

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

REBOOT THE DATA SYSTEM
BY ARVIND SUBRAMANIAN & JOSH FELMAN
PAGE 12

Tata Sons head Chandrasekaran guest at Express Adda today



ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

N CHANDRASEKARAN, Chairman of Tata Sons — the holding company of Tata Group — who took over the reins of the Group in February 2017, will be the guest at the Express Adda in Mumbai on Tuesday.

As head of the group, with revenues of over \$110 billion in FY '18, employee strength of 7,06,511 across around 100 companies and market capitalisation of Rs 11.31 lakh crore (as on December 6, 2019), Chandrasekaran is one of the most powerful business leaders and a key corporate voice in the country.

As the leader of the most diversified group, which has

CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL: 311 VOTE IN FAVOUR, 80 AGAINST

LS clears CAB: Shah invokes 'Partition on basis of religion' to defend Bill

'No discrimination, Hindu percentage down, Muslim percentage gone up'

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

AT THE stroke of midnight, the Lok Sabha passed the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, after over seven hours of heated debate during which Home Minister Amit Shah invoked the Partition and said that the BJP had to bring the Bill because the Congress had partitioned the country in 1947 on the basis of religion.

Responding to criticism from the main Opposition party that the proposed law was "divisive" and "communal", Shah said while introducing the Bill: "Why did we have to come up with this Bill? If during Independence, this country was not partitioned by the Congress on the basis of religion, this Bill would not have



Home Minister Amit Shah in Lok Sabha on Monday. PTI

been needed."

The Bill was eventually passed at 12.02 am Tuesday by a division of votes with 311 in favour and 80 against. In his reply before voting, Shah responded to charges by AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi that the Bill

Bill divisive, stokes fear, insecurity: Opp

MANOJ CG, PRADEEP KAUSHAL & AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

FROM ACCUSING the BJP-led government of violating the basic structure of the Constitution and Articles related to right to equality and prohibition of discrimination on grounds of reli-

gion and race, to charging it with indulging in divisive and vote-bank politics and stoking fear in the minds of Muslims, the Opposition on Monday waged a spirited attack against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill but could not stop its passage in Lok Sabha, where the ruling NDA has a huge majority.

While the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) joined the

Opposition ranks to oppose the Bill, its support will not be enough to prevent its passage in Rajya Sabha, as the numbers are stacked in favour of the government. With the BJP, AIADMK and YSRCP backing the Bill, and former BJP ally Shiv Sena not openly opposing it, the ruling alliance is set to cross the halfway mark in the 240-member House,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INSIDE

NORTH-EAST MEMBERS DIVIDED

WHAT ABOUT NEPAL, LANKA, MALDIVES, ASK SOME PARTIES

WHY MUSLIMS LEFT OUT: AKALI DAL

PAGE 6

Protests in Tripura, call for North-East shutdown

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 9

ON MONDAY, as Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, states in the North-East, except Nagaland, announced a

shutdown against it on Tuesday, following a call by the North-East Students' Organisation (NESO), an umbrella body of influential students' bodies of the region.

Samuel Jyrwa, chairman of the NESO, told *The Indian Express*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Gandhi to Vivekananda, TMC raises statues ahead of civic polls in Kolkata

RAVIBHATTACHARYA & SANTANU CHOUDHURY
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 9

MAHATMA GANDHI, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Sister Nivedita, and lesser-known Bengali revolutionaries. With civic polls in Kolkata four months away, ul-



Gandhi, Bose statues in Kolkata. Partha Paul

ing Trinamool Congress leaders are in the midst of a statue-building spree. From across two 35-ft statues of Bose and Gandhi near Phoolbagan in East Kolkata, inaugurated in September, stand those of Tagore and Sister Nivedita. Over 20 new statues have come up in North Kolkata alone, while more are planned for the southern part of the city. The civic polls will indicate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



LATHICHARGE AT JNU PROTEST

JNU students were lathicharged when they tried to march towards Rashtrapati Bhavan to protest against the hostel fee hike on Monday. Tashi Tobgyal

REPORT PAGE 5

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Chanakya Bangalore

EXPLAINED
E Timely boost for BJP

AFTER LOSING power in Maharashtra, the Karnataka bypolls were key for BJP to arrest the slide. The verdict indicated popular support for its push to topple the Congress-JD(S) state government.

CITY



DELHI GOVERNANCE SURVEY PAGE 4

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VIDEO OF THE DAY

WHAT THE HYDERABAD ENCOUNTER SAYS

We look at the killings and how they might affect law and order

EXPLAINED: WHY RUSSIA CAN'T PARTICIPATE IN TOKYO OLYMPICS, FIFA WORLD CUP

World Anti-Doping Agency ban came in response to Russia's alleged doping programme. How was the programme run, and what new revelations have led to the suggestion?

FULL COVERAGE



PARLIAMENT LIVE: CITIZENSHIP BILL

No political agenda behind Bill, says Amit Shah in Lok Sabha

EXPRESS AUDIO

Roadblocks in the other Unnao rape case

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Detailing the power imbalance, caste issues and lapses in the Unnao rape case, how it is being investigated and what the victim's family has demanded

FROM PAGE ONE

Opp on CAB

where five seats are vacant. The over seven-hour debate in Lok Sabha on Monday got off to a stormy start with Opposition members objecting to introduction of the Bill on the ground that it violates the Constitution and discriminates against a section of people on the basis of their religion. When Home Minister Amit Shah responded to their charges, they made frequent interruptions. Countering them, Shah said they would "have to listen (to him) too", adding that "this government has been voted for five years".

Congress president Sonia Gandhi appeared set to lead a walkout but before party members could make a move, Speaker Om Birla called a division of votes. With 293 voting in favour of introducing the Bill and 82 against, the stage was set for a high-voltage debate.

The Opposition repeatedly invoked Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Swami Vivekananda and BR Ambedkar to argue that the government's move goes against their ideals. They said the move was divisive, against the secular ethos of India and the tenets of the Constitution, and guided by the BJP's political agenda of creating a "Hindu rashtra".

Almost all the Opposition members asked why Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Maldives were not included in the list of countries along with Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Many said the Bill would be struck down by the Supreme Court.

"The ruling side knows why this legislation is being brought, we also know why they have come up with this legislation, the people also know... I just want to warn the government that itihaas ki aankhon ne wo falak bhi dekhe hain, lamhon ne galti ki aur sadiyon ne saza payi hain... (History has been witness to episodes where sons had to pay for a momentary mistake...) Today, you are going to commit a big mistake," said Congress's Manish Tewari.

"We are opposing the Bill because it is discriminatory in nature. It wreaks havoc on the very foundations of the Constitution. This is a step towards Hindu rashtra... whatever be the colour of the cow, the milk is white. Whatever be the religion, the essence is humanity. India should maintain the essence of humanism," said Congress's floor leader in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

"If this Bill passes... it will mark the victory of Muhammad Ali Jinnah's thinking over that of Mahatma Gandhi... You cannot say you reject Pakistan while advocating the same logic as Pakistan... Today you are violating Article 14 of the Constitution by singling out one community and refusing to grant them asylum from oppression. We have already had a partition of the Indian soil... this Bill is marking a partition of the Indian soil," said his party colleague Shashi Tharoor.

Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) tore a copy of the Bill after accusing the government of "hating" Muslims, "discriminating against" them and conspiring to make them "stateless". "There is a need to look at CAB through the NRC lens. Of the 19 lakh left out of NRC in Assam, 5.40 lakh are Bengali Hindus; after the CAB comes, proceedings against them will be abated. So, proceedings will continue against only the remaining Muslims. This is violation of Article 14, it is a conspiracy of this government to make Muslims stateless. Why this hatred and discrimination," he said.

"NRC is a lollipop and CAB is a bigger lollipop... this Bill is anti-India, anti-Bengali. It will rip apart the soul of Bengal, because it attempts to discriminate between people who have the same culture, speak the same language," said Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee. "You can demonetise Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes, but you cannot demonetise citizens of this country, you cannot demonetise the soul of Bengal," he said.

NCP's Supriya Sule said the perception is that every Muslim is feeling insecure. "If the second largest community is feeling insecure, then this government needs to introspect... Do not make anybody stateless in your own country. People are feeling insecure... It is our moral duty to stand by every community, caste and creed... The entire ethos of democracy is equality... (the Bill) will be struck down in the Supreme Court," she said.

Sule asked whether the government had brought the Bill because the NRC exercise had failed in Assam. She also asked why the government had left out Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

Nama Nageswara Rao (TRS) said his party was opposed to the proposed law as it does not include Muslims.

DMK's Dayanidhi Maran said the Bill went against the spirit of India's age-old ethos of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the

world is one family). "You are pre-occupied with Pakistan, with Bangladesh, but you fail to realise that you are not the Home Minister only for the northern part of India. You are the Home Minister for the entire country... We have Sri Lanka... Maldives... They are also our neighbours... We have given citizenship or are in the process of giving citizenship to nearly 1,082 people, and majority are from Pakistan. Thirteen people from Sri Lanka have applied for citizenship or have been given citizenship. You are not taking any note of that in your Bill," he said.

"You are scaring them, you are forcing the Muslim youth... the fear has come into them that this government is against the Muslims... your Bill is also saying the same. When you say you support the minorities, the minorities don't believe you," said Maran.

Protests

that the shutdown will be 11-hour long, from 5 am to 4 pm. He said the protest was against the "imposition" of the CAB on the Northeast which, he said, would open the floodgates for "illegal Bangladeshis" and signified a "dishonouring of the demands of the people of the Northeast".

Jyrwa said Nagaland was exempt from the shutdown call because of the ongoing annual Hornbill Festival which sees a large tourist footfall from across the world. The Manipur government, meanwhile, announced a holiday Tuesday since the CAB has proposed an inner land permit system for the state.

In the face of protests, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal tweeted on Monday, "It is important to realise that the #CitizenshipAmendmentBill is for the whole of India and not only for Assam. But a section has maligned the image of the state by spreading misinformation that only Assam will have to again bear the burden of illegal immigrants," he wrote in his tweet.

In Tripura, a strike call against CAB by indigenous parties including Indigenous Peoples' Front of Tripura (IPFT), which is part of the ruling BJP-led coalition government, virtually crippled public movement for most parts of Monday. IPFT and Joint Movement Against CAB, a platform of three indigenous political parties and tribal social organisations, said granting citizenship to people from foreign nations in the state would create an identity crisis for tribals in the state. "If CAB is implemented, people from Bangladesh will throw us in further identity crisis," IPFT spokesperson Mangal Debbarma said.

Manipur declared a holiday on Tuesday to celebrate the announcement made by Shah that the state would be brought under the purview of the Inner Line Permit system (ILP). "Our central leaders have kept their promise. This is a victory of the people of Manipur who have been struggling for a long time for this dream to come true and also salute Robinhood who died during ILP protest in the state," said Chief Minister N Biren Singh in a hurriedly convened press conference after the announcement made by Amit Shah.

However, Laishram Athouba Meitei, President-in-charge of the All Manipur Students' Union, said the body will stand by NESO's demand for not implementing CAB in the Northeast region and appealed to the people to effectively enforce the shutdown. Samujjal Bhattacharya, advisor, NESO, told *The Indian Express*, "They are trying to divide us. Although, northeast is seven states, but we are mentally and emotionally one. There will be a complete Northeast shutdown tomorrow. This CAB has to go one day or the other."

LS clears CAB: Shah invokes Partition

was a precursor to implementing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) across the nation. "We don't need to set a background for the NRC. We will bring the NRC across the country... Not a single infiltrator will be spared," Shah said.

Replying to criticism linking the Bill to the BJP's idea of a "Hindu Rashtra", Shah said that the population share of Hindus had decreased since Independence. "People are saying that the Indian Constitution is going to become a Hindu Rashtra. In 1951, there were 84 per cent Hindus, now it is 79 per cent. In 1951, Muslims were 9.8 per cent of the population, today they are 14.23 per cent. We have not done any discrimination on the basis of religion. And it will not happen," Shah said.

The Home Minister said that the only intention of the proposed law was to give citizenship to illegal migrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh who fled to India because of religious persecution and have been leading a "terrible" life.

Insisting that the provisions were not violative of the basic principles of the Constitution, the Home Minister pointed out that he had held consultations over the Bill with 140 delegations across 119 hours, and described it as a "rights giver, not a rights taker".

Countering criticism that Muslims were being singled out for exclusion, Shah said that if a "sajjan" (well-meaning) Muslim from the three neighbouring countries applied for citizenship, it would be considered — but outside the purview of the Bill. Referring to Rohingya, however, he said they would not get citizenship because they came via Bangladesh.

Cleared last Wednesday by the Union Cabinet, the Bill seeks to provide Indian citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, Jains and Parsis — it

leaves out Muslims — who entered the country from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan until December 31, 2014.

According to the Home Minister, the six communities mentioned are being persecuted in the three neighbouring countries and the Bill sought to grant "positive discrimination" to them. "In 1950, the Nehru-Liaquat agreement was signed for protecting minorities in India and Pakistan. They were protected in India but in Pakistan they were persecuted. Are you saying Muslims would be persecuted in Pakistan and Bangladesh? It will never happen," Shah said.

Recounting instances of persecution of minorities in the three countries, Shah said, "There is a fundamental difference between a refugee and an infiltrator. This Bill is for refugees. If, because of votebank politics, your (Opposition's) eyes and ears are shut, then open them. Lakhs and crores of people who have been living in hell, deprived of any basic facilities, staying on on railway tracks... Because of (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi, these people are going to see a golden dawn."

Noting that Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are Islamic countries, Shah said: "Just because of this, the possibility of justice for minorities in these countries diminishes."

The Union Minister announced that like in the rest of the North East, Manipur would be exempted from the purview of the Bill as the government would approve the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime for the state. Manipur has already passed a Bill in this regard, which is pending with the Centre. The Bill keeps out of its purview all ILP states — Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland — and the Sixth Schedule regions in Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya.

During the debate, Shah said that Article 14 (Right to Equality)

was not absolute and that special provisions for certain communities have been adopted in the past based on the principle of "reasonable classification".

"The Bill does not violate any article of the Constitution. Read Article 11 fully to know. People are talking about the right to equality. Under Article 14, through reasonable classification, legislation on citizenship can be brought," Shah said.

He said the Bill was also not violative of Article 14 as it was "not for any specific class, but for all minorities". "If we were doing it just for Hindus or Parsis, then it would be a violation," he said. The Home Minister cited instances when illegal migrants suffering persecution in other countries were provided shelter and citizenship in India. He said citizenship was given to refugees during the Partition of 1947, the 1971 war in Bangladesh, the Sri Lanka conflict and from Uganda under the regime of Idi Amin.

"It was given under the idea of reasonable classification. In other countries, HNIs or those who can contribute positively are given citizenship. Does it not violate the Constitution? Does facilities and rights given to minorities and minority institutions violate Article 14 of the Constitution? It comes under reasonable classification," Shah said.

Referring to Muslims, Shah said: "If from these three countries, a Muslim... a sajjan Muslim... applies for citizenship under the existing laws, it would be considered. But they cannot avail of provisions under this Bill as they have not been persecuted in these countries."

Responding to Owaisi's question on why he "hated Muslims", Shah said: "We have no hatred towards Muslims. But you (Owaisi) don't stoke it. This Bill has nothing to do with Indian Muslims."

When MPs from south India criticised the Bill for not includ-

ing refugees from Sri Lanka, Shah said, "At different times, different sections of people have been given citizenship. When Partition happened, all who came were given citizenship. Lankan Tamils were given citizenship when, in 1964, an agreement was signed... At that time, Bangladesh and Pakistani people were not given citizenship. Whenever there has been an intervention on citizenship, it has been specific to a problem. This time, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan refugees are getting it."

Shah also issued an appeal to MPs, "especially from West Bengal", to explain to people that there was nothing to fear about the Bill and that there was ample protection for those who entered the country illegally or overstayed.

"There are people who have come here and then bought houses, scooters, etc. Someone has got a job or has got married. When they apply for citizenship, they will be proven to be foreigners. But nothing will be held against them... Whether you have ration card or not, as Home Minister I tell you, you will get citizenship. Bengal MPs should tell people in the region," he said.

A new provision in the Bill states that proceedings pending against any person for his or her inability to meet the citizenship criteria earlier, if eligible for citizenship under provisions of the new 2019 Bill, will be granted citizenship and the proceedings will abate.

Attacking the TMC, which has opposed the CAB and NRC, Shah said: "(TMC MP) Abhishek Banerjee... said NRC and CAB are traps. No. It is a simple Bill. But those who want to shelter infiltrators for their votebank may feel it as a trap. I want to tell them that lakhs of people who are going to get this citizenship are Bengalis. You don't want them to become citizens?"

the BJP's "south Indian plans".

-WITHENS, DELHI

TMC statues

which way the fierce political fight in West Bengal is going, and the statues are meant to send a message after the vandalism of a bust of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar in May this year. The Trinamool and BJP had blamed each other for the incident.

The twin statues of Gandhi and Bose cost around Rs 20 lakh. There are also statues along the Ganga ghats. Many have provision for lighting for late-evening hours.

Trinamool leaders said the statues were meant to underline Bengali culture and communal harmony — most personalities picked by it belong to the Bengal Renaissance period from 19th century to early 20th century, a time of great cultural and social changes in the state — to counter the BJP's Hindutva message via Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti celebrations. The Trinamool has been highlighting its Bengali culture for a while now, with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's rallies in the Lok Sabha polls featuring women blowing conch shells and ululating.

The Trinamool believes the BJP's messaging will get even more strident with the introduction of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Parliament.

The plaques of the new statues bear the name of Trinamool councillors and MLAs.

Trinamool MLA Paresch Patel said his constituency Beliaghata has "100 small, medium and large statues". "When a mother walks down a road with her child, she can show the statues and say who they are and what their contribution was to India and Bengal. Apart from Netaji and Gandhiji, we have put up statues of personalities linked to Bengal Renaissance like Ram Mohan Roy and Vidyasagar, as well as those of Sri Chaitanya, Swami Vivekananda, Sri Ramakrishna... We have a responsibility to let the next generation know about our country... My next target is to install statues of legendary sports personalities."

At Kankurgachi crossing, the pavement of a shopping mall now holds 12 statues wrapped in polythene and awaiting inauguration. Final touches are being given to a statue of Vidyasagar. Swami Vivekananda features at many places, in tall, golden form near the Gourbari bus stop, and driving a chariot in another.

Just a couple of metres away stands a huge clock tower called 'Gitanjali Ghor', with the statue of Tagore. Says Amal Chakraborty, a Trinamool councillor in KMC's Ward No. 14, "This clock is now a landmark... We are not focused on just installing statues but also their protection."

The BJP, which expects to do well given its 18 seats in the Lok Sabha elections, accused the Trinamool of using the statues to hide its failures and its "illegal" construction activities. "The CPM too had installed statues of Lenin and Stalin, but that could not save it from the people's mandate. Instead of tackling the current dengue menace, TMC MLAs and councillors are spending money on statues. Those who really respect such personalities don't need to erect statues," state general secretary Raju Banerjee said.

Sibaji Pratim Basu, Head, Department of Political Science, Vidyasagar University, said, "The BJP is using the narrative of a strong Hindu nation. To combat this, the Trinamool Congress is highlighting a narrative of Bengali-ness and secularism. The call 'Joy Bangla' is heard at almost every public meeting of the party and Mamata Banerjee also ends her speeches with it. What better way than to bring in 19th-century Bengali luminaries?"

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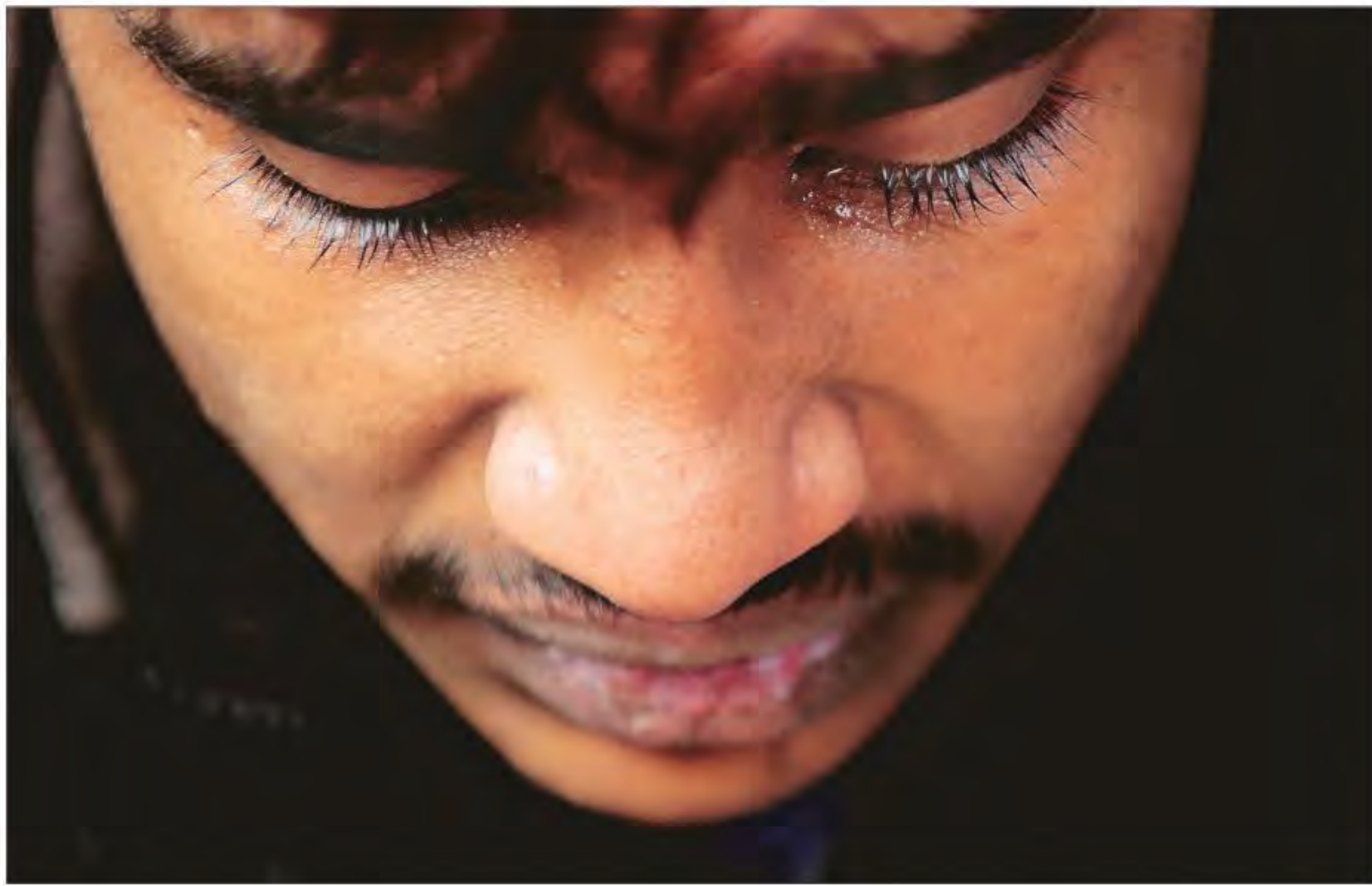
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ANAJ MANDI BLAZE 43 DEAD



A relative outside the mortuary at Maulana Azad Medical College, a day after the fire at Anaj Mandi building claimed 43 lives. Praveen Khanna

Accused built 2 illegal floors in 2008, rented small units to 13 people

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL & JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

INVESTIGATION INTO the fire at a five-storey building in Old Delhi's Anaj Mandi, which killed 43 people, has revealed that the owner, Mohammad Rehan, had illegally constructed two floors in 2008 and had rented out each floor and individual rooms to 13 people. He charged between Rs 8,000-10,000 per month from each tenant, three of whom also died in the blaze.

Rehan was arrested from his relative's house as he was allegedly trying to leave the city, and on Monday his custody was granted to the special investigation unit (SIU) of the Crime Branch, police said.

"During questioning, he disclosed that he has two brothers and two step-brothers. He and his brothers co-own the building that caught fire. He bought it in 2004 and illegally constructed the top two floors without laying a lintel. He claimed that both floors were constructed in a span of 15 days, allegedly with the connivance of local engineers of the civic body and local police," a senior police officer said.

Police are verifying his claims and have written to the North municipal body, asking them to provide the chain of property documents, ownership documents, construction permits and details of tax slips.

Said to be residential on paper, the building illegally housed several manufacturing units operating from inside small rooms. During questioning, 40-year-old Rehan also said that his brother-in-law was a tenant in the same building and that he shared the rent with his brothers. "He also told us he owned similar units in other buildings in the area, but claimed that minors were not employed in his building," an officer said. At least five of the 43 dead were minors.

AN ARPIT HOTEL FIRE REDUX

■ 3D laser scanner was Monday used to reconstruct the building, surroundings to collect evidence

■ Has two cameras: one covers 360-degree view horizontally, other 360-degree view vertically

■ Can cover area of 38,500 sq metres. First put outside building, then on each floor

■ Emits laser which captures images. An AI software merges images to reconstruct building

■ Digital copy of reconstructed building helps determine origin, cause and impact of fire

■ Technology first used by Delhi Police in February, after a fire broke out in Arpit Palace killing 17 people

On Monday, a team of the Delhi Police crime branch and forensic science laboratory (FSL) officials inspected the spot and collected samples from the building.

