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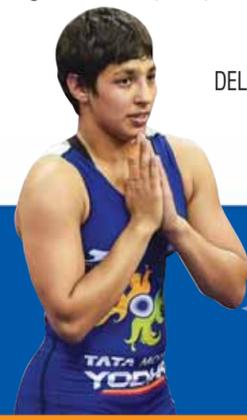
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VINESH, ANSHU WIN BRONZE IN ASIAN C'SHIP 12 SPORT

Trump aims high in India

Will make tremendous trade deal, says US President



Children from an art school make paintings of US President Donald Trump ahead of his India visit, in Mumbai on Friday

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Days ahead of his India visit, US President Donald Trump on Thursday said the two countries could make a "tremendous" trade deal. "We're going to India, and we may make a tremendous deal there," Trump said in his commencement address at the Hope for Prisoners Graduation Ceremony in Las Vegas. Trump, accompanied by First Lady Melania Trump, is scheduled to travel to Ahmedabad, Agra and New Delhi on February 24 and 25. Ahead of the visit, there have been talks about India and the United States agreeing on a trade package as a precursor to a major trade deal. During

his commencement address, Trump indicated that the talks on this might slowdown if he did not get a good deal. "Maybe we'll slow down. We'll do it after the election. I think that could happen too. So, we'll see what happens... But we're only making deals if they're good deals because we're putting America first. Whether people like it or not, we're putting America first," Trump said. Bilateral India-US trade in goods and services is about three per cent of the US' world trade. In a recent report, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) said the trading relationship is more consequential for India — in 2018 the United States was its second largest

goods export market (16.0 per cent share) after the European Union (EU, 17.8 per cent), and third largest goods import supplier (6.3 per cent) after China (14.6 per cent) and the EU 28 (10.2 per cent). "The Trump Administration takes issue with the US trade deficit with India, and has criticised India for a range of 'unfair' trading practices," the CRS said. "Indian Prime Minister Modi's first term fell short of many observers' expectations, as India did not move forward with anticipated market opening reforms, and instead increased tariffs and trade restrictions," it said.

"Modi's strong electoral mandate may embolden the Indian Government to press ahead with its reform agenda with greater vigour. Slowing economic growth in India raises concerns about its business environment," CRS said. As per a fact sheet issued by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), trade in goods and services between the two countries from 1999 to 2018 surged from \$16 billion to \$142 billion. India is now the United States' eighth-largest trading partner in goods and services and is among the world's largest economies. India's trade with the United States now resembles, in terms of volume, the US' trade with South Korea (\$167 billion in 2018) or France

(\$129 billion), said Alyssa Ayres from CFR. "The United States for two years now has set out in stone pretty clearly the things that they wanted to see to try to get an agreement, and it's basically then on India's doorstep on whether they want to take those steps," said Rick Rossow, Wadhvani Chair in US-India Policy Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think-tank.

"The list of US asks was been pretty static all throughout. Not to say that any of these things are easy for India to do, but the United States to my knowledge didn't change the goalposts just because we now consider India to be a middle-income country. The things that we wanted to see happen to get this trade agreement have been pretty static all throughout, no matter how difficult they are," he said.

Ivanka to accompany dad

New Delhi: American President Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka, son-in-law Jared Kushner and a galaxy of top US officials will be part of the high-level delegation accompanying him during his visit to India on February 24 and 25, official sources said. The US has already announced that First Lady Melania Trump will be part of the delegation. The other top officials who will accompany the US president are Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien and Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette. Trump will arrive in Ahmedabad on February 24 for his less than 36-hour trip to India. From Ahmedabad, he will travel to Agra before arriving at the national Capital for the main leg of the visit.



Shaheen Bagh blinks

Protesters agree to open parallel road if security is guaranteed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The talks between the Supreme Court-appointed interlocutors and the Shaheen Bagh protesters yielded partial results on Friday, the third day of the negotiation, as the protesters agreed to open the parallel road if the SC can guarantee their security at the protest site.

The interlocutors — senior advocates Sanjay Hegde and Sadhana Ramachandran — on resumed talks with the protesters on the third day on Friday evening. A woman protester said, "We want in writing that if there is a single incident of attack or firing, the police officials, from the SHO to the police commissioner, should be shunted out. Home Minister Amit Shah has said the NRC is not coming soon, so ask him to issue a circular, saying they are not bringing the NRC now. We want the Supreme Court to pass an order on our security, if the road adjoining the protest site is opened."

Hegde said, "Today is Shivratni. If somebody uses a cuss word, it becomes a blessing today. It is your right to speak. Speak up. Say everything you want to say. Let us take a joint decision for all the affected parties here." The protesters told the



SC-appointed interlocutors Sanjay Hedge and Sadhana Ramachandran during their visit to Shaheen Bagh on Friday

interlocutors that the police had first barricaded the road parallel to the sit-in site, and then they occupied the parallel road erecting "India Gate". The Delhi Police admitted that initially they had blocked the road opposite to the sit-in road for safety and security of the protesters. "We barricaded the parallel road to ensure security to the protest site. If the road is opened to commuters, we will ensure double security to the protesters," the police official said.

As the interlocutors called the police to the spot to discuss the matter with the protesters, a woman stood up and told the mediators, "The Government thinks women are uneducated. All of us are educated women who know what we are fighting for. The students from Jamia Millia Islamia, who were teaching us more on CAA and NRC, are being beaten up. If the police could not stop the men who fired at us, how are

they claiming that they will protect us if the parallel road is opened?" Another woman protester said, "When several adjoining roads are open, why are they insisting us to move from this road? This is not the only road connecting Delhi to Noida." Ramachandran said, "When we checked on the roads, we noticed that you (protesters) were right. Many roads are open, which were blocked by the police. I am very upset to say that the Noida-Faridabad road, which was opened on Friday, was again closed by the police. Whoever has done this is now answerable to the Supreme Court." The restrictions are a "conscientious" decision of the Noida Police and are continuing as it is, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida Traffic) Rajesh S told PTI. He added that the day, the Delhi Police decides to lift the restrictions, "We will also do it on our side."

Uddhav allays CAA, NPR apprehensions after meeting Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of his simmering differences on a host of issues with the Congress and the NCP, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday, his first visit to Delhi after taking up the reins of the State. Uddhav's son Aditya Thackeray, who is a Minister in his Cabinet, accompanied him, during his meeting with Modi.

After the meeting, Uddhav said, "I had a good discussion with the Prime Minister over issues concerning Maharashtra. I also discussed the CAA, NPR and NRC with the PM. No one needs to fear about the CAA. The NPR is not going to throw anyone out of the country," Uddhav said.

He also denied that there was any friction among the constituents of the Maha Aghadi, while asserting that the Maharashtra Government will complete its five-year term.

Continued on Page 4



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his son and State Minister Aditya Thackeray in New Delhi

VHP model to be tweaked for a grander Ram Mandir

Height of temple likely to be 160 feet, it will be 3-storey now

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The map prepared by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) some 30 years ago for building a grand Ram temple at Ayodhya could be altered slightly to raise the height of the proposed structure from 125 feet to 160 feet and add an additional third floor. Nripendra Mishra, the head of the temple construction committee, will hold discussion with experts to finalise the temple's design, plan for all construction-related works, including its start date.

For his part, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked members of the newly constituted Ram temple trust to ensure that construction work is conducted harmoniously and without any bitterness, Trust's general secretary Champat Rai said on Friday. On Thursday, members of



the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerath Kshetra Trust, including general secretary Champat Rai, Vimlendra Mohan Pratap Mishra and Anil Mishra, met Nripendra Mishra during which they discussed various issues related to the construction of the proposed temple.

Earlier, the VHP insisted for the model based on the old design. In 1987, architect Chandrakant Sompura had prepared a model of the proposed temple on being asked by then VHP international president Ashok Singhal. "The temple will be built on the basis of

the VHP's map. There can be changes to its proposed shape and scale," Swami Govind Dev Giri, a member of the Trust, told PTI.

Another member of the Trust said, "We have received suggestions to make changes to the old map in order to give an ever grander form to the proposed temple. Now, we are brainstorming on building a three-storey structure instead of the two-storey proposed earlier, as well as adding a pavilion and detailing to the 35-feet-high 'shikhra'."

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Pradhan lays foundation stone for ore beneficiation unit in Rajhara

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan visited the Bhilai Steel Plants' iron ore mines at Rajhara on his second day of Bhilai visit.

He was accompanied by Chairman, SAIL, Anil Kumar Chaudhary, Director (Commercial) Soma Mondal, Director (Personnel) Atul Srivastava, Director (Proj and Business Planning) and CEO, BSP Anirban Dasgupta, ED (Mines and Rowghat) Manas Biswas and other senior officers.

The Minister laid the foundation stone for 'Ore Beneficiation Plant' at the iron ore premises of Rajhara, which will augment the quality of iron ore supplied to the plant.

He also visited various mines sites of Rajhara and saw the technical and mining process of ore extraction. He planted sapling at the Saptagiri Park at Rajhara.

The minister also met the tribal students adopted by BSP at the BSP's tribal student hostel at Rajhara and also interacted with them. It may be

mentioned that these tribal students are provided with free of cost education, boarding, lodging and provided all study materials.

Pradhan also met nursing students sponsored by SAIL-BSP. Every year twenty girls from tribal region of Rowghat and Rajhara are adopted under BSP's CSR activities for BSc Nursing at Bhilai Nursing College.

The Union minister also met the students and teachers of the English medium school run by the SAIL-BSP and DAV at Antagarh in Rowghat region.

Apart from this, he also witnessed and praised the exhibition put up by BSP of the CSR activities undertaken by the plant at Rajhara, its peripheral areas and at Rowghat. He also took stock of the CSR activities underway at the mines and also met and discussed with the representatives of worker's unions of the mines.

Ore Beneficiation plant will enhance quality of iron ore supplied to plant by reducing silica content and gauge material from iron ore procured from Dalli mines.



CAPSULE

PAK GETS STERN WARNING BY FATF ON TERRORISM
New Delhi: Global terror financing watchdog FATF on Friday decided continuation of Pakistan in the "Grey List" and warned the country of stern action if it fails to check flow of money to terror groups.

WAQF BOARD ACCEPTS ALTERNATIVE SITE
Lucknow: The UP Sunni Central Waqf Board on Friday said it does not have the option to reject the alternative piece of land given to it under the SC's verdict but will decide how to use it when it meets on Monday.

SHOPKEEPER SHOT DEAD BY ROBBERS IN DELHI
New Delhi: A 47-year-old provision store owner was shot dead allegedly by unidentified persons while he was trying to avert a robbery bid in south Delhi's Fatehpur Beri area.

Kejriwal to redeem another pledge: Mohalla Marshals

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After the successful implementation of the bus marshals scheme in the DTC run buses, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government has decided to deploy mohalla marshals to create an atmosphere of safety and security for women and children at the very grassroots.

The marshals drawn from the "Civil Defence" unit of the Delhi Government will be deployed in the streets, residential societies and mohallas and other vulnerable points across the national Capital.

The Women and Children Department (WCD) in a pilot project explored the idea of mohalla marshals in Burari last year where the Civil



Defense officers conducted regular visits and surprise checks in the vulnerable points, during which they received a maximum number of complaints from the residents.

"Following the results of this pilot project, the WCD has decided to implement the idea across the city for the safety of woman and child," said Rajendra Pal Gautam, Minister of WCD and the brains behind mohalla marshals projects.

Continued on Page 4

30 squats to earn you free platform ticket

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways has come with a unique scheme to make commuters healthy by offering a free platform ticket at the Anand Vihar railway station in the national Capital if they successfully do thirty squats at the designated kiosk.

In a first-of-its-kind Fit India initiative, the railways has also opened a "Dawa Dost" store at the station, a generic medicine store for passengers. "Dawa Dost" aims to make it easier for Indians to take care of their health and help them make substantial savings on their health bills by providing high-quality, affordable medicines. "Dawa Dost" supports the Indian Government's stance on the use of generic medicines. The firm currently has 10 stores in Rajasthan and Delhi

and plans to increase the number to 100 in a year and to 1,000 in the four years," a statement issued by the railways said.

Other health-related amenities include a pulse health machine kiosk, which measures various health and wellness parameters (body composition analysis, blood pressure, etc.) and gives indications of potential lifestyle diseases with personalised recommendations.

The railways has also installed a Robocura massage chair, the most advanced body massage chair that has 3D massage rollers, along with a longer massage track line giving maximum massage coverage, the statement said.

The railways has also created a "Eat Right Station Certification", the main objective of which is to help pas-



sengers make healthy food choices. "It aims to engage, excite and enable people towards their health and well-being. A 'Eat Right Station'

audit was conducted at the Anand Vihar terminal in January and the station achieved the highest score of 92 per cent with a five-star rating.

The station is the first 'Eat Right Station' under the Northern Railway," the statement said.

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NEP in works again: Rollout delay likely

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The ambitious National Education Policy (NEP) has gone into the works yet again to specifically address some key contentious issues, and this could result in a further delay in its implementation despite the Government's plans to table a Bill in this regard in the current Budget Session of Parliament.

In a review meeting a couple of days ago, sources said, the Prime Minister's Office asked the HRD Ministry to rework on certain issues in the draft NEP before being finalised and brought in the Union Cabinet for its approval.

Sources said that the PMO went through every detail in the NEP and while seeking clarifications also directed to make the necessary changes both in the higher education and secondary education seg-

ments. "The HRD Ministry will now have to amend the NEP policy document on a war footing to seek Cabinet approval as the PMO has desired that the NEP be brought in during the current Budget Session of Parliament," sources said.

In the wake of controversy over language in State education system, the PMO suggested that NEP should not impose any language on the States but at the same time ensure that the existing three-language formula is continued.

While the NEP draft has talked about bringing the pre-primary education from age three onwards within the purview of the HRD Ministry, the PMO said that the existing system of early childhood education be continued with Women & Child Development (WCD) Ministry.

It said this should be reworked with age group 3-5

years being under the WCD Ministry and five years onwards under the HRD Ministry. The PMO is also learnt to have asked the HRD Ministry to omit the clause of State regulatory bodies for schools as objections have been reported to the PMO by the States.

The PMO also raised doubts as to why there are four channels in higher education regulations which seem to be complicated and there has to be one overarching body of the higher education regulator.

On the issue of restructuring of higher education regulatory system, NEP advocates for a National Higher Education Regulatory Authority (NHRA) as regulator and recommends three independent bodies working simultaneously - General Education Council (GEC) for academic standards, the National Assessment &

Prime Minister's Office asked the HRD Ministry to rework on certain issues

Accreditation Council (NAAC) for accreditation functions and the third one Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding.

A new NEP has been the ruling BJP's agenda in every manifesto and soon after coming to power in May 2014, the Modi government promised to transform educational system with a new NEP. The last NEP was revised in 1986.

Two former HRD Ministers - Smriti Irani and Prakash Javadekar - formed their own committees to draft the NEP. While Irani tasked T.S.R. Subramanian Committee to suggest recommendations for the policy, Javadekar rejected the Subramanian panel's report and disbanded the committee and formed another chaired by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief K. Kasturirangan. The committee began work on the policy in July 2017.

Pak remains in FATF grey list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Paris-based international global terror financing watchdog, on Friday decided continuation of Pakistan in the 'Grey List' and warned it of stern action if it fails to check flow of money to terror groups like the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM).

The decision taken in the FATF plenary session also warned Islamabad that if it does not complete a full action plan by June this year, it could lead to consequences on its business, sources said here.

Already facing a grim economic and financial scenario, Pakistan will not be able to access loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Union if the FATF takes any tough action after the June deadline is not complied with.

The plenary noted that Pakistan addressed only a few of the 27 tasks given to it in



controlling funding to terror groups like the LeT, JeM and the Hizbul Mujahideen, which are responsible for a series of attacks in India. The FATF said Pakistan has to swiftly complete its full action plan by June, the source said.

If Pakistan fails to abide by the FATF directive, there is every possibility that the global body may put the country in the 'Black List' along with North Korea and Iran.

India has all along stressed the point that Pakistan extends regular support to terror groups like the LeT, the JeM and the Hizbul Mujahideen, whose prime target is India, and has urged the FATF to take

action against Islamabad.

Pakistan is believed to have received strong backing from Malaysia but failed to impress western nations due to India's consistent efforts by providing materials and evidence on Pakistan's inaction to check funding to terror groups operating from its soil.

Pakistan needed 12 votes out of 39 to exit the 'Grey List' and move to the 'White List'. To avoid the "Black List", it needs the support of three countries.

The 'Grey Listing' came three days after a sub-group of the FATF recommended continuation of the country in it. The FATF meeting, from February 16 to 21, was held a

week after an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan sentenced Hafiz Saeed, the mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai attack and founder of the LeT, to 11 years in two terror financing cases.

The Pakistani court's judgment came ostensibly to please the FATF and western countries so that the country can exit the 'Grey List'.

Saeed, 70, a UN designated terrorist on whom the US has placed a USD 10 million bounty, was arrested on July 17, 2019, in the terror financing cases. He is lodged at the high-security Kot Lakhpat jail in Pakistan.

Pakistan has also recently informed the FATF that JeM founder Masood Azhar and his family are "missing." It has claimed that there were only 16 UN designated terrorists in Pakistan, of which "seven are dead."

Out of the nine who are alive, seven had applied to the UN for exemption from financial and travel restrictions. In the last month's FATF meeting in Beijing, Pakistan got support of Malaysia and Turkey besides FATF current chair China.

INSHORT

KHULBE, SINHA APPOINTED ADVISERS TO PM MODI

New Delhi: Retired IAS officers of 1983-batch Bhaskar Khulbe and Amarjeet Sinha have been appointed as Advisers to PM Modi. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointments in the PMO in the rank and scale of Secretary, a government order said. Khulbe was from the West Bengal cadre and Sinha was from the Bihar cadre.

GOM DISCUSSES CHANGES IN JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT

New Delhi: A Group of Ministers (GoM), headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, held a meeting on Friday and is believed to have discussed about the proposed amendments in the Juvenile Justice Act. Those who attended the GoM meet were - Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal.

CONG FINALISES OFFICE BEARERS OF AP UNIT

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday finalised office bearers for its Andhra Pradesh unit by appointing 11 vice presidents and 18 general secretaries, and made former CM Ommin Chandy the party's State coordination committee head.

CONG SLAMS BJP OVER BHAGWAT'S REMARKS

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday attacked the BJP and the Sangh Parivar over RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's remarks, saying if they would have understood Mahatma Gandhi's nationalism then the need for distancing themselves from nationalism would not have arisen.

Bomb blast in Pak, earthquake in Nepal as grounds for lawyers' strikes irk SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Strikes by advocates for "flimsy reasons", like bomb blast in a Pakistan school and earthquake in Nepal, on all working Saturdays for more than the past 35 years in three districts of Uttarakhand has caught the attention of the Supreme Court which rapped them for resorting to such a "joke".

The issue came to the notice of the apex court while it was hearing an appeal against the verdict of the Uttarakhand High Court which had held as "illegal" the strikes or boycotts of court work on all Saturdays by lawyers in Dehradun and in several parts of Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar. In its September 25, 2019 verdict, the high court had referred to the 266th report of

the Law Commission, which had analyzed data on loss of working days on account of strikes by lawyers and had opined that it affects functioning of courts and contributes to the ever mounting pendency of cases.

As per information sent by the high court to the Law Commission with respect to Uttarakhand for 2012-2016, advocates were on strike for 455 days during this period in Dehradun district, followed by 515 days in Haridwar district.

Referring to the Law Commission's report, the high court had noted that strikes by advocates or their abstinence from courts varied from local, national to international issues, having no relevance to the working of the courts, and

were seldom for justifiable reasons. "To mention a few, bomb blast in a Pakistan school, amendments to Sri Lanka's Constitution, inter-state river water disputes, attack on/murder of an advocate, earthquake in Nepal, condoling the death of near relatives of advocates, expressing solidarity to advocates of other state bar associations, moral support to movements by social activists, heavy rains.

And even for kavi-sammelans," the high court had noted in its verdict. The appeal against the high court's verdict came up for hearing before a bench of Justices Arun Mishra and M R Shah on Thursday. "This is happening everywhere in the country. This is a fit case to initiate suo motu contempt.

SC larger Bench to revisit 2010 verdict in Lalu Prasad DA case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has decided to revisit its 2010 verdict in the disproportionate assets case of former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav in which it had held that the State Government has no authority to file an appeal against acquittal in cases probed by central agencies.

The issue cropped up as the Chhattisgarh Govt had to rush to the apex court in 2011 challenging the acquittal of Amit Jogi, the son of former Chief Minister Ajit Jogi, in a 2003 murder case as the CBI had not filed the appeal within the stipulated period.

However, during the interregnum, the apex court's three-judge bench in 2010 had delivered a verdict in the Yadav DA

Chhattisgarh Govt doubted correctness of the 2010 verdict in Lalu's case

case that the CBI, which was the prosecuting agency in the fodder scam, had the right to challenge the orders of the subordinate court and the State Government had no locus standi. When Jogi's matter came up last week in the apex court, the Chhattisgarh Government doubted the correctness of the 2010 verdict in Yadav's case and a bench of Justices SK Kaul and KM Joseph directed that the matter be referred to a larger bench.

"Counsel for the State of Chhattisgarh seeks to doubt the judgment of this Court in Lalu Prasad Yadav and others versus State of Bihar and others, which

is of a three-judge bench," the bench said. "We are thus of the view that it may be appropriate that the matters be placed before a three-judge bench itself so as to avoid further duplication of the hearing. The matters be thus, placed before Chief Justice of India for appropriate directions," it said.

Advocate Sumeer Sodhi, appearing for the Chhattisgarh Govt, said that the apex court's judgement in the Lalu Prasad Yadav case is per incuriam (bad in law).

He said the 2010 judgement needs to be reconsidered as it affects the substantial rights of all States to file an appeal against acquittal of an accused in a case investigated and prosecuted by the Central Bureau of Investigation or any other central agency.

INDIA & MALDIVES

Shah hold talks with Sheikh Imran Abdulla

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday held deliberations with his Maldivian counterpart Sheikh Imran Abdulla during which they discussed ways to further strengthen the ties between the two countries. "Met Mr. Sheikh Imran Abdulla, Home Minister of the Republic of Maldives. Held extensive discussions on ways to further deepen and strengthen ties between India and Maldives," Shah tweeted after the meeting.

According to a Home Ministry statement, during the meeting, the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest in the area of security and law-enforcement cooperation. Welcoming the strengthening of the India-Maldives partnership, the ministers appreciated the expansion of bilateral cooperation in diverse

fields including policing and law enforcement, counterterrorism, counter-radicalisation, organised crime, drug trafficking and capacity building, the statement said. Abdulla is on a four-day visit to India since Thursday. The meeting was also attended by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla and other senior officers from both sides.



Kerala Guv: People sitting on roads, disrupting normal life

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an indirect criticism of Shaheen Bagh protesters, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan on Friday said people sitting on roads and disrupting normal life to force their opinion on others is a form of terrorism.

Speaking at the 'Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad', Khan said that aggression was reflected not just in violence but in other forms too. He said people blocking roads and disrupting normal life to voice their opinion is another form of terrorism. "Dissent is the essence of democracy. There is no problem with that but five people sit outside the Vigyan Bhawan and say we shall not move from here unless this parliament of students adopts a resolution which we would like them to adopt - that is another form of terrorism," Khan said.

