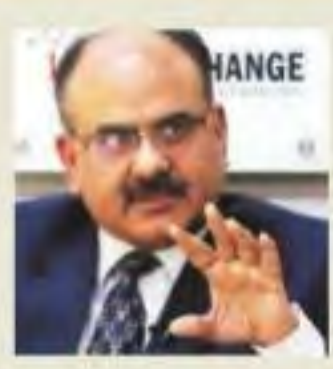


A Sense of Direction  
Theatre director Ratan Thiyam and 50 yrs of bringing political, environmental concerns to stage



IDEA EXCHANGE PAGE 10

'INCOME-TAX RATE WITH DIFFERENT SLABS NOT COMPLICATED, DONE IN MOST ECONOMIES'

AJAY BHUSHAN PANDEY, Revenue Secretary

SUNDAY STORY PAGE 11

Three's a Sarkar

With Maharashtra coalition govt set to complete 100 days in office, a look at the threads that bind it and the tugs that are pulling it apart



10 stabbed in Shillong, toll 2 in anti-CAA unrest in state

In charred locality, mangled clocks tell a tale, BSF DIG visits a constable's home

RITU SARIN  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

TIME HAS stopped, literally, in scores of homes in Northeast Delhi that were set ablaze during this week's riots — and on Saturday, as several families returned to localities such as Khajuri Khas and Bhajanpura to see their belongings reduced to ash, the mangled and melted wall clocks told a tale. The time on the shrivelled clocks is in many cases indecipherable. Some remain on the blackened walls, others have fallen in the heaps of burnt debris, shards of glass, and piles of rubble on the floor.

Among the homes that are almost completely gutted in Khajuri Khas is that of BSF Constable Mohammad Anees. He is due to be married in two months, but his bedroom and personal belongings are charred, and the sides of his television set have curled up in the heat from the raging flames.

The BSF's Deputy Inspector General, Pushpinder Singh Rathore, visited Anees's burnt home along with other BSF officials on Saturday. "Anees has been informed about the destruction of his home and he is on the way back from Odisha where he is posted," DIG Rathore told *The Sunday Express*. "We came here as

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DIG Rathore at the home of Anees, who is posted in Odisha. BSF said it would provide the family required help. Ritu Sarin

BIG PICTURE  
PAGES 12-13

Heart of Darkness

India's most densely populated dist, with the Capital's least banks. What frames the Northeast Delhi violence



Goli maaro slogan is back as Kapil Mishra leads 'peace' march

ABHINAV RAJPUT  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

DAYS AFTER the Delhi High Court frowned upon a speech made by him in Northeast Delhi, seen as one of the triggers for the riots that left 42 dead, BJP leader Kapil Mishra took out a march metres from the Capital's VIP areas on Saturday where calls were made to shoot traitors.

Mishra's 'peace march', including roughly 1,200 people, began from Jantar Mantar and proceeded to make its way to Connaught Place and Janpath, without police permission, amid slogans of 'Kisi ko mat maaf karo, jihaadiyon ko saaf karo (Don't spare anyone, wipe out jihadis)' and 'Desh ke gaddaron ko, goli maaro saalon ko'. It was flanked by security personnel.

With Mishra were people who claimed to have received injuries in the Delhi riots, in Bhajanpura, Shiv Vihar, Karawal Nagar and New Mustafabad areas, with bandages on their faces. A mini-truck accompanied them, with a flexboard carrying photos of Head Constable Ratan Lal, Intelligence Bureau staffer Ankit



Mishra marched flanked by security. Praveen Khanna  
MORE REPORTS, PAGE 4, 5

Sharma and Vinod Kashyap, who were among those killed in the riots. Slogans were also raised of 'Modi ke samman mein, desh bhakt maidan mein (The patriots are in the field in support of Modi)' and 'Ankit Sharma kayeh balidan, yaad rakhhega Hindustan (The country will remember Ankit Sharma's sacrifice)'.

An NGO called the Delhi Peace Forum was the organiser of the procession.

Mishra, who did not address the protesters, told *The Sunday Express*, "The march was against 'jihadi violence' and for the people who have suffered losses."

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Taliban's Mullah Baradar, US envoy for Afghan peace Zalmay Khalilzad after signing the deal. Reuters  
FULL COVERAGE, P 18

DOHA PACT

US, Taliban sign deal, NATO to exit Afghanistan in 14 months

Mullah Baradar thanks Pakistan and China, does not mention India

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

AT A ceremony in Qatar that was also attended by an Indian diplomat, the United States signed an agreement with the Taliban on Saturday, agreeing to withdraw entirely from Afghanistan in the next 14 months. The deal to end 19 years of war is, however, fraught with risks and uncertainties, and poses many questions on the way forward.

The pact for "bringing peace to Afghanistan" was signed by Zalmay Khalilzad, US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, and Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the political head of the Taliban, at the Sheraton hotel in Doha.

In the audience was India's Ambassador to Qatar, P Kumaran, who attended the ceremony along with US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo and a 31-member Taliban delegation.

As had been expected,

EXPLAINED  
Future is uncertain

THE DEAL has come after difficult negotiations, and its future is uncertain. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla went to Kabul on Friday, and India will be closely watching the next moves by the Taliban, as well as the proposed intra-Afghan dialogue. With the US set to retreat, and Pakistan in a strong position, India has its task cut out.