Rehan, along with building manager Mohammad Furqan (39), was Monday sent to police custody for 14 days by a Delhi court. Police said both men are childhood friends and have been working together since 2003.

"Forty-three innocent people have died in this blaze. It is a very sensitive issue... We arrested them (the two men) yesterday and we need their custody, otherwise it would amount to injustice," Vijay Kumar, the investigating officer in the case, told the court.

During investigation, police found that even on each floor, there were several different man-

ufacturing units let out to different owners — while some made caps, others made plastic toys, jackets and rexine bags.

Metropolitan Magistrate Manoj Kumar, in his order, said that considering the enormity of the incident, the court was satisfied that thorough investigation and custody of the accused was necessary.

A team of five from the FSL reached the Anaj Mandi building at 12:30 pm and inspected the charred structure for two hours. An officer said, "We have collected samples from the building, including raw material, cooking utensils, and electric appliances used by the labourers."

Locals claimed that several such buildings were illegally running out of the lane, which till the 1990s, was home to grain mills and residences. When *The Indian Express* visited the area on Monday, most of the buildings were locked, as were retail shops running in the lane.

Mitran Ahmed (53), who runs a pharmacy, said, "I opened my shop in the morning and saw a number of people leaving their houses. When I asked them, they told me they were scared because of the fire. After they heard that 43 people died, they decided to temporarily shift to their friends or families' homes."

Abdul (60), a resident, said, "Most of the buildings here were made for residential purposes... But there are some building owners who rent out entire floors to manufacturing units. Most of these factories make plastic toys and other items. There are some garment factories as well. In smaller buildings, people charge factory owners Rs 5,000-Rs 10,000 for one floor."

After visiting the spot, police said that prima facie, it appears there was a short circuit, which led to the fire. Police have sent a letter to the power company, asking for details of their electricity meter. They have also asked the CBI and FSL to visit the scene.

Grief strikes home in Bihar: 'Many youths skilled tailors, head to Delhi after Class X'

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, DECEMBER 9

MOHAMMED ULFAT, a resident of Harpur village in Bihar's Samastipur, had sent his fourth son Wazid (18) to Delhi to join his brother Sajid (26) for tailoring work last month. It was a garment factory owner from the same village, who had first employed Sajid, among other villagers, at his tailoring unit in the national capital.

The two brothers were among the 43 killed in the fire.

Ulfat, a daily wageer who has two other sons working as a welder in Bengaluru and a tailor

in Chennai, left with others for Delhi after hearing about the fire, which claimed the lives of nine people from their village.

Mohammed Noor, from Harpur village, said, "As tailoring has been our traditional profession, village youths go to Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru for work. Most youths take up tailoring jobs in factories in Delhi after passing class X. As the owner of one of the outlets that caught fire is from my village, it is easy for them to seek employment."

According to Noor, a villager could earn between Rs 12,000 and Rs 20,000 per month working in the factories.

Of the 29 victims from Bihar,



Six bodies have been sent back home so far. Praveen Khanna

11 are from Samastipur. The rest are from Muzaffarpur, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Sitamarhi, Saharsa, Araria and Supaul.

Of the eight victims from Saharsa, seven are from Nariyar, adjoining the district town, and were employed by a man from the area who ran a tailoring unit in the Anaj Mandi building.

Sanjay Soni, a Saharsa resident, said: "Nariyar is famous as a village of tailors. As most people are landless, many youths even do not wait to pass class X boards before heading to Delhi."

Meanwhile, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced ex-gratia compensation

of Rs 2 lakh for the families of victims, and sent labour commissioner Dharmendra Singh to Delhi. Bihar's labour resources minister Vijay Kumar Sinha said: "We will financially help families in bringing bodies to Bihar. We are also coordinating with the families of the injured for treatment."

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi blamed the lack of safety measures for the fire, while Bihar water resources minister Sanjay Kumar Jha said the Delhi government should be held accountable for the incident. Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav requested the Centre to identify those responsible for the incident.

How firefighters navigated the building, and the bodies

SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

FIVE MINUTES after receiving the fire call early Sunday morning, 39-year-old Satpal, a fire operator at Rani Jhansi Road fire station, was outside the lane in North Delhi's Anaj Mandi. The call was received at 5:22 am; by 5:35 am, Satpal had made a call about back-up and rushed inside the five-storey building wearing his breathing apparatus.

Satpal was one of the first firefighters to enter the building where a suspected short circuit led to the fire, killing 43 people. However, little had prepared him for what was unfolding inside the building, from where 63 men and boys were removed. "I entered from the front... the stairs were on fire and there was smoke everywhere. No one told us how many people were inside... I thought maybe 2, 5, or 10. I didn't think there would be 63 people. Men were lying on the floor in heaps — some breathing, some already dead. Others asked me for help and fainted soon after," said Satpal, a father of two boys.

The last time Satpal dealt with a "serious-category" fire was at AIIMS in August, where he was a



The firemen used ropes, lock cutters and fire hooks to navigate the building. Praveen Khanna

part of firefighting operations. He joined the DFS a decade ago, and was trained at Rohini Sector 7 fire training centre.

Apart from breathing apparatus sets, firefighters were equipped with ropes, lock cutters and fire hooks.

"In my 10 years at DFS, this was one of the most horrific situations I have faced," said Satpal. For others like Pawan Redhu (29), who joined DFS a year ago, this was his first rescue operation of such scale. "Woh manzar bada kashit tha, main aapko kya batau maine kya dekha," said Redhu.

"I was outside dousing fire when a young man told me there were people inside... There was smoke everywhere," he said.

As men were rushed out of the building, a team would wait to transfer them into an ambulance. The rescue operation continued with firefighters doing 10 such rounds.

Each firefighter does a 24-hour shift, following which they get a day off. Sunil Kumar (35), a fire operator with DFS for eight years, hails from Haryana's Rohtak and was trained at the fire station in Mandawali.

He said, "I entered the building from the rear. I heard people shouting 'bhaiya please bacha lo', and suddenly the voices went quiet... I have never been a part of such a rescue operation in terms of scale. It was traumatising, but our seniors help us cope."

Among dead: A son who sent money home, another who ran away in anger

SOMYA LAKHANI & ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

ON SUNDAY afternoon, when Zia-ul-Haq (45) received a call from a relative in Saudi Arabia about a factory fire in Delhi, he took it lightly and went about his day. As he sat down for lunch and switched on the TV, he understood the gravity of the situation, and was jolted by another call from Muzaffarpur, Bihar. "My 19-year-old brother-in-law Hussain worked at the factory and his father called to say he had received news that his son had died. I was clueless about where to go, and by the time I realised his body was at Lok Nayak Hospital, it was already night," said Haq.

On Tuesday, Haq stood outside the mortuary at the hospital, waiting for Hussain's father to arrive. "Hussain fought at home and came to Delhi with his friends four months ago, after his mother died in a road accident in Bihar. His father did not want him to go because he feared Hussain would get lost or hurt in a big city... his worst fears have come true," said Haq.

By Monday evening, bodies of six victims had been trans-



At the factory that was gutted in the fire. Praveen Khanna

ported home. The post-mortem of the remaining bodies will be finished by Wednesday afternoon.

Also outside the mortuary was Mohd Nasib (26), a tailor

whose brother-in-law Sajid (26), a native of Samastipur in Bihar, died. He said, "Sajid's wife gave birth to their second child, a daughter, a week ago. He was to visit next month." His wife has

been told Sajid is alive. "When we reach closer home, we will tell her he's no more," said Nasib. Sajid's 17-year-old brother Wahid, too, died in the fire, and their third brother Wajeed is undergoing treatment.

Among the grieving crowd was civil services aspirant Shoab Siddiqui, who had come to Lok Nayak hospital to identify two bodies — of his brother-in-law Ayub (34) and Ayub's brother Zahid (32). He said, "Both of them leave behind three kids each, all under 10 years of age. We are waiting for more family members to come and the post-mortem will happen then," said Siddiqui.

The family of Gyassuddin (19), meanwhile, struggled to come to terms with the shock. A native of Silmadi in Bihar, the teenager would have turned 20 on January 1.

A responsible son, he had been financing the studies of his younger brother back home. "Ek saal se yahan kaam kar raha tha, paisa bhejta tha bhai ki padai ke liye. 20 saal ka hone wala tha toh hum iski shaadi ka bhi soch rahi the (He had been working here for a year, sending money back home. We were thinking of getting him married)," said Mohd Qasim, a relative who runs a tailor shop in Noida.

Delhi govt hits out at Puri over Master Plan claim

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

SAYING THAT "bureaucrats don't keep ministers in the loop on matters related to land, which is a reserved subject", the Delhi government Monday rejected Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri's claim that it stalled notification of the redevelopment plan for special areas, prepared by the North MCD and the DDA in 2017.

Puri implied that had the redevelopment plan been notified, the pro-

liferation of illegal industrial units in areas such as Anaj Mandi — which also falls within a special area — could have been stopped.

The Delhi government Monday released file monitoring records, claiming that the file concerned reached Urban Development Minister Satyendar Jain's office on August 26, 2019, and was cleared in a day. As per records, Law Minister Kailash Gahlot had received the file on July 15 and had cleared it in a day as well. On December 5, Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev sent the file to Lt Governor Anil Bajjal.

"The elected government of Delhi has been kept out of the entire process of Master Plans by the DDA and other wings of the central government, citing that it has no say in the matter since land is a reserved subject under the Constitution, meaning it is under the exclusive domain of the Central government like police and public order," Jain's office said.

Apart from claiming that the plan was approved by North corporation in March 2017, Puri said that the entire proposal was sent to the Urban Development Department of Delhi government for notification in official

gazette in April 2017. However, the Delhi government said Puri was "exploiting" a tragic incident "for political reasons and it is unbecoming of a union ministry to become a part of this dangerous game".

Meanwhile, the Delhi government has notified three separate committees to recommend ways to strengthen fire safety norms in coaching centres, nursing homes and restaurants and hotels. The panels, which have been asked to submit reports to a committee under the Chief Secretary within two months, were notified on November 27.

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Admission to Ph.D. Programme 2019-20 (Winter Session)

Online Applications are invited on the prescribed performa available on the University website for the Ph.D. programme in the Centre of Excellence in Pharmaceutical Sciences (CEPS) for the Academic Session 2019-20 (Winter Session). Last date to receive the online applications- 06.01.2020. Date of written examination-12.01.2020. Admission Brochure and other related details in this regard are available on University website www.ipu.ac.in

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4 THE CITY DELHI GOVERNANCE SURVEY

Capital worry: Pollution

A survey of 2,298 Delhi voters by Lokniti-CSDS suggests bad air will emerge as a key factor when people step out to vote in a few months. A look at how people assessed the AAP government's performance on the front

SHREYAS SARDESAI & BISWAJIT MOHANTY

FORTY-FIVE per cent of Delhi residents believe pollution is the biggest problem facing the national capital today; eight in ten support the government's odd-even scheme; and one in ten say they will vote keeping the air crisis in mind — these are among the findings of a comprehensive opinion survey among Delhi's voters, conducted between November 22 and December 3, 2019 by the Lokniti programme of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS).

The survey was conducted in the context of the Delhi Assembly elections slated for early 2020, and aimed at capturing the perception of voters on issues pertaining to governance in the city and their assessment of the work done by the Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi government on water, electricity, health, education, public transport and air quality during the last five years.

Key findings from the survey will be reported through the week — today's piece focuses on the survey's findings related to air quality and pollution, an issue most residents of the capital considered to be of utmost concern.

Asked an unprompted open-ended question on what they thought was the biggest problem facing Delhi 'at the moment', 45% (more than two in every five) of the total 2,298 adults interviewed spontaneously said it was pollution (table 1). This was followed by unemployment (12%), water issues (7%) and poor sanitation (5%). While it comes as no surprise that pollution was cited by a plurality of voters as the city's most pressing problem, given that the survey was conducted in a month when the national capital experienced a massive drop in air quality levels and recorded seven severe air pollution days, what is significant is the gap of over 30 percentage points between the first and the second most cited problems.

While the survey found economically well-off and better educated respondents to be more likely to report pollution as being the biggest problem compared to others, pollution was cited as a pressing concern even among those belonging to the lower economic strata and the less educated (table 8).

In fact, close to nine of every ten (88%) said pollution was an 'extremely serious' issue, and close to one of every ten (9%) described it as being 'somewhat serious' (table 9). These percentages were equally high even among those who had not reported air pollution to be the biggest problem facing Delhi in response to the open-ended question.

Respondents were also asked what they thought was the main cause for rising air pollution levels in the city. Nearly two in every five (37%) blamed it on stubble burning by farmers in neighbouring states; close to one-third (30%) said that vehicular emissions were the main cause; and one of every eight (13%) identified polluting industries in and around Delhi to be the key problem (table 2).

While 6% felt that pollution was being caused by the burning of waste and grass in the city, only 4% blamed it mainly on firecrackers, even though the survey was conducted just a month after Diwali.

Even though stubble burning by farmers in neighbouring states was reported by a plurality as being the single biggest factor behind Delhi's air pollution, adding up the percentages of all other factors mentioned by the rest of the respondents suggests the majority of Delhi's voters pin the blame on factors local to the city.

Thus, when voters were asked subsequently which government was responsible for the problem of air pollution in the city, a plurality (27%) held the Delhi government responsible for the situation; 13% blamed the Central government; 11% blamed the governments of neighbouring states; and 23% said it was the joint responsibility of all governments (table 3). A sizeable 20% chose none of the options offered but instead spontaneously put the blame on the people themselves. It could, again, be argued that the majority of respondents did not put the burden of responsibility entirely on the Delhi government's shoulders alone.

The survey also sought to gauge public opinion on the odd-even scheme that was reintroduced in the city for the third time in

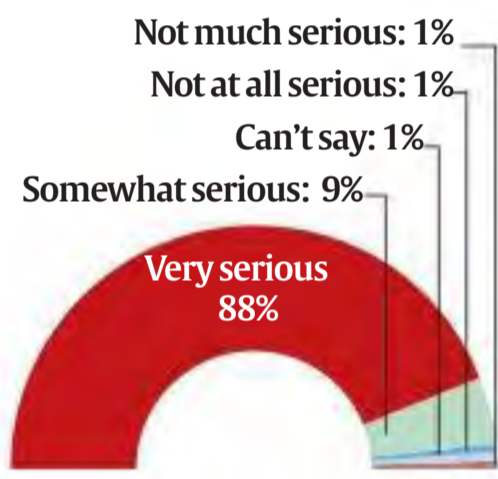
8. POLLUTION MORE A CONCERN OF UPPER CLASS, EDUCATED VOTERS BUT EVEN AMONG THE LOWER CLASS AND THE LESS EDUCATED A PLURALITY SAID IT WAS DELHI'S BIGGEST PROBLEM

HOUSEHOLD MONTHLY INCOME	DELHI'S BIGGEST PROBLEM		
	Air Pollution	Unemployment	Water problem
More than ₹30,000	54%	9%	4%
Between ₹20,000-30,000	43%	11%	8%
Between ₹10,000-20,000	42%	13%	8%
Below ₹10,000	35%	16%	12%

EDUCATIONAL STATUS	DELHI'S BIGGEST PROBLEM		
	Air Pollution	Unemployment	Water problem
College educated	52%	10%	5%
Educated up to matric	42%	15%	7%
Educated up to primary	36%	15%	13%
Non-literate	27%	16%	13%

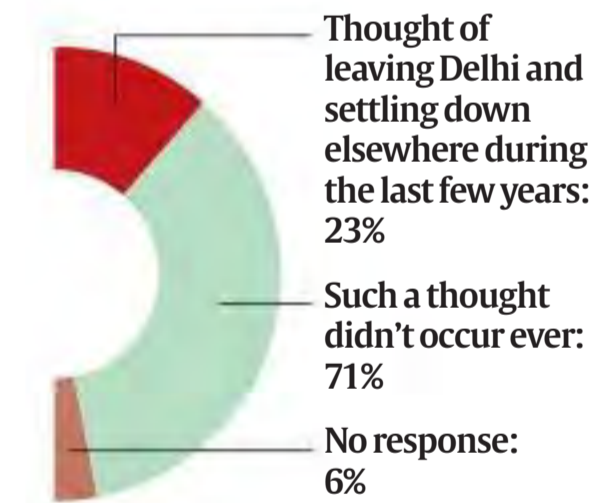
9. HARDLY ANYONE SAID PROBLEM OF POLLUTION IN DELHI WAS NOT A SERIOUS ONE

QUESTION ASKED: How serious is the problem of air pollution in Delhi — very serious, somewhat serious, not much serious or not at all serious?



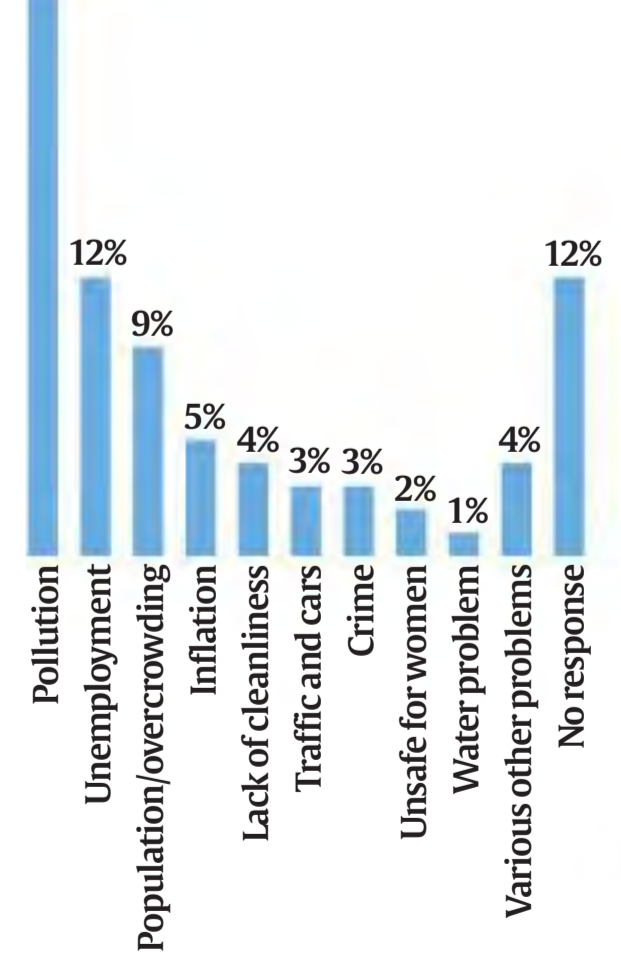
10. ONE IN EVERY FOUR DELHI VOTER HAS THOUGHT OF LEAVING THE CITY AND SETTLING DOWN ELSEWHERE

QUESTION ASKED: In the last few years have you thought of leaving Delhi and settling down elsewhere because of some dissatisfaction with it?



11. REASON FOR DISSATISFACTION THAT LED TO THOUGHT OF LEAVING THE CITY

QUESTION ASKED: (If thought of leaving Delhi due to some dissatisfaction) Then what is the reason for your dissatisfaction?



the first half of November. An overwhelming eight of every ten respondents expressed their support for the scheme (six of every ten fully so), with only a little over one of every ten opposing it and the rest being non-committal (table 5).

Interestingly, the respondents belonging to car-owning households were nearly as likely to support the scheme (76%) as the rest of the respondents. Also, quite significantly, support for the scheme was found to be fairly high among the BJP's Lok Sabha voters at 77% (55% strongly and 22% somewhat supported it). Opposition to the scheme by some BJP leaders does not seem to have influenced the opinion of BJP's recent voters much, and may well prove to be counterproductive come the assembly election.

Overall, the survey found most respondents to be quite satisfied with the steps taken by the AAP government in dealing with the problem of air pollution. Asked to give marks to the AAP government out of 10 for its efforts on the pollution front, the government obtained an average of 6.36 from the respondents (table 4). While 17% gave it an excellent rating (9 or 10 marks); 31% gave it 7 or 8; and 37% gave it an average rating ranging from 4 to 6. Very few respondents (10%) rated it poorly, that is, below 4. Even among those who claimed to have voted for the BJP in the Lok Sabha election, the proportion giving AAP a high score (7 or more) far outnumbered those giving it a low score (less than 4) (table 6).

Finally, in the survey, the respondents were also asked whether in the last few years they had ever thought of leaving Delhi and settling down elsewhere because of some dissatisfaction. Nearly one in every four (23%) said that such a thought had crossed their minds (table 10). On being further probed what had made them think about shifting out, nearly half (46%) said that it was Delhi's pollution (table 11). The second most important issue making people consider leaving the city was lack of jobs. Here, too, pollution could well be a factor, as many daily-wage construction workers might be finding it difficult to get work owing to ban on construction activity when pollution is at its peak.

While it remains to be seen to what extent pollution in the city will affect people's voting behaviour when elections eventually take place two months later, there are indications from the survey that the issue might matter much more than it used to in the past. Compared to the 2015 assembly election, there is a significant rise in the proportion of those who consider it to be an important voting issue. Back then, hardly anyone was found by Lokniti's post-election survey to have voted keeping pollution in mind. In this latest survey, at least 10% of all respondents and 15% of those who think pollution is the city's biggest problem said they plan to do so. If this sentiment holds till voting day, it would mark a significant shift in how Delhiites vote.

(Shreyas Sardesai is Research Associate at Lokniti-CSDS. Biswajit Mohanty is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the Deshbandhu College, University of Delhi. He is also the State Coordinator of Lokniti-CSDS in Delhi)

TOMORROW HEALTH AND EDUCATION

POLLUTION 45%

1. DELHI'S BIGGEST PROBLEM CURRENTLY ACCORDING TO DELHI'S VOTERS

QUESTION ASKED: In your opinion what is the biggest problem in Delhi at the moment?

2. NEARLY TWO IN EVERY FIVE VOTERS BELIEVE THAT STUBBLE BURNING IN NEIGHBOURING STATES IS THE MAIN CAUSE FOR POLLUTION

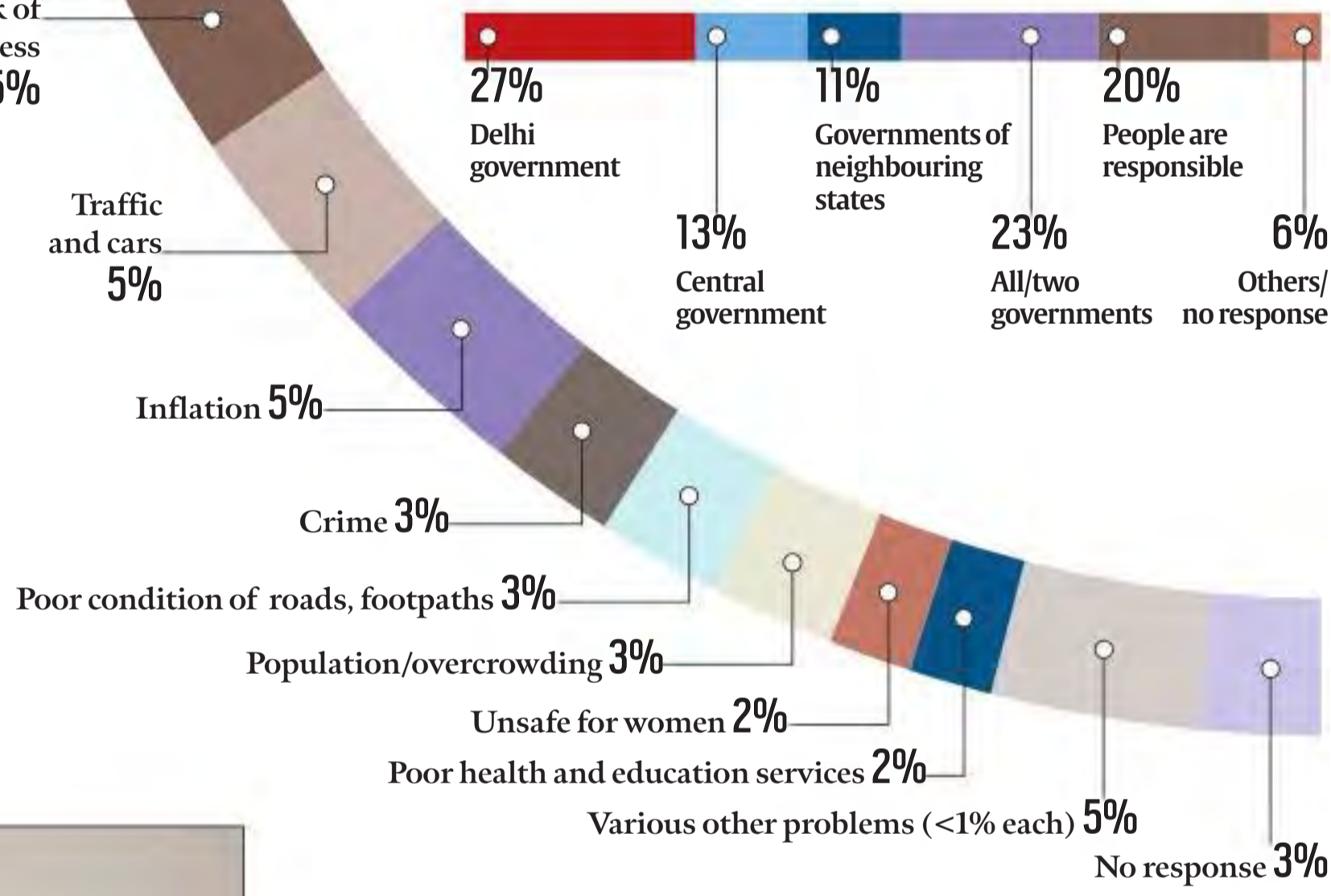
QUESTION ASKED: In your opinion what is the main reason behind the air pollution problem in Delhi — the factories in and around Delhi, smoke from the diesel generators, stubble burning in neighbouring states, vehicular emissions, burning of waste/grass, dust, crackers or construction activity?

