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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

DOMESTIC DEMAND ROLE HOLDS KEY
BY JAHANGIR AZIZ
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BUSINESS AS USUAL
BY UNNY

On the heels of Vadra, I-T raids premises of his former aide

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

THE INCOME Tax Department Wednesday searched multiple premises in possession of former Congress MLA Lalit Nagar and his brother Mahesh Nagar, a former aide of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra. Following the searches, I-T officials claimed they now have evidence of a money trail linked to the purchase of sizable tracts of land in Rajasthan's Bikaner district.

The searches, I-T officials said, were conducted in the morning in connection with alleged money laundering and benami landholdings in Bikaner. Earlier, properties belonging to the Nagar brothers were searched by the Enforcement Directorate and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

COVID-19: PM, PRESIDENT TO SKIP HOLI

23 new cases, Govt to screen all international passengers on arrival

Six relatives of Delhi patient in Agra test positive

ABANTIKA GHOSH, HARIKISHAN SHARMA & PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

ON A day which saw the highest single day surge so far — 23 new cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), including 15 Italian tourists — the government announced Wednesday that all passengers arriving in India would have to undergo thermal screening at international airports and sea-ports.

The total number of cases detected across the country has now risen to 29, including three in Kerala who were discharged last month.

Two days after a 45-year-old man from East Delhi tested positive, six of his relatives from Agra have also tested positive. They are all being treated at the Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi.

In Jaipur, where a 69-year-old Italian tourist was found to have contracted the infection, his wife and 14 other members of his tour group as well as their Indian driver have tested positive.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IRDAI ASKS INSURERS TO DESIGN COVID-19 POLICIES FULL COVERAGE, PAGES 6, 9, 13, 16, 19

Some of the Italian tourists at the ITBP quarantine facility in Chhawla, Delhi, on Wednesday. *Reuters*

Team of 16 Italian tourists tests positive, Rajasthan traces 200 who interacted

HAMZA KHAN & ASTHA SAXENA
JAIPUR, NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

THE GROUP of 23 Italian tourists — 16 of them and their Indian driver have now tested positive for coronavirus — came in contact with at least 215 people across six districts of Rajasthan, State Health Minister Raghu Sharma told the Assembly on Wednesday.

He said samples of 93 people have been collected; 51 have tested negative, while the remaining test reports are awaited.

The group, including the 69-year-old Italian man who first tested positive, had arrived in

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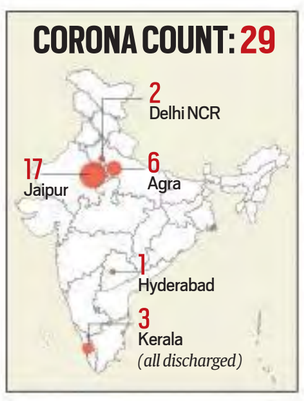

7 months later, Internet back in J&K, slow but much more sure

NAVEED IQBAL & ARUN SHARMA
SRINAGAR, JAMMU, MARCH 4

SEVEN MONTHS after Internet restrictions were imposed in the then state of Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of the abrogation of Article 370, the J&K administration Wednesday removed curbs on use of social media across the Union Territory. Mobile Internet will, however, remain restricted to 2G speed. A review is scheduled for March 17.

By late evening, Internet was restored on majority mobile phone networks across Kashmir. People rushed to pay bills and recover WhatsApp accounts rendered inactive after four months due to lack of connectivity.

The restrictions were removed following a review by the J&K Home Department early Wednesday. For fixed line services, there will not be any speed restriction although Internet services will be made available with Mac-IP binding (ensuring a client machine works from a particular IP address and Mac address).

Government sources told *The Indian Express* that after the review, "it was decided to lift

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED

Dip in violence key

ONE REASON for the lifting of social media curbs could be the decline in violence in the Valley. Officials say February saw only two violent incidents involving militants. Following the end of Article 370 in August last year, the Valley saw 76 terror incidents till January.

SC tells HC to hear hate FIR plea, objects to Mander remarks

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

DESCRIBING AS "unjustified" the "long" adjournment of a petition seeking registration of FIRs against some BJP leaders over alleged hate speeches made in the days preceding the communal violence in Delhi, the Supreme Court Wednesday sent the plea to the Delhi High Court with the direction that it be listed for March 6 along with other petitions on the matter.

Harsh Mander

The bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant, hearing a plea by ten riot-affected people,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SC quashes RBI ban, clears way for virtual currency operations

Says central bank has powers but order didn't pass 'proportionality' test

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

THE SUPREME Court Wednesday set aside an April 2018 circular of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which had said that all entities regulated by it "shall not deal in virtual currencies (VCs) or provide services for facilitating any person or entity in dealing with or settling VCs".

A three-judge bench of Justices Rohinton Fali Nariman, Aniruddha Bose, and V Ramasubramanian, ruled that the RBI's blanket ban prohibiting banks dealing with VC holders or exchanges did not pass the test of "proportionality".

In its 180-page judgment, the bench held that while RBI had very wide "preventive as well as curative" powers to regulate entities under its ambit, "the availability of power is different from the manner and extent to which it can be exercised".

This is the second major circular issued by the RBI that has been set aside by the SC.

The court has not explicitly mentioned whether lenders will henceforth be able to trade in VCs or not. Experts, however, hoped that the ruling will make the banking regulator reconsider its approach on VC and come up with a new, calibrated framework or regulation for the same.

In April 2019, the apex court had set aside the banking

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

QS UNIV RANKINGS

Global subject rankings: Central campuses get 26 in top-100

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

AS MANY as 26 departments of higher education institutions in India rank among the top 100 in the world in their respective subject category, according to the latest edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject.

Last year, this number stood at 21.

Incidentally, all 26 departments are in institutions run by the Union government — IITs, IIMs, IISc and Delhi University.

Of these, IIT Bombay has cornered more top 100 positions than any other Indian institution.

Nine of its programmes (art and design; chemistry; computer science and information systems; chemical engineering; civil and structural engineering; electrical and electronic engineering; mechanical, aeronautical and manufacturing engineering; mineral and mining engineering; and materials

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WORLD

BIDEN REVIVES CAMPAIGN, WINNING NINE STATES ON SUPER TUESDAY
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BOTTLE GOURD — Makes hair strong & lustrous.
NEEM — Anti-oxidant, promotes hair growth.
KALONJI — Its anti-fungal properties helps remove dandruff.
AMLA — Rich in vitamin C, minerals.
COCONUT OIL — Rich in minerals & proteins. Keeps scalp flakes free.
HARAD — Prevents hair fall & dandruff.
CURRY PATTA — Strengthen the hair follicles and moisturises the scalp.
SESAME OIL — Protects hair from sun damage. Treats head lice.
MANJISTHA — Improves blood circulation of the scalp, moisturises hair roots.
DARUHARIDRA — Anti-fungal properties, treats scalp infections.
JAPA KUSUM — Rich in vitamin C & amino acid content, nourishes the scalp.
BHRINGRAJ — Useful for preventing dandruff.

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WEB EXCLUSIVE

HOW MUSLIM GHETTOS CAME ABOUT IN DELHI

From 'Muslim Zones' needing protection from violence in 1947 to 'unhygienic pockets requiring beautification' in 1970s to "terrorist hide-outs" post 2000s

VIDEO OF THE DAY

DELHI VIOLENCE: COMPENSATION

Delhi govt announced compensation for those who were affected

EXPRESS EXPLAINED

MEN-ONLY US MILITARY DRAFT

Registration with the Selective Service facing legal challenges

EXPRESS AUDIO

How the Coronavirus can affect India's flagging economy

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Detailing how coronavirus has affected the global economy, whether there's risk of a recession and if India's already flagging economy is insulated

FROM PAGE ONE

Mander remarks

said: "We think that adjournment for such a long period is unjustified. We also do not want to assume jurisdiction when the HC is seized of the matter... We also direct that other connected matters, along with all the applications for impleadment and intervention on the same subject which have admittedly been adjourned to a later date by the High Court of Delhi, may be advanced and taken up along with the instant writ petition on the aforesaid date i.e. 06.03.2020."

The bench, meanwhile, declined to hear a petition by activist Harsh Mander, taking exception to his alleged remarks about the Supreme Court and Parliament. It said "till we sort this out, we will not hear you, but will hear others".

In an affidavit later, the Delhi Police accused Mander of instigating violence via a speech and said he is "known for taking contemptuous stand and bringing the judiciary, as an institution, and individual judges in disrepute". Police urged the court to not only impose exemplary costs but also initiate contempt of court proceedings against him.

As soon as the hearing began, Justice Gavai asked whether Mander had made some speeches regarding the court and Parliament.

"Yes," said Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, adding that the matter was "very serious". He told the court that Mander said "we have seen the track record of the Supreme Court. We have no faith in Supreme Court but we will still have to go. But ultimately, justice will be done on the streets".

Mehta was referring to a speech in Hindi made by Mander, allegedly at Jamia Millia Islamia on December 16, 2019.

Appearing for Mander, advocate Karuna Nundy said "he had not said this". But the bench told her "if this is what you feel about the court, then we will have to decide what to do about you".

"We are putting him on notice now before we hear you. Respond to that," the CJI told the counsel, adding "till we sort this out, we will not hear you, but will hear others".

Nundy then sought permission to withdraw the petition and refile it.

Mehta, representing Delhi Police, said a similar petition had been filed before the High Court too and that police had told the HC that the time was not conducive for registration of FIRs, "We said we have received hundreds of such speeches. Situation is not stable and we are concentrating on law and order. We did not say FIR will not be filed," he told the bench.

When the CJI asked him "is the situation conducive for registration of FIR", Mehta replied there were no riots in the last three days. "So will you register FIR now," the CJI asked. Mehta said the court and he may feel the situation is normal, but it is for the law and order machinery to take a call on the timing. He said both sides had videos and both were selective, "but we can't be".

"How does that matter? It is possible that if you register FIR against one side, something will aggravate. But it will not be aggravated if you register FIRs against both sides," the CJI said. "Registration of FIR does not prejudice anyone's rights. So it should not be a problem now if you say situation is stable," he said.

As senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for other petitioners, began his submission, Mehta objected and told the bench that he too should not be heard.

"Are you saying those other persons should also not be heard," the CJI asked. Mehta said: "They are sponsored by Mander."

"May be, but we cannot refuse them a hearing," the CJI said. Gonsalves then went on to cite certain speeches of BJP leaders Kapil Mishra, Anurag Thakur and Parvesh Sahib Singh. He said Mishra's first statement was in January. The bench asked him if he had taken any action on it then. "No, we did not understand the enormity of the situation," Gonsalves replied. He said it was after Mishra's Jafrabad speech that the riots began.

Countering him, Mehta said Gonsalves was trying to give the impression that no FIR had been registered while the fact was that 468 FIRs had been filed. "He wants FIRs against three named individuals," Mehta said.

The bench said it can be added to the FIRs if necessary. "Yes," replied the SG, adding "it is fallacious to say the riots started with these two-three speeches. It started much before."

Gonsalves then referred to the HC order of a bench headed by Justice S Muralidhar, calling upon police to act quickly in the matter of registration of FIRs. Mehta said such an order should never have been passed and that he would be challenging it.

Gonsalves said the riots would not have happened had the leaders who made inflammatory speeches been put in jail in the beginning.

The CJI did not entirely agree: "We also have some experience of riots. Your statement is not absolutely true. Sometimes when you catch leaders and jail them, it flares up... we do not know this particular situation (in Delhi), but are only responding to what you said."

The CJI said that during the Mumbai riots, for instance, violence flared up when shakha pramukhs were arrested. The bench also said "we don't think violence can be curbed by court orders".

The bench sought to explore the option of peace and asked the parties if they were willing to nominate leaders who can talk and sort out matters. It asked them to give names to the HC, stating in its order "the High Court may also explore the possibility of peaceful resolution of the subject dispute".

Later in the day, Delhi Police filed an affidavit, seeking dismissal of Mander's plea. The affidavit, filed by Rajesh Deo, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Legal Cell), said he had come across a video clip showing Mander "delivering a speech which is not only instigating violence but is also seriously contemptuous as it makes derogatory remarks against the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to a large gathering of people".

The clip, the affidavit stated, was freely available on social media. It also cited an order by a bench of former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi in May 2019 on a matter relating to the plight of those lodged in detention centres in Assam.

Mander had sought recusal of CJI Gogoi from hearing it, saying the CJI was "using" his petition "to ensure that the state... commit to mass deportation of alleged foreigners". Rejecting this, the court had said "the grounds stated by Shri Harsh Mander in his application for recusal of the Chief Justice from the Bench... have the potential of causing damage, harm and stall judicial adjudication".

RBI ban

regulator's February 12, 2017 circular in which it had issued directions to banks on resolving bad debts of companies, including specific directions that lenders needed to start the resolution process as soon as a borrower defaulted on a term loan, and that the defaulting company must be taken to the insolvency courts within 180 days.

The SC had then said that the RBI had acted beyond its legal powers while issuing the directive.

The second RBI circular, barring with immediate effect banks and other financial institutions from dealing in VCs, had come on April 6, 2018.

Banks or any other entities regulated by RBI, which had already entered into such transactions, were asked to "exit the relationship within three months", the RBI had then said.

The banking regulator had then also issued directions that apart from dealing with VC holders or exchanges, other services such as maintaining their accounts, registering them or clearing loans against such currencies, accepting them as collateral was also barred with immediate effect.

After the circular, VC exchanges and holders, as well as the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), had challenged the RBI's powers to bar banks and financial institutions from dealing in such digital currencies.

The IAMAI had, during the hearing of the case, also said that RBI had banned banks from dealing in VC just on "moral ground" as neither the regulator nor the government had conducted any study to analyse if these currencies had caused any damage to the domestic financial institutions.

Though the SC agreed with the submission of the petitioners that the RBI, indeed, did not have any ground to prove that the banks or financial institutions regulated by it had suffered any damage due to VCs over the past five years, it held that the bank regulator did, nonetheless, have powers to regulate any currencies in the system.

Furthermore, the apex court also disagreed with the submission of the petitioners that the acceptance of Distributed Ledger Technology, or blockchain, and the rejection of VCs by the RBI as well as the government is a "contradiction" in terms.

"There is nothing irrational about the acceptance of a technological advancement or innovation but the rejection of a by-product of such innovation. There is nothing like a 'take it or leave it' option," the bench said.

The apex court also said that the RBI could not be faulted for acting in the way it did because regulators and domestic agencies such as the Department of Economic Affairs, the Directorate of Enforcement or the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had not acted in the same manner.

"Every one of these stakeholders has a different function to perform and are entitled to have an approach depending upon the prism through which they are obliged to look at the issue. Therefore, RBI cannot be faulted for not adopting the very same approach as that of others," the court said.

Apart from domestic agencies, the RBI could also not be faulted for not adopting a "light-touch" approach as adopted by other countries, the SC said, adding that there could be no comparison with other countries such as the US, UK, Japan, or Singapore as they were developed economies.

"Therefore, we will not test the correctness of the measure taken by RBI on the basis of the approach adopted by other countries," the apex court said.

Citing a reply received under Right to Information and another reply given to the Lok Sabha by the Minister of State for Finance, where the RBI had said that it had "no power to freeze the accounts either of defaulting companies or of shell companies", the petitioners had contended that RBI's action on VCs was "hit by arbitrariness and caprice".

The top court, however, disagreed with this submission and held that "repeated warnings through press releases from December 2013 onwards indicate a genuine attempt on the part of RBI to safeguard the interests of the public".

The RBI's 2018 ban was preceded by warnings and cautions to the users, holders, and traders of virtual currencies about the potential financial, operational, legal, and customer protection and security-related risks that they were exposing themselves to.

In its June 2013 Financial Stability Report, the RBI had for the first time mentioned that the use of online and mobile technologies was driving the proliferation of virtual currencies. The banking regulator had then also said that virtual currencies were a type of unregulated digital money, issued and controlled by its developers and used and accepted by the members of a specific virtual community. RBI had then said that it was studying the "impact of online payment options and virtual currencies to determine potential risks associated with them".

Later, then finance minister Arun Jaitley, too, had said that the government did not consider VCs as legal tender and would take all measures to eliminate payments using them.

Though the RBI had not placed a blanket ban on VC, other countries such as China, Russia, and Vietnam have placed a complete prohibition in any transactions using cryptocurrency. On the other hand, countries such as the US, UK, Canda, Singapore, and Australia have accepted the use of VC in some form or the other.

With the order, resumption of operations at cryptocurrency exchanges and backward linkages with the banking sector is likely. The ruling also means that people holding bitcoins and other virtual currencies would be able to place these as collateral or obtain loans, provided the country's lenders agree to accepting them.

Robert Vadra

the I-T Department in April 2017 and October 2019 respectively.

It is alleged that Mahesh Nagar pooled land for Vadra in Rajasthan and Haryana, and also helped Dubai-based businessman C C Thampi, accused along with Vadra in a case of alleged money laundering, acquire land in Amipur village in Faridabad district of Haryana.

While Nagar was not reachable for comments on Wednesday, he had earlier admitted to pooling land for Vadra and Thampi, while maintaining that he was being "victimised" for his "supposed" links to Vadra long after he had stopped working for him. Vadra, on his part, had called the ED actions a political witch-hunt.

In Rajasthan's Bikaner, Nagar allegedly used his maternal uncle Rishipal, driver Devraj and office staffer Ashok Kumar to pool land from individual owners. In January 2010, Vadra's Sky Light Hospitality acquired 69.55 hectares of this land in two deals for a total of Rs 72 lakh, at a little over Rs 1 lakh per hectare.

As first reported by The Indian Express, Sky Light Hospitality sold the land in two deals to Allegeny Finlease Pvt Ltd in January 2012 for Rs 5.15 crore — at Rs 7.41 lakh per hectare, seven times the purchase price paid two years ago.

While Mahesh Nagar, the authorised representative of several companies linked to Vadra, purchased and sold the land on behalf of Sky Light Hospitality, his staffer Ashok Kumar and a Bikaner-based real estate agent sold the two parcels of land, under power of attorney from local landowners, to Nagar in 2010.

The ED began probing the Bikaner land deals in 2015 and summoned Nagar for questioning. He moved court but got no reprieve and, in December 2016, was told to appear before the agency. Details of the Bikaner land deals have since been handed over by the ED to the I-T investigation unit.

Subsequently, in September 2018, the ED asked the Income Tax Settlement Commission for details in the case related to Bhushan Power and Steel Limited which gave a loan to Allegeny Finlease, allegedly a shell company, that bought parcels of Vadra's Bikaner land from Nagar, the power of attorney holder, at seven times its acquisition cost.

Nagar also figures in the ED probe into a clutch of land deals in Haryana linked to a case of alleged money laundering against Vadra and Thampi.

As reported by The Indian Express, land records showed that Thampi bought land from Nagar in Faridabad's Amipur village. Between 2005 and 2008, Thampi, his Holiday Citi Centre Pvt Ltd, Vadra and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra purchased adjacent tracts of agricultural land in Amipur. At least one of these plots was in possession (kashtkari) of Nagar when Thampi's Holiday Citi Centre Pvt Ltd purchased it.

J&K internet

restrictions on Internet across Jammu & Kashmir". Until now, Internet access on mobile and fixed line services was limited to 1674 websites "whitelisted" by the administration.

J&K DGP Dilbag Singh said: "Social media monitoring will continue and anybody resorting to any misuse will be booked under law."

Global rankings

science engineering) are among the best 100 in the world. Last year, it had eight programmes in top 100 — chemistry is the new entrant.

IIT Delhi has five programmes among the top 100 and IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras, and IISc Bangalore have recorded three programmes each. IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Bangalore are ranked in the 51-100 band for business and management studies. India has not only improved its performance in the top 100 club but also has more of the world's best 50 departments.

The department of electrical and electronics engineering at IIT Delhi, the departments of chemical engineering and mineral and mining engineering departments at IIT Bombay; development studies at Delhi University and mineral and mining engineering at IIT Kharagpur are among the top 50 departments in the world in their respective fields.

Last year, only three Indian departments (mineral and mining engineering departments at IIT Bombay and IIT Kharagpur and development studies at Delhi University) were in this club.

"The rankings indicate India's particular strength in the Natural Sciences, Life Sciences, and in Engineering disciplines," says the statement on India's performance released by QS Wednesday.

"The subject tables featuring the highest levels of Indian representation are: Chemistry (20 Indian universities ranked); Computer Science & Information Systems (20); Physics & Astronomy (18); Biological Sciences (16); Electrical Engineering (15); Chemical Engineering (14); and Mechanical Engineering," the statement adds.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is the world's best-performing institution with 12 of its departments being ranked number one. This is followed by Harvard University, which is the world's number one for 11 subjects and University of Oxford, best in eight subject tables. QS World University Rankings by subject calculate performance based on four parameters — academic reputation, employer reputation, research impact (citations per paper) and the productivity of an institution's research faculty.

All international passengers to be screened

While the 69-year-old man and his wife are being treated at Jaipur's Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital, the others were quarantined at the ITBP camp in Chhawla, in Delhi, from where they are reported to have been referred to Safdarjung Hospital.

In the evening, Paytm said in a statement that an employee who had just returned from a vacation in Italy had tested positive. The employee, a mid-level techie, is reported to have returned from Italy last week, and had joined work at the company's Gurgaon office.

According to sources, the employee, who lives in West Delhi, developed symptoms including high fever. He has been admitted to Safdarjung Hospital. As a precautionary measure, Paytm has asked employees at all its offices in the National Capital Region — five in Noida and one in Gurgaon — to work from home while the workplaces are being sanitised.

Earlier this week, a 24-year-old man from Hyderabad had tested positive for coronavirus and was isolated. Three coronavirus patients reported in Kerala were discharged last month.

In a statement, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said: "Third case in Jaipur, wife of the already confirmed Italian patient, has been confirmed for COVID-19. 14 Italians and one Indian, who were part of the team of the Jaipur COVID-19 confirmed case, are also initially confirmed positive for COVID-19. Six family members at Agra, who are family members of the COVID-19 confirmed case from Delhi, are confirmed for COVID-19. In addition, two cases with high viral load have been detected in Telangana."

Multiple review meetings were held through the day, including an inter-ministerial meeting to review preparedness, chaired by P K Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.

"Two important changes since yesterday to further enhance our level of preparedness, namely introduction of universal screening at all international airports and sea-ports through use of thermal imagery equipment as well as mandatory filling of declaration forms of places visited by tourists and travellers returning from abroad, were noted by all concerned for operationalisation. Ministry of Home Affairs was tasked to work closely with state governments, including relevant district administration officials, to ensure compliance with screening protocols at Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) on our land borders," the government said in a statement.

So far, only passengers arriving via flights from 12 countries — Italy, Iran, China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Singapore, Nepal, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia — had to undergo compulsory screening.

"Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, reviewed the preparedness of various Indian airports regarding COVID-19 and instructed universal screening of passengers before entering India. All incoming international passengers to India to be mandatorily screened by the APHOs," the Airports Authority of India tweeted.

"It was difficult to identify people who are potentially infected by coronavirus since many of them arrive in India from affected countries via connecting flights," said a senior government official, explaining the rationale behind expanding the mandatory screening to all international flights.

The Delhi patient, who had travelled to Italy, had returned to India on an Air India flight from Vienna, Austria, on February 25.

Almost 1,300 international flights arrive at airports across India every day. Health Ministry sources said 500 handheld thermal scanners are currently in use at 21 international airports across the country. Another 250 scanners are in stock and 300 more are being procured.

"We do not know exactly how many international travellers fly into the country every day. At Delhi airport, there are about 22,000; we were already screening about 5,000 who come from the 12 countries on the list. We will need to add another 16,000 to that now. In Mumbai, approximately 10,000 people fly in from foreign destinations every day. The major traffic is in these two cities and Hyderabad. We are procuring scanners that will be provided as per the airports' requests, we will also supply them with trained manpower," said a senior health ministry official.

Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan also held a review meeting with Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain in view of the first positive case in the capital. So far, 66 people who had contact with that patient have been traced.

Speaking to reporters, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar said: "The government is proactively engaged to tackle the situation. The Prime Minister himself is monitoring the situation... There was only one virology laboratory (conducting tests for coronavirus) in Pune. Now, we have already set up 15, and we are going to establish another 19 in a few days. We have issued the necessary travel advisory to guide Indian passengers and those coming from abroad... The main job is to create awareness in society."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "Experts across the world have advised to reduce mass gatherings to avoid the spread of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus. Hence, this year I have decided not to participate in any Holi Milan programme." Rashtrapati Bhavan has also cancelled Holi celebrations.

Vardhan too urged people to "avoid large Holi gatherings as much as possible", but said there is no reason for children to stay away from schools or for people to avoid public transport. All government departments and ministries have been asked to consult the Health Ministry before organising conferences and international meetings. The government also plans to set up testing facilities in Iran so that Indians there can be tested. An estimated 1,200 Indians, mostly students and pilgrims, are in Iran currently.

16 Italian tourists test positive, Rajasthan traces 200 who interacted

New Delhi on February 21. They took a bus to Jhunjhunu, in Rajasthan, the same day. From there, they went to Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Udaipur, before arriving in Jaipur on February 28.

Those who came in contact with them include 59 in Jhunjhunu, 44 in Bikaner, 14 in Jaisalmer, 14 in Jodhpur, and 6 in Udaipur. In Jaipur, six persons at the hotel where the tourists were staying are reported to have come in contact with them.

The list also includes 35 people at a private hospital in Jaipur and 37 at the government-run Sawai Man Singh Hospital, where the 69-year-old went for treatment.

While international passengers are being screened at the airport in Jaipur, this group took a bus from Delhi, and was therefore not screened.

While the 69-year-old and his wife are undergoing treatment at the Sawai Man Singh Hospital in Jaipur, 14 others of the group and their Indian driver were quarantined at the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) facility in Chhawla, Delhi, from where they are reported to have been referred to Safdarjung Hospital.

An official said the Italians are in the 50-60 age group. "All 24 people brought yesterday (from Rajasthan) left from the ITBP quarantine facility in Chhawla Wednesday evening. Those who tested positive will be treated at designated hospitals, while others will be kept in preventive isolation at a different location," said Vivek Pandey, spokesperson, ITBP.

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has designated Safdarjung Hospital and RML Hospital as nodal centres for treatment. While over 100 beds have been earmarked at Safdarjung, more than 30 beds have been set aside at RML Hospital.

Taking stock of the situation, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "The passengers who had come from Italy were staying in Surya Hotel. We have traced and identified the people who came in contact with them, and they have been kept in isolation. Around 13-14 rooms of the hotel have been sealed, to ensure that the rooms are properly sanitised... The same steps have been taken at the Grand Hotel, where they stayed afterwards."

The ITBP facility also houses 112 evacuees brought in from Wuhan, China, including 32 women. Seventy-six of these are Indians, while the rest include 23 from Bangladesh, six from China, two each from Myanmar and Maldives, and one each from Madagascar, South Africa and the US.

In Delhi, a total of 4,421 passengers travelling from China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Nepal, Indonesia, Malaysia, Iran and Italy were screened at the airport on Wednesday. Of these, 10 symptomatic passengers were sent to hospital. "Five each have been hospitalised in RML and Safdarjung. Since January 15, 33 symptomatic passengers have been hospitalised in these two hospitals — seven in RML and 26 in Safdarjung. We are monitoring the condition of all the patients on a regular basis," said a senior health department official.

IIT-Delhi in QS World top 50 for engineering

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

THE INDIAN Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) has emerged among the top 50 institutes in the world for 'Engineering & Technology' in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2020 released Wednesday.

Ranked at 47, IIT-D is three spots behind IIT-Bombay's 44, the highest ranked Indian institute in the list. IIT-D's 2020 QS ranking is a big jump from its 2019 ranking, where it stood at 61.

IIT-D Director V Ramgopal Rao said, "We are very happy to see a significant improvement in our ranking this year. This is due to the various measures we have taken to boost the research ecosystem on the campus, strengthening our connect with external stakeholders, significantly enhanced internationalisation efforts from the institute, and various other measures initiated in the last three years. The credit goes to the entire team. The Ministry of Human Resource Development and alumni of IIT-D have played a very constructive role in making this happen."

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), which had secured a rank of 164 in 'Arts & Humanities' in the 2019 QS ranking, has improved its position by two spots this time.

In the 'Social Sciences & Management' field too, JNU has improved its rank from 355 last year to 284. However, Delhi University did better than others with a rank of 160, while IIT-D held a rank of 183 in the category.

JNU Vice-Chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar tweeted, "As a university, our focus should only be on achieving academic excellence. Let us work harder to continue to improve our ranking."

Among private universities, O P Jindal University broke into the QS rankings this year, with its Jindal Global Law School being ranked the top law school in India. In world rankings, it occupied the 100-150 bracket.

TO RECRUIT YOUTHS AND SPREAD FEAR

Aide in Tihar ran Facebook profile of city's top gangster

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

TO KEEP his gang's image alive, Delhi's most-wanted criminal Jitender Maan alias Gogi and his close associates created a Facebook profile that was being operated by an associate from inside Tihar Jail. According to police, the associate, Gulshan Bhardwaj, a resident of Alipur village, has been lodged in Tihar Jail for the last two years in a case under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

Delhi Police had been on Gogi's trail since 2016 after he escaped police custody while being taken to a court hearing in Haryana. On Tuesday, he was arrested along with three accomplices — Kuldeep Maan alias Fajja, Kapil alias Gaurav, and Rohit alias Moi — from Gurgaon, said DCP (Special Cell) Manishi Chandra.

Gogi had posted that his gang would punish JNU student Sharjeel Imam

Police have recovered 10 phones from their possession and found that they were using SIM cards procured through forged IDs. "During questioning, he revealed that Kuldeep and Rohit were active on social media since 2011, while Gogi made his own Facebook account on December 6 last year. The intention was to lure youths to his gang and spread terror among rivals. Police were actively monitoring their technical movement. So, to dodge officers from Delhi and Haryana, the gang members would travel several kilometres from their current location before sending photos to Gulshan, who managed their accounts," a source said. This helped them avoid being tracked through their Facebook profiles.

The gang members made a living out of extorting money from businessmen and politicians.

During their investigation, police found that Gulshan and Rohit had helped Gogi escape police custody in 2016.

When contacted, Tihar spokesperson AIG Rajkumar said, "We are not aware about this modus operandi and no police team has contacted us. If they approach us, we will conduct an enquiry."

Sources told *The Indian Express* that the counter-intelligence team of the Special Cell got to know about Gogi's location in Gurgaon around a month ago and put him under surveillance. "During surveillance, they found Gogi never came out of his rented flat at Mapsko Casabella in Sector-82. A few days ago, Gogi and his associates drove around 100 km away to make extortion calls and share several photos with Gulshan. They returned a few hours later while their photos were uploaded by Gulshan to their Facebook accounts," a source said, adding that Gogi would deliberately visit outlets that offered free WiFi.

"After Pawan Anchil Thakur's murder in Rohini, Gogi and his men had posted a news clipping and taken responsibility for his murder, even as police were groping in the dark. In one of his posts, Gogi had written that JNU PhD student Sharjeel Imam, accused of sedition, is a traitor and he should be released so that Gogi's gang can punish him," a source said.

JNU hikes fee for next academic year

New Delhi: The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administration has more than doubled its fee for prospective students in the academic year 2020-21. The university has also increased its one-time medical fee from Rs 9 to Rs 1,000.

While the fee for MPhil and PhD students last year was Rs 295 per semester, this year it has been increased to Rs 780 per semester. Similarly, the fee for postgraduate and graduate students has been raised from Rs 283 per semester in 2019-20 to Rs 768 per semester in 2020-21. These figures are exclusive of GST.

The hike comes when the JNU Students' Union is already fighting a case in the Delhi High Court over the hostel fee hike. JNUSU went to court after months of protests in and outside the university, forcing the Ministry of Human Resource Development to intervene and hold meetings.

JNUSU President Aishe Ghosh said, "This will be fought again. The JNU community needs to unite to stop this."

Dean admissions Deepak Gaur and Registrar Pramod Kumar did not respond to calls seeking a comment. **ENS**

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DELHI POLICE
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Unsubstantiated reports of tense situation in Delhi are being mischievously circulated on social media and messaging Apps. It is to reiterate that such reports are being circulated to spread rumours and create panic amongst public. People are advised not to pay attention to such rumours.

Delhi Police is closely monitoring the Social Media accounts spreading fake news/rumours. Strict legal action will be taken against those who are found involved in spreading rumours.

People are advised to verify such reports from Delhi Police on the following telephone numbers: -

Sl. No.	Name of District	Helpline Number
1.	East District	011 - 22231905
2.	North-East District	011 – 22829334/35
3.	Shahdara District	011 - 22131114
4.	South District	011 - 26523967
5.	South-East District	011 - 26825825
6.	West District	011 - 25441909
7.	Dwarka District	011 - 28042979
8.	Outer District	011 - 27034876
9.	Central District	011 - 23270000
10.	North District	011 - 23818595
11.	North-West District	011 - 27229834
12.	Rohini District	011 - 27579011
13.	Outer North District	011 - 21710111
14.	New Delhi District	011 - 23362229
15.	South-West District	011 - 26140054
16.	Railway	011 - 23219007

If they come across any such hate material, they may complain at "Cyber Helpline No.-155260 or www.cybercrime.gov.in

Apart from the above, information about such rumours can also be shared on ERSS –112. Please follow Delhi Police and Delhi Traffic Police on official Twitter handle @DelhiPolice and @dtptraffic respectively for regular update. People's cooperation is solicited in maintaining peace and harmony in the city.

DELHI POLICE

DP/6227/2020

For Immediate Help Call 112 | To Share Information Call 1090

SPECIAL PTM FOR NORTH-EAST DELHI SCHOOLS

Dip/Shabdarth/D/0343/19-20

Schools and parents to come together to support each other and rebuild the confidence of children and resume normal school activities

COME LET US REBUILD THE CONFIDENCE OF EACH OTHER

Date: March 5, 2020

Schools: All evening schools of Delhi (Government and Govt. aided) of District North East and affected area of District East

SCHEDULE

March 5, 2020
Evening Shift :
02:30 PM to 04:30 PM

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार
Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi

ANAND VIHAR	SIRIFORT	SHADIPUR	DWARKA-SECTOR 8
Poor	Poor	Satisfactory	Poor
201 AQI PM: 2.5	283 AQI PM: 10	99 AQI PM: 2.5	238 AQI PM: 10

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

'Peace meet' to get those in govt shelters to head home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

A PEACE meeting was held between families displaced from Garhi Mandu and the administration on Wednesday, as part of the Delhi government's outreach effort to convince families into moving back to the village, where several homes were burnt.

Forty families, mostly from Garhi Mandu, have shifted to a government shelter in nearby Sri Ram Colony over the past three days.

"The peacekeeping efforts of the Delhi government with displaced victims have yielded results. Many returned to their houses. Police, along with the district administration, assured safe passage to the displaced victims. Necessary arrangements in their houses, like cleaning, were also made today. The initiative witnessed participation of locals from the village as well," said the Delhi government in a statement.

Officials said the meeting was held with members of both communities who further decided to form an Aman committee to resolve communal issues stemming after the riots.

Some families from Garhi Mandu at the shelter, however, said they continue to be apprehensive of moving back into the village.

Some families have shifted from community centres to their relatives' homes for the time being.

"The Sub-Divisional Magistrate approached us and told us it is safe for us to go back to our homes. But most of the families still feel the time to go back has not come yet. Facilities at the shelter are fine, though it's true we can't stay here for long. Yet, the thought of going back feels strange. Plus, many homes have been badly arsoned," said Rizwan, whose family of seven is at the community centre.

Several families stay with their relatives during the night and come back to the shelter during the day.

"The government official told us plastering and other repair work will be done. But several families do not have complete trust; we will wait and see," said another resident.

The village in Osmanpur had been attacked by a mob last Monday.

Parents and students attend a PTM in GBSS school in Gokalpuri Wednesday; (below) Sisodia clicks a selfie with students at the school. *Praveen Khanna*

HAVE TO GET OUR LIVES BACK ON TRACK: SISODIA

In riot-hit Northeast Delhi, special PTM helps soothe frayed nerves

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

ONE-AND-A-HALF WEEKS after their lives were rocked by violence, parents streamed in and out of government schools in Northeast Delhi on Wednesday to be assured that normalcy will soon be restored in their children's academic lives.

Parents of children studying in Delhi government schools were called for special parent-teacher meetings (PTMs) so "schools and parents come together to support each other to come out of this painful situation".

Among these was Roshan, who was at her daughter Ifra's (16) school in Khajuri Khas. On Wednesday, Ifra had also appeared in her Class X science CBSE board examination — her first after the violence broke out. At the meeting, Ifra's teacher asked her how her examination was, and informed her the board would soon notify the dates for the two examinations which had been postponed for her in the last week.

"Ma'am told us even she didn't know what the dates will be, but assured us the exams will happen again and we will know soon. That was a huge relief. Apart from all the bad things we've seen in the past week, we were also worried all the effort the children had made in their studies last year would be lost," said Roshan. Ifra assured her mother that her science exam went well.

Twelve-year-old Bushra also returned to her school on Wednesday with her mother Shama. The last time she was in her school, she was writing her Urdu exam while violence broke out nearby, again in Khajuri Khas. "The journey back home was very scary," said both mother and daughter.

"The teacher said the Urdu exam will also be held again because it's possible some students might have gotten distressed while writing it," said Shama.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia also attended the meeting at a school in Gokalpuri village. Right next to the school lay the remains of the Gokalpuri tyre market, which had been set ablaze on the night of February 24. Gungun, a student of Class VII at the school, said Sisodia told her to "give her exams well".

"The gist is we have to get our lives back on track, and for that it is very essential we do away with hatred within us and start spreading love once again. It is time to move from the nightmares of rampant violence on the streets to focussing on our dreams now. The need of this PTM is to help us revive the dreams of our children along with their parents, towards building a strong career for themselves," said Sisodia.

Fiza, a Class IX student, and her mother Shahana said her teacher also told them to take precautionary measures with regard to the coronavirus. Shahana said the conversation around the meeting made her feel a little better about the situation.

"The teacher told us the exams will resume from March 11. Everything came to a stop after last Monday, so it's a relief that at least this is setting into motion and we can expect support," she said.

Officials said 42% parents of students attended PTMs. Another set of PTMs will be held Thursday for parents of students of evening shift schools.

Had handed over property keys to police, says Tahir in bail application

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

SUSPENDED AAP councillor Tahir Hussain, who has been named an accused in the murder of Intelligence Bureau staffer Ankit Sharma during the riots in Northeast Delhi, has in his anticipatory bail application named senior police officers who examined his house on February 24. Hussain has claimed that he was nowhere near the area where Sharma was killed and has individuals who can testify the same. His application stated he was not absconding, but had rather not heard from the police.

Hussain moved the anticipatory bail application through his lawyer Mukesh Kalia before District and Sessions Judge Sudhir Kumar Jain. The court will hear the matter Thursday.

Hussain also accused the police of developing a grudge because the Delhi High Court had "flanked the Delhi Police" over his post on social media, wherein he is seen pleading for police help.

In his anticipatory bail plea, Hussain claimed that on February 24, when a mob attacked his factory, police visited and examined his house located adjacent to the factory at 8 pm. He has named Joint Commissioner of Police Alok Kumar, Additional CP (Crime) A K Singhla and sub-inspector Shiv Chander as the officers who were present.

"The factory and house were both locked, and the key was handed over to the police. All night and the whole of the next day, that is February 25, the applicant was at his friend's house, except for a short while around 8.30 am on February 25 when he went to his house to collect clothes for himself and his family, but was unable to do so due to the presence of a crowd outside the premises. The present police officers advised him to leave and the applicant did so in their presence," it said.

At a press conference Tuesday, Singhla was asked about Hussain's claims of being rescued by the police. He had replied, "Around 11.30 pm-12 am on February 24-25, some people informed us that a councillor is stuck... some personnel went in and he came out of the house..."

However, the Delhi Police backtracked on the statement later, with its spokesperson M S Randhawa saying, "The facts are that on the intervening night of February 24-25, some men informed police at Chand Bagh that Hussain was trapped as a crowd surrounded his house. Police verified the same to be incorrect as Hussain was found available in his house."

Hussain's application stated that Ankit's body was found on February 26, after his father lodged a missing person's report. "The timing of the offence itself points towards the innocence of the applicant herein, as from 2 pm on February 24 till the whole of February 26, the applicant's whereabouts, movements and activities are fully accounted for... The applicant was also in regular contact with the police (almost every hour) as also with the media in relation to the attack on the applicant's factory by a mob, whereafter he was forced to leave his residence with his family around 8 pm that evening, when he was escorted out of his residence/factory under police protection," his plea stated.

Addressing allegations that petrol bombs, empty bottles, stones and bricks were found on the terrace of his house, Hussain stated he found it out through media reports quoting unnamed investigators.

"The applicant submits that once he handed over the custody of his house to the police, when no such material was found, any material that appeared there subsequently cannot be at his behest," it stated.

Joint CP Alok Kumar said he can't comment since the SIT probe is on. Additional CP Singhla did not respond to calls or messages.

Tahir Hussain

Ex-councillor named in two more FIRs

New Delhi: Ex-AAP councillor Tahir Hussain, who has been named as an accused in the murder of an IB staffer, has also been named in two other FIRs related to the riots. While the first FIR has been filed by a complainant who sustained a gunshot injury on February 25, the second complaint was filed by a constable, Sangram Singh, at Khajuri Khas police station. In the former complaint, the victim alleged, "I left my uncle's place in Dayalpur to go home but saw a mob pelting stones at Karawal Nagar. I tried to go back to Dayalpur but a bullet hit me in the hip... A few men rushed to help me; they told me bullets were fired by a mob on the rooftop of Tahir's house." In the second complaint, Singh said he saw a mob pelting stones and inflammable material from atop Hussain's house. "They destroyed the parking lot," the complaint said. **ENS**

Rahul visits Brijpuri: India being divided and burnt

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

STEPPING INTO Northeast Delhi a week after communal violence wrecked parts of the district, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Wednesday said neither India nor "Bharat Mata" stands to benefit from divisiveness and hatred.

Gandhi led a Congress delegation to Brijpuri, which falls in the Mustafabad constituency. The delegation visited a private school and a mosque, both of which were attacked, vandalised and torched during the riots.

The former Congress president, who reached Arun Modern Public School around 5.45 pm, was also supposed to visit a relief camp run by the Delhi Waqf Board located across the Brijpuri Pul. However, he returned after inspecting the mosque, located next to the school, with the Congress saying police had advised not to proceed further owing to security concerns.

Before he reached, a small group of people from riot-hit localities, local Congress leaders including former MLAs of the area, and party workers lined up on the school's courtyard, where a charred bus, mangled ceiling fans and piles of half-burnt books and notebooks lay scattered as a grim reminder of the attack.

"This school is India's future. Hatred and violence has led to its destruction. No one gained from it. Violence and hate are enemies of development. Whatever is happening, *Hindustan ko jo baanta ja raha hai, jalaya ja raha hai*, the country or Bharat Mata will not benefit from this. I have come here because this is an hour of grief," he said.

Rahul Gandhi at Brijpuri, Wednesday. *Amit Mehra*

"Everyone will have to come together and work together. India can be taken forward only though unity. When the country witnesses violence, the national capital does, India's reputation at the global stage takes a hit. The country's strength lies in brotherhood, unity and love that have been burnt here. This kind of politics does not just affect this school, it also affects the country and Bharat Mata," he told reporters after going around the charred premises of the school.

The delegation included Leader of the Opposition Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Gaurav Gogoi, Kumari Selja, K C Venugopal and Mukul Wasnik, among others.

The BJP targeted Gandhi over the visit, with party spokesman G V L Narasimha Rao describing it as an example of vote bank politics. "Rather than maintain neutrality and exhort peace from all sections, Rahul Gandhi chose to play divisive politics aimed at consolidating a vote bank. By visiting a mosque, he visibly conveyed a message that the Muslim community was the victim, thus tacitly conveying a message Hindus were to be blamed for the violence," Rao said. "That Rahul Gandhi had no time to visit the residence or even express condolences for the martyred head constable Ratan Lal or IB officer Ankit Sharma, who was lynched by mobs, shows Congress's utter disregard for the sacrifices and tribulations suffered by the police and security forces," he added.

Now homeless, women face some additional challenges

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

SITTING IN a room swarming with women, her legs tucked under, Raziya looks like just another riot survivor. But the 22-year-old is facing other struggles too.

With her hip affected by polio, Raziya is unable to walk and needs to be carried around by family members. When her home was attacked on February 24, her family was among the only ones who could not flee.

"For 36 hours after that, we couldn't move. My father is away, and my brother is younger and not strong enough to pick me up. We were so scared that we switched off the lights and put our phones on silent. We didn't even use the washroom so that no sound was made," she said.

Her mother Haneefa (60) ended up urinating in her salwar — one she couldn't change out of for nearly two days until they knocked on a random door in Chaman Park and found refuge. On the morning of February 26, much before dawn, the family escaped when Raziya's nephew came to pick her up.

Still at Chaman Park, Raziya's troubles aren't over. The day she fled from her home was when she started menstruating. While relief material from local NGOs ensured that she got sanitary pads on time, there were other issues. "I can't go to the toilet by myself. I need my sister's help. She has to clean up after me. Since this is somebody else's home, I also don't feel comfortable bathing. So I haven't taken a bath since we got here," Raziya said.

At a govt shelter in Chaman Park. *Abhinav Saha*

Her mother is concerned this could affect her daughter's health.

Several women are facing similar issues of clothing and personal hygiene. Rukhsar (23), a primary school teacher at Rajdhani Public School, which was burnt in the riots, said she has taken a bath only once since February 26, when she escaped home leaving all her belongings behind.

Noorish (24) said that while she had been changing clothes since she was displaced from her home on February 24, there was a dearth of undergarments. For eight days now, she has been wearing the same pair of undergarments.

At a government-run relief camp in Shri Ram Colony, a woman who escaped from her home in Bhajanpura, with three young children and without her husband, is also facing the same issue. "When I was running with my kids, my kurta tore from the side. Even at such a time I had to stop and cover myself with a dupatta. As a woman I had to ensure my safety," said the woman, who did not wish to be named.

In the relief camp, while all kinds of relief material is provided, there are issues she continues to face. "They are providing clothes and undergarments too, but since I'm a little plump I couldn't find any undergarments for my size. I have been rinsing and reusing the same pair," she said.

Factory burnt, BJP man says ignored by party

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

"I HAVEN'T left the BJP yet but I will in a few days if the party does not reach out to me... *Main sadak par aa gaya hoon, phir kaise apne pairon pe khada hoon*?" said Mohammad Atiq, who heads the BJP minority cell of Brahmpuri mandal. A resident of Usmanpur, Atiq's undergarments factory in Karawal Nagar was set on fire on the night of February 25.

"My neighbour called to tell me about the fire. I have not yet visited the factory out of fear. My younger brother's factory nearby was also set on fire. I hoped the BJP leaders would at least call, extend help, console me," said Atiq (45).

A father of five, Atiq said he has been a BJP ground worker for 16-17 years. "I am from Bihar too, like our Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari. He knows me... But I have a Muslim name, *humein toh paraya hi kar diya*," he said.

Atiq is the BJP minority cell chief of Brahmpuri mandal

Atiq said he set up the business around 14 years ago and that the factory was set up in a rented space. "As violence spread, I told my employees to pack up and leave a day ago only. I was home when I got the call about the fire... I feel so helpless," he said.

Atiq said members of his community often questioned his decision to be a BJP worker. "I believed in PM (Narendra) Modi's *sabka saath, sabka vikas* and would argue with those who criticised the BJP. Now they ask me what the party has done for me. I have no answer," said Atiq.

ATTENTION!

SHARING INFLAMMATORY MESSAGES ON WHATSAPP CAN LAND YOU IN JAIL FOR 3 YEARS

If any individual shares or forwards messages or videos on WhatsApp or any Social Media Platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc) which are inflammatory in nature or incites communal tensions then the guilty will have to serve jail term upto 3 years.

Dirp/Shabdarth/D/0344/19-20

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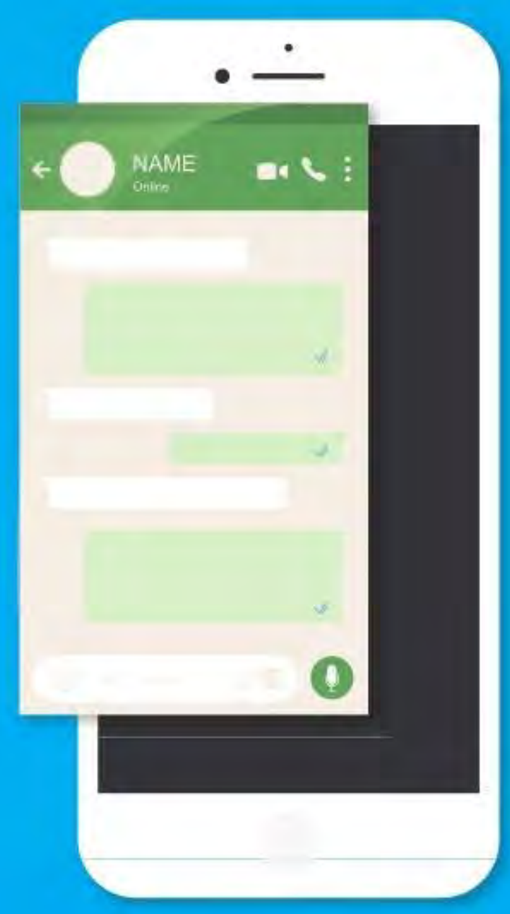

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MCD SCHOOLS CANCEL MORNING ASSEMBLIES

Airport to schools, city prepares to deal with coronavirus cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

THE DELHI government has constituted a state-level task force, headed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, to monitor the city's preparedness to tackle coronavirus cases in the city.

"We have to work in emergency mode to prevent an outbreak. We have one confirmed case in Delhi till now. The patient has been admitted to Safdarjung Hospital. He had travelled first from Italy to Budapest and then from Vienna to Delhi. We have identified 88 people who he came in contact with after returning to India. We are trying to screen all of them," said Kejriwal.

The government also asked civic bodies to screen tourists who are staying in hotels and guesthouses. "All the three MCDs and NDMC are contacting hotels and guesthouses to reach passengers coming in from abroad and screening them. All passengers are kept under observation for any possible symptoms of the virus, since the virus takes 14 days to show signs or symptoms. Of the 5,769 passengers from Delhi, 4,445 passengers have not shown any symptoms yet. We are trying to contact the remaining 1,324 passengers. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital are the two nodal hospitals for now. We have developed the capacity to handle an influx of patients with 19 Delhi government hospitals and six private hospitals, wherein adequate arrangements were also made during the swine flu outbreak. Isolation beds and wards are being created to provide adequate treatment," he said.

People outside a coronavirus facilitation centre in RML Hospital, Wednesday. *Tashi Tobgyal*

At the airport, thermal scanning of passengers is being done to check for symptoms. Kejriwal said over 1.16 lakh patients were screened at the airport till Wednesday. In Delhi, tests for Covid-19 are being conducted at AIIMS and the NCDC laboratory, both of which can test 250 samples a day. Another lab will also be opened at Lady Hardinge Medical College.

Kejriwal further said neither he nor his Cabinet and MLAs will celebrate Holi on March 10. "There are families which are in distress due to the recent riots in the Northeastern part of Delhi, and the following spread of coronavirus. Cabinet ministers and our MLAs will not celebrate Holi this year." he said.

Meanwhile, the North, East and South MCDs Wednesday instructed schools under them to do away with morning assemblies as a preventive measure against coronavirus. "It is a measure to avoid mass gatherings. Four other MCD programmes relating to schools, including a science fair on Thursday, have been called off," said an SDMC official.

The CBSE also announced that students currently giving their board exams will be allowed to carry face masks and hand sanitisers inside their exam centres.

Travellers wary, agencies say many cancelling plans

ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

THE FEAR around coronavirus is taking a toll on travel plans of several Delhi residents and those planning to come here.

Travel and tourism agencies are staring at huge losses as travellers are beginning to cancel their plans. "We have six hotels and a number of tourist vehicles in Delhi. If we have 100 customers normally, we have around 30-40 now. We are losing out on 60% of our customers as most of them are from abroad," said Sourabh Tiwari, chief managing director of Sushant Travels.

"Normally, we would see two-six cancellations per day, but now around 30-35 travellers are cancelling per day. Despite very few people testing positive for coronavirus here, we are getting many calls seeking to know if the situation is under control," he said.

Kush Agarwal (25), who had his bachelor party scheduled for March in Thailand, will not show up. "Nine-ten of us had booked our tickets and hotels by January-end. When we heard about the first few cases, I was still optimistic. But our family members objected and we had to cancel it eventually... the villa I booked had offered me a 70% discount just days earlier," said Kush.

Another family that looked forward to travel to France in May has decided to cancel the trip. "We had begun booking hotel rooms for the trip. Thankfully, we had not booked the flights. The idea of being in a plane with hundreds of others for eight hours does not seem worth the risk," said Suresh Kumar, a retired university professor.

Ashutosh Dwivedi, director of Utazzo Travels, said both inbound and outbound tourism are affected. "People going to Italy have cancelled their plans due to the prevailing fear. Many going to Western Europe have also cancelled their plans. Around 50% of the bookings are getting cancelled. Not many are making advance bookings. We are getting only 40% of the bookings we usually get this season," he said.

However, a bigger travel agency said many travellers are changing their destination instead of completely cancelling plans. "People are booking more domestic flights. Travel to China, Singapore and Thailand have been severely affected, but people are still visiting Bali, Maldives and a few European nations," said a representative of the agency.

Exports from China hit, Sadar Bazar suffers ahead of Holi

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

WITH HOLI around the corner, many wholesale markets that had ordered *pichkaris* from China are now in a fix as the coronavirus epidemic has derailed their shipments.

At Sadar Bazar, where shopkeepers usually stock up on *pichkaris* and water balloons in the weeks leading to Holi, traders said Chinese markets and factories that supply them have been shut since late January. "For two months, no goods are being shipped from China," said Binay Chand, a shopkeeper. Amit Dang, who sells toys at his store, said, "Shipments stopped coming from mid-January onwards, and markets were closed there for the Chinese New Year and then due to coronavirus. Right now, we have no goods from China."

Many who ordered goods before the epidemic are worse off, having made payments that are now stuck. Shopkeeper Sanjay Singh said, "I ordered in October-November, but loading of goods was stopped from December. Though I have received some goods, it comes in batches, and around 20% hasn't arrived yet."

