

CITY



**DELHI COURT STAYS EXECUTION OF DEC 16 GANGRAPE CONVICTS** PAGE 4

**SC gives early date to hear Omar sister's plea: Pertains to liberty**

**ANANTHAKRISHNANG**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

OBSERVING THAT the "matter pertains to liberty", the Supreme Court Monday decided to hear Thursday a plea by Sara Abdullah Pilot challenging the detention of her brother and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah under the stringent Public Safety Act.

The bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Indira Banerjee decided to hear the plea at an early date after the J&K administration told the bench "there was ample material and grounds to issue the impugned order of detention against" the former J&K Chief Minister "considering the past conduct and the possibility of such conduct being repeated on release and thereby prejudicing the public order in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir".

The PSA was invoked last month against Omar Abdullah and PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti, also a former Chief Minister, six months after they were taken into preventive detention in the wake of the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5.

Omar's sister Sara approached the Supreme Court calling his detention illegal. She said Omar had been in custody for six months, had no access to any form of public speech and expression and, therefore, there could be no reason/material to conclude that he may act in any manner prejudicial to maintenance of public order.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Policemen offer flowers to students taking the CBSE exams in riot-affected Khajuri Khas in Delhi. Praveen Khanna REPORTS P3, 5

**DELHI RIOTS ROCK PARLIAMENT**

**Opp unites to seek resignation of Shah, BJP says creating tension**

**LIZ MATHEW, SHUBHAJIT ROY & MANOJ CG**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

BJP AND Congress members shoved and pushed each other in Lok Sabha Monday, the opening day of the second leg of the Budget session, as Opposition parties, protesting the communal violence in Delhi, united in both Houses of Parliament to demand the resignation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The uproar paralysed proceedings and both Houses were adjourned for the day.

Protesting in separate groups outside Parliament, Opposition parties united inside the two Houses to mount a concerted attack on the BJP. In Lok Sabha, MPs belonging to the Congress, DMK, Left parties, Shiv Sena, NCP, SP, BSP, NC and TMC rose as one to shout slogans against Shah.

While TMC members refrained from entering the Well of the House, others trooped in with Congress members holding banners saying "Shah Must Resign". TMC members led by Kalyan Banerjee and Mohua Moitra shouted "Amit Shah Murdabad" while SP leader Akhilesh Yadav held a placard saying "Bhajpa sarkar, dangon ka sarkar".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Iran speaks out: Condemn wave of violence against Muslims**



**SC to hear petition on hate FIRs: We wish peace... pressure on us, we cannot handle**

**ANANTHAKRISHNANG**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

AS IT agreed to hear Wednesday a plea seeking registration of FIRs against political leaders and others over hate speeches, the Supreme Court Monday gave vent to its anguish, saying "we wish peace" but "courts come

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

IRAN BECAME the fourth Muslim-majority country to officially react to the riots in Delhi, with Foreign Minister Javad Zarif condemning the "wave of organised violence against Indian Muslims" and urging authorities to not let "senseless thuggery" prevail.

Zarif, a diplomat-minister known for his careful choice of words, tweeted on Monday night: "Iran condemns the wave



Don't let senseless thuggery prevail: Zarif

of organised violence against Indian Muslims. For centuries, Iran has been a friend of India. We urge Indian authorities to ensure the wellbeing of ALL Indians & not let senseless thuggery prevail. Path forward lies in peaceful dialogue and rule of law."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Screening stepped up as coronavirus reaches Delhi and Hyderabad**

Samples of third suspected case in Rajasthan sent for testing

**ABANTIKA GHOSH**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

TAKING THE number of coronavirus cases in India to five, two new infections have been detected — one in Delhi and the other in Hyderabad, officials said. Both the patients, who are undergoing treatment and are "stable", recently travelled to countries affected by COVID-19, they said.

In a third suspected case, officials in Rajasthan said an Italian tourist has tested positive for the virus. However, they said, the patient's blood samples are being sent to the National Institute of Virology in Pune since the positive test came after a preliminary test that was negative.

The patient in Delhi, who is currently in the isolation ward of Safdarjung Hospital, had travelled to Italy, which is one of the hardest-hit nations with 1,694 cases and 34 deaths. Officials said he had returned to Delhi on an Air India flight from Vienna on February 25.

The patient in Hyderabad had returned last week from Dubai, where 19 cases have been reported.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Supplies hit, pharma hub in Himachal faces production crisis**

**GAGANDEEP SINGH DHILLON**  
SHIMLA, MARCH 2

PHARMACEUTICAL units in the Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh industrial belt of Himachal Pradesh have warned of suspension of production, with the import of raw materials used to make drugs hit due to the coronavirus scare in China.

The price of paracetamol, an active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) used to formulate a commonly used drug of the same name, has nearly doubled since January, and is now being sold for Rs 450-500 kg, industry sources said. The cost of methylcobalamin, a form of Vitamin B12, is up Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh per kg, while several ingredients such as alpha-lipoic acid have gone missing.