Stubble burning in neighbouring states	37%
Vehicular emissions	30%
Factories/industries in and around Delhi	13%
Burning of waste/grass	6%
Firecrackers	4%
Dust	3%
Construction activity	2%
Diesel generators	1%
Other causes	3%
No response	2%



3. EVEN AS A PLURALITY CONSIDERS THE POLLUTION PROBLEM TO BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DELHI GOVERNMENT, THE MAJORITY DOES NOT BLAME IT ALONE

QUESTION ASKED: Who do you consider more responsible for the problem of air pollution in the city — Central government, Delhi's state government or the governments of neighbouring states?



Note: Figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding; All answers are spontaneous as the question was open-ended

5. THREE-FOURTHS RESPONDENTS FROM CAR OWNING HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORT THE ODD-EVEN SCHEME

QUESTION ASKED: Do you support or oppose the Odd-Even scheme? (And to what extent)

	Fully support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Fully oppose	No response
All respondents	61%	18%	6%	7%	8%
Respondents from car owning households	57%	19%	7%	12%	5%

6. EVEN THOSE WHO VOTED BJP AND CONGRESS IN LOK SABHA POLLS DID NOT SCORE AAP TOO POORLY ON THE POLLUTION FRONT

	Excellent (9-10 marks)	Good (7-8 marks)	Average (4-5-6 marks)	Poor (2-3 marks)	Abysmal (0-1 marks)	Did not give any marks
All respondents	17%	31%	37%	6%	4%	5%
Voted INC in LS 2019	13%	29%	41%	5%	6%	5%
Voted BJP in LS 2019	13%	28%	42%	9%	6%	3%
Voted AAP in LS 2019	27%	40%	27%	2%	1%	3%
Voted Oth in LS 2019/ did not reveal	34%	29%	24%	-	8%	5%

7. AAP SCORED WELL FOR ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF POLLUTION EVEN AMONG THOSE FOR WHOM POLLUTION WAS A BIG CONCERN

	Excellent (9-10 marks)	Good (7-8 marks)	Average (4-5-6 marks)	Poor (2-3 marks)	Abysmal (0-1 marks)	Did not give any marks
All respondents	17%	31%	38%	6%	4%	5%
Only those who said pollution biggest problem of Delhi	16%	33%	38%	6%	5%	3%

HOW THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED

THE FINDINGS presented here are from a survey conducted in Delhi by the Lokniti programme of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS). The survey was conducted from November 22 through December 3, 2019 among 2,298 voters in 115 locations (polling stations) spread across 23 Assembly Constituencies of the capital. The sampling design adopted was multi-stage random sampling. The Assembly Constituencies were randomly selected using the probability proportional to size method.

Thereafter, five polling stations within each of the sampled constituencies were selected using the systematic random sampling method. Nearly 50 trained field investigators conducted face-to-face interviews of the respondents in Hindi asking them a set of standardised questions on mostly governance-related matters. The interviews were conducted at every fifth house of a polling station in order to ensure randomness. The interview duration was about 30 minutes on average. In order to ensure

representativeness and correct for underrepresentation of key demographics, the achieved raw sample has been weighted by Gender, Religion, and Caste group based on Census 2011 data. All analysis here has been presented on the weighted data set. The survey was designed, supervised and analysed by a team of researchers associated with Lokniti. They include Shreyas Sardesai, Biswajit Mohanty, Himanshu Bhattacharya, Manjesh Rana, Dhananjay Kumar Singh, Vibha Attri, Jyoti Mishra,

Sakshi Khemrani, Aditya Pandey, Neel Madhav, Farku Zaman, Deepthi Mary Minj, Muzamil Yaqoob and Jagannath Kashyap. Prof. Suhas Palshikar and Prof. Sandeep Shastri guided the research team in analysing the data and with the write-ups. The survey was directed by Prof. Sanjay Kumar of CSDS. Lokniti would like to acknowledge the support of Durba Chattaraj of Ashoka University who partially supported this survey with the Franklin Research Grant of the American Philosophical Society.

SAMPLE PROFILE: RAW AND WEIGHTED

	PROPORTION IN RAW SAMPLE	PROPORTION IN WEIGHTED SAMPLE*
Scheduled Castes	16.40%	16.80%
Muslims	14.10%	12.90%
Sikhs	3.00%	3.40%
Women	37.90%	46.50%

Note: *Weighted by Census 2011 data

Protesting ad hoc teachers stopped near Parliament

ANANYA TIWARI & SHAARDHOOL SHREENATH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

OVER 1,000 ad hoc teachers from Delhi University, who marched from Mandi House to Sansad Marg Monday demanding their appointment to permanent posts, were stopped at the Parliament Street police station as they attempted to cross over the barricades set up by Delhi Police. While the DU Teachers' Association (DUTA) said several of their members were detained, police denied the charge.

The ad hoc teaching community has been on a strike demanding absorption of 4,500 ad hoc teachers into permanent posts since the DUTA directed them to boycott their duties during the semester examinations on November 25.

"As an ad hoc, there is a fear that you may lose your job anytime. I am a PHD student as well, and our research also suffers due to this. As an ad hoc, you cannot do research, present papers overseas or participate in conferences," said Aman Nawaz, who

has been an English literature ad hoc teacher at Sri Venkateswara College for the past two years.

Ashwini Shankar (52), chairman of the Delhi State Indian National Teachers' Congress and a permanent professor from the history department at Deshbandhu College, who was among those allegedly detained, said, "By attacking the higher education institutions, the government is not allowing colleges to perform their basic duties of imparting critical thinking."

Meanwhile, around 1,000 teachers continue to protest at the vice-chancellor's office at North Campus.

Pooja Thakur, a history teacher for the past six years at Ramjas College, said, "What we are asking for is hard. But we believe that is possible because that's social justice. We will continue to strike, and abide by what DUTA directs."

Ved Prakash, an inspector from Parliament House police station, said: "We didn't detain them; we only stopped them from going towards Parliament area."

(Shaardhool Shreenath is an intern with *The Indian Express*)



The students were marching towards Rashtrapati Bhavan when they were intercepted by police. Tashi Tobgyal

AGAINST HOSTEL FEE HIKE

Another JNU march runs into another round of lathi charge

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

FOR THE second time in three weeks, students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) were lathi charged and dragged during a 'padyatra' to Rashtrapati Bhavan Monday to protest against the hostel fee hike.

Unlike last month, however, this time Delhi Police admitted to the use of "mild lathi charge".

"Students were removed forcefully after they turned right from Africa Avenue towards AIIMS. Their plan was to go straight towards Sarojini Nagar depot but they changed the route at the last minute," said DCP (Central) Mandeep Randhawa. A senior police officer told *The Indian Express* that "mild lathi charge" was used to disperse students.

The 'padyatra' started from campus around 2 pm and remained undisturbed till around 4 pm when students reached near Bhikaji Cama Place metro station, and turned towards AIIMS. Police, who expected them to go straight, then used lathi charge.

Preeti Umarao, JNUSU councillor at the School of Life Sciences, claimed she was pushed to the ground and hit by cops with a



'daphli' she was playing. She said her glasses and phone were also snatched. "There were four constables and two CRPF personnel, all of them men. They also hit me with lathis on my abdomen," she alleged. Shreyasi Biswas, another protester, claimed she was hit on her left hip and thigh.

Due to the police action, students split up and a sizeable lot parked themselves in front of the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Ring Road. They refused to move till all students were brought there.

After much negotiation with police, the march started again around 5:15 pm, with JNUSU vice-president Saket Moon saying they would turn towards Moti Bagh. They had barely marched when police directed them to-

wards R K Puram, effectively sending them back to JNU.

Students did not relent and a scuffle ensued. JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh climbed atop a jeep to address students: "Stay here, don't go anywhere." But she was soon removed by a woman police officer, following which a second round of lathi charge began.

Nivash Prakash, a student, was put into a jeep and taken to R K Puram metro station. "They kept me there for two hours and hit me on my genitals, shoulders and legs," he alleged, adding that he was referred to Safdarjung Hospital for a check-up by the JNU health centre. JNUSU general secretary Satish Yadav alleged he was dragged and kicked repeatedly. Vikalp Kumar, a student, said

he was left with a bleeding hand. "They have indiscriminately lathi charged every student," he said. Angered by the police action, students attempted to block the road, but were removed from there shortly.

Meanwhile, JNU Vice-Chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar had a meeting with senior ministry officials Monday during which the compromise formula proposed by the government was discussed. As reported by *The Indian Express* Monday, the government, over the weekend, had advised the JNU administration to notify the students' union and withdraw all police cases against the students as a first step to resolve the crisis. The government also wants that the university should withdraw the service and utility charges, but the students should accept the hike in room rent. The ministry plans to meet officers-elect of the JNUSU on Tuesday.

However, JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh claimed she had already refused a meeting with the ministry for Monday morning. "They should first release the high-powered committee's report. I also asked them to hold the meeting after our march, but didn't receive a response," she said.

SC allows partial lifting of construction ban in capital

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday allowed construction activities in Delhi-NCR to resume during the day, between 6 am and 6 pm. A bench of Justice Arun Mishra and Justice Deepak Gupta partially lifted the ban on construction activities after the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) informed the court that air quality had improved.

Appearing for the Ministry of Environment, Additional Solicitor General A N S Nadkarni said the Centre has formed a panel to look into the feasibility of technology like smog towers and anti-smoke guns to tackle pollution. The bench also asked governments of UP, Punjab and Haryana to file a report on the status of stubble burning by December 11. **ENS**

Two found dead in Noida flat

Noida: A woman and a man allegedly committed suicide in a Noida flat late Sunday night. According to police, the victims worked in the same company and their bodies were recovered from the flat Monday.

"We received information from the man's flatmate that his door was not opening. The door was broken in the presence of some family members. Prima facie it appears that the man committed suicide by strangulating himself with a computer wire and the woman consumed a poisonous substance," said an official from Phase 3 police station. **ENS**

2 held for murder of gangster Rathi

Gurgaon: Over 20 days after gangster Ashok Rathi, who was involved in several cases of murder, dacoity and attempt to murder, was shot dead in Gurgaon, police have arrested two people in connection with the crime.

Police said the accused allegedly plotted the murder because of a property dispute as well as family friction. The accused were identified as Narendra (32), alias Sonu, and Rohit (23) alias Babi, both residents of Gurgaon's Alipur village. They were arrested from Delhi on Saturday, and taken to six-day police remand. **ENS**

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Company Secretary
Date 10.12.2019
Place: Mumbai
Membership No.: ACS 16536

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN
Government of India, Ministry of Finance,
(Department of Financial Services)
2nd Floor, Paras Tower, Mazra, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun, UK-248171

PUBLICATION NOTICE
IN O.A. NO. 367 OF 2019

SUMMONS UNDER SUB-SECTION (4), OF SECTION 19 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 READ WITH SUB RULE (2A) OF RULE 5 OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE RULES, 1993 AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME)

Dy. No. 667 Dated: 04.12.2019

To, Syndicate Bank Vs M/s Paratus Real Estates Pvt. Ltd. & Ors.
6. M/s ISP Construction Pvt. Ltd. office at 496, Second Floor, Village Khairpur, Kotla Mubarrakpur, New Delhi 110003. Through its Director Gajraj Singh S/o Bala Singh, Ishwar Singh Pradhan, Hatam Singh & Ashok Kumar.
Second Address: 1/123, Sadar Bazar, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi 110010
9. Hatam Singh, S/o Chet Ram, R/o Knowledge Park 5, Near BSF Khera Choganpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP, 201306
10. Ashok Kumar, S/o Bhaham Singh, R/o House No. 20, Knowledge Park 5, Near Balak Inter College, Khera Choganpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP 201306

Whereas the above named Applicant Bank has instituted OA No. 367 of 2019 against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 7,44,60,936.63/- in which Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to issue Summons/Notice U/s 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and was listed before the Hon'ble Presiding Officer on 27.11.2019

Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by way of this publication directing you to appear in person or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner before the Tribunal on 16.01.2020 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time before the Tribunal, the case shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 04th day of December, 2019.
By Order of Tribunal
Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Dehradun

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FLAG-OFF CEREMONY

Tuesday, 10 December 2019 at 04:00 pm
Rajghat Cluster Bus Depot

Chief Guest
Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

Guest of Honour
Kailash Gahlot
Transport Minister, Delhi



6 LS PASSES CAB WINTER SESSION

The Bill, the debate, and the questions

‘There’s a difference between refugees and infiltrators’

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

BHARATIYA JANATA Party leaders on Monday slammed the Congress and the Trinamool Congress for their “vote bank” politics in opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. To speak on the Bill, the party fielded several MPs from West Bengal, Assam and the Northeast, states where the CAB is expected to have a big impact in electoral politics.

With Home Minister Amit Shah making a powerful pitch for the Bill, BJP fielded 11 of its MPs to extend vociferous support, and topping the list were those from Bengal, where migrants from Bangladesh comprises a significant part of the electorate.

Senior BJP MP Rajendra Agrawal, who headed the Joint Parliamentary Committee on CAB in 16th Lok Sabha, initiated BJP’s defence, and Meenakshi Lekhi explained the legalities with historical background to the concept of CAB. Arguing that the Bill will protect the rights of those who came to India after Partition but did not get citizenship, Agrawal said the country has a responsibility towards them. “There needs to be differentiation between refugees and infiltrators,” he said.

“Migration without persecution is silent invasion,” Lekhi said, countering the Opposition’s criticism that the Bill is discriminating on the basis of religion. “Minorities are safe here. But our forefathers who had shifted to other countries are not — that’s why Bill...”

Dilip Ghosh, BJP MP and president of



Law Minister Prasad in Lok Sabha. PTI

party’s Bengal unit, and his other party colleagues from the state — Locket Chatterjee, Shantanu Thakur, Soumitra Khan and Raju Bista — confined their speeches to attack West Bengal CM and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee for “sidelining” Hindus in the state.

“Bengal has become western Pakistan. You are talking about India. But our Prime Minister is referred to as an outsider in the state. BJP leaders are not allowed to land their aircraft there,” Ghosh said.

BJP’s Assam MPs Rajdeep Roy, Pallab Lochan Das and Dilip Saikia, Ranjan Singh Rajkumar (Manipur) also spoke.

Chatterjee said the Bill would be a lifeline for refugees from Bangladesh and Pakistan. She also referred to “illegal migrants from Bangladesh committing crime and escaping through the borders”.



Anil Sharma



(Clockwise from top) Home Minister Amit Shah at Parliament on Monday, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi in the House, and the board with the votes.

Courtesy: LSTV

‘Today, you are going to commit a big mistake’

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

ARGUING THAT the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill goes against the basic structure of Constitution and violates right to equality and prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth enshrined in the Constitution, the Congress warned the government that it was committing a “big mistake”, the repercussions of which will have to be faced by future generations.

The party said the Bill is unconstitutional and discriminatory.

Opposing the Bill in Lok Sabha, Manish Tewari, who spearheaded the party’s charge, said: “The ruling side knows why this legislation is being brought. We also know why they have come up with this legislation; the people also know... I just want to warn the government that *itihaas ki aankhon ne woh falak bi dekhe hain, lamhon ne gali ki aur sadiyon ne saza payi hain...* Today you are going to commit a big mistake.”

The party’s leader in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, said BJP will try to spread the word that the Congress has taken a stand against Hindus. “We have not come to oppose Hindus. I am not standing here to oppose Hindus. We are not opposing your effort to give shelter to persecuted people. Our opposition is that the criteria you have made is religion... which is an attack on the Constitution. We have no other opposition.”

The Congress also hit back at Home Minister Amit Shah, who held the opposition



Cong’s Manish Tewari in House. PTI

party responsible for partition of the country on religious lines. Tewari said the foundation for two-nation theory was not laid by the Congress but by V D Savarkar at the Ahmedabad session of Hindu Mahasabha in 1935. Tewari said the CAB violates Article 14 (equality before law), Article 15 (prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth), Article 21 (protection of life and personal liberty), and Articles 25 and 26.

Chowdhury said the facts presented to the JPC, which looked into the Bill, was that the number of persecuted people are around 31,330, of whom there are 25,447 Hindus, 5,807 Sikhs, 56 Christians, and two Buddhists and Parsis each. “You are making much ado about nothing.”

Mamata: Citizenship can never be granted on basis of religion

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said citizenship can never be granted on the basis of religion in a secular country like India.

Referring to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, Banerjee said, “It’s a divisive Bill and should be opposed at any cost. In a secular country like India, citizenship can never be accorded on the basis of religion.”

Reiterating that both the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and CAB are two sides of a coin, she assured the gathering that these will be never allowed in Bengal as long as the TMC is in power. “They can’t just throw out a legal citizen of this country or turn him/her a refugee,” Banerjee said.



In Kharagpur Monday. Express

Owaisi tears Bill, says govt hates Muslims

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

TEARING A copy of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) in Lok Sabha on Monday, Asaduddin Owaisi, the AIMIM MP from Hyderabad, accused the Union government of “hating” Muslims, “discriminating against” the community, and conspiring to make them “stateless”.

He said the government is being “scared” of China in not including the country in the Bill among the list of neighbouring countries.

Owaisi also maintained that the Bill violates the Constitution, particularly Article 14, which guarantees Right to Equality.

Badruddin Ajmal, the AIUFD MP from Assam’s Dhubri, called the proposed legisla-

tion a “Divide and Rule” Bill that is against the Assam Accord of 1985.

Opposing the Bill, Indian Union Muslim League member PK Kunhalikutty said, “Today you divide the nation in the name of religion; tomorrow it will be on language, (and) all this in the name of (Sardar) Patel. This is a communal agenda, against the Constitution. I am sure this will not stand in the Supreme Court.”

In his speech, Owaisi recounted that when the Constitution was being written, a proposal to begin the document with God’s name was outvoted. But, he said, there is now a Bill that “discriminates” on the basis of religion.

He said: “There is a need to look at CAB through the NRC lens. Of the 19 lakh (people) left out of NRC in Assam, 5.40 lakh are Bengali Hindus. So after the CAB comes, proceedings against them will be abated; (and) proceed-



Owaisi tears a copy of the Bill. PTI

ings will continue against only the remaining Muslims. This is violative of Article 14; a conspiracy of this government to make Muslims

stateless. Why this hatred and discrimination?”

He also recounted that Tiger Siddiqui, who drew up the Mukti Bahini of Bangladesh, which eventually led to partition of Pakistan and liberation of Bangladesh, was given refuge in India. “This Bill is worse than Hitler’s,” he added.

Invoking Mahatma Gandhi, Owaisi said he began to be called the Mahatma after he tore the discriminatory citizenship card in South Africa. Owaisi then ripped the copy of the Bill to highlight his protest, inviting sharp reactions from the treasury benches, which described his act an “insult” to Parliament.

The is an insult to India’s freedom fighters, Owaisi retorted, accusing the BJP-led government of working to marginalise Muslims in the country.

DMK, NCP ask govt: What about Lanka, Maldives?

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

UPA ALLIES DMK and the NCP on Monday lashed out at the BJP government over the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, accusing it of stoking fear in the hearts and minds of Muslims. The two parties also questioned why the government is leaving out Sri Lanka, Maldives and Nepal and focusing only on refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

The two parties also asked the government to explain the procedure if an atheist from these countries wishes to apply for citizenship.

DMK’s Dayanidhi Maran said the Bill was against the spirit of India’s age-old ethos of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ (world is a family) and asked why the government is “pre-occupied with Pakistan.”

“...You are not the Home Minister only for the northern part of India. You are the Home Minister for the entire country of India. We have Sri Lanka... Maldives... They are our neighbours...,” he said.

NCP’s Supriya Sule asked whether the government has brought the Bill because the National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise “failed” in Assam. She also asked why the government has kept out Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal. “When India is taking the high moral ground, why are we leaving these three countries?” she said.

Maran sought several clarifications. “Kashmir is a part of India. What if Muslims who are living in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir want to come to India... What about atheists... Taslima Nasreen was given asylum in India because she was an atheist,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Telangana Rashtra Samiti, which has in the past supported many of the contentious legislations, opposed the Bill saying it is discriminatory. TRS member Namo Nageshwara Rao asked the government to also bring Muslims under the purview of the Bill.

Prashant Kishor ‘disappointed’ at JD(U) stance on legislation

Patna: JD (U) national vice-president Prashant Kishor on Monday took on his party’s silence on CAB and said he was “disappointed” at JD(U) not opposing it. He also wondered why the party, which used the word “secular” thrice on the first page of its constitution, is not opposing it. Kishor tweeted: “Disappointed to see JD(U) supporting #CAB that discriminates right of citizenship on the basis of religion. It’s incongruous with the party’s constitution that carries the word secular thrice on the very first page and the leadership that is supposedly guided by Gandhian ideals”.

He later told *The Indian Express*, “I said what I had to say”. A JD(U) leader said since there had been no clear instruction from party chief and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar on the matter, no party leader had been speaking on the issue.

BJP allies back legislation, SAD asks why Muslims out

LIZ MATHEW & PRADEEP KAUSHAL
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

EVEN AS BJP’s allies extended support to the Citizenship Amendment Bill, one of them warned the government that it should not forget that India is a secular country and must consider adding Muslims to the communities that would be given citizenship.

While JD(U) and LJP backed the Bill, Shiromani Akali Dal’s Sukhbir Singh Badal asked, “I just want to request, why don’t we add the names of Muslims in this Bill?” Supporting the Bill, Badal said there had been several inci-

dent of Sikhs being persecuted in Pakistan and the Bill would be a “lifeline” for those who came to India as refugees, but have been struggling with no records or rights. “SAD has been pursuing their case and we are happy that finally those people who have been there for 30 years can become citizens,” Badal said. He added, “We must not forget that India is secular country. Our party always believed that minorities should be protected. We have to preserve our secular credentials. This Bill affects the minority community. Why don’t we add Muslims?”

JD(U)’s Rajiv Ranjan Singh said this Bill was going to strengthen the spirit of secularism. LJP president Chirag Paswan said the Bill had nothing to do with the minority community in India and that it concerned minorities in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

YSRCP backed the Bill, but its MP Mithun Reddy pointed out minority sects like Ahmadiyyas and Bohras have been facing religious atrocities in Pakistan. “Even in our country, minorities feel insecure. I would request the government to move cautiously. There should be a rethinking. We should be accommodating Muslims from Sri Lanka also.”

The AIADMK and the BJD too supported the legislation.



Sukhbir Badal. PTI

Members from North-East stand divided during debate

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

LOK SABHA MPs from North-East Indian states remained divided on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, with Assam MPs Gaurav Gogoi and Pradyot Bordoloi of the Congress and Badruddin Ajmal of AIUFD, and Indra Hang Subba of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha opposing the Bill. Members from other states, including Manipur and Meghalaya, backed the Bill.

Raising concerns, Gogoi said exemptions kept in the Bill for ILP and 6th Schedule areas were mere cosmetic measures. “This Bill is creating a division between tribal and non-tribal people and has been brought purely for political mileage,” Gogoi said.

Pallab Lochan Das, BJP MP from Tezpur, admitted there is apprehension among people in Assam, and that Assam Accord was brought in to protect the language, culture and tradi-

tions of the Assamese people.

Subba said, “Sikkim was not a part of India during independence but was merged in 1975 and is protected by provisions of 371 (F), which protects our traditional laws. We demand that Sikkim also receive exemption from CAB, and till that time we oppose the Bill.”

Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party’s Tokheho Yephthomi and Mizo National Front’s C Lalrosanga said Shah’s assurances of exempting the NE states have made them support the Bill.

Agatha Sangma, NPP MP from Tura, Meghalaya, welcomed CAB and thanked the Home Minister for his extensive consultations but asked Shah to clarify where people receiving citizenship would be housed. Naga People’s Front Lorho S Pfoze, said Inner Line Permit facility extended to Manipur, as announced by Shah while introducing the Bill, would shield his state from the influx of refugees, a reason for protests in the state.



Agatha Sangma

NRC a lollipop, CAB bigger lollipop, says Trinamool

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

OPPOSING THE Bill, Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee said the NRC and the CAB have to be looked at in unison.

Calling the NRC a “lollipop” and the CAB as a “bigger lollipop”, Banerjee said, “This Bill is anti-India, anti-Bengali. It will rip apart the soul of Bengal because it attempts to discriminate between people who have the same culture, speak the same language... The Bill targets Bengalis...” He also said the government can demonetise Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes, “but you cannot demonetise citizens of this country — you cannot demonetise the soul of Bengal”.

Describing the NRC as a “failed, botched up” process, Banerjee said: “NRC was a trap, CAB is a bigger trap... if religious persecution is the criteria then anyone facing that should be considered for citizenship. Why leave out Sri Lanka? And Myanmar which was actually a part of British India? This is actually a bigger



TMC’s Banerjee in House. Courtesy: LSTV

jumla than NRC.”

Banerjee took potshots at the government recounting the list of people who had died in West Bengal following talk of NRC and how “ministers will be left embarrassed if asked to produce documents on their education.” The Bill, he said, is against Hindus because it seeks to create divisions between people who have the same language, culture and traditions.

