

OPINION 6
REFORMER PAR
EXCELLENCE

WORLD 11
BIDEN FIGHTS FOR MOMENTUM
IN DEMS' SHIFTING PRIMARY

VIVICITY 13
TO WORK WITH OTHERS
IS A VITAL SKILL

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12 SPORT

Coronavirus rises like phoenix in India

One fresh case each in Delhi, Jaipur, Telangana after all 3 earlier patients in Kerala recuperated

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Days after three coronavirus-infected patients walked out of a Kerala hospital completely cured, three new positive cases of the deadly virus were reported on Tuesday — one each in Delhi, Telangana and Jaipur.

Giving details of the fresh cases, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said the person from Delhi had travelled to Italy, while the other patient who has tested positive for the coronavirus infection in

Telangana had recently travelled to Dubai.

The Telangana man is undergoing treatment in an isolation ward at a hospital in Hyderabad, while Delhi man is being treated in a hospital in Delhi. "Both the patients had self-reported after they developed symptoms. They tested positive. They are stable and being closely monitored," he told reporters.

The person in Delhi had reported at the RML hospital after returning to India while the one in Telangana had ini-

tially gone to a private medical facility and then was referred to a Government hospital in the State, the Minister said.

Rajasthan Health Minister Raghunath Sharma said an Italian tourist has been found positive of coronavirus in Jaipur. He is being treated at Jaipur's SMS Hospital.

In the first sample collected on February 29, the man was tested negative but his condition deteriorated so the second sample was collected which tested positive on Monday, the Minister said,



A man with symptoms fills a form at a coronavirus help desk at the Government Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad on Monday

adding, "since there is a variation in the reports, samples have been sent to NIV-Pune for testing."

Government is in discussion with Iran and Italian authorities to evacuate Indians there.

"Indian citizens need to avoid non-essential travel to Singapore, Republic of Korea, Iran and Italy. People coming from Republic of Korea, Iran and Italy or having such travel history since February 10, 2020 may be quarantined for 14 days on arrival in India," he said.

Universal screening is being done for the travellers from 12 countries for all the flights from China, Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Nepal, Indonesia, Iran and Italy at the earmarked aero-bridges.

You can avail in-flight Wi-Fi, Govt gives nod

PTI/ANS ■ NEW DELHI

The central Government on Monday permitted airlines operating in India to provide in-flight Wi-Fi services to passengers, according to an official notification.

"The pilot-in-command may permit the access of internet services by passengers on board an aircraft in flight, through Wi-Fi on board, when laptop, smartphone, tablet, smartwatch, e-reader or a point of sale device is used in flight mode or airplane mode," the notification stated.

As per industry reports, the

service initially could be slightly expensive by global standards. Recently, Vistara Airlines partnered with Tata group company Nelco for in-flight data services.

While taking the delivery of its first Boeing 787-9 aircraft at Everett on last Friday, Vistara CEO Leslie Thng had told reporters that it would be the first plane in India to provide in-flight Wi-Fi services.

An additional explanation has been added in the new rules, saying an aircraft shall be deemed to be in flight when all its external doors are closed following embarkation.

Nirbhaya rapists live on borrowed time for fortnight

Death warrant put off for third time; as mercy plea rejected, convicts get at least 14 more days to live

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday suspended the death warrant issued against four death-row convicts in the 2012 Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case till further orders as convict Pawan Kumar Gupta's advocate told the court that his mercy plea was pending with the President.

However, President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday evening rejected the mercy plea of Pawan.

This for the third time the hanging of the convicts — Mukesh Kumar Singh (32), Vinay Kumar Sharma (26), Akshay Kumar Singh (31) and Pawan, who are lodged in Tihar Jail — has been deferred. The convicts were scheduled to be hanged till death on Tuesday at 6 am.

According to the Delhi Prison Rules, if a mercy petition is submitted, a 14-day period has to be given to the convict after the dismissal of the mercy plea, for a new death warrant.



Nirbhaya's mother at the Patiala House Court in New Delhi on Monday

"Despite stiff resistance from the victim's side, I am of the opinion that any condemned convict must not meet his Creator with a grievance in his bosom that the courts of the country have not acted fairly in granting him an opportunity to exhaust his legal remedies... I am of the opinion that the death sentence cannot be executed pending the disposal of the mercy petition of the convict," said Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana.

Earlier on Monday, Pawan moved a clemency plea before the President shortly after his curative petition was dismissed by the Supreme Court.

The curative plea for commuting the death sentence was heard in chamber by a five-judge SC bench.

It is the last legal remedy available for a convict to get any reprieve.

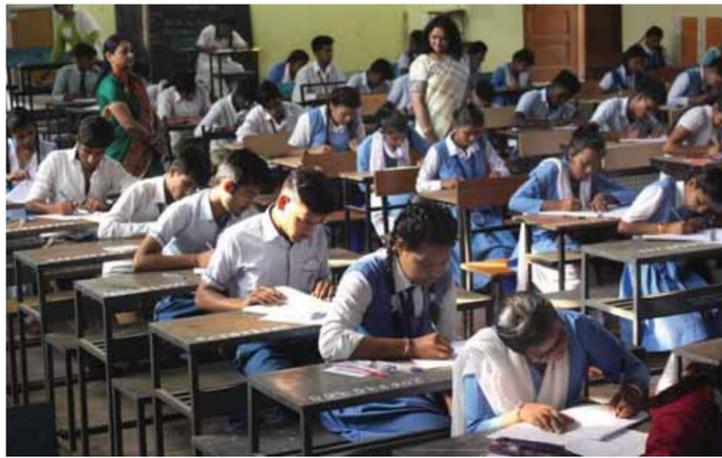
CAPSULE

TALIBAN TO RESUME FIGHT AGAINST AFGHAN FORCES

Kabul: The Taliban said on Monday they were resuming offensive operations against Afghan security forces, ending the partial truce that preceded the signing of a deal between the insurgents and the US. **P12**

STOCKS GIVE UP GAINS ON CORONAVIRUS FEARS

Mumbai: Market benchmark index Sensex wiped out its sharp gains in the last hour of trade to close down by 153 points on Monday as detection of fresh coronavirus cases in India spooked domestic investors. Marking its seventh consecutive session of fall, the 30-share BSE barometer closed 153.27 points lower at 38,144.02. **P10**



Students appear in the higher secondary school examination conducted by Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education in Bhopal on Monday

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Guest faculties' warning Women colleagues would go for tonsuring en masse



A woman guest teacher gets tonsured during indefinite agitation of the contractual college guest teachers demanding regularisation of jobs, in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer Photo

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Agitating in the State Capital on 83rd day, guest faculties of the Government colleges of Madhya Pradesh threatened that their women colleagues would get their heads tonsured collectively. To start with, one teacher was tonsured on Monday.

One of the women guest faculties, Lashkari Das, got her head tonsured by a barber as a mark of the protest on Monday at the Shahjehani park, where the protest has been underway since December 2. "Regularisation as promised by the Congress leaders is the only demand for us," Das told the media accusing the State Government of ignoring their pleas persistently.

Asked what would be next step if the State Government still fails to fulfill their demand, a committed Das stated that women teachers would go for tonsuring en masse on March 8 and then they would be compelled to immolate themselves if nothing happens. President of the Guest Faculties Agitation, Devraj Singh, also got his head tonsured in solidarity with Das.

On February 19, Dr Shaheen Khan too had got her heads tonsured in protest. Her hair was sent to Congress president Sonia Gandhi through courier as mark of protest. On being told that Higher Education Minister Jitu Patwari had announced to fill up 1,250 posts with guest faculties, Dr Khan said this should be done

through the department portal. Including Sanjay Kumar who had committed suicide in disgust, the guest faculties have lost three more of their colleagues due to one reason or the other in the course of the protest.

Dr Surjeet Singh Bhadauria, the convener of the protest claimed that they won't compromise on their protest unless orders for regularisation are issued.

Thousands of guest faculties were employed with Government colleges for years but recently the State Government started filling up these posts with candidates who had cleared Public Service Commission exam, thus around 4,500 lost jobs and started protesting in Bhopal.

Govt to construct community buildings

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The State Government will construct community buildings at a cost of ₹10 lakh each in 23 villages of Dindori district under the Aasthan Yojana of Tribal Welfare Department. Apart from this, 50 devasthan of Dindori district and 121 of Chhindwara district will be renovated at a cost of ₹1.5 lakh each. Construction of scaffolds and fencing work is prominent among the works. This information was given in a recent meeting chaired by Tribal Welfare Minister Omkar Singh Markam.

In the first year in Aasthan Yojana, construction works of ₹50 lakh each were sanctioned at the Chaugan site in Mandla district, Hariagarh of Chhindwara and Baradev of

Jhabua. The work of map preparation of these sites has been completed. A total amount of ₹6.40 crore has been sanctioned for these works. The funds for basic facilities are being spent with the help of the central government at devasthans in Bhanwargah of Barwani district, Karvema and Ramhepur in Dindori district.

Among the 23 villages in Dindori district, where community buildings will be built at a cost of ₹10 lakh each include Narayandih, Baraidha, Jogikhiria, Nevs, Bijapuri, Mukutpur, Mohati, Samnapur, Andai, Paudi, Chanda, Girwarpur, Majhiakhar, Kevlari, Khurkhuri Dadar, Musanda, Jhanki, Moosamundi, Pindsarayi, Masoorghughri, Chaugan, Churia and Kalvakhauri village.



ABVP activists hold placards during demonstration in Bhopal on Monday protesting over Delhi Communal violence. Pioneer Photo

Film based on Captain Mahendra Nath Mulla screened

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A film based on Captain Mahendra Nath Mulla was screened at Shaurya Smarak. The film was screened here on Monday.

Mahendra Nath Mulla, MVC was an officer of the Indian Navy. As the Commanding Officer of INS Khukri, he chose to go down with his ship when his ship was sunk during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.

He was commissioned in the Royal Indian Navy on 1 May 1948. He was promoted to Lieutenant Commander on 16 September 1958 and to the rank of Commander on 30 June 1964.

During the 1971 Indo-Pakistani War, Mulla was commanding a task force of two ships which formed part of the Western Fleet.

The Indo-Pakistani Naval War of 1971 consisted of a

series of naval battles fought between the Indian and Pakistani Navies during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. The battles were a part of the India-Pakistan War and the Bangladesh Liberation War. The series of naval operations began with the Indian Navy exerting pressure from the seas, while the Indian Army and Indian Air Force moved in to close the ring round East Pakistan on land.

Mulla's task force was assigned the task of hunting and destroying enemy submarines in the North Arabian Sea. At 20:50 hours on 9 December 1971, his vessel, INS Khukri, was hit by a torpedo fired by an enemy submarine, PNS Hangor, about 64 kilometres (40 mi) off Diu. Mulla issued orders for the ship to be abandoned because it was sinking.

The movie was produced by Film Division of India.



Youth Congress activists in a queue wait turn for their personal interview in front of the party's Central Screening Committee ahead of the Youth Congress State President election, at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer Photo

Wild animal organs' smuggler arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Indore STF team of the Forest Department has arrested Mahesh Rathi, smuggler of wild animal organs absconding for the past 15-16 months and presented before the Indore court. Rathi, a resident of Indore, was arrested on March 1. This smuggler is also accused of a case in the Indore forest area since the last one year. The court has sent the accused to judicial custody.

Mahesh Rathi and his gang used to hunt and buy organs of tigers, leopards, deer, bear, double-mouthed snakes, turtles etc. from the forests of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and sold them at high prices in the international market.

This gang used codeword for business such as rassi for double-mouthed snakes, kapda for animal skin etc.

Five accused have been arrested in the case in the past along with rare species of leopard skin, claws, nails, animals on the verge of extinction, black deer horns, porcupine quills, and bones of other rare wild animals and two motorcycles.

The five accused, Shiva resident of Gawadi village in Barwani district, Dhannalal resident of Bijalwara village of district Khargone, Baldev resident of Sindhwa, Shakir Khan resident of Dewas and Gaffar alias Bhayyu, resident of Indore have been produced before the court.

Chief Minister while addressing a programme of Jai Kisan Fasal Rin Maafi Yojana at Agar-Malwa district headquarters, said that in the last 14 months a big change has come in the agriculture sector in the State. The State Government has given a substantial proof of its honest intention by waiving the loans of more than 21 lakh farmers under the first phase of the Jai Kisan Fasal Rin Maafi Yojana.

Kamal Nath informed that crop loans worth about ₹135 crore of 9,448 farmers of Agar-Malwa district have been waived under the third phase of the scheme.

In the programme, the Chief Minister distributed loan waiver certificates to the farmers Faffu Bai, Dharmraj, Meharban Singh, Pratap Singh, Ramdayal, Hiralal, Joralal and Tilak Singh.

The Chief Minister said that youth and farmers are the priority of the State Government. He mentioned that today's youth need work. We have succeeded in attracting investment in the State to

A big change in agriculture sector of State in last 14 months: Nath



Chief Minister Kamal Nath giving away letter of credit for farmer's loan waiver under third phase of Jai Kisan crop loan waiver scheme at Agar-Malwa district on Monday. Pioneer photo

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister performed Bhumi-Pujan and dedicated development works costing total Rs. 865 crore in Agar-Malwa district. This includes Bhumi-Pujan of works costing Rs 686 crores and dedicated works worth ₹179 crore. It also includes a scheme 'Har Ghar Nal-Jal' worth ₹604 crores to supply water in rural areas of the district.

Agar-Malwa is the first district of the state, for which such a big amount has been sanctioned for Nal-Jal Yojana.

The District In-Charge and Minister for Urban Administration and Housing Jaivardhan Singh said that the welfare works done in the state in the last 14 months are more than the works done in the state in the last 15 years.

He informed that a compensation amount of ₹150 crore has been distributed to the farmers affected by the excess rainfall in Agar-Malwa district.

Singh said that 30 modern Gou-Shalaks have been set up in the district. In the coming days, 50 more new Gou-Shalaks will be established.

a great extent to provide employment to the youth. He further stated that the State Government has also taken an effective initiative to ensure reasonable prices to the farmers for their produce.

The Chief Minister said that he will bring a revolution in the agriculture sector soon. Nath said that a new history of development will be written in Agar-Malwa district.

The Chief Minister on the demand of the MLA Rana Vikram Singh, announced that a food processing unit will be set up in Agar-Malwa district at the earliest. He said that we have a culture to keep people united. Unity in diversity is the identity of our country.

He said that apart from India, there is no country in the world where there are different religions, languages and festivals. Kamal Nath said that we have to protect our culture and history.

The Chief Minister performed Bhumi-Pujan of Har Ghar Nal-Jal Yojana worth ₹604 crore for providing drinking water in rural areas of Agar-Malwa district. The

Parliament was enacted by Chourava Srivastava, Manayak Sahu, Mayank Pharna, Nitin Tomar and Kriti Prajapati respectively.

This festival will be held till March 5. Hete on Monday, various competitions were held including Nukkad plays, Treasure Hunt, Ranoli, Cade Modlin, Mono, KT, Mimicry, Skit, Mobile Film, Poster making competition, Face Paintings and more in which the students displayed their Talents.

A large number of students including members of faculty Vijay Singh Registrar, Ritu Kumaran, Dean Student Welfare, Sanjeev Gupta, Dean Engineering, Student, Activity Council were present on the occasion.

Mock Youth Parliament held at RTU

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Mock Youth Parliament was organised on Monday at Rabindranath Tagore University. The youth parliament was a part of annual fest Rhythm 2020.

During the mock parliament, students from various colleges enacted at the ministers and legislators. Under the mock parliament, Population Control Bill 2020 was passed. The students of opposition and ruling parties presented the facts and arguments.

On this occasion, MLA Kunal Choudhary was present as the Chief Guest. While addressing the students, he said that the youth should play an active role in the develop-

ment of society and the country.

As many as 26 students participated in the Youth Parliament. The winners were felicitated with certificates. The first position was bagged by Mayank from Indore, second place was bagged by Saurabh from Makhnallala Chaturvedi University of Mass Communication and Journalism and third position was bagged by Praraja Mishra from People's College of Journalism. Kunal Choudhary distributed the trophies and certificates to the winners.

The role of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition and President of the Vamantpanti Party in the Youth

Parliament was enacted by Chourava Srivastava, Manayak Sahu, Mayank Pharna, Nitin Tomar and Kriti Prajapati respectively.

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Heavy and brief shower witnessed in State Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Light and moderate rainfall spells were witnessed in seven divisions making weather conditions cold in the past 24 hours.

Heavy and brief shower was witnessed in the State Capital late in the evening on Sunday turning the weather cold in the night and morning hours on Monday.

Met department told that rainfall would be witnessed in the next 2-3 days which would be light showers and thundery activities.

Few regions of Jabalpur, Rewa, Shahdol and Sagar divisions and isolated places in Gwalior, Bhopal and Hoshangabad divisions witnessed rainfall.

State Capital recorded day temperature at 32.2 degree celsius and night temperature at 18.4 degree celsius and on Tuesday day temperature is likely to change while night temperature would decrease by 1-2

degree celsius.

The night temperatures have increased in the past two days.

In the past 24 hours Dindori recorded 2 cm of rainfall, Umaria, Panna, Satna, damoh and Silwani recorded 1 cm of rainfall each.

The highest day temperature was recorded at 37 degree celsius in Khargone.

Significant decrease in day temperatures was witnessed in Gwalior and Rewa divisions.

In the night temperatures significant increase was recorded in Gwalior and Bhopal divisions. The lowest night temperature was recorded at 14 degree celsius in Betul.

According to the forecast thundery activities and light showers would be witnessed in Shahdol and Rewa divisions in next 24 hours.

Met department has issued warning of thundery activities and thunder lightning in Shahdol and Rewa divisions in the next 24 hours.

1 dies, one injured in road accident

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 22-year-old died while one youth escaped with injuries after their bike rammed into a truck near Bawadiyan Kalan under Baghsewaniya police station area late in the night on Sunday.

Later, they were rushed to a hospital where one of them was declared dead while two escaped with injuries.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Shareef of Jehangirabad who was with his friend Faizan. They were returning after attending a family function.

Police seized the truck and arrested the truck driver. The body was sent for the post mortem and a case under section 304 A of the IPC was registered.

During the probe, police found that the errant truck driver took turn without indication after crossing Bawadiya Kalan over bridge and the bikers failed to spot the turning of truck.

Faizan who escaped the accident informed police and ambulance and took Shareef to Narmada hospital where he was declared dead.



A Rajasthani nomadic tribal woman with her camels carries her family during annual migration on the outskirts of Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer Photo

Fraudster nabbed for duping nurse

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Talaiya police has arrested a fraudster for duping a staff nurse to the tune of ₹7.2 lakh. Police have registered a case of

criminal breach of trust and started investigation.

Police said the victim, Renuka Athmeria, was duped by his relative and accused Sanjay of taking away her 14

gm of gold and ₹6.8 lakh cash and never returned them.

The victim claimed that around a year ago, he met Sanjay who is brother of his sister-in-law and works as

driver.

After she met Sanjay, he asked for money and she provided ₹6.8 lakh in parts and 14 gm of gold. The victim transferred money in the bank

account of the accused.

The accused also facilitated transfer of money in his mother's bank account but later, he refused to return money and jewellery.

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Prepare yourselves as per changing scenario: Min to PROs

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Minister for Public Relations PC Sharma has asked Public Relations Officers to prepare themselves as per the changing scenario in the society. He said that along with traditional print and electronic media, it is an era of digital and social media too.

Sharma said that they should incorporate the changes, that are taking place in the mediums and technology of mass communication and make themselves competent for its better use. Sharma was addressing the workshop of District Public Relations Officers of the state.

Sharma said that the Public Relations Department has a major role in disseminating the information about the public welfare policies, programmes and schemes of the government among the people. He told the officers that along with the public welfare schemes, programmes and policies at the local level, they should also disseminate information in the form of success story about the individuals and groups benefited from the policies of the state government. Maintain better coordination with the media.

Sharma directed to prepare an annual calendar of training in collaboration with

Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication and for organizing the training accordingly. He also asked to hold a quarterly state level workshop of District Public Relations Officers.

The Secretary Public Relations P Narhari also addressed the officials. Director Public Relations OP Shrivastava shed light on the outline of the workshop. Additional Directors LR Sisodia, Suresh Gupta, HL Choudhary and other Officers of Public Relations Department were present in the workshop.



BJP National Vice President Shivraj Singh Chouhan, BJP State President VD Sharma and leader of the opposition in the State Assembly Gopal Bhargava during a meeting ahead of the Budget Session of the State Assembly at BJP State headquarters in Bhopal on Monday



Students perform a drama 'Katha-e-Hind' in a spree to play for more than forty hours making a new record at Bhopal School of Social Sciences (BSSS) in Bhopal on Monday

21 held for riotous rumours



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

According to a senior police official, the maximum emergency calls on numbers 112 and 100 were received from West and South-east district respectively. There were 481 calls in West district followed by Southeast district which saw 413 distress calls following the rumours

The Delhi Police was kept on its toes throughout the Sunday night as people kept calling the Police Control Room (PCR) in sheer panic. PCR received 1,880 distress calls on Sunday night after riot-related rumour mongering or fifth generation war broke out in the national Capital creating panic among the residents.

The Delhi Police senior officials reached out to the people to scotch rumours and later detained and arrested 21 miscreants from North-west Delhi, including one in Rohini. On the other hand, Police said it has initiated action against 18 persons in South Delhi.

Delhi Police Commissioner SN Srivastava issued a statement urging people not to spread rumours as that disturb communal harmony and peace.

"Police is keeping eye on rumour mongers on social media," said the CP adding that people should verify rumours from the Delhi Police control room.

According to a senior police official, the maximum emergency calls on numbers 112 and 100 were received from West and South-east district respectively. There were 481 calls in West district followed by Southeast district which saw 413 distress calls following the rumours.

district, 310 from Dwarka district, 222 calls from Outer Delhi district, 127 from South Delhi district, 168 calls from Rohini, 54 distress calls from Northwest district, 35 calls from Central district, six from East district, four calls were received from Shahdara district, six calls from North district and two calls were received from Northeast district which witnessed riots," said the official.

"The police in northwest district have arrested 21 person for spreading rumors under 7/51 Criminal Code of Procedure (CrPC), one has been arrested in Rohini. In south district, action has been initiated against 18 persons and 02 cases have been registered under appropriate sections," said a senior police official.

"One person, identified as Abhishek Shukla (24), has been arrested by Cyber Crime Cell for spreading rumours about riots in Nihal Vihar area of West Delhi. The arrested accused has over 10,000 followers on social media, and was using his following to spread rumours. His mobile phone has been recovered and the alleged social media post

has been confirmed to have been posted from his profile. His further antecedents are being examined, said the senior police official."

"Besides the Police Control Room (PCR) calls, several people from within Delhi as well as outside called up police officials, including officers, directly to verify information about violence breaking out," said the senior police official. Panic gripped the residents of several parts of Delhi on Sunday evening following false rumours of violence, days after riots in northeast Delhi claimed at least 45 lives. Even as the Delhi Police and AAP leaders denied any such incident and appealed people to remain calm, the uneasy prevailed around city recording 1880 distress calls across the city.

Following the rumours, on Sunday evening the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said it had shut down the entry and exit gates of seven metro stations but did not give any reason. The stations were later reopened after 45 minutes. Metro officials later clarified that the steps were precautionary in measure.

Two women planning burglary nabbed

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Awadhपुरi police has nabbed two women planning burglary and recovered iron rods and chisel from their possession at Jawahar Nagar in the night on Sunday. One accused managed to escape.

Police said that acting on a tip off regarding three miscreants team rushed to the spot and managed to nab two women while third member of the gang managed to escape.

The two were nabbed and when they were quizzed they confessed that they were planning burglary. They revealed two more burglaries in Awadhपुरi and Ayodhya Nagar areas.

In the initial investigation, the nabbed accused were identified as Laxmi Yadav (25) of 100 Quarter slums and Sharda Yadav (24) of Ayodhya Nagar. The third accused who went absconding was identified as Ramraj Lodhi who is

Laxmi's husband. The crime record of the three would be searched. The three have been involved in crimes in different parts of the city.

The accused confessed that they were planning to target a house in the area but were nabbed before committing burglary.

The police recovered rope and chisel from the nabbed women. After the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under section 401 of the IPC.

The three are resident of Piplani area and police would investigate their involvement in burglaries and thefts in the area.

Police would recover the valuables stolen in the burglaries committed by the gang in the past and would quiz them to reveal accomplices and others who have helped in disposal of the stolen goods.

A1 batch of German classes begins from March 5

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The A 1 batch of German classes will begin from March 5 in Swami Vivekananda Library. The registrations for the course have already begun.

It is to be noted that anyone over 15 years of age can take admission. This course is being conducted in collaboration with the German government's cultural institution Max Müller Bhawan New Delhi. It has a total of 25 seats.

This course will be conducted from March to May. After completing the course, any person will get a certificate of German course from Swami Vivekananda Library.

It is supported by Swami Vivekananda Library. Manager Yatish Bhattele said

that the new German batch of Swami Vivekananda Library is going to start from March 5 on Thursday, on which admissions will be available on first come first serve basis. The total duration of the German summer course is 80 hours, which will run for 13 weeks, its classes will run 3 days a week.

Manager Yatish Bhattele said that German language registrations will be started from 11 am on Saturday. Admission will be on a first come first served basis. The total duration of this A1 course is 80 hours, which will run for 13 weeks, its classes will run 3 days a week.

Participants will also get an international certificate by appearing in an exam organised by MaxMuller Bhavan.

SC to hear plea seeking FIRs over hate speeches on March 4

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear on March 4 a plea seeking lodging of FIRs against BJP leaders — Anurag Thakur, Parvesh Verma, Kapil Mishra and Abhay Verma — for their purported hate speeches which allegedly led to recent violence in Delhi in which over 40 people lost their lives and scores injured.

The petition filed by 10 victims of the violence was mentioned for urgent listing before a bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde which said it would be heard on Wednesday.

"We are not saying that people should die. That kind of pressure we are not equipped to handle. We cannot stop things from happening. We cannot give preventive reliefs. We feel a kind of pressure on us," the CJ said when senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for petitioners, sought urgent listing of the plea.

The bench, also comprising Justices BR Gavai and Surya Kant, said the court can deal with a situation only after it takes place and it is not equipped to prevent it.

"The kind of pressure on us, you should know, we cannot handle that," the bench said, adding, "We also read newspapers and the comments which are made. It is like as if the court is responsible".

"We would wish peace but you know that there are limitations," the CJ told Gonsalves who said that the court can prevent any further deterioration of the situation.

Diggy slams BJP

If he (Singh) has proofs, let him furnish it publicly, Bhargava dared the Congress leader

PNS ■ INDORE

Senior Congress leader SDigvijay Singh here on Monday made a sensational attack on the BJP state unit accusing the Opposition party of trying to bring down the Congress Government in Madhya Pradesh by offering ₹25-35 cr to party MLAs.

Singh categorically named former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and former minister Narottam Mishra.

"Shivraj is dreaming to become Chief Minister and Narottam Mishra is planning to become DY CM," alleged Singh talking to the media in Indore.

"Those who looted the state for 15 years are now alluring Congress MLAs with Rs 25 to 35 cr.

The first instalments would be Rs five cr, second instalment would be paid after Rajya Sabha nominations and third one would be finally paid after the state government is brought down," claimed the senior leader.

He, however putting up a brave face claimed that this (MP) wasn't Karnataka and no Congress MLA was available for sale. "I never level any allegations without proof." The remarks came close on the heels of BJP starting its preparations for Rajya Sabha nominations as the assembly session gets underway from March 16.

Leader of Opposition Gopal Bhargava replied saying the Congress party is facing sharp divisions and such statements are only a vindication of their internal tussle. "None is in my touch, and those who wish to act on their conscience are most welcome," said Bhargava on being asked if anyone (Cong MLA) was in his touch.

If he (Singh) has proofs, let him furnish it publicly, Bhargava dared the Congress leader.

BJP state head VD Sharma has started preparations for chalking out the strategy for Rajya Sabha nomination in Bhopal by summoning all the leaders to party office.

