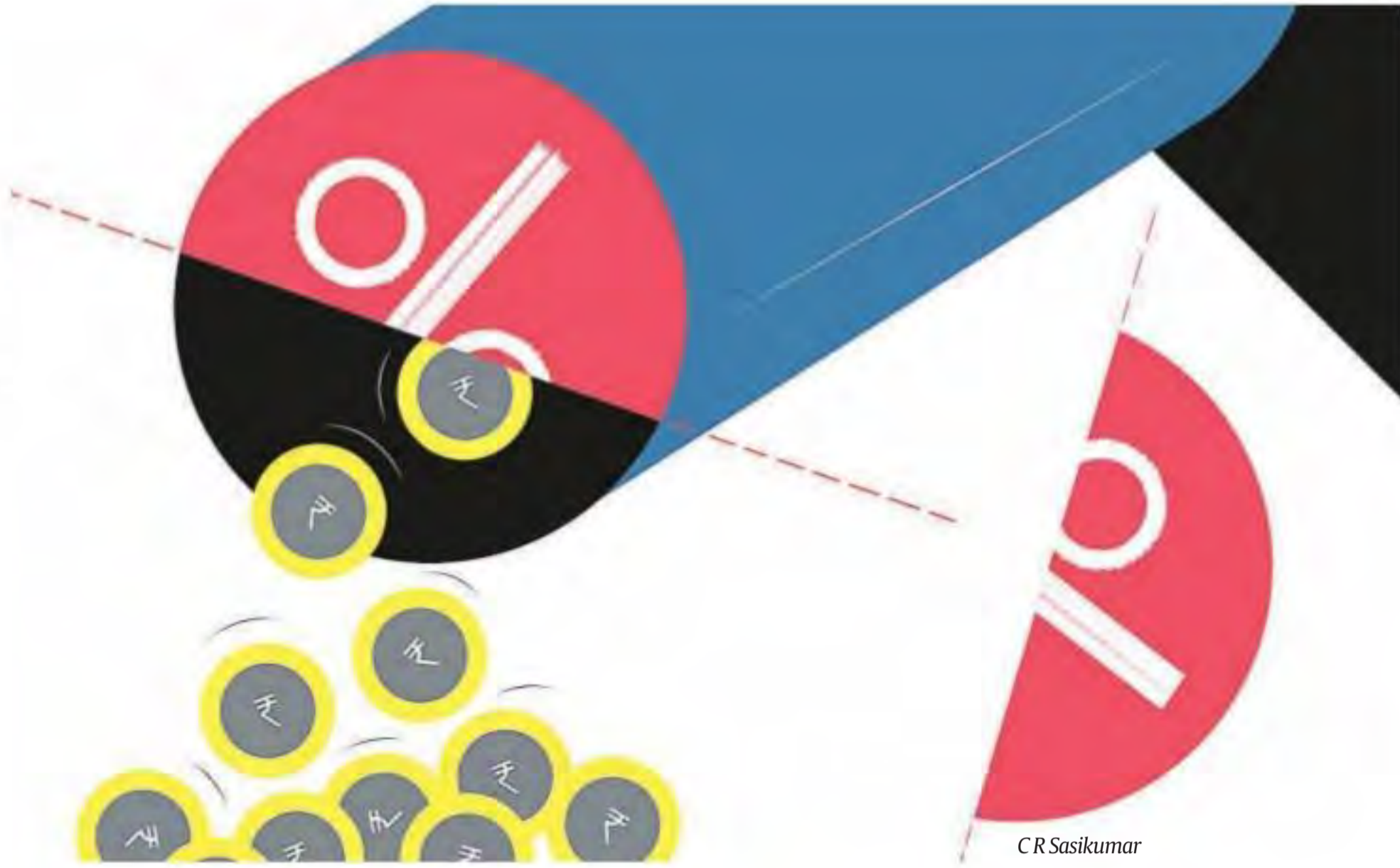
ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2019, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman delivered a radical corporate tax cut. Henceforth (and with retrospective effect to April 1, 2019), the tax rate on corporate profits was reduced by eight percentage points from 30 per cent to 22 per cent. For this third calendar quarter (July-September) nominal GDP growth (yoy) has been estimated as 6.1 per cent, the lowest ever experienced for quarterly data in India (a series which started in 1996Q2). The Indian economy was in trouble, and there was a clamour for policy change.

But a large corporate tax cut was not the remedy for the economy as seen by many experts, either in September 2019, or now. Pronab Sen, head of the International Growth Centre and appointed head of a government task force to examine the authenticity of Indian statistics, recently told this newspaper (IE, January 30) that, "Corporate tax cut was a bad idea in the middle of the year... This will add another 0.3-0.5 per cent to your deficit without doing anything. I am afraid what you may actually end up seeing is personal income tax cuts which will send us even further into the trouble."

Nobel laureates for economics, Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, have also been very critical. Banerjee has asked for a reversal of the corporate tax cut while Duflo believes corporate tax cuts do have no solution to India's economic woes. But these experts were not alone. They were joined by an international body of experts, who all felt that regardless of the (questionable) long-term benefits of a tax cut, it was "certainly" a bad idea in the midst of a growth slowdown. It would be a reasonable conjecture that many economic experts within the administration felt the same as Sen et al. The only known exception was perhaps the political leadership.

What was the alternative to a corporate tax cut? The near unanimous judgement among the economic experts was that the government would be well advised to concentrate on expenditure expansion in MGNREGA rather than go for the tax cuts for corporates. Even a 50 per cent expansion in MGNREGA would have meant only an additional Rs 25,000 crore in spending. One per cent of GDP is 3 lakh crore, so the "alternate remedy" would have added one-twelfth of 1 per cent of GDP. It is doubtful if this would have helped the economy recover from 6 per cent nominal growth. But this will remain in the realm of the counter-factual because the government did not try out this alternate recommendation.

In an article ("Tax policy — maximise, not moralise", IE, July 13, 2019), we said, "The only real growth option for Indian policy makers — cut (corporate) tax rates to internationally competitive levels. And what that might be? Around 22 per cent." The HLAG report for the Ministry of Commerce, which one of us had chaired, also argued for a 22 per cent corporate tax rate (with exemptions) or preferably an 18 per cent tax rate without exemptions. The new government policy was 22 per cent with no exemptions combined with a lower rate of 18 per cent



CR Sasikumar

for new manufacturing firms. All in all, a giant leap in Indian policy making.

The argument for a large corporate tax cut was simple. In a global world, it is the after-tax return that moves companies and investment. India's competitors, especially in Asia, have effective tax rates in the mid to high teens. And what has not received emphasis in India, or elsewhere, is the likely economic fact that for developing countries tax compliance is the surest route to fiscal discipline. And that increases in tax compliance often accompany non-trivial decreases in tax rates.

Has the Sitharaman tax cut led to an increase in compliance, and/or an increase in private investment? It is too early to tell, but there are pointers. There is some data available in the Budget documents. The Budget contains up-to-date estimates of tax revenues (and other data relating to revenue and expenditure). Since data are available for approximately 10 fiscal months, simple extrapolation gives one a reasonable estimate of actual final revenues. The historical record of these forecasts (called revised estimates in Budget documents) is that, on average, they miss the final actual figure by an average of just 1 per cent.

The 2021 Budget estimates corporate tax collections (excluding surcharges and cess) in fiscal year 2019/20 to be Rs 528 tc (thousand crores). As reference, note that the actual corporate tax collection figure for 2018-19 was a higher Rs 580 tc; and the Ministry of Finance itself had estimated the impact of the tax cut to be a revenue decline of Rs 142 tc. Besides this estimate for 2019-20, we do have government published estimates of tax collection in the first half of this fiscal year (April-September 2019). This estimate was Rs 249 tc and for a period, which recorded the lowest growth in nominal incomes. If the economy had proceeded at the same rate in the second half of 2019-20, tax collections for 2019-20 would have been approximately Rs 500 tc.

Corporate tax data as published by the RBI also shows a large decline in tax provision by corporates. In 2018Q2 and 2018Q3, tax provision was Rs 65 tc; in the same two quarters in 2019, tax provision had declined to Rs 50 tc. Thus, the best RBI data-based estimate for corporate taxes in FY 2019-20 was a decline of 20 per cent to 25 per cent over the 2018-19 value, which is approximately Rs 460 tc.

If tax collection now is Rs 528 tc (as per the revised estimates), that is an increase of Rs 68 tc made possible by the tax cut. This is our first estimate of the economic gains from the corporate tax cut — an increase in tax revenues of Rs 68 tc or with an average tax rate of 22 per cent, close to a 1 per cent gain in GDP.

The debate whether the corporate tax cut led to increased corporate activity or an increase in tax compliance, or both will be settled only when the actual tax figures for 2019-20 are released. There is good evidence that something positive has happened since September 2019. Monetary policy has remained relatively tight with interest rate cuts equal to the decline in inflation — that is no decline in real rates (except for an onion induced reduction post September). It is hard to believe that investment increased because onion prices went up. World growth, and world tensions, worsened post September 2019.

Economic activity in India seems to have bottomed out by September. GST tax collections do provide a clue, a hint of a change in sentiment, an increase in economic activity. Between April-September 2019, GST revenues increased by only 2.2 per cent, yoy. The October-December yoy increase is a (relatively) hefty 7.8 per cent. That is a 5.6 percentage point additional increase in growth, an increase not caused by monetary policy, nor fiscal policy, nor expansion in world growth. And GST tax rates have witnessed a reduction — another factor pointing to a reduction, not increase, in tax revenues.

The corporate tax data provide strong evidence, and especially for highly taxed economies like India, that rationalisation in tax rates is the surest remedy for revenue enhancement and for attacking the scourge of tax avoidance.

If the corporate tax collections are "correct" and if the GST collections persist, then we all need to acknowledge the efficacy of tax cuts for increasing competition, increasing economic activity, and increasing tax revenues. Did the whole class (except the teacher) get it wrong by not accepting the corporate tax cut as a game-changer?

Bhalla is executive director, IMF, representing India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan. Bhasin is an independent economist. Views expressed are personal

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RBI's growth push

February signalled a new dynamic: Monetary policy is no longer driven by MPC



AURODEEP NANDI

IN ITS DECEMBER policy, the Reserve Bank of India suddenly paused on cutting rates, putting the ball in the government's court to support growth. With last week's Union Budget belying expectations of short-term growth boosters, the ball was back in the RBI's court. The Budget opted for fiscal conservatism over activism, consolidating the fiscal deficit to 3.5 per cent of GDP in 2020-21 from 3.8 per cent in 2019-20 — bypassing any ambitious expenditure boost or significant tax cuts. Meanwhile, the policy arithmetic turned more complicated for the MPC. At the time of the December policy meeting, CPI inflation was trending close to 5 per cent (the October reading was 4.6 per cent). Since then a combination of supply-side shocks, which led for example to unseasonably high vegetable and protein prices, buoyed inflation to over 7 per cent, nearly 140 basis points above the RBI's upper bound comfort zone of 6 per cent. As a primarily inflation-targeting central bank, this effectively stopped the MPC from easing further. To complicate matters, on the growth side, high-frequency indicators such as the manufacturing and services purchasing managers indices, auto sales, aviation passenger traffic, and output growth of some industrial inputs, have shown signs of a nascent recovery. These raised concerns in the market that the RBI may choose to interpret these as adequate green shoots and conclude that its work on growth is done.

The February policy meeting removed two key uncertainties in the current policy scenario. First, the RBI is still very concerned about growth and the burgeoning negative gap between the current growth trajectory and potential growth. Despite official forecasts pencilling in a recovery in growth to over 5 per cent by Q1 2020, the RBI warned that "the few indicators that have moved up recently are yet to gain traction in a more broad-based manner". The RBI sees space for more policy easing with governor Shaktikanta Das candidly admitting in the policy press conference that the next move is likely to be a cut, with timing being the key uncertainty. Second, monetary policy is no longer strictly limited to the MPC's decision-making. Because of the risk of supply-side shocks hitting inflation, it is understandable that the RBI has summarised its outlook on inflation as "highly uncertain". Hence, of the policy measures that the RBI has at its disposal, the MPC's "conventional" arrow of rate cuts was left unused. Instead, the RBI has opted for macroprudential intervention, unveiling two other "unconventional" policy arrows.

The first arrow is aimed at policy transmission. The primary macro challenge has been transmission via the credit channel — banks are not lowering their deposit rates (due to competition from the small savings rate and to protect savers), and in

turn are keeping lending rates high. Sectors considered higher risk (real estate, MSMEs) find themselves credit-starved. In a move that seems inspired by the European Central Bank's quantitative easing in 2011, the RBI's announcement on long term repo operations (LTROs) has been aimed at promising banks longer-duration liquidity at the repo rate, which is cheaper relative to their current deposit rates. The aim is to nudge them to kick-start the credit cycle. The exemption of cash reserve ratio for incremental loans to MSMEs and the retail sector is also aimed at lowering costs for banks, which ideally should be passed onto these sectors.

The second macroprudential arrow is aimed at managing the looming stress in the financial system from bad loans, especially as deleveraging becomes more difficult during an economic slowdown. The extension of the restructuring scheme on MSME loans and projects in the commercial real estate sector is aimed at releasing capital for banks in the short term, though banks will ultimately need to recognise loans that are non-performing. Similarly, easing guidelines on the classification of loans for projects in the commercial real estate sector that have been delayed is essentially designed to provide some breathing space to banks and shadow banks that remain exposed to such stress.

What do all of these mean for the macro outlook? The RBI's new macroprudential measures, its "unconventional" policy arrows, while well-meaning, are ultimately supply-side measures. For the RBI to attain its goals, be it on asset quality or transmission, there eventually needs to be a recovery in demand conditions. To be fair, even the ECB's LTRO programme has had mixed success — a central bank can flood the market with liquidity, but the ultimate onus on releasing it to the real economy rests with banks. So far, excess liquidity has not benefitted segments considered high risk (real estate developers, MSMEs). This, combined with asset quality deterioration makes for a pessimistic outlook on growth, in our view.

We see GDP growth moderating to 4.3 per cent in the third quarter of the current financial year (as against 4.5 per cent in Q2) and expect a sub-par recovery next financial year with growth rising to 5.7 per cent as against 4.6 per cent this year — lower than the RBI's projections. On inflation, we broadly concur with the RBI. We expect CPI inflation to remain uncomfortably high at 6.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2019-20, but moderating to 4.7 per cent in Q1 2020-21, and then sliding to 4.6 per cent in the second quarter, and 2.3 per cent in the third. We continue to believe that the next policy move is still a rate cut; we expect a 25 basis points cut in the repo rate in Q1 2020-21, which could be delivered as early as April.

A nagging concern remains. The ECB introduced the LTRO programme when growth was weak and the euro area was struggling with a severe sovereign debt crisis. With the RBI embarking on something similar, albeit on a smaller scale, the nagging concern is if there is more financial instability lurking around the corner but not yet evident in the current data.

The writer is India economist and vice president Nomura. Views are personal

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AN OVERDUE ACCORD

THIS REFERS TO 'Healing old wounds in Northeast' (IE, February 6) and 'Self-rule and shared rule' (IE, February 7). The peace accord with Bodo groups will not only help in political and economic stability in Bodo-majority areas of Assam, but also protect their cultural identity within the constitutional framework of India, and the territorial integrity of Assam. The surrender of 1,550 armed Bodo militants and the Rs1,500 crore package for the Bodo people, will bring lasting peace all over the North-East. The opposition by the non-Bodo groups and some state-level political parties in the Northeast seems to be politically motivated.

Rajiv Boolchand Jain, Zirakpur

LETTER OF THE WEEK

DIVISIVE POLL

This refers to the editorial, 'Delhi difficulties' (IE, February 2). The nervousness of the BJP is clearly visible in its election rallies — as none of them is complete without a mention of Hindu-Muslim, and Pakistan. Whether the party wins the Delhi election or not, such a campaign will help it keep its pan India base. BJP seems to believe that it is fine to lose a battle in order to win a war.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

VALLEY WOES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Six months later' (IE, February 6). Six months after the abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir, the state of affairs is far from satisfactory in the Valley. How long will the freedom of people be suppressed? How will Kashmir's mainstream politicians be incarcerated? Perhaps, the government believes that people will come to terms with the changed scenario and accept it as the new normal. The government needs to shun high-handedness and unilateralism and restore normalcy.

Deepak Singhal, Chennai

NEW YARDSTICK

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'People of Delhi have given birth to a new kind of politics — of school, hospitals, power, water' (IE, February 6). Governance-related issues did not occupy centre stage in the Delhi election campaigns of the BJP and Congress. In contrast, the AAP's campaign concentrated on the party's performance in office. The BJP lead by Narendra Modi only made a passing reference to these issues. The BJP has to first deliver on its promises to the people, who now have a yardstick to measure performance by.

LR Murmu, Delhi



ASHUTOSH BHARDWAJ

I ONCE RECORDED a long interview with Krishna Baldev Vaid over several sessions. Elaborating the significance of *ilham* (epiphany) in literature, he made a statement that can be on the desk of any creative artist: "Ilhaam ke liye ibadat jaruri hai (Regular worship is necessary to achieve an epiphany)." Born in a small town in Pakistan in July 1927, Vaid migrated to India during Partition, went to Harvard in the 1950s for a PhD on Henry James, alternated between the US and India for decades before he died in New York on Thursday.

The multiple relocations defined his life and work: He epitomised a mid-20th century writer, uprooted, searching for a home in his words. An author for whom the written word was the only truth. He rejected the market, mocked the critic, spurned the market and firmly remained on the other side of all possible boundaries. Along with Nirmal Verma and Krishna Sobti, Vaid defined Hindi fiction for nearly seven decades. Sobti had a vocal public presence, Nirmal was reticent, Vaid a recluse.

Ten novels, 15 story collections, six books of personal journals, seven plays and a large number of translations from Hindi to English and vice versa. His oeuvre is staggering, as is his artistic achievement. Some writers hit a

His experiments with form

Krishna Baldev Vaid's novels stepped into uncharted zones

wonderful chord in the beginning and play the same familiar note through their lives. Vaid always stepped into uncharted zones, sought a new form with almost every novel.

His first novel, *Uska Bachpan (Steps Into Darkness, 1957)*, was a classic but Vaid did not repeat its realist narrative and became among the most experimental writers of 20th century India. *Guzara Hua Jamana (The Broken Mirror, 1981)* is about Partition trauma, *Doosra Na Koi (No Other, 1992)* is the monologue of an old writer dying alone in a crumbling home. In *Kala Kolaj* and *Maya Lok* he shattered the boundaries of fiction and embraced what is called the anti-novel. Add to this his seminal work of literary criticism, *Technique in the Tales of Henry James*, which he published in his 30s.

James Joyce and Samuel Beckett were among his favourite authors and his erudition ranged from the Sanskrit epics to the Western classics. A master in Persian and English, he taught English literature at various US universities for decades but chose Hindi for his creative writing. He is also perhaps the most Urdu-ised Hindi writer.

Besides novels, his diaries make for great literature. Remarkable for their candour, self-deprecating humour and a reflection on his writerly struggle, he also records in vivid details his relations with friends. People ranging

from Anais Nin, Ramchandra Gandhi, A K Ramanujan, J Swaminathan, Nirmal Verma and MF Husain recur in his diaries. A diary entry talks about the instance he sold his Chandigarh home to Manmohan Singh long before the latter became the prime minister.

Some rigid progressive writers often accused Vaid of being "influenced by the west". Responding to them, he wrote that alienation and disillusion are essential Indian values, often witnessed among ancient monks and sages. It was a profound form of alienation that germinated paralyzing doubts within Arjuna before the beginning of the great war.

A thematic thread runs through Vaid's work as the child protagonist of *Uska Bachpan* eventually grows into the old writer, pondering over his childhood, Partition violence and the relationship between men and women. But underneath these themes run deep metaphysical anxieties, a desire to realise the higher truth, *aatm-bodha*. His protagonist knows more than he can convey and, thus, his entire quest is to express his knowledge in exact words that often elude him. His inquiry, like that of Ludwig Wittgenstein, is essentially a linguistic one.

His unflinching commitment to the word brought him many admirers, rather devotees. Some writers have a large following of readers,

some are writers's writers. He belonged to the second category. Called KB by his contemporaries and Vaid Saab by younger ones, he was widely believed to be the epitome of a modern monk-writer. Along with Balzac's *The Unknown Masterpiece*, Henry James's *The Madonna of the Future* and Franz Kafka's *Hunger Artist*, I rate *Doosra Na Koi* among the greatest works ever written about the life and death of a creative artist.

Vaid remained away from the literary establishment. Perhaps that's why he did not receive awards. In fact, he withdrew his name from the only award Delhi's Hindi Akademi once announced for him because the Sheila Dixit government had suddenly decided to reconsider the awards after a Congressman had complained of "obscenity" in his writings.

I once published a short story, *Mithya (The Illusion)*, whose protagonist, a young writer, is living with guilt because he is unable to write anything worthy that he could offer as *guru dakshina* to a veteran author he secretly admires.

Tonight I can reveal who the Guru was. Vaid Saab, Pranam.

Bhardwaj is a journalist and writer. His forthcoming book, *The Death Script, traces the Naxal insurgency*



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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

11,000 passenger complaints on domestic airlines last year



PASSENGERS FILED a total of 11,297 complaints against domestic air carriers in 2019, up from 8,409 complaints in 2018, data tabled in Parliament by the Ministry of Civil Aviation show. In 2019, the highest number of passenger complaints were registered in the month of March, at 1,684.

In 2019, the most common kind of complaint was those about flight problems, with over 5,000 complaints registered in this category. This was followed by complaints about customer service (2,268), baggage (2,228) and refunds (826). In 2018, too, the highest number of passenger complaints was lodged about flight problems, at 2,435, followed by customer service (2,293) and baggage (2,151).

The Ministry said that as per regulations, airlines are supposed to appoint a Nodal Officer and Appellate Authority to settle passenger grievances in a stipulated time-frame. Airlines are supposed to conspicuously display the details of the Nodal Officer and Appellate Authority on their website and at key areas of the airport. If the passenger's complaint goes unaddressed within a given period, he/she has the option of lodging their complaint at the "AirSewa" web portal or mobile application.

PASSENGER COMPLAINTS

| Month | 2019 | 2018 |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| January | 917 | 694 |
| February | 983 | 642 |
| March | 1,684 | 657 |
| April | 1,218 | 706 |
| May | 746 | 724 |
| June | 750 | 677 |
| July | 858 | 714 |
| August | 760 | 668 |
| September | 701 | 669 |
| October | 791 | 669 |
| November | 932 | 786 |
| December | 957 | 803 |
| Total | 11,297 | 8,409 |

COMPLAINT CATEGORIES

| Complaints | 2019 | 2018 |
|------------------|-------|-------|
| Flight problem | 5,126 | 2,435 |
| Customer service | 2,268 | 2,293 |
| Baggage | 2,228 | 2,151 |
| Refund | 826 | 373 |
| Others | 365 | 530 |
| Staff behaviour | 349 | 453 |
| Disability | 86 | 27 |
| Fare | 32 | 128 |
| Catering | 17 | 19 |

Source: Ministry of Civil Aviation

TIP FOR READING LIST

INSIDE THE LIFE OF KOBE BRYANT

ESPN EDITORS have come out with a 96-page book to commemorate the life of US National Basketball Academy player Kobe Bryant, who died in a helicopter crash along with his 13-year-old daughter on January 26. Bryant was 41 and played 20 seasons in the NBA, all with the Los Angeles Lakers. During his career, Bryant won five championships.

The book, *Kobe Bryant: An Extraordinary Life*, contains various accounts that describe Bryant as a "competitor" and "a mesmerising athlete, a ruthless tactician, a savvy marketer, a stubborn iconoclast, a tireless polymath, a devoted father, a consummate professional". It is a compilation of writings on Bryant's life and consists of his photographs, a testimonial section and an essay written by American sports-writer Jackie MacMullan among sections contributed by ESPN writers and analysts. In her essay, MacMullan writes, "I

could never understand', Bryant once told me, 'why winning wasn't the most important thing to everyone'." She adds, "From the time he was an 8-year-old competing against players three years older than he was, Bryant wasn't satisfied with winning — he was gunning for total domination."

Sarah Spain, an ESPN columnist has written about Bryant's contribution to women's sports in the book, "I have no doubt that Bryant's investment in women's sports, from women's soccer and surfing to the WNBA and college hoops, inspired other sports fans to watch and support female athletes."

Bryant himself wrote a book, *The Mamba Mentality: How I Play*, which was published in 2018. In 2018 he won an Oscar for his animated short film titled *Dear Basketball*.



SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Why cancer gene map matters

A comprehensive map unveiled recently pinpoints the genes whose mutations lead to various cancers. A look at what the global project studied and found, and the hope the findings hold for cancer treatment

ABANTIKA GHOSH

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

A SERIES of new papers in the journal *Nature* has revealed the most comprehensive gene map ever of the genes whose departures from normal behaviour — mutations — trigger a cascade of genetic misbehaviours that eventually lead to cancer. Just a handful of "driver" mutations could explain the occurrence of a large number of cancers, the researchers said, raising hopes of a cancer cure being nearer than ever.

A look at how this could change the cancer treatment landscape:

What is the new study that has oncologists around the world excited?

It is a major international collaboration called the Pan-Cancer Analysis of Whole Genomes (PCAWG), in which researchers has published a series of papers after analysing 2,658 whole-cancer genomes and their matching normal tissues across 38 tumour types.