THE LEGAL QUESTION Oppn argues Bill would fall foul of Constitution

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

WHILE HOME Minister Amit Shah sought to suggest that the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was an attempt to correct the impact of Partition, the Opposition faulted the legislation on various grounds and argued that it would fall foul of the Constitution. The question of whether the Bill would stand legal scrutiny holds significance as the Bill, when passed, could likely be challenged in courts.

Congress MP Manish Tewari said the proposed law violates Article 14 that guarantees the right to equality, Article 15 that prohibits discrimination in laws based on religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them and Article 21 that guarantees the right to life and liberty. “If you cannot discriminate among citizens, can you discriminate in giving citizenship?” Tewari asked.



Supriya Sule (NCP) Afzal Ansari (BSP)

“It is true that minorities were not treated well in those countries. But it is also true that the Indian Muslims who went there were called out as Mohazirs and not treated well,” BSP’s Afzal Ansari said.

AIMIM’s Asaduddin Owaisi hit out at the government, saying that the intent of the proposed legislation is to make Muslims stateless. “If this Bill is allowed, the Foreigners Tribunals will only deal with cases related to Muslims,” he said.

Shiv Sena MP Vinayak Raut questioned the exclusion of Tamil minorities of Sri Lanka while the Bill sought to protect minorities from Afghanistan. DMK’s Dayanidhi Maran questioned why the Bill does not include other neighbouring countries such as Sri Lanka and Maldives. NCP’s Supriya Sule, too, wondered about the plight of atheists who also face religious persecution. “I am not convinced by the Home Minister. It will be struck down,” Sule said. RSP’s N K Premachandran also underlined how the legislation fell foul of the criteria of “reasonable classification” while excluding Muslims from among those eligible for citizenship.

Congress’s Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury argued that the Bill would fail the two-fold test required under Article 14. “There is no rational nexus unless the objective of the law is to project the nation as a Hindu Rashtra.”

Apart from national laws, Tewari highlighted that the Bill also violates customary

international law on protection of refugees by discriminating against Muslim refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Home Minister Amit Shah was quick to point out that India had not ratified the 1951 Geneva Convention on protection of refugees. “Non-refoulement- forcing refugees to return to their country where they are likely to face persecution is an integral part of the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights, a multilateral treaty which India has signed and ratified,” Tewari clarified.

Replying to the debate, Shah rejected suggestions of the Bill being violative of Constitutional provisions. He defended the exclusion of Muslims, arguing that the six religious minorities constituted a “class” and formed a reasonable classification. On why only three countries — Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan were chosen, Shah said only these three countries were theocratic and have legally stated that Islam is their state religion.



FROM SPAIN WITH VOTE
ENVIRONMENT MINISTER Prakash Javadekar will have to fly a few thousand miles to help his government during the voting on Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Rajya Sabha. Javadekar had travelled to Spain over the weekend to attend the ongoing climate change conference in Madrid. He was supposed to remain in Madrid till the end of the conference. But with the voting on the Bill in Rajya Sabha having been scheduled on Thursday, Javadekar is planning to fly back to be present in the House.

KEEPING IT CRISP
RAJYA SABHA Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Monday was determined to take up all questions listed for Question Hour. He ensured all questions, and their answers, were crisp and to the point — no MP was allowed to make statements while asking questions. In fact, even ministers were not spared if their answers were lengthy. MoS for Information and Broadcasting Babul Supriyo wasn't allowed to complete his answer, as he was taking too long. He was interrupted by Naidu thrice.

SEEKING FUNDS
THE SECOND-GENERATION IIMs, set up by UPA-II, have been requesting the government for more funds to finish building their permanent campuses. The HRD Ministry has released Rs 333 crore to each of the six second-generation IIMs in Ranchi, Rohtak, Raipur, Kashipur, Udaipur and Trichy. The institutes want more as Union Cabinet's sanction for Rs 333 crore came in 2008, but the actual construction work began only in 2014 and, hence, the construction costs had also increased. Last month, IIM-Udaipur chairman and managing director of Zydrus Cadila Pankaj Patel even met a senior official at the HRD Ministry regarding this issue. However, none of the institutes have heard anything on the matter even after that.

UP govt to set up 218 fast-track courts for rape, POCSO cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 9



Decision taken at Cabinet meet chaired by Adityanath

AMID THE Opposition's growing attack over rising number of cases of crimes against women, the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh on Monday announced to set up 218 fast-track courts for speedy trial of the cases related to crimes against women and children.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath here.

State Law Minister Brajesh Pathak said that of these 218 fast track courts, 144 will exclusively hear cases of rape, while the remaining 74 courts will hear cases filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

"At present, about 42,379 cases related to crime against children and about 25,749 rape cases are pending in the courts of Uttar Pradesh. The state has 81

fast-track courts to hear cases related to women. Now, the rape cases will be transferred to the new fast-track courts," the minister said.

According to the government, setting up of new fast-track courts will cost the exchequer Rs 163 crore with an estimated expenditure of Rs 75 lakh on each court per year. The minister said that 60 per cent of the cost will be borne by the Centre and the remaining 40 per cent by the state government.

The move by the UP government comes days after a 23-year-old woman from Unnao, who was allegedly raped last year, was set ablaze. Her death triggered a nationwide outrage.

Chouhan to SC: If justice not done, people will be prone to taking revenge

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, DECEMBER 9



FORMER CHIEF Minister and senior BJP leader Shivraj Singh Chouhan Monday said that the country is heading towards a dangerous situation because of a delay in dispensation of justice — in a reference to the recent Hyderabad encounter.

"I want to respectfully tell the Supreme Court that if justice is not done, people will continue to shower flowers (on policemen) when rapists are shot dead for incidents like rape. If justice is denied, people will be prone to taking revenge," Chouhan said while leading a protest in Bhopal to seek quick punishment for the rapists of a 12-year-old girl who was killed earlier this year.

"Killers should be hanged, set up a fast track court for quick trial and call the DNA report early," the BJP leader said while pointing out that the BJP government was the first in the country to pass a legislation to propose death penalty for the rapists of minor girls.

Chouhan led a protest to seek quick punishment for the rapists of a minor, in Bhopal. Twitter

Referring to the incident in Hyderabad, the senior leader said, "The country is heading towards a dangerous situation because there is delay in dispensation of justice. If justice is not done, people and society will be prone to taking revenge."

The BJP leader marched towards the CM House from Roshanpura square and submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Kamal Nath. He was accompanied by relatives of the victim.

India ranks 129 in UNDP Human Development Index report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

INDIA CLIMBED one spot to take the 129th rank among 189 countries on the 2019 report on Human Development Index (HDI) released by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Monday. India was at the 130th place on this index in last year's report.

India's HDI value has marginally increased from 0.643 in 2017 to 0.647 in 2018, shows the report, titled 'Beyond Income, Beyond Averages, Beyond Today: Inequalities in Human Development in the 21st Century'.

Globally, Norway, with a HDI value of 0.954, is at the first rank while Burundi (0.423) is at the bottom. As far as India's neighbouring countries are concerned, China ranked 85 and Bangladesh

EXPLAINED

Why the report is significant

THE HUMAN Development Report 2019 is significant because it focuses on inequalities in development. It shows inequalities beyond income which exist in society. It also measures loss in the human development progress due to inequalities. The report also highlights the gender gaps in development.

and Pakistan ranked 135 and 152, respectively. Sri Lanka ranked 71 and Maldives ranked 104.

"India's HDI value has increased by 50 per cent from 0.431 in 1990 to 0.647 in 2018, which places it above average for countries in the medium human development group (0.634) and above the average for other South Asian countries (0.642)," Shoko Noda, UNDP India

Resident Representative, said after releasing the report.

The report shows that India's annual HDI growth has slowed down in recent years. Between 1990 and 2000, India's average annual HDI growth was 1.43 per cent which increased to 1.57 per cent during 2000-2010 but came down to 1.34 per cent between 2010 and 2018.

HDI is calculated taking into

consideration performance of countries on four broad parameters — life expectancy at birth; expected years of schooling; mean years of schooling; and per capita gross national income (PPP).

"For countries like India, which have shown great success in reducing absolute poverty, we hope that the 2019 Human Development Report sheds light on inequalities and deprivations that go beyond income...India's development initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and Ayushman Bharat are crucial in ensuring that we meet our promise to leave no one behind and fulfil the Prime Minister's vision of development for all," she said.

The report has also given the Gender Development Index (GDI). With a score of 0.829, India is at the 122nd place out of 162 countries.

Cong subverted mandate, was taught lesson: PM in Jharkhand



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BARHI, BOKARO, DECEMBER 9

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Monday accused the Congress and its allies of "stealing and subverting" the people's mandate in Karnataka, and asked voters to elect a stable BJP government in Jharkhand with an absolute majority.

With the BJP posting an emphatic victory in the Karnataka bypolls, an exultant Modi told poll rallies in Jharkhand that voters had punished the Congress for "manipulating the mandate" that people had given to the saffron party. "The Congress and its



PM Narendra Modi with Jharkhand CM Raghuraj Das and other BJP leaders at a rally in Barhi on Monday. PTI

allies subverted the mandate in Karnataka...The Congress stole the mandate through the back door, and now people have punished it and taught it a lesson," he told an election rally in Barhi.

Addressing another rally in Bokaro, the PM called the bypolls to 15 Assembly seats in Kamataka "extraordinary", one which would decide whether the BJP government would stay or go.

'Jal, jungle, zameen' to be returned to people: Rahul

Badkagaon/Ranchi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday accused the BJP of grabbing land from poor and the farmers in states under its rule, asserting Jharkhand's 'jal, jungle and zameen' (water, forest and land) would be returned to people if the opposition came to power.

He said the Congress-JMM-RJD alliance in the state will waive farm loan up to Rs 2 lakh and provide compensation for land acquired from them by force, if it formed government in Jharkhand.

He promised to the farmers a minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 2,500 for paddy similar to Chhattisgarh.

Gandhi addressed two poll rallies during the day in the state. The first one was in Badkagaon in Hazaribagh district and the second in Ranchi. PTI

WhatsApp breach row: House panel on IT to hear from WhatsApp representatives tomorrow

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

DAYS AFTER the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology voted on pursuing the issue of data privacy and the WhatsApp breach case, the committee has asked WhatsApp representatives to depose before it on the issue.

The committee is also scheduled to hear cyber security experts and representatives from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Home Ministry, and Delhi's Chief Secretary on Wednesday. The

topic is listed as "citizens data security and privacy".

In October, *The Indian Express* had reported about the WhatsApp accounts of 121 Indian citizens being surveilled through Pegasus — a software developed by Israeli cyber firm NSO Group. The group has claimed that it only offers it services to government agencies.

In the committee's first hearing in November, sharp political differences emerged as BJP members objected to the committee having jurisdiction over the topic, citing parliamentary procedure rules. It is learnt that 12 non-BJP members, including from BJP-al-

lied parties, voted to discuss the matter, while 12 BJP members voted against it. The committee's chairman Shashi Tharoor broke the tie with his second vote in favour of discussion.

Since the debate took roughly two hours of the meeting, the senior MHA representative had to leave before he could be summoned. Some committee members, who want to know who bought the software from the NSO Group, later commented that the drawn out debate over jurisdiction led the representative, who might have had information on that question, to leave.

At the first meeting, it is learnt that the IT Ministry laid out the known facts of the WhatsApp breach case, and the legal parameters allowing government surveillance of mobile phones.

Certain committee members also said they would seek the direction of the Secretariat to understand if the question of jurisdiction could be re-opened by BJP members, further stalling discussion, as well as the rules around the committee calling upon state officials who might have more knowledge of the breach, given that surveillance at the state level only requires state approval.

Govt seeks apology from 2 Cong MPs for 'misbehaving' with Irani

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

THE GOVERNMENT on Monday sought an unconditional apology from two Congress members for their alleged misbehaviour with Union minister Smriti Irani in Lok Sabha on Friday.

Members belonging to the BJP had claimed that Congress MPs Dean Kuriaokose and T N Prathapan had advanced towards Irani in an "attacking posture" while she was speaking in

the House. The Chair had thereafter asked both members to tender an apology to Irani.

The government, according to sources, had filed a complaint with the Speaker under Rule 374, which suggested suspension of the MPs concerned.

Speaker Om Birla observed that "all of us have to keep in view dignity of the House", and said he would take a decision on the matter later.

Home Minister Amit Shah said it was a fit case for invoking Rule 374.

Bill for strict punishment for illegal arms cleared in LS

New Delhi: A Bill providing a maximum punishment of life imprisonment for manufacturing and carrying illegal arms was approved by Lok Sabha on Monday.

Piloted by Home Minister Amit Shah, the Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2019 also ensures that those using firearms in a rash or negligent manner in celebratory gunfire, endangering human life or personal safety of others, shall be punishable with an imprisonment to two years or with fine which may ex-

tend to Rs 1 lakh or with both.

The Bill was passed by the Lower House after rejecting several amendments moved by the Opposition members.

Replying to a nearly three-hour-long debate, Shah said the Bill has accorded special status to sports persons who need firearms and ammunition for practice and participating in tournaments. Under the proposed provision, a person can have a maximum of two firearms, as against the present norm of three, he said. PTI

Oppn, priests protest as Uttarakhand tables Char Dham shrine board Bill

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, DECEMBER 9

THE TRIVENDRA Singh Rawat government tabled the Uttarakhand Char Dham Shrine Management Bill, 2019, in the state Assembly on Monday amid protests by Congress members inside the House and by priests and pandas of Badrinath shrine, who staged a demonstration outside the Vidhan Sabha.

The Bill aims to bring the Char Dham of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri and 49 other temples under the purview of a proposed shrine board. At



A protest in Dehradun on Monday. Virender Singh Negi

present, the Shri Badrinath-Shri Kedarnath Act, 1939 is enforced for the management of Badrinath and Kedarnath shrines.

According to the Bill, the CM will be the chairperson of the shrine board and if the CM is not a Hindu, he or she will nominate

FOREIGN, DEFENCE SECYS MEET

India, Australia inch closer to logistics support pact

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

AHEAD OF Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison's visit next month, India and Australia moved closer to the Logistics Support Agreement (LSA) on Monday as Foreign and Defence secretaries from both sides met in New Delhi.

The *Indian Express* has learnt that Morrison is visiting India from January 13 to 16, and will travel to Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru during his visit. He will address the Raisina Dialogue during the visit.

The two sides are working hard on negotiating the LSA, which will allow the countries to use each other's military bases for logistical support. This will be one of the key items on the agenda during Morrison's visit, and they would want to conclude the agreement in time for the Australian PM's visit next month.

On Monday, the two sides carried out a comprehensive review of their strategic engagement and the regional security scenario during the defence and foreign secretarial-level talks.

The Defence Ministry said the two sides deliberated on prevailing regional security concerns and explored ways for cooperation in field of defence industry and technology.

The Indian delegation was led by Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar and Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale, while the Australian side was headed by Defence Secretary Greg Moriarty and Foreign Secretary Frances Adamson.

"The two sides welcomed the recent progress made in deepening bilateral, political, economic, security and defence cooperation. They discussed recent regional and global developments. They also exchanged views on achieving their shared objective of peace,



Australia PM Morrison likely to visit India from Jan 13-16

prosperity and progress in the Indo-Pacific region," a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

"The two sides emphasised the need for enhanced collaboration to counter the threat of terrorism and violent extremism through increased information sharing," the MEA stated.

The 2+2 meeting provided opportunities for the two sides to review the status of their bilateral relationship in the context of emerging scenarios, it stated.

The Australian delegation had meetings with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Deputy NSA Pankaj Saran, and MEA's Secretary (East) Vijay Thakur Singh.

"Issues related to bilateral defence engagements, areas to enhance cooperation in the field of defence industry and defence technology as well as the prevailing regional security concerns were discussed," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

Sources said both sides also deliberated on the evolving situation in the Indo-Pacific region and resolved to work closely for regional peace, prosperity and stability.

China has been fast expanding military and economic influence in the Indo-Pacific region, triggering concern in various countries of the region and beyond.

Ayodhya verdict: Two more review petitions filed in SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

FORTY "CONCERNED citizens" on Monday approached the Supreme Court seeking review of its Ayodhya judgment by a "full bench", claiming that the top court "has violated the secular framework of the Constitution of India" and "failed to consider" that the issue "has been used as socio political fodder for decades, by parties and organisations such as the BJP, RSS, VHP, the Bajrang Dal and other individuals purporting to represent Hindu interests, for vote bank politics and to increase enmity between Hindu and Muslim communities".

Meanwhile, the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha, which was a litigant in the original suit, also filed a review plea against the direction to allot five acres to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a mosque in Ayodhya. It also sought deletion of findings declaring the disputed structure as a mosque. "Hindus have proved that the place in question is being wor-

shipped as birth place of Lord Ram and therefore, there is no material on record to declare the disputed structure as mosque," said the review plea, filed through advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain.

The 40 petitioners include Prabhath Patnaik, Irfan Habib, Neera Chandoke, Harsh Mander, Jayati Ghosh, Nandini Sundar, Shabnam Hashmi, Akar Anil Patel, John Dayal and Shireen Moosvi.

The petitioners said the case was "a dispute about what kind of country this is and will be in the future, to whom does it belong, and on what terms must people of different identities and beliefs live together in this vast and teeming land".

The belief of the Hindus that Ram was born in Ayodhya was "not without doubt" as expressed by historians such as Romila Thapar and Irfan Habib, the plea stated. "By relying on the faith of the belief of the existence of a temple, over the evidence of existence of the mosque, this decision has been in violation of Constitutional principles of equality and freedom of religion," it said.

Indian, French navies to launch joint patrols in southern Indian Ocean

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

INDIA AND France will soon launch joint naval patrolling in the southern Indian Ocean region to protect their strategic interests, including to check large scale illegal fishing, a top commander of the French Navy said on Monday.

"We are now preparing to carry out joint patrol in southern Indian Ocean. India is planning to deploy P81 aircraft," Vice Admiral Didier Maletre, who is the Joint Commander of the

French forces deployed in the Indian Ocean region, said.

The commander, who is also chief of the French Joint Forces stationed in the UAE, said the Indian and French Navies are also considering carrying out joint patrols in the northwestern part of the Indian Ocean, including the Gulf of Aden. "There is a very clear strategic and political objective of France in the region," he said.

Maletre also said that the two navies will ink an agreement early next year providing for sharing of classified information for better operational cooperation in the region.

JHARKHAND
2 days later, confusion shrouds what set off violence at poll booth

ABHISHEK ANGAD
SISAI (JHARKHAND), DEC 9

FOLLOWING THE disruption in polling at Baghni village of Jharkhand's Sisai constituency on Saturday due to violence, re-polling took place on Monday, but confusion shrouds what triggered the violence.

On Saturday, RPF personnel at the booth opened fire. While one Jilani Ansari was killed, two others, Tabrez Ansari and Ashfaq Ansari, were injured. Police, however, said the post-mortem report did not mention any bullet injury on Jilani's body.

Ashfaq's sister, Afsari Khatoon, said the incident was triggered by an altercation. "Ashfaq and I were standing in separate queues. Suddenly, I saw my brother move out of the queue with his child. This led to an argument with an RPF personnel... The RPF personnel started pushing him and... he was shot in the thigh."

She trashed the police claim that he was trying to snatch the

RPF personnel's weapon. Mohammad Hasib Ansari alleged that the RPF personnel was "trying to influence voting."

"People protested and this led to an altercation," he said. Jilani's wife, Roshan Jahan, said, "I was in the queue when an argument happened and gunshots were fired... Suddenly someone from the rooftop shot and a bullet brushed his stomach. He died instantly," she said.

On December 7, the Election Commission said in a release that a scuffle broke out between RPF personnel when a few villagers "tried to overpower a jawan and snatch his weapon."

"In the ensuing incident villagers started stone pelting on jawans who then opened fire. In the incidence, one Jilani Ansari died due to bullet injury, while two others sustained injury," it said. A day later, Jharkhand police issued a release, saying Jilani did not die of a bullet injury. A three-member board which conducted the post-mortem mentioned cause of death as "shock and

haemorrhage" due to trauma inflicted by "sharp cutting weapon". DGPKN Choubey said, "There was no attempt to influence the voting process."

Police said an FIR was registered against RPF personnel following a complaint by Jilani's wife. But after the post-mortem report, 12 unidentified villagers were booked. Another FIR was registered on a complaint by presiding officer of the booth Debashish Prasad. He has told police that some people wanted to cast votes out of their turn.

"A few persons did not listen and pushed the RPF personnel and attempted to snatch his weapon. During this, there was an accidental fire which hit a person's thigh..." he has said.

Gumla SP Anjani Kumar Jha said, "It is very unusual that the wound (on Jilani) was inflicted by a bullet because the injury will have an entry and exit wound. The post-mortem was conducted in the presence of a magistrate and was videographed. Any expert can view it."

Businessman's detention under PSA revoked by J&K admin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SRINAGAR, DEC 9

THE JAMMU and Kashmir administration has revoked Kashmiri businessman and trade leader Mubeen Shah's detention under the Public Safety Act.

Shah was on Saturday "temporarily released" from a jail in Agra till March 2020. On Monday, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted a copy of the J&K Home Department order before a bench of Justices N V Ramana, B R Gavai and R Subhash Reddy, which was hearing a plea by his wife Asifa Shah. The order states that "in exercise of its powers under section 19(1) of the Public Safety Act 1978, the government hereby...revokes the detention order...of Dr Mubeen Ahmad Shah...with immediate effect."

Asifa Shah told The Indian Express, "This is a big relief but his health has deteriorated severely and that will be our first priority." Adding that other families "should approach the court", she said, "We were always hopeful that he will be released since the state had no reasoning to hold him in custody."

Sources in the J&K administration told The Indian Express that the decision to revoke the PSA charges against Shah was taken in view of his health condition. The 63-year-old businessman was taken in custody from his home late on August 4.

J&K begins creating land banks for industrial units

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 9

THE JAMMU and Kashmir administration has started creating land banks for the setting up industrial units in the Union Territory. The move comes four months after the Centre on August 5 revoked the special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We are looking at the creation of land banks to the tune of over 5,000 kanals (approximately 624 acres) in both regions (Jammu and Kashmir). We have identified and are identifying land that can be used to set up industrial units," J&K State Industrial Development Corporation (SIDCO) managing director Ravinder Kumar said.

Stating that officials in both Jammu and Kashmir regions have been asked to identify state land in order to create as big a land bank as possible, Kumar told The Indian Express, "This is at the initial stages and officials in

the districts have been asked to identify more land."

While suspending special status to the erstwhile state of J&K, the Union government had argued that together with Article 35A, the special status hindered J&K's development and contributed to "fostering a separatist mindset which breeds militancy and terrorism, fuelled from across the border", leading to large-scale loss of lives.

In response to petitions challenging the constitutionality of the Centre's August 5 decisions, the Union government, in an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, had stated that "Article 35A proved to be a serious obstacle to socio-economic development (of the state). It prevented investments in the state, and adversely impacted job creation for the youth, which resulted in a cascading effect on other developmental indicators." Without naming any companies, Kumar said that the government has been receiving "expression of interest" from many companies.

Pak violates ceasefire at various locations along LoC; no casualties

Jammu: Pakistani troops on Monday resorted to unprovoked mortar shelling and small arms fire at different places along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, sources said.

Balakote in Mendhar sector and Shahpur in Poonch sector were hit by the shelling, sources said, adding that the violation began around 1.30 pm, when Pakistani troops suddenly fired three mortar shells at civilian residences in the Balakote area.

However, no casualties or damage to property was reported, they said.

The Indian Army retaliated befittingly, said a defence ministry spokesperson Lt Colonel Devender Anand here.

Later, in the evening, around 9 pm, shelling and small arms fire resumed in the Balakote area. This time, the mortar shelling was "intense", said Lt Colonel Anand, adding the Indian side was retaliating to the violations. **ENS**

HYDERABAD ENCOUNTER
SC to hear plea for independent probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

THE SUPREME Court will Wednesday hear a PIL seeking an independent probe into the killing of four men — accused of raping and murdering a veterinary surgeon — in a police encounter in Hyderabad on December 6.

The petition filed by advocates G S Mani and Pradeep Kumar Yadav was mentioned before a bench, comprising Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant.

The plea termed it a "fake encounter" and alleged that it was conducted "only to divert the public reaction over sensational gang rape and murder cases" and to "maybe protect the real culprits" which is not only "impermissible under the rule of law" but amounts to pre-planned murders at the hands of police officials with the help of power and public support.

The plea contended that the rape and murder took place due to the "failure" of police and

that the incident had sent shock waves among public.

Pointing to news reports, it said police "refused to take immediate action and register an FIR" when the family members of the rape victim tried to lodge a complaint.

This turned the public against the police, who later claimed to have arrested the accused within 24 hours to divert the public mood, the PIL claimed. "The police... themselves executed death sentence without any due process of law," it said.

Referring to the public response to the police action, it said "if this type of activities (are) allowed, then there is no meaning of civilised societies and there is no hope that all are governed by rule of law".

It urged the court to restrain the concerned personnel from official duties till the completion of an independent investigation.

According to Telangana Police, the accused were killed in retaliatory firing after two of them attacked the police personnel.

