



IDEA EXCHANGE PAGE 10

'THE KIND OF QUESTIONS THEY ASK... TODAY'S 17-YR-OLD IS NOTHING LIKE 17-YR-OLD OF A FEW YEARS AGO'

KAPIL VISWANATHAN, Vice-Chairman and co-founder of Krea University

SUNDAY STORY PAGE 11

Vashishtha's world

After streaking a path from Bihar to Berkeley, the maths genius slipped into mental illness, leaving behind a thesis, and a million questions



The Long Road to Hope
How access to subsidised higher education has fuelled dreams and opened up opportunities for the disadvantaged

17 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 6 MINORS, WERE KILLED IN 'ENCOUNTER' ON JUNE 28, 2012

Chhattisgarh 'encounter' probe indicts security forces: No firing by villagers, no proof they were Maoists

Security forces fired in panic, 6 of them injured in friendly fire, one villager shot next morning: Justice V K Agarwal

DIPANKAR GHOSE
RAIPUR, NOVEMBER 30

IN A damning indictment of the security forces, a one-member judicial commission set up to probe an alleged encounter in which 17 people, including six minors, were killed in Sarkeguda, in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh, in June 2012, has noted the following findings: there was no firing by the villagers; there is no evidence to suggest they were Maoists; the villagers were assaulted and killed from close quarters; security forces may have fired "in panic"; and one of the victims was shot in the morning, several hours after the encounter at night.

The commission chaired by Justice V K Agarwal, a retired Judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, submitted its report to the state government earlier this month.

The report, reviewed by *The Sunday Express*, says the injuries suffered by six security personnel were due to "cross-firing", possibly by "bullets fired by fellow members of the security forces", and there was "clear manipulation in investigation". However, it also notes that the villagers' claim that they were meeting to discuss a festival "appears highly doubtful".

On the night of June 28, 2012, teams of the CRPF and Chhattisgarh Police, led by the former, had launched an opera-



Panel was set up to probe deaths following protests



tion to go to Silger, based on information about the presence of Maoists.

According to the sequence of events put forth by the security forces, two teams left from

Basaguda and came across a Maoist meeting at Sarkeguda, 3 km away. The villagers attending the meeting opened fire, and the security personnel retaliated.

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WHAT THE REPORT SAYS

- "Not been proved... that confrontation was with members of Naxal outfit, or they were present... Not been proved that persons killed... were Naxals."
- "No firing by members of the meeting... had there been firing... senior officers who were fully armed would have certainly fired in retaliation, self defence."
- "Panic reaction" by security forces after guide reported a "suspicious sound at a distance".
- "Possibility cannot be ruled out that bullets fired

by fellow members of security forces may have hit (security personnel)."

- "It appears that security forces... fired from close quarters, inflicting injuries on top of head to some."
- "The beating and death of Irpa Ramesh in the morning of June 29, after the incident on the night of June 28, established."
- "In view of... anti-social elements in meeting... timing and venue... it appears highly doubtful that it was being held for... festivity for Beej Pandum."



Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray after winning the floor test on Saturday. Prashant Nadkar

MORE REPORTS, PAGE 6

Alliance gets more support, Uddhav sails through vote

BJP walks out; Fadnavis says session, having a new pro tem Speaker illegal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 30

MAHARASHTRA CHIEF Minister Uddhav Thackeray comfortably won the vote of confidence in the Legislative Assembly on Saturday. The Maha Vikas Aghadi government got 169 votes, including the votes of 16 MLAs from smaller parties, and Independents.

The BJP, led by former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, walked out before the vote, claiming that the session had been called illegally. Fadnavis also objected to the oath taken by Ministers, and the government's move to replace the pro tem Speaker.

The trust vote took place within half-an-hour of the beginning of proceedings in the House. The Congress's Ashok Chavan moved the motion, which was seconded by the NCP's Nawab Malik and Jayant Patil, and the Shiv Sena's Sunil Prabhu. The Sena's 56 MLAs, the Congress's 44, and the NCP's 53 MLAs voted for the motion. The

BIG PICTURE

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Thrice-born

It's an unusual alliance born of the most unusual of circumstances

NCP's Dilip Walse Patil, who was appointed pro tem Speaker, could not vote.

Of the 16 MLAs who supported the government, three were from the Bahujan Vikas Aghadi, two each from the Prahar Janshakti Party and Samajwadi Party, and one each from the Swabhimani Paksha, the Peasants and Workers Party.

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Shah listening, Bajaj speaks: No one will tell you... not sure you like criticism

Shah says no need to fear, but if that is the mood, we are open to improving

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30

WITH HOME Minister Amit Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and Railways and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal listening, Bajaj Group chairman Rahul Bajaj expressed concern on Saturday evening over the lack of confidence among corporates to criticise the central government, the absence of effective action against lynchings, and the remark of Bhopal MP Pragma Singh Thakur praising Nathuram Godse in Parliament this week.