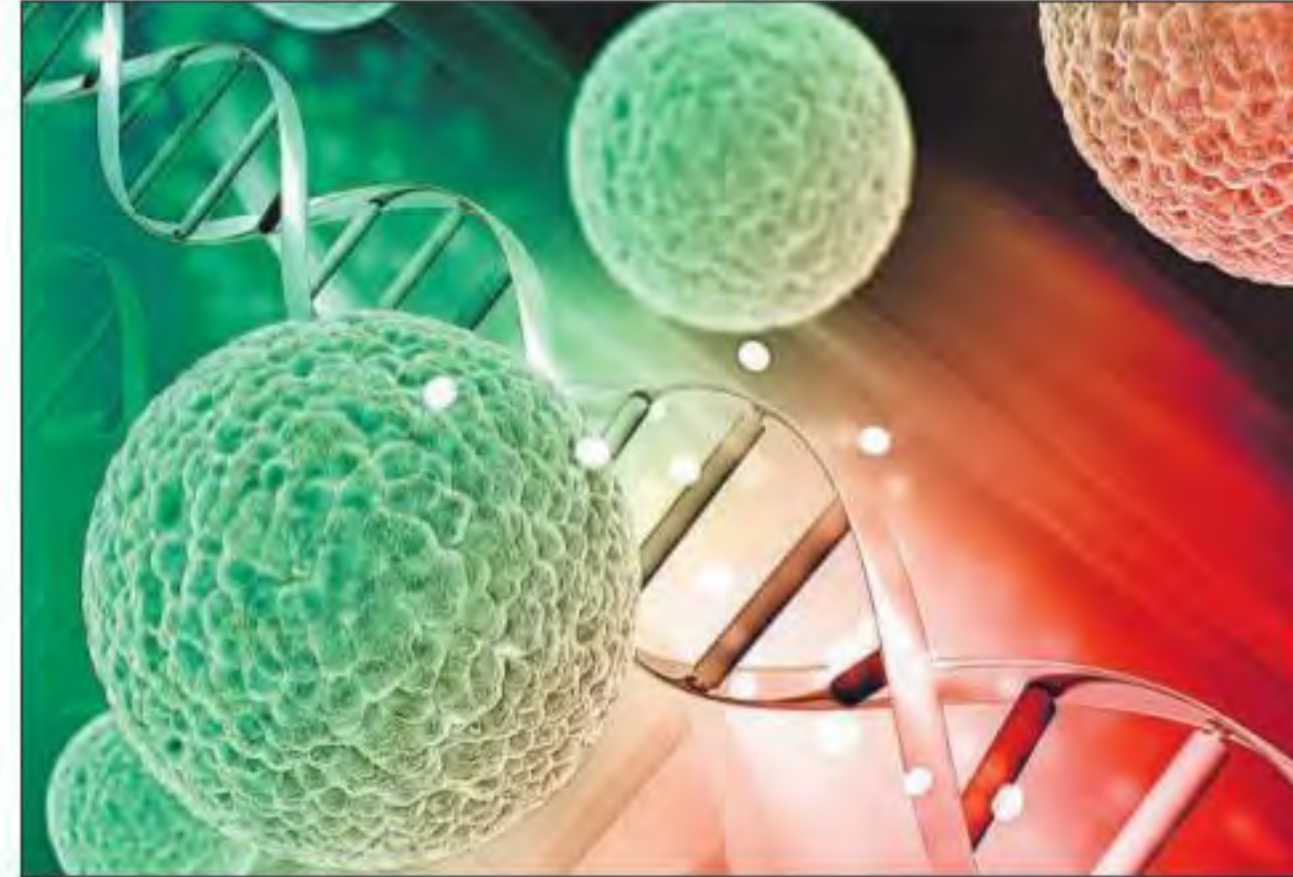
They have come to the conclusion that "On average, cancer genomes contained 4-5 driver mutations when combining coding and non-coding genomic elements; however, in around 5% of cases no drivers were identified, suggesting that cancer driver discovery is not yet complete."

This is the largest genome study ever of primary cancer. Various kinds of cancers required to be studied separately because cancers of different parts of the body often behave very differently from one another; so much so that it is often said that cancer is not one disease but many.

What is the breakthrough have the studies achieved?

Previous studies had focused on the 1 per cent of the genome that codes for proteins. The Pan-Cancer Project explored, in considerably greater detail, the remaining 99 per cent of the genome, including key regions that control switching genes on and off. This switching on and off of genes is the most important regulatory mechanism in the body so that it functions normally and diseases are kept at bay.

The researchers identified 16 types of structural variation signatures in the genes



Research looked at regions that control switching on and off of genes. Getty Images

ultimately leading to cancer. In one paper of the series, the researchers analysed 288,457 somatic structural variations in the genes to understand the distributions and effects. Structural variations mean deletion, amplification or reorganisation of genomic segments that range in size from just a few bases to whole chromosomes. Bases are the structural units of genes.

In another paper, the researchers reconstructed the "life history and evolution of mutational processes and driver mutation sequences of 38 types of cancer". On the need to do this, *Nature* says: "Cancers cells are subject to selective forces shaped by mutation rates and the microenvironment, among other factors. PCAWG researchers use the information obtained from whole-genome sequencing to delineate more precisely the parameters that influence tumour evolution, and how it shapes the cancer genome. Looking at cancer through an evolutionary lens can give clues into metastasis and therapy response and resistance."

What does this study mean for cancer treatment around the world?

The mutations identified by the team have been catalogued. The catalogue, which

is already available online, allows doctors and researchers from all over the world to look things up, consult and find information about the cancer of a given patient. The PCAWG has discovered causes of previously unexplained cancers, pinpointed cancer-causing events and zeroed in on mechanisms of development, opening new vistas of personalised cancer treatment to strike at the root of the problem.

Cancer is known to be a disease of uncontrolled growth. The growth process, like all other physiological processes, has genetic controls so that the growth is self-limiting. When one or more genes malfunction, the growth process can go out of hand. Not just cancer, there are many other diseases with a genetic link in varying degrees.

Identification and cataloguing of the genes is a very crucial step and has taken science's understanding of cancer and its genesis ahead by several leaps. When it comes to drug development, however, the gene mapping is but a first step. The process of drug development will have to now kick in with pharmaceutical companies first identifying the compound(s) that target these gene mutations and then it being subjected to the rigours of clinical trials to prove its

safety and efficacy. That could take anything from a few decades to a few years to cover all the mutations identified.

Is the genetic link to cancer well established?

Yes, it is. One such association, for example, is of breast cancer with the BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 genes; the actress Angelina Jolie, who discovered that she carried the former gene, chose to undergo a preventive double mastectomy. This is personalised therapeutics where, instead of traditional toxic medications like chemotherapy, drugs that specifically target the delinquent genetic mutation are already being used. Such therapy, however, remains very expensive.

In fact, the genetic analysis of tumours is an already practised protocol of cancer therapy. A good laboratory can analyse about 1,000 genes, of which less than 200 are implicated in various kinds of cancer. But the time taken for developing a drug from identifying a genetic mutation causing cancer varies. In case of ALK-1, which was identified as the driver gene for 5-7 per cent of lung cancers in 2006-07, it was exceptionally short. By 2011, doctors had the drug in their hands. However, of the 200 cancer-causing mutations known so far, less than 40 actually have a targeted drug.

How big is the cancer burden?

Cancer is the second most-frequent cause of death worldwide, killing more than 8 million people every year; incidence of cancer is expected to increase by more than 50% over the coming decades. One in 10 Indians will develop cancer during their lifetime, and one in 15 Indians will die of cancer, according to a recent World Health Organization (WHO) report.

The Northeastern states, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Haryana, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh account for 44% of the cancer burden in India, says a recent analysis, published in *The Lancet Global Health*, that looked about 9.7 million deaths that happened in India in 2017 and also investigated the reasons for the 486 million DALYs (disability adjusted life years) in India. DALYs are an international unit of death and disability in terms of the number of life years lost of an average person to death and disability.

In IS recruit Shamima, a test case for West

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

ON FRIDAY, a woman who has been stripped of British citizenship after having run off in her teens to join the Islamic State in Syria — a story that made international headlines after she resurfaced last year — lost a legal challenge in a British tribunal on Friday. A look at the back story of Shamima Begum, whose case has thrown into focus the larger questions about how Western societies will deal with others who joined IS, but who want to return to their home countries now that the terror group has collapsed.

The flight to Syria

Shamima, now 20, was just 15 when she and two other London schoolgirls travelled to Syria in 2015. Shamima was discovered in a camp by *The Times* journalist Anthony Loyd in 2019.

Media reports last year said the three girls

had initially travelled to Turkey before being smuggled across the Syria border. Three weeks after arriving in Syria, Shamima married an IS fighter called Yago Riedijk, who grew up the Netherlands, and who is since said to have surrendered.

Shamima and Riedijk lived in the city of Raqqa, an IS stronghold that collapsed in 2017, and later relocated to Baghuz in eastern Syria. The couple had three children, all of whom have died. When Shamima was found last year, she was pregnant with her third child.

The resurfacing

Loyd found Shamima at a refugee camp in Syria last year. She told reporters that she wanted to return home, but came under much criticism in Britain because she apparently felt no remorse for her actions. Even her family in London expressed shock at her lack of repentance.

Former Home Secretary Sajid Javid revoked her citizenship. She challenged the de-

cision before the Special Immigration Appeals Commission. This was the first stage of her appeal, which she lost on Friday.

The statelessness question

The United Kingdom is a signatory to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, which seeks to address statelessness, as well as the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness under the UN refugee win UNHCR. In 2014, UNHCR launched the Campaign to End Statelessness in 10 Years.

In the tribunal, Shamima argued that she is not a citizen of another country and that the decision to strip her of citizenship had left her stateless. The tribunal ruled that she was "a citizen of Bangladesh by descent", and therefore not rendered stateless.

Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, however, is reported to have said last year that Shamima was not a Bangladeshi citizen and there was "no question" of her being allowed into the country. Shamima family has

long argued that she has never had a Bangladeshi passport.

Revocation of citizenship

The UK Immigration Act, amended in 2014, lays down the conditions under which British citizenship can be revoked. Under Section 40(4)(A), the Secretary of State can make an order to deprive a person of a citizenship status if "the Secretary of State is satisfied that the deprivation is conducive to the public good because the person, while having that citizenship status, has conducted him or herself in a manner which is seriously prejudicial to the vital interests of the United Kingdom..."

On Friday, the tribunal ruled said the decision to revoke Shamima's citizenship did not breach the Home Office's "extraterritorial human rights policy by exposing Ms Begum to a real risk of death or inhuman or degrading treatment".

Shamima's lawyer, Daniel Furer, said the decision would be appealed.

Long wait and many twists in the story of Rajiv case convict Perarivalan

ARUN JANARDHANAN

CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 7

THE CENTRE told Madras High Court on Friday that the Governor of Tamil Nadu was at liberty to decide on the petition for remission of life sentence filed by A G Perarivalan, one of the convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

Over the last several days, demands for the release of Perarivalan have resurfaced strongly in public conversations in Tamil Nadu. The hashtag #ReleasePerarivalan spiked in social media after Perarivalan wrote to Governor Banwarilal Purohit to remind him about the state Cabinet's decision granting him remission, which has been pending with Raj Bhavan for over 16 months.

Perarivalan, who is lodged in Chennai's Puzhal Central Prison, wrote to the Governor on January 25, days after the Supreme Court rebuked the CBI for failing to make progress in its investigation of the larger conspiracy behind the assassination 29 years ago.

On January 21, a Supreme Court Bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and Deepak Gupta said the multi-disciplinary monitoring agency (MDMA) "have done nothing, nor

do they want to do anything".

The CBI-led MDMA was set up in 1998. The Supreme Court is hearing Perarivalan's plea seeking suspension of his life sentence until the MDMA completes its probe into the cross-border aspects of the conspiracy.

The Centre's affidavit in the Madras High Court on Friday came in a separate petition filed by Nalini, another convict in the case.

The case against Perarivalan

Perarivalan alias Arivu was 19 when he was arrested in June 1991. He was accused of having bought two battery cells for Sivarasan, the LTTE man who masterminded the conspiracy, and which were used in the bomb that killed Rajiv. Perarivalan remained on death row for 23 years. On February 18, 2014, a Supreme Court Bench of then Chief Justice of India P Sathasivam and Justices Ranjan Gogoi and Shiva Kirti Singh commuted the death sentences of Perarivalan and two other convicts, Murugan and Santhan, into imprisonment for life.

What strengthened Perarivalan's claim of innocence was an admission in November 2013 by V Thiagarajan, a retired CBI SP, that he had altered Perarivalan's statement in custody to make it read like a confession, which



Perarivalan, in custody since 1991

eventually played a crucial role in getting Perarivalan the maximum punishment.

The CBI officer's admission

Thiagarajan, who had recorded the statements of Perarivalan and other accused

in 1991, said that while Perarivalan had accepted that he had supplied the batteries, he had not said that he was aware that those batteries would be used to make the bomb. That second part had been his "interpretation", Thiagarajan said.

The statement was recorded as: "...Moreover, I bought two nine volt battery cells (Golden Power) and gave them to Sivarasan. He used only these to make the bomb explode."

However, Perarivalan had not actually said the second sentence — and this, Thiagarajan admitted, put him in a "dilemma". "It (the statement) wouldn't have qualified as a confession statement without his admission of being part of the conspiracy. There I omitted a part of his statement, and added my interpretation. I regret it," Thiagarajan said.

What Thiagarajan added to the statement was, in Tamil, "Ithu than Rajiv Gandhiyin kolakku payan paduthappettathu," which translated into English as "He used only these to make the bomb explode."

In an affidavit filed before the Supreme Court, Thiagarajan confirmed that Perarivalan had never said that he knew of the conspiracy, or that he had knowingly bought the batteries to be used to make the bomb.

In 1999, the Supreme Court acquitted 19 accused and suspended TADA provisions in the case — but it upheld Perarivalan's TADA confession, observing it was "believable".

Status of the legal battle

While Perarivalan's 'altered' confession has kept him in prison, the CBI has failed to complete the investigation into the larger conspiracy. Perarivalan's lawyers have argued that while he was sentenced to death for buying two battery cells, there is no evidence about the bomb, the bombmaker, where the bomb was tested, and who supplied the RDX, the military-grade explosive that was used. Perarivalan's petition in the Supreme Court questioning the progress of the MDMA's probe over more than two decades brought embarrassment to the CBI last month.

The question of remission of his sentence remains stuck in the Tamil Nadu Raj Bhavan.

Article 161 gives the Governor the "power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends".

In an earlier order passed on September

6, 2018, a Supreme Court Bench of Justices Ranjan Gogoi, Navin Sinha and K M Joseph had noted that Perarivalan had filed an application before the Governor under Article 161, and that "the authority concerned will be at liberty to decide the said application as deemed fit". Perarivalan had told the court that he had filed his mercy plea before then Governor K Rosaiah on December 30, 2015.

Following the Supreme Court's order, the state Cabinet had decided on September 9, 2018, to recommend to the Governor (Purohit) to remit sentences of all seven convicts serving life terms in the case, including Perarivalan. The government's decision was welcomed by both the Opposition DMK and the AIADMK's TTV Dhinakaran faction.

In its affidavit in the Madras High Court on Friday, however, the Centre has underlined that the "Governor is a Constitutional functionary and he has discretion to decide on the petition under the powers conferred upon him by the Constitution". It has said that the Home Ministry has already rejected the Tamil Nadu government's proposal to release the convicts, and that the mercy petition remains pending before the Governor.

No time limit is prescribed for a Governor or the President for disposal of a mercy plea.

17 THE WORLD

BOTSWANA

ELEPHANT HUNTING LICENCES TO BE AUCTIONED

Botswana, home to the world's largest elephant population, on Friday was set to hold its first major auction for trophy elephant hunting quotas since scrapping a hunting ban last year. The government is issuing seven hunting "packages" of 10 elephants each, confined to "controlled hunting areas", a wildlife spokeswoman Alice Mmolawa told AFP on Thursday

TOP OF THE WORLD



Imran Khan

PAKISTAN

Leader in Imran party apologises for 'offensive posters'

Lahore: A leader from Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's party, who put up banners with a slogan offensive to the minority Hindus in the country, has apologised after he came under fire from netizens as well as the party. Mian Akram Usman, a Lahore-based leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf, had put up posters in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day, which was observed across the country on February 5, with the slogan "Hindu baat se nahii, laot se maanta hai" (Hindus cannot be reasoned with using words but by force).

SOUTH KOREA

#MeToo initiator slams top court

Seoul: The woman who started South Korea's #MeToo movement on Friday slammed the nation's highest court for quashing her abuser's conviction last month, saying the ruling effectively silenced whistleblowers and victims of sexual violence. Seo Ji-hyun said she was groped by her superior Ahn Tae-geun at a funeral in 2010. Seo's abuser, Ahn Tae-geun, walked free last month after his conviction for abuse of power was quashed by the top court. Ahn's release "practically paves the way for any companies or organisations to demote or fire internal whistle blowers as they please," Seo said.

RUSSIA

26 children repatriated from Syria camps

Moscow: Russia has repatriated 26 Russian children from Syria, a Kremlin official said Friday. Presidential children's rights ombudsman Anna Kuznetsova visited Syria to organize the effort and met with Syrian President Bashar Assad's wife, Asma, in Damascus. Kuznetsova said Friday the children aged between 2 and 15 were taken from the al-Hawl refugee camp in north-eastern Syria near the border with Iraq. A further nine children from the camp will be flown to Russia soon, she added.

OVER 31,000 CONFIRMED CASES

Virus toll hits 636 amid outrage over death of doctor who raised first alarm

AGENCIES

BEIJING, FEBRUARY 7

THE DEATH toll in China's novel coronavirus epidemic has climbed to 636 with 73 mortalities on Thursday, while the total number of confirmed cases crossed 31,000, Chinese health officials said on Friday.

Hubei province and its provincial capital Wuhan, the epicentre of the virus outbreak, reported 69 deaths on Thursday while Jilin, Henan, Guangdong and Hainan provinces reported one each, China's National Health Commission said.

As many as 73 people died on Thursday, while another 3,143 new cases of infection were reported, which took to 31,161 the total number of confirmed cases of novel coronavirus infection from 31 provincial-level regions, the commission said.

The death of a doctor who was reprimanded for warning about China's new virus triggered an outpouring of praise for him and fury that authorities put politics above public safety.

In death, Li Wenliang became the face of simmering anger at the ruling Communist Party's controls over information and complaints that officials lie about



LOVE IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS: Couples, some with masks, at a mass wedding in South Korea, despite fears that the event could help spread the coronavirus. Reuters

or hide disease outbreaks, chemical spills, dangerous consumer products or financial frauds.

The doctor died due to the very virus he tried to highlight in December last year through social media and has become a national icon with millions of netizens expressing their grief and anger over the way he was treated.

"A hero who released information about Wuhan's epidemic

in the early stage, Li Wenliang is immortal," the China Center for Disease Control's chief scientist, Zeng Guang, wrote on the Sina Weibo microblog service.

Police in December had reprimanded eight doctors including Li for warning friends on social media about the emerging threat. The doctor was forced to sign a letter on January 3, saying he had "severely disrupted

social order" and was threatened with charges.

China's ruling Communist Party has sent a high-level investigation team to Wuhan to probe Li's death on Thursday.

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of Dr Li Wenliang. We all need to celebrate work that he did on 2019nCoV," the World Health Organisation (WHO) tweeted.

Global shortage of protective masks: WHO

Geneva: The world is running out of masks and other protective equipment against the coronavirus, the World Health Organisation chief warned Friday.

"The world is facing a chronic shortage of personal protective equipment," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told the WHO's executive board in Geneva.

He said he would be speaking to members of the supply chain network for protective gear to try and resolve "bottlenecks" in the production. WHO earlier this week said it had started sending masks, gloves, respirators, protective isolation gowns and test kits to countries requiring assistance.

Tedros also said some countries were still failing to share clinical data on confirmed cases of the virus. "We urge those member states to share that information immediately," he said. PTI

Assess virus epidemic in calm manner: Xi to Trump

PTI & REUTERS

BEIJING, FEBRUARY 7

CHINESE PRESIDENT Xi Jinping spoke on Friday with his US counterpart Donald Trump on the novel coronavirus outbreak and asked him to assess the epidemic in a "calm" manner, urging America to adopt and adjust its response measures in a "reasonable way" to China's intensified efforts to contain the dreaded virus that has claimed over 630 lives.

After the phone conversation, Trump said that Beijing is showing "great discipline" in tackling the coronavirus outbreak that has killed more than 600 people in China.

Xi, in his first phone call with Trump since the coronavirus outbreak in December, told the



We have adopted the most comprehensive and strictest prevention and control measures through mobilising and rapid responses... — XI JINPING

US President that China had launched a "people's war" against the epidemic that has been wreaking havoc in China and across the world.

People's war is an ideological concept developed by the ruling Chinese Communist Party founder Mao Zedong which meant a prolonged struggle with the support of people while fighting for a particular cause.

"Nothing is easy, but he will be successful, especially as the weather starts to warm & the virus hopefully becomes weaker, and then gone," Trump said on Twitter here.

"Great discipline is taking place in China, as President Xi strongly leads what will be a very successful operation. We are working closely with China to help!"

PANGOLIN LINK

PANGOLINS COULD be responsible for the spread of the virus in China, scientists said Friday after they found the genome sequence separated from the mammals 99 per cent identical to that from infected people

RESULTS SHOWED that pangolins are a potential intermediate host of the coronavirus, Liu said, adding that the study will support the prevention and control of the epidemic, as well as offer scientific reference for policies on wild animals

THE MAMMALS are believed to be one of the world's most trafficked animals. Thousands of the endangered species are poached every year due to 'medicinal value' and consumption in countries like China and Vietnam

Singapore raises its alert to SARS level

Singapore: Singapore on Friday raised its coronavirus alert level and reported more cases not linked to previous infections or travel to China, a move that sparked panic-buying of essentials in some shops across the island.

As Singapore's infected tally hit 33, the alert level was raised to orange — a level reached during the 2003 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak and the 2009 H1N1 influenza which indicates the virus is severe.

Shoppers started clearing shelves of toilet paper, noodles and rice, and formed long queues in supermarkets.

"I understand people are concerned after the announcement this afternoon. However, we must not hoard items unnecessarily. This will create undue panic and is unhelpful to the situation at hand," trade minister Chan Chun Sing said. REUTERS

Trump confirms killing of Al Qaeda leader in Yemen

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 7



Al Qaeda flag sprayed on a wall in Yemen. AP/File

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump has confirmed that in a major counterterrorism operation in Yemen the US forces have killed Qasim al-Rimi, a founder and leader of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, the jihadist group that claimed responsibility for a mass shooting at an American naval base.

Rimi, 46, a deputy to al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, was placed on the United States' most-wanted terrorist list after taking over al-Qaeda's Yemen affiliate in 2015.

US government had offered a USD 10 million reward for information on Rimi.

"His death further degrades al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and the global al-Qaeda movement, and it brings us closer to eliminating the threats these groups pose to our national security," Trump said on Thursday.

He said the major counterterrorism operation was carried at his direction.

"Rimi joined al-Qaeda in the 1990s, working in Afghanistan for Osama bin Laden. Under Rimi, AQAP committed unconscionable violence against civilians in Yemen and sought to conduct and inspire numerous attacks against the United States

and our forces," Trump said.

"The United States, our interests, and our allies are safer as a result of his death. We will continue to protect the American people by tracking down and eliminating terrorists who seek to do us harm," he said.

While Trump confirmed that Rimi had been killed, he did not say when the US operation was conducted or divulged any details about how it was carried out.

The AQAP has long been considered al-Qaeda's most dangerous branch for its attempts to carry out attacks on the United States' mainland.

Rimi had said in an 18-minute video that his group was responsible for the December 6 shooting at US Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida, in which a Saudi Air Force officer killed three American sailors. PTI

After Iowa, muddled run-up for Democrats to New Hampshire

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANCHESTER, FEBRUARY 7

THE DEMOCRATIC Party's seven strongest presidential contenders are preparing for what could be the fiercest debate stage clash of the 2020 primary season as candidates look to survive the gauntlet of contests that lie ahead.

The field has been shaken and reshaped by chaotic Iowa caucuses earlier this week, and Friday's debate in New Hampshire — coming four days before the state's primary — offers new opportunity and risk for the shrinking pool of White House hopefuls.

Two candidates, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders and former Midwestern mayor Pete Buttigieg, enter the night as the top targets, having emerged from Iowa essentially tied for the lead. Those trailing after the first contest — including former Vice President Joe Biden, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren and Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar — have an urgent need to demonstrate strength.

Billionaire activist Tom Steyer and New York entrepreneur Andrew Yang, meanwhile, are fighting to prove they belong in the conversation. The rapidly evolving dynamic means that the candidates have a very real incentive to mix it up with their Democratic rivals.

While Warren and Sanders as presidential candidates have sworn off wealthy donors, Buttigieg and the rest of the field have continued to hold private finance events with big donors,

EXPLAINED Changing dynamics

THE IOWA results could be a turning point in the presidential race, and may highlight new dynamics in the next debate:

THE TOP TWO Pete Buttigieg and Bernie Sanders will enter the next debate with the most momentum. The top two contenders may seek to gain a clear lead by taking aim at each other.

TENSIONS LINGER Despite attempts to play down tensions after confronting each other over "lying" at an earlier debate, the dynamic between Sanders and Elizabeth Warren remains unclear.

FRONTRUNNER? Joe Biden's stance as the frontrunner has taken a hit after the Iowa primary. He will likely have to take on a more aggressive stance in future, in order to make up for lost ground.

some with connections to Wall Street. In fact, Buttigieg took the unusual step of leaving New Hampshire this week to hold three fundraisers with wealthy donors in the New York area.

Indian-origin doctor gets 3 life terms for sex assault

ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, FEBRUARY 7

AN INDIAN-origin doctor, who exploited women's cancer fears to carry out invasive intimate examinations, has been given three life sentences for 90 sexual assaults on female patients in London on Friday.

Manish Shah assaulted 23 women and a 15-year-old girl and was described by the judge as a "master of deception who abused his position of power".

"You made up stories which got into heads and caused panic," said Judge Anne Molyneux. "Your

behaviour was not only sexual but was driven by your desire to control and on occasions humiliate women," she said.

The doctor was found guilty of 25 sexual offences against six victims at Mawney Medical Centre last autumn. In 2018, he was convicted of offences relating to 18 other people, bringing the total number of offences to 90.

"He took advantage of his position to persuade women to have invasive vaginal examinations, breast examinations and rectal examinations when there was absolutely no medical need for them to be conducted," prosecutor Kate Bex said during the trial. PTI



WEST BANK PROTEST

At a protest against US President Donald Trump's Mideast plan, in West Bank, Friday. Reuters

ABOUT 6,800 ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE JAMMED INTO A CAMP ON SAMOS

On a Greek island, migrants, locals bear brunt of forces beyond their control

JASON HOROWITZ

SAMOS, FEBRUARY 7

ON THE slope of a hill on Samos, the Greek island known for its ancient ruins, colorful fishing villages and sweet muscat wine, sits a crammed migrant camp and sprawling tent city that many consider the most overcrowded and desperate refugee camp in Europe.

Giannis Meletioui, a 60-year-old lawyer, lives at the foot of the hill. The other day, he hopped in his jeep and drove a couple hundred yards up a nar-

row winding road lined with crowded tents. He waved at children, who lit up when they recognized him because he often prepares them sandwiches.