Most traders said they preferred Chinese-made goods due to their superior quality. Dang compared the Indian-made and Chinese-made *pichkaris*, which cost the same: "Although they look the same, but the Indian ones have imperfections — they will probably leak. The Chinese ones are made perfectly, with a better finish."

Disposable food containers to ludo and table tennis: Life at the ITBP facility

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

A TOTAL of 112 evacuees brought from Wuhan, China, on February 27 are being quarantined at the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force campus in Chhawla.

The first confirmed case of novel coronavirus was reported from Delhi on Wednesday, with a 45-year-old man with a travel history to Italy testing positive for the virus.

At Chhawla, the 112 evacuees include 80 men and 32 women.

At the quarantine facility, a suspected patient is isolated from the general population to prevent spread of the virus. According to officials, the suspected patients are kept in the isolation ward till the time they test positive for the disease. If the patient tests positive, he/she is immediately referred to designated hospitals for treatment.

"Each and every patient is kept at a distance of two metres from each other at the quarantine facility. Wearing a mask is mandatory, and food and beverages are provided in disposable containers. Even bedsheets and pillow covers are of disposable material so that they can't be reused. Disposable items have a shelf life of one-two days. The protocol is being circulated from China only," said Vivek Pandey, spokesperson, ITBP.

A swab test is conducted to get a confirmation for the disease. The samples are sent to National Institute of Virology, Pune and the results come out in 24 hours.

"At times, the results come out in 12 hours. The WHO guidelines also say that if someone is infected with the virus, even then one needs to be isolated for 14 days as a preventive measure," he added.

Being isolated for 14 days, the patient tends to get restless, so there is a facility for entertainment. From having a common area for watching TV to playing ludo and table tennis, the facility offers a host of activities.

"The only limitation is that they can't go out of the facility and cannot remove the mask at any cost. Even at the time of dining, it has to be ensured they are not called together. Instead, they are called group-wise so there is no transmission of the virus from one group to another," he said.

The 112 evacuees will complete two weeks on March 12 after which the administration will decide the further course of action.

Earlier this month, 406 passengers were released from the camp after they tested negative for the virus.

They were advised for home isolation of 14 days.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Sub Surinder Singh, AC
04 Mar 2002

During 'OP RAKSHAK', in J&K, on 04 Mar 2002, while fighting JC-498232A Sub Surinder Singh, AC of 3 SIKH laid down his life in the finest traditions of The SIKH Regt.

Deeply remembered by
Colonel & All Ranks, The SIKH Regt

TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
(National Centre of Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India for Nuclear Science and Mathematics)
Homi Bhabha Road, Colaba, Mumbai-400 005.

e-Tender Notice

TWO Part e-Tenders are invited for the following job through NIC e-procurement system.

No.	Tender No.	Job	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.) / Tender Fee (Rs.)	Due Date
1	TFR/PD/CF19-75/192079	S/F/I of Aluminium framed partition at TIFR, Colaba, Mumbai.	15,40,000/-	30,800/- / 500/-	25.03.2020

The Tender documents are available on **www.eprocure.gov.in/cppp** and TIFR Web site : **www.tifr.res.in/e-tender**
All future Corrigendum/Addendum's will be published on TIFR web site (e-tender)/CPPP Web site only.
Tender Notice No. Pub/9/19-20

Administrative Officer

MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI

On behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Paint, Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli is inviting open E-tender **(E-Tender Notice No. M-200/Paint sludge disposal/2020-21, Date-03.03.2020)** based on **single packet system, single tender** online through Indian railway portal **www.ireps.gov.in** for following work.

Description of work	Approx Value	EMD	Cost of Tender document
Work of lifting and disposal off Paint Sludge generated from paint booth and ETP from Paint Shop & Bogie Shop to outside of factory premises as per scope of work.	₹ 18,88,000/-	₹ 37,800/-	₹ 2,000/-

Quantity of work- 80,000 Kg., **Work completion period**:- 12 Months or earlier.

• E-Tender submitted through online up to **10.30 hrs.** on **31.03.2020**. Manual offer will not be considered. • E-Tender shall be opened on **31.03.2020** at **11.00 Hr.** through online on **http://www.ireps.gov.in.** • Detailed Tender E-Notice and Terms & conditions are available at Indian Railway IREPS website **http://www.ireps.gov.in.**

Dy. Chief Mech. Engr./Paint

Serving Customers With a Smile

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(A Government of India Undertaking Miniratna Company)
(Under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment)
(An ISO 9001:2015 Company)
G.T. Road, Naramau, Kanpur-209217
www.alimco.in, Email: mm_office@alimco.in, alimco_hq@vsnl.net
Tele Fax : 0512-2770137, Ph. 2770174 Toll Free No. 18001805129

E-Procurement Open Tender Notice No. MM/OT/68 to 70/AX

Online Bids (Technical & Price Bid) are invited from well established & reputed Manufacturers/suppliers for supply of item as per details indicated below:

Sl No.	Tender No.	Item	Approx. Estimated Value of Material (Rs. In Lakh)	Amount of DD to be enclosed alongwith TC Bid towards EMD (Rs. In Lakh)	Due Date of Opening of Tender (Technical -Bid)
01	MM/OT/68/AX	Packing Box For B.T.E Hearing Aid	30.345	0.759	31.03.2020
02	MM/OT/69/AX	ADL Kit for Leprosy Patient	58.635	1.466	17.03.2020
03	MM/OT/70/AX	Cell Phone for Leprosy Patient	24.57	0.614	17.03.2020

Interested Tenderers may download the tender document from ALIMCO website www.alimco.in (for reference only) and CPPP website:**https://eproure.gov.in/eprocure/app.** Tender Fee of Rs. 600/- to be submitted in the form Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of ALIMCO, payable at Kanpur. All SSI/MSE vendors are exempted from tender fee on submission of valid Udyog Aadhar Memorandum (UAM). Tenderers are requested to submit their Offers/Bids Online through E-Tendering Process only on **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** and send the Original Demand Draft against Tender fee and EMD to reach ALIMCO office on or before Bid submission end date which will be opened on Bid opening date at 1530 hrs. on the due date as indicated above. ALIMCO reserves the right to reject any or all requests/Offers without assigning any reason.

For ALIMCO - DGM (Materials)

उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे — शुद्धि पत्र
निविदा संख्या S&T/BKN/ET 164
निविदा संख्या स.एण्ड.टी / बी.के.एन / ईटी 164 में निम्नलिखित संशोधन किए जाते है।

SN	Item	Original	Amendment as per Corrigendum
1	कार्य की निविदा सूचना में कार्य के नाम में	Electronic Interlocking System (Westrace/ Siemens make	Electronic Interlocking System (Kyosan make)

नोट – अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। 239-SP/20
वरि. मंडल सिगनल एवं दूरसंचार इंजीनियर, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, बीकानेर

DELHI TOURISM AND TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
18-A, DDA, SCO Complex, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024
(A Government Undertaking)
Delhi Tourism

TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for:
1. Operation & maintenance of DTTDC Property at Subway, opp. Times of India Building, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi. **Tender ID No. 2020_DTTDC_188987_1.**
2. Operation & maintenance of Fine Dining Restaurant at Budhela Village, Vikas Puri, New Delhi **Tender ID No. 2020_DTTDC_189002_1.**
3. Operation & maintenance of Fine Dining Restaurant at Bindapur, Dwarka, New Delhi. **Tender ID No. 2020_DTTDC_188991_1.**

The tender documents containing detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded from website **www.govtprocurement.delhi.govt.in.** Bid submission by **3.00 pm on 24-03-2020.**

Manager (Catering), DTTDC

इण्डियन मेडिसिन्स फार्मेस्यूटिकल कॉर्पोरेशन लि.
(भारत सरकार का उद्यम)
मोहान (वाया रामनगर-244715) उत्तराखण्ड
निविदा सूचना
निगम में इच्छुक विक्रेताओं से निम्नलिखित आपूर्ति कार्यों हेतु निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं जो निम्नलिखित है।

क्र. सं.	निविदा संख्या	अपूर्ति का नाम	निविदा प्रि. बिड मीटिंग करने की अंतिम तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	निविदा प्रपत्र खुलने की अंतिम तिथि समय एवं स्थान
1.	T.E.No 19/IMPCL/Pur/2019-20 date 26.02.2020	National Tender for packing Materials	06.03.2020 2.00 PM (IMPCL, Mohan)	30.03.2020 2.00 PM (IMPCL, Mohan)	30.03.2020 2.30 PM (IMPCL, Mohan)

विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में किसी भी कार्यदिवस में सम्पर्क करें अथवा वेबसाइट www.eprocurement.gov.in Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) में ePublishing → Search करके डाउनलोड करें। निगम सभी/ किसी भी निविदा को बिना किसी पूर्व सूचना के स्वीकृत व निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रखती है।
विभागाध्यक्ष (सामग्री) 05947-287822

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Corporate Office: 4/1, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016, Tel.: 011-49857894,
E-mail: enggdivision@gmail.com, Website: www.cewacor.nic.in
WAREHOUSING FOR EVERYONE

No: CWC/CO-ENGG./PRESS NOTE/2019-20/229/21070 Dt. 04.03.2020

PRESS NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

CWC invites online tender from the contractors for the following work:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Lakhs)	Last date of on line submission & opening of tender
01	Upgradation of basement, Old & Annexe Building and Canteen at CWC, CO, New Delhi	64.43	20.03.2020

Detailed Tender Notice along with conditions of contract and Notice Inviting E-Tender may be seen and downloaded from the CWC Website **www.cewacor.nic.in** or e-tender website **www.cwceprocur.com** or CPP Portal **http://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app**. Further Corrigendum/ Addendum to this Tender, if any, will be published on the above website only. Newspaper press advertisement shall not be issued for the same.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (I/c)

कार्यालय सिविल सर्जन सह मुख्य अस्पताल अधीक्षक जिला अस्पताल जगदलपुर (छ.ग.)

क्रमांक/251/सि.स.मु.अ.अ./2020 जगदलपुर दिनांक 29/02/2020

रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति

महारानी अस्पताल जगदलपुर जिला बस्तर अंतर्गत e-ICU सर्विसेस के संचालन हेतु प्रतिष्ठित अस्पतालो Hospital/ Group of Hospital जिनके पास Super Specialization Services एवं e-ICU चलाने की क्षमता/ अनुभव हो, से रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (Expression of Interest) दिनांक 12 मार्च 2020 सायं 4 बजे तक निर्धारित प्रपत्र में आमंत्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये बस्तर जिले की वेबसाईट www.bastar.gov.in एवं कार्यालय के सूचना पटल का अवलोकन किया जा सकता है।

स्वा/-
सिविल सर्जन सह मुख्य अस्पताल अधीक्षक
77559 जिला- चिकित्सालय जगदलपुर (छ.ग.)

The Odisha State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
D-2, Sahidnagar, Bhubaneswar 751007
Ph. No.- 0674.2546030, 2540273, 2540417,
www.omfed.com Fax No: 0674-2540974, Email ID : omfed@yahoo.com

REF:MM/113/AT **TENDER NOTICE** Dated:03.03.2020

OMFED invites Sealed Tenders in Two Bid System from reputed Manufacturer or Valid Authorized importer & Valid Authorized Channel Partner for supply of **01) GLUCON DELTA LACTON (CDL) & DIRECT VAT-SET CULTURE (DVS) ,02) PACKING & CONSUMABLES, 03) COLOR,ESSENCE & INGREDIENTS FOR ICE-CREAM, 04) DETERGENT & CHEMICALS** to different Dairies of OMFED. For details please visit our website: **www.omfed.com**. Any further addendum. corrigendum etc will appear only in the website. The Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the Tenders at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Managing Director
OIPR-06063/11/0013/1920

राष्ट्रीय डिज़ाइन संस्थान
National Institute of Design
मध्यप्रदेश Madhya Pradesh
National Institute of Design, Madhya Pradesh
(An Autonomous Institution under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt.of India)

Tender Enquiry No. NIDMP/1-90/Wksp/2020/01 Dated: 03.03.2020

SHORT NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

National Institute of Design, Madhya Pradesh (NID MP) invites online bids from eligible and reputed manufacturers/ OEM/ authorized distributors for supply, installation and commissioning of various Machinery and Equipments through **https://eprocure.gov.in.** The last date for submission of online bid is **14.03.2020.** For further details please refer to the tender document available on our website **https://nidmp.ac.in/tender.html** or **https://eprocure.gov.in.** Any addendum, corrigendum, extension of dates etc shall be notified on the NID MP website only.

REGISTRAR

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
STATE REMOTE SENSING APPLICATION CENTRE
(DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY)
ESS-SECTOR, ITANAGAR

NO. SRSAC/200/2009-10/ 85-v Dated Itanagar 19th Feb, 2020

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PRE- EMPANELMENT

State Remote Sensing Application Centre, (SRSAC), Arunachal Pradesh is the nodal agency in the State for all Remote Sensing (RS), Geographic Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) related work, functioning under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

SRSAC is going to short list firms/companies/ institutions/ entrepreneurs/ reliable and sound start-ups to execute some of the important time bound projects under following categories:
1) Agriculture and allied sectors
2) Geospatial database generation services
3) Environment related services
4) Field survey services including Topographic mapping
5) Drone based mapping for various applications
6) Web and mobile based application development and customization
7) Manpower services
8) RS, GIS IT based software development.

Thus, SRSAC invites proposal from reputed firms/ companies/ institutions/ incubators/ entrepreneurs/ reliable and sound start-ups having necessary experience and proven track record in the above areas for pre-empanelment consultation on the products and services offered on above eight categories of services.

The interested firms and start-ups therefore may respond to the pre-empanelment consultation to participate in the process from the date of publication of this EOI till 21 (Twenty-One) days. They may contact for further details at following given address:

Shri Tana Tage
Joint Director (Plg)
State Remote Sensing Application Centre
Government of Arunachal Pradesh, ESS-Sector, Itanagar
Pin code: 791 113
Phone: 9436055821, Email: **srsac.itanagar@gmail.com**

Individual belonging to non-APSTs, interested to participate in the pre-empanelment discussion are required to obtain Inner Line Permit (ILP) from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh or from Liaison offices located at Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati or Online ILP can be obtained from the official website Arunachal Pradesh Inner Line Permit Management System/**www.arunachalilp.com** to enter the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

Sd/-
Secretary Department of Science & Technology
Government of Arunachal Pradesh
DIPR/ARN-8992-94/2019

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website:www.ircon.org CIN-L45203DL1976GOI008171
e-Procurement Notice

e-Tender No:IRCON/ELECT/5025/R-APDRP/MEERUT/Store/Disposal/02, Date :04/03/2020

e-Tender for and on behalf of IRCON INTERNATIONAL is invited from bidders for the work of **"Sale of Surplus materials like 250KVA & 100KVA Transformer, G.I. Wires, M.S. Structure Steel- Angle, channels, MS clamps, Cables, Pole mounted D.B., Boxes and its fittings in different sizes etc. lying IRCON store at B-25 KunjVihar, JagritiVihar, Meerut (UP) under RAPDRP Part-B Project Meerut Town of PVVNL."**

Estimated Cost of Work: Rs. 23,60,876/-
End Date & Time of e-Bid submission: 23.03.2020 at 15:00 Hrs.
For further details, visit website: https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.
General Manager (Elect)/PH

HIMACHAL ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION, SHIMLA-171003.

Tender for contract regarding display of advertisements on 2873 Nos Ordinary/JNNURM-1/JNNURM-II HRTC Buses.
(Only through E-Tendering System)
Tender Reference No. : HO: 5 (CP)/Advertisement on Buses/2019

Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) invites offers from the interested Ordinary/JNNURM-1/JNNURM-II HRTC Buses for a period of two years. The detailed Tender Notification is available on Website: **https://hptenders.gov.in** or **www.hrtchp.com** (Under E-Tendering Like). The last date for submission of bids is **30.03.2020** upto **3:00 PM**. The bids will be opened on **30.03.2020** at **3:30 PM**.

For further clarification, please visit the aforesaid websites or contact **0177-2812753.**

Sd/-
Managing Director,
HRTC, Shimla-3

TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur District, Tamil Nadu,
E-mail: pmd6@tnpl.co.in , Web: www.tnpl.com
Phone No. 04324-277001 (10 lines), Extn. 2206/2970

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

For Supply of
1. Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) System
2. Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS)

Bidders may request the tender document at the above address by Post/Mail. Detailed NIB may be viewed in websites: www.tenders.tn.gov.in/www.tnpl.com

Date of Issue of Bid Document: **05th March, 2020**
Due date for submission: **25th March, 2020**

DIPR/1204/Tender/2020 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
हरिद्वार
पिन कोड- 249404

पत्रांक : 457/30/E-1/DR(E.S.)/2016-17 दिनांक : 04 मार्च, 2020

अर्थ एवं संख्याधिकारी परीक्षा-2018

विज्ञप्ति

एतद्द्वारा विज्ञापन संख्या : A-1/ESO(DR)/E-1/2018 दिनांक 30 अगस्त, 2018 एवं विज्ञप्ति संख्या : 203/30/E-1/DR(ES)/2016-17 दिनांक 01 सितम्बर, 2019 के सापेक्ष अर्थ एवं संख्याधिकारी पद हेतु दिनांक 17 नवम्बर, 2019 को आयोजित मुख्य परीक्षा के परिणाम दिनांक 27 जनवरी, 2020 में सफल घोषित अभ्यर्थियों के अभिलेखों की सत्यापित के पश्चात अर्ह अभ्यर्थियों का साक्षात्कार **दिनांक 27 मार्च, 2020 (शुक्रवार)** को निर्धारित किया गया है। अर्ह अभ्यर्थी अनुक्रमांकवार साक्षात्कार कार्यक्रम व साक्षात्कार ज्ञाप दिनांक 18 मार्च, 2020 से आयोग की वेबसाइट **www.ukpsc.gov.in** से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। अर्ह अभ्यर्थियों को पृथक से डाक द्वारा साक्षात्कार ज्ञाप प्रेषित नहीं किये जायेंगे। उक्त के अतिरिक्त अनर्ह घोषित अभ्यर्थियों एवं साक्षात्कार से चूके वांछित अभिलेख उपलब्ध कराने हेतु अभ्यर्थियों की सूची तथा विस्तृत विवरण आयोग की वेबसाइट **www.ukpsc.gov.in** पर उपलब्ध है। अभ्यर्थी आयोग की वेबसाइट का अवश्य अवलोकन कर लें।

(राजेन्द्र कुमार) सचिव।

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Phone No. 0175-2207649, E-mail ID: se-it1@pspcl.in
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in

Tender Enquiry No. 229/DIT-1041 dated 03.03.2020

Short Description: Providing of MPLS connectivity in 47 Towns of PSPCL and PSPCL DC/DRC.
Start date for downloading of specification/tender documents: Date of uploading of tender.
Last date for downloading of Specification/tender documents: 19.03.2020 (11.00 A.M.).
Bid Opening date: 20.03.2020 (11.00 A.M.)

Note: The prospective bidders are requested to get clarification from this office and/ or M/s. GePNIC in case of any difficulty regarding uploading of the tender well in time. The Firms shall themselves be responsible for issue/renewal of their DSCs and to register on E-tendering portal in order to enable them to participate in the tender. Prospective bidders are requested to get their Digital Signature issued/renewed well in time for ensuring participation in the tender. It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on, PSPCL website. **(https://eproc.punjab.gov.in)**

Sd/- **SE/IT (A&PM), PSPCL, Patiala.**
C-68/2020
C-9288/Pb.

MP: Cong repeats poaching bid charge, BJP says look within

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, MARCH 4

THE CONGRESS on Wednesday accused the BJP of making a serious bid to destabilise the Kamal Nath government in Madhya Pradesh, claiming that the saffron party had lured away legislators and was keeping them against their wish in Gurugram and Bengaluru.

However, the BJP distanced itself from the episode and alleged that factionalism within the ruling Congress was playing out ahead of Rajya Sabha elections—either to prop up or scuttle the chances of Congress leaders Digvijaya Singh and Jyotiraditya Scindia, the two main contenders for the Upper House berth.

While the Congress and BJP can win one Rajya Sabha seat each, the battle for the third seat in the state is up for grabs. The last day of filing nominations for the elections is March 13.

The 2018 Assembly elections had thrown up a fractured mandate, forcing the Congress to take support from four Independents, two BSP legislators and one SP MLA to form the government. The Congress has 114 members, while the BJP has 107. There are two vacancies after one Congress and one BJP member died after taking office.

On Monday, Digvijaya Singh had alleged that the BJP was trying to poach legislators by offering them between Rs 25 and 35 crore, a charge endorsed by Nath the next day. On Wednesday, both leaders said the crisis was over, and that the BJP had again failed to topple the government.

Singh claimed the BJP had booked two chartered planes and was ready to fly legislators to Bengaluru from Delhi. He said only three Congress members and one Independent went to Bengaluru, and BJP vice-president and former CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan had to take the second plane to Bhopal because the Congress had managed to persuade others not to join him.

The Congress said it got to know of the bid to topple the government when one of eight legislators holed up in a hotel in Gurugram got in touch with the party.

Thereafter, Digvijaya's son and state minister Jaivardhan Singh and his Cabinet colleague Jitu Patwari reached the hotel to take the legislators with them. Drama ensued, with the ministers accusing the police of misbehaving with them, and suspended BSP MLA Rambai Singh.

While six legislators returned to Bhopal late in the afternoon, the Congress claimed it was confident that the four legislators who had been taken to Bengaluru would come back soon. A minister claimed he had spoken to at least one of the four.

At least two other Congress members who were not taken either to Gurugram or Bengaluru claimed that they, too, had been offered money by the BJP, with a promise of their re-election after resigning.

Nath, alleging that the BJP was trying to destabilise his government, said, "BJP does not believe in democracy and is trying to usurp power through undemocratic means. It believes in conspiracy and money power."

However, senior Congress leader Umang Singhar insinuated that it was an inside job. "It's a fight to enter the Rajya Sabha. You are wise to interpret it," the forest minister—a vocal critic of Digvijaya—tweeted, insisting that the Nath government is safe.

Meanwhile, state BJP president V D Sharma distanced his party from any bid to destabilise the government. He said the government will fall on its own, a statement which was seconded by Chouhan.

Incidentally, in the July session of the Assembly, Leader of Opposition Gopal Bhargava had boasted that the government will fall the moment "no 1 and no 2" give their go ahead, an apparent reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. Within hours, two BJP MLAs had voted against the party line in the Assembly, but the BJP did not crack the whip, given its numbers in the House.

EXPLAINED

BJP keeps Kamal Nath government on its toes

EVER SINCE Kamal Nath took oath in December, his government's wafer-thin majority has made him look vulnerable. The government is supported by seven non-BJP MLAs, including Independents and SP and BSP members, most of whom keep demanding their pound of flesh. There are also many factions within the state Congress. The BJP never misses an chance to play up the dissensions and government's fragility.

Haryana passes Bill bifurcating SC quota

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 4

THE HARYANA Assembly Wednesday passed a Bill to bifurcate 20 per cent seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes (SC) in higher educational institutions of the state.

Among Dalits, the government has identified a new category called 'deprived Scheduled Castes', comprising 36 castes including Valmiki, Bazigar, Sansi, Deha, Dhanak and Sapera. The other category has been identified as 'Scheduled Castes after sub-classification of reservation for SCs'. The provision of reservation will be applicable for graduation and post-graduation courses.

"Fifty per cent of the 20 per cent seats reserved for SCs for administration in any government educational institution shall be set aside for candidates belonging to deprived Scheduled Castes," said the Haryana Scheduled Castes (reservation in administration in government educational institutions) Bill, 2020. "Where a seat set aside for a candidate from deprived Scheduled Castes in government educational institutions is not filled up in any academic year due to non-availability of such a candidate possessing the requisite qualifications, the same shall be made available to Scheduled Castes candidates," added the Bill.

Congress MLA Geeta Bhukkal, a former education minister, called the move "an attempt to divide SCs just on the lines of Jats and non-Jats". She also asked, "When the matter is pending in Supreme Court, how can the government bring Bill on it?"

However, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said the move was initiated following a demand by a section of SCs. Haryana provides 20 per cent reservation for Scheduled Castes in admission in educational institutions as well as services.

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An exam cannot take away dream or skill of a child
- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

जयपुर विकास प्राधिकरण

ई–नीलामी मार्च–2020

आवासीय भूखण्ड

क्र.सं.	सम्पत्ति विवरण	क्षैत्रफल (Sq.Mt.)	अमानता राशि	BSP (Per Sq. Mt.)	अमानता राशि जमा करने की अंतिम दिनांक व समय	बोली समाप्त करने की दिनांक व समय
1	भूखण्ड संख्या बी-1/542 (कॉर्नर) चित्रकुट योजना, सेक्टर-1, जयपुर,	265.50	4,24,800.00	80,000.00	20/03/2020 11:00 AM.	23/03/2020 12:30 PM.
2	भूखण्ड संख्या आर-2 (कॉर्नर) शिव एनक्लेव स्कीम, जयपुर	1475.50	9,73,830.00	33,000.00	20/03/2020 11:00 AM.	23/03/2020 12:30 PM.
3	भूखण्ड संख्या आर-1, शिव एनक्लेव स्कीम, जयपुर	1240.00	7,44,000.00	30,000.00	24/03/2020 11:00 AM.	26/03/2020 12:30 PM.
4	भूखण्ड संख्या 7/H/IV/12 (कॉर्नर) सेक्टर-7, विद्याधर नगर स्कीम, जयपुर	937.05	11,24,460.00	60,000.00	24/03/2020 11:00 AM.	26/03/2020 12:30 PM.
5	भूखण्ड संख्या 8/418, सेक्टर-8, विद्याधर नगर स्कीम, जयपुर	198.00	2,37,600.00	60,000.00	24/03/2020 11:00 AM.	26/03/2020 12:30 PM.
6	भूखण्ड संख्या बी-1/565 (कॉर्नर), चित्रकुट स्कीम, सेक्टर-1, जयपुर	220.50	4,41,000.00	1,00,000.00	24/03/2020 11:00 AM.	26/03/2020 12:30 PM.
7	भूखण्ड संख्या सी-56, लालकोठी स्कीम, जयपुर	334.45	6,68,900.00	1,00,000.00	24/03/2020 11:00 AM.	26/03/2020 12:30 PM.

अमानता राशि जमा कराने एवं बोली प्रारम्भ करने की तिथि सभी भूखण्डों के लिये : 04 मार्च, 2020

संस्थानिक भूखण्ड

क्र.सं.	सम्पत्ति विवरण	क्षैत्रफल (Sq.Mt.)	अमानता राशि	BSP (Per Sq. Mt.)	अमानता राशि जमा करने की अंतिम दिनांक व समय	बोली समाप्त करने की दिनांक व समय
1	भूखण्ड संख्या 15, सेक्टर-10, विद्याधर नगर स्कीम, जयपुर	1269.00	12,69,000.00	50,000.00	24/03/2020 11:00 AM.	26/03/2020 12:30 PM.
2	भूखण्ड संख्या आईएनएस-2, वैशाली नगर स्कीम, डी-ब्लॉक, जयपुर	602.88	9,64,610.00	80,000.00	24/03/2020 11:00 AM.	26/03/2020 12:30 PM.

फार्म हाऊस भूखण्ड

क्र.सं.	सम्पत्ति विवरण	क्षैत्रफल (Sq.Mt.)	अमानता राशि	BSP (Per Sq. Mt.)	अमानता राशि जमा करने की अंतिम दिनांक व समय	बोली समाप्त करने की दिनांक व समय
1	ई-36, ग्राम जयसिंहपुरा, तह. सांगानेर, जयपुर	3780.00	7,56,000.00	10,000.00	20/03/2020 11:00 AM.	23/03/2020 12:30 PM.

Samwad/C/5844/2019-2020

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PREVENTION BETTER

AFTER PRIME Minister Narendra Modi tweeted about his decision to not participate in Holi milan programme in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak in the country, his Cabinet colleagues, including Home Minister Amit Shah and Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan also cautioned their followers on the social media platform to avoid crowded places such as Holi milan, especially popular in northern India. Shah, in fact, has cancelled his mega-rally planned in Hyderabad on March 15 to drum up support for the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. President Ram Nath Kovind announced on Twitter that the Rashtrapati Bhavan, as a precautionary measure, has also decided against holding the traditional Holi gathering this year.

TRIP IN QUESTION

PREPARATIONS FOR Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Brussels are underway. The India-EU summit is likely to take place on March 13. But with a recent case of coronavirus detected in an EU office in Brussels, officials are assessing the situation. COVIND-19 may play a spoiler.

GRIPPING SCRIPT

THE SUPREME Court ruling on Wednesday striking down the Reserve Bank of India's circular that banned banking services for cryptocurrency had the legal community in splits. A 180-page judgment on whether the regulator's ban was proportionate could seem dry and tedious but instead reads like a movie script because of the ingenious subheads. The verdict, penned by Justice V Ramasubramanian, has seven subheads — starting with The Story Line and then The Setting, brings in a Flashback, adds Background Score (of petitioners), discusses the Script (of RBI), explaining the Unfolding of the Plot, and ends with Climax.

Parliament paralysed for 3rd day, Govt passes key Bill in LS

Direct Tax Vivaad Se Vishwas Bill passed; Bill on status of IIITs introduced

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

BOTH LOK Sabha and Rajya Sabha remained paralysed for the third day running over Delhi riots even as the government passed a crucial Bill on Wednesday without any debate in the Lower House.

As the Opposition created ruckus over denial of an immediate debate on Delhi riots, Lok Sabha was adjourned soon after it met at 11 am. It was then adjourned again at noon, and then for the day at 2 pm.

But before the House wound up for the day, the government not only managed to push through the Direct Tax Vivaad Se Vishwas Bill by a voice vote but also managed to introduce a Bill which seeks to confer the status of Institution of National Importance to five Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs).

The Rajya Sabha functioned for all of 10 minutes as Opposition members continued with their demand for a discussion on Delhi riots before any other point of business is taken up. Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said the discussion will take place after Holi (on March 10), which sparked protests from Opposition benches.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives at Parliament on Wednesday. *Tashi Tobgyal*

Naidu thereafter decided to adjourn the House for the day, saying that the Opposition seemed to have decided to not let the House function.

In Lok Sabha, too, opposition parties sought an immediate discussion on Delhi violence but Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said it can be taken up on March 11 in the Lower House and on March 12 in Rajya Sabha.

Not convinced, the Opposition continued the protest, storming the Well on several occasions. Speaker Om Birla was not present during the day and proceedings were chaired by presiding officers. Opposition parties continued to demand resignation of Home Minister Amit Shah and shouted slogans. Amid the din, the direct tax Bill, which aims to settle pending tax disputes, was passed by without any debate. The Bill had been introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday amid a similar din.

Under the proposed scheme, taxpayers willing to settle disputes will be allowed a complete waiver of interest and penalty if they pay the entire amount of tax in dispute by March 31 this year, and pay a 10-per cent additional disputed tax.

In Rajya Sabha, amid the din, TMC leader Derek O'Brien said both Union minister and Leader of the House Thaawarchand Gehlot and Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad had agreed on Tuesday to hold the discussion on Wednesday and asked, "What are we waiting for?"

Not relenting, Naidu said the Chairman has to consult the Leader of the House about the rules and procedure to conduct the discussion.

TO CHECK 'HATE MESSAGES'

Govt plans new norms for social media platforms

KARISHMA MEHROTRA & LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

UNDER FIRE from the Opposition in Parliament over communal violence in Delhi, the Union government is contemplating issuing fresh guidelines to social media platforms, which, the government feels, have become "tools to propagate hate and spread inflammatory messages".

The issue was discussed in a meeting held by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Tuesday in which social media firms came under severe criticism.

Twitter, it is learnt, was singled out for lower and slower compliance rates, with the Delhi Police Commissioner referring to specific riot-related tweets circulated on February 23 and 24 that led to rumour-mongering.

The meeting was led by the Home Secretary and was attended by officials from the Information and Technology (IT) and Information and Broadcasting (I&B) ministries, Delhi Police officers, and executives from Google, Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, and TikTok.

"Many issues were discussed and the government was clear that it did not want these platforms to peddle fake news and spread hatred, like what happened in the last few days (in Delhi)," a top government official told *The Indian Express*.

The MHA is learnt to have directed the IT Ministry to take up the matter with social media companies. "We have held some meetings and we need to take some measures now. There will be some fresh guidelines for them. We are in discussions and we might have to issue guidelines with stringent messages," a top official in the IT Ministry said.

Sources said the government wants to take some "tangible" and "visible" steps to prevent such incidents in future. "The government is aware that it cannot ban any social media platform, but certain regulations have to be in place," a Union minister said.

None of the companies officially responded to requests for a comment.

Government officials hold a monthly meeting with social media companies in which they display a breakdown of each company's rates of compliance with Section 69A of IT Act, which allows the government to order taking down of online content. Sources said Twitter had the lowest compliance rate this month, with higher rates by Facebook (which includes WhatsApp), Google (which includes YouTube), and Tik Tok — in that order.

The officials are learnt to have given a stern warning to the companies, especially Twitter, to reduce the time taken to comply with government requests and to more proactively enforce the law on their platforms. The companies responded by presenting their own actions, sources said.

Sources said a little over a week ago, Facebook labeled Delhi riots as an "event" under its "Dangerous Individuals and Organisations" policy, the same labeling that applied to the 2018 communal riots in Sri Lanka. The policy states that moderators will "remove content that expresses support or praise for groups, leaders, or individuals involved in these activities ... We do not allow content that praises, supports, or represents events that Facebook designates as terrorist attacks, hate crimes or mass shootings."

Throughout the period of riot violence in Delhi, Facebook accounts neutrally posting the video of BJP leader Kapil Mishra threatening the Delhi Police were most visible on the platform.

On the other hand, Twitter continued to have videos with messages supporting Mishra's statements, as well as trending hashtags praising the BJP leader.

Similarly, after "*goli maaro*" slogans were shouted in Union minister Anurag Thakur's rally, content positively promoting the slogan was still viewable on Twitter.

YouTube has over the past year down-ranked less credible sources on its website in India, giving more visibility to "authoritative" accounts recounting the events of last week. Tik Tok is learnt to have said in the meeting that they are mostly an entertainment platform, but inevitably see violence-related content and act against that content accordingly. The hashtag #IStandWithKapilMishra was found with the BJP leader's speech on TikTok last week.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Govt in Parliament: No religion break-up of citizenship granted

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

LESS THAN three months after Home Minister Amit Shah said 566 Muslims from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan have been granted Indian citizenship in the last five years, the government on Wednesday told Parliament that it does not maintain religion-wise data on those granted Indian citizenship.

It said close to 19,000 nationals from these three countries, as well as Sri Lanka and Myanmar, have been granted Indian citizenship since 2014.

According to data provided in Rajya Sabha by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, more than 15,000 out of total 18,999 people granted Indian citizenship since 2014 are from Bangladesh.

The high number from the eastern neighbour was due to the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) signed in 2015, through which enclaves were exchanged between the two countries.

If LBA numbers are removed, the government granted maximum citizenship to nationals from Pakistan, followed by those from Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

While 15,036 of these 18,999 people are from Bangladesh, 14,864 of them were granted citizenship after the LBA was signed. Since these people were already living within Indian territory, only 172 Bangladeshis were thus granted citizenship during this period on individual basis after arriving in India, it was informed.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Parliament House on Wednesday. *Prem Nath Pandey*

According to MHA data, 2,935 Pakistanis, 914 Afghans, 113 Sri Lankans and one Myanmar national were granted Indian citizenship during this period.

The information was shared by Rai in reply to a written question from CPI member Kerala K Somaparasad, who also sought to know religion-wise details of those granted citizenship from these countries.

To this, Rai replied: "Records of persons granted citizenship under Section 5 by registration, or under Section 6 by naturalisation of the Citizenship Act, 1955, are maintained as per provisions of Citizenship Act, 1955, and rules made thereunder. These records are not maintained religion-wise."

During the debate on Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in Rajya Sabha on December 11, 2019, Home Minister Shah had said, "This law has provisions to grant citizenship. That is not being deleted. In the past five years, more than 566 Muslims have been granted Indian citizenship." In subsequent media interviews, Shah put this number at close to 600.

Chandrayaan-III to be launched in first half of 2021: Jitendra Singh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

CHANDRAYAAN-3 WILL be launched in the first half of 2021, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday, indicating that there could be a slight delay in the launch of the third moon mission.

In a written response to a question in the Lok Sabha, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office said four biological and two physical science experiments related to microgravity will be conducted during the Gaganyaan project - India's manned mission to space.

Singh said the revised configuration takes care of the robustness in design, capacity enhancement for mission flexibility and at the same time, retained the heritage of Chandrayaan-II to the extent possible.

Chandrayaan-II hard-landed on the lunar surface last year.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had then resolved to launch the project again. Elaborating on the progress made on Gaganyaan, Singh said hardware realisation has commenced for ground tests and space flight training of four astronaut candidates has also commenced.

BJP eyeing two of three 'tricky' seats in Rajya Sabha polls

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

IN THE March 26 Rajya Sabha elections, while most candidates are expected be elected unopposed, there could be a contest for at least three seats — one each in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand — and political parties have begun assessing the situation and cobbling up numbers.

Of the 55 seats scheduled to go to polls, the BJP, currently has 15 seats, and expects definite wins in 13.

The party has the required number of legislators to win one from Himachal Pradesh, one of the two seats in Haryana, one of the three seats in Rajasthan, one of the five seats in Bihar, three of the seven seats in Maharashtra, one of the three seats in Madhya Pradesh, two of the four seats in Gujarat, three seats in Assam, and one each from Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.

The party is also expected to add one more seat with the vacant seat for a nominated member.

However, party leaders said the BJP is eying 17-18 seats. Its leadership has already begun negotiations for winning at least two of the three seats where there will be a contest.

They pointed towards recent developments in Madhya Pradesh, where voices of difference have surfaced among the senior leaders of the ruling Congress, hinting at a prospective rebellion against Chief Minister Kamal Nath. The differences have been linked to the Rajya Sabha elections.

The BJP, sources said, could take advantage of the disenchantment among the senior Congress leaders against the Chief Minister. A BJP leader said, "The BJP is sure of winning one seat in Madhya Pradesh, but we have not given up on a second seat too."

In Odisha, the ruling BJD, which has 113 MLAs in the 147-member Assembly, can elect three members to the Rajya Sabha. As one candidate requires 30 first-preference votes to win the election, the BJP, which has 23 members in the Assembly, hopes that the BJD offers it the required support to elect one of its candidates.

For the BJP, strengthening its position in the Upper House is crucial as it has had to rely on the support of smaller parties to get key bills passed in the Rajya Sabha, where it never enjoyed majority since it came into power in 2014. The party-led NDA currently has 97 MPs against a sanctioned strength of 245 (233 elected and 12 nominated).

Meanwhile, the TMC and YSRCP are expected to win four seats in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh respectively. In West Bengal, the Congress is willing to support the CPI(M) if the latter wants to send its general secretary Sitaram Yechury to the Upper House.

However, the CPI(M) is yet to clarify its stance over Yechury's candidature.

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY

SAD MLA 'manhandled' after he raises slogans against Speaker

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 4

SHIROMANI AKALI Dal (SAD) MLA Pawan Kumar Tinu was allegedly manhandled by Congress MLAs in the House on Wednesday, when he went and stood opposite Finance Minister Manpreet Badal, raising slogans. The minister took exception to the "abusive language" used by Tinu against him.

On the last day of the Assembly Budget session, Tinu was protesting against Speaker Rana K P Singh during Zero Hour, carrying placards with slogans against the Speaker and the finance minister. Tinu had written these slogans while sitting in the House after he got into an argument with the Speaker for not getting permission to speak.

After protesting in the well of the House and raising slogans, the SAD MLA then stood in front of the treasury benches, shouting slogans. While he was shouting in front of the seats of Manpreet Badal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Brahm Mohindra, the former confronted Tinu.

Shiromani Akali Dal MLA Pawan Kumar Tinu outside the Assembly in Chandigarh on Wednesday. *Jasbir Malhi*

This led to Congress MLAs rushing towards Tinu.

Akali MLAs Dr Sukhwinder Kumar and Gurpartap Singh Wadala then rushed to Tinu's aid and separated the Congress MLAs milling around him.

Amid the commotion, the Speaker adjourned the House for a brief period. Even during the period of adjournment, while Tinu made his way out of the House, threats were allegedly hurled against him by Congress MLAs and he was seen replying to them. His fellow SAD MLAs escorted Tinu out of the House.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Brahm Mohindra introduced a privilege motion against Tinu, which was passed, and the incident was referred to the privilege committee of the House.

Addressing a press conference outside the House, Tinu alleged that he had been verbally abused by the finance minister and that Congress MLAs had not only manhandled him but also threatened to break his legs.

The SAD legislative wing urged the Speaker to take action against Congress legislators who, they allege, had "abused, humiliated and manhandled" the MLA.

BIHAR CONTRACT TEACHERS' STRIKE

Govt hints at pay hike, unions stick to pay parity demand

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, MARCH 4

WITH OVER 3.5 lakh contract teachers on strike in the state since February 17 — which has stalled teaching and midday meals at over 45,000 schools — the government on Wednesday showed the first signs of budging with Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi indicating a pay hike for teachers.

Teachers' associations however, said so long as anomalies in the pay structure of teachers persisted, there was no question of recalling the strike.

"Even though pay parity cannot be given, we will try to give a respectable salary hike to teachers. After the Supreme Court ruling, the pay parity demand is a non-issue. We are implementing the Seventh Pay Commission recommendations, also applicable for madarsa teachers," said the deputy CM.

The state government had earmarked a Rs 35,000 crore budget for education, he added.

Primary, middle and secondary school teachers' associations, however, have stuck to their demand of pay parity and have warned that they will not assist the state government in the proposed NPR updation exercise, scheduled to start in May. The protesting teachers could not be hired by the government for invigilation and examination duties for the class X board examinations last month.

Teachers' associations have stuck to their demand and have warned that they will not assist in the NPR updation exercise

Bihar Secondary School Teachers Association general secretary Shatrughan Prasad Singh told *The Indian Express*: "The deputy CM has misled people. In the first place, Seventh Pay Commission recommendations are not yet implemented. There are several anomalies such as juniors being made seniors. We are also not going to accept a 20 per cent increase in salary, as recommended by a committee formed by Supreme Court. We need the government to settle all issues. We had met government representatives several times in past six months without any progress."

Over 40,000 higher secondary school teachers have joined the strike so far.

The attendance in most of the state's 75,000 schools is down by 70-80 per cent. Overall, 600 teachers have been booked for disrupting government functioning since the strike.

Coronavirus panic created to divert attention from Delhi riots: Mamata

Kolkata: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday accused the Centre of creating panic over coronavirus to divert attention from Delhi riots. The TMC chief, who addressed rallies in Buniyadpur and Malda, also demanded a judiciary inquiry into the Delhi riots by a sitting Supreme Court judge, claiming that "over 700 people" might be missing.

"No one knows how many actually died (in Delhi riots). And to make people forget the real 'corona' (the virus), they are using the TV channels to create a hype around coronavirus..." Mamata said a party rally in Buniyadpur.

Demanding a judicial probe, Mamata said, "They demand a probe by the CBI when a rat bites a person in Bengal... And here no judicial inquiry has been ordered... Think of the arrogance. Instead, that they are bringing out rallies here and chanting '*goli maaro*...' Let me warn them, Bengal is not Delhi or Uttar Pradesh." **ENS**

COVID-19: special measures in IT hubs

2 fresh suspected cases in Hyderabad, all IT staff asked to work from home

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, MARCH 4

TWO NEW suspected coronavirus cases were reported in Hyderabad on Wednesday, and the duo's samples were sent for a second round of tests — and confirmation — to National Institute of Virology, Pune, after both persons tested positive in the first round of testing at Gandhi Hospital here.

Forty-five others, who underwent first round of tests at Gandhi Hospital, tested negative, officials said.

One of the two who tested positive works for an IT firm at Mindspace Madhapur, the IT zone in Hyderabad. After this employee tested positive, the building was evacuated and all offices in it were cleaned and disinfected.

After the two fresh cases emerged, all IT companies in Hyderabad issued an advisory on Wednesday and suspended all foreign travel of employees with immediate effect. Employees have been advised to work from home until further instructions, and those suffering from cold or fever advised check-up.

On Sunday, a software engineer from Hyderabad who works in Bengaluru had tested positive in the city. He had returned to Bengaluru from Dubai on February 20 and had arrived in Hyderabad by a bus the following day.

Officials of Telangana Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department said 47 people, including many unrelated to the first case (the techie who tested positive on Sunday), were tested at Gandhi Hospital on March 3. "Forty-five (of these) samples were found negative. Two samples are being sent to NIV, Pune, for further tests; the report is expected on Thursday. Both are being kept in isolation at Gandhi Hospital," state Health Minister Etela Rajender said.

"The 45 people who tested negative were discharged and advised strict home isolation for 14 days. The techie (who works in Bengaluru) who first tested positive on Sunday is stable," the minister said.

The Telangana government has scaled up prevention measures, and hundreds of municipal and sanitation workers have been pressed into service across the state capital to clean up and carry out fumigation.

In Secunderabad, several schools and offices remained closed for the second successive day on Wednesday. The 24-year-old techie who tested positive on Sunday resides in Mahindra Hills area of Secunderabad.

Techie under observation

Hyderabad: A techie from Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh, who works in Hyderabad, was admitted at the government hospital in the district with suspected symptoms of coronavirus. He had returned from Seoul, South Korea, on February 22, officials said.

An official said he was screened at New Delhi airport upon landing from Seoul and did not show any symptom at the time. This techie subsequently flew to Hyderabad and went to his native place in Kakinada on February 27 to attend a wedding function. As he was suffering from cold, doctors at the hospital kept him under isolated observation, officials said. **ENS**

Employees wear masks as prevention against coronavirus, in Hyderabad on Wednesday. *PTI*

Karnataka govt issues health advisory to Bengaluru IT firms

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, MARCH 4

IT COMPANIES in Bengaluru have been told to ask employees who have travelled to countries affected by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) to report to the health department and to seek permission for any travel plans. The Karnataka government has issued a health advisory to this effect.

"Any passenger who has visited affected countries in the last 14 days and come to Karnataka, has to self intimate the health department. If he/she has to travel again from Bengaluru to other places, he/she has to take permission from the health department or has to intimate the concerned officials of the health department," Karnataka Health Secretary Jawed Akhtar stated in the advisory issued on March 4.

Students at Bengaluru City Railway Station. *PTI*

The move comes after an employee of the Intel Corporation tested positive for COVID-19 after returning to India from a work trip to Dubai last month.

"An Intel employee in Bangalore has potentially been exposed and is currently under quarantine in accordance with government requirements," Intel said in a statement on Tuesday.

According to the advisory, firms should avoid "non-essential travel" to countries affected by COVID-19. "Employees arriving directly or indirectly from China, South Korea, Japan, Iran, Italy, Hong Kong, Macau, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan, UAE and Qatar must undergo medical screening at airport entry," it stated.

Five people are in quarantine in Karnataka with three having tested negative and test results of the remaining two awaited, officials of the communicable diseases unit said. "Till date, 637 travelers from affected countries have been identified and 419 are under home isolation, four Chinese passengers have left the country and five are in selected isolation hospital," stated a health bulletin.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Nine under quarantine in Maharashtra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, MARCH 4

NINE PEOPLE in Maharashtra are under quarantine after having arrived from coronavirus-affected countries, officials said on Wednesday. Of the nine, seven have been quarantined in Mumbai and one person each has been quarantined in Nashik and Nanded, they said. Their reports are awaited from the National Institute of Virology, Pune.

Until Wednesday, 66,977 people had been screened at airports and ports in the state. Of them, 676 people who arrived in 30 ships have been screened at ports of Mumbai. The rest who came on 563 flights have been screened using thermal scanners at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport. So far, 454 people who have a travel history to affected regions remain in daily contact with local health officials and 293 have been observed for 14 days with no sign of infection.

Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope on Wednesday asked people to avoid wearing masks as no confirmed cases have been diagnosed. "The state government has taken all precautionary measures... The cyber cell has been directed to file offences against people spreading false messages on social media," Tope said during a discussion in the Legislative Council.

Tope said people should use handkerchiefs instead of masks to protect themselves.

The Indian Medical Association has extended support of its 212 branches to screen, diagnose and treat suspected cases.

Monitoring more than 1,300 patients: TN

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, MARCH 4

AMID FEARS over the spread of coronavirus, and the Centre issuing standard protocols and adversaries to this effect, the Tamil Nadu public health system and community health workers across the state are currently monitoring over 1,000 patients in home quarantines.

According to the Directorate of Public Health (DPH), state hospitals have no suspected coronavirus patient at present, though 1,367 have been kept at home-based self-quarantines for their possible links to virus-affected regions and symptoms.

Hundreds of public health workers are monitoring these home quarantines in person and over the phone.

The state has also converted some hospital wards across the state, especially in Chennai and other major towns, into isolation wards. The DPH said isolation wards with a total of 235 beds are ready for use across the state. The state Health Department has also identified several buildings near major airports to be used as isolation wards as part of a standard contingency plan.

At least 20 medical workers, including doctors from the Health Department, have been deployed at the Chennai International Airport for 24-hour service, considering the number of airline services and passenger services. Around a dozen doctors and nurses have also been deployed to screen passengers at other major airports in the state, including Trichy, Madurai and Coimbatore.

Public Health Director Dr K Kolandaisamy said, "We have deployed an efficient public health system on the ground and (are) monitoring all potential cases besides following adversaries and protocols... There is no need for panic in Tamil Nadu."

Meanwhile, the Chennai Port Trust denied reports of spotting a cat inside a Chinese container and plans to deport it.

Replying to reports that PETA had written to Chennai port authorities, demanding the release of the cat, Rajagopal Venkatesh, CEO of the Chennai Container Terminal Private Limited, said he was not aware of any such incident.

Take steps to rescue students in Iran, J&K HC tells Centre

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, MARCH 4

THE HIGH Court of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh on Wednesday directed the Central government to take steps for evacuation of Indian students stranded in Iran in view of the coronavirus outbreak in that country.

As Iran was identified as the second global epicentre of the outbreak, steps for evacuation of Indian nationals, including children from the UTs of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh, are required to be taken by the Union government, observed a division bench comprising Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Rajesh Bindal.

Treating a representation sent to the court by the father of an Indian medicine student in Tehran University of Medical Sciences as a PIL, the bench directed the Union government to "identify the protocol to be followed, examine the mode to forthwith implement the same and take steps for evacuation of Indian students stranded in Iran".

However, pending evacuation, it is absolutely essential to ensure all preventive measures as well as basic needs of the Indian students in Iran, the court further observed, directing the Centre to ensure availability of masks, medicines and essential commodities to all Indians, especially students, through the Indian embassy in Iran.

It also directed the UT administrations of J&K and Ladakh to ensure creation of proper facilities for isolation and quarantine in the government and private sector, testing laboratories as well as availability of healthcare and medication for prevention of any coronavirus outbreak as well as effective treatment of any positive cases.

The court further directed the government to take immediate steps for acquisition of sufficient N-95 or any other recommended masks for the public as well as separation kits for all medical personnel and staff.

The bench appointed advocate Monika Kohli as amicus curie in the matter and issued notice to the respondents, asking them to place a report in this regard on or before the next date of hearing.

Spread awareness among students: HRD

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

THE HUMAN Resource Development Ministry on Wednesday directed chief secretaries of all states and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to spread awareness among students on basic protective measures against COVID-19.

Meanwhile, senior officials at CBSE ruled out delaying the Board examinations in the wake of 29 confirmed cases of coronavirus in the country. However, the Board has allowed students to carry face masks and hand sanitiser to the examination centres.

"There is no plan of delaying the exams for now. We are an exam conducting body. These decisions, if and when needed, will be taken on the advice of the right authorities. As of now, we haven't received anything (from either the Health ministry or the HRD Ministry)," said a senior officer at CBSE.

On Tuesday, a private school in Noida cancelled classes after a student's father tested positive for the virus and another leading school in Noida also asked students to keep away from school till classes resumed after the Holi holiday next week.

Asking state authorities and the CBSE to spread more awareness about preventive measures against COVID-19, school and higher education secretary Amit Khare on Wednesday wrote, "Central government has taken many steps to contain the spread of this virus but creating awareness amongst general public is extremely important to prevent and reduce transmission of the novel coronavirus."

"In order to create awareness among students, preventive interventions such as frequent hand wash, respiratory etiquettes (using handkerchief over mouth while coughing or sneezing, use of tissue paper or using sleeve of shirt covering upper arm, staying away from school when sick, avoiding public gatherings) would help in preventing or reducing transformation of not only this disease but also a large number of other communicable diseases," Khare wrote.

The West Bengal government has also asked all state-run schools to sensitise students about steps needed to reduce the risk of novel coronavirus infection. The department will send the pamphlets to schools for distribution among students.

VIRUS WATCH

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

J&K authorities set up an isolation ward for suspected coronavirus cases in Srinagar. *Shuaib Masoodi*

Two with travel history to Italy, S Korea quarantined

Jammu: Two passengers with a travel history to Italy and South Korea were on Wednesday shifted to the quarantine ward at the Government Medical College Hospital (GMC) here as a precautionary measure. GMC principal Dr Sunanda Raina said both the passengers had arrived on a flight from Delhi and during self declaration at the airport, they were found to have travel history to Italy and South Korea — countries affected by the novel coronavirus. "Their samples were collected and sent to AIIMS, Delhi," Raina said. "We will get their reports within 36 hours." In view of the coronavirus threat, the J&K administration has put the Union Territory on high alert, with government introducing 100 per cent self declaration by passengers at Jammu and Srinagar airports in order to trace passengers with travel history to countries affected by coronavirus. Pointing out that there was no cause for panic, officials said all systems are in a state of high alert and back-up facilities are in place to deal with any eventuality. **ENS**

UTTAR PRADESH

Police personnel wear masks as prevention against coronavirus in Lucknow. *Vishal Srivastav*

2,773 under surveillance, 7 with symptoms: UP

Lucknow: As many as 2,773 travellers from coronavirus-affected countries have been identified by surveillance units in various districts of Uttar Pradesh and all have been placed under surveillance, the UP Directorate of Health Services said on Wednesday. Of these, 2,303 who travelled from 12 specified countries have been found to be residing in the state. While seven of them are symptomatic of viral infection and have been admitted at various hospitals — five in Lucknow and two at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital — 697 are in stable condition, and 690 others are under isolation in homes, the directorate said, adding that the condition of all of them is stable. So far 175 samples have been sent to NIV, Pune, and Lucknow's KGMU for testing, it said. "... UP government has strengthened the surveillance and control measures..." the Directorate of Health Services said. **ENS**

BIHAR

Social activists in Patna distribute masks to check the spread of coronavirus. *PTI*

'Spooked by photographer', Punjab patient flees without giving samples

DIVYA GOYAL
LUDHIANA, MARCH 4

DRAMA UNFOLDED at the Civil Hospital in Moga Wednesday after a suspected coronavirus patient came for a check-up, but left without giving samples for testing, prompting the Moga Civil Surgeon to write to the police to trace him.