Preserve bodies till December 13: Telangana HC

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Monday directed authorities to preserve the bodies of the four slain accused in the woman veterinarian case, who were killed in an alleged encounter with police, till December 13.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice RS Chauhan gave a direction in this regard. The court ordered that the bodies can be shifted to the state-run Gandhi hospital at Hyderabad if the government hospital at Mahabubnagar does not have the facility to preserve them till December 13.

The bodies are presently kept at the government hospital at Mahabubnagar after autopsy following the alleged encounter on December 6.

When the plea came up, the Chief Justice wondered if any FIR has been registered against police officers involved in the encounter. **PTI**

Unnao victim's kin oppose memorial at burial ground over unfulfilled promises

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
UNNAO, DECEMBER 9

A DAY after the burial of the 23-year-old rape victim from Unnao, her family on Monday opposed the district administration's attempt to erect a memorial at the site of the burial. The victim died on Friday due to burns sustained during an attack allegedly by five men, including two accused of rape.

On Monday, her family members and others went to the burial spot and removed the bricks laid by the administration.

The father said the administration had failed in keeping its promises to them — which included a meeting with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

"Today, some people came from the administration and started making a memorial where my daughter has been buried. I have disallowed them from doing so and also removed everything. I am not going to let them do that unless all promises made to us are fulfilled. They promised an audience with the chief minister, but this is yet to be fulfilled," he told The Indian Express.

The Station House Officer (SHO) of the police station con-



The victim was buried on Sunday. Express file

cerned said the administration, among other things, had promised that it would make a memorial at the burial place.

"The construction started today, but then the family protested so we have stopped it for now. The promise was made on the demand on the family, and since they do not want to proceed with this, we will not do so. However, if they want the memorial, we will rebuild it," said the SHO.

Meanwhile, on the orders of the government and the district administration a heavy police cover has provided to the family. Around a dozen police personnel (both men and women) are present outside their house aside from several personnel at the burial site.

MADHYA PRADESH

Fifth property of editor-owner razed

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, DECEMBER 9

ONE MORE property owned by Jeetu Soni, businessman and editor-owner of an Indore-based evening paper, was demolished by the Indore administration on Monday, as the structure was raised allegedly in violation of rules, officials said.

Spread over 2,000 sq feet, the bungalow in Shanti Kunj Colony was the fifth property owned by Soni to be pulled down since the Indore administration's crackdown began late November 30.



The bungalow is spread over 2,000 sq feet and is located in the Shanti Kunj Colony. Express

Plea against Kanimozhi's LS election: SC refuses stay

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to stay the proceedings in the Madras High Court on a plea challenging the election of DMK leader K Kanimozhi to the Lok Sabha from the Thoothukudi seat in Tamil Nadu on the grounds that she had "suppressed material facts" in her election affidavit.

A bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant, however issued a notice on the plea and said it will hear the matter.

Kanimozhi had approached the SC against the rejection of her plea which sought the dismissal of the petition challenging her election.

BHU Dalit prof says chased by students for backing Firoze, complains to Proctor

AVANEESH MISHRA
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 9

A GROUP of BHU students on Monday allegedly chased a Dalit professor of the Sanskrit Vidya Dharam Vigyan (SVDV) faculty and tried to assault him for "backing" Muslim Sanskrit scholar Dr Firoze Khan's appointment as assistant professor.

Students of the university's SVDV faculty have been protesting against Khan's appointment since early November on the grounds that he is a Muslim.

Professor Shanti Lal Salvi, in his letter to the Proctor, wrote, "At 12.05 pm, I was sitting in my office at the SVDV faculty when some students came to me and

asked me to leave as they were closing the faculty. Soon, I came out with a colleague when an outsider, Munish Mishra, along with a student, Shubham Tiwari, and others started raising slogans against me. They called me and the department HoD a thief. Soon, more students joined and started making casteist remarks. They all chased me to beat me up. Sensing that my life is in threat, I started running and after around half a kilometre, I took a lift from a bike rider to reach the central office. One of the students threw a brick at me, but he missed." Salvi wrote in the letter to the proctor.

Salvi told The Indian Express that the issue is connected with the appointment of Khan and alleged that a university professor

has incited the students.

"In my department, there is one professor who was once the HoD... He has spread a rumour among the students that my wife, who has done PhD from BHU, is Muslim and she is the sister of Firoze Khan. He has also told the students that I am the one who brought Firoze here and that's why the students attacked me today. I have handed the letter to the Proctor and I will also get an FIR registered against those who assaulted me," Salvi said.

The administration has promised to set up an inquiry committee. "Based on findings of the committee, action will be taken against those responsible... An FIR in the case is being registered," a university official said.



National Democratic Party protest against screenings of Panipat in Jaipur on Monday. Rohit Jain Paras

Rajasthan theatres cancel Panipat screening over row

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, CHANDIGARH, DEC 9

SEVERAL MOVIE theatres in Rajasthan decided not to screen Ashutosh Gowariker's film Panipat following protests by the Jat community against the movie and incidents of vandalism.

The movie, that was released on Friday, is based on the third battle of Panipat fought between the Maratha empire and Afghan king Ahmad Shah Abdali. It has run into controversy over its portrayal of the 18th century ruler of Bharatpur, Maharaja Suraj Mal.

On Monday, members from the Jat community protested in Jaipur and burned effigies of makers of the film. "We demand that the film be immediately banned.

If it's not done, we will take things into our hands..." said Mahipal Mahla, national spokesperson, Rashtriya Loktantrik Party.

A multiplex where the movie was being shown was vandalised on Monday morning. "Five people went inside the theatre after buying tickets and later vandalised the place. We have arrested all of them under CrPC Section 151," said Rai Singh Binwal, assistant commissioner of police, Vaishali Nagar.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said on Monday that the censor board should intervene and take cognizance of the issue. Deputy CM Sachin Pilot said the characterisation of any person who contributed to history should be done thoroughly. **-WITHPTIINPUTS**

WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
DISMANTLING, STRIPPING, REPAIRING HANDLING AND RE-FITMENT OF SEAT/BERTH OF BG POH COACHES
For and on behalf of The President of India, Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Bhavnagar Para, Carriage Repair Workshop, Bhavnagar Para, invites E-tender as per the details given below: (1) Name of work : E-Tender Notice No.: BVWP-2019-20-SEAT-15R Dismantling, stripping, repairing, handling and re-fitment of seat/berth of BG POH coaches in Carriage Repair Workshop, Bhavnagar Para. (2) Approx. cost of work : ₹ 89,24,677.48/- (3) Earnest money to be deposited : ₹ 1,78,500/- (4) Date and submission of bid and opening of bid : Submission: 06.01.2020 upto 15:00 hrs. Opening: 06.01.2020 after 15:30 hrs. (5) Website particulars and address of the office : www.tenders.gov.in CWM-BVP's Office, Carriage Repair Workshop, Bhavnagar Para, 364003 (E-Tender No. BVWP-2019-20-SEAT-15R, Date-05.12.2019) 141
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BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(Power Wing)
Corrigendum No. III Notice Inviting E-tender
N.I.T No.: 548/P&D(TS)/SS-1/PNGS-752 Dated: 13.09.2019
Name of Office: Chief Engineer/Transmission System, Planning & Design (TS) Directorate, SLDC Complex, Industrial Area Phase-I, BBMB, Chandigarh-160002 Tele Fax-0172-2654468
Name of work: Design, manufacturing, testing, supply and delivery of 07 nos. 245kV Potential Transformers and 10 nos. Live/Dead Tank Design oil filled 245kV Current Transformers of various ratios suitable for outdoor service with hollow porcelain insulator for various BBMB sub-stations.
Last date and time for receipt of request for issue of tender documents: 24.12.2019 upto 17:00 Hours
Last date and time of submission of bids: 06.01.2020 upto 11:00 Hours
Date and time of Opening of Bids: 06.01.2020 from 15:00 Hours onwards
For copy of specification, Earnest money Deposit and detailed NIT, please visit BBMB website https://bbmbeproc.abcprocure.com & www.bbmb.gov.in
1134-PR-TS-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
The Executive Engineer Mechanical Division No. III, I&FC Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi invites online tender on behalf of President of India for the following works:-
NIT No. 02/ NIT/MD-III/IFC/2019-20
Tender ID No. 2019_IFC_184887_1
Sub Work: Providing of Khalassi cum Chowkidar cum Helper (Unskilled Labour) for watch & ward on heavy Earth Moving Machinery at various sites of Mechanical Division - III in NCT of Delhi. Estimated cost: Rs. 36,86,760/- Earnest money: Rs. 73,735/- Time allowed: 12 Months.
Date and time of submission of tender upto 3.00 PM on 11.12.2019 & opening at 3.30 PM on 11.12.2019.
Note:- 1. The tender forms & other details can be downloaded from the website http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in EXECUTIVE ENGINEER: MD-III (I&FC) DIP/Shabdant/1101/19-20

Delhi journalist leaves home for walk, found dead in Haridwar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

A 56-YEAR-OLD journalist from Delhi was found dead in a canal in Uttarakhand's Haridwar on Monday. The police said that the deceased, Anuj Gupta — a resident of Dwarka in New Delhi and bureau chief of Navbharat News — left his residence on Saturday morning for a walk.

Gupta's family filed a missing persons complaint after he did not return from his walk. According to a senior police officer, Gupta's body was found in the Ganga Canal in Haridwar.

The police suspect he committed suicide as there are injury marks on his left wrist. A senior police officer said, "On Saturday, we received information from Haridwar police about Gupta. We sent a team there to investigate."

The police said that CCTV footage near his residence in Delhi showed that Gupta boarded a private bus to Haridwar on Saturday morning around 8 am. He had left his mobile phone at home, they said.

Haridwar SSP Senthil Avoodai Krishnaraj S said Gupta checked into a hotel on Saturday evening. Around 12:30 am that night, he walked out of the hotel telling the staff he would be back in a while. "When Gupta did not come back till the morning, the hotel staff dialled the mobile number that he had provided at the time of check-in. The staff came to know that he had left his phone in Delhi," the SSP said adding that Gupta's son Piyush answered the call.

"During inquiry, locals told us the man allegedly jumped in the canal at night. A search operation was started on Sunday evening and Gupta's body was found on Monday. The body has been sent for a post-mortem," the SSP said.

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in cebuildings@rediffmail.com
Tel. -(0674)-2391523 Fax:-(0674)-2395245
File No. B-IV-H-(ALMC)-8/19 Ltr. No- 51726 Bhubaneswar, the 07th Dec. 2019
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING Bid Identification No. CE (B) - 21/ 2019-20
1. The Chief Engineer (Buildings) on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites bids from reputed Indian firms registered with the State Government and bidders of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Planning / MES / Railways for the building works detailed in the table below on turnkey basis (i.e. Architectural planning with design & execution).
TABLE

Package No	Name of the building	Bid security (₹.)	Cost of bid document (including GST)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Construction of 100 seated New Govt. Medical College & Teaching Hospital at Jaipur on Turnkey Basis in the state of Odisha.	₹ 3,40,03,900/-	₹ 10,000/-	24 (Twenty-four) Months

2. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
3. The Bid documents shall be available for downloading in the website: https://tendersorissa.gov.in from Dt. 17.12.2019.
4. A pre-bid meeting shall be held on Dt.27.12.2019 at 11:00 AM at the Conference Hall of Office of the E.I.C. (Civil), Odisha, Nirman Soudha, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar.
5. Online Submission of Bids shall be on or before Dt.08.01.2020 up to 5:30 PM and hardcopy shall be received on or before Dt.15.01.2020 up to 5:30 PM by this office. The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III.
6. Bids received online on due date and time, shall be opened at Dt. 16.01.2020 at 11:30 AM in the Office of the E.I.C. (Civil), Odisha, NirmanSoudha, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar.
7. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.
8. The authority reserves the right to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Buildings), Odisha

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New Batch Starts 2 DEMO CLASSES
9th Dec. 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM
CLASSIC CLASSES
991191959, 9891991959 YouTube AnkulSir
M-2/A-29,30, Jaina House, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi
Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service
23276901, 23282028 (M): 9212008155, 9212665841.

Classifieds

PERSONAL
I, Sunil Bhardwaj S/o L.N. Sharma R/O H.No.64 & -66, Gali.No.1, Shiv Colony, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana-121004, have changed my minor son's name from Harshit to Shorya Bhardwaj for all future purposes.

I, Sumit S/o Shiv Kumar R/O-B-601, Block-B, Navejeevan-Camp, Govindpur, Kalkaji, Delhi-110019, have changed my name to Sumit Kumar.
I, Sumit Madaan S/o L.P. Madaan R/O D-40, Ajay Enclave, Ashok Nagar, New Delhi 110018, have changed my minor daughter's name from Siya Madaan to Rihima Madaan for all legal purposes.

I, Ramanarayanan Sambasivan S/O Ramasamy Sambasivan R/O Flat No-504, OL-1, Eldeco Utopia, Sector-93A, Noida have changed my Son's name from Advait to Advith Ramanarayanan Iyer for all purposes.
I, Ramanarayanan Sambasivan S/O Ramasamy Sambasivan R/O Flat No-504, OL-1, Eldeco Utopia, Sector-93A, Noida have changed my Son's name from Aditya to Adithya Ramanarayanan Iyer for all purposes.

I, Karuna Madaan W/o Vineet Madaan Add-C-204 Bestiche-Park View, Ananda Sector-81, Gurgaon Haryana-122004 Changed My Name To Karuna Malhotra
I, KM Rupa Saxena W/o Ajay Kumar Saxena R/O Plot-No.6 Khasra.No.497 Upper Ground Floor Burari Delhi-84, changed my name to Roopa Saxena.

I, Amritha Santosh, S/o. Shri. Santosh Kumar R/O, C-60B, Rajat-Vihar, Sector-62, Noida, U.P. have changed my name, from Amritha Santosh to Amritha Santosh, for all future purposes.
I, KRISHNA D/o-Suresh Chand R/O-3/61A veena-enclave nangloi, Delhi-41, have lost my original-certificate class-10th(2003) Rollno-6363839 class-12th(2005) Rollno-6650315 CBSE-Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Please take notice that my clients (1) Shri. Vidya Prakash, S/o. Shri. Chandra Lal, (2) Smt. Rajesh Devi, W/o. Shri. Vinay Kumar, both residents of E-1, Block Jawahar Nagar, Condo, Ghazabad, Uttar Pradesh, have discovered their son Shri. Deepak Malik and his wife Smt. Poojita, from my client's ill-reputed and immovable properties and severed all their relations with them. If any body deals with said Shri. Deepak Malik and his wife Smt. Poojita, in any manner whatsoever, shall be solely responsible for their own risks and my clients shall not be responsible of any acts and deeds of the aforesaid persons.

General public is hereby informed that one unknown person was found dead in Gali No-10, Nala Road, Mayur Halal Meet Shop, Near- Podine ka Khet, Delhi. On Dated 05.12.2019 Time 03:12 PM. In this regard a DD No. 26-A Dated 05.12.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Outer North Distt The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Rajan S/o: Unknown R/o Unknown Age: Approx 28-30, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Medium Face: Round Wearing-Black & White, Blue Colour Sweater and Slaty Colour Pant. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned. SHO P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Outer North Distt Ph.: 2781415, 8750870231

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Nasir, S/o Akhtar Ali, R/o H.No. E-34, Khushal Park, Loni, Sahibabad, (U.P.) has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 780/07 u/s 498A/406/34 IPC, P.S. Welcome, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Nasir cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Nasir has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Nasir of FIR No. 780/07 u/s 498A/406/34 IPC, P.S. Welcome, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 10.01.2020.

By Order Ms. Deepthi Devesh, Metropolitan Magistrate, (Mahila Court No. 1), Shahdara, Karkardooma Court, Delhi DP/7491/NE/19(Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), Name: Y: Prerna D/o Rajesh R/o H. No. P-2/61, Mangol Puri, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 11.11.2019 from the area of P.S. Raj Park, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 815/19 u/s 363 IPC dated 12.11.2019 has been registered at Police Station Raj Park, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:- Age: 17 Years, Height: 5' 1", Complexion : Fair, Face : Round, Identification Mark: Mole on left cheek, Wearing : Black colour suit-salwar and hawai chappal in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Raj Park, Delhi at E-mail id - cbc@cbi.gov.in or Website: http://cbi.nic.in

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that this male Named: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 25 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round Wearing: Black Lower, Violet Colour Underwear (Jockey) and bare footed, Wrapped in a pink Colour Bed-Sheet, tied with plastic ropes Badli Nahar Near Hanuman Mandir, Bawana, Delhi was found dead at on 17.02.2019 at 05:44 pm. In this regard a FIR/DD No. 64/19, U/s 302/201 IPC dated 17.02.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Bawana Industrial Area, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this male may kindly inform to the following. SHO P.S. Bawana, Delhi DP/852/ON/19 Ph.: 011-27751338, 8750870304

GOVT. OF BIHAR OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT ENGINEER, BIHAR BHAWAN, NEW DELHI
Short notice inviting quotation
The reputed firms are requested to submit sealed quotation for following work in Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas Chandigarh, New Delhi for the year 2019-20. Quotation will be submitted up to 11-12-19 at 05:00 pm and opened on 18-12-19 at 3:30 pm at the office of the Resident Engineer, Bihar Niwas Chandigarh, New Delhi. Interested applicant has right to contact quotation without any further information. Registration, Tax No., Pan No. and authorization of firm paper must enclosed. Details of items list can be obtained from the office of the Resident Engineer Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi. The Earnest Money (10% of Contract Value) should be deposited 15% of total contract value before issue of work order.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Directorate of Technical Education, J&K Srinagar: Bypass Road, Bemina Srinagar-190018 (May to Oct) Phone: 0194-2491613, Fax: 0194-2491668 Jammu: Polytechnic Premises, Vikram Chowk, Jammu-180004 (Nov. to April) Phone: 0191-2435190, Fax: 2451345

CORRIGENDUM
Subject- Review of Specifications/Quantity of the Tender issued vide Notification No. DTE/Pur/2019-20/485 dated 27.11.2019 for Establishment of Language Labs thereof. Based on the Representations/Requests made by the Prospective Bidders the Tender issued vide NIT Notification No. DTE/Pur/2019-20/485 dated 27.11.2019 for the Establishment of Language Lab in Govt. Polytechnics under Languageing Project, the following Changes/ Amendments in the Tender are made, the Bidders are advised to Submit/ Revise their Bids accordingly:-
1. In BOQ for Group-A the items wise quantity shall be:- Item No. 1, Software 155 instead of 150. Item No. 3, Instructer Console 05 instead of 01. Item No. 5, Digital HDR 05 instead of 01. Item No. 10, Electric Outlets as per requirement instead of 18 No's. Item No. 11, Servo Stabilizer 05 instead of 01. Item No. 12, ONLINE UPS 05 instead of 01. Item No. 23, Instructor Chair 05 instead of 01. Item No. 24, Instructor Table 05 instead of 01. Item No. 26, Computer Work Station 2 Seater 75 instead of 150. Rest of the quantities shall remain same.
2. In BOQ for Group A & B Item No. 3 Teacher Console, Operating System shall be genuine Windows Server 2016 OS instead of Pre-installed Windows Server 2016 OS.
3. In BOQ for Group A & B Item No. 4 Student PC, Processor frequency shall be 3.0 instead of 3.1 Ghz, rest of the specifications shall remain same.
4. In BOQ for Group-B, Item No. 26 Computer Workstation 2 Seater the quantity shall be 60 instead of 120, rest of the quantities shall remain same.
SD/- (Dr. R.S. Sharma) KAS, Director, Technical Education, J&K, (Chairman SLPC)

Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. An Enterprises of Govt. of NCT of Delhi ISBT Kashmere Gate Delhi-110006 NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Executive Engineer, DTIDC invite tenders on behalf of MD, DTIDC Ltd. for the following works through e procurement solution only.
1. NIT No. : 63/2019-20
Tender ID No. : 2019_DTIDC_184824_1
Name of work : Construction of Four Nos. Mild Steel Galvanized & Powder Coated Bus Queue Shelter at Babarpur Constituency (AC-67) New Delhi.
Estimated Cost : Rs. 38,00,000/-
Earnest Money : Rs. 76,000/-
Time Allowed : 04 Months
Last date of receipt of Tenders : 17.12.2019
The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/ SD/- Executive Engineer DTIDC Ltd., ISBT Kashmere Gate, Delhi DIP/Shabdarth/1102/19-20

बिहार सरकार स्थानिक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय बिहार भवन, नई दिल्ली संक्षिप्त निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
पत्रक-1082/स्था. अचर, नई दिल्ली दिनांक- 9/12/2019
निविदा करने के लिए निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए सूचित श्रेणी में बिहार लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों भवन निर्माताओं से बिहार लोक निर्माण विभाग एक-2 एकरदारामा में होने वाले कार्यों के लिए सूचित निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
1. विभाग द्वारा का नाम एवं पत्र- स्थानिक अभियन्ता, बिहार भवन, चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली
2. परामर्श विवरण के बिना की तिथि एवं समय- 17-12-2019 (कार्यालय 3:00 बजे तक)
3. निविदा प्रान्त की तिथि एवं समय- 18-12-2019 (अपराह्न 3.00 से 5.00 बजे तक)
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय- 17-12-2019 (अपराह्न 3.00 से 5.00 बजे तक)
5. परामर्श विवरण निर्गत का स्थान- स्थानिक अभियन्ता कार्यालय, बिहार निवास, चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली।
6. निविदा खोलने का स्थान- स्थानिक अभियन्ता कार्यालय, बिहार निवास, नई दिल्ली।
7. निविदा प्रान्त का स्थान- स्थानिक अभियन्ता कार्यालय, बिहार निवास, नई दिल्ली।
8. निविदा करने के लिए प्रकृत का नाम एवं पत्र- श्री. सुधीर कुमार, प्रमाणिक, बिहार भवन, चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली।
9. निविदा खोलने का स्थान- श्री. सुधीर कुमार, प्रमाणिक, बिहार भवन, चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली।
10. निविदा प्रान्त का स्थान- श्री. सुधीर कुमार, प्रमाणिक, बिहार भवन, चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली।
11. निविदा खोलने का स्थान- श्री. सुधीर कुमार, प्रमाणिक, बिहार भवन, चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली।
12. निविदा प्रान्त का स्थान- श्री. सुधीर कुमार, प्रमाणिक, बिहार भवन, चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली।
क्र.सं. कार्य का नाम प्राकृतिक गति अग्रण की तिथि अग्रण की तिथि की तिथि कार्य की तिथि कार्य की तिथि
1. Repair painting & polishing work of visitor room & ground floor office of Bihar Niwas for the year 2019-20 259108 5500 500 पन्द्रह दिन
2. Repair painting & polishing work of outer chajja of Bihar Niwas for the year 2019-20 205928 4500 500 पन्द्रह दिन
3. Repair painting polishing work in basement of Bihar Niwas for the year 2019-20 207927 4500 500 पन्द्रह दिन
4. Repair & polishing work of R.E. office & M.P. hall on 1th floor of Bihar Niwas for the year 2019-20 138005 3000 500 पन्द्रह दिन
5. Repair painting & polishing work of canteen, VIP hall & driver room of Bihar Niwas for the year 2019-20 299656 6000 500 पन्द्रह दिन
6. Painting flower bed of from gate to back gate and painting bamboo jafrs in Bihar Niwas for the year 2019-20 263717 5500 500 पन्द्रह दिन
7. Emergent repair & painting work of rain basera of Bihar Niwas for the year 2019-20 303877 6500 500 पन्द्रह दिन
1. Primelesh Arya D/o Late. Shri Guljari Lal R/O A-30/1, Shastri Marg Street No. 1, Maujpur Delhi Pin-110053, have changed my name to Primilesh Gaur for all purposes.
2. Parbh Singh S/O-Milap Singh R/O-H.No.30/3,G/F, Chander Vihar, Deepak Vihar, Nilothi-Extn.Nilothi, Delhi-110041. Have Changed my Name to Prabhu Singh.
3. Mann Singh S/O-Sohan Singh R/O-H.No-73/B A Nihal-Vihar, Phase-2 Nilothi-Extn Nangloi Delhi, have changed my name to Mann Singh.
4. Kapil Kumar S/O Dalip Kumar H.No.972/28 Gali No-9 Jyoti-Park Gurgaon. Have Changed My Name To Kapil Taneja.
5. Kanishka Grewal D/o Parveen Grewal R/O-WZ-37, Nangli Jalib, N.D.-110058, do here by solemnly inform that in my passport my parents name wrongly-written as Parveen Gawarel and Sharmila Gawarel instead of Parveen Grewal and Sharmila Grewal.
6. Divender Kumar S/O-Krishan Singh, R/O-H.No-195, Darwaja-Panna, Mungeshpur, Rohini, Delhi-110039, have changed my name to Devender.
7. Divender Kumar S/O-Krishan Singh, R/O-H.No-195, Darwaja-Panna, Mungeshpur, Rohini, Delhi-110039, have changed my name to Devender.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Sanna Marin is 34

FINLAND
Marin becomes youngest PM in the world

Helsinki: Finland's new Prime Minister — the world's youngest premier — will have a finance minister two years her junior in a new women-led coalition cabinet after a political shake-up, party officials said on Monday. Sanna Marin, 34 from the dominant Social Democrats, was nominated on Sunday. Centre Party chief Katri Kulmuni, 32, will get the finance post when the full new cabinet is announced this week, party members said. Finland's government resigned last week after the Centre Party said it had lost confidence in Social Democrat Prime Minister Antti Rinne over his handling of a postal strike.