Then he drove past the migrant camp, topped with barbed wire and spilling out people, and rumbled past trees that migrants had stripped of their branches and chopped their trunks for firewood.

He reached his family's old property, in a field with a view of the sea and snowcapped mountains, and stood above a shingled rectangle of stone. It was all that remained of the home

where his parents took refuge during the Second World War. The migrants had taken the wooden walls, the windows, the doors and the roof. "Everything," he said with a shrug.

About 6,800 asylum seekers are jammed into the camp and fighting the elements in the olive groves and pine woods of the hill. Below is a quaint port town that is home to about 6,200 locals like Meletioui.

Together, the locals and asylum seekers bear the shared brunt of forces beyond their control — Greek government dysfunction, the cold shoulder of the



At the migrant camp in Samos. NYT

European Union, the chaos in the Middle East and the geopolitical calculations of Turkey.

Many in town, like Meletioui, are sympathetic to the migrants' plight, even as more arrived this summer by boat from Turkey. The town's mayor, Georgios Stantzos, is an avid scuba diver who volunteered to rescue asylum seekers and recover drowned bodies at the height of the crisis in 2015.

Inside the camp, on a recent day, Syrian teenagers applied masking tape over the slashes in their tent, left by thieves stealing cellphones in the night.

Haidar Kazamahai tried to keep his 1-year-old son warm next to a neighbor's camp fire and explained that the authorities gave him nothing but four blankets and instructions to make do. "I have a 2-and-a-half-year-old girl," he said. "And my little boy."

Down the road, Mara Shahir, 67, a doctor from Syria, taught some boys how to ignite a campfire with a plastic bag. "In the future, they'll know how to keep warm," he said.

After months on the island, Shahir and most of his family received a sought-after spot on

a nine-hour ferry ride to take the next steps in their application process on the mainland. There, many were transferred to Ritsona, a camp with much better conditions, outside Athens.

Herutur Icapesa Matinda, 29, from Congo, had earlier made the trip from Samos to the camp, and celebrated by leading Syrian children in a song and dance.

"Ritsona?" Mr. Matinda called out. "Good," the children sang, copying his moves. "Samos?" he called. "Bad," they said. NYT

18 REVIEWS

CINEMA & MUSIC



DVD & BLU-RAY
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Chasing the Dream

LITTLE WOMEN
★★★★★

Director: Greta Gerwig
Cast: Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson, Florence Pugh, Laura Dern, Meryl Streep, Eliza Scanlen, Timothee Chalamet, Chris Cooper

SHALINI LANGER

FOUR NICE young girls, one loving-to-a-fault mother, a devoted housekeeper, a father out being a hero in war, a generous neighbour, and a handsome and rich boy. At first look, *Little Women* seems a too-good tale about too-good people. What then explains the relevance it has held for generations since Louisa May Alcott's novel first came out in the 1860s? Writer-director Gerwig gets right to the heart of it, capturing the small, everyday rebellions of that story, and making it as current as it was 150 years ago.

She is helped by a tremendous cast, with an astonishing Ronan capturing the dilemmas of a girl like Jo March, even as the surprising Pugh fills out Amy to a character more complex than in the book. Chalamet plays the next-door boy, Laurie, but as one who, almost more beautiful than the March sisters, represents a fragile romantic ideal whom girls have been taught to love. Streep as the curmudgeonly and brutally practically old Aunt March, Dern as Mother March, Watson as the eldest March sister Meg and Scanlen as the sickly Beth March round up this talented film.

In an intelligent decision, Gerwig films the story in two parallel timelines — of March sisters when younger, and of them seven years later, when childhood is past and each has ventured onto different paths. In the pragmatic but romantic Meg who wants to find love and have a family, the tomboyish and bookish Jo who hopes to make a career with her writing, the home-bound Beth who just wants to be around her sisters, and the pretty and coquettish Amy who wants to marry well, *Little Women* encompasses the range women have

had long defined for them. Gerwig does all of them justice, neither holding them to a judgmental eye nor the cynical view of the present. From the Christmas visit to a needy family nearby whom they give their breakfast to, to going without gifts and not putting up much of a protest, and volunteering for the war effort (the American Civil War is on), to selflessly looking after each other, the director realises that the March story is as much about love and faith that finds and holds up ordinary families like theirs — particularly through difficult times as that.

Gerwig casts a harsher light on the men who, while recipient of as much affection, are seen for who they might have been: Laurie a dissolute rich boy prone to complaining and not making much of himself, and Mr March who fancies himself as an adventurer with little responsibilities at home (Mother March or Marmie has a nice-little put-down for him at one point).

However, while Alcott originally did not want to give Jo a romantic send-off, finally giving in to her publisher's demands, Gerwig does

make a concession. But, we are not complaining. If Laurie's proposal to Jo, amidst a meadow bathed in orange and green, is one of the most romantic and heart-wrenching you might have seen — both in how ardently he loves her and how painful it is for her to pick a different life over him — Gerwig's choice of the handsome Louis Garrel to play Jo's eventual beau Friedrich Bhaer will gladden many a heart.

Alcott may not complain either. For it's the questions that she slipped into her story which Gerwig puts up and centre in her film: can a woman make her own way in the world, is a woman's fate tied only to marriage or even love, is marriage little but an economic treaty and ultimately a boring arrangement, why is having no purpose okay for men but not women, is loneliness that bad, and even, are women angry every day of their lives. Says Ronan's Jo: "If I was a girl in a book, this would be all so easy. I would give up the world and get married." In *Little Women*, she doesn't have to.

shalini.langer@expressindia.com



Love in the Time of Conflict

SHIKARA ★★★

Director: Vidhu Vinod Chopra
Cast: Aadil Khan, Sadia, Faisal Simon, Priyanshu Chatterjee

SHUBHRA GUPTA

IN HIS telling of the exodus of the Kashmiri Pandits from their homeland, Vidhu Vinod Chopra uses a tender lens to create a romance between two individuals, which is wholly lovely and believable. You look at Shiv Kumar Dhar and his beloved, Shanti, and you sigh. And then you look around at the beauty depicted on screen, slowly being ground to dust, and you ask why.

Why did this happen? Why was a particular community and its people forced into leaving the valley at gun-point? *Shikara* takes vague jabs at setting the context. We get throwaway remarks about 'not being able to gather because of Section 144', 'elections not being free and fair', 'India chale jao'. We see militancy being encouraged and supported from across the border (actual scenes of Benazir Bhutto raising slogans of 'azaadi' on black and white TV), but nothing goes deeper. That the Muslim residents are slyly eyeing Pandit homes and property finds repeat mention, but what has caused the rift stays strictly on the surface.

It's certainly not my case that a feature film has to bear the burden of examining every single aspect of a complex situation. In this instance, the special status of J&K, which stands abrogated, was the result of a multitude of reasons, and to unravel those strands would take a lifetime, and reams of material. But a film, which is specifically about the subject, needs to tell us a little more of what went on before 1990, when the trickle of Pandits leaving the valley became a flood.

The meet-cute of Shiv (Khan) and Shanti (Sadia) during a film shoot reminds you of a bygone era, in which Kashmir was used as a romantic short-cut in Hindi cinema. The floating shikaras on the Dal Lake, with the houseboats lining the backwaters, were, for years, the backdrop for movies featuring popular stars. Close your eyes and you will see Shami and Sharmila dancing-romancing; Shiv and Shanti bring back memories of a more innocent time when things were calm, and the Hindu Shiv's best friend could be a Muslim (Simon) who wanted to play cricket for the Indian team. This doused-in-nostalgia summer of love aspect is the film's best part, as well as the fact that the lead players all look and feel authentic. They look like they belong, not playing at fancy dress in their pherans and overflowing silver ornaments.

Almost all through the '90s, when J&K was amongst the most dangerous places on earth, we barely caught a glimpse of it in the movies. It's only in the past few years

that we have sporadically been allowed access to the 'paradise on earth' both on and off screen. But the state has never left the headlines, because something as complicated and vitiated doesn't lend itself to an easy solution.

Part of the Kashmir 'problem', the word used to blunt all complexity, has been the unaddressed wounds of the Pandits, who had to take refuge in make-shift camps in Jammu, and have scattered all over in order to recreate a life. But the hope of going back is never forgotten, and that runs like a crying ache through the film, which stands to reason because it is personal to the director. The credits tell us that Chopra's mother (also called Shanti) left the valley in the late '80s, and could never return.

We see the long line of cars, trucks and buses laden with humans and their belongings crawling across the hillside as they leave: we see it as a panorama, and more than once, and the weight of that leaving is considerable. But there is no mention of the decades of human rights violations by the army, or the security personnel, or the collateral damage that has taken place on the 'other side', or the political machinations by parties of all hue: yes, the best friend turns into a militant, but what caused the love to turn into indelible hatred?

Shiv and Shanti hark back to a time when Hindi movie lovers had the power to make you smile: they take their time to reach optimum intimacy, and you get a tad impatient, but the pay-off is worth it — this is a couple who've lived together for a life-time, digging into their reserves of resilience, and we can see and feel that strong connection. It shows us how present-day Bollywood has forgotten how to do romances.

A sequence which has the couple return for a short, painful reason, sees them making a quick stop at the home they had to flee. They walk up the steps, see the changes, and the family of the man they trusted huddled in a room. And there it is, staring at us, the shame of the interloper, the betrayal and loss. It's near-wordless, and for that, powerful.

You see this part and you are moved, and then you are back into questioning mode: why this narrow-casting of such a thin slice? A more nuanced sense of history would have made this film much more complete, even if you were to put aside the enormous irony of watching a film about a place which has been in lockdown for the past six months: when will the people in the valley be able to watch *Shikara*, and tell us what they think?

shubhra.gupta@expressindia.com



Pecking Away

BIRDS OF PREY
★★★★

Director: Cathy Yan
Cast: Margot Robbie, Ewan McGregor, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Rosie Perez, Jurnie Smollett-Bell, Ella Jay Bisco

A PHD in hot pants. That precisely sums up *Birds of Prey*, a gush of fresh, exuberant, un-weighted air after Joker, whose newly dumped ex, Harley Quinn, has her own 'coming out' here. The film's title goes on to add, in brackets, that it is about 'The Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn'. But, it is not just emancipation, it is emancipation on her own terms. And you would be wrong making any kind of assumptions about that.

The wonderful Robbie reprises her role as Quinn from *Suicide Squad*, in as many candy colours and riots of pinks and greens. Joker, never seen but almost too frequently invoked, has broken up with her, for the final time, and she decides to venture out on her own. The problem is that means half of Gotham with grievances against her is after her. That includes Roman Sionis (a delectable McGregor) who fashions himself as the new Gotham Godfather. There is a diamond, the key to a fortune, an angry heiress, a singer with a killer voice, and a child pickpocket who finds herself caught up in all this.

Writer Christina Hodson and director Cathy Yan do very well to keep it surprisingly simple and sprightly. In a rip-off from *Kill Bill*, the various characters are introduced with subtitles, including what they may hold against Quinn.



As the women mentioned above (played with panache and effortless cool by almost all, but especially Winstead) eventually hang together, almost all of their actions subvert not just the men who have done all this before — which it does — but also the world that these men inhabit. The one where diamonds hide codes in their atomic structures, where men go with sidekicks to shootouts, where men have other men looking after them, where men surround themselves with masks, and where men live in giant empty homes, surrounded with "their things".

When the women get into those shoes — and much prettier ones too — they don't fit any stereotypes. They operate alone, they can "find time for a shoe change in the middle of a fight" (noticed only by a fellow woman fighter), they carry around spare hair ties, they ask around for 'who has the kid', they kick ass in tight leather pants, they wear bullet proof vests which accommodate the fact that they, well, have breasts, and when they come home, they relax with feel-good food and cartoons on TV.

Robbie, who stuns with how she can go

from mania to tragedy in the blink of an eye, doesn't really need the help of all that colour and wide-lipped grin to get your attention. We can leave that to Joaquin Phoenix's Joker.

However, the film lowers the manic energy as the other characters move in, establishing an easy chemistry, and allowing them real space despite the sheer power of Robbie. They are the birds of prey, long dismissed as "little birds" by the men around them.

In a scene, Quinn also lets it drop that one of the grudges Sionis holds against her is that she voted Bernie. Would the real Quinn, in the fictional Gotham, do that? Maybe even Bernie Sanders, the surprise front-runner in this inexplicable US presidential election, won't be able to clearly answer that one — either way. Or, is it that only in a mad world like the one Quinn inhabits, where she uses her PhD in psychology for some pop analysis, and where the unhelpful logic of Joker could be seen as a cry for socialism, that a Sanders could be future President and Donald Trump a serving one? *Birds of Prey* may indeed be more intelligent than it seems. **SL**

BREAKING DOWN NEWS

A World Away in Wuhan

Almost all the coverage about the crisis in China has been about containment and management. But it is a mixed story



BY PRATIK KANJILAL

THE MOST sobering images coming out of China are stills of doctors, who are working on shifts of up to 12 hours at a time. Even off-duty, their faces are indented with the marks of surgical masks and protective gear. And the ophthalmologist who first warned of the impending public health crisis has died. It is the age of fake news, and Li Wenliang of the Wuhan General Hospital was reprimanded by the police for spreading "false comments on the internet". At the

age of 34, he must be one of the least likely victims of coronavirus, and should have survived.

Other sobering images are coming out of China and Hong Kong, which has sealed its border with the mainland. The very day the BBC showed the Chinese ambassador to London urging the UK not to scare-monger and panic, video reports coming in from the Far East totally contradicted his story. In Hong Kong, amidst supermarket shelves picked bare, people struggled to get at the last stocks of food. One high-rise had been identified as the focus of community transmission of coronavirus, indicating that the pathogen is now loose on the island and passing from citizen to citizen. A cruise ship with infected passengers has been quarantined offshore, and a passenger is seen talking on a video app to relations on the balcony of his apartment on shore. His home is within sight, but could be a world away.

And footage of masked passengers playing cards in the ship's lounge is like something out of *The Hot Zone* or *The Andromeda Strain*.

After the world had weathered a spate of haemorrhagic fevers caused by filoviruses like Ebola and Marburg, there had been some discomfort about the dramatic coverage, presented as if these were plagues from the heart of darkness. Both researchers and the media were accused of generalising from a few dramatic cases to sensationalise these new health crises, diverting public attention from the success with which they were contained. But the crisis in China is not going to draw similar charges, because almost all the coverage is about containment and management. It is a mixed story, though. While the BBC marvels at the speed with which stadiums and public buildings are being turned into gigantic hospital wards, the *New York Times* reports that the warehousing approach,

while impressive in scale, offers minimal medical facilities. And while the BBC shows empty metro trains in Shanghai, and shops and establishments which have been closed for a week, and speaks to a citizen who wonders how long she will be able to remain indoors, the *NYT* goes a little further to Wuhan, reporting that a miasma of fear has seized the city.

At long last, the English have Brexit. Now, they are looking for more contrary things to do. While the world considers the idea that the model on which most of world's media runs — advertising, sponsorships and non-commercial support — is seriously broken, and that paying for news is a much healthier practice, the culture secretary of the UK has threatened to scrap the BBC's licence fees. Yet again, because this has been a recurring Conservative dream. But it has been re-phrased this time, with culture secretary Nicky Morgan prophesying that if the BBC could not keep up in the age of Netflix, it could go the way of former video rental giant Blockbuster.

It's not a brilliant analogy but certainly, the TV fee is delightfully quaint, like warm beer and the changing of the guard at Buck House. It is a year older than independent

India and was instituted after World War II to keep the BBC solvent. Everyone receiving a TV signal, with a TV set or without, has to pay up. Some people have gone to jail for failing to pay. Oh dear, yes, it's quaint, and vaguely reminiscent of times when people could be strung up for poaching the local lord's deer. But in contemporary times, when familiar media models have been faltering, journalists may look upon a pay-as-you-go model quite wistfully.

Speaking of the BBC, *Hard Talk* had an interesting guest this week — Lauri Love. The archetypal hacker, with an Asperger's diagnosis, an association with Anonymous in its heyday (when they were "legion", when they were "coming"), and of deep interest to the US authorities. Not in the limelight after Christopher Wylie and Edward Snowden published their books, he was an unusual choice, especially now that he has put on a white hat and counts himself among the good guys. But really, having a hacker interviewed by a generalist like Stephen Sackur is simply not interesting. Someone like Love interviewed by a peer — now, that would open up very interesting cans of worms.

pratik.kanjilal@expressindia.com

19 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 41,141.85 ▼ 164.18 NIFTY: 12,098.35 ▼ 39.60 NIKKEI: 23,827.98 ▼ 45.61 HANG SENG: 27,404.27 ▼ 89.43 FTSE: 7,452.57 ▼ 52.22 DAX: 13,491.79 ▼ 83.03

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|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| | | | |
| GOLD | RUPEE | OIL | SILVER |
| ₹41,249 | ₹71.40 | \$54.91 | ₹47,305 |

*Indian basket as on February 6, 2020

Day after RBI decision on better transmission, banks start moderating deposit, lending rates

SBI cuts deposit rates by 10-50 bps, MCLR by 5 basis points; BoI and Canara Bank also reduce rates

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 7

A DAY after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) left the repo rates unchanged at 5.15 per cent, banks started slashing lending and deposit rates. State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest bank, slashed term deposit rates on Friday by 10-50 basis points (bps) in the retail segment and 25-50 bps in the bulk segment. It has also slashed its marginal cost of fund-based lending rate (MCLR) by 5 bps across tenors with effect from February 10.

Bank of India (BoI) has reduced MCLR by 10 bps for maturities up to six months. The bank has also reduced interest rates on housing and auto loans. With this, housing loan interest rates will now start from 8 per cent per annum, while vehicle loans will be available from 8.50 per cent per annum.

Canara Bank has reduced its MCLR by up to 25 bps. The interest rate on overnight and one-month loans will be 7.65 per cent, three-month loans at 7.95 per cent, six-month MCLR at 8.10 per cent and one-year at

EXPLAINED Corporate bond yields likely to lower, too

INTEREST RATES are headed downwards despite the RBI's decision not to cut the repo rate. The provision of long-term money through LTRO at the repo rate is intended towards facilitating better transmission in the bond and loan markets. Besides lowering rates in the short end of the sovereign curve it is likely to lower corporate bond yields, deposit rates and lending rates.

Additionally, leeway provided on CRR on incremental retail loans, extending the scope of external benchmark linked loans, extension of restructuring benefits for MSMEs and commercial real estate will all go a long way towards providing much-needed credit to these stressed sectors as well as help in aiding stressed projects.

8.20 per cent. For SBI, this is the ninth consecutive cut in MCLR in the current fiscal (2019-20). With this reduction, SBI's one-year MCLR has come down to 7.85 per cent per annum from 7.90 per cent, a bank statement said.

The reduction in MCLR and deposit rates by the banks follow the RBI announcement of long-term repo operation (LTRO) for up to Rs 1 lakh crore, making cost of funds cheaper

for banks. With SBI taking the lead in slashing rates, other banks are expected to follow suit in the coming days.

For fixed deposits (FDs) maturing in 46 days to 179 days, SBI has cut the interest rate sharply by 50 bps to 5 per cent. For FDs maturing in 180 days to 210 days and 211 days to less than 1 year, SBI will give interest of 5.50 per cent now, as against 5.80 per cent earlier. The bank has slashed the inter-

est rate by 10 bps on deposits maturing in 1 year to 10 years from 6.10 per cent to 6 per cent now.

SBI further said in view of surplus liquidity in the system, it has realigned its interest rate on retail term deposits (less than Rs 2 crore) and bulk term deposits (Rs 2 crore and above), effective February 10. "The impact of recent RBI policy measures and reduction in deposit rates will be reflected in the next review of MCLR," the bank said.

On Thursday, in a bid to boost flow of bank credit to productive sectors in a weak economy, the RBI announced a cash reserve ratio (CRR) dispensation on incremental retail loans in the automobile, housing and the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sectors until July 31, 2020.

The RBI has now decided that commercial banks will be allowed to deduct the equivalent of incremental credit disbursed by them as retail loans for automobiles, residential housing and loans to MSMEs, over and above the outstanding level of credit to these segments as of the fortnight ended January 31, 2020

from their net demand and time liabilities - or deposits - for maintenance of CRR. In other words, the loans to these sectors can be deducted from the amount to be kept with the RBI as CRR.

Bankers said CRR exemption for incremental lending to auto, residential housing, and MSME is a good way to channelise credit in area where demand has not met with commensurate supply. "The exemption of CRR maintenance for all additional loans given for retail loans will also help to lower cost of funds. Extending the date of restructuring of MSME advances will also help the sector to navigate the current business downturn and is a logical corollary of budget announcement," SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar said.

While the RBI slashed repo rate by 135 points in calendar year 2019, the 1-year median MCLR declined by only 55 bps during February 2019 and January 2020. The weighted average lending rate (WALR) on fresh rupee loans sanctioned by banks declined by 69 bps and the WALR on outstanding rupee loans by 13 bps during February-December 2019.

RBI set to conduct long-term repo operations on Feb 17, 24 for ₹50K cr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 7

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has decided to kickstart the long-term repo operations (LTROs) on February 17 for a notified amount of Rs 25,000 with a tenor of three years.

On Thursday, the RBI had announced LTRO -- for up to a total amount of Rs 1,00,000 crore at the policy repo rate -- to facilitate the transmission of monetary policy actions and flow of credit to the economy.

The first LTRO will be on February 16, 2023, the RBI said on Friday. The RBI will conduct the second LTRO for an amount of Rs 25,000 crore with a tenor of one year on February 24. This will be reversed on February 23, 2021, it said. "The details of remaining LTROs will be announced in due course," it said.

According to the RBI, LTROs will be conducted on CBS (E-KUBER) platform. "The operations would be conducted at a fixed rate.

RBI eases repayment for stalled commercial realty projects

Mumbai: The RBI Friday allowed banks to restructure commercial real estate advances and delay repayments for a period of up to two years. Earlier this week, the RBI announced lenders will be allowed to extend the repayment schedules for stressed commercial real estate projects for one year, without

downgrading their asset classification. The date of commencement of commercial operations of projects, to which their repayment schedule is linked, may be shifted "within the period of one year from the original DCCO stipulated at the time of financial closure for commercial real estate projects," it said. FE

Banks would be required to place their requests for the amount sought under LTRO during the window timing at the prevailing policy repo rate. Bids below or above policy rate will be rejected," it said.

"In case of over-subscription of the notified amount, the allotment will be done on pro-rata basis. The RBI will, however, reserve the right to inject marginally higher amount than the notified amount due to rounding effects. The min-

imum bid amount would be Rs one crore and multiples thereof. The allotment would be in multiples of Rs one crore. There will be no restriction on the maximum amount of bidding by individual bidders," the RBI said.

The reversal of these operations would take place at the 'start of day' on the day of maturity, it said. "The eligible collateral for LTROs and the applicable haircuts will remain the same as applicable for LAF.

KERALA BUDGET

No new mega programmes for state; commitment to old projects, welfare schemes dominant theme

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB 7

THE LEFT Democratic Front government's last Budget (FY21) in its current term in Kerala is marked by the absence of any new mega schemes. However, the promise to complete ongoing infrastructure projects, the roll-out of a few successful development models and a few new interventions in the social welfare sector were the notable announcements.

The Budget, presented by Finance Minister TM Thomas Isaac, on Friday has banked on the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), the agency for sourcing funds outside state revenue, to complete infrastructure projects mainly in road, irrigation, health and education sectors.

Isaac said in the coming fiscal year, the KIIFB will spend Rs 20,000 crore for various projects. Only projects worth Rs 4,500 crore have been completed so far since the KIIFB had been introduced as resource mobiliser in the Budget for 2016-17. Earlier, the government had announced that projects worth Rs 50,000 crore would be implemented through the KIIFB.

The Budget has said land acquisition for the semi-high speed rail corridor worth Rs 66,000 crore would begin in the next fiscal. There are proposals for expanding the Kochi metro project and implementing special packages for Idukki and Wayanad districts.

To promote start-ups, the Budget promised collateral-free loans for entrepreneurs. "The state has as many as 2300 start-ups. To ensure fund flow for the start-ups, collateral-free loans would be made available from state agencies like Kerala Financial Corporation and Kerala State Industrial Development

The Budget, presented by Finance Minister TM Thomas Isaac, has again banked on the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board, the agency for sourcing funds outside state revenue, to complete infrastructure projects

Corporation. The government would also give assistance, up to Rs 1 crore, for the development of prototypes of products which the government require or which are part of the UN sustainable development goals," he said.

While prioritising the rehabilitation of Non-Resident Keralites who return to Kerala, the government announced schemes to promote migration. As many as 10,000 nurses will be given crash programmes in skill and foreign language development. As the state enters its 25th year of people's planning programme, implemented in local self-government bodies, the government proposed a grassroots-level project for tackling natural calamities induced by climate change. "This is the first time in the world that such a local level natural calamity defence project is being implemented. It would delve into preventive steps to be adopted if the natural calamities of 2018 and 2019 are repeated. All local bodies would be asked to debate and devise the strategies," he said.

Under the ongoing Green Kerala Mission, 50,000-km streams would be revived or rejuvenated with the help of workers under the national rural job guar-

antee scheme. Besides, 50,000 wells and 25,000 ponds would be recharged during the next fiscal.

While the government plans to relook unnecessary appointments in schools and eliminate redundant posts in all government departments as part of cost-cutting, there is a proposal to give 1.5 lakh jobs in non-agriculture sector via local self-government bodies. Under project billed as Local Employment Assurance Programme (LEAP), private or co-operative ventures could be launched to give employment at rural level. These ventures could focus on manufacturing valued added products or substitutes for plastic.

A hunger-free project, which had been announced in the previous budget in Alappuzha district last year, would be extended across Kerala with 1,000 hotels offering lunch priced at Rs 25.

In a state where the number of elderly population is growing fast, the Budget proposed automatic system for the care of elders and indispensed. Patients or elders would be under the eye of an automated camera, which with the help of artificial intelligence technology would alert their movements and health status, including blood pressure and other parameters, at a nearby public health centre. A unit for a patient would cost Rs 10,000. This scheme would be implemented on a pilot basis in Kannur and the Budget has earmarked Rs 10 crore for it.

The Budget proposed a model electronic platform on the lines of Uber for sourcing and marketing of vegetables and fruit on a single platform. Even as increasing the monthly amount of various social welfare pensions to Rs 1,300, the Minister announced all ineligible persons now drawing pensions would be eliminated.