Since Parliament passed the Citizenship

(Amendment) Act (CAA) in December last year, a number of protests have taken place across the country, including the one at Shaheen Bagh in the national capital, against the contentious law and a proposed nationwide National Register of Citizens (NRC). On Monday, the Supreme Court observed that the blockade of road at Shaheen Bagh was "troubling" and suggested that the protesters go to another site, where no public place would be blocked. The top court, however, upheld their right to protest.

Referring to anti-CAA protesters reading the Preamble of the Constitution across the country, Khan said, "Honestly, I am very happy that people have started reading the Preamble of the Constitution. What does the Preamble say? It talks of liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship. Do not confuse things. Do not try to impose your thoughts in the name of (freedom of speech and) expression on to others."

Haath mein Samvidhaan, dil mein Waris Pathan: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday alleged that AIMIM leader Waris Pathan's 'inflammatory' remarks shows the conspiracy going on in the name of anti-CAA protest and questioned the 'silence of liberals' opposing the law.

Addressing a Press conference at the BJP office here, party spokesperson Sambit Patra said, "I want to ask all the so-called liberals, who have been opposing CAA, why are they silent on his remarks.

It also vindicates that ladies who are sitting in Shaheen Bagh are just being used as a shield to further the cause of hatred."

"No one from these liberal brigades is making an issue of the divisive comments made by Waris Pathan. All of them are the same. Haath mein Samvidhaan, dil mein Waris Pathan (Constitution in hand, Waris Pathan in the

heart)," Patra said.

Addressing an anti-Citizenship Amendment Act rally at Kalaburagi in North Karnataka on February 16, the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader asserted that 15 crore Muslims can prove to be heavy on the other 100 crore.

Patra said Pathan's remarks actually shows the conspiracy which goes behind the walls of these people to defame the government and disturb peace of the country.

He said had some BJP leader made similar remarks, then other political parties and their leaders would have come out on the streets in protest.

A video going viral during the day also showed a woman in the rally of AIMIM chief at Bengaluru purportedly shouting slogans in favour of Pakistan and being removed by the police.

3D fabricated model exhibition on famous monuments on till Feb 23

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Five world-renowned Indian archaeological wonders - Taj Mahal in Agra, Kashi Vishwanath temple, Konark Sun Temple in Odisha, Rani Ki Vav (stepwell) in Gujarat and the ruins of Hampi in Karnataka have virtually come alive here at an exhibition at the National Museum here.

Trained in state-of-the-art technologies, Vizara Technologies, a startup under the incubation of IIT Delhi in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology has created accurate 3-dimensional models of these five most important archaeological sites in India, allowing for detailed study by archaeologists and future preservation.

A visual treat particularly to the tech-savvy visitors at the museum, the exhibition which is on till February 23, 2020 showcases 3D fabricated models of the famous monuments with interactive virtual walk-throughs and projection mapping, and a room-scale 3D model of a Hampi Temple, with augmented reality (AR),

◆ Interactive virtual walk-throughs and projection mapping, and a room-scale 3D model of a Hampi Temple, with augmented reality (AR), virtual Reality (VR) and holographic interactions

◆ These installations combine multiple technologies, which can be used by a visitor to interact with the physical models and experience personalised, realistic virtual walkthroughs of each of these heritage sites, and get information about their various facets

◆ The exhibition on digital conservations termed it a rare public showcase of digital preservation work undertaken in India

virtual Reality (VR) and holographic interactions.

Dr Anupma Malik, CEO of Vizara Technologies explained that these installations combine multiple technologies, which can be used by a visitor to interact with the physical models and experience personalised, realistic virtual walkthroughs of each of these heritage sites, and get information about their various facets.

Under the project, damaged historical monument and

extinct art forms like dance are being conserved for the future generation.

The process includes laser scanning and mapping of the monument and preparation of digital format of the monuments on the basis of the available historical facts information. For instance, 3D model of Rani Ki Vav, an engineering marvel, showcases entire stepwell, intricately carved walls, detailing the terraces that lead to the well.

Virtual walk-throughs and projection mapping

Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan who had visited the exhibition on digital conservations termed it a rare public showcase of digital preservation work undertaken in India.

"The exhibition serves as a bridge between the past and future and will make aware the next generations about the rich cultural values and architectural techniques; this will help the new generation to learn the move forward in conserving monuments," he added.

The research conducted as part of the Indian Digital Heritage (IDH), initiative of DST, aims to develop indigenous technologies to digitally preserve Indian heritage, by focusing on the UNESCO world heritage site of Hampi, Karnataka as an illustrative example.

Teams from various cultural and scientific institutes such as IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay, CSIR-CBRI Roorkee, National Institute of Design, Bengaluru worked together to identify research problems such as how to restore fading murals that could reveal more about social life in the past.

Rajnath lays foundation of 'Thal Sena Bhawan'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday performed the stone-laying ceremony, 'Bhoomi Pujan', for the proposed 'Thal Sena Bhawan' of the Army in Delhi Cantonment which will bring together various pockets of the Army headquarters spread across Delhi under one roof. At present, nearly eight offices of the Army are spread all over the national capital.

Observing that there is movement of about 3,000-4,000 vehicles every day from the various Army establishments in the city, Singh said this would be not required once the 'Thal Sena Bhawan' comes and would significantly reduce fuel consumption, expenses and pollution. "The new sena building will ensure they can work under one roof," he stated. The new Thal Sena Bhawan will be spread over 39 acres and the building will be completed in five years.

Singh also said the newly created Department of Military Affairs (DMA) headed by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) will also work from here. "This will help in jointness," he added.

The seven-storeyed complex is designed "like a rising



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveils a plaque during the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Thal Sena Bhawan in Delhi Cantt, New Delhi on Friday. Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane (to Singh's left) is also seen

sun." Singh said "we have laid the first stone of the new Sena Bhawan. This (stone) will not reach the top, but it is the first stone.

And, it will represent the unsung heroes of the armed forces who have sacrificed their lives for the country."

The proposed Thal Sena Bhawan will bring all Army HQ offices under one roof thereby improving the working efficiency, while reducing the carbon footprint and logistics requirements, Army Chief Gen

Manoj Naravane said adding it will also allow more family time for all personnel tenating peace posting at Delhi.

The 'Thal sena bhawan' spread opposite Manekshaw centre in Delhi Cantonment will bring together Army headquarters split in eight pockets across Delhi. Presently, Army Headquarters is split into eight pockets across South Block, Sena Bhawan, Hutments Area, RK Puram, Shankar Vihar and other places, the Army said. The work was sanctioned to

make up the existing deficiency of 44% and also to accommodate the Army Headquarters in one place.

It is conceptualized as a multistorey green building adopting Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) norms and will house offices, residential area for security personnel and basic amenities.

Approximately 7.5 Lakh square meter of area will be constructed to house the office complex and parking. A total of 6,014 offices will be constructed which will house offices for 1,684 officers both military and civilian and 4,330 sub staff, the Army said. The proposed work will generate minimum 2 Lakh hours of skilled and unskilled work. There will be parking for 4,000 cars, sources said.

The Army Chief will continue to sit in South Block in close proximity to the Defence Minister and the present Army HQ 'Sena Bhawan' will continue to exist though some functions would be shifted to the new complex. The cost of the new project is about Rs 700 crores.

The present Army Headquarters is situated near South Block on the Raisina Hill.

Highest amount of paddy procured this year: State govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The paddy purchased from farmers this year was highest ever in Chhattisgarh, state government claimed here on Friday.

In all 82.80 lakh ton paddy was purchased from farmers and they were paid ₹14,400 crore for the same, a press release issued by the state government claimed.

However, the procurement fell short of the state government's target of procuring about 85 lakh metric ton of paddy this year.

Meanwhile, department officials informed that 2,047 procurement centres were setup across the state and in



all paddy worth ₹14,751 crore was purchased from farmers out of which ₹14,400 crore has already been transferred to their accounts.

Food and Civil Supplies department officials said that in all 19.55 lakh farmers had registered for selling paddy this year.

"As compared to marketing year 2018-19 there has been 15.17 percent increase in farmers registration and 4.98 percent jump in the acreage," officials said.

As compared to previous year, this year there has been jump of 25.29 percent marginal farmers and 9.3 percent small farmers selling paddy on support price, they added.

NCST panel chief claims Bangladeshi Muslims duping tribal people

MANISH SONI ■ AMBIKAPUR

Chariman National Commission for Scheduled Tribes Nand Kumar Sai said in a statement that Bangladeshi Muslims are taking benefit of simplicity of tribal. They are marrying the tribal girls and acquiring their land.

He further said during his six-day visit to Bastar several issues cropped up and one of the key one was this. Not only they are cutting down the forest and making the girls fight local bodies' election like panch, sarpanch, janpad members etc., then carrying out their influence in larger area. Similar, incidents are being reported



in bordering areas of Surguja also. Sai is on a two-day visit to Ambikapur.

Interacting with media person, tribal leaders alleged that Naxal and police atrocities have led to migration of tribal from state to bordering states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. He said there are several incidents where innocent tribals are killed, they are dressed in Naxal outfit and marked as Naxals. The tribal leader added that police should be given special training to protect rights of downtrodden.

Former Sarguja MP on different stand of Congress leader Arvind Netam and Dr Prem Sai Singh, state education minister on CAA issue, said tribal have now political affiliation based on it they are taking their stand. In CAA no document is being sought from local residents, rumours are being spread about it. There is large patch of area where still no survey has been done by the government.

'Shahi Snan', procession of 'Naga Sadhus' held

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAJIM

On the concluding day of 'Rajim Maghi Punni Mela-2020', the Naga babas, saints-seers of different 'Akharas' took out a historical procession for 'Shahi Snan' on Saturday, which also coincides with 'Mahashivaratri'.

The procession begun from Sant Samagam, crisscrossing Shrikuleswar Mahadev temple to Nehru Bal Udyan, Rajim bridge, Pt Sunderlal Sharma square, Gauravpath Rajim passing through VIP route reached the 'Shahi Kund' for the holy dip. Devotees thronged both sides of road to welcome the procession showering flowers. To commence the event of holy dip, the Naga babas took the first dip.



Dhawde, district officials also welcomed the seer-saints before the event. He had earlier

Insurance companies received around ₹2,400 cr from C'garh

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

A huge sum of money running to thousands of crore was paid to insurance companies as premium amount under various insurance-based health model, claimed the state's health department.

It said the amount could be now used for improving the health infrastructure in Chhattisgarh.

As per information received from the state health department ₹2,379.82 crore was paid to five big insurance companies between 2009 and 2019. Data revealed that the

As per information received from the state health department ₹2,379.82 crore was paid to five big insurance companies

money was paid to Oriental Insurance Company Ltd, Tata AIG General Insurance Company Ltd, The New India Assurance Co. Ltd,

United India and Religare Health Insurance Company Limited.

"One of the reasons behind introducing trust-based health care model in Chhattisgarh was the hefty amount paid to insurance companies," Chhattisgarh health minister TS Singhdeo told The Pioneer.

The money that was paid to private companies can be now invested in providing state of the art health facilities at government hospitals. This will benefit the financially weaker sections, Singhdeo opined.

According to health department officials,

under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) between September 2009 and April 2011, ₹63.80 crore was paid to Oriental Insurance and Tata AIG.

Likewise, from Sept 2010 to July 2015 under the RSBY Oriental Insurance Company was paid ₹497.86 crore. It also covered premiums of Mukhyamantri Swasthya Beema Yojana (MSBY) between 2014 and 2016.

In the same way New India Insurance company got ₹263.68 crore between January 2015 and January 2016 under the RSBY and MSBY.

According to health department officials, initially the premium of insurance companies was not much but soon it doubled and tripled.

They also informed that apart from Chhattisgarh there are about half a dozen states in India that follow the trust-based health care system.

They further said that United India Insurance was paid premium of ₹771.34 crore between January 2017 and September 2018. In the same way Religare Health received ₹783.14 crore under the MSBY and Ayushman Bharat Yojana.

Baijendra Kumar wins Business Leadership Award

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

N. Baijendra Kumar, Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), was presented with 'The Business Leadership Award 2020', on Friday at the Seventh edition of the "Governance Now PSU Awards" at New Delhi.

These annual awards showcase businesses and individuals who have exhibited exceptional leadership in PSU governance to ensure



protection and long-term value for all their stakeholders. The award honours the efforts of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) that

play a key role in the country's economic growth and social development, said an NMDC press release.

The 7th edition of the award was graced by Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, and Shailesh Lodha, Indian actor, comedian and writer. Meghwal handed over the awards to the winners from the different categories of best performer - Financial, CSR in Infrastructure and

Leadership Awards, etc.

Amitava Mukherjee, Director (Finance), NMDC received the Best Performer - Financial, and CSR in Infrastructure Development on behalf of the NMDC.

Speaking on the occasion, Baijendra Kumar, IAS, said, "Being recognized as a 'Corporate Business Leader' is an honour, and this award will be close to my heart. This award is recognition of the committed team of the NMDC and I dedicate this award to the sincere efforts of each member of NMDC family."

Cong to protest LPG price hike tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Women Congress will hold state-level demonstration at Gandhi Maidan, Raipur on February 23 to protest the erroneous policy of central government which led to the rise in prices of LPG cylinders.

They demanded roll back of the recent price hike.

Women Congress state president Phulo Devi Netam will lead the demonstration.

Netam said during Dr Manmohan Singh government when prices of LPG cylinder was increased by 50 paise, the then BJP women leaders had demonstrated on the roads carrying fire woods but now they are keeping total mum.

The household budget of women is spiraling while the poor are facing more difficulty in day-to-day life

She said not only the LPG, prices of other materials are on rise during the BJP-led Central government's rule. The household budget of women is spiraling while the poor are facing more difficulty in day-to-day life.

Congress leader said the Ujjwala scheme was launched to provide free LPG cylinders to poor but now the poor women are unable to refill due to higher costs. They are now forced to return to their traditional cooking with fuel wood and other materials, she added.

Netam added that 2003 Atal Bihari Vajpayee government fell due to hike in onion price now Modi government will face same backlash from women over the price hike of all materials including LPG, petrol-diesel.

The Congress woman leader added that agitation will continue till the hike is rolled back. Earlier, the agitations were organised at block and district headquarters, now it is scheduled in capital city.

Devotees take holy dip in confluence

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAJIM

To mark the 'Mahashivaratri', the devotees thronged the 'Lord Shiva' temple across the state on Friday. As part of Rajim Fair at the confluence, since early morning thousands of devotees throng to take holy dip and offer prayers at 'Kuleswar' temple.

As per reports, the devotees arriving from different parts of the state and neighbouring states started to throng the confluence since 3.00 am in the morning and

offering 'lamps' in the confluence. Long queues were witnessed in the temples to offer prayers after the holy dip.

The confluence witnessed lamps floating in the water lighting the whole area. Devotees even made 'Shivlings' with sand and offered prayers. As part of rituals, several devotees also offered hair, the first hair cut of their children. Different rituals were also being organised for the devotees based on their demand.

Devotees Santosh

Sonkar, Khilendra, Ramti, Gunjeshwari and Harshita interacting with media person said they come every year during Mahashivaratri to Rajim, take a holy dip in the confluence and make a 'Shivling' from sand and offer prayers. Making a mythological contest, they said during Trethayug, during exile, Goddess Sita had made a Shivling from sand and offered water to it. Since then the tradition has been continuing at Rajim confluence during the Mahashivaratri.

State achieves 86% target under MGNREGA

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh has achieved 11.25 crore man days of job in current fiscal year under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) thus achieving 86.57% of the target.

This year the target is 13 crore man days. The national average is 82.46%.

The four districts in state, mainly Bijapur, Sukma, Balod and Jashpur districts have generated more man days and providing job to more people than the target. This year around 2.56 lakh families have been provided 100 days of employment while in present work across the state around 11.20 lakh workers are presently working. State is

placed in ninth position in the country for creating employment against target.

Under current year a total of 23 lakh families have been provided employment and around Rs 2,658 crore have been spent on different works, against which Rs 1,971 crore has been given as wages to workers. In Rajnandgaon district 1.08 lakh, Janjgir-Champa 75,967 workers, Mahasamund 63,061 workers, Bilaspur 61,738 workers and Kabirdham 60,000 workers are presently working.

Rajnandgaon district is in top for ensuring 100 days employment to job card holders where 24,216 families have been given the job. It is followed by Bilaspur, Surajpur, Kabirdham, Gariaband, Kanker and Jashpur.

Chitrakote waterfall is pride of Bastar: Minister

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Industries and excise minister K. Lakshma said Chitrakote waterfall is not only a pride but also heritage of Bastar division. It is known all over the world and hence there is a need for its conservation and protection. Efforts are being made in this direction, he added.

Lakshma was speaking at the concluding ceremony of three-day Chitrakote festival. Bastar MP Deepak Baij presided the event.

Lakshma said with festival being held every year, it has given further identity to the area. He said there is no place like Bastar and protecting its natural beauty is responsibility of all. The tribal life-style, tradi-



tions and culture, its festivity has its own importance, he added.

He also spoke on several state government welfare schemes and assured that state government is totally committed for development of the state in general and Bastar in particular. Deepak Baij said the

three-day festival has given platform to the local artistes to showcase their talents. MLA Rajman also addressed the gathering. Additional to the local cultural performance, sports events like kabaddi, boat race, tug of war and other competitions were also organised.

Naidu: Yoga not a religion but science

Coimbatore: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday said yoga is not a religion or a political activity, but a science and should be practiced for the betterment of an individual.

"The world needs more happiness and that is exactly what Lord Shiva teaches us. Adiyogi is the one who first transmitted the yogic science to humanity," he said, speaking at the Mahashivarathi festival organised at Isha Yoga Centre here, where the 112 feet tall statue of Adiyogi formed the background.



Adiyogi is an inspiration and representation of Yoga, which is not a belief, but a technology to transform oneself, the Vice-President said.

"Yoga is not a religion, it is a science. It is time we all now get back to Yoga.

I am happy that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken the initiative to take Yoga to the United Nations. Now Yoga is catching up! Thanks to the initiative of the Prime Minister" he said.

"Yoga is not for Modi, but for the body," he quipped and said Yoga was not a political activity.

All of us must practise and promote yoga for our betterment. Yoga is the center of scientific basis. The U.N has included yoga to attain a development of sustainable growth," he said.

"We also belong to a great culture, which believes the entire world is one family. The only culture, the only civiliza-

Despite flaws, democracy best form of Govt: RSS leader

PTI ■ NAGPUR

RSS general secretary Suresh 'Bhaiyyaji' Joshi on Friday said that although democracy has its flaws, it is the best form of government.

He also said that despite the Constitution giving rights to people, they are indifferent towards their duties.

Joshi was speaking at the inauguration of a new building of a co-operative bank here.

"In democracy there are governments. In our democracy, the government has huge powers and this power is created by the society. If we look at the ruling patterns across the world, democracy has the least number of flaws...It is not that democracy does not have flaws. But democracy is the best system," he said.

He also said that the strength of democracy lies in the awakened people.

"If the common man is awakened, then democracy also succeeds," Joshi added.

Social life runs not just on

rights, but also on duties, he said, adding, "And there is a need to ignite this feeling of duty."

"There has been one big problem of this century. Unfortunately, the things which continued from ancient times became weak in this era.

"Constitution has given us rights, but in this written Constitution it has not been told very well about the duties of the people who have rights," he said, adding that people remain indifferent towards their duties.

Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Devendra Fadnis, was also present there on the occasion.

Talking about him, Joshi said, "It is not the fate of Devendraji to be in the post of leader of opposition for long. The post of former chief minister is short-lived...Both these posts are short-lived.

Ups and downs are part of democracy. It keeps happening and will continue to happen," he said.

Another nun had accused Bishop Mulakkal of sexual harassment claims SOS forum

Kochi/Kottayam:

The Save Our Sisters forum, which spearheaded the protests against rape accused Bishop Franco Mulakkal in 2018, on Friday alleged "cover up" by police after fresh reports claimed that another nun had given a statement against the top priest alleging sexual harassment.

The SOS alleged that the police failed to act in the sexual harassment charges levelled against the former Jalandhar diocese Bishop by the nun, who is also a key witness in the 'nun rape case.'

According to the media reports, another nun belonging to the Missionaries of Jesus congregation, who is the 14th witness in the rape case, had given a statement to the investigation team in September 2018 alleging that the Bishop had sent her lewd messages on her phone in 2015.

"Police did not register a case in the second case of sexual allegations against the Bishop by the nun. We suspect the role of influential people in keeping the nun's statement secret so far.

It is a mystery," SOS convenor Felix J Pulloosan and joint convenor Shaiju Antony said in a statement here.

They demanded a thorough probe into the case.

The SOS expressed apprehension that the nun, who is currently with the Missionaries of Jesus congregation under Jalandhar diocese, will be forced to change her statement "yielding to the pressure tactics of the Bishop and his supporters."

Police have not reacted to the reports of fresh allegations quoting the statement given to the investigation team by the second nun.

A statement issued by Fr. Peter, PRO to Bishop Franco Mulakkal, criticised the media for "propagating" a statement given by a witness in the case a year ago.

The priest said the statement of the witness-nun was part of the charge sheet submitted by the investigation team in the court.

"That statement of the nun is propagated through media with a wrong intention, that too on the eve of the Bishop's dis-

charge petition to be considered by the court. It is seen as a bid to indirectly influence the court proceedings," said the statement signed by Peter.

Sister Anupama, one of the nuns who took part in the public protest here demanding rape-accused Mulakkal's arrest, said she and her fellow nuns, who stood by the rape survivor, were not aware of the fresh sexual allegations levelled against the Bishop.

"We see it as a divine intervention. We are happy that more people are coming out openly against Bishop Franco Mulakkal," Anupama told PTI when asked about the reports.

Meanwhile, a lower court in Kottayam will consider on Saturday a discharge plea filed by Mulakkal in connection with the rape case. In his plea filed before the Additional District and Sessions Court-I, Mulakkal has claimed that prima facie there was no case to frame charges against him.

The Bishop filed the discharge plea as the court was about to commence the preliminary hearing on the rape charges against him. PTI

Hyd varsity imposes ₹5,000 fine on three students for holding Shaheen Bagh Night

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The University of Hyderabad has fined three students ₹5,000 each for organising a 'Shaheen Bagh Night' event against the Citizenship Amendment Act on the campus after 9 pm in violation of varsity regulations.

The students union has condemned the move.

The fine was imposed through an university order dated February 18 as the students organised the event on January 31 after 9 pm at North Shopping Complex and also allegedly defaced the walls at the site, university sources said.

"The students are sternly warned to be cautious and focus on their studies in future. Recurrence of such incidents or indulging in any act of indiscipline would have serious repercussions on their academic career with strong disciplinary action," the order said.

Condemning the varsity action, the students union in a statement said the order or circular was arbitrary and they would not follow it and demanded that the fine imposed be withdrawn unconditionally.

"HCUSU (Hyderabad Central University Students Union) also assures the student community that we will not bow down to the administration at any cost and will take any and every possible step to safeguard the democratic interests of the students," the note said.

A spokesperson of the University said the institution recognises the right of recognised student bodies to organise meetings or protests, in designated spaces without disrupting normal academic, administrative and residential life of a large number of teaching and non-teaching staff and their families who live on the campus.

Ayushmann Khurrana to perform at Elante

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Bollywood actor and Elante Mall's Happyness Ambassador Ayushmann Khurrana is all set to perform at the Elante courtyard for the first time on February 29.