BRITAIN
Doctors advise shifting Sharif to US from UK

Lahore, London: Pakistan's ailing former PM Nawaz Sharif, who is currently undergoing treatment in London, has shown no improvement in his platelet count and the doctors have advised that he be shifted to the US for better medical care, a top party official said. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb said the 69-year-old Sharif's medical reports showed there was an 88% blockage in the arteries circulating blood to his brain. "Doctors have advised him to consult an expert in the US. However, transporting him there poses an immense challenge for the medical team," she said.

MYANMAR
Groups launch Myanmar boycott

The Hague: Human rights campaigners supporting Myanmar's Rohingya Muslim minority on Monday called for a global boycott of the country, a day before genocide hearings begin at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The Free Rohingya Coalition said in a statement it was starting the "Boycott Myanmar Campaign" with 30 organisations in 10 countries. It called on "corporations, foreign investors, professional and cultural organisations to sever their institutional ties with Myanmar".

Futile to seek bigger commitments when targets not being met: India

Javadekar: India on course to meet and exceed targets, others must focus on implementing Paris pact



AMITABH SINHA
MADRID, DECEMBER 9

IN THE clearest indication yet that India would not succumb to growing pressure on countries to commit to greater action on climate change, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said Monday the demand for commitment to higher targets was a "futile" exercise considering most of the countries were not even on track to meet their previous targets.

Javadekar said India, which was one of the best performers on climate action and well on its way to exceeding its targets, would instead like countries to focus on achieving their current and past targets, instead of committing themselves to fresh, more ambitious targets. "We should concentrate more on the implementation of the Paris Agreement rather than bring up new issues and new subjects at this stage... It is futile to talk about new targets right now, futile to talk about new ambitions or new programmes, unless we are able to implement our current targets under the



Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar at the Indian pavilion during the Madrid climate talks. The Indian pavilion this year is themed on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, with the charkha being the star attraction. The Indian delegation has invited visitors and dignitaries to spin the charkha, and has presented them with small model charkhas as gifts. *Amitabh Sinha*

Paris Agreement," Javadekar said on the sidelines of the Madrid climate change conference here. A series of scientific reports in the last few months have shown that the world was not doing enough to prevent the catastrophic impacts of climate change. There has been a growing pressure from civil society organisations, and even the United Nations, asking countries to undertake more climate action. Javadekar said all interna-

tional assessments had shown that India was among the top five performers on Paris Agreement targets, and it was the only big emitter whose actions were compliant to the Paris Agreement goal of keeping the global rise in temperatures to below 2 degree Celsius from pre-industrial level. "We are walking the talk. On all our three targets — on reduction of emissions intensity, on deployment of renewable energy, and on creation of carbon

sink — we are doing well. We will not just achieve our targets but over-achieve them," he said. "But that is not true of most of the other countries, most importantly the rich and developed countries, which are falling way behind their targets. Many of them have not even fulfilled their pre-2020 targets under the Kyoto Protocol (the predecessor to the Paris Agreement) and now they want us to forget those

because 2020 is already here. We cannot forget those commitments. This is not an excuse. Let them start implementing their Kyoto targets even now, and fulfil them over the next two to three years. We don't mind an extension of deadline. But the targets cannot be sidelined or pushed aside," he said. Javadekar is set to argue India's case at the high-level ministerial segment of the conference that begins Tuesday.

EXPLAINED
E

Bigger targets not the goal at Madrid talks

DESPITE GROWING pressure on countries to commit to more ambitious climate targets, this is not on the agenda of the Madrid talks. The primary goal is to complete the unfinished tasks of the Paris Agreement rulebook. The rulebook would contain the processes, guidelines and institutions for the implementation of the landmark agreement signed in Paris in 2015.

Carbon markets, biggest agenda at Madrid, in danger of going unresolved

AMITABH SINHA
MADRID, DECEMBER 9

THE SINGLE biggest agenda at the Madrid climate talks, an agreement over setting up a new carbon market, was in danger of being postponed for some other time, with both sides maintaining that they would not settle for a compromise solution.

There has been virtually no progress at the Madrid climate talks on two of the most contentious issues relating to the creation of a new carbon market under the Paris Agreement — the issue of transition of carbon credits from the older market under Kyoto Protocol to the new market being established, and a mechanism to avoid double counting of emissions reductions.

Carbon markets allow buying and selling of emission reductions, or carbon credits. In very simple terms it facilitates a mechanism that allows a country which has achieved its climate targets, to make additional emission reductions and sell it, for a price, to another country which is struggling to meet its targets. It is hoped that a carbon market will lead to greater overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Carbon markets are an unfinished agenda of the Paris Agreement rulebook that was finalised last year. But even after one year of consultations, and more than a week of negotiations here in Madrid, there has

Carbon markets allow buying and selling of emission reductions, or carbon credits

been little progress in resolving the contentious issues. And it is likely that the Madrid climate talks would leave an agreement over the carbon markets for some other time. "It is very clear that the kind of demands that countries like Brazil and India are making, on the transition of older carbon credits, or on allowing double counting, jeopardises the entire rationale of the carbon markets. I would say it would be far better for us to have no deal here in Madrid than having a bad deal," said Giles Dufraigne, policy officer (carbon pricing) with Carbon Market Watch, an international NGO. On the other hand, India also said it would not agree to an agreement that did not allow for transition of its older carbon credits. "India has nearly 750 million carbon credits from the Kyoto regime. We have invested money to earn these credits. Now, suddenly we are being told that these credits are useless, and that we cannot sell them because a new market is being created. We are saying we must be allowed to sell these credits in the new market... We cannot agree to a deal that does not allow this transition," CK Mishra, India's Environment Secretary, said.

House Democrats lay out case for formal Trump impeachment

LISA MASCARO & MARY CLARE JALONICK
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 9

THE HOUSE Judiciary Committee received a detailed summing up of the impeachment case against US President Donald Trump Monday as Democrats prepare formal charges against him. Trump and his allies lobbied fresh assaults on the proceedings they dismiss as a hoax and a sham.

Democratic lawyers outlined the findings so far, saying Trump's push to have Ukraine investigate rival Joe Biden while at the same time withholding US military aid ran counter to US policy and benefited Russia as well as himself. A committee vote is coming, possibly as soon as this week, on two or more articles of impeachment on charges of abuse of power, bribery and obstruction against the Republican President. Trump quickly began tweeting anew against the "Witch Hunt!" and deriding "Do Nothing Democrats."

Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler was blunt as he opened the hearing, saying, "President Trump put himself before country." The top Republican on the panel, Rep. Doug Collins said Democrats are racing to jam impeachment through on a "clock and a calendar" ahead of the 2020 presidential election.



New Zealand's White Island after the volcanic eruption on Monday. AP

New Zealand volcano eruption kills five people, several missing

CHARLOTTE GREENFIELD
WHAKATANE, DECEMBER 9

AT LEAST five people were killed, up to 20 injured and several reported missing after a volcano that is a tourist attraction suddenly erupted off the coast of New Zealand's North Island on Monday.

Police said more casualties were feared with rescue services unable to reach White Island as it remained too dangerous after the eruption of the volcano there at about 2:11 p.m. (0111 GMT) spewed a plume of ash thousands of feet into the air. About 50 people, New Zealanders as well as foreign tourists, were feared to have been nearby and several were seen near the rim of the crater minutes before the eruption. Many day tours visit the island regularly, and one from the Ovation of the Seas cruise liner was there at the time. Tour operators took some people off the island before it was declared unsafe. Twenty-three people were rescued, police said, adding that others were still on the island. "We are unsure of the numbers and unsure of their well-being," deputy police commis-

Around 50 people, including foreigners, were feared to have been near the crater minutes before the eruption

sioner John Tims said, adding that rescuers now could not access the island. "The physical environment is unsafe for us to return," he said. "It is a no-fly zone at the moment." St. John Ambulance said up to 20 people were believed to have been injured in the eruption, adding that a mobile triage unit was on its way. The organization said it had sent seven helicopters with medics onboard. Several people with burn injuries were brought by helicopter to Whakatane, the nearest town on the mainland. A crater rim camera shows groups of people walking toward and away from the rim inside the crater, from which white vapor constantly billows, in the hour leading to the eruption. **REUTERS**

Gunman at US base had filed complaint against instructor over 'derogatory' nickname

NICHOLAS BOGEL-BURROUGHS
DECEMBER 9

THE INVESTIGATION into the fatal shooting last week at a Navy training centre in Florida was officially characterized as a terrorism inquiry Sunday as new details emerged about the Saudi air force trainee who killed three sailors on the base where he was a visiting student.

As the FBI continued to conduct interviews with everyone at the Pensacola Naval Air Station who may have had contact with the gunman, identified as 2nd Lt. Mohammed Alshamrani, new evidence emerged that the Saudi trainee filed a formal complaint earlier this year against one of his instructors, who left him "infuriated" in class by tagging him with a derogatory nickname. The complaint, quoted in a communication circulated among people connected to the flight training, said that the instructor referred to Alshamrani as "Porn Stash" in front of about 10 other aviation students, embarrassing and angering him. "I was infuriated as to why he would say that in front of the class," the Saudi trainee wrote in his complaint. The FBI declined to com-



Florida Gov Ron DeSantis visited the scene of the shooting at Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida. AP

ment on the April incident, and the special agent in charge of the agency's Jacksonville office, Rachel Rojas, said Sunday that investigators are still searching for a motive for the Friday morning attack. Alshamrani reported that the confrontation came at the end of a meteorology class, when the instructor, James Day, asked whether students had any questions before he dismissed them. The instructor then turned to Alshamrani and asked if he had any questions, addressing him as "Porn Stash," an apparent reference to the fact that his mustache resembled that of a porn actor. "Laughing, he continued to ask, 'What? Have you not seen a porn star before?'" the lieutenant wrote in his complaint. **NYT**

EVEN AS US OFFICIALS PUBLICLY SAID THEIR MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN WAS SUCCEEDING, DOCUMENTS SHOWED OTHERWISE Documents reveal American officials misled public over Afghan war

THOMAS GIBBONS-NEFF
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 9

THOUSANDS OF pages of documents detailing the war in Afghanistan released by *The Washington Post* on Monday paint a stark picture of missteps and failures — and delivered in the words of prominent US officials, many of whom publicly had said the mission was succeeding. After a quick but short-term victory over the Taliban and al-Qaida in early 2002, and as the Pentagon's focus shifted toward Iraq, the US military's effort in Afghanistan became a hazy spectacle of nation building,

with a small number of troops carrying out an unclear mission, the documents show. Even as the Taliban returned in greater numbers and troops on the ground voiced concerns about the US strategy's growing shortcomings, senior US officials almost always said that progress was being made. The documents obtained by *The Washington Post* show otherwise. "We were devoid of a fundamental understanding of Afghanistan — we didn't know what we were doing," said Douglas Lute, a retired three-star Army general who helped the White House oversee the war in Afghanistan in both the Bush

and Obama administrations. "What are we trying to do here? We didn't have the foggiest notion of what we were undertaking," he told government interviewers in 2015. The 2,000 pages of interviews were obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request and years of legal back-and-forth with the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, known as SIGAR, according to *The Post*. Formed in 2008, SIGAR has served as a government watchdog for the war in Afghanistan, releasing reports quarterly on the war's progress, many of which clearly depicted the shortcomings of the effort.



In one interview obtained by *The Washington Post*, a person identified only as a senior National Security Council official said that the Obama White House, along with the Pentagon, pushed for

After a short-term victory against militants in 2002, the US's effort in Afghanistan became a hazy spectacle of nation building, documents revealed. *Reuters*

data that showed President Barack Obama's announced surge in 2009 was succeeding. "It was impossible to create good metrics. We tried using troop numbers trained, violence levels, control of territory and none of it painted an accurate picture," the official told interviewers in 2016, according to *The Post*. "The metrics were always manipulated for the duration of the war." In 2010 this pressure trickled down to troops on the ground, as they answered to commanders eager to show progress to senior leaders, including Gen. Stanley McChrystal, then the commander of all US troops in Afghanistan. But the facts were

that the fledgling Afghan military performed poorly in the field and the US "clear, hold, build" counterinsurgency strategy had little hope of succeeding. But this tension, between reality and public statements and the rosiness on the ground, has been one of the key elements of the war in Afghanistan. Now, 18 years into the war, the US-led mission in Afghanistan has all but cut off outside access to US troops on the ground in an attempt to execute their mission in near-secrecy. Since 2001, more than 2,200 US troops have been killed in Afghanistan, along with hundreds from allied countries that have contributed forces to the war.

Since 2014, after the Pentagon officially and euphemistically ended "combat operations," putting the Afghan military in the lead, more than 50,000 Afghan security forces have died. And the war has cost the US nearly \$1 trillion. *The Washington Post* published its report just as talks between the United States and the Taliban have restarted for another round of peace negotiations in Doha, Qatar. In September, President Donald Trump abruptly called off months of the talks. During a trip to Afghanistan over the Thanksgiving holiday, Trump said the US will stay in Afghanistan "until such time as we have a deal, or we have total victory." **NYT**

TELLING NUMBERS

Enrolment and claims in flagship life, accident insurance schemes

AS OF March 31 this year, the number of individuals enrolled in the government's flagship accident insurance scheme, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), was 15.47 crore, Lok Sabha was informed on Monday. The number of individuals enrolled in the life insurance scheme, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), was 5.91 crore, the government said, quoting information furnished by banks.

to Rs 2,704.24 crore had been settled under PMJJBY, and 32,176 claims amounting to Rs 643.52 crore had been settled under PMSBY at the end of the last financial year, the government said.

The PMSBY offers insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh for accidental death or total permanent disability to people in the age group 18 to 70 years. The PMJJBY offers life insurance of Rs 2 lakh in case of death due to any reason to people in the age group of 18-50.

A total 1,35,212 claims amounting

GROSSENLROLMENTS

State	PMSBY	PMJJBY	Total
Andhra Pradesh*	2,76,32,231	1,83,84,214	4,60,16,445
Bihar	58,29,559	16,48,757	74,78,316
Chhattisgarh	52,99,788	12,91,366	65,91,154
Gujarat	60,99,823	25,62,854	86,62,677
Jharkhand	22,44,237	5,99,262	28,43,499
Karnataka	79,09,701	34,55,273	1,13,64,974
Madhya Pradesh	87,86,945	22,37,052	1,10,23,997
Maharashtra	97,01,319	40,21,981	1,37,23,300
Odisha	45,15,671	12,59,527	57,75,198
Punjab	40,09,575	7,27,495	47,37,070
Rajasthan	60,56,922	18,20,827	78,77,749
Tamil Nadu	83,40,290	27,79,983	1,11,20,273
Telangana	63,33,999	21,77,346	85,11,345
Uttar Pradesh	1,59,84,910	39,90,315	1,99,75,225
West Bengal	74,60,614	16,39,458	91,00,072
Total	15,47,17,823	5,91,09,302	21,38,27,125

*Andhra Pradesh figures include 1.65 crore and 1.99 crore beneficiaries converged from Aam Admi Bima Yojana (AABY) to PMJJBY and PMSBY respectively.

**Total includes all states and Union Territories, as well as beneficiaries of erstwhile insurance schemes in some government departments, and urban cooperative bank subscribers who were not migrated to the CBS system (non-CBS enrolments).

CLAIM AMOUNTS PAID (IN Rs CRORE)

State	PMJJBY	PMSBY	Total
Andhra Pradesh	213.30	45.76	259.06
Bihar	56.76	9.42	66.18
Chhattisgarh	110.12	35.40	145.52
Gujarat	222.08	45.30	267.38
Jharkhand	31.28	6.38	37.66
Karnataka	241.44	39.74	281.18
Madhya Pradesh	191.04	69.80	260.84
Maharashtra	227.72	53.34	281.06
Odisha	82.90	17.96	100.86
Punjab	43.62	21.66	65.28
Rajasthan	164.12	46.40	210.52
Tamil Nadu	136.86	43.24	180.10
Telangana	238.92	41.54	280.46
Uttar Pradesh	346.64	65.56	412.20
West Bengal	85.98	16.74	102.72
Total	2,704.24	643.52	3,347.76

*Total includes all states and Union Territories

Source: Answer to Lok Sabha question, quoting data uploaded by banks and insurance companies on Jansuraksha portal. Data as on March 31, 2019

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Sowing a new Seeds regime

Govt plans to change existing law to ensure availability of quality seeds to farmers. How will the proposed Bill to replace The Seeds Act, 1966 meet its objective of 'regulating quality of seeds for sale, import, export'?

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

THE EXISTING 1966 law already provides for regulation of the quality of seeds. What does the new Bill seek to change?

The current Act only covers "notified kinds or varieties of seeds". Thus, regulation of quality, too, is limited to the seeds of varieties that have been officially notified.

Such varieties would be mostly those that are bred by public sector institutions — the likes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the state agricultural universities (SAUs) — and officially "released" for cultivation after multi-location trials, over three years or more, to evaluate their yield performance, disease and pest resistance, quality, and other desired traits.

Release is a precondition for notification. And the provisions of The Seeds Act, 1966, apply only to certified seeds produced of notified varieties.

The new Seeds Bill, 2019 provides for compulsory registration of "any kind or variety of seeds" that are sought to be sold. According to Section 14 of the draft Bill, "no seed of any kind or variety... shall, for the purpose of sowing or planting by any person, be sold unless such kind or variety is registered".

In other words, even hybrids/varieties of private companies will need to be registered, and their seeds would have to meet the minimum prescribed standards relating to germination, physical and genetic purity, etc. Breeders would be required to disclose the "expected performance" of their registered varieties "under given conditions".

If the seed of such registered kind or variety "fails to provide the expected performance under such given conditions", the farmer "may claim compensation from the producer, dealer, distributor or vendor under The Consumer Protection Act, 1986".

What is the context for bringing the Bill?

The 1966 legislation was enacted at the time of the Green Revolution, when the country hardly had any private seed industry. The high-yielding wheat and paddy varieties, which made India self-reliant in cereals by the 1980s, were developed by the various ICAR institutes and SAUs.

These public sector institutions have retained their dominance in breeding of wheat, paddy (including basmati), sugarcane, pulses,



A hybrid seeds store in Nabarangpur, Odisha. Harish Damodaran

soyabean, groundnut, mustard, potato, onion and other crops, where farmers largely grow open-pollinated varieties (OPV) whose grain can be saved as seed for re-planting.

Over the last three decades or more, however, private companies and multinationals have made significant inroads, particularly into crops that are amenable to hybridisation (their seeds are first-generation hybrids produced by crossing two genetically diverse plants, and whose yields tend to be higher than that of either of the parents; the grains from these, even if saved as re-used as seed, will not give the same "F1" vigour).

Today, the size of the private hybrid seeds industry is estimated at about Rs 15,000 crore. That includes cotton (Rs 4,000 crore), vegetables (Rs 3,500 crore), corn/maize (Rs 1,500 crore), paddy (Rs 1,000 crore), pearl millet/bajra (Rs 300 crore) and sorghum/jowar (Rs 200 crore). Hybrid seed adoption rates are reported to be 7-8% in paddy, 60-70% in corn, 90% in jowar and bajra, 95% in cotton, and 80%+ in major vegetables such as okra, tomato, chilli, capsicum, cauliflower, gourds, cucumber, cabbage, melons, brinjal, carrot and radish. Even in banana, the real production increase after the

1990s has come from tissue-culture micro-propagation planting technology commercialised by private players like Jain Irrigation.

So, are privately-bred hybrids not covered under any regulation?

The current Seeds Act, as already noted, applies only to notified varieties. Also, unless a variety or hybrid is notified, its seeds cannot be certified. Most of the private hybrids marketed in India, by virtue of not being officially "released", are neither "notified" nor "certified".

Instead, they are "truthful labeled". The companies selling them simply state that the seeds inside the packets have a minimum germination (if 100 are sown, at least 75-80, say, will produce plants), genetic purity (percentage of "true-to-type" plants and non-contamination by genetic material of other varieties/species), and physical purity (proportion of non-contamination by other crop/weed seeds or inert matter).

How does the proposed Seeds Bill, 2019 address the above lacuna?

It does away with the concept of "notified" variety. By providing for compulsory

registration of "any kind or variety of seeds", private hybrids — whether officially "released" or "truthful labeled" — will automatically be brought under regulatory purview.

It must be mentioned here that the Seeds (Control) Amendment Order of 2006 under the Essential Commodities Act mandates dealers to ensure minimum standards of germination, purity, and other quality parameters even in respect of "other than notified kind or variety of seeds". Enforcing mandatory registration under a new Seed Act, encompassing all varieties and hybrids, is expected to bring greater accountability from the industry, even while rendering the Seeds Control Order redundant.

How has been the private seed industry responded to the proposed Bill?

Seed companies have welcomed the provision of compulsory registration of all varieties/hybrids, based on the results of multi-location trials for a prescribed period to establish their performance vis-à-vis the claims of the breeders concerned. This should help minimise the risk of farmers being sold seeds of low-quality genetics, especially by fly-by-night operators taking undue advantage of the "truthful labeling" and "self-certification" processes.

The industry, however, wants the process of registration to be time-bound. Given the lack of manpower and infrastructure within the government system, the registration may be granted or refused on the basis of multi-location trials carried out by the breeder/applicant itself.

But the industry's main reservation is the provision for regulation of sale price "in emergent situations like scarcity of seeds, abnormal rise in prices, monopolistic pricing or profiteering". The fact that this power of fixing sale price of seed has been given both to the Centre and state governments has added to their nervousness. Their contention is that seed accounts for not even a tenth of the total operational costs in most crops, despite the genetic information contained in it being the main determinant of grain yield and quality.

When is the Bill likely to become law?

Despite the buzz, the chances of it being introduced in the current session of Parliament are remote — it is not listed in the legislative business expected to be taken up. Incidentally, an earlier version of the Bill had lapsed after being introduced in 2004.

TIP FOR READING LIST

A SUPERSTAR MEMOIR

THE BRITISH tabloid *Daily Mail* called it "the rock memoir of the decade", and those who have followed the life of Elton John will expect nothing less from *Me*. It is also a hugely informative memoir — the review in *The New York Times* described *Me* as a "very crowded book by a man who's kept a lot to himself until now".



basic story, "barely scratched the surface of what's in this memoir", and while "the lurid parts will get all the headlines", it is Elton John's "hard-won self-knowledge" that the book is really about. The superstar describes himself as a sexual voyeur, and talks frankly about his cocaine addiction, and his bout of prostate cancer and the use of adult diapers. "The latter", *The NY Times* said, "may be a first in the genre".

The film *Rocketman*, the review said, while succeeding in telling a competent

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

FOR THREE days starting Tuesday, judges at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands, will hear a case seeking to establish that the atrocities by the Myanmar army and security forces against the minority Rohingya amount to genocide.

Myanmar's defence will be personally led by Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, who arrived in The Hague on Sunday, as lawyers pressing the case seek to have immediate international action initiated in order to protect the Rohingya.

This is Suu Kyi's first visit to western Europe since 2016, where she, once revered as an icon of peace and democracy, is now frequently seen as defending and condoning the actions of a regime brutal military authoritarianism.

Who has taken Myanmar to the ICJ?

The Republic of The Gambia, a tiny country the size of Tripura on Africa's west coast, which stretches on either side of the river Gambia as it empties itself into the North Atlantic Ocean. The predominantly Muslim country went to the ICJ last month, accusing

Myanmar of genocide, which is the most serious of all international crimes. The Gambia is backed by the 57-member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

At the time of filing the case, Abubaccr Marie Tambaou, the Justice Minister and Attorney General of The Gambia, had told The Associated Press that his country wanted to "send a clear message to Myanmar and to the rest of the international community that the world must not stand by and do nothing in the face of terrible atrocities that are occurring around us. It is a shame for our generation that we do nothing while genocide is unfolding right before our own eyes".

The case, 'Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar)', seeking the "indication of provisional measures", will be heard by United Nations judges at the Peace Palace in The Hague. Both The Gambia and Myanmar will have the opportunity to present two rounds of oral arguments before the court. The hearings will be streamed live on the ICJ website.

What position has Myanmar taken?

Myanmar has long denied the allegations of mass rape, killings, and arson made by the Rohingya against its army. Myanmar says its



Aung San Suu Kyi is greeted by a Myanmar official in Rotterdam on Sunday. Office of the Myanmar State Counsellor via AP

soldiers only carried out legitimate counter-terrorism operations against Rohingya militants. It vowed last week "to defend Myanmar's national interest", even as it rejected a decision by the International Criminal Court to allow an investigation into crimes committed against the Rohingya.

According to Myanmar, the International Criminal Court, which too, is based in The Hague, has no jurisdiction over it, since Myanmar was not a party to the agreement that established the court. While the ICJ, which

was established in 1945, mostly deals with disputes between nations, the International Criminal Court, which began functioning in 2002, prosecutes individuals for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Some 7.4 lakh Rohingya have fled Myanmar's Rakhine state to Bangladesh, where they have been living in refugee camps.

What will happen after the hearings?

The court is likely to decide the plea on provisional measures fairly soon — possibly within weeks. Hearings on the main allegations of genocide could begin next year. However, cases at the ICJ often drag on for years, and no quick closure is expected.

Also, the legal bar for handing out a conviction for genocide is high. Since World War II, only three cases of genocide have been recognised internationally: Cambodia (late 1970s), Rwanda (1994), and Srebrenica (1995). "Proving genocide has been difficult because of the high bar set by its 'intent requirement' — that is showing the genocidal acts, say killings, were carried out with the specific intent to eliminate a people on the basis of their ethnicity," a Reuters report quoted Richard Dicker, head of the international justice programme at New York-based Human Rights Watch, as saying.