'RBI may cut interest rates by 40 bps in FY21'

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to cut benchmark interest rates by 40 basis points before the end of fiscal 2020-21, Fitch Solutions has said

POLICY PAUSE
The RBI held its benchmark repurchase (repo) and reverse repo during its February 6 monetary policy meeting at 5.15 per cent and 4.90 per cent, respectively

GDP FORECAST
Real GDP growth to slow to 5.1 per cent in FY20, from a revised 6.1 per cent (down from 6.8 per cent previously) in FY19



WORD OF CAUTION:
While some high-frequency indicators such as tractor and three-wheeler sales, domestic air passenger traffic, and railway freight traffic point towards a recovery in economic activity, the MPC noted a need to continue monitoring incoming data to gauge the sustainability of the recovery

SIGNS OF RECOVERY:
Stating there may be a slight recovery over the second half of the fiscal, it said a gradual feed through of income from the winter crop should support a recovery in consumption, with high existing food prices due to a previously poor summer crop harvest providing some support to farmer incomes

ONUS ON RBI:
The onus of supporting the economy has now fallen on the RBI after the Budget provided little support to growth over the near term, a view that contrasts with that of RBI

OUTLOOK

A likely easing in inflationary pressures in the forthcoming months will reopen the window for the RBI to once again prioritise growth and ease its interest rates

The RBI will resume easing as the FY2020/21 (April-March) Union Budget will do little to support growth over the near term

The repo and reverse repo rate will fall by 40bps to 4.75 per cent and 4.50 per cent, respectively, by end of FY2020/21

WEAK ECONOMIC GROWTH outlook will spur further monetary easing from the RBI

Source: Fitch Solutions/PTI

Rupee slips 22 p to 71.40 against USD on strong dollar demand

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

THE RUPEE declined by 22 paise to settle at 71.40 against the US dollar on Friday amid selling in domestic equities and strengthening of the US currency overseas.

Forex traders said the rupee traded weak largely owing to strengthening of the US dollar ahead of the non-farm payrolls number scheduled to be released later in the day.

During the day, the local unit lost further ground and touched a low of 71.49, before finally settling at 71.40 against the dollar, down 22 paise over its previous close. On the domestic market front, the SENSEX fell 164.18 points or 0.4 per cent to 41,141.85. WITHPTI

LIC investment in G-secs rises to ₹2.81L cr in 10 months

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 7

LIFE INSURANCE Corporation (LIC), which is gearing up for its initial public offering (IPO), on Friday said investments made by the corporation in government securities rose to Rs 2.81 lakh crore in the period between April-January 2020, much higher than the target of Rs 2.55 lakh crore.

India's largest insurance company with assets of over Rs 32 lakh crore had invested Rs 1.91 lakh crore in government securities in the last financial year. The corporation purchased Rs 46,850 crore in equities till January this financial year as compared to Rs 59,115 crore seen in the last financial year.

According to LIC Chairman MR Kumar, individual new business

performance of the corporation as of January 2020 has shown a growth of 17.48 per cent in its first year premium and 29.42 per cent in number of policies by posting a figure of Rs 45,199 crore and 195,85,635 policies respectively. The composite market share in the number of policies and first year premium as of January 2020 was 77.61 per cent and 70.02 per cent respectively which has increased from 73.54 per cent in policies and 66.26 per cent in first year premium as of January 2019.

Its total income grew to Rs 297,017.28 crore for the period ended Q2 of FY20 from Rs 252,149.60 crore in the last corresponding period, a growth of over 17.79 per cent. LIC Chairman said it would be talking to their employees and assured them that the proposed IPO will not lead to pri-



LIC Chairman MR Kumar in Mumbai on Friday. Pradip Das

vatization of the insurer.

"I would say that, there are talks of privatisation and Economic Secretary has already clarified that this has nothing to do with privatisation and the government will divest part of their

holding in LIC. There are many PSU banks, and even New India Assurance and GIC Re are listed, but they continue to be government entities," Kumar said.

He also said that there is no problem for staff or the employees they will continue to be with the LIC, which is more or less wholly controlled by the government. Around one lakh employees had recently staged a walk-out across country the against the proposed stake sale announced by the Finance Minister in the Budget.

Speaking to media, Kumar said there are a lot of figures floating around the market capitalization and size of IPO. "We have not done the maths. Unless we do our internal discussion and maths, I don't think we would be able to answer that today. Valuation has to be reasonably, scientifically (done) and a

lot of work has to be done," he said. The IPO is likely to hit the market in the second half of the current fiscal. Kumar said that there lies no room of doubt for policyholders and the employees of LIC as the sovereign guarantee will continue for LIC even after divestment of government stake in LIC. However, he said the Corporation will focus on the issue of transparency and valuation. The government is likely to offload 10 per cent of its stake through the IPO. There will be some legislative changes in the LIC Act before it gets listed. As on January 31, the Corporation has booked profits to the tune of Rs 23,273 crore from its investment in equities. LIC will be focusing on non-single premium and hence it has brought down the premium price of term insurance plan remarkably, he said.

REVIEWING ORDER OF THE UK COURT ... WILL TAKE LEGAL ADVICE: SPOKESPERSON FOR AMBANI

'Anil Ambani to pay \$100 mn in conditional order for Chinese banks'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LONDON, FEBRUARY 7

A UK court on Friday directed Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani to pay \$100 million within six weeks towards a conditional order granted to three Chinese banks pursuing the recovery of over \$680 million owed to them as part of a loan agreement.

In what is in effect a deposit to be paid into court pending a full trial in the case, Judge David Waksman has set six weeks for payment to be made as he concluded that he did not accept Ambani's defence that his net worth was nearly zero or that his family would not step in to assist



him when "push came to shove". "In my overall conclusion, Mr Ambani has not satisfied me that he can't make any payment at all," the Judge said as he expressed particular criticism of a "lack of candour" and "transparency" on

The court was told that Reliance Group chairman was a wealthy businessman and now he is not as a result of a "disastrous turn of events" in the telecom market in India

the part of Ambani's defence in reference to his financial means. The Reliance Group indicated that it plans to appeal against the ruling, which will involve a process of seeking permission to appeal. "Mr Ambani is reviewing the or-

der of the UK court and will take legal advice as to further remedies in appeal," a spokesperson for Anil Ambani said. "The order pertains to an alleged personal liability of Mr Ambani and will have no bearing on the operations of the Reliance Infrastructure Limited, Reliance Power Limited and Reliance Capital Limited," the spokesperson said. The banks — Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd Mumbai Branch, on behalf of itself, China Development Bank and Exim Bank of China — welcomed the order.

"This is a straightforward debt claim to recover outstanding loans made to RCom (Reliance Communications) in good faith and secured by a binding personal

guarantee given by Mr Ambani, which he has refused to honour," a statement on behalf of the banks said. Earlier, during a half-day hearing, the court was told that Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani was a wealthy businessman and now he is not as a result of a "disastrous turn of events" in the telecom market in India.

The Chinese banks had sought summary judgment over an alleged breach of a personal guarantee on a debt refinancing loan of around \$925 million in February 2012. Ambani denies providing authority for any such guarantee, resulting in the High Court action in the UK - the jurisdiction agreed to as part of the terms of the loan agreement.

PRANAV MUKUL NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

IN THE period running up to the sale of Uber Eats India to Zomato, which was announced last month, the India food operations of ride-firm Uber witnessed a slowing down of operations, evident from the decreasing number of food deliveries and the gross value of those deliveries.

According to the global earnings released by Uber on Friday, the total number of food deliveries in India by eats stood at 29 million during the quarter-ended December 31, down from 37 million in the September-quarter and 42 million in the June-quarter. Additionally, the gross value of bookings seen by Uber Eats India during the October-December period was \$95 million, compared with \$103 million in the previous quarter, and \$110 million during April-June.

Last month, Zomato purchased Uber Eats' India operations

LOSS FROM OPERATIONS

\$44 mn

Consequent to the operations slowing down, Uber Eats India's loss from operations also trimmed to \$44 million in the December-quarter, against \$61 million in September-quarter and \$86 million in April-June period. Uber declared its global earnings on Friday, reporting a \$1.1-billion loss in the October-December 2019 quarter. The firm, which went public last year, generated \$4.1 billion in revenue, up 37 per cent last year. Its revenue grew around the world, although the biggest gain was in the US and Canada, where it pulled in 41 per cent more than last year.

In its earnings release, Uber said divestment of Eats in India to Zomato was in line with its strategy "to focus on markets where we can achieve a leading position". In a post-earnings call, Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said the company planned to turn profitable in the fourth quarter of 2020, sooner than its earlier projection of turning a full-year profit in 2021.

Tata Steel Q3 loss at ₹1,229 cr on lower sales, impairment provisions of European ops

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 7

TATA STEEL has posted a consolidated net loss of Rs 1,229 crore for the third quarter (Q3) ended December 2019 as against a profit of Rs 1,753 crore during the same quarter a year ago, mainly due to lower sales and impairment provisions for its European operations.

Consolidated turnover declined to Rs 35,520 crore from Rs 38,854 crore in the year-ago period. Its profit from Indian operations declined to Rs 1,194 crore in the December quarter from Rs 2,253 crore a year ago. The company also said the consolidated financial results includes provision for impairment in respect of non-current assets within the European operations.

T V Narendran, CEO & managing director, Tata Steel, said, "Our European operations made a loss as it felt the brunt of the overall slowdown and the consequent shrinking of spreads. This adversely affected our consolidated performance." Revenue from European operations decreased to Rs 13,821

Consolidated turnover declined to Rs 35,520 crore from Rs 38,854 crore in the year-ago period

crore in Q3 primarily due to sharp decline in European steel prices, resulting in a loss of Rs 956 crore at the EBITDA level.

"Tata Steel delivered strong growth in volumes despite poor macroeconomic conditions in India as well as globally. In India, our business model helped us counter the slowdown as we successfully penetrated new markets and expanded our customer universe. We were also able to maintain our sales to the auto segment despite the sluggishness faced by the auto industry," he said.

"Both our acquisitions, Tata Steel BSL and Tata Steel Long Products, continue to deliver operational improvements and achieve milestones in the market place. Our Kalinganagar Phase II expansion is progressing well and we expect to commission the pellet plant and our

cold rolling mill facility by FY21. We have recently won chrome ore blocks which will enable us to service our existing ferro chrome customers," Narendran said.

"Regional steel prices were down as steel demand was affected by weaker industrial output in key markets. However, Chinese apparent steel consumption remained steady and steel exports stabilised below 5 million tons a month. In Europe, the overall slowdown was more pronounced due to seasonal weakness and elevated levels of unfairly priced imports. Gross spot spread dropped sharply as benefit of softness in raw materials prices was offset by steep decline in steel prices with hot rolled coil with (HRC) prices dropping below US\$ 470/t levels," Tata Steel said.

"However, steel prices are on an upward trend since November with inventory rationalization and increase in government spending. Market sentiments have improved as recent PMI manufacturing and bank credit growth data suggest pick-up in activity levels ahead," it said.

AHMEDABAD-KOLKATA FLIGHT

IndiGo plane turns back after snag; 23rd P&W engine related in around two years

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

INDIA'S LARGEST airline IndiGo saw yet another technical snag develop on its Airbus A320neo powered by Pratt & Whitney engines on Friday, a development that bolsters the stand of India's aviation regulator asking the airline and its low-cost rival GoAir to replace all unmodified engines by May 31. On Friday, pilots on an IndiGo-operated A320neo jet en route Kolkata witnessed engine vibrations shortly after taking off from Ahmedabad, following which the aircraft returned back to the airport.

"On February 7, an A320neo aircraft VT-IVY was involved in air turn-back to Ahmedabad due to high vibrations on No.2 engine. As per the procedure, the crew reduced the thrust on the affected engine and the vibrations became normal. When the thrust was increased again on the affected engine, the vibrations reappeared and were accompanied by light airframe vibration. Following this, the crew decided to turn back and the aircraft was landed safely at Ahmedabad..." a government official told *The Indian Express*, adding that the aircraft was powered by an unmodified Pratt & Whitney engine suffering the low-pressure turbine issue.

ENGINE VIBRATIONS AFTER TAKE OFF

■ On Friday, pilots on an IndiGo-operated A320neo jet en route Kolkata witnessed engine vibrations shortly after taking off from Ahmedabad, following which the aircraft returned back to the airport

■ Four air turn-back, or in-flight shut down events, were witnessed on Airbus

A320neo planes operated by IndiGo in a week during October last year due to the failure of third stage low pressure turbine blades

■ The DGCA, on November 1, told IndiGo to replace the engines in 97 A320neo aircraft "at all costs" by January 31 or they would be grounded; the deadline was extended till May 31.

Confirming the incident, IndiGo said in a statement: "This morning, an IndiGo aircraft operating Ahmedabad to Kolkata was returned to Ahmedabad. During the flight, the pilot momentarily observed a caution message and followed the laid down standard operating procedures. Taking a precautionary measure, the pilot landed back at the Ahmedabad airport. The aircraft was back in operation after inspection".

Four air turn-back, or in-flight shut down events, were witnessed on Airbus A320neo planes operated by IndiGo in a week during October last year due to the failure of third stage low pressure turbine blades. Therefore, stating that "desperate measures" were required to "put things in order", the Directorate General of Civil Aviation on November 1 told IndiGo to replace the engines in 97 A320neo aircraft "at all costs" by January 31 or they would be grounded. Later, the deadline was extended till May 31. GoAir was

also asked to replace all of its unmodified engines by May 31. The airlines won't be allowed to fly any unmodified engines after the deadline. As per the latest information, about 70 per cent of the total engines of IndiGo's operational fleet were found to be modified and all aircraft had at least one modified engine on their wing.

Even as the aircraft operating on the flight that turned back to Ahmedabad was later cleared to fly, the incident was the 23rd such event in around two years involving a snag-ridden Pratt & Whitney engine being operated by IndiGo on its Airbus A320neo aircraft. At the root of the current set of problems with the Pratt & Whitney engines are the unmodified set of engines that have seen problem pertaining to damage of low-pressure turbines. As per a government official, the manufacturer had identified fracture of the mid-turbine frame piston seal, which contributed to nearly half of the low-pressure turbine-related events. Once the problem was identified, inspections were conducted and the manufacturer was asked to replace the engines with those having modified parts that are less susceptible to these problems.

BRIEFLY

US payroll gains seen picking up

Washington: US job growth likely picked up in January, with unseasonably mild temperatures seen boosting hiring in the weather-sensitive sectors, indicating the economy will probably continue to grow moderately despite a deepening slump in investment. **REUTERS**

Amazon invests over ₹2,500 cr in 2 India biz

New Delhi: Amazon has infused over Rs 2,500 crore into two of its Indian businesses, Amazon Seller Services and Amazon Data Services India, as per filings. **PTI**

Byju's raises \$200 mn from General Atlantic

New Delhi: Byju's has raised a fresh \$200 million from its existing backer General Atlantic as part of its ongoing financing round, which gave the firm a valuation of nearly \$8.2 billion, sources said. **FE**

Trump, Xi reaffirm backing for Phase 1 deal

Washington: US President Donald Trump expressed confidence in China's resilience in confronting its coronavirus outbreak in a conversation with President Xi Jinping Thursday, a White House spokesman said.

Fed says risks to economy easing in US

Washington: A "moderately" expanding US economy was slowed last year by a manufacturing slump and weak global growth, but key risks have receded and the likelihood of recession has declined, the Fed said in its latest monetary policy report to the US Congress. **REUTERS**

CORONAVIRUS IMPACT

Suzuki, Toyota start to look beyond China

REUTERS
TOKYO, FEBRUARY 7

SUZUKI MOTOR Corp said on Friday it was considering sourcing vehicle components from outside China, as the spread of a new coronavirus in the country threatens to disrupt vehicle production in its biggest market, India.

Toyota too on Friday said production at all its China plants would remain suspended through February 16.

Suzuki is the latest auto maker bracing for disruption in production and supply chains, as the epidemic spreads fast, killing almost 640 people.

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV said a European plant could close within two weeks if Chinese parts suppliers cannot get back to work soon.

Suzuki does not produce or sell any cars in China, but pro-

Fiat Chrysler said a European plant could close within two weeks if Chinese parts suppliers cannot get back to work soon. Suzuki procures some components for its plants in India

cures some components there for its plants in India, where it controls around half of the passenger vehicle market via its local unit Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.

Its global car production has not been impacted yet, but Suzuki is looking at the possibility of procuring "made in China" car parts from other regions if it cannot access parts due to ongoing stoppages, managing of-

ficer Masahiko Nagao told reporters.

Toyota, which operates 12 vehicle and components factories in China, said it would extend its production stoppage "after considering various factors, including guidelines from local and region governments, parts supply, and logistics."

"For the week of Feb. 10, we will be preparing for the return to normal operation from Feb. 17 and beyond," it said in a statement. The decision extends Toyota's initial plans to suspend operations through Sunday, and comes as the threat from the coronavirus crisis closes in on the global auto industry.

South Korea's Hyundai Motor and affiliate Kia Motors said on Friday that they plan to restart production at their Chinese factories on Feb. 17, from a previously planned February 9.

Foxconn refits output lines to make masks

REUTERS
SHANGHAI, FEBRUARY 7

A NUMBER of Chinese manufacturers including a subsidiary of Apple Inc partner Foxconn have refitted production lines to make masks and medical clothing, as a deadly coronavirus spreads across China. The move highlights how private companies are pitching in to alleviate a nationwide shortage of medical gear amid the health crisis, at times expanding beyond their core lines of business.

Foxconn said it has begun trial production of surgical masks at its Longhua Park plant in Shenzhen, and expects to produce 2 million masks daily by end of the month.

'India not negotiating comprehensive free trade agreement with US currently'

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

THE GOVERNMENT on Friday said that currently, India is not negotiating a comprehensive free-trade agreement (FTA) with the US.

"No, Sir. Presently, India is not negotiating a comprehensive FTA with the US," Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

Both the countries are negotiating a trade package kind of a thing with a view to resolve trade irritants and push two-way commerce.

A US team is likely to visit India to finalise talks on the proposed trade package ahead of the visit of US President Donald Trump.

India is demanding exemption from high duties imposed by the

Goyal: No plan to impose curbs on Malaysian imports

New Delhi: There is no proposal to impose a restriction on import of any item from Malaysia, Parliament was informed Friday.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said that currently, crude palm oil is freely importable while refined palm oil has been put under the restricted category. **PTI**

US on certain steel and aluminium products, resumption of export benefits to certain domestic products under their Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), greater market access for its products from sectors including agriculture, automobile, automobile

सैनिक स्कुल अम्बिकापुर (छत्तीसगढ़)
(सैनिक स्कुल सोसायटी, रक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा संचालित)

निविदा सूचना

सैनिक स्कुल अम्बिकापुर, मेड़काला, जिला- सरगुजा (छत्तीसगढ़) में निम्नलिखित सामग्री की आपूर्ति/सेवाओं के लिए पंजीकृत फर्मों से निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:-

| क्र. | निविदा | निविदा फार्म की किमत (अप्रतिदेय) | धरोहर राशि (EMD) | अनुमानित वार्षिक खरीदी |
|------|--|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | कार्यबल / श्रमिक (Manpower) की सेवाओं | Rs. 100.00 | Rs. 1 लाख | Rs. 20 लाख |
| 2 | चावल (Rice) की आपूर्ति | Rs. 100.00 | Rs. 36,000.00 | Rs. 12 लाख |
| 3 | खाद्य सामग्री (Food item) की आपूर्ति | Rs. 100.00 | Rs. 50,000.00 | Rs. 16 लाख |
| 4 | किराने (Grocery item) के सामान की आपूर्ति | Rs. 100.00 | Rs. 36,000.00 | Rs. 12 लाख |
| 5 | यूनिफॉर्म एक्सेसरीस (Uniform Accessories) की आपूर्ति | Rs. 100.00 | Rs. 15,000.00 | Rs. 05 लाख |
| 6 | नाई कार्य (Barber Services) की सेवाओं | Rs. 100.00 | Rs. 5,000.00 | Rs. 02 लाख |
| 7 | मुद्रण कार्य (Printing Work) | Rs. 100.00 | Rs. 30,000.00 | Rs. 10 लाख |

निविदा फार्म दिनांक 08 फरवरी 2020 से 28 फरवरी 2020 के मध्य सभी कार्यालयीन दिवसों पर सैनिक स्कुल अम्बिकापुर, मेड़काला, जिला- सरगुजा (छत्तीसगढ़) पिन कोड- 497001 से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। निविदा पत्र केन्द्रीय सार्वजनिक खरीद पोर्टल (CPP Portal) <https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app> में भी उपलब्ध है। निविदा फार्म सैनिक स्कुल अम्बिकापुर की वेबसाइट www.sainikschoolambikapur.org.in से भी डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 28 फरवरी 2020 को सुबह 11.00 बजे तक है। निविदा पेट्री सैनिक स्कुल अम्बिकापुर, मेड़काला में दिनांक 28 फरवरी 2020 को सुबह 11.30 बजे खोले जायेंगे। डाउनलोड किये गये निविदा फार्म धरोहर राशि के साथ निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रुपये 100/- (अप्रतिदेय) का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट जो "प्राचार्य सैनिक स्कुल अम्बिकापुर" के नाम से देय हो लाना अनिवार्य है। डाउनलोड किया हुआ निविदा फार्म बिना डिमांड ड्राफ्ट के स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा एवं निरस्त माना जायेगा। प्राचार्य, सैनिक स्कुल अम्बिकापुर के पास किसी भी निविदा को किसी भी स्तर पर रद्द/स्थगित करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।

प्राचार्य, सैनिक स्कुल, अम्बिकापुर

1034

₹4L cr of bad loans recovered through insolvency proceedings'

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

DUE TO the Narendra Modi government's efforts to bring down non-performing assets (NPAs) in banks and financial institutions, Rs 4 lakh crore has been recovered through insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings since 2014 which is a "major achievement," Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur said on Friday.

Addressing the 70th annual function of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), the minister said when Modi assumed office in 2014 in his first term, NPA stood Rs 52

lakh crore. Due to the strong action taken by the financial institutions by initiating legal proceedings and following due process on the orders of the Central government, NPAs were brought down to Rs 18 lakh crore. The legal proceedings further continued wherein Rs 4 lakh crore was recovered, he said. Thakur appealed to the chartered accountants to help the government by asking their clients to end litigations as much as possible and ensure that such financial institutions got back their dues.

"It is our collective responsibility to help in further boosting the country's economy," Thakur said.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY
e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 38/19-20/SE/PHC/PKD. KIIFB - 17-18 - CWSS to Resolve the scarcity of drinking water in various gramma panchayaths in Malampuzha - Phase-I Package III - Construction of 11.5LL, 20 LL & 8LL OHSRs, CWP and CW pumpsets. EMD : Rs. 500000. Tender fee : Rs. 16800. Last Date for submitting Tender : 29-02-2020 03:00pm. Phone : 04912544927. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in. www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Palakkad

KWA-JB-GL-6-651-2019-20

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
10-3-311/A, CASTLE HILLS, MASAB TANK, HYDERABAD - 500 028
CIN: L13100AP1956GOI001674

E-AUCTION SALE OF ROUGH DIAMONDS FROM NMDC DIAMOND MINING PROJECT, MAJHGAWAN, PANNA

NMDC will display lots of rough diamonds of about 20,400 carats from 12/02/2020 to 14/02/2020 at NMDC Diamond Mining Project, Majhgawan, Panna and from 18/02/2020 to 20/02/2020 at Surat Hira Bourse, Katargam, Surat to be sold through e-auction conducted by M/S MSTC Limited.

For further details regarding the time of display, E-Auction and admission procedure, buyers may visit NMDC Website: www.nmdc.co.in or GM, Panna at 07732-271234 or contact DGM (Coml), Panna at mobile no. +91-9490491738 or HO, Hyderabad at mobile no. +91-9490759607; M/S MSTC Limited +91-9655054645/+91-7406047869.

SAHARANPUR SMART CITY LIMITED

NIT Number: 420/PARKS/SAHART Date: 05.02.2020

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Saharanpur Smart City Limited invite bids for Re-tender Rejuvenation & enhancement of 9 parks with operation & maintenance of 5 years in Saharanpur smart city.

The RFP can be downloaded from the website www.etender.up.nic.in from 5th February 2020 onwards.

Key dates :

| S. No. | Description | Date, Time & Place |
|--------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Uploading RFP | 05.02.2020 |
| 2 | Submission of pre bid queries | 11.02.2020 |
| 3 | Pre bid meeting | 13.02.2020 11:00 am SSCL OFFICE |
| 4 | Last date of submission of bid | 24.02.2020 04:00 pm |
| 5 | Technical bid opening | 24.02.2020 04:30 pm |

Nodal Officer
Saharanpur Smart City Limited, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh

AUTO EXPO 2020



NEW IGNIS WITH BS-VI PETROL ENGINE

Maruti Suzuki India Limited MD & CEO Kenichi Ayukawa and Executive Director, Marketing and Sales, Shashank Srivastava launch the new compact urban SUV Maruti Suzuki IGNIS during the Auto Expo 2020, in Greater Noida, on Friday. **PTI**

Apple fined \$27 mn in France over iPhone-slowng software

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS, FEBRUARY 7

FRANCE'S CONSUMER watchdog said Friday that Apple had agreed to pay 25 million euros (\$27.4 million) for failing to tell iPhone users that software updates could slow down older devices.

The scandal erupted in December 2017, when the US tech giant admitted that its most

recent iOS software was slowing the performance of older telephones whose battery life was deteriorating.

Critics accused the firm of surreptitiously forcing users to buy phones sooner than necessary, and the outcry forced Apple to upgrade its software and offer steep discounts on battery replacements.

French prosecutors opened an inquiry in January 2018 at the request of the Halt Planned Obsolescence (HOP) association.

"iPhone owners were not informed that installing iOS updates (10.2.1 and 11.2) could slow down their devices," the DGCCRF anti-fraud agency said in a statement.

"This is a historic victory against scandalous ready-to-rubbish practices, for consumers as well as the environment," HOP co-founders Laetitia Vasseur and Samuel Sauvage said, adding that they will consider filing claims for additional damages for iPhone clients.

Gottstein to be new Credit Suisse CEO after Thiam quits over espionage scandal

REUTERS
ZURICH, FEBRUARY 7

TIDJANE THIAM has quit as Credit Suisse chief executive after a spying scandal that has hit the reputation of Switzerland's second-biggest bank and shocked the country's financial community.