Elante Mall will give away couple passes to 'The Happyness Concert' to anyone who shops over ₹5000 leading up to February 29.

Speaking ahead his performance, actor Ayushmann Khurrana said, "Chandigarh is extremely special to me. Not only because I was born here, but also because this city has given me so much love and respect."

"Performing at Elante Mall is really special because I will be performing at the tricity's best mall and in front of my home crowd with my band 'Ayushmann Bhava'.

Kejriwal to redeem another...

From Page 1

The Minister is also planning actions and steps to strengthen the Mahila Panchayats across all the 70 Vidhan Sabha. "The role of mohalla marshals will be a revolutionary step in ensuring the overall security and safety at the grass-root level," the Minister said.

Gautam also held a meeting with Delhi Woman Commission (DCW) and chairman of Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) on Friday to discuss the work done by the department for women and child in the last three years and formulate an action plan to ensure safety of women and girls at the grass-roots level.

"The DCW team has done exemplary work in the last three years. In our Guarantee Card, women safety is the top-most priority. The plan is to set up mohalla marshals and strengthening Mahila panchayats in the upcoming months," the Social Welfare Minister said.

Gautam also directed the

DCW to set up a special welfare cell for Schedule Caste (SC/ST) in the Commission that will work towards the welfare of women and girls from the community.

"Seeing the atrocities on women from the SC/ST community, we welcome the idea of WCD Minister and will add a special cell which will work towards the welfare and offer protection to women from the SC/ST community," DCW chief Swati Malwal.

The Social Welfare Department is also working on to set up a special board for transgender community to provide protection and welfare facilities such as job and education for the members of community.

Further, the Minister also met the members and chairman of DCPCR Ramesh Negi to take a stock of work done in the previous years. "Women and children are the most vulnerable groups in our society. Special attention should be given on child - protections as these innocent minds are most prone to child

- labor and drug - abuse," said Gautam.

"Children who are in homes or are under institutional care need support and protection by the system. Since they are usually abandoned or have fled from their homes, it is our responsibility that their overall social, mental and physical well being is taken care of. Since the past five years, we have offered all legal support and support to these children," said Anurag Kundu, member at DCPCR.

Apart from children in the institution, Kundu also highlighted the issues of child labour in Delhi and suggested effective community - based solutions to tackle the problem of child labor in Delhi in the upcoming years.

Emphasising on children with disabilities and special needs, the Minister also decided to focus on early identification, prevention and early intervention in disabilities. Priorities will be given in screening, evaluation and vocational training programs for persons with disabilities in the State, they added.

Next 5 yrs to focus on education, health, security, self-reliance: Manoharlal

Karnal:

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday said the next five years of the State Government will be focused on education, health, security and self-reliance.

Addressing a gathering at the annual festival held at Vivekananda Senior Secondary School in Karnal city, the Chief Minister said that the State Government has enhanced the level of education by introducing monthly tests and Saksham classes under the Learning Enhancement Program. The annual results of the schools have improved by 10 percent in the last five years and efforts will continue in the future as well.

Khattar said schools, colleges, and universities have been built in the State. More attention

is being paid to the education of girls under Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao program. Special transport facilities have been provided for the school going girls traveling a distance of more than 2 kilometer. He said that understanding the fact that as today's era is the era of Information Technology along with Science, concrete steps are being taken in this direction and some provisions will also be inculcated in the new budget. He said that this year's budget will be a balanced one. For this, suggestions and advice have been taken from the public representatives of the State for the first time so that the expenses and income can be increased for the implementation of the developmental works all across the State for all sections of society. PNS

Thrashing of Dalits: Cong, BJP leaders visit Nagaur, meet victims

Jaipur:

Leaders from the Congress and the BJP on Friday visited Nagaur, where two Dalit men were allegedly brutalised in an act caught on camera.

Union minister Arjun Ram Meghwal led the BJP panel to look into the incident while the Congress sent a team headed by Rajasthan revenue minister Harish Chaudhary.

Meghwal lashed at the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government, saying it was responsible for the incident. "The Chief Minister is holding the portfolio of Home Minister but there is no control over crime and the government is responsible for the incident," Meghwal, the minister of state for heavy industries and public enterprises, said.

Rashtriya Loktantrik MLA Narayan Beniwal also visited the town and met the victims who were allegedly beaten up, stripped and tortured by staffers of a motorcycle service agency after accusing them of committing theft. The brutal incident came to light after a video of the assault

went viral. In the video, a group of men is seen thrashing two persons with rubber belts. They later dip a piece of cloth wrapped on a screwdriver in petrol and insert it in the private parts of one of the victims. Meghwal, who represents the Bikaner parliamentary constituency in Parliament, also accused police of manipulating the case. "There was also a failure on part of the police because they could not get to know about the incident when it happened," he said.

The Union minister alleged that the victims were under pressure. Meghwal was accompanied by party legislators Madan Diwalar and Mohan Ram. After meeting the victims, the BJP panel visited the spot where the incident took place on Sunday.

It also visited the Panchodi police station where an FIR regarding the incident has been registered.

Meghwal said an inquiry report of the panel will be submitted to BJP's state president Satish Poonia in Jaipur on Saturday. PTI

VHP model to be tweaked for a grander Ram Mandir

From Page 1

The height of the proposed temple could also be increased to 160 feet from 125 feet decided earlier by the VHP, he said.

The proposed Ram Temple is expected to be built in Lord Vishnu's favourite octagonal shape and its structure will be made completely with stone without the use of iron in the elevation. Approximately 1.75 lakh cubic feet stone will be required to build the temple. The temple construction work can take over three years, the sources said. The VHP's map proposes the temple to have a length of 270 feet, breadth of 135 feet and height of 125 feet. Every floor will have 106 pillars and will be supported by 185 beams.

The temple doors will be made of wood and will be attached to marble frames. While the ground floor will have a Ram idol, the first floor will house a Ram Darbar. There will also be a garbha graha (sanctum sanctorium) with a sitting area for the priests.

The temple will have five entrances -- the Sinh Dwar and at the Nriya Mandap, Rang Mandap, pooja kaksh (prayer area) and garbh graha (sanctum sanctorium).

President of the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Teertha Kshetra Thackeray will meet PM Modi. This is only a meeting, nothing else should be read into it. Jai Maharashtra," he tweeted in Marathi.

Barely months after the Shiv Sena, Congress and NCP formed a Government in Maharashtra, rifts among the three alliance partners have come to the surface. Contrary to the NCP and Congress's stand on the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Population Register, Uddhav Thackeray earlier this week extended his support to the two exercises.

the 'bhumi puja'.

Though a date for the ceremony is not finalised it is widely believed that construction ceremony (bhumi puja) is expected to be conducted on Ram Navami day - April 2.

Describing it as a courtesy meeting, Rai said the Prime Minister also said nothing should be done to disturb the atmosphere of the country.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad is also working on celebrations for a 'RamoUtsav', in the run-up to Ram Navami, from March 25 till April 8. VHP workers will reach out to all 2.75 lakh villages which had contributed for the Ram Jannabhoomi movement, the organisation's members said.

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It added that the Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd (IRSDC) has provided these facilities at the Anand Vihar railway station.

Besides, passengers can now also avail the facility of air-conditioned waiting Hall by paying a nominal charge of Rs.20 for first two hours and thereafter Rs10 for every subsequent hour.

The waiting hall has been provided with cushioned chairs, LED TV and snack bar. Non-AC waiting halls are also being upgraded by providing LED TV and snack bar.

30 squats to earn you free platform...

Agartala: Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb on Friday said mother language is the only medium through which people can learn properly and express their emotions.

On the occasion of International Mother Language Day, he said the State Government is working to ensure that all languages are honoured.

"We have to respect all languages and our spirit should be to uphold the languages," Deb said at an event organised by Tripura government and the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission here at Rabindra Satabarshiki Bhavan.

He paid homage to those who had sacrificed lives for their mother tongue.

Bangladesh Parliamentarian Md Abdus Shahid, who joined the Mother Language Day celebrations here, said the martyrs of language in the neighbouring country had sacrificed their lives in protest against the imposition of Urdu on Bengalis, which, later, turned into freedom struggle.

He said Bangladesh remembers the people of Tripura for their role during the liberation war.

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Chaimaar ethno-linguistic group, who are the last speakers of the language. PTI

Mother language only medium for proper learning: Tripura CM

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IDBI BANK Branch:-Fafadhih,Add-Ground Floor, Wallfort Ozone, Near Fafadhih Chowk, Raipur,(C.G)
CIN:L61590MH2004G0148838
Branch:-Dhamtari,Add-Sihawa Chowk Opp Mahawar Dharamashala,Dhamtari (C.G)

POSSESSION NOTICE U/S 13(4) of SARFAESI Act

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the IDBI BANK LIMITED under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice date as below mentioned date calling upon the Borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and Interest thereon within 60 days from date of the receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 said rules on this the date mentioned below. The borrowers in particular and the Public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of IDBI BANK LIMITED, Raipur & Dhamtari to amount mentioned below and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl No.	1. Name & Address of the Borrower/Guarantor 2. Name of Branch	Date of Demand Notice Possession Notice	Claim Amount as per demand notice as on date	Description of the Property
1.	M/s Saraswati Enterprises (Borrower) -Shri Mahabir Agrawal, Add: Badigaon, Devbhog, Gariyaband, Chhattisgarh-493890. Branch: Fafadhih	(1)16.12.2019 (2) 17.02.2020	Rs. 46,36,692.56/- as on 09.10.19+ Interest & Other Charges thereon	All that Piece and Parcel of Land and Building comprised in and forming part of Secured Asset and Situated at District Raipur, comprising area of 3096 Sqft., at Kharsa No.144/11, PH No.73, Bhatapara, Devpuri, Tahsil & District Raipur(CG)-492001 and which is bounded as follows: East: House of Ranjset and Ajit, West : Road, South : Seller's House, North : Property of Manju Agrawal Together with all and singular the structures and erections thereon, both present and future.
2.	Mr. Dilip Singh Thakur (Borrower) S/o Mr. Sukhraj Singh Thakur Mrs. Madhuri Thakur (Co-Borrower) W/o Mr. Dilip Singh Thakur Branch: Dhamtari	(1)16.02.2019 (2) 17.02.2020	Rs 17,28,782.31/- as on 10.11.18+ Interest & Other Charges thereon	All that Piece and Parcel of Land and Building comprised in and forming part of Secured Asset and Situated at District Raipur, comprising area of 1067 Sqft., Comprised in Part of Kh. No. 814/2, PH No. 22, Opposite BSNL Office, Bastar Road, Bombay Market, Daak Bangla, Ward no 38, Dhamtari Pin 493773 Chhattisgarh and which is bounded as follows: East : Shop of Altai, West : Shop of Ajman, South : Property of Raj Kumar, North : Road Together with all and singular the structures and erections thereon, both present and future.

Date : 21.02.2020, Place : Raipur & Dhamtari
Authorised Officer, IDBI Bank Limited

Uddhav allays CAA, NPR apprehensions...

From Page 1

The Congress and the NCP are reportedly miffed over the Chief Minister's stand on NPR and CAA. He also said the Prime Minister had assured him of extending all cooperation to the Maharashtra Government.

After Modi, Uddhav met Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi at her residence at 10, Janpath.

In his meeting with Sonia, Uddhav is believed to have told the Congress president not to pay any heed to rumour about stability of the Government and assured her that the Shiv Sena-NCP and Congress alliance regime will last full five years.

Sources said Sonia also sought to know the Shiv Sena views on CAA, NRC and wanted that there should be clarity on them.

Uddhav also conveyed to the Congress leadership about

the berths going to fall vacant in the Rajya Sabha and that there should be a separate meeting of top leaders to discuss the representation of the alliance in the upper house.

Before the meet, senior Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut played down Thackeray's interaction with Modi. "Yes, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will meet PM Modi. This is only a meeting, nothing else should be read into it. Jai Maharashtra," he tweeted in Marathi.

Barely months after the Shiv Sena, Congress and NCP formed a Government in Maharashtra, rifts among the three alliance partners have come to the surface. Contrary to the NCP and Congress's stand on the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Population Register, Uddhav Thackeray earlier this week extended his support to the two exercises.

"The CAA and the NRC (National Register of Citizens) are different and NPR is different. No one has to worry if the CAA gets implemented," he had said.

"The NRC is not there and will not be implemented in the State.. The Centre has not discussed NRC as of now," he added.

Nationalist Congress chief Sharad Pawar, who had a crucial role in bringing together the Sena and the Congress, said on Tuesday they will discuss the matter with Uddhav Thackeray's party and bring it on the same page. "We will convince the Sena," he said.

Another point of disagreement in the Maharashtra alliance is the Elgar Parishad case, which has been handed over to the National Investigation Agency. Pawar has claimed the case was transferred the day State Ministers met police officers.

Shortly after Pawar's remarks, Thackeray tweeted that he will ensure a related probe into the Koregaon-Bhima violence is not taken over by the Centre.

Over the last few weeks, there have been some awkward moments in the Maharashtra coalition after Chief Minister Uddhav asserted that he did not see anything wrong with implementing the national population register. It is a stand that contradicts the Congress position, which counts the population register as the big step towards the National Register of Citizens.

Several States ruled by non-NDA parties have already declared that they will not implement the population register. Congress leaders have indicated that it would be embarrassing if the Maharashtra Government goes ahead to implement NPR.

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Trump savouring scrambled Dem race, Bloomberg's debate debut

Colorado Springs (US): Relishing in Democrats' jumbled primary in the wake of a fractious debate, President Donald Trump offered stinging criticism of his rivals as he sought to take advantage of the moment.

Making a rare four-day swing through the West, Trump was exuding reelection confidence on Thursday at a campaign rally in Colorado, after taking in the prior night's prize fight of a debate in Las Vegas. He reveled in the intra-party squabbling and the weak debate performance turned in by former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg, according to aides and allies.

"I don't know if anyone watched last night's debate," Trump told an arena of raucous supporters. "It got very big ratings, and you know what, Mini Mike didn't do well last night. I was going to send him a note, saying it's not easy doing what I do is it?" He offered other biting assessments of the Democratic contenders, contrasting them to his own performance in debates four years ago.

"I became president because of the debates because unlike Mini Mike I could answer questions," Trump said.

Feeling reelection odds rising after his acquittal in the Senate impeachment trial and his campaign's record fundraising, Trump seized on the deep divisions and personal tiffs on display in the Democratic field. But his preoccupation with the scrambled nomination race for the Democrats seeking to replace him has been clear

throughout the trip.

When Trump woke up Thursday morning in his gilded Las Vegas hotel, his base during the four-state western trip, he tuned in to the post-debate coverage and displayed his glee.

Repurposing one of Bloomberg's own quotes about the Democratic infighting, Trump tweeted: "The real winner last night was Donald Trump." He tacked on his own

Russia meddling in US election to boost Trump, lawmakers told

Washington: Russia is interfering in the 2020 campaign to try to get Donald Trump re-elected, US intelligence officials have warned lawmakers in a briefing that infuriated the president, who then replaced his intelligence chief, US media reported.

Trump erupted in anger at acting director of national intelligence (DNI) Joseph Maguire when he learned of the February 13 session with the House Intelligence Committee, The Washington Post and New York Times said Thursday.

Maguire aide Shelby Pierson reportedly told lawmakers Russia was once again meddling in the US election on Trump's behalf. Trump complained that the Democrats would use the information against him, the reports said. The president was also annoyed by the presence of Adam Schiff, the Democratic head of the investigation that led to Trump being impeached for abuse of power and obstruction

of Congress, according to the New York Times.

Maguire had been a favorite to be nominated for the permanent DNI post but Trump soured on the official, The Washington Post said, when he heard about the classified election security briefing.

The president berated Maguire in an Oval Office showdown last week for the "disloyalty" of his staff, the Post reported, effectively thwarting his chances of becoming a permanent hire.

Trump announced on Wednesday he was replacing Maguire with Richard Grenell, 53, the ambassador to Germany and a Trump loyalist.

The president was impeached in December over accusations that he tried to coerce ally Ukraine into helping him win the 2020 election, withholding military aid considered vital to the former Soviet republic in its war with Russia. **AFP**

Young doctor in China's Wuhan city dies of coronavirus

Beijing: A 29-year-old Chinese doctor, who postponed his wedding to treat patients infected with the deadly coronavirus, has died treating them after being infected by the virus, the ninth fatality among the healthcare providers working to contain the outbreak.

Dr Peng Yinhua, doctor of a Wuhan hospital who treated patients infected with the coronavirus, died on Thursday night, according to the health bureau.

Peng, a respiratory acute care medical professional, became infected while working to combat the novel coronavirus at the First People's Hospital of Jiangxia District of Wuhan. He was hospitalised on January 25 and transferred to the Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital for treatment on January 30.

"Peng Yinhua, a frontline doctor at Jiangxia First Hospital in virus epicenter #Wuhan, died of #COVID19 on Thursday night. He had earlier delayed his wedding as he wanted to treat patients with the disease at hospital," state-run Global Times tweeted on Friday.

He died from the virus

DEATH TOLL: 2,236 | TOTAL CASES: 75,567

despite doctors' all-out efforts to save his life.

Chinese health authorities have asked health agencies to apply for the honour of martyr for deceased medical staff to the veteran's affairs authorities, comfort the families of the deceased and help solve

their difficulties, as well as publicise stories of those who sacrificed their lives during the epidemic, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Li Wenliang, the 34-year-old Chinese doctor, who was one of the first people to sound the alarm about the

Israel confirms first case in cruise ship returnee

Jerusalem: Israel confirmed its first case of new coronavirus Friday, in a citizen who flew home from Japan earlier this week after being quarantined on the stricken cruise ship Diamond Princess.

"One of the passengers who returned home from the cruise ship in Japan tested positive in a checkup by the health ministry's central laboratory," a ministry statement said.

A total of 15 Israelis were among the passengers quarantined on board the Diamond Princess, of whom 11 have flown home.

The others all tested negative for the virus.

The returning Israelis had all been placed in quarantine for 14 days at the Sheba Hospital in the central town of Tel Hashomer.

At the start of the month, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it was "inevitable" that the COVID-19 outbreak which began in China would reach Israel.

He urged health authorities to focus on developing a vaccine. In late January, the government banned all flights from China from landing in Israel. **AFP**

Another virus hotspot surfaces in China: prisons

Beijing: More than 500 cases of the new coronavirus have been detected in prisons across China, authorities said Friday, prompting the sacking of a slew of officials.

Hubei, the hard-hit central province where the virus emerged late last year, said Friday that 271 cases were reported by its prisons on Thursday, including 220 that had previously not been known to provincial authorities.

Most of those cases were at the Wuhan Women's Prison in Hubei's capital, He Ping, director for prison administration at the Ministry of Justice, told reporters.

The warden of Wuhan women's prison had been removed for failing to prevent the outbreak, according to local Communist Party newspaper Hubei Daily.

Seven guards and 200 inmates also tested positive for

the virus at Rencheng prison in eastern Shandong province, the provincial health commission said at a press conference.

Xie Weijun, head of Shandong's justice department, said seven other officials were sacked over the outbreak, officials said. Wu Lei, director of Shandong's prison administration, said the new cases showed that "the implementation of our prevention and control measures have not been effective". **AFP**

new outbreak died on February 7.

Li sent a message to his medical-school alumni group on December 30, warning that seven patients had been quarantined at Wuhan Central Hospital after coming down with a respiratory illness that seemed like the SARS coronavirus. But Wuhan police reprimanded and silenced Li.**PTI**

Lebanon announces first case

Beirut: The first case of the novel coronavirus in Lebanon was confirmed on Friday, the Health Minister said, adding that two other suspected cases were being investigated.

"We confirmed the first case today," Hassan Hamad said at a press conference in Beirut.

The COVID-19 virus was found in a 45-year-old Lebanese woman who had travelled from Qom in Iran, he said. **AFP**

59 Hong Kong cops quarantined after meal with infected colleague

Hong Kong: Dozens of Hong Kong police officers have been placed in quarantine after attending a banquet with a colleague who later tested positive for the new coronavirus, officials said Friday.

The news prompted celebrations among some pro-democracy protesters, a vivid illustration of how deeply polarised the city has become after months of rallies and thousands of arrests last year.

The 48-year-old officer found to be carrying the virus had dinner on Tuesday with 59 colleagues, police said. All have been classified as "close contacts" and ordered to undergo mandatory quarantine.

Health officials said four officers as well as the infected policeman's wife and mother-in-law showed symptoms of illness. **AFP**

Hong Kongers making own masks amid shortages

Hong Kong: With chronic face mask shortages in the midst of a virus outbreak, Hong Kongers have started making their own — with a pop-up production line and seamstresses churning them out on sewing machines.

In one of the most densely populated cities on earth, face masks have become hot property as people scramble for protection against the new deadly coronavirus.

Long queues — sometimes thousands strong — routinely crop up outside pharmacies

when supplies are in, and there is anger at the government's failure to have stockpiled.

Some are turning to DIY solutions — albeit of questionable quality.

Judy, a 73-year-old out shopping in the district of Wanchai, was spotted in a homemade mask.

"I found the material — my handkerchief, and some non-woven fabric — and I combined them and used some wire for the top, and some elastic," she told AFP, declining to give her surname. **AFP**

Iran votes in general election marred by disqualifications

Tehran: Iran went to the polls Friday for a general election that conservatives are expected to dominate amid voter apathy after an economic slump, multiple crises and the disqualification of thousands of candidates.

The 11th parliamentary election since the 1979 Islamic Revolution comes after steeply escalating tensions between Iran and the United States and the accidental downing of a Ukrainian airliner by Iranian air defences that

sparked anti-Government protests.

As he cast the first ballot in the election, supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged all Iranians to take part, saying that doing so would "guarantee the country's national interests".

Voters formed long queues at polling stations in south Tehran, where conservatives have a solid support base, but far fewer were seen waiting to vote in upmarket northern neighbourhoods. **AFP**

Unearthing of graves stokes ethnic tensions ahead of Burundi polls

Nairobi: A Government commission which has exhumed the remains of more than 6,000 Burundians slaughtered in pogroms in 1972 is being accused of exploiting the sombre task for political gain and stoking ethnic tensions ahead of elections.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), set up in 2014 to deliver justice and closure to victims of Burundi's darkest chapters, has been excavating the mass grave since the start of the year -- and believes there are many more similar sites.

Hundreds of thousands of Burundians died in waves of ethnic violence and civil war that have scarred the country since independence in 1962, with massacres between the Hutu ethnic majority and the minority Tutsi.

Two major slaughters were the 1972 killings of mainly Hutu by Tutsi and the

1993 killings of mainly Tutsi by Hutu. The TRC was established in 2014 to deliver justice and closure to victims of Burundi's darkest chapters. **AFP**

Leo Varadkar resigns as PM amid crushing defeat in Ireland

London: Ireland's Indian-origin Prime Minister Leo Varadkar resigned from his post on Friday after a crushing defeat in a parliamentary vote, which failed to garner him enough supporters for a re-election.

Varadkar, whose father was born in Mumbai, visited Irish President Michael D Higgins in Dublin to tender his resignation as Taoiseach — as the Prime Minister is known in Ireland. The 41-year-old will stay on as caretaker PM until a new administration is in place following a General Election earlier this month which failed to throw up a clear majority for any party.