Hours later, the 32-year-old patient returned to hospital and gave samples for testing. He has been kept in isolation and is stable, said doctors.

Dr Naresh Kumar, epidemiologist, Civil Hospital, Moga, said that the patient, who is from a village in Moga, had returned from Dubai on Tuesday and developed a cough and cold. "He came to hospital for a check-up and was taken to a flu corner set up for suspected coronavirus patients as per government orders. However, the media soon reached the spot and a photographer started taking his photos due to which he panicked and left without giving samples or informing anyone," he said.

Moga civil surgeon Dr Andesh Kang then wrote to DSP Badhni Kalan, asking the police to "trace the patient as soon as possible".

However, since the patient had provided his contact number and address, the doctors also called him and managed to convince him to return and give samples for testing.

Meanwhile, Moga police had already rushed a three-member police party to the patient's village — after receiving the letter from the civil surgeon — where his family told the police that he had gone for a routine check-up.

The man returned home and then went back after doctors called him again.

Sub-Inspector Navpreet Singh, SHO, Badhni Kalan police station, said, "We had reached his village to counsel him and take him to hospital but he had himself returned after receiving a call from the hospital."

Late Wednesday evening, the patient again returned to his village without informing the doctors. Dr Kumar, along with his team, reached the patient's village to take him back to hospital. "He says he wants to be isolated at his home. We are taking him back. We will have to keep him in hospital till the test results come in. We have asked for police security now," said the doctor.

HC refuses to stay auction of paintings seized from Nirav home

OMKAR GOKHALE
MUMBAI, MARCH 4

THE BOMBAY High Court Wednesday refused to stay the auction proceedings of 15 rare paintings and other items seized by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) from the residence of fugitive diamantaire Nirav Modi, accused in the Punjab National Bank (PNB) scam. The auction of the 15 rare paintings, including those by MF Hussain and Amrita Shergil, is scheduled for Thursday.

A division bench of acting Chief Justice B P Dharmadhikari and Justice N R Borkar was hearing a petition filed by the businessman's son Rohin Modi, claiming that the paintings were owned by the Rohin Trust, of which he was a beneficiary and was not owned by Nirav Modi.

Nirav Modi

On Wednesday, the bench directed the ED to deposit the auction proceeds in a separate bank account and said the amount should not be appropriated for any other purpose until further orders. It also directed the ED to submit a report — on the auction and monies received from the sale thereof — seven days after completion of the auction.

Senior counsel Amit Desai, appearing for petitioner Rohin Modi, submitted that paintings cannot be construed as proceeds of crime and did not belong to Nirav Modi, but a Trust. He also said that the owner of the painting did not receive any notice pertaining to attachment and auction.

Opposing Rohin's plea, Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh and advocate Hiten Venegaonkar, appearing for ED, submitted that due process was followed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Stickers for tourists to stop 'harassment by cops' in Goa

Panaji: With tourists complaining they are being harassed by traffic police personnel through random checks, special stickers will now be provided at state borders to indicate that their travel and car documents have been checked upon entry.

"Tourists are being harassed by traffic policemen, who randomly stop them and impose fines. Tourists should not be harassed. Those who are wearing helmets on two-wheelers should not be stopped," Tourism Minister Manohar Ajgaonkar told reporters Wednesday. **ENS**

Third party can access judgment copy, papers under court rules, not RTI Act, says SC

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

LESS THAN four months after a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court opened the office of the Chief Justice of India to scrutiny under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, another bench of the top court on Wednesday ruled that court documents such as copies of judgments and pleadings can be obtained only if court rules permit it, and not under the RTI Act.

"The information is held by the High Court as a trustee for the litigants in order to adjudicate upon the matter and administer justice. The same cannot be permitted by the third party to have access to such personal information of the parties [litigants] or information given by the government in the proceedings. Lest, there would be misuse of process of court and the information and it would reach unmanageable levels," the bench comprising Justices R Banumathi, A S Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy said.

The bench upheld Rule 151 of Gujarat High Court Rules, which allows access to certified copies of judgments, orders and pleadings to a third-party — or those not party to a case — only under the order of an officer of the court.

While RTI Act does not prohibit seeking such information, the petitioner sought the information under the statute, instead of the HC rules. "In the absence of inherent inconsistency between provisions of the RTI Act and other law, overriding effect of RTI Act would not apply," the apex court held.

As per the rules, on filing of application with prescribed court fees stamp, litigants are entitled to receive copies of documents/judgments, etc. Third parties are not given copies of judgments and other documents without the assistant registrar's order. The registrar, on being satisfied about the reasonable cause for seeking the information/certified copies of the documents, allows access to the documents.

Bombay, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Madras among other HCs have similar provisions for furnishing information or certified copies to third parties.

In a unanimous decision in November last year, a five-judge bench had said that "transparency does not undermine judicial independence" while bringing the CJI office under RTI.

In Wednesday's decision, the bench did not refer to the November 2019 decision and, instead, relied on a 2017 decision of Delhi HC, in which the court had denied information to a petitioner on why his special leave petition was dismissed. In practice, Supreme Court does not give reasons for dismissing an appeal. If admitted, notice is issued to the parties and the case is heard in detail.

"Since the issue before us is the High Court Rules vis-a-vis the RTI Act, we do not propose to refer the various observations of the case..." the bench said.

UNNAO CASE

Rape victim's father's death: Sengar, 6 others convicted

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

A DELHI court on Wednesday convicted former MLA and expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar of culpable homicide not amounting to murder for the death of the Unnao rape victim's father.

District Judge Dharmesh Sharma also convicted Sengar's brother Jai Deep Singh alias Atul Singh, two policemen, and three other people under sections 120 B read with section 166, 167, 193, 201, 211, 218, 323, 341 and section 304 of the IPC; and section 3 of the Arms Act, 1959.

The court had initially framed charges of murder against Sengar. However, the judge while pronouncing the verdict, said, "His (Sengar) intention was not to commit murder... However, they beat up the victim in a brutal manner that led to his death." The judge said that the "doctors at the district hospital (where the father was treated) were negligent and acted like butchers".

Kuldeep Singh Sengar

The court had clubbed the trial in two cases pertaining to the planting of a country-made pistol and the death of the rape victim's father. Sengar has already been convicted for the rape of the Unnao girl and is serving a life sentence.

According to court documents, Sengar was in Delhi and the three policemen in Unnao when they allegedly entered into a criminal conspiracy to "deter, intimidate or silence the victim and her father from proceeding with the complaint of alleged rape", and the victim, her parents and a sister, along with a co-worker, were allegedly assaulted by Sengar's brother and four others accused to prevent them from proceeding to their residence.

The court relied on blood stains found on the police jeep and the exchange of call records to convict Sengar. The court said that "there was no scope for any doubt that Sengar was pulling all the strings and in conspiracy with the two policemen involved the victim in a false case of possession of illegal fire arms..."

The court said that the sequence of events "establishes clearly, beyond reasonable doubt, that under the patronage of accused Kuldeep Singh Sengar, his foot soldiers — namely Vineet Mishra, Birender Singh and Shashi Pratap Singh (and probably with others who could not be identified) — assaulted the victim with leg and fist blows by intermittently hitting him... with the barrel of the rifle."

While convicting the police station in-charge, Ashok Singh Bhadauria, and Sub Inspector, K P Singh, the court said that they "being seasoned police officials, disobeyed the direction of law to protect the life and liberty of the victim... They allowed the assailants their protective police cover affording them a free hand to do what they did".

The court, however, acquitted four others accused - constable Amir Khan, Shailendra Singh, Ram Sharan Singh and Sharadveer Singh — giving them the benefit of the doubt.

The court said Sengar had a motive as he "was riled up over the pamphlets and whatsapp messages being circulated against him... his family, including accused Jai Deep Singh, and they were probably brewing with anger for long."

"Hence, no sooner the victim was sighted and had a scuffle with Shashi Pratap Singh, the news traveled thick and fast on mobile phones... The accused (Sengar) along with his brother agreed that the matter be dealt in a befitting way setting an example before every one in the village," the court said.

Vehicle frauds: 70 cases in Chennai point to Rajasthan's Bharatpur district

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, MARCH 4

ABOUT 70 complaints by OLX users in Chennai, alleging that they were cheated by sellers posing as Army officers, have led Chennai police to Bharatpur in Rajasthan.

According to the complaints, the modus operandi in these cases was that accounts created on the online portal in the name of Army officers posted advertisements for sale of vehicles. Some of these seller profiles also had photos of Army officers' IDs and of them in their uniforms. Although OLX insists that customers make deals through their app, many of these complainants called the sellers' private number in the advertisement.

"Once they called and spoke to the 'Army officer' selling the vehicle, they were convinced and immediately transferred the amount through digital wallets. Within a week or two, they realised there is an unusual delay in the delivery of the vehicle and found the phone number switched off. We have received some 70 similar complaints and Kerala, Andhra, Telangana have reported hundreds of such cases," said Deputy Joint Commissioner Saravana Kumar.

Tamil Nadu Central Crime Branch's Additional Commissioner C Easwara Moorthy directed the Deputy Commissioner G Nagajothi to form a team and get the cases probed. Kumar was tasked to head the team.

When police traced the numbers used in the fraud cases, most of them led to Rudawal village in Bharatpur district. While 85 per cent of the calls originated from the Bharatpur region, Alwar district in Rajasthan and Mewat and Punhana in Haryana were found to be the other hotbeds of such frauds.

On Friday, a team of seven police officers headed by Kumar arrested two suspects from Bharatpur and took them to Chennai. According to Kumar, it may be near impossible to bust the entire gang as almost the entire region has so many people involved in similar crimes.

What led to the arrest of the two persons last week was a pattern noticed with a bank account in Punjab National Bank's Bharatpur branch in which at least 10 complainants deposited money. "We traced this bank account. But soon we learnt that account holder had transferred the amount to his wife's account. When we questioned him at Bharatpur, he claimed that he was merely handling money for people from Rudawal. We traced the movement of two people actively part of the scam from Rudawal to Bharatpur town and nabbed them when they came out of their villages," Kumar said.

An officer who visited Bharatpur for the investigation said they met the Panchayat leader. "He said it is not a news for them. He casually said that he has been telling people to avoid this but that no one listened to him," the officer said.

"We have received information about 10 more specific persons and we will soon seek help of Rajasthan officers for their arrest," Kumar said.

Uttarakhand govt names Gairsain as new summer capital of state

LALMANI VERMA
GAIRSAIN, MARCH 4

UTTARAKHAND CHIEF Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on Wednesday named Gairsain as the new summer capital of the state, partially fulfilling an over two-decade demand by statehood crusaders to make it the permanent capital.

Rawat made the announcement immediately after concluding his budget speech on the third day of the assembly session convened in Gairsain.

Uttarakhand was carved out as a separate state from Uttar Pradesh in 1998. Statehood activists had long contended that Gairsain, a tehsil in Chamoli district, was best suited to be the capital of the mountainous state as it was a hilly region falling on the border of Kumaon and Garhwal regions.

But it was Dehradun, located in the plains, that served as the temporary capital. With the fresh announcement, there is no clarity on either the city's current status or a new winter capital. "We will take a decision after discussions," said Rawat.

"I dedicate this announcement to the people who sacrificed themselves for the formation of Uttarakhand state. Decision has been taken for summer capital. It is a historic moment," he said.

The Vidhan Bhawan building in Gairsain, Uttarakhand. *Express*

The Chief Minister also said that infrastructural measures, such as ensuring availability of water, have been carried out in the tehsil.

Rawat said that the BJP in its Vision Document released before the 2017 Assembly elections had promised to equip Gairsain with top-class infrastructure and consider declaring it as a summer capital with "consensus of all". But another promise on "permanent capital" made in the document remains incomplete.

The state Assembly is located in Dehradun, but sessions are held in Gairsain as well.

State Congress chief Pritam Singh hit out at the government for not declaring Gairsain a permanant capital.

Leader of Opposition Indira Hridayesh said the Congress had been taken by surprise with the sudden announcement. "Women and youths who had sacrificed their lives for Uttarakhand state will not forgive the BJP government for this. When Congress will come to power, the area surrounding Gairsain will be equipped with infrastructure and it will be made a permanent capital."

State govt presents Rs 53,526-cr Budget

Gairsain: The Uttarakhand government on Wednesday proposed an allocation of Rs 1,265 crore for the Kumbh Mela to be held next year in the state in its budget for financial year 2020-21.

It also allocated Rs 295 crore for land acquisition to develop Jollygrant Airport into an international hub. The Rs 53,526-crore budget also announced schemes for pregnant women and the girl child. The Budget also announced the launching of the 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' scheme to educate teachers and students on India's integrity and unity in diversity. **ENS**

Tigress kills man in Ranchi zoo

Ranchi: A tigress killed a man at the Birsa Biological Park here on Wednesday after the youth jumped into the big cat's enclosure, an official of the zoo said.

"When the man, in his twenties, jumped into the enclosure of the tigress around 11.30 am, she attacked him on his neck, killing him instantly," the official said. The zoo was closed for some time following the incident, he said. One of the man's friends, who reached the zoo after he came to know about the incident, told the police that the deceased was "mentally unstable", the official said. **PTI**

Gold bars worth Rs 6.3 cr seized

Chennai: The Coast Guard and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence officials Wednesday recovered gold bars worth Rs 6.3 crore from the sea bed in the Gulf of Mannar off the Tamil Nadu coast. Two people have been arrested in this connection.

The two-day joint operation took place after DRI sources received a tip off that gold was being smuggled into India through sea from Sri Lanka. The team then approached the fishing boat on Tuesday and on seeing them, the two fishermen dropped the contraband covered in cloth bags mid-sea, the sources said. **PTI**

UK 'concerned' over potential impact of CAA

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, MARCH 4

THE UK government has reiterated its concern over the potential impact of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and said it is continuing to follow the events in India closely.

In response to an urgent question on "Recent Violence in India" tabled by Pakistani-origin Labour MP Khalid Mahmood in the House of Commons on Tuesday, UK's Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Nigel Adams said the UK engages with India at all levels.

"The UK government also have concerns about the potential impact of the legislation (CAA)," said Adams, the Minister for Asia who was standing in for UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, who is on a visit to Turkey.

"It is because of our close relationship with the government of India that we are able to discuss difficult issues with them and make clear our concerns where we have them, including on the rights of minorities. We will continue to follow events closely and to raise our concerns when we have with them," Adams said.

The Indian government has maintained that the CAA is an internal matter of the country and stressed that the goal is to protect the oppressed minorities of neighbouring countries.

While Mahmood described the government response as "facile", another Pakistani-origin MP Nusrat Ghani called on the government to relay the UK Parliament's concerns to the Indian authorities.

British Sikh Labour MP Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi said the violence had brought back "painful personal memories" from the 1984 Sikh riots while he was studying in India and fellow Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill also referenced 1984 in her intervention. **PTI**

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

SUBJECT: Tender No. OP2/14/2019-20- DNIT for the replacement of obsolete and old 11 VCB and allied items at 66 Grid Sub Stn. Industrial Area, Phase-I & II and 33 KV grid Sub Stn. Industrial Area, Phase-I, Chandigarh.

The subject cited tender due to be opened on dated i.e. 03.03.2020 at 03.00 P.M. is hereby extended upto 12.03.2020 at 02.00 P.M. with opening date i.e 13.03.2020 at 03.00 P.M. due to some administrative reason.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Electricity (OP) Division No. 2,
Chandigarh, U.T.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act. 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993).

In the matter of **OA NO. 464/2019**

SBI — APPLICANT
Vs
KAVITA TYAGI — DEFENDANTS

To, D-1 Kavita Tyagi w/o Pramod Tyagi, VPHE-11CS Pent House, Shipra Krishna Vista Indrapuram, Gaziabad, UP-201010 **Also At :** Kavita Tyagi, w/o Pramod Tyagi, O-1503, DISGN Arch Society, Sector-5, Vaishali, Gaziabad, UP

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 **24.03.2020 at 10.30 A.M.**

Take Notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the **10th day of Jan. 2020.**

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

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD.
(A State Govt. Undertaking)
"CORRIGENDUM-III"

The date of sale, submission and opening of tender for **"CONSTRUCTION OF 2 NOs 132 KV DOUBLE CIRCUIT TRANSMISSION LINE BAYS FOR POWER EVACUATION OF 25 MW, KU HYDRO POWER Pvt. Ltd. HEP, LAMBADUG AT 132 KV SWITCHYARD OF 66 MW BASSI POWER HOUSE, JOGINDERNAGAR DISTRICT-MANDI (HP)"** from experienced erection contractors who regularly execute the jobs/works covered under the Scope of Supply and services in Tender Specification No.**HPSEBL/SE(E)D/UHL-III/132 KV SYARD BASSI / 2019-3**, which was scheduled to be opened on 03.03.2020, is hereby further extended and shall be as per the following schedule.

Request for online tender documents:	From 12.12.2019 (11.00 Hrs.) to 11.03.2020 (17.00 Hrs.)
Issue of online tender documents (bid sheets):	From 16.12.2019 (11.00 Hrs.) to 11.03.2020 (17.00 Hrs.)
Date of pre bid meeting:	12.03.2020 (11.00 Hrs.)
Last date of submission of online Tender & Bid security along with hard copy:	Up to 13.03.2020 (17.00 Hrs.)
Date of Opening of Tender:	16.03.2020 (11.00 Hrs.)
Total Estimated Cost:-	Rs. 2.087 Crore
Cost of Tender Specification Document:	Rs. 5000/-+GST@12%=Rs.5600/-
Earnest Money Deposit:	Rs. 5,21,700/-

The detailed tender notification and above corrigendum-III can be viewed/downloaded free of cost from website **www.tenderwizard.com/HPSEB** and tender document can be had after making prescribed payment. Any clarification/amendment shall be uploaded on the above web site. For other details on e-tendering, please contact on Mobile Nos -82619-22200, 70181-88656, 82610-33300 and 98250-33300.

All other terms and conditions will remain same.

Sd/-
(Er. Yashwant Singh)
Superintending Engineer,
Electrical(Design),UHL-III,
HPSEB Ltd., Sundernagar, Distt. Mandi
Tel/Fax:-01907-264899, Email-ddhpseb@gmail.com.

WESTERN RAILWAY-RAJKOT DIVISION
INTEGRATED COMPREHENSIVE TURN KEY CONTRACT & ON BOARD HOUSE KEEPING SERVICES

Tender Notice No. M-2020-05-MCC-OBHS-Okha Dt. 27.02.2020 (Two Packets System) (i) Name of work : (A) Integrated comprehensive turnkey contract for Mechanized Cleaning & watering of coaches (Primary, Secondary & Terminating trains) at coaching depot Okha including coaching depot premises cleaning for the period of four years (B) On Board Housekeeping Services of Okha based primary maintenance trains for the period of four years. **(ii) Approx cost :** ₹ 7,06,95,641.50 **(iii) Earnest Money to be Deposited:** ₹ 5,03,500/- **(iv) Date & Time for the submission of tender:** Up to 15.00 hrs. on 31.03.2020 and opening of tender at 15.30 hrs. on 31.03.2020. **(v) Address of the office from where the tender can be purchased & Location of Notice board:** Divisional Railway Manager, Western Railway, Rajkot-360001 **(vi) Website Particulars: www.ireps.gov.in** 198

Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Open e-Tender Notice PUB/0284

On behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tenders for the following works up to **15.00** hrs on **26.03.2020.**

Sl. No.:1. e-Tender No. & Date: EWS-WKS-T-31-2019-20-13 Dt. 03.03.2020. **Name of work:** Zinc metallization of 20 Rail Panel 60 Kg (2020-2021) at Flash Butt Welding Plant at Moula-Ali. **Approximate Tender Value in (Rs.):** 2,89,11,087.68/-. **EMD(Rs.):** 2,94,600/-, **Cost of Tender form in (Rs.) :** 10,000/-. **Completion period (Months):** 11. **Maintenance period (Months):** 06.

Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only. No manual offers may be considered.

All the prospective tenderers are advised to get GSTIN Nos. and submit along with their offers.

Deputy Chief Engineer,
EWS, Lallaguda, Secunderabad
A0365

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
JAMMU & KASHMIR INDUSTRIES LIMITED
Ground Floor, Jawarlal Nehru Udyog Bhavan, Railhead Complex, Jammu, J&K

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

In reference to the tender floated under Reference No. JKI/BWM/WPT001/20 for Supply of Wool & Polyester Tops for Government Woollen Mills, Bemina, Srinagar, J&K Corrigendum No. 01 of 2020, dated: 29.02.2020 has been issued. The detailed corrigendum is available on the website www.jktenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
Managing Director
Jammu Kashmir Industries Limited
Old Secretariat, Srinagar.

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Kavoor Cross Road, Bejai, Mangaluru - 575004. Ph: 0824-2885795 E-mail : sepmescom@rediffmail.com
CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No. MESCOM/SEE(P)/EEE(P)/2019-20 / 17892 — Date: 27.02.2020

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

MESCOM invites tender for Manufacture and Supply of the following materials:

Tender No.	Name of the Materials proposed for Procurement	Quantity
MESCOM/ 2019-20/IND683	11KV 5KN polymeric Pin Insulators	1,00,000 Nos
MESCOM/ 2019-20/IND684	11KV 45KN dead end type polymer Insulators	60,000 Nos

The interested eligible bidders may log on to : **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **05.03.2020.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.) (Proc.) MESCOM, Mangaluru

For Power Related Complaint & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
Madurai (Construction and Maintenance) Circle
TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.22/2019-20/HDO/Dated: 04.03.2020

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamilnadu, **Percentage tender through online only** will be received upto **07.04.2020 - 14.00 hours** by the **Superintending Engineer (H) C&M, Madurai** Circle for PERMENANT RESTORATION WORKS 2019-20 under CRIDP, **(Package No.104 to Package No.111)** pertaining **Dindigul** (H) (C&M) Division.

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **11.03.2020** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

DIPR/1209/Tender/2020 — SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H) C&M, Madurai Circle

TAMIL NADU ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY TEDA
(A Govt of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)
V Floor, EVK Sampath Maaligai, 68 College Road, Chennai – 600006

TENDER NOTICE

Name of the Works :

(1) Tender for Design, Supply, Installation, Commissioning and 15 years Operation & Maintenance of Grid Tied Ground mounted Solar Power plant of 170kWp (95kWp+75kWp) at Irumbai village in Tamil Nadu.

(2) Request for Proposal (RfP) for Empanelment of vendor(s) as Technical Consultant/ESCOs to :
1. Design, Finance, Supply, Install, Test, Commission, Operate and Maintain Renewable Energy Generation Systems and Energy Efficiency appliances at various locations in Tamil Nadu.
2. Provide the consultancy services for all Renewable Energy projects in Tamil Nadu.

Tender Reference : (1) Tender Reference : TEDA/3813/Irumbai village - SPV/ 2019-2020.
(2) Tender Reference: TEDA/SP/ESCO/I961/2018

Tender Document Sale Period	**(1) 05.03.2020 - 23.03.2020 (from 11.00 A.M. to 05.00 P.M.)** **(2) 05.03.2020 - 23.04.2020 (from 11.00 A.M. to 05.00 P.M.)**
Cost of Tender Document	**(1) & (2) Rs. 1000/-** (Rupees One Thousand only) per Tender Document for direct purchase from TEDA. The fee is waived for the downloaded Tender Document.
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**(1) Rs. 1,25,000/-. (2) Rs. 5,00,00,000/-**
Pre-Bid meeting date time and place	**(1) 13.03.2020@ 11.00 A.M at the office of TEDA** **(2) On 27.03.2020@ 11.00 A.M at the office of TEDA**
Time & Due Date for Receipt of Bids	**(1) up to 3.00 P.M on 24.03.2020 at the office of TEDA** **(2) On to 23.04.2020 up to 3.00 P.M at the office of TEDA**
Date & Time of Tender opening	**(1) 24.03.2020 @ 3.15 P.M at the office of TEDA** **(2) On to 23.04.2020 up to 3.15 P.M at the office of TEDA**

Address for submission of Bid : The General Manager, Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency, V Floor, EVK Sampath Maaligai, 68 College Road, Chennai - 600 006 (INDIA) Phone: +91-44-28242800, Fax: +91-44-28222971. Email: gm1@teda.in . Website: www.teda.in.

The tender documents can be obtained from the above office (or) downloaded free of cost from **www.teda.in & www.tenders.tn.gov.in.**

DIPR/1207/Tender/2020 — General Manager, Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency

SPO among two killed in J&K attack

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, MARCH 4

A SPECIAL Police Officer (SPO) and a civilian were killed in a militant attack in North Kashmir's Sopore in Baramulla district on Wednesday evening.

Separately, in Central Kashmir's Budgam district, an encounter between militants and security forces was also underway.

The persons killed in the Sopore attack were identified as Omar Subhan, a shopkeeper, and SPO Wajahat Hussain, a resident of Watergam. Another civilian, Showkat Ahmad, suffered minor injuries, said officials.

A senior official at the Sopore sub-district hospital said two people were brought dead to the facility. "The third one is receiving treatment and is stable," the official said.

Sopore SP Javid Iqbal said that it was an attack on police party. "The SPO was on duty in the area. Militants started firing in which one jawan and a civilian died," he said. "The militants used AK-47 rifles."

The Central Kashmir encounter, meanwhile, started at around 6 pm in Chadoora. "The firing is going in the area," said a security official.

Violence in Kashmir comes down in Feb; LoC remains tense

SUSHANT SINGH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

THE VIOLENCE in the Kashmir Valley came down in February, with only two violent incidents initiated by militants and the death of seven militants at the hands of security forces, but the situation remained tense along the Line of Control (LoC), with 366 ceasefire violations (CFVs) recorded last month.

Official sources told *The Indian Express* that "the security situation in the hinterland remained fragile with a perceptible drop in terrorism related incidents. Improved internal security situation, as seen in favourable violence parameters, has prompted the government to revoke communication restrictions in Kashmir Valley, albeit with some restrictions on speed."

Compared to seven militants killed in February, 18 militants had been killed by the security forces in January. The number of militants killed in February is in keeping with the average, post-August 2019 — a total of 50 militants, including in February, have been killed since the abrogation of Article 370.

In January, 11 violent incidents initiated by militants were recorded, which came down to two in February. These numbers have fluctuated since August 2019, with a high of 28 in October and a low of one in December.

A total of 78 violent incidents initiated by militants have been recorded in Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370.

"Elimination of several high-value terrorists has severely impacted the terrorist leadership. Robust counter-terrorism grid has prevented terrorist from undertaking any major violent incidents and terrorist attempts to regain space have been effectively contained," official sources said, explaining the fall in incidents of violence.

However, the situation remained tense along the LoC in February, with 366 CFVs, compared to 367 CFVs in January. These are the highest number of CFVs in a month over the past few years.

Since the abrogation of Article 370, there have been 2,284 CFVs along the LoC — an indication of prevailing tensions between India and Pakistan.

Sources said that Naushera, Poonch, Krishna Ghati and Bhimbher Gali sectors along the LoC have seen heightened tensions.

"As far as the LoC is concerned, Pakistan has been scaling up its actions through unprovoked, indiscriminate CFVs and violent actions have led to loss of civilian property and injuries on our side. But our troops have also meted out a calibrated response to Pakistani provocations," official sources said.

Sources also said that despite the tensions along the LoC, there have been no successful infiltration attempts by militants in February from the Pakistani side, after a high of 36 militants had successfully infiltrated in September 2019. This is in keeping with the pattern of infiltration every year, which is dictated by weather and snowfall in winters — infiltration picks up in the summer months and declines to a bare minimum during the peak winter months.

POST AUGUST 2019 VIOLENCE

Month	Violent incidents by militants	Militants killed	Ceasefire violations along LoC
Aug 19	4	5	307
Sep 19	12	7	292
Oct 19	28	8	351
Nov 19	20	5	304
Dec 19	1	0	297
Jan 20	11	18	367
Feb 20	2	7	366

85 test positive for swine flu in Meerut

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, MARCH 4

AS MANY as 85 people have tested positive for swine flu in Meerut, of whom eight have died. Medical officers, however, say that the eight suffered from other diseases which was worsened by the flu.

"So far, 387 people have been examined, 85 of whom have tested positive (for swine flu). This figure includes about 20 PAC jawans, of whom half have been discharged. The first case came to us in January and it appears that since the patient had traveled, he could have brought the virus to the region. The people who died had other diseases which were worsened by swine flu," said Meerut Chief Medical Officer Dr Rajkumar.

"The number of cases has risen since then but there is no need to panic since the administration is well equipped," he said.

According to officials, some of the patients who died had low immunity, while one patient had meningitis. Swine flue was not a "causative" factor of the deaths, but merely aggravated the already present illnesses, officials said.

In the case of the security officials, initially one constable who was posted in a congested area approached the hospital with symptoms of swine flu. Subsequently, 11 other constables who had been posted together tested positive after exhibiting similar symptoms.

The medical officials have set up isolation wards in government hospitals and adequate equipment has been provided to private hospitals as well. As precautionary measure, the officials are isolating people with even symptoms to stop the disease from spreading.

The Meerut administration has set up an extensive awareness campaign to impart prevention information for both swine flu and coronavirus.

"We are carrying out a Sanchari programme which is a multi-departmental campaign against any flu-related disease. Asha and Anganwadi workers are telling people about simple things like washing hands, sanitisation, hygiene, among others. The people are being told about nature of symptoms and in what event they must approach hospitals," said Anil Dhingra, the District Magistrate of Meerut.

According to officials, no case of coronavirus has surfaced in the district so far. Daily fumigation is also being carried out as part of preventive measures, an official said.

ISRO postpones launch of imagery satellite GISAT-1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU, MARCH 4

ISRO ON Wednesday postponed the launch of its latest earth observation satellite GISAT-1 onboard a powerful geosynchronous rocket due to "technical reasons", a day before its scheduled lift-off from the spaceport of Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

"The launch of GISAT-1 onboard GSLV-F10, planned for March 05, 2020, is postponed due to technical reasons. Revised launch date will be informed in due course," ISRO said in a statement. The space agency, however, did not elaborate on the technical reasons that forced the postponement of the launch.

The 2,268 kg "state-of-the-art agile" Geo Imaging satellite that would operate from geostationary orbit, was tipped to continuously observe land, ocean and atmospheric parameters at high resolution and send near real time images of earth, unlike remote sensing satellites which would take at least 14 days.

It was earlier planned for launch onboard GSLV-F10 at 5.43 pm Thursday from the second launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.

J&K Police nab 'ISI operative' from Samba, probe on

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 4

THE JAMMU and Kashmir Police on Wednesday apprehended an alleged operative of Pakistan's ISI from Samba district.

Identifying him as Pankaj Sharma of Tarore, police said he was detained by a Special Operations Group (SOG) team on the basis of specific inputs. The entire operation was carried out under the supervision of SSP SOG and SSP Jammu.

"The individual was in touch across the border for the past few years... He had sent photos and videos of vital areas and installations mostly of Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts to his Pakistani handlers via social media platforms in lieu of monetary gains," a police statement said.

Looking at tapping blockchain, lasers for military use: Naravane

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

Gen M M Naravane

INDIA IS looking at technologies like Blockchain and lasers, among others, as part of its arsenal as previous iconic equipment like the tank and fighter jets may be on their way to becoming obsolete, Army chief General MM Naravane said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a seminar in Delhi, Naravane said "warfare evolves faster than war fighters do", and added that "icons of the 20th century battlefield — the main battle tank, the large surface combatant, and the modern aircraft — are on the way out", comparing them to the Sony Walkman" — a portable music player that was popular nearly two decades ago.

Speaking of the Indian forces, he said conventional prowess will be strengthened, but "we are also focusing on dynamic response, actions below the threshold of all-out war, and are refining our plans and capacities in this regard", along the western border with Pakistan and the northern border facing China.

"We are developing kinetic and non-kinetic responses to address threats. We are also looking at tapping Blockchain technologies, lasers and directed energy weapons for possible military use," he added.

He also mentioned that India was building capacities in space, cyber, and electronic warfare.

Citing the example of the Balakot airstrikes conducted by the Indian Air Force last year, he said, "The Balakot airstrike saw these short, intense, escalatory cycles, of military activity, in full media glare, where sophisticated information narratives played an equally important role."

He added that for years, "we were told that if and when the Air Force crosses" the international boundary "it would escalate to full-fledged war" but the Balakot airstrikes "demonstrated that if you play the escalatory game with skill, military ascendancy can be established in short cycles of conflict that do not necessarily lead to war".

On the topic of technology leadership, he said it needn't be "demonstrated through live conflict and wars" and cited that China "has not been involved in real, hardcore combat for a few decades now" and yet, "the regular showcasing of military might have created this aura of China being the undisputed military leader in key technological domains, with a deterrence logic of its own".

Technology, Naravane stressed, "is also tipping doctrinal cycles" as "doctrines are now chasing technologies".

Senior Maoist leader arrested for May 2019 Gadchiroli blast

VIVEK DESHPANDE
NAGPUR, MARCH 4

GADCHIROLI POLICE on Wednesday arrested senior Maoist leader Dinkar Gota, 42, in connection with the May 1, 2019 landmine blast that killed 15 policemen and a civilian. Police also arrested Sunanda Koreti, 35, a member of Korchi Dalam, along with Gota.

"The two were living as companions and had strayed out of the movement in September last year. We were in their pursuit through our sources and finally managed to nab them from a border village," Gadchiroli SP Shailesh Balkawade told *The Indian Express*.

A press note issued by Balkawade said, "Gota is a member of the North Gadchiroli Divisional Committee (DVCM) of CPI (Maoist) and was one of the masterminds of the May 1, 2019, landmine blast...

"Carrying a reward of Rs 16 lakh on his head, Gota was active in Korchi dalam and was involved in 108 serious crimes, including 33 civilian murders... Koreti is involved in 38 crimes and carried a reward of Rs 2 lakh," the press note added.

The Maoist movement in Gadchiroli has been crippled since 2018, with over 40 cadres dying in the Boria-Kasnasur encounter in April that year.

In another development, police claimed to have busted a big Naxal camp near Khobramendha village in Korchi tahsil on Wednesday morning. "It was a huge gathering of 70-80 cadres, who managed to flee after our men engaged them in an exchange of fire," said Balkawde.

KERALA FLOODS

Local CPM leader 'pockets aid for flood victims', absconding

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 4

THE CPI(M) has suspended a local leader in Kerala's Ernakulam district after accusations emerged of his having pocketed the financial aid meant for victims of the floods that devastated the state last year.

CPI(M) local committee member M M Anwar has allegedly pocketed Rs 10.54 lakh with the help of a Revenue Department official. Anwar is absconding, while police arrested clerk Vishnu Prasad on Tuesday.

According to police, Prasad had transferred flood relief to Anwar's account in three installments. Anwar was not eligible for financial assistance as he was not affected by the floods.

"Probe is going on and we have found that the arrested revenue official, who had worked in the disaster management wing, had transferred the aid to several other ineligible persons, including politicians. We have come across another CPI(M) leader who is also involved in the scandal after his wife got the assistance in her bank account. Apart from the two, another person named Mahesh, a friend of Anwar, is also involved," said police sources.

According to the police, Prasad had obtained the user name and password of the Ernakulam additional district magistrate to commit the fraud. Using the ill-gotten money, Anwar and Prasad had begun a poultry business in Tamil Nadu, they said.

Meanwhile, a youth in Wayanad district committed suicide on Tuesday after he was allegedly denied flood relief. M Sanil, who lost his house in the 2018 floods, could not furnish ownership documents for his hut and was denied even the interim relief of Rs 10,000, his wife Sajini told the media.

Following the incident, Revenue Minister E Chandrasekharan Wednesday said a probe would be held to ascertain the lapses of the officials in ensuring flood relief for Sanil.

C V Raman Global varsity gets Odisha govt clearance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 4

THE ODISHA government, through an order dated February 29, has established the C V Raman College of Engineering as the C V Raman Global University.

The private university will offer honours programmes in engineering and humanities, including specialised courses in artificial intelligence, robotics, VR and AR, data analytics, cloud computing, cyber security, mechatronics, and manufacturing with industry partnership, among others.

The varsity will also begin MBA programmes in innovation, entrepreneurship and venture development, along with specialised MBA in aviation revenue management analysis, among other areas.

Founder-cum-president Sanjib Kumar Rout thanked Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Chief Secretary Asit Kumar Tripathy, Skill Development and Technical Education (SDTE) Minister Premananda Nayak and SDTE commisioner-cum-secretary Sanjay Kumar Singh.

SHIVAJI MEMORIAL

Will inquire into CAG objections on tendering procedure: Maharashtra govt

VISHWAS WAGHMODE
MUMBAI, MARCH 4

THE MAHARASHTRA government Wednesday said an inquiry will be conducted into the objections raised by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) about the tendering procedure of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Memorial project in the Arabian Sea. Public Works Department Minister Ashok Chavan said a policy decision will be taken on the project after the inquiry.

Chavan was replying to a starred question raised by NCP legislator Hemant Takle in the Legislative Council.

Several petitions, Chavan said, are pending in courts on the environmental issues against the project. While the work on the project has been stopped since last year, there has been no major progress in the memorial's actual work in the last five years, he added.

In December, *The Indian Express* reported on the CAG report's findings highlighting how the previous BJP government's decision to reduce the cost of the proposed memorial by negotiating with the lowest bidder and changing scope of work has "vitiated the tendering procedure and defeated the objective of transparency in tendering process".

NATIONAL HANDLOOM EXPO, NERTPS

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Ministry of Textile, Govt. of India

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Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design & Manufacturing Jabalpur
(An Institute of National Importance, established by an Act of Parliament)
Dumna Airport Road, Jabalpur (M.P.)-482005

Walk-in Interview

For SMDP-C2SD Project of MeitY of Govt. of India, Institute invites application from eligible candidate for Guest Lecturer, Lab Engineer&Project Assistant. Date of walk-in interview is 18.03.2020. For further details please visit our website www.iiitdmj.ac.in.

Registrar

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
हरिद्वार
पिन कोड- 249404

संख्या- 293/03(14)/डी0आर0/डिग्री/सेवा-02/2017-18
दिनांक: 04 मार्च, 2020

विज्ञप्ति

एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उत्तराखण्ड शासन के उच्च शिक्षा विभाग के अन्तर्गत राजकीय महाविद्यालयों में असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर के रिक्त पदों पर चयन हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या-01/03/डी0आर0/सेवा-2/2017-18 दिनांक 04.08.2017 में विज्ञापित **असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर (शिक्षाशास्त्र)** के रिक्त पदों पर चयन हेतु दिनांक 11 फरवरी, 2018 को सम्पन्न स्क्रीनिंग परीक्षा का पूरक स्क्रीनिंग परीक्षा परिणाम विज्ञप्ति संख्या: 683/75/गोपन-1/एसि0प्रो0(राजकीय महा0)-17/2017-18 दिनांक 28 फरवरी, 2020 द्वारा घोषित किया गया है। पूरक स्क्रीनिंग परीक्षा परिणाम में सफल घोषित अभ्यर्थी अपने **ऑनलाईन आवेदन पत्र में किये गये दावों के समर्थन में समस्त प्रमाण पत्रों/अभिलेखों की स्वप्रमाणित छायाप्रतियाँ ऑनलाईन आवेदन पत्र के प्रिंट आउट प्रति के साथ संलग्न कर दिनांक 24 मार्च, 2020 (मंगलवार) की सांय 06:00 बजे तक (कार्यदिवस-सोमवार से शुक्रवार) सचिव, उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, हरिद्वार के कार्यालय में डाक अनुभाग के काउन्टर पर डाक या अन्य किसी माध्यम से उपलब्ध कराना सुनिश्चित करें। ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र की प्रिन्ट आउट प्रति संबंधित समस्त प्रमाण-पत्रों/अभिलेखों सहित निर्धारित अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 24 मार्च, 2020 (मंगलवार) तक उपलब्ध न कराये जाने पर अभ्यर्थी को अनर्ह घोषित कर दिया जायेगा एवं इस सम्बन्ध में कोई भी अनुरोध स्वीकार नहीं किया जाएगा।**

अभ्यर्थी उपरोक्त के सम्बन्ध में आयोग की वेबसाइट www.ukpsc.gov.in पर प्रसारित विस्तृत विज्ञप्ति सं0-287/03(14)/डी0आर0/डिग्री/सेवा-02/2017-18, दिनांक 04 मार्च, 2020 का अवलोकन अवश्य करें।

(राजेन्द्र कुमार) सचिव

SAINIK SCHOOL GHORAKHAL,
NAINITAL, UTTARAKHAND- 263156

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW: ONLY FEMALE CANDIDATES ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS

1. Walk-in-interview (only for female candidates) for the following posts on contractual basis will be held in Sainik School Ghorakhal on **16 Mar 2020** at 9.00 AM.

S.N	Name of Post	Requisite Qualification	Age Limit
(a)	PTI/PEM (01) (Female)	Bachelor Degree in Physical Education (B.P. Ed.) or Equivalent	21 to 35 Yrs on 31 Mar 2020
(b)	Nursing Sister (01)	(i) Nursing Diploma/Degree (ii) 5 years experience	18 to 50 Yrs on 31 Mar 2020

2. Pay & Perks : Consolidated salary Rs. 25,000/- per month (except vacation period) and free meals with cadets.
3. Candidates having requisite qualifications may appear in the Walk-in-Interview alongwith one passport size photograph, Bio-data, copies of original certificates. No TA/DA will be admissible.

Phone : 05942-220051 PRINCIPAL

सार्वजनिक सूचना

ग्रेटर नॉएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण

भूखंड संख्या-1, नॉलेज पार्क 4 ग्रेटर नॉएडा सिटी, गौतमबुद्ध नगर

ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत M/s Ajay Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. के भूखंड संख्या- GH-01 Sector-02 ग्रेटर नोएडा पर दिनांक 06.06.2011 को मानचित्र स्वीकृति प्रदान की गयी थी। तदोपरान्त बिल्डर द्वारा पुनरीक्षित मानचित्र स्वीकृति (Revised Sanction) हेतु दिनांक 24.01.2020 को आवेदन किया गया है, जिसमें पूर्व स्वीकृत भवन मानचित्र Commercial building के डिजाईन में कतिपय संशोधन किया जा रहा है। अतः प्रत्येक आवंटियों द्वारा अपनी consent दी गयी है या नहीं के सम्बन्ध में अपार्टमेंट ओनर अपनी आपत्ति दर्ज करवा सकते हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में बिल्डर द्वारा प्रस्तुत संशोधित declarations एवं मानचित्र का परीक्षण किसी भी कार्यदिवस में सुबह 9:30 से सायं 6:00 बजे के मध्य निर्योजन विभाग के displayed में नक्शे में किया जा सकता है। मानचित्रों में उ०प्र० अपार्टमेंट एक्ट -2010 के प्राविधानों के अन्तर्गत उक्त प्रस्तावित संशोधन की घोषणा के सम्बन्ध में अपार्टमेंट स्वामियों/संघ को नोटिस जारी करने के साथ 30 दिन के अन्दर आपत्तियां आमंत्रित की जाती है।

अतः उपरोक्त के निहितार्थ अपनी आपत्तियां लिखित रूप से अपने आवंटन पत्र, नाम, पता एवं दूरभाष नम्बर के साथ कार्यालय समय व कार्यदिवस में ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण के मुख्य प्रशासनिक कार्यालय, भूखण्ड संख्या-1, नॉलेज पार्क-04, ग्रेटर नोएडा में स्थित वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (वास्तु०) विभाग में निर्धारित अवधि अर्थात सूचना प्रकाशित होने के 30 दिवसों में प्राप्त कराई जा सकती है।

वरिष्ठ प्रबंधक (वास्तु०)
ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण

DEBT'S RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 770/2019
State Bank of India ....Applicant
Versus
Mr. Kavya Aggarwal ...Defendants
To,
1. Mr. Kavya Aggarwal S/o Mr. Surendra Aggarwal R/o WZ-375, Plot No. 27, Third Floor, Sirl Nagar Gali No.2, Near Laxmi Narayan Mandir, New Delhi-110034, Also at - Proprietor M/s. Chaturbuj Street Metals 3808, Barn Street, Sadar Bazar, Delhi-110006.
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of **Rs. 13,15,368/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Three Hundred & Sixty Five Only)** 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 before **Ld. Registrar on 06.05.2020 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 Ld. Registrar on this 11-02-2020.
Seal
BY ORDER OF THIS TRIBUNAL
For Registrar

The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library
cordially invites you to a **Public Lecture**
on
"Making Sense of the Emergency Raj (1975-77): Dissent, Debate, and Disruption"
by
Prof. Anand Kumar
Senior Fellow, NMML

Friday, 6 March 2020 at 3:00 pm
Venue: Seminar Room, Library Building
Nehru Memorial Museum and Library
Teen Murti House, New Delhi-110011

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

All are Welcome

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male namely Dalbir **Age** : About 50 years, **Complexion** : Sallow, **Height** : 5'7", **Face** : Long, **Build** : Medium, wearing white colour baniyan, grane blue colour sweater and blue colour lower, has been found injured on 07.02.2020 at Outer Ring Road, infront of Chirstian Kabristan and is currently admitted in Max Hospital, Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi. In this regard a FIR No. 57/20 dated 07.02.2020 u/s 279/337 IPC has been registered at P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this person man may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO : P.S. Jahangir Puri, New Delhi
Tel. No. : 011-27636000, 27631600
8750870228

DP/51/NW/20

RANCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Kutchury, Ranchi-834001
Contact No. :0651-2211215, Fax: 0651-2211777,
email: support@ranchimunicipal.com, website: www.ranchimunicipal.com

Letter No:-545 **Date: -03/03/2020**

Very Short e-TENDER NOTICE

Ranchi Municipal Corporation invites Request for Proposal in Two cover system from interested persons/firms for the work of "**Installation of Kiosks on electric poles of Ranchi**" Tender documents which can be obtained/ downloaded through website **www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in.**

Any tender document without the tender fee shall be summarily rejected.

:: Schedule::

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Installation of Kiosks on electric poles of Ranchi
1	Mode of submission of bids	Open Tender
2	Time of Completion	90 days
3	Date of publication of Tender on website	03/03/2020 at 11.00 AM
4	Date of Pre Bid Meeting	04/03/2020 at 3.00 pm at RMC Office
5	Bid Submission Date	11/03/2020 at till 3.00 pm
6	Date/Time for opening of Bid	12/03/2020 at 4.00 pm
7	Name and address of office inviting tender	Municipal Commissioner Ranchi Municipal Corporation Kutchary, Ranchi -834001
8	Helpline no of e-procurement	0651-2203469
9	Financial Bid Opening	To be announced Later
10	Last date of receipt of tender fee and security	12/03/2020 up to 1.00 pm

Sd/-
Dy. Municipal Commissioner
Ranchi Municipal Corporation, Ranchi

P.R.226365 Ranchi Municipal Corporation(19-20):D

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, यान्त्रिक खण्ड, उ0प्र0 जल निगम, मेरठ

अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

ए0आई0टी0 संख्या 213/निविदा/32
दिनांक 25.02.2020

उ0प्र0 जल निगम की ओर से नगर निगम, मेरठ के जोनल पश्चिम स्टेशन की मरम्मत एवं आन्तरिक विद्युतीकरण के कार्यो हेतु **"Electrical & Mechanical works including supply & installation of pumping plant' along with pipe laying"** में अनुभवी ठेकेदारों से निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा की बिक्री दिनांक 02.03.2020 से 06.03.2020 तक कार्यालय समय में इस कार्यालय से की जायेगी। मुहर बन्द निविदायें दिनांक 07.03.2020 को सायं 17.00 बजे तक इस कार्यालय में डाली जायेगी। प्राप्त निविदायें दिनांक 11.03.2020 को अधिशासी अभियन्ता, यान्त्रिक खण्ड, उ0प्र0 जल निगम, मेरठ कार्यालय में निविदा समिति द्वारा उपस्थित ठेकदारों के समक्ष 16.00 बजे खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रू0 1000+18% GST है। निविदा के कार्यो का विस्तृत विवरण जल निगम की वेबसाइट **jn.upsdc.gov.in** पर अथवा सम्बन्धित कार्यालय से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

Office of The Executive Engineer, Construction Division, U.P. Jal Nigam, Lakhimpur-Kheri

No. 633 /M-17/ 28 **Date : 29.02.2020**

Short Term E-Tender Notice

U.P. Jal Nigam invites bids in electronic tendering system **percentage rate BOQ** for execution of proposed Pipeline extension-63mm Dia. to 110mm Dia. 8000 M. and Functional House Tap Connections (FHTC) works (2000 Nos.) in New/Existing W/S Lines with all materials, labour, t&p etc. Complete in Rural W/S Scheme under JJM. up to **13.03.2020** till **15:00** hrs. The details for submission of e-bids will be available in the tender document on the UP Govt's e-procurement website **https://etender.up.nic.in from 05.03.2020 to 13.03.2020 till 15:00 Hrs.** The technical part of e-bids will be opened on **13.03.2020 at 16:00 Hrs** in the office of Executive Engineer, Construction Division, U.P. Jal Nigam, Lakhimpur-Kheri. The cost of Bid Document is **Rs. 5,000.00 + 18% G.S.T. extra**. The e-notice can also be viewed on the official website **www.jn.upsdc.gov.in. All The Modifications/Corrigendum Hereafter Will Be Published Only On The E-procurement Portal.**

WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT DIVISION

(SURVEY & CONSTRUCTION)
LAYING OF BROAD GAUGE MAIN LINE, LOOPS, SPREADING OF BALLAST, TAMPING OF TRACK, DISMANTLING OF EXISTING BG TRACK, TRANSPORTATION OF P.WAY MATERIAL AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS WORKS

E-Tender Notice No. DY.CE/C/RJT/25(R2). Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Rajkot for and on behalf of President of Union of India, invites E-Tender for the following work:- **(1) Name of Work with its location** : Laying of Broad Gauge main line, Loops, including Points & Crossing at various yards, spreading of ballast, tamping of track, dismantling of existing BG track, transportation of P.way material and other miscellaneous works between Daldi (Incl.) to Rajkot (Incl.) in connection with Surendranagar-Rajkot Doubling Project. **(2) Approx. cost of work** : ₹ 9,66,97,175.88 **(3) EMD:** ₹ 6,33,500.00 **(4) Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve) Months. **(5) Date & Time for submission of bid and Opening of bid.** Submission: 31.03.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs. Opening: 31.03.2020 at15.30 Hrs. **(6) Website particulars notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen & address of the office. Website : www.ireps.gov.in** Office of the Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Kothi Compound, Rajkot. 200

Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, यान्त्रिक खण्ड, उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम 220, सिविल लाईन, मेरठ

अल्प कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

ए0आई0टी0 संख्या: 220/निविदा/39
दिनांक : 25.02.2020

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम की ओर से नगर निगम मेरठ के अन्तर्गत टाउन हॉल जोनल पश्चिम स्टेशन पर अधिष्ठापित 03 नग डीजलीय सेटों पर सिंक्रोनाईज पैनलों की आपूर्ति कार्यो हेतु **"Electrical & Mechanical works including supply & installation of pumping plant"** अनुभवी ठेकेदारों से ई-टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। प्राप्त निविदाओं को दिनांक **11.03.2020 को** अधिशासी अभियन्ता, यान्त्रिक खण्ड उ0प्र0 जल निगम, मेरठ के कार्यालय में निविदा समिति द्वारा उपस्थित ठेकेदारों के समक्ष पूर्वान्ह **03:00 बजे** खोली जायेगी। निविदाओं को एवम की E-procurement website **http://etender.up.nic.in** पर दिनांक **02.03.2020 से 06.03.2020** तक डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य **रू0 3000.00 + (18%) GST** है। निविदा सूचना के सम्बन्धित विवरण जल निगम की वेबसाइट **jn.upsdc.gov.in** पर एवं कार्यों का विस्तृत विवरण E-procurement website **http://etender.up.nic.in** से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, CD-XII, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, GNCTD Opp. ESI Hospital, Basai Darapur Office Complex New Delhi-110027 invites on behalf of the President of India, online Item rate tender from approved and eligible contractors for the following works :-

1. NIT No. EE/CD XII/19-20/93 -(ID No. 2020_IFC_188810_1)-HOA-2711- A/R & M/O Drains. SW-Restoration of RMC Road along Right Bank of Mundka Pherpheral Drain between RD. 990 m. to RD. 1650 m. E.C. Rs. 44,02,274/- Earnest money Rs. 88,045/- period of completion 60 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 06.03.2020 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:30 P.M respectively). AE-I
2. NIT No. EE/CD XII/19-20/91 -(ID No. 2020_IFC_188757_1)-HOA-2707-A/R & M/O Minor Works, SW- Restoration of Road along Left Bank of Nilothi Distributory from Keshopur Pmp House RD 0 m. to RD. 1700 m. in Distt. West. E.C. Rs. 47,37,762/-Earnest money Rs. 94,755/-period of completion 60 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 06.03.2020 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:30 P.M respectively).AE-I.
3. NIT No. EE/CD XII/19-20/92 -(ID No.2020 IFC 188758 1)-HOA-2707-A/R & M/O Minor Works. SW - Restoration of Road along Right Bank of Nilothi Distributory from Keshopur-Pmp House RD 0 m. to RD. 800 m. in Distt. West. E.C. Rs. 47,74,684/-Earnest money Rs. 95,494/- period of completion 60 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 06.03.2020 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:30 P.M respectively).AE-I

Note:-

1) Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded from the web site **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in**
2) Amendment(s)/ alteration(s)/ corrigendum if any, will be available at website only.
3) EMD in the form of Banker's Cheque or Demand Draft or Fixed Deposit Receipt (drawn in favour of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD XII, I&FC DEPTT., GNCT OF DELHI) shall be scanned and uploaded to the e-tendering website within the period of bid submission. The original EMD should be deposited in the office of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD XII, I&FC DEPTT., GNCT OF DELHI within the period of bid submission. (The EMD dcoument shall only be issued from the place in which the office of receiving division office is situated).