Thomas Gottstein, who is head of the Swiss business at Credit Suisse, will take over from Thiam, the Zurich-based lender said on



Tidjane Thiam. AP file photo

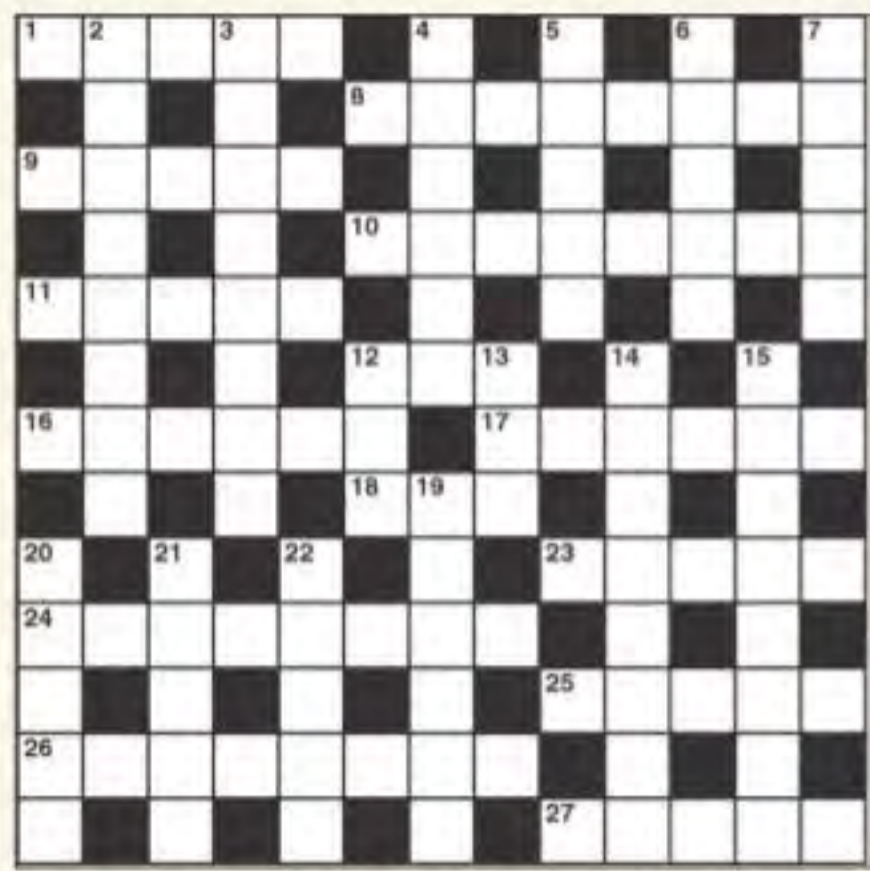
Friday. His departure ends a conflict with Chairman Urs Rohner af-

ter revelations that the bank had snooped on former executives raised questions over its culture.

The espionage involving Credit Suisse surfaced in September when former star wealth manager Iqbal Khan, after defecting to rival UBS, confronted a private detective who was following him and his wife through Zurich.

A spokesman for Switzerland's market supervisor FINMA said it was important that calm was restored to the bank.

CROSSWORD 4036



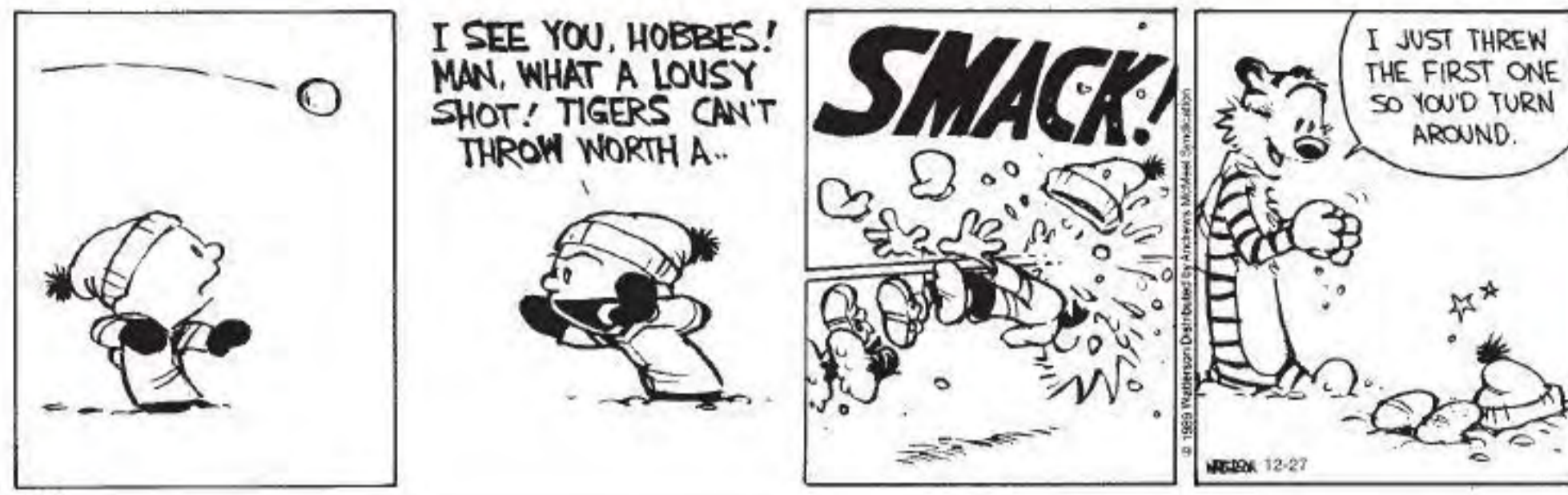
- ACROSS**
1 Succession of command (5)
8 Trifling, perhaps, with one's affections? (8)
9 Legally prevent poets being translated (5)
10 Office location (8)
11 A boring couple (5)
12 To sum up briefly a religious scholar (3)
16 Fitting task for a puzzle addict? (6)
17 Subjected to decreasing pressure? (6)
18 Left with a thousand to beat (3)
23 Tito's upset the Italian singing-master (5)
24 Scratch game (8)
25 Untrue statement about an essential part of one's diet (5)
26 Tales of the Camerons in trouble (8)
27 A word in one's ear from aides (5)
- Down**
2 Check the others before wet weather (8)
3 He acts in a dispiriting way (8)
4 Old man chopped down tree (6)
5 Something growing in the wood (5)
6 One of five who understand it (5)
7 Get involved with an intermediary (5)
12 It helps a cobbler break the law (3)
13 Ten cents is pointlessly stupid (3)
14 Unimportant persons, found after well-planned murders (8)
15 Shakespearean clown, blushing, was rotten (8)
19 They fight with one another (6)
20 Appropriate (5)
21 An act that violates an act (5)
22 Timber re-ordered by one (5)

Solutions Crossword 4035: Across: 1 Flower show, 6 Boss, 10 Wills, 11 A cup of tea, 12 Schedule, 13 Knead, 15 Maidens, 17 Trooper, 19 Undrawn, 21 Almoner, 22 Adieu, 24 Currants, 27 Chastised, 28 Inner, 29 Shed, 30 Water Music. Down: 1 Fowl, 2 Only child, 3 Ensur, 4 Statues, 5 Opulent, 7 Outre, 8 Slandered, 9 Bookworm, 14 Ambulances, 16 Evacuate, 18 Penitents, 20 Nicosia, 21 Abridge, 23 Inane, 25 Axiom, 26 Eric.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**
A great many of you will either be doing a spot of over-time in a special activity or finding some equivalent way to pursue your favourite ambitions. It doesn't matter if you are now here near your place of work, for you'll always find ways to keep busy. That may not mean that you can't see friends today, only that your priorities are different.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**
It seems more than likely that you will have to wait until tomorrow if you wish to kick-start someone, or something, into action at home. Today is an ideal time to pursue a private fantasy, though. If you find someone who shares your dreams, then you'll be fortunate indeed.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**
Practical planets maintain a focus on business. Even if all financial issues have been tidied up, there is still a pressing need to be cool and efficient. Cash questions can be delayed, but if you want to pick up a bargain then there's no better time.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**
The magnitude of coming emotional developments is such that you'd be strongly advised to plan ahead. Just for today, good relations with partners are essential. At home, learn to say 'no' to people who see you as an easy touch. But how did they get this impression? From you, perhaps?
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**
It's an ideal period for routine chores and quick repair jobs. Save tomorrow for the biggest and best social events, and spare no effort to bring people together. Also, look after partners' interests, for there are things which you know that they don't, and experiences you've had, which they can learn from.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**
Today's planetary picture may not be perfect but it's close! If you have any choice in the matter, change travel plans now to suit your interests. Also, resolve any outstanding differences with children, and talk to younger relations - they might actually have some good advice to offer.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**
Today's personal developments continue what was initiated yesterday. If you can possibly make any alterations or adjustments in family arrangements, please do so immediately. If you leave it too long, then you'll find that other people may be unwilling to change.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**
You're not one to waste your time on small talk. There is far too much at stake to follow up dead ends and emotional cul-de-sacs, no matter how other people beg or plead. Make them see the basic facts first, and let them know you'll listen when you figure out what they're talking about.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**
Don't think of practical necessities as an unwelcome intrusion into your otherwise adventurous affairs, but as a vital stepping-stone towards the achievement of a very special life-long ambition. Even the most tedious activities can be enjoyable if you'd only change your attitude.
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**
The stars are saying two things; stay busy but spend time with your family. As far as money is concerned, you should think ahead. You may also delay purchases until next week, if you wish. You never know; you might find a better deal somewhere else.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**
Today's stars are moderately lively - and a little careworn. Discretion remains an important quality. It's not only a matter of what you are prepared to say, but what other people are ready to hear. Consider partners' sensibilities before blurting out the truth!
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**
Potentially excellent social trends continue for another twenty-four hours, but you'll be happiest if there is a definite plan to fit into. This is very necessary for your social self-confidence. You should also keep some extra cash handy for those unexpected costs.

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 quiz.

The _____ is nailed to the cross of his fiction. - Alfred Adler (8)

GOUER **GIRSNT**

KKSIO **DLOYCU**

SOLUTION: ROGUE/ROUGE, KIOSK/STRING, CLOUDY. Answer: The neurotic is nailed to the cross of his fiction.

Difficulty Level 5s

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.

SUDOKU 4114

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | |
| | 1 | 8 | | | | | | |
| 8 | 3 | 7 | | | | | | 9 |
| | | 2 | 8 | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | 5 | 9 | 8 | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 7 | 3 | | | | |
| 2 | 7 | 5 | 4 | | | | | |

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4113

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 8 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 |
| 6 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 5 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 4 |
| 2 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 6 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 3 |

NOTICE BOARD CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS



ADDRESS-NCC
The PM of India took the salute at an impressive ceremonial parade, held at Cariappa Parade Ground, Delhi Cantt, by the NCC Cadets. The PM's Banner was presented to the Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana & Chandigarh Directorate.



AWARD-NBCC
NBCC has been conferred with 'First Prize' for its excellent work in implementation of Rajbhasha. The awards were received by Manas Kaviraj, ED (HRM), NBCC accompanied by senior officials.



MOU-EPCH
Rakesh Kumar, DG - EPCH informed that EPCH signed a MOU with "Hunarmand", an association in the Republic of Uzbekistan, with the objective of promoting arts and crafts of the Country to the world markets.



EXPO-SYNDICATE BANK
Gopalakrishnan, Dy Zonal Manager, Syndicate Bank recently inaugurated the Home Expo Exhibition at RDC Mahalaxmi Mall, attended by 10 well-known builders of the city.



CELEBRATION-PAWAN HANS LTD.
Usha Padhee (IAS), CMD, Pawan Hans Ltd. and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, hoisted the National Flag on the occasion of 71st Republic Day of our Country at Pawan Hans, Corporate Office in Noida (UP). Officers & Employees of the Pawan Hans were present on the occasion. After the Flag hoisting function, CMD, PHL also read out the Preamble to the Constitution of India as part of activities scheduled by the Company in following Cabinet Secretariat and administrative Ministry directives.



QUARANTINE-ITBP
A total of 300 people returned from Wuhan, China and are being looked after by an expert team of Doctors of ITBP. The total number of quarantined people at ITBP Chhawal is 404 out of total 656 people.



MEETING-BIS
BIS recently organized an industrial-cum-licensee meet of manufacturers of Domestic Gas Stove for use with LPG in New Delhi, with the aim to inform manufacturers about the Quality Control Order issued by Govt.



TOUR-CRPF
Dr AP Maheshwari, DG, CRPF recently interacted with a group of around 50 students and teachers from Kashmir who are on Bharat Darshan tour organised by CRPF.



MEETING-AAI
AAI is hosting 36th SBAS IWG meet from Feb 4-7, 2020 at New Delhi. V.Gulati, Member (ANS), AAI, inaugurated the event in the presence of IWG Co-Chairpersons & senior officials & delegates from DGCA, ISRO from IWG members.



FELICITATION-CRPF
Anshuman Yadav, IPS, IGP, M&N Sector, felicitated UG Jadhav who is on a mission to visit families of martyrs and is collecting sacred soil from home of martyrs for creating an memorial in Pulwama.

BHEL In the face of stiff competition, BHEL has won an order for the Electro-Mechanical works for the 40 MW Rahughat Hydroelectric Project in Nepal. The order has been placed on BHEL by the Raghuganga Hydropower Ltd., a company 100% owned by Nepal Electricity Authority. The project is majorly funded by EXIM Bank of India in the form of a soft loan, along with funding from NEA & the Govt. of Nepal. WAPCOS, India is the project consultant. Major equipment for the contract will be manufactured & supplied by BHEL's plants at Bhopal, Jhansi, Rudrapur and Bengaluru, while the installation activities on-site will be carried out by the company's Power Sector - Northern Region division, Noida.



APPOINTMENTS
SAIL Recently, Anirban Dasgupta took charge as the Director Projects & Business Planning of SAIL. Before assuming the current responsibility, he was the CEO of SAIL's Bhilai Steel Plant. He shall continue to look after the works of CEO - BSP till further orders. A distinguished alumnus of IIT, BHU in Metallurgy, Dasgupta started his career in Centre for Engineering & Technology (CET) of SAIL in 1986. During his career in CET, he worked in several important areas, which included preparation of feasibility reports and tender specifications of various projects in SAIL, collaborating with M/s McKinsey & Company for restructuring of SAIL. Dasgupta has undergone specialized training programs in India & abroad and won several awards and recognition for exemplary performance.



POWERGRID Recently, VK Singh has assumed the charge of Director (Personnel) of POWERGRID. Prior to this, he worked as Senior GM (HRD) handling flag ship projects such as Capacity Building, restructuring policies & procedures for NER States, strategic alliances pertaining to Learning & Development for employees as well as external customers. Since joining POWERGRID in 1992, he has worked in all facets of HR, including Amalgamation, Turnaround & Culture Building, which gave him exposure to entire gamut of the Company's business at different levels. He has been a part of exponential growth of POWERGRID & witnessed the organization grow into a Maharatna, during his career spanning over 30-year.



NCR Recently, Rajiv Chaudhry, GM, NCR, has taken over the additional charge of GM, NR. Shortly after assuming charges, he reviewed the safety and punctuality in a meeting held at NR Headquarters, Baroda House, New Delhi. He has extensive and varied experience over the past more than 33 years, in all sectors of rail transport, including their operation and maintenance, planning, designing execution and maintenance of large civil engineering projects in their railway/metro sector, formulation, launching and monitoring of policy implementation initiative.

POWERGRID has posted a PAT of Rs. 2,673 cr & Total Income of Rs. 9,497 cr for Q3 (Oct-Dec, 2019) on standalone basis. On a consolidated basis, it has posted PAT & Total Income of Rs. 2,672 cr & Rs. 9,541 cr respectively for Q3 (Oct-Dec, 2019), registering an increase of about 14% & 7%, respectively, with respect to corresponding period of FY19. For 9-month period (Apr-Dec, 2019), the PAT & Total Income on standalone basis are Rs. 7,629 cr & Rs. 27,908 cr, respectively, which are about 11% & 7% higher with respect to corresponding period of FY19, while on consolidated basis, the PAT & Total Income are Rs. 7,746 cr & Rs. 28,163 cr are respectively, registering growth of 11% and 8% respectively.

SCOPE welcomed the Union Budget & believes that announcements by Finance Minister shall pave way for a robust economic growth. Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE, while appreciating the various measures proposed, is of the opinion that Union Budget is in line with the progressive measures adopted by the government in the recent past & shall provide the much needed impetus to both investment & consumption - the key drivers of the economy. New policy announcements for education, logistics, data centre parks, new science & technology, climate change are heartening for developing a New India.

NDMC Dharmendra, Chairman, NDMC, recently inaugurated a workshop for awareness on Corona Virus to update the Doctors working in NDMC's Allopathic and AYUSH Hospital and Dispensaries at NDMC Convention Centre in New Delhi. It was emphasized by Chairman, NDMC that stress may be given to the prevention part of this disease like what we should do and what to be told to general public to prevent the transmission. Secretary, NDMC Amit Singla; MO of Health - NDMC, Dr Ramesh; Sr. CMO - Dr. RN Singh; CMO (Projects) - Dr. Shakuntala; Advisor Health - Dr. PK Sharma & other senior Doctors & health Officers of NDMC were also present on this occasion.

SAIL's Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has achieved a new feat by successfully rolling out the first coil from its newly installed world-class Hot Strip Mill-2 (HSM-2). The mill will primarily cater to the domestic requirements of high-end steel, which at present is mostly being imported. The new Hot Strip Mill with 3 MTPA capacity is a state-of-the-art mill with few parallels in India and will be producing world-class hot-rolled (HR) coils. Incidentally, within two days of the commencement of hot trails of the mill, it has rolled out its first coil successfully. The Mill has been set up at a cost of about Rs. 3000 Cr and will enrich the product basket and will enhance the Company's market share.

INDIAN OIL In its quest to embrace emerging energy alternatives and to firm up viable, customer-convenient automobile battery technology options, Indian Oil has firming up its equity participation in Phinergy, Israel, for production of metal-air batteries. Referring to the affirmative step in battery technology space, Mr. Sanjiv Singh, Chairman, Indian Oil, said that Indian Oil is evaluating and firming up a number of opportunities to provide Indian automobile consumers feasible and scalable alternative energy options.

22 BODY & MIND

Exam time, and seven ways to rock it



IMAGINE
BY SHELJA SEN

Dear students
Exam time is here, and inevitably, many of you might be experiencing a general sense of feeling overwhelmed and being out of control as there is so much to do. As I work with young people, I have been really curious and fascinated by how they manage their stress, learn and master the art of taking exams. Therefore, over the years, I have picked up some pretty cool tricks and simple strategies to get you to de-stress and start ROCKING (acronym that you can remember without straining your already overloaded memory).

REACH YOUR 'SWEET SPOT' – Think of the time when you remember yourself “being in the zone” – where your mind was calm, focused and you could get a lot done. Where were you sitting, what time of the day was it, and what helped you to be in a state of flow? For each person it is different – some like to study in a quiet space like a library and others prefer more hustle and bustle. Some feel that their brain works best early morning and some

late at night.

I met a young person who could not study in a cluttered room and another who had to keep moving from room to room for different subjects to shift gears. Whatever rocks your boat and gets your brain buzzing, but make sure that you manage to get good sleep, eat healthy food and get some exercise. A tired and exhausted mind and body can come in the way of finding your “sweet spot”.

OWN IT – Most smart learners know how important it is to pace themselves, do practice tests, and use the 3R approach (read, recall, revise) to minimise forgetting. And most importantly, understand your learning style. If you are a visual learner, then you might learn best by making notes, highlighting, making colourful mind maps on flip charts, writing relevant information on whiteboards, and watching videos on Khan Academy. Auditory learners like to read aloud, teach others, brainstorm different concepts, use drama, role-plays and make up silly songs to help you get a deeper understanding of your subjects. Kinaesthetic learners might like to walk around, play with a ball, use fidgets, chew gum or do anything as long as there is some level of movement. Sometimes a mix of three can ramp up your learning.

CHANGE THE CHANNEL – Now you might be thinking, “All this is well and good, but I am so stressed out that I can't get myself to study.” Our brains are little tricksters, and when it senses some danger (in this situation exams) it goes on overdrive with “I am going to mess up!” “My parents will be so disappointed!” On and on it goes like a radio, at times silent, at

Despite all the fuss made about exams, remember they do not define you or the rest of your life



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

times softly murmuring and many times broadcasting in a loud voice. It is tough to study when the radio of negativity is blaring. I have a simple yet effective trick that I have learned from children, and it is as easy as ABC.

Alert: Be aware of this radio of negativity and as soon as it starts, just label it (radio of negativity), and you will see the volume go down.

Breathe out: Imagine you have a feather on your palm, in front of your face. Now

breathe out forcefully to blow it away. Then, take a deep breath in slowly. Do it a few times till you feel your body and mind relaxing.

Change the channel: Change the channel of this radio by getting up (movement is essential) and doing something to distract yourself. Go for a short walk, make a snack for yourself or do a quick dance to your favourite number.

KEEP THE PQ – Now you might have heard of

IQ (intelligence quotient), but you might be wondering what PQ is. Well, it stands for playfulness quotient (I have cooked this up myself) which is all about how funny, crazy, whacky you can get, and I believe it is much more important than IQ. All Harry Potter fans know that Riddikulus is a spell used against Boggarts. A Boggart is a shape-shifter that feeds on fear, and is defeated by humour and laughter. To get rid of it, the caster has to think of something outrageously funny and ridiculous. For example, a young girl I met shared with me that every time she senses exam stress around, she turns it into a shrieking frisbee and tosses it far away.

IMMERSIVE VISUALISATION – Do you know that Michael Phelps, holder of the all-time world record for maximum gold medals in Olympics, believes that one reason for his success is visualisation? A lot of research has helped us understand that visualisation is very powerful in priming and preparing our brain. Every morning when you get up, try visualising how you would like your day to go. If you get a little panicky on the exam day, just visualise how you would stay calm and confident. The trick is to make it as detailed as possible so that the brain can hold on to the vision and then it will go all out to make sure that you stay on track.

NO TO DISTRACTIONS AND PROCRASTINATION – This is a tough one as we are surrounded by distractions, the biggest ones, of course, being our gadgets and social media. Studying can seem so dull compared to chatting to friends on WhatsApp, checking the latest feeds on

Instagram or bingeing on Netflix. I use ‘dis-

tance and delay’ – for example, while writing this column – I put my laptop on WiFi off mode and kept my phone in another room. The best procrastination buster is to break the task down brick by brick, or what I call the ‘15-minute rule’. Suppose you have been procrastinating studying Chemistry, then maybe the first brick would be just telling yourself that you would study it for 15 minutes and then move to another subject. It will cut down the inertia and possibly make it easier for you to come back to it next time.

GROUNDING – At times constant churning out of the radio of negativity can be nerve-racking, so you need a quick grounding exercise to get you out of your head and into your body. You start with a deep breath and then look at five things in the room that you can see (lamp, book, window etc.), four things that you can touch (go ahead and touch them), three things that you can hear, two things you can smell and one thing that you can taste. I would also suggest short five-minute to three-minute-long guided meditation on apps like Calm or Headspace. Despite all the fuss made about exams, remember they do not define you or the rest of your life. Adults might like to tell you otherwise, but, it is their radio of stress speaking. So do not take it personally. All the best for your exams and make sure you keep ROCKING!

– Shelja

(Dr Shelja Sen is a therapist, writer and co-founder of Children First, a child & adolescent mental health institute) write to shelja.sen@childrenfirstindia.com

DIET DIARY

Why we need more digestive enzymes in our meals



BY ISHI KHOSLA

AN INCREASING number of individuals, including young children, are complaining of digestive issues in varying degrees, from mild to serious. Whether it is bloating, heartburn, acid reflux, constipation, Crohn's or colitis, understanding the root causes of these problems is essential to treatment. Poor digestive health is often the precursor of ill health and lifestyle diseases. An important factor behind these disorders is inadequate enzymes that support all our body functions. One way to address and improve overall gut health is to introduce foods rich in natural enzymes in the diet.

Enzymes are protein-type substances that are catalysts involved in chemical reactions which support life. The pumping of our hearts, breathing and digestion are all dependent on enzymes. There are 3,000-5,000 known enzymes. The ones involved in digestion – digestive enzymes – are able to break down proteins, carbohydrates and fats.

Our bodies create many of our own digestive enzymes in the pancreas, stomach, saliva, and intestines. But with stress, age and genetics, some people produce less enzymes over time. Consuming an enzyme-rich diet can play a role in the management of digestive disorders, from lactose intolerance to even autoimmune disorders. Digestive enzymes also result in health benefits such as faster metabolism, a healthier immune system and better nutrient absorption.

Unfortunately urban diets – high on processed foods, low-nutrient snacks, fried foods – are poor in natural enzymes. Other factors which lower our bodies' natural enzymes include excess alcohol, smoking, stress, drugs and toxic substances in our environment.

By eating foods that contain natural digestive enzymes, one can promote gut health and get the digestive system working efficiently. They are found in raw, fermented, unpasteurised and very lightly-cooked (under 118° F) foods. Remember that freshly-picked fruits and vegetables are loaded with enzymes.

Increasing the intake of fresh organic vegetables and fruits, either raw or minimally cooked, and fermented foods, along with moderate exercise, good sleep and a calm, relaxed mind can help support good gut health, digestion and invigorate our health.

Foods with natural digestive enzymes

- Pineapple and Papaya
- Avocado
- Garlic and onions
- Raw honey
- Fermented and sprouted products: Saurkraut, kimchi, pickled vegetables, kanji, kefir, kombucha, yoghurt, miso, olives, sour-dough bread, ciders and natural vinegars.

Author is a clinical nutritionist and founder of www.theweightmonitor.com and Whole Foods India

When a friend is in need, show you care with food

If you want to give someone a food gift to show you care, consider cooking for them

ANNA PERLING

LIKE IT is with many cooks, food is my mother's love language.

As a child, I watched her make meals for people as they celebrated births, pushed through cancer, moved, or mourned, packing a pop-up basket with aluminum pans and zip-top bags. The dishes inside were always carefully calibrated to the recipient. Sometimes it was black beans and rice with gazpacho for a vegetarian friend, or simply roasted chicken and potatoes for a neighbour with colitis. Often it was a traditional Jewish comfort dish, like brisket or matzo ball soup, that she knew our family craved.

Food can't solve every problem. But delivering a homemade dish or edible gift to someone's door is a concrete response to the sometimes hard-to-answer question of “What can I do to help?”