Varadkar's liberal-conservative Fine Gael party took a battering in the face of an unprecedented surge in the fortunes of the republican Sinn Fein. Parliament's lower house in Dublin, or the Dail Eireann, reconvened on Thursday following the inconclusive election on February 8 and was suspended again for two weeks until March as parties continue efforts to form a new Government. **PTI**

Lankan parliamentary committee proposes immediate burqa ban

Colombo: A Sri Lankan parliamentary committee on national security has proposed an immediate ban on the burqa and suspending the registration of political parties on ethnic and religious basis, following the Easter Sunday terror attack that killed over 250 people.

The proposals featured in a special report presented in Parliament on Thursday to resolve 14 controversial issues following the April 21 Easter attack last year. The report was tabled by MP Malith Jayatilaka, Chairman Sectoral Oversight Committee on National Security, the Daily Mirror reported.

According to the report, a number of countries have already banned the burqa.

The report suggested that the police should have the power to ask anyone wearing a face covering in a public place to take off such clothing in order to establish the identity of the person.

If such a request is not complied with, police should have the power to arrest the individual without a warrant, the report said.

It also recommended the country's Election Commission to enact a legislation to suspend the registration of political parties on ethnic and religious basis.

The report also said that the registration of political parties which have some racial or religious conflict or in its name should also be prohibited. Such a party should be converted into a political or non-religious political party within a specified period of time, the report said. **PTI**

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DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. DEL01935 of Delhi-Safidjurg Branch) Din Dayal Mangar (Borrower)	21-01-2020/ ₹ 7,04,289/- (Seven lakh Four Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Nine) NPA (01-04-2017)	H/flat No. C-204, Plot No. Gh- 6, Surya Co-operative Group Housing Society, Sector. 43, Village. Gurgaon, Gurgaon- 122002
(LC No. CPL31739 of Delhi- CP Branch) Shishupal Singh Rawat (Borrower)	21-01-2020/ ₹ 80,17,967/- (Eighty lakh Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Seven) NPA (01-04-2016)	Flat No. 603, Block D Sector Marvel, Nihi Scottish Garden Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201010
(LC No. NOD35792 of Noida-Sector 2 Branch) Shailendra Kumar (Borrower)	21-01-2020/ ₹ 21,99,290/- (Twenty One lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Two Hundred Ninety) NPA (01-05-2019)	H/ Flat No. K-1107, Floor No. 11, K W Srihti, Sector. Raj Nagar Extn, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201010
(LC No. PTM31628 of Delhi-Pitampura Branch) Shiv Pujan (Borrower)	21-01-2020/ ₹ 9,78,902/- (Nine lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Two) NPA (01-12-2019)	H/ Flat No.142, Floor No. 3rd, Block- B, Sector. Swarn Nagar, Greater Noida, Greater Noida-201308
(LC No. 00002528 of Noida Branch) Rohit Kumar (Borrower) Luxmi Devi (Co Borrower 1)	21-01-2020/ ₹ 19,97,038/- (Nineteen lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Thirty Eight) NPA (01-11-2019)	P. No.74, Second Floor (Southern Side) Arjun Nagar Village Humayunpur New Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110029
(LC No. 00000657 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Abdul Hamid (Borrower) Noushina Hamid (Co Borrower 1)	21-01-2020/ ₹ 16,82,385/- (Sixteen lakh Eighty Two Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Five) NPA (01-05-2019)	Flat No 520, 4th Floor Pocket Gh-04 Sector 28, Rohini, Delhi, New Delhi-110085
(LC No. 00000419 of Rohini Branch) Boski (Co Borrower 1)	21-01-2020/ ₹ 13,25,861/- (Thirteen lakh Twenty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty One) NPA (01-04-2019)	Flat No-99, First Floor Block-site-1 Vikashpuri, New Delhi, New Delhi- 110018
(LC No. 00001675 of Ghaziabad Branch) Pecma Air Systems Private Limited (Borrower) Nand Kishore Sehgal (Co Borrower 1) Suman Sehgal (Co Borrower 2) Yugal Kishore Sehgal (Guarantor)	21-01-2020/ ₹ 67,21,728/- (Sixty Seven lakh Twenty One Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Eight) NPA (01-09-2019)	Flat No. NGP 234 23rd Floor Block P New Town Heights Sector 90 Gurgaon Gurgaon Haryana- 122001
(LC No. 00002136 of Ghaziabad Branch) Khem Raj Singh (Borrower) Shyam Singh (Co Borrower 1) Ramwati (Co Borrower 2)	21-01-2020/ ₹ 58,27,052/- (Fifty Eight lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Fifty Two) NPA (01-12-2019)	Property No. Hr-29/B, Khasra No.-219 Pul Peahad Pur New Delhi New Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110044
(LC No. 00002773 of Noida Branch) Mahesh Kumar (Borrower) Mamta Kumari (Co Borrower 1)	24-01-2020/ ₹ 1,22,52,451/- (One Crore Twenty Two lakh Fifty Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty One) NPA (01-12-2019)	Property No. K-35/1, Khasra No-570 Village Ghonda Gujran Khadar Gali No. - 1 Block-k West Ghonda Shahdara, Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110053
(LC No. 00001255 of Gurgaon Branch) Focus Imaging And Research Centre Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Prashant Sarin (Co Borrower 1) Vinod Kumar Sharma (Co Borrower 2) Rachana Sarin (Guarantor 1)	24-01-2020/ ₹ 2,49,04,914/- (Two Crore Forty Nine lakh Four Thousand Nine Hundred Fourteen) NPA (01-10-2019)	M_MACHINE_NAME :- 1) MRI manech 2) CT Scan 3) TMT 4) Ultrasound 5) Ultrasound 6) Ultrasound 7) X-Ray System 8) Mammography 9) Mammography 10) ECG 11) Ultrasound 12) X-RAY System 13) CR System 14) X-RAY System 15) X-RAY System 16) X-RAY System, AP_MODEL_NO :- 1) Sigma HDX 2) CT scan 3) Treadmill 4) Ultrasound VV3 Pro System 5) Ultrasound V730 Pro Syste 6) Ultrasound LB XP Console 7) GE Lunar DPXNT BDM 8) Dexa Scan, Memmography 9) Ultrasound 10) Electro Cardiogram 11) Ultrasound 12) Dexa Scan with Accessorie 13) C R System 14) D R System 15) Dexa 16) Electromyograph, AP_INVOICE_NO :- 1) 0116, 2) 45210112, 3) 78700600, 4) 785100200, 5) 89510059, 6) 78510384, 9) 34500666, 10) 78400110, 11) 78210185 12) 119500475, 13) 78700601, 14) 950192878, 15) PDV/DEMO/MQ/10/017 / 10/ 15) PON/MO/08/00108, 16) 3, 12, 925
(LC No. 00000910 of Rewari Branch) Gyanvendra Singh (Borrower) Rajani Singh (Co Borrower 1)	29-10-2019/ ₹ 11,75,673/- (Eleven lakh Seventy Five Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Three) NPA (01-04-2019)	Flat No L-3 213 second Floor Block L 3 Tower K (As Per Plan) Krish City Ph 2 & 3 Alwar By Pass Road,Bhiwadi Rajasthan, Alwar- 301019, Rajasthan.
(LC No. 00000480 of Greater Noida Branch) Aditya Kumar (Borrower) Rati (Co Borrower 1)	29-10-2019/ ₹ 10,19,636/- (Ten lakh Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Six) NPA (01-08-2019)	Flat No 286, Block-A, Second Floor Sector Omicron I, Greater Noida, Greater Noida, Gautambudh Nagar- 201308
(LC No. PTM31130 of Delhi- Pitampura Branch) Abhiheet Kumar Sharma (Borrower)	29-10-2019/ ₹ 24,10,360/- (Twenty Four lakh Ten Thousand Three Hundred Sixty) NPA (01-08-2019)	H/ Flat No. A-3/702, Floor No. 7th Floor, Plot No. Tower No. A-3, Royal Residency, Sector. 86, Village, Faridabad, Faridabad- 121005
(LC No. 00000423 of Faridabad Branch) Sanjay Mandal (Borrower) Gopal Mandal (Co Borrower 1)	29-10-2019/ ₹ 16,28,262/- (Sixteen lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Two) NPA (01-09-2019)	Plot No.- 131, Ground Floor Pocket-2, Sector-24, Rohini, Rohini, Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110085

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Sd/-
 (Authorised Officer)
 Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

Date: 22-02-2020
 Place: Delhi

OJSWI TRADES INVESTMENT AND FINANCE LIMITED
 Kh. No. 300, Gopi Ram Building, Sultanpur Village, New Delhi- 110030
 Tel. No.09810836602, Fax No. 0124-4699333
 CIN: L67120DL1990PLC042059
 Website: www.ojswi.in; Email Id: corporate.ojswi@gmail.com

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

(Rs. In lacs except earning per share)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended	Nine Month Ended	Quarter Ended
		December 31, 2019	December 31, 2019	December 31, 2018
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited
1	Total Income from Operations	53.24	213.21	68.95
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(25.86)	(70.36)	(26.64)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(25.86)	(70.36)	(26.64)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(25.86)	(70.36)	(26.64)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(25.86)	(70.36)	(26.64)
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value Rs. 10/- Per Share)	675	675	675
7	Reserves (Excluding Revaluation Reserves)	—	—	—
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) - (a) Basic (b) Diluted	(0.04) (0.04)	(1.04) (1.04)	(0.39) (0.39)

Notes:
 (1) The above results for the quarter ended December 31, 2019 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and Approved by the Board of Directors at their Meeting held on February 21, 2020. The Statutory auditors have carried out a "Limited Review" of above results.
 (2) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Results filed with the Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited (MSEI) under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the said Quarterly Results is available on the Stock Exchange website www.msei.in and on the company's website www.ojswi.in

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
 Sd/-
 SandeepGarg
 Director
 (DIN: 00021295)

Place: New Delhi
 Date: February 21, 2020

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, GOVT. OF INDIA
MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (TDGC)
 MSME Technology Development Centre (TDGC)
 A-11, Indraprastha Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, India
 Tel: 011-26101111, Fax: 011-26101112, Email: tdgc@msme.gov.in

BUSINESS ORIENTED PROGRAMME ON ORGANIC & HYDROPONIC FARMING

EARN MONEY FROM YOUR HOME ROOFTOP
 Date: 23rd February, 2020 | Time: 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM

VENUE: TAI INFOTECH PVT LTD 1st Floor, H-159, Sec-43, Above LG, Near Ginger Hotel, Noida-201301(400 mtrs from Electronic City Metro Station)

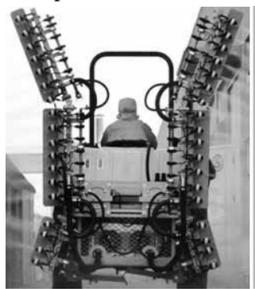
Fees: Rs. 3,500/- +18% GST (Inclusive of Lunch, Soft copy of study material)

CONTENTS: Business Scope in Organic & Hydroponics Farming, Introduction to the World of Aquaponics, Seedling Production with Soil Less Media, Soil Management, Soil Manure and Nutrients, Waste Decomposition, Organic Vegetable, Roof Top Cultivation, Multilevel Cultivation, Hydroponics Cultivation, Mushroom Cultivation, all about Poly, Tunnel & Net House, Policy, Schemes & Organic Registration.

M.: 8800924880, 9958643361 LIMITED SEATS
 GOVT OF INDIA CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED BY MSME

A Chinese conundrum

As that nation catches a cold, the world sneezes. But the virus spread has led to a revival of crucial sectors back home



The effects of Coronavirus, now called COVID-19 by the World Health Organisation (WHO), have mostly been contained along China's borders. Beijing declared a war-like situation to deal with its spread. It shut down all its cities effectively and Wuhan, the centre of the outbreak, became a ghost town. Streets, that once bustled, wore a deserted look. According to data from *Flightradar24*, a flight tracking site, air traffic in China dropped by over 80 per cent since the outbreak. Nevertheless, the spread of coronavirus forced the entire world to realise just how integral China is to the global supply chain, even when it does not produce finished products. Take the example of the Indian pharmaceutical sector, which is afraid that a shortage of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) that form the basis of many important medications, including anti-retroviral drugs used to manage HIV/AIDS, will start running out by mid-March. We are so dependent on China-sourced raw materials that they form almost 70 per cent of India's imports of key ingredients for medicines. The potential damage this has caused to the sector cannot be wished away. Most importantly, domestic manufacturing is struggling to take off. But the long-term implications of the spread of the virus must not be missed and it has at least compelled the Government to reset its focus on local sourcing to offset the current supply disruption. In the pharma industry itself, a revival of old drug manufacturing units that once produced key ingredients for crucial medicines is on the cards. In other sectors such as automobiles, a complete shutdown in China is expected to lead to a shortage of fuel-injectors and electronic control units among other devices that are essential to meet the new BS-VI emission norms that come into force nationwide on April 1. In sectors like paints and plastics, China supplies essential dyes used for colouring. Industry insiders have warned that production lines in various sectors as also across the country will come to a screeching halt if supplies do not restart by the middle of next month. And even if they come back into the market, it might take six to eight weeks for fresh products to be shipped from China to India. The situation is so dire that even the Central Government has said that the Coronavirus outbreak can be considered a *force majeure* on contracts and that it can even be classified as an act of God for vendors so as to negate penalties if delivery schedules are not met. Logistical experts are working overtime to ensure once supplies start, delays at ports and at Customs points are minimised.

While there is no firm outline as to when production will restart at factories, the Chinese Government has announced that production units in Wuhan will remain shuttered till early March at the very least. However, manufacturing can happen around Beijing and the Pearl River Delta, possibly with limited production by next week. The Coronavirus outbreak must serve as a warning for Indian industries to diversify their supply chains. The Indian Government, too, must start encouraging production of critical components within the country. While this is an extreme situation, it has exposed Indian vulnerabilities to Chinese supplies. The latter is the former's top non-oil trading partner. But statements from the Chinese Government concerning Arunachal Pradesh prove that it is still inimical to India's interests, even if, at least once, it did support our stance against Pakistan at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) pertaining to the farce surrounding Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar. While we live in a globalised world and it is impossible for a single nation to do everything for itself, India must use the COVID-19 outbreak as an opportunity to protect its industrial interests. This will be in the world's greater interests as well.

Pak in grey zone

No matter what the FATF says, India has to develop its own dynamic on the war on terror at a time of shifting alliances



Just when all the lobbying by Pakistan seemed to have softened up deciding powers at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) — the global watchdog that tracks terror-funding States and can disqualify them from global aid — they have held themselves back, and rightly so, keeping our neighbour in the grey list. Though we have been lobbying hard, and had even at one stage argued convincingly enough for Pakistan to be blacklisted, its all-weather friends, China, Turkey and Malaysia, brought it back from the brink.

It needed the support of 13 countries to get out of the grey list, and though it has taken a few compliant correctives, they weren't proof enough. It may have finally imprisoned the 26/11 mastermind of the Mumbai attacks Hafiz Saeed and even booked his charities through which he funded money but is yet to cap the money trail to other terrorists or prosecute the financiers. Besides, it could deliver only on 13 of the 29-point action plan it had promised to implement during the last session. It now must show improvements in the next four months. For India, this comes as a reprieve considering at the last regional meeting of the FATF, it was the lone voice of protest with the US, EU and even Japan appearing convinced about Pakistan's efforts to curb terrorism. But the US, while endorsing India's position on Kashmir at the UN and proscribing Jaish chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist, is too invested in stitching up a deal with the Taliban before it exits Afghanistan. That explains the clean chit in Beijing and even the acknowledgement of Pakistan's "great efforts" at course correction. The US also thinks that freezing aid to Pakistan might just aggravate the economic instability in the region and have a cascading impact on politics. The US also needs a trade deal with India, which is why it will not overtly hurt our position *vis-a-vis* the FATF. China, which is increasingly looking at a strategic partnership with India while being Pakistan's ally, has devised its own workaround. It now wants a renegotiation of the FATF brief itself, saying the grouping had no business to blacklist nations but should help them counter terrorist funding and networks. India must realise that the shades of the FATF list mean nothing in terms of threat levels ever since the blacklist was diluted as a "call for action" and the grey list was downgraded to "other monitored jurisdictions." Besides, the FATF has just put Pakistan on an extended timeline to fulfil the technical criteria and not been exactly censorious about it. For our neighbour, this means a radical overhaul of its terror economy as it has to show visible proof of penalties against terror-financing, including sanctions and controls on international transactions.

In the end, India must remember that global penalties won't impact Pakistan's proxy war with India. Even while staying on the FATF watch, there has been no cessation of terrorist infiltration into Kashmir. Pakistan will continue raising Kashmir. India has to evolve its own dynamic regarding terror instead of focussing solely on isolating it diplomatically. For the fluidity of geopolitics means that each nation would work out its tactical advantage in an evolving context and might not prioritise India's concerns. And global politics is but transactional and revolving stakes mean shifting alliances.

A day of martyrs

February 21 has a special significance for Bangladesh, which transcends its observance as the International Mother Language Day. On this day, Dhaka fought for Bangla's recognition



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

February 21 has a significance for Bangladesh that transcends its observance as the International Mother Language Day. Every year from 1953, it has been observed in that country as the Bengali Language Martyrs' Day or Language Martyrs' Day in memory of four students — Rafiq, Barkat, Jabbar and Salam — killed in police firing on a peaceful demonstration in Dhaka on the same day in 1952. The demonstration, in turn, was a part of the historic language movement that, more than anything else, contributed to the rise of the liberation struggle, which culminated in Bangladesh's emergence into freedom in 1971.

The language movement owes its origin to the Pakistan Government's decision to have Urdu alone as the country's State language. Its incipient stirrings followed the announcement by Pakistan Government's Central Education Minister in late 1947 that Urdu would be the country's only State language. A resolution seeking to make Bengali a language of the Constituent Assembly along with Urdu and English, was defeated on the first day of Session on February 23, 1948, thanks to bitter opposition by former Pakistan Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan. A massive burst of anger exploded in what was then East Bengal, which was renamed East Pakistan in 1955 under former Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Bogra's one-unit scheme, which also merged the four western provinces into a single unit, West Pakistan.

The anger spread and intensified following Muhammad Ali Jinnah's visit to East Bengal from March 15 to 28, 1948, during which he reiterated his stand of Urdu being Pakistan's sole State language and warned Bengalis about the activities of "subversive elements" bent on destroying Pakistan. A lull followed, only to be shattered by the interim report of the Constitutional Basic Principles Committee on September 28, 1950, which stated that Urdu would be Pakistan's State language. The movement peaked after Nazimuddin, who became the Prime Minister following the assassination of the preceding incumbent, Liaquat Ali Khan, on October 16, 1951, read out from Jinnah's speech in Dhaka saying that Urdu would be Pakistan's sole State language. More, he denounced those who wanted Bengali to be a State language as "provincialists" and, as such, enemies of the Pakistani State.

A series of strikes and demonstrations that followed culminated in a general strike throughout East Bengal on February 21, 1952, the day when the four students were killed. Dhaka and many parts of East Bengal remained paralysed on the 22nd when two persons were killed in police firing and 45 injured in lathicharges and tear gassing by the police. The movement intensified throughout Bangladesh in the next few days, with shops and offices closed and train and steamer services paralysed and Dhaka seething in anger. Savage repression by the Government foiled the general strike called



for in Dhaka on March 5, 1952. By then, however, the movement had spread to even the most remote reaches of Bangladesh and it had become clear that it was a matter of time before the Central Government accepted Bengali as a State language. This it did on April 19, 1954, when Pakistan's Constituent Assembly decided that both Bengali and Urdu would become the country's two State languages. The installation of Bengali in its rightful place in Pakistan's governance and public life was a historic victory for the people of East Bengal. It was, however, the immediate and most visible outcome of the language movement. Far more important was the latter's identity-defining and transformative role in the history of East Bengal, leading to the eventual rise of the sovereign nation of Bangladesh. A mass movement involving almost every part of Bangladesh and every section of its population, it shaped the self-perception of the overwhelming majority of the people as Bengalis as well as Muslims and not — as immediately after India's Partition — as Muslims above everything else. It also prompted the province's rising middle class to identify itself passionately with Bengal's rich, eclectic and liberal-humanist culture, which acted as a powerful countervailing force against the spread of fundamentalist Islamist doctrines in its ranks. In terms of historical causa-

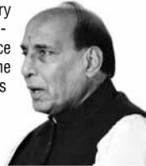
“ A MASS MOVEMENT INVOLVING ALMOST EVERY PART OF BANGLADESH AND EVERY SECTION OF ITS POPULATION, IT SHAPED THE SELF-PERCEPTION OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE AS BENGALIS AS WELL AS MUSLIMS AND NOT — AS IMMEDIATELY AFTER INDIA'S PARTITION — AS MUSLIMS ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE ”

tion, however, the most important consequence was the feeling of self-confidence that victory in the language movement imparted to large sections of people in East Bengal. The increasing feeling that they could confront and defeat the rulers entrenched in Karachi and Islamabad did much to sustain their long resistance to the western wing's efforts to economically exploit and politically subjugate them, of which the language policy was a part and which owed much to the composition of the country's armed forces and bureaucracy. The role of the Army was particularly important. It ruled the country from 1957 to 1968, 1977 to 1988 and then again from 1999, when General Pervez Musharraf captured power through a coup, to 2007, when he resigned as President to avoid impeachment. It has always called the shots even when a civilian Government has been in power. Almost wholly from the western wing, Army officers favoured the interests of the region and, as a hangover from the British period, looked down upon Bengalis as "non-martial." The bureaucracy, particularly the Civil Service of Pakistan, which wore the mantle of the erstwhile Indian Civil Service, was dominated by Urdu-speaking people from the western wing. Given the low competence level of Pakistani politicians, they exercised a disproportionate influence on making and

implementing policies. People from East Bengal had little say. An early indication of the intended shape of things to come was clear from the report of the Constitutional Basic Principles Committee, which besides saying that Urdu would be Pakistan's State language, provided for a Constitution, which would neutralise the impact of East Bengal's numerical superiority in the country's politics, and put it under the western wing's domination. It also sought to create a presidency vested with arbitrary powers, which made it easy for an incumbent to become a dictator. Widespread agitation postponed a decision on the report. Nevertheless, its contents as well as the Government's language policy convinced an overwhelming majority of people in East Bengal that their Central Government was bent on dominating and exploiting them — a belief that was increasingly strengthened over time by the policies emanating from Karachi and Islamabad. The rest, including the evolution of the resistance movement into a tidal wave for national liberation under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's leadership, India's trouncing of Pakistan in the 1971 war and Bangladesh's emergence as a sovereign nation in the teeth of genocidal repression, is history. (The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and an author)

SOUNDBITE

The politics in the country is facing a crisis of credibility due to the difference in words and deeds of the politicians and this needs to be checked.



Defence Minister —Rajnath Singh

It's very interesting to see how people consume everything on mobile across cities and towns. Why should we not step up and make content for the mobile?



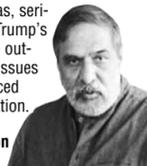
Academy Award winner —Guneet Monga

Pakistan has made enormous efforts in improving its counter-terror financing system, which has been recognised by the vast majority of the FATF members.



Chinese official —Geng Shuang

There should be gravitas, seriousness and depth in Trump's visit as well as tangible outcomes on substantive issues that should be announced during the joint declaration.