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER/CD-XII
DIP/Shabdarth/1425/19-20

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, CD-XII, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, GNCTD Opp. ESI Hospital, Basai Darapur Office Complex New Delhi-110027 Invites on behalf of the President of India, online Item rate tender from approved and eligible contractors for the following works:- 1. NIT No. EE/CD XII/19-20/88 -(ID No.2020_IFC_188754_1)- HOA-2711-A/R & M/O Drains. SW-Restoration of RMC Road along Right Bank of Mundka Pherpheral Drain between RD. 1650 m. to RD. 2345 m. E.C. Rs. 46,32,947/-Earnest money Rs. 92,659/- period of completion 60 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 06.03-2020 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:30 P.M respectively). AE-I. 2. NIT No. EE/CD XII/19-20/89 -(ID No. 2020_IFC_188755_1)- HOA-2702-A/R & M/O Minor Works. SW - Restoration of Road along Left Bank of Nilothi Distributory from Nilothi Road to Nangloi Najafgarh Road in Distt. West. E.C. Rs. 23,11,046/- Earnest money Rs. 46,221/- period of completion 60 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 06-03-2020 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:30 P.M respectively).AE-I. 3. NIT No. EE/CD XII/19-20/90 -(ID No. 2020_IFC_188756_1) -HOA-2702-A/R & M/O Minor Works. SW-Restoration of Road along Right Bank of Nilothi Distributary from RD. 800 m. to RD. 1700 m. in Distt. West. E.C. Rs. 47,88,011/-Earnest money Rs. 95,760/- period of completion 60 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 06-03-2020 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:30 P.M respectively).AE-I. Note:-1) Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded from the web site **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in.** 2) Amendment(s)/ alteration(s)/ corrigendum if any, will be available at website only. 3) EMD in the form of Banker's Cheque or Demand Draft or Fixed Deposit Receipt (drawn in favour of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD XII, I&FC DEPTT., GNCT OF DELHI) shall be scanned and uploaded to the e-tendering website within the period of bid submission. The original EMD should be deposited in the office of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD XII, I&FC DEPTT., GNCT OF DELHI within the period of bid submission. (The EMD document shall only be issued from the place in which the office of receiving division office is situated). Sd/- **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER/ CD-XII**
DIP/Shabdarth/1424/19-20

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Radhey Shyam** S/o **Ishwar Singh** R/o **H. No. 1/4585, Gali No. 2B, 2C, Ram Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case F.I.R. No. **360/16 U/s 498-A/406/34 IPC P.S. Krishna Nagar Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Radhey Shyam** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Radhey Shyam** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person **Radhey Shyam** of F.I.R. No. **360/16 U/s 498-A/406/34 IPC P.S. Krishna Nagar Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **08.04.2020.**

By Order
Ms. Harshita Vatsayan
M.M, Mahila Court No. 01 Room No. 14, Shahdara District, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

DP/1384/SHD/2020
-(Court Matter)

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL DIVISION RTIC KATHUA
--------Telefax:- 01922-238973, Email ID:- mdivrtic@gmail.com

GIST of e-Tender

e-NIT No.56 of 2019-20 Dated: 28-02-2020 due on 06-03-2020

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, Executive Engineer Mechanical Division RTIC Kathua invites e-tenders from well reputed contractors/workshop holders **in two covers** for Strengthening/ reconditioning of column pipes of WIPL Make 100cusec discharge VT pump of pumping unit No. 03 installed at LIS Basantpur. The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website **www.jktenders.gov.in** from **28-02-2020 (16.00 hrs).**

1. The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from **29-02-2020 (10.00 hrs) to 06-03-2020 (16.00 hrs) in two covers.**
2. The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on **07-03-2020 (14.00 hrs)** or any other convenient date in the Office of **Executive Engineer Mech. Divn. RTIC Kathua.**
3. The intending bidders should keep a check on bid website for any change in the technical specifications/terms and conditions if any.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division
Ravi Tawi Irrigation complex,
Kathua

No.MDK/RTIC/2088-91
Dt: 28.02.2020
DIP/J-14491/19

क्रमांक- 1764-03-03-2020

निविदा सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि जिला जेल नारनौल के भंडार में रखे निम्नलिखित निरस्त (Condemned)/पुराने सामान का खुली बोली द्वारा नीलाम जेल प्रांगण में दिनांक 03.03.2020 को प्रातः 11.30 बजे अधोहस्ताक्षरी की अध्यक्षता में नीलामी समिति द्वारा नीलामी की जानी थी जो समाचार पत्र में नीलामी की सूचना नहीं आने के कारण निर्धारित तिथि को बोलीदाताओं के उपस्थित ना होने के कारण स्थगित की जाती है तथा पुनः दिनांक 13.03.2020 को प्रातः 11.30 बजे निम्नलिखित सामान की जेल प्रांगण में नीलामी की जाएगी।

1.	जनरेटर सेट	01 नग
2.	जेल बिल्डिंग के रिपेयर से प्राप्त स्क्रैप	5 क्विंटल लगभग
3.	परात एल्युमीनियम	02 नग
4.	वाटर कूलर	04 नग
5.	फ्रीज	01 नग
6.	रंगीन टीवी पुराना मॉडल	05 नग
7.	सब्जी काटने के चाकू	04 नग
8.	दराती	20 नग
9.	टार्च	06 नग
10.	प्लास्टिक कुर्सी	14 नग
11.	खुरपा	26 नग
12.	खुरपी	02 नग
13.	कस्सी	02 नग
14.	स्टील गिलास	62 नग
15.	स्टील ताली	96 नग
16.	ताले खराब	113 नग
17.	छतरी	06 नग
18.	पुरानी रूई	06 क्विंटल लगभग
19.	चमचा बड़ा	04 नग
20.	जग	01 नग
21.	स्टील प्लेट	10 नग
22.	फलाई केचर	01 नग
23.	चिमटा	01 नग
24.	बाल्टी	04 नग
25.	घंटी बड़ी	02 नग
26.	गैस चुल्हा	01 नग
27.	खाली पीपा	525 नग

नीलामी समिति के अधिकारियों का ब्यौरा निम्न प्रकार से है :-

1. प्रतिनिधि कार्यालय महानिदेशक कारागार, हरियाणा।
2. प्रतिनिधि उपायुक्त, महेन्द्रगढ़ स्थित नारनौल।
3. उप-अधीक्षक (प्रशासन) जिला जेल, नारनौल।

नीलामी की शर्तें :-

1. सामान जहां जैसी स्थिति में है, नीलाम किया जाएगा।
2. नीलामी से पूर्व सामान की विस्तृत सूची एवं सामान किसी भी कार्य दिवस को कार्यालय समय में उपस्थित होकर देखी जा सकती है।
3. बोलीदाता को बोली प्रारंभ होने से पूर्व प्रतिभू राशि/ धरोहर राशि के रूप में 25,000/- रुपए जमा करानी होगी।
4. बोली छुटने पर देय राशि की 25 प्रतिशत राशि तत्काल जमा करानी होगी। नाकारा सामान बोलीदाता को स्वयं के खर्चे से उठाना होगा।
5. नीलामी उपरान्त समस्त कर (जी.एस.टी. व अन्य कर इत्यादि) बोलीदाता नियमानुसार राज्य कर विभाग को जमा करवाकर चालान की प्रति व शेष 75 प्रतिशत राशि भी तीन दिन के अन्दर-अन्दर जमा करवाने की स्थिति में ही नाकार सामान उठाने का गेट पास दिया जाएगा अन्यथा पूर्व में जमा की गई राशि जब्त कर ली जाएगी।
6. सामान पूर्ण राशि जमा होने के 48 घंटे में उठाना होगा।
7. उच्चतम बोली स्वीकार या अस्वीकार करने एवं अन्य सभी निर्णय नीलामी समिति में निहित होंगे।

हस्ता./- **अधीक्षक कारागार,**
जिला कारागार, नारनौल।

पृ. क्रमांक 1764 दिनांक 03.03.2020

HARYANA GOVERNMENT

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) in Rupees	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER
1.	PWD B&R, REWARI.	CONSTRUCTION OF PHC BUILDING WITH RESIDENTAL ACCOMMODATION VILLAGE MASANI IN REWARI DISTT.(RE-INVITED) + 1 OTHER WORK	05.03.2020 26.03.2020	368.93 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274-253703 / pwd-eepd-rewari@hry.nic.in
2.	PWD B&R, HISAR	S/R TO E.I & SUBSTATION IN THE CAMPUS OF GOVT. POLYTECHNIC AT NATHUSARI CHOPTA IN DISTT. SIRSA RECALL + 1 OTHER WORK	06.03.2020 20.03.2020	35 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662-225651/ pwd-eeed-hissar@hry.nic.in
3.	PWD B&R YAMUNA NAGAR	RE-INVITE ROAD SAFETY ITEMS ON NH-73A (NEW NH-907) FROM KM. 0.00 TO 45.880 JAGADHRI TO POANTA SAHIB ROAD IN YAMUNA NAGAR IN HARYANA STATE.. + 10 OTHER WORKS	11.03.2020 24.03.2020	160.99 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	pwd-eepd-yamunanagar@hry.nic.in 01732-237834
4.	PANCHAYATI RAJ PANIPAT	CONST.OF KASHYAP CHOUPAL AT VILLAGE ISRANA, BLOCK ISRANA IN DISTRICT PANIPAT + 9 OTHER WORKS	09.03.2020 16.03.2020	193.59 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	8607592660
5.	PANCHAYATI RAJ YAMUNA NAGAR	RE TENDER- REPAIR AND RENOVATION FOR THE O/O DEPUTY DIRECTOR ANIMAL HUSBANDARY AND DAIRING DEPTT AT JAGADHRI DISTT YAMUNA NAGAR	03.03.2020 20.03.2020	2.88 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01732-237833 prexeeng.ynr@hry.nic.in
6.	SKILL DEVELOPMENT & INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPT. HARYANA	PURCHASE OF TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	04.03.2020 14.03.2020	TOOLS, EQUIPMENT RS. 389000/-	www.gitimaujabad.org.in	0124-2270193 maujabad.giti@gmail.com
7.	FOREST DEPARTMENT KURUKSHETRA	SURVEY OF DEMARCATION & MAINTENANCE	03.03.2020 10.03.2020	12.15 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01744 230743 dfo.kkr-hry@nic.in
8.	WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT PALWAL	TRANSPORTATION WORK OF SNP SUPPLY TO AWC'S	03.03.2020 11.03.2020	5 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	9560115080 popwl.wcd@gmail.com

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

80202/HRY

"IMPORTANT"

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ODISHA SKILL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

KK-103

NiyojanBhawan, Kharvela Nagar, Sriya Square
Bhubaneswar-751001.1
(E-mail-ID: dirosems@gmail.com)

Invitation for Request for Proposal (RFP) - "Selection of Event Partner for Odisha Skills 2020"

Odisha Skill Development Authority, Government of Odisha invites sealed bids from **Industry Associations/ Bodies/Organizations of National and International repute** for appointment as 'Event Partner' for Odisha Skills - 2020. The RFP document shall be available from the advertisement date till the bid due date on the website **http://skillodisha.gov.in/**

The timeline for submission of bids/proposals are given below as:

Event	Date	Time
Date of upload of RFP	05 Mar 2020	10:00 AM
Date for Pre-bid meeting at NiyojanBhavan, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar - 751001	12 Mar 2020	04:00 PM
Last date of bid Submission	19 Mar 2020	02:00 PM
Date of Technical bid Opening	19 Mar 2020	04:00 PM

OSDA reserves the right to cancel any or all the Bids or annul the Bidding process without assigning any reason thereof. All proposals are to be submitted through Speed Post/ Registered Post / Courier only.

Chief Executive Officer,
Odisha Skill Development Authority,
NiyojanBhavan, Unit-III,
Bhubaneswar - 751001
OIPR-14027/11/0021/1920

ODISHA SKILL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

KK-102

NiyojanBhawan, Kharvela Nagar, Sriya Square
Bhubaneswar-751001.1
(E-mail-ID: dirosems@gmail.com)

Invitation for Request for Proposal (RFP) - "Engagement of Event Management Agency for Odisha Skills 2020"

Odisha Skill Development Authority, Government of Odisha invites sealed bids from **agencies of National and International repute** for selection as 'Event Management Agency' for Odisha Skills - 2020.The RFP document shall be available from the advertisement date till the bid due date on the website **http://skillodisha.gov.in/**

The timeline for submission of bids/proposals are given below as:

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Date of upload of RFP	05 Mar 2020	10:00 AM
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Chief Executive Officer,
Odisha Skill Development Authority,
NiyojanBhavan, Unit-III,
Bhubaneswar - 751001
OIPR-14027/11 /0020/1920

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER KANUPUR IRRIGATION PROJECT

A-735

AT/PO: BASUDEVPUR, DIST: KEONJHAR, ODISHA, PIN: 758 047
E-mail: ccekipbpur@gmail.com

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. : CCEKIP-(KHWD)-03/2019-20 (online)

1	Name of the Work	Construction of 1000mm thick Plastic Concrete Cut-Off Wall at heel of the earth dam upto fresh rock level throughout the foundation of left embankment upto RD 1150m of Kanupur Irrigation Project in Keonjhar district of Odisha.		
Sl. No.	**Details**	**Original**	**1st Corrigendum**	**2nd Corrigendum**
1	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	From dt. 21.01.2020, 10.00 A.M. to Dt. 20.02.2020, 5.00 P.M.	From dt. 21.01.2020, 10.00 A.M. to Dt. 02.03.2020, 5.00 P.M.	From dt. 21.01.2020, 10.00 A.M. to Dt. 11.03.2020, 5.00 P.M.
2	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	Dt. 20.02.2020, 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 02.03.2020, 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 11.03.2020, 5.00 P.M.
3	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid	Dt. 24.02.2020 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt. 03.03.2020 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt. 12.03.2020 at 11.00 A.M.
4	Proof of deposit of EMD, Tender Cost and other original documents as per ITB	Dt. 24.02.2020 at 1.00 P.M.	Dt. 03.03.2020 at 1.00 P.M.	Dt. 12.03.2020 at 1.00 P.M.

All other terms & conditions remain unaltered. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: **www.tendersodisha.gov.in.**

Chief Construction Engineer
Kanupur Irrigation Project, Basudevpur
Keonjhar.
OIPR-32376/11/0006/1920

COIMBATORE SMART CITY LIMITED

SMART CITIES MISSION

EXTENSION OF TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. e-22 /Smart City /2019-2020/SCM1 **Date : 03.03.2020**

The Managing Director, Coimbatore Smart City Limited, Coimbatore hereby invites Bids through both on-line and off-line from eligible bidders for the following work:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Tender Value in INR	Bid Security in INR	Period of Completion
1	Implementation of Bio-mining / Landfill Mining and Reclamation (LFMR) of the old legacy wastes at Vellalore Dumpsite	60,11,00,000/-	60,25,000/-	24 months

The Coimbatore Smart City Limited has already issued a tender notification for the above mentioned work fixing the tender date on **05.03.2020. Due to administrative reasons, the tender date has been postponed to 12.03.2020**

The bidding documents will be available upto **11.03.2020** and downloaded / uploaded from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** on or before at **15.00** Hours on **11.03.2020** through online. Tender Submission will be closed at **15.00** hours and opened at **16.00** hours on **12.03.2020** through offline.

Roc.No :8565 /2015/ (JN4) /SCM 1
E-Mail : sejnnurm@ccmc.gov.in or cbepmcsmartcity@gmail.com
Off : 0422-2396026 / 0422-2391122
DIPR / 1216 /TENDER/2020

The Managing Director
Coimbatore Smart City Limited,
Coimbatore Corporation Building,
Big Bazaar Street, Town Hall, Coimbatore -641 001.
Managing Director, Coimbatore Smart City Limited

verka

Phulo Phalo, Pure Khao Piyo.

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812-13

Notice Inviting Tender www.verka.coop

Sealed Tender is hereby invited on the prescribed Performa for the purchase of following item:-

Sr. No	Name of the Item	Qty/Contract Period	Consignee/ Place of Tender Opening	Tender Cost (Rs.)	E.M.D (Rs.)	Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender	Opening Date and Time of Sealed Tender
1	Purchase of HDPE Bags for 25 Kg Panjiri	Annual Rate Contract	Verka Head Office SCO-153-155, Sector-34A, Chandigarh (Ph. No. 0172-5041837-38)	-	35,000/-	18.03.2020 upto 01:00 PM	18.03.2020 at 03:00 PM

Interested parties may obtain detailed Tender Documents from the office of Consignee where tender is to be opened on any working day from (9AM to 5 PM). If any clarification is required may contact on Phone Numbers given above. The Tender Notice may also be seen at Verka Website (www.verka.coop). TENDER (S) WITHOUT EARNEST MONEY ARE LIABLE TO BE REJECTED. The Consignee reserves the right to accept/reject any/ all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Note: Corrigendum if any will be uploaded on website only.

General Manager (P&LM)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

DRM/S and T acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No **SNT-JP-24R2-2019-20** closing date 27.03.2020 15:00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available ON IREPS portal LIKE net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. **1. Name of work with it location : Signalling work for Provision of CTR Work in Phulera-Madar section from KM 225.12 to 254.24 on Jaipur Division. (with provision of PQRS at BNWS), 2. Approx. Cost work (Rs.)** : 4613343.97/- **3. Earnest Money (Rs.)**: 92300/- (Online Payment Only). **4.Date & Time for submission up to on www.ireps.gov.in** : 27.03.2020 Up to 15.00 hrs **5. Website Particulars & Notice board location : www.ireps. gov.in and** DRM office/NWR/ Jaipur 245-SP/20

Please join us on /NWRailways

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

AN EXPERT EXPLAINS

'Need not stop playing Holi for fear of COVID-19, but do avoid crowds'

SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN

Why is the coronavirus situation worsening this fast? Were countries unprepared?

The outbreak is getting into a new phase; it does look shocking. The very aggressive action China took in Wuhan bought us some time and delayed the spread of the virus. It would eventually have spread to many countries, and that is what is happening now. Now we are seeing localised outbursts, even community transmission in some countries. It was a new virus so WHO started issuing regular updates about what countries should do. It is not as if countries were not prepared — India, for example, started airport screening, picked up cases, isolated them, prepared testing facilities; now they are being sent to NIV (National Institute of Virology), Pune. In some ways you can say this spread was inevitable.

The Prime Minister has tweeted that he will not attend Holi Milan events. Is it safe to send children to school, and use public transport?

You have to understand that this is an infection that spreads by droplets — and not, say, through the breath of the person who is carrying it, like TB. You cannot just stand next to someone and get infected unless you are close enough for the droplets to reach you.

The most common method of transmission right now seems in fact, to be through infected surfaces. So it is important to avoid touching, to wash hands repeatedly, and to avoid touching your own face with unwashed hands. The elderly should avoid crowds as far as possible. But unless there is a specific advisory asking people to refrain from sending children to school or using public transport, or unless there is a cluster of cases reported from one particular school or college, in which case the institution will have to be closed down and students followed up for 14 days, such precautions are not necessary.

Based on the available data, there is no reason to panic — 28 cases in a country the size of India are not worrying. As for whether schools, public transport etc. are safe, the (Health) Ministry should make recommendations based on the situation. It would be different from state to state or city to city. Even in China, the graded approach worked. The kind of containment measures put in place in Hubei were not replicated everywhere.

So should people not celebrate Holi?

People cannot put their lives on hold, nor is it necessary. Celebrate Holi, but maybe you should not celebrate it with thousands of people. Celebrate with close family and friends, avoid big gatherings as far as possible.

Is it true that children are at a lower risk of contracting the infection?

So far, what we know of corona, all of the evidence is from China. The evidence that we have from the largest sample so far suggests that less than 2% of the infections are among people of age less than 20 years; 1% cases are in people ages less than 10 years, and another 1% in people between ages 11 and 20 years. What we do not know is whether children were carrying the virus but were asymptomatic. This is a very important epidemiological question impinging on the decisions about closure of schools, etc.

The Ministry of AYUSH issued an advisory on alternative medicine remedies to "prevent" coronavirus infections. There have been prescriptions of yoga and *gaumutra* for preventing coronavirus. How should people take these suggestions?

There is absolutely no evidence whatsoever on the efficacy of any medicines in preventing coronavirus infection. Yoga is good for you in a general way. But it is not effective in preventing corona. I would urge all these people to work with scientists and hospitals to implement clinical trials to find out whether these are indeed effective. The WHO has put out on its website the protocol for clinical trials.

How close are we to a vaccine against COVID-19?

There are about 20 vaccine candidates in early stages of development. There is one that can go into phase-I trial perhaps as early as next month. This is an mRNA vaccine being developed by Moderna Biotech, and the phase-I trials will be carried out by the National Institutes of Health in the US. So if everything goes really well, we would probably have a vaccine in the next 12-18 months — but even after that, there would be the question of availability of sufficient doses. We are probably looking at an 18-24 -month window for that.

What about therapeutics?

There is work taking place on that using monoclonal antibodies from people who have recovered from the disease. Several trials are taking place in China, Japan, Korea, and the US. The most promising one is of remdesivir. Some trials are on for the second-line HIV drugs lopinavir and ritonavir, but some small trials in China have already reported negatives. (The Indian Council of Medical Research has obtained approval for use of the lopinavir and ritonavir combination in coronavirus patients in case of a public health emergency. They have not been used in any patient so far.)

India has put curbs on the export of some pharmaceutical ingredients given the China lockdown. Would this affect the availability of medicines globally?

If China's manufacturing problems continue, the world could start facing drug shortages. However, for the time being, companies have assured us that they have adequate stocks of active pharmaceutical ingredients to last a few months.

Why do so many emerging infections come from China?

It is the practice of animal markets, the way they are set up; there are many different animals, some of them live, capable of transmitting infections. China has now started looking at regulating these markets and to put in place biosafety rules.

Dr Soumya Swaminathan is Chief Scientist, World Health Organisation (WHO). She spoke to ***Abantika Ghosh***

Does heat kill coronavirus?

A group of Italian tourists were tested for the coronavirus on Wednesday. *PTI*

KEY QUESTION
YOUR DAILY CORONAVIRUS ANSWER

LAST MONTH, US President Donald Trump said about the novel coronavirus: "The virus... typically that will go away in April . The heat, generally speaking, kills this kind of virus." Does it, indeed?

The short answer: While the outbreak in Wuhan, China, happened in peak winter, how the virus will behave as the temperature rises, is not known for sure yet. Only time will tell.

WHO Chief Scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan told *The Indian Express*: "We do not know (if heat will kill the virus)".

Trump's statement about "this kind of virus" is not totally off the mark, however. Temperature did affect the spread of the SARS-CoV infection, which too, like COVID-19 (the disease caused by the novel coronavirus), is transmitted through droplets .

In a 2011 paper in *Advances in Virology*, researchers from the University of Hong Kong wrote: "The dried virus on smooth surfaces retained its viability for over 5 days at temperatures of 22-25°C and relative humidity of 40-50%, that is, typical air-conditioned environments. However, virus viability was rapidly lost... at higher temperatures and higher relative humidity (e.g., 38°C, and relative humidity of >95%)."

But then, not all coronaviruses are of "this kind" — the type that causes SARS and COVID-19. The MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) coronavirus spread in Saudi Arabia in August-September 2012. *New Scientist* quoted Dr David Heymann of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as saying: "These viruses can certainly spread during high temperature seasons."

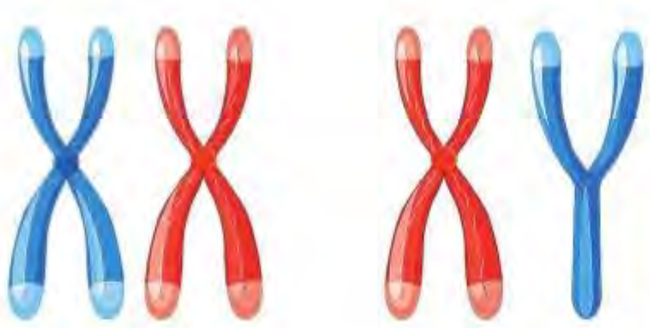
Scientists are now watching whether the novel coronavirus will be affected by temperature. *National Geographic* quoted Dr Stuart Weston of the University of Maryland School of Medicine as saying: "I hope it will show seasonality, but it's hard to know."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Got a question on the COVID-19 outbreak and what you should/should not do? Write to explained@indianexpress.com

FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

WHY DO WOMEN LIVE LONGER THAN MEN? SEX CHROMOSOMES HOLD KEY



In a female (XX), if one X chromosome is damaged, the other X can stand in its place. No such substitute in a male (XY). *Getty Images*

MEN OUTNUMBERED women by 37 million in the 2011 Census of India, but among those over the age of 60, there were more than 1 million more women than men. In general, men live shorter lives than women worldwide, and scientists have proposed various theories as to why that is so — men take bigger risks, they drink and smoke more. Now, new research has tested one of many hypothesis — that the real reason is related to the sex chromosomes — and it appears to hold up.

The research, by scientists at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Sydney, was published on Wednesday in the journal *Biology Letters*.

WHAT ARE CHROMOSOMES? The human body is made up of cells, and in the centre of each cell is the nucleus. Chromosomes, which are located inside the nucleus, are structures that hold the genes. It is the genes that determine the various traits of an individual , including eye colour, blood type — and sex.

The human cell has 23 pairs of chromosomes. One pair is of the sex chromosomes, named X and Y, which determine whether an individual is male or female. A female has two X chromosomes (XX) while a male has one X and one Y (XY).

UNGUARDED X HYPOTHESIS: This hypothesis suggests that the Y chromosome in XY is less able to to protect an individual from harmful genes expressed on the X chromosome. In a male, as the Y chromosome is smaller than the X chromosome, it is unable to "hide" an X chromosome that carries harmful mutations, which may later expose the individual to health threats.

On the other hand, the hypothesis goes, there is no such problem in a pair of X chromosomes (XX) in a female. If one of the X chromosomes has genes that have suffered mutations, then the other X chromosome, which is healthy, can stand in for the first, so that the harmful genes are not expressed. This maximises the length of life, according to the hypothesis. And this is what the UNSW researchers set out to examine.

TESTING THE HYPOTHESIS: In a statement issued by UNSW, PhD student and study first author Zoe Xirocostas said the unguarded X hypothesis appears to stack up, after examining the lifespan data available on a wide range of animal species. "We looked at lifespan data in not just primates, other mammals and birds, but also reptiles, fish, amphibians, arachnids, cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, butterflies and moths among others," she said. "And we found that across that broad range of species, the heterogametic sex (XY in humans) does tend to die earlier than the homogametic sex (XX in humans), and it's 17.6 per cent earlier on average."

While the pattern is the same across species, the sexes affected are sometimes the reverse. In birds, butterflies and moths. it is the male that has an identical pair of sex chromosomes (ZZ) while the female has ZW chromosomes. Female birds, butterflies and moths were usually found to die earlier than their male counterparts, giving more credence to the unguarded X hypothesis (strictly speaking, unguarded Z in this case).

"In species where males are heterogametic (XY), females live almost 21% longer than males. But in the species of birds, butterflies and moths, where females are heterogametic (ZW), males only outlive females by 7%," Xirocostas said.

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SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

What next for virtual currency?

Supreme Court has set aside an RBI ban on banks dealing with virtual currency holders. How do these currencies work, how did the court rule on the RBI concerns, and what happens after the ban is lifted?

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

ON WEDNESDAY, the Supreme Court set aside a ban by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on banks and financial institutions from dealing with virtual currency holders and exchanges.

The court held that the ban did not pass the "proportionality" test. The test of proportionality of any action by the government, the court held, must pass the test of Article 19(1)(g), which states that all citizens of the country will have the right to practise any profession, or carry on any occupation or trade and business.

In a circular in 2018, the RBI had banned banks from dealing with virtual currency exchanges and individual holders on the grounds that these currencies had no underlying fiat and that it was necessary in the larger public interest to stop banks from providing any services related to these.

What are virtual currencies? Are they different from cryptocurrencies?

There is no globally accepted definition of what exactly is virtual currency. Some agencies have called it a method of exchange of value; others have labelled it a goods item, product or commodity. In its judgment on Wednesday, the Supreme Court observed, "Every court which attempted to fix the identity of virtual currencies, merely acted as the 4 blind men in the Anekantavada philosophy of Jainism, who attempt to describe an elephant, but end up describing only one physical feature of the elephant."

Satoshi Nakamoto, widely regarded as the founder of the modern virtual currency bitcoin and the underlying technology called blockchain, defined bitcoins as "a new electronic cash system that's fully peer-to-peer, with no trusted third party". This essentially meant there would be no central regulator for virtual currencies as they would be placed in a globally visible ledger, accessible to all the users of the technology. All users of such virtual currencies would be able to see and keep track of the transactions taking place.

Virtual currency is the larger umbrella term for all forms of non-fiat currency being traded online. Virtual currencies are mostly created, distributed and accepted in local virtual networks. Cryptocurrencies, on the other hand, have an extra layer of security, in the form of encryption algorithms. Cryptographic methods are used to make the currency as well as the network on which they are being traded, secure. Most cryptocurrencies now operate on the blockchain or distributed ledger technology, which allows everyone on the network to keep track of the transactions occurring globally.

Are cryptocurrencies dangerous?

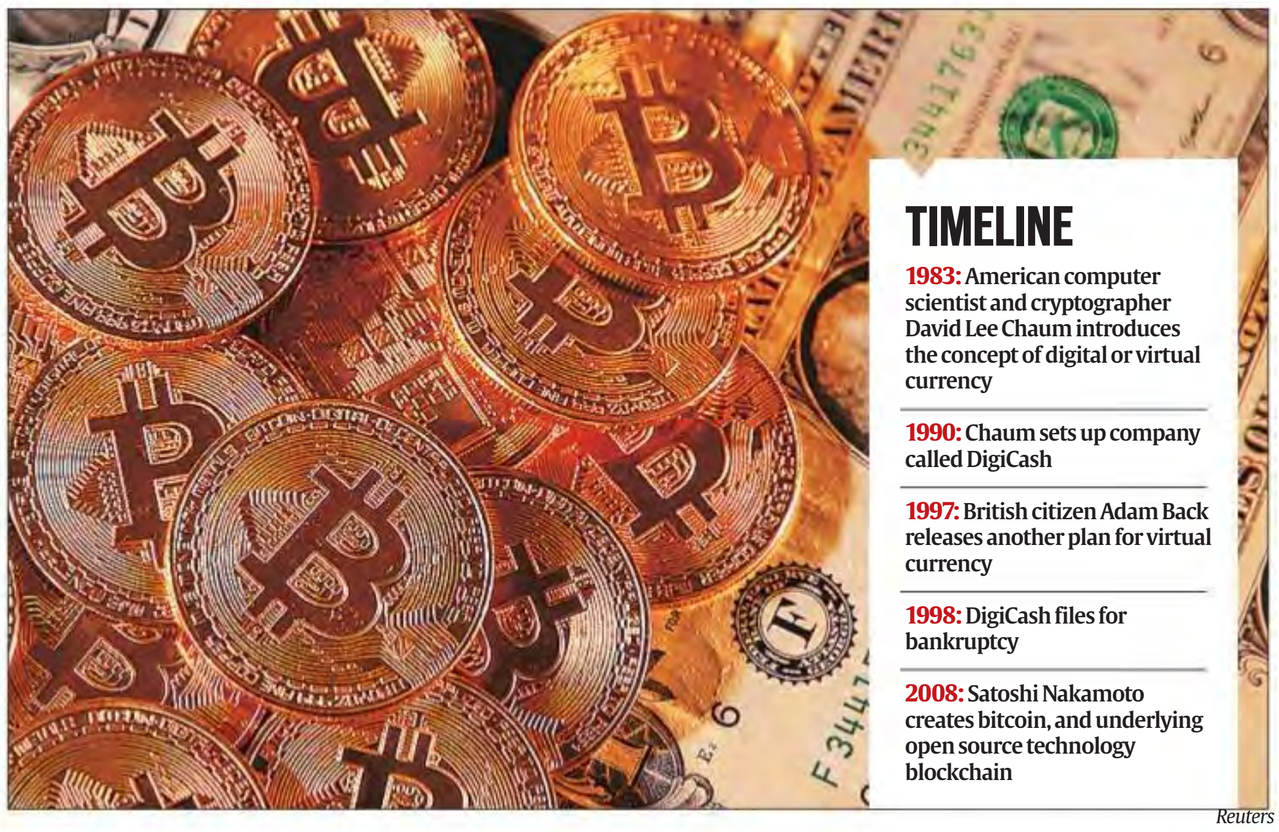
The jury is out on that. Organisations across the globe have called for caution while dealing with virtual currencies, while also warning that a blanket ban of any sort could push the entire system underground, which in turn would mean no regulation.

In June 2013, the RBI had for the first time warned users, holders and traders of virtual currencies about the potential financial, operational, legal and customer protection and security-related risks that they were exposing themselves to. The following year, the Financial Action Task Force came out with a report that highlighted both legitimate uses and potential risks associated with virtual currencies. In a different report, it again said use of such virtual currencies was growing among terror financing groups.

Why did the RBI ban virtual currencies?

Owing to the lack of any underlying fiat, episodes of excessive volatility in their value, and their anonymous nature which goes against global money-laundering rules, the RBI initially flagged its concerns on trade and use of the currency. Risks and concerns about data security and consumer protection on the one hand, and far-reaching potential impact on the effectiveness of monetary policy itself on the other hand, also had the RBI worried about virtual currencies.

In its arguments in the Supreme Court, the RBI said it did not want these virtual currencies spreading like contagion, and had therefore, in the larger public interest, asked banks not to deal with people or exchanges dealing in these non-fiat currencies. The RBI argued that owing to a "significant spurt in the valuation of many virtual currencies and rapid growth in initial coin offerings", virtual currencies were not safe for use.



TIMELINE

1983: American computer scientist and cryptographer David Lee Chaum introduces the concept of digital or virtual currency

1990: Chaum sets up company called DigiCash

1997: British citizen Adam Back releases another plan for virtual currency

1998: DigiCash files for bankruptcy

2008: Satoshi Nakamoto creates bitcoin, and underlying open source technology blockchain

Reuters

What did the petitioners say?

The petitioners, who included virtual currency exchanges operational in the country, told the Supreme Court that the RBI action was outside its purview as the non-fiat currency was not a currency as such. They also argued that the action was too harsh and there had been no studies conducted either by the RBI or by the central government.

Arguing that the ban was solely on "moral grounds", the petitioners said the RBI should have adopted a wait-and-watch approach, as taken by other regulators such as the Directorate of Enforcement or the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

What did the Supreme Court rule?

In its 180-page judgment on Wednesday, the Supreme Court held that the RBI directive came up short on the five-prong test to check proportionality — direct and immediate impact upon fundamental rights; the larger public interest sought to be ensured; necessity to restrict citizens' freedom; inherent pernicious nature of the act prohibited or its capacity or tendency to be harmful to the general public; the possibility of achieving the same object by imposing a less drastic restraint.

The court did not agree, however, with any other submission made by the petitioners. The petitioners had submitted that the acceptance of Distributed Ledger Technology, or blockchain, and the rejection of virtual currencies by the RBI as well as the government, is a "contradiction" in terms.

Apart from domestic agencies, the RBI could not be faulted for not adopting a "light-touch" approach as adopted by other countries, the court said, adding that there could be no comparison with other countries such as the US, the UK, Japan, or Singapore as they were developed economies. "Therefore, we will not test the correctness of the measure taken by RBI on the basis of the approach adopted by other countries," the court said.

What happens now?

The Supreme Court's judgment could lead to the RBI rethinking its policies surrounding virtual currencies. It is expected, said L Viswanathan, partner at Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, that the RBI will reconsider its approach to cryptocurrency and come up with a new, calibrated framework or regulation that deals with the reality of these technological advancements. Abhishek A Rastogi, Partner at Khaitan & Co, said that the decision will help those investors who had used legitimate money through banking channels,

Other experts said that although the RBI's reasons for prohibition could have been right, it was never going to be successful as operations had predictably gone underground. Salman Waris, founder of TechLegis, said the verdict removes the arbitrariness of regulatory actions without disregarding the power of RBI to regulate. "A reluctance on part of the regulator to regulate cannot be the reason enough to stifle or kill a full industry," Waris said.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

AN APPEASER IS ONE WHO FEEDS A CROCODILE, HOPING IT WILL EAT HIM LAST.

— WINSTON S CHURCHILL

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

OPEN THE HOUSE

Accountability and healing — for both, elected representatives need to speak and be heard on Delhi riots

DAYS AFTER COMMUNAL violence, the worst in decades, convulsed northeast Delhi, leaving at least 47 dead and more than 400 injured, the nation's highest deliberative forum has not talked about it. The Narendra Modi government continues to resist and stonewall the Opposition's demand to take up the issue of the Delhi riots in Parliament since it reconvened on Monday. Let's talk after Holi, it says. This deferment should not be surprising, perhaps, given that the violence, and its costly toll, also point to the government's own abdication, especially that of Delhi Police. But it is still chilling. That Parliament should be paralysed by a stand-off in this precarious moment, that attempts should be made to steer it towards business as usual, that a blind eye and a deaf ear should be turned, even if for now, to the destruction of life and property in the national capital — 79 houses destroyed completely by fire, 168 substantially damaged, 327 shops burnt, according to official estimates till Monday — is a continuing scandal. This is the time for the people's representatives to look the crisis in the face, and to reach out to the anxious and fearful men and women who have been bruised and ravaged by the communal fires, with messages of sympathy, solidarity and support.

The communal violence in the national capital could leave behind more grievous damage than is visible in the scarred and scorched lanes and bylanes of northeast Delhi. While it raged, and in its aftermath, institutions appear to be failing the people. If Delhi Police, supervised by the Union Home Ministry, awoke to its responsibility far too late, the Delhi High Court gave in to the government's insistence that the moment was not conducive for taking action against those who made hate speeches, stoked the fires — fortunately, the Supreme Court stepped in on Wednesday to roll back the month-long breather given to government and urged the High Court to hear the petitions related to the violence on Friday.

Now, the government must make it possible for Parliament to immediately open its doors, and talk about the violence that has taken such a high toll. To be sure, there will be fingerpointing but that's unavoidable in the call for accountability which must be urgently heeded. It is also necessary to apply balm to wounds and to arrive at the course corrections that are needed to ensure that the conflagration does not overtake the capital again. By appearing to turn away from its responsibility, Parliament is only deepening the sense of political and institutional vacuum, on the other side of a dark abyss.

LIKE KIRAN PASSI

Jharkhand bureaucrat's decision reminds middle class of need to affirm its stakes in public amenities

PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN India usually draw attention for the wrong reasons. Understaffed and under-equipped primary health centres and district hospitals are often seen as the bane of the country's healthcare system. Development studies literature is replete with examples of people being pushed down the poverty line by episodes of serious illness. Public healthcare facilities are shunned by those who can afford to consult private hospitals. Recently, an IAS official in Jharkhand may have taken a small step in changing attitudes towards the government-run medical system. Kiran Passi chose a government district hospital in Godda, where she is the deputy district commissioner, to deliver her second child. Passi, who has reportedly acquired a reputation for taking steps to improve Godda's healthcare facilities, had a C-section delivery at the hospital on Sunday. It was a conscious decision, not an emergency.

History tells us that the middle class has not always, or everywhere, left healthcare, education and public transport to the market. The great American Middle Class, for example, was founded on a robust public education system. Till well into the 1970s, the economically-secure section of the American society exercised its political clout to demand better schools and universities. In several parts of India, too, till the mid-1990s, several government-run schools, especially the Kendriya Vidyalayas, had a reputation for academic excellence. Since the beginning of this century, a number of education extension programmes of the government, including the Right to Education Act 2009, have resulted in an appreciable increase in school enrollment. But by and large, the government-run education system has been abandoned by those who can afford alternatives. This, many experts contend, is both a reason and fallout of the decline of the country's public schools. Crumbling infrastructure, teacher absenteeism and poor learning outcomes do not invite middle-class outrage even as academics and development studies experts bemoan the abysmal state of the country's public education system.

There is one government doctor for more than 10,000 people in India, one hospital bed for 2,046 people and one government hospital for more than 90,000 people. Private medical institutes sometimes invite loud criticism — especially when they are accused of medical negligence. But the middle-class rarely tries to make itself heard in conversations on improving the quality of government-run hospitals — an omission that distances itself from the poor. Passi's decision will not change matters widely or overnight. But it is a small but important reminder to the middle class of the need to affirm its stakes in the country's public healthcare system.

NEUTRON JACK

Legendary CEO, who has died at 84, reshaped the corporation for the 21st century and influenced world's top managers

JACK WELCH, THE chemical engineer who rose through the ranks of General Electric and altered the nature of big corporates forever, has always elicited mixed reactions. But beyond doubt, in the 20 years at the helm since 1981, structurally and functionally, he created the modern corporation and prepared the ground for the Silicon Valley giants to come. An implacable foe of clutter, immediately after taking charge at GE, he dismantled the bureaucratic hierarchies which, as a young chemist, had urged him to quit. He favoured a small-company feel — a flatter, informal architecture, open to ideas from anywhere in the organisation. If a guy in a hoodie is acceptable as CEO of Facebook, the phenomenon owes something to Welch.

To cut the clutter, Welch innovated downsizing. He created a sort of productivity curve for people in an organisation, and pink-slipped the bottom 10 per cent in a routine culling process. It paid dividends in an overstaffed giant, increasing GE's share value 30 times over during his tenure. Unfortunately, among his many imitators, downsizing has become a mania, is applied indiscriminately and ritually, and job losses have exacted social costs. Welch came to be called Neutron Jack, after the neutron bomb, which annihilates people but keeps value intact.

Perhaps Welch's commitment to diversification was more remarkable. Diversity was innate in early commercial enterprises but the arrival of brands seemed to discourage suppleness in the interest of identity. But Welch took GE, identified as an electrical machinery and chemicals company, into the terra incognita of financial services and media. Of course, he also insisted that the company must dominate sectors it was present in. As he did himself, taking home the biggest severance package in corporate history.

Way out lies within

Easing supply-side constraints isn't enough. Domestic demand must play a greater role in India's growth story

JAHANGIR AZIZ

INDIA'S FOURTH QUARTER GDP growth (calendar year 2019) printed another sub-5 per cent growth rate. It would have been lower had it not been for the large downward revisions to previous years' GDP that statistically boosted the last quarter's growth rate because of favourable base effects. Policymakers and the market heaved a sigh of relief that the relentless decline over the last three years at least seems to have stabilised around 4-5 per cent. But, because year-over growth rates are so strongly affected by what happened a year ago, most economies (including China) instead publish and conduct policy discussions based on sequential quarterly growth. Also, sequential growth rates provide a much better sense of the momentum and turning points in activity, which are critical to decide whether, how much, and when the economy needs policy support. If they had done so, both policymakers and the market would have found that the growth momentum rose, albeit modestly, from 3.8 per cent in the third quarter 2019 to 4.1 per cent. More importantly, non-farm and non-government GDP (the closest approximation to non-farm private sector GDP) bounced much more sharply from 1.6 per cent (and no this is not a misprint) to 4.4 per cent in the fourth quarter.

With the revised data, we now know that annual growth over the last four years has slowed from 8.3 per cent to 7 per cent to 6.1 per cent to 4-5 per cent. In sequential terms, the deceleration was far more dramatic, especially in non-farm private GDP, which after hitting a run rate of 13 per cent in the first quarter of 2016 fell to 1.6 per cent by the third quarter of 2019. What explains this four-year long slide in growth? The dominant narrative is that India's woes are just an unfortunate and unintended consequence of demonetisation, the shift to a national GST, and the credit squeeze caused by the bad debt in banks and non-banks. With a bit more fiscal support, some monetary easing, and extended regulatory forbearance to help banks work out their bad debts, these headwinds will fade and India will likely be back to its winning ways.

While it is undeniable that these headwinds had been disruptive, they couldn't be the drivers of the decline. India's growth had been sliding since the second quarter of 2016; nearly 6 months before demonetisation and a year before the GST was introduced. Indeed, by the third quarter of 2016, non-farm private sector growth had already slid to 3.5 per cent. And although bad debt hit the headlines in 2016, the overleverage had already begun to tighten bank lending since 2014.

> Policymakers need to stop thinking about India as a perennially supply-constrained economy focusing almost all policies and reforms to easing these constraints. Instead, it is time to let domestic demand play a greater role in India's growth story. While this means that India Inc. needs to shift from producing what foreigners want to producing what residents can afford.

More inexplicable is the argument that falling corporate investment is the main culprit for the slowdown. It is true that corporate investment is no longer running at the heady 17 per cent of GDP of the pre global financial crisis (GFC) days, but at a much more somber 11-12 per cent. However, this outsized adjustment had already taken place by 2010 and since then, corporate investment has flatlined at current levels. Instead, what has fallen relentlessly in these past few years is private housing and SME investment: From 15 per cent of GDP to less than 10 per cent in the last seven years.

All these are signs that the answer lies elsewhere. And it is obvious once one eschews India's exceptionalism and accepts that it is just another emerging market economy that grew on the coat tails of globalisation with the minimal reforms. Globalisation has largely determined India's fate.

Contrary to a widely held misperception, India is and has been for a long time far more open to the global economy than believed. The limited liberalisation of 1991-92, coupled with the corporate restructuring in the late 1990s, spurred corporate investment to rise from 5-6 per cent of GDP in the early 2000s to 17 per cent of GDP by 2008. Almost all of this expansion in investment was geared to produce for exports, which grew at an astonishing pace of 18 per cent per year-over-year in this period as global trade expanded at breakneck speed with the entry of China into the WTO in 2001.

Exports as a share of GDP more than doubled from 12 per cent in the early 2000s to over 26 per cent by 2008. In contrast, private domestic consumption, which is considered to be India's great strength, grew only at 6 per cent annually, less than the growth rate of the economy, such that its share in GDP fell from 63 per cent to 56 per cent. But since 2012, global trade has floundered and with that so has India's economy. Indeed, the entire rise and fall of investment, including the quarter-to-quarter twists and turns in it, can be almost fully explained by changes in exports. The Indian economy has long been flying on one engine - exports — and that is now spluttering.

So will the nascent recovery strengthen and take the economy back to its high growth path? Unlikely on current policies. In the near term, as in now widely feared, the COVID-19 outbreak could turn into a pandemic, sharply reducing global demand and trade. With that, even expectations of a modest 2019-20 recovery to 5.25 per cent growth are under threat. Over the longer term, it is unlikely that global trade will return to its pre-GFC growth rates not only because supply chains have stopped expanding in the absence of any material technology breakthrough, but there is also a growing political backlash against globalisation in the developed market that has led to increased trade barriers. Consequently, India too, like other emerging market economies, needs to face up to the reality that it can no longer depend on global trade to be the only growth driver. Instead, it needs to search and find new sources of growth and that starts with recognising and accepting reality.

Policymakers need to stop thinking about India as a perennially supply-constrained economy focusing almost all policies and reforms to easing these constraints. Instead, it is time to let domestic demand play a greater role in India's growth story. While this means that India Inc. needs to shift from producing what foreigners want to producing what residents can afford, it also means that policymakers have to reverse policies that have so far forced households to keep increasing savings (for retirement income, children's education, healthcare, and housing) through a web of financial repression, regulatory distortions, and public spending choices. It means redesigning India's infrastructure to look more inward and less outward, increasing public provisioning of healthcare and education, reforming insurance regulations to reduce out-of-pocket expenses, and eliminating financial repression to raise returns on retirement savings. Merely tinkering with macroeconomic policies will not be enough.

The writer is chief emerging markets economist J P Morgan Chase Bank. Views are personal

THE COST OF A PANDEMIC

China's centrality to global economy makes coronavirus disruption more acute

PRAVAKAR SAHOO AND SARA GROVER

THE CORONAVIRUS, WHICH began as an epidemic across China, has affected more than 92,000 people out of which 80,000 confirmed cases are in mainland China alone, with the death toll reaching 3,130 people. There is also an increasing fear that the pandemic will spread across other regions. The situation is a public health emergency and the global community is anxiously looking forward to an early solution and containment.

China is the second-biggest economy in the world. Any slip in its growth — the conservative estimate is 0.5 per cent as of now — would affect the global economy. There are estimates that the world economy will grow at 2.3 per cent this year — 0.2 per cent lower than earlier forecasted. However, the impact of the virus would be much more through trade routes and the shock to the global value chain. China is not only the world's factory but also a huge market. China's share in world trade is around 12.5 per cent — its imports are $2.1 trillion (11.7 per cent of global imports) and exports $2.4 trillion (13.4 per cent of global exports). Almost 45 per cent of China's exports comprise of electrical machinery and equipment, including computers, which would disrupt the global production network.

Australia, Singapore and South East Asian countries will be the worst affected, given the economic and market exposure to China. Australia and Singapore could face not just disruptions in the flow of goods and services but also a loss in reveneue from tourists and students from China. The ripple effects of the virus are being felt across the commodities market as well — crude oil is down by 15 per cent, affecting oil-exporting countries and there has been a fall in prices of metals like copper affecting Peru, Chile and Indonesia. China is the biggest consumer of these products.

> India is dependent on Chinese imports in healthcare and pharmaceuticals (active pharma ingredients), smartphones and accessories, solar cells and modules and many other products. India's solar power plants imports about 80 per cent of components from China thereby affecting the efforts in renewable energy.

China is India's largest trading partner, accounting for 5 per cent of the country's exports and 14 per cent of imports. India is dependent on Chinese imports in healthcare and pharmaceuticals (active pharma ingredients), smartphones and accessories, solar cells and modules and many other products. India's solar power plants import about 80 per cent of components from China, thereby affecting the efforts in renewable energy. A supply crunch in components and finished products from China will increase the cost of production and general price level. This comes at a time when the Indian economy is sluggish.

The disruption to India's manufacturing supply chain may lead to shortages of finished products, higher prices and job losses. Indian exports to China will also be hit significantly in organic chemicals (17 per cent), yarn (21 per cent), metal ores (68 per cent), building material (31 per cent). India accounts for nearly 16 per cent of China's cotton imports and 13 per cent of its construction material imports.

There is a belief that this episode provides an opportunity for India to replace Chinese exports, similar to the argument that India would benefit from the tariff war between the US and China. However, it's not easy to improve export competitiveness and manufacturing in a short time. Many small businesses in India have been impacted due to their dependence on Chinese imports and also because they export components to Chinese factories. At present, the Indian economy, which is grappling with high inflation, would get an immediate respite from the falling crude prices.

Many compare the current coronavirus to the SARS epidemic in 2003. However, the economic strength and impact of China have significantly changed. China's share in world trade and GDP was 4 per cent and 5 per cent respectively in 2003; now they are at 16 per cent and 12 per cent. The coronavirus has thus far affected over 70 countries. China's lockdown and necessary curbs on the movement of people and resources are a big set back to the global value chain. India has been grappling with demand-side problems and corona is a supply-side shock.

Sahoo and Grover are at the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi and St Xavier's College, Mumbai, respectively

MARCH 5, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

INDIAN EXPRESS

ASSAM SHUTDOWN

NORMAL WORK IN government offices and banks came to a standstill for the second day throughout Assam, as volunteers of the All Assam Students Union and the Gana Sangram Parishad continued their picketing. The AASU and the Parishad have jointly given the mass picketing call as part of their phase-wise agitation demanding deletion of the names of foreign nationals from the electoral rolls and their immediate deportation. Official reports said that so far no untoward incident has occurred. Meanwhile, a delegation of the AASU is leaving for Delhi on Thursday to response to the prime minister's invitation for discussion on the foreign nationals issue.

ONGC'S SUCCESS

WITH THE OIL and Natural Gas Commission succeeding in finding commercial gas for Tanzania in the Island o f Songo-Songo, its area of activity now has spread to Africa. According to official sources, ONGC has been able to establish a commercially viable gas field in the island and is under contract to drill some more wells. With this, India joins a select band of countries which are doing exploration work for the developing world.

ASSEMBLY POLLS

ELECTIONS TO THE nine dissolved state assemblies, which are under President's rule, are likely to be held sometimes in May, according to Election Commission sources. Chief Election Commissioner S L Shakdhar, has convened a meeting of the chief electoral officers and officers in-charge of the printing of the electoral rolls on May 6.

MUGABE'S GOVERNMENT

BRITISH GOVERNOR OF Rhodesia, Lord Christopher Soames, has asked Robert Mugabe to form a government after results of last week's election showed Mugabe had won a landslide victory. Soames met Mugabe privately for 45 minutes, then for another 45 minutes with his advisors. Mugabe, whose party won 57 o f 80 seats allotted for blacks, and Soames agreed for the need for stability.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

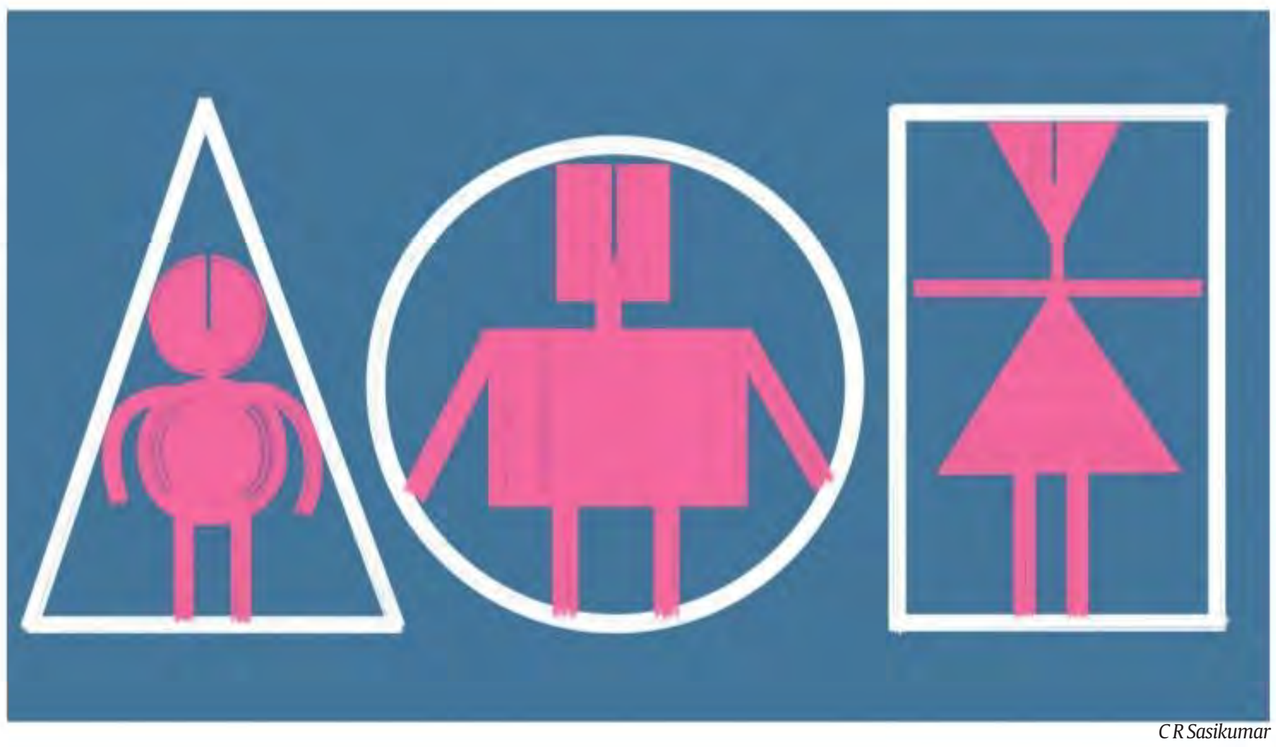
"Whether it is the recent violence in Delhi, India's brutal campaign in occupied Kashmir, the horrific violence the Rohingya have been subjected to in Myanmar, or the never-ending nightmare of the Palestinians, the collective 'Muslim voice' is conspicuous by its absence."