The BJP is no mood to offer a walk over to Congress for the third seat as numbers in assembly are sure to offer one seat each to BJP and Congress comfortably.

IN BRIEF

VYAPAM ACCUSED GET RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT

Bhopal: The Special Judge, Vyapam Cases, Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh) has sentenced Dinesh Kushwah, the candidate and Mukesh Kushwah, the impersonator, both to undergo five-year Rigorous Imprisonment with fine of ₹3,700 each in a case related to Vyapam. CBI had registered a case on August 07, 2015 in pursuance to the orders dated July 09, 2015 passed by Supreme Court of India and taken over the investigation of the FIR, earlier registered at Police Station Poorsa, Morena against two accused. It was alleged that the accused persons were involved in cheating by way of impersonation in the PCRT 2012 examination conducted by Vyapam. After investigation, a chargesheet was filed on October 31, 2016 in the Designated Court. The Court found the accused persons guilty and convicted them.

MIN INSTRUCTS OFFICERS TO UNDERTAKE ELECTRIC MAINTENANCE WORK

Bhopal: Minister for Energy Priyavrat Singh ahs instructed the officers of the three power distribution companies to undertake electricity maintenance work only after board examinations. During this period, only undertake necessary work for smooth power supply. Carry out electricity maintenance work in the month of April. Minister for Energy Singh said that the maintenance schedule should be uploaded on the company's website, so that the consumers come to know about it. He further mentioned that a system should be developed for maintenance schedule monitoring. Singh said that a message should also be sent on the registered mobile numbers of the consumers before the maintenance work.

MASS SINGING OF 'VANDE-MATARAM' TAKES PLACE

Bhopal: Mass singing of the national song "Vande-Mataram" and national anthem "Jana Gana Mana" took place at 11 am at Sardar Patel Park in front of the Mantralaya in the presence of Chief Secretary Shri S.R. Mohanty. Earlier, the police band played patriotic songs while marching from Shaurya Smarak to Sardar Patel Park. Additional Chief Secretary Finance Anurag Jain, Principal Secretary Home SN Mishra, Principal Secretary General Administration Dipti Goud Mukherji, Principal Secretary Public Health Engineering Sanjay Kumar Shukla, Secretary General Administration Ashish Saxena attended the programme. Officers and employees of the government offices at the Mantralaya, Satpuda and Vidyanchal Bhavan were present on the occasion.

'Nath lacks focus as nothing has been done for farmers suffering from abrupt weather changes'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

If former CM Digvijay Singh is claiming horse trading on BJP, he should provide evidence, allegations of illegal money transactions on members of Legislative Assembly is highly disgracing for democracy and Madhya Pradesh never had tradition of horse trading and would never see in future, said Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly Gopal Bhargava.

He said that Digvijay should reveal names of all members of legislative assembly who have been offered money from BJP and condemned the allegations raised by Digvijay.

There are several factions in Congress due to which internal tussle is at the highest level and burdened with tribe mentality. Congress fears that any of the factions would deflect and join BJP.

Digvijay should prove base

of the allegations as every BJP MLA is strong and dedicated but the same do not applies to Congress due to which they lack belief in their members at the State Assembly.

The purpose is to pressurize high rung leader for Rajya Sabha and due to which he is creating sensation, said Bhargava.

CM Kamal Nath lacks focus as nothing has been done for farmers suffering from abrupt weather changes. The farmers who were waiting for loan waiver have faced untimely rainfall resulting in crop damages.

Several meetings have been organised for events like IIFA but for government has no plans for relief package and on the other side relief of Rs 1000 crore for excessive rainfall hit regions was not disbursed.

The negligence of CM Kamal Nath government has failed to provide ₹6,000 as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman.

Basant Mela 2020 ends with lots of fervour

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Evoking a huge response by the shopaholics of the city the Basant Mela 2020 concluded with a lot of fervour here on Monday. There was an exquisite collection of dress materials, leather, food items, terracotta and much more at Gauhar Mahal.

At the exhibition the fashion freaks explored different kind of dress materials. The special range of authentic Chanderi and Maheshwari was the catch of the exhibition.

On last day Nimadi folk dance was also performed for the Bhopalites.

As the fusion theme is in-trend, the female buyers are mix-matching the chanderi dresses. The plazzos and the contrast duppattas was loved by

most of the fashionistas of Bhopal.

The hand printed material is now a common trend, but the hand painted materials is what people captivated towards.

Other than the suit materials, the Basant Utsav showcased enormous variety of saree wears that could adorn their wardrobe this season. There was a wonderful collection of sarees and dress materials in silk chiffon.

The prints that beautify the looks of the material are in Batik Print, Bagh Print, Maheshwari and Chanderi as well.

The royal designs were imprinted on the sarees which gave them a more beautiful look. Beginning from ₹600 the prices go to ₹8,000.

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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. (SARFAESI ACT)

In respect of loans availed by below mentioned borrowers/Guarantors through Allahabad Bank, Misroud Branch, which have become NPA with below mentioned balance outstanding on dates mentioned below. We have already issued detailed demand notice dated 29-02-2020 under Sec. 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 by Registered post with acknowledgement due to you which has been returned by postal authority without any reason. We have indicated our intention of taking possession of securities owned on one of you as per sec. 13 (4) of the Act in case of your failure to pay the amount mentioned above within 60 days. Details are hereunder :-

Name & address of borrowers	Demand Notice Date Outstanding Amt.	Details of Property & Property Owner
Borrower : Shri Ishan Gour S/o Shri M. C. Gour	29-02-2020	Equitable Mortgage of House Property Flat No 201 which is part of khasra no 75,82,86/1/1, 86/1/2 and 62/2 at Subh Ellis Vili-Akbarpur Danishkunji Total area (800 Sft) Bhopal (MP) Bounded as under: East- Stairs, West: Open area North: Corridor ; South: Open area
1. H No 201 (2nd Floor), Shubh Ellis, Akbarpur, Danishkunji Bhopal (MP)	Outstanding as on 29.02.2020	
2. B-13 BDA Flats Ravishankar Nagar, Arera Colony, Bhopal (MP)	₹ 560126/- +Intt+Other charges	

You are advised (1) To collect the original notice/cover addressed to you and / if returned by Postal Authorities from the undersigned for more and complete details and (2) to pay the balance outstanding amount Interest and costs etc. within 60 days from the date of notice referred to above to avoid further action under the SARFAESI Act.
Date: 02-03-2020 **Authorised Officer, Allahabad Bank**

Promotions on merits, not reservation, opine citizens

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Amidst the ongoing battle for and against reservations in promotions besides the employees of general-OBC and SC-ST in Uttarakhand, locals in Dehradun expressed their views on this issue. According to the majority of people, promotions in jobs should be on the basis of merits and not reservation.

"Demanding reservation in promotion after getting a job through reservation is like demanding for 90 per cent marks in exams just because somebody got admission under SC/ST quota. I don't know why some people are making it a complicated issue. It is a simple thing that if you do well in exams, you get good grades. Similarly, if you perform well in your job, you will get the promotion. Some people are just trying to take advantage of the reservation system in India," said a businessman, Arun Prajapati.

According to a school teacher Brahmanand Lal Sharma, "I myself belong to a scheduled caste community

and I understand that there are still narrow-minded people who discriminate on the basis of caste and religion. However, providing reservations in promotions besides jobs would be crippling to the society. A promotion is the indication of growth, hard work and dedication of an employee, if the reserved candidate will be promoted, no one would respect the position as well as the candidate. In the long term, it is the worst thing any government can do to its citizens as it will create disparity among the employees in the same field."

"Initially the idea behind the reservation for some communities in India was to uplift the people belonging to SC, ST and OBCs socially and economically. But now more than 50 per cent people are just misusing it. There are people who undoubtedly need reservations in different sectors but that should be as per their financial status. What is the need for the reservation in promotions to those employees who are probably living a better life than a person living

in poverty who belongs to the general category? It is just a selfish move by a few people," said a PhD student from Chakrata, Mohit Chauhan.

According to an undergraduate student Anshu Saini, "The demand for reservation in promotions is absolutely wrong. According to me, only one generation of SC-ST people should be given the advantage of reservation so that others in need can benefit from it too. When the person is well to do and capable of living and providing a quality life, the reservation should not be extended further by the government."

My father was a poor man belonging to the community of scheduled tribe. He could study and got a job because of reservation system. Now my siblings and I do not need it to make our lives better. People should think about others in need rather than exploiting the help provided by the government."

However, according to some people there should be reservation in the promotions.

City Govt formed panel to launch drive to end hate mongering in virtual world

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Alarmed over surfeit of fake and malicious posts, messages on social media platform, Peace and Harmony committee, set up by Delhi Legislative Assembly on Monday, decided to apprise people against sharing such hate content and spreading rumour which can invite a jail term for three years.

The committee also decided to launch a campaign to prevent hate mongering on social media which can cause enmity between two communities, said Saurabh Bharadwaj, Greater Kailash MLA and Chairperson of Peace and Harmony committee.

The committee held its first meeting on Monday and discussed the reasons behind communal riots in India with a focus on the recent riots in Delhi. "The committee has found that one of the major reasons for such disturbance is fake messages and hate content which gets circulated through Twitter, WhatsApp, Facebook and other social media platforms. It noted that the people forward these messages without checking the facts and this is how hate and enmity spreads between communities often which leading communal tension and violence," he said.

"In India spreading hate between two communities is a serious criminal offence under India Penal Code and other laws. We will seek complaints from people through campaign in radio,



newspapers and other media platforms," said Bharadwaj.

"We will request people that if you get any such fake messages or someone send a hate message on a WhatsApp group, or you see a facebook post then please send it to this Committee. Tomorrow, we will launch a Whatsapp number and an email ID where people can send such complaints," he said.

Bharadwaj further said that the Committee will cross check the complaints using its team of legal experts and if it finds that the content can potentially cause hatred or disturbance or enmity between two communities or groups then it will recommend criminal prosecutions to the law enforcement agencies for necessary action," he said.

"We will also be working with a fact-checking body/probably an agency. They will primarily assist the Committee in checking the authenticity of the content. A team of lawyers will be formed

that will assist the Committee and they will provide legal assistance to the Committee. A team of IT experts will be formed that will assist the Committee by providing technical assistance. All the complaints after due diligence, will be forwarded to Police to take the appropriate action," said Bharadwaj.

He said that the members have shared various experience of such fake messages. "We have found that such fake messages are common in the WhatsApp groups of both the communities. We have also found that in many RWA WhatsApp groups or other groups, some mischievous elements circulate such fake messages full of hatred," he added. "We have also discussed how hatemonger and rumormongers spread hate messages through social media. We observed that yesterday also such rumours were spread by some people regarding a communal disturbance in Delhi," said Bharadwaj.

Man jumps to death from AIIMS hostel over late salary payment

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 48-year-old man allegedly committed suicide by jumping from the tenth floor of a hostel at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on Monday. Police said they have recovered a suicide note in which the man has blamed his employers for not releasing salary and torturing him.

The man has been identified as Vipin Sahu and he used to work at AIM chemist shop in South extension part-II. According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, on Monday, Sahu jumped from the tenth floor of hostel number 18 of AIIMS.

"He was declared brought dead by doctors at the hospital's Trauma Centre. During initial investigation, it was revealed that Sahu is not a doctor and on checking the hostel's entry register, it was learnt that Sahu had visited the hostel twice on Monday," said the DCP.

"He first visited the hostel at 10:40 AM and again at 12:20 PM, as per the entry register of the hostel. Some medicines were found at the spot from where he jumped," said the DCP.



Septic tanks in unauthorised colonies to get RFID tags

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-ruled Delhi Government is soon going to install Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags in septic tanks of the houses situated in the unauthorised colonies through which people can get their "septic tank" cleaned legally and for free of cost.

The project is one of AAP's main poll promises — Chief Minister Free Septic Tank Cleaning'. The Government is soon going to award work to install about 90 RFID tagged, reader and Geo Positioning System (GPS) installed vehicles for cleaning septic tanks in unauthorised colonies.

The Government will also create a call center and will set up helpline numbers along with creating an application (App) for free septic tank cleaning.



"People can approach via the helpline numbers or can download the app to avail the free services. Also, to avoid illegal cleaning of the tanks, the government will install RFID tags in the household septic tanks as well the trucks will also be equipped with the RFID tags and GPS tracking to avoid any scam and illegal collecting. It will also help the government to keep a tab on the number of houses, and wastes and garbage

dumps. The garbage and waste collected from each household will be first filtered and then will be disposed off," said the official.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's free septic tank cleaning was announced after the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in August last year directed the government and Delhi Jal Board (DJB) with giving a period of 120 days to formulate a committee or plan to clean pollut-

ed Yamuna River and to stop disposal of illegal septic tank debris in the river and also sewer deaths caused while cleaning the sewer tanks. Following which a scheme was launched by Delhi Government in November last year.

"About 70 lakhs of populations in Delhi is living in the unauthorised colonies (UC). There are about 1731 UC's in Delhi, out which sewer and pipeline connection has been laid in many colonies but there are still colonies where the sewer line is pending and is not laid. In such areas, people have dug deep septic tanks and get it cleaned through private operators, where the trucks use to come and suck the wastes for merely Rs 300-400 and dump it in the Yamuna without filtering the waste and garbage due to lack of a proper system" said a government official.

Elaborating further, the official added that the government has set up a mechanism called 'Septic Tank Cleaning Distribution and Management system' (SCDMS) to address this issue with proper management. Tender has been floated days after the announcement of the scheme to induct trucks to clean the septic tanks. The estimated budget of the project per annum is ₹25 lakh (approximately).

"All the paper work has been done and the award of work is pending, which will be awarded in the first meeting of the DJB, expected by end of March," said an official.

The 'CM free septic tank cleaning' was one of the poll promises and a scheme launched a few weeks before the imposition of Modal Code of Conduct for the general assembly elections in the national Capital.

Tihar: We had made preparations for hanging four Nirbhaya rapists

New Delhi: Delhi's Tihar Prison authorities had made all necessary preparations for the hanging of four convicts in the Nirbhaya gangrape-and-murder case which was scheduled for Tuesday, officials said Monday.

However, on Monday evening, a city court deferred the hanging till further orders.

Postponing the execution, Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana said the hanging cannot be carried out pending disposal of Pawan Gupta's mercy plea before the President, observing any condemned convict must not meet his "Creator" with grievance against courts for not acting fairly on the opportunity to exhaust legal remedies.

"We had made all the nec-



essary arrangements for the execution of the four convicts which was scheduled for Tuesday at 6 AM. Now, the execution has been postponed and we are waiting for the further order by the court," a senior jail official said. The hanging of the four men — Mukesh Kumar Singh (32), Vinay Kumar Sharma (26), Akshay Kumar Singh (31) and Pawan — who are lodged in Tihar jail, was fixed for March 3 in Tihar jail on a court order.

Hangman was called and dummy executions were carried out," another senior jail official said.

Barring Pawan, the other three had in the previous weeks moved curative petitions and mercy pleas which were all dismissed.

The first date of execution — January 22 — fixed on January 7 was postponed by the court to February 1. But on January 31, the court indefinitely postponed the hanging. On February 17, the court again issued fresh date for execution of death warrants for March 3 at 6 AM.

The court in its orders observed that the four convicts cannot be hanged since a mercy plea of one or the other convict was pending.

1st time AAP MLA Chadha is Delhi Jal Board vice chairman

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government on Monday appointed first-time MLA Raghav Chadha as vice-chairman of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB).

Chadha (31) a chartered accountant, defeated BJP veteran RP Singh and Congress' Rocky Tuseed in the February 8 assembly polls from the Rajendra Nagar Assembly constituency. Soon after being appointed as Vice-Chairman, Raghav called on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Burari MLA Sanjeev Jha and Deoli MLA Prakash Jarwal were appointed as DJB members. Urban Development Minister Satyandhar Jain is the chairman of the board.

In December last year, the



Delhi government and the Centre traded allegations over the national capital's water quality after Union Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan released a Bureau of India Standards report that said water samples collected from the city failed on most parameters.

The Delhi government had last year also announced its ambitious project to provide round-the-clock water supply by

2024. Cleaner environment and 24-hour water supply were the key issues in the AAP's manifesto for Delhi election.

It had also launched a mega project for storing rainwater in pits created on the Yamuna floodplains to meet the city's water needs. The national capital needs 1,150 million gallons of water per day against 950 MGD being supplied through various sources at present.

Will set up more relief camps for riot victims: Rai

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

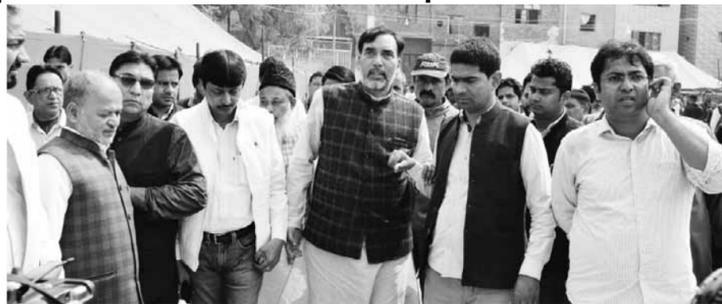
Assuring people residing in North-east Delhi about food and other essentials, Cabinet Minister Gopal Rai on Monday said the Delhi Government will set up more relief camps to accommodate riot victims.

Rai visited a relief camp at Mustafabad which has a capacity to accommodate 1,000 people. The relief camp was set up by the Delhi Government to give shelter to the families affected in the communal violence, which broke out in parts of North-east Delhi last week.

There are provisions for food, water and medicines in the camp. It also has a helpdesk to facilitate processing of compensation forms filled by the riot victims.

"We will set up more relief camps in other affected areas too if needed," Rai said.

The minister said after



Delhi Minister Gopal Rai visits riot-affected areas of Mustafabad on Monday

speaking to the local MLAs of Seelampur and Mustafabad, he got to know that some "innocent" persons have also been picked up by police.

"Their relatives are running here and there in hospitals and police stations looking for them. We hope that this issue will be sorted out immediately. The

guilty must be punished but at the same time, the innocent should not be harmed," he added.

Rai said he would meet the Delhi police commissioner in the evening to discuss this issue along with the problems caused due to rumour-mongering on Sunday.

"We had talked to MLAs of Seelampur and Mustafabad and understood that police have picked innocent people also. Their relatives are running here and there in hospitals and police stations looking for them. We expect that this issue may be sorted out immediately," said Rai. Adding furthermore, Rai

said that we want the guilty must be caught and punished at the same time.

According to Delhi government officials, now the SDMs and other officials are working in the affected areas to assess the loss due to the damage of houses and shops.

"In the hospitals also, filling forms for compensation is facilitated and I witnessed the same in the GTB Hospital yesterday. For those who can't go out of their houses, NGOs, Civil Defence Volunteers are visiting them at their doorstep," "Also, the SDMs visit the victims' houses in the assigned sectors. We ensure that assistance in all respects reaches the victims wherever they are at present. First, the affected people required to fill the forms and later the officials from the offices of SDM and PWD will verify the documents," said Rai.

Keep watch on online hatemongers: L-G to cops

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal on Monday interacted with locals and visited in few areas of North-east Delhi which were affected by violence during the riots.

Soon after his interactions, L-G said we all should prioritise bringing back peace and tranquility to restore normalcy.

He directed Delhi Police to continue deployment and take effective measures to counter rumour mongers and work closely with Aman Committees to build bridges between communities.

The L-G interacted with the commissioner of Police SN Shrivastava and other agencies to work together restore damaged infrastructure and improve civic amenities to instil confidence in the residents and directed Delhi Police to con-



Delhi L-G Anil Bajjal with Delhi Police Commissioner SN Srivastava and other police officials during his visit to Shiv Vihar, one of the riot-affected areas, in North-east Delhi on Monday

tinue their Flag March in the area and take effective measures to counter rumour mongers.

"Delhi Police should keep strong vigil on social media and ensure timely and effective action against rumour mongers. Any attempt to spread false and

malicious news should be nipped in the bud itself," L-G said in a statement.

To build confidence amongst people of affected

areas LG met locals and asked police to actively engage with Aman committees to restore normalcy in the area.

BSF gives ₹10L to jawan whose house was burnt by rioters

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Monday handed over a cheque of ₹10 lakh to its jawan Mohammed Anees after his house in North-east Delhi was burnt by the rioters.

The paramilitary has also pledged to re-build the damaged house of Anees and hand it over to him as a 'wedding gift', as he is scheduled to get married soon, a Border Security Force (BSF) spokesperson said.

The engineering and technical team of the force is already on job, the spokesperson said.

"Constable Mohammed Anees has been presented Rs 10 lakh today at BSF Headquarters for the immediate aid. D K Upadhyay, Inspector General, BSF presented the cheque at the BSF Force Headquarters. Repairing of his burnt house is also being done by BSF," the BSF said.



Constable Anees, along with his father Mohammed Munis, met Upadhyay at the force headquarters here at CGO Complex at Lodhi Road where the jawan was handed over the cheque, the spokesperson said.

The welfare funds of the force were utilised and other resources were mobilised to assist their 29-year-old colleague whose house in

Khajuri Khas area of the national capital was badly burnt and vandalised by rioting mobs when communal violence engulfed parts of northeast Delhi last week.

The communal riots in areas like Jaffrabad, Maujpur, Gokalpuri, Khajuri Khas, Bhajanpura and few others have left at least 46 people dead and over 200 injured.

Anees is presently posted at a BSF camp in Radhabari near West Bengal's Siliguri after he recently completed a stint in the anti-Naxal operations grid in Odisha.

Apart from the monetary relief, the BSF has also decided to post him to a unit in the national capital region so that he can take care of his family, officials said.

With a strength of about 2.5 lakh personnel, the BSF is primarily tasked to guard Indian frontiers with Pakistan and Bangladesh apart from deployments in a variety of roles related to internal security.

95 MPs didn't attend Parl panel meetings: Naidu

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 40 per cent Members of Parliament (MPs), who as members of Parliamentary Standing Committees were tasked to review allocations for different Ministries in the 2020-21 Budget, gave it a miss, prompting Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Monday to term it as "really unfortunate" and urge them to honour the mandate given to them.



Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu conducts proceedings in the House during the Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday

Naidu said as many as 95 of the MPs did not attend even a single meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committees and that he released the figures to ensure accountability and transparency for better functioning of Parliament.

Giving an account of the meetings on the first day of the Rajya Sabha when it assembled after a three-week recess during the ongoing budget session, he appealed to the various political parties to ensure better attendance of their members.

The two dozen department-related parliamentary standing committees, with 244 MPs from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, considered demands for grants of all the Ministries during the recess.

Naidu said 95 members, accounting for 39 per cent of the total 244, did not attend any meeting on the Demands for Grants. Only 28 members had zero attendance last time, he added.

Of the 78 Rajya Sabha MPs on these committees, 23, or 29

per cent, did not attend any meeting as against 11 such members in the last review in December last year. Out of 166 Lok Sabha MPs, 78, or 47 per cent, were absent in all meetings of these panels against 72 MPs in the last review, he said.

Highlighting the importance of the parliamentary panels, the Chairman said since the introduction of department-related parliamentary standing committees in 1993, substantial work of Parliament is being transacted

by these panels which have members from all parties and work in a nonpartisan manner.

The meetings of these panels make up for the about 30 sittings of Parliament and fill the void created by the decline in the number of days when the Parliament meets -- on 60-70 days in a year from earlier 100 or more, he said, adding that the three-week recess was meant for 24 department-related parliamentary standing committees to consider Demands for Grants of all the Ministries as proposed in the Budget presented on Feb 1.

"The total number of members who skipped two or more successive meetings has increased from 100 last year to 106 now. These include 28 members from Rajya Sabha as in the case of last review and 78 members from Lok Sabha, with an increase of six from the last time," he said.

Naidu said out of the 24 department-related parliamentary standing committees, 8 relating to Rajya Sabha saw 45.35 per cent attendance in the 20 meetings held in the budget

Direct Tax Vivad to Vishwas Bill introduced

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday introduced and started debate on the Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Bill, enabling one time settlement in the decades' long appeals in the Income Tax disputes, amid a din on the issue of Delhi riots.

Introducing the bill, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said direct tax dispute resolution scheme announced in Budget will be of great help to people as they will be able to save time and money spent in fighting cases.

As many as 4.83 lakh direct tax cases worth ₹9.32 lakh crore are locked up in various appellate forums such as Commissioner (Appeals), ITAT, High Courts, Supreme Court and Debt Recovery Tribunals. "The scheme will give settlement option to all those with disputed tax. This will be of great help because

As many as 4.83 lakh direct tax cases worth Rs 9.32 lakh crore are locked up in various appellate forums such as Commissioner (Appeals), ITAT, High Courts, Supreme Court and Debt Recovery Tribunals

Taxpayers willing to settle disputes shall be allowed a complete waiver of interest and penalty if they pay the entire amount of tax in dispute by March 31 this year, following which a 10 per cent additional disputed tax shall have to be paid over and above the tax liability.

people spent a lot of time and money in settling cases," Sitharaman said while moving the Bill, while Opposition MPs were in the Well demanding reply and resignation of Home Minister Amit Shah in the wake of Delhi riots.

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

be paid over and above the tax liability.

Further, where arrears relate to disputed interest or penalty only, then 25 per cent of disputed penalty or interest shall have to be paid if the payment is made by March 31, beyond which the same shall be enhanced to 30 per cent. Also in search and seizure operations where the recovery is up to Rs 5 crore, this scheme can be availed once the Bill is passed by Parliament. The scheme would remain open till June 30, 2020.

While debating on the bill, BJP's Sanjay Jaiswal provoked the agitating Congress MPs by saying that the Vivad se Vishwas Bill is actually helpful to corrupt Congress leaders like Sonia and Chidambaram. Jaiswal asked the Congress MPs to cooperate with the Bill and save from the probes on the money looted during the UPA regime. MPs rushed to Jaiswal, when all of a sudden during his speech, he attacked Sonia and Priyanka Gandhi for inciting people leading to Delhi riots. The House was adjourned thrice after this and debate is expected continue on Tuesday.

Earlier, the Government also introduced The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill and Mineral Laws Amendment Bill. The bill seeks to extend the upper limit for permitting abortions from the present 20 weeks to 24 weeks.

EC not in favour of State funding polls

Says it won't be able to prohibit or check candidates own expenditure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) is not in favour of State funding of elections as it will not be able to prohibit or check candidates' own expenditure over and above provided for by States.

In a written reply to Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur said the EC's view is that for addressing the real issues, there have to be radical changes in the provisions regarding receipts of funds by political parties and the manner in which such funds are spent by them so as to provide for complete transparency in the matter.

"The Election Commission has informed the Government that it is not in favour of State Funding as it will not be able to prohibit

or check candidates own expenditure or expenditure by others over and above that which is provided for by the State," the Minister said. Thakur further said that in order to discourage cash transactions and bring in transparency in the sources of funding of political parties, the Government has amended the Income Tax Act and limited anonymous cash donations to ₹2,000.

The Government introduced the 'Electoral Bond Scheme 2018' to establish a transparent political funding system in the country with well established audit trail.

In another reply, he said the number of assesses filing Income Tax Returns (ITRs) has consistently increased during each of the last three years as well as in the current year.



BJP MP Anurag Thakur at Parliament during the ongoing Budget Session in New Delhi on Monday

assessment year 2016-17 and 6.35 crore during Assessment Year (up to Feb 15, 2020).

The belated returns of AY 2019-20 can be submitted up to March 31, 2020, therefore, this number will increase further, the Minister said.

Thakur said the Income Tax Department has implemented the Non-Filers Monitoring System (NMS) which assimilates and analyses in-house information as well as transactional data received from third parties to identify such persons/entities who have undertaken high value financial transactions but have not filed their returns.

The number of non-filers with potential tax liabilities identified in the last three assessment years was 33 lakh, 38.81 lakh and 15.58 lakh.