Congress spokesperson —Anand Sharma

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In denial mode

Sir — On the anniversary of the Pulwama terror attack, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi raised three important questions: Who benefited from the attack? What was the result of the inquiry into the matter? And who did the Government hold accountable for the security lapses that allowed the attack? Rattled by these questions, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra snubbed the Congress scion, saying he is making a "dastardly comment" and that the Gandhi family can never think beyond "benefits." Patra's response, however, was far from satisfactory. BJP leaders can abuse Rahul Gandhi but at least for the sake of the slain jawans, the Centre must answer his questions. It is true that the BJP benefitted tremendously from the Pulwama attack by making it a poll issue. Why did Patra not snub Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, who had said that the Balakot air strike would help the BJP win over 22 Lok Sabha seats from his State? Even the Prime Minister sought to take credit for the strike. Should he not

Real India is hidden behind the walls

This refers to the editorial, "Bending backwards" (February 20). It is a tell-tale testimony of our times that in a span of five decades, Indian politics has graduated from *garibi hatao* (remove poverty) to *garibi chupao* (hide poverty). The construction of a wall between the Ahmedabad airport and Indira Bridge in Gujarat to hide India's poverty from the view of US President Donald Trump and his wife Melania is symbolic of class disparity. We know well that Trump rose to power on an exclusive hate campaign, at the heart of which was his commitment and rhetoric to build a wall at the Mexican border. His arrogant pledge, asking Mexico to even pay for such a wall, added to his deceitful masculinity and persona, traits which do matter in the elections to the highest office in America. In our penchant to welcome guests beyond their expectations, we have perhaps gone too far in pleasing Trump by offering him a spectacle of a wall on his forthcoming visit. Ironically, the wall in question is not to limit illegal migration but to hide the legal citizens of this country. The building of walls to hide poverty is not new in this world. To build a wall to separate the view of poverty has its own unique flavour. It becomes even more important in the context of a democracy where the people, both poor and the rich, vote to form the very Government



which wants to hide them from visiting leaders of affluent countries. The indices of human development in Gujarat reveal a story where the necessity of such a wall to hide the poor and poverty can be explained, though not justified. Despite the so-called "Gujarat model of development," poverty and poor human existence is the unceasing companion of the Gujarati masses, irrespective of what the Government wants us to believe. No wonder, Gujarat's ill-fate has continued unabated till date so as to warrant a wall of shame. Javadi Lakshmana Rao Andhra Pradesh

Learn the balancing act

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Bending backwards" (February 20). US President Donald Trump

have taken responsibility for the Indian helicopter that was shot down in friendly fire? The "nationalist" Government should also find out who is accountable for allowing the enormous

amounts of explosives smuggled to terrorists. Clearly, the BJP has failed to come up with any answer even a year after the tragedy. Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee Faridabad

won the 2016 presidential election betting on his policy of "America First." With the 2020 elections round the corner, it is but expected that his aim would be to accrue maximum gains for his country.

Considering his interests, Trump's utterances that Washington is in no hurry to seal a trade deal with New Delhi did not come as a surprise. But it is sad that in welcoming him, simplicity has taken a back seat. Extravagance should have been avoided. Even if India and the US differ on trade issues, balance must be maintained in relations in all fields. Sanjeev Via email

Splurging money

Sir — The state of our nation and its poor is not hidden from the world. Why should we be spending over ₹100 crore on Trump's visit? Such a huge sum of money can solve many problems facing the country. Shilpi Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Medical R&D a lost cause

Medical research should be one area where we have the potential to lead India towards the beginning of an era of bio-economy by 2030



KM **CHERIAN**

Research and Development (R&D) contribute to strengthening the economy of a country in terms of growth and revenue. While R&D is primal, it is also essential that the Government pays attention to sustain the same in every industry and particularly healthcare, which is one of the fastest growing sectors. At present, the healthcare industry has a long way to go when it comes to research and technological progress. There is a dire need for R&D in basic medical sciences so that indigenous technology gets a chance to grow. This is only possible, when there is support from the Central Government in the form of policies and capital. The availability of good infrastructure, too, is imperative to create a conducive environment for R&D. Thankfully, several areas have been identified by the Centre to keep up the tempo on infrastructure development. It is well-known that several large organs are received from human donors only and the wide disparity in the supply and demand ratio has resulted in many fatalities. Today, the stage is evolving into a time where solid organs could be manufactured using a person's own cells and a biological scaffold, like a shark fin, on which it could be grown. This will soon be available off the shelf. Heart skin is another potential tissue substrate to create biological tissue heart valves in view of its inherent tensile strength and durability. Unfortunately, due to ignorance on the part of regulatory bodies and other law enforcing agencies, even the licence for producing them has been poorly formulated and prioritised.

Another important area is in the realm of stem cell research with its tremendous regenerative potential, but we face many hurdles in their commercial production despite having the knowledge, technology and facilities. According to a recent study published in the *British Medical Journal*, the Indian medical industry fares poorly on multiple critical parameters, including the quality of care, ill-equipped facilities, lack of healthcare professionals, paucity of funds and professional qualifications of doctors, making the entire sector a debatable part of the Indian economy. Therefore it is important that provisions be made in the Union Budget to address this issue by providing funds for skill acquisition and establishment of educational institutions. It is quite overwhelming to see that in our country, where growth is a priority, change is a very slow and ignored process and our healthcare sector has been ailing for several decades now. But, as the country recompenses a claim at the geopolitical high table under a nationalist Government, its human development motives are increasingly pushed toward severe scrutiny. Also in this day and age, affordable healthcare for all should be one of the top priorities of the Government.

Growth in India's younger working population is also posing challenges we have not seen before. High stress levels, unhealthy and sedentary lifestyle, increased intake of processed foods, increased tobacco and alcohol use and so on, are giving rise to co-morbidities like diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia/obesity and other lifestyle diseases, which in turn have accelerated the growth of Coronary Artery Disease with a high incidence of premature deaths. The major challenges being faced in cardiac care are low availability of quality treatment, specialists, preventive and curative cardiac care facilities and due to this, the future of cardiac care should be given a holistic outlook. In addition, majority of the hospitals with cardiac facilities are located in urban areas while the rest of the country is faced with little to no access to quality care.

Today, technological disruptions are transforming healthcare delivery worldwide. The role of medical technology, emergence of Information and Communications Technology, expanding network of the internet and social media play a major role in transforming healthcare delivery. Digital medicine is the future as devices get interconnected. In a large country like ours teamwork is crucial when it comes to delivering quality healthcare. The current taxation policies and regulations do not address issues regarding diagnostic tests and home healthcare, which should definitely be considered under the Ayushman Bharat Vojana, as well. In our nation, healthcare has always been expanding and the need to increase expenditure proportionally has to be addressed.

India imports more than 75 per cent of its medical devices and patented drugs, thus making healthcare unaffordable to the masses. While we are big on generic drugs, new molecule development and patenting is lacklustre. Moreover, medical equipment should be exempted from taxes so that healthcare is more affordable. The necessity to forge new advances in cardiac healthcare and bio-medical engineering are being slowly extinguished not by time but by a Government that is apathetic to the possibility that millions could have access to better healthcare and this, in turn, could stimulate and pioneer cutting-edge research. India should make optimum use of the new Budget which will create an opportunity for opening and supporting the first Medical SEZ. Time and again, India has taken the lead in pioneering developments. Medical research should be one area where we have the potential to lead the country towards the beginning of an era of bio-economy by 2030.

(The writer is a Padma Sri awardee and cardiothoracic surgeon credited with India's first bypass. He is Chairman and CEO of Frontier Lifeline Hospital)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I RENEW MY APPEAL TO THE CWC TO HOLD LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS TO ENERGISE WORKERS AND INSPIRE VOTERS.
 —CONGRESS LEADER
SHASHI THAROOR



IF ANYONE HAS ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THIS, HE SHOULD KINDLY READ THE RESOLUTION OF THE CWC BEFORE GIVING ANY STATEMENTS IN PUBLIC.
 —CONGRESS CHIEF SPOKESPERSON
RANDEEP SURJEWALA

Digital slums in internet society

A divide is explicitly emerging in India, which might result in massive gaps in access to the internet in the age of a network society



MOHAMMAD **IRSHAD**



ARNISHA **ASHRAF**

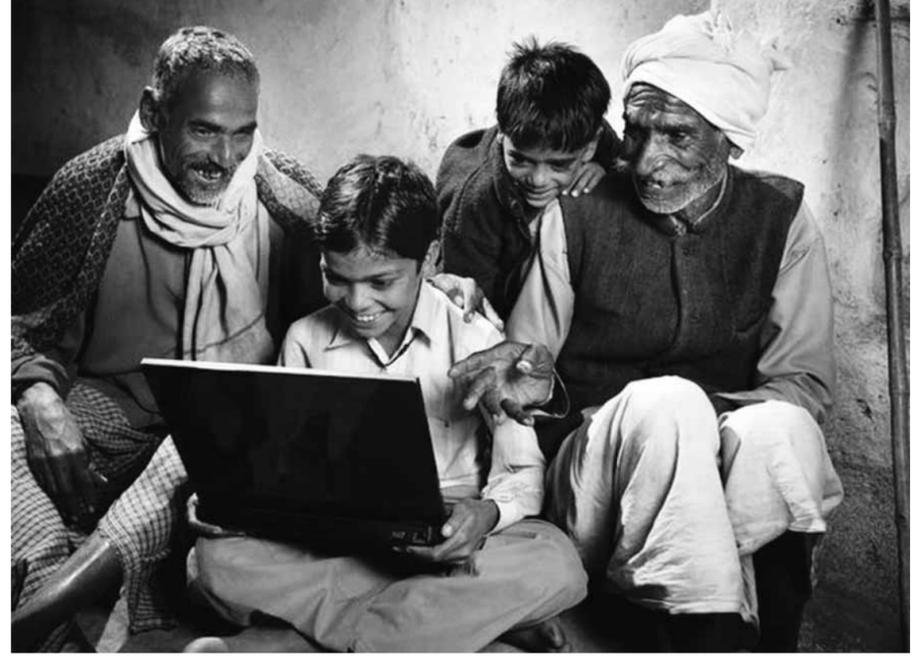
The internet has entered all possible dimensions of human existence. It has overwhelmingly transformed the contours of social communication, behaviour and imagination. The web is gainfully managed by knowledge workers, who could be from diverse social groups and identities, to steer it in a determined direction to attribute shape through three indispensable variables: Power, language and culture. Internet has acquired the status of something that is inherently for the good of the public, hence it must be considered a fundamental human utility. Our growing reliance on communication networks has facilitated the advance of a technology-driven internet society.

In India, the rapid growth of online and partially private behavioural and policy changes in doing business furthered the rise of an (ICT) Information and Communication Technology-monitored "internet economy." Diffusion of mobile phones could make access possible to various things, which were earlier only physically accessible. In India, not enough theoretical engineering has taken place concerning online communities to enable them to exploit the scope of the same comprehensively. It however, remains explicit that the internet can bring significant threat to conventional corridors of power, making them fearful of its power. And rightly so, as it carries the potential to transform prevailing social structures.

The internet has become a crucial constituent to underline the arrival of digital citizenry throughout the world. This will further contribute in the formulation of different online social groups and identities. However, it is notable that new and efficient legislations have not emerged so far pertaining to digital citizens. Therefore, new citizens act without any constraints, rules and procedures in this new land. This perhaps helps them escape accountability for certain actions, in contrast to the physical citizenry. In doing so, this might develop the case for an appropriate study of anonymity, verification, authenticity and lack of moral currency. Social network theories are helpful to understand online communities in the country. Moreover, information exchange can happen among people of same communities, whether they are members of civil society, students or professionals. We are, however, not sure about the quality of the same.

Internet Society, in a 2017 report, maintains that the Net allows people to develop and join new communities and eliminates geographical barriers to make connections. It further demonstrates that around 53 per cent of the world's population was offline in 2017. As mainly rural regions of the world did not have access to the internet, this has reasonably contributed to a sharp rise in the digital divide/digital discrimination. The personal freedom to express and right to the internet was largely suspended and put on hold.

The web deliberately seems to be failing in projecting its true meaning to produce extensive, eloquent departures to the new age to humanity, different from the agricultural and industrial society. Though new means of communication have carved out a social, political and eco-



“ THE HUGE COST OF ACCESS TO AND THE USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY WILL SET THE STAGE FOR A DIGITAL DIVIDE I.E. DIGITAL DISCRIMINATION. DIGITAL ILLITERACY IS ALSO ON THE CONSTANT RISE IN INDIA. PARADOXICALLY, THE GOVERNMENT IS CLAIMING TO BE MANUFACTURING THE BASE AT A BREAKNECK PACE FOR DIGITAL INDIA, WITHOUT ADDRESSING THESE UNRELENTING PROBLEMS ”

nomics space for some unnoticeable and unsung communities, the internet has also been considered as a new instrument to withstand new business organisations, power structures and technology-determined groups of diverse nature.

Certainly the goal of digital citizens and digital participation is gaining momentum. India has close to 1,162 million mobile phone subscribers and 1,183 million telephones. Though, in contrast to 2018, there is a sharp decline in mobile subscribers and telephone subscribers in 2019. A major cause of the same could be the deteriorating health of the Indian economy. The Government must employ strong measures to arrange for free and affordable internet to maximise digital participation in digital India. Instead of doing that, the Government is promoting the culture of internet shutdowns across the country. In 2019, the number of internet shutdowns rose over 100 times than in the past.

Ordinary citizens could be the generators and contributors of information i.e. knowledge. This, however, is brought along with the ample use of technology, which is costly and requires trained and efficient individuals to make use of it. In an agricultural society, those who could not acquire land of their own to cultivate then just worked as labourers, in other words service providers. Likewise, in this technology-driven age, with some exceptions, they cannot acquire key positions to make it functional for them, particularly the underprivileged.

Telecom Statistics India (2019), reports that telephone subscribers in rural and urban India stand at 514 million and 669 million respectively. It authenticates that a considerable widening disparity exists between rural and urban telephone subscribers, which

stops a sizeable rural population from existing in the online/digital world. A study by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), *India Internet (2019)*, noted that nearly one-third of users access the internet for more than one hour in urban areas, whereas in rural regions, a similar proportion of users access the net for 15-30 minutes. It raises pertinent questions about the elementary construction for rural India to be an effective contributor to the vision of the Digital India Programme.

In this age of alternative facts, anyone can claim information/knowledge by generating and contributing to content making. It raises grave concerns regarding the validation of this information. In the meantime, this has provided people with ample opportunities to become knowledge producers instead of remaining consumers of manufactured information/knowledge.

Women's Rights Online by the World Wide Web Foundation says that in the poor areas of New Delhi, the few women who are online use the internet to look for important information on their rights (17 per cent), search for jobs (29 per cent) or voice their opinions online (eight per cent). The survey, initiated to minimise the gender gap in India, argues for prioritising free public net access.

In another report by IAMAI (2017), in urban India, the ratio of women mobile internet users stands at 40 per cent as opposed to an impressive 60 per cent of men. In rural India, women mobile internet users are only 33 per cent compared to 67 per cent men.

This widening inequality might be a notable obstruction to the purpose of digital equality and participation. It, therefore, shall be a matter of grave concern to all of us. According to the same report, 57 per cent of the mobile inter-

net users are under the age of 25 and a large portion of that, with the help of fake news, trolling and disinformation, cater to online constituencies of political parties.

Still there are people who can't access the internet as they don't have smart phones, laptops, gadgets and other mandatory devices. Therefore, a digital divide is explicitly emerging in India, which might result in massive gaps in access to the internet in the age of a network society. The huge cost of access to and the use of new technology will set the stage for a digital divide i.e. digital discrimination. Digital illiteracy is also on the constant rise in India. Paradoxically, the Government is claiming to be manufacturing the base at a breakneck pace for Digital India, without addressing these unrelenting problems.

Leading theorist of the information society, Frank Webster argues that the new society is more of a theoretical one. The construction of these theories will determine the democratic and egalitarian patterns of this new age. If these ingrained flaws formed during the construction of theoretical knowledge are rectified, it would foster a sustainable information environment.

Undeniably, at this epoch, we have information in abundance and fewer instruments to certify authenticity, relevancy and beneficial information, which set the score for the post-truth age. Meanwhile, still, some of them could not enjoy the enormity of information. Hence a parallel, mammoth building in the internet society is constructed, wherein digital slums will find a permanent place, without any trace of their digital history.

(Irshad is Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, DU and Ashraf is Assistant Professor, IMS Unison University, Dehradun)

The quality of water still awaits a verdict

Clean supply is a basic right like clean air and is needed for survival. The citizens of Delhi must fight for their fair share of this important natural resource



KOTA **SRIRAJ**

quality to be better than that of some European cities. Even though the comparison with European cities seems a bit far-fetched, what is really worrying is the fact that the citizens of Delhi still have no conclusive answer regarding the quality of their water supply. And all the reports did was to spark off a slanging match between various political parties in an election year.

Traditionally, we rely on the authentic testing standards and procedures of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). In September 2019, the BIS collected tap water samples from 11 locations across Delhi and tested the same for odour, colour and pH values and Total Dissolved Solids. These were part of the 24 parameters on which the samples were assessed. The water samples eventually failed on all the 24 parameters, leading to a major hue and cry in the political as well as public sphere.

However, even as the confusion over the authenticity of various reports remains, children and the elderly continue to consume water with dubious quality. The only one to



gain out of this mess is the water purifier industry, which is witnessing an unprecedented boom on the back of the fears of the populace. The just-concluded elections also did not see any of the contesting parties give clarity on how they would approach the problem of unsafe drinking water and air pollution in the national Capital.

So, for the citizens of Delhi, the problems continue unabated as they battle with dirty air and water, with

no respite in sight. In January, a leading media group commissioned a study to test the water quality in seven Lok Sabha constituencies across Delhi in an effort to highlight the water quality woes of the Capital before the February 8 Assembly elections. Termed as Operation Paani, the initiative involved collecting water samples from across the city on three different days and getting them tested by independent water quality experts.

The tests eventually found that half of Delhi was getting unsafe drinking water. However, this time the report has not found any detractors. But then, the elections are over, so who is bothered to highlight the issue anymore. The spectre of beleaguered, frustrated and short on temper residents fighting for water near rusty water tankers is an all too common sight in India. Unfortunately, it is the same even in the national Capital and has remained so even after decades of governance by some of the so-called best governments in power. It seems like it is in the best interests of political parties not to solve such problems so that they can be milked for votes in the next elections.

This, sadly, is the fix that India finds herself in, where political issues are kept alive at the cost of the common man. So, how does Delhi get its water right? Clean water is a basic right like clean air and is needed for survival. The citizens must fight for their fair share of this important natural resource. The present Government in Delhi prides itself on the fact that it is people-friendly and

approachable, which means it must listen to the problems of the people and more importantly do something about solving the issues that matter to the populace. And not just the Government, water woes are an amazing opportunity for the corporate world, too, if India Inc wants to approach the issue through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme. Under the CSR programme, corporates can tie up with the Government and install an on-the-spot water checking mechanism that is connected to the water supply pipes. This will give a real time feedback on the quality of the water being supplied. If suitable technology is paired with this initiative, then water quality readings can be forwarded to the citizens' phone through an app and also be sent to the Government department concerned. This initiative will definitely improve water quality and Government accountability in one go, provided the politicisation of the issue stops and a genuine quest for a solution begins.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



CHINA'S GAG ON MEDIA IS BAD

In the midst of the coronavirus outbreak, Beijing has expelled three journalists. Since the Wall Street Journal headline on Coronavirus caused real anger in China, the expulsions may help to divert growing rage at the official handling of the outbreak towards foreigners. But reliable coverage, of the kind that Chao Deng, one of those expelled, has been producing from Wuhan, is in the interests of all.
(The Guardian editorial)

CAA-NRC-NPR

PRO-PAK SLOGAN ROW

Sedition charge slapped against woman

Woman held for holding 'Kashmir Mukti, Dalit Mukti' placard in Bengaluru

Woman had links with Naxals: BSY
Bengaluru: A young woman who raised pro-Pakistan slogans at an anti-CAA rally here last evening has been booked for sedition and remanded to judicial custody, police said on Friday.

Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa said the woman had links with Naxals. In a related development, security was provided at the home of the woman, Amulya Leona, in Chikkamagaluru district, after it was attacked, allegedly by right wing workers.

Officials said some people had targeted her home on Thursday evening and the window panes were damaged.

Amulya had raised 'Pakistan Zindabad' slogans thrice after the organisers, under the banner of 'Save the Constitution', invited her to

address the gathering in the presence of All India Majlis-e-Itehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi, on Thursday.

After being removed from the stage, she was arrested on charges of sedition and produced before a magistrate's court, which remanded her to 14 days judicial custody.

Her father Wazi also called for action against her as per the law, saying she has made an "unforgivable mistake."

On Friday, Yediyurappa said: "Importantly, the organisations that are behind people like Amulya and nurturing them, if we don't take action against such organisations, such things won't end."

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, he said prima facie it was clear there was a con-

AIMIM, BJP two faces of same coin: Congress

Sena capable of giving a befitting reply to Pathan: Raut

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

All India Majlis-E-Itehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Waris Pathan's '15 crore (Muslims) will prove to be too much for 100 crore (Indians)' statement continued to dominate political discourse in Maharashtra on Friday, with the Congress condemning Pathan and charging that AIMIM and BJP 'are two faces of the same coin'.

Five days after Pathan made controversial remarks at an anti-CAA rally at Kalburgi in north Karnataka, the Shiv Sena and Raj Thackeray-led MNS also hit out Pathan for his hate speech.

Condemning Pathan for his "15 crore..." statement, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee

responsibility and them playing a 'drama' about their non-involvement in such incidents, is not acceptable.

"Because the matter is so sensitive, anything can happen any time," he said.

"We have been trying to maintain peace for three months in that it has become a competition to create a law and order situation," he added.

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said all angles, including the woman's posts on Facebook, would be looked into, including if any organisation was behind her.

"Let's look into what comes out of the investigation and accordingly action will be taken..." he said, as he hit out at the opposition for "supporting" such elements and asked them to function responsibly.

Amulya's father Wazi said action should be taken against

her in accordance with law, so that she corrects herself.

"It is an unforgivable mistake, she has caused pain to Indians. I'm deeply disturbed....Action should be taken against her in accordance with law. She is around 19, we will have to find out why she said it and who is behind it," he said.

"She is a bright girl...I have tried to tell her not to involve herself in such activities after I got to know she was involving in anti-CAA, anti-NRC protests and complete her education first," he said.

Meanwhile, a video of a group of people, allegedly right wing activists, last evening, purportedly questioning Wazi about his daughter's conduct and making him raise "Bharat Mata ki Jai" slogans has gone viral. On the other hand a purported Facebook post of

Amulya on February 16 has surfaced in which she has said 'Zindabad' to several neighbouring countries and that doing so does not make her belong to them.

"Hindustan Zindabad, Pakistan Zindabad, Bangladesh Zindabad, Sri Lanka Zindabad, Nepal Zindabad, Afghanistan Zindabad, China Zindabad, Nepal Zindabad... Whichever country it may be, Zindabad to all countries," said the post in Kannada.

Some people who are said to be Amulya's friends have claimed she was about to raise Zindabad slogans naming various countries as mentioned in the Facebook post before she was stopped by people around her on the stage.

However, others rejected such claims, pointing out that she had said Pakistan Zindabad thrice.