— DAWN

A disconnected pedagogy

The gap between jobs, needs and knowledge, and the absence of role models, could be turning India's demographic dividend into a nightmare

MILIND SOHONI



C R Sasikumar

SHOULD THERE BE a National Curriculum? And if yes, what should be its guiding principles? Given our heroic times, we may perhaps demand that it should be "in the spirit of the Constitution, respect the idea of India and serve its people without discrimination".

It turns out that we already have a national curriculum. It is a fixed set of topics prescribed in all subjects — from physics to geography, and engineering to planning. And it is taught in English at our elite MHRD institutions. It has not been designed by politicians but by our elite professors and bureaucrats: It is what they believe the nation really needs to know. It is imposed on ordinary students and parents through competitive exams and on colleges and universities through various central regulatory agencies, most egregiously, through the UGC-NET, an objective-type multiple-choice (!) exam that decides who is fit to be a college teacher. Much of this does not apply to elite MHRD institutions. For the rest of us, what is taught and who can teach it, has already been decided. What remains for us is to see how it serves our people.

We already know that the national engineering curriculum fails miserably in meeting regional needs. Engineering for Himachal Pradesh needs to be different from that in Maharashtra or Kerala. And it must address the needs of core industries, local enterprises, the provisioning of basic amenities such as water and energy. None of this is in our national curricula or practised at the IITs. Moreover, there is no mechanism for engineering colleges to work with their communities.

Coming to the social sciences, let us look at the UGC-NET curricula, which is largely what is taught in our elite institutions. At the BA level, it is divided into several disciplines — for instance, political science, sociology and economics. This is unfortunate since much of life in India is interdisciplinary. As a result, many activities such as preparing the balance sheet for a farmer, or analysing public transport needs, and development concerns such as drinking water or even city governance, are given a miss.

The UGC-NET curricula in economics has 10 units, the very last unit is Indian Economics. Unit 8 is on Growth and Development Economics, where the student must know Keynes, Marx, Kaldor, and others. There are various mathematical models, for example the IS-LM macroeconomic model, whose validity in the Indian scenario is questionable. The study of sectors such as small enterprises or basic economic services such as transportation is absent. The District Economic Survey, an important document prepared regularly by every state for each district, is not even mentioned.

Moving to sociology, we see that as with economics, there is no preamble nor a list of textbooks or case studies. Again, there are 10 units, and each unit is a list of about 30 topics. Unit 1 is "Sociological Theory" which is a breathtaking list of 22 thinkers from the West, starting from Durkheim, wending through Foucault and ending with Castells. We then have six Indian thinkers — the usual four, Gandhi, Ambedkar, G S Ghurye and M N Srinivas, and two others. Under "Social Institutions", we have a list of timeless words such as culture, marriage, family and kinship. Peasant occurs two times, but there is no farmer. Here is a sample question: "Who uses the phrase 'fetishisms of commodities' while analysing social conditions?" followed by four names.

There is also no mention of important data sets such as the census or developmental programmes including MGNREGA in either curricula.

But why blame a bureaucracy like the UGC. They are merely following what the IAS or the elite institutions ask in their entrance exams, albeit in an essay format. For example, see Question 1 from the 2018 JNU entrance exam for MA in sociology: "How did Emile Durkheim develop his ideas of social integration and structural-functionalism?" For thousands of non-metropolitan students, this is rote learning, unconnected with the practice of sociology or their own situation. If indeed Durkheim is useful, why not ask "Apply Durkheim's theory to a social context of your choice". Question 2 is on comparing Marx with Weber on capitalism. Question 3 tests adherence to a pet discourse: "How do caste and class intersect in the field of education and reproduce social inequalities?" The fact is that the bottom 80 per cent, that is, the vernacular society and its caste apparatus, now owns less than 20 per cent of India's wealth. Moreover, the roots of this inequality lie not in history, but in the construction of Indian modernity.

Indeed, the training at our elite institutions, and consequently, in the national curricula, is not to empower ordinary students to probe their lived reality. Or to contribute professionally and constructively to the development problems around us. Rather, it is to perpetuate a peculiar intellectualism which is divorced from the community in which these institutions are embedded. Hardly any social science department bothers to translate key state government documents, articles or texts from the vernacular press to English, let alone study them. This shortage of facts leads to a peculiar ghetto mentality which privileges classroom discourse and critique as the primary way of generating knowledge and dissent as an important output of the university. They forget Kosambi, who said the cognition of the material condition and its measurement by the people is the first step to freedom.

> The training at our elite institutions, and consequently, in the national curricula, is not to empower ordinary students to probe their lived reality. Or to contribute professionally and constructively to the development problems around us. Rather, it is to perpetuate a peculiar intellectualism which is divorced from the community in which these institutions are embedded.

Thus, the social science curriculum has the same structural limitations as engineering. The national curriculum today is antithetical to the idea of India as an organic union of intelligent people, diverse in their ways of life and their geography. It diminishes their intellectual capability and hinders their right to pursue their culture and improve their material conditions. That is the real reason why higher education has become a waste of money. As per the Constitution, higher education is the business of the states. The role of the Centre is circumscribed by items 62-66 of Schedule VII. Much of the conduct of MHRD and its institutions, and certainly competitive exams, is against the spirit of the Constitution.

What is to be done? One-nation-one-curriculum certainly has some advantages in enabling mobility of some jobs, especially in the national bureaucracy and a multinational economy. But it is at the cost of the developmental needs of the states and the emergence of good jobs there. This asymmetry is behind the aspirational dysfunction in higher education. It is this disconnect between jobs, needs and knowledge and the absence of role models, which is slowly turning our demographic dividend into a nightmare on the streets.

Our top-down elite bureaucrats and professors are not about to loosen their hold over what is taught in the states. The way ahead is political, perhaps for a committee of chief ministers, assisted by regional experts, to decide how to rebalance the role of MHRD. The European Union offers many models.

The writer teaches at IIT Goa and IIT Bombay

Skill her, skill India

Policy must enable every woman to achieve her potential, and contribute to nation-building

MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY

ON MARCH 8, we honour and celebrate women on the occasion of the International Women's Day. Women in our country are making strides in social, financial and political fields. It brings me great personal joy to write a few words to commemorate this day dedicated to women.

Be it the 1857 mutiny for India's freedom or the struggle for Independence, our women have always made India proud. Even today, women are performing their duties with full devotion for the development of the country and upliftment of the society: They are working efficiently in various fields, such as academics, literature, music and dance, sports, media, business, information technology, science and technology, politics and social development.

Not only this, Indian women from metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai are breaking barriers in fields ranging from politics to the corporate sector. Also, women are giving society a new direction through their leadership and critical participation in panchayat elections. Increasing awareness and clear intentions are the reason behind women strengthening economic, social and cultural establishments. This is very important for a democratic system.

There is a constant evolution of female participation in the corporate sector. Female participation is constantly increasing in the Information Technology sector. Along with the IT sector, the presence of women is also increasing in the banking and finance sector. Last year, the Indian Space Research Organisation decided to hand over the command of Chandrayaan-2 to two women, and these women also played a key role in the mission.

As a mark of respect and honour for our women, it has been stated in our ancient scriptures that "Yatr naaryastu poojyante ramante tatr devata", which means "God resides where women are worshipped". It is true that if we link our ancient cultural heritage with our modern approach to encourage our women in all fields, then we will carry forward our country's and society's tradition. This is why we will have to give our daughters the best education possible and dedicate them to our country's growth.

It is my opinion that, in order to empower women, we should first make them skilled. When a woman is educated and skilled, she also makes a family and society educated and skilled. As long as women are not fully educated, skilled and prosperous, the country cannot achieve the desired economic growth.

Our government is running many schemes for women's empowerment such as the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Mahila E-haat Scheme, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, Sakhi Yojana, Ladli Yojana, Digital Laado and the Swachh Bharat Mission. Our government is also working extensively on women's nutrition.

I am happy that the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Women and Child Empowerment, and Human Resource Development are working closely in this regard.

We know that every person has a unique skill-set. What is needed is a mechanism to ensure that that skill-set is identified and honed in the best possible way. As the Skill Development and Entrepreneurship minister, it is my fundamental responsibility to ensure that all women in our country from different occupations are trained in their respective skill-sets and are employable. We would like them to put to best use their skill-set to become self-employed entrepreneurs and progress. We have also been successful in achieving this objective at a fast pace.

Around 68.12 lakh women in India have been trained under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikaas Yojana 2.0. Under the Jan Shikshan Sansthan Scheme, around 4.08 lakh women have been trained in the 2018-2020 period, while 38.72 lakh women have been trained in Industrial Training Institutes (ITI). At present, there are 18 National Skill Training Institutes across the country to train women. Special batches are being conducted to provide basic, theoretical and advanced training to women.

It is a matter of joy and pride that while women in India are studying electronics, fashion design, technology and business management, there are also those who hone their new-age skills in artificial intelligence, data analytics, 3D printing, etc. Along with traditional skills like beauty, wellness and healthcare, women are also progressing quickly in non-traditional skills such as electronics and hardware

The National Rural Livelihood Mission has strengthened women's skills and prepared them for employment. Training for self-employed tailors, beauty therapists, customer care executives, hairstylists, yoga trainers, etc. are being carried out in the Prime Minister Skill Centres. Very soon, one will get to see women playing significant roles in central government schemes such as the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission and Smart City Mission. By joining these missions, women will make a huge contribution in giving a new shape to society. In fact, in the creation of a New India, women's education and skill development are going to be critical.

In the last few years, under the leadership of our prime minister, Narendra Modi, the central government has rolled out various schemes that have emboldened the women of our country and taken them on the path of self-reliance and security.

The efforts of our government have created a milieu of trust in the women of our country. They are confident that the country's government machinery is standing by them by creating an atmosphere of respect and development for women. In the past few years, our government has made massive advancements in providing education and honing skill-sets. We pledge to make sure that these efforts reach each and every Indian woman. We are fully prepared to fulfil this pledge with aplomb.

I salute the power of Indian women.

The writer is Minister of State, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India

A majoritarian majority

Violence in Delhi was part of a familiar playbook

OMKAR GOSWAMI

TOWARDS THE late evening of October 31, 1984, as Indira Gandhi's body still lay at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and riots had begun to break out in parts of Delhi, local Congress politicos of Bhajanpura, Gamri and Khajoori Khas sat down to compile their lists. They culled the addresses of Sikh families from the local ration shops and the neighbourhood primary and secondary school registers. They then transferred kerosene from drums that were filled to the brim for distribution on November 1. Armed with addresses and inflammables, they and their mobs were ready for business from sunrise of the next day.

For the first two days and the morning of the third day of November 1984, Congress-led mobs methodically searched out the Sikhs of Bhajanpura, Gamri and Khajoori Khas to kill the males including boys, burn houses with kerosene and phosphorus and rape women. During three months of working in these localities to gather depositions for the Mishra Commission, I got close to a courteous old Sikh gentleman, long retired from the National Archives, who described how he was tied up and made to watch his three sons and two grandsons being rendered immobile, then doused with kerosene and burnt to death. Throughout this mayhem, the police did absolutely nothing, while Rajiv Gandhi talked of how the earth shakes when a big tree falls. When the army came out on the third day, some 400 Sikhs had been massacred in these three contiguous trans-Yamuna neighbourhoods.

Yet, despite this Congress-orchestrated pogrom which claimed over 2,500 lives in Delhi alone, the fact is that Bhajanpura, Gamri, Khajoori Khas, Chand Bagh, Gokulpuri, Maujpur, Jaffrabad, Yamuna Vihar, Karawal Nagar and Dayalpur did not witness any communal mayhem between 1984 and February 2020. The localities are segregated by religion, with Hindus congregating in some areas, and Muslims in others. Most Sikhs, once a sizeable population, have left. A colleague of mine has lived in Bhajanpura since 1989, and vouches that until now he never saw any sectarian violence in the area.

Fast forward to the Delhi elections of 2020. Stung by widespread and largely peaceful demonstrations against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), led by the youth and young women, the BJP leveraged these protests, especially at Shaheen Bagh, to unleash the worst majoritarian fears. It orchestrated a vicious religion-based discriminatory campaign against the protesters, and, by transitivity, the treacherous minority and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The BJP's single point hate-filled campaign failed spectacularly. AAP won 62 of the 70 assembly seats, with the BJP garnering a mere eight. For the BJP, therefore, it was time to up the ante from making acrimonious speeches to fashioning communal riots.

Does anyone truly believe that the ultimatum delivered by BJP leader Kapil Mishra to the Delhi Police to clear up the peaceful sit-down protest near the Jaffrabad metro station, or else "we will have to hit the streets" was an independent act of a Hindutva hothead, in direct contradiction to the party's diktat? Or that the Hindu goons brought in to the area were merely honest local burghers trying to protect their home and hearth from violence? If you did, you would also believe that the Sikh pogrom of 1984 was spontaneous action of a grief-stricken populace without any rabble-rousing and active participation by local Congress leaders.

The trans-Yamuna riots that began on the night of February 23, seem to have died down. Compared to the Sikh massacres, it seems like a mere blip — leaving behind 47 versus 2,500 dead. Yet, it signals the beginning of using a well-known fascist playbook to incite mob violence.

In that playbook, there must always be enemies. In Nazi Germany, these were the Jews, communists, Catholics, university professors, intellectuals and critics. Here it is the Muslims. You first highlight their "differences" and "dishonesties", and use that to discriminate between us, the dependable citizens, and them the treasonous "gaddaars". Then you menacingly threaten the inevitability of "people's wrath" against the traitors. When you have stirred that pot sufficiently to goad the mob on to the streets, you then blame the seditious minority for the violence.

Consider Kristallnacht in November 1938 — when Adolf Hitler's stormtroopers went on a rampage in Berlin, destroying Jewish stores, synagogues and killing over a hundred Jews, while the police stood by and let it happen.

When you play out the duplicitous minority story often enough and create enough symbolic differences between the true "us" and traitorous "them", the middle class majority will believe in it. Then you are in sight of your ultimate goal: Victory through disenfranchisement.

Unless we have strong enough institutions to protect the basic principle of equality for all, the Delhi riots of February 2020 are a trailer to many more. In Delhi; in Adityanath's Uttar Pradesh; in Haryana; and in West Bengal, as the BJP tries to wrest control. The goons have advanced from lynching individual cattle traders to larger mob violence. With tacit state support, these can expand to mini pogroms where, as Pratap Bhanu Mehta wrote in this paper, the chant of "Jai Shri Ram" won't be a call to piety but a war cry for killing.

And so, the minority is being caged. The majority is becoming even more majoritarian. Secular sanity is being corralled to frightened alleys. All for the BJP to come back even more powerful in 2024. That's the agenda. Riots and pogrom are the tools. Who will protest against this destruction of India? And how?

The writer is chairperson of CERG Advisory Private Limited

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EXTERNAL ISSUES

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'CAA raises human rights issues, we will intervene in Supreme Court, says UNHRC' (IE, March 4). Unlike other opposition to the CAA, the government cannot not dismiss the UN Human Rights Commission's claim as being motivated. The issue is no doubt the country's internal matter but the UNHRC's plea that the CAA has a potential impact on the protection of human rights of migrants, including refugees in India, acquires salience in view of multiple international covenants.

L R Murmu, *Delhi*

VIRAL THREAT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Boosting immunity' (IE, March 4). With the detection of two cases of coronavirus in Delhi, it's high time that the Centre and state governments evolve a coordinated approach to tackle this highly contagious disease. Strengthening the public health infrastructure should be the first step.

Gracy Singh, *Delhi*

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Boosting immunity' (IE, March 4). The new cases of coronavirus are an urgent warning to India to ramp up its public healthcare sector and disaster management apparatus. Effective communication between the state and citizens will build trust, avoid the need for coercive measures and keep rumours and panic at bay.

Vandana, *Chandigarh*

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

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

JUSTICE DELAYED

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Justice not done' (IE,March 3). By refusing to be *parens patriae*, the judiciary risks losing the trust of people for whom it is the last resort at a time when politics means only winning elections. Justice delayed is justice denied seems to have become a forgotten norm.

Tarsem Singh, *Mahilpur*

HONG KONG COURT FINDS BAN UNCONSTITUTIONAL

'UNLAWFUL TO DENY GAY COUPLES PUBLIC HOUSING'

Hong Kong's high court ruled that married same-sex couples should be allowed to apply for public housing after a government ban was found to be unconstitutional. It is a step forward for LGBTQ rights in Hong Kong, which has been criticised by campaigners for lagging behind on equality issues.

TOP OF THE WORLD

Mohammad Rasoulof had just won the Berlin Film Festival's Golden Bear

IRAN

Noted filmmaker summoned to prison: Lawyer

Tehran: An Iranian filmmaker who just won the Berlin Film Festival's Golden Bear has been summoned to serve a one-year prison sentence over his movies, his lawyer said Wednesday. Mohammad Rasoulof's sentence came from three films he made that authorities found to be "propaganda against the system", his lawyer Nasser Zarafshan told *The Associated Press*. Rasoulof's sentence also included an order than he stop his filmmaking for two years as well, the lawyer said. The filmmaker received the order via a text message from the judiciary, Zarafshan said.

NEPAL

Oli undergoes kidney transplant

Kathmandu: A team of doctors that included noted Indian surgeon Anant Kumar carried out a kidney transplant on Nepal Prime Minister K P Oli at the Manmohan Cardiothoracic Vascular and Transplant Centre on Wednesday. The procedure was the second kidney transplant that Oli has undergone, and took nearly six hours. The hospital said his condition was stable and all parameters were normal, but declined to say if he could be described as out of danger. He was shifted to the ICU in the evening, the hospital said. Oli had undergone a kidney transplant for the first time in 2007 in New Delhi's Apollo hospital.

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE

EGYPT

Ex-elite soldier turned Islamist militant hanged

Cairo: Egypt executed an ex-special forces officer turned top Islamist militant, Hisham Ashmawy, on Wednesday over involvement in several high-profile attacks, said the army. "The execution by hanging was carried out based on a decision by the military court ... and after taking all the relevant judicial procedures," said army spokesman Tamer al-Rifai. Ashmawy — dubbed Egypt's "most wanted man" by local media — was a former officer with Egypt's special forces who went on to fight with Al-Qaeda linked groups.

WORLD BRACES FOR LONG CORONAVIRUS FIGHT

Italy shuts all its educational institutes as toll rises to 107

Iran cancels Friday prayers in big cities, Saudi extends ban on travel to holy sites

MATT SEDENSKY & LORI HINNANT
BANGKOK, MARCH 4

SAUDI ARABIA banned citizens from performing the Muslim pilgrimage in Mecca, Italy ordered schools to close nationwide and Iran canceled Friday prayers for a second week as nations scrambled Wednesday to control the coronavirus outbreak.

From religion to sports, countries were taking drastic and increasingly visible measures to curb the new coronavirus that first emerged in China and was spreading quickly through Europe, the Mideast and the Americas.

In the United States, frustration mounted over US officials' delays and missteps in testing people for the virus.

Deaths spiked in Iran and Italy, which along with South Korea account for 80% of the new virus cases outside China, according to the World Health Organisation. In all, more than 94,000 people have contracted the virus worldwide, with more than 3,200 deaths.

"People are afraid and uncertain. Fear is a natural human response to any threat," said WHO's leader, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "But as we get more data, we are understanding this virus and the disease it causes more and more".

In Daegu, the South Korean city at the centre of that country's outbreak, a shortage of hospital space meant about 2,300 patients were being cared for in other facilities while they awaited a hospital bed.

South Korea reported 435 new infections Wednesday, far smaller than its high of 851 a day earlier. A total of 5,621 people in South Korea have contracted the virus and 32 have died.

Italy's virus deaths rose to 107, the most of any country outside of China. Its outbreak has been concentrated in the northern region of Lombardy, but fears over how the virus is spreading inside and outside the country prompted the government to order all schools to close nationwide through March 15.

Iran reported 92 deaths among its 2,922 confirmed cases, although many fear the outbreak is far broader. Among the ill are members of the government, and the country cancelled Friday prayers for a second week. **AP**

Soldiers spray disinfectant on a street in Gyeongan, South Korea, Wednesday. *AP*

W.H.O. RELEASES FIGURE

MORTALITY RATE FOR COVID-19:

3.4%

WHO said data suggests that the COVID-19 is more fatal than the common flu, which has a mortality rate of less than 1%. However, the new coronavirus is not as easy to catch as the common flu.

Researchers identify 2 coronavirus types

ANDREW GALBRAITH & DAVID STANWAY
SHANGHAI, MARCH 4

SCIENTISTS IN China studying the coronavirus outbreak said they had found two main types of the disease could be causing infections.

The researchers, from Peking University's School of Life Sciences and the Institut Pasteur of Shanghai under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, cautioned that their analysis examined a limited range of data, and said follow-up studies of larger data sets are needed to better understand the virus's evolution.

The preliminary study found that a more aggressive type of the new coronavirus associated with the disease outbreak in Wuhan accounted for about 70% of analysed strains, while 30% was linked to a less aggressive type.

The prevalence of the more aggressive virus decreased after early January 2020, they said.

"These findings strongly support an urgent need for further immediate, comprehensive studies that combine genomic data, epidemiological data, and chart records of the clinical symptoms of patients with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)," they wrote. **REUTERS**

At Beijing Capital Airport on Wednesday. *Reuters*

SUPER TUESDAY: BLOOMBERG DROPS OUT

Biden revives campaign, winning nine states, but Sanders takes California

JONATHAN MARTIN & ALEXANDER BURNS
MARCH 4

THE DEMOCRATIC presidential race emerged from Super Tuesday with two clear frontrunners as Joe Biden won Texas, Virginia, North Carolina and at least six other states, largely through support from African Americans and moderates, while Sen. Bernie Sanders harnessed the backing of liberals and young voters to claim the biggest prize of the campaign, California, and several other primaries.

The returns across the country on the biggest night of voting suggested that the Democratic contest was increasingly focused on two candidates who are standard-bearers for competing wings of the party, Biden in the political centre and Sanders on the left. Their two other major rivals, Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Michael Bloomberg, were on track to finish well behind them.

Bloomberg has since dropped out of the race, just over three months after he began a campaign that was fuelled by his vast fortune and quickly grew to a sprawling political operation but failed to win the groundswell of moderate support he had sought. Bloomberg endorsed Biden, saying he had the best shot to beat President Donald Trump.

Biden's victories came chiefly in the South and the Midwest, and in some of them he won by unexpectedly wide margins. In a surprising upset, Biden even captured Warren's home state of Massachusetts, where he did not appear in person, and where Sanders had campaigned aggressively in recent days.

It was a remarkable show of force for Biden, the former vice president. In just three days he resurrected a campaign that had been on the verge of collapse after he lost the first three nominating states. But he bounced back with a landslide win in South Carolina on Saturday, and on Tuesday, in addition to victories in Texas, Virginia, North Carolina and Massachusetts, he prevailed in Arkansas, Alabama, Tennessee, Oklahoma and Minnesota.

Sanders rebounded late in the evening in delegate-rich Western states: He was quickly declared the winner in Colorado and Utah after polls closed there, and he also claimed the largest delegate lode of the primary race, California. Sanders also easily carried his home state of Vermont.

Yet Biden's sweep of states across the South and the Midwest showed he had the makings of a formidable coalition that could propel him through the primaries.

"We were told, well, when you got to Super Tuesday, it'd be over," a triumphant Biden, 77, said at a celebration in Los Angeles. "Well, it may be over for the other guy!" **NYT**

Joe Biden speaks at a rally in Los Angeles. *Reuters*

DEMOCRATS' DELEGATE COUNT

Candidate	BIDEN	SANDERS	WARREN	BLOOMBERG	GABBARD
Super Tue	380	328	28	12	1
Total	433	388	36	12	1

■ 1,991 delegates to win nomination

Note: 749 of 1,338 Super Tuesday delegates awarded. Counting ongoing.

EXPLAINED

Biden wins big, but Sanders still in it

WHILE BIDEN won nine states on Tuesday and surged ahead of Sanders on delegate count, the latter's win in California — the most delegate-rich state — keeps him still well in the race. Only 749 out of 1,338 Super Tuesday delegates have been awarded so far, and as the results keep coming in, it is likely that Sanders will close the gap with Biden. Beyond Tuesday, there are hundreds more delegates up for grabs, and the two-way fight is set to be a close one.

Greta Thunberg addresses the environment committee at the European Parliament in Brussels. *Reuters*

EU commission unveils climate law amid criticism

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRUSSELS, MARCH 4

AMID FIERCE criticism from environmental activists, the European Commission unveiled plans Wednesday for its first ever climate law, which will act as the basis of the European Union's aim to make the 27-country bloc climate neutral by 2050.

Under its Green Deal agenda, the EU's executive arm wants to legislate to make its ambition of cutting greenhouse gas emissions to zero by mid-century irreversible, and legally-binding for all member states.

"This climate law will set in stone Europe's position as a climate leader on the global stage," said European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen.

To establish the 2050 goal, the European Commission is proposing a mechanism for regularly raising the EU's emissions reduction target over the next three decades. However, there is no plan to increase the bloc's overall emissions goal for 2030.

Climate activist Greta Thunberg, who attended Wednesday's climate discussions with EU commissioners, dismissed the proposed law. In an open letter, 34 activists, including Thunberg, stressed that instead of setting long-term goals, the EU should focus on emissions of carbon dioxide right now.

Trump campaign sues *Washington Post* for libel over opinion pieces

JONATHAN STEMPEL
NEW YORK, MARCH 4

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's re-election campaign sued the *Washington Post* for libel on Tuesday over two opinion pieces that it said suggested improper ties between the campaign and Russia, North Korea or both.

The campaign filed its lawsuit six days after filing a separate libel lawsuit against the *New York Times*, over an opinion piece it said falsely suggested a quid pro quo between Russian officials and Trump's 2016 campaign.

Both lawsuits escalate the Republican president's long-running battle with news media he believes demonstrate bias against him, a list also including CNN and MSNBC and which he frequently brands "fake news."

Trump's campaign is seeking millions of dollars in damages.

Kristine Coratti Kelly, vice president of communications at the *Post*, said: "It's disappointing to see the President's campaign committee resorting to these types of tactics and we will vigorously defend this case." **REUTERS**

US launches airstrikes against Taliban to defend Afghan forces

Trump says had 'very good' chat with Taliban political chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KABUL, MARCH 4

THE US launched an airstrike against Taliban fighters to defend Afghan forces on Wednesday, an American military spokesman said, as violence spirals after a string of deadly attacks by the insurgents, throwing the country's nascent peace process into grave doubt.

News of the airstrike in southern Helmand province — the first in 11 days — came hours after US President Donald Trump told reporters he had had a "very good" chat with the Taliban political chief, who on Saturday signed a historic deal with Washington to withdraw foreign forces.

Since the signing in Doha however, the militants have ramped up violence against Afghan forces, casting a pall over peace talks between Kabul and the Taliban, due to begin on March 10.

The historic telephonic conversation, between Trump and Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, lasted more than half an hour, the Taliban said.

Trump "emphasised the need to continue the reduction in violence, which made possible the signing of the historic United States-Taliban agreement on February 29," the White House said in a readout of the telephonic conversation on Tuesday.

"I spoke to the leader of the Taliban today, we had a good conversation, we have agreed there is no violence, don't want violence. We will see what happens. They're dealing with Afghanistan but we will see what happens," Trump said.

"The relationship is very good that I have with the mullah," he added.

Later, US Forces-Afghanistan spokesman Sonny Leggett tweeted an airstrike targeted Taliban fighters who were "actively attacking" an Afghan forces checkpoint in Helmand.

"This was a defensive strike to disrupt the attack," he tweeted.

"We call on the Taliban to stop needless attacks and uphold their commitments. As we have demonstrated, we will defend our partners when required." He said insurgents had carried out 43 attacks on checkpoints in Helmand on Tuesday alone.

Afghan Army soldiers at a checkpost in Kunduz where clashes took place between Taliban and Afghan forces. *Reuters*

Malaysia's PM delays Parliament and vote of no-confidence

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 4

MALAYSIA'S NEW leader has postponed the next session of Parliament by more than two months, effectively delaying plans by Mahathir Mohamad's former ruling alliance to seek a no-confidence vote against him.

Lower house speaker Mohamad Ariff Mohamad Yusof said in a statement Wednesday that lawmakers will reconvene on May 18 instead of March 9 as originally scheduled.

He said the decision was based on Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's order, but no reason was given for the postponement.

Muhyiddin, 72, was sworn in Sunday as Malaysia's eighth prime minister after his surprise weekend appointment by the king capped a week of political turmoil.

Muhyiddin led his Bersatu party out of the governing Alliance of Hope, depriving it of a majority and causing its collapse less than two years after its historic victory in 2018 ousted a corruption-tainted coalition that had ruled for 61 years.

'IMAGINE THIS WERE YOUR SISTER,' FARROW WROTE IN SCATHING LETTER TO THE PUBLISHER

Ronan Farrow cuts ties with publisher over Woody Allen memoir

JENNIFER SCHUESSLER & JOHN WILLIAMS
MARCH 4

THE JOURNALIST Ronan Farrow, the author of the bestselling book *Catch and Kill*, said Tuesday that he would cut ties with his publisher, Hachette Book Group, after it announced that one of its divisions was publishing Woody Allen's autobiography next month.

Farrow is Allen's son with actress Mia Farrow, and his adopted sister, Dylan Farrow, has long accused Allen of molesting her when she was a child, allegations he has denied.

In an email exchange, obtained by *The New York Times*, Farrow, whose reporting on accusations of sexual assault against Harvey Weinstein and other powerful men helped touch off the #MeToo movement, criticised Hachette, calling its decision to publish Allen's memoir a betrayal.

"Your policy of editorial independence among your imprints does not relieve you of your moral and professional obligations as the publisher of *Catch and Kill*, and as the leader of a company being asked to assist in efforts by abusive men to whitewash their crimes," Farrow wrote in an email to Michael Pietsch, the chief executive of Hachette, whose Little, Brown imprint published *Catch and Kill*.

"As you and I worked on *Catch and Kill* — a book in part about the damage Woody Allen did to my family — you were secretly planning to publish a book by the person who committed those acts of sexual abuse," Farrow added.

"Obviously I can't in good conscience work with you any more," he wrote at the end of his message. "Imagine this were your sister."

The email to Pietsch came the day after Grand Central, another imprint of Hachette, announced that it had acquired Allen's autobiography, titled *Apropos of Nothing*, to be published April 7.

A news release described the book as "a comprehensive account of his life, both personal and professional," that would cover "his relationship with family, friends and the loves of his life".

In an interview Tuesday, Pietsch declined to provide further details on the book, such as its initial print run or how much Grand Central paid for it. And he declined to say anything else about the contents, beyond that it was "the complete story of his life, from the beginning to the present moment," told in "Woody Allen's unmistakable voice." Pietsch said he had called Farrow after hearing he was unhappy about the publication. And he reiterated what he said he had told Farrow: that a basic principle of publishing was that its divisions do not interfere editorially with each other. **NYT**

Farrow is Allen's son with actress Mia Farrow, and his adopted sister, Dylan Farrow, has long accused Allen of molesting her when she was a child, allegations he has denied. *Reuters*

THE SUPREME COURT

Roberts rules

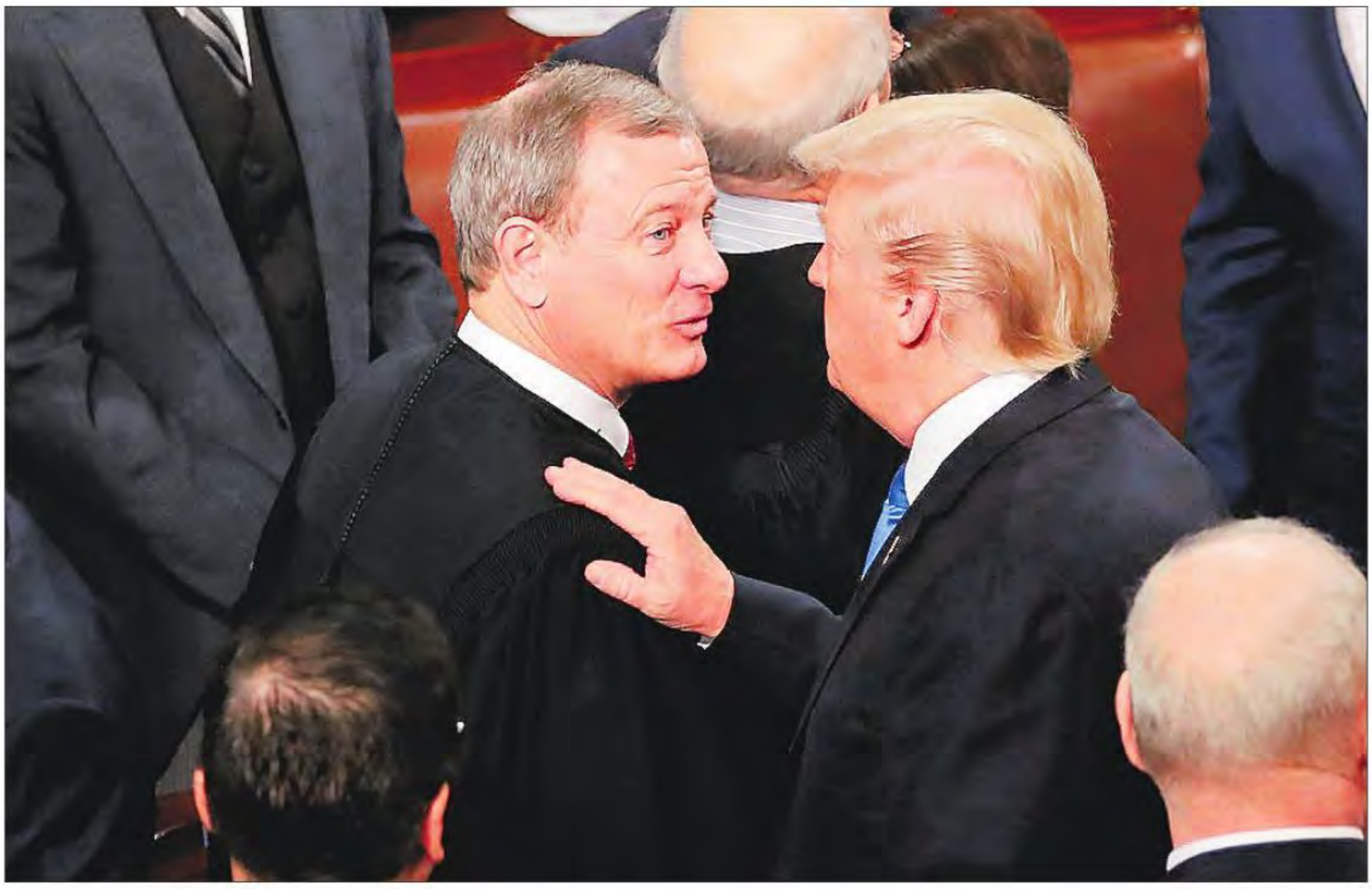
Presidential authority, abortion and Donald Trump's tax returns are all coming before the court

FOR YEARS AFTER John Roberts was named chief justice by George W. Bush in 2005, he presided over the "Kennedy court"—a tribunal that swayed left or right depending on the views of his maverick colleague, Anthony Kennedy. But in October 2018, when Donald Trump replaced Mr Kennedy with the more conservative Brett Kavanaugh, Mr Roberts assumed the role of median justice—four colleagues to his right, four to his left. The chief became, in the most divisive cases, the tie-breaker.

He is breaking mostly to the right. Last June, Mr Roberts wrote 5-4 decisions on partisan gerrymandering (a win for conservatives) and the proposed citizenship question on the 2020 census (a victory for liberals). He has anchored a series of 5-4 votes allowing Mr Trump to implement hardline immigration policies. One such move on February 21st prompted Justice Sonia Sotomayor to charge her conservative colleagues with "erod[ing]" the court's "fair and balanced decision-making process" by favouring "one litigant"—Mr Trump—"over all others". The president responded on February 25th with the preposterous demand that Justices Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg recuse themselves from all "Trump-related" matters.

This squabble is one that Mr Roberts, a zealous defender of the court's impartiality and legitimacy, is desperate to avoid. Yet cultivating an image of non-partisanship will be tricky, because he is tackling a host of clashes on the most electric docket the Supreme Court has seen in recent memory. Already the justices have considered gun rights, a major church-state quandary, LGBT protections in the workplace and DACA, an Obama-era programme protecting unauthorised immigrants who were brought to America as children. While they work on decisions in those cases, still more controversies are on the way.

Two presidential priorities are on the docket next week. Seila Law v Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)—could doom the federal agency established to protect consumers after the 2007-09 financial crisis. Congress set up the CFPB with a single director whom the president may replace only "for cause"—that is, for palpable misbehaviour. Seila Law asks if that structure is constitutional; the plaintiff, and the Trump administration, say it is not. The challengers contend that this "unduly inhibits the president's ability to supervise the exercise of the executive power" under Article II of the constitution. With a conservative majority favouring a capacious conception of presidential power, the court is likely to agree. The CFPB's future, and the president's ability to sack directors of other agencies, hang in the balance.



John Roberts may be the swing vote again when the justices take up the question—at long last—of whether Mr Trump may keep his taxes and other financial records closed to New York prosecutors and members of the House of Representatives. *Reuters*

Then the justices turn to one of the most explosive matters in American politics. In June Medical Services v Russo, the justices will review a decision that upheld a Louisiana law requiring abortion providers to have admitting privileges at a local hospital. Ostensibly reasonable, the rule is one of dozens of laws that states have enacted in recent years to shut down clinics while purporting to protect women. Russo is a reprise of a recent battle: the Supreme Court struck down an identical clinic regulation in Texas by a 5-3 vote in 2016. In that ruling, the court found that the requirement brought no plausible health benefits but, by shuttering clinics, imposed an "undue burden" on access to abortion. If the Louisiana law is upheld, plaintiffs say, only one abortion provider will remain in the state.

In a move aimed at undercutting Russo and future lawsuits, Louisiana is also asking the justices to reject the long-standing principle that clinics have standing to sue on their patients' behalf. Melissa Murray, a law professor at New York University, thinks Chief Justice Roberts may resolve Russo by deciding that June Medical Services, the petitioner, lacks the legal right to sue. This "clean procedural exit ramp", she says, may appeal to the chief as a way to duck a political firestorm in the midst of a presidential election. The impact of the shift may be profound, Ms Murray says, as it would stymie litigation to vindicate reproductive rights elsewhere. But, because few observers other than "lawyers and law professors" would grasp its significance, the court could deflect a public outcry.

Last June, Mr Roberts wrote 5-4 decisions on partisan gerrymandering (a win for conservatives) and the proposed citizenship question on the 2020 census (a victory for liberals). He has anchored a series of 5-4 votes allowing Mr Trump to implement hardline immigration policies.

The chief may be the swing vote again when the justices take up the question—at long last—of whether Mr Trump may keep his taxes and other financial records closed to New York prosecutors and members of the House of Representatives. The Manhattan district attorney says he needs years of Mr Trump's financial documents for a grand-jury investigation into hush-money payments to the president's alleged paramours. Congressional Democrats seek these and other papers to help them decide whether to tighten ethics rules. But in Trump v Mazars and Trump v Vance, Mr Trump's lawyers are pushing back against the subpoenas. They claim Congress is overreaching and that the president has absolute immunity against any "criminal process", including investigation, while in office. Questions involving the separation of powers are delicate. But Chief Justice Roberts cannot relish the prospect of covering for Mr Trump's misbehaviour.

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EXTREMISM IN GERMANY

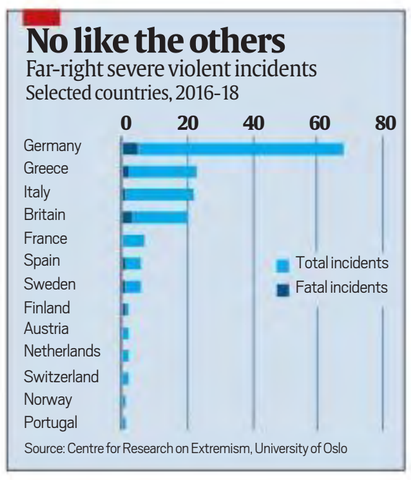
The threat within

Germany is belatedly waking up to the threat of far-right terrorism

FIVE BULLET-HOLES still scar the window of Karamba Diaby's office in Halle, a city in eastern Germany. No one knows who fired at the empty building, where Germany's only black MP meets constituents and does routine political work. But Mr Diaby's staff do not doubt that the attack, in mid-January, was racially motivated. A week after the incident Mr Diaby got an email warning him to expect the fate of Walter Lübcke, a pro-refugee politician murdered last June. The anonymous threat was signed off with a "Sieg Heil".

Right-wing extremism in various guises has troubled parts of Germany for decades. The Amadeu Antonio Foundation, an outfit that monitors such activity, says it is responsible for 208 deaths since 1990. But a recent string of incidents has left nerves especially jangled. On Yom Kippur, three months before the attack on Mr Diaby's office, Stephan Balliet, a young man armed with home-made 3D-printed weapons, tried to break into a synagogue in Halle to massacre worshippers; when that failed he killed two people at random instead. On February 19th in Hanau, near Frankfurt, 43-year-old Tobias Rathjen killed nine immigrants and ethnic-minority Germans during a shooting rampage, before killing himself and his mother. A few days earlier 12 men were arrested for planning attacks on mosques in the hope of igniting "civil war". Local officials across Germany are physically and verbally intimidated. Many have quit.

Ministers have belatedly acknowledged that far-right terrorism is Germany's gravest security threat. Officials count over 32,000 right-wing extremists in the country; over 1,000 are considered to be primed for violence. The Centre for Research on Extremism at the University of Oslo calculates that between 2016 and 2018 the number of severely violent far-right incidents in Germany, most of them targeting immigrants or non-whites, far outstripped those elsewhere in Europe (see chart). And that was before the recent surge.



Police and security officials have become much better at tackling organised right-wing threats since botching their response to the National Socialist Underground, a murderous neo-Nazi terrorist cell active in the early 2000s, says Daniel Koehler of the German Institute on Radicalisation and De-radicalisation Studies. Yet as the response evolves, so does the danger. Underground far-right networks remain a serious threat; the suspect in the Lübcke killing had a decades-long history in them. But the attackers in Halle and Hanau were both loners who were radicalised online, had no known connection to established far-right groups and were unknown to the German authorities.

Online groups can, to an extent, offer a sense of community that other extremists find in marches, concerts or martial-arts clubs. They can also nurture "communal delusions" says Miro Dittrich at Amadeu Antonio. These often straddle national boundaries. That helps explain why Mr Balliet, marinated in a toxic brew of online chatrooms, racist memes and the misogynistic subculture of "incel" ("involuntary celibacy"), broadcast his attack live on Twitch, an American video-streaming gaming website, and chose to deliver his anti-Semitic diatribes and obscure online references in English. He sought to inspire others abroad, just as he had been motivated by comparable attacks in El Paso and Christchurch. At a candlelit vigil after the Hanau attacks, protesters chanted Nazis raus! ("Nazis out!"), a common response to far-right atrocities in Germany. Yet the recent attacks look less like a specific national concern than local instances of an overlapping set of transnational phenomena.

That creates problems for the domestic intelligence services. Having long relied on American and British spooks to alert them to online transgressions, Germany's underresourced security apparatus remains woefully ill-equipped to manage internet-based radicalisation, says Mr Koehler. There are plans to expand the powers of agencies, and to set up an early-warning system for right-wing radicals. A bill agreed by the cabinet shortly before the Hanau attack would oblige platforms like Facebook to report illegal content. But it is not clear that any of this would have pulled the Halle or Hanau perpetrators from their shadowy, global online underworld.

Protesters have found a more visible target in the Alternative for Germany (AfD), a far-right party that one Green has called "the political arm of hate". The AfD vigorously rebuts any claim that it bears part of the blame for right-wing terror. Yet some of its officials, especially in eastern Germany, routinely deploy the sort of racist, quasi-apocalyptic imagery found in the darker reaches of the internet. Björn Höcke, leader of the AfD's extremist Flügel ("Wing") grouping and head of the party's branch in Thuringia, uses language so incendiary that a court has ruled he may be described as "fascist" without fear of legal consequence. Right-wing terrorists "want to be the hero of a movement," says Mr Dittrich, "and the AfD plays a role in normalising their ideas". A poll found that 60% of Germans held it partly responsible for Hanau.

On February 19th in Hanau, near Frankfurt, Tobias Rathjen shot nine immigrants and ethnic-minority Germans. A few days earlier 12 men were arrested for planning attacks on mosques in the hope of igniting 'civil war'. *Reuters*

The AfD has also, says Mr Koehler, "dissolved social boundaries between extremist societies and the conservative right." On one hand it pals around with radical groups like the Identitarian Movement and Pegida, an Islamophobic outfit whose bi-weekly event Mr Höcke recently addressed in Dresden. On the other, says Valentin Hacken, from Halle Gegen Rechts, a campaigning group, it drags mainstream conservatism in its direction. The Thuringian branch of the centre-right Christian Democrats recently voted with Mr Höcke to eject the state's left-wing government, triggering a scandal that has upended German politics. All this, as Mr Diaby's staff testify, opens the door to ideas and language that were once considered taboo.

For all that, the AfD is a legal party that holds seats in all 16 of Germany's state parliaments, plus the Bundestag. Its ideas will have to be tackled in democratic debate rather than through policing and suppression. Extremists in countries like New Zealand have proved perfectly capable of finding motivation for killing sprees without the spur of far-right parties in parliament. Germany's history gives the country a special responsibility to tackle right-wing extremism in all its forms. But that does not isolate it from threats that look increasingly international in character.

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Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I,Tanzeem Khan D/o Jarjees Khan W/o Pervez Jamil R/o-A-36 New Jafrabad,DDA Colony Delhi-32,inform that name of mine is written as Tanjeeb Khan in my educational documents.The actual name of mine is Tanzeem Khan which may be amended accordingly.

0040534503-3

I,SIDDHARTH KUMAR S/O MAHESH KUMAR, H.NO-334 GALI NO-4 GOVIND-PURI KALKA JI DELHI-110019 have changed my name to SIDDHARTH KUMAR WADHWA.

0040534477-5

I,Pawan Kumar Gautam S/o Itwari Lal R/o-152A, Ambedkar Mouhala, Surajpur,Greater Noida,U.P.,have changed my name to Pawan Kumar for all,future purposes.

0040534416-1

I, vaisala kumari W/o venugopal uppanal kunnak kattu R/o 375 sec-31, faridabad, haryana-121003 changed my name to valsala venugopal. 0040534487-1

I, Vijay Singh S/o Kushal Singh R/o House No.271, Gali No.8, Block-C, Indraprasth Colony, Nathupura Burari, Delhi-110084, have changed my name to Vijay Singh Rana for all future purposes.

0040534406-1

I, Varinder Kumar S/o Kapoor Chand R/o H-5/29, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Virender Kumar.

0040534487-2

I, Tarandeep Singh alias Tarandeep S Gandhi S/o-Manjeet Singh Gandhi R/o-2/9-B Jangpura-B New-Delhi-110014.have changed my name,from Tarandeep Singh alias Tarandeep S Gandhi to Tarandeep Singh Gandhi for all,purposes.

0040534503-1

I, Swati Amit Gupta W/o Amit Gupta R/o N-24, Ground Floor, Street No. 3, Vijay Vihar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi- 110059, changed my name to Swati.

0040534487-9

I, Sunita Kumari W/O Vinay Prabhakar Mishra R/O B-19, B-Block, Himgiri Enclave, Burari, Delhi-110084. Changed My Name To Sunita Mishra.

0040534489-6

I, Sunita Devi W/O Radhika Prasad Resident Of H.No-17/31, Dakshinpuri Extn, Dr Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi-110062 Have Changed My Name To Sampati For All Future Purpose.

0040534489-8

I, Sudhir Singh Pal Block-B, Rajat Vihar, Sector-62, Noida, UP have changed my son's name from Divyansh to Divyansh Pal.

0040534501-4

I, Sri Prakash Dubey S/o Jagpal Dwivedi R/o-9/2550 Gali No.15, Kailash Nagar Delhi-110031,have changed my name to Shri Prakash Dwivedi for all purposes

0040534487-4

I, Shyam Bihari Sharma R/o Aya nagar Phase 4, Gali No-10, D-286, New Delhi 110047 have changed my name to Shyam Bihari Singh.

0070701442-1

I, Seema Rani W/o Sh. Dhirendra Singh R/o H.No. C-3, Ganga Vihar, Delhi-110094 have changed my name from Seema Rani to Seema Devi for all future purposes.

0040534489-9

I, Satnam Kaur Sachdeva W/O Simranbir Singh R/O-44-B, II-Floor, Block-J3, Rajouri Garden, Delhi-110027. Changed My Name to Manheer Kaur Bharara.

0040534501-1

I, SAVITA KUMARI W/O PRAMOD KUMAR,. R/o.GALI.NO.05, PURANA KATHEHRA-ROAD, DADRI, GAUTAMBUDH-NAGAR, U.P-203207, changed my name to SAVITA.

0040534472-6

I, SANDEEP WASAN, S/O MUNISH LAL VERMA, R/o-B-4/11, Ground-Floor, Rana-Pratap Bagh Delhi 110007, changed my name to SANDEEP WASON.

0040534472-7

I, Rishi Kumar Laur, S/o Sh.Ajit Singh aged about 45yrs, residing at.H.No-C-45, Near-Gopal Nursing-Home West-Jyoti Nagar-Extension, Shahdara, Delhi-110094.have changed the name of my minor daughter Geetika Laur aged 15-year and she shall hereafter be known as Geetika Singh.

0040534503-2

I, Ripin Kumar S/o Balwant Raj R/o J-814, Mangol Puri, Delhi-110083 have changed my name to Ripen Kumar, for all purposes. 0040534405-1

I, Rinku Aggarwal D/o Jagdish Prashad W/o Shashi Kant Gupta R/o-3/194 Bara Thakurdwara, Shahdara Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Rinku Gupta for all purposes.

0040534487-5

I, Reeta Garg W/o Krishan Lal R/o H-5/29, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Reeta Rani Garg.

0040534487-3

I, Ravinder Singh Rawat, S/O Mr. Bhagwan Singh Rawat, R/o H.No. 378, 1st Floor, I.P. Society, Sector- 30/33, Faridabad, Haryana have changed my name to Ravindra Rawat.

0070701411-1

I, RAMESH CHANDRA S/O BALDEV RAJ R/o-B-160A, U/G/F SAINIK-NAGAR, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059,. Changed My Name To GURVINDER SINGH.

0040534472-10

I, Priyanka Anupam Dubey W/o Anupam Ranjan Dubey R/o B-915, CG-3, Galaxy North Avenue, Gaur City-1, Greater Noida West, UP have changed my name to Priyanka Dubey.

0040534501-3

I, Pavitra Gadodia S/o Shri Anil Gadodia R/o TU-45, 2nd Floor Near Hotel City Park Pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Chaitanya Gadodia for all purposes.

0040534452-1

I, Nahid Khan W/o Abdul Rehman Khan R/o 33/A, J-Extn., Street No.8, Near Jain Mandir, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Nahid Rehman for all future purposes.

0040534450-1

I, Sudhir Singh Pal R/o-87-A,Block-B, Rajat Vihar, Sector-62, Noida, UP have changed my daughter's name from Misty to Mishti Pal.

0040534501-5

I, Nagarajan Rajesh S/O Sh.K. NAGARAJAN R/O 5A/157, Street No.5, W.E.A., Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 have changed my minor son's Name from R. Aayushmaan to Aayushmaan Rajesh for all future proposes.

0040534468-1

I, Munni Begum Alias Anjum W/o-Hazratullah Abid Add-A-42/1, Gali-No-9, Village-Wazirabad, Burari, Delhi-110084. CHANGED MY NAME TO Munni Begum.

0040534487-8

I, Munni Begum Add-A-42/1, Gali no.9, Village-Wazirabad, Burari, Delhi-110084, changed my minor Son name, Zakiullah Abid Alias Arman Arman to Zakiullah Abid.

0040534487-6

I, Mohinder pal W/O Kulvinder Singh R/O.B-215, Fateh-Nagar, Tilak-Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Mohinder pal Kaur,for all purposes.

0040534501-6

I, Mitika Kumar Samaria W/o Pradeep Samaria R/o E-288, Tagore Garden Extn., New Delhi-110027, have changed my minor daughter's name from Zoe to Rabhhya Samaria for all purposes.

0040534407-1

I, Mahesh Kumar S/o Manohar Lal R/o 23/694, DDA Flats, Madangir, New Delhi-110062 have changed my minor daughter's name from Nivirti to Nishtha for all purposes.

0040534407-2

I, MONICA. W/O SANDEEP WASON R/o-B-4/11,Ground-Floor, Rana Pratap Bagh Delhi-110007, changed my name to MONIKA WASON.

0040534472-8

I, MOHD ISHAQ S/O MOHD SALEEM,. R/o-1971, JJ COLONY BLOCK E, BAWANA DELHI-110039, changed my name to MOHD ISHA.

0040534472-9

I, Kum.Shilpa W/o Vivek Mehan R/o Flat No.482, Vikas Kunj, Vikas Puri,New Delhi-110018 have changed my name as Shilpa Mehan for all purposes.

0040534404-1

I, Kulsoom Abid Alias Roshani D/o Hazratullah Abid, Add-A-42/1, Gali.no.9, Village-Wazirabad, Burari, Delhi-110084, changed my name to Kulsoom Abid

0040534487-7

I, Kedar Singh Panwar S/O Pratap Singh Panwar R/O 17/13, Block-D, Amrit Vihar, Nathupura,Burari, Delhi-110084.Changed my Name to Kedar Singh.

