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### Guv unethical, have blocked him on Twitter: Didi

Foreign CM Mamata Banerjee said Monday she had blocked governor Jagdeep Brankhar on Twitter to protest against his "unethical and unethical" tweets that were encouraging "BIP govt" to kill TMC workers. She accused him of snooping on her government using Pegasus spyware. **P 9**

### Delhi payout for last month's crop losses too

M Arvind Kejriwal has said that farmers who suffered losses due to rain damaging their mustard crop in January will also be given compensation. **P 3**

### Follow law or pack bags: HC to Twitter

Following law or pack your bags, Andhra HC told Twitter, pulling it up for not complying with order to take down abusive content against the judiciary. **PAGE OPP**

### 2 ex-staffers kill clinic owner's son

An eight-year-old boy was allegedly abducted and killed by two ex-staffers of his father, a Bulandshahr clinic owner, as he was en route to being sacked. **PAGE OPP**

**DON'T MISS!**  
**FAKE NEWS ALERT** **P 3**

## We're in a democracy, can't stop rivals from contesting polls: SC

### Protects Majithia From Arrest Till Punjab Elections

Dhananjay Mahapatra @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday protected SAD functionary Bikram Singh Majithia from arrest in a drug trafficking case till February 22 and told the Charanjit Singh Chamnilal Congress government in Punjab that in a democracy governments must not slap election eve criminal cases on political opponents to prevent them from contesting. A bench of Chief Justice N

"When the election is on Feb 20, the FIR just 2 months before the polls appears odd... Mr Chidambaram, once again I am requesting you to please advise your state govt. This impression should not get to us that their actions are politically motivated..." - CJI R V Ramana

I'm aware that political vendetta is sometimes unleashed on opponents. But this case (against Majithia) has a long history and was monitored by the HC... this is not a political action - P Chidambaram | appearing for Punjab govt

This is a classic case of grossest political vendetta and heaping humiliation, Majithia is a mainstream political opponent in the state... The FIR registered on Dec 20 itself is a tall tale - Mukul Rohatgi | appearing for Bikram Majithia

V Ramesh and Justices Ashoka Kumar Jaisankar and Hima Kohli ordered reprieve to Majithia, against whom the FIR under the NDPS Act was registered on December 20 for offences that allegedly took place between

2004 and 2015. The former means that Majithia's fate will be decided by the new government after the February 20 voting in the state.

► Probe delayed, P 10

► SC pulls up Centre for not taking a stand on plea seeking that minority status of a community be decided at state level and not national level, imposes ₹7,500 fine P 9

► Noting that power dues have crossed ₹11 cr, SC warns that if discos don't promptly pay power generators, there will be no electricity P 10

► SC agrees to list for urgent hearing ex-IPS MPs plea seeking contempt action against Haryana officials for Ggn namaz disruptions P 4

► SC asks HCs to be careful in entertaining challenges to fully foreign funded projects, saying such challenges often result in delays, cost escalation & sometimes scrapping of project as unviable PAGE OPP

## Pegasus: More Oppn MPs move privilege notice against IT min

Swati Mathur @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A day after Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury served a notice for breach of privilege against IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for allegedly misreading Parliament over the Pegasus issue, more opposition MPs followed suit on Monday setting the stage for another confrontation in the two Houses after the presentation of the Union Budget on Tuesday.

"The government is snatching people's freedom by spying on opposition leaders, judges, journalists and bureaucrats," said leader of opposition in RS Mallikarjun Kharge

► Evidence public, P 10

## I&B min nixes channel licence; HC stays order

Kochi/Kozhikode: The Kerala high court on Monday deferred by two days the operation of the information and broadcasting ministry's order revoking the licence of Malayalam news channel Meetha One TV. The channel, linked to Jamaat-e-Islami, resumed its broadcast around 7.15pm after going off air in the afternoon. Justice N Nagesh issued the directive after considering a petition by channel operator Madhyamam Broadcasting Ltd (MBL) during the court's afternoon session. The court asked assistant solicitor general (ASG) S Manu to get detailed instructions on the matter by the next hearing. **P 10**

## EC eases rally curbs, raises cap for outdoor meetings

New Delhi: Allowing physical campaign to begin across the five poll-bound states from Tuesday in view of the flattening curve of Covid infections, the Election Commission on Monday allowed in-person public meetings in open spaces subject to a cap of 1,000 participants, up from 500 earlier, while also raising the attendance ceiling for indoor meetings to 500 persons from 300. The relaxations will apply uniformly to all the seven phases of polling, reports Bharti Jain. However, roadshows, pro-

### LIMIT UP TO 1K

► EC allows in-person public meetings in open spaces subject to a cap of 1,000 participants, up from 500 earlier

► Raises attendance ceiling for indoor meets to 500 from 300

► Ups limit of persons allowed for door-to-door campaign to 20

► Roadshows, processions, bike or car rallies banned till Feb 11

► Avoid crowding, P 10

## SP promotes fake socialism, says Modi at virtual rally

Meerut: PM Narendra Modi lashed out at the Samajwadi Party in his first virtual rally for poll-bound UP on Monday, addressing 21 constituencies in the western part of the state that vote in the initial phase on February 10, and said that the SP has been promoting "makli samajwadi (fake socialism)", reports Sandeep Rai. Lauding the BJP in the state for being a "government of the poor", the PM accused the opposition of "saying lie in vengeance when BJP wanted to bring in development". Modi

### We are committed to bringing about a change in UP with our social-engine gov and the opposition wants to take revenge...

Five years ago, dhang (muslimen) & drangi (vickies) were the law. While the region was burning in riots, gov was busy celebrating

PM Modi

was referring to comments made by SP candidate Aijil Chaudhary in Meerut on Thursday.

► Special funds: PM, P 10

## City records its cleanest and 2nd coldest Jan

Delhi this year had its cleanest January — the monthly average air quality index (AQI) was 229 — since CPCB started measuring it in April 2015. Excess rainfall that made it the wettest January in 121 years, fewer foggy days and seven western disturbances kept the air clear. The city also recorded its second coldest Jan since 1961 and the coldest in the past 10 years, with the average monthly maximum temperature at 18 degrees C. **P 4**

## City riots: Court takes dig at cops' 'silent plot' angle

New Delhi: Hearing the bail plea of ex-JNU student Umor Khalid, a Delhi court on Monday said it saw a "common thread" in the prosecution's arguments on the northeast Delhi riots, where it tries to use both what was said in WhatsApp chats and what wasn't said to its advantage. "When somebody has done something and said something in a WhatsApp group, the prosecution says they have said something nasty, but when they don't, the prosecution says they are so clever (in remaining quiet)", additional sessions judge Arinab Raiwar observed. **P 4**

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**Rajat Khanna**

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CANADA	Fri & Sat, 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	11:00am - 5:00pm
UK	Sun, 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	1:00pm - 6:00pm
USA	Mon, 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2:00pm - 7:00pm
IRELAND	Fri, 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2:00pm - 5:00pm
NEW ZEALAND	Sat, 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	11:00am - 3:00pm

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\*#UG Only, \*\*4<sup>th</sup> Feb, \*\*5<sup>th</sup> Feb.

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