As per the data provided by him, the total number of e-returns (excluding revised returns) were 5.18 crore in

National Chambal Sanctuary gets ESZ tag

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The first and only tri-State riverine protected area in India for breeding population of critically endangered Gharial, the National Chambal Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh, finally got its eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) earmarked where no new construction or anti-wildlife activities will be allowed. The area of the ESZ is 870 square kilometers.

Located at the tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, the Sanctuary is home of naturally living population of 75 per cent of the critically endangered species of Gharial and also harbours national aquatic animal -the fresh water gangetic dolphins, nine species of fresh water turtles and more than 180 species of migratory birds.

"The Central Government hereby notifies an area to an extent of zero to two kilomet-

res around the boundary of National Chambal Sanctuary in the state of Madhya Pradesh as the National Chambal Sanctuary Eco-sensitive Zone," said a notification issued by the Union Environment Ministry on February 20.

Incidentally, no objections and suggestions were received from persons and stakeholders in response to the draft notification issued last year in June for the Sanctuary which lies across Sheopur, Morena and Bind districts of Madhya Pradesh with a length of 435 kilometers and area of 435 square kilometers.

The Ministry has directed the Madhya Pradesh Government to prepare a Zonal Master Plan, which shall provide for restoration of denuded areas, conservation of existing water bodies, management of catchment areas, watershed management, soil and moisture conservation,

needs of local community and such other aspects of the ecology and environment that need attention.

In its notification, the government prohibited any new construction of hotels and resorts within one kilometre from the boundary of the wildlife sanctuary or up to the extent of the ESZ, whichever is nearer.

"Provided that beyond the distance of one kilometre from the boundary of the wildlife sanctuary till the extent of the Eco-Sensitive Zone, the establishment of new hotels and resorts shall be allowed only in pre-defined and designated areas for ecotourism facilities as per Tourism Master Plan,"



the notification said.

It said that forests, horticulture areas, agricultural areas, parks and open spaces earmarked for recreational purposes in the Eco-sensitive Zone shall not be used or converted into areas for commercial or residential or industrial activities.

The extent of Eco-sensitive Zone varies from zero (due to Inter-State boundary) to two kilometre from the National Chambal Sanctuary in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

J&K ADMIN TO SC Omar detained under PSA considering his past conduct

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jammu & Kashmir administration informed the Supreme Court on Monday that Supreme Conference leader Omar Abdullah has been detained under the Public Safety Act considering his "past conduct" and possibility of such conduct being repeated on his release, which may "prejudice the public order".

Terming Abdullah as "a very vocal critic" of abrogating Article 370, the J&K administration claimed that his acts squarely fell within the realm of public order as it was "calculated to disturb public peace

and tranquility".

The District Magistrate of Srinagar has said this in his reply filed on a plea by Sara Abdullah Pilot, who has challenged the detention of her brother Omar Abdullah under the provision of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA).

The J&K administration has said that in the history of independent India the existence and continuance of Article 370 of the Constitution, which used to give special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir, has "always remained a contentious and burning issue".

SC declines to refer pleas challenging Article 370 cases to larger Bench

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Monday declined to refer to a larger 7-judge bench a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 on August 5 last year.

A 5-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice NV Ramana said there were no reasons to refer the matter to a larger bench.

NGO, People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUCIL), Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association and an intervenor had sought refer-

ring of the matter to a larger bench on the ground that two judgements of the apex court - Prem Nath Kaul versus Jammu & Kashmir in 1959 and Sampat Prakash versus Jammu and Kashmir in 1970 - which dealt with the issue of Article 370 were conflicted each other and therefore, the current bench of five judges could not hear the issue.

Disagreeing with the petitioners, the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, R Subhash Reddy, BR Gavai and Surya Kant, said it was of the opinion that "there is no conflict between the judgements".

SWAMI CHINMAYANAND RAPE CASE SC bench recuses from hearing pleas

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court bench on Monday recused from hearing the plea challenging the Allahabad High Court order granting bail to former Union Minister Swami Chinmayanand in a rape case lodged by a law student.

A separate plea seeking transfer of the case to a Delhi court from Uttar Pradesh also came up for hearing before a bench of Justices R Banumathi and AS Bopanna.

"List both the matters before some other bench where Justice R Banumathi and Justice AS Bopanna are not members, after obtaining orders from

the Chief Justice of India," the bench said in its order.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for the petitioners, told the bench that these matters should be heard urgently. The bench directed its registry to obtain appropriate orders for urgent listing of both the matters. The high court had on February 3 granted bail to Chinmayanand who was arrested in a case of sexual exploitation of the woman studying law at a college run by his trust at Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh.

"Both parties crossed their limits and at this stage, it is very difficult to adjudicate as to who exploited whom.

GOVT TO MINISTRIES Stop wasteful expense of printing own diaries, calendars

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has directed all Central Ministries and departments to stop printing their own calendars and diaries as it leads to "wastage of financial resources" and instead make use of those printed by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba last month communicated to all secretaries heading their respective Ministries that the new order is to be "strictly complied with".

Gauba, in the letter accessed by PTI, stated that the Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC) under

the I&B Ministry is "entrusted" with printing and distribution of Government calendars and diaries to Ministries, departments and public sector units (PSUs) apart from customised items of this category on a chargeable basis.

"It has, however, been observed that various ministries, department and PSUs and other organisations under their administrative control are printing calendars, desk calendars and diaries in addition to those supplied by BOC.

This results in duplication of efforts and wastage of financial resources," the top bureaucrat wrote.

Govt allows export of onions

ONION WHOLESALE PRICE DROPPED

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Modi Government has decided to allow the export of onions from March 15 as the onion wholesale prices at the country's largest market at Lasalgaon Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) crashed to ₹1200 per quintal, down from ₹1900-2100 per quintal, due to increase in supply of the bulb.

After a bumper crop, onion prices have stabilised. Presently, onion is being sold at ₹25-30 a kg depending on the quality and locality of the areas.

According to Ministry of Agriculture, onion prices increased by ₹300 per quintal on an average at Lasalgaon APMC after reports came in, on February 27, that a ban on its exports had been lifted by the Centre. However, a notification on the lifting of the export ban is yet to arrive, leading to fall in prices, which resulted in protests and agita-



Onion prices have stabilised. Presently, onion is being sold at ₹25-30 a kg depending on the quality and locality of the areas

tions by farmers. Onions were auctioned at ₹700 minimum, ₹1,200 maximum per quintal at Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Lasalgaon," officials said. On Monday, onion's minimum price was recorded ₹400 per quintal while the maximum rate was of ₹1200 per quintal.

The fall in prices led to angry members of Maharashtra Onion Growers' Association and APMC farmers stopping auctions.

Officials said that farmers have held protests in Lasalgaon, Dewla, Pimpalgaon, Yeola and Andersul district in Maharashtra on Monday.

Currently, the arrival of rabi (winter) crop of onion has begun in small quantities and would increase from mid-March onwards.

In a tweet, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that the Government will allow export of onions from March 15 in the interest of farmers. The decision will help boost the income of farmers, the Minister said in a tweet.

The Government last week decided to lift nearly six-month-old ban on export of onions as prices are likely to fall sharply due to bumper rabi crop. The ban was imposed

after the prices of the commodity skyrocketed.

Expected monthly harvest in March is over 40 lakh MT compared to 28.4 lakh MT last year, Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan had tweeted on Wednesday.

In September 2019, the Government banned onion exports and also imposed a MEP of USD 850 per tonne. The move came after prices started skyrocketing due to supply-demand mismatch. There was shortage of onion as kharif crop was adversely affected due to excess rains and floods in key producing states, including Maharashtra.



Police personnel attempt to detain a Congress worker during a protest demanding enquiry in flood relief fund, in Kochi, Monday March 2 2020

INSHORT

CBI ARRESTS 6 IN YOGESH GOWDA MURDER CASE

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested 6 suspects in connection with the killing of BJP taluka panchayat member Yogesh Gowda in Karnataka's Dharwad in 2016. Agency has arrested Dinesh, Sunil, Nutan, Ashwath, Shah Nawaz and Nazeer Ahmed in an operation which is still on. These are 1st arrests in the case which was taken over by CBI in Sep last.

SC REJECTS EARLY HEARING PLEA BY SIT

New Delhi: The SC Monday rejected an SIT plea seeking early hearing of its petition challenging the anticipatory bail granted in 2018 to jailed former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar in 1984 anti-Sikh riots cases.

BLUE ROSE PUBLISHERS BRINGS NEW BOOK

New Delhi: Blue Rose Publishers has come up with a new book 'Management by Trust- Path of Success', written by MP Sinha. Book contains 11 chapters with each discussing the different challenges the author encountered, lessons he picked up on, highlighting the practices that helped him come out successfully.

The Bengal gamble

Amit Shah continues to drive the CAA as a key campaign plank for the Bengal polls. What should Mamata do?



No matter what the results of the Delhi elections have been, no matter how people rejected the politics of polarisation and divisiveness, the BJP will not stop running with the flare gun. Even if it burns lives and sears memories, it will go ahead with its identity politics in the name of cleansing and securing the nation. If the promise of development was the access card for the 2014 mandate, May 2019 onwards the rationale is about why development is in ferment because of pollutants among people, because the nation is not secure from "virus"

threats of the "alien" kind implanted many centuries ago. This justification works in core factories of the Sangh Parivar, one that has led Union Home Minister and party supremo Amit Shah to unfurl his campaign for the Bengal 2021 polls with a renewed emphasis on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The BJP hopes this will be a trumpcard for three reasons. First, it sharpens the polarity with its harshest critic on its identity and race-profiling policies, Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee. Second, Bengal has become a fertile ground for polarisation with the decimation of both the Left and the Congress as secular entities. It is home to about 27 per cent Muslims that congeal around Mamata and is a swirling petri dish of latent anxieties about Partition and infiltration. Third, Bengal represents the Leftist liberal way of life and, as another bank of the ideological divide, is one that the BJP wants to desperately breach. Emboldened by its performance in the Lok Sabha polls with 18 seats, the BJP is pitching CAA as its arrowhead, hoping to consolidate those numbers. Hindu refugees are a deciding factor in about 80 Assembly seats and spread around 50 others in the 294-member House. Besides, by just talking about the CAA, Shah is selling it as a virtuous proposition in itself, as opposed to Mamata's linking it with census profiles under the National Population Register (NPR) and National Register of Citizens (NRC). Even at the national level, the BJP is using CAA to explain how it helps persecuted Hindi refugees and covering up what it implies, that it is exclusionary in violation of the Constitution. Or that Muslims left out for want of legacy data in census drives, intentionally or not, have no other way of proving citizenship or seeking redress. Mamata is the only politician to expose a sinister design behind the CAA-NRC combination that has put the BJP on the backfoot in a State that hasn't taken to divisive politics, except in pockets dominated by migrant labourers or border districts. Hence, Shah's fervent appeal to Hindu refugees like Matuas and Rajbanshis to vote for the BJP because by protesting against CAA, he argued, Mamata was eroding their settler status vis-a-vis Muslims. Matuas, who migrated from Bangladesh during Partition, matter in 74 seats. Since 2009, they have been with the Trinamool. But ever since the death of their leading matriarch, Boro Ma, who was close to Mamata, they are a house divided. And BJP has successfully used Mamata's overt minority appeasement of the past to tell Matuas that they have been cheated.

Mamata, too, has wisened up after the Lok Sabha debacle. At her recent rallies in these constituencies, she has run down CAA as a needless exercise, saying she had regularised refugee colonies and that official recognition meant that all Hindu residents were genuine citizens. She, therefore, nullified the need to queue up for fresh documents under CAA. She is also making right noises about "extremists" among minorities and may have to follow through her promises of a Matua Welfare Board, dedicated colleges and a university. While the polarisation of the Hindu and Muslim vote had helped her at one time, the Trinamool chief, like many other Opposition leaders, has realised that the predominant Hindu sentiment is now a decisive factor in the country's political eco-system. One that is not about winning over Muslim votes but about convincing Hindu voters that they are a priority. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal also displayed signs of Hindu ritualism, which is the new normal, despite winning a mandate based on his performance. The BJP has successfully supplanted votebank politics with a consolidated Hindu appeasement. Mamata is a Kali *bhakt* herself and chooses to live her faith than sporting it for political reasons. That is the reason she played to the Muslims through visual rhetoric, landing herself in the BJP's trap. The question is how reactively Hindu she will be in the light of the local body elections later this year? The bigger question is, can her all-pervasive crusader image afford it? But Didi has a pulse of her people and a personality cult that makes her almost a demi-god to the masses. For the first time, she can't take that for granted.

A Chair for women

Honouring women scientists with 11 Chairs is good provided we find enough candidates to fill them



Not a single woman features in a quick search of India's top 10 scientists. A name doesn't even feature in GK quizzes. As per a report published by the World Economic Forum, only 14.3 per cent of science researchers in the country are women. In such a scenario, the Government's decision to set up 11 Chairs in the name of eminent Indian women scientists in various fields "to inspire, encourage, empower women and give due recognition to young women researchers excelling in various fields" came as a breath of

fresh air. For those who missed the news, the 11 eminent women to be so honoured are physicist Bibha Chowdhuri, mathematician Raman Parimala, botanist Janaki Ammal, organic scientist Darshan Ranganathan, cytogeneticist Archana Sharma, chemist Asima Chatterjee, anthropologist Irvati Karve, doctor Kadambini Ganguly, meteorologist Anna Mani, engineer Rajeshwari Chatterjee and biomedical researcher Kamal Ranadive. Even though some would term the move too little and too late, the fact remains that the only woman from India after whom a Chair has been set up till now is the late Mother Teresa. So this is a step in the right direction. Women constitute 35-40 per cent of the total enrollment in science programmes. But just a few of them go on to pursue scientific careers. Nobody asks why till the images of women scientists celebrating the launch of a mission are used to symbolise the great surge forward by them. Even after the film *Mission Mangal*, how many of us know about the real women portrayed in the film? Just the way most of us don't watch women's cricket or even know the names of the cricketers save for a few star players, we are not conditioned to celebrate women who break the glass/mud ceiling or their achievements. It is no wonder then that even in ISRO, which should promote a scientific temper and hence "never rely on pre-conceived notions/biases", a little over eight per cent women work in its scientific and technical department. Since its emergence, not a single woman has ever headed the organisation.

The Indian National Science Academy, Indian Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Agricultural Sciences have awarded only five per cent of their fellowships to women, a patronising and placatory soother really. But, given the dismal figures of women's participation in different disciplines of science, will they find 11 women eminent enough to fill these Chairs? Only time will tell.

Reformer par excellence

Given the ignorance of modern critics and the tragic fact that social evils still persist, it's time to examine Savarkar's ignored legacy as a reformer against the caste system



SANDHYA JAIN

When Vinayak Damodar Savarkar passed away on February 26, 1966, at the ripe age of 82, despite his health wracked by the dehumanising conditions at Cellular Jail, Andaman and Nicobar Islands (July 1911-May 1921), and further imprisonment in Alipore, Ratnagiri and Yerawada jails (till January 1924), some stalwarts remembered his contribution to the freedom movement. Prof Hiren Mukherjee, a Communist Party of India (CPI) MP, had urged the Lok Sabha to pass a resolution condoling his death. After his demise, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had praised him and said that his name was a "byword for patriotism and courage" and in 1970, the then Government issued a commemorative stamp.

When Pandit Bakhle, secretary, Swatantra Veer Savarkar Rashtriya Smarak, informed Indira Gandhi about its plans to observe Savarkar's birth centenary, she replied, "I have received your letter of May 8, 1980. Veer Savarkar's daring defiance of the British Government has its own importance in the annals of our freedom movement. I wish success to the plans to celebrate the birth centenary of the remarkable son of India." (No. 836-PMO/80).

Indira Gandhi even donated ₹1,00,000 from her personal account to the Savarkar Trust and directed the Films Division to produce a documentary film on his life, which she personally cleared in 1983. As former Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Vasant Sathe explained, "Savarkar's contribution to the freedom struggle has to be viewed in totality. You can disagree with his Hindutva but you cannot ignore the fact that he was a great poet and a rationalist."

However, in February 2003, when the then President, APJ Abdul Kalam, unveiled Savarkar's portrait in the Central Hall of Parliament, the Congress and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) boycotted the function. In fact, influenced by some Leftists, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi urged the President to reconsider his decision to unveil the portrait, though the decision was taken by the joint committee on the installation of portraits/statues of national leaders/parliamentarians in Parliament House Complex, where Pranab Mukherjee (Congress) and J Chittaranjan (CPI) were members.

Savarkar was deeply respected by contemporaries across the spectrum. MN Roy called him "my inspiration." C Rajagopalachari said, "Savarkar is a symbol of courage, bravery, fearlessness and intense patriotism and he is a foremost leader, who has laboured hard to ignite the desire of freedom in the Indian people (1937)." Mahatma Gandhi said, "Sacrifice



is the link that binds both of us together (1944)."

Given the ignorance of modern critics and the tragic fact that social evils, which Savarkar fought against, still persist, it is time to examine his largely ignored legacy as a social reformer. Savarkar was interned in Ratnagiri district for 13 years (January 1924-June 1937) and was asked to abstain from politics, publicly or privately. So, he plunged into the field of social reform with the same passion he once devoted to revolutionary activities. He advocated social reform through his powerful writings and worked to stimulate the change he desired.

The Indian society then was suffocating under a range of taboos: Untouchability (*sparsa-bandi*), ban on inter-dining with certain castes (*roti-bandi*), on inter-caste marriages (*beti-bandi*), on certain occupations (*vyavasaya-bandi*), on travel overseas (*sindhu-bandi*), on rites sanctioned by the Vedas (*vedokta-bandi*) and ban of reconversion (*shuddhi-bandi*) to the Hindu dharma.

Analysing the social system, Savarkar said birth-based caste categories probably gave stability to Hindu society in the past but the present divisions rested on the debris of the

ancient *chaturvarna* (four *varnas*). Disagreeing with the view that caste division was an upper caste conspiracy, he said that all castes had to share the blame as almost all used the system to assert superiority over others; hence, all should work to reform it. Savarkar said the *varna*-caste system was only a custom and *Sanatana Dharma* would not collapse if caste divisions were destroyed. He emphasised on equal access to wells and temples and said ex-untouchables (*poorva-asprushya*) had the right to launch civil agitations to secure their lawful rights if caste Hindus resisted.

In 1925, Savarkar organised mass singing of *bhajans* in small towns around Ratnagiri, urging an end to caste-based segregation in schools. He helped children of unprivileged castes to attend school by distributing chalk and slates and giving monetary incentives to their parents. He also exposed schools that continued caste-based segregation while sending false reports to higher authorities. In 1932, he asked the authorities to drop the title, "Special schools for low caste children" as it gave the children an inferiority complex. Savarkar raised a girl from the Maang community in his own home

and personally taught ex-untouchables to read, write and recite the *Gayatri* mantra. He organised *shuddhi* for those who had left the Hindu fold under duress and wished to return. He supported BR Ambedkar's Mahad and Nashik campaigns against untouchability.

In 1930, Savarkar launched the first pan-India Ganeshotsav with *kirtans* by the so-called untouchables. He started the Patitpavan Mandir, open to all Hindus, and said a priest need not be a Brahmin by birth but should have knowledge of all priestly duties. The temple was consecrated in February 1931 and ex-untouchable leader, Rajbhog of Pune, did *pad-puja* of Shankaracharya Dr Kurtakoti, thereby breaking a major taboo. The temple trustees were drawn from all *varnas*. Savarkar said every Hindu, whether Mahar or Maharaj (king), should have the right to recite the Vedas.

Savarkar organised several "dining together" functions, where Muslims and Christians also participated. In March 1936, the famous Marathi actor-singer, Narayan Shripad Rajhans (named Bal Gandharva by Lokmanya Tilak), visited Ratnagiri and asked Savarkar to attend one of his performances.

Savarkar agreed on condition that an inter-caste dining be arranged after the show; this was done on March 6, 1936.

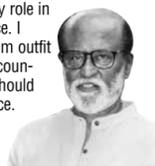
When a Congress Government was formed in Bombay Presidency after elections under the Government of India Act 1937, it ordered Savarkar's unconditional release in 1937. Now free to travel, Savarkar, who had become president of the Hindu Mahasabha, visited homes of ex-untouchables wherever he toured; he would speak at Ganesh festivities only if his lectures were open to them.

Savarkar thundered against caste inequalities: *Jatyuchchedak Nibandh* (Essays on abolition of caste), *Samaj Chitree* (Portraits of society) and a drama, *Ushaap* (Antidote to a curse), on the problem of untouchability, abduction of women, *shuddhi* and the dishonesty of conservatives. Since he was confined to Ratnagiri, he wrote in Marathi to reach the local audience and stimulated significant social reform in one of the most backward districts of Maharashtra. Although his writings were not translated, his ideas and programmes spread as others picked up the threads.

(The author is a senior journalist. Views expressed are personal)

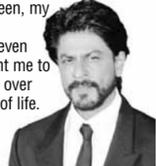
SOUNDBITE

I am willing to play any role in order to maintain peace. I agree with their (Muslim outfit leaders') views that a country's prime objective should be love, unity and peace.



Tamil film superstar —Rajinikanth

Being a father (3x) has been, my greatest source of pride, humility, inspiration and even achievement. It has taught me to choose innocent honesty over smarts...in every aspect of life.



Actor —Shah Rukh Khan

I think she (Priti Patel) is a fantastic Home Secretary. Anybody who has been Home Secretary will testify that it is one of the toughest jobs in the Government.



British PM —Boris Johnson

I am pained by the killing of innocent people in Delhi. I think it was genocide... The violence was State-sponsored. The BJP is trying to replicate the Gujarat model of riots.



West Bengal CM —Mamata Banerjee

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shun politics

Sir — The Kerala High Court's recent order banning all forms of student agitations in school and college campuses — that disrupt functioning of educational institutions — can be double-edged if used to stifle opinion-making. Campus politics is sadly going from bad to worse. In the past, it helped students train themselves as responsible citizens to work for the welfare of the student community as well as society.

Violence was present in the past but not the horrendous kind that we see now. Student activists are used as "death squads" by some political outfits for selfish motives. At the same time, each institution should encourage a healthy platform for debate and discussion and keep it independent of politicking. The present verdict comes as a result of petitions filed by various college and school managements against agitations on campuses disrupting the peaceful atmosphere. The court said educational institutions can be made a venue for peaceful discussions and dialogues.

M Pradyu Kannur

Criticism aside, Sharapova loved playing tennis

It is disheartening that tennis player and winner of five Grand Slam singles titles, Maria Sharapova, has decided to retire from the sport too early, at the age of 32. This news came soon after the death of basketball star, Kobe Bryant, who was a good friend of hers and had been guiding her through her career. Sharapova said that Bryant's demise helped her cement her own decision about hanging up her tennis shoes.

The most significant reason for her retirement, however, is the near-constant pain she has had to live with over the last few years. While Sharapova was a world number one player and also one of the most recognised faces of the sport, she struggled to regain her form after a suspension. The ban was the result of her having tested positive for meldonium, a drug developed for ischaemia patients, which she had been taking for years on account of a magnesium deficiency and a family history of diabetes. The drug, while available in the Baltic countries and Russia, is not approved for use in the rest of Europe or in the US.

It is a pity that a player of Sharapova's ability and stature is now at the 373rd spot in the world rankings.

Damage is done

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Scarred childhood" (February 2). Some signs of normalcy have returned to riot-hit areas of north-east Delhi. But scars are deep. Especially for children, the danger

is for real. For them, the memories are traumatic and can have a lasting impact on their physical growth, self-esteem and emotional and psychological well-being. Though civil society organisations have been doing their bit in providing relief to the people affected by riots, it will take huge

efforts on the part of both Central as well as the State Government to calm the nerves and regain the lost trust of the people.

Indeed it will be difficult for both Governments to get into the shoes of the student who was hit while he was returning home after appearing for an exam or even



She became a global star in 2004 by winning Wimbledon at the age of 17, upsetting the top-seeded Serena Williams in a gripping final. Irrespective of how Sharapova's career turned out, she always commanded respect from her peers for her single-mindedness and fighting spirit.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee Faridabad

those little ones, whose school was burnt. Delhi will become normal in some time but the scars of violence may never go away.

Bal Govind Noida

Strengthen bonds

Sir — This refers to the article, "Look beyond the surface" (February 29) by Vivek Mishra. The recent high-profile visit of US President Donald Trump to India, during which a defence deal was signed, is welcome. However, such an extravagant show amid high-value spending and which led to normal life being affected was unnecessary.

India and the US must now focus on strengthening ties, especially through trade. India must emphasise on the need to resolve the issue of H-1B visa cap on skilled professionals, which hampers the prospects of talented Indians. The countries should work together on energy and defence issues.

Varun Dambal Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Well begun but not half done

The proposed law is silent on the right to parenthood of LGBTQs and doesn't specify monetary compensation to the surrogate mother



SARVESH KUMAR SHAHI

Surrogacy in India has come a long way, from the country becoming a popular destination for childless couples since 2002 to the surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016, which restricted the option of surrogacy for many. The law regulating surrogacy was first mooted in 2016 in the wake of disturbing reports of exploitation of women, who were confined to hostels, not provided adequate post-pregnancy medical care and paid a pittance for repeatedly becoming surrogate mothers to supplement family income. In 2018-19, too, several cases of harassment and violence against surrogate mothers were reported to the police and brought before courts in the country. These incidents led to an increase in demands for a law regulating surrogacy, protecting rights of both parents and surrogate mothers.

As a result, on February 26, the Union Cabinet approved recommendations made by the 23-member Rajya Sabha Select Committee on Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2020. This allows a "willing woman" and not just a "close relative" to become a surrogate mother and proposes that single women can also benefit from its provisions, besides infertile Indian couples.

Today, there are two types of surrogacy. The first type of surrogacy arrangement is "traditional surrogacy" or "complete surrogacy" in which the eggs of the surrogate mother are used in the conception of the child. The surrogate mother is genetically related to the child and is thus more accurately considered the child's biological mother. In this process the surrogate mother conceives the baby by means of "artificial insemination." It is a form of surrogacy in which a gestational carrier is paid to carry a child to maturity in her womb. The second type of surrogacy arrangement is "gestational surrogacy", in which the wife is fertile but incapable of carrying a growing foetus; the child is conceived by "in-vitro fertilisation" using the wife's eggs and her husband's sperm, and the resulting embryo is implanted in the surrogate mother's uterus.

There is another kind of surrogacy called "altruistic surrogacy". It is a situation where the surrogate receives no financial reward for the pregnancy or the relinquishment of the child. Another term "commercial surrogacy" is much in debate where a woman agrees to bear the child for a fee over and above the medical expenses.

The earlier version of the Bill defined commercial surrogacy as a surrogacy or its related procedures undertaken for a monetary benefit. In India, the demand for surrogacy has been on the rise due to decisions to have a baby later in life, problems with the uterus, pelvic tuberculosis, infections and so on. India is one of the few countries that allowed commercial surrogacy for a long period of time apart from Russia, Ukraine and some states in the US.

With the new law, commercial surrogacy will be prohibited, including sale and purchase of human embryo and gametes and ethical surrogacy to Indian married couples, Indian-origin married couples and Indian single woman (widows or divorcees between the age of 35 and 45 years) will be allowed on fulfillment of certain conditions. The proposed law says that only Indian couples can opt for surrogacy in the country. It also allows the person using a surrogate mother to pay just for her medical expenses to reduce commercialisation. The proposed insurance cover for surrogate mothers has now been increased to 36 months from 16 months provided in the earlier draft. The text further proposes to regulate surrogacy by establishing a National Surrogacy Board at the central level and State Surrogacy Board and appropriate authorities in States and Union Territories respectively.

The proposed law allows a "willing woman" and not just a "close relative" to become a surrogate mother for the simple reason that with families getting smaller these days, it is becoming difficult to find somebody among close relatives for the task. So altruistic surrogacy has been allowed, where there is no element of coercion and is done in the spirit of helping somebody. This would ensure that all those who are needy can take advantage of science.