APIs, also called bulk drugs, are key ingredients in the manufacture of medicines. Around 70-80% of APIs in India are imported. The Hubei province of China, the epicentre of the coronavirus, is the hub of its API manufacturing industry.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



The Baddi industrial hub

**EXPLAINED** The new challenge, the plan

THE REPORTING of new coronavirus cases in Delhi and Hyderabad, possibly Rajasthan too, is a challenge that health authorities had been bracing for ever since suspected cases showed up in Kerala. The government has already launched a four-pronged containment plan. With China supply lines hit, pharma companies too have to rise to the task.

**PM keeps all guessing: This Sunday, thinking of giving up SM accounts**

**LIZ MATHEW & KARISHMA MEHROTRA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

WITH 53.3 million followers on Twitter, 35.2 million on Instagram, 4.51 million on YouTube and 44.73 million on Facebook, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is one of the most popular world leaders on



The Prime Minister's tweet on Monday night

social media platforms, and has been a pioneer in using it for political communication.

But on Monday night, Modi kept everyone guessing when he put out a post: "This Sunday, thinking of giving up my social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram & YouTube. Will keep you all posted."

The first political reaction to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**SAI officials act on sexual harassment: Action has been taken in 9 of 14 cases**

**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

NEARLY TWO months after *The Indian Express* reported that 45 cases of sexual harassment were reported at 24 centres run by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) between 2010 and 2019, and that many cases have dragged on for years, the organisation said action has been taken in nine out of 14 unresolved complaints.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Express report on January 16

**THE EDITORIAL PAGE**

**NO CHANGE IN US'S AFGHAN STRATEGY**  
BY ANJU GUPTA  
PAGE 12

**WORLD**



**TALIBAN CALL OFF AFGHAN TRUCE, SAY WILL RESUME OPERATIONS** PAGE 14

**Eminence tag to two pvt institutes did not meet key eligibility criterion**

**RITIKA CHOPRA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

AT LEAST two private higher education institutes, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) in Odisha and Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) in Tamil Nadu, which were declared 'Institutions of Eminence' (IoEs) on August 2, 2019, are ineligible for the coveted status. *The Indian Express* has found that the two institutes do not meet the eligibil-

ity criterion on the net worth of the sponsoring organisation members.

According to the University Grants Commission's regulations on the IoE scheme, the sponsoring organisation is a "charitable or a not-for-profit Society or a public Trust or a Company incorporated under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013" applying to upgrade an existing private institution or a new one to an IoE.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

**In a Jharkhand corner, Deputy Commissioner opts for a government hospital to deliver baby**

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**ABHISHEK ANGAD**  
RANCHI, MARCH 2

WHEN THIS IAS officer in Jharkhand was nearing the due date in her second pregnancy, she was clear about where she wanted to deliver the baby. Not at the private hospital in Lucknow where she had delivered her first child four years ago, or even in the state capital — but the government district

hospital in Godda, where she is the Deputy Commissioner, over 320 km northeast of Ranchi.

The C-section delivery at 9.51 am Sunday of Kiran Pasi's second child, a boy, is now being celebrated by doctors at the hospital, state officials — and even the Chief Minister.

While Pasi is still being monitored, the Godda hospital's civil surgeon, Shiv Prasad Mishra, said: "It was not the result of an emergency but a conscious decision. DC Pasi was working to improve health facilities in the district, and this will bring more trust in govern-



Godda DC Kiran Pasi and her baby boy

ment services."

It was a sentiment echoed by Chief Minister Hemant Soren. Taking to Twitter, Soren wrote that "your efforts to show that health facilities in the state are capable is praiseworthy".

"This is not just a news item but a positive response towards improvement in health services," said Health Minister Banna Gupta.

"One must appreciate that she has faith in the system. People are talking because she is a DC, but one has to understand that the overall system has improved and is competent

enough to respond," said Jharkhand's Principal Secretary, Health, Nitin Madan Kulkarni.

Pasi's husband, Pushpendra Saroj, was not available for comment but civil surgeon Mishra said he was supportive of his wife's decision — even though the 37-year-old from Lucknow had already undergone a C-section for her first child, a girl.

"After the birth, all of them seem to be happy. There was no complication," he said.

Mishra said it was Pasi's faith in government services

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

India Trade Promotion Organisation (A Government of India Enterprise)

**AAHAR**  
THE INTERNATIONAL FOOD & HOSPITALITY FAIR

35<sup>th</sup> Edition

**March 3-7 2020**

#AAHARDELHI2020

INAUGURATION TODAY by **Shri Piyush Goyal**  
Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Government of India

At 1:00 PM, A4A (Foyer), Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

Hall 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 12A | A3 | A4A | A4B (GF) | A5 (Part) | Hangar 7FGH | H7A | H7F

Food & Beverages  
F & B Equipment (Preparation, Processing, Packaging)  
Hospitality & Decor Solution

www.indiatradefair.com

Registration fee ₹ 300/- per day

For details log on to [www.bookmyshow.com](http://www.bookmyshow.com)

Paid Parking available at Bhairon Mandir Parking

Entry from Gate No. 1 on Bhairon Mandir Road and Gate No. 10 (Metro Station Gate)

For further details: Hema Maity, General Manager email: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in; Ashok Kumar, Senior Manager email: ashokkumar@itpo.gov.in

Shuttle service available at entry gates