In our digital age of apps and near-instant delivery services, there are many creative ways in which you can nourish people and make sure you are giving them something they actually want. And if you are the one who needs nourishing, you can suggest these same ideas to those close to you. Either way, here is how to show you care with food.

Cook, or freeze, for others

If you are cooking for other people, consider their needs first – even if you are a seasoned cook who loves to experiment. Emily Weinstein, deputy food editor for The New York Times and editor of NYT Cooking, suggests putting yourself in the recipient's shoes. “Ask yourself, ‘What's the brief, what's the need? And how can I meet it?’” Weinstein said.

She recommends making comfort foods with a twist, like lasagna, meatballs, chili, or lentil soup, all of which freeze and reheat well. Margaux Laskey, senior staff editor at NYT Cooking, said casseroles, meatloaf, quick breads, drop cookies, and cakes are also great ideas.

Of course, consider potential food allergies as well as dietary or religious restrictions. But also ask about special circumstances and space limits. You can cook a large-batch meal or portion foods individually using zip-top bags, containers, wax paper, or foil, letting people reheat small amounts when they are hungry.

Clearly labeling instructions, delivering meals that are already hot, and bringing premade add-ons like salad dressing can help streamline preparing and serving, especially when your recipient isn't thinking about cooking. Both Weinstein and Laskey recommend labeling your containers if you want them back.

It doesn't matter if you're not an experienced cook, said Weinstein. “I really can't emphasise this enough,” she said. “It's just that you took the moment to think of somebody.” Bringing something you didn't make yourself, like a bag of granola, an excellent hot sauce, or a rotisserie chicken from your local grocery store, is still appreciated.



Getty Images



It doesn't matter if you're not an experienced cook, said Weinstein. “I really can't emphasise this enough,” she said. “It's just that you took the moment to think of somebody.” Bringing something you didn't make yourself from your local grocery store is still appreciated.

Give a gift basket that's actually good

Whether your friend or loved one is sick, in mourning, or freshly moved into a new home, getting an edible treat in the mail is a welcome break from the usual bills and circulars. Before you buy, consider any dietary constraints, how long the items might last, and how many people the gift is for. You can also send tea or coffee for a much-needed caffeine boost. On-the-go options, like instant coffee or tea, may be better for people who are working, traveling, or camping out at a hospital. (If you know your recipients are staying home, you can pair loose-leaf tea with a fine-meshed steeper or send over a box of great coffee.

Delivery when they want it

Sometimes the best gift is giving people exactly what they want, when they want it. You can purchase gift cards for food delivery services like GrubHub and

Uber Eats or pick one up from a local restaurant. That way, people can get take-out on their own time frame. Alternatively, you can place an order yourself so that it arrives at their door at just the right time.

If people can still cook but aren't able to shop for themselves, you could also ask for their grocery list and send them what they need through a delivery service. Another creative idea is a gift card for a meal kit service.

Again, you don't want your gift to make things more difficult, so check in with your friend or family member beforehand to find out whether they are really up for cooking. What you do for others, you can do for yourself. If you are going through a tough time of your own and people are pestering you about how they can help, offer up these ideas yourself. Don't be afraid of breaking a taboo by asking for what you want or need. You are giving people a purpose and can return the favour later on.

NYT

SHORT COURSE

[0-10 YEARS] Sleep problems among infants improve by age two



SLEEP problems among children are very common, and improve by the time they reach the age of two, according to a first-of-its-kind study which may help parents understand if their toddler's sleep patterns are normal or not. The study, published in the journal *Sleep Medicine*, found that the time taken to fall asleep reduces to an average of 20 minutes by the age of six months, and by the time infants are two years old, they wake up only once during the night on average. According to the researchers, an infant's sleep becomes more stable and consistent during the first two years, and the total amount of time spent in slumber reduces to around 12 hours per day as daytime naps get shorter. However, they said, there can be large individual variations in the quality of sleep of babies and toddlers. PTI

[20-50 YEARS] Sugary coffee drinks tied to poor sleep for young women



NEARLY half of all young women in a study said they were poor sleepers, and those who drank sugary coffee beverages and energy drinks tended to have the worst sleep quality. The researchers analysed responses from 462 women who had participated in a long-term study as teenagers, beginning in 2006. In 2015, the women answered a sleep quality questionnaire to rate their sleep duration, how often they wake up during the night, how long they take to fall asleep and any use of medications. Sleep quality scores were calculated based on seven aspects of sleep. Women who said they consumed energy drinks or high-calorie beverages were more likely to report poor sleep quality, the authors report in the journal *Sleep Health*. REUTERS

[50+] Eating eggs may not impact heart health at all, says study



People who eat an egg a day are no more likely than those who rarely eat eggs to have high cholesterol, heart attacks and strokes or to die prematurely, a large study suggests. “Previous studies on egg consumption and diseases have been contradictory because most of these studies were relatively small or moderate in size and did not include individuals from a large number of countries,” said a researcher. The new study included 1,770,000 people from 50 countries on six continents. “It is also possible that the health effects of eggs could depend on the background diet, with eggs providing different effects depending on the quality of protein in the diet,” said the researcher. Eggs are a primary source of dietary cholesterol, but they also contain high-quality lean protein and many vitamins, the researchers note in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. REUTERS

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान मोहली
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH MOHALI
Tender Notice
Supply and installation of Widefield Fluorescence Microscope Workstation

CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar (Established by Parliament Act 16 of 1970) Tender Notice
CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar is inviting Tender for following equipments/items :-
1. Purchase of Biscuit cutting Machine under IDP Project, Director of Research.

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED (A State Government Undertaking) Notice Inviting Tender
HPSEBL invites Tender from Distribution Licensees and Eligible Electricity Traders having Interstate Trading License (Category-II & above) from the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) for Banking & Sale of Non-Solar Renewable Energy by HPSEBL during summer/monsoon months for FY 2020-21.

CORRIGENDUM
Some modification/correction has been done with reference to the tender notice of different packages issued vide this office letter No. 17104-13 on dated 18.01.2020 published in different newspapers on dated 20.01.2020 to 21.01.2020.

CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar (Established by Parliament Act 16 of 1970) Tender Notice
CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar is inviting Tender for following equipments/items :-
1. Purchase of disc harrow for DDUCE-OF, CCShAU, Hisar.

Table with 2 columns: Sr. No., Read as, Instead of. Contains details for Package No. HP-11-110 and HP-11-111.

Andhra Pradesh Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation
2nd Floor Plot No. 9, Survey No. 49, IT Park, Mangalagiri - 522 503 Ph. No. 8978680708, email: aphmidsic@gmail.com
Tender Notice No. 16/APMSIDC/2019-20 Dated: 06.02.2020
APMSIDC invites tenders through e-procurement platform for 1. Procurement of Diagnostic Equipment to CHCs in Andhra Pradesh.

Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (A Government of Odisha Undertaking) e-TENDER NOTICE NO. 16/2019-20
For and on behalf of ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD., Sr. G.M. (C.P.C.) invites Tenders from reputed manufacturers/System Integrators in India in two part bidding system for Supply and Erection & Commissioning and AMC of ADMS (AUTOMATIC DEMAND MANAGEMENT SCHEME) for Odisha Power System.

CORRIGENDUM
Some modification/correction has been done with reference to the tender notice of different packages issued vide this office letter No. 17012-20 on dated 17.01.2020 published in different newspapers on dated 18.01.2020 to 19.01.2020.

Table with 2 columns: Sr. No., Read as, Instead of. Contains details for Package No. HP-11-107 and HP-11-113.

The Cement/Steel/Explosive materials etc. shall be arranged by contractor at his own level. The other terms and conditions will remain the same. Superintendent Engineer, 3rd Circle, HPPWD, Solan.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE No.V/W/TVC/2/2020 DATED 04/02/2020
Divisional Railway Manager/Works Branch/Trivandrum Division, Trivandrum-14 for and on behalf of the President of India invites online tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in

AAI CARGO LOGISTICS & ALLIED SERVICES COMPANY LTD. (An AAI Subsidiary), CIN : U74900DL2016GOI0304348
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (ID: 2020_RITES_42374_1)
AAI/CGLAS through the JGM (AP) RITES Ltd. invites online item rate bids on Single Packet system for the following work:-
NIT No.: RITES/AP/AI/CGLAS-AMRITSAR/TENDER/2020/01

MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI
On behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Production, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli is inviting open E-tender (No. MCF/RBL/Dy.CEE/P/2020-21/04 Date-03.02.2020) based on Single packet system online through Indian railway portal: www.ireps.gov.in

UPSIDA
एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि औद्योगिक क्षेत्र इन्फोआर्म्, सिन्दूर, आगरा में स्थित लाइटी एवं हार्ड वॉलर लाइटों के आर्थिक अनुक्रमण कार्य औद्योगिक क्षेत्र सिन्दूर-आगरा-सी के मास्टर प्लान संख्या 70 चार एलईडी लाइट लागू करने के अतिरिक्त विद्युत कर्मों के बदलने का कार्य एवं औद्योगिक क्षेत्र आगरा-सी, अलीपुर, अलीपुर के आकाशिय संकेत में चार एलईडी लाइट लागू करने के कार्य शुरू करके 2016.000 लाख, 200 0.45 लाख एवं 200 0.45 लाख ताराओं की सफाई के निर्माण/संवर्धन/संभार/निर्माण/प्रक्रियण/परिष्कार, नया निकालों में अर्द्ध श्रेणी के बनीकृत एवं विद्युत सुचना विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार सचकात में श्रेणी 'क' अनुसंधान क्षेत्र काइसेनस होल्डर ठेकेदार/कर्म से ई-निविदाओं आमंत्रित की जाती है जो कि दिनांक 11.02.2020 को पूर्णतः 11.00 बजे से 27.02.2020 को राय 5.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है।

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P.) Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & https://etender.up.nic.in.

Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan
Khadi and Village Industries Commission
Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (Govt. of India) Office: K-Block, Chaudhary Building, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110001

E-TENDER NOTICE
Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan, Khadi & Village Industries Commission, Govt. of India invites Sealed Offers / Tenders for employment of professional / branded tailoring / Garment houses preferably having in-house designers for fabricating & designing of Khadi fabrics for Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan, New Delhi.

MEGHALAYA POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (DISTRIBUTION)
SHORT ROUND ROAD, LUMJINGSHAI, SHILLONG-793001, MEGHALAYA
Phone: (0364) 2590229 Fax: 03642591174
CIN: U40101ML2009SGC008374 email: cedist.mepdcl@gmail.com

Tender Notice
Tenders in e-tendering format are invited for 'Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Hardware & Software for implementing 'Real Time Data Acquisition System (RT-DAS)' covering 15 no' 33/11kv Substations (49 feeders) of IPDS Non-SCADA towns in Meghalaya', on single point responsibility 'Full Turnkey' contract basis for specified locations in Meghalaya as defined in the bid documents.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, DELHI
OLD ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006
www.ceodelhi.gov.in

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION - 2020 PUBLIC NOTICE ATTENTION : ALL DIFFERENTLY ABLED VOTERS

Persons with Disabilities Electors have equal rights at par with other voters to come out and vote. Kindly note and avail the facilities/ administrative arrangements made to assist you in casting your vote:
1. Voters with disabilities are to be given priority for entering the polling station, without having to wait in the queue.

Table with 6 columns: S. No., District, Name, Designation, Mobile No., Email-ID. Lists nodal officers for various districts in Delhi.

For any assistance / clarification, please contact above mentioned Nodal Officer of your district.

KINDLY COME OUT AND CAST YOUR VOTE IN LARGE NUMBERS ON 8th FEBRUARY 2020 (between 08.00 AM TO 06.00 PM)
Sd/- (SHILPA SHINDE), IAS CHIEF NODAL OFFICER-II, Delhi
For Voting, Your name in the Electoral Roll is mandatory
NO VOTER TO BE LEFT BEHIND

PREMIA FOOD ADDITIVES INDIA PVT. LTD. COUNTRY HEAD (SALES & MARKETING) 1 Post 7 Years & above selling experience in the field of Bakery premixes...

E-TENDER NOTICE Divisional Railway Manager, N.W. Rly Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open e-tender for the following works upto 15.00 hours on 02.03.2020 as below...

Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is known to all that I, Mohinder Prakash Singh, S/o Sh. Har Prakash Singh R/o-8/2, Nehru-Enclave Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 aged about 50 years...

I, PRIYANSHU D/O 13989988L HAVINA SHASHI KANT PANDEY, R/o-Base Hospital Delhi, Cantt-110010, Permanent Address-VIII, Gaighat, Post-Baghounch, Distt-Ballia (UP)-277401, I have changed my name from PRIYANSHU to PRIYANSHU in my father's service record...

I, HIMANSHU KUMAR, S/O 13989988L HAVINA SHASHI KANT PANDEY, R/o-Base Hospital, Delhi Cantt-110010, Permanent Address-VIII, Gaighat, Post-Baghounch, Distt-Ballia, (UP)-277401, I have changed my Date of Birth in my father's service record...

I, BHAVYA SHARMA, D/O VIKAS KAUSHIK, R/o-1/42 2nd floor, Sec-1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP, have changed my name to BHAVYA KAUSHIK, for all future purposes.

I, ZIKRULLAH son of Mohammad Kalamuddin resident of J.L.Medical College, Aligarh, U.P. Aligarh permanent Resident 195/2 Haroon Colony 2 Pulwari Sharif Patna, Bihar have changed my name from ZIKRULLAH to ZIKRULLAH KALIM for all purposes.

I, Vinod Kumar, R/o #1008, Chams Solitaire, Plot No 14, Ahinsa Khand 2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, UP, have changed my minor son's name from Kanav to Kanav Choudhary for all purposes.

I, Utkarsh Sharma alias Karan Sharma S/o Late Sanjeev Kum Sharma R/o Sai Yashshree Apartment Flat No-303 Dhanori Park Near Canara Bank Tushar Park Dhanori Pune City Dhanori Pune Maharashtra-411015 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Utkarsh Sharma.

I, Tahir S/O Balwant Singh R/O 107, Village- Kurani, Narela, Delhi-110040, Have Changed My Name To Mohammed Tahir.

I, Sunil S/o Inderjeet R/o P-14, Krishna Vihar, Delhi-86 confirm that my name wrongly written in son birth certificate is Sunil Gupta but my correct name is Sunil

I, Subhash Chander S/O Late Tokh Ram, R/O 6064/8, D-6, Shantushti Apartments, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 70, have changed my name to Subhash Chander Jiani for all purposes.

I, Sohail Ahmed S/O Ahmed Saeed R/O-170, Shahzada Bagh, Phase-1, Inderlok, Delhi-35, Have Changed My Name To Suhail Ahmed Qureshi

I, Sanjay S/O Sh. Sukhveer Singh, R/O-12 Budh Vihar Phase-1 Delhi-110086 have changed my name to Sanjay Kumar for all purposes. Both are same person.

I, Sangita Chohan W/O Vishva Vijay Chohan R/O Pkt-Eu-51-B, Pitampura, Delhi-110034. Have Changed My Name To Sangeeta Chohan.

I, SUMEET KUMAR son of A K SHUKLA, AIR FORCE SGT MESS, MCC, AIR FORCE STATION, BASANT NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110010 have changed my name from Sumeet Kumar to Sumeet Kumar Shukla vide affidavit dated 28/12/2019 before Delhi.

I, Rishi Raj Yadav S/O Raj Narayan Singh Yadav, Plot.No-68, Ramprastha Greens-Vaishli Sector-7 Ghaziabad U.P.-201010 Have Changed My Name To Rishi Yadav.

I, Ramesh Gupta S/O Dinanath Gupta R/O Flatno.205, White House-Apartment, Dda-Market, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085. Changed my Name to Ramesh Chandra Gupta.

I, Avtar Singh S/O Hans Raj Ahuja R/o.580,Dr.Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Avtar Singh Ahuja for all future purposes.

I, Ashok Kumar S/O Late Harjiwan Bhai R/O-818, Pocket-I, Paschimpur, New Delhi-110063, That Saraswati And Sharaswati Was The One And The Same Person Who Was My Mother.

I, Mohammad Haider Imam S/O Mohammad Umar R/O Plotno.68-C, Block-K6, Galino.6, Mohan Garden, Delhi-110059. Changed My Name To Mohammad Haider.

I, Yogendra Pratap Singh S/O Late, shri.Banshabahadur Singh R/O Village- and Post-Bajitpur District-Utnao West Sagarpur, New Delhi-110046, have changed my Name Pundev thakur to Pundeo Thakur for all future purposes, Pundev thakur and pundeo thakur is same person.

I, Pallavi Anand D/O (L).R.N.Bhargava R/O-G-69, Uday Vihar-2, Nilothi-Ext. Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-41, changed my name to Pallavi Bhargava.

I, Omaid Singh Khanagwal alias Omaid Singh S/O Late Shri Hari Singh R/O.250, Gali no-13, Than Singh Nagar, Anand Parbat, New Delhi-110005 have changed my name to Omaid Singh Khanagwal.

I, Nutan Jain W/O Umesh Kumar Jain R/O-A-1/164, Sector-5, Rohini Delhi-110085, inform that name of mine has been wrongly-written as Parul Jain in my minor son's Vivaan Jain educational documents. The Actual name of mine is Nutan Jain.

I, Nisha Gupta W/O Sunil Gupta R/O P-14, Krishna Vihar, Delhi-86 confirm that my name wrongly written in son birth certificate is Mamta but my correct name is Nisha Gupta

I, YASHASVI S/O Sh. KULDEEP SINGH R/O 43, GALI NO.-2, SUSHANT VIHAR, IBRAHIM PUR, DELHI-110036, have changed my name to YASHASVI SANGWAN

I, Mohd Akbar S/O Rashid R/O D-1029 Jahangirpuri, Delhi-33, inform that my name wrongly written in several documents Akbar, Md.Akbar, Mohamd Akbar. Correct name is Mohd Akbar for all purposes.

I, Manish S/O Kachru Lal R/O Shriv Durga Nursing Mandir, Pocket-2, Mayur-Vihar-1, Delhi-110091 have my name to Manish Joshi S/O Kachru Lal Joshi.

I, Manish Rawat S/O Hoshiyer Singh R/O-D-2/104 Shiv Durga-Vihar Lakkarpur, Surajkund Faridabad, Haryana-121009, my father's name has been wrongly written in Central Board of Secondary Examination 2011-13 (10th-Certificate) H S Rawat instead of Hoshiyer Singh. My Father's correct-name is Hoshiyer Singh.

I, Krishan Kumar S/O-Banwari Lal Sharma, R/o-103, Type-5, Block-2-AIIMS, Residential-Complex, Dinapur Cum-khagaul-Patna, Bihar, changed my name to Krishan Kumar Sharma.

I, Kashyap Srivastava S/O Raj Kumar Srivastav R/O-C-12/162 Yamuna Vihar Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Kashyap Raj Srivastav, for all purposes

I, Jitendra Kuntal R/O-2K 13, Housing Board Krishna-Nagar Bharatpur-Rajasthan, have changed my minor son's name Pooravash to Poorvansh Kuntal. Vide-Affidavit date-5-2-2020.

I, Dimple kaur, W/O Inderjeet Singh, R/O B-99 Guru Nanak enclave, nilothi extentionnilothi West delhi 110041 have changed my name from Dimple rani to Dimple kaur.

I, Bipin Negi S/O. Harshpal Singh R/O, Gali No. 2, Village Naya Bans Sector-15, Noida (UP)-201301. I have change my name from Bipin Negi to Vipin Negi for all future purposes.

I, Bhagrati Bhandari D/O Padam Singh Bhandari R/O-539-A, Nyay Khand-3, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, UP-201014 have changed my name to Shagun Bhandari.

I, Ashok Kumar S/O Late Harjiwan Bhai R/O-818, Pocket-I, Paschimpur, New Delhi-110063, That Harjiwan Bhai, Harjeeva And Harjeevan Was The One And The Same Person Who Was My Father.

I, Ashima Alok R/O 207, Regent, Supertech Estate, Sec 9, Vaishali, Ghaziabad 201010 have changed my name to Ashima Sethi.

I, Aman Preet Singh Suri S/O Surennder Pal Singh Hno.314, I-Floor, Rishi Nagar, RaniBagh, Delhi-110034. Changed my Name to Amanpreet Singh.

I, Akhlesh Kumar S/O Late Shri. Ram Sewak, R/O-24/354, TrilokPuri, New Delhi-110091, have changed my minor son name from Sandeep to Sachin.

I, ANIL SINGH, S/O-Madho Singh Bisht, R/O-233-C, Nyaykhand-1, Indrapuram, Shipra-Sun-City, Ghaziabad, Uttar-Pradesh-201014, have changed my name to ANIL SINGH BISHT, for all future purposes.

I, Krishan Kumar Dudeja, S/O Late Sh. Ram Nath Dudeja resident of A-345, Sector-47 Noida changed my name from Krishan Dudeja to Krishan Kumar Dudeja. From now I shall be known by this name.

I Champa W/o Sh. Ganesh Singh R/O Khasra No.39/22, C-Block, Gali No.5, Amrit Vihar, Burari, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Deepa Rautela for all purposes.

I Aryan S/O, Surendra Kumar Srivastava R/O 1201a Cst12 Cape Town Supertech Sector 74, Noida have changed my name to Aryan Srivastava

I Amarnjit Singh S/O Pira singh H.No-1021, Sector-16, Faridabad, Haryana-121002, changed my name to Amarnjit Singh.

I Tabhishek Nunu Jha S/O, Lt. Nunu Jha R/O C-154, Inder Enclave Phase-2, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi-110086 have changed my name to Abhishek Jha for all purposes.

I Mohd Sabir Husan S/O Azimuddin, H.No.-914 Gali No.-E-40 Molar Band Badarpur New Delhi-110044, Changed My Name To Sabir Husain.

I Mohammad Shakir Husan S/O Sabir Husain H.No-914, Gali No.-E-40, Molar-Band Badarpur N.Delhi-110044, Changed My Name To Mohammad Shakir Husain.

I Konika Kulkreja W/O Deepak Arora, House No-Bb-86c East Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088, Changed My Name To Konika Arora.

EDUCATIONAL

DOWSING Workshop- School of Indian Downs' 16th Workshop on 16 Feb. in Mumbai. Dowsing is giving training on Architectural Energy, how to find out land defects, colour, diamond power, underground harmful geopathic stress & streams of water.

I Ram niwas aggarwal S/O Mangeram D/O R/O 13/310 Vasundhara Ghaziabad, UP, have changed my name to Ram Niwas Gupta for all purposes.

I Puni Devi W/O Sh. Baldev Singh Rana R/O Flat No. B-45, MIG Flat, Kalyan Vihar, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Poonam Rana for all purposes.

I Priya Mehta W/O, Amit Kumar Mehta R/O B-30, ashoka Enclave, Part-2, Faridabad, Haryana-121003 have changed my name to Reeta Mehta for all purposes

I Pooja Sharma W/O-Raj Kumar Sharma R/O-266/14e Wardno-2 Mehrauli N.Delhi-110030, Changed My Name To Savitri Sharma.

I Pawan Kumar S/O Sh. Dayanand Singh R/O H.No.4, Gali No.1, Ajay Park, Naya Bazar, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043 is also known as Pawan Singhal and Pawan Kumar Singhal. All names are of one and the same person.

I, Gurvinder Kaur w/o Late. Darshan Singh Kochhar, R/O-J-3/17, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027, have lost my original sale deed of property No. J-3/13 Rajouri Garden, New Delhi by Kundal Lal Goswami s/o Sh. Nanak Chand Goswami in favour of Sh. Padam Nath Goswami dated. 27/03/1964 VIDE document registered No.9809 Registered 27/03/1964 at sub registrar office Delhi. If anybody find document of above said property contact above mentioned address.

I, Nishu Gupta D/O, Subhash Chand Gupta R/O 139-c, Gadodia Road, Gali No.5, Than Singh Nagar, Anand Pravat, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 have changed my name to Nieesshu Gupta

I Navneet Chandhok D/O Satpal Singh Chandhok R/O-J-5/2 Rajouri Garden New Delhi, have changed my name to Navneet Kaur Chandhok.

I Mohini Handa W/O Chetan Prakash Handa R/O-C-77, 4th-Floor, York-Street Rosewood City-C-Block Sector-49, South-City-II, Gurgaon Haryana-122018 changed my name to Manmohani Handa.

I Mohini Handa W/O Chetan Prakash Handa R/O-C-77, 44th-Floor York Street Rosewood City-C Block Sector-49, South-City-II, Gurgaon Haryana-122018 changed my name to Manmohani Handa.

I Manjit Singh S/O Joginder Singh Mehta R/O Wz-61, A/4, Vashisht-Park, Nangal-Raya, Delhi-110046, Have Changed My Name To Manjit Singh Mehta.

I, Shweta Agrawal W/O Nitin Agrawal R/O B-12/B, First Floor, Kalkaji, New Delhi have changed my name to Shwetaa Agrawal for all future purposes.

I Kusum devi W/O Ramnivas Gupta R/O 13/310 Vasundhara Ghaziabad, Have Changed my name to Kusum Gupta for all purposes

I Himanshu Singal S/O Aditya Singal Add-1073-C-1 Vasant-Kunj Flyover, Delhi-110070, Changed My Name To Himanshu Singhal.

I Drishti Aggarwal D/O Madhu Sudhan Aggarwal H.No-196/77, Sekhewada, Old Faridabad Haryana-121002. Changed My Name To Drishti.

I Deepak Kumar S/O Sushil Kumar Add-B4/1ST-Floor, Gokul-Apartment, Khasra No.880, Cross-Road, Sant-Nagar, Burari, Delhi-110084, changed my name to Deepak Kumar Tomar.

I Deepak Kerval S/O Harbhajan Singh Kerval R/O-J-3/124 Rajouri Garden New Delhi, have changed the name of my minor daughter Zayna Kerval to Saira Kerval born on-22.01.2020.

I Ashok Srivastava S/O Sh. Kailash Lal Srivastava R/O RZF-1A, Gali No.43, Sadh Nagar-2, Palam Colony, Delhi have changed my name to Aashish Kumar Srivastava for all purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my Client Shri Satish Babu son of Lt. Shri Lala Ram resident of 5, Agarwal Flats Gali no. 9A, near Raj Market, Bank Colony Road, Mandoli, Delhi-110033 hereby disown his son Mr. Anurag Bhatti and his wife Smt. Shashi D/o of Shri Hoi Lal resident of Mohalla Jaigani, Sastri Gate, Aligarh due to their behavior and temperament from all his movable and immovable properties and further sever all his relations with him and his family. He is further not responsible for any of his acts.