However, the definition of "infertility" as the inability to conceive after five years of unprotected intercourse should be deleted on the ground that it is too long a period for a couple to wait for a child. Further, the proposed legislation is silent on the right to parenthood of LGBTQ couples. Health experts, however, criticised the absence of monetary compensation for the surrogate. They say that while it is a good step to omit near relative clause for a surrogate, it doesn't help to not include monetary compensation for the surrogate because not many women would be interested in carrying someone's child without being paid for it. They also seek establishment of surrogate clinics for mothers at the district level with a full time woman medical practitioner. Surrogacy is a boon for women who are looking to make ends meet. Although, surrounded by a few criticisms, this is a welcome move by the Government where a liberal view or approach on the issues of reproductive rights of women, was much needed.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, KIIT University, Bhubaneswar)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

IT IS A LAW TO PROVIDE CITIZENSHIP AND NOT TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM ANY CITIZEN. MAMATA DIDI IS MISLEADING THE MUSLIM BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

—UNION HOME MINISTER
 AMIT SHAH



WEST BENGAL IS BETTER OFF WITHOUT THE BIGOTRY AND THE HATRED THAT THE BJP IS TRYING TO SPREAD.

—TMC MP
 ABHISHEK BANERJEE

No big deal

Staying clear of the optics and bonhomie on display all through the US President's recent visit to India, one gets a sense that the road to even a limited trade deal is thorny



UTTAM GUPTA

Prior to the maiden visit of US President Donald Trump to India, there was a sense of dejection about the possibility of the US and India signing even a limited trade deal, leave aside a major one. This is to be seen in the backdrop of the absence of United States Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer from the delegation. Earlier, too, Lighthizer had cancelled a visit to New Delhi when he was scheduled to wrap up discussions on a trade agreement.

However, the mood was buoyant at the end of Trump's visit. This was reflected in the press statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 25. He stated, "As far as bilateral trade is concerned, there have been positive talks between the two Commerce Ministers. President Trump and I have agreed that our teams will give a legal shape to the understanding that our Commerce Ministers have reached. We have also agreed to start negotiations for a big trade deal. We hope that it will yield good results in mutual interest."

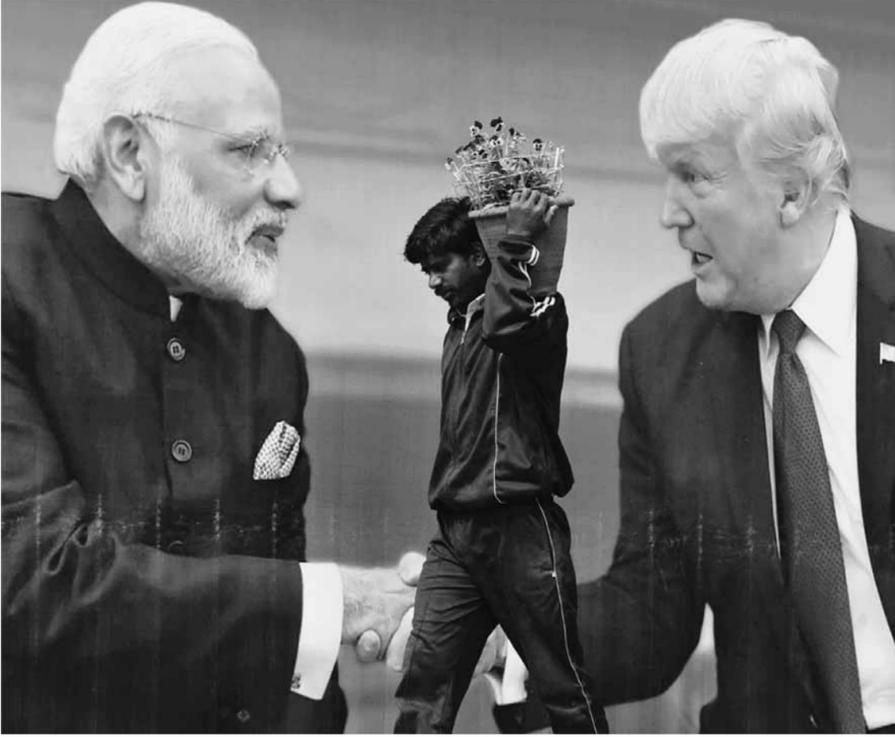
So, what is the understanding reached between the Commerce Ministers on either side? What is the time-frame for reaching a limited trade deal? What is the big trade pact? When will it happen?

Participating in the 'US-India Forum: Partners for Growth' on February 25, Commerce Minister, Piyush Goyal said, "On the economic front, having almost closed the last contours of the limited trade deal and with the announcement of a much larger trade deal in the offing, we have moved to a new level of engagement." The deal could include restoration of benefits of low or zero duty to certain Indian exports under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) and market access for each other's agricultural products, including pulses, dairy, almonds, walnuts and so on (items of interest to the US), fruits like pomegranate and grapes (of interest to India).

Even as the limited deal is largely about goods and market access, the big deal — call it Free Trade Agreement (FTA) — is all-encompassing, going much beyond goods and incorporating *inter alia* intellectual property rights (IPRs), investment and services, issues related to visas and manpower movement. The USTR has begun the filing process to initiate FTA talks. As per extant rules, the US Trade Promotion Authority requires the administration to notify the Congress 90 calendar days prior to entering into a trade agreement.

Staying clear of the optics and bonhomie on display all through, one gets a sense that the road to even a limited trade deal is thorny. At a fundamental level, both Trump and Modi are hard core nationalists and have increasingly leaned towards "protectionism" (even though in their posturing, they talk of "free" and "fair" trade. This was seen in the address by each). While the former has orchestrated his policies under "Buy American, Hire American", the latter does it under the "Make in India" banner. Trump has unilaterally taken a number of steps which seriously undermine the multilateral rules of "free" and "fair" trade under the World Trade Organisation (WTO). These include rejecting the demand of developing countries for finding a "permanent solution" to stockpiling for food security despite a decision at the ninth WTO ministerial held in Bali in 2013; hike in customs duty on steel and aluminum to 25 per cent and 10 per cent on imports (sans preferred friends of the USA); review of the H-1B visa programme to restrict the entry of foreign specialists/professionals to only "most-skilled and highest-paid applicants."

“ AT A FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL, BOTH TRUMP AND MODI ARE HARD CORE NATIONALISTS AND HAVE INCREASINGLY LEANED TOWARDS PROTECTIONISM (EVEN IN THEIR POSTURING THEY TALK OF FREE AND FAIR TRADE. THIS WAS SEEN IN THE ADDRESS BY EACH). WHILE THE FORMER HAS ORCHESTRATED HIS POLICIES UNDER 'BUY AMERICAN, HIRE AMERICAN', THE LATTER DOES IT UNDER THE 'MAKE IN INDIA' BANNER ”



Early last year, the US also asked the WTO to do away with the extant Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) available to developing countries. The S&DT enables the latter to give less than reciprocal commitments. A major plank of this special dispensation is a fairly liberal threshold of 10 per cent aggregate measurement support (AMS) — an acronym for subsidies in WTO parlance — for agriculture for developing countries as against five per cent for developed countries. If, S&DT is withdrawn, India will have to limit its subsidies to less than five per cent of the value of agricultural production against 10 per cent currently. Last year (June), Trump also withdrew the over five decades old special dispensation viz. Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) available to developing countries (including India) under which they are eligible for export of specified products such as textiles, leather footwear and to the USA at low or "zero" customs duty. Justified on the ground that India is no longer a developing country, it has affected Indian exports worth \$5.6 billion. The US, under the Trump administration, has also blocked the appointment of members of the appellate authority of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) — an authority for adjudicating disputes arising from non-compliance with WTO rules. At present, there being just one member in the body against the required strength of seven, the dispute resolution process has come to a grinding halt.

India, too, has pursued its protectionist agenda with alacrity. Thus, it levies high customs duty on import of electronic items, especially mobile phones, dairy products and automobiles (for instance, Harley Davidson bikes in which Trump has keen interest); controls the price of medical equipment viz. stents, knee

implants and so on; restricts policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in e-commerce; localisation of data generation from transactions by international digital and payment companies from their operations in India. There is a lack of effective enforcement of laws for protection of IPRs, especially patents, absence of a law on data protection and so on.

In pursuit of its "Buy American, Hire American" mission, Trump is seeking to do away with special privileges available to developing countries under the WTO and undermining the authority of this multilateral body on the one hand and extracting concession for its industries and businesses under bilateral deals with individual countries on the other.

Modi seems to be equally determined to protect the interests of India's industries and consumers and has even taken recourse to retaliatory measures. For instance, after the US hiked tariff on steel and aluminum, India imposed duties of up to 50 per cent on 28 products, including almonds, walnuts, apple and so on.

The tit-for-tat syndrome can be seen from the US side as well. For instance, the withdrawal of GSP dispensation by Trump was triggered by changes in India's policy on 100 per cent FDI in e-commerce "market-place" vide December 26, 2018 circular amending the Press Note 3 (2016-17) to say that "the marketplace can't have ownership of the vendors selling on the platform", nor can it have an "exclusive" arrangement with the latter. This hit the US-based MNCs like Amazon and Walmart, forcing them to rework their business plans; hence, the retaliatory action by the US. The gulf between the stance taken by the US and India is even wider in areas such as 100 per cent FDI in multi-brand retail (MBR), offline and online; localisation of data generated by

international digital and payment companies from their operations in India; effective enforcement of laws for protection of IPRs, especially patents and law on data protection (this is mainly with respect to the data generated and submitted by MNCs in pharmaceutical and agrochemical sectors to the national regulators viz. the Drug Controller General of India [DCGI] and Central Insecticides Board & Registration Committee [CIB&RC] to seek approval for marketing of their new products in India).

Citing the dire need to protect the interests of millions of small traders, India has ruled out 100 per cent FDI in MBR. On data generated by international digital companies, while India would like them to retain all critical data with Indian servers and even set up a local office, Trump is uncomfortable with the idea. On protection of IPRs, even as India has retained Section 3(D) in the Patent (Amendment) Act 2005 (this is to prevent grant of frivolous patent), the US wants this to go. On data protection, another demand vociferously put up by the USTR (albeit on behalf of US-based MNCs), India is in no mood to oblige. It has argued that this goes even beyond what has been agreed to under the Trade-Related Aspects of the Intellectual Property Rights agreement of the WTO (1995).

Given these positions, which are poles apart, the FTA, that too before this year-end, sounds like daydreaming. A limited deal with some concessions on both sides could be done within this time frame. However, from the statements emanating from "key persons", it would appear that even this idea has been put on the backburner for now.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

Is faith enough to clean the Ganga?

A Ganga yatra and awareness drive may be the first steps to save the river but are far from the solution. Thousands of crores have already been spent to clean the Ganga. Yet, in Allahabad, the river water is undrinkable



INDRA SHEKHAR SINGH

Ecological violence is contagious, much like indifference, which has become the norm in our society. Violence and indifference are enough to set a nation on the path of destruction. We have eroded our mountains and chopped up catchment forests so that India is poised on the edge of the environmental precipice. The cost, 7,00,000 people die prematurely due to water pollution, while millions linger on with symptoms of dysentery to heavy metal poisoning. Our surface water resources shrink and groundwater retreats into newer depths, all precursors to water wars in

the next decade. While, younger "contractors" loot and destroy our rivers and sandbanks, illegally steal gravel and mine the bedrocks, the sententious older generation preaches duty, conveniently forgetting that it instilled indifference in us.

The Government is not responsible for the pollution: We are. The Ganga river, venerated as a living goddess, today is laden not with fertile silt and minerals but with a toxic mixture of garbage, faeces, untreated sewage, heavy metals and drug-resistant pathogens. Ganga is the fourth most polluted river of the world, toxic not only for human beings but even for the fishes and plants.

There are reports, right from *The New York Times* to the Government's own assessments, that reveal mother Ganga to be little less than malodorous sewage meandering across the Gangetic plains. It was shameful that especially for US President Donald Trump's visit, we admitted Yamuna

into the ICU and galvanised it by dumping water into the river. Now that Trump has gone, the Yamuna will again become a filthy stream carrying flush water to the ocean.

A Ganga Yatra and awareness drives may be the first steps to cure this problem but it is far from the solution. Thousands of crores have already been spent to save the Ganga, yet even today in Allahabad, the river water is undrinkable.

I am reminded of the aftermath of the Ardh Kumbh Mela in 2019, one of the biggest gatherings of the Hindu faith, which saw the whole city drenched in pathogens and waste rotting all along the river banks. There is no question mark on the faith of the millions of devotees but is this faith in good faith?

The answer is tricky but the truth is obvious. Misguided faith or rather lip service to faith has killed one of the largest rivers systems of our world and in record time. A bath in the Ganga is cheap indulgence for the sinning

mind. To care only for oneself and not the river is not Hinduism but egomaniacal perversion of Hinduism.

The solution is also a hard one which involves sacrifice. In good faith, we have to first regulate the holy dips in the river, especially in the upper regions of Uttarakhnad. Sewage, which is 80 per cent of the pollution, needs to be immediately stopped.

A national plan for Ganga conservation should pay special attention to effective sewage management, especially in the upper tracts of the river. Currently, we can't even stop waste, from rafting camps on the Ganga. We have to ensure purity at source, without an effective sewage management system, the river can never heal.

There is also a need for an active portal that reports the health of the river, including that of her tributaries. The next step is to restore catchment areas of the Ganga. This means that all tributaries of the Ganga, need to be declared a national treasure and any sand mining, rock mining or waste

dumping should become a serious crime. Harsh punishments need to be proposed.

The rural police across States needs to be made aware about these issues, as water may even be more precious than gold in the very near future. But the biggest polluters, the industry needs stricter regulations and a new Clean Ganga tax. As part of the stricter regulations, the Government needs to look at Norway or Sweden and their river policy.

All polluting industries need to have a treatment plant on site and the State Pollution Board reports on water need to be verified by a third party to have complete transparency in the matter.

CSR funds from major pollutant cities in the Ganga Basin need to be redistributed for rejuvenation activities. Eco-entrepreneurs need to be encouraged and ecological services should be valued and monetised. For example, if tanneries in a particular area cannot themselves set up a treatment plant, they can tie up with these

entrepreneurs to provide them with ecological services. Small pockets along the river need to be developed not as industry zones but as green industry zones, exclusively for projects related to cleaning of water and green zones along the river. NGOs and farmers around the Ganga should be encouraged to adopt organic farming and the State Government need to subsidise the transition to organic farming. Ganga Organic can even be developed as a brand for consumers. The Bihar Government has undertaken a similar programme called the Javik Setu that needs to be emulated across the Gangetic plains.

It is about time, we the people of India and children of the river civilisations reclaim our sanity and love for our mothers — the rivers of India. One is reminded of the *Garuda Purana* — "Thousands of man's sins get destroyed by the holy sight of the Ganges, and he becomes pure by the touch of the water of the Ganges, by consuming it, or just by pronouncing Ganga."

Such was the holiness and purity of our mother Ganga. It is time we clean ourselves and our society of greed, selfishness and ecological violence and through good faith make the Ganga our holy mother again.

To conclude, the crisis of the Ganga or Yamuna or any other river for that matter is a crisis of faith. We as a society have destroyed our culture and now reap the harvest — disease and pollution. A dead river represents a dead faith and a cadaver of Hinduism. Our greed and our religion cannot co-exist.

Either the river lives, with all sacredness within it or triumphs greed and ecological destruction. Money and Government efforts are not enough to clean the Ganga, only sacrifice and faith can heal our river. We need a Ganga Satyagraha to ensure the sense of duty is rekindled in our society.

(The writer is Director - Policy and Outreach, National Seed Association of India)

Man stabbed, four shops set ablaze in Meghalaya

Shillong: A 28-year-old man was stabbed with a broken glass bottle in the Mawprem area here, as sporadic incidents of violence were reported from across Meghalaya in the aftermath of clashes between tribal and non-tribal groups that has left three people dead, police said on Monday.



Four shops rented to non-tribal businessmen were set on fire in Photkroh town in South West Khasi Hills District in the early hours, they said.

Police said nobody was injured in the incident.

"A 28-year-old man was stabbed with a broken bottle by an unknown miscreant on Sunday evening, while he was walking in the Lower Mawprem area. He suffered shoulder injuries and is under treatment at the Civil Hospital," Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGP) Gabriel Langrai said.

There were also reports of stone pelting on vehicles plying along the national highway near Puriang village in East Khasi Hills District on Sunday evening, he said.

The situation in Meghalaya is "under control" and additional forces are deployed in vulnerable areas, the AIGP said.

Curfew, which was imposed in the city and its outskirts, was relaxed from 6 am

to allow students to appear in board examinations, East Khasi Hills District Magistrate Matsiewdor War Nongbri said.

He, however, said curfew will be reimposed as soon as the exams get over. The indefinite curfew imposed in areas under Sadar police station, Lumdingjiri police station and those under the Cantonment Beat House will continue, Nongbri said. **PTI**

Maha: BJP-ruled local body passes resolution against CAA, NRC

Aurangabad: The BJP-ruled Selu municipal council in Parbhani district of Maharashtra has unanimously passed a resolution against the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The council chairman Vinod Borade told PTI on Monday that the Nagar Parishad has 27 councillors including three co-opted members. "The resolution was passed by majority without any Opposition on February 28," he said.

He said local public representatives were also in favour of such move.

Borade said he had summoned a meeting two days before the resolution was passed, as demanded by the members of the NCP, the Congress and seven councillors from the Muslim community.

The CAA, which was passed by Parliament in December last year, grants Indian citizenship to non-Muslim immigrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who had settled in India before December 31, 2014.

The new citizenship law triggered protests in many parts of the country since then despite the repeated claims made by the ruling BJP that it will not take away anybody's citizenship. **PTI**

HC directs TN Govt to file response on plea seeking action against anti-CAA protests

Chennai: The Madras High Court on Monday directed the Tamil Nadu Government to file a detailed response on the anti-CAA protests happening across the state.

A bench Justice MM Sundresh and Justice Krishnaa Ramasamy gave the direction on a petition which contended that the protests were unlawful as permission had not been obtained and caused inconvenience to the public.

Petitioner G Kannan sought to initiate action against those who have been staging protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) near the old bus stand in Salem in western Tamil Nadu since February 14.

Counsel for the petitioner submitted though the petition mentioned only about the protest in Salem, similar agitations were being staged in different places across the state affecting the public.

In Salem, several protestors, including children, were staging the agitation close to the bus stand, causing "huge inconvenience" to the public, he said.

A detailed response from the government on the action taken against protests without any permission was required, the counsel added. Recording the submissions, the bench ordered the government to file its response on the action taken against the protests and adjourned the petition to March 9. **PTI**

8 AMU students among 15 booked for instigating anti-CAA protests in Aligarh

Aligarh: Fifteen people, including eight Aligarh Muslim University students, have been booked for allegedly instigating anti-CAA protests, police said here on Monday.

Police said apart from former AMU students' union vice-president Sajjad Rathar, those booked included students belonging to Kashmir. A case was registered against them at the Civil Lines police station on Sunday for

instigating protests at the Jiwangarh bypass here, police said.

"They have been booked under various sections of the IPC for delivering inflammatory speeches," Civil Lines Circle Officer Anil Samania told Mediapersons.

Meanwhile, in view of upcoming festivals, notices were served on 752 people for their alleged links with last week's "disturbances" in the town. **PTI**

'Muslims should give up protests, understand assurance on CAA'

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Citing repeated assurances by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami to Muslims over the amended citizenship law, senior AIADMK leader and Minister D Jayakumar on Monday appealed to them to give up their protest and resume normal life.

Palaniswami had both in the State Assembly and outside has asserted that minorities will not be affected due to the Citizenship Amendment Act, he told reporters here.

"People of Muslim community should understand it (the assurance) and give up the protest and resume their normal life...They need not have even an iota of doubt. Minorities will not be affected at all, Jayakumar

said. He said Palaniswami had already held talks with the protesters here.

Similarly he (Jayakumar) too had interacted with those agitating at Washermanpet, which falls under his assembly constituency, the Minister added. The protest at Washermanpet in North Chennai against the CAA, the National Population Register and the National Register of Citizens is continuing here for the 18th day.

To a question on actors Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan joining hands politically, he sarcastically said, "we may again get to see a good film like Pathinaru Vayathinile."

The 1977 superhit Tamil movie directed by Barathirajaa featured both Rajinikanth and Haasan.

Mamata slams Centre for 'planned genocide' in Delhi

3 BJP men held for 'goli maro' slogan

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Mamata Banerjee on Monday launched a scathing counter attack on the BJP Government after Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday slammed the Chief Minister for running a Government of extortionists and rioters in Bengal.

Launching a blistering attack on the Centre, Banerjee said that the BJP was trying to repeat the "Gujarat model" (refer to Ahmedabad riots) throughout India even as she referred to the Delhi riots. "I am deeply anguished at what happened in Delhi where so many people were killed. What happened there was a planned genocide," Banerjee said adding how the BJP was trying to implement the Gujarat model in Bengal which she would not allow them to do.

Her speech came a day after Shah vowed to conquer Bengal in the next year's Assembly elections. She was addressing a 'strategy meeting' of party workers in Kolkata where the TMC launched special 75-day campaign called "Banglar Garbo Mamata (Bengal's pride Mamata) conceived by pollster Prashant Kishore.

"Delhi is just as big as a municipality if compared to bigger states like Bengal. And they cannot control law and order there. And shamelessly they have come to conquer Bengal instead of apologizing for allowing so many deaths to happen in Delhi. Even today some bodies were found in the

drains in North-east Delhi," she said reminding how Delhi Police which reported to the Centre and not the Delhi Government was responsible for all that happened.

Shah had on Sunday had linked Delhi riots to Bengal violence post enactment of CAA in December 2019 when several trains and railway stations were torched.

Apparently referring to his speech Banerjee on Monday said Bengal was an absolutely peaceful state and the people here enjoyed communal harmony unlike the states ruled by the BJP adding the people of Bengal would never vote for a communal outfit.

Banerjee also attacked the Bengal BJP leadership for trying to fan communal hatred in the State and bringing the "goli maro" (shoot the traitors) slogan from Delhi to Kolkata and said strong actions would be taken against those who raised such slogans from Shah's rally on Sunday.

"Remember this is Bengal and not Delhi. We will not allow you to create a communal problem here. The people of Bengal will resist you with all their might and the Government will not spare those who raise such slogans to create disturbance," Banerjee said.

"The Goli Maaro slogans are illegal, scary and provocative and aimed at creating communal hatred. We will take strong action against those who did it. No one will be spared," she said wondering who the real "gaddars" (traitors) were.

"It is not the BJP but the people to decide who the real gaddar or traitors are," she said.

In fact the police had arrested three persons for raising the "goli maro" slogan from Shah's rally on Sunday. "In Delhi, BJP leaders who gave provocative slogans have not been arrested, but I got three of the BJP workers arrested," she said.

The three BJP workers identified as Surendra Tiwari, Dhruva Basu and Pankaj Prasad were arrested and produced at a local court. While the court granted Surendra Tiwari and Pankaj Prasad two days of police custody as demanded by the police the third BJP worker - Dhruva Basu was granted bail on grounds of his old age.

However referring to the arrests Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh on Monday said the Chief Minister had no courage to arrest the people who had committed the violence in December. The Bengal BJP had earlier disowned the Sunday's sloganeers saying they were in fact flanked by the CPI(M) and the Congress.

Meanwhile, the Left and the Congress questioned Banerjee's sincerity in combating BJP's communal politics even as CPI(M) politburo member on Monday wondered "how she changes her colours at the drop of hat.

Two days ago she was sharing dinner with Amit Shah at Bhubaneswar despite the Delhi riots and two days later she is changing her voice here."

Prashant flays Nitish for not saying single word on Delhi violence in speech

Patna: Election strategist and former JD(U) national vice-president Prashant Kishor on Monday slammed Nitish Kumar, saying it was "bad" on the Bihar Chief Minister's part to not mention the Delhi violence in his over an hour address to party workers.

Kishor, who was expelled from the Kumar-led Janata Dal (United) in January, was referring to the Chief Minister's speech on Sunday at a party 'karyakarta sammelan' here.

"It was bad on his (Nitish Kumar) part not to say a word on the Delhi violence," Kishor tweeted.

The last week communal riots in northeast Delhi left at least 42 people dead and over 200 injured.

Latching on to claims by opposition parties in Bihar that the sammelan saw a less than impressive turnout, Kishor took a swipe at Kumar, saying the event saw "bhaari bheed" (huge crowd).

At a press conference held a couple of days ahead of the event, Bihar JD(U) president Vashishtha Narayan Singh had predicted a turnout of about two lakh people.

"While addressing a 'bhaari bheed' of JD(U) workers Nitish Kumar claimed that the NDA will win more than 200 seats (in the assembly polls) but did not

explain why despite 15 years of his 'sushasan' (good governance) Bihar continues to be the most poor and backward state in the country", Kishor said in a tweet in Hindi.

Kumar had on Sunday exhorted JD(U) workers to strive towards ensuring the NDA's win in "more than 200 seats" when elections to the 243-member Bihar Assembly are held this year.

Claiming that there was a poor turnout at the event, Kumar's rivals have asserted that it reflected the waning popularity of the ruling JD(U) in the state.

RJD leader Rabri Devi, who is a former chief minister of Bihar, told reporters outside the state assembly premises that "it was a test for Nitish Kumar and his party".

"They failed miserably and will end up finishing third in terms of seat tally when the assembly polls are held," she said.

On Sunday, Rabri Devi's son Tejashwi Yadav, who the RJD's chief ministerial candidate in this year's Bihar polls, had termed the 'karyakarta sammelan' a "maha nukkad sabha" (a big street corner gathering).

However, JD(U) leader and state minister Ashok Choudhary said that "it was not a public rally but a meeting of workers". **PTI**



Mid day meal workers raise slogans during a protest pressing for their various demands, in Patna on Monday **PTI**

Probe 'illegal appointments' made in J&K bank during BJP-PDP regime: JKNPP

Jammu: The Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP) on Monday demanded a probe into the alleged 3,000 illegal appointments made in the J&K Bank during the PDP-BJP regime in the Union Territory.

The party also questioned the rationale behind cancellation of the selection process for J&K Bank POs and banking associates conducted and duly completed by the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).

JKNPP chairman Harsh Dev Singh claimed that 145,000 applicants were anxiously

awaiting for the results after having appeared in the preliminary and main exams conducted by the IBPS in 2018.

Singh said rather than quashing the selection process of banking personnel held by a reputed central agency, the focus of UT administration needed to be over the "illegal backdoor appointments made by corrupt political regime".

"We demand a probe into all backdoor appointments made during the previous PDP-BJP regime in Jammu & Kashmir," he told reporters here. **PTI**

39 panchayat members, 10 others join BJP in Jammu

Jammu: As many as 49 prominent people, including 34 panch and five sarpanch, from Jammu & Kashmir's Poonch district joined the BJP here on Monday, a party spokesman said.

The new entrants, who were previously affiliated to the National Conference, the PDP and the Congress, were welcomed into the party fold by senior leaders led by former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta at the party headquarters, he said.

Mir Mohammad, former block president of the National Conference, was among those who joined the BJP, the spokesperson said. **PTI**

Census: First phase of house listing in J&K to begin on June 1

Jammu: The first phase of house listing in Jammu & Kashmir under Census 2021 will begin on June 1, officials said on Monday.

Census 2021 - which will be the 16th since 1881 and the 8th since Independence - will be carried out in two phases in the Union Territory.

The process of house listing will be conducted from June 1 to July 15, the officials said.

They added that the second phase of actual population enumeration will be conducted in February 2021, with a revision round in the following month.

The officials said while district census cells had been put in place, a central monitoring and management unit was being set up.

The Census is not just an exercise of head count. It provides invaluable socio-economic data which forms a credible basis for informed policy formulation. The changing demographics and socio-economic parameters reflected by the Census helps in reformulation of the country's plans for economic development and welfare schemes. **PTI**

Army rescues over 100 people in Sela Pass in Arunachal

Itanagar: The Indian Army rescued 111 people, including children, who were stranded due to heavy snow at Sela Pass in Tangang district of Arunachal Pradesh, defence officials said on Monday.