"Nobody from our industrialist friends will speak, I will say openly... An environment will have to be created... When UPA II was in power, we could criticise anyone... You (the government) are doing good work, but despite that we don't have the confidence that you will appreciate if we criticise you openly (*Aap achchha kaam kar rahe hain, uske baad bhi, hum aapko criticise openly karein, confidence nahin hai ki you will appreciate*)," Bajaj said at an awards event organised by *The Economic Times* in Mumbai.

The ministers were on stage,



Rahul Bajaj raised lynchings, Pragma Thakur's statement in Parliament

and top industrialists including RIL CMD Mukesh Ambani, Aditya Birla Group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla, and Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal were present at the gathering.

Bajaj expressed his concerns a day after former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh spoke at the National Economy Conclave about "a palpable climate of fear" in society. "Many industrialists tell me they live in fear of harassment by government authorities... Entrepreneurs are hesitant to put up fresh projects, for fear of failure attributed to ulterior motives," Singh said.

The *Indian Express* reported

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LONDON TERRORIST HAD PAK LINK



IN THIS grab taken from video made available by @HLOBlog, a man is surrounded by armed police after an incident on London Bridge, in London on Friday. **THE MAN** has been identified as Usman Khan, who was imprisoned for six years over a plot to

bomb the London Stock Exchange and build a terrorist training camp on land owned by his family in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, before his release last year. He stabbed several people, two fatally, before being shot by officers. **AP REPORT, PAGE 17**

India, Japan hold first 2+2 meet, tell Pak to act against terror

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 30

INDIA AND Japan on Saturday expressed concern over the threat posed to regional peace and security by "terrorist networks operating out of Pakistan" and asked Islamabad to take "resolute and irreversible" action against them.

At the inaugural India-Japan 2+2 ministerial dialogue — Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with their counterparts, Taro Kono and Toshimitsu Motegi, in New Delhi on Saturday. Amit Mehra

EXPLAINED

Eye on China

AS INDIA and Japan met in Delhi in the new format, they made progress on defence, terrorism and Indo-Pacific issues and aligned their positions more closely. Delhi and Tokyo's alignment of strategies is in view of the larger threat from Beijing's assertive economic and military strategies. This sets the stage for Japan PM Shinzo Abe's visit in mid-December.



EXPRESS NETWORK

PROTESTS OVER HYDERABAD RAPE, ACCUSED SENT TO JUDICIAL CUSTODY
PAGE 9

IRAM SIDDIQUE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 30

EVERY DAY, 70-year-old Kasturibai Tekade crosses the busy railway tracks close to her home with a basket full of green vegetables on her head, to set up shop a few metres from one of several "black spots" on the line infamous for the large numbers of people who are killed by trains on it.

Kasturibai knows the risk only too well — her 23-year-old son died after being hit by a train

TRACKING CHANGE

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at that spot some 12 years ago. But she, and the other residents of Reti bundar and Datta chawl, have come to accept death as part of their lives.

Nearly 11,000 residents of these illegal settlements at the

foot of a hill on Central Railway's Mumbra-Kalwa stretch must cross the railway line in order to reach the highway that connects them to the rest of the world. They — and the Railways — have no option: it is not possible to build a foot overbridge (FOB) at that spot, identified in Railway records as "Km No. 38/1-16".

So, between March and August this year, what the Railways tried instead, was three seemingly simple interventions at 22 locations between Thane and Kalwa, which saw 88 deaths between January and November



Sleepers painted yellow are part of innovation to prevent deaths on railway tracks. Deepak Joshi



DECISION 2019

JHARKHAND RECORDS 65% TURNOUT
PAGE 6

To ward off track deaths, Central Rly gets painted sleepers, staccato horns

2018 — the worst black spot, with 21 deaths, being Km No. 38/1-16.

And the interventions, based on principles of cognitive neuroscience and behavioural economics, have shown results.

First, in order to help people gauge more accurately the speed of an oncoming train, five sets of sleepers at intervals of 100 metres have been painted yellow, with the nearest set of these sleepers about 150 m from the black spot. The idea is for people to watch how quickly the yellow sleepers are being swal-

lowed as the train approaches them.

Second, a "whistle board" has been put up 120 m from the spot, asking the motorman to blow the hooter with breaks in between, described as a "staccato horn". Research suggests the human brain reacts better to a staccato horn than to a single, long blast.

Third, a huge board with a picture of a man with vivid expressions as he is being hit by a train, has been put up at all locations.

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