How Kerala's 'own bank' changes the cooperative sector — and road ahead

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DECEMBER 9

KERALA Bank, an entity created by the merger of 13 district co-operative banks (DCBs) in Kerala, was officially launched on Friday — the first state-owned bank in the cooperative sector.

Kerala Bank brings the state's co-operative banking sector together under a single roof, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said; it is envisaged as a people-owned and people-managed modern bank with a significant share of the banking sector.

All DCBs except the one in Malappuram district, which is controlled by the opposition Congress-led UDF, have been amalgamated into Kerala Bank. At the launch ceremony, the Chief Minister invited the outlier bank to come on board, and invited it for talks with the government.

Idea and evolution

Kerala's "own bank" had been a promise of the CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) for the 2016 Assembly elections. After coming to power, Vijayan's government appointed a committee to study the idea of creating a Kerala Bank by amalgamating the entire co-operative banking sector into a single entity.

The demand for the Kerala Bank gained momentum after the State Bank of Travancore (SBT) was merged with the State Bank of India (SBI) on March 31, 2017. The SBT, which was headquartered in Thiruvananthapuram, had been handling a major part of the government's transactions, and was seen as Kerala's own bank.

In October, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) accorded final approval for the creation of the unified bank, subject to certain conditions — the Chief Minister said these would be met, and a compliance report

would be submitted to the central bank before March 31, 2020.

The new bank combines 13 DCBs with the Kerala State Cooperative Bank. The formation of Kerala Bank has reduced the earlier three-tier structure of co-operative banking in the state to a two-tier one.

Size and position

Kerala Bank has the second largest banking footprint in the state. Its network of 995 branches is second only to the SBI's, which has 1,215 branches across the state. While the SBI has a deposit base of Rs 1.53 lakh crore in the state, Kerala Bank would have a base of Rs 65,000 crore. Unlike the state co-operative bank and district co-operative banks, Kerala Bank can, in the future, accept NRI deposits, which will lead to an expansion of its deposit base. As part of Kerala Bank, the DCBs will get the status of a scheduled bank, which they have been lacking

until now. The co-operative banking system in Kerala has about 30 per cent market share in deposits and loans, but this may significantly increase after Kerala Bank begins to accept NRI deposits.

Governance structure

At present, senior bureaucrats in the Co-operative Department are manning Kerala Bank, which will get a CEO next month. Ultimately, however, Kerala Bank will have a democratically elected body, in tune with the tradition in the cooperative sector. It will have a board of directors with representatives from the primary cooperative societies, the secretary of the state Co-operative Department, four ex-officio members, a nominee from NABARD, and two independent professional directors. The nominees of the primary societies would have adequate representation for SCs/STs and women.

Gains and criticism

The new Kerala Bank could offer modern banking facilities, including online transactions and ATMs, which have been hitherto unavailable to a large chunk of clients in the cooperative sector. There would be a parity in services offered in the sector, in the interest rates for deposits as well as loans. The primary cooperative societies could take a slew of modern banking facilities to their members, and give a fillip to technology-driven banking in the rural areas.

Kerala Bank will not levy a fine for customers' failure to maintain a minimum deposit. According to the government, the Bank will help the economic development of Kerala by providing financial services to development projects, especially those promoted by local self governments, without compromising on the commercial aspect.

However, the opposition has alleged that the amalgamation of co-operative banks

would harm the sector. How depositors react to being brought into an ecosystem of greater accountability, including income-tax scrutiny and compliance, remains to be seen.

Challenges ahead

The state government will have the task of taking the new entity out of the shadow of politics that frequently falls on the cooperative sector, and of infusing professionalism in operations. Besides the commitment to submit a compliance report by the end of March, Kerala Bank will have to keep a sharp eye on non-performing assets at a time when the state cooperative bank is running at a loss.

The 2016 demonetisation exercise, and the economic slump in the wake of two bouts of heavy floods in the state, have adversely affected the district and primary co-operative societies. Defaults in farm loans have been growing, leading to the accumulation of non-performing assets (NPAs),



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

PUT OUT THE FIRE

Anaj Mandi tragedy is reminder of urgency of creating safer working conditions in unregulated industry hubs

A CHARRED FIVE-STOREY building in Anaj Mandi in the periphery of Delhi's walled city area bears testimony to one of the city's worst fire accidents since the Uphaar tragedy of 1997. In the early hours of Sunday, a fire swept through the residential building that housed several manufacturing units, asphyxiating 43 workers, at least five of them minors. The 600-square-yard building is a typical example of a manufacturing units cluster, operating without permits, from cramped residential quarters. It had just one exit that could be used — the second exit was blocked by piles of goods, many of them combustible. This, and the fact that the five floors of the building had barely any ventilation, meant that the workers, most of them immigrants, had very little chance to escape. The owners of the building had reportedly not applied for a no-objection certificate from the fire safety department before converting their premises into manufacturing units. In fact, less than 24 hours before Sunday's blaze, the area had seen two other factory fires, which were doused before there they could cause any harm.

Union Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has laid the blame on the doors of the Delhi Fire Safety (DFS) department. The DFS has thrown up its hands, claiming that it has little enforcement powers, which, it says "is the prerogative of the city's municipal authorities". Delhi is not new to such blame games — the last round happened in February, when a fire swept through a hotel in northwest Delhi, killing at least 17 people. But questions raised in the aftermath of such episodes have never moved municipal and fire safety authorities to take concerted action to plug the loopholes in the city's accident preparedness. This has meant that Part Four of the National Building Code, which has detailed instructions on fire safety, and Delhi's own fire safety rules have remained, for the most part, dead letters.

In the post-liberalisation era, unregulated manufacturing units have mushroomed in several lower-middle class residential areas, unauthorised colonies and slum clusters of the capital. Anaj Mandi is a good example of the liberalised economy's underbelly. Once a flourishing wholesale grain market, its traders have now moved to bigger markets. In the mandi's serpentine lanes, units producing school bags, garments and toy factories and printing units exist cheek-by-jowl with residential quarters. These, as Sunday's accident shows, are tinderboxes. The Delhi municipality's standard response after such accidents has been to crack the whip on individual offenders. The government has, at times, tried to move some of these unregulated units to new industrial hubs such as Bawana and Narela. But by all accounts, these plans have not succeeded because the owners and workers of these factories found relocation uneconomical. Shouldn't the government, which swears by small-scale industry, attempt a more creative solution that enables safer working conditions without stifling entrepreneurship?

MOMENT OF RECKONING

Suu Kyi's refusal to speak for Rohingya is controversial. Her decision to defend army at ICJ sets off ripples beyond Myanmar

AUNG SAN SUU KYI's decision to appear before the International Court of Justice to defend Myanmar from charges of genocide against Rohingya Muslims is a gambit. It is based on her international stature built over two decades of being a prisoner of conscience, detained by the Myanmar junta, and the knowledge that defending her country can only bolster her nationalistic credentials at home and even strengthen her standing vis a vis the all-powerful military. No serving head of state has appeared before the ICJ. Suu Kyi, who holds the formal designation of State Counsellor to the government, but is de facto civilian leader of Myanmar, possibly believes that her defending her country's actions against the Rohingya would carry credibility in the court. Her decision to travel to The Hague has triggered an outpouring of support for her among Myanmar's majority Buddhist communities. Myanmar's anti-Rohingya actions, for which it is being pulled up before the international court, enjoy much domestic support as the Rohingya are not considered "indigenous" to Myanmar, and do not have citizenship. It is ironic that Suu Kyi, who had only some years ago, rallied international opinion against the army, will now appear in its support. She may have sensed that it might provide her a more equal footing with the country's most powerful institution, which is also the biggest obstacle to constitutional reform.

It is ironic, too, that while the most powerful countries seemed powerless in the face of Myanmar's actions against the Rohingya community, it was a small country like Gambia, backed by the Organisation for Islamic Co-operation, that has taken it to the ICJ on charges of violating the UN convention of prevention of genocide. Gambia's lawsuit is based on a 2018 UN report that accused Myanmar of "genocidal intent", and its Army of murder, rape and a host of other charges. Suu Kyi's staunch refusal to take the side of the Rohingya has disappointed all those who saw her as an icon of freedom and democracy. Her defence in court is likely to be what it has been elsewhere: That military operations against the Rohingya in the Rakhine were actions against terrorism.

The outflow of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar has impacted several of its neighbours, particularly Bangladesh, which now hosts the largest Rohingya refugee camp in the world, as well as Thailand and other countries in south east Asia, where thousands from the community have fled to escape persecution. In India, too, the presence of the Rohingya has added to the polarising debate on the religion of refugees. This case at the ICJ is sure to have ramifications beyond the borders of Myanmar.

JUST EAT IT

A banana that took the art world by storm has been consumed. The episode is filled with symbolic meaning

HERE'S THE MOST charitable explanation of Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan's "Comedian". The work of art is not one that requires great skill to produce — it is a banana duck-taped to a wall. But it can be seen, perhaps, as a joke on the entire self-important and rarefied world of high art. At \$1,20,000 or Rs 85,34,280, that's a pricey punchline. And, on Saturday, someone ate the punchline. Performance artist David Datuna consumed the profound, if slightly putrefied fruit, at the Art Basel festival in Miami, US. He did so, he says, for the most fundamental of reasons — hunger.

The now-digested banana, of course, will be replaced and the publicity will only drive up the value of the "Comedian". What the consumption of the work has done, though, is settle the debate about the usefulness of art. As much as talent, creating something from nothing is about intelligence and context. In the sparse, sanitised, "do not touch" environment of the gallery and the museum, a simple perishable object certainly makes a statement — both about the ephemeral nature of the work and the pomposity of those who run such spaces. The price is part of the joke on that world, and if Cattelan can get rich off it, kudos to him.

In fact, "Comedian" scores over most other contemporary works on one important score. It isn't useless, in the most basic sense. A banana is a nutritious fruit. In addition, it has great value in its symbolism: Slipping on its peel is the most basic joke, and it is rife with social and political meaning (think banana republic). But, most important of all, Cattelan's joke should finally silence both the elite gatekeepers of high culture, and those on the other end of the spectrum, who believe that literal meaning is the only kind that matters. The former can pay Rs 85 lakh for a banana (and a strip of tape), the latter can eat it.

A Data Big Bang

Serious questions confront policymakers. Yet data are not reliable enough for them to be answered



ARVIND SUBRAMANIAN AND JOSH FELMAN

AS THE GOVERNMENT responds to the challenges posed by the economic slowdown, there's an ignored area of reform, where simple measures could have potentially big pay-offs. This area relates to data, specifically the process of generating and disseminating reliable data.

Reliable data is important for several reasons. For some time, we have known that confidence — in the economy and government — is critical in shaping private actions. Keynes himself stressed the importance of "animal spirits" in getting entrepreneurs to invest. Others have stressed the importance of consumer confidence in getting households to spend on durable goods such as cars. There is something of a bootstrap effect at work: Confidence can change behaviour, which changes reality, and hence confidence.

Accurate data is arguably even more important for guiding government actions. Consider the following policy questions facing India today: Does the economy require little support, a reasonable amount, or urgent and massive measures? Is there really an employment problem? Has poverty come down or gone up? Do poor government revenues simply reflect a deep economic downturn — or serious collection problems, requiring urgent measures to improve tax administration? Is there no room, a little room or considerable room for expansionary fiscal policy? Has the financial system turned the corner — or are stressed assets actually rising?

All these are serious questions confronting policymakers right now. Yet the data are simply not reliable or incontrovertible enough to allow them to be answered with any degree of certainty. And that makes it difficult to formulate policy responses. In some cases, we don't even know whether a response is needed.

Accordingly, the government's immediate task is to re-boot the data systems in three sectors: Real, fiscal and financial.

On the real sector, measurement of GDP, employment, and consumption have all

proved problematic. To remedy this, the government should set up a committee, perhaps under the leadership of Nobel Prize winner Professor Abhijit Banerjee, who knows and cares deeply about these issues. This committee could be asked to address two sets of problems. Its forward-looking task would be to propose improvements to data collection and statistical methodology, which could be implemented in conjunction with the planned updating of the base year. To do this, its backward-looking task would be to identify the problems in the GDP estimates and the PLFS/NSSO surveys. This difficult task will require the assistance of the professional economic community, which in turn means that the unreleased surveys should be published.

On the fiscal accounts, the government should use the next budget as an opportunity to present a revised and cleaned-up set of fiscal accounts, allowing it to put behind the problems of the last budget. The aim should be to clean up not just the flow (deficit) numbers but also the stock (debt) numbers. Particular attention should be paid to identifying — and paying — arrears to suppliers.

In this effort, the government could build on some work already done. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its recent report set out a rigorous accounting methodology, especially for taking off-balance sheet transactions into account. The previous secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, Subhash Garg, has also made some very useful suggestions in this regard.

Once a sound budgetary accounting system is created, it needs to be institutionalised. Perhaps the best way to do this is by creating a Fiscal Council, as proposed unanimously by the NK Singh FRBM Review Committee. Such a council could help ensure that the accounting framework is being followed and the budget projections are realistic, based on reasonable forecasts for GDP and tax buoyancy. Of course, the Council needs to be designed so that it does not undermine the sovereignty of the executive and legislature. This could be done in several ways.

legislature. This could be done in several ways, for example, by ensuring that its members include the chairman of the Finance Commission, a representative of the CAG, and a representative of the GST Council, such as a finance minister from one of the Opposition states, as well as respected experts outside government.

On the financial sector, given the recent credit bubble and the series of problems, involving so many financial institutions, the time is ripe for a second Asset Quality Review (AQR). A regulatory system that failed to spot, let alone head off, the spate of problems from Nirav Modi to Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank to Dewan Housing and NBFC financing of real estate, and, above all, the behemoth that we have now discovered IL&FS to be, has to work extra hard to regain trust, and transparency about stressed assets will be an essential pre-requisite for that effort.

A new AQR — perhaps even led by a former RBI Governor — will allow the government and the RBI to assess the precise magnitude and sectoral nature of the problem, thereby facilitating better-tailored and better-designed policies to solve the problem. It should cover not just the NBFCs but also the banks, which are experiencing renewed stress from the real estate, steel, power and telecom sectors.

Driving a car requires considerable information: A good speedometer, data on whether the fuel tank is empty or full, gauges of tire pressure etc. Running an economy, especially one that is in a predicament such as India's today, is infinitely more complicated and the data demands are hence commensurately greater. A Data Big Bang effort along the lines proposed here would make that difficult task less challenging.

Subramanian is former Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India and Felman is former IMF Resident Representative to India

CLASSROOM TO STOCKHOLM

Glimpses of Pratham's 20-year partnership with Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo



RUKMINI BANERJI

LITTLE DID we know when we embarked together on a journey 20 years ago, that the path from Mumbai's municipal schools would eventually lead to Stockholm and a Nobel prize. A tall, thin economics professor from MIT and his youthful looking colleague showed up one day in our cramped office near Grant Road in Mumbai. This is the first time we met Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo. They were interested in the education programme that we were doing at the time in with municipal schools in Mumbai, especially in how we were helping children learn to read and do simple arithmetic.

Even as early as 1999, the problem was quite visible. School enrollment levels were high and large cohorts moved each year from one grade to the next. However, despite being in school for several years, many children were well below what was expected of them at their grade. Many could not read a simple text fluently or do basic math operations. Without these foundational skills, it was difficult for a child to engage with her class-level curriculum or make meaningful progress in the school system.

The "balsakhi" programme conducted by Pratham in Mumbai municipal schools from 1998 onwards was perhaps India's first in-school large-scale remedial program. A volunteer from the neighbourhood worked with children from Class 3 and 4 for a few hours a day in "pull out" classes. Abhijit and Esther studied this programme by randomly allocating the intervention to Class 3 classes in some schools and to Class 4 in others. "Treatment" groups were compared with "control" groups.

It was our first first-hand experience of a randomised control trial (RCT) as well as our first external impact evaluation. At the end of two years of research, it was clear that the "catch up" effort carried out by the volunteers was working: There was a significant improvement in children's ability to read and to do arithmetic in the treatment schools as compared to those where the intervention had not taken place. The balsakhi study paved the way for larger scale programmes to address the issue of "catch up" and it led to an ongoing, vibrant collaboration between Pratham and the researchers.

In 2006, the all-India ASER exercise provided data on the status of schooling and learning for every rural district in the country. It became evident that the learning crisis was widespread. The ASER data clearly showed that in every grade, there was a wide range of learning levels. For instance, in reading, about half of all children enrolled in Class 5 could read fluently at a Class 2 level and may be could read at higher levels too. But in the other half, some children were still struggling to recognise letters, others could just about read simple words and the remainder were reading simple sentences but unable to handle long texts even at the Class 2 level. As Abhijit often puts it, this situation is at least partly because the school system in India is geared to teach to the "top of the class".

In developing an approach to enable children to "catch up", for some time in the school day and for some time in the school year, Pratham groups children, especially those in Class 3, 4 and 5, by their current learning level

rather than by their grade. Using methods and materials appropriate for each group, instructors or teachers work with the full big group, then with small groups and with individual children to help them acquire literacy and numeracy skills. In a short period of time — as little as 50 or 60 days — most children begin to read fluently and are able to do basic arithmetic comfortably.

Pratham's decade-long efforts in improving the effectiveness of this approach and in improving delivery on scale has been accompanied by a series of RCTs in different parts of the country. Under Abhijit and Esther's leadership, their group of researchers at the Abdul Jamil Poverty Action Lab (JPAL) have carried out studies in Jaunpur (UP) in 2006, West Champaran (Bihar) and Dehradun (Uttarakhand) 2008-2010, Kurukshetra and Mahendragarh (Haryana) 2012 and Unnao and Sitapur (UP) in 2013. It is unusual even in the world of research to have a series of studies that look at the evolution of an instructional approach over time and study it in different implementation contexts.

As the news about Abhijit and Esther's Nobel Prize spread, there was tremendous excitement across all the locations — urban communities and rural areas where they have worked with us. Over two decades, we have together learned how hard work on the ground and rigorous research can help to evolve solid solutions to one of the big problems facing primary education in India today.

Banerji is with Pratham Education Foundation

DECEMBER 10, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

ASSAM RESIGNATIONS
ELEVEN MINISTERS AND two parliamentary secretaries in Assam submitted their resignations to Chief Minister Jogendra Nath Hazarika. The resignations came after the Hazarika ministry was reduced to a minority following withdrawal of support by the Congress and the CPI. The governor of the Northeastern states, L P Singh, has asked Hazarika to prove his majority in the Assembly.

NO ALLIANCE
PRIME MINISTER CHARAN Singh is likely to drop the two AIADMK ministers at the Centre, according to the state Lok Dal chief

M Santhosham. Talking to newsmen in Madras, he said he had told the Lok Dal president during his visit to the state on November 24 that the chances of an alliance between the Lok Dal and AIADMK were remote. The PM had replied that, "I am going to drop them." Santhosham said he would not be surprised if the PM decides to do so. He wondered how the two AIADMK ministers could continue in the cabinet after the AIADMK pledged to make Jagjivan Ram the next prime minister in its election manifesto.

PAKISTAN REPRESSION
GENERAL ZIA-UL-HAQ's government had imprisoned at least 7,000 political opponents

in Pakistan by May this year, according to Amnesty International. Most of the prisoners are supporters of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was executed in April, says Amnesty's report. The report says that about 800 people are executed in Pakistan every year.

CARTER ON IRAN CRISIS
PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER believes Iran's grievances against the deposed Shah and the United States can be dealt with — but only after the release of US hostages held in Teheran. The US is considering a range of fresh options aimed at winning freedom for the 50 hostages held at the US embassy.



13 THE IDEAS PAGE

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Pyongyang's truce with Washington could end with terrible results. To avoid that, international efforts — notably from the US — are needed."
— THE GUARDIAN

China at sea

With Beijing expanding strategic purpose of its marine research to Andamans, Delhi and its partners should coordinate maritime diplomacy



RAJA MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN

RECENT REPORTS THAT the Indian Navy "chased out" a Chinese vessel — Shiyun 1 — from the Andaman Sea should draw Delhi's attention to Beijing's growing maritime scientific capabilities and its ambitious research agenda for distant waters. Shiyun 1 is operated by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and is part of Beijing's growing marine research fleet that now stands at about 50 vessels.

Beijing's expansive investment in marine scientific research is very much part of its rise as a great maritime power and leveraging marine science diplomacy to good effect in the South China Sea over the last many years, China has begun to extend it to the Indian Ocean. Last year, Shiyun-3 invited Pakistan scientists to join a research expedition in the Arabian Sea. Delhi must expect to see more of this in the Indian Ocean littoral.

At his press conference last week, the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Karambir Singh confirmed that Shiyun 1 was operating near Port Blair and had neither taken prior permission from India nor did it inform the relevant Indian authorities of its plans. Admiral Singh said "our stand is that if you have to do anything in our region, you notify us or take our permission". Reacting to the Indian statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing said that China's research vessel Shiyun 1 was indeed "conducting acoustic propagation experiments and hydrologic environment measurements on the high seas of the Indian Ocean".

But, Beijing insisted that Shiyun 1, "did not conduct any operations in the Indian EEZ (exclusive economic zone) during the whole process, and only sailed through the Indian EEZ on the way to and from the experimental area". The foreign office in Beijing added that throughout the ship's voyage, the Indian navy aircraft followed it with warnings and its crew also replied in accordance with international practice.

The issue is not a technical one about the provisions of the law of the sea. It is about China's growing maritime scientific ambition. To be sure, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) favours freedom of marine scientific research. It also lets coastal states decide on granting permission for marine scientific research by other entities in their exclusive economic zones.

Beijing is not contesting that provision. It says it is merely asserting its rights. As the foreign ministry in Beijing put it, "China has always exercised the freedom of scientific research on the high seas in accordance with the law and fully respects the jurisdiction of relevant coastal states over their scientific research activities in the waters under their jurisdiction". Beijing also expressed hope that Delhi will "take a correct view of China's marine scientific research activities and avoid disturbing normal and lawful maritime activities."

There are many grey areas in the law of the sea, including on the conduct of mar-

itime scientific research in the waters that other states have sovereign control over. Great powers, rising or incumbent, tend to interpret international law to suit their interests and convenience. Weaker ones have no way of enforcing their rights under UNCLOS. More broadly, it is difficult to separate marine scientific research for peaceful and military purposes.

Shiyun 1 now operates as part of the so-called "national fleet" for marine scientific research. Earlier this decade, China brought together the marine research activities of multiple governmental agencies, ministries and commercial entities like oil companies under one administrative framework. The objective is to minimise duplication, enhance coordination and closely align research with larger maritime goals, civilian and military, set by the party-state.

In the past, China's marine science research was confined to near seas in the Western Pacific. It now extends to seas all around the world. About half of the marine scientific fleet is reportedly devoted to distant seas. Experts on the Chinese navy identify at least four broad objectives for the national science fleet.

First, to map the sea-bed resources of the world's oceans. China has internationally sanctioned licences to explore sea-bed mining in a few areas including in the South-western Indian Ocean. Second, to develop large ocean databases that facilitate Chinese naval operations by providing accurate maritime domain awareness. Third, to use its national fleet for science diplomacy that adds to the Chinese toolkit of building productive maritime and naval cooperation with coastal states across the world. It also lets China set the rules for global marine scientific research.

All major naval powers through history have sought to leverage marine scientific research to broader national objectives, both civilian and military. The Indian Navy too has modest marine scientific research capabilities and has deployed them for diplomatic purposes in the Indian Ocean.

Although, it was a late starter in the maritime domain, China now scores over the US, let alone India, in the scale, intensity, and strategic purpose of its marine scientific research programmes. For Delhi, the Shiyun incident is a useful reminder on the need to invest more in maritime scientific research. While strengthening its own national capabilities, Delhi needs to deepen its scientific cooperation with its partners in the maritime domain. The annual summit with Japan later this week and the dialogue between the foreign and defence ministers of India and the US in Washington next week offer a good opportunity to put maritime scientific research high on the agenda.

While their national structures may not allow the kind of centralised strategic framework that China has put in place, India and its partners, including the US, Japan, Australia and France, should develop mechanisms for collaborative research in maritime scientific domain. India and its partners must also consider better coordination between their respective maritime science diplomacy initiatives in the region. Such partnerships would provide a sound basis for eventual engagement with China on marine scientific research.

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

Inequality and its discontents

The 2019 Human Development Report points to the limits of economic growth in lifting all boats. It also offers a way forward



SHOKO NODA

GRAPPLING WITH DELHI'S poor air quality for these last couple of months, I have become aware of a stark difference in the way I cope with air pollution, and the way many others do not — because they cannot. Despite the growing evidence detailing the catastrophic impact of air pollution on human health, only those privileged enough to have the knowledge and the means to protect themselves can take measures to do so. Many other people, most of whom provide essential services to the privileged, either lack the information on the level of threat they face, or the freedom to act on it. Unable to afford a day off, or an effective mask, let alone air purifiers, they are forced to subject themselves and their children to Delhi's toxic air. Consequently, they face a greater risk of respiratory disease and heart problems, and the children are deprived of a healthy childhood.

This is inequality at play in daily life. For me, it is a harsh reminder of pervasive and pernicious inequities that hit the poorest and most marginalised hardest. In that sense, air pollution is an apotheosis of 21st century challenges: The climate crisis, technological change and inequality. And India, home to nearly a fifth of the world's population, is at the frontline of these battles.