Two teams of the Army along with medical staff and recovery vehicles were engaged in the rescue mission since the night of February 29 and all of them were rescued by early morning on March 1.

They rescued 111 people, both locals and tourists, who were stranded at Sela Pass at an altitude of 14,000 feet above the sea level, due to heavy snow, Tezpur-based defence spokesman Lt Col Harsh Wardhan Pande said in a statement.

The rescued people were given tea, snacks and food at the site by Army personnel, it said. The Chief Ministers Office complimented the Army for their effective response, the statement added. **PTI**



Visitors look on as two one-horned rhinos play at Assam State Zoo in Guwahati on Monday **PTI**

BSY: Questioning legitimacy of my Govt amounts to ridiculing public mandate

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Monday flayed Opposition parties for questioning the legitimacy of his Government and said such criticism is like "ridiculing" the public mandate.

He also claimed that his Government has in the last seven months boldly faced several challenges and made strong efforts to bring in transparency in administration.

Yediyurappa was replying to the motion of thanks to the Governor for his address to the joint sitting of the state legislature, in the legislative assembly.

The Chief Minister's reply was marred by protests and sloganeering by opposition parties from the well of the House, demanding that they be permitted to raise the issue of BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil

Yatnal's "derogatory" comments against centenary freedom fighter HS Doreswamy.

Even as the Chief Minister read out his reply, the Congress and JD(S) legislators shouted slogans like "jai to freedom fighters", "save democracy and constitution", "down down British agents" from the well of the House. Stating that he did not like to talk politics while speaking on the Governor's address, but will have to reply to opposition's criticism against his government, Yediyurappa said "in democracy numbers matter, and in this number game our party has won."

Pointing out that by winning 12 of 15 seats in December bypolls "we have proved that public mandate is in favour of our party," he said it was our "moral victory".

"You should be aware that the people of the state are

completely with us. In Lok Sabha polls your party had won one seat, we had won 25+1 (one BJP supported independent)," he said, adding that criticism against Government's legitimacy is like "ridiculing" the public mandate.

He cautioned that if the opposition continues to indulge in such criticism, people will start taking them lightly. "Because of my concern towards you, I'm giving you this advice," he said.

Calling the BJP Government in Karnataka as "child born illicitly from Operation Kamala", Leader of Opposition in the assembly Siddaramaiah had said the government in the state did not come to power with the people's mandate, but by engineering the defection of 17 C o n g r e s s - J D (S) legislators. **PTI**

8 dead, 22 hurt in bus-tanker-jeep collision in Gujarat

Songadh (Guj): Eight people were killed and 22 others injured on Monday in a collision involving a state transport bus, a tanker and a jeep here in Gujarat's Tapi district, police said.

The multi-vehicle collision took place on the National Highway-53 near Pokhran village under Songadh taluka in the afternoon, Deputy Superintendent of Police RL Mavani said.

"A Gujarat State Road Transport bus collided head on with a tanker coming from the opposite direction. Seconds later, a jeep with passengers rammed into the rear of the bus. Eight people died and 22 others were injured," he said.

The deceased were from all



the three vehicles, the police officer said.

"The injured were admitted in hospitals in Vyara and Songadh towns," Mavani informed. He said initial probe revealed the tanker was on the wrong side of the road and hit the bus heading towards Ukai town of Gujarat from Rajasthan. A case is being registered against the driver of the tanker, he added. **PTI**

Cong sulks as DMK denies party RS seat

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

With the DMK refusing to part with even a single seat to the Congress in the upcoming Rajya Sabha election from Tamil Nadu, the grand old party of India is sulking silently and has to continue as second fiddle to the Dravidian major.

The sight of the DMK drubbing the Congress, which commenced in the 1967 Assembly elections, is continuing unabated and this has resulted in the latter becoming more vulnerable and weak, according to senior Congress leaders in the State.

Even in 1967 when the Congress was defeated by the DMK for the first time, the former had polled 41 per cent of the popular votes while the Dravidian party could poll only 40.7 per cent. From that respectable vote share, the strength of Congress has come down to just 6.47 per cent (in the 2016 Assembly election).

Govindarajan Satyamurthy, veteran scribe who has tracked the Congress in Tamil Nadu for more than four decades, said that the DMK made hay while the Congress became weaker and weaker over the years. "In the 2006 Assembly election, the DMK under M Karunanidhi managed to win just 96 seats in

a House with an effective strength of 234 members. Though the Congress won 34 seats as an ally of the DMK, Karunanidhi refused point blank to share power with the former. Karunanidhi became chief minister and ruled the State for five full years without yielding to the demands made by the State leaders of the Congress for a share of power," said Satyamurthy.

He pointed out that the situation was different at the Centre. "The Congress formed Governments in 2004 and 2009 at the Centre and had to accommodate the DMK by offering them some of the plum ministries. The situation

was entirely different in Delhi," he said.

When asked whether he would give place to the Congress in Tamil Nadu Government, Karunanidhi replied with a wink: "I have given them a major place in my heart". The Congress High Command was happy with Karunanidhi allocating them a place in his heart and failed to bargain effectively with the DMK leadership. Though Jayalithaa used to describe the Karunanidhi-led Government as "the minority DMK Government" at each and every juncture, the Congress leaders failed to take the cue and pressurize the DMK for its pound

of flesh.

There is massive resentment in the Congress over the "double-standard" of the DMK. "We do not hope that Stalin, the DMK chief would accommodate us in the State Government after the 2021 election. For that to materialize, the High Command should bargain effectively with the DMK leadership. The situation is ripe because the DMK is not in the best of health. If we fail to bargain tough with the DMK, chances are that many senior leaders may walk over to the outfit to be launched by Rajinikanth," said a senior Congress leader who did not want his name to be quoted.

Man detained for 'raising' pro-Pak slogan in K'taka

Mangaluru: A 43-year-old man was on Monday detained after he allegedly raised pro-Pakistan slogans in front of the mini Vidhan Soudha at Kundapur in neighbouring Udipi district in Karnataka, police said.

The man, said to be mentally unstable, came in front of the mini Vidhan Soudha (a complex housing Government offices) at around 10 am and shouted Pakistan Zindabad several times.

Then he moved on to the corridor and continued shouting the slogan, police said.

A video of the incident recorded by locals became viral within minutes.

On being alerted by locals, police personnel reached the spot and took the man into custody.

Kundapur tahsildar also gave a written complaint to the police.

According to police, the man was said to be mentally unstable and currently under treatment. He was working as teacher and had lost his job eight years ago on account of the 'illness'.

His health condition will be assessed at a hospital. After the report from doctors, further investigation will be held, Udipi Assistant Superintendent of Police Hariram Shankar said.

Family sources said the man, who regularly watches television, may have been influenced by the news items telecast on such slogans raised by some persons elsewhere.

Three students from Kashmir studying at a private engineering college in Hubballi were arrested on sedition charges last month for allegedly raising pro-Pakistan slogans and posting a video of it on a messaging platform on the first anniversary of the Pulwama terrorist attack.

On February 20, a young woman, later identified as Amulya Leona, had raised "Pakistan Zindabad" slogan thrice at an event in Bengaluru against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

Besides, "Pakistan Zindabad" graffiti had been found on the wall of a house and a school in different places in the state in recent days. **PTI**

CORONAVIRUS One more screening counter in Mizoram

Aizawl: The Mizoram Government has set up one more screening counter for coronavirus at Thingsai in Hnahthial district on the Indo-Myanmar border, an official of the state health department said.

Thingsai is the entry and exit point along the Indo-Myanmar border in Hnahthial district.

The official said that screening for coronavirus began at Thingsai police check gate on Saturday.

So far the Mizoram government has set up at least six screening counters for coronavirus to prevent the spread of the deadly virus in the state.

No case of coronavirus has been detected in the state till date, the official said.

The State Government has also formed a task force to monitor screening of passengers along the state borders and international borders. **PTI**

हरियाणा सरकार

TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	DHBNV, HISAR	FOR PROVIDING COMMERCIAL CONSULTANCY ASSISTANCE TO DHBNV ON RETAINERSHIP BASIS FOR OPERATION OF COMMERCIAL BACK OFFICE (AT HISAR)	27.02.2020 09.03.2020	4 CRORE	www.dhbnv.org.in	7419701109 xen1cbo@dhbnv.org.in
2	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GURUGRAM.	PROVIDING AND LAYING 250MM DIA SEWER LINE AND INTERLOCKING TILES IN HOUSE BIRENDER YADAV TO FAZILPUR CHOWK IN WARD NO-26, GURUGRAM	26.02.2020 05.03.2020	4.54 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9821395213 ee7@mcg.gov.in
3	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL REWARI	CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC TOILET BUILDING NEAR ENRTY GATE OF GENERAL BUS STAND, HARYANA ROADWAYS IN MC REWARI + 5 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 12.03.2020	66.87 LACS	https://etender.hry.nic.in	7015483676 Secymc.rewari@gmail.com
4	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GURUGRAM	HIRING OF JETTING MACHINE AND SUPER SUCKER MACHINE WITH DRIVER AND 03 NOS. SEWERMAN AND DIESEL FOR DAY TO DAY COMPLAINTS IN WARD NO.30, ZONE-III, UNDER MCG. + 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 06.03.2020	32.24 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9821395215 ee3@mcg.gov.in
5	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GURUGRAM	PROVIDING & FIXING PRECAST RCC BLOCK/PLOT INDICATOR IN SECTOR-51&57 IN WARD NO.29, UNDER MCG. + 3 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 04.03.2020	62.97 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9821395215 ee3@mcg.gov.in
6	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE PATAUDI	PROVIDING AND INSTALLATION OF OPEN GYM EQUIPMENTS IN SHIV MURTI PARK, PATAUDI. + 1 OTHER WORK	28.02.2020 11.03.2020	10 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nicpge/app	0124-2672869
7	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PANCHKULA	PURCHASE OF MAINTENANCE OF MATERIAL REQUIRED FOR THE YEARS 2020 FOR FOUR MONTHS I.E. 01.01.2020 TO 31.05.2020 FOR MAINTENANCE OF STREET LIGHT IN PANCHKULA ZONE	02.03.2020 09.03.2020	17.87 LACS	https://etender.hry.nic.in	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
8	HVPNL PANCHKULA	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL, MISC. WORKS AT 66KV SUB-STATION, SECTOR-44, GURUGRAM.	CLOSING DATE 20.03.2020	24.87 LACS	https://www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
9	HVPNL PANCHKULA	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL IN THE SPARE LAND AT 220KV GIS SUB-STATION, SECTOR-20, GURUGRAM	CLOSING DATE 20.03.2020	37.62 LACS	https://www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
10	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, GOHANA	CONST. OF RAVIDAS BHAWAN AND CHHATARAVAS IN SECTOR-7, M.C. GOHANA (RECALL).	CLOSING DATE 12.03.2020	20 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01263-252013 Secymc.gohana@hry.nic.in
11	H.S.A.M. BOARD, ELECTRICAL DIVISION, HISAR	IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING SODIUM LIGHTING INSTALLATIONS WITH LED LIGHTS IN NGM / OGM / COTTON MARKET/ VEGETABLE MARKET AT BARWALA (DISTT. HISAR) (6 MONTHS) + 3 OTHER WORK	28.02.2020 13.03.2020	76.47 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	98121-00311 xenelecthisar2018.hsamb@gmail.com
12	HSAMB, REWARI	A/R OF MC PROPERTIES IN NGM AT BAWAL ID-287 + 2 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 05.03.2020	As per Tender Notice	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274-224187 xenrewar2019@gmail.com
13	H.S.A.M. BOARD FARIDABAD	RAISING OF BOUNDARY WALL BACK SIDE SHOP 22 TO 42 IN NVM AT HDAL EXTENSION (MANDI VIKASH KOSH 2019-20). TIME LIMIT FOR 1 MONTH + 13 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 09.03.2020	62.71 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	9971730975 faridabad.hsamb2019@gmail.com
14	UHBVN, KARNAL	4 NOS. MAHINDRA/ TATA, FORCE/ ANY OTHER JEEP OPEN FROM BACK SIDE WITH DRIVER FOR EACH SUB DIVISION I.E. SDO CITY SUB DIVISION, GHD, SDO S/U S/DIVN, GHD, SDO OP S/DIVN, JUNDLA, SDO OP S/DIVN, MURAK	OPENING DATE 11.03.2020	6000/-	www.uhbvn.org.in	0184-2268351 xenopus2karnal@uhbvn.org.in
15	HARYANA SEEDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSION OF SEED PROCESSING PLANT & MACHINERY ON "TURNKEY BASIS".	28.02.2020 01.04.2020	329.97 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9417669911 hsdcl@hry.nic.in
16	BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION HARYANA, BHIWANI	PROVIDING SERVICES FOR LIVE CCTV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM IN SPOT EVALUATION CENTRES AT DISTRICT/SUB. DIVISION/TEHSIL LEVEL ACROSS THE STATE	29.02.2020 14.03.2020	40 LACS	http://www.bseh.org.in	9416973860 asgen@bseh.org.in
17	HARYANA POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION, PANCHKULA	CONSTRUCTION / UP-GRADATION / SPECIAL REPAIR / PROTECTING / CMK / RENOVATION / LANDSCAPING / CLEANING WORKS IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF HARYANA STATE.	02.03.2020 11.03.2020	1527.04 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in & www.hpchc.org.in	dbpanchkula@yahoo.com
18	HARYANA STATE WAREHOUSING	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS	02.03.2020 16.03.2020	AS PER INDIVIDUAL TENDER	etenders.hry.nic.in	secretary

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 80137

Kerala CM rejects CBI probe over missing cartridges, rifles

Thiruvananthapuram: The CAV report on missing rifles and live cartridges rocked the Kerala Assembly on Monday as Opposition Congress-led UDF insisted on a CBI probe which was rejected by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

The Assembly was adjourned for the day in the pre-lunch session by Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan as the United Democratic Front members stormed the Well holding banners and raising slogans after their notice for an adjournment motion on the issue was rejected.

It was first raised during the Question Hour and again

by way of the adjournment motion notice, but Vijayan asserted no rifle was missing from the Special Armed Police Battalion here as found by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and the cartridges were lost mainly during the previous UDF rule.

The Chief Minister said the Left government was viewing the matter 'seriously, adding one police official was arrested and a departmental inquiry pending against 11 others in connection with over 12,000 cartridges going missing.

"There is no relevance for a CBI probe right now. An

effective and comprehensive investigation by our own agency, crime branch, is progressing...Let its report come first," he said.

Replying to the notice for adjournment motion later, he said: "we don't have anything to hide. We just followed the procedures."

As the Opposition targeted state police chief Loknath Behara, who came in for rap from the CAG for purchasing luxury vehicles and constructing villas diverting funds and violating norms, Vijayan said it was not fair to "tarnish the image of a person who is not in the House". **PTI**

हरियाणा सरकार

TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) in Rupees	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER
1	PWD B&R, JHAJJAR	CONSTRUCTION OF ATHLETIC TRACK, FOOTBALL GROUND, BASKET BALL COURT, VOLLEY COURT, LAWN TENNIS COURT, KABBADI GROUND, HOCKEY FIELD AND HAND BALL COURT IN DISTRICT LEVEL SPORTS STADIUM AT VILLAGE SILANA IN JHAJJAR DISTRICT. + 7 OTHER WORKS	02.03.2020 16.03.2020	485.04 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01251-252085
2	PWD B&R, NARNAUL	CONSTRUCTION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE WITH RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION AT VILLAGE DONGRA AHIR IN MOHINDERGARH DISTRICT. (RE-INVITED) + 3 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 20.03.2020	935.77 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01282-251267 / pwd-eeepd-narnaul@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R, AMBALA	CONST. OF OFFICE BUILDING OF INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE DEPTT. PLOT NO. 11&2, SEC-1, MDC PANCHKULA HARYANA (PDG. INTERNAL E.I ONLY) (RECALL). + 3 OTHER WORKS	02.03.2020 16.03.2020	79.31 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2630877 pwd-eeed-ambala@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R, JIND	SPECIAL REPAIR OF PILLUKHERA TO DHAROLI-BHARTANALAIT KHERA UPTO GOHANA-JIND ROAD FROM RD 0.000 TO 0.130 AND RD 0.350 TO 0.750 IN JIND DISTT. (ROAD ID 6861)	CLOSING DATE 19.03.2020	31.80 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01681-249416 pwd-eeep-jnd@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R, HISAR	SPECIAL REPAIR TO SUB HEALTH CENTER AT VILLAGE JIWAN NAGAR/ KHARIWALA/ BAN/ BHAROLANWALI IN DISTT. SIRSA (PDG. E.I INTERNAL ONLY) + 7 OTHER WORKS	03.03.2020 11.03.2020	28.40 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01682-225651 pwd-eeed-hissar@hry.nic.in
6	PWD B&R KAITHAL	TP-23 [KAITHAL-KHANAURI ROAD (NEAR PB. BORDER)] IN KAITHAL DISTT. FOR 18 MONTHS (EIGHTEEN MONTHS) (RE-INVITED)	CLOSING DATE 13.03.2020	6.71 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01746-222282 pwd-eeepd-kaithal@hry.nic.in
7	PWD B&R, PANCHKULA	RE-CARPETING OF ROADS IN THE CAMPUS OF CIVIL HOSPITAL, SECTOR-6, PANCHKULA + 1 OTHER WORK	29.02.2020 13.03.2020	119.20 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2920477 pwd-eeepd-panchkula@hry.nic.in
8	PWD B&R, SONEPAT	IMPROVEMENT BY PROVIDING WIDENING & STRENGTHENING ON VARIOUS ROADS IN PROVINCIAL DIVISION NO.1, SONEPAT (MAHLANA FARMANA ROAD TO THAR KHURD AND ROAD ID 6226, 6228, 6238, 6244, 6267, 9693) IN SONEPAT DISTT.	CLOSING DATE 16.03.2020	426.40 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0130-2244690 pwd-eeepd1-sonapat@hry.nic.in
9	DISTT. FOOD CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIR CONTROLLER, PANCHKULA	MANDI LABOUR AND CARTAGE TENDER WORK-2020-21 + 1 OTHER WORK	03.03.2020 13.03.2020	REFER TO ETENDERS.HRY.NIC.IN/ WEBSITES	haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	9915437006, dfscpk@hry.nic.in and dfscpanchkula@gmail.com
10	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT HARYANA AMBALA	DESILTING OF POND IN VILLAGE PANJOKHARA + 4 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 09.03.2020	EMD 115360	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2973270 xensylambata@gmail.com
11	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT HARYANA KARNAL	ESTIMATE FOR REPAIRING PAINTING AND DISTEMPERING OF KOTHI NO. 2 OF AUG. CANAL COLONY, MEERUT ROAD, KARNAL DURING THE YEAR 2020. + 2 OTHER WORKS	28.02.2020 07.03.2020	4.41 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	xenindivn@yahoo.in
12	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT HARYANA NARNAUL	LAYING RCC PIPELINE 600MM I/D NP-2 FOR FILLING OF VILLAGE POND OF BEGPLUR AT KM 19.725/ OF ATOLI DISTTY. + 8 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 14.03.2020	52.34 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01282-251214
13	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT HARYANA NARNAUL	PROVIDING CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR CARRYING OUT SURVEY, ASSESSMENT OF DISCHARGE & GEO TECHNICAL INVESTIGATION, DETAIL DESIGNING, WORKING DRAWINGS, DETAILED ESTIMATES WITH BOQ, OTHER ALLIED WORKS ETC.	CLOSING DATE 19.03.2020	2.61 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01282-251214
14	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT HARYANA JHAJJAR	CONSTRUCTING BOUNDARY WALL AND SERVICE ROAD FROM MUNDAHERAKOELPUR ROAD TO MUNDAHERA PUMP HOUSE AT KM 3.1 ESCAPE CHANNEL. + 3 OTHER WORKS	01.03.2020 16.03.2020	8.13 LACS	www.hid.gov.in	xenmechjr@gmail.com
15	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT HARYANA DADUPUR	CONSTRUCTING OF APRON FOR CONNECTING THE RLDE BUND FROM RD 1700 TO 1900 AFTER FLOOD 2019	02.03.2020 11.03.2020	1.83 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01735-242638 xendadupur@yahoo.com
16	BPS GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, KHANPUR KALAN, SONIPAT	E-TENDER FOR VARIOUS CONSUMABLES FOR PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT	04.03.2020 24.03.2020	5500	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	bpsgmc.purchase@gmail.com
17	BPS GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, KHANPUR KALAN, SONIPAT	E-TENDER FOR LAZER ORAL TRACHEAL DUAL FOR ANESTHESIA DEPTT. TO THIS INSTITUTE	02.03.2020 20.03.2020	5400/-	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	bpsgmc.purchase@gmail.com
18	PANCHAYATI RAJ, CHARKHI DADRI	(III-RE-TENDER) CONSTRUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE CENTER (4 NOS. IN DISTT CHARKHI DADRI)	CLOSING DATE 12.03.2020	84.80 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
19	FOREST DEPARTMENT GURUGRAM	REPAIRING CUM RENOVATION TUBEWELL INSIDE LAWN PROVIDING DRINKING WATER FACILITY AT SULTANPUR NATIONAL PARK, DIST. GURUGRAM + 1 OTHER WORK	27.02.2020 06.03.2020	7.23 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2583682/ pccofw@hry.nic.in
20	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG, HISAR	A/MTC. VARIOUS W/S SCHEME FALLS UNDER P.H. E S/DIVN. BARWALA. OUTSOURCING THE VARIOUS SERVICES FOR THE 2 MONTHS FOR MAINTENANCE OF W/S SCHEMES AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO. + 5 OTHER WORKS	28.02.2020 05.03.2020	19.31 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

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UP woman harassed over dowry, given triple talaq; husband, in-laws booked

Bareilly (UP): A case of dowry and domestic violence has been registered here against a man and his family members on a complaint by his wife, police said on Monday.

The man also gave triple talaq to the woman over phone, they said.

The case was registered on Sunday on the orders of DIG, Manoj Kumar, SHO, Quila police station said.

The police, however, said no case has been registered under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act which makes instant triple talaq (talaq-e-bid'ah) in any form spoken, in writing or by electronic means such as e-mail, SMS and WhatsApp illegal and void, with up to three years in jail for the husband.

"The woman (complainant) got married to Tasleem on May 9, 2014. After the marriage, her in-laws started harassing her for dowry," he said.

The officer said the complainant was also allegedly molested by her brother-in-law.

"The woman's brother-in-law Altaf often molested her and tried to rape her a few days back. When the woman resisted, he threatened to kill her by putting a knife on her neck. However, as the woman raised an alarm, Altaf fled from there," Kumar said.

"On February 6, when the woman complained about the incident to her husband, he beat her up and threw her out of the house along with the children. Next day, he pronounced triple talaq on her over phone," the officer added. **PTI**

UP: 22-year-old rape survivor dies under mysterious circumstances

Fatehpur (UP): A 22-year-old woman, who was allegedly raped, died under mysterious circumstances at a village here, police said on Monday.

The woman was living at her relative's house after she was raped six months ago, Station House Officer (SHO), Khakheru, Anoop Singh, said.

"She died under mysterious circumstances on Sunday," he said, adding that police took custody of the woman's body when her family members were about to perform last rites and sent it for postmortem.

"She had moved out of her village after being allegedly raped and was staying with her relatives," Singh said. The woman had accused a youth of her village of raping her on the pretext of marriage, the SHO said. **PTI**

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi

... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

TENDER NOTICE

Date: **03.03.2020**

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following jobs from all bidders

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/19-20/RB/KD/72	SUPPLY OF PACKED DRINKING WATER (20 Ltr Jar) IN BYPL	₹89.32 Lakhs	₹ 1.79 Lakhs	17.03.2020 UPTO 3:00 PM	17.03.2020 AT 4:00 PM

Cost of each Tender Documents: ₹ 1180/-

For details in respect of qualifying requirements, Terms & Conditions, Purchase and Services (Submission of tender documents/Commendum(if any) etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com -> BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD -> Tenders -> open tenders.

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd.Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC11525
TEL: 011-4124 7785 | Fax:011-4124 7787 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (N)-II
NEAR TRANSPORT AUTHORITY MAIN BURARI ROAD DELHI-84

NIT. No.104 (Item no.1,2,3,4) (2019-20) E.E (North)-II.

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Earnest Money	Tender fee (Non-refundable)	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Making house sewer connections in the existing sewerage system at D-Block Gandhi Vihar in AC-04, under E.E (North)-II. I.D 200. DUB 188879_1	34,25,848/-	28.02.2020 02 P.M. onward	68,600/-	500/-	Technical bid will be received 20.03.2020, 3:00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank.
2	Making house sewer connections in the existing sewerage system at E-Block Gandhi Vihar in AC-04, under E.E (North)-II. I.D 200. DUB 188879_2	32,57,869/-	28.02.2020 02 P.M. onward	65,200/-	500/-	Technical bid will be received 20.03.2020, 3:00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank.
3	Making house sewer connections in the existing sewerage system at C-Block Gandhi Vihar in AC-04, under E.E (North)-II. I.D 200. DUB 188879_4	34,25,848/-	28.02.2020 02 P.M. onward	68,600/-	500/-	Technical bid will be received 20.03.2020, 3:00 PM & opening of Financial bid after completion of technical bid & confirmation of EMD from Bank.

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 881/2019-20

Sd/-
(S. K. SINGH)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (N)-II

CORONAVIRUS

World economy may shrink because of virus: Watchdog

AP ■ PARIS

A global agency says the spreading new virus could make the world economy shrink this quarter, for the first time since the international financial crisis more than a decade ago.

shrank on a quarter-on-quarter basis was at the end of 2008, during the depths of the financial crisis. On a full-year basis, it last shrank in 2009.

Stocks give up gains to fresh cases

Benchmark indices slide for 7th day

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market benchmark index Sensex wiped out its sharp gains in the last hour of trade to close down by 153 points on Monday as detection of fresh coronavirus cases in India spooked domestic investors.

The broader Nifty of the NSE also shed more than 400 points from its day's high and closed lower by 69 points or 0.62 per cent at 11,132.75.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices fell up to 0.77 per cent. Top losers in the Sensex pack included SBI, Tata Steel, Hero MotoCorp, Bajaj Auto, ONGC and IndusInd bank.

Coronavirus may impact India's March quarter GDP growth by 0.20%: Report

Mumbai: The coronavirus epidemic can impact India's March quarter GDP growth by 0.20 per cent as imports from China for crucial sectors have got affected, a foreign brokerage said on Monday.

Virus to cut India's diamond exports to \$ 19 bn for 2020-21

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The country's diamond exports could shrink by a fifth to USD 19 billion by the end of 2020-21, as the novel coronavirus (n-CoV) outbreak amplifies sluggishness in global demand, according to a report.

In the first nine months of this fiscal, India's total diamond exports by value were down 18 per cent, year-on-year. About 40 per cent of these exports are to Hong Kong, which has seen dysfunctional local markets over the past year or so.

math of the n-CoV outbreak, exports worth over USD 1 billion may be lost in this quarter alone," Crisil Ratings Senior Director Subodh Rai said.

₹ slumps 50 paise to 72.74 against \$

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mumbai: The rupee pared all its initial gains and settled 50 paise down at 72.74 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday after two fresh cases of coronavirus detected in India.

India's mfg activity eases marginally in Feb

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's manufacturing sector activity eased in February from a near eight-year high in the previous month and business sentiment took a hit amid impact of coronavirus outbreak on exports and supply chains, a monthly survey said on Monday.

COVID-19 outbreak hits biz sentiment: PMI

The country's manufacturing sector activity eased in February from a near eight-year high in the previous month and business sentiment took a hit amid impact of coronavirus outbreak on exports and supply chains, a monthly survey said on Monday.

India's mfg activity eases marginally in Feb

conditions across the sector. This is the 31st consecutive month that the manufacturing PMI has remained above the 50-point mark.