0040534489-7

I, Kashmir Singh S/O Damoder Ram R/O B-26,Him Kunj Apartment, Plotno.8, Sector-14,Rohini, Delhi-110085. Changed my Name to Kashmir Singh Dogra.

0040534489-4

I, Kashir Kaur W/o Jaswant Singh R/o-23-A, Abchal Nagar, Nilothi-Extn., N.Delhi-41, have changed my name to Kashmir Kaur,for all purpose.

0040534501-2

I, Kalathil Kuzhil Devdas S/O Puthan Vettle Gopalan R/O:W-4, First-Floor, W-Block, Rajouri Garden,Delhi-110027. Changed my Name to Kalathil Kuzhil Devadasan.

0040534489-5

I, Jitender Singh S/o Daljeet Kumar R/o-A-90 Block-A DDA-Flats (XYZ) Jahangirpuri, Delhi-110033 have changed my name Jitender to Jitender Singh, for all future purposes.

0040534477-6

I, Dr. Gajendra Singh S/o Sohan Pal Singh R/o H.No.4, Top Floor, New Market Timarpur, Delhi-110054 have changed my daughter's name from Bakul to Bakul Sanghmittra for all purposes.

0040534439-1

I, Damanpreet Singh Jolly S/o Gurmeet Singh Jolly R/o 1/56, Sunder Vihar, Paschim Vihar, Punjabi Bagh, Delhi-110087 have changed my name to Damanpreet Singh for all purposes.

0040534413-1

I, Madan Sain S/o Late Girdhari Lal R/o 414, Kashmiri Bagh, Kishan Ganj, Delhi-7 have changed my name to Madan Sain Tomar, permanently.

0040534446-1

I, Chandra Shekhar Yadav S/o Ram Deen Yadav R/o Flat No.1906, Saffron, Ajnara Gen-X, Crossing Republik, Ghaziabad, UP-201016 have changed my name to Chandra Shekhar.

0040534448-3

I, Atiqur Rehman Khan S/o Abdul Rehman Khan R/o 33/A, J-Extn., Street No.8, Near Jain Mandir, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Atiqur Rehman for all future purposes.

0040534450-2

I, Asiya Khatoon W/o Syed Abdur Rehman R/o 4099, Bukhari House, Jama Masjid, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Asiya Bukhari.

0040534412-1

I, Asifa W/o Asif Moin R/o B-202, Assotech The Nest, Crossings Republik, Ghaziabad, UP-201016 have changed my name to Asifa Moin.

0040534448-1

I, Asifa Moin W/o Asif Moin R/o B-202, Assotech The Nest, CrossingsRepublik, Ghaziabad, UP-201016 have changed my daughter's name from Anam Asif Moin to Anaam Asif Moin.

0040534448-2

I, Army No.1491154F HAV Sabu Singh S/o Babu Singh R/o Vill-Somalpur, PO-HMT Ajmer, Teh+Distt- Ajmer, Rajasthan-305003, inform that my son's (Jai Singh) Date of Birth wrongly written in my service record as 04/12/1998 instead of 10/06/1999.

0040534429-1

I, Anup Singh Gulia S/o Jeet Singh Gulia R/o 313, Village-Bazidpur Saboli, Sonipat, Haryana-131029, inform that my and my father name wrongly written in my PAN Card as Anoop Singh Goolia and Jeetan Goolia instead of Anup Singh Gulia and Jeet Singh Gulia respectively.

0040534434-1

I surjeet kaur W/o-manjeet singh ahluwalia,Add-a-3, himgiri-enclave nagar dairy-wali gali.no.04 chander-vihar n.delhi-110041, changed my name to surjeet kaur ahluwalia.

0040534477-3

I hitherto known as Sikandari Ghazala W/o Rabiul Islam Khan Residing at-H.No.31, 2nd-floor, Rashid Market, Khureji-Khas, Krishna-Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sikandari Ghazala Khanam.

0040534472-4

I hitherto known as Shivam S/O Shri Rajinder Kumar Kalia R/O,-429 Sector-12 Friends Society Vasundra Ghaziabad U.P. at present NewDelhi have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shivam Kalia.

0040534489-2

I Vansh Kamrah S/o Sh.Satya Priya Kamrah R/o 2696, S P Bazar, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008 have changed my name to Arya Vansh Kamrah for all purposes.

0040534399-1

I Shakuntla Devi w/o Late Sh. Kanwar Singh Chhikara R/o H. NO. 587, Ground Floor, Sec-39, Gurugram inform that I have changed my name from Shakuntla Devi Chhikara to Shakuntla Devi for all future purposes.

0040534464-1

I Ravinder Kumar Aggarwal S/o Krishan Kumar R/o HNo-290/2, Gali No-1, Begu Road, Grewal Basti, Sirsa, Haryana- 125055, have changed my name to Ravinder Kumar.

0070701405-1

I Ram Kirpal Singh S/o Sh.Purnwashi Sahni R/o A-58, Gali No.2, Janta Vihar, Mukandpur, Delhi-110042 have changed my name to Ram Kirpal Sahni for all purposes.

0040534399-2

I Premlata Singh D/o Vishnu Singh R/o HNo-132, Mahuabari, Teh-Chunar, Dist-Mirzapur, UP-231302, have changed my name to Ishika Singh.

0070701413-1

I Surjeet S/o Balvinder Singh R/o-K-70 Bhagat Singh-Park SirasPur, Delhi-110042, have changed my name to Surjit.

0040534477-1

I Pramod Kumar H.No-542 Chirag Delhi Malviya-Nagar S.O South Delhi-110017have Changed My Minor Daughter Name Preeti To Preeti Gulliya.

0040534489-3

I Parvinder Kaur W/O Harpal Singh Chadha Resident-B-135, Third-Floor, Jail-Road, Fateh-Nagar Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Arvinder Kaur Chadha. 0040534472-1

I Mohammad Nayeem S/o Abdul Hafiz R/o 259, C-3 Flats, Lodhi Colony, Lodhi Road, Delhi-110003, have changed my name to Mohd Nayeem.

0070701432-1

I Mano Dev S/o Angshopati Dev, R/o H.No. 254, Ground floor, Plot no.-2, Shanti Colony, Mandi Pahari, Mandi, South Delhi- 110047 have changed my name to Monu Dev as per document. 0070701420-1

I Krishan Chand Malik S/o Jeet Singh R/o-GH-13/125, S.F.S. Flats, Paschim-Vihar, Delhi-110087 have changed my name to Krishna Chandra.

0040534472-2

I Iqbal Khan S/O Abdul Rahman R/O,-P-72 Street-no.5 Shankar Nagar Extn.Delhi-110051 inform that in my passport.no.J6712208 my wife name has been wrongly written as Shabana Salmani instead of Sabana.

0040534489-1

I Harpal Singh S/O Mangal Singh Resident-B-135, Third-Floor, Jail-Road, Fateh-Nagar Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Harpal Singh Chadha. 0040534472-3

I Dimple Chauhan S/o Devender Chauhan R/o-J-5/122 (Second & Third-Floor) Rajouri-Garden New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Dimple Singh. 0040534477-2

I Bhagwan Das S/o Late Sh.Suraj R/o E-25, Tagore Lane, Minto Road, Darya Ganj, Central Delhi, Delhi-110002 have changed my name to Bhagwan Das Anand for all purposes. 0040534399-4

I BHARTI, D/o MADAN RAI, R/0-A-7 VEER SINGH COLONY BUDH-VIHAR PHASE-2 DELHI-110086, changed my name to BHARTI RAI. 0040534472-5

I Alaka Mishra W/o-Abhay Kumar Mishra R/o-3/202 East-End-Apartments Mayur-Vihar Phase-1 Extension Delhi-91. have changed my name to Alka Mishra. 0040534477-4

I Abdul Hakim alias Hakimullah S/o Babullah R/o C-1/3, Pusta-2, Gali No.1, Sonia Vihar, Sabhapur, North East, Delhi-110094 have changed my name to Abdul Hakim for all purposes. 0040534399-3

I Aanchal Agarwal Arun Kumar D/O, Arun Kumar Agarwal R/o 5b,manonmani Ammal St, Opp Motcham Theatre, Kilpauk, Chennai-600010 have changed my name to Aanchal Agarwal for all purposes.

0040534432-1

I, KISHORE KUNAL, son of SHRI SURYA KUMAR JHA, aged 38 years, residing atOLIVE COUNTY, TOWER B-3, FLAT NO.1003, SECTOR-5, VASUNDHARA,GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH- 201012, INDIA, hereby state that KISHOR KUNAL (name printed in Passport) and KISHORE KUNAL is the name of one and the same person and that is myself vide affidavit dated 04.03.2020.

0040534422-1

LOST & FOUND

IT IS notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Class - 10th, Year-1981, issued by ICSE has been actually lost. Rakshan Matin, D/o-Matin Ahmed,R/o-10013, ATS advantage,Ahinsa Khand-1,Indirapuram,GZB,U.P.-201014,Finder contact.

0040534470-1

It is notified for the information that my Demand-Draft Latter-2006, File.No-179,Position Slip.No.179, Shop.No-156,Position Latter,Aur Bank NOC(Bank User Name Virender Kumar),Has Been Lost.Shri Ram Gopal Sharma R/O-C-87,C-Block, Near-Kanta Rani House,Dabri Ext.,South West Delhi-110045. contact.No-8745071565.FIR-24448/2020.

0040534474-1

Lost our MBBS 1st Year Marksheet, Registration No.-DD1414301645, E.No.-SRHU14000546, University-Swami Rama Himalayan University. Name- Dr. Vani Yadav, D/o.- Sanjeev Yadav.

0040534310-1

I, Pummi D/o Manoj, H.no-344 j.j.camp Haiderpur delhi-88 have lost my original certificate class-10th(2015) Rollno-8607149 class-12th(2017) Rollno-9658567 CBSE- Delhi.

0040534477-10

I Umesh Saxena S/o Late Durga Parsad Saxena R/o A-3/4, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi have lost original Demand cum Allotment Letter of Flat No. A-3/4, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi. Finders may contact at above address. 0040534399-5

BUSINESS OFFERS

REPUTED manufacturers of homecare/ cleaning/ detergent products from Mumbai wish to appoint CNF/ distributors/ dealers around India. Third party labeling also possible. Only genuine experienced firms contacts with details: Mail: miracleantools@gmail.com WhatsApp: 8282823369 www.cleanersmall.com

0070701440-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is informed on behalf of my client Rajan Sharma that DDA MIG Flat No. 144, Third Floor, Main Rohtak Road, Madipur, New Delhi owned by Asha Arora @ Asha Madan is pending litigation and attachement is sought in CS-39/2020 titled as Rajan Sharma & Ors. Vs. Rakesh Kumar Madan & Ors., fixed for hearing on 12.03.2020. Any one dealing with the aforesaid property may do it at his/her own risk being a disputed property pending litigation. Asha Arora @ Asha Madan & her husband Rakesh Kumar Madan are fraudsters.

AMIT VOHRA-ADVOCATE
CH. NO. 459, Civil Wing,
TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI-54
Mob.: 9958258255

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI
(Extra Ordinary Civil Original Jurisdiction)
Notice Under Order V Rule 20,
R/W Sec 151 Code of Civil Procedure
W.P. (Civil) No. 2012/2016
Khandelwal Hospital & Urology Centre ...Petitioner
VERSUS
Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Others ...Respondents
Notice to
R-3 Sh. Pawan Kumar Srivastava,
S/o Late Sudhir Chander Srivastava
R/o House No. 340 D, Railway Colony,
Station Road, Ghaziabad-201301 (U.P.)

Whereas the above noted petitioner has presented this writ petition under Article 226/227 of the Constitution of India. And whereas the above mentioned writ petition (civil) came up for preliminary hearing before the Court on 09-03-2016 & notice to show cause was ordered.
And whereas on 18-01-2020 it has been proved to the satisfaction of this Court that above mentioned respondent cannot be served in the ordinary manner. Notice is hereby issued to you, by publication to cause an appearance to be entered on your behalf either in person or through an Advocate duly appointed by you for the purpose before this Court on 17-04-2020 at 10.30 AM to defend the above mentioned writ petition.
Take further notice that in default of your appearance by yourself, your pleader or some other person authorized by you to act for you in the said Writ Petition on the aforementioned date, no further notice of the subsequent date of hearing of the said petition will be given to you in future and the said Writ Petition will be heard and determined ex parte in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on this **25-01-2020.**

Sd/
(Seal) Deputy Registrar (Writs)
For Registrar General

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client Shri Dinesh Anand S/o Late Shri Sri Chand Anand R/o D-3/11, Shiv Puri Extn., Delhi- 110051, had misplaced/lost ORIGINAL GIFT DEED DATED 14.10.2005 executed by his mother in his favour of property No. D-3/11/1, Shiv Puri Extn., Link Road, Delhi- 110051. He tried to search the same a lot but could not found the same and for this he lodged an e-FIR No. 220347/2020 on 02.03.2020. If anyone try to get benefit of the said GIFT DEED, he/she/they may be punished as per law. If anyone found the same, please contact undersigned or at 9811199418.

Sd/-
(ANUJ KAPOOR) ADVOCATE
257, CIVIL WING, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054,
MOBILE NO. 9891656411

PUBLIC NOTICE

"PUBLIC AT LARGE IS HERE BY INFORMED THAT MY CLIENTS SH JASPAL SINGH VIRDI AGED 60 YEARS S/O PARTAP SINGH VIRDI AND HIS WIFE MS. JASBIR KAUR VIRDI AGED 54 YEARS R/O M-45/1 NEW MAHAVIR NAGAR STREET NO.-4 NEW DELHI-110018. DEBARS THEIR DAUGHTER MS PRABHJOT KAUR AGED 31 YEARS FROM GETTING ANY RIGHT IN THE PROPERTY, ASSETS MOVEABLE OR IMMOVEABLE AS MS PRABHJOT KAUR HAS GOT MARRIED WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF MY CLIENTS AND MY CLIENTS HAVING NO CONTROL OVER HER AND DUE TO THAT PEACE OF THE FAMILY HAS BEEN DISTURBED. THAT ANY PERSON DEALING WITH HER SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE HIM SELF/HER SELF FOR THE SAME AT THEIR OWN RISK, COST & CONSEQUENCES.

Dr. VIMAL VERMA (Advocate)
Ch. No. 183-A, Patiala House Court,
New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my clients (i) Ramesh son of Late Gopal Singh (ii) Smt. Krishna wife of Sh. Ramesh, (iii) Lakhan son of Sh. Ramesh, all R/o R-874, J.J. Colony Raghubir Nagar, New Delhi-110027 have severed all their relations and connections with their son/brother Sh. Azad Kumar son of Sh. Ramesh and his wife Smt. Seema, who are living separately at R-680, G.F. J.J. Colony Raghubir Nagar, New Delhi- 110027, as they have proven to be most disobedient, disrespectful and harmful towards my clients and my clients hereby disown and debar them from inheriting any of their movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her own cost and peril and for which my clients and their other family members shall not be held liable or responsible.

Sd/-
N.K. Mishra (Advocate)
Ch. No. 568-A, 1st Floor, W. Wing,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that under instructions from and on behalf of my client **Mohit Panwar** S/o Surendra Singh Panwar R/o RZ-I-76 West Sagarpur N.D-46 has purchased 40% share from **Tanu Kumari** W/o Lt. Rajeev Kumar R/o RZ-J-38A/216 West Sagarpur N.D-46 after the death of **Lt. Rajeev Kumar** S/o Lt. Veer Singh R/o RZ-I-76 West Sagarpur N.D-46, **Mohit Panwar & Rajeev Kumar** (60% & 40%) Owner of the said property F/F & S/F of RZ-621, Plot No.TL/15A Gali No.3 West Sagarpur N.D-46 with sale deed rtg no 2209 dated 01/05/2019, now **Mohit Panwar** selling the **2nd Floor** of the said property to **Purushottam & Anjali** with Home Loan, if any objection of Said property please contact on my client's no **9811710072** within 15 days. **Praveen Rastogi** (Advocate) RZ-57, Khushi Ram Park, Uttam Nagar, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is hereby given to general public that Mrs. Inderjeet Kaur, who claimed to be owner and in possession of Entire Ground Floor, built on Plot No. M-25, admeasuring 209.032 Sq. Mtrs., Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi, that Mr. Joginder Singh & Mrs. Inderjeet Kaur jointly acquired the said floor from Mr. Y.P. Sachdev & Mrs. Sharda Sachdev by virtue of Sale Deed dated 22.01.2018 duly Regd. in the Sub Registrar Delhi, unfortunately Mr Joginder Singh had died and leaving behind his wife only namely as Mrs. Inderjeet Kaur as his only legal heir and as per the ownership right Mrs. Inderjeet Kaur agree to Sell aforesaid floor to Mr. Devesh Goel and now Mr. Devesh Goel has approached to IDFC First Bank Ltd for financial assistance and therefore shall be mortgaged with the said Bank. All person's having any claim regarding in respect of the said floor or any part, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mention below within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which claim, if any, of such persons will be consider to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of Mortgage in respect thereof.

Sunil Parsad (Advocate)
For Juris NextGen Law Offices
E-56, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-1,
New Delhi-110048

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Suraj Prakash Kohli S/o Anokhe Lal R/o H. No. G-3/153, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi, severe all relations & debar his son Sahil Kohli from all movable-immovable property(s) due to their misconduct & being out of control. My client will not be responsible for his any acts/ dealings in future.

Jitender Singh Chauhan (Advocate)
Ch.no. 1504 Rohini Court, Delhi.

I, Jagdish Chandra Yadav S/o Malha Ram Yadav, R/o Flat No. B-702, Chandralok CGHS Ltd., Plot No. 13, Sector-19B, Dwarka, New Delhi- 110075, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my name has been mentioned in some documents as J C Yadav in some it has been mentioned as Jagdish Chandra and in some it has been written as Jagdish Chander Yadav while my real & correct name is Jagdish Chandra Yadav. Also, my father's name has been mentioned as Malha Ram in some documents while in others it is Malha Ram Yadav. My father's correct name is Malha Ram Yadav.

IN THE COURT SH. M.P. SINGH,
ADDL. DISTRICT JUDGE-8,
EAST COURT NO.7,
KARKARDOOMA COURTS,
DELHI
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
CASE NO.CS-420/17
SHRI NARENDER CHAWLA
VERSUS
SMT. MEENA VERMA & OTHERS
To,
Shri Gulshan Chawla S/o Late Kalu Ram Chawla R/o 74, Shastri Park, Street No.1, Chander Nagar, Delhi-110051
Also at:- No.62 Rama Rao Layout 3rd Cross Kathi Gupta BSK 3rd Floor, Bangalore-560085
THE DEFENDANT ABOVE NAMED
WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summon it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 18-04-2020 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this 28-02-2020.

SEAL **Addl. District Judge, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Know all men by these presents that my client Mool Chand S/o Kanchan Lal Sharma and Santosh W/o Mool Chand both R/o B-150, Block-B, Partap Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 has disowned and debarred their daughter Shalu Sharma alias Saanu aged 27 years from all their movable and immovable properties because she is out of control of my clients.
Anybody dealing with her shall be doing so at his/her/their own risk, cost and responsibility.

Sd/- B. B. N. DEO, ADVOCATE
S.R-II,B Campus,Janakpuri, New Delhi-58

"IMPORTANT"

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DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 698/2019
State Bank of India ....Applicant
Versus
Mr. Mohan Nath Goswami & Anr. ....Defendants
To,
1. Mr. Mohan Nath Goswami S/o Mr. Bansidar Nath Goswami R/o 571, Gali No. 11A, Near Hanuman Mandir, Darshan Vihar, Burari, Delhi-110084. Also at: H No.-40A, India Moon City, Ahinsa Khand-2, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014, U.P. Also at: Startingphase II Services Pvt. Ltd. A-154A, 2nd Floor Sector-63, Noida-201301, Uttar Pradesh.
2. Manju J Homes India Limited, NH-58, Near DPS School, Meerut Road, Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad (U.P.)-201003. Also at: C-10 Harmonsha, Ghaziabad, UP-201011 Also at: C-294, Vivek Vihar, New Delhi-110095.
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of **Rs. 26,90,114/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Ninety Thousand One Hundred & Fourteen Only)** 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 before **Ld. Registrar on 11.05.2020 at 10.30 A.M.**
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before the Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of the Ld. Registrar on this 15-02-2020.

Seal BY ORDER OF THIS TRIBUNAL
For Registrar

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 697/2019
State Bank of India ....Applicant
Versus
Ms. Vineeta Pandey & Ors. ....Defendants
To,
1. Ms. Vineeta Pandey W/o Mr. Radhey Shyam Pathak R/o WP-87(D), 3rd Floor, WP Block, Pitampura, Delhi-110034. Also at: [illegible]
2. Mr. Radhey Shyam Pathak S/o Brahma Dev Pathak R/o WP-87(D), 3rd Floor, WP Block, Pitampura, Delhi-110034. Also at: [illegible]
3. Manju J Homes India Limited, NH-58, Near DPS School, Meerut Road, Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad (U.P.) Also at: C-10 Ramprastha, Ghaziabad, UP. Also at: C-294, Vivek Vihar, New Delhi-110095.
Whereas, the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of **Rs. 18,24,396/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Three Hundred & Ninety Six Only)** 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 before **Ld. Registrar on 11.05.2020 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 Ld. Registrar on this 18-02-2020.

Seal BY ORDER OF THIS TRIBUNAL
For Registrar

Delhi urban shelter improvement board
Govt. of NCT of Delhi

Office of the Executive Engineer: C-10 Inderlok, Delhi- 110035
Email ID: eec10.dusib@gmail.com
Mobile No.- 9717999192

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Executive Engineer, C-10, DUSIB, Inderlok, Delhi- 110035 invites, on behalf of **Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board,** percentage rate bid (Online) in two bid system for the following work(s):

(1) **NIT No.** 130/EEC-10/DUSIB/2019-20 **Tender No.** 2020_DUSIB_187012_1 **Name of work:** MLA LAD Fund. **Sub-Head:** Construction of Tharas, Plateform to be used as open chaupal by the local residents of SC/ST Basti at Hardhyan Singh Road and Military Road in AC-23 Karol Bagh. **Estimated cost:** Rs. 32,53,684.00 **Earnest Money**: Rs. 65,100.00 **Tender Cost:** Rs. 500.00 **Period of completion**: 120 Days

(2) **NIT No.** 131/EEC-10/DUSIB/2019-20 **Tender No.** 2020_DUSIB_187016_1 **Name of work:** MLA LAD Fund. **Sub-Head:** Improvement of Existing Lane by Providing and Laying CC Pavement and Drainage System at B-Block, Motia Khan, Double Story Quarter, in AC-23 Karol Bagh. **Estimated cost:** Rs. 47,99,786.00 **Earnest Money**: Rs. 96,000.00 **Tender Cost:** Rs. 500.00 **Period of Completion**: 180 Days

(3) **NIT No.** 132/EEC-10/DUSIB/2019-20 **Tender No.** 2020_DUSIB_187017_1 **Name of work:** Structural Improvement & Rehabilitation of Katra Dwellers. **Sub-Head:** Structural improvement of DUSIB Katra No. 3357-58/XIII in AC-19 Sadar Bazar. **Estimated cost:** Rs. 29,49,362.00 Earnest Money: Rs. 59,000.00 **Tender Cost:** Rs. 500.00 **Period of Completion**: 120 Days

(4) **NIT No.** 138/EEC-10/DUSIB/2019-20 **Tender No.** 2020_DUSIB_188841_1 **Name of work:** Built Up Facilities (Community Hall/BVK). **Sub-Head:** Upgradation, Renovation & C/o Temporary Shed at terrace of Community Hall 1105-09 Gali Samosan, Farash Khana in Ballimaran AC-22. **Estimated cost:** Rs. 87,08,282.00 **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1,74,200.00 **Tender Cost:** Rs. 1000.00 **Period of Completion**: 180 Days

(5) **NIT No.** 139/EEC-10/DUSIB/2019-20 **Tender No.** 2020_DUSIB_188843_1 **Name of work:** Improvement of SC/ST Basties, GNCTD. **Sub-Head:** Refurbishment and covering of open platforms by steel roof trusses at Block F,C & B at JJR Colony, Inder Puri in AC-39 (Rajinder Nagar). **Estimated cost:** Rs. 29,62,470.00 **Earnest Money:** Rs. 59,300.00 **Tender Cost:** Rs. 500.00 **Period of Completion**: 180 Days

(6) **NIT No.** 140/EEC-10/DUSIB/2019-20 **Tender No.** 2020_DUSIB_188844_1 **Name of work:** Improvement of SC/ST Basti in NCT of Delhi. **Sub-Head:** Improvement of Internal Lanes at (Block no. B) New Ranjeet Nagar by Providing and Laying CC Pavement and Drainage System in wad no. 96 (EB No. 39 to 40) in AC-24 Patel Nagar. **Estimated cost:** Rs. 35,34,488.00 **Earnest Money:** Rs. 70,700.00 **Tender Cost:** Rs. 500.00 **Period of Completion**: 120 Days

* Last Date & Time of submission of e-Bids will remain on: **19.03.2020** upto 15:00 Hours
* The Date of Opening is scheduled to be on: **19.03.2020** after 15:30 Hours

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website https://eprocurement.delhi.gov.in

** The intending bidders are advised to visit above mentioned site regularly for any update/ corrigendum related to the tenders. The corrigendum, if any, shall not be published in newspapers.

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
C-10, DUSIB
DIP/Shabdarth/1426/19-20

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI,
IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CD-III,
L.M. BUND OFFICE COMPLEX; SHASTRI NAGAR, DELHI -110031

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No.III, I&FC, Delhi invites on behalf of the President of India, online tender for the following works.

1. **NIT No:** EE/CD-III/NIT/43/2019-20 **HOA:** 2711 MAINTENANCE DRAINAGE **Name of work:-** Disposal of de-silted earth from RD 0m to RD 3900m of Trunk Drain No. II. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 45,68,068/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 91,361/- **Period of completion:** 90 Days; **Last date & time of submission of tender:** upto 3:00 P.M on 11.03.2020. **(Tender I.D** 2019_IFC_188958_1).

2. **NIT No:** EE/CD-III/NIT/44/2019-20 **HOA:** 2711 MAINTENANCE DRAINAGE **Name of work:-** Disposal of de-silted earth from RD 0m to RD 5900m of Shahdara Outfall Darin. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 63,00,784/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1,26,016/- **Period of completion:** 90 Days; **Last date & time of submission of tender:** upto 3:00 P.M on 11.03.2020. **(Tender I.D** 2019_IFC_188959_1).

3. **NIT No:** EE/CD-III/NIT/45/2019-20 **HOA:** 2711 MAINTENANCE DRAINAGE **Name of work:-** Disposal of desilted earth from RD 0m to RD 5260m of Trunk Drain No. I. **Estimated Cost:** Rs.63,00,784/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1,26,016/- **Period of completion:** 90 Days; **Last date & time of submission of tender:** upto 3:00 P.M on 11.03.2020. **(Tender I.D** 2019_IFC_188960_1).

4. **NIT No:** EE/CD-III/NIT/46/2019-20 **HOA:** 4225 improvement of SC/ST Basties **Name of work:-** Renovation/ Construction of Jatav Choupal Bhogal New Delhi in AC-41. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 29,23,797/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 58,476/- **Period of completion:** 270 Days; **Last date & time of submission of tender:** upto 3:00 P.M on 11.03.2020. **(Tender I.D** 2019_IFC_188961_1).

Other details can be seen at website **http://delhigovt.nic.in/tender**.

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD-III
DIP/Shabdarth/1427/19-20

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RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION, AMBALA CANTT

Tender Notice No.RE/UMB/Civil/1202/E-T **OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE** Dated: 02/03/2020

Chief Project Director, Rly. Electrification, Ambala Cantt. for & on behalf of the President of India invites **OPEN E-TENDER** on web site **www.ireps.gov.in** for the following works. Tenderer may submit their original/revised offer up to prescribed closing time & date. No tender will be accepted manually.

Tender No. & Tender Title	App. Cost (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Cost of Tender document (₹)	Completion period (in Months)	Date of closing
RE/UMB/Civil/Gr-287B/02/267 Construction of service and residential buildings, Misc/other allied works **at Firozpur Cantt. (Group:287-B)** in connection with Railway Electrification of **Bhatinda - Firozpur cantt.** section.	847.56 Lakh	5,73,800/-	10,000/-	12 (Twelve)	01.04.2020 at 12.00 hrs.

Tender documents are available on Railway website i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** and the same can be downloaded from there. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender document cost (TDC) in respect of e-tendering will only be accepted through net banking and payment gateway Only. Details of bank account number and technical details have been provided for in the software (IREPS) to which prospective registered tenderers will have access at the time of tendering. All other terms & conditions may be seen and downloaded from Railway website i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Dy. Chief Engineer,
Rly. Electrification/Ambala Cantt.
(For & on behalf of the President of India)

No. PR/257/2020
R.D. Adv

"Serving Customers with a Smile"

epaper.indianexpress.com

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹44,383	₹73.39	$51.91	₹47,729

*Indian basket as on March 3, 2020

SENSEX: 38,409.48 ▼ 214.22 NIFTY: 11,251.00 ▼ 52.30 NIKKEI: 21,100.06 ▲ 17.33 HANG SENG: 26,222.07 ▼ 62.75 FTSE: 6,829.12 ▲ 110.92 DAX: 12,149.67 ▲ 164.28

*International market data till 1900 IST

CABINET APPROVES CHANGES TO COMPANIES ACT

CSR regulations to be eased; priority is to 'decriminalise' provisions, says FM

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

THE UNION Cabinet on Wednesday approved proposals to carry out decriminalisation of 35 offences under the Companies Act, and to remove imprisonment as a penalty for another 11 offences. The move is set to reduce the total offences under the Companies Act, which can attract imprisonment as a penalty, to 55 from around 95 earlier, according to a senior government official.

"The priority is to decriminalise the Companies Act," said Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, adding the move was aimed at removing criminality from offences that did not have a malafide intent behind them.

Sitharaman also announced that the Cabinet approved a provision that would allow companies to offset any Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure exceeding the mandatory 2 per cent of profits against required expenditure in future fiscals.

All companies with a net worth of Rs 500 crore or more, a turnover of Rs 1,000 crore or more, or net profit of Rs 5 crore or more are required to spend 2 per cent of their average profit of the previous three years on CSR activities every year.

Violation of CSR norms is also among the offences that have been decriminalised. The government had announced in August that it would not operationalise provisions of the Companies Act that included prison terms of up to three years for violations of CSR norms after receiving representations from industry.

A senior government official said that the move was a complete change in the architecture of the penal provisions under the Companies Act.

The Finance Minister announced that 23 of the 66 compoundable offences under the Companies Act would be dealt with through an in-house adjudication framework managed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and that seven such offences would be removed under the changes approved by the cabinet. A further 11 provisions will be amended to remove imprisonment as a punishment.

The Cabinet decision will also lower monetary penalties on another six provisions of the Companies Act, which had earlier been decriminalised.

The central government, in 2019, amended the Companies Act to recategorise 16 offences that carried imprisonment or fines as penalties to civil offences.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi on Wednesday. *Prem Nath Pandey*

Govt permits NRIs to own up to 100% stake in Air India

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

THE CABINET on Wednesday allowed Non-Resident Indians, who are Indian nationals, to buy up to 100 per cent stake in Air India, for which the government has sought preliminary bids sale of its entire stake in the national carrier.

However, foreign investments in the national carrier including that of foreign airlines shall not exceed 49 per cent, either directly or indirectly. The government said substantial ownership and effective control of Air India shall continue to be vested in Indian nationals. It said in light of the proposed strategic disinvestment of 100 per cent of Air India, it has been decided that foreign investment in Air India be brought on a level playing field with other scheduled airline operators.

PSB merger gets in-principle nod from Cabinet

New Delhi: The Cabinet on Wednesday gave in-principle approval for consolidation of 10 public sector banks (PSBs) into four with effect from April 1, 2020. "The banks' merger is on course and decisions have already been taken by the respective bank boards," the Finance Minister said.

The government had announced four new sets of mergers last August: Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India to merge to form the country's second-largest lender; Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank to amalgamate; Union Bank of India to acquire Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank; Indian Bank to merge with Allahabad Bank. **ENS**

Plan for direct overseas listing of cos approved

New Delhi: Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas announced the Cabinet has approved a proposal to allow Indian public companies to list their shares on foreign stock exchanges. Currently, Indian companies are only able to raise equity funding from foreign sources through American depository receipts and global depository receipts which are derivatives of equity shares.

"The listing of Indian companies in foreign stock exchanges is expected to increase the competitiveness of Indian companies in terms of access to capital, broader investor base and better valuations," said a release by the Corporate Affairs Ministry. **ENS**

Countering supply disruption: DoP panel for tax holidays, incentives to cos producing key drug ingredients

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

AS INDIA looks to avert a potential drug shortage crisis in the wake of escalating COVID-19 cases globally, a standing committee set up by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, last month, recommended sops such as tax holidays and special first-come-first-serve incentives to companies willing to manufacture key ingredients that India "heavily" depends on other countries for.

The committee, chaired by Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) joint drug controller Eswara Reddy, had prepared a list of 58 drug ingredients that India needed to produce in the country in order to make its pharma industry self-reliant. This includes painkillers like paracetamol, antibiotics like amoxicillin and azithromycin, anti-TB drugs like rifampicin, cardiovascular medicines like valsartan and telmisartan, crucial diabetes drug metformin and vitamins like B12 and C.

The DoP, on Tuesday, said India had enough stock of these ingredients to last up to three months, which means the country would have enough stock of the finished medicines to last around six months, an industry source said.

Meanwhile, the committee has proposed that "price incentives" be given to companies for drugs made using domestically manufactured raw materials belonging to the list of 58, sources told *The Indian Express*. This is for encouraging the use of the country's indigenous active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) capacity and, in turn, give an impetus to domestic bulk drug makers, according to one of the sources.

Another recommendation is to offer a 10-year tax holiday — temporarily reduce or eliminate taxes — to make it more "attractive" for companies to make these ingredients, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

A third proposal is for the government to provide "special incentives" to the first five drug makers willing to establish such manufacturing capabilities, the source said.

The committee wants the government to prioritise those APIs and KSMs (key starting materials) for which India is heavily dependent on imports when granting these incentives. The committee observed that "concrete" measures were urgently required to ensure the country's drug security due to its heavy dependency on China.

The committee, which submitted its report to DoP on February 25, observed the impact of the novel coronavirus on China's drug making hubs called for India to beef up its self sufficiency. However, it added the Centre needed to look beyond short-term support and help the Indian industry build self-reliance and a viable API ecosystem in the long run.

Look for therapeutic alternatives to crucial constituents: Panel to ICMR

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

A COMMITTEE formed last month to study India's import dependence on China for drugs during the COVID-19 outbreak has asked the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to look into therapeutic alternatives for 58 crucial ingredients that might leave India in the lurch in case of shortages.

The development comes after an earlier exercise by the council to zero in on alternatives that could keep the country from running out of crucial stocks of various painkillers, antibiotics, antidiabetic and cardiovascular medicines as well as vitamins, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

In the earlier exercise, ICMR found over 30 of the 58 molecules, which include key raw materials used to make these drugs, had "no" alternatives. The body had found that only 16 of these products had therapeutic alternatives, according to sources aware of the earlier exercise.

However, it is learnt that the committee was "not satisfied" with the report submitted by the body, leading to another meeting earlier this week to take stock of India's drug supply. "ICMR has been asked to re-examine this," said a senior government official.

TRACKING COVID-19
TRAVEL

Air, rail bookings hit: Flight reservations to Delhi drop by 11%, Jaipur falls almost 1%

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

AN OUTBREAK of confirmed and potential coronavirus cases in Delhi, Jaipur and Agra over the past two days has led to a sudden drop in air and rail bookings to these cities. Flight bookings to the Capital have seen an 11 per cent drop in the last two days, compared to a two-day period a fortnight ago. Similarly, flight bookings to Jaipur fell almost 1 per cent, data sourced from travel app ixigo showed.

"We have seen an average of 10-15 per cent decrease in train bookings and 5-10 per cent decrease in flight bookings to these cities in the past 48 hours," an ixigo spokesperson said. Agra only has two scheduled flights every week — Alliance Air flight from Jaipur that has been cancelled since last week because of an Indian Air Force exercise being conducted at the Agra Air Force base. However, between March 2 and March 3, train bookings to Agra fell 24 per cent, compared to February 17 and February 18.

The 11-per cent fall in the March 2-3 period over February 17-18 for flight bookings in Delhi is against an almost 25 per cent rise in bookings during the same period last year. Similarly, for Jaipur, flight bookings increased 34 per cent in the same two-day period in 2019, ixigo data showed.

Despite the sudden drop in interest for travel to Delhi and Jaipur, domestic destinations are seen to be gaining a leg up considering the situation of the virus outbreak across the world.

"Due to the prevailing situation of coronavirus in different locations across the globe, there are many destinations which are expected to face a drop in foreign tourist arrivals because of the advisories issued by various governments. Southeast Asia and Italy being one of the most preferred destinations for Indians, we can anticipate a drop of about 20-25 per cent in terms of future bookings, though it is too early to predict any drastic impact," said Sabina Chopra, co-founder and COO, corporate travel & head-industry relations, Yatra.com.

"They are wary of making fresh bookings to the affected locations and airfares to these destinations have dropped by 20-30 per cent. Travelers are now looking at alternate foreign destinations from India, such as Sri Lanka and Bhutan for summer travel. There is a hike in enquires to domestic destinations such as Andaman & Nicobar, Goa, Ujjain, North-east cities among others," Chopra added.

Chairman of Stic Travel Group and of Assocham Tourism Committee Subhash Goyal said there were 100 per cent cancellations for bookings to affected countries like China, South Korea and Italy. "People are generally afraid to travel because of the virus and we have seen 20-25 per cent cancellations from across the country," Goyal said.

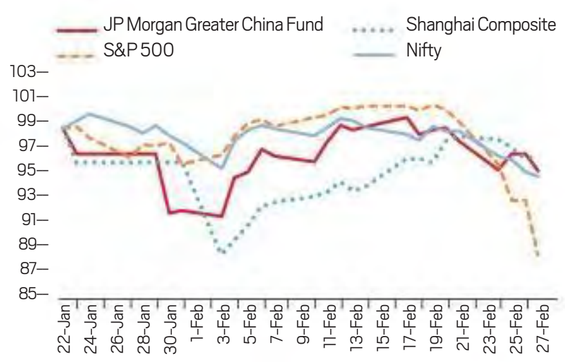
AGRA TRAIN BOOKINGS
fall 24%

■ Agra only has two scheduled flights every week — Alliance Air flight from Jaipur that has been cancelled since last week because of an Indian Air Force exercise being conducted at the Agra Air Force base. However, between March 2 and March 3, train bookings to Agra fell 24 per cent, compared to February 17 and February 18

'Anticipated downturn due to virus could prove speculative'

As the coronavirus outbreak is unfolding and its impact on market and economy needs close monitoring, some part of the anticipated downturn may prove speculative if medical development turns around, ASK Wealth Advisors said

MARKETS' REACTION HAVE FOLLOWED THE OUTBREAK WITH A LAG



Sources: Worldometers, Bloomberg, Media, ASKWA Research

● THOUGH MATERIAL, THIS EVENT RISK DOES NOT ALTER THE LONG-TERM GLOBAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY, INCLUDING CHINA AND THE US

Recovering lost ground: Market reaction to the outbreak seems to have spaced out, and China — where markets initially declined — now has recovered most of its lost ground

Gold glitters: While investors seem to be staying off equities and bonds, as a hedge, gold has once again emerged as a safe haven

Payoff depends on risk appetite: Investors willing to take the risk stand to be rewarded, but at a higher risk

Indian markets relatively resilient: *Till recently, compared to global counterparts, Indian markets have been relatively resilient. The sell-off in both equities and bonds, mainly due to FIIs selling, is likely to reverse once the outbreak trend stabilises*

Source: ASK Wealth Advisors

Foreign investors pull out over ₹11,000 cr from markets in 3 days

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 4

THE SELL-OFF in the stock markets driven by the global impact of coronavirus has led to foreign portfolio outflows of over Rs 11,000 crore in last three sessions, putting the rupee under pressure.

The rupee hit a low of 73.63 on Wednesday but recovered to close at 73.39 against the dollar even as the US Federal Reserve slashed its policy rate by 50 basis points. "If the FPI withdrawal continues, the rupee will continue to be under pressure and touch even 74-75 against the dollar if the RBI doesn't intervene aggressively in the forex market. Markets expect the central bank to step in and sell dollars to prevent significant losses in the local unit," said an analyst with a research firm.

According to NSDL data, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), who have now adopted a 'risk-off' approach, pulled out Rs 11,863 crore from India in three sessions with Rs 5,970 crore going out from the equity market and Rs 5,834 crore from the debt market. When the Sensex plunged 1,448 points on February 28, FPIs withdrew over Rs 3,300 crore from the market.

FPIs had invested around Rs 1 lakh crore in the equity market in calendar 2019 with the month of March 2019 witnessing the maximum inflow of Rs 33,981 crore. However, in the January-March period of 2020, there was a net outflow of Rs 1,936 crore with FPIs pulling out Rs 15,385 crore from the debt market and investing Rs 7,973 crore in equity and Rs 5,477 crore in hybrid and debt-VRR.

"The BSE Sensex plunged six percent while the Nifty 50 was down 6.3 per cent in the month of February making it one of the worst monthly fall since September 2018. The large fall was in the backdrop of COVID-19 infections cropping up in Europe, the Americas and the World Health Organizations' (WHO) warnings of possibility of a global pandemic. This fear combined with the fact that markets had already run-up, has also triggered a 'risk-off' attitude amongst foreign institutional investors who have emerged as net sellers," said a report from HDFC Securities.

Sensex falls 214 points

Mumbai: After the 480-point rally on Tuesday, stock markets were hit by a sudden spike in coronavirus cases in India on Wednesday. After swinging over 945 points during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 214.22 points, or 0.55 per cent, lower at 38,409.48. The broader NSE Nifty closed 52.30 points, or 0.46 per cent down, at 11,251. **ENS**

IRDAI asks insurance firms to design coronavirus policies

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, MARCH 4

THE INSURANCE Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has asked Indian insurers to design products covering the costs of treatment for coronavirus (COVID-19) in the country.

The IRDAI proposal is probably a first in the world at a time when coronavirus cases have seen a spike in the country. The regulator has said when hospitalisation is covered in a product, insurers will have to ensure that the cases related to coronavirus disease are expeditiously handled. "The costs of admissible medical expenses during the course of treatment including the treatment during quarantine period has to be settled in accordance to the applicable terms and conditions of policy contract and the extant regulatory framework," it said.

"All the claims reported under COVID-19 have to be thoroughly reviewed by the claims review committee before repudiating the claims," IRDAI said.

Insurers said they are looking at the IRDAI proposal. "This would be covered in any case under most health insurance policies as it would not be pre-existing. And GIC covers all such products. Perhaps, it might now be included under critical illness policies as well," said a GIC official. In order to provide need based health insurance coverage, insurers are introducing products for various specific diseases including vector borne diseases, IRDAI said, adding that this is being done for the purpose of meeting health insurance requirements of various sections. The regulator has also laid down norms to settle claims related to the treatment of coronavirus.

The regulator said these instructions will have to be implemented with immediate effect. Shreeraj Deshpande, chief operating officer, Future Generali India Insurance, said: "Any person who is hospitalised as a result of coronavirus and takes treatment will be covered as any other illness. The subsequent claims will be processed as per regular norms provided the individual has been hospitalised for 24 hours. The government has issued advisories on coronavirus infection and the insurance companies will be guided by that."

The virus doesn't have a vaccine yet, and it may take over a year to develop any vaccine for the disease, according to experts.

The regulator had recently set up a nine-member committee with former New India Assurance Chairman and MD G Srinivasan as Chairman and LIC Chairman MR Kumar as Co-chairman to study the feasibility of allowing life insurers to offer indemnity-based health policies. As of now, only general insurance firms and specialised health insurance companies are allowed to offer indemnity-based health policies. The IRDAI move follows intense lobbying by private life insurance companies for an entry into the fast-growing health insurance segment.

'EXPEDITIOUSLY HANDLE CASES'

■ The regulator said when hospitalisation is covered, insurers will have to ensure cases related to COVID-19 are expeditiously handled

■ Costs of admissible medical expenses during the course of treatment during quarantine period has to be settled in accordance with the applicable terms of contract and the extant framework

NO HUGS: OPEC ADVICE

Personnel check a man's temperature at a meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna on Wednesday. Amid coronavirus outbreak, delegates have been given instructions: No handshakes, don't hug and wash your hands frequently. "Avoid close contact," reads a poster outside OPEC's headquarters. *AP*

Virus wipes out hopes of faster growth in 2020: IMF

Washintgton: The faster spread of the coronavirus will wipe out any hope of stronger growth in 2020, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on Wednesday, adding a third of the Fund's 189 member countries were now affected.

Georgieva said the Fund now expects 2020 global growth will be below the 2.9 per cent rate for 2019 and revised forecasts will be issued in coming weeks.

The changed view would represent an over 0.4 percentage-point drop from the 3.3 per cent 2020 growth rate that the IMF had forecast in January due to the US-China trade war.

"Growth this year will fall below the level of last year," Georgieva said. She declined to say whether the escalating health crisis could push the world into a recession. **REUTERS**

IN COMBAT MODE

World Bank announces up to $12-bn funds

Washington: The World Bank on Tuesday announced an initial $12 billion in immediate funds to assist countries grappling with the coronavirus virus outbreak, which has spread quickly from China to around 80 countries.

Etihad asks cabin crew to take paid leave

Dubai: Etihad Airways is asking cabin crew to take paid leave next month due to the rapidly spreading coronavirus that has led to a drop in travel demand, it said Wednesday.

China passenger car sales fall 80% in Feb

Beijing: Passenger car retail sales in China fell 80 per cent in February because of the coronavirus epidemic, said the China Passenger Car Association. **REUTERS**

EPFO Trustees to meet today; rate cut talks likely to be on table

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

Last year, the Finance Ministry had questioned the surplus level and the Employee Provident Fund's exposure to the now bankrupt IL&FS Ltd and similar risky entities, before granting its nod for the 8.65% interest rate

INTEREST RATE for over 6 crore active subscribers of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) for the financial year 2019-20 will be decided in a meeting on Thursday, with a possibility of a rate cut after a hike to 8.65 per cent in the previous year.

Both the finance committee and the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) will meet Thursday to decide the interest rate based on EPFO's income projections for the current fiscal.

The recommendation of the CBT regarding the EPF interest rate would then require ratification from the Finance Ministry, which had last year questioned the surplus level and the Fund's exposure to the now bankrupt Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS) and similar risky entities, before granting its nod for the 8.65 per cent rate.

The rate decision would be significant at a time when the overall rate regime is being viewed closely against the backdrop of the economic slowdown and rising inflation.

At its last bimonthly meeting in February, the Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India had maintained the status quo on its key policy rate.

As per convention, after the Organisation's CBT recommends the interest rate, it has to be ratified by the Finance Ministry and then it gets credited into the accounts of the EPFO's subscribers.

The Ministry has been nudging the EPFO to reduce rates over the last few years, in line with the overall lower rate regime.

In a pre-election announcement, the CBT, in February 2019, had recommended hiking the interest rate for its 6 crore active subscribers to 8.65 per cent for 2018-19 from a five-year low of 8.55 per cent in the previous financial year.

As per the EPFO's estimates shared during the meeting in February last year, at 8.65 per cent, the estimated surplus was Rs 151.67 crore. At 8.65 per cent, the EPFO rate is much higher than the small savings rate.

High small savings rates have been pointed out by banks as the reason for affecting the full transmission of the rate cuts taken by the RBI over the last one year.

The Finance Ministry, however, has hinted moving to a new regime for small savings rate starting April 1.

As of now, small savings rates are linked to government securities and are revised quarterly.

INVESTIGATION INTO 'FRAUD' AT IL&FS

NCLAT dismisses plea by former auditors against impleadment

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

THE NATIONAL Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Wednesday dismissed a plea moved by audit firms Deloitte Haskins & Sells and KPMG arm BSR & Associates, as well as their independent directors, against impleadment in an ongoing investigation in their role in the alleged fraud at the debt-laden Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS).

In its ruling, the NCLAT said that the judgment of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) could not be termed as illegal and that the tribunal was empowered to pass order to implead the auditors as well as independent directors if "it forms opinion that the affairs of the company have been conducted in a manner prejudicial to the public interest".

A two-member bench of the NCLAT, headed by Justice S J Mukhopadhaya, stated that the rules of natural justice dictated that if the NCLT thought it fit to pass order against any party asking them to join investigation, the same must be done.

The appellate tribunal, however, suspended its sentence for two weeks to allow the audit firms and their independent directors to challenge the judgment and decide on further course of action.

The audit firms had been impleaded as parties by the Mumbai bench of NCLT as per a July 2019 order. Based on the submissions by the central government that the fraud in IL&FS as well as its subsidiaries was on account of "misrepresentation and falsehoods about the financial state of affairs" and that the auditors too must be held responsible for the same, the NCLT had asked them to join the investigation.

While commenting on the development, a Deloitte India spokesperson said: "We will review the written order before determining our further course of action, which may include an appeal". Auditors cannot be treated as part of the management which is responsible for managing the affairs of the company and therefore should not be charged, the person said.

"We will continue to present and protect its position, supported by the facts, to the relevant authorities. The firm remains committed to high standards of audit quality and ethical conduct in its professional practice," he added.

There was no immediate comment from KPMG.

NCLT JUDGMENT CAN'T BE TERMED 'ILLEGAL'

- **In its ruling, the NCLAT said that the National Company Law Tribunal judgment could not be termed as illegal and that the tribunal was empowered to pass order to implead the audit firms Deloitte Haskins & Sells and KPMG arm BSR & Associates, as well as their independent directors**
- **The NCLAT, however, suspended its sentence for two weeks to allow audit firms and the independent directors to challenge the judgment and decide on further course of action**
- **The audit firms had been impleaded as parties by the Mumbai bench of NCLT as per a July 2019 order**

BRIEFLY

NCLAT asks CCI to probe Flipkart

New Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) Wednesday directed the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to launch a probe against Flipkart on alleged charges of abuse of dominant position, setting aside CCI's 2018 order absolving the e-commerce firm of the same. The NCLAT directive follows a plea lodged by the All India Online Vendors' Association (AIOVA) with the appellate tribunal in January 2019, asking to "set aside" CCI's impugned order.

HDFC cuts RPLR by 5 bps, effective Mar 5

Mumbai: Mortgage lender HDFC Wednesday reduced its retail prime lending rate (RPLR) by 5 basis points (bps). The new RPLR will be effective from March 9 and make borrowing cheaper for all existing customers. **FE**

'Services sector growth at 7-year high'

New Delhi: The IHS Markit India Services Business Activity Index rose from 55.5 in January to 57.5 in February. This is the fastest expansion in services output since January 2013, the survey showed Wednesday.

'SBI Cards IPO subscribed 15.49 times'

New Delhi: Initial public offer of SBI Cards and Payment Services was subscribed 15.49 times on the third day of bidding on Wednesday, according to NSE data.

Mitsui Sumitomo to buy MFS stake

New Delhi: Tokyo-based Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance will acquire 21.87 per cent stake in Max Financial Services (MFS) by swapping majority of its shareholding in Max Life Insurance, a statement said Wednesday. **PTI**

GM challenges Tesla with 'Ultium' battery

Detroit: General Motors Co CEO Mary Barra said Wednesday the automaker will invest $20 billion by 2025 in electric and automated vehicles as it races to catch up with Elon Musk's Tesla Inc as vehicles go electric. It also announced the new Ultium battery technology , which is aimed at cutting the battery cell costs. **REUTERS**

Internet shutdowns: 314 times between 2017 & 2019; 95 lasted more than a day

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

THE NUMBER of preventive internet shutdowns enforced by the central and the state governments in India saw a major spike between 2017 and 2019, and as many as 95 of these lasted for more than 24 hours. There were at least 147 instances over these three years for which there is no data on the duration of the shutdowns as there is lack of any form of communication on these blockades, according to data available in public domain and compiled by Software Freedom Law Centre (SFLC).

In most of these instances, there was no formal order being issued to the telecom operators, according to senior industry executives who requested not to be named. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, where the internet had remained suspended until March 4 for 213 days, has seen since 2012 at least 60 instances of connectivity being snapped for more than 24 hours without any official order.

Under the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885, only the Home Secretary of the central or the state government can pass orders to enforce an internet shutdown in any area.

The order must include the detailed reasons for the shutdown and must be sent to a review committee the next day.

The committee shall, within five days, submit its report and only if the shutdown is justified even after that will the communications blockade continue, officials of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) explained.

"The Telegraph rules lay down many checks and balances, but that does not happen. It is the first reaction. One good example is Rajasthan, where there has been a regime change, but number of shutdowns is on the rise," an official said. Rajasthan, however, is also the only state that provides a formal order for nearly all internet shutdowns it enforces, officials said.

In 2017, for instance, of the 79 instances of internet shutdown across the country, there were 51 where the authorities cut connectivity to mobile phone, while there were seven instances where connections to both mobiles and landlines were severed. Similarly, in 2018, authorities suspended mobile phone connectivity 126 times, and 100 times in 2019.

"93 of the 381 internet shutdowns between 2012 and January 2020 lasted less than 24 hours, 74 lasted between 24 and 72 hours, 41 lasted for over 72 hours, while no information was available on the respective duration of the remaining 208 internet shutdowns," SFLC said in a report released in February.

Another rising trend, officials said, was to use Section 144 of the Code Of Criminal Procedure to justify the communications blockade and the continuance of it. "That can not be done. The use of 144 does not pass any muster under law. However, it is seldom challenged," an official said.

A colonial era law, Section 144 gives a magistrate the powers to enforce a general shutdown of the area, if he or she believes that there could be violence in the area, arising from a certain tension between two or more groups of people.

Most of the internet shutdowns, telcos executives explained, are done using the 'kill switch' individual tower-wise in respective areas. Following instructions from the authorities, the local unit of the telcos switches off power to the tower in that area, following which mobile phones in the area latch on to the next nearest tower.

"What happens then is that one tower has too many calls and data volume being placed on it, due to which very few calls get through. So that also serves the purpose. Then that tower is also switched off and so on," an official with a tower operator said.

While reports estimate that India loses around Rs 6,000 crore per year due to internet shutdowns, the government had told the Rajya Sabha last month that it did not keep a track of how much losses were incurred by the states or the individuals owing to the internet shutdowns.