SUDHA SHUKLA (Advocate) (M) 989913203

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Sh. Atan Kumar Anand S/o Late Sh. Jagan Nath Anand and Smt. Smt. Anand W/o Sh. Anand Both R/o BH-426, East Shalimar Bagh, Near Raghunath Mandir, Delhi-110088, have severed all relationship from their son namely Anuj Anand and his wife namely Smt. Cheena Sarani and also declared them from all their movable and immovable properties for all time to come and my clients have nothing to do with them in future. My clients shall not be responsible for their acts such as criminal activity if they do in future with anyone and if they are involved in financial transactions with any person then their son namely Anuj Anand and his wife namely Smt. Cheena Sarani will be solely responsible for the same from now onwards.

Annu Aggarwal & Associates E-16/31, First Floor, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Barkha Kapoor W/o Vimal Kapoor and Vimal Kapoor S/o Shri Late Jagdish Keshore Kapoor both R/O Gh-86/7, Paschim Vinod, New Delhi-110087, have debarred their son Anil Kapoor and daughter-in-law Diksha Khetarpal from all their movable and immovable properties and assets with immediate effect. If anybody deals with them, shall do so at his/her/their own risk, cost and responsibility. My clients shall not be responsible in any manner in future.

Kamal Singh (Advocate) Ch.No.512, Rohini Courts, Delhi-85

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified that I, Akash Singh S/o Kiran Pal Singh, R/O Flat No. 67-E Pocketa-1, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1, East Delhi, Delhi-110091, declare that in my all educational certificates and other original documents my father and mother name has been wrongly written/recorded as Balraj Singh Solanki and Sunita Solanki instead of Kiran Pal Singh & Manju Bala respectively. That the actual and correct name of my father and mother are Kiran Pal Singh & Manju Bala respectively which may be amended in my all the educational documents & other documents respectively.

RAKESH KUMAR (Advocate) Enr. No. D-11412004 Mob- 9350547466/989932390

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase a single storey building bearing No. A-57B, situated at Ashok Vihar, Phase-II, Delhi, from its present owners viz. Sanket Sharma, Rishi Sharma & Ashish Sharma all sons of Ramesh Raj Sharma. If any body is having any objection, claim, interest dispute for the above intended sale transaction he/she may contact the under signed with his/her/his/their objection. Period of dispute within 14 days from the date of this Publication failing which my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with above owner as if there is no third party claim/objection/dispute in respect of the said property and thereafter, no claim/objection/dispute will be entertained.

Sd/- RAKESH KUMAR (Advocate) Enr. No. D-11412004 Mob- 9350547466/989932390

PUBLIC NOTICE

*General Public is hereby informed that my clients namely Sh. Daulat Ram S/o Late Sh. Duli Chand and Smt. Munesh W/o, Sh. Daulat Ram both R/O. H. No. 517/3, Harjan Colony, Village Mundka, New Delhi-110041 debar/disown their son namely Pawan Kumar and his wife namely Shalu from their all movable & immovable properties and swear all relations from them as they are out of their control and sayings and my clients have no control over them". Copy kept for further reference.

Sd/- S.K. KAUSHIK (ADVOCATE) Enrol. No. D-133204

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is being given in favour of my clients, Sh. Vinod Kumar Jain son of late Sh. K.L. Jain, resident of I-58, Ashok Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi and others an aggrieved with Sd/- Gaurav Chandra son of late Sh. S.M. Chopra, resident of C-165 First Floor, Janshik, New Delhi-110058 to purchase the Entire Property No. 181, 1st and 2nd floor, 200sq.yds. in Block-D, Parkside/Ashok Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi, who claims the absolute owner of the same. All persons having any claim or demand or rights in respect of or against the above said property in any part or portion thereof by way of Agreement to sell, assignment, share, sale, transfer, assignment, gift, mortgage, lease, exchange, possession, covenant, encumbrance or otherwise however, if anyone required to make the same known in writing with documentary proof to the undersigned at my office within ten days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the claim of such person(s), if any will be treated as null and void and will not have any legal & any other sanctity and not binding on my clients and the proposed transaction of purchase of the said property shall be completed without any reference to such claim(s).

Parveen Gaur (Advocate) RU-26, Pitampura, Delhi-34 Enrol.No.D713196 Mob.9810399544

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be It Known to all public in general that my client Shri Ram Kishore, S/o Shri Hira Lal, R/O 27/A, D.D. Flats, Paschim Vihar Extension, New Delhi-110063 has disown and disinherit his son Lucky, his daughter-in-law Manju & Poonam and Grandson Kiyansh from all his movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them would be doing so on their own personal risk. My client shall not be responsible for his act and deeds.

on behalf of my client, (Ashwini Kumar) Advocate 48, Lawyers Chamber Supreme Court of India New Delhi-110001 Mob.: 9582105679 Date: 07.02.2020

"IMPORTANT"

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PREMIA FOOD ADDITIVES INDIA PVT. LTD. COUNTRY HEAD (SALES & MARKETING) 1 Post 7 Years & above selling experience in the field of Bakery premixes. Bakery fat, Chocolate & Fruit fillings. Non dairy whipped topping cream, Bakers yeast & other food raw material.

खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग सुक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यम मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार मण्डलीय कार्यालय, वाराणसी संस्कृत विप्रव विद्यालय, तेलिया बाग, वाराणसी-221002 फोन: (0542) 2208697, 2204434 फैक्स: (0542) 2204434 वेबसाइट: www.kvic.org.in, ईमेल: dovaranasi.kvic@gov.in

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of Work, Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs), Cost of T/Doc, Earnest Money In Rs. Lacs, Date of Completion, Class of Contractor, Major Head of Account. Includes items like Design, Manufacture, Supply and Commissioning of Boatscum-Floating Jetty for Cruise-cum-Floating Restaurant at SKICC Srinagar.

No.: SKICC/EE/20/475-82 Dated: 03.02.2020 SD/- Executive Engineer

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HP PWD Kasauli Distt. Solan HP on behalf of Governor of HP invites the Online Bids on Item Rate, in Electronic Tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the Eligible and Approved Contractors. Firms Registered with HPPWD Department.

Table with columns: Job No., Name of Work, Tentative Cost, Earnest Money, Time Allowed, Cost of Form. Includes items like Annual Maintenance Plan for the year 2020-21 for Patta Goela Chhanchi road (VR042MRL).

Availability of Bid Document and Mode of Submission: The Bid document is available Online and Bid should be submitted in Online mode on website: https://hptenders.gov.in. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is Free of Cost. For Submission of Bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying authorities (CA) "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-Tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: https://hptenders.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-Tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender."

Table with columns: Date of Online Publication, Document Upload Start Date, Bid Submission Start and End Date, Physical Submission of EMD and cost of tender Document, Date of Opening of Bid.

- TENDER DETAILS: i) The tender Document shall be uploaded online in 2 cover: Cover 1: shall contain Scanned copies of all Technical Documents/Eligibility information" ii) Cover 2: Shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item. iii) SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidder are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) Original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Document in O/O Executive Engineer HPPWD Kasauli H.P. as specified in Key Dates Sr. No. 2 on tender opening date, failing which the bids will be declared Non-responsive iv) BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on 26.02.2020 at 11.00 A.M. in the office Executive Engineer Kasauli Division HPPWD Kasauli HP by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. v) The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period not less than 90/120 days after the deadline date for bid submission. vi) Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders in an up date, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

Executive Engineer Kasauli Division HPPWD Kasauli (On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh)

25 SPORT

BRIEFLY

Labuschagne reminds me of myself, says Tendulkar

Sydney: Sachin Tendulkar on Friday picked Australian Marnus Labuschagne as the player who most reminds him of himself, calling the fast-rising batsman a special talent with impeccable footwork. Here to coach a side at Sunday's charity fundraiser for the devastating bushfires in Australia, Tendulkar was asked to name the player who he thinks comes closest to resembling him at his prime. "It happened to be watching the second Test match at Lord's between England and Australia. When Steve Smith got injured, I saw Labuschagne's second innings," Tendulkar responded. "I was sitting with my father-in-law, I saw Marnus get hit off the second ball from Jofra Archer and, post that, the 15 minutes he batted, I said, 'This player looks special'," he recalled. "There is something about him. His footwork was precise. Footwork is not physical, it's mental. If you're not thinking positively in your mind, then your feet don't move," he added.

India lose to England by four wickets

Kollam: The Indian women's cricket team produced another listless batting performance to suffer a second successive loss in the T20 triangular series, going down to England by four wickets here on Friday. Sent in to bat, Indian batters failed to capitalise on their starts as they struggled to 123 for six in 20 overs with opener Smriti Mandhana emerging as the top-scorer with a 40-ball 45. Chasing the total, Natalie Sciver smashed a strokeful fifty as England romped home comfortably, scoring 124 for six with seven balls to spare. Sciver's 50 off 38 balls contained six hits to the fence and a six. For India, Rajeshwari Gayakwad (3/23) was outstanding with the ball, while Radha Yadav (1/24) also took two wickets but the total on the board was just not enough. India had beaten England in their first T20 of the series.

BRIEF SCORES: India women: 123 for 6 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 45; Anya Shrubsole 3/31) lost to England women: 124 for 6 in 18.5 overs (Natalie Sciver 50; Rajeshwari Gayakwad 3/23) by four wickets

S.Africa-England ODI abandoned

Durban: South Africa's second one-day international against England has been abandoned after only 11.2 overs of play due to rain at Kingsmead on Friday. Heavy showers overnight in Durban and more persistent rain throughout the day frustrated the players and fans, with the game called off at 7 pm local time. After a 75-minute delay for the toss, play started as England sent South Africa in to bat, with the home side reaching 38-1 before the players left the field for the first time. They returned for another brief spell at the crease but heavy rain won the day with the hosts on 71-2, having lost Quinton de Kock (11) and Temba Bavuma (21). It is the third time in a row that ODI matches in Durban between the two sides have been abandoned due to rain. The only time they have produced a result at Kingsmead was a five-wicket win for South Africa in 1996. The home side won the first match in the current three-game series by seven wickets in Cape Town on Tuesday. The final fixture will be staged in Johannesburg on Sunday.

AGENCIES

KARTIK TYAGI: INDIA'S UNDER-19 PACE SENSATION

Cream of the crop

Yogendra Tyagi had to abandon dreams of sporting glory to toil away on his farm. Now, it is son Kartik's harvest from the 22 yards that is bringing attention to the village of Dhanaura. NIHAL KOSHIE writes

WALKING ALONGSIDE the swath of agricultural land he owns, Yogendra Tyagi, a farmer from Dhanaura village in Uttar Pradesh's Hapur district, is strangely proud when he informs that his son Kartik has no idea about the length or breadth of their farm. While the father concentrates on the 12 *bighas* that give them wheat, potatoes and cauliflowers, Kartik focuses on the 22 yards in search of wickets. It's hard work for both of them but the son's harvest seems to have attracted more attention.

On Sunday, India will hope the new-ball pacer gets it right in the final of the Under-19 World Cup in South Africa.

Consistently clocking 140 kph plus, the 19-year-old pacer first knocked over the Australia middle order in the quarterfinals in Potchefstroom with his 4/24. In the semifinal, he dismissed Pakistan all-rounder Irfan Khan with an in-swinging yorker that had commentators gushing. With 11 scalps, he has impressed the pundits and fans with his bounce, pace and swing.

Clearly the find of the tournament, the boy from Hapur, who honed his bowling skills in Meerut is being compared to the other swing stalwarts from the region: Praveen Kumar and Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

Yogendra has now reached closer to his plot where his son has spent countless hours bowling his heart out. It's a practice facility that has a tattered net held down by a line of bricks on either side. The metal poles on which the net hangs are rusty. The cement practice wicket is just 11 yards long, the other half of the pitch is just loose black soil. Yogendra points to a tree beyond a recently constructed boundary wall of this cricket training plot.

"Kartik used to run in from there," Yogendra says. "Sometimes hundreds of deliveries during a single practice session. In winter, he used to train when its coldest and in summer under the afternoon sun. The idea was to bowl in the harshest weather so he toughens up. *Bohot mehnati hai* (He is very hard-working). That is why he is able to bowl so fast," the father of India's Under-19 pace sensation says.

Growing up, Yogendra was a budding sportsman but had to drop out as he didn't get family support. He played, in his own words, the *dehati* (rustic) sport of shooting ball — it's volleyball without the passes, lift and overhead spikes.

"I was passionate about shooting ball, but a farmer's son is expected to toil in the field. When I returned with a medal, I would play hide and seek with my father. The day he caught me, I would get a trashing," Yogendra says.

Despite the opposition from home, Yogendra put up two poles and created a shooting ball court on land the family owned. But he couldn't pursue the sport and the volleyball court became a marsh. The poles still stand on the plot with the cricket pitch, the frame is a testimony to the Tyagi family's changing mindset. Kartik's grandfather thought that sports was a waste of time. His father, however, saw it as a vehicle to better life.

Yogendra went out of his way to support his son, who fell in love with fast bowling as a 10-year-old. "He has never stepped onto the farmland nor has he ever worked on the farm. I didn't want him to become a farmer. He wanted to be a fast bowler. I could not follow my dream, I wanted my son to follow his."

Dhanaura didn't take too kindly to the Tyagis love for the game. The villagers frowned upon the idea of a farmer trying to make their son a cricketer. A few miscreants damaged the net and even dug up the run-up area. Yogendra wasn't bothered, he let Kartik pursue his passion.

With Kartik bowling fast, Yogendra decided to take an extra step. He looked around for a coach. A newspaper advertisement about trials in Chandigarh presented them with an opportunity but it led to nowhere.

"We took Kartik to Chandigarh. He was completely out of depth at the trial. The other boys who came there had been trained by reputed coaches at academies. They were batting and bowling like professionals. Kartik was raw and had not been coached. Immediately,



I knew that if he wanted to make a career out of cricket, he needed to be guided. Else he would get nowhere," Yogendra recalls.

Natural swing bowler

The search stopped at the City Vocational Public School in Meerut, where former Uttar Pradesh wicket-keeper batsman Vipin Vats had an academy. Kartik made an instant impression on the veteran coach, someone who has guided swing masters Praveen Kumar and Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

"I took a look at him for a couple of minutes and told his father 'I will make him a swing

bowler'. He had the ideal action, a straight arm release and all his joints were moving in one direction towards the batsman. He was a natural," Vats says.

The coach didn't tinker too much. What he focused on was developing match awareness and bowling sense in his young ward. "He could swing it both ways, so what I advised him about was what ball to bowl when. He was quick to learn. Now in addition to being able to swing the ball, he has developed a very good yorker. The yorker he bowled that Pakistan batsman with, he has been doing that since his Under-16 days," the coach says.



At parents Yogendra and Nandini's plot is the practice facility — the 11-yard cement wicket and a tattered net held down by a line of bricks and rusty poles — where Kartik Tyagi spent countless hours bowling. "The idea was to bowl in the harshest weather so he toughens up," says Yogendra. Express

Once his son joined the academy, Yogendra put farming on the back-burner. The father convinced local school authorities to give him half-day off. He would pack lunch and take it for his son to school, then they would change two buses and take a rickshaw to travel two hours and reach the academy. Post training they would take an evening train from Meerut to Hapur.

"His day would begin at 6 am and he would return home by 8 pm. This was his routine five days a week. Over the weekend he would train on the wicket I made in the village and work on what his coach asked him to. Cricket be-

came his life," Yogendra says. His career progressed faster than expected, an Under-14 call up for Uttar Pradesh was followed by selection to the Under-16 team where he made a breakthrough with 50 wickets in one season. Praveen Kumar asked Uttar Pradesh captain Suresh Raina to have a look at the youngster who was making waves on the junior circuit. Kartik impressed the senior batsman and he was handed a Ranji Trophy debut in October 2017, before he had even played for the Under-19 team.

Consistently clocking 140 kph plus, the 19-year-old pacer first knocked over the Australia middle order in the quarterfinals in Potchefstroom with his 4/24. In the semifinal, he dismissed Pakistan all-rounder Irfan Khan with an in-swinging yorker. With 11 scalps, he has impressed the pundits and fans with his bounce, pace and swing.

Injury misfortune

However, misfortune struck, when things were going his way. Kartik fractured his right ankle when playing a game of football to warm-up before a match. The fracture took a month to heal but he was felled by other injuries — shin, groin and back. He would play two to three games and then have to pull out because of injury.

"It was a tough phase for us when he was injured. Time and again some injury would trouble him. We went to several doctors but we couldn't really figure out why he was breaking down," Yogendra says.

Kartik's parents Yogendra and his wife Nandini were worried but they tried to shield their son from the mental turmoil. Kartik had opted for cricket over academics but now he was in a spot with his cricket career coming to a stop because of injury. He had passed Class XI but the future looked bleak. "I told him to take a break from cricket," Nandini says, "but he was adamant and said if it came to that he would even cycle all the way to Meerut to his academy."

Things took a turn for the better when an Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association official suggested that Kartik travel to the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bangalore for rehabilitation. Yogendra says he had to make every penny count to fund the travel and stay in Bangalore at a hotel.

"One year the yield is good, the next it is not. All depends on the weather. And a farmer's average income hardly increases year-on-year. I had to scrape the bottom to ensure Kartik got the best advice. People in the village started to make snide remarks. They would say that only eleven players get a chance to play for India and you think your son is that good!"

The stint at the NCA worked wonders and Tyagi regained his fitness. An Under-19 tour of England followed in July last year and a fat IPL cheque came his way before he was picked to the Under-19 World Cup squad.

After Kartik's exploits against Australia, Yogendra's phone has not stopped ringing, from family members to friends to local leaders and the member of parliament, everyone has been calling up to congratulate. Yogendra talks to Kartik at the end of each day, a routine the father and son follow religiously. "I told him not to get too ahead of himself. This is the Under-19 World Cup but there is a long way to go for him. We have seen the ups and downs in the sport. We feel proud when we see him playing for India on television, there is no denying that. But he should not get carried away."

In the village, the cheeky remarks about a farmer allowing his son to play cricket have stopped. Yogendra is now referred to as India cricketer Kartik Tyagi's father and Dhanaura as 'Kartik Tyagi ka gaavn'.

Saini a must for must-win game against Kiwis

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
 FEBRUARY 7

TILL THE 39th over during New Zealand's chase at Hamilton, the game was evenly poised. Ross Taylor and Tom Latham were having an excellent partnership all right, but given the hosts' soft batting underbelly, 78 runs off 11 overs had been still challenging. The T20 internationals that preceded the ODI series gave ample evidence to New Zealand's lower-order batting uncertainty under pressure.

A couple of good overs from Shardul Thakur would have put the Kiwis under pressure. He was taken to the cleaners instead in the 40th over. The over had two full deliveries, three were back-of-a-length — a no-ball included — a short ball and a slower bouncer. Two sixes and as many fours had been conceded in that 22-run over that turned the tide towards the hosts.

On a belter of a pitch, bowlers had little margin for error, and Thakur wasn't the only bowler in that game to give away plenty. The experienced Tim Southee had been accounted for 85 runs off his 10 overs when New Zealand bowled. Kuldeep Yadav was virtually swept out of the park by Taylor and Latham.

The alarming part with regards to Thakur was the way New Zealand batsmen had been

treating him towards the back-end of the innings — the consummate ease with which Taylor and Latham had been on to the front-foot against the medium pacer. Also, the way Taylor treated his slower bouncer. It was outside the off stump and pretty wide. Taylor leapt, reached out to it and smashed the ball to the square third man boundary. He had so much time to play the shot.

David Warner and Aaron Finch had meted out similar treatment to Thakur during the India versus Australia ODI at Wankhede last month. The Aussies chased down 256 for victory in 37.4 overs without losing a wicket. Thakur was the most expensive of Indian bowlers — 43 runs in his five overs. Navdeep Saini was brought in as his replacement in the next two matches, as India rallied to win the series 2-1.

Not that Saini did a Bumrah, economy-wise, in those games. But he bowled yorkers for fun at the death and then, at Rajkot, breaking the sequence of yorkers when he bowled a bouncer to Mitchell Starc, he beat the batsman for pace. Saini can clock 150kph. At his pace, it's difficult for the batsmen, especially tail-enders, to have a forward trigger movement. On the face of it, Saini for Thakur in a must-win game should be an easy replacement. Then again, Eden Park at Auckland is traditionally not a happy hunting ground for the batsmen, especially batting first. The



Navdeep Saini can clock 150kph. At his pace, it's difficult for the batsmen, especially tail-enders, to have a forward trigger movement.

venue had hosted its last ODI three years ago and it was a low-scoring affair. New Zealand were all out for 149 and South Africa lost four wickets to get there. Kagiso Rabada at times made the ball talk. More recently, the India-New Zealand T20 international last month,

too, had been hard work for the batters. The hosts could manage only 132/5 in 20 overs batting first. Rohit Sharma's absence at the top is big enough a factor for the Indian team management to have a rethink at the whole batting line-up. With Virat Kohli being the sole batting x-factor — no disrespect to KL Rahul and his purple patch — if the conditions are not very batting-friendly, then India might opt for some extra cushion in the lower-order. Unlike Saini, Thakur is a very capable batsman down the order and based on the conditions, the team management has a tricky choice to make.

Irrespective of conditions, India become almost unbreachable when their captain scores a hundred. Kohli has 43 ODI centuries so far in his glittering career and India's victory percentage is north of 80, when he gets to three-figures. At Hamilton, Kohli was going like a Rolls-Royce till an Ish Sodhi googly went through the gate and hit the stumps. Leg-spinners have dismissed Kohli a few times of late. But it's just one of those things and nothing much should be read into that. But getting out bowled to a wrong'un after scoring 51 was a bit un-Kohli like. A response from the world's best batsman is due.

As for replacements, Yuzvendra Chahal for the out-of-form Kuldeep is another change the team management might like to consider.

Shaheen bags 4, Pakistan bowl out B'desh for 233 in first Test

ASSOCIATED PRESS
 RAWALPINDI, FEBRUARY 7

BANGLADESH'S BATSMEN struggled against Pakistan's fast bowlers despite Mohammad Mithun's half-century as the visitors were bowled out for 233 in the first test on Friday.

Mithun, playing in only his eighth test match, frustrated Pakistan with a gritty 63 off 140 balls with seven fours and a six before getting caught behind for 63. Abu Jayed was run out without scoring just before stumps were drawn for the day as Shaheen Afridi missed a deserving five-wicket haul.

"It was unlucky (that the last man got run out) but it's always a team game, you have to play your role and I played my role very well," Afridi said. "It's always your wish to improve upon your best bowling but beauty of test cricket is that you don't break records every day." Afridi (4-53) and Mohammad Abbas (2-19), who bowled disciplined for 17 overs, had snared five wickets between them as Bangladesh slipped to 161-6 by tea. But Mithun got lives on either side of the last session and added 53 runs for the seventh-wicket stand with Tajjul Islam (24).

Tajjul finally holed out to give part-time spinner Haris Sohail (2-11) his second wicket

after Pakistan legspinner Yasir Shah struggled to finish with wicketless figures of 0-83. Mithun, dropped on 22 and 46, reached his half century in three hours with a pulled boundary off Yasir and then hoisted the legspinner over mid off for a six.

But young fast bowler Naseem Shah ended Mithun's defiance with the second new ball when he gloved a short ball to wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan. Afridi and Abbas had earlier provided Pakistan a perfect start after captain Azhar Ali won the toss and elected to field on a wicket which had tinge of grass.

Afridi had 21-year-old Saif Hassan caught in the slips for no score off his third ball as Bangladesh's top order struggled.

Abbas was rewarded with two wickets for bowling to a steady line and length. Abbas got Tamim Iqbal (3) in his first over to leave Bangladesh 4-2 and then got the faint edge of Najmul Hossain Shanto's (44) bat in the first over after lunch. Afridi then had Bangladesh reeling at 107-5 when Asad Shafiq grabbed his second catch in the slips cordon to dismiss Mahmudullah (25) as Bangladesh's middle order batsmen couldn't capitalize after getting good starts.

BRIEF SCORES: At stumps Day 1: Bangladesh 233 (Mithun 63, Najmul 44, Afridi 4-53, Abbas 2-19) v Pakistan

Mumbye

41-time champs knocked out in group stage after Saurashtra earn a draw despite being 83/7 at one stage

DEVENDRA PANDEY
FEBRUARY 7

ON A pitch which kept low, had some turn and where batsmen couldn't predict what would jump at them next, Mumbai failed to dismiss Saurashtra's Nos. 8 and 9 for 40 long overs. Kamlesh Makvana and Dharmendra Jadeja aren't big names in domestic cricket but they crashed Mumbai's hopes of qualifying for the Ranji Trophy knockouts as they battled for the next 240 balls to ensure Saurashtra progressed and the visitors were denied.

The duo not only rubbed salt into the wounds of Mumbai bowlers, but also proved right the old adage that big names didn't matter on a challenging pitch. Mumbai had set Saurashtra 290 to chase on the last day and at one stage were even eyeing an early wrap-up.

Needing to win this one before they could eye an outright win in the next one against MP to qualify for quarters, the script spectacularly unravelled. Saurashtra were 83 for 7 at one stage and with one more session left in the day, Mumbai hoped to finish off the irritating resistance. They've had a wretched Ranji season, losing back to back games outright at home, and had 13 points. A win in Rajkot could've given them a foot in the door, but the hosts were in no mood to give up.

Makvana and Jadeja didn't try any shot that could lead to an edge or land them in a danger zone. Luck too favored them, a Royston Dias ball kissed the edge of off-stump of Makvana but the bats didn't dislodge and with 20 more overs to go Jadeja was dropped off a simple catch at mid-off by youngster Bhupen Lalwani.

Back at tea, Saurashtra brainstormed on how to tackle those final hours of the day. Makvana said, "During tea break we had a discussion in the dressing room, on this pitch it wasn't easy to play shots. There was no point in taking singles as reaching the total was out of reach, so the idea was to defend as much we can."

The Saurashtra tailenders did just that, despite Mumbai putting five fielders close-in at one stage.

They either left ungrudgingly or put their bodies behind every defense. Every shot was played with soft hands with no real pressure to score. Mumbai waited for some odd balls to keep low or turn sharp but Makvana dealt with them with ease. His father Rasiqbhai is the curator of the ground and the familiarity



Dharmendra Jadeja (L) and Kamlesh Makvana stonewalled Mumbai. BCCI

helped. There had been days when he had assisted his father too. With more than 15 years of domestic cricket experience behind him, Makvana said he had played in such situations before too.