Poultry sector faces ₹1,750 cr losses due to coronavirus rumours

Demands relief package from Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Poultry breeders on Monday demanded a relief package from the Government claiming that the sector has incurred heavy losses of around ₹1,750 crore in a month due to fake news that coronavirus was spreading due to chickens.

plunged to ₹10-30 per kg at farm gate level due to a slump in chicken demand while the average cost of production is ₹80 per kg, the All India Poultry Breeders Association (AIPBA) said in a representation to the Ministry of Animal Husbandry.

Bahadur Ali said. The loss of broiler farmers, integration companies and breeding companies put together was about ₹1,750 crore during the third week of January till the third week of February, he said, adding that it has created "massive crisis" and forced poultry sector to "bankruptcy".

sive problem for the poultry sector, Ali said, "If these conditions persist in March going forward a loss of ₹1,750 crore per month will be additional."

No major impact on Indian fertiliser sector

Mumbai: While many sectors are under pressure due to the spread of coronavirus, the impact on Indian fertiliser players is expected to be soft even as a major portion of raw materials for phosphatic fertilisers are imported, according to a report.

overall fertiliser market remains well supplied due to the build-up of inventories at the producer's end in China as international prices remained weak," ICRA group head and senior vice president K Ravichandran said.

As per ICRA's analysis, the domestic industry imports a major portion of the raw materials for phosphatic fertilisers, mainly phosphoric acid and finished fertilisers — mainly DAP (47 per cent of total imports in FY2019) from China.

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

Fitch Solutions cuts India's economic growth forecast to 4.9%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Fitch Solutions on Monday cut its forecast for India's economic growth to 4.9 per cent in the current fiscal that ends March 31, saying manufacturing could come under pressure from weak domestic demand and supply chain disruptions due to the coronavirus outbreak.

2021), it said. "We at Fitch Solutions are revising down our forecast for India's real GDP growth to 4.9 per cent in FY2019/20, from 5.1 per cent previously, and 5.4 per cent in FY2020/21, from 5.9 per cent in FY2019/20, from 5.9 per cent previously," the agency said in its outlook for the country.

ond quarter owing to slower government consumption, a steeper contraction in gross fixed capital formation and a smaller net exports contribution.

(NBFCs)," it said. NBFCs are a key channel in which consumers obtain loans for vehicle and housing purchases. "Our revision is due to our view for disruption in the automotive and electronics supply chain from the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak in China to weigh on India's export manufacturing sector, and for this to have negative knock-on effects on the broad services sector," Fitch Solutions said.

BUSINESS CORNER



New Delhi: NBCC has won "Digital PSU Award" conferred upon it by the Governance Now at its 7th PSU Award Event held on 19.02.2020 in New Delhi. The Company received the award for its outstanding contribution in adoption of maximum Digital Technology in the organisation's operations as envisioned in the Prime Minister's Digital India initiative.

21 RLY EMPLOYEES AWARDED SAFETY AWARD



New Delhi: General Manager Northern Railway, Rajiv Chaudhary delivered safety and Infrastructure work and awarded 21 Employees through safety awards for the month of January & February 2020 at Northern Railway Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi on Monday.

DELHI METRO HOLDS 1ST FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



New Delhi: The Delhi Metro in association with Football Delhi, organised its first Football Tournament on 28th and 29th February, 2020 at Dr. Ambedkar Stadium, New Delhi. Six teams from different departments contested under the titles of all Directors of DMRC. The Operation United Football Club (OUFC) team won the tournament after defeating the Metro Knight, both represented by Operations and Maintenance wings respectively.

OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW, RAMBAN

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. 16 of REW RAMBAN of 2019 Dated 27-02-2020 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, due to poor response of office e-NITs No. 14 & 15 of REW Ramban dated:- 17-02-2020 & 19-02-2020 fresh short time tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. for the following works:

Nagar Nigam Haridwar

Letter No: 2707 Re-TENDER NOTICE Date: 29.02.2020 Nagar Nigam Haridwar (NNH) invites tenders from interested eligible bidder to set up plant for conversion of postconsumer mixed waste plastics from Municipal Solid Waste into fuel/ Hydrocarbons derivatives of capacity 10 TPD by using an innovative Patented Environmentally clean technology (with zero pollution) through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode based on Design, Build, Finance, operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis.

UJVN LTD.

H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephones : 0135-2763508, 2763808 & Fax : 0135- 2763507 CIN No. UJ40101UR2001SGC025886 Website : www.ujvnl.com Tender Inviting Notice Office of Executive Engineer (Generation), Khodri Power Station, Dakpathar invites sealed tenders for following work.

India, Calgary seeks bilateral investments

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Calgary in Alberta, Canada, termed as one of the most sought entrepreneurial cities of Canada is seeking bilateral investments, skill and tech talent partnership, higher education partnerships and film industry collaboration for significant promising economic potential on both the sides.

PAN holders may be fined up to ₹10,000 for not linking to Aadhaar

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department has said PAN holders may face penal action under the Income Tax Act if they fail to link it with Aadhar before the deadline. In a fresh notification, the tax department said that the PAN cards will become inoperative and they could face a fine of up to ₹10,000 in case of failure to link it with Aadhaar cards.

Will resume ops against Afghan forces: Taliban

Kabul: The Taliban said Monday they were resuming offensive operations against Afghan security forces, ending the partial truce that preceded the signing of a deal between the insurgents and Washington. The declaration comes only a day after President Ashraf Ghani said he would continue the partial truce at least until talks between Afghan officials and the Taliban kick-off, supposedly on March 10.

reports of any big attacks in the country yet," he added. Since the deal signing on Saturday, the Taliban have been publicly celebrating their "victory" over the US. Under the terms of the deal, foreign forces will quit Afghanistan within 14 months, subject to Taliban security guarantees and a pledge by the insurgents to hold talks with the Kabul government.

The dramatic fall in attacks due to last week's partial truce between the Taliban, US and Afghan forces offered Afghans a rare opportunity to go about their daily lives without fear of violence. Ghani warned the insurgents Monday that he was not committed to a key clause in the Doha deal involving the release of thousands of Taliban prisoners. **AFP**

3 killed, 11 injured in blast in east Afghanistan: Police

Khost: A bombing at a football match killed three people and injured 11 others on Monday in eastern Afghanistan, a police official told AFP, as the Taliban announced an end to a partial truce in the country. "A motorcycle rigged with a bomb exploded during a football match," said Sayed Ahmad Babazai, police chief of eastern Khost province, giving details of the toll. Abdul Fatah Wakman, president of the Khost Football Federation, told AFP the three people killed were brothers. No group immediately

claimed responsibility for the attack. The limited truce between the Taliban, US and Afghan forces preceded the signing of a landmark deal between the insurgents and Washington in Doha on Saturday. But on Monday the Taliban announced they would resume attacks against Afghan forces, only a day after President Ashraf Ghani committed to continuing the partial truce at least until talks between Kabul and the Taliban kick off, supposedly on March 10. **AFP**

CORONAVIRUS

Death toll crosses 2,900 in China

Beijing: China has reported 42 new fatalities from the novel coronavirus outbreak, taking the death toll in the country to 2,912, Chinese health officials said on Monday, as the rapid spread of the epidemic wreaks havoc globally causing over 3,000 deaths and infecting more than 88,000 people. The deadly virus that first emerged in China in December last year has spread to more than 70 countries and has infected more than 88,000 people, including over 80,000 in China. China's National Health Commission (NHC) said on Sunday it received reports of 202 new confirmed cases of coronavirus on Sunday, taking the total number of cases in the mainland to 80,026.

The new cases are the lowest since January 22 when Beijing initiated emergency measures, including placing the worst-hit Wuhan city and 17 other cities with over 50 million people under lockdown. Forty-two deaths were reported on Sunday in the virus-hit Hubei Province and its capital Wuhan, the NHC said in its daily report. The overall cases included 2,912 people, died of the disease, 32,652 patients who were still being treated and 44,462 patients discharged after recovery, it

said. The commission said that 715 people were still suspected of being infected with the virus. Hubei province and its capital Wuhan which remained the epicentres of the coronavirus outbreak reported 196 new confirmed cases. The latest report brought the total confirmed cases in the hard-hit province to 67,103 and that of total deaths to 2,803, including 2,227 fatalities in Wuhan, local health commission said. Wuhan reported 193 confirmed cases and 32 deaths on Sunday. In total, the city has registered 49,315 confirmed cases. **PTI**

Indonesia confirms first cases

Jakarta: Indonesia on Monday reported its first confirmed cases of coronavirus, after health officials in the world's fourth-most populous country hit back at questions over its apparent lack of infected patients. A 64-year-old woman and her daughter, 31, tested positive for the virus at a Jakarta hospital, said health minister Terawan Agus Putranto. "This morning I received the test results and they were positive," he told reporters in the capital. "Both are in good condition...They don't have serious breathing difficulties." Officials said that the pair may have been in close contact with a Japanese national who has since tested positive after returning to neighbouring Malaysia. **AFP**

First case confirmed in Moscow

Moscow: Russian authorities on Monday confirmed the first case of coronavirus in Moscow, saying the patient had recently returned from Italy. The anti-coronavirus task force said in a statement quoted by Russian news agencies that the "young man" had fallen ill on February 21 while on vacation to Italy. The man, who resides outside Moscow, returned to Russia on February 23, and started showing signs of a respiratory viral infection, it said. He sought medical help and was hospitalised on February 27. Testing confirmed the infection on Monday and his symptoms were not severe, the statement said. **AFP**

Virus kills member of council advising Iran's supreme leader

Tehran: A member of a council that advises Iran's supreme leader died on Monday after falling sick from the new coronavirus, state radio reported, becoming the first top official to succumb to the illness that is affecting members of the Islamic Republic's leadership. The death of Expediency Council member Mohammad Mirmohammadi came as Iran announced the virus had killed 66 people among 1,501 con-

firmed cases in the country. Iran has the highest death toll in the world after China, the epicenter of the outbreak. Mirmohammadi died at a north Tehran hospital of the virus, state radio said. He was 71. The council advises Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as well as settles disputes between the top cleric and parliament. His death comes as other top officials have contracted the virus in Iran. **AP**

Chinese man sentenced to death for virus checkpoint killing

Beijing: A Chinese court has sentenced a man to death for fatally stabbing two officials at a checkpoint set up to control the spread of the new coronavirus outbreak. The virus has infected more than 80,000 people and killed nearly 3,000 in mainland China — prompting a wide network of temperature checks, travel restrictions, residential checks and closures nation-

wide. Many villages and communities have also implemented their own blockades and tough measures to keep people out, fearful that travellers could infect their communities. On Sunday, a court handed down a death sentence to a 23-year-old man after he stabbed two officials at one local village checkpoint. **AFP**

Iraq's PM-designate withdraws from post, prolonging deadlock

Baghdad: Iraq's prime minister-designate announced his withdrawal from the post Sunday night after failing to secure parliamentary support for his Cabinet selection, prolonging the political deadlock in the country amid multiple economic, health and security challenges.



Migrants hold placards during a rally outside the Moria refugee camp on the northeastern Aegean island of Lesbos, Greece on Monday **AP**

Prime Minister designate Mohammed Allawi blamed political parties he did not name, saying they "were not serious about implementing reforms that they promised to the people" and accusing them of placing obstacles in the way of a new and independent government. "If I agreed to offer concessions, I would be prime minister now, but I tried everything possible to save the country from sliding toward the unknown and resolve the current crisis. But the negotiations hit repeated snags," he said in a short address to the nation, explaining his decision to withdraw.

Israel votes for third time in 12 months

Jerusalem: Israelis voted on Monday in an unprecedented third parliamentary elections in less than a year to break the deadlock on government formation, with the country's longest serving Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fighting for his political survival amid indictments on graft charges. Israel's Central Elections Committee (CEC) said that 27.6 per cent of registered voters had cast their ballots by noon, the highest figures for this hour since the 1999 elections when incumbent Prime Minister Netanyahu lost to Ehud Barak in direct elections for premiership. Neither Netanyahu, who heads the right-wing Likud party, nor his main challenger, Benny Gantz — leader of the Blue and White alliance — were able to put together majority coalitions following the last two elections. The final opinion polls sug-

gested the latest round is too close to call. Some 10,631 polling stations opened at 7 AM Israel time to enable about 6.45 million eligible voters to cast their ballots. There were 14 special polling stations for Israelis quarantined due to possible exposure to coronavirus. President Reuven Rivlin expressed a feeling of "deep shame" while voting. "This is normally a festive day, but the truth is that I don't feel like celebrating. I only feel a sense of deep shame when I face you, my fellow citizens," Rivlin said after casting his vote at the Yefe Nof school in Jerusalem. "We just don't deserve this. We don't deserve another awful and grubby election campaign like the one that ends today and we don't deserve this never-ending instability. We deserve a government that works for us," the Israeli President said. **AFP**

Eight suspected Rohingya gangsters shot dead in B'desh

Dhaka: Bangladeshi security officials on Monday fatally shot seven suspected members of a Rohingya refugee gang allegedly involved in drug dealing and human trafficking, officials said. In a separate incident, another Rohingya man was killed early Monday during a gunfight with members of the Bangladesh Border Guards. The killings of the seven suspected Rohingya gangsters occurred near a refugee camp in Teknaf in Cox's Bazar near Bangladesh's border with Myanmar, police Superintendent A B M Masud Hossain said over phone. More than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims fled from Myanmar after the Buddhist-majority country's military launched a crackdown against them in August 2017 in response to an attack by insurgents, and are staying in crowded refugee camps in Bangladesh. **AP**

Biden fights for momentum in Dems' shifting primary

Selma (US): An emboldened Joe Biden is trying to cast himself as the clear moderate alternative to progressive Bernie Sanders as the Democrats' shrinking presidential field raced toward Super Tuesday. One of Biden's leading moderate rivals, former South Bend, Indiana, mayor Pete Buttigieg, dropped out of the campaign Sunday just 24 hours after Biden scored a resounding victory in South Carolina, his first of the

2020 rollercoaster nomination fight. While other rivals appeared undeterred, Biden pressed his case during a round of national television interviews that reflected a stark reality a day after his resounding primary victory in South Carolina: The former vice president was forced to rely upon free media coverage because he was underfunded, underfunded and almost out of time as he fought to transform

his sole win into a national movement. Biden vowed to improve his campaign operation, his fundraising haul — and even his own performance — in an interview on ABC's "This Week." He warned of a "stark choice" between him and Sanders, while making the case he was the candidate who could win up and down the ballot and in states beyond those voting next week. Biden added a swipe at one of Sanders' signature lines during an appearance on "Fox New Sunday": "The people aren't looking for revolution. They're looking for results." The newfound confidence came at a crossroads in the Democratic Party's turbulent primary season. Sanders remained the undisputed front-runner. But the rest of the field was decidedly unsettled, even after Biden's South Carolina blowout and Buttigieg's sudden departure.

Starting Tuesday, and most Tuesdays through early June, batches of states would vote at the same time in what had essentially become a national election. **AP**

In Texas, Democrats do battle for Latino vote

Houston: In Elizabeth Warren's Houston campaign office, one early morning in February, volunteers bustled around arranging chairs in a circle and tacking Spanish-language posters to the walls. They were soon joined by a dozen Latino voters, come to discuss the Democratic White House race — with days to go until "Super Tuesday" on March 3, when Texas and 13 other states vote to pick a challenger to President Donald Trump. For an hour and a half, people of all ages — seniors, young adults, families with children — talked about immigration,

healthcare and their experiences as Latinos living in a state where they make up a third of the electorate. "A lot of the time, we are kind of ignored as a community," said novelist Ariane Navarro, joined for the event by her husband and their two children. "I'm surrounded by educated Latinos, and we all believe that we do have a voice and we can make a change in Texas," the former teacher told AFP. Most of all, Navarro is keen to help her younger family members register to vote, in line with a broader effort to boost turnout among the state's Hispanic community. **AFP**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, a public notice that the residential flat No. 60, Block-D, First Floor "Jalvayu Vihar", Sector-21, Noida, UP, has been allotted in the name of original allottee Wg. CDR. Ashok Kumar Sahai (Retd.) S/o Late Dr. George Sahai And Mrs. Dorothy Sahai W/O Wg. CDR. Ashok Kumar Sahai both R/o B-5, Sector-A, Mahanagar, Lucknow, U.P. and the above said flat was sold on the basis of G.P.A. To the following person: 1. A GPA was executed on 18-04-1996 in favour of Mrs. Suguna K. Kutty, W/o Mr. Vandyazhy Nellikaleedom Kesavan Kutty V.N.K. (Kutty) R/o Flat No. D-60, Jal Vayu Vihar, Sector-21, Noida U.P. which is registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Noida, Dist. G. B. Nagar, (U.P.) and the Agreement to Sell also Executed in his favour which is not registered. 2. Because an agreement to sell is not registered or no agreement to sell executed so it is informed to all concern that the said Type V, Flat No. 60, Block-D, First Floor, "Jalvayu Vihar", Sector-21, Noida U.P. is going to be transferred in favour of Mr. Vandyazhy Nellikaleedom Kesavan Kutty (V.N.K. Kutty) S/o Late Sh. Kurnath Narayana Menon R/o Flat No. D-60, Jal Vayu Vihar, Sector-21, Noida, U.P. If same one has/have any objection, kindly inform to (Group Housing Division) Noida authority with all evidence within 30 days of publication of this notice. Suguna K. Kutty

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Sh. Kishan Lal Arora S/o Sh. Ganesh Das and his wife Veena Kumari both R/o C-3/47 & 59, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-53, have severed their relations and debarred their son Chand Kumar and his wife Kalpana Saini from all their moveable-immovable properties due to their misbehavior and misconduct. My clients and their family members shall not be responsible for their any kind of act(s)/ transaction(s) in any manner whatsoever. Y. K. Sharma (Advocate) Delhi High Court F-510, 5th Floor, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-110092

EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

E-TENDER NOTICE

01) Name of Area: Administration Department, ECL, HQ. 02) Tender Notice No. and Date: ECL/C-5(D)/Admn/20/e-tender/107, Date: 02.03.2020. 03) Name of Work: SERVICE CHARGE for supply of air tickets (both domestic and international) for official travels of executives of ECL including Independent Directors, Directors from MOC and other dignitaries as and when required. 04) Estimated cost: Rs.1,51,20,000.00. 05) Tender document download Start date: 03.03.2020. 06) Tender document download end date: 19.03.2020. 07) Tender opening Date and time: 21.03.2020, 11:00 Hrs. Details of the tender can be seen in ECL website www.easterncoal.nic.in or https://coalindiatenders.nic.in or http://eprocure.gov.in

VISIT US AT www.easterncoal.nic.in

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/663/2020

NIFT invites Sealed Tenders for amc and operation of RO Plant 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 - ₹15000/-

Last Date of submission of tender - 12.03.2020 at 03:00 PM

Scheduled date of opening of tender - 12.03.2020 at 03:30 PM

Estate Engineer (Bldg)

Pak to request UK Govt for Sharif's deportation

Lahore: Pakistan will request the British government to deport Nawaz Sharif, a senior official said while alleging that the "absconding" former prime minister was playing a "fixed match" regarding his illness while in London. Casting doubts on the illness of the 70-year-old three-time former prime minister, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information Firdous Ashiq Awan said Sharif has neither undergone any heart surgery nor was he admitted to hospital for any emergency during the last three months. Sharif left London in November last for treatment after the Lahore High Court allowed him to go abroad on medical grounds for four weeks. **PTI**

Bus crash kills 25 in S Africa, says Minister

Johannesburg: Twenty-five people died on Monday when a bus rolled down a steep embankment in South Africa's coastal Eastern Cape province, the country's transport minister said. "Reports indicate that the driver lost control of the bus, which subsequently rolled down a steep embankment, leaving 25 dead and approximately 62 injured," Fikile Mbalula said in a statement. "To lose so many lives in a single accident is devastating and shocking." The bus was carrying over 80 mainly elderly people to the town centre in Butterworth, provincial transport department spokesman, Unathi Binqose, said. "The driver lost control of the vehicle and it rolled down a very steep embankment," Binqose said. **AFP**

HDFC BANK Head Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400 013 Regional Office: HDFC Bank Ltd., Dept For Special Operations, 5th floor, Ansal Classique Tower, Plot no. 1, Near Community Centre, J Block, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi - 110027

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable properties mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s) that the Authorized Officer(s) of HDFC BANK LTD. had taken physical possession of the following property/ies mentioned, pursuant to demand raised vide notice(s) issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS, WHATEVER IS THERE IS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The sale of the below-mentioned Properties shall be conducted by way of E-Auction through Web Portal: <https://www.bankeauctions.com>

S. No.	Name of the Branch & Account	Name of the Mortgagor & Guarantors of the property	Details of property	Amount as per Demand Notice		Inspection Date and Time	Reserve Price/ EMD	Date/Time of e-Auction	Last Date for Receipt of Bids	Name of Authorised Officer/Phone No./Email id
				Demand Notice Date	Bid Increase Amount					
1.	HDFC Bank Ltd., Delhi M/s Chawla Hardware And Electrical Account No. 50200014327958	Mortgagors / Guarantors: Mr. Rajeev Chawla & Mrs. Anjana Chawla	Item No.11 Entire Basement without roof rights admeasuring 300 square yards, out of Built up freehold property bearing No. C-118-119, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi - 110015 along with 1/5th proportionate rights of the land beneath the said building, with common rights and titles, with the freehold rights of the land under the said property	Rs.4,36,36,449.88	08th August 2017	18/03/2020 10.00 AM to 11.00 AM	Rs. 67,00,000/- Rs. 6,70,000/-	23/03/2020 01.30 PM to 02.30 PM	20/03/2020 till 4.00 PM	Mr Anirudh Bhargav Mobile : 8802112088 anirudh.bhargav@hdfcbank.com
2.	HDFC Bank Ltd, Delhi M/s R S Trading Co. Account No. 10022790000014	Mortgagor / Guarantor: Mrs. Veena Tandon Mr. Nikhil Tandon, Mr. Anil Tandon & Mr. Sunil Tandon	Item No.12 Entire 2nd Floor, 3rd Floor, with roof rights part of Commercial Property bearing No. 6182-89, Basti Harphool Singh, Ward No. 14, Sadar Bazaar, Delhi admeasuring 193 square yards	Rs.5,88,88,586.30	30th March 2017	18/03/2020 02.00 PM to 03.00 PM	Rs. 1,48,50,000/- Rs. 14,85,000/- Rs.50,000/-	23/03/2020 02.30 PM to 03.30 PM	20/03/2020 till 4.00 PM	Mr Anirudh Bhargav Mobile : 8802112088 anirudh.bhargav@hdfcbank.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The e-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS, WHATEVER IS THERE IS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS"
- The interested bidders shall submit their EMD details and documents through Web Portal: <https://www.bankeauctions.com> (the user ID & Password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with <https://www.bankeauctions.com> through Login ID & Password. The EMD shall be payable through NEFT / RTGS in the following Account: 50200006492171, Name of the Account : ONLINE AUCTION ACCOUNT-RPM LEGAL, Name of the Beneficiary : HDFC BANK LTD., IFSC Code : HDFC0000240 or through Demand Draft drawn in favour of HDFC Bank Ltd Account No. 50200006492171 latest by 4.00 P.M on or before the dates mentioned in the table above. Please note that the Cheques shall not be accepted as EMD amount.
- To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance as per Bank's record on the property statutory dues like property taxes, society dues etc. The Bank however shall not be responsible for any outstanding statutory dues/encumbrances/tax arrears, if any. The intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies & to inspect & satisfy themselves. Property can be inspected strictly on the above mentioned date and time.
- The intended bidders who have deposited the EMD and require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may contact our service provider M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd., Plot No 301, Gulf Petro Chem Building, Udyog Vihar, Phase 2, Gurgaon. Helpline No's: 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, Mr Vinod Chauhan Mobile: 9813887931, Help Line e-mail ID: support@bankeauctions.com and for any property related query may contact the Authorized officer as mentioned above in office hours during the working days. (10:00 AM to 5:00 PM).
- The highest bid shall be subject to approval of HDFC Bank Limited. Authorized Officer reserves the right to accept/reject all or any of the offers/ bids so received without assigning any reasons whatsoever. His decision shall be final & binding.
- (FOR DETAILED TERM AND CONDITIONS PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE www.hdfcbank.com and www.bankeauctions.com)

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

This may also be treated as notice u/r 8(6) Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to borrowers/ and Guarantors of the above said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date. The borrower/ guarantors/mortgagors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Place: Delhi Date : 03.03.2020

Authorised Officer HDFC Bank Ltd

Madrid take Clasico honours

Real Madrid defeat Barcelona in Clasico to regain top spot in La Liga

AFP ■ MADRID

Real Madrid won the Clasico and might have saved their season as they ended their slump in the best way possible on Sunday by beating Barcelona 2-0 and returning to the top of La Liga.

Vinicius Junior's deflected finish and a stoppage-time goal from Mariano Diaz decided a frenzied contest at the Santiago Bernabeu, where Madrid found new life after a Champions League defeat by Manchester City had left them on the brink of crisis.

"It's been a tough week," said Real Madrid manager Zinedine Zidane. "We talked about how we had an opportunity this weekend and we took it."

Victory put them one point clear at the top of the table and shifts focus back to Quique Setien's Barcelona, who were outthought and, at times, outplayed.

"The reality is we lost a lot of confidence with the ball," said Setien. "We entered a nervous spell and that's when the goal came."

Lionel Messi's rasping shot was saved by Real goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois in the first half but it was the Argentine's opposing captain, Sergio

Ramos, who was thrashing his arms in celebration after the final whistle.

His reaction was an indication of the importance of this victory, not only for the effect it has on the standings but on the dynamic of the title race, which had seemed to be switching firmly in favour of Barca.

OPPORTUNITY MISSED

Cristiano Ronaldo, now of Juventus, was watching from an executive box and Madrid could have done with him during a period in which they had won only one of their last five games.

Zidane said on Saturday this match would not decide who lifted the trophy in May but a Barca win and a five-point gap might well have been difficult to close.

Yet from the start Barcelona seemed keener to kill the game than win it, playing for time in the hope of keeping the contest tight, when they might have been better off attacking their opponents' fragility.

"The Madrid we faced in the first half was one of the worst Madrids I have faced at the Bernabeu," said Gerard Pique. "I don't say it as a criticism, we



Vinicius Junior celebrates after scoring Real Madrid's opener against Barcelona RMFC/Twitter

also have our problems, but we've missed an opportunity."

There was more tension than creativity in the early stages as Fede Valverde crashed into Arthur Melo before fellow Spain full-backs Dani Carvajal and Jordi Alba were both booked after a disagreement.

Madrid had the better of the play and regularly broke at speed through Vinicius down the left but constantly they failed to make the final pass, with

Isco once left with his head in his hands after Marcelo opted not to pull the ball back.

But Madrid remained in the ascendancy and in the 71st minute they took the lead. Benzema came short and pointed right to encourage Vinicius to run in behind. Kroos found him and Vinicius's shot deflected off the sliding Pique to beat Ter Stegen at his near post.

The game opened up as Barcelona chased an equaliser. Marcelo celebrat-

FIGURATIVELY

20 Vinicius Jr completed 20 touches in the opposite box vs Barcelona, more than any other single game for Real Madrid in all competitions (level with vs Mellilla at home in Copa del Rey)

0 Lionel Messi has not been involved in any of his last five appearances against Real Madrid in all competitions, his worst historic run in the Clasico (425 minutes)

50 Mariano Diaz's goal is the fastest by a sub in El Clasico in La Liga in the 21st century (50 seconds)

1 Vinicius Junior (19 years and 233 days) has become the youngest player to score in El Clasico in La Liga in the 21st century, breaking the record previously held by Lionel Messi in March 2007 (19y 259d)

Klopp to beef up FA Cup side

AFP ■ LONDON

Chelsea vs Liverpool
Live from 1:15am IST
SONY TEN 2 NETWORK

Jürgen Klopp said he would name a more senior side for Liverpool's FA Cup trip to Chelsea today after relying on the club's talented youngsters to make it to the fifth round.

Klopp left under-23 coach Neil Critchley, who was named Blackpool manager on Monday, in charge for a 1-0 fourth-round replay win over Shrewsbury, while Klopp and his senior players enjoyed a two-week winter break.