Mullah Baradar especially named Pakistan for its assistance, and also thanked China, Iran, and Russia for supporting the peace process in Afghanistan. Also expectedly, he did not name India.  
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INSIDE

SILCHAR LECTURER HELD FOR POST AS STUDENTS PROTEST

POLISH STUDENT AT JADAVPUR VARSITY TOLD TO LEAVE INDIA  
PAGES 7, 8



A melted wall clock at a sweet shop. Ritu Sarin

Amid CAA, riots storm, Jakarta calls in envoy, foreign secy heads to Dhaka

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

INDONESIA ON Saturday conveyed its concerns over the deadly riots in Delhi that were triggered by clashes over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). On Sunday, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will travel to Bangladesh, the first high-level visit to that country

since the CAA-NRC issue introduced strains in an otherwise robust bilateral relationship.

The Indonesian foreign ministry called in the Indian Ambassador to Jakarta, Pradeep Rawat, on Friday to discuss the riots that have claimed 42 lives so far, *The Jakarta Post* reported on Saturday.

"The Government of Indonesia has complete confidence that the Government of

India will be able to manage the situation and ensure the harmonious relations among its religious communities. Moreover, both countries share similar characteristics, as pluralistic countries that uphold democratic values and tolerance," the Indonesian foreign ministry said, according to the newspaper.

The Indonesian foreign ministry's statement came hours  
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N.E.W.S

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SUNDAY PROFILE  
S MURALIDHAR

JUSTICE LEAGUE

Pioneer in plastic fight, Sikkim town is set to introduce bamboo bottles

ESHA ROY  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 29

MORE THAN eight years after it became the first town in Sikkim, and arguably India, to completely ban packaged drinking water bottles, Lachen is set to introduce bamboo bottles as an alternative.

Located 129 km from Gangtok, at a height of 2,750 metres, the Himalayan town's snow-capped hills, aquamarine lakes, red pandas and a rhodo-

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One of the bottles for which orders have been placed

dendron trek draw nearly one lakh tourists annually. It was the plastic bottles left behind by them that prompted Lachen to introduce the ban. The initiative was entirely community driven,

The bamboo water bottles have been ordered from Assam through Sikkim Rajya Sabha MP Hishey Lachungpa.

Sikkim was the first state in the country to take steps against the use of plastic, bringing in restrictive measures as far back as 1998. In 2016, it banned the use of packaged drinking water in government offices as well as at all government events.

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WORLD



FIRST DEATH DUE TO CORONAVIRUS IN US; SOUTH KOREA SEES A SPIKE IN CASES

CRISIS AS MAHATHIR REJECTS NEW PM, CLAIMS NUMBERS  
PAGE 18

22-yr-old held now for Pulwama attack detained since Dec: Family

ADIL AKHZER  
PULWAMA, FEBRUARY 29

THE FAMILY of the 22-year-old who was produced on Friday by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) as its first arrest in the Pulwama terror attack case has claimed that he has been in police custody since December 7 last year.

Shakir Bashir Magrey's mother Jameela told *The Sunday Express* that in the over two months he had been in custody,  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Mother Jameela at home in Hajibal, Pulwama. Family had been expecting him to be released on Friday. Shuaib Masoodi

In quake-scarred Christchurch, caution frames debate over stadium



EXPRESS IN NEW ZEALAND

SANDIP G  
CHRISTCHURCH, FEB 29

A DECADE ago, Christchurch, where India are playing the second Test against New Zealand, suffered the two worst earthquakes in its history in the space

of less than six months.

The first, in September 2010, destroyed over 1,200 buildings and altered the skyline of New Zealand's second most populous city. The second earthquake, in February 2011, left 185 people dead and reduced to rubble other massive buildings, including a two-century-old cathedral, and the historic Lancaster Park, the city's cricket and rugby stadium since the mid-1930s.

As Christchurch rose from the debris, its architecture was defined by the memory of its twin disasters. Today, the city is classically minimalist — Hagley Oval, the cricket stadium, is in the mid-

dle of a large and lovely park with acres of greenery that encompasses a botanic garden and a public golf course, ringed by a gleaming white picket fence.

There's just the solitary concrete building, the single-storey Richard Hadlee pavilion that houses the dressing rooms and a few corporate boxes. A clutch of chairs are placed just beyond the boundary ropes under a canopy that resembles the one at the Adelaide Oval in Australia. The contrast with India, which has just got the world's biggest cricket stadium, the 1 lakh-plus-capacity brick-cement-concrete behemoth at Motera, Ahmedabad,



Hagley Oval, where India are playing New Zealand, has almost no concrete structures. Sandip G

could not have been starker.

On either side of the pavilion at the Hagley Oval stand tents, covered in white cloth. A small

tent is the food stall, and a moderately-sized one is the press box (or press tent). The tents trembled in the wind at the end of a

day that India closed on the defensive — with New Zealand reaching 63/0 after bowling India out for 242.

Unlike most modern stadiums, the Hagley Oval is unstained by modernity. There are no towering floodlights or massive stands — it looks rather like an idyllic first-class venue, with the Victorian-style Old Scorer's and Umpires' Association building and the Greener's Cricket Club in the vicinity adding to its old-world charm.

Authorities have been reluctant to sanction multi-storey stands in the stadium, and have stressed on earthquake-resilient buildings across the city. Today, the tallest building in Christchurch is the 282-foot Pacific Tower. "The association

wants to expand and build a world-class stadium, but it has had difficulty convincing the authorities that the structure would be earthquake resistant. After the tremors, they are paranoid about everything," John Pennington, one of the grounds-men, said.

Conservation groups had even opposed the creation of the stadium in the 165-hectare public park, the third largest in the world. Protesters sat in front of machinery to stop the upgrades in 2012, and work had to be put on hold for six months. "They thought the stadium will destroy  
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