India has made so much progress over the past 30 years — and the improvements have been substantial. Yet, there are significant concerns today, borne out by data, that the dramatic strides made in reducing extreme poverty did not reduce inequality. In fact, inequality has widened. A flurry of recent estimates, ranging from income inequality data from the India Human Development Survey and wealth inequality numbers by Credit Suisse to distributional income accounts by economists Lucas Chancel and Thomas Piketty, indicate that economic disparities have grown along with the GDP. To put it simply, while the poor have indeed benefited from India's economic success, the rich have garnered a greater share of the spoils. Indeed, Oxfam's inequality estimates from earlier this year suggest the top 10 per cent of the Indian population holds 77 per cent of the total national wealth.

Inequality is not just about disparities in wealth distribution. A large number of Indians not only have very low income, but their opportunities for healthcare, education and social security are dreadfully inadequate. UNDP's 2019 Human Development Report (HDR) explores precisely these inequalities in human development, by going beyond income and identifying the deep-rooted systemic drivers of inequality. In so doing, the report reminds decision-makers of the importance of providing basic services to their people, and of equipping them to live with dignity. Further, the report underlines that poor people should be protected from the fallout of climate change and benefit from modern breakthroughs in artificial intelligence and robotics.

Today, the odds are clearly stacked, in a wide range of ways, along gender, linguistic, class and sexual orientation lines. The HDR finds, for instance, that in India the share of both men and women biased against gender



CR Sasikumar

equality has risen, indicating a backlash against women's empowerment. While traditionally vulnerable communities, such as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, are catching up with the rest of society in primary education, they are falling further behind when it comes to advanced (12 years or more) education. Most now have access to mobiles but few have computers. And too many people are still just one illness away from poverty.

As the HDR argues, climate change will only exacerbate this inequality. The climate crisis is already hitting the poorest communities hardest and earliest. Millions of Indians in low-lying coastal areas are exposed to a rise in sea levels. Around two-fifths of the population subsist on agriculture that relies on increasingly erratic rainfall and fluctuating temperatures. A soon-to-be-released UNDP study on the impact of climate change on human development in India finds that across the country, from the hills of Uttarakhand to the coasts of Odisha, communities with greater power have, consciously or not, shifted some of the environmental consequences of their consumption onto poor and vulnerable people, onto marginalised groups, and onto future generations. We see this with air pollution, a problem to which the rich, with their carbon-intensive lifestyles, contribute more. However, they can secede from the consequences of that lifestyle — a choice not available to precisely the people who've done the least to create the problem.

With the scale and scope of the challenges mapped out, how should we respond? We don't have to look far for inspiration. India has already embraced policies that aim to transform social norms and eliminate discrimination through education, awareness and changing incentives. The 2019 Multidimensional Poverty Index — produced by UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative — finds that over 270

Today, the odds are clearly stacked, in a wide range of ways, along gender, linguistic, class and sexual orientation lines. The HDR finds, for instance, that in India the share of both men and women biased against gender equality has risen, indicating a backlash against women's empowerment. While traditionally vulnerable communities, such as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, are catching up with the rest of society in primary education, they are falling further behind when it comes to advanced (12 years or more) education. Most now have access to mobiles but few have computers. And too many people are still just one illness away from poverty.

million Indians were taken out of multidimensional poverty in the decade between 2005-06 and 2015-16. Encouragingly, the territories that were lagging behind, notably Bihar and Jharkhand, were able to catch up quite significantly.

Similarly, since the turn of the century, per capita income has nearly tripled; life expectancy at birth has increased by nearly seven years; and children are staying in school for at least two years longer. India has invested in important building blocks to equip its people to thrive rather than just survive. A focus on rights-based entitlements (for instance, work through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee) and technological innovations (such as to open bank accounts and facilitate digital payments to beneficiaries) has gone some way towards improving living standards. New insurance schemes for universal health coverage, crop-failure and accidents reflect a momentum for action to tackle inequality. These measures are absolutely crucial in reaching those left furthest behind.

Today, India is no longer a country languishing largely in extreme poverty. It is a country with pervasive inequality, pockets of deep deprivations and vulnerable populations. India's, of course, pivotal to the world's achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. To achieve the SDGs, we must recognise existing inequality and continuously eliminate the structural factors that create inequality. UNDP stands ready to support India to devise its own solutions to provide all its people — now and in the future — with a fair and dignified lot in life, powered by technology, shielded from prejudice and protected from an increasingly unforgiving climate.

The writer is the UNDP India Resident Representative



CHRISTINA DHANARAJ

Ambedkar and I

How Babasaheb helped me understand my identity as a Dalit-Christian

LIKE MANY OTHERS in India, my family chose to identify as "Indian Christian" to hide their Dalit identity. When a biology teacher at my school in Chennai asked me several times, if I really came under "open competition", my father asked me to tell her, albeit proudly, that we were "Indian Christians". It made no difference. The teacher, who also happened to attend the same church as mine, knew quite well, who we were and what our specific Dalit sub-caste was. I was a Christian on the outside, but on the inside, I was still a Parachi.

My paternal and maternal great-grand families converted into Christianity for both socio-economic and spiritual reasons. Becoming Christian meant that we could access mainstream places of worship, English education in missionary schools/colleges, and job opportunities in these establishments. My grandfather became a pastor for the Church of South India after being a teacher at a missionary school. My grandmother worked all her life as a teacher at Christian schools. I studied in a missionary school and a Christian college myself. In a way, Christianity was the ladder we climbed to escape caste.

Or so we thought. Over three generations and many years of socio-religious ostracisation, inside and outside the church, we have come to realise that the Christian identity in India is essentially a proxy for "low-caste". No matter how well we hide it, caste markers

such as skin colour, dialect, the locality we live in, our economic status and our networks (or the lack of it) give it away. The biology teacher of my past, and modern-day twitter trolls, think the same thing — "rice-bag convert".

For Dalit Christians in India (particularly those that are young), this can be extremely traumatic. The lack of politicisation keeps us confused, reducing our complex social experience to prosperity theology. We are conditioned to treat the church congregation as our primary community, which is apolitical at best and casteist at worst. We are made to pretend that we're just Christians, while having the lived experience of a Dalit. We grow up with no political tools or resources, and no intellectual ammunition to fight caste.

In retrospect, I believe I should have been more than just a Christian. I knew what my caste was, and felt deeply ashamed about it, but I didn't know I could identify as Dalit. I was almost 20 when I found a platform — the Student Christian Movement of India — that helped me unpack my caste location. I was much older when I finally found Ambedkar. My family didn't speak about him, and neither did my school nor my church. The friends I had then grimaced at the mere mention of his name. By the time he happened to me, I was in the thick of theorising Dalit politics, with fellow Dalits around me sporting the Ambedkarite identity. Between sly savarnas

who kept alluding to us as doing "hero-worship", and social media posts that kept assessing who was more Ambedkarite than the other, I was left wondering, "What does it even mean to be an Ambedkarite?"

A year ago, in the midst of a brutal, polluted winter in Beijing, I found a small part of the answer. In an effort to understand Ambedkar better, I began listening to the audio book, "Ambedkar and Buddhism", written by Urygen Sangharakshita and read by Ratnadhya. For 11 hours and 29 minutes, I listened to Sangharakshita's description of Ambedkar's life, his thinking and his vision for my community. Many things appealed to me — Ambedkar's resilience, his dogged commitment towards his people, his confidence in his intellect, his love for discipline and his beautiful mind. No wonder my people emulate him, no wonder he is our role-model, I thought. But what took me by surprise was the way I reacted to Sangharakshita's recollection of Ambedkar's passing away.

B R Ambedkar died in his sleep on December 6, 1957, and close to 5,00,000 people had joined the two-mile long funeral procession. More than 1,00,000 had escorted Ambedkar's ashes back to "Rajagriha". Although my connection to Ambedkarism was very new, my heart sunk and tears rolled down, as I imagined how it would have felt to lose a beloved leader, and how things would

have seemed so hopeless all of a sudden. What I felt then, closely resonated to what I went through when my father had passed away. In a way, it was similar: A community had lost their hero, like how I had lost mine.

It obviously takes more than just emotion to be an Ambedkarite. I'll probably be told to read more of him, to practice his philosophy, to spread his thoughts. I'll probably be asked how I can be a Christian and an Ambedkarite. I'll probably be trolled for being a novice, or worse, a fake. In any case, I wish I had known Ambedkar earlier than I did. Although politicisation would not have made any of the discrimination less hurtful, I'm confident it would have given me the much-needed access to Ambedkar's political wisdom. Not being armed with Ambedkarite narratives meant that I had to internalise casteist violence and interpret it as something I deserved. Not having a rationalist understanding meant that I truly believed God was "punishing" me for my sins. Not knowing Ambedkar earlier meant that I had to wait for far too long before I could say I'm Dalit, not just Christian.

Ambedkar is for everybody, Ambedkarite or not.
The writer is advisor for Smashboard. She was formerly consultant for #dalitwomenfight and co-founder of Dalit History Month project. She works and lives in the Netherlands

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FAILING A VARSITY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'What JNU represents' (IE, December 09). It is apparent that right-wing forces represented by the RSS are trying to convert JNU into a bastion of their own conservative ideas and values to counter its message for an equal and free society. The BJP has an overwhelming presence in the entire country, while the fortunes of the Left parties are on the ebb. But the sectarian forces must remember that the JNU has withstood several challenges and narrow-minded thinking will not obliterate it easily.
Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

UNDER FIRE

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Dawn fire kills 43 in Delhi factory' (IE, December 9). Most of the 43 victims of the massive fire in a factory in a congested Delhi market died of asphyxiation. The fire is the worse Delhi has seen since the Uphar Cinema tragedy in 1997. In January last year, a similar fire broke out in an illegal fireworks factory in Northwest Delhi, killing 17 people and injuring two others. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team found that some windows at the rear of the building were sealed shut, thereby trapping poisonous gases inside the already cramped and dimly-lit interiors. Many buildings in India do not adhere to the National Building Code and do

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

not have fire clearance certificates.
Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

NOT JUST SUBSIDIES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Don't cry for onions' (IE, December 9). Despite knowing that monsoons are always unpredictable, government agencies give short shrift to storing buffer stocks of onions. The country has witnessed two extremes in the price band of onions. As a result, the farmers are in a Catch 22 situation. The government's only recourse seems to be to dole out subsidies and freebies.
Deepak Singhal, Chennai

ASIAN TIGERS

Still hunting

After half a century of success, the Asian tigers must reinvent themselves

THE FOUR ASIAN tigers—Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan—once fascinated the economic world. From the early 1960s until the 1990s, they regularly achieved double-digit growth. A generation that had toiled as farmers and labourers watched their grandchildren become some of the most educated people on the planet. The tigers started by making cotton shirts, plastic flowers and black wigs. Before long, they were producing memory chips, laptops and equity derivatives. In the process they also spawned a boisterous academic debate about the source of their success. Some attributed it to the anvil of government direction; others to the furnace of competitive markets.

Then the world turned away. The Asian financial crisis destroyed their mystique. China became the new development star, even if, to a certain extent, it followed their lead. The tigers themselves seemed to lose their stride. This year America is on track to grow more quickly than all four of them.

They all have seemingly intractable problems: stagnant wages in Taiwan, the dominance of big business in South Korea, an underclass of cheap imported workers in Singapore and, most explosive, a government in Hong Kong that will not, or cannot, listen to its people.

But it is a mistake to write off the tigers. A closer look at their economic record shows that, contrary to the gloom that sometimes pervades them, they have much to boast about. The trajectory of their GDP per person, calculated at purchasing-power parity, has remained impressive (see chart). They blew past the supposed middle-income trap long ago. And South Korea will soon become the fourth tiger to overtake Japan, its former imperial ruler and economic mentor.

They have also gained ground on America. Singapore passed it in the 1990s; Hong Kong drew level in 2013; and the other two have narrowed the gap. Indeed, in the past five years (2013–18), the GDP per person of Singapore and Hong Kong has grown faster than every country above them in the income rankings. With a couple of exceptions, the same is true of Taiwan and South Korea.

In their economic maturity, the tigers merit renewed attention. They face many of the same issues that bedevil the West: how to mitigate inequality; how to gin up productivity; how to cope with ageing; and how to strike a balance between America and China. They do not have all the answers, but they do have novel, albeit sometimes foolish, approaches that are in themselves instructive.



Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's founding father, once claimed that harmony and stability are chief among "Asian values". Reuters

Little dragons

This special report will examine the changing nature of the tigers' economies and make four big claims. The first is that many of the tigers' problems result from economic success, not failure. They have defended their global export share for years, despite steady increases in labour and land costs. Now, though, they will struggle to expand their exports faster than global demand itself. They have also reached the technological frontier in many industries. That makes further improvement harder: they are no longer catching up with global best practices but trying to reinvent them.

Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's founding father, once claimed that harmony and stability are chief among "Asian values". The tigers still cherish these things (who doesn't?), but many of their citizens see fairness as a precondition for both. That observation leads to this report's second big claim: when a sophisticated citizenry aspires to democracy, frustrating that aspiration can be imprudent as well as unjust. Some argue that the blustery politics of

Taiwan and South Korea—complete with high-profile corruption cases, parliamentary fisticuffs and fiercely partisan media—have hindered their growth. But a proper examination of the tigers' record does not support that argument. Instead, what has become clear in Hong Kong is that a lack of democracy is a grave liability, sowing dissatisfaction and mistrust.

Third, the tigers' thin welfare states have also become a hindrance. Their leaders have traditionally worried that redistribution and social spending would sap their populations' motivation to work. But social insecurity instead risks sapping their populations' willingness to embrace technological change. As the tigers' populations get older, their governments also face more pressure to spend on pensions and health care. And they need to alleviate the economic burdens

that dissuade young people from having children. The tigers' growth-obsessed "developmental states" must, in short, become growth-friendly welfare states.

Finally, the tigers are important as economic bellwethers for the rest of the world. They are unusually exposed to deep global cy-

cles: in technology, finance and geopolitics. The manufacturing tigers have dominated narrow slices of the technological supply chain, focusing on techniques and chips that are vital for high-speed 5G telecoms networks and "big-data" processing. Hong Kong and Singapore, meanwhile, have positioned themselves as financial bridges between China and the world, making them highly sensitive both to China's success and its stumbles. And all four of the tigers depend on the maintenance of geopolitical calm as America, the incumbent superpower, adjusts to a new rival.

These cycles can be difficult to manage—even in an upswing. Booms in finance and technology can concentrate wealth in a few hands, such as South Korea's chaebol chip-makers or Hong Kong's property tycoons. On the downside, the threats are even greater.

Twice in the past quarter-century the tigers have been rocked by financial crises. The long boom in demand for semiconductors in smartphones and computers has recently turned, hurting South Korea and Taiwan. But it is the geopolitical challenge that most worries them now: a "new cold war" between China and America would shake the foundations of the tigers' prosperity and security.

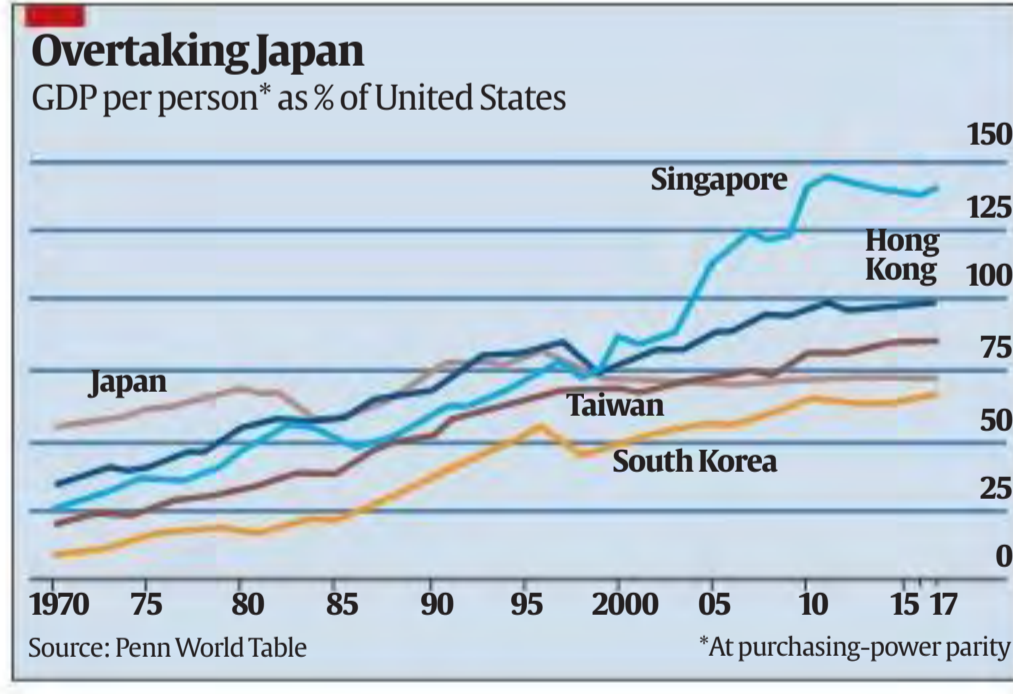
Methodologically, this special report begs an obvious question. Does it make sense to lump the tigers together? Two are cities; the others decent-sized countries (Taiwan's population exceeds 20m; South Korea's 50m). Two are sovereign members of the United Nations; one is a territory of China; the other exists in a diplomatic netherworld. Taiwan and South Korea are fierce democracies; Hong Kong and Singapore trust their electorates less. Two still rely on manufacturing; two are now high-end service providers.

Yet for all these differences, there is much they have in common. They are among the world's most open trading economies, with all the volatility that implies. They have

The four countries face many of the same issues that bedevil the West: how to mitigate inequality; how to gin up productivity; how to cope with ageing; and how to strike a balance between America and China.

nonetheless maintained high rates of employment and thrift, even as their living standards have improved. They are, to varying degrees, caught between China and America. And all four are faced with complex social problems that stem from their remarkable growth over the past half-century. The four tigers have achieved prosperity without complacency, wealth without repose. Their efforts to remain in front are not guaranteed to be successful. But they are guaranteed to be fascinating.

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BUTTONWOOD

More in Lahore

The perils and rewards of economies in rehab

A RECENT edition of "The Joe Rogan Experience", a popular podcast, features the comedian Artie Lange. Mr Lange is an engaging personality who, as he candidly admits, has battled with drugs and gambling. Not long out of his umpteenth period in rehab, he is working in stand-up again. "This business keeps taking me back," he says with something like amazement.

Forgiveness for recidivists is found outside show business, too. In July the IMF approved a \$6bn bail-out for Pakistan. As the fund acknowledged at the time, with something like weariness, Pakistan is back in rehab less than three years after completing its previous programme. But the fund has not abandoned it. And nor have investors. Pakistan is enjoying a flood of foreign capital on the promise of reform. The Karachi stock index is up 25% since the start of October.

This may seem hard to fathom. The IMF regards the chance that its programme will fail as "particularly high". Yet a band of investors are prepared to bet on success. A rehab economy such as Pakistan offers a rare opportunity. It is one of the few places where investors can find high interest rates, a devalued currency and cheap-looking stocks. True, things could go very wrong. Look at

shortages of essential imports, which further hamper the economy.

With luck, at this point the authorities recognise the hole they are in. To get out of it, they must embrace more orthodox economics. In practice, this means letting the currency fall, getting rid of subsidies in order to cut the budget deficit, and starting to use monetary policy as a way to tame inflation rather than finance the government. Sometimes (but not always) the IMF is brought in to lend hard currency and give policy advice.

This, more or less, describes events in Pakistan leading up to mid-2019. It also describes the cycle in Egypt up to the start of 2016 when it entered its (successful) IMF programme. And, for that matter, it is the same pattern seen in Pakistan in 2012–13.

At this stage of the rehab cycle, if things are to go well, the fund's money needs to act as a catalyst for other sources of capital. This is needed as a kind of bridge finance—to pay for essential imports and allow the rebuilding of foreign-exchange reserves, until exports pick up in response to a cheaper currency. That might seem a big task. Economies in rehab are typically unstable places (Ireland in 2010 was a rare exception). Pakistan is unlikely to threaten Denmark's place at the top of global rankings of security, governance and development. But investors are not betting that a rehab economy will become a paragon, only that it will improve, at least a bit.

A first task is to lure back capital shifted offshore by rich locals when they saw the crisis coming. The twin attractions are the high interest rates needed to curb inflation and a cheaper currency, which acts as reassurance against a further devaluation. Once the lo-



A rehab economy such as Pakistan is one of the few places where investors can find high interest rates, a devalued currency and cheap-looking stocks. Reuters

cal come back, yield-hungry foreigners will follow. And before long, so will stockmarket investors. Like Egypt, Pakistan has a wide range of listed companies for investors to buy—from industrial firms to banks to consumer stocks, says Andrew Brudenell of Ashmore, a fund manager. It may take a while for firms to see the benefits of im-

proved economic stability. But investors are tempted to buy when stocks are trading at attractive price-to-earnings multiples.

Such bets can pay off handsomely. Reforms to improve macroeconomic stability have led to bountiful investment returns in surprising places. An obvious danger is that hardship and social unrest derail the re-

form process. Another is that reformed characters have a tendency to fall from grace again. But progress is never in a straight line. When the potential is great and the price is right, there will always be people willing to bet that next time will be different.

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15 ECONOMY

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹38,542	₹71.04	\$64.34	₹44,691

*Indian basket as on December 6, 2019

SENSEX: 40,487.43 ▲ 42.28 NIFTY: 11,937.50 ▲ 16.0 NIKKEI: 23,430.70 ▲ 76.30 HANG SENG: 26,494.73 ▼ 3.64 FTSE: 7,226.65 ▼ 13.01 DAX: 13,132.27 ▼ 34.31

*International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH RETAIL & E-COMMERCE

Walmart & Amazon unveil MSME push amid backlash from industry groups

AASHISHARYAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

US-BASED RETAILERS Walmart and Amazon on Monday stepped up efforts to boost their image of being MSME-friendly by launching similar, albeit different, training programmes for India.

Walmart, which had earlier this year bought a controlling 77 per cent stake in home-grown Flipkart, announced the creation of a supplier training and development programme 'Walmart Vriddhi'. The programme aims to train 50,000 small businesses so as to enable them to be suppliers for global supply chains. The global retail conglomerate has tied up with NGO Swasti to open 25 training institutes where it aims to train micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) entrepreneurs in tailored courses.

"The Vriddhi programme will encourage Indian suppliers to make for online and offline customers around the world, including, but not limited to, the supply chains of Flipkart and Walmart," Judith McKenna, president and CEO, Walmart International, said at an event here Monday.

Jeff Bezos-owned Amazon's Indian arm, on the other hand, announced a partnership with industry body Confederation of Indian Industry "to facilitate MSMEs to develop their business further by listing and selling their products and services online". Amazon India will also conduct workshops, roadshows and e-commerce training for MSMEs with an objective to train them in "leather & footwear, apparels & textiles, automobile, cycle parts and handicrafts" businesses.

The efforts by both Walmart and Amazon India

DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN GSTR-3B RETURNS, DECLARED TRANSACTIONS

Mismatch in data of transactions on e-tail sites; traders under lens

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

OVER A year after the e-commerce operators were mandated to collect 1 per cent Tax Collected at Source (TCS) under goods and services tax (GST), tax authorities have found discrepancies between the amount declared by traders in their monthly GSTR-3B summary returns and the transactions done on such online aggregators.

The value of transactions declared by such traders on online platforms such as Flipkart, Amazon and Snapdeal should have been ideally less than the ones declared in GSTR-3B returns, as the returns would also include offline transactions done by these traders, a senior government official said.

"With the help of TCS levy by e-commerce operators, we have found out that many of their sellers are selling way more than they admit. The transactions declared under TCS are more than

EXPLAINED

Tax authorities could go for zone-wise analysis

FOR THE embattled tax department, cases of transaction values declared by traders on online platforms such as Flipkart, Amazon, Snapdeal turning out to be more than the numbers declared by them in the GSTR-3B returns offers points to possible tax evasions.

This comes over a year after the e-commerce players were mandated to collect 1 per cent TCS under the indirect regime. The zone-wise analysis of the discrepancies could reveal the extent of the mismatch.

being done by the traders outside the GST net have led authorities to identify possible evasion by GST tax assesses.

Anti-evasion measures play a crucial role at a time when GST revenues have been subdued over the last few months.

Though GST collections in November (for October) rose by

6 per cent to Rs 1,03,492 crore after contracting for two months, the government is set to miss its revenue targets for this financial year. The GST Council has already raised concerns over the slowing GST and compensation cess collections, asking for inputs from states to review the overhaul structure of the indirect tax regime, which may include a hike in GST or cess rates.

As per GST provisions, beginning October 1, 2018, e-commerce companies deduct 1 per cent TCS before making payments to their suppliers.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs had said that e-commerce firms, whether domestic or foreign, would have to register themselves in each state/UT as the obligation for collecting TCS will be there for every intra-state or inter-state supply. Foreign e-commerce operators, which do not have a physical presence in a particular state/UT, were asked to appoint an agent on its behalf for the purpose of TCS registration.

Despite RBI pause, banks lower MCLR; SBI reduces by 10 bps, HDFC Bank by 15 bps

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 9

BANKS, LED by State Bank of India (SBI) and HDFC Bank, have started reducing the