However, the layoff has done Liverpool little good in recent weeks. They returned rusty and lost for the first time in 45 Premier League games at Watford on Saturday, beaten 3-0.

Klopp could still rest a number of key players at Stamford Bridge but pointed to a 2-2 draw at Shrewsbury that forced the replay in January as indicative of his plans.

Adrian, Dejan Lovren, Joel Matip, Fabinho and Divock Origi all started that game, while Mohamed Salah, Roberto

Firmino and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain came off the bench.

"It didn't destruct us, it's just the situation," Klopp said at his pre-match press conference on Monday, referring to the Watford defeat.

"Nobody can tell us how to deal in the best way with runs like this because not a lot of teams had it. I was not happy with the performance but I was always clear there will be a moment when it can happen. Now it happened, that's how it is, nothing else."

"It's a different situation like it was in the last round. If you see the Shrewsbury team at Shrewsbury that was a FA Cup team for us in the moment we thought would make sense."

"It will not be the same team that played the second game against Shrewsbury." Chelsea are also desperate for a cup pick-me-up as they were thrashed 3-0 at home by Bayern Munich in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie and have won just five of their past 16 Premier League games.

The faltering form of the chasing pack behind them means Frank Lampard's men are still clinging onto fourth place in the Premier League and Klopp insisted the former England midfielder is still doing a fine job in his first full season at Stamford Bridge.

"The way they go is really promising and Frank is doing an incredible job, but for all managers and especially Frank, he was a very successful player, to deal with defeats is the biggest challenge," added Klopp.

"The fight for the Champions League means you have to beat three or four teams with similar circumstances, similar opportunities in a really long and demanding season. That's not so easy."



Lampard to look at goalkeeper options at end of season



AFP ■ LONDON

Chelsea manager Frank Lampard said on Monday he would reassess his goalkeeper options at the end of the season after dropping the world's most expensive goalkeeper, Kepa Arrizabalaga, in recent weeks.

The Spanish international has fallen behind 38-year-old Willy Caballero after a series of poor performances in his second season after a £72 million (\$92 million) move from Athletic Bilbao.

"Of course in the summer then we look at the group as a whole and think how can we improve but there are no decisions or thoughts beyond the game tomorrow night as far as I'm concerned," Lampard said.

Kepa could return to face the runaway Premier League leaders at Stamford Bridge and Lampard praised his response to being dropped for the past five games. "He's been professional as expected and has trained well, kept his head down, supported the team, and the group," added Lampard.

"Every player is in control of their destiny in terms of how they train and how they play. This is Chelsea and we're trying to close the gap to the top, so there can be no one that can be relaxed or loose, we have to push every day."

Lampard will again be without the injured Tammy Abraham and Christian Pulisic for the visit of Liverpool but hopes to have both back in the near future to aid Chelsea's challenge for a top-four finish in the Premier League.

"It's certainly frustrating for them, particularly Christian, who has had a big phase out now and is desperate to get back," said Lampard.

"I'm hoping they might be fit over the next week or two. I just can't say that with clarity because they've both had their issues."

Saina, Ankita lead Fed Cup challenge

PTI ■ DUBAI

Ankita Raina's red-hot form and Sania Mirza's assuring presence will give India a much better shot at the Play-offs place when the six-team Fed Cup competition begins here today.

India will begin their campaign by locking horns with China today and are scheduled to clash with Uzbekistan (Wednesday), Korea (Thursday), Chinese Taipei (Friday) and Indonesia (Saturday) during the week.

Ankita has been in tremendous form since the start of the season, winning two ITF singles and as many doubles titles.

She is placed at a career-best 160 in the singles ranking chart but during the Fed Cup the gritty Ankita has always punched above her weight, giving tough times to formidable opponents.

She would be captain Vishal Uppal's

biggest weapon apart from multiple-time doubles Grand Slam champion Sania, who is returning to Fed Cup after four years.

The three-week delay in the start of the tournament due to Coronavirus outbreak has given Sania a chance to recover from her calf injury which had forced her to retire mid-way from her Australian Open women's doubles opener.

Her experience of playing and winning at the big stage will help younger players in the side in handling the pressure situations better.

"I had a good start to the season, so I am confident going into the competition. And definitely Sania will inspire all of us to give our best. Her advise and tips will be more than help-



Ankita Raina in a file picture

ful," admitted Ankita.

Riya Bhatia rose in the ranks and her new-found confidence will be good for India's chances. Karman Kaur Thandi has slipped in rankings after an injury and it will be an opportunity for the tall Delhi girl to not only regain her confidence but also help the team qualify for the next stage.

India had finished fourth at the Asia/Oceania Group I event but this year they have a realistic chance to make it to top-two.

With three top-50 players, China will test Indian players the most in the Asia/Oceania Group I competition, where the top two teams will be promoted to the Play-offs, to be held on April 17-18.

Qiang Wang (ranked 29), Saisai

Zheng (34) and Shuai Zhang (35) make a formidable trio in the Chinese side, which missed out on promotion last year after losing 1-2 to hosts Kazakhstan.

Another side which may trouble India would be Chinese Taipei, who have Su-Wei Hsieh in their ranks.

It should not be problem for India to handle the challenge of Indonesia and Uzbekistan, though Korea have some good players.

"Yes, we have a very realistic chance of qualifying. The team is upbeat and hungry and with Sania in the squad it makes us stronger in doubles which has bolstered our chances," Uppal said.

City consistency delights Pep

AFP ■ LONDON

Pep Guardiola hailed his Manchester City side's desire to leave a lasting legacy after lifting a third straight League Cup by beating Aston Villa 2-1 at Wembley on Sunday thanks to goals from Sergio Aguero and Rodrigo.

City have now won eight of the last nine trophies on offer in English football under Guardiola, who has now won 29 trophies in his managerial career.

"(Since) we won the first title here against Arsenal in the League Cup we played 11 competitions and won eight. Is a lot," said Guardiola.

"For this club it is not just about one title it is about showing every game we play counts and we want to win."

"Everybody knows we have the responsibility to fight, to try to win the titles. Eight out of 11



is something remarkable."

After City sped into a 2-0 lead inside 30 minutes, Mbwana Samatta pulled a goal back for Villa, but their wait for the club's first silverware since 1996 goes on. "I'm disappointed. Everyone wrote us off, but there was a lot of belief in that dressing room," said Villa boss Dean Smith.

"Unfortunately you have a mountain to climb against a team like Man City when you go 2-0 behind."

Wilder to face Fury for another rematch in July



AFP ■ LAS VEGAS

Tyson Fury and dethroned world champion Deontay Wilder will stage the next leg of their fight trilogy in July at the Las Vegas venue where their rematch took place.

Wilder officially exercised his right to another fight against Fury and plan is to have it on July 18 at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, US media reported Sunday night. "We received a letter from Wilder's team on Friday night, and we agreed with the networks and the hotel that July 18 was the

optimal date," promoter Bob Arum told the Los Angeles Times newspaper.

"We had a seamless promotion last time with Al Haymon, PBC (Premier Boxing Champions) and Fox. We look forward to working with them again."

The news comes a little over a week after Britain's Fury stopped Wilder in the seventh round of their heavyweight title rematch in Las Vegas.

Despite clamor for a unification fight between Fury and fellow Briton Anthony Joshua, Wilder had been expected to exercise his contractual right for a rematch.

Wilder also said this week that he would keep co-trainer Mark Breland in his corner, despite earlier hints that he was ready to part company with Breland, who threw in the towel in the seventh round of the loss to Fury.

Breland, a former Olympic and world champion, called a halt to the rematch at the MGM Grand Garden Arena after Wilder had been knocked down twice by Fury.

Mir, Mansi win Bronze at Dutch Jr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young Indian shuttlers Tasnim Mir and Mansi Singh won a Bronze medal each in the girls' singles event at the Yonex Dutch Junior International 2020 in Haarlem, Netherlands.

It was the first time India won two Bronze medals in

girls' singles at this BWF Junior International Grand Prix tournament.

Mir put up a gritty show against the third seed So Yul Lee but it was not enough as the Korean pulled off a 19-21, 10-22 win in 36 minutes in the semifinals.

The 11th seeded Mir, Gold medalist at the Dubai

International Series last year, has had a sensational run at this tournament and showed exceptional fighting spirit against higher-ranked players.

Mansi was the other Indian who stood out. She had won both the selection tournaments in the run-up to the Dutch International and carried that momentum to make it to the semifinals, where she lost to Indonesia's Saifi Rizka Nurhidayah 11-21, 16-21.

Mansi had earlier toppled fifth seed Amy Tan 22-20, 21-14 in the third round.

The Indian contingent will now look to continue their heroics at the Yonex German Junior 2020 to be held in Berlin from March 4 to 8.

Meanwhile, India's rising stars Aakarshi Kashyap and Anupama Upadhyaya won Gold and Silver medals respectively in the girls' singles at the Kenya International held in Thika, Kenya.

Sumit Sangwan's doping ban lifted

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The one-year doping ban on former Asian silver medal-winning boxer Sumit Sangwan (91kg) was on Monday lifted after the National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA) appeals panel ruled that his intake of a banned substance was unintentional.

Sangwan was cleared after a hearing conducted here on Monday.

"Sumit has been cleared and his ban lifted as he has convinced the NADA panel that the diuretic he tested positive for was a case of unintentional intake," a Boxing Federation of India official told PTI.

Sangwan was banned for a year in December 2019 after testing positive for Acetazolamide, listed as a diuretic and masking agent under World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) 2019 Prohibited List.

"I am relieved, a huge weight is off my shoulders. I knew I wasn't in the wrong. I am glad I could prove myself," an emotional Sangwan said. "I convinced the NADA panel of my innocence by submitting some medical reports, which I had not presented in the first hearing when the ban was imposed on me," he added.

The 27-year-old international medalist said medical records showing the enlargement of his liver following the intake of the medicine helped him prove his case.

"The doctors in the panel agreed that the presence of the substance in my system at the time of testing despite me tak-

ing the medicine much earlier was because an enlarged liver had prevented it getting flushed out in the normal course of seven days," he explained.

"It (Acetazolamide) showed in my system 13 days after the intake which led to the earlier conclusion that I had taken it at the time of weigh-in at the national camp," he added.

Sangwan had maintained, from the very beginning, that it was a case of unintentional intake as he had duly consulted a doctor before taking the medication for an eye infection.

"I was in so much pain when medicines were given to me that I couldn't even open my eyes at that time. I couldn't have possibly known what was being given to me. I relied on the doctors who were treating me," he said.

The suspension cost Sangwan dearly as the 2012 Olympian missed out on appearing for trials for the Olympic Qualifying Tournament, which begins in Amman (Jordan) on Tuesday.

"I will write to the federation and ask them to reinstate me in the national camp based on my record. I was the national champion when this happened. I should be allowed to be back (in the national camp) and I am confident I will be," he said.

Sangwan's sample was collected "out of competition" on October 10.

"I have suffered a lot. To live with a blemish like that on your record is a huge mental agony. I hope to put this all behind me and find my way back to the top," Sangwan said.

Panghal gets top billing in Asian Oly Qualifiers

PTI ■ AMMAN

World Silver-medallist Amit Panghal (52kg) has been given the top billing in the men's competition while the iconic M C Mary Kom (51kg) seeded second in the women's event of the Asian Olympic Qualifiers for boxing starting here today.

Eight men and five women from India will be aiming to secure Tokyo Olympics berths at the continental event being conducted by the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Boxing Task Force.

While Panghal is the lone Indian man to be seeded, two-time world Bronze-medallist Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) and Pooja Rani (75kg) have been seeded second and fourth respectively in the women's competition.

The Indian team arrived in Jordan on Friday last week after a training stint in Assisi, Italy.

"Everything is fine here. The team is in high spirits and we are looking forward to a strong performance," Indian



Mahendra Singh Dhoni arrives to bat during Chennai Super Kings practice session ahead of Indian Premier League 2020 PTI



MC Mary Kom in a file picture PTI

In some weight categories, depending on the size of the draw, there could be box-offs between losing quarterfinalists to decide the Olympic berths.

The Indian hopes will be spearheaded by Panghal and Mary Kom, both proven and consistent performers on the big stage.

Panghal became the first Indian male boxer to claim a world Silver medal in September last year, while Mary Kom collected a record-shattering eighth world medal a month later in the same year.

Expectations will also be high from Borgohain, who has been rising up the ranks with some strong performances, including back-to-back world Bronze medals. Also, national champion Simranjit Kaur (60kg) can be considered among the contenders after having beaten veteran Sarita Devi in the trials.

Among the men, Commonwealth Games Silver-medallist Manish Kaushik (63kg) is a strong contender to book a Tokyo spot along with Panghal.

vivacity

JENNIFER
DITCHES HAIR
EXTENSIONS

—P14



TO WORK WITH OTHERS IS A VITAL SKILL

A lot of teamwork comes from making sure your child has children his or her age with whom to socialise and work together. But additional value can also be derived from conversations with your child. Give accolades when you see your child, a sibling, or a friend promoting cooperation well or working well as a team. Explain how their action contributed to the overall success of the team, writes TEAM VIVA



The ability to work as a team with others isn't just a skill that kids are going to need at school – it's an essential skill they'll use for the rest of their life. Just as kids are taught other life skills, they need to be taught how to work as a team effectively. Teachers and parents need to work with children on teamwork, and children of all ages will benefit from learning how to work with others as a part of a team.

Why is learning teamwork so important for young children? Teamwork requires children to work cooperatively with other children towards a purpose that they share. Every member of a team has to respect each other's opinions and abilities in order for the team to work effectively. Working as a team is very social, involving the exchanging of actions and ideas and a significant amount of interaction.

When children learn to be part of a team, they learn more about interpersonal ways of thinking, improving their ability to communicate with others. Teamwork also helps children feel like a part of a community and can help in all areas of learning. Communication, social, and emotional skills are all strengthened when children learn to work as a team, which can help improve self-esteem and confidence in kids.

While older children have the capability to both learn a new sport and figure out how to apply those

skills in a conducive team environment, preschool-age children are less likely to master teamwork skills their first time on the field. If your child is still young enough that their team mostly chases the ball around in a big clump instead of passing the ball down the field to each other, sports might not be the most beneficial team-learning environment.

Situations where children use skill they've already mastered to work together with others are optimal for teaching children teamwork and cooperation. For instance, building a block tower with other children, playing ring-around-the-rosies, playing with a parachute, or pretend play with dolls are all great ways children can use skills they already understand to work well with other children.

A lot of teamwork comes from making sure your child has children his or her age with whom to socialise and work together. But additional value can also be derived from conversations with your child. Give accolades when you see your child, a sibling, or a friend promoting cooperating well or working well as a team. Explain how their action contributed to the overall success of the team.

A family household is one of the first collaborative environments your child will ever experience. Help teach teamwork to your child by making sure they get to be a part of the success of the household. Giving your child household chores (such as

TEAM SPORTS OFFER AN INCREDIBLE ARRAY OF SOCIAL SKILLS LESSONS, INCLUDING LEARNING TO COMPETE AGAINST THEIR OWN PERSONAL BEST VERSUS AGAINST THEIR TEAMMATES OR COMPETITORS



helping with the dishes, helping sweep the floor, cleaning up toys, or feeding the dog) and giving them opportunities to help family members (helping their little sister pick out an outfit, helping carry in groceries, etc.) lets them practise contributing to the most important team in their lives.

Don't forget that the most important way your child learns is by following your example. Find ways to communicate, collaborate, and cooperate with your child, friends, and family so your child can see these important skills in action.

Team sports offer an incredible

array of social skills lessons, including learning to compete against their own personal best versus against their teammates or competitors.

But it is critical here to have a good coach, a leader who understands the delicate balance between making and breaking a child's confidence and ability to create social bonds with fellow teammates.

A coach who inspires passion and personal confidence, emphasises the team's unity over individual "stars," and creates a focus on progress rather than perfection can make a lasting positive impact on each player that will endure throughout each

child's life.

Here, it's important to note the difference between a sport where a teammate is a fellow competitor who's on the team versus a teammate who is part of a competitive unit competing against other teams.

Not all kids enjoy or excel at team sports. For example, if a child is introverted and loves books, how can you teach them about teamwork?

The good news is that there are plenty of ways to get the message across, no team sports necessary! Any team-based activity can do a great job of instilling social confidence and skills in a child, whether they are athletically inclined or not.

For instance, take baking. Instead of teaching the child to bake cookies solo by following a recipe from start to finish, you can organise it as a family or group activity and assign each member a role. One member may be in charge of assembling the ingredients, and another in charge of assembling the equipment. A third may monitor the baking cookies and ensure that they don't overcook—you get the idea. By giving each child a responsibility to take part in during the baking process—whether the process involves cookies or pizza or oven-fired pottery—you can help each child build their confidence and social skills over time. This also works really well when you invite a few of the child's friends to do a fun craft together or some kind of activ-

ity that takes (or can accommodate) a team.

Finally, another great non-sports activity that can convey teamwork lessons is simply watching a movie or reading a book about team-based situations. Movies or books about sports teams or choirs are great choices, since they often showcase common team situations such as conflict and resolution, negotiation and compromise, support of the weaker as well as stronger links in the team, taking turns in leadership roles, and other valuable lessons.

If you're a parent, you can turn these into interesting family discussion opportunities, such as doing a weekly movie night or book group where each family member shares what they learned and how they plan to apply those lessons in their own lives.

When you facilitate a daily atmosphere of team-based learning, kids will absorb so many lessons about how to conduct themselves in team-based situations—most of them without even realizing they're learning!

Only later in life will kids look back on those earlier experiences and perhaps realize just how critical baking holiday cookies, family movie night, their middle school soccer league, or those early games of musical chairs really were to their social confidence and leadership skills.

Trend Glazer

Alia joins hands with Priyanka, Sonam

Actor ALIA BHATT along with actors Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Sonam Kapoor Ahuja has decided to share select pieces from their personal wardrobes to raise funds and aid in the recovery and rehabilitation of the affected wildlife in Australia.

This joint wardrobe is available for sale through Mi Wardrobe is Su Wardrobe (MiSu), Alia's closet sharing initiative for charity.

She said, "The bushfires were an ecological disaster and the effects can be seen well beyond Australia's geographical limits. It's been heartbreaking. We might be thousands of miles away from Australia but it's important for all of us to come together and help the country rebuild and recover. I am grateful to Priyanka and Sonam, for supporting the initiative."



'It feels good to deliver eight back to back hits but what is equally fulfilling is that I have tried to give different and meaningful cinema to the audience. The journey of making these films have been an enriching experience creatively for me as they have also made me a thoughtful, more sensitive and definitely a better human being.'
—Ayushmann Khurrana



Actor-producer ANUSHKA SHARMA says as an artiste and a producer, she has only tried to do new things.

"As an artiste and a producer, I have only tried to do new things. I have never succumbed to pressure of any sort and I have relished at every opportunity to do something new and learn something dramatically different," Anushka said.

She said that her body of work is a testimony to this. Anushka's horror flick *Pari* completed two years of its release.

"I was blown away with *Pari's* script. I knew immediately that I was producing this film," she added.



Lopez ditches hair extensions

Actor-singer JENNIFER LOPEZ embraced her natural hair as she stepped out for the gym in Miami without her trademark long tresses and flaunted a completely different style.

Heading out in Miami, J-Lo is looking a world away from her red carpet look with a chopped and wavy head of hair.

She also donned a sleeveless black athletic crop top that showed off her abs and toned arms.

There was also a personal touch in that she carried a black crystal cup, which had J-Lo written in silver glitter. She was also photographed in the same outfit later that day, as she headed in to the recording studio.



ON A SERIOUS NOTE AND IN A LIGHTER VEIN

Founder-director MAHEEP SINGH says that the Khushwant Singh Humour Fest 2020 is an attempt to bring various generations under one roof and inspire them to think.

By CHAHAK MITTAL

I think humour can be a very lethal weapon. You make somebody a laughing stock and you kill him. But most journalists don't do it. They get angry, which doesn't serve the purpose," said Khushwant Singh once. For the author, humour was something very subtle, something that eludes precise definition and isn't hurtful. Known for his large "repertoire of jokes," Singh had an unusual ability to not just laugh at himself but also make valid points through comedy without hurting any sentiments.

To celebrate this true comic, founder-director Maheep Singh conceptualised the Khushwant Singh Humour Fest (KSHF). The idea, he says, came about while having a spirited conversation about a pertinent subject — "Where has all the humour gone?" And he found an answer. He adds, "And there it was. I have delved into stand-up comedy for the longest time along with theatre, radio and TV. I have written plays and lyrics, poetry, fiction and found a common thread that strings all the genres together. The fest is an attempt to

look for humour in our mundane lives through a multi-art festival of spoken word."

Rahul Singh (author's son) says, "The fest takes the audience through a journey that not just rejoices in good-quality humour but also commemorates the spirit of Sardar Khushwant Singh who never ceased to call it a day, drew unique observations out of the ordinary and unapologetically laced it with witty sarcasm. It strives to bring all generations under one roof and have a good laugh, bond over jokes and rejoice the hilarity of life, keeping all the humdrum and monotony of everydayness at bay. It urges all and sundry to break out of the mundane and celebrate life."

The fest will see performances by stand-up comedians like Amit Tandon, Neeti Palta, Anubhav Singh Bassi, Rajneesh Kapoor, Gursimran Khamba, Atul Khatri and Zakir Khan, who have been a rage in the Indian comedy circuit. The line-up will also have the best of Delhi's comedy talent performing.

Given Singh's literary background, one may wonder why the fest doesn't

have any authors or writers on board. Maheep argues that there is already a literary fest dedicated to Khushwant Singh's name. "He certainly has a literary background, no doubt, but if one remembers him the most now, then it is for his column, *With Malice Towards One and All*. With his famous jokes at the end, he would make the most fiercely written articles bearable for even his strongest critics. I think it's most appropriate that we choose humour to remember him," he says.

However, he points out that one shouldn't mistake the festival to be a stand-up comedy event. He says, "It involves a lot more from so many different artforms. We have carefully curated a festival which includes a wide range of programmes that would attract the attention of all age groups. From stand-up comedy to humorous Urdu poetry, from Hari Shankar Parsai's writing through feminist perspectives to *Qissebaazi/Dastangoi* by Danish Husain of Hoshruha Repertory, *The Kyunki Ladkiya Funny Nahin Hoti*, a comedy collective based on women's issues by

Mahila Manch, Gujarat, names like Mark Tully and Rahul Ram of Indian Ocean, who have made a connection with so many generations — there is a lot to look forward to."

So how does he aim to revive Singh's writings and jokes through this fest? "Khushwant ji's family and friends have immensely contributed towards creating sessions about his personal life. He is remembered not only as a writer but also as a friend who loved telling jokes at parties. And this fest is a befitting tribute to the man we all loved and loved to hate."

Today, humour has become a tool of dissent with satire embedded in it. Does that make it as free-flowing? Says Maheep, "Comedy has become a strong platform for youngsters to express their thoughts in a rather candid way, a trait which was otherwise non-existent or very subtle in classic arts. The irreverence and the freedom that stand-up comedy allows youngsters automatically resonates with the rebellion the youth craves to express. They club that with political awareness, given the expansion of social media and

you have voice of dissent. However, satire has always been an important tool for writers, journalists, cartoonists and various other forms of expression."

He recalls the "common man" by R K Laxman. "In today's time, we have strong voices like Kunal Kamra, Varun Grover and Sanjay Rajaura, who have used their satire to put across their perspective in such an effective and efficient way. I'm really happy to see this in present times," adds he.

Singh had said that if we love our country, we will have to save it from communal forces. He had hoped that the present generation totally rejects the communal and fascist policies. The author has also been known to have taken several digs at religious fundamentalists. Asked whether this aspect will be touched upon, Maheep says that Singh's ideologies are certainly needed in today's sensitive time. "By creating a platform like KSHF, we are not only making space for laughter but also making you think," he adds.

(The fest will be held from March 5 to 7 at Hotel Ambassador, Sujana Singh Park from 12 noon to 10 pm.)

An odyssey of sorts

One of the most celebrated shoe designers in the world, CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN dreamt of making footwear for showgirls as a child. Since then he has grown his company into a global brand and been adored by women and men the world over. He commissions a series of features exploring the theme of his 'journeys'

And then there was a happy accident — an unexpected fork in the road, you might say — which changed the course of my life once again. It started with a chance encounter with the owner of a wonderful shop in the Galerie Véro-dodat, Eric Philippe. I fell in love with a lamp there and tried to buy it but he told me it wasn't for sale. I kept going back and still he wouldn't sell it to me.

In the end, it turned out that he had already sold it before I had seen it. But our conversations and my persistence led Eric to mention that a shop in the Galerie, which is a beautiful covered passageway in the 1st arrondissement, had become available. He believed this would be the perfect place for me to set myself up for a return to shoe design.

I decided to start the Louboutin company. I had never projected that I would run a label under my own name but I found myself here and this shop is where Louboutin was born.

MEANINGFUL PLACES

Throughout my life, I have always been interested in other cultures and civilisations. I've connected with countries that aren't mine, cultures and food that were exotic to me. My career has allowed me to travel the world and sometimes my chance encounters have influenced my designs.

There are a lot of places that are meaningful to me — Egypt, Portugal, Rio and Paris, of course. Another place is Bhutan. I'd always wanted to travel there but the visa process was very complex and I didn't manage it when I was younger. Then about 10 years ago, I finally went with my friend Diane von Furstenberg. She knew the King and Queen of Bhutan and was going to visit

them. Since then, I have been coming back to the country almost every year. I love the country and the people, their way of life, their approach to craftsmanship and how they look to the future.

About seven or eight years ago, the Queen of Bhutan introduced me to artisans from the Zorig Chusum Institute.

That was a really transformative experience. In Bhutan, there are 13 arts and crafts that represent the spirit and identity of the country. Shortly after, I wanted to create wedding shoes for a friend of mine who is a Buddhist. I thought about working with those artisans. It was from that initial thought that I ended up collaborating with them to create an entire collection of shoes and handbags, called *LouBhoutan*.

A SECRET REVEALED

Nearly 10 years ago, I made a powerful discovery about my own life. My elder sister told me my father was not my birth father and that I was actually half-Egyptian. I was surprised, of course, but also happy that my mother had had a love story in the middle of raising a family, and it gave me even more respect for the father who brought me up. I was also happy to be part of a larger world than I had thought, and it made sense to me for I had always felt an attachment to Egypt.

When I told the

people closest to me that my biological father was Egyptian, none of them were surprised. I thought, how could they know this when I didn't even know it myself? But I also remembered having fantasies when I was a child about being Egyptian, and truly, I felt that I had known, even before I had been told this was the truth. This path, though surprising, had been there inside me the whole time.

RETURN TO THE GOLDEN DOOR

As an adult, there was a period of time when I didn't visit the Palais de la Porte Dorée, not for any particular reason other than it was no longer local to me and life took me elsewhere. I then came back not that long ago with my business partner. I was once again very impressed by the bas-reliefs that cover the façade and sides of the building. They were designed by Alfred Auguste Janniot and they are truly monumental — covering 1,130 square metres of the building.

There are also two salons at each end of the building dedicated to Asia and Africa respectively. I was taking him around and wanted to point out all the features that had captured my imagination as a child — the warthog tusks door handles and the monumental frescos — and noticed that they were missing or in need of repair. I felt that it was my responsibility to give back to this place that had been so important to me as a child, which I've done by supporting the restoration of the two marvellous salons.

Now I'm really keen that more people know about it, so this is why I decided to put on my exhibition, *L'Exhibition[niste]* here. It's in the east of Paris and not as visited as some of the major museums in the centre but I'm hoping to bring new people to the area so that they too can explore and enjoy the building like I did as a child.

When putting together the exhibition of my work to be shown at this museum, I chose objects with the curator that linked to my creative process. They might seem disparate — birds, dancers, Marilyn Monroe, cinema, sports, stain-glass, video art, photography, furniture, sculptures, popular ceramics, crosses, crowns — but there is a through-line. Sometimes you don't realise where your inspiration comes from and the pieces might not seem to fit together but there is a connection, even if it only becomes apparent further down the road. This is the way I look at my life in general. I encourage everyone to stay open and embrace the unexpected.