EXPLAINED

Fewer reactive shutdowns reported than preventive ones

DESPITE A rising number of preventive internet shutdowns, the number of reactive shutdowns, however, remained low over the three years, according to the data.

Preventive shutdowns are defined as internet blockade by the state in anticipation of violence, unrest or disturbance, whereas reactive shutdowns are enforced to prevent further escalation of violence.

ED files money laundering case against Naresh Goyal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has registered a case, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), against Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal. This is the first time the agency has booked Goyal for alleged money laundering.

Sources said that the agency has taken cognisance of an FIR by Mumbai Police at MRA Marg Police Station on a complaint from a travel agency. Sources said the ED's forex violations probe revealed alleged money laundering, but in the absence of a predicate offence it was not in a position to register a PMLA case.

They added that the agency is also carrying out searches in Mumbai in connection with the new case.

Last year, the ED questioned Goyal and searched multiple premises associated with him, after registering a case under the Foreign Exchange Management Act. As per ED sources, Goyal has 19 privately held companies, of which 14 are in India and 5 abroad.

The Directorate has alleged that Jet Airways executed aircraft lease agreements with offshore entities that made payments to firms, which allegedly "diverted" money to Goyal. Sources said the ED is examining transactions of the airlines pertaining to sales and distribution.

In May 2019, the ED began probing Etihad Airways' investment in Jet Airways' frequent flyer programme Jet Privilege Pvt Ltd (JPPL). The agency is ascertaining whether foreign direct investment (FDI) norms were violated by Etihad, which took a stake in JPPL in 2014.

I-T detects TDS defaults worth 'hundreds of crores'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

THE INCOME Tax Department has detected defaults on tax deducted at sources (TDS) by prominent companies, including a telecom operator, several large hospitals, a real estate group and a major oil company. The defaults run into hundreds of crores, the department said in a statement.

TDS payments to the government is about 45 per cent of the total direct tax collection. As per the rules, TDS has to be paid to the central government within seven days from the end of the month in which the deduction is made.

The telecom operator is found to have defaulted Rs 324 crore on TDS payment. "The company did not make the required TDS payment of 10 per cent u/s 194J of the Income-tax Act, 1961 on technical contracts worth Rs 4,000 crore. The amount is further liable to go up once the enquiry is completed," the department said in a statement, without naming the telco.

Similarly, two premier hospitals with 2,500 and 700 bed capacity have committed TDS default of Rs 70 crore and Rs 20 crore, respectively. While one hospital was guilty of not making any TDS on construction contracts as statutorily required, the other one was deducting tax at the rate of 10 per cent only on salary paid to the doctors, instead of the present TDS rate of 30 per cent applicable for salary payments.

Additionally, an enquiry has revealed that the hospitals were also not making the required TDS payment at 10 per cent from the maintenance charges paid for the hi-tech sophisticated operation theater and diagnostic equipment. **FE**

'Co-working operators leased 10.8 mn sq ft area last year'

In 2019, co-working operators leased 10.8 million square feet (sq ft) area, up 26 per cent from the previous year, CBRE said in its report 'India Flexible Space Digest – 2019'

Over 50%: SHARE OF FLEXIBLE SPACE LEASING ACCOUNTED FOR BENGALURU AND HYDERABAD WITHIN TOTAL SPACE LEASED IN 2019

60%: RISE IN OVERALL STOCK IN FLEXIBLE SPACE MARKET, FROM ABOUT 19 MILLION SQ FT IN 2018 TO TOUCH 30 MILLION SQ FT IN 2019

DISTRIBUTION OF FLEXIBLE SPACE LEASING IN 2019:
- Hybrid spaces and managed space: 77%
- Co-working and business centres: 23%

$140 million: Increased flow of funding into the co-working segment last year, which was provided by angel investors/private equity funds/debt funds

"... corporates are beginning to explore various workplace solutions which could result in capex reduction and increased agility of their RE portfolio,"

ANSHUMAN MAGAZINE
CHAIRMAN AND CEO—INDIA, SOUTH EAST ASIA, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA, CBRE

10-12 million sq ft: *Expected area that could be leased this year, riding on sustained demand for flexible workspace, rising from about 14 per cent in 2019 to 16-20 per cent in 2020*

40 million+ sq ft: *Anticipated overall stock of flexible space anticipated by end of 2020, with demand remaining steady*

Source: CBRE

U.P. State Road Transport Corporation, Head Quarter
Parivahan Bhawan, Tehri Kothi, Lucknow - 226001
EPABX: 2622363, 2628461, 2225439, 2611107 Fax: 0522- 2274526, 2628841, 2274578
E-Mail: gmmmt.upsrtc09@gmail.com or gmmmt@upsrtc.com
No.: 168GM(MMT)/2020-1093MT/2020 Dated : March 04 2020
e-TENDER NOTICE
U.P.S.R.T.C. is inviting E-tenders from only eligible sources (Eligibility for participating in tender is given in each respective tender document) for following groups of items:-

Sl.	Name of Items	Availability & e-Submission of e-Tender on e-portal	Pre Bid Conference	Downloading of e-Tender document
1	Supply, Installation and Commisioning of (1) CCTV Camera with GPS System with CMC (One in Front & One in Rear of Each Bus) (2) Sleep Alert Systems (Without Accelator Cut off system with CMC (3) Collision Warning System with CMC	05-03-2020 to 03.04.2020 At 15.00 pm	16-03-2020 At 12.00 Hrs	03-04-2020 at 16.00 PM
2	Coolant For Tata and Leyland Buses (100% Concentrated) and Diesel Exhaust Fuel (DEF) for BS-4 Tata	05-03-2020 to 25-03-2020 At 15.00 PM		25-03-2020 at 16.00 PM
3	Tata and Leyland Axlee Group of Items			

All e-tenders of UPSRTC shall be available on the website of Govt. e-portal etender.up.nic.in Detailed Bill of quantity, Eligibility for participating in tender, Other terms and conditions of the tender and calendar/timing of the tender may be seen on Govt. e-portal etender.up.nic.in
Please do visit etender.up.nic.in from time to time before last date of submission of tender for any possible amendment/ corrigendum/ addendum. Any amendment/ corrigendum/ addendum only published in e-portal of etender.up.nic.in.
For any query/clarification regarding submission of e-tender vendors may call on following helpline numbers of NIC:- (1)- 0522-2286809/808 (2)- 0522-4130303/2298813 (3)- 09935149327
ADDITIONAL MANAGING DIRECTOR

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office, Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project, Satyam Complex, Marble Market, Greater Kailash, P.O. Sainik Colony, Jammu -180011, Jammu & Kashmir, Tel: +91 - 191 - 2484778
OPEN e-TENDER
Tender Notice No.: KR/PD/JK/EL/T-1/2020 Dtd.: 29.02.2020
Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. invites "Open e-Tender" in "Two Packet System" from experienced contractors for "Provision of E&M system which includes supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 33 KV and 11 KV HT power cable network, GIS substation, DG sets, Tunnel ventilation system, Tunnel Lighting, SCADA System and fire-fighting system etc. for tunnel T-3 & T-5 between Km 39 to 52 on on Katra - Dharam section of Udhampur -Srinagar- Baramulla Rail Link Project".
Approx. Cost of the Work: Rs. 389.69 Cr., Earnest Money: Rs. 1,00,00,000/-, Completion Period of Contract: 18 Months. Submission of Tender: - 31.03.2020 up to 15.00 hrs. Opening of Tender: 31.03.2020 @ 15.30 hrs. Cost of Tender Form: Rs. 29,500/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred only) to be submitted through online payment modes available on IREPS portal only.
For further details and updates please visit https://www.ireps.gov.in
Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the above website only.

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (E-TENDERING PROCESS)

Sl. No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	SE/Transmission-IV	T-2141	1
2	SE/Transmission-III	T-2139, T-2140, T-2142	3

For details of works/Procurement/Due date of submission/opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tantransco.gov.in , www.tenders.tn.gov.in , https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR/1178/Tender/2020

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF HARYANA
Mahondergarh - 123031 (Haryana)
Tender Notice
Tenders (Technical + Financial) in separate sealed envelopes are invited for the procurement of following equipments for setting of Central Instrumentation Centre at Central University of Haryana:
1. Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)
2. Scanning Probe Microscope (SPM)
The tenders should reach the undersigned by March 14, 2020 (till 2:00 PM). For more information and updates please visit www.cuh.ac.in.
Registrar

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department
Notice Inviting Tenders for supply of Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC) 43 Grade for the year 2019-20
1. For full details, visit www.tntenders.gov.in
2. e-Bids are invited by the Project Director, DRDA of all Districts of Tamil Nadu state under two cover system, for supply of (OPC) 43 grade Cement for the year 2019-20.
3. The bid documents can be downloaded free of cost from www.tntenders.gov.in from 9.3.2020 to 24.3.2020.
4. Common date and time for downloading of Bid document, submission and opening:
(i) Last Date and Time for downloading and Online Submission of Bid Documents : 24.3.2020 Upto 3.00 PM
(ii) Date and Time of online opening of Bid Documents : 24.3.2020, 4.00 PM onwards
DIRECTOR, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.
DIPR/1192/TENDER/2020

Hindustan Zinc divestment: SC asks if CBI can share report with petitioners

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday asked the Centre to inform whether a copy of the closure report filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation, which probed the disinvestment of PSU Hindustan Zinc Ltd, can be shared with the petitioners who had challenged the divestment process. A bench of Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices BR Gavai and Surya Kant asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to appraise it by March 6. Appearing for the petitioner National Confederation of Officers Association of Central Public Sector Enterprises, advocate Prashant Bhushan said that the SC had in the case of proposed disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL held that government cannot offload its stake in such a matter that its share goes below 51 per cent. He added that knowing this well, the government had still gone ahead and divested Hindustan Zinc in 2014. Appearing for the Centre, SG Mehta said the company was already disinvested in 2002 and government share brought down to 49 percent. **ENS**

India plagued with slowing economy, lack of finance: Blackstone chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, MARCH 4

INDIA IS plagued with a slowing economy and lack of finance currently, Blackstone's chairman Stephen Schwarzman said, hinting that the global private equity major may be interested in distressed asset play in the country.

Speaking to reporters at the IIT-Bombay, he also said the country is lacking the robustness in financial institutions. Blackstone has been present in India since 2006 and has invested $15 billion in the country, including private equity play in enterprises and also bets on realty. Schwarzman, who is also the chief executive and co-founder of Blackstone, said his company is "bullish" on India, but from a long term perspective.

To a question on distressed asset investing, which a lot of its global peers have entered into, he said, "issues with india are more about slowing economic growth and limited credit extension by the banking system and neobanks and that should create more need for owners of companies to look for other sources of liquidity."

Stephen Schwarzman (left) with Infosys chairman Nandan Nilekani in Mumbai, on Wednesday. *PTI*

"For us, if there is something very attractive here, we've a lot of long term confidence in india. So, we will be very active buyers or lenders in this market," he added. The company has a dry powder of $150 billion of committed money yet to find takers globally which makes it the best placed to take care of such requirements, he said.

The financial system in a country is akin to the heart in the human body and if financial institutions in a country aren't in a great shape, it can impact countries in a broader sense, he said during a chat with Infosys chairman Nandan Nilekani earlier.

'Cryptocurrency sector can now work with regulated entities'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 4

THE INTERNET and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), which represents the cryptocurrency exchanges in India, said it is looking forward to working jointly with the Reserve Bank of India and the government on a constructive policy framework for cryptocurrencies to support innovation along with suitable measures to keep the risk under control.

Welcoming the Supreme Court's judgment on allowing cryptocurrency exchanges to use banking facilities, IAMAI said the development comes as a major relief for the cryptocurrency sector as the exchanges can now work with regulated entities for facilitating banking transactions.

Nischal Shetty, founder & chief executive officer, WazirX and member of Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Committee of IAMAI, said, "This positive judgement will open doors to massive crypto adoption in India. It proves we can now innovate, and the entire country can participate in the blockchain revolution."

RURAL CREDIT

Losing business

Farmers in Maharashtra are increasingly favouring commercial banks over cooperatives that are unable to compete in service quality and technology

PARTHASARATHI BISWAS
SANGLI (MAHARASHTRA), MARCH 4

ASHOK RAGHUNATH Patil has, for almost a decade now, stopped taking any '*peek karj*' (seasonal agricultural operation loans) from the Bhimrao Anna Multipurpose Cooperative Society that's right in his village. Instead, he has been borrowing — to finance cultivation of sugarcane on four acres and seasonal vegetables such as tomato and cucumber on the remaining four of his eight-acre holding at Kameri village in Sangli district's Walva taluka — from the Bank of Maharashtra. This is despite the public sector commercial bank having its branch at Islampur town, which is about 5 km from his village.

"I prefer going there. The officers and staff are more professional than the people in the society here," states Patil, who has been dealing with Bank of Maharashtra since 2011. The bank advances him working capital ("scale of finance") at the rate of Rs 40,000-45,000 per acre for his sugarcane crop. This loan, extended 1-2 months before plantings (which happen in June-July for the 18-month *adsali* and November-December for the 14-month pre-seasonal crop) and repayable over one year, attracts an annual interest of 7%.

Back in 2011, Patil was the only one in Kameri, who chose to bypass the local credit society, through which the Sangli District Central Cooperative Bank (DCCB) disburses crop loans, in favour of a scheduled commercial bank. "But today, many of my relatives and friends within the village have moved to the Bank of Maharashtra," says the 60-year-old, who has also availed a Rs 3 lakh seven-year loan at 12% interest from the same bank to install a drip irrigation system for his sugarcane fields.

Patil represents a growing number of farmers in Maharashtra who no longer rely on the cooperatives, which have traditionally dominated the state's rural lending landscape (especially for crop credit), for fulfilling their financial needs.

Aggressive penetration, better customer service and deployment of technologies such as mobile app by commercial banks — both public sector and private — have led to their gaining market share at the expense of cooperatives. The relative absence of politics — sanctioning of loans not being a function of proximity to directors in the DCCB/credit society board — is an additional factor cited by farmers for choosing commercial banks.

Evidence for the above migration can be seen from the accompanying table. In 2014-15, cooperative banks accounted for Rs 15,817 crore or 28.3% of the total agricultural credit disbursed in Maharashtra. By 2018-19, their lending had fallen both in absolute as well as relative terms to Rs 12,073 crore and 17.8%, respectively. One reason for that was the increased share of term loans (from Rs 21,860 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 36,677 crore in 2018-19) in the total agricultural credit (Rs 55,961 crore and Rs 67,914 crore, respectively for these two years). Commercial banks have practically taken over the term-lending segment.

Before any new crop season, farmers take loans from cooperatives, commercial banks and regional rural banks (RRB) to finance their input (seed, fertilisers and pesticides), labour, irrigation and energy requirements. The normal interest rate on such '*peek karj*' is 7%. In case of timely repayment, farmers are entitled to an interest subvention of 3% from the Centre and 2% from the state government. That makes the effective interest rate at just 2%.

Commercial banks require farmers to provide their '7/12' land revenue extracts and have two guarantors each time that they apply for a crop loan. If the loan is for cane cultivation, they have to additionally furnish a copy of the agreement signed with the sugar mill for offtake of the crop. The DCCBs, on the other hand, deal not with individual farmers, but village-level societies (such as the Bhimrao Anna multipurpose cooperative) that draw up the necessary agreements with mills and arrange for guarantors on behalf of their members.

"With commercial banks, I can approach them directly and they will pass the loan application if my papers are right. With cooperatives, you have to be in the right camp and they also take their own time to process the application," claims Patil. Maharashtra has 21,102 primary agricultural cooperative societies affiliated to 31 DCCBs. The directors on their boards are elected from its members, which also makes these bodies vulnerable to political headwinds.

Latest data from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development reveals that commercial banks currently have 2,761 rural branches in Maharashtra, which is higher than the 2,761 of DCCBs and 444 of RRBs. Even among the 31 DCCBs, only 8-10 are believed to be financially strong to sustain credit growth.

"The ones that are still alive are struggling to remain relevant as commercial banks are looking to increase their physical presence and offering better services. And rural banking is not just limiting yourself to agriculture," points out a cooperative bank official based in Pune.

Take the relatively better-performing Sangli DCCB. In 2018-19, it made crop loan disbursements of Rs 1,304.95 crore, as against Rs 1,022.43 crore the previous fiscal. However, Mansing Patil, general manager (banking and loans), is visibly worried. "Yes, there is year-on-year growth, but our customer base isn't increasing. The younger rural folk are turn to commercial banks that provide better technology-based solutions," he admits.

Between 2016-17 and 2018-19, the DCCB has seen the number of loanee farmers attached to its 4,133 village societies shrink from 1.66 lakh to 1.43 lakh. The 92-year-old bank is at present facing problems due to four out of the region's 17 sugar mills defaulting on loans given by it. "We are keen to introduce mobile banking, but the Reserve Bank of India has not granted permission because of our high non-performing assets, which touched 11.83% (of gross advances) at the end of 2018-19," he adds.

Over-dependence on crop loans and lending to agri-based industries is another issue. The Islampur-headquartered Rajarambapu Sahakari Bank operates 33 branches that are largely in the peri-urban and rural areas of Sangli, Kolhapur, Satara, Pune and Solapur districts. This cooperative bank lends to farmers as well as micro, small and medium enterprises in these areas. According to its managing director Rajaram Jakhale, over 51% of the bank's Rs 1,489.80 crore loans disbursed last fiscal was for housing, MSMEs, vineyards, drip irrigation and other long-term agricultural investments. "But we cannot easily compete with commercial banks. They have access to much cheaper funds and are offering home loans at 8-8.5%, whereas we can give only at 9.5%," he notes.

For the farmer, whose loan needs now go beyond agriculture, the choice is clear. Pravin Patil, 40, owns eight acres at Bahe village in Sangli's Walva talika, on which he grows sugarcane in four and soyabean and groundnut in the rest. "I go to the cooperative society only to avail crop loan. But for other needs, I prefer either Union Bank of India or the Bank of Maharashtra," he declares. And he doesn't mind going the extra distance to Islampur.

Farmers throng a cooperative bank branch in Maharashtra. *Arul Horizon*

TOTAL AGRICULTURE CREDIT: MAHARASHTRA

Year	Commercial Banks	Cooperatives	RRBs	Total
2014-15	38,343	15,817	1,801	55,961
2015-16	43,668	27,059	2,138	72,865
2016-17	66,185	28,222	2,371	96,778
2017-18	38,124	11,873	1,016	51,013
2018-19	53,878	12,073	1,963	67,914

Amount in Rs Crore *Source: NABARD State Focus Paper for Maharashtra 2020-21*

Throwing cold water on the farm party

The spread of coronavirus is happening just when a bumper rabi harvest awaits farmers and prices, too, were until recently looking up

HARISH DAMODARAN

THE GLOBAL spread of the coronavirus outbreak couldn't have come at a worse time for Indian farmers — just when they are set to harvest a bumper rabi crop on the back of higher plantings enabled by the wettest monsoon in 25 years and extended heavy rains till early-November.

Rising COVID-19 infection cases, including in India, has acted as a sentiment dampener ahead of the marketing season for major rabi crops, whose *mandi* arrivals will pick up after Holi on March 10.

The Agriculture Ministry has estimated a 9.5% jump in the total acreage under rabi field crops — especially wheat, rapeseed-mustard, *chana* (chickpea), *masur* (red lentil), *matar* (field pea) and maize — this time compared to in 2018-19. March is also the harvesting/marketing period for the main rabi onion, potato and garlic crops, apart from red chilli and seed spices such as *jeera* (cumin seed), *dhaniya* (coriander) and *saunf* (fennel).

For farmers, the price outlook was generally bullish till around mid-January. Mustard in Rajasthan's Alwar *mandi* was quoting at an average of Rs 4,150 per quintal, as against Rs 3,800 a year ago. But the oilseed is currently trading at Rs 3,600-3,700, way below the government's minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 4,425. *Chana* prices at Latur in Maharashtra have, likewise, plunged to Rs 3,650 per quintal, when its MSP is at Rs 4,875.

The link with the coronavirus is obvious in the case of mustard. Crude palm oil prices in Malaysia had started this calendar year at 3,130 ringgits ($ 765 per tonne), with global stocks that were projected to drop to their lowest since 2009-10. But as reports of the novel virus epidemic in China gathered momentum from mid-January, prices crashed to sub-2,500 ringgits ($ 600) by end-February. Lower palm prices have, in turn, pulled down the rates for soyabean and other oilseeds, including mustard.

But it isn't vegetable oil alone. As the accompanying table shows, international prices of almost every agri-commodity have registered declines after mid-January, with rice and coffee being notable exceptions. Significantly, the current levels are still higher than a year ago in most commodities, barring soyabean, cotton and rubber. It reflects fundamental global supply tightness, also manifested in the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation's Food Price Index in January touching its highest since December 2014.

That situation has, of course, reversed subsequently. Commodity markets have been singed no less than equities by COVID-19's rapid worldwide spread and reduced Chinese buying of everything, from palm oil and cotton to milk powder and meat.

For farmers, this isn't good news. Red chilli prices at Andhra Pradesh's Guntur Mirchi Yard had ruled at Rs 13,000-19,000 per quintal before mid-January, even briefly scaling a record Rs 22,000 for the premium high-pungency "Teja" variety grades. Those have now eased to Rs 10,000-15,000, with expectations of a further fall due to shipments to China coming to a standstill. A bumper crop, in combination with Chinese imports not taking place, has led to *jeera* prices at Gujarat's Unjha market hovering around Rs 13,350 per quintal, down from Rs 15,750 last year at this time.

After a poor kharif crop — impacted both by the monsoon's delayed onset and unseasonal rains during maturity stage — Indian farmers are well set to reap a bountiful harvest. And with both global and domestic prices recovering after a prolonged bear phase, rural incomes till recently seemed on the cusp of a turnaround. Sadly, it looks that the coronavirus has upended those hopes. Even if China were to resume buying — inevitable at some point — that may happen only after the farmer has sold.

INTERNATIONAL AGRI-COMMODITY PRICES

COMMODITY	UNIT	CURRENT	YEAR AGO	MID-JAN
Wheat	Cents/bushel	527.25	455.50	573.25
Corn	Cents/bushel	381.25	374.75	387.50
Rice	US $/tonne	471.00	406.00	450.00
Soyabean	Cents/bushel	903.50	916.00	928.75
Crude palm oil	Ringgit/tonne	2495.00	2150.00	2945.00
Raw sugar	Cents/pound	13.76	12.36	14.52
Cocoa	US $/tonne	2653.00	2156.00	2689.00
Coffee	Cents/pound	122.20	97.35	114.30
Skim Milk Powder	US $/tonne	2747.00	2462.00	3036.00
Cotton	Cents/pound	72.40	81.00	80.20
Rubber	US $/100kg	159.28	172.50	164.89

Note: Wheat, corn and soyabean prices refer to the most actively-traded futures contracts at the Chicago Board of Trade. Raw sugar, cocoa and coffee prices are for the most actively-traded futures at the Intercontinental Exchange. Skim Milk Powder price is the average for the fortnightly Global Dairy Trade auctions. Crude palm oil price is for the most actively-traded futures at the Bursa Malaysia exchange. Rice prices are export quotes for Thai white grain with 5% broken content. Rubber price is for RSS-4 grade at Bangkok. Cotton price is the average based on the Cotlook 'A' index.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Don't allow it to be cowed down

Almost half of India's milk, with higher solids, comes from buffaloes. Yet, this low-maintenance and efficient feed-converting animal finds little place in our dairy and livestock policy

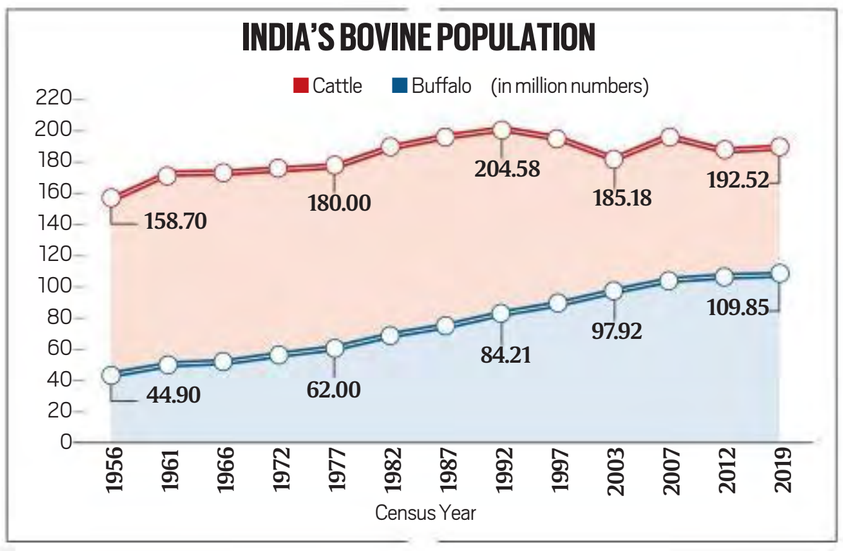
TARUN SHRIDHAR & SHARAD GUPTA

ITALY HAS just four lakh buffaloes, which it guards as a precious national resource. Mozzarella cheese, indispensable to pizza, owes its origins to milk from the Italian water buffalo. Buffalo mozzarella from Southern Italy's Campania region enjoys both geographical indication/designation of origin and trademark protection as "Mozzarella Di Bufala Campania".

India, by contrast, has 109.85 million buffaloes, as per the latest Livestock Census for 2019. Moreover, as the accompanying chart shows, the country's buffalo population has been rising, even while cattle numbers have fallen during the last three decades. In 2018-19, buffaloes contributed to 91.82 million tonnes (mt) or 48.9% of our estimated total milk production of 187.75 mt — more than the 51.26 mt from crossbred/exotic cows and 38.57 mt from indigenous/nondescript cattle. India also houses over 56% of the world's buffalo stock.

Yet, for some unexplained reasons, we have relegated the buffalo to the margins of livestock policy and governance. Till 1999, Codex Alimentarius — the international standards, guidelines and codes of practices relating to food safety and quality — mandated separate labeling for milk that was from a genus or species other than cow (*Bos Taurus*), thereby automatically excluding the buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*). The stakes for India being very high, a definition proposed by us got adopted after much discussion under Codex Standard 206-1999. Milk now included "the normal mammary secretion of [all] milking animals" and these covered cows and buffaloes as well as goats and sheep. Interestingly, the US Department of Agriculture, even today, takes into account only "cow milk" in its world dairy markets and trade reports!

While ignorance in western nations, deliberate or otherwise, is understandable, it is surprising to see the buffalo being accorded very little space in any serious public discourse on dairying even within India. This is all the more striking when the bulk of pouched milk sold here is a mix of both cow and buffalo milk. Also, our own traditional standards for milk, including the procurement price paid to farmers, have been determined by the percentage of fat. Buffalo milk contains higher fat (6.5-7%) as well as solids-not-fat (9-9.7%) content than the corresponding 3-3.5% and 8.3-8.8% levels for cow milk.



One reason for the cow's elevated status even in India may have to do with religious and cultural beliefs, although it holds no distinct advantage over the buffalo in pure dairy economics terms. If anything, the spiritual halo around the cow imposes restrictions on harnessing its full economic potential. While there are those who propagate the virtues of cow milk, scientific evidence does not testify to any significant difference in its nutritive value and digestibility over the milk of buffaloes. The health-conscious urban consumer should actually find solace in the cholesterol content of buffalo milk being lower than in cow milk. This does not in any way establish the superiority of one over the other; it's simply to reassure that buffalo is as good a source of milk as cow. Being indigenous to our land, it raises no ideological hackles of *desi* versus *videshi* either. We are, indeed, twice blessed to have both buffaloes and cows in abundant numbers and contributing almost equally to our becoming the world's largest milk producer.

For the dairy farmer, the buffalo is a relatively low-maintenance animal, not too finicky about the quality or taste of its food. It can survive on coarse fodder and crop residues, while having a very efficient conversion capacity. That makes the buffalo an ideal choice for small farmers, who would struggle to rear exotic or even crossbred cows that demand high-cost feed. Further, it is an asset amenable to being sold on an as-is-where-is basis, even beyond its productive milking life. There's no religious, cultural or social taboo on slaughter of buffaloes. During 2018-19 alone, 1.24 mt of buffalo meat valued at Rs 25,168.31 crore got exported from India. No wonder, stray buffaloes are an unknown phenomenon. This is unlike stray cattle that numbered over five million in the 2019 Census. With farm mechanisation and artificial insemination also undermining the cow's utility as the mother of work bullocks and breeding bulls, the buffalo is a hands-down winner for the average farmer.

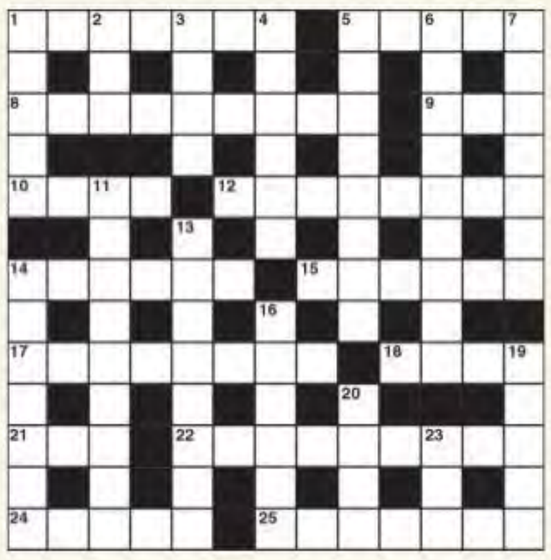
Given the farmer's growing preference for rearing buffaloes, the urban consumer would do well not to be swayed by the marketing hype over "A2" milk from cows or the mystical qualities attached to milk from specific *desi* breeds. At the end of the day, milk is milk and its composition essentially identical across animals. The milk from cow and buffalo have got adapted for human consumption, as these were the earliest animals that were domesticated for dairying and bred over time to produce higher volumes. Strictly speaking, it is milk from equines that is the closest to human milk — low in protein and fat, rich in lactose. But not many have ventured into marketing of donkey milk — or achieved commercial success at any rate. There's not much to choose between the milk of different animals, whose principal constituent is water ranging between about 83% and 91%. Ultimately, it all boils down to acquired tastes and individual preferences.

For dairies, buffalo milk is decidedly superior to cow milk in terms of having more solids content, which means transporting less water. All dairy products from cow milk can be made from buffalo milk, with the same standards and quality. Yield of products from every litre processed, too, is higher — be it ghee, butter, skimmed milk powder, condensed milk or *paneer*. The cheese obtained from buffalo milk has better chewing and stringing properties, while its yoghurt is thicker and ghee/butter have better texture. Cow milk may be suitable for traditional soft products and sweets such as *chhanna, sandesh, rasogolla* and *chumchum*, but it does not hold any great comparative advantage. On the other hand, the higher fat content in buffalo milk, which can always be toned down, endows it greater versatility; the higher calories per unit weight would fit the requirement of the athlete or wrestler, while its extra calcium and minerals makes children healthier.

Gentle, docile, unwieldy and a not-so-holy creature it might be. But for the farmer, it is an invaluable asset that yields a return even after ceasing to give milk. For the dairy entrepreneur, it offers immense possibilities of value addition through a plethora of products. For the consumer, there can be nothing better than buffalo milk and the heavenly aroma from its *malai* — the creamy layer that thickens further upon boiling and storing.

Shridhar is former Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India; Gupta is Editor-Publisher, Dairy India Yearbook, New Delhi

CROSSWORD 4058



ACROSS

1 Unusual way to display anger (7)
5 Selects tools (5)
8 Page one is all about spying (9)
9 She spends her life in an unworldly environment (3)
10 About to circle at speed (4)
12 Possibly made sure it's regular in movement (8)
14 Stable form of electricity (6)
15 For a doctor to live wildly is absurd (6)
17 It returns before five in a city business (8)
18 Uneven chances? (4)
21 Having nothing we must be in the red (3)
22 Extra money for a barrister is invigorating (9)
24 Thought a great many were employed (5)
25 Noble dignity of properly-treated old mare (7)

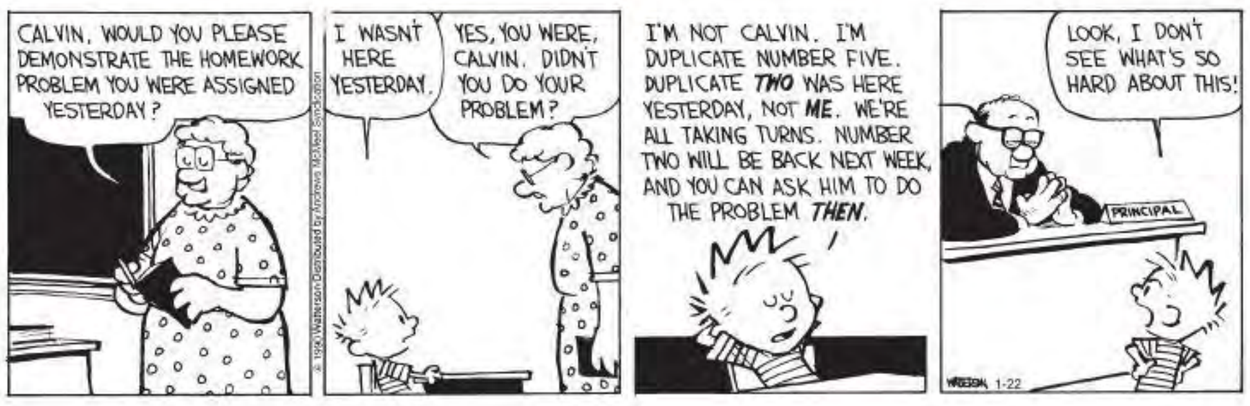
DOWN

1 Black mark for a slanderous attack (5)
2 Epitaph to cause a tear (3)
3 Refusal to start on time (4)
4 Overcoat for which a quarter specify a figure (6)
5 A request certain to give satisfaction (8)
6 Managed to be somewhat unnatural (9)
7 Lady's admitted on rising of church council (7)
11 Possibly it arrests one guilty of treason (9)
13 Erroneously delivers a description of mirrors (8)
14 Space for some oar movement (3,4)
16 Choke is left out (6)
19 It's in our blood (5)
20 A rent or rate adjustment (4)
23 Caught in the shade (3)

Solutions Crossword 4057: Across: 1 Tailored, 5 Stop, 9 Ensue, 10 Tenants, 11 Gamesmanship, 13 On tape, 14 Head-on, 17 Rediscovered, 20 General, 21 Tokyo, 22 Tool, 23 Prudence. **Down:** 1 Tied, 2 Instant, 3 Overexposure, 4 Entomb, 6 Tench, 7 Postpone, 8 Uninterested, 12 Not right, 15 Doeskin, 16 Cooler, 18 Dingo, 19 Love.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Once you're past the present period you'll see that home and family life have indeed been strengthened immeasurably. A word for those in the property market: strange as it may seem, current difficulties are working in your favour. As someone once said, there's no gain without pain.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Venus is still offering you its blessings, but while this planet normally brings love without strings, right now it indicates that relationships are nothing without responsibility and commitment. You're still in a secretive mood, but that's only to be expected.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
The best friendships are likely to be formed with people who are older or wiser than you. Certainly, you'll value age and experience and you may be attracted to people you work with, or with whom you share common activities. One other thing: make sure that all social engagements are firmed up.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
As the next lunar alignment approaches, partners, loved ones and offspring all seem to want your undivided attention. You must do what you can to protect your territory and preserve your personal space. If you're called on to do extra work, then go ahead, but make sure that every extra atom of effort counts.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Solar and lunar influences over the next twenty-four hours may lead you to new conclusions. Even though there's a chance you may feel briefly undermined, the outcome will be positive if it forces you to think again. You'll get it right next time around, all with the benefit of hindsight.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Your talents are many and have often been underestimated. Politically-minded Virgos will be coming into their own. Even those of you who have never regarded yourselves as political creatures will be moving inexorably towards involvement in the community.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
You probably won't notice any change today, but the opposition is now beginning to crumble both at home and at work and not before time. Arguments which have been used to deny you your rights will dissolve under the steady drip of the waters of Libran truth.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
There are certain ties and associations which must now be handled with great tact, not to mention sympathy and understanding. Fortunately, there is nobody better than a Scorpio at dealing with such delicate tasks. Hopefully partners will recognise this.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
Making choices is a Sagittarian speciality, but the decisions that are looming now concern more than the everyday details of daily life. In a sense, it is your entire lifestyle which must shift, but just how and when may not be revealed for another two months.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Given that a special but little-known celestial point, the Moon's north node, is hovering in helpful regions of your chart, you can be confident that whatever the daily ups and downs, your financial situation is still moving from loss to profit.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Most of the conflicts in your solar chart at the moment relate to your inner feelings of insecurity. The trouble is that while the astrological causes are so simple, the remedy may require a great deal of self-knowledge and discipline. So, stop for a while and think.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Listen carefully to what relatives or colleagues have to say. You see, it's your Piscean intuitions that help you understand the problem and offer the best advice. This is a fine day for taking financial decisions, but only if you're into long-term benefits.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

To get to heaven we must_____. - Henry Drummond (4,2,4,2)

VWAEI

FWIST

HIOTTU

AERHKW

SOLUTION: WAVE, SWIFT, OUTHIT, HAWKER
Answer: To get to heaven we must **take it with us**. - Henry Drummond

SUDOKU 4140

Difficulty Level 3s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

6						8		3
	7				5	2		
		2		3			1	5
				2				
2		8	5		3	6		9
				9				
8	1			4		3		
		4	8				6	
7		9						8

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4139

4	8	6	2	5	1	3	9	7
7	5	3	9	8	4	2	1	6
1	2	9	7	6	3	8	4	5
2	9	7	1	4	6	5	8	3
5	3	4	8	2	9	7	6	1
6	1	8	3	7	5	9	2	4
9	6	2	5	1	7	4	3	8
3	4	5	6	9	8	1	7	2
8	7	1	4	3	2	6	5	9

NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY — EVENTS, HONOURS

TOURNAMENT-DMRC

Recently, DMRC, inassociation with Football Delhi, organised its first Football Tournament at New Delhi. Six teams from different departments contested under the titles of all Directors of DMRC. The OUFC team won the tournament.

AWARD-BHEL

BHEL has beenadjudged as the Best PSE in HR Excellence & Reskilling of Employees;Research & Innovation; & Geo-strategic Reach for the Governance Now PSUAwards 2020. The awards were received by Anil Kapoor, Dir. (HR), BHEL.

AWARD-PFC

PK Singh, Dir. (Commercial), PFC, recentlyreceived "Change Maestro and Institution Builder of the Year" Award at IACAwards ceremony organized at the 4th edition of "Industry Academia Conference" (IAC2020).

PROGRAMME-DoPPW

DoPPW conducted a Pension Adalat & NPS Awareness & Grievance Redressal Programme at Jammu in the presence of the MoS (PP), the Secy. (Pension & Pensioners'Welfare), the Joint Secy. (Pension &Pensioners'Welfare) and others.

MoU-CONCOR

CONCOR and Joint Stock Company, RussianRailways Logistics, have executed a MoU for cooperation and collaboration inintermodal transportation of cargo over the INSTC, to pave way for a seamlesscargo movement leading to greater economic movement. Pursuant to this MoU, both the organizations have signed the ServiceAgreement at New Delhi. This Service Agreement gives the broaderresponsibilities for transporting the cargo from India to Russia and vice-versaunder a single invoice. This seamless transportation of containerized cargowill benefit both exporters and importers in India and Russia. It will alsofacilitate reduction in transit time and cost of transportation compared to theexisting transportation via Suez Canal.

AWARD- NBCC

NBCC has won "Digital PSU Award" conferred upon it by the-Governance Now at its 7th PSU Award Event held recently. RK Srivastav, GM(Admn.) and others received the award.

REVIEW-GAIL

GAIL Dir. (Fin.) AK Tiwari recently reviewed project progress of the 'Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga'pipeline project. 23 Analysts & Investors visited various sites of JHBDPLproject to review the progress of the project.

APPOINTMENTS

EIL Shubha N. Bhambhani has assumed charge as Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) at EIL. She is an Indian Telecom Services (ITS) officer of 1987 batch. Beforejoining EIL as CVO, she was serving as Principal General Manager in BSNLCorporate office, New Delhi.

EIL Ashok Kumar Kalra has recently assumed charge as Director (HR) of EIL. He has more than 21yrs of overall experience in Projects/ Construction. He has been associated with HR Directorate since 2007 & has a wide spectrum of experiencein various facets of HR functions. Prior to this, he was holding the position of Executive Director (HR) in EIL.

IRCTC – the travel, tourism and hospitality arm ofMinistry of Railways – has added 'Golden Chariot' to its fleet. The Golden Chariot train was taken over by IRCTC for operation, management and marketing through a recently executed agreement between IRCTC and KSTDC. The Golden Chariot is again going to hit thetracks in a new look and feel on an exciting week-long itinerary.

GAIL Recently, GAIL organized a roadshow at Ranchi forpromoting Compressed Bio-Gas amongst potential entrepreneurs & other stakeholders in the CBG value chain. The roadshow was graced V. Sharma, Dir., (Gas Processing), MoP&NG, & M. Kumar, Municipal Commissioner, Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC).

NMCG A MoU was signed at New Delhi between the NMCG, SPMG-UKand Indorama Charitable Trust (ICT) to work together for renovation/development of the Ghat at Badrinath and Ghats and Crematoria at Gangotri inUttarakhand at a total cost of 26.64 Cr. The MoU was signed by AK Singh, ED, NMCG;Rajeev Kshetrapal, Dir., Indorama Industries, Delhi and Trust Member ofIndorama Charitable Trust and UR Singh, Project Director, SPMG, Govt. ofUttarakhand, in the presence of GS Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti and other senior officers of the Ministry and NMCG.

EPCH Rakesh Kumar, DG – EPCH, while speaking on the issue of coronavirus also offered some innovative and bold suggestions around 'Namaste India' to attract overseas buyers towards Indian fairs and thereby to look at India as a compliant and safe hub. The idea behind weaving promotional campaign around 'Namaste India'is to give strong message to the world that it is safe for people from across the globe to come to India.

IRFC 2020-Embassy of Russia in India Under the patronage of Embassy of Russia in India, the 2-day Indo-RussianFriendship Celebration 2020 is being organized to commemorate the unique bonhomie of Russia & India as the two nations showcase their arts, culture, cuisines, music, dance, folk styles, literature & sharedhistory at IGNCA New Delhi on 7-8 March 2020.

केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला, नगर निगम, प्रयागराज।
अल्पकालिक निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम प्रयागराज के सचल शौचालयों की मरम्मत हेतु दिनांक-13.03.2020 को मुहर बंद सील निविदाएं आमन्त्रित की जाती है। प्राप्त निविदाओं को उसी दिन सायंकाल 4.00 बजे तक अध्यक्ष, निविदा समिति के कार्यालय में कक्ष में खोली जायेगी। निविदा खोलते समय निविदा उपस्थित रह सकते हैं। निविदा के साथ मांगी गयी जमानत धनराशि बैंकों में जारी सी.डी.आर./एफ.डी.आर./डी.डी. के रूप में संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा, जो प्रभारी अधिकारी, कर्मशाला, नगर निगम, प्रयागराज के नाम प्लेज्ड होगा, बिना जमानत की धनराशि के निविदा अवैध मानी जायेगी। निविदा फॉर्म निविदा सूचना प्रकाशन की तिथि से निविदा तिथि के एक दिन पूर्व निविदा फॉर्म का निर्धारित मूल्य यूको बैंक, नगर निगम, प्रयागराज शाखा के ई-टेन्डरिंग सिक्यूरिटी के नाम से खाता सं.-06940110006498 में जमा करने के उपरान्त, जमा रसीद कार्यळय में दिखा कर प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। कार्य का विवरण किसी भी कार्यदिवस में अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय में देखे जा सकते हैं। निविदादाता निविदा खोलने के समय उपस्थित रह सकते हैं। निविदा खोलने की तिथि को किसी कारणवश अवकाश होने पर निविदा तिथि अगला कार्यदिवस मानी जायेगी। निविदा स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार नगर आयुक्त महोदय में निहित होगा। निविदाएं बिना कारण बताये अस्वीकार की जा सकती है।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	व्ययानुमान की धनराशि	निविदा फॉर्म का मूल्य + 5 प्रतिशत जीएसटी	जमानत की धनराशि	कार्य अवधि
1	नगर निगम प्रयागराज में उपलब्ध सचल शौचालयों की मरम्मत।	9,80,500.00	रु-1000.00 + 50.00 = रु-1050.00	98,050.00	15 दिन

शर्तें:-
1. निविदा के साथ निविदा शुल्क आर.टी.एस. के माध्यम से यूको बैंक नगर निगम, प्रयागराज में ई-टेन्डरिंग सिक्यूरिटी के नाम से खाता सं.-06940110006498 व IFC Code UCBA0000694 में जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा तथा 02 प्रतिशत जमानत की धनराशि एफ.डी.आर./सी.डी.आर. के रूप में भी मान्य होगा जो कि प्रभारी अधिकारी कर्मशाला के पक्ष में प्लेज्ड हो तथा निविदा शुल्क की रसीद की प्रति निविदा के साथ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा।
2. निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर धनराशि की मूल कॉपी निविदा के साथ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा।
3. निविदा स्वीकृत होने पर कुल स्वीकृत धनराशि का 10% जमानत की धनराशि एफ.डी.आर./सी.डी.आर. की मूल प्रति जमा करके रु-100.00 के स्टैम्प पेपर के साथ अनुबन्ध कराना होगा।
4. निविदा शर्तों के विरूद्ध निविदा डालने वाले ठेकेदार की जमानत धनराशि जब्त करते हुए काली सूची में दर्ज कर दिया जायेगा।
5. निविदादाता द्वारा किसी भी सरकारी/निकाय द्वारा ब्लैक लिस्टेड न होने का नोटरी प्रमाण-पत्र अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा।
6. सशर्त निविदा मान्य नहीं होगी।

हस्ता/-
अधिशासी अभियन्ता (वि./यां.)
नगर निगम, प्रयागराज।

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION ALLAPALLI
Website:-www.mahapwd.com E-mail-alapalli.eemahapwd.com
Fax & Phone No. 07133-266402

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 42 YEAR 2019-20

Online E-Tenders in "B-1" (Percentage Rate) forms are invited by Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Allapalli for the following works from bidders who satisfy the qualifying criteria. The tender documents should be downloaded from the Government Website https://pwd.maharashtra.etenders.in The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders. Conditional Tenders will not be accepted.

Sr. No.	Name of Works	Estimated Rate	EMD Amount	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5
2	Construction of Abutment and Approach Road for Bailey Bridge on Laheri-Hodri-Iashkar Road (VR.25) in Ch.2/700 Ta.Bhamragad Distt.Gadchiroli. (Fourth Call)	37504164.00	188000.00	Non Registered
1	E-Tender Download	As Per Online E-Tender Schedule		
2	Super Hash Generation	As Per Online E-Tender Schedule		
3	Control Transfer of Bid	As Per Online E-Tender Schedule		
4	E-Tender Opening	As Per Online E-Tender Schedule		

All information of e-tendering is available on the following websites / Notice Board
1. http://www.mahapwd.com 2. https://pwd.maharashtra.etenders.in
(If there is any changes in the notice, then the information will be communicated on the above websites)
3. Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Allapalli Office Notice Board.
4. For any correspondance contact & Address
Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Aheri Road, Allapalli
Ta. Aheri Dist. Gadchiroli-442703 (M.S.)

Note -
1. All eligible / interested bidders are required to be enrolled on portalhttps://pwd.maharashtra.etenders.in before downloading tender document and parbicipating in e-tendering process.
2. Bidders are requested to contact on following telephone numbers for any doubts / information / difficulty regarding online enrollment or obtaining digital certificate Help Desk Number - 020 -25316555 Email: support.gem@nextenders.com
3. Tender Document Fee and EMD is to be paid via Online E-Payment Gateway Mode Only. EMD Exemption Certificate shall not be considered. The information of E-Payment Gateway is available on E-Tendering website https://pwd.maharashtra.etenders.in
Out ward No. 452 /A.B./T.C./Tender Notice/2019 Date.25/02/2020
Office of the Executive Engineer
Public Works Division, Aheri Road Allapalli
Ta. Aheri Dist. Gadchiroli 442703 (M.S.)

डी.जी.आय.पी.आर.-२०१९-२०२०/५२८०

sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division, Allapalli.

BUILDING BLOCKS

Irish architects Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara have won the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize this year. The two have designed the UTEC Lima Campus in Peru, which is shaped like a cliff, and Urban Institute of Ireland in Dublin.

'The whole idea of borders is redundant'

Filmmaker Pushpendra Singh on *Laila Aur Satt Geet*, his new film that reflects the current times, setting it in Jammu & Kashmir, and how stories and spaces shape us

SHUBHRA GUPTA

PUSHPENDRA SINGH'S *Laila Aur Satt Geet* (*The Shepherdess and the Seven Songs*) tracks the ancient migratory ways of a nomadic tribe, to craft a stunningly lyrical, layered, sharply political and strikingly feminist work of art.

Singh's film, which premiered at the just-concluded Berlin International Film Festival, is a continuation of the filmmaker's exploration of the past and present, of mining new meaning in old myths, and how stories and spaces shape us. His previous work has shown at major festivals (*Lajwanti* was in Berlin in 2014 ; *Ashwatthama* premiered at Busan in 2017; *Maru Ro Moti* premiered at MAMI, Mumbai). This return to the Berlinale is a circling back to his happy place.

Set in the Jammu and Kashmir valley, *Laila Aur Satt Geet* draws inspiration from a 14th century mystic Kashmiri poetess called Lalleshwari, and a short story by Vijaydan Detha. A young shepherd's entrancement with the lovely Laila leads to marriage, but her beauty draws other men as moths to flame. The film deals with the consequent turmoil at several levels among the couple, the community, and the interlopers — the definition depends on which side you stand.

It works as the thing itself, a story of love and longing, irradiated by the terror and beauty of illicit and complicit desire. And a parable, speaking to the current happenings in the valley: the uneasy power structures we see at play between the security forces at the borders who demand 'identity papers' ('*kaagaz*') and the wandering herdsmen and women, are almost prescient of things to come.

On a rainy Berlin evening, Singh, 42, speaks about the making of the film, and what it means at a time when India is struggling with rising polarisation and communal discord. And offers a stab at resolution. Excerpts from the interview:

(From top) Stills from *Laila Aur Satt Geet*; Pushpendra Singh

What got you interested in telling this tale?

I have been fascinated with the migrations of the Bakarwal-Gujar community in Kashmir since childhood. Much later, I read a piece (in *The Indian Express*) about how cow protectors were impacting their journey, and I knew I had to set my film there. To make it contemporary, I turned the feudal lords (in the short story) into the security forces, one being from the police, the other the forest ranger, both of whom are attracted to Laila.

They (the tribespeople) speak a very interesting language, which is a good example of Indian diversity — a mix of Rajasthani, Punjabi, Dogri and Urdu. It is something we need to hear, especially now that there's so much talk about one *desh*, one language, and one culture.

That is why it (the film) is so political.

Yes, it's subversive, and very, very political in the way I have used the whole Kashmir situation. Laila for me represents Kashmir, and the forces— one is the Indian state, the other the Kashmiri side. And I've also used the way the Kashmiris exhibit the Stockholm syndrome, sometimes with the Indian state, sometimes with the separatists.

And that's why Laila keeps reaching out, and then contriving to back off.

Yeah, it's all about what's in play. The Indian state has one play, the state government has another play, then suddenly one day they remove (Article) 370, and the whole play collapses. It's a new game now. We have to be very afraid of these people, they are making things that looked impossible, possible.

It's quite interesting how the film resonates globally.

The first thing I ask myself when I begin writing is why do I want to make this film. I saw how migration is happening everywhere, Syria especially. That's why I brought it all in — the themes of migration, boundaries, states, nations, and identities.

And a very spiritual streak to bind it all?

Yes. Even in the 14th century, there was conflict. Kashmir was going through a lot. Buddhism had disappeared, Hinduism, especially Shaivism, was on the rise, Islam was coming. So were the Sufi orders. I thought of spiritualism as a solution for conflict everywhere, for today's Kashmir also.

When you say 'solution', what exactly does that mean?

I feel the whole idea of borders is redundant, and this whole idea of religion, especially radical, has to go away. If we promote spirituality and keep spiritual traditions alive, I think we can find peace. Within and among ourselves.

Doesn't that sound too idealistic, given our times?

I don't think so. We've always had spirituality in India. Look at the Sufi tradition, which came from Iran, but became ours. Look at the whole Kabir tradition, the Kabirpanthis... Where conflicts are intractable, spirituality will show the path.

The Sound of Home

New York-based guitarist Shubh Saran on finding his way through jazz, comparing notes with Indian classical music and returning to his roots

SUANSHU KHURANA

IF ONE has to go by the tightly-knit soundscape of New York-based jazz guitarist Shubh Saran's recent single *Becoming*, from his new eponymous EP, it is an example in recordings that sound instinctive and spontaneous. However, the rehearsals that go into it, in this case with Saran's seven-piece band, are rigorous and a tough grind. While modern jazz and Indian classical music have always been a more explicit part of Saran's music in the past, *Becoming* has him revisit the music that he grew up on — mostly punk rock, metal and rock of the new millennium — from bands such as Blink-182, Sum 41, and Green Day among others. "*Becoming* is about growth and embracing your past. I wanted to convey the idea that when you reach a stage where you are comfortable as a person and musician, many things are put away. In my case, it was the angsty punk rock stuff that I always had to bury away to make more 'serious' music. So I decided to embrace that instead of pushing it aside," says 28-year-old Saran (*pictured*) in a conversation from Goa, where he performed yesterday. While he will play at Piano Man Jazz Club, Gurgaon, today, he will be one of the highlights at 'Under the Banyan Tree' in Mehrauli, an evening of jazz music, on March 6. Other bands, who will play, include Bianca Gismonti trio from Brazil and popular American band Sungazer.

Saran, who went to Berklee in Boston to learn jazz, music theory and production, has in the last decade written music that has merged modern jazz with neo-soul, and rock with classical and contemporary Indian music. But *Becoming* has him create musical structures that were was an integral part of his life.

Born in Bangladesh and raised in India, Canada, America, Egypt and Switzerland, Saran moved around due to various postings of his parents, both of whom are employed by the Indian government in foreign services. So much travel brought with it new sights and sounds, which meant new musical influences from everywhere. "Being surrounded by people who are ethnically so different from you exposes you to so much music. No wonder I always gravitated towards fusing sounds. Mixing and creating this ambiguous, undefinable genre has always been exciting," he says.