A case had been registered against her for offences under the Indian Penal Code, including creating enmity between different groups of people against the woman, identified as Arudra, they said. "We have registered the case suo moto (on their own) for creating enmity between different groups of people," Deputy Commissioner of Police Chetan Singh Rathore said.

The woman was produced before a city court judge, who

remanded her to 14 days judicial custody till March 5.

Holding the placard with the slogans, Arudra was spotted sitting among the participants of the protest, organised by the Hindu Jagaran Vedike against Amulya Leona, who had shouted "Pakistan Zindabad" on Thursday. She was escorted out of the place as protesters asked her to leave and crowd started gathering, city police chief Bhaskar Rao had said.

"She was taken into custody for her own safety along with the placard... We will find out her background, where she has come from and who are behind her among other things," Rao had earlier told reporters, adding she did not raise any slogan.

ROW OVER WARIS PATHAN SPEECH

AIMIM to seek explanation from Pathan for his remarks

PTI ■ AURANGABAD

The All India Majlis-e-Itehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) will seek explanation from its leader Waris Pathan over his alleged '15 crore Muslims can be heavy on 100 crore' remark he recently made in Karnataka, a party leader said here on Friday.

Pathan had made the purported remarks while addressing an anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) rally at Kalaburagi in North Karnataka on February 16.

"We have to move together. We have to take Azadi (freedom), things that we don't

get by asking, we have to take it by force, remember it... (We may be) 15 crore, but are heavy on 100 (crore), remember it," Pathan can be heard purportedly saying in a video of his speech that has gone viral.

Talking to reporters here, AIMIM's Maharashtra unit chief and Aurangabad MP Imtiaz Jaleel said, "Our party does not support the statement made by Waris Pathan. The party will seek an explanation from him over the remarks." "If needed, we will come out with a set of dos and don'ts for the party workers to be while giving speech," he said.

PTI

(MPCC) general secretary Sachin Sawant said: AIMIM and BJP are two faces of the same coin. It has been repeatedly established that the two parties indulge in division of the society on religious lines. Extreme views held by the people of any religion are dangerous for the country. We have to oppose both the AIMIM and BJP."

Sawant compared Pathan's statement with the "divisive statements" made deliberately from time to time Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, BJP leaders Giriraj Singh and Parvesh Verma.

"Per se it appears like both the AIMIM and BJP have come together and chalked out the divisive agenda. Their agenda is aimed at eroding the foundation of social amity and secularism enshrined in the Constitution. Even in the past organisations like Muslim League, Hindu

Mahasabha and RSS used to work in tandem to accomplish their common agenda," Sawant said.

"Despite speaking against each other in open forums, Hindu Mahasabha and Muslim League shared power. They had also opposed Quit India movement and supported the British," he said.

Shiv Sena MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut warned Pathan that despite being in power in Maharashtra, his party was party capable of giving a befitting reply to Pathan and AIMIM.

Alluding to a pro-Pakistan slogan raised by a woman at an anti-CAA rally in Bengaluru, Raut said: "The matter does not end someone (Asaduddin Owaisi) downing someone's slogans. On your (Asaduddin Owaisi) stage, if a woman comes and raises a slogan then it means that you have contributed to vitiating the environment in your way."

er. We have to take Azadi (freedom), things that we don't get by asking, we have to take it by force, remember it."

"Now time has come, we are told that we have sent our mothers and sisters in the front and were sitting covered in blanket... Only our lionesses have come out and you are already sweating. Understand what will happen if we come together. (We may be) 15 crore, but we will prove to be too heavy on 100 (crore), remember it," Pathan had said. A video clip of this portion of Pathan's speech has gone viral media since then.

On his part, Pathan defended himself by saying that his remarks made at Kalburgi rally five days ago have been quoted out of context. "I wish to reiterate that I can never say intentionally or unintentionally things that hurt the sentiments of any caste, community or gender. I am a proud Indian and respect the plurality of the country," he said in a statement.

It may be recalled that at an anti-CAA rally held at Kalburgi in north Karnataka on February 16, Pathan had said: "We have to move together.

India paying price for not sending Muslims to Pak: Giriraj

Patna: The country is paying the price for failure to send Muslims to Pakistan and bring Hindus to India after the Islamic state came into being at the time of Independence, Union Minister Giriraj Singh has said, triggering a fresh controversy.

The BJP leader made the remark in Purnea district in the Seemanchal region of Bihar which has a sizeable Muslim population and where the Begusarai MP was canvassing in favor of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

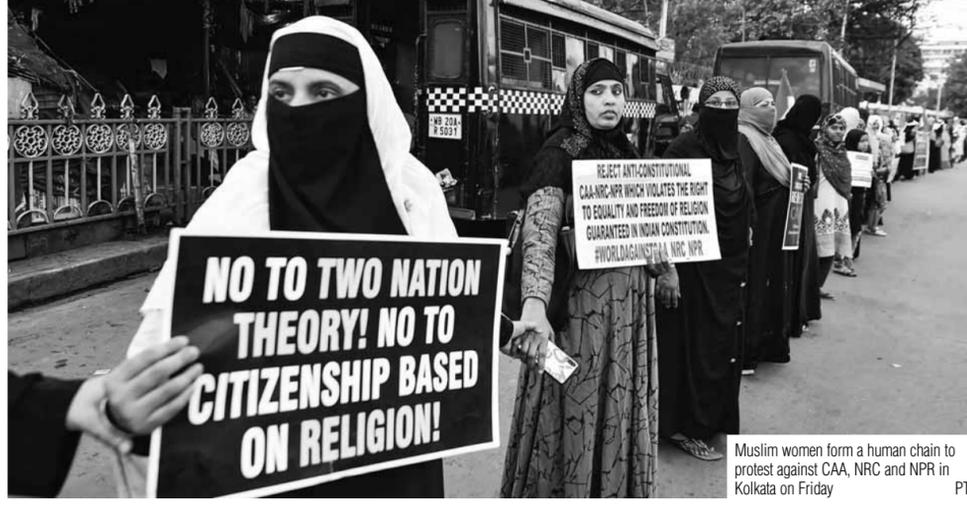
Highlighting the need for such a legislation, he told reporters late Thursday "when our forefathers were fighting for Independence from British rule,

for Citizens (NRC) may follow.

The Narendra Modi government, which had formerly hinted that a country-wide NRC was on the anvil, seems to have put it on the backburner though a section of citizens across the country, especially Muslims, have been organizing protests out of fear that, if implemented, the NRC may result in a large number of people becoming stateless. Singh has often been in the crosshairs of the opposition for placing his foot in the mouth. This time, however, his words were frowned upon even by NDA ally Lok Janshakti Party, founded by his cabinet colleague Ram Vilas Paswan and now headed by his son Chirag Paswan.

The young LJP chief, who kicked off a state-wide "Bihar First-Bihari First" yatra here Friday morning, to project the NDA's progressive face ahead of the assembly polls due later this year, expressed strong disapproval of Singh's utterance and noted the coalition had to suffer in the Delhi polls because of "divisive" remarks by BJP leaders.

"We are an NDA constituent but many times our coalition partners say things which the LJP does not at all agree with. This one (Giriraj Singh's statement) is such an example. Had a person of my party spoken in this fashion, I would have taken responsibility and acted," Paswan said.



Muslim women form a human chain to protest against CAA, NRC and NPR in Kolkata on Friday

Mizoram's NRC-like Bill awaits Centre's nod

Aizawl: The Mizoram Maintenance of Household Registers Bill, 2019, which seeks to identify illegal immigrants and genuine residents of the State, is pending with the Centre for approval, Chief Minister Zoramthanga told the Assembly on Friday.

Zoramthanga said the State Government will continue to make efforts to ensure that the bill received the Centres consent.

"The bill is with the Centre and is yet to be approved," he told the House. The bill is pending clearance by the Union government for about a year after it was introduced by the chief minister and passed by the Assembly on March 18, 2019.

The NRC-like bill was then sent for assent of the state governor, who

Will be friend for Muslim community forever: ADMK

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Amid continuing protests by Muslims over CAA, NRC and NPR in Tamil Nadu, the ruling AIADMK on Friday sought reassure the community, saying it will not allow anything that would harm minorities and charged its arch-rival DMK with trying to create confusion through false propaganda.

The K Palaniswami Government has also written to the Centre that certain information and documents like Aadhaar should be avoided in the upcoming Census, the party said, in an apparent reference to apprehensions being raised over certain aspects of the National Population Register process.

"No injustice will be meted out to any minority brother and sister in Tamil Nadu. The government will not allow any activity against minorities.

AIADMK will be a true friend for the Muslim community forever," a party statement said appealing for maintaining communal harmony.

The statement by top AIADMK leaders Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam and Chief Minister K Palaniswami comes in the backdrop of latest round of protests here and some other parts of the state against the amended citizenship law, NPR and the national register of citizens.

Among others, a massive protest was held here on Wednesday in which thousands of Muslims, including women, took part and urged the state assembly to adopt an anti-CAA resolution in the session that ended on Thursday.

Besides, Old Washermenpet in north Chennai has been witnessing protest by Muslims and others over the CAA, NPR and NRC since February 14 and been dubbed as

AMU teachers angry with Adityanath's statement against varsity students

Aligarh (UP): The AMU Teachers Association has taken a serious umbrage at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's allegation that over 15,000 varsity students protesting against CAA on December 15 last year had wanted to burn the Aligarh city.

While speaking on the Motion of Thanks to the governor's address in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on Wednesday, the chief minister had said, "I had alerted the Aligarh administration after the violence at Jamia Millia Islamia university. There were 15,000 stu-

dents of AMU, who took to streets, wanted to burn Aligarh city but their game plan was averted by an alert police, Adityanath had stated.

The AMU teachers described the Chief Minister's statement as 'highly irresponsible' and 'travesty of truth'.

In a letter to the President of India, the AMUTA secretary, Prof Najmul Islam, on Thursday demanded that the chief ministers statement should be expunged as he has tarnished the image of a leading institution of higher education without verifying facts.

PTI

After Didi ke bolo, BJP to launch bolo programme

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal BJP is likely to match Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's 'Didi ke bolo' (tell the elder sister) programme with a similar 'BJP ke bolo' (tell the BJP) initiative apparently to reach out to the masses ahead of the civic elections likely to be held sometime in April-May this year.

The elections to 107 municipalities and corporations are being considered as the semi-finals before the next year's Assembly elections.

When contacted the State BJP leaders said the proposed 'BJP ke bolo' was not similar to 'Didi ke bolo' curriculum as the first one was being organized to reach

the people's mind and their issues while the second one was launched basically to handle the corruption charges against the State's numerous Trinamool Congress cadres.

The BJP leader said the people will be provided with a helpline number so as to enable them to call and register their grievances. A senior BJP leader said the party will work towards resolving those issues.

The programme will start as 'a pilot project' where only BJP workers in the 107 municipalities will be asked to register feedback of the masses. Subsequently a statewide toll free number will be launched for the people, sources said.

PTI

Being the second such mass outreach programme after the "cha chakra Diliper songe (tea party with Dilip Ghosh)" the "BJP ke bolo" initiative is likely to expand the party's public outreach. Through this programme the party will be able to understand the people's problem and promise them solutions in its manifesto sources said.

"Ours is a public relations exercise whereby we will try to understand the people's problems and their demands where-as Didi ke bolo was launched to deflate the grievances from the people's minds that had piled up against the corrupt hierarchy of the TMC.

"It was also used as a device to segregate Mamata Banerjee as a cult from the TMC workers apparently with a message that the workers were thieves and the TMC chief was honest," said a State BJP leader.

Apparently conceived by TMC's poll consultant Prashant Kishore, Didi ke bolo was a handle to assuage people's ruffled feelings against the TMC Government by providing them instant relief from their problems.

For this telephone numbers were given to the people to contact the Chief Minister with their grievances which were then to be addressed within days if not hours. Incidentally Didi ke bolo had become a huge hit in the State the result of which was witnessed

IIT-KGP ranked second among Indian higher education institutes

Kolkata: IIT Kharagpur in West Bengal has been ranked second among higher educational institutes of India in the 'Times Higher Education Emerging Economies Ranking 2020'.

The Indian Institute of Technology has been ranked 32nd in the overall global ranking, a jump from the 55th rank last year, the IIT-KGP said in a statement on Friday.

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), ranked 16th globally, is India's top-ranked institution.

On the rise in ranking, IIT KGP Director Prof V K Tewari said, "In the recent past, we have taken measures to maintain a globally competitive faculty-student ratio while ensuring best-in-class quality."

The Jadavpur University in Kolkata is

ranked third among all the state-run universities in the country and first among all such universities in the Eastern region, the JU said here.

No other State-run university from the Eastern zone has been able to make the cut, it said.

A JU professor said the institute has always got higher berths in different rankings due to its high academic standards in the domain of scientific research and excellence in different fields.

A total of 56 Indian universities appear in the full ranking of a total of 533 universities across emerging economies of the world.

Eleven institutes of India featured in the top-100 list.

PTI

26 tigers missing from Ranthambhore park: MP

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Claiming that 26 tigers were missing from Ranthambhore National Park in Rajasthan, BJP MP and member of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) Diya Kumari has written to the Union Environment Minister, demanding a high level inquiry in the matter.



Kumari, in a letter to Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar, said a report has been submitted to the state government, stating that 26 tigers are missing from the park, which is located in Sawai Madhopur district. She demanded a high level inquiry in the matter. The MP also stated in her letter that the attitude of officials concerned and authorities of the park was "half-hearted and lack-

adaisical". "A national park is supposed to conserve the endangered animals and not lead to the decrease in their numbers," she said in her letter, written on Wednesday. She also said the poachers must be identified, caught and strict action must be taken against them to prevent recur-

Gehlot: Make imp info related to preventive healthcare part of school curriculum

Jaipur: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday directed officials to make important information related to preventive healthcare part of school curriculums under the Government's 'Nirogi Rajasthan' campaign.

The State Government's vision behind the campaign is to make everyone aware about living a healthy lifestyle, he said while chairing a meeting to review the campaign.

It is for the first time that a State Government has introduced a programme on preventive healthcare which will motivate people to stay fit and healthy, the Chief Minister said. Gehlot directed the officials to make information related to preventive healthcare a part of school curriculums and to introduce a 'Nirogi Rajasthan' helpline so that people can consult experts on health issues.

The Chief Minister said that under the campaign, the government will conduct a digital health survey of people and also reviewed the progress of new medical colleges coming up in the state. State Health Minister Raghu Sharma, Chief Secretary DB Gupta and other officials were present in the meeting. **PTI**

Waqf Board accepts alternative site, will decide on Monday how to use it

Lucknow: The UP Sunni Central Waqf Board on Friday said it does not have the option to reject the alternative piece of land given to it under the Supreme Court's Ayodhya verdict but will decide how to use it when it meets on Monday.

In a historic verdict in November on the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute, the Supreme Court ruled in favour of construction of a temple. It also ruled that an alternative five-acre plot must be found for a mosque. Soon after the verdict, there were suggestions that the board should not accept the land.

"Following the Supreme Court verdict, the Sunni Waqf Board does not have the choice of rejecting the five-acre alternative land for the construction of a mosque in Ayodhya as it would amount to contempt of court," Farooqui said.

"We had been saying since the very beginning that we will abide by the court verdict on the issue, and because of this we did not go in for a review of the verdict. There has been no shift in our stand," he said. "But on how to use the land



given to us by the government, it will be decided at the all important meeting of the board slated on Monday," he said.

Farooqui said the apex court order clearly stated that the Uttar Pradesh government will allot a plot to the board and "we had the liberty to build a mosque and associated amenities on it." "It did not say that the board had the liberty of rejecting it," he added. Besides Farooqui, there are seven other

members on the Sunni Waqf Board. Earlier this month, the Uttar Pradesh government gave the allotment letter to the board for the plot in Dhannipur village in Ayodhya's Sohawal tehsil.

It is on the Ayodhya-Lucknow highway, about 20 km from the district headquarters. Based on the SC verdict, the Centre had asked the Uttar Pradesh Government to allot five acres of land to the Sunni Waqf Board. **PTI**

Koregaon-Bhima judicial panel urged to summon Pawar

Pune: The Koregaon-Bhima judicial inquiry Commission has received an application seeking summoning of NCP president Sharad Pawar in view of certain statements made by him in the media about the 2018 caste violence near here.

Sambhaji Bhide had created a "different" atmosphere in Koregaon-Bhima, located on outskirts of Pune city, and its vicinity. "In the same press conference, Mr Pawar also alleges that the role of Pune city police commissioner is doubtful and must be investigated. These statements are within the purview of the terms of reference of this commission and therefore they are relevant," Shinde said the plea.

other related matters. "Therefore, in the interest of justice, this applicant makes a prayer to the commission to issue a summons to Mr Pawar and require him to depose in person and furnish additional information he has so that the commission can arrive at its findings in a just and fair manner," he said.

factually point out the chronology of the said events as that would be the domain of the existing Law and Order machinery." He had also stated, "I would not be in a position to specifically make allegations against any particular organisation."

The former chief minister had further stated the active role of "right-wing" forces behind the violence at Koregaon Bhima can not be ruled out. However, concrete evidence in this regard can be gathered only by law enforcement agencies of the state, he had said in the affidavit.

Sagar Shinde, a member of the Vivek Vichar Manch, a social group, on Thursday filed the application before the panel through his advocate Pradip Gawade, seeking that Pawar be asked to depose before the two-member commission. In his plea, Shinde cited a press conference of Pawar held on February 18. As per the application, at the press meet Pawar alleged that right-wing activists Milind Ekbote and

The applicant said he has reasons to believe Pawar has relevant and additional information, apart from what he has already shared in his earlier affidavit filed before the panel regarding the violence and

that the state government and law and enforcement authorities failed to protect the interest of the common man residing at Koregaon Bhima and its vicinity." Pawar's party is now a key constituent in the Shiv Sena-led government in the state. The commission was set up when the BJP was in power in Maharashtra.

"Hence, the state of Maharashtra has to own the responsibility of a failed law and order situation on January 1, 2018," he had stated. **PTI**

Gathering of anti-social elements in large numbers at Koregaon Bhima indicated the failure of law enforcement agencies, the NCP leader had told the panel.

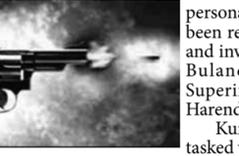
"Hence, the state of Maharashtra has to own the responsibility of a failed law and order situation on January 1, 2018," he had stated. **PTI**



A view of a sand sculpture of Lord Shiva, created by artist Laxmi Gaud, on the occasion of Maha Shivratri at Juhu beach in Mumbai on Friday **PTI**

BJP MLA's son booked for celebratory firing in UP

Bulandshahr (UP): The son of a BJP MLA has been booked for allegedly opening fire during a wedding ceremony in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr despite a ban on the practice, police said on Friday.



personal safety of others has been registered against him and investigation taken up," Bulandshahr (Rural) Superintendent of Police Harendra Kumar said. Kumar, who has been tasked with carrying out the

The FIR against Vikas Khaik, the son of BJP's Khurja MLA Vijendra Singh Khaik, was registered after a video of the incident, purportedly showing Vikas Khaik firing multiple shots from a gun, surfaced on social media on Thursday. "The accused has been booked. An FIR under section 336 of the Indian Penal Code for doing an act endangering life or

probe in the matter, said the investigation would be concluded soon and report submitted after due legal proceedings.

In a tweet, the SP chief said, "Mukhiyati has said the country does not need socialism this means : he is against the essence of the Constitution. He is not with the poor but with the rich capitalists. He works for some special people and not for society. He is

Akhilesh Yadav hits out at Yogi over Ramrajya remark

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday lashed out at Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over his remark that the "country needs Ramrajya not Samajwad", terming it as against the very essence of the Constitution.



In a tweet, the SP chief said, "Mukhiyati has said the country does not need socialism this means : he is against the essence of the Constitution. He is not with the poor but with the rich capitalists. He works for some special people and not for society. He is

against steps towards ensuring social equality of neglected sections." The SP chief was reacting to the remarks made by the chief minister while speaking on the Motion of Thanks to the governor's address in the State Assembly on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister had said, "The country needs 'Ramrajya' not 'Samajwad'." Without naming former Chief Minister and Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, Adityanath had also recalled his controversial "boys will be boys" remark and mocked the opposition for speaking on women empowerment. While opposing capital punishment for rape, Mulayam Singh Yadav had sparked an outrage by saying "ladke, ladke hain... Galti ho jati hai (boys will be boys... They commit mistakes)." **PTI**

Rijiju: Technology has changed learning, teaching methods

Chennai: Technology has changed education. In a great way in recent years with learning and teaching methodology also undergoing changes, Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju said on Friday. Delivering the second convocation address of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development at nearby Sriperumbudur, he also underlined the role of youths and parents in the nation's development.

About the changes the field of education had seen, he said, "In recent years, we have witnessed huge difference in education. Technology has greatly changed education, not only the learning methodology but teaching methodology too." Rijiju highlighted the several schemes introduced by the Union government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. **PTI**

Dewan Housing chairman Wadhawan gets bail in Mirchi case

Mumbai: A special court here on Friday granted bail to Kapil Wadhawan, chairman and MD of Dewan Housing Finance (DHFL) who is accused of having dealings with dead gangster Iqbal Mirchi in the past. The ED moved Bombay High Court seeking a stay on the special court's order but withdrew the petition when told that Wadhawan had already been released from jail.

While granting bail, the court directed Wadhawan to be at the ED office whenever he is summoned. He shall not tamper with prosecution evidence and shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case, the court said.

It directed him to not go out of the country and ordered him to surrender his passport. Within hours of the special court granting him bail, the ED approached Bombay High Court and sought a stay on the order. **PTI**



Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel patrol behind the historic Taj Mahal, ahead of US President Donald Trump's maiden visit to India, in Agra on Friday **PTI**

Gehlot Govt has no control over crime: Min on Nagaur incident

Jaipur: Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Friday said the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress Government is unable to rein in crime in Rajasthan and held it responsible for the Nagaur incident where two Dalit men were beaten up and tortured for allegedly stealing money.

en up, stripped and tortured by staffers of a motorcycle service agency in Karanu village after accusing them of committing theft. The brutal incident came to light after a video of the assault went viral. In the video, a group of men is seen thrashing two persons with rubber belts. They later dipped a piece of cloth wrapped on a screwdriver in petrol and inserted it in the private parts of one of the victims.

submitted to the BJP's state president in Jaipur on Saturday. Police have so far arrested seven persons in connection with the case. "Seven people have been arrested after registering a case against them under various sections of IPC and the SC/ST Act. A cross FIR has also been registered for stealing money. We are ascertaining how much money was stolen from the service agency counter. Further investigation in the matter is on," DSP, Nagaur, Mukul Sharma had said on Thursday.