—CNN Style



New paradise for melody

AR RAHMAN will creatively lead the new Firdaus Women's Orchestra in the UAE

Composer and songwriter AR Rahman will work with Expo 2020 Dubai to create a world-class music recording studio in the UAE. He has been announced as a mentor and a composer for the first project — Expo 2020's new all-female orchestra.

Rahman will lead the Firdaus Women's Orchestra, which is now the new Firdaus Studio by AR Rahman. The orchestra will bring together 50 talented women musicians from across the UAE and wider MENA region to create a unique musical project that will benefit from the state-of-the-art facility, which will serve as the orchestra's rehearsal base. It aims to draw on inspiration from the UAE and region's centuries-old rich musical traditions through instruments like the *oud*, *rebaba* and *darbuka*.

The orchestra is set to perform at the Expo 2020, including two AR Rahman concerts, a special show for International Women's Day on March 8, 2021, plus a number of other events and performances across the site.

Rahman said, "This world-leading studio will attract the cream of the industry to Dubai. Working with the most exciting female musical talents of the region, the Firdaus Women's Orchestra will enable Dubai to become a focal point for making ground-breaking new music, and I look forward to being part of that."

OUTER INFLUENCES, INNER TRUTHS

Modernist PRODOSH DAS GUPTA deals with the human form, specifically in terms of insight and intuitive reasoning, says UMA NAIR

To be trained at the Madras School of Arts under the eagle eye of Devi Prasad Chaudhury is for the fortunate's favoured few. To be former director and curator of the National Gallery of Modern Art is a designation of envy and art history. To be a sculptor, who had the opportunity to study and sculpt in London as well as Paris, is a lesson in learning and leaning.

Art lovers, sculptors and artists can view at least 23 sculptures by Prodosh Das Gupta at Akar Prakar Contemporary in Delhi. Among the many small sculptures (1947-1991) lie lessons of beauty for modern day artists and sculptors in dealing with the human form, specifically in terms of insight and intuitive reasoning.

INDIAN MODERNISTS

Let us go back to the post-Independence days when Indian artists were seeking fresh insight into idioms that were built on the foundations of British and Western grammar and techniques but were hungry for a new language. Das Gupta began with European echoes. But when we look closely, he slowly pared down dogmas and started creating works that celebrated the simplicity of contours. He harnessed his imagery with a feminine fervour amid a love and passion for what he created.

As an Indian modernist, Das Gupta imbibed a lot of Western styles – classical realism, cubism, primitivism and abstraction. But because of the cultural context of the Indian sub-continent, he began to draw on Indian mythology and



history. This is evident in works like *Pounding Corn* and *Surya Mukhi*. In *Sun Worshippers*, he blended his innate spirituality with accents of the modernist Constantin Brancusi, enriching his sculptures with neat contours and minimalism. The Indian art world had not seen the likes of his works.

INFLUENCE OF EUROPEAN MASTERS

While there is a lot of Henry Moore,

who brought about a humanist tradition in sculpture with his series of reclining nudes, we can also see a Rodinesque resonance in two pieces. But it is the evocative elegance of *Egg Bride* and *Unfolding Spring* that are a critic's delight. In both these works, Das Gupta advocates a certain responsiveness. In *Bride*, we sense a longing for the shadows in the overlay of the ovoid and its sliced entente. In *Unfolding Spring*, it's the elegance of abandon and the sinuous curves that speak to



us about his admiration and reverence for the female figure. He knows very well that a sculptor must balance the will to expose as well as the will to be sensitive while dealing with the feminine form.

When you see the many female forms in this exhibition, they seem tactile and palpable. Their lines are fluid and there is a profound understanding of vulnerability. There is an inherent balance of looking within and without which doesn't hurt the human sentiment.

FUSION OF TRENDS

It is important to ponder over Das Gupta's own writings to understand his viewpoint and his brilliance as a diarist of art history and sculptural jottings.

"When we look back into our own history of sculptural culture, it becomes quite evident that gradually there has been fusion between the different regional trends, a mixing of the artistic concepts in the formal as well as technical applications to build up the images. The Greco

Buddhist fusion was no doubt the starting point in the history of our sculptural manifestations running through the ages. It took time to assimilate the Greek influence into our own indigenous concepts and finally when we see its fulfillment in the stupendous works of sculpture in the Kushan period of Mathura, we realise how a work of art can be developed and enriched with proper understanding and careful handling of the methods and material without surrendering to abject imitation.

"This fusion to my mind has been there throughout the ages and indeed this process is inevitable and most welcome to renovate periodically the indigenous arts to instill into them a fresh breath of life. In this vast world, nothing can remain absolutely pure in its indigenous approach. Mixing and intermixing has always been there from time immemorial. Civilisation today is a variegated phenomenon like the colours of the artist's palette. It is futile to search for the lily-white purity there."

LUCID DRAWINGS

The drawings on the walls at Akar Prakar talk to us about time and space, memory and mood. Feminine curves align themselves with the space that surrounds them. Das Gupta's drawings on newspaper are a lesson for students of arts colleges. The equilibrium between a simple interior and an elusive exterior informs his drawings.

A sculptor can be gregarious like Picasso or gently private like Brancusi and this is where the deeper rhythms of Das Gupta's sensibility lies. The feminine body is there before you, there's nothing to hide but how you translate the feminine form into a modernist mould will live and speak long after you made it. This is what signifies your stance and temperament as a sculptor. *Translating Modernism* is about understanding the rudiments of realism and abstraction before settling into the niche of the true modernist.

(The show runs till March 28.)

Artist Pooja Aggarwal diverts from the traditional treatment of flat canvas and creates three-dimensional forms that seem to break the limits of the frame. She expresses her thoughts using novel 3D techniques on an organic wooden surface, using acrylic and oil colours, in her latest exhibition, *The Third Dimensions*.

Each painting reflects dimensions of her life as they unfold — a kind of a diary. These paintings belong to a series of works that re-imagine landmarks by staging a virtual event that would alter the viewer's memory, suggesting how the virtual could affect and alter the real.

She explains, "Art in the broadest sense is a form of communication. In my art, I first make a broad sketch of what I want to convey and then get into the minute details to make it more impactful. My art is a literature born of my thoughts. It's like documentation of your own feelings, inspiration and progress. The subject matters could be my surroundings or something which I have encountered during my travel or any memory."

The idea of being able to move things around within the space of the mind is a magical power that we as human beings possess. This inspired her to highlight the uniqueness and individuality of the expressions. Thus, she paints her meditation series titled *The Path Within* and *Circles of Life*. Her perspective is reflected in her paintings that represent space and provides an illusion of depth while creating a 3D world for the viewer. Thus, another one of the paintings has been aptly named *Gullibility of Human Senses*.

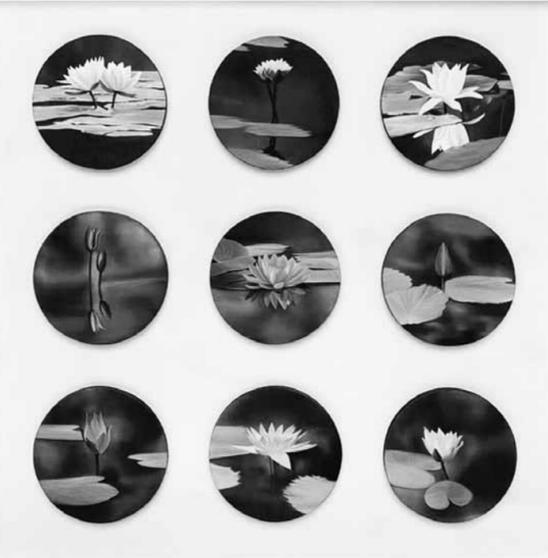
Pooja discovers that 3D can convey a lot more by implying movement towards our ideals. The intriguing part of the paintings is that those parts of the picture which seem farthest away are actually physically the nearest to the viewer, similar to what we discover during meditation. She says, "These paintings created on a 3-dimensional surface give an amazing optical illusion where the parts of the picture which seem farthest away are actually physically the nearest. This surface provides a powerful and often disorienting impression of depth and

Dear diary

Artist POOJA AGGARWAL presents her first solo, *The Third Dimensions*, a series of 15 3D paintings that mirrors the landmarks of the cityscape and her surroundings. By TEAM VIVA



Gullibility of Human Senses



Enlightenment

movement. As the viewer walks by the painting put up at eye level, the composition seems to move with him/her and shows how gullible

human senses can be." (The exhibition is on from March 6 and runs till March 12 at All India Fine Arts and Society.)



When Bahija Karim arrived in Idaho as an Afghan refugee in 2005, she knew little about American culture. She didn't speak English. A volunteer directed her to Artisans for Hope, a local crafts initiative for refugees. There, she was taught crafting skills and English. Artisans for Hope took Karim on field trips. They found her a job with a seamstress, which she held for nine years, and then they helped her start her own custom drapery business, The Golden Needle.

Karim says Artisans for Hope helped her feel like an empowered member of her new community. With their help, she says, "all the people know we are human beings. We could make something for ourselves, for them, for the country, for the community."

Around the world, crafting is being used as a tool to help refugees — and especially women — get acclimated to a host country, learn skills and, sometimes, earn a living. "We provide a

A healing medium

Crafts can help refugees find community and maybe a living

venue for refugee women to craft together, build a community, make some friends, and have a safe way to interact with each other and talk about what they've been through," says Sharon McCreary, who in 2007 helped found A Little Something, a women's refugee crafts organization in Denver.

A Little Something also sells the crafts and gives artisans 75 per cent of the earnings. In Paris, the Agency of Artists in Exile (aa-e) supports professional artists — from painters to photographers to dancers to musicians — who come to France as refugees. Founded in 2017 by Judith Depaule and Ariel Cypel, the

group works with about 200 artists from 45 different countries, many of them seeking political asylum. The organisation hosts a festival, provides workspace, offers French classes, and helps artists find grants, residencies and jobs. If they need lawyers, psychiatrists or accommodations, aa-e helps find those too.

"When you get to a country in the way of exile," Depaule says, "you can have a lot of bad experiences, very hard, very traumatising experiences. And when you are waiting for papers it's very hard, too. Because you don't know if they will say yes or not, so (art) is a possibility to start to build something, and to start thinking

about something else."

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees also runs a craft-based initiative, Made51. It partners with local groups around the world to help artisan refugees connect to markets where they can sell their products.

Made51's Global Manager Heidi Christ says that after forming a successful partnership with Virgin Megastores in the United Arab Emirates, the Made51 team is now working to expand and grow its direct-to-consumer market. "We see lots of possibility," Christ says. "People love the storytelling behind Made51, love the idea of being able to buy from refugees in many different countries and do it in a way that also supports local business growth in these developing countries."

She hopes a ripple effect of Made51 will be to shift people's perception of refugees. "Despite the conditions that a refugee artisan is living in, they're able to make this beautiful product," she says. "And then the way the consumer can think about refugees changes."

Depaule, too, hopes to change attitudes, aiming to hold more aae festivals in countries where taking in refugees is controversial. And back in Idaho, Artisans for Hope worked to change hearts and minds through a travelling quilt project. In partnership with the Idaho Commission on the Arts, the artisans created story quilts and travelled around Idaho, Oregon, and Utah to display them.

"It was for me a very good experience," says quilt project participant Wafaa Alwan, "because I was seeing support from people." Alwan came to the United States from Iraq, and was connected to Artisans for Hope after opening up to a friend about struggling with homesickness.

"It's not just a centre for crafting," she says. "It's a healing centre for us. It's really a second chance for refugee ladies to find a place to live and prosper in the community."

—AP

WATCH OUT

The Gujral Foundation presents *Amma: Memories of My Grandmother*, a performance artwork by Revanta Sarabhai, which will capture fragments of the memories of his grandmother, Mrinalini Sarabhai. WHEN: March 6 to 8 WHERE: 24, Jor Bagh.



Under the Banyan Tree on a Full Moon Night, a monthly concert series is back with its second edition. This edition will present New York-based guitarist and composer Shubb Saran. Other performers are Adam Neely, Shawn Crowder, Bianca Gismonti, Julio Falavigna and Paolo Andriolo. WHEN: March 6 TIME: 7 pm WHERE: 1Aq, Qutub.

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Nature Morte presents *Everyday Extraordinary*, a solo exhibition of works by artist Suhasini Kejrival, which features her errands of Chitpur of north Kolkata and Chor Bazaar in central Mumbai. WHEN: Till March 14 TIME: 10 am to 6 pm WHERE: A1, Neeti Bagh, Khel Gaon Marg.

Muzafor Ali's *Jahan-e-Khusrau*
15th ANNUAL WORLD SUFI MUSIC FESTIVAL
06 | 07 | 08
MARCH 2020
ARAB KI SARAI, HUMAYUN'S TOMB, NEW DELHI

The much loved World Sufi Music Festival, *Jahan-e-Khusrau*, designed and directed by Muzafor Ali held under the aegis of Rumi Foundation, returns to the city. Its 15th edition, with the theme *Let Love Reign*, will witness soulful performances by renowned groups for three days. WHEN: March 6, 7 & 8 TIME: 6.30 pm onwards WHERE: Arab Ki Sarai, Humayun's Tomb.

DAG presents *The Fifties Show: Works of Indian Modernism* that brings to you the country's rich history of the 1950s, highlighting how a newly-independent nation put its colonised past behind and embraced the triumphant modernism through art. WHEN: Till March 26 TIME: 11 am to 7.30 pm (closed on Sundays) WHERE: The Claridges.

Lock, Stock & Barrel

Kiwis thrash India in three days again to win second Test by 7 wickets, seal series 2-0

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

A star-studded India was outplayed by seven wickets inside three days in the second Test against New Zealand here with the home team making a mockery of the visitors' world No 1 status to complete a memorable series sweep.

New Zealand prevailed by seven wickets, chasing down a modest target of 132 in just 36 overs, after India's second innings folded for 124 in less than an hour on the third day. India, perched at the top of the World Test Championships right now, were humiliated 0-2, found wanting yet again when up against high-quality seamers overseas.

Tom Latham (52 off 74 balls) and Tom Blundell (55 off 113 balls) had a good batting session as Mohammed Shami didn't bowl post lunch due to a ball-impact injury while batting.

A solid 120 points took New Zealand's tally to 180 even as India stayed on top with 360 points courtesy their series wins against the lowly West Indies, depleted South Africa and a below-par Bangladesh.

The feel good factor of a 5-0 T20 series victory seemed like ancient history as a dream start turned into a virtual nightmare for Kohli's bunch that has always taken immense pride in performing well in overseas conditions.

However, a look at India's overseas performance indicates that whenever the ball swings and seams, reputations end up in tatters. It happened in England in 2014 and 2018 and now New Zealand have exposed them one more time.

The main culprit was the batsmen, and Kohli had no



New Zealand players celebrate with winners' trophy after end of two match Test series against India on third day of second Test

Blackcaps/Twitter

qualms in admitting it. "The batsmen didn't do enough for the bowlers to try and attack. The bowling was good, I thought even in Wellington we bowled well. Sometimes if you bowl well and things don't happen, you have to take it in your stride," Kohli said.

More than the margin, the manner of surrender will come back to haunt the current Indian team, which leaves this part of the world with a lot of unanswered questions.

It's not only about technique of some top players against the moving deliveries but also about their mindset when put under the

VIRAT KOHLI'S WORST TEST SERIES						
Series	M	I	Runs	AVG	HS	0
Aus in India in 2016-17	3	5	46	9.20	15	1
India in NZ in 2019-20	2	4	38	9.50	19	-
India in ENG in 2014	5	10	134	13.40	39	2
India in B'DESH in 2015	1	1	14	14.00	14	-
India in WI in 2011	3	5	76	15.20	30	1

Faisal Features

There were only four half-centuries across four innings in this series with techniques of some of the players like Ajinkya Rahane, Mayank Agarwal against seam and swing leaving a lot to be

desired. Skipper Kohli's 38 runs in four innings was one of the biggest setbacks for the visitors in the series. Prithvi Shaw is a work in progress when it comes to his decision-making on deliveries on

the fourth stump and, of course, the short ball, which the Kiwis used liberally to get rid of him since the start of the practice games.

Kohli's problems against the seaming deliveries resurfaced again during the series but there is little time to go back to the drawing board with a packed schedule for the remaining part of the year.

On Monday, there was another lower-order collapse as the last four wickets went for 34 runs, but lack of gumption from someone like Rishabh Pant, playing for his place in the side, was disheartening.

"The batsmen didn't do enough for the bowlers to try and attack. We accept it upfront and if we have to win away from home, we have to do that. No excuses, just learning moving forward. In Tests, we weren't able to play the cricket we wanted to."

— VIRAT KOHLI

"India are a world-class side and to beat them is quite satisfying. A great effort."

— KANE WILLIAMSON

"Jab India mein yeh log aayenge, tab dikha doonga (When they will come to India, we will show them)."

— VIRAT WAS HEARD SHOUTING TO HIS TEAMMATES

It was the pair of Tim Southee (3/36 in 11 overs) and Trent Boult (4/28 in 14 overs), which once again tormented the Indian batsmen, who were all at sea against quality bowling on a slightly challenging track.

In the morning, Hanuma Vihari (9) was caught down the leg-side off an innocuous Southee delivery.

On a track where it was next to impossible to defend, Pant was seen pushing and prodding defensively, something that's not his natural game. The result was a half-hearted poke at an away going delivery that safely landed in the wicketkeeper's gloves.

The much talked-about "intent" was completely missing in Pant's game and his approach defied logic. Especially after coach Ravi Shastri spoke about how his aggressive batting scored over Wriddhiman Saha, but questions will certainly be asked on if scores of 19, 25, 12 and 4 justify his inclusion over a more accomplished stumper.



Colin de Grandhomme celebrates after dismissing Virat Kohli AP

We were completely outplayed, can't live in denial: Kohli

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

A disappointed Virat Kohli on Monday admitted that his side was "completely outplayed" by New Zealand in the two-Test series and they can't live in denial about "not being brave enough" to counter adverse conditions.

The Indian batting was in complete shambles in the series and the skipper said that with a packed schedule, the team management will have to find solutions despite time constraints.

"Obviously quite disappointed with how we played in this series," the Indian captain was honest and forthright in his assessment following the seven-wicket loss.

"We obviously didn't play the kind of cricket we do as a team. The thing to take away from here is to not shy away from things that have gone wrong and instead address them straight up, and not be in denial," he said.

Asked to point out what exactly went wrong, Kohli felt the outlook towards a series in adverse conditions was "not ideal".

"I think the outlook as far as I am concerned, and as far as I saw things happening, was not ideal for us in this series. We were not positive enough. We were not brave enough in moments, which we have done in the past. Skills follow your mindset, simple as that."

However, he didn't like New Zealand being called India's "bogey team", having lost to the Black Caps in 2019 World Cup semifinal and two series in white and red ball formats.

"I am sure no one was saying that in first half of the tour," he said referring to his team's 5-0 win in the T20 series.

"You can't just make a team a bogey team because of one Test series defeat and a semi-final loss. They played better cricket on that day, and in this Test series, and there is no shame in accepting that."

"We are not trying to create some controversy by tagging a team or naming a bogey team or something like that," the skipper certainly wasn't amused.

Asked about specific mistakes that this team can rectify, Kohli said that clarity of mind is paramount. "Something (clarity) we failed to do as a batting unit, and I truly believe that we made too much of the conditions from the first day onwards, of the first Test: overcast, a bit of dampness on the pitch — we never spoke of these things before."

"If you're not clear in your head then the feet don't move, you're not quite sure whether to play the shot or not, leave the ball or play the ball. I think these sort of things can creep in, and which have crept in our game in this series. It's something we have recognised already," he added.

CAC to shortlist candidates for selectors' job today

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) will finally get down to the work of picking two national selectors at its first meeting here on Tuesday.

The three-member CAC, which is supposed to pick the selectors as per the BCCI constitution, has not had much to do since its appointment on January 31.

The committee comprising former India cricketers Madan Lal, R P Singh and Sulakshana Naik will be shortlisting the candidates for personal interviews.

Lal, who had earlier told that 44 applications have been received for two positions, confirmed on Monday that he will be travelling to Mumbai for the meeting.

"Yes, I will be going for the meeting but I don't know the details yet," he said.

However, a BCCI source confirmed that the meeting is scheduled to shortlist the candidates.

The CAC is looking for replacements of outgoing selection panel chief MSK Prasad and fellow panel member Gagan Khoda. Ganguly, who did not travel to Dubai for the Asian Cricket Council meetings due to the rising threat of novel coronavirus, is likely to be present at the BCCI headquarters on Tuesday.

In January, the BCCI boss had said the new selection panel will pick the India squad for the home ODIs against South Africa, beginning in Dharamsala on March 12.

"There is still time for the South Africa series. The entire process for picking the new selectors will be done this week," said a BCCI official.



Virat Kohli talks with Kane Williamson following play on day three

AP

50 more runs would have made things challenging: Williamson

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson says their victory in the second Test well inside three days is not a fair reflection of how competitive the match was and if India had scored 50 more runs, the chase would have been much more challenging.

"It's an outstanding performance. I sort of said it recently but I don't think the result reflected how competitive the match was. Perhaps another 50 more runs from the India's perspective would have made it quite a balanced-looking match," Williamson said at the post-match conference.

Unlike the flat sub-continental tracks, the tracks for two Tests had an ideal balance between bat and ball where it was hard to score

runs. "Both games were a really good balance in terms of the surface between bat and ball and runs were quite tough to come by. You had to have a little bit of fortune go your way and then try and put a bit of pressure on the bowlers first. A great performance over the last two games from the guys."

Williamson had no qualms in admitting that tracks were tilted in favour of bowlers.

"I guess you look at the surfaces and they both were perhaps seam-bowler friendly. But as a batting unit as well, the contributions that were made to get us to parity in the first innings of this game and in Wellington to get competitive totals on the board on these surfaces were really pleasing to see."

Kohli irked when asked about his celebration of Kane's dismissal

CHRISTCHURCH: India captain

Virat Kohli on Monday got annoyed after being asked about his animated celebrations over Kane Williamson's dismissal on day two of the second Test before clarifying that match referee Ranjan Madugalle had no issues with what happened.

Following India's loss, one of the local journalists sought Kohli's reaction on allegedly

swearing at Williamson and that did not go down well with the away team captain.

"What do you think? I am asking you the answer," the irritation was writ large on Indian skipper's face as he came up with a sharp retort.

"You need to find out an answer and come up with a better question. You can't come here with half questions and half details of what hap-

pened. Also if you want to create controversy, this is not the right place. I spoke with the match referee (Madugalle) and he had no issues with what happened," said Kohli.

It was on day two when Williamson was dismissed by Jasprit Bumrah and Kohli was animated as ever in his celebrations. Kohli also gestured the crowd to keep quiet.

PTI

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Defending champions Australia advanced to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup semifinals after knocking out New Zealand with a four-run win in their must-win final Group A match here on Monday.

Beth Mooney's brilliant half-century proved the difference as four-time champions Australia halted New Zealand in a chase of 155 four runs short. Mooney hit 60 off 50 balls in the must-win match.

Leg-spinner Georgia Wareham's three for 17 sent the top-order into collapse and ensured a semi-final berth for the hosts, who will face either South Africa or England in Sydney.

Mooney's 60 runs from 50 balls, including six fours and two sixes, helped Australia to 155 for five with the White Ferns requiring the highest successful chase of the tournament to win at Junction Oval.

Aus enter Women's T20 WC semis, NZ out



Australia on their way.

SIRIWARDENA SHINES

Elsewhere in the other game, Shashikala Siriwardena produced the perfect swansong to her international career by taking four wickets in Sri Lanka's victory over Bangladesh.

Siriwardena's World Cup best and Achini Kulasuriya's two for 19 saw Bangladesh slip out in their final match of the tournament.

Hasini Perera's 39 not out helped to seal Sri Lanka's first victory by nine wickets with 27 balls to spare.

Siriwardena's figures were the best in the tournament to date in her final international match, with her four for 16 a memorable farewell after 17 years of service to Sri Lankan cricket.

Faf back for India series

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

Left-arm spinner George Linde received his maiden call-up while former South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis returned to the side for the three ODIs in India, beginning March 12 in Dharamsala.

Linde had made his Test debut during the tour of India last October.

The 15-man squad also sees the return of rested players, du Plessis and Rassie van der Dussen to bolster the batting line-up and the retention of newcomer Kyle Verreynne who impressed selectors with his score of 48 off 64 on debut against Australia.

Du Plessis has not played an ODI since South Africa's disappointing World Cup campaign under his leadership. Keshav Maharaj and Lutho Sipamla are also among the retained players.



Squad: Quinton de Kock (c & wk), Temba Bavuma, Rassie van der Dussen, Faf du Plessis, Kyle Verreynne, Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller, Jon-Jon Smuts, Andile Phehlukwayo, Lungi Ngidi, Lutho Sipamla, Beuran Hendricks, Anrich Nortje, George Linde, Keshav Maharaj.

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Hosts Bengal tightened their grip over the Ranji Trophy semifinal by reducing Karnataka to 98 for three after setting them a stiff 352-run target on day three of the contest, at Eden Gardens on Monday.

Resuming the day at 72 for four, Bengal could manage just 161 but the massive 190-run first innings lead meant that Karnataka now have a mountain to climb.

Anustup Majumdar, who staged a fourth rescue-act this season with an unbeaten 149 in the first innings, hit a combative 41 in Bengal's second innings amid yet another batting collapse.

Bengal, who won their previous Ranji title during Sourav Ganguly's debut season in 1989-90, would go for the kill to make their first final in 13 years. They had lost to Mumbai by 132 runs in their last final appearance in 2007.

Karnataka have already lost their top-order and they have to produce a superlative batting effort to score the required 254 runs in the remaining two days of the match. KL Rahul (0) was dismissed by

Bengal takes firm control of Ranji semis



Bengal's Mukesh Kumar celebrates with teammates after taking wicket of Karun Nair

PTI

a peach of a delivery by the first-innings hero Ishan Porel.

On a pitch which has slowed down and ball has turned soft, Karnataka duo of R Samarth and

Paddikal put up a 57-run partnership after the fall of Rahul.

Bengal broke the partnership overturning the umpire's decision with a successful review from the

bowling of Akash Deep who had Samarth plumb in front.

Mukesh Kumar dismissed Karun Nair (6) as all the three pacer had a share of one wicket each at the close of day three.

The 19-year-old Padikkal remained unbeaten on 50 in company of Manish Pandey (11).

Earlier, Sudip Chatterjee (45) was Bengal's top scorer in their second innings, while Majumdar and all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed (31) continued their fine form in a 61-run partnership to prop up their overall lead after a familiar top-order collapse.

Mithun bagged 4/23 and was their most impressive bowler.

GAJA LEADS FIGHT BACK

RAJKOT: Medium pacer Chintan Gajjar grabbed a fiver to lead Gujarat's fight-back after they conceded a 52-run first-innings lead against Saurashtra.

Gaja (5/15) reduced Saurashtra to 66 for 5 in their sec-

ond essay at the end of the day three as the hosts took an overall lead of 118 at the SCA Stadium in Khandheri.

The 25-year-old Ahmedabad-born Gaja bowled in the right areas and was handsomely rewarded for his efforts.

His scalps included Harvik Desai (0), Kishan Parmar (0), Avi Barot (1), Vishwaraj Jadeja (6) and first-innings centurion Sheldon Jackson (0) to reduced Saurashtra to 15 for 5.

But an experienced Arpit Vasavada (23 not out) and Chetan Sakariya (32 not out) stood tall against the Gujarat bowlers till stumps were drawn.

This was after the hosts, who had posted 304, bundled out Gujarat for 252 in their first essay.

Gujarat was reeling at 155 for 8 at one stage in their first innings, but then Rujul Bhatt (71 off 212 balls) and Gaja (61 off 103 balls) joined hands to bail their side out by adding 87 runs for the eighth wicket.