Saran's first brush with music was through Bollywood of the '80s and '90s, not exactly the golden age of music, "but that allowed me to discover a lot of RD Burman and later SD Burman." "My mother has grown up on a lot of Beatles and Queen, so that made its appearance too," says Saran, who also began taking some interest in music when his brother began to learn the piano. He tinkered with it for a bit but picked up the guitar when he was 12. He taught himself by looking up tabs online and exchanging notes with friends. All this while listening to bands such as Shakti and Indian Ocean, apart from significant guitarists like John Mayer and Jimi Hendrix.

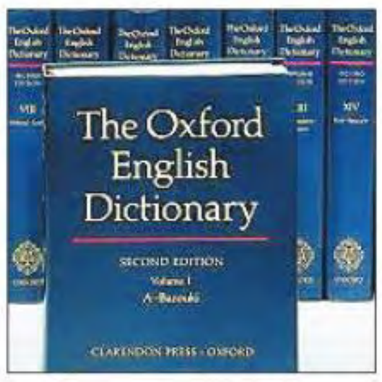
But what always stayed with him was the music of his roots. On his last visit to India in 2017, he collaborated with classical singer Saptak Chatterjee, Delhi-based fusion band Shadow and Light, rock outfit Chayan and Smiti among others.

Saran is now hoping to collaborate with more artistes while honing the modern jazz ideas he likes. "The similarity of the concept of improvisation between jazz and Indian classical music is so similar. The two together come with amazing possibilities," says Saran.

SNAP SHOTS

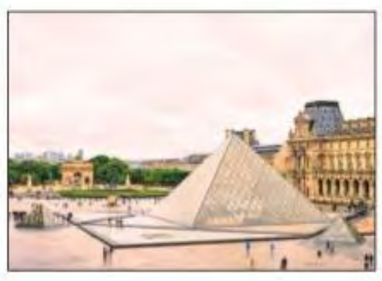
New Innings

AMERICAN SINGER Lady Gaga's new album *Chromatica* will be out on April 10. The announcement comes after Gaga (*pictured*) recently released her new single, *Stupid love*. The sixth album by the artiste will feature 16 tracks. Speaking about the concept behind the album, the singer said in an interview, "The symbol for *Chromatica* has a sine wave in it, which is the mathematical symbol for sound, and it's from what all sound is made from, and, for me, sound is what healed me in my life period, and it healed me again making this record, and that is really what *Chromatica* is all about."



Words Matter

THE OXFORD University Press (OUP) has got a call from the leaders of Women's Aid and the Women's Equality Party to change the 'sexist' definitions of the word 'woman' in Oxford Dictionaries. Some definitions of the word 'woman' mention synonyms such as 'bit**' and 'maid' that have been highlighted by the leaders in an open letter. The description of "man", on the contrary, includes "a person with the qualities associated with males such as bravery, spirit or toughness". OUP publishes the Oxford Dictionary of English, as well as the online Oxford dictionaries.



Reality Check

AS CASES of coronavirus detections continue to escalate in India, the organisers of Art Dubai announced that the 14th edition of the art fair has been postponed. Originally scheduled from March 25-28 in Dubai, this is the second important event to be cancelled, following Art Basel Hong Kong in February. The organisers said in a statement that they arrived at the decision after "consideration of the on-going global health implications of coronavirus". The Louvre, the world's most visited museum in Paris, has also remained shut since Sunday.

United They Stand

BRITISH ROCK BAND Genesis has announced its reunion for the first time in 13 years with their first comeback tour. Genesis, comprising singer Phil Collins, bassist and guitarist Mike Rutherford and keyboardist Tony Banks, contributed to music world by giving hit albums like *The Knife* and *The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway*. As part of the 'Last Domino Tour', the band will perform a series of stadium shows in the UK in November and December. Tickets for the tour will go on sale from March 6.

Will Travel for Flavour

French visual artist Enora Lalet on her trip to India, creating imaginary geographies and making art from food

GAFIRA QADIR & ZENAIRA BAKHSH

WHEN ENORA Lalet came to India in 2015 for the East-West Festival in New Delhi, it was spring time. Holi, the festival of colours, was around the corner. Lalet, a food visual artist, found her medium in paneer, chapatis and chutney. Painting a girl's face with green chutney and twisting her matted hair to stand as horizontal poles, she hung her collection of tiny plastic chutney packets on them. Another art installation was of a man's head sprinkled with *gulal* over a top bun stacked with cottage cheese. She even managed to use shaving foam, *gulal* and pastry decoration sugar in some of her portraits. Lalet was in Delhi over the weekend as a presenter at 'Future Collective: Conscious Culture Design Fair', at Delhi's Bikaner House.

An "aspiring minimalist", she has been travelling across different cities in India to create an artwork challenging traditional visualisation of food, lifestyle and people. Currently, she is working on her new series on the invitation of the Alliance Francaise, Bhopal.

Lalet's art journey began more than a decade ago, when she first exhibited her culinary portraits in Bordeaux. Her series 'Cooking Faces', which used every conceivable ingredient — from cooking cocoa to coconut and ketchup — had portraits of people wearing them on their faces, sauces dripping from eyelashes, and noodles streaming down their necks, telling stories of excesses and identity. Using pop colours and coulis, she created art that would convert any philistine.

Enora Lalet (above); one of her installations

"People should not be identified on the basis of their phones, cars or clothes. We are more than that and we forget it because of the prevailing system," says Lalet. Her travels have taken her across the globe, from Cambodia, Thailand, and Indonesia to New York, Berlin, London and Madrid.

Through her work, Lalet resists existing geographical borders and mixes cultures and subjects in an attempt to create "an imaginary art geography" that will transcend traditional maps and thought processes, she says. "Flavours make you travel," she adds.

Food, she says, comes with associative ideas of identity, values, taboos, and disgust. "Food tells a lot of stories. I add strange characters to my illustrations but food is always the main ingredient," says Lalet. Her personal favourites in cuisines are Indian and Italian, though lately, she has taken a liking to Greek food as well. Even with all her travel, Lalet manages to maintain her own kitchen garden back home in Bordeaux, France.

Armed with a masters degree in art and a degree in anthropology, Lalet began to question the unnecessary display of female bodies in advertisements to promote sugary products. "My curiosity led me to choose food visual art as a full-time career," says the 34-year-old. Her early years in Indonesia introduced her to the colourful performances of the Ramayana dancers in Bali. It inspired the use of colour in her work.

Ideas of sustainability and reuse fill her canvas, where Lalet uses everything from vegetables and fruit scrapes to empty egg shells and pompoms. Turning vegan has been part of the process. "Eating fish and meat does not make sense while the world is in a crisis," says Lalet, who has also stopped buying new things unnecessarily. "Art is finally about making people smile and pushing people to question themselves," she says.

INDIA VS ENGLAND
SEMIFINAL, WOMEN'S TWENTY20 WORLD CUP;
LIVE ON STAR SPORTS: *9:30 AM ONWARDS*

AUSTRALIA VS SOUTH AFRICA
1:30PM ONWARDS

A drunk driving ticket, another reminder of Jesse Ryder's struggles

Jesse Ryder had a tendency to self-destruct off the field.

SANDIP G
CHRISTCHURCH, MARCH 4

A FORTNIGHT ago, when New Zealand celebrated Ross Taylor's 100th Test, Jesse Ryder sprung back into public consciousness when the country had nearly forgotten his name. The sudden reason for the recollection was the same as that for which they once consigned him as their fallen hero.

Ryder was fined for drunken driving by Napier Police. The press dug up juicier details: He returned a breath alcohol reading of 873 micrograms per litre of breath - more than three times the 250mcg limit. He had drunk turbo shandy, a heady cocktail, blended with beer and spirits. The judge sentenced him to nine months of supervision and ordered alcohol and drug counselling.

No one was surprised. Most scorned him: "Oh again, Jesse will never learn." A few others sympathised: "What a waste of talent. If he had kept the bottle away, he would have played 100 Tests like Ross."

Both were of similar age, Ryder a few months younger, grew up in the same locality of Masterton in Wellington, played for the same school and club, and were from similar backgrounds too. Ryder was half Maori and Taylor half Samoan. Their talent was spotted around the same time and sent to schools with cricketing pedigree. Taylor made his Test debut exactly a year before Ryder, so chastening an experience that Taylor thought he would never play another Test.

Ryder looked the part straightaway, and a year into his international career, was already being hyped as the best Kiwi batsman after Martin Crowe. The rest of their career graphs is well documented: Taylor's soared, Ryder's plunged.

As the news of his latest escapade filtered onto the public domain, some of his friends and well-wishers sighed. Some others chose silence, fearing it would unnecessarily rake a controversy. Like Karen Nimmo, the psychologist Ryder had closely worked with to stay away from the bottle for half a decade. To an extent, she had succeeded in keeping him off alcohol, but after she shifted from Wellington to Dunedin, he resumed the habit. "The work I did with Jesse a few years back was all confidential. And it will remain confidential. All I can is that it's sad that such a promising cricketer fell apart," she says.

His long-time manager, confidant and friend Aaron Klee said they were no longer in contact. "After we split in 2014, we are rarely in touch. In my time, I have helped to get him out of all the trouble and agony as much as I could. But after that, zero contacts. He's like that, we should give him that space."

Former Black Cap Matthew Sinclair occasionally bumps into Ryder on the streets of Napier or during club games. "But it just ends with a 'hello' or a 'bye'. He doesn't talk too much. I have heard he's planning to start a courier business or something like that. But one day, I will ask him if he wants to join me in coaching kids in Bangalore. But for that, I need to have a conversation with him," says Sinclair, who coaches for three months at the St Francis Academy in Bangalore.

A few streets from Sinclair's real estate office is the Napier Technical Old Boys Cricket Club, the team Ryder coaches and intermittently plays for. They are the defending T20 champions and won back-to-back club championships in 2018 and 2019. Ryder, according to some of the players, played an influential role in moulding the club into a competent team.

Asserts captain Jayden Lennox: "He has been an inspiration for us, always passing on his knowledge to us and making concerted efforts to improve our team. None of us has any international experience and he's really guiding us, helping us to become a professional team. He's guiding a lot of youngsters in the team, some of whom are already in the reckoning for the Northern Districts. As a coach, he's very hands-on and calm, and when in his mood still plays a lot of shots that we could only imagine."

Reticent man

However, outside the field, Ryder is aloof. He keeps his personal life to himself. His relationship with the club remains strictly professional. Says club manager Morten Freer: "He is very well behaved and cheerful when he's in the club. But he doesn't discuss too much of his personal stuff with us. He's bit of a loner. And we let him be, because we don't want to rake up the old demons. But we have told him that in case he needs emotional support, he can lean on us."

He keeps away from the media glare too. Says a local newspaper reporter: "Jesse, as a rule, steers clear of media. He is nowadays a shadow of the cricketer he was or could have been."

But Ryder doesn't divulge his grief even to his best friends. Recollects his former club-mate Craig Findlay, whom he last spoke to five years ago: "You can't get much out of him. He doesn't like what you call self-pity. Obviously, we know how difficult his childhood was, especially after his father (Peter) left him. It's got to be tough without a father figure when he was growing up."

A few years after divorcing his mother who still stays in Masterton, Peter dropped Jesse at a friend's flat, told him that he will return in a week's time and never came back. Ryder was only 14 then and the incident left a lasting wound on him. His mother persuaded him to return, but he refused. So he was taken in by family friends Toro Brown and Diane Ransom, and lived with them for four-and-a-half years. But before leaving his son in the lurch, his father, a competent former club cricketer, had taught Jesse cricket using a ping-pong, golf ball and a stick. So cricket, in a sense, was both pain and retribution.

Devastatingly, Ryder picked another habit from his father — the love of the bottle. "He used to have an occasional bottle of wine when he was with us, to lighten his social awkwardness. All of us do, but I don't remember him exceeding the limits when he was with us. All I can say is that I'm sad that he couldn't fulfill his cricketing potential. He could have conquered the world with his ability," says Findlay.

So feels Billy Graham, his friend, boxing coach and former fitness trainer in Wellington's Lower Hutt neighbourhood. "In 2013, he joined our gym and told me that he wants to kick the bottle and regain prime fitness. So for several months, we worked towards it and he was out of alcohol for nearly 300 days, lost a lot of weight and gained muscle. He was on his way back, but then he lost it again after he was attacked on that horrible night in Christchurch," he recalls.

Ryder had an altercation with two people that night at a bar and had a physical tussle outside with one of them. The brawl seemingly ended and Ryder was scrambling across the road when the second, unprovoked, attack came from the other person. Ryder was knocked out, inhaled his vomit and slipped into a coma for three days. "He lost his drive, and was never the same again. He stopped visiting the gym and vanished. Whatever happened to him is just sad," says Graham.

Though in the public eye he continues to be an enfant terrible, the talented cricketer who could handle neither a drink nor success, continues to be - for his friends and former associates - a victim of circumstances. As Findlay says: "Whatever happened to him is sad, but let him find peace in whatever he does."

A fortnight later, as New Zealand celebrated their Test series win over India, Ryder's recent drunken episode elapsed into oblivion. Some scorned. A few empathised. A fallen hero, still finding pain and retribution in the game his father taught him before deserting him.

"He is very well behaved and cheerful when he's in the club. But he doesn't discuss too much of his personal stuff with us. He's bit of a loner. And we let him be, because we don't want to rake up the old demons. But we have told him that in case he needs emotional support, he can lean on us."

MORTEN FREER,
MANAGER,
NAPIER TECHNICAL OLD BOYS CC

"He is always passing on his knowledge to us, making concerted efforts to improve our team. None of us has any international experience and he's helping us to become a professional team. He's guiding a lot of youngsters, some of whom are in the reckoning for Northern Districts. As a coach, he's hands-on and calm."

JAYDEN LENNOX,
CAPTAIN,
NAPIER TECHNICAL OLD BOYS CC

New selectors, old question

What is the plan for Dhoni, CAC asked contenders for selectors' posts, including new chairman Sunil Joshi

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY & DEVENDRA PANDEY
KOLKATA/MUMBAI, MARCH 4

HOW WOULD they handle the team management comprising Virat Kohli and Ravi Shastri, and what is their view on MS Dhoni's future were the two key questions in the interviews to choose two new selectors for the Indian cricket team. The eventual winners, Sunil Joshi and Harvinder Singh, this paper has learnt, said they would keep the communication lines open with Dhoni and would let the IPL performance decide his future. Other questions asked by the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising former India allrounder Madan Lal, medium pacer RP Singh, and wicket-keeper Sulakshana Naik were about addressing players' return to competitive cricket after an injury and participation of the top players in domestic cricket, when they are available.

The perception about the MSK Prasad-led selection committee was that it was too lightweight to stand up to the collective profile of Kohli, the captain, and Shastri. The selectors' mettle came under the scanner especially when they failed to find a proper No.4 that cost India the World Cup last year. According to a cricket board insider, during the interviews today, the CAC asked the candidates how they would deal with the team management. Their replies notwithstanding, the CAC decided that the performance of the selectors committee should be assessed over a one-year period.

Dhoni, who hasn't played any competitive cricket after the World Cup, was a major topic of discussion during the interview process. This paper understands that the candidates were asked if they see the former captain as an option for the T20 World Cup in Australia later this year. The replies they received focused on Dhoni's performance in the upcoming IPL. "Retirement is a personal decision. As long as a player is active, he can be considered for selection. The selectors were advised (by the CAC) to keep the communication lines open, when it comes to big players; that the chief selector should directly communicate with the player to explain the thought process of the selection committee," a BCCI source said.

L Sivaramakrishnan, Venkatesh Prasad, and Rajesh Chauhan were the other contenders.

After the interviews were over, Lal gave the lowdown. "They (selected candidates) were very clear about their thought process. We asked a few tough questions as well, but they were very clear and gave straightforward answers. We asked them about their communication skills, we also asked them how they would handle the team management. Keeping everything in mind, their (Joshi and Harvinder) interviews had been the best," Lal said, adding that while picking the selectors the CAC also kept in mind that they will have to deal with a strong captain.

With regards to injury and domestic cricket; not many moons ago, Jasprit Bumrah returned to the Indian team, after recuperating from a lower-back stress fracture, undercooked. The Prasad-led selection committee straightaway had picked him for the home limited-overs series against Sri Lanka and Australia. The fast bowler struggled to hit his straps.

It is learnt that the CAC has communicated to the selectors that when a player is coming back from an injury, he has to play at least one domestic game before being considered for India selection. The CAC will recommend this to the BCCI as well, expecting the parent body to implement it. As far as playing domestic cricket is concerned, the CAC asked the candidates if they could ensure that all top players turn up for domestic cricket, unless they are playing for India or are out injured. The CAC stressed upon the fact that it should be mandatory for every cricketer to play domestic cricket, while the selectors must give prime importance to performances in domestic cricket.

It is learnt that the selectors were told in no uncertain terms that they have been doing a "professional work" and should be "accountable and answerable" to the CAC and the BCCI. This is a reason why the one-year assessment period has been set.

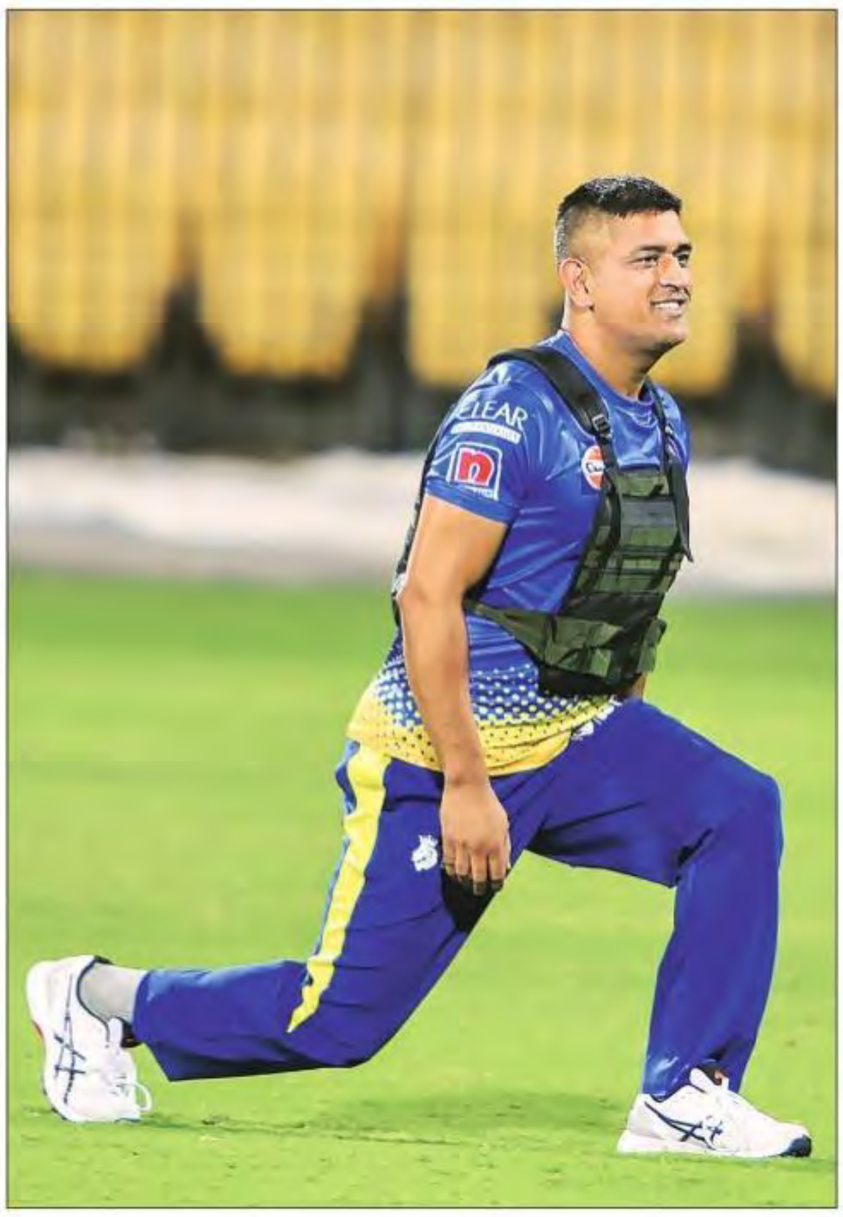
Lal explained that Joshi's vast experience proved to be the clincher.

"First of all, he is experienced and has had been to different places. He coached Uttar Pradesh, he was previously with Bangladesh. I asked him how he handled Bangladesh selectors. And he had been with four-five other teams as well, including Jammu & Kashmir. He has performed the hardest jobs. His thoughts were the best. I liked him being straightforward. Whatever he said I have taken it. After one year, if we find he hasn't done a good job, we will see and take another decision," Lal said.

Although the Lodha Committee followed by the new BCCI constitution mentioned about picking national selectors without any zonal boundaries, the BCCI/CAC ostensibly stuck to picking selectors on a zonal basis. The CAC didn't shortlist former India allrounder Ajit Agarkar despite him being the most high-profile applicant in a pool of 40. With Jatin Paranjpe already a selector from the West Zone, the CAC preferred candidates from the South Zone and Central Zone, where vacancies arose.

"Nothing like that. Our zonal system is one of the best and keeping that in mind we have picked the best selectors. We have picked the best selectors zone-wise," Lal explained.

"Those who played Test matches, we gave them the priority," added one of his colleagues, sitting next to the CAC chairman at the press conference. The Joshi-helmed selection committee will pick the Indian team for three home ODIs against South Africa.



MS Dhoni during a training session at the Chepauk. He has not played a competitive game since the World Cup semifinal in July last year. (Top right) Newly-appointed chief selector Sunil Joshi at the BCCI headquarters. *PTI*

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MADAN LAL,
CRICKET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

How Agarkar failed to make the cut

New Delhi: The BCCI constitution states: "The Men's Selection Committee shall consist of five persons to be appointed by Cricket Advisory Committee comprising reputed former international cricketers."

The eligibility criteria laid down for the job is at least seven Tests, or 30 first-class matches, or 10 ODIs and 20 first-class matches.

The new BCCI constitution doesn't mention that national selectors will have to be picked on a zonal basis, which the old constitution had mandated. At the same time, going by the letter of the law, it doesn't bar the cricket board to stick to convention and pick national selectors on a zonal basis as well.

A vast majority in the BCCI believe that in a huge country like India, zonal representation in the selection panel is absolutely necessary to cater to the grassroots. Ajit Agarkar was the most high-profile candidate in a pool of 40, who applied for the selector's job. He wasn't even shortlisted, because the CAC comprising Madan Lal, RP Singh and Sulakshana Naik, too, felt that the BCCI should stick to the zonal representation system, as according to them, the system has proved to be one of the best. Agarkar would have come from the West Zone, which already has Jatin Paranjpe as a selector. **ENS**

BRIEFLY CRICKET

Jamieson named in ODI squad

NEW ZEALAND named rookie paceman Kyle Jamieson on Wednesday in a 15-man squad for the upcoming one-day series against Australia and kept faith with underperforming seamer Tim Southee. Jamieson shone in the recent ODI and Test series sweeps over India, including a five-wicket haul in the second Test against Virat Kohli's men. "He's had a great start to his international career and will be a real asset for us in Australia," coach Gary Stead said. Southee retained his spot despite struggling for wickets in the one-day format, in contrast to his strong Test form. The Black Caps' bowling attack has been bolstered by the return of Trent Boult, Matt Henry and Lockie Ferguson, who all missed the ODI series against India with injury. New Zealand have not won an ODI series in Australia in 14 attempts and Stead said they would need all their experience to threaten the hosts. "Playing Australia in Australia is one of the great challenges in world cricket," he said. "We know they'll severely test us in all areas of the game." The three-match series begins in Sydney on March 13.

Squad: Kane Williamson (capt), Tom Blundell, Trent Boult, Colin de Grandhomme, Lockie Ferguson, Martin Guptill, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Jimmy Neesham, Henry Nicholls, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor.

All-round Pandya shines again

NAVI MUMBAI: On a comeback trail, Hardik Pandya turned in yet another all-round show to help Reliance 1 inch ahead to the semi-final of the 16th DY Patil T20 Cup here. Pandya returned to competitive cricket last week afterundergoing a back surgery. The India allrounder had on Tuesday smashed his way to a sensational 105 in just 39 balls. Pandya blasted a 29-ball 46 (1x4, 4x6) after being promoted to one drop position against DY Patil A and later, bowled a crucial spell of 2/39, as Reliance 1 emerged winner by a narrow margin of seven runs. The star of Reliance 1's batting was Anmolpreet Singh (93: 60b, 8x4, 3x6), who shared a rapid opening stand of 101 with India white ball opener Shikhar Dhawan (43: 28b, 6x4, 1x6). The chase for DY Patil A almost worked out well with handy contributions, especially from Shubham Ranjane (43) and Rinku Singh (36), but their effort ended with the score at 198-9. For Reliance 1, Digvijay Deshmukh returned with figures of 3-25. Reliance 1 will now face BPCL in the semi-final on Friday. BPCL got through after posting an impressive 190-4 in the first quarter-final against RBI.

Fast bowler Oshane Thomas finished with figures of 5/28. *AP*

Simmons, Thomas star for Windies

Lendl Simmons hit an unbeaten 67 with Brandon King and Andre Russell also using the long handle to help West Indies posted 196 for 4, a total Sri Lanka fell short by 25 runs. West Indies fast bowler Oshane Thomas picked up five of the top six wickets in the Sri Lankan line-up. All of Oshane's wickets fell within the Powerplay overs, a blow Sri Lanka never recovered from. The only Sri Lankan batsmen to make significant contributions were Kushal Perera at the top of the order with 66 and Wanindu Hasaranga with 44. Rusell was playing his first T20 International in nearly two years but was in prime form as he smashed 35 off just 14 balls, a knock which comprised four sixes and and two fours. Russell also picked up a wicket.

BRIEF SCORES: West Indies 196 for 4 (L Simmons 67 n.o., B King 33, A Russell 35, Kieron Pollard 34; W Hasaranga 1/33) vs Sri Lanka 171 all out (Kusal Perera 66, W Hasaranga 44; O Thomas 5/28).

Equal prize money in The 100

LONDON: English cricket's new Hundred competition will feature equal prize money for the men's and women's competitions, tournament organisers the England and Wales Cricket Board announced on Wednesday. The ECB said the total prize budget of 600,000 pounds ($769,000, 689,000 euros) would be split fifty-fifty between the women's and men's competitions as part of the governing body's "commitment to making cricket a gender-balanced sport". The Hundred is a new tournament consisting of eight city-based franchise sides, breaking away from England's traditional county system. Teams will bat for 100 balls each, with overs lasting for 10 balls and bowlers either bowling five or 10 balls consecutively. All eight franchises will feature both men's and women's teams, with the two competitions running side by side. "This is a great announcement for women's sport," said England captain Heather Knight, who will skipper the London Spirit in the Hundred. "Women's professional cricket is on an exciting journey and whilst there is still a way to go to realise gender-parity, this move from the Hundred is a significant step in the right direction," added Knight, who has led England to the semi-finals of the ongoing women's Twenty20 World Cup in Australia.

Pakistan to reschedule ODI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has agreed to reschedule a one-day international against Bangladesh next month to give the visitors more time to prepare for their second test match, which is part of ICC World Test Championship. The one-off ODI in Karachi was originally scheduled for April 3 and will now be played on April 1. The second test is scheduled for April 5-9. "The PCB is always happy to facilitate wherever it can and will be delighted to host the Bangladesh men's national team for additional days in Karachi," Zahir Khan, the Pakistan Cricket Board's director of international cricket, said in a statement on Wednesday. Last month, Pakistan won the first test at Rawalpindi by an innings and 44 runs. Pakistan has 140 points to sit fifth in the WTC standings behind India (360), Australia (296), New Zealand (180) and England (146).

WOMEN'S WORLD T20 SEMIFINAL

England's worries: Verma's aggression, India's spinners and rain

VISHAL MENON
NEW DELHI, MARCH 4

ENGLAND WOMEN'S team have a distinct edge over India at ICC events. They last met in the 2018 World T20 semifinal in Antigua, where England won by eight wickets. Before that, they faced off at Lord's in the final of the 2017 50-over World Cup.

The summit clash ebbed and flowed before swinging in England's favour under thrilling circumstances.These two teams are now pitted against each other in the World T20 semifinal at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

England will know that past record means nothing because this is a different Indian team from the one they played at Lord's and in the Caribbean.

Blessed with match-winners such as Shafali Verma and Poonam Yadav, Harmanpreet Kaur's side has been on a rampage in this World Cup, quelling hosts Australia and registering wins over Bangladesh, New Zealand and Sri Lanka to top the group stage.

Ahead of this epic duel, here are some of the talking points.

India is the only team with a 100 per cent win record in this tournament. *ICC*

India bank on young stars

India have progressed seamlessly from the group stage to the knockouts on the back of the individual brilliance of dashing 16-year-old opener Shafali Verma and leg-spinner Poonam Yadav. Verma has smashed 161 runs from four matches with her blazing starts upfront winning fans. She has bagged a couple of Player-of-the Match awards and also possesses the best strike rate in this tournament.

On the other hand, Yadav has cast a spell of opposition batters, bamboozling them with a mixture of slow, loopy leg-spinners and googlies. With nine scalps, she is currently the highest wicket-taker and much of India's success against England will depend on how these two youngsters perform. Not surprisingly, England captain Heather Knight has singled out Yadav as a big threat. "She is a massive threat for us, and is an improved bowler since the last World Cup. So, for us to be successful, we're going to have to play her well. That's going to be the key in the game," she said.

India's misfiring middle order

India was the first team to qualify for the semifinals. However, beneath the glossy veneer is their misfiring middle order. Barring Shafali, no one else have managed to make an impact.

Smriti Mandhana, Verma's opening partner, has managed just 38 runs in three games, while Harmanpreet has tallied a dismal 26 runs from four games. Consequently, the belligerent starts given by Shafali have not been capitalised as wickets have often fallen in a heap, which meant that there has hardly been any momentum in the middle overs. This is an area that England bowlers will look to exploit in Sydney.

England's all-round might

England have made it to the last four on the back of superlative batting performances from Natalie Sciver and captain Knight. With 202 runs, Sciver is the top run-scorer in this tournament, followed by her skipper, who comes has 193. If the pair can continue its good form, England will have a great chance of making it to their second successive final.

They also have a very reliable left-arm spinner in Sophie Ecclestone, the second-highest wicket-taker with eight scalps. With 21 wickets, India's spinners have been the most prolific in this tournament, but their England counterparts have been the most economical, conceding just 4.3 runs per over.

WEATHER COULD PLAY SPOILSPORT

With heavy rain forecast in Sydney on Thursday, there's a high probability of both the semifinals being truncated affairs. Teams need to play 10 overs each to constitute a T20 match in ICC tournaments. Since both semifinals (India vs England and South Africa vs Australia) are scheduled at the SCG, there will only be a 30-minute window between both games in case overs are lost because of rain interruptions. The India-England match is scheduled to finish at 6 pm local time, while the South Africa-Australia game is scheduled for a 10 pm finish. There is no reserve day for the semifinals, and if there's a washout, India and South Africa will advance to the final in Melbourne on Sunday since they topped their respective groups.

Real Kashmir climb to 3rd spot in I-League

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR, MARCH 4

REAL KASHMIR FC continued to make the most of their seven-game run at home, registering a 1-0 victory over NEROCA FC at the TRC Turf Ground here on Wednesday. One of Kashmir's own, Danish Farooq scored what turned out to be the match-winner in the 42nd minute. The result takes Real Kashmir to the third place on the Hero I-League standings with 22 points, while Neroca remain in the relegation spot with 15. Sandeep Chattoo, co-owner of Real Kashmir FC, said, "It was an emphatic win after a surprise draw on last Saturday. The win was important for lifting the morale of the team."

Tributes poured in from the stands and the Kashmir squad for their young midfielder Ritwik Kumar Das, who couldn't be part of the action following the untimely death of his father. Chesterpoul Lyngdoh took his place in the XI, accounting for the only alteration David Robertson made to his line-up.

Gift Raikhan, on the other hand, made three changes. Chanso Horam and Zodingliana Ralte were reinstated in midfield, while Ronald Singh started ahead of Boubacar Diarra up front. The hosts threatened early and had the better exchanges. The first knock arrived in the 7th minute, when Bazie Arman's wayward clearance turned out to be a good cross-field delivery for Mason Robertson instead. The Scot latched onto it and went for the spectacular on the volley from the edge of the box, finding the side-netting. A bizarre turn of events ensued four minutes later. Neroca's Ousmane Diawara was shown a straight red. The Neroca players pleaded his cause and after a brief consultation with the assistant referee, the red card was overturned, much to Raikhan's relief.

Bagan inch closer to title

Kalyani: Runaway I-League leaders Mohun Bagan will aim for their eighth win on the trot when they face defending champions Chennai City here on Thursday. With six games to play and a 12-point lead at the summit of the I-League table, Mohun Bagan need six more points (two wins) to clinch their second title. The reverse fixture between the two sides in Coimbatore showcased a grandstand finish with Chennai roaring back from three goals down for a 2-3 finish. Despite being in pole position, Mohun Bagan head coach Kibu Vicuna understandably asserted that the job isn't done yet for his side.

Jaydev's dream season continues

Seven-wicket haul takes his tally to 65 wickets from 9 games as Saurashtra reach fourth Ranji final in eight years

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MARCH 4

LEFT-ARM PACER Jaydev Unadkat's seven wicket haul enabled Saurashtra to reach the finals of Ranji Trophy for the second successive year as they beat Gujarat by 92 runs on the final day at Rajkot's Saurashtra Cricket Association stadium. Unadkat not only shatteted the timber first and then dreams of Gujarat but he gave Saurashtra another chance to clinch the title which they have never won.

With this win, Saurashtra entered the finals of Ranji Trophy for the fourth time in last eight years proving their consistency in domestic cricket. The final day had some notable twists and turns. In the afternoon, things had looked vastly different as Gujarat's most experienced pair of Parthiv Patel and Chirag Gandhi were leading a great fightback while chasing a score of 327 runs. Gujarat were 63 for 5 at one stage and it looked Saurashtra would have an easy ride ahead before the two seasoned campaigners of Gujarat— Gandhi and Patel put up a courageous roadblock.

Unadkat too sensed the game slipping away from his hands, and realised something needed to be done to break the partnership. He knew one good ball could do the trick. But this Rajkot track was notorious for being friendly to batsmen.

Parthiv and Gandhi had added 158 runs for the sixth wicket and Gujarat needed 106 more to register an emphatic win in the semis. They were cruising slowly.

"Someone said we will get wickets with the new ball. The new ball was due only after 16 overs and by then the game would have been over. So I just waited for tea because they were playing really well and I wanted that break desperately. I knew if I had to do it for the team, it would have to be after tea when they are not sure how to go about the last session," Unadkat recalled those moments.

For a pacer, who was in supreme form throughout the season, it was a now-or-never moment. Unadkat knew that only he could break the partnership. He boasted how nobody knew better than him how to bowl on this black soil. "On a good pitch one bowls five good balls and chances are out of five, two will give you a wicket. Here (Rajkot), out of ten balls one ball might give you a chance of a wicket. I was waiting for that one ball which does something after landing," he recalls.

This season, Jaydev Unadkat has picked up a five-wicket haul on seven occasions, of which three have come on the unresponsive tracks in Rajkot. *Twitter*

When it happened, Parthiv had moved tentatively forward, and tried to defend. But by the time he could get his full bat in the way the ball had kissed his bat and sailed towards first slip to see a simple catch by Harvik Desai. The wicket changed the course of the game and to Saurashtra's delight, Unadkat got another wicket next ball.

Double strike

He took a low catch off his own bowling to see all-rounder Axar Patel depart first ball. With two wickets in two balls, Saurashtra knew the game was in their hands and it was a matter of time, pressure would play its own tricks on the Gujarat lower order. Gandhi tried to cut Unadkat but played on for a gritty 96. The Saurashtra captain got the last man Arzan Nagwaswalla to finish the game with a ten-wicket match-haul.

It has been a dream season for Unadkat, he has taken 65 wickets in nine matches.

On a good pitch one bowls five good balls and chances are out of five, two will give you a wicket. Here (Rajkot), out of ten balls one ball might give you a chance of a wicket. I was waiting for that one ball which does something after landing."

JAYDEV UNADKAT,
SAURASHTRA PACER

RICH HAUL

65 Jaydev Unadkat's tally of 65 wickets this season is the most by a pacer in Ranji Trophy history. He bettered the long-standing record held by Karnataka's Dodda Ganesh's 62 wickets in the 1998-99 season.

30 The last time Bengal won the Ranji Trophy title was 30 years ago in the 1989/90 season.

Seven times he took a five wicket-haul, of which three came on that so-called Rajkot track, which has always been termed as *patta.*

"They have a long batting line-up and we discussed in the morning as well that we won't be bogged down due to a partnership or two. But when you are on the field and such a partnership takes place, there are some nerves. But I felt the spell after tea was going to be the game-changing spell, and if someone could do it, it had to be me. And I am just happy that when we needed a wicket, I was able to provide it," he later said.

Saurashtra will take on Bengal in the final at Rajkot's Khanderi Stadium next from March 9. The home team will be boosted by the presence of Cheteshwar Pujara while Bengal will see Wriddhiman Saha back in the squad. Bengal has reached the final after 13 years in which time Saurashtra has been runner-up thrice. Unadkat reckons this could be their chance.

BRIEF SCORES: Saurashtra: 304 and 274 beat **Gujarat:** 252 and 234 overs (Chirag Gandhi 96, Parthiv Patel 93; Jaydev Unadkat 7/56) by 92 runs.

ASIAN OLYMPICS QUALIFIERS

Sakshi beats fourth seed Techasuep

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AMMAN, MARCH 4

FORMER JUNIOR world champion Sakshi Chaudhary (57kg) stunned Asian silver-medallist and fourth seed Nilawan Techasuep of Thailand to enter the quarterfinals of the Asian Olympic Qualifiers for boxing here on Wednesday.

The two-time youth world champion Indian, who is only 19, prevailed in a split verdict against the Asian Games bronze-medallist in an engrossing bout. She will next be up against Korea's Im Aeji on March 9.Making the semifinals would assure her of a spot in the Tokyo Olympics scheduled in July-August this year.

Even keel

The opening round was fought on even keel for most part but Sakshi managed to be ahead of her fancied rival in a split verdict. Techasuep came out all guns blazing in the second round and caught Sakshi off-guard with a barrage of combination straight punches.

The Indian was pushed to the backfoot by the aggressive Thai, whose left jab was particularly eye-catching.

But the judges ruled in Sakshi's favour in a 3-2 second round verdict.

In the final three minutes, Saskhi's counter-attacks proved enough to trump Techasuep's consistent aggression.

On Tuesday, the seasoned duo of Gaurav Solanki (57kg) and Ashish Kumar (75kg) advanced to the pre-quarterfinals in the men's draw.Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Solanki defeated two-time Kyrgyz national champion Akylbek Esenbek Uulu, while Asian Championship silver-medallist Ashish got the better of Taiwan's Kan Chia-Wei.

Ashish will square off against Kyrgyzstan's Omurbek Bekzhigit Uulu, who has been seeded fourth.

Solanki, whose CWG gold was in the 52kg division, will be up against top-seeded Uzbek Mirazizbek Mirzakhalilov, who got a bye into the second round. Mirzakhalilov is the reigning world champion in this weight category besides being a gold-medallist at the 2018 Asian Games as well as the Asian Championships.

[SPORTS BAR]

Rutuja, Ankita win as India beat Uzbekistan

Rutuja Bhosale recorded a come-from-behind win before country's number one player Ankita Raina won the second singles as India secured the Fed Cup tie against Uzbekistan by taking an unassailable 2-0 lead here on Wednesday. Rutuja erased a one-set deficit to defeat Akgul Amanmuradova 2-6, 6-2, 7-5 in the opening singles to put India ahead. Bouncing back from the narrow defeat against China's Qiang Wang, Ankita regrouped to humble Sabina Sharipova 7-5, 6-1 to seal the tie in India's favour in one hour and 34 minutes. It was the sixth meeting between the two players with Ankita winning only the second time. After trading breaks twice, the first set was on serve and Sharipova was serving to stay in the set in the 12th game. She began by a double fault and Ankita pounced on the opportunity to put pressure on her rival.

Chawrasia, Shubhankar ready for Qatar Masters

SSP Chawrasia, who closed last week's Oman Open with a sterling five-under 67 despite two late bogeys, is confident of another good show at the 2020 Commercial Bank Qatar Masters. Chawrasia, a four-time winner on the European Tour, is one of the two Indians in the field, with two-time winner, Shubhankar Sharma being the other one. Chawrasia finished T-25 but Sharma missed the cut last week. Sharma has now missed four cuts in last six starts since his T-7 finish in Turkish Airlines Open in November. Sharma plays his first two rounds with young Nicolai Hojgaard and Kalle Samooja, while Chawrasia goes out with Qatar's Saleh Al Kaabi and Australian Maverick Antcliff.

Long-distance runner Kaur fails dope test

Long-distance runner Kiranjeet Kaur, who won the Tata Steel Kolkata 25K, has tested positive for a banned substance and has been provisionally suspended by World Athletics. The 31-year-old Kaur had clocked 1:38:56 to finish 11th overall and first among Indians in the Kolkata 25K in December last year. "Presence of Prohibited Substances (SARM S22) (Article 2.1) - Notice of Allegation Issued," the Athletics Integrity Unit said. She won bronze in 10,000m at the Federation Cup National Championships in March last year in Patiala.

Chad le Clos wants his silver to be upgraded, which would secure a second Olympics gold after he collected a win in the 200-m butterfly in London in 2012.

Le Clos had no doubt Sun Yang was a 'dirty swimmer'

South African Olympic champion Chad le Clos says he had no doubt that Chinese swimmer Sun Yang was cheating and believes he was robbed of his special gold medal moment at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro. Sun, a multiple world and Olympic champion, was banned for eight years last Friday for missing an out-of-competition test in 2018, and Le Clos, who lost to his rival in the 200-metres freestyle final in Rio de Janeiro four years ago, believes justice has been done. "It's absolutely no surprise to me. He failed two drug tests in 2014. We've all known that he's a dirty swimmer," Le Clos told South Africa's Eye Witness News on Wednesday. "It's not just me who knows this, it's the whole swimming community. Finally, he's being punished. "I was ahead by a long way with 50 metres to go in that race, but Sun Yang came past me. He was the only man who did that, and that says it all really. Le Clos wants his silver medal to be upgraded, which would secure a second Olympic gold after he also collected a win in the 200-metres butterfly in London in 2012.

'Rooney will have point to prove against United'

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer believes Manchester United great Wayne Rooney will be a threat in Thursday's FA Cup clash against Championship side Derby. Rooney, United and England's all-time top scorer, will line up against the club where he enjoyed so much success when lining up for the Rams at Pride Park. He joined the second-tier side as player-coach after a stint in the United States with DC United and former team-mate Solskjaer is wary of the 34-year-old's threat in the fifth-round clash. "He gave absolutely everything for this club and we all appreciate that," the Norwegian manager said. "But any goal he scores against us will be chalked off his goal tally."

2023 IOC session to be held in Mumbai

The International Olympic Committee's annual meeting of members, known as the Session, will be held in Mumbai, India, in 2023. The decision was announced after the IOC's executive board meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Wednesday. President Thomas Bach said the decision will be rubber-stamped at a meeting in Tokyo before the Olympics in July. India had bid for the session, where the hosts of 2030 Olympics are likely to be announced, last year. Bach said Olympic sports wanted to tap into the potential of youth in the world's second-most populated nation.

Sharmila lying seventh in Jabra Ladies

Three-over after eight holes, Sharmila Nicollet made a superb recovery on the back nine and was lying tied seventh at the end of the first round of the Jabra Ladies Classic on the Sunshine Ladies Tour. Sharmila, who had a Top-10 finish last week fought back from a disappointing front nine to strike a purple patch at the start of the back nine. She bogeyed the third, fourth and eighth and turned in three-over. She found her rhythm on the back nine with four birdies and one bogey between 10th and 14th and another birdie on 18th as she compiled one-under 71 in the first round. South African golfers occupied the top three spots as Ashleigh Buhai, a three-time winner on Ladies European Tour had eight birdies and an eagle against one bogey in a sizzling nine-under 63. She had five birdies in a row on the back nine of the Glendower Golf Club.

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TRACKING THE VIRUS

It's not important what famous people say. People with knowledge should tell the people to do this, do that and everything will be fine, or not. Not football managers. I don't understand politics, coronavirus... why me? I wear a baseball cap and have a bad shave."

JURGEN KLOPP
MANAGER, LIVERPOOL

3x3 basketball qualifiers postponed

The FIBA 3x3 basketball Olympic qualifying tournament, scheduled to be held here from March 18 to 22, was on Wednesday postponed. "FIBA is now working in close collaboration with the International Olympic Committee, on the best solution possible in the circumstances, considering that this tournament needs to take place before the FIBA 3x3 Universality Olympic Qualifier Tournament scheduled to be played in Budapest, Hungary, from April 24 to 26, 2020," Fédération Internationale de Basketball (FIBA) said in a statement.

Tokyo rugby test cancelled

Japan cancelled the Tokyo Olympics' rugby test event. Organisers said they couldn't guarantee a safe running of the Asia Sevens Invitational, scheduled for April 25-26. "As the impact of the novel coronavirus spreads across the world, we are not able to guarantee that the tournament will be held safely at this point," Japan Rugby Football Union said in a statement.

It's an open, not shut, case

Despite coronavirus concerns, International Olympic Committee president stresses Tokyo Olympics will go ahead as scheduled

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TOKYO, MARCH 4

DESPITE WORLDWIDE concern and speculation about whether the fast-spreading virus outbreak will affect the Tokyo Olympics, the IOC's leadership is not joining in the debate. "Neither the word cancellation nor the word postponement was even mentioned," International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach told a news conference Wednesday about the second day of executive board meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Bach sought to project calm assurance after holding a conference call with local organizers. In Tokyo, officials then briefed local media, some of whom wore protective masks. Asked how he could be so confident the July 24-Aug. 9 Olympics will go ahead as scheduled, Bach replied: "Because we talk to the experts. We are a sports organization and we follow the advice of the World Health Organization," Bach said, referring to the United Nations agency based around 60 kilometers (40 miles) away in Geneva.

The coronoavirus that emerged in China late last year had infected more than 90,000 people globally by Wednesday and caused over 3,100 deaths. Serious outbreaks have been experienced in Iran and Italy. Federal authorities in the IOC's home country Switzerland, which shares a border with Italy, have banned public gatherings of 1,000 people until mid-March to help contain the virus spreading.

Around 100 people were in a conference room at IOC headquarters to hear Bach use broadly similar answers to bat away virus questions from different angles. "I will not add fuel to the flame of speculation," Bach said when asked about deadline for deciding whether to postpone the Tokyo Games. Asked if the WHO declaring a pandemic would change the IOC's position, Bach said: "I will not take part in any way of such kind of mere speculations."

Bach said he took confidence from having met the WHO's director general and other leading officials last Friday. A task force of officials from the WHO, IOC and Japanese sports and public officials has also been working together for around three weeks. The virus has affected qualifying competitions for many of the 33 sports on Tokyo's medal program, which some postponed, venues changed, and travel issues for athletes from China and elsewhere. "This is challenging, yes," Bach acknowledged, "but I must also say I'm pretty proud of the Olympic movement, for the great solidarity and flexibility everybody has shown so far."

The Tokyo Olympics, scheduled to begin on July 24, are under threat due to the coronavirus, which has spread to several countries and claimed thousands of lives. *AP*

Home city contract

Japan has closed schools, called off mass gatherings, and canceled several Olympic test events. Preseason baseball in being played in empty stadiums, the soccer J-League is suspended until at least March 18, and a major spring sumo tournament won't allow fans.

The 81-page "Home City Contract" signed in 2013 by the IOC, the city of Tokyo, and the Japanese Olympic Committee, gives the IOC wide latitude to terminate. Reading from a prepared text on Tuesday, Hashimoto said: "The IOC has the right to cancel the games only if they are not held during 2020. This can be interpreted to mean the games can be postponed as long as they are held during the calendar year."

Under a section titled "Termination," the IOC has the right to terminate for many reasons: state of war, civil disorder, boycott, and others. It also says the IOC can terminate if it has "reasonable grounds to believe, in its sole discretion, that the safety of participants in the games would be seriously threatened or jeopardized for any reason whatsoever."

The same section says the IOC can terminate if "the games are not celebrated during the year 2020." The contract says the IOC has to give local organizers, the city, and the national Olympic committee 60 days notice to terminate. The section also says the city, local organizers. and the national Olympic committee "waive any claim and right to any form of indemnity, damages or other compensation."

The modern Olympics have been canceled only three times, all during wartime. On Wednesday, organizers postponed announcing any measure that might limit crowds for the torch relay, which begins on March 26 in Fukushima prefecture located 250 kilometers (150 miles) northeast of Tokyo.

EXPLAINED

The conditions under which the Olympics be cancelled

THE RIGHT to call off the Tokyo Olympics rests solely with the International Olympic Committee. However, they will have to consult the other stakeholders before taking a decision.

Under a section titled "Termination" of the 'Home City Contract', signed between the Olympic body, city of Tokyo and Japanese Olympic Committee, the IOC has the right to terminate for many reasons: state of war, civil disorder, boycott, and others. It also says the IOC can terminate if it has "reasonable grounds to believe, in its sole discretion, that the safety of participants in the games would be seriously threatened or jeopardized for any reason whatsoever."

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However, any change to the July 24 opening date — as suggested by Japan's Olympics minister — will have to be approved by international broadcasters, crucially by USA's NBC, who account for almost half of IOC's TV income of $5.7 billion..

No ranking points at Delhi shooting World Cup

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, MARCH 4

THE IDEA of the upcoming shooting World Cup in New Delhi being either cancelled or delayed due to the coronavirus outbreak has been floated, but nothing yet is confirmed. On Wednesday, the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), the sport's governing body has decided that results at the event will not offer ranking points to participants. "The World Cup will neither be postponed or cancelled. All that has changed is that the ranking points will not be there," National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) secretary Rajiv Bhatia said.

The coronavirus outbreak has meant that the Chinese team will not be attending the event. Neither will shooters from Pakistan as they preferred to train in Germany instead.

In order to curb the spread of the virus in the country, the Centre has put in place strict quarantine rules for people travelling from countries that has a high number of cases. This also means athletes from South Korea, Iran and Italy are also expected to be missing. The ISSF came up with this decision due to the depleted foreign field.

"Due to local restrictions relating to the COVID-19 virus introduced by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India, the ISSF organisers cannot guarantee the participation of all the athletes who would like to enter those competitions," the ISSF statement read. "Therefore no ranking points can be earned at this World Cup. Still, it will be possible to achieve the MQS that can influence on athletes' chances to get the desired Olympic Quota Places."

Though rankings do not provide Olympic quotas, each country may use it in determining who they send for the quadrennial event. "It comes down to the decision of individual countries, based on their own selection policy," NRAI vice-president Ashok Pandit explained. "Each country can get only two quotas per event, so say if one particular country has four big shooters, that country might decide to send their top two players. Each country might have it's own criteria."

Selection policy

The NRAI's selection policy for the Tokyo 2020 Games does take in to account the world ranking of an athlete during the final selection process. A contender's top five qualification scores from the four World Cups and Asian Championships of 2019, the World Championships and Asian Games of 2018, and the upcoming New Delhi World Cup are taken into account, along with 'merit points' – medals won, reaching the final round, and also a world ranking in the top 10.

Currently, there are nine Indians placed in the top 10 world rankings across five different events: Divyansh Panwar (second in men's 10m air rifle), Sanjeev Rajput (sixth in men's 50m rifle 3 positions), Elavenil Valarivan, Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandela (first, fourth and fifth respectively in women's 10m air rifle), Abhishek Verma and Saurabh Chaudhary (second and fourth respectively in men's 10m air pistol), and Manu Bhaker and Yashaswini Deswal (third and fifth respectively in women's 10m air pistol).For now, those rankings now will not be affected by the World Cup.

Government issues advisory to athletes

New Delhi: The government on Wednesday said the health of athletes must take precedence as it advised the National Sports Federations (NSFs) to exercise caution while planning foreign competitions and training stints in view of the coronavirus outbreak. In an advisory issued by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to all the NSFs, it said the athletes' health comes first. "... In light of the outbreak of the Coronoavirus in several countries, including some reported cases in India, the Government has advised all National Sports Federations to exercise caution while planning foreign competitions and training for teams and individual athletes," the SAI said in the advisory. PTI

Seven F1 teams challenge secret Ferrari settlement

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS, MARCH 4

Seven Formula One teams co-signed a statement on Wednesday opposing a confidential settlement between Ferrari and governing body FIA following an investigation into the team's engine last season.

McLaren, Mercedes, Racing Point, Red Bull, Renault, Alpha Tauri and Williams released an identical statement. They want "full and proper disclosure" over the months-long investigation, adding "we reserve our rights to seek legal redress, within the FIA's due process and before the competent courts."

Besides Ferrari, two others teams did not sign the letter. Both Haas and Alfa Romeo use Ferrari engines. The FIA said last week it had concluded "a thorough technical investigation" into Ferrari's 2019 engine and "reached a settlement" with the team regarding whether its engine had exceed its maximum permitted fuel flow or not, which is against the rules.

Questions were raised by teams and drivers as to whether the car's fuel-flow meter was bypassing the regulatory amount of 100 kilograms per hour. They argued that this may have been influencing Ferrari's notably superior speed on long straights, and its run of six straight pole positions. Teams are not allowed to top up their power by increasing fuel flow beyond the stipulated amount, and must get boosts by energy saving elsewhere on the car. No details of the investigation into Ferrari were given, however. The FIA concluded that "the specifics of the agreement remain between the parties" concerning "a number of technical commitments" Ferrari has now agreed to going forward.

The vagueness of the conclusion - which did not say whether the engine was legal or not, what the settlement was, or what commitments Ferrari has agreed to - has angered the seven F1 teams. "We, the undersigned teams, were surprised and shocked by the FIA's statement of Friday 28 February regarding the conclusion of its investigation into the Scuderia Ferrari Formula 1 Power Unit," the statement read. "After months of investigations, that were undertaken by the FIA only following queries raised by other teams, we strongly object to the FIA reaching a confidential settlement agreement with Ferrari to conclude this matter." The season-opening Australian GP will be held in Melbourne on March 15.

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