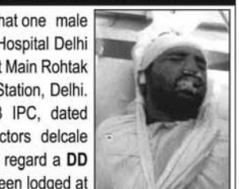
Meghwal, along with party legislators Madan Diwalar and Mohan Ram, reached Nagaur on Friday and met with the victims. He also visited the spot where the incident took place on Sunday. "The Chief Minister is holding the portfolio of home minister but there is no control over crime and the Government is responsible for the incident," Meghwal, the minister of state for heavy industries and public enterprises, said. "There was also a failure on part of the police because they could not get to know about the incident when it happened," he added. "The Dalit men were beat-

Meghwal, the MP from Bikaner, accused police of manipulating the case. He also alleged that the victims were under pressure. "We met the victims and also visited the place where the incident occurred," he said. The delegation of the BJP leaders also visited the Panchodi police station where an FIR regarding the incident has been registered. Meghwal said an inquiry report of the party delegation, which he was heading, will be

Section 308 of IPC (attempt to commit culpable homicide) was also been added in the FIR. The arrested accused have been identified as Bhim Singh, Imaan Singh, Hanuman Singh, Raghuver Singh, Chhail Singh, Chhatar Singh and Rehmatullah. Director General of Police Bhubendra Singh said in Jaipur that the matter was being investigated thoroughly and none will be spared. **PTI**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was admitted in Shri Balaji Action Hospital Delhi on 31/01/2020 due to an accident at Main Rohtak Road, Near Paschim Vihar Metro Station, Delhi. vide FIR No. 84/20 u/s 279/338 IPC, dated 31.01.2020. During treatment doctors delcace hime dead on 06.02.2020. In this regard a DD No. 34-A, Dated 07.02.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Paschim Vihar East, Delhi The description of the dead body is given as under: Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown R/o: Unknown, Age: About 35-40 years, Height: 5'7" feet, Complexion: Shallow, ID Mark: Birth mark on left hand, Wearing: Brown linedar shirt, Black jacket and Blue lower. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.



S.H.O P.S. Paschim Vihar East, Delhi Ph.: 011-25263471, 25267286

Minister to take legal action against Bedi over Govt schemes

Puducherry: Puducherry Minister Malladi Krishna Rao on Friday said he would take legal action against Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi for allegedly interrupting implementation of developmental schemes, a charge denied vehemently by her. Addressing reporters here, the Minister of Health and Tourism accused Bedi of intimidating IAS officers, particularly Tamil IAS officers. Referring to the recent findings of the CBI that none of the six officers of the territorial administration had committed any wrong in the selection and

admission of students to privately managed medical colleges in 2017, he said, "The six had suffered mental agony because of the allegations the Lieutenant Governor had made against them to the CBI through the Medical Council of India. "What is her answer to the harassment the officers had suffered because of her authoritative stance," he asked. Bedi had also sent allegedly adverse reports against 'honest' officers to the Union Home Ministry, he said without disclosing their names. Rao said his departments were not able to implement any centrally

sponsored schemes or schemes evolved by the territorial government because of the alleged intervention of Bedi. "I will never compromise and I have seen several Kiran Bedis in my career and I will file a case against her in the next one week to bring justice to the people and to ensure Bedi's intervention does not continue," Rao said.

He said the private medical colleges have been earmarking seats under government quota every year only through the negotiations the Government was holding with the managements. **PTI**

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CENTRAL)-I NEAR UGR & BPS RAMLILA GROUND JLN MARG, NEW DELHI-110002.

PRESS NIT NO. 72 (2019-20)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimate Cost in Rs	Date of Release of tender on e-procurement	Last Date/ Time for receipt of tender through e-procurement Solution
02	Improvement of old and damaged 600mm dia Peripheral sewer line from MCD School, Turkman Gate to gali Sapru under EE(Central)-I, AC-21. (Re-invite)	₹ 33,15,803.00	21/02/2020 06:00 PM onwards Tender ID : 2020_DJB_188446_2	04/03/2020 upto 03:00 PM

Further detail in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 852(2019-2020) Sd/- EE(Central)-I

Fiscal deficit as GDP touched 4.56% in Dec: FinMin data

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Fiscal deficit as a percentage of GDP touched 4.56 per cent as of December 2019 with total receipts pegged at ₹11.77 lakh crore against a higher expenditure of ₹21.09 lakh crore, data of government accounts showed.

For the fiscal 2019-20 (till March 31, 2020), the fiscal deficit has been revised to 3.8 per cent now.

Gross tax collection was ₹13.83 lakh crore (53 per cent of the Budget estimates). The net tax revenue of the Central government was at ₹9.04 lakh crore which was 55 per cent of the BE, after deducting devolution to the states to the tune of ₹4.76 lakh crore and ₹2,480 crore towards NDRF.

The non-tax revenue accrued to the Centre was ₹2.41 lakh crore whereas other receipts were pegged at ₹31,000 crore. The Government released ₹54,621.14 crore to the



states as their share in central taxes and duties as well as ₹6,989.38 crore as recommended by the Finance Commission in January.

In December 2019, the states received ₹7,499.89 crore as recommended by the Finance Commission and the government released ₹2,714.03 crore towards various schemes.

In January 2020, the states received much lower ₹101.29 crore. Out of total government expenditure of ₹21.09 lakh

Virus may slash \$29 bn from airlines' revenue, says IATA

AP ■ TOKYO

The outbreak of the new virus threatens to erase \$29 billion of this year's revenue for global airlines, mostly for Chinese carriers, as travel crashes worldwide, according to the International Air Transport Association.

The trade group for global airlines said Thursday that the virus causing COVID-19 has the potential for causing a 13% decline in demand for Asian carriers this year.

The contraction comes at a time when Asian airlines' sales had been growing, the group said. Global air traffic will be reduced by 4.7% for the year, marking the first overall decline in such demand since the financial crisis of 2008 and 2009, IATA said in a statement. How profits will be affected was still unclear, it said.

The estimates foresee a scenario where COVID-19 has a "V-shaped impact," similar to

what happened during the SARS virus outbreak in 2003, with a sharp dive followed by a quick recovery, according to IATA. The virus, which began in China late last year, has sickened more than 75,000 people in China. Some 2,000 people have died in China. More than 1,000 cases have been found outside mainland China.

International airlines including British Airways, Germany's Lufthansa, Australia's Qantas and the three largest U.S. Airlines have suspended flights to China, in some cases until late April or May. Cathay Pacific asked employees to take three weeks of unpaid leave to help it weather the crisis.

Travel restrictions inside China and fear of the illness have devastated demand for domestic flights in the fast-growing China market.

Many nations are warning

people not to travel to China, or barring travelers from China, especially from the Wuhan area, at the center of the outbreak. People around the world are also voluntarily scaling back travel, while some governments and health experts are encouraging people to stay indoors not only in China but also South Korea and Japan to avoid getting infected.

"These are challenging times for the global air transport industry. Stopping the spread of the virus is the top priority," said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's Director General and CEO. "This will be a very tough year for airlines."

Analysts at Cowen, a US investment bank and financial services company, noted IATA might be underestimating the impact on Asia travel outside of China, noting the recent reports of dozens of cases in South Korea.

BUSINESS CORNER

NBCC IMPLEMENTED RPL PROGRAMME AT IIT-DELHI



New Delhi: NBCC, a Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), has recently implemented the "Recognition of Prior Learning" (RPL-4) programme in collaboration with CSDCI and CII at the IIT-Delhi project site of NBCC. The workers were felicitated with certificates given away to them by the Senior officers of NBCC. Officers from CII, and CSDCI were also present at the programme. Under Skill India Mission of Government of India, NBCC has been implementing RPL programmes at various project sites across the country with a purpose to promote skill development and discover uncultivated talented workforce in construction sector.

N BAIJENDRA KUMAR, CMD, NMDC WINS AWARD



Hyderabad: N Bajendra Kumar, IAS, CMD, NMDC, was presented with The Business Leadership Award 2020, today at the Seventh edition of the Governance Now PSU Awards at New Delhi. These annual awards showcase businesses and individuals who have exhibited exceptional leadership in PSU governance to ensure protection and long-term value for all their stakeholders. The Award honours the efforts of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) that play a key role in the country's economic growth and social development. The 7th edition of the award was graced by the presence of Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister State, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India and Shailesh Lodha, Indian actor, comedian and writer. Meghwal handed over the awards to the winners from the different categories of Best Performer — Financial, CSR in Infrastructure Development & Leadership Awards, etc.

'Govt OK's merger of Bharti Infratel, Indus Towers'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecom (DoT) on Friday approved the merger of the country's largest mobile tower company Indus Towers with Bharti Infratel, according to official sources.

The combination of Bharti Infratel and Indus Towers will create a pan-India tower company with over 163,000 towers, operating across all 22 telecom service areas. The combined entity will be the largest tower company in the world outside China.

"DoT has approved merger of Indus Towers with Bharti

Infratel," an official source told PTI. Bharti Infratel and Vodafone hold 42 per cent stake each in Indus. Vodafone Idea holds 11.15 per cent stake in the mobile tower firm.

As per the plans, the combined company, which would fully own the respective businesses of Bharti Infratel and Indus Towers, would change its name to Indus Towers Ltd and will continue to be listed on Indian stock exchanges.

The timely completion of the tower deal is critical for the companies, as it would allow Bharti and Vodafone Idea in offloading stake and raising funds.

Govt should fill CDPO posts earliest for success of Poshan Abhiyan: Niti

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Government think-tank Niti Aayog has made a strong case for urgently filling vacancies at Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) and Lady Supervisor levels for ensuring success of Modi Government's flagship nutrition scheme Poshan Abhiyan.

In a report titled "Transforming Nutrition in India: Poshan Abhiyan", the Aayog said the government is committed to improving the nutritional status of children and women through Poshan Abhiyan.

"At a national level, the vacancy rates are in the range of 25 per cent at both the CDPO and Lady Supervisor levels. This is the aggregated national scenario that varies from State to State; however, it is a clear indication of the relatively higher number of vacancies at the Supervisor level," the report pointed out.

It also said that for positions sanctioned under the Poshan Abhiyan, State Project Management Units (SPMUs) have not been established in two of the 19 large States (Punjab and Karnataka).

"Even where SPMUs have been established, 10 States have vacancy rates in the excess of 30 per cent," the report added.

Noting that the position in smaller states is even worse, it said with the exception of two States (Meghalaya & Mizoram), in the rest of the states either the SPMU has not been set up

altogether, or even where it has been set up all positions remain vacant due to non-completion of the recruitment process.

The UTs are slightly better placed with four of them having greater than 75 per cent of the SPMU posts filled up, the report said, adding that none of the posts were filled in Puducherry and Delhi.

"Thus, it is recommended that these gaps need to be closed at the earliest and they are critical to ensuring support to the frontline workers," it said.

There are huge gaps in the procurement and distribution of growth monitoring devices, the report noted.

As per the last update only 27.6 per cent of Anganwadi Worker(AWWs) across the country have been provided with Smartphones and about 35 per cent of AWWs have Growth Monitoring Devices (Infantometer, Stadiometer & Weighing Scales).

Observing that it is an urgent need to address challenges pertaining to connectivity and the software issues to ensure ICDS-CAS operations function smoothly, the report said, "Only few States like Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Daman & Diu have established helpdesks in all the Districts."

Asian markets fall on fears over spreading virus

AFP ■ HONG KONG

A spike in new virus cases outside China spooked Asian markets on Friday after Wall Street pulled back from record highs as more companies warned earnings could be hurt by the epidemic.

More than 2,200 people have died from the novel coronavirus, which has infected over 75,000 people, mostly in China, and spread panic around the world.

While Beijing claims its epidemic control efforts are working, the rising death toll and number of new infections abroad have rattled investors.

A batch of warnings from companies over the impact of the virus on bottom lines -- including Danish ship operator Maersk and Air France-KLM -- and weaker manufacturing data in Japan also fanned anxiety.

Initial hopes that the virus would have only a short-term impact on earnings and economic growth have given way to the reluctant realisation that it could linger.

"It took Apple to do what the coronavirus couldn't -- make stocks feel a little queasy," said Stephen Innes of AxiCorp,

referring to the tech giant's warning Monday that it would miss its quarterly revenue forecast because of the disease.

"The market seemed to absorb the initial Apple shock in its typically pleasant manner, but it's the aftershocks when corporate America starts waving the warning flags in tandem that could prove to be the biggest gut check."

Seoul's Kospi index fell 1.5 per cent. The country confirmed 48 more virus cases on Friday afternoon, adding to the 52 it announced in the morning, taking its total to 204.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index closed down 0.4 per cent as investors took to the sidelines ahead a long weekend.

Mainland China's key Shanghai Composite Index closed up 0.3 per cent following central bank efforts to cushion the impact of the virus on the world's second-largest economy, where manufacturing activity has been hit hard.

Elsewhere, Sydney, Taipei and Singapore all shed 0.3 per cent.

China reported Thursday a big drop in the number of new infections after it once again changed the method of counting patients with the virus.

Don't take industry chambers lightly: Goyal to businessmen

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday took a dig at the industry for taking business chambers lightly, saying businessmen only approach these bodies when they face problems.

Goyal said that many times he found at functions of CII, Ficci and ASSOCHAM only the current president, few past presidents, incoming presidents and possibly a few public spirited office bearers.

"Where was the trade and industry and business community when the nation needed them?" he said at an AIMA event here.

The minister requested AIMA President Sanjay Kirloskar and past president Harsh Pati Singhania, who were present at the function, to take this message to "all your colleagues and friends that associations are not to be taken lightly."

"Industry bodies and businesses are not something which you only go to when you are in trouble. These are organisations which have a national duty and a national role to play," he added.

Citing the example of the recent decision to increase import duty on toys, he said the toy industry has now become "super active."

Jack Ma teams up with Columbia University to find cure for COVID-19

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's tech billionaire Jack Ma has pledged over USD 2 million to support the development of antiviral drugs to combat the new coronavirus which has killed 2,236 people in the country and infected more than 75,000 others.

The WHO has declared the epidemic as a public health emergency.

In accordance with a deal signed between the Jack Ma foundation and Columbia University, the 15 million yuan will be used for supporting a research project led by Dr David Ho, a world-renowned HIV/AIDS researcher with the university, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The researcher will lead in setting project objectives, conducting research and tracking

results, said a source of the foundation based in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in China, with Wuhan as the epicenter, Ho and many researchers at Columbia University have been following the situation closely and started related work to combat the virus, the report said.

In support of the cooperation project, Columbia University has set up a multi-disciplinary team involving professionals in virology, molecular biology and chemistry who proposed four different new solutions to tame the pathogen, according to the source.

China's richest man, 55-year-old Jack, is the co-founder and former executive chairman of the Chinese multinational technology conglomerate Alibaba group.

Crude oil futures fall over 2% on weak global cues

New Delhi: Crude oil futures on Friday fell over 2 per cent to ₹3,821 per barrel after participants reduced positions tracking weak trend overseas.

The trading in the first half was closed on account of 'Mahashivratri'.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude oil for March delivery dropped by ₹83, or 2.13 per cent, to ₹3,821 per barrel with a business volume of 19,887 lots.

Crude oil for April delivery was quoting lower by ₹85, or 2.16 per cent, to ₹3,845 per barrel with an open interest of 544 lots.

Analysts said the fall in crude oil futures was mostly due to trimming of positions by traders amid weak spot demand.

Globally, West Texas Intermediate crude oil fell 1.82 per cent at \$52.91 per barrel.

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General public is hereby informed that an unknown male person was found unconscious near Subhash Nagar, Metro Station near Gate No.3 on Dated 09.02.2020. was admitted at DDU Hospital vide MLC No.1235/20. during the treatment declared dead by Doctor. The dead body has been preserved at DDU Hospital Mortuary. In this regard Case vide DD No. 4A Dated 09.02.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Hari Nagar.

The description of the dead body is given as under Name Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age: about 30 Years, Height: 5'7", Face: Oval, Hair: Black Identification: Old Burn Marks on left hand Complexion: Sallow, Wearing: Blue Colour Sweater, Maroon Jacket and Naked below the waist. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi Ph.: 011-28125719, 28122868 28121251, 8750871128 DP/11/WD/20

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one person Namely: Malik Ram, S/o: Lt. Mihail, R/o: W-13, Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi, Age: About 62 Years, Height: 5'3", Face: Oval, Complexion: Shallow, Hair: Black, Built: Normal, Wearing: Shirt and Pant Green Light has been missing since 21.01.2020 from his house. In this regard DD No. 08-A, Dated 23.01.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Greater Kailash-1, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing person please inform the undersigned.

SHO P.S. Greater Kailash-1, Delhi Ph.: 011-26241076, 26241077, 8750870831 DP/5949/SD/2020

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
(A Statutory Institute governed by the NIFT Act 2006)
(Ministry of Textiles, Government of India)
NIFT Campus, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016

TENDER NOTICE
Tender No. NIFT-DEL/BLDG/522/2020 Dated: 20.02.2020
NIFT invites Sealed Tenders for site of automatic phase correction panel at NIFT Campus, Hauz Khas, New Delhi -16 from reputed & eligible manufacturers/ agencies. Detailed tender document can be downloaded from NIFT's website E-portal - <https://nift.eproc.in>
Earnest Money Deposit - ₹ 20000/-
Last Date of submission of tender - 03.03.2020 at 03:00 PM
Scheduled date of opening of tender - 03.03.2020 at 03:30 PM
Estate Engineer (Bldg)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) Afzal, S/o Mohd. Naeem, R/o H.No. B-121, Top Floor Shiv Park, Khanpur, New Delhi (2) Safique, S/o Mohd. Lal R/o H.No. B-21/5, Ground Floor Shiv Park, Khanpur, New Delhi and (3) Noor Mohd. @ Noore, S/o Ali Mohd., R/o H.No. B-121, Second Floor Shiv Park, Khanpur, New Delhi have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 234/13, Dated 04.06.2013 u/s 14 Child Labour Act & 23/26 JJ Act, P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said (1) Afzal, (2) Safique and (3) Noor Mohd. @ Noore cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) Afzal, (2) Safique and (3) Noor Mohd. @ Noore have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Afzal, (2) Safique and (3) Noor Mohd. @ Noore of FIR No. 234/13, Dated 04.06.2013 u/s 14 Child Labour Act & 23/26 JJ Act, P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 28.03.2020.

By order
Sh. Anuj Kumar Singh,
Metropolitan Magistrate-03 South,
Room No. 212, Saket Courts Complex,
New Delhi
DP/5941/SD/2020(Court Matter)

SHAKY START FOR INDIA

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

India's top-order batsmen performed woefully on a challenging track as the side crawled to 122 for 5 with New Zealand's towering pacer Kyle Jamieson rattling the visiting big guns on his debut on a rain-hit opening day of the first Test here.

Friday's play was called off after tea due to a heavy down-pour, the gloomy conditions typifying India's batting blues with only Ajinkya Rahane (38 batting off 122 balls) matching wares when it came to winning the mental battle.

The 6'8" Jamieson could not have asked for a better start, picking up 3 for 38 in 14 overs and his prized scalps included two of India's best long-form batsmen — skipper Virat Kohli (2) and the dogged Cheteshwar Pujara (14 off 42 balls).

He also took a lovely catch in the deep to cap off a day he will remember forever. What Jamieson did wonderfully well was mix up the back of the length stuff with fuller deliveries in between.

He bowled the natural back of the length deliveries that climbed on the batsmen, pegging them on backfoot.

He also mixed it up with fuller deliveries when the batsmen were just a tad unsure of their footwork. Bowling at barely 130 kmph, he troubled the visitors making it easier for senior pros Tim Southee (1/27 in 14 overs) and Trent Boult (1/44 in 14 overs) to bowl a more probing line.

"The last couple of weeks has been pretty surreal. Pretty pleased and from a team perspective we're in a pretty good position as well," said Jamieson at the end of the day's play.

Such was the disciplined effort from the Black Caps bowlers that India managed only 43 runs in the second session.



New Zealand's Trent Boult, second from right, celebrates the dismissal of India's Mayank Agarwal for 34 during the first cricket test between India and New Zealand. AP

New Zealand vs India
Live from 4:00am IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

Rahane played 122 balls, hitting four boundaries on a heavy outfield. Rishabh Pant was at the other end on 10.

Mayank Agarwal (34 off 84 balls), who did the hard work of surviving the first session, was out after lunch as he tried a pull shot off Boult just after surviving a tough caught and bowled chance.

"As a batsman, it's not easy, especially first day, on this track. I thought they bowled good areas and they kept testing us. They didn't give us anything loose," Agarwal, who was the only other batsman who looked a bit comfortable said.

"As a batsman, you never felt that you were completely in

"AS A BATSMAN, IT'S NOT EASY, ESPECIALLY FIRST DAY, ON THIS TRACK. I THOUGHT THEY BOWLED GOOD AREAS AND THEY KEPT TESTING US. THEY DIDN'T GIVE US ANYTHING LOOSE"

because even after lunch, it was doing a little bit," he added.

Hanuma Vihari (7) was Jamieson's third victim when he edged a pitched up delivery.

Once Kane Williamson called it right under the over-cast conditions, it was a challenge for the Indian batsmen.

Young Prithvi Shaw's loose technique and tendency to close the bat face was always going to cost him.

Southee bowled one that looked like angling in and Shaw closed the bat face as the ball moved a shade away after pitching, brushing his pad and then the off-stump.

Pujara was ready to show a lot of patience as he started leaving deliveries outside the

off-stump.

However, Jamieson, coming in as the second change, bowled his back of length delivery on the off-middle channel and he had no option but to jab at the rising delivery which kissed the outside edge of his bat and was taken by BJ Watling.

Kohli was playing Jamieson for the disconcerting bounce that he generated from back of the length but in between, the bowler decided to slip one fuller delivery on the fourth stump channel.

Kohli lunged into the drive and the thick edge was taken by the '100 Test man' Ross Taylor, standing at the first slip compounding India's troubles.

Kiwi pacers hit right areas, says Mayank

IANS ■ WELLINGTON

India opener Mayank Agarwal feels New Zealand fast bowler Kyle Jamieson, who had a dream debut on Friday in the first Test, bowled exceedingly well and used the new ball to good effect as India were left reeling at 122/5 at stumps after a rain-affected first day's play.

The towering Jamieson picked up three wickets including that of Indian captain Virat Kohli.

"I thought he (Jamieson) bowled exceedingly well. He hit good areas and he got good bounce. The way he used the new ball was fantastic and he kept testing us bowling in the right areas," Agarwal said.

"Since the wicket was soft, he was getting extra kick as well. As a batsman, you have to make that little extra adjustment to the bounce, which can be a little tricky," said Agarwal.

"I think it is quite tricky since the wind blows at more than a decent speed here. And you just have to make adjustments right there on the field. As a batsman, it's not easy, especially first day, on this track," said Agarwal of the conditions at Basin Reserve.

"As a batsman, you never felt that you were completely in because even after lunch, it was doing a little bit."

Asked if his dismissal had anything to do with lapse of concentration, the Karnataka batsman said: "I don't really think about all of those things while I am batting. If you are playing well and if you are addressing the ball well, it's fine. It really doesn't matter, especially in these conditions. It's alright to be at the non-striker's end," he said.



Last couple of weeks have been surreal: Jamieson

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

Getting Virat Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara out on his first day in Test cricket is the stuff dreams are made of and no wonder Kyle Jamieson thinks events of the past couple of weeks have been "surreal".

Jamieson, who made an impact on his white ball debut during New Zealand's 3-0 ODI series win, picked three for 38 on his Test debut and also took a fine catch in the deep to leave India struggling at 122 for 5 on the first day of the opening Test.

Is he able to believe what's happening?

"Not really. It's still sinking in. The last couple of weeks have been pretty surreal as well. Pretty pleased and from a team perspective we're in a pretty good position as well," said the Auckland-born pacer, who is currently tallest, among international cricketers.

"He's a pretty good batter and such a key to their line-up. To get him early was massive for us. To get a couple (including Pujara) early was where

the emotion came from, certainly pretty special," said Jamieson.