"Never felt that the match was gone from our hands. I made my debut in 2004 and I have played such innings before too. Once against MP (Madhya Pradesh) I had batted for half a day and saved the game. Whenever such a situation arises, bowlers have to bail the team out. Key is to know how to use basic footwork and how to defend, for which I practice a lot in the nets. Whenever such a situation arises, there is no fear in the back of my mind. I knew if I get in line with the ball, no one can get me out," the 36-year-old off-spinning all-rounder said.

Asked what he told Jadeja at the other end, he replied, "When Dharmendra went inside I told him that at no time should we give an impression that khelte khelte hum game se baahar ho jayenge, that there's no hope. Whenever we go out to play, sab ball bat pe hi lenge. Intent should be positive. I have batted at different positions before, so there is some idea about how to tackle situations."

BRIEF SCORES (AT RAJKOT): Mumbai 262 & 362/7 d/d (Suryakumar Yadav 134, Shams Mulani 92; Prerak Mankad 2-52) vs Saurashtra 335 & 158/7 (Makvana 31 not out, 116 balls, D Jadeja 33 not out, 125 balls, Vasavda 31 Match Drawn. Saurashtra took first-innings lead.

POINTS: Saurashtra 3, Mumbai 1

Delhi stare down the barrel

New Delhi: Gujarat virtually pushed a lacklustre Delhi out of the knockout race after grabbing three points from their group A Ranji Trophy match, which ended in a draw here on Friday.

On the basis of their 42-run first innings lead, Gujarat grabbed three points from the contest to take their tally to 29 from seven outings. They now sit atop the cross pool (group A and B) standings.

The top five teams in the cross pool will qualify for the quarterfinals. Top two from Group C and the best side in the Plate Group will complete the line-up.

Delhi are now left with a home game against Rajasthan, starting here from February 12, and they have to get seven points (including bonus) to have any chance left. But even a total of 25 points may not suffice as Gujarat (29), Andhra (27), Bengal (26), Saurashtra (25) and Karnataka (25) are already in top five with a game left.

On final day, Himmat Singh (70 off 76 balls) hit some lusty blows as Delhi declared at 333 for 8 leaving Gujarat with a target of 292 in little over two sessions. The match was called off at tea after Gujarat reached 128 for 2 as it was clear that no outright result was possible.

On Thursday, Delhi opener Anuj Rawat had scored a well-made century to give the team a chance to push for a win. Delhi were 228 for 4 overnight. Himmat Singh who was batting on three not out at the end of Day Three hit six fours and two sixes as he put pedal to metal in the quest for quick runs. In Delhi's first innings Himmat had made 56, but the nature of the knock was very different as it consumed 153 deliveries. Delhi fast bowler Simarjeet Singh had taken a five wicket haul but could not prevent Gujarat from taking the first innings lead.

Delhi made an early breakthrough by dismissing opener Priyank Panchal for a duck. However, Manpreet Juneja and Bhargav Merai remained unbeaten on 42 and 51 respectively to ensure that there were no further hiccupps after Samit Gohel fell when the team score was 41.

BRIEF SCORES: (IN DELHI): Delhi 293 & 333 for 8 declared (Himmat Singh 70). Gujarat 335 and 128/2 (Manprit Juneja 51 not out).

POINTS: Gujarat 3, Delhi 1

RANJIROUNDUP

Choudhary takes 4/99 in Maharashtra's big win.

At Pune: Maharashtra, which had declared at a mammoth 543 for five in reply to Odisha's first innings score of 293, dismissed the visitors for 289 in the second essay to win by 10 wickets. Maharashtra knocked off the 40-run target in 11 overs. Resuming at the overnight score of 24 for no loss, Odisha were bowled out for 289 in 86.1 overs despite a fighting ton by Govinda Poddar (118, 187 balls, 14 fours, 2 sixes). Left-arm medium-pace Mukesh Choudhary was the best bowler for Maharashtra, returning with figures of 4 for 99.

Brief Scores: Odisha 293 & 289 all out in 86.1 overs (Govinda Poddar 118, Anurag Sarangi 73, Mukesh Choudhary 4/99) lost to Maharashtra 543 for 5 declared in 149.5 overs (Ankit Bawane 204 not out, Rituraj Gaikwad 129, N S Shaikh 100; Suryakant Pradhan 2/92) and 40 for no loss in 11 overs.

Points: Maharashtra: 7, Odisha: 0

Rahmatullah's back to back tons.

At Patna: Bihar chased down 224 against Arunachal Pradesh thanks to MD Rahmatullah's unbeaten 113, his second century of the game after his 140. Arunachal Pradesh had taken a first innings lead thanks to Rahul Dalal's 190 but left-arm spinner Ashutosh Aman's 6 for 66 helped Bihar bowl them out for 163 in the second innings. Arunachal Pradesh had Bihar in trouble at 15 for 3, but a 107-run stand between Yashasvi Rishav and Rahmatullah steadied the ship.

Brief Scores: Arunachal Pradesh 351 & 163 all out lost to Bihar 291 & 227 for 4 in 67 ovs (Md Rahmatullah 113*; Nabad Tempol 3/33)

Points - Bihar 6, Arunachal Pradesh 0

Bengal, Ahmed stun Rajasthan

At Jaipur: Shahbaz Ahmed's 61 not out at No.7 along with valuable contributions by openers Koushik Ghosh and Abhimanyu Easwaran helped Bengal chase down 320 against Rajasthan. Ahmed batted for 133 balls and hit four fours and two sixes.

In Jaipur: Rajasthan 241 & 201 lost to Bengal 123 & 320/8 (Koushik Ghosh 64, Abhimanyu Easwaran 62, Shahbaz Ahmed 55)

Points: Bengal 6, Rajasthan 0.

ELITE GROUP A, B

Top five qualify for quarterfinal

Defending champions Vidarbha are in ninth place and their hopes of advancing are over. They had to split points with Kerala because rain washed out the last two days. Vidarbha had posted 326 and in response, Kerala were 191 for 3 when weather intervened. Vidarbha have a game game against Hyderabad in the final round. Mumbai is out of contention after their draw against Saurashtra, while Delhi with 18 too stare at not making the cut for the knock-outs. Gujarat, Saurashtra qualified for the quarterfinals while Andhra, Bengal and Karnataka will be in contention to fill the rest of the three spots.

| | M | W | L | D | T | PTS |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Gujarat | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 29 |
| Saurashtra | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 28 |
| Andhra | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 27 |
| Bengal | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 26 |
| Karnataka | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 25 |
| Punjab | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 24 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 20 |
| Tamil Nadu | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 19 |
| Vidarbha | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 18 |
| Delhi | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 18 |

ELITE GROUP C

Top two qualify for quarters

J&K and Odisha are the front-runners to advance

| | M | W | L | D | T | PTS |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| J and K | 8 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 39 |
| Odisha | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 35 |
| Services | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 33 |
| Haryana | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 30 |
| Maharashtra | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 28 |

PLATE GROUP

Table toppers advance

| | M | W | L | D | T | PTS |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Goa | 8 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 43 |
| Puducherry | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 41 |
| Chandigarh | 8 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 36 |
| Meghalaya | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 27 |
| Bihar | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 27 |

MP take three points

Aditya Shrivastava's 192 proved to be the highlight for Madhya Pradesh as it helped them take the first innings lead against Karnataka. In their second innings, Karnataka finished as 62 for 1.

At Shimoga: Karnataka 426 & 62/1 v/s Madhya Pradesh 431 (Aditya Shrivastava 192, Venkatesh Iyer 86; Abhimanyu Mithun 3/69). Match Drawn.

Points: MP 3, Karnataka 1

Corona fear: Indian women shuttlers to miss Manila event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

India on Friday withdrew its women badminton team from the upcoming Badminton Asia Championships in the wake of fast-spreading coronavirus but the men's team will compete at the event in Manila.

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) had named a second-string women team for the tournament to be held from February 11 to 16 but a full-strength men's side which features World Championship bronze medalist B Sai Praneeth.

"Unforeseen health hazard apprehension due to the Corona Virus outbreak has resulted in withdrawal of the women's team for the upcoming Badminton Asian Championships, which is starting from Feb 11-16, 2020 in Manila, Philippines," the BAI said in a statement.

"Badminton Association of India (BAI) had reached out to the concerned authorities in Badminton Asia (BA) for assurances regarding the current situation and necessary health advisory and precautionary measures taken.

"After receiving complete assurances from BA, BAI had discussed the same with the Indian squad, the men's team agreed to travel and confirmed their participation however, the women's team was withdrawn owing to concerns showed by parents and players," BAI secretary general Ajay Kumar Singhania said.

The women's was supposed to be led by young shuttlers Ashmita Chaliha and Malvika Bansod after Olympic medallists Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu decided to give the event a miss. Saina and Sindhu decided to skip the event to focus on Olympic qualification.

The men's team will leave for Manila on February 9.

India had fielded a full-strength men's team while the upcoming group of shuttlers have been given a chance to showcase their prowess in the women's section of the Badminton Asia Team Championships.

The Indian men's team, which won the bronze medal in Hyderabad in 2016, will be spearheaded by Praneeth with former World No.1 Kidambi Srikanth, HS Prannoy, Subhankar Dey and Lakshya Sen in the squad.

With Olympic qualification being the top priority, the event will give India's elite men's players a chance to garner crucial points ahead of the mega quadrennial games.

In the doubles events, the fast improving pair of Dhruv Kapila and MR Arjun would be looking to impress everyone in the tournament and also compliment the Thailand Open champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty in the team championships.

Vesely wins make or break match

SHAHID JUDGE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 7

MATCH POINT opportunity number five. A slight breeze rolls inside centre court at the Balewadi Tennis Stadium in Pune. The ball wobbles as Jiri Vesely tosses it up to serve. He rates his serve as his favourite shot – no doubt, for he'd been raining down serves at an average well beyond 200 kmph. But now the nerves were kicking in. Tossed, and launched at least a foot under the net cord. A terrible serve, and his confidence is draining.

On the other side of the net, Belarusian youngster Ilya Ivashka takes a step forward. He had saved four match points so far in the third set tiebreaker and the scores read 12-11 to Vesely. He needed this next point.

Vesely, though nervous, had a bit more experience in tough match situations. He put in more side-spin on this second serve, and the ball kicked up more than Ivashka anticipated – the backhand return was weak and crashed into the net. After two and a half hours of play, Vesely won 2-6, 6-1, 7-6 (11), to become the first player into the semi-finals of the Tata Open Maharashtra this year.

And the nerves were but natural, for there was a lot riding on this match for him.

"After all the things that have happened in the last two years, I injured my groin in 2018 and I did have a good result at Wimbledon but then I got injured and sud-

dently dropped in the rankings. To come back is not really easy," says the former world no 35 who is now placed at 107. "You have to go to the Challengers and beat the guys around 100. It's not easy. Everybody wants to get into the Slams. So I know what I have gone through in the last 12 months. The way back is really tough. Now when I have the opportunity to earn the points to be safe for (the French Open) and Wimbledon, it made me nervous."

Cracking Top 100

Making it to the semi-finals in Pune will possibly take his rank to 98 or higher – the first time he'll be back in the top 100 since May last year. For Vesely, that's a position he wants to be in, a position he's been feeling pressure from back home to be in. Last year, former world no 4 Tomas Berdych, the Czech Republic's biggest player of this generation retired from the game, pushing the focus onto the next best men's singles player, the 26-year-old from Pribram.

"Tennis is a very popular sport in Czech Republic, especially in the last decade, since we had amazing results in the Davis Cup (2013), and Tomas has been an amazing top 10 player for so many years. It's not easy to step up to the same level. I do feel that kind of pressure that people want to have a new player that is really good," he says. "The girls doing amazing (Karolina Pliskova is the world no 3 in women's singles, two-time Grand Slam champion is 11th, and Marketa

Vondrousova, 17, reached the French Open final last year). So all these things put a lot of pressure for the boys now because we don't have anyone in the top 100, and just two in the top 200. The time right now is not very good. "I know I've been on tour for a while but maybe I didn't do what I or people around me expected, but I'm still young. I hope that I can make the progress."

Since the groin injury, he's suffered a freak toe-dislocation midway through a Davis Cup match, and has fallen down the ladder. What followed was the decision to drop down to the Challenger level to try and build from the bottom – including the call to skip the Australian Open.

"It was a tough decision. There were (four) players with protected rankings in the main draw, so these things didn't help me to get in," he says. "I choose to play Challengers (in Thailand) instead of the qualifiers because I had a hope that if I do well, I can get into the main draw of the Indian Wells Masters in March."

Before the journey to the United States though, he opted for the stopover in India. And now he's made it to the first semi-final of an ATP event since he lost at this stage at the Antalya Open in 2018. He has won just a solitary title, back in Auckland 2015. But after his tight win against Ivashka, he feels his time is coming soon. "Now, I want to go forward and make it to the final. I have a good opportunity and I'm confident. I can play free and make it through."



Czech player Jiri Vesely eked out a sensational 2-6-6-1 7-6 (11) victory over Ilya Ivashka of Belarus to enter the semifinals.

Baptism by Belgium: India draft rookies to face World No.1

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 7

A COUPLE of years ago, Dilpreet Singh was seen as the future of Indian hockey. He was sharp and skillful, and was turning quite a few heads with his performances in the junior circuit. But he was found out on the biggest stage of all – the World Cup – and the selectors, who found him too raw for senior-level hockey, dropped the 19-year old from the squad. After spending 13 months in the wilderness, he is back where he thinks he belongs.

Like Dilpreet, Shamsher Singh, too, was convinced he had no future within the India set-up. The versatile midfielder watched his teammates win the junior 2016 World Cup from the sidelines (he was a standby), and has remained on the fringes ever since.

Rajkumar Pal was nowhere in the reckoning for a senior team berth till a few weeks ago. But after a few eye-catching performances with the junior team at Sultan of Johor Cup, the midfielder known for his wristy stick-work, is set to make his international debut this weekend.

The world champions are here. And, for once, India have not wheeled in the cannon.

Instead, the Indian team that will host all-conquering Belgium in Bhubaneswar for this

weekend's twin FIH Pro League matches is borderline experimental, with chief coach Graham Reid changing nearly half of his side that remained undefeated against the Netherlands last month.

It's a tact not many Indian coaches have employed in the past, especially in an official FIH tournament at home, against the world champions and the current world number 1. But in an Olympic year, Reid is treating Pro League just the way it should be: a tune-up to Tokyo.

His initial plan was to play two different teams for the two games on a weekend to try out as many players as possible, but it now seems he will rotate the squad for every tie. So seven players in the 18-man squad, including veterans like SV Sunil, Akashdeep Singh and Birendra Lakra, have made way for rookies such as Shamsher and Rajkumar. And like Dilpreet, striker Ramandeep Singh and defender Kothajit Singh – once playing 11 regulars – will hope to remind the coaching staff that they are still around.

It will be up to these players to match the high standards India set against the Netherlands last month. More than the scorelines in those two games – most coaches have insisted results are incidental this year – India's style of play stood out.

In Reid's first test against an opponent of high calibre, India were refreshingly positive.



Dilpreet Singh is returning to the team after a year. File

Reid lined-up his players in a 2-5-3 formation and by crowding the midfield, India were able to win a lot of battles in that area of the pitch and break Netherlands' momentum. That helped the midfielders and forwards to launch quick breaks, and with a bunch of improved technical skills, they were able to constantly keep the Dutch on back foot. One of the hallmarks of India's style in both those matches has been the team's ag-

India have struggled to deal with Belgium's revolutionary zonal press system, combined with high-press and counter-attacking style.

gressive approach and played more forward passes rather than sideways or backwards. Reid doesn't like playing conservative hockey and for once, the players delivered what the coach demanded.

Against Belgium, however, that will be a massive challenge. Reid has left the defence untouched, more or less. The challenge, however, will be bigger for the midfielders and forwards. Not just because of the new combinations, but also because of the quality of the opposition.

Unlike India, Belgium enter the twin ties with a very strong squad – they are here with all players who played, and won, the World Cup final at the same venue in December 2018. The same bunch went on to win the European Championship last year and finished runners-up in the 2019 Pro League, losing in the final to Australia. The Belgian team that's here, led by Thomas Briels, is arguably the best in the world at the moment and also the firm favourites for the Olympic gold later this year.

India have struggled to deal with Belgium's revolutionary zonal press system, combined with high-press and counter-attacking style. They are solid defensively – led in that department by goalkeeper Vincent Vanasch and defender Arthur van Doren – and boast of some of the best attacking players in the world. There are hardly any in chinks in their armour.

In contrast, India have seldom played two matches consistently at the same level. This weekend, it will be interesting to see, a) which Indian team actually turns up; and b) whether they can play all four quarters with the same intensity.

There were moments against the Netherlands when India let go of the initiative – India were particularly poor in the second quarter of both matches. It very nearly cost them but some of the veterans in the squad stood up and made themselves count when it was needed the most, especially in the second match when India were down by two goals.

Unlike the Netherlands, one can expect Belgium to be more ruthless in attack and stronger defensively. The likes of Dilpreet and Shamsher may have waited for long to get a chance. And there couldn't be a tougher opponent for them to prove themselves.

India (rank: 5) vs Belgium (rank: 1)
Live on Star Sports 2, 5pm

A Cup of surprises

Spanish giants Barcelona and Real Madrid knocked out of new-look Copa del Rey; Catalans concede in 93rd min, Zidane's men lose a 7-goal thriller

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
MADRID, FEBRUARY 7

BARCELONA AND REAL MADRID both crashed out of the Copa del Rey as Athletic Bilbao and Real Sociedad pulled off a shock Basque double to reach the semi-finals.

Barca were beaten 1-0 by Bilbao at San Mames, where Inaki Williams headed in a dramatic 93rd-minute winner, after La Real had seen off Madrid 4-3 in a seven-goal thriller at the Santiago Bernabeu on Thursday.

Two sensational upsets added another layer of excitement to a competition that has been full of surprises this season, with Bilbao and Real Sociedad joining Granada and second division Mirandes in an unfamiliar line-up for the draw on Friday.

"There have been some surprise results," said Williams. "Sometimes you just have to have faith and heart."

For Barca, defeat was particularly painful, coming at the end of a turbulent week that saw Lionel Messi engage in a public spat with the club's sporting director Eric Abidal and Ousmane Dembele ruled out, probably for the rest of the season, with another hamstring tear.

To make matters worse, Gerard Pique hobbled off with his own injury problem in the second half against Bilbao and looks doubtful to face Real Betis in La Liga on Sunday.

Messi's riposte that "everyone should take responsibility for their own decisions" after Abidal suggested Ernesto Valverde was sacked last month because of the players, means Barcelona are in political turmoil off the pitch. And the fear is Messi could even leave in the summer by activating a clause in his contract that allows him to walk away from the club for free. Defeat in the Copa del Rey, a distant third in Barca's list of priorities this season, will not dictate Messi's thinking but another setback certainly adds to the sense of a club currently in a state of crisis.

Quique Setien has lost two of his opening six games in charge, with a Champions League tie against Napoli fast-approaching. The fall-out from another failure in Europe would prove longer-lasting. "We deserved to go through," said Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu. "But the ambition and attitude I saw on the field encourages me for the league and the Champions League. Success can come."

'It hurts'

For a rotated Madrid side, who sit top of La Liga, the loss against Real Sociedad was perhaps less damaging, even if they conceded as many goals in 69 minutes as they had in their last 11 matches put together.

Martin Odegaard, on loan at La Real but allowed to face his parent club, found the opener before the superb Alexander Isak hit two to give Real Sociedad a remarkable 3-0 lead. Marcelo and Rodrygo both scored late in the second half and while Mikel Merino added a fourth for the visitors, a Nacho Fernandez header set up a wild final three minutes, in which Andoni Gorosabel was also sent off.

Ten-man Real Sociedad held on for a superb win to progress to the last four while Madrid's run without success in Spain's domestic cup extends to six years.

"It hurts, we have to be honest, nobody likes a defeat," said Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane.

One consolation might have been the display of the 21-year-old Odegaard, who is beginning to live up to the hype after signing for Madrid aged 15.

On loan at Sociedad, the plan was for Odegaard to stay one more year at Anoeta but



Barcelona forward Lionel Messi reacts after Athletic Bilbao's Inaki Williams scores the stoppage-time winner. Reuters

HOW A FORMAT CHANGE SPICED UP THE EVENT

Led by president Luis Rubiales, the Spanish Football Federation last year approved changes to the Cup, axing two-legged ties in every round apart from the semi-final to make the Cup more exciting. The results are visible.

NO BIG-TEAM ADVANTAGE

The old format was skewed in favour of the bigger clubs, who could rest players for a first leg and swallow defeat before calling on their stars to turn the tie around in the return game. Barca, for example, had reached the semi-finals for the last nine seasons and monopolised the trophy between 2015 and 2018.

FIERCER COMPETITION

Ties are now settled in one match, leading to dramatic scenes such as third-tier Cultural Leonesa knocking out 10-times winners Atletico and Mirandes dumping out Celta Vigo, Sevilla and Villarreal. In the last 32, Real Madrid were made to sweat for a

There have been a lot of surprises this season and sometimes you have to have faith and play with your heart. The fans deserved this moment after the way they supported us."

SERGIO BUSQUETS,
BARCELONA MIDFIELDER

3-1 win at newly-formed Unionistas de Salamanca and Barcelona trailed tiny Ibiza for most of their match before eventually winning 2-1.

STAR-STUDED FIELD

Barca and Real both fielded their top players in their quarter-final ties against Athletic and Sociedad respectively and the San Mames and Bernabeu stadiums were packed and rocking, making victory even sweeter for the winners.

REUTERS

this glittering display, that earned him a standing ovation from the home fans when he went off, may well persuade Madrid to recall him early. Their 21-game unbeaten streak comes to an end after an uncharacteristically careless performance in which a rotated side highlighted the importance of the likes of Casemiro, Raphael Varane and Thibaut Courtois. Courtois'

replacement Alphonse Areola was at fault for at least one of the goals while Marcelo was typically unpredictable at left-back, a position the more dependable Ferland Mendy has made his own in recent weeks.

Eden Hazard is training again but the wait for his return goes on while Gareth Bale was again left out of the squad completely.

BRIEFLY

North Eastern Warriors reach maiden PBL final

North Eastern Warriors stormed into the final of the Premier Badminton League (PBL) for the first time after demolishing the challenge of Chennai Superstarz 3-1, on Friday. Lee Cheuk Yiu and the mixed doubles pair of Lee Yong Dae-Kim Ha Na put the Guwahati-based franchise ahead in their first-ever semi-final in three appearances.

Football: Argentina earn Tokyo Olympics berth

Argentina become the first South American team to reach the Tokyo Olympic football tournament when they beat Colombia 2-1 to top the regional qualifying group with a match to spare. Second-half goals from Agustin Urzi - who was later sent off - and Nehuen Perez gave Argentina the hard-fought win on Thursday night.

Police to probe racist abuse in German Cup

Jordan Torunarigha has lodged a complaint with police after he was allegedly subjected to racist abuse during a German Cup game at Schalke, his club Hertha Berlin confirmed Friday. The visibly upset Torunarigha was sent off for a second yellow card during extra time in Hertha's 3-2 extra-time defeat on Tuesday after allegedly hearing monkey chants and other racist abuse. AGENCIES

EXPLAINED
by The Indian EXPRESS



TACKLING THE SLOWDOWN: DOES THE BUDGET HAVE A GAMEPLAN?

with

Prachi Mishra

Managing Director, Global Macro Research, Goldman Sachs

in conversation with

P Vaidyanathan Iyer

Executive Editor, National Affairs, The Indian Express

From slowing investments and falling demand to job losses, Budget 2020-21 comes at a time when the nation is facing a serious economic crisis. In this edition of Explained, join us in a discussion with Prachi Mishra as she analyses Budget 2020-21. And decodes its prospects for the Indian economy.

13 FEB 2020

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Guardiola wants Messi to remain at Camp Nou

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
MANCHESTER, FEBRUARY 7

PEP GUARDIOLA says he wants Lionel Messi to finish his career at Barcelona rather than join him at Manchester City. Messi has a release clause in his contract this summer and reports in Spain and England have suggested he could trigger it after a rift with Barcelona's sporting director Eric Abidal, who has accused the players of getting former manager Ernesto Valverde the sack.

Guardiola was Barcelona manager from 2008 to 2012 and works alongside former Barca directors Ferran Soriano and Txiki Begiristain at City, so it is little surprise the Premier League champions have been tipped as favourites to sign Messi if he decides to leave the Camp Nou.

City have been linked with the Argentine striker every season since Guardiola arrived in England in 2016, but after spending his entire career with the Catalan club, he repeated his oft-stated opinion that he thinks - and hopes - Messi will stay there until his retirement. "He will stay there, that's my wish," Guardiola told reporters on Friday. "I'm not going to talk about players for other clubs. I think he will finish his career there, that's my wish."

Meanwhile, Guardiola says Raheem Sterling could be out for "weeks" after the City winger injured his left hamstring in the defeat at Tottenham last Sunday.

Sterling will miss the Premier League game against West Ham this weekend and is in a race against time to be fit for when City resume their season after a two-week winter break.

They face Leicester on February 22 before the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie against Real Madrid four days later. "It's a hamstring and we will see. It takes weeks but we'll see if he is fit to play against Leicester, Madrid and the rest of the games," Guardiola said. "I don't know. It's a problem, but it's a problem we had with (Ilkay) Gundogan a couple of seasons ago and (Aymeric) Laporte this season when he was out for four or five months."



DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2020

Appeal to Voters of Delhi

DO'S

- ➔ Do carry your Photo-Voter Slip to the Polling Station.
- ➔ Always be in queue and wait for your turn.
- ➔ Always maintain peace in and around the polling station.
- ➔ Show your photo ID card as prescribed by the Election Commission of India.
- ➔ Follow instructions on "HOW TO VOTE"
- ➔ Show courtesy to the polling team which is facilitating your vote.
- ➔ After casting your vote come out of the polling station quietly.

DON'TS

- ➔ Do not accept bribe for your vote. Bribery is an offence.
- ➔ Do not impersonate for someone else. Impersonation is an offence.
- ➔ Do not cause any disturbance in the poll process. You may land up in prison.
- ➔ Do not cause damage/tamper with poll material including EVM/VVPAT. You may land up in prison.
- ➔ Do not obstruct the polling team in performing election duty. You may land up in prison.

PROHIBITED ITEMS



DELHI GET READY TO VOTE ON 8th FEBRUARY 2020

Polling Time: 8.00 AM to 6.00 PM

Note: Photo voter slip can be used for guidance but not as an Identity Proof at the polling station.

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