While Kohli's problems outside the off-stump has been talked about, Jamieson feels that "nitpicking" wasn't the smartest thing to do.

"He's scored runs all around the world so to try and nitpick that would be not the smartest. With the assistance of the pitch it was how we would try to make him play and he's so strong on the stump line. I probably missed a little bit but managed to get the edge which was good."

The extra bounce that he generates has been his go to strategy since he came into the ODI side.

"I tried to keep it simple the last few weeks. My role is to make them play and with that extra bounce bring them forward. There was a lot of assistance with pace and bounce and swing and seam. That simplifies my game-plan to try to hit a good area. I stayed pretty relaxed which helped," he said expecting that second day will also be helpful for the seamers.

Fighting India lose 3-4 to Aus



Indian Hockey team celebrates after scoring goal against Australia

Hockey India/Twitter

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

India fought hard before losing 3-4 to defending champions Australia in their first match of the two-leg FIH Pro League encounter here on Friday.

Making their debut in the second season of

the FIH Pro League, the Indians displayed their potential by claiming five points from a possible six against the Netherlands before claiming another three in a stunning 2-1 victory over Belgium, the reigning World and European champions. The Red Lions bounced

back with a 3-2 win in the second match.

But the hosts were made to toil hard by the world no.2 Australia before eventually losing the match in a close encounter.

Dylan Waterspoon (6th minute), Tom Wickham (18th),

Lachlan Sharp (41st) and Jacob Anderson (42nd) scored four field goals for the winners.

India's goals came from the sticks of Raj Kumar Pal (36th, 47th) and Rupinder Pal Singh (52nd).

By virtue of this win, Australia moved up to the third position in the standings with nine points from five games, while India are a rung behind with eight points from as many matches.

Australia showed why they are considered as one of most ruthless hockey teams in the world, taking the lead with the first chance of the match in the sixth minute with Waterspoon deflecting home Sharp's perfect pass from close range after an excellent break from skipper Aran Zalewski.

The Indians tried to bounce back from the early shock but were denied by Australia's confident defensive unit.

Poonam spins Oz out

Yadav's 4/19 & Shikha 3/14 take India to resounding win over defending champions in T20 WC opener



Poonam Yadav second right, is lifted by a teammate after taking the wicket of Ellyse Perry

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Leg-spinner Poonam Yadav bowled a magical spell in her comeback game to steer India to a comfortable 17-run win over defending champions Australia in the opening match of the Women's T20 World Cup here on

Friday.

Put in to bat, India struggled to a below par 132 before Poonam (4/19 in 4 overs) foxed the Aussies with her googlies, turning the match decisively into her team's favour.

Australia, who have won the competition four times in six edi-

tions, were all out for 115 in 19.5 overs

"A bowler like Poonam is someone who leads from the front. We were expecting a great comeback from her. Our team is looking nice, earlier we depended on two-three players," India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said after the match.

Poonam, who missed the preceding tri-series due to a hand injury, also got good support from other bowlers including pacer Shikha Pandey.

The 28-year-old from Agra was on a hat-trick but narrowly missed out as wicketkeeper Taniya Bhatia dropped a difficult chance.

The tournament-opener saw a record 13,000 plus attendance with a sizeable chunk supporting India.

India next play against Bangladesh in Perth on February 24.

"It was great for me to come back from injury and perform like this. It was the third time that I was on a hat-trick but satisfied that I was able to do the job for the team," said Poonam at the post-match presentation.

PTI ■ VALSAD (GUJARAT)

Roosh Kalaria scored his third first-class century to propel Gujarat to a mammoth 602 for eight declared against Goa.

Gujarat pacers then removed both the Goa openers on nought before the visiting team recovered to end the day at 46 for two.

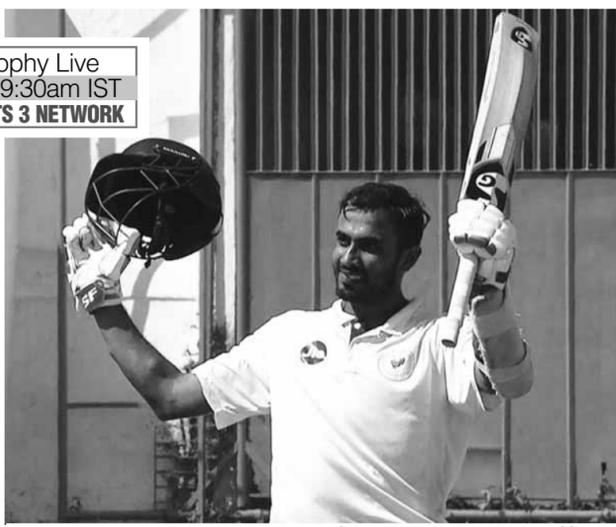
Kalaria (118 not out off 185 balls; 14x4s, 1x6) and Axar Patel (80 off 113 balls; 11x4) built on the foundation laid by skipper Parthiv Patel, who scored his 27th first class hundred on the opening day of the match on Thursday to put the hosts in the driver's seat.

NO PLAY ON SECOND DAY

JAMMU: The second day's play match between Karnataka and Jammu & Kashmir was called off without a ball being bowled because of wet ground conditions here on Friday.

Despite the sun shining brightly on Friday, water seepage under the covers after last night's downpour left wet patches near the run-up area at one end. The on-field umpires conducted as many as five inspections before eventually calling off the day's proceedings. Karnataka were wobbling at 14 for 2

Gujarat in command against Goa



Roosh Kalaria raises his bat after scoring hundred against Goa

BCCI/Twitter

at stumps after only six overs were possible due to bad light on the opening day on Thursday

BENGAL MAKE LATE INROADS

TANGI: Odisha let the opportunity slip in the final hour, losing three wickets in quick time as Bengal took an upperhand.

Fighting half-centuries from opener Shantanu Mishra (62) and Debasish Samantray (68) frustrated Bengal bowlers after their first innings folded for 332.

But a lapse in concentration from Samantray, who chased a widish delivery, triggered the collapse as Bengal seamer Nilkantha Das finally ended their dogged 125-run partnership, which came off 317 balls.

Shahbaz Ahmed and Ishan Porel then fired in quick succession as Odisha lost three wickets for 16 runs to end day two on a disappointing 151 for four, still 181 runs behind Bengal

SAURASHTRA POST 419

ONGOLE: A dogged century by Chirag Jani (121 off 297 balls, 12x4s) and his 157-run seventh-wicket partnership with Perak

Mankad (80) helped Saurashtra pile up 419 in the first innings against Andhra.

Skipper Jaydev Unadkat removed Andhra opener D B Prasanth (1) and Jyothisaikrishna (17) to leave the host at 40 for two from 22 overs at stumps, still trailing by 379 runs.

Resuming at the overnight score of 226 for six, Jani (on 53) and Mankad (80, 177 balls, 8 fours) frustrated the Andhra bowlers and were still at the crease at lunch. They defied the attack led by Y Prithvi Raj (3/51) and scored whenever presented with the opportunity.

Jani reached his ton from 249 balls. Though it was a slow knock, it helped Saurashtra recover from 140 for five to post a big score.

Mankad too complemented Jani well and helped the visitors' cause. For the home team, left-arm medium-pacer Prithvi Raj and right-arm medium-pacer K V Sashikanth picked up three wickets each.

Andhra opener CR Gnaneswar was batting on 22 at close of play and a lot will depend on him and skipper K S Bharat and Ricky Bhui.

SINGLES

KALINGA STADIUM TO HOST QATAR GAME
BUDAPEST: India's return leg FIFA World Cup group E qualifier against Qatar next month will be held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said. "Yes, Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar will host the match on March 26," AIFF general secretary Kushal Das Das confirmed. "We want to spread the game to new venues and the state has shown tremendous support for football," he added.

L'POOL HENDERSON OUT FOR THREE WEEKS
LIVERPOOL: Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson will be sidelined for up to three weeks after suffering a hamstring injury against Atletico Madrid, the Premier League leaders announced. Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp revealed the time-frame for Henderson's injury at Friday's press conference. "We heard of different hamstring injuries now around in the Premier League, Harry Kane, for example," said Klopp. "It's not that bad. But he will be out, I think, for three weeks or so, which is not cool. But how we see it, we were still lucky."

WOMEN'S IPL MATCHES LIKELY IN JAIPUR
JAIPUR: Jaipur is likely to host the Women's IPL matches once again this year. "There would be seven matches between four teams in the women's IPL and Jaipur is likely to host them," a senior official associated with the cash-rich T20 league said. Last year, too, Jaipur had hosted the matches of the Women's IPL, when three teams had featured in the tournament. Matches in Jaipur are played at the SMS, though a final decision on it is yet to be taken. Meanwhile, the official also confirmed that the All Star match, which was scheduled to be held before the IPL, will now take place after it.

KOHLI TO PLAY FOR ASIA XI
NEW DELHI: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President Sourav Ganguly has sent the names of skipper Virat Kohli, Mohammed Shami, Shikhar Dhawan and Kuldeep Yadav to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) as the latter gets ready to host two T20Is between Asia XI and World XI to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The matches will be played at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Dhaka on March 18 and 21. Sources in the know of developments said that Ganguly had sent the names to BCB after the availability of players were checked.

HAZARD RETURN POSES REAL DIFFICULTY
MADRID: Eden Hazard's return should prove timely ahead of a crucial week for Real Madrid, but fitting him into the team may not be a simple task for Zinedine Zidane. Real play at Levante on Saturday at the start of an eight-day period that continues at home to Manchester City in the Champions League and finishes against Barcelona at the Santiago Bernabeu. "We're happy to have him back for what did during his 70 minutes — we know what he can give us" said Zidane

KANTE RULED OUT FOR THREE WEEKS
LONDON: N'Golo Kante will be sidelined for three weeks after suffering a muscle injury against Manchester United, Chelsea coach Frank Lampard said on Friday. Kante limped off after 12 minutes of Monday's 2-0 defeat to United at Stamford Bridge and Blues boss Lampard does not expect to have the France midfielder back until March. "N'Golo is not fit, he has a muscle injury, similar to the one he picked up against Arsenal; hopefully three weeks, something around that," Lampard told reporters. Kante's absence is a blow for Chelsea as they head into a crucial period featuring this weekend's showdown with top four rivals Tottenham and Tuesday's Champions League last 16 first leg against Bayern Munich.

AGENCIES

Sakshi settles for Silver; Vinesh takes Bronze

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Exploiting a weaker field, Sakshi Malik claimed a Silver while Vinesh Phogat dominated her Bronze medal play-off after losing to nemesis Mayu Mukaida as Indian women team registered its best-ever performance at the senior Asian Wrestling Championship, returning with eight medals here on Friday.

The Indian team had won only one Gold medal before this edition but Divya, Pinki and Sarita Mor won three on the opening day. Nirmala Devi came out second best.

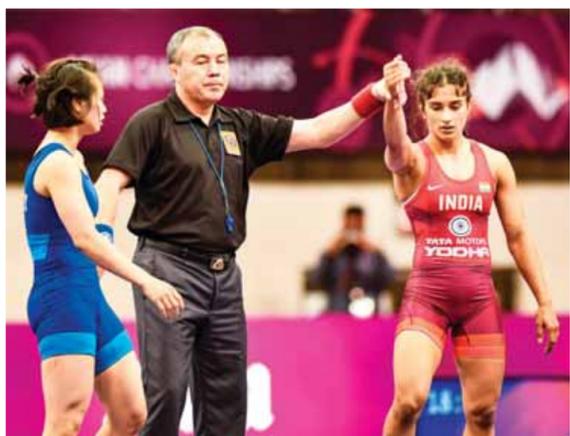
On Friday, Sakshi (65kg, Silver), Vinesh (53kg, Bronze) young Anshu Malik (57kg Bronze) and Gursharan Preet kaur (72kg, Bronze) added to India's tally.

Sakshi twice lost to Japan's Naomi Ruike — in the opening round and the final — to win her second Silver at this event. She had grabbed a Silver in 2017 also.

The Rio Olympic Bronze medalist Sakshi, who has been struggling of late, lost her opening round 1-2 to Naomi and could not score a point in final, which she lost 0-2.

"She was not that strong but I just could not score many points against her. Initially I lost two points and that pegged me back," she said.

Sakshi overcame two weak opponents to eventually reach the final. She outplayed Korea's Ohyoung Ha in her second round, winning by technical superiority. In her semifinal against Uzbekistan's Nabira Esenbaeva, she led 5-0 but her rival pulled off consecutive two-point moves to make it 5-4.



Umpire declares Vinesh Phogat as winner during Bronze medal match against Thi Ly Kieu

Sakshi has been losing in closing stages of late but this time she managed to hold on to her narrow lead, surviving anxious last two seconds.

All eyes were on Vinesh, who yet again fell to Mukaida to go out of the Gold medal race but made a strong comeback to win then Bronze medal play-off against Vietnam's Thi Ly Kieu, winning by technical superiority in the first period itself.

"Obviously I am not happy but I am making progress. It's not easy to beat experienced Japanese in this category. I have lost but I tried a few things and it worked a bit. Earlier I had not even scored a point against her but this time I got two. The gap is not much now, it's 70-100 between Mukaida and myself," Vinesh said.

Vinesh had lost twice to Mukaida in 2019 — at World Championship and Asian Championships — and the trend continued as the gritty Indian yet again struggled to break the strong defence of the Japanese.

In a tough opening round, Vinesh tried single leg attacks a number of times but every time Mukaida blocked her move and eventually got the upper body lock to subdue the home favourite.

Vinesh has won a medal at every Asian Championship since 2013.

Sakshi handed chance to book slot for Asian Olympic Qualifiers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sakshi Malik's dream to compete at the Tokyo Games is still alive with Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) deciding to hold fresh trials in two categories to pick women wrestlers for the Asian Olympic Qualifiers.

Two-time Cadet World champion Sonam Malik had defeated Sakshi during the 62kg trials but since she could not win a medal at the Asian Championship, the WFI has given Sakshi one more chance to book her place in the Indian team.

The Asian Qualifying event will be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from

March 27 to 29. The event was originally scheduled to be held in Xian but was moved out due to outbreak of Coronavirus in China.

"We have made a decision. The trials will be held in 62kg and 76kg on February 26 in Lucknow for women. These are the only categories which could not win any medal. We have also decided to hold fresh trials for 60kg category in Greco Roman style," said WFI Assistant Secretary Vinod Tomar.

The WFI had made it clear before the start of the championship that if required, it may hold fresh trials in categories where the performance will not be up to the mark.

Out of India's two brightest youngsters, it was Anshu who bagged a Bronze while Sonam Malik (62kg), who was pitted against some heavyweights lost her Bronze medal play-off.

Anshu opened up her campaign against Kyrgyzstan's Nuraida Anarkulova, winning by technical superiority but was outplayed by reigning world champion from Japan Riskao Kawai.

She then beat Sevvara Eshmuratova from Uzbekistan to win her first medal at senior level.

"I had nothing to lose

and every thing to gain. I now know where I stand when I am competing against seasoned wrestlers in this category. I have got richer in experience," said the 18-year-old.

Sonam, who had defeated Sakshi in the trials, showed good tactical mind in her resounding win against Korea's Hanbit Lee and also in the 2-5 defeat against world bronze medalist Yukako Kawai.

Up against world champion Aisuluu Tynbekova, it was a tough ask for her to get bronze but she fought well before losing.

In the non-Olympic 72kg, Gursharanpreet Kaur Mongloi's Tsevegmed Enkhbayar in the third place play-off to win her second medal at this championship.



Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra in action during IITF Hungary Open Sharath/Twitter

Sharath-Sathiyan enter Hungary Open final

BUDAPEST: The Indian pairing of Sharath Kamal and G Sathiyan upset top-seeds Kwan Kit Ho and Chun Ting Wong of Hong Kong to enter the men's doubles final of the IITF World Tour Hungary Open here on Friday.

In a hard-fought five-setter, the Indian qualifiers won 11-7, 12-10, 4-11, 4-11, 11-9 and earned a meeting with the second-seeded pair of Duda Benedikt and Franziska Patrick from Germany in the final to be held today.

The Germans defeated Poland's Dyjas Jakub and Belgium's Nuytinck Cedric 11-4, 11-5, 8-11, 11-3.

Also in the mixed doubles semifinals, Sharath and Manika Batra take on German duo of Patrick Franziska & Petrisa Solja.

On Thursday, Sharath and Sathiyan had beaten home favourites Nandor Ecseki and

Adam Szudi in the quarterfinals, after having sent the Japanese pair of Shunsuke Togami and Yulia Uda packing in previous round.

As for Sharath and Manika, they got a walkover in the quarterfinals from the second-seeded Japanese pair of Jun Mizutani and Mima Ito after Mizutani pulled out because of a neck injury he suffered during his singles event.

Manika failed to go past Japanese Miu Hirano in the pre-quarterfinals, losing in straight games of 9-11, 1-11, 7-11, 7-11. Manika, who beat Szu-Yu Chen of Taipei 4-3 in a tough round of 32 match, was down 0-3 before scoring a strong comeback win, including the crucial fourth game on extended points.

Sathiyan is still in the fray and is also slated to meet top-seed Harimoto Tomokazu and Manika will meet Japanese Miu Hirano in the round of 16. **PTI**



Frankfurt's Daichi Kamada celebrates scoring his side's second goal against Salzburg AP

Jota, Kamada hit Europa hat-tricks

AFP ■ WOLVERHAMPTON

Diogo Jota of Wolves and Daichi Kamada of Eintracht Frankfurt hit hat-tricks, but the man at the heart of the most remarkable Europa League display had a familiar name: Iamis Hagi, who inspired an unlikely Rangers fightback.

In the first leg of the round-of-32 on Thursday, Wolves beat Espanyol 4-0, Eintracht beat Salzburg 4-1 and Rangers beat Braga 3-2 at Ibrox.

Arsenal won 1-0 at Olympiakos and, in early games, Manchester United drew 1-1 away to Club Brugge and Celtic's visit to Copenhagen finished with the same score.

In a battle between two European heavyweights Bayer Leverkusen held off Porto 2-1.

Jota, who hit three in the last pool game in November and had not scored since, struck the first from close range, the second from a narrow angle and the third from outside the area.

Ruben Neves hit a typically spectacular volley and Wolves crushed the club struggling at the bottom of La Liga.

"We competed well and we were clinical," said Nuno Espirito Santo, the Wolves coach.

"For me, the organisation and another clean sheet is important. You know my view that everything starts from there."

In Frankfurt, Kamada, a 23-year-old Japanese midfielder, hit the first after 12 minutes. Two minutes before the break he broke from the halfway line to score a second. He added a third with a header in the 53rd minute.

He then turned provider, starting the move which ended with Filip Kostic netting Frankfurt's fourth.

Kamada has not scored in 17 Bundesliga games this season, but Thursday's hat-trick gave him six in the Europa League, all in his last three games and scored over a span of 178 minutes.

He becomes the third highest Japanese scorer in European club competition behind Shinji Kagawa, who scored 11 for Borussia Dortmund and Manchester United, and

Liverpool's Takumi Minamino who has so far also scored 11, all for Salzburg.

In Glasgow, Braga dominated the first hour and led with goals by captain Fransergio and Abel Ruiz.

Hagi started the fightback in the 67th minute, cutting in from the right and shooting in off the post. His father Gheorghe, who won the UEFA Cup, from which the Europa League evolved, with Galatasaray in 2000, celebrated in the stands.

Joe Aribo then scored a remarkable second, weaving and barging through the massed Braga defence and when he finally burst clear, the Nigerian international finished with composure.

With eight minutes left, Rangers won a free-kick. Hagi stepped up. His shot hit the wall and then arced slowly into the corner of the Braga net just out of reach of goalkeeper Matheus.

Rangers had saved themselves with three goals in 15 minutes.

"I think we've rediscovered ourselves, certainly from the second-half performance," Rangers manager Steven Gerrard told *BT Sport*.

"We showed unbelievable character, we ran hard for each other, we were more compact, more organised, we had a better shape and we were on the front foot more in the second half."

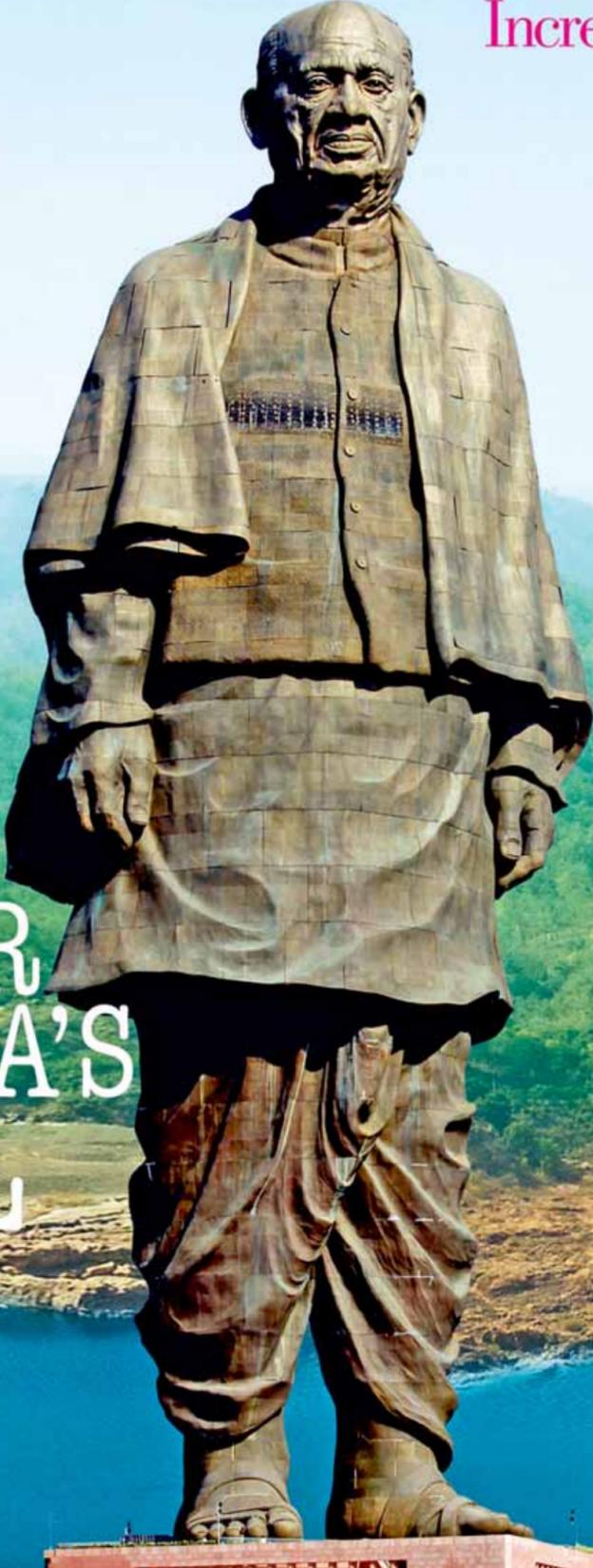
Arsenal also struck late in Greece. In the 81st minute, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang chased a long ball and kept it in play before passing inside to Bukayo Saka. The youngster hit a hard, low cross which Alexandre Lacazette turned in from close range.

Olympiakos had seven strikes on target to six by the Gunners but Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno stopped everything.

"It's my job to make saves," said the German.

"At the end when you have a clean sheet, I'm happy. We won this game and we have the away goal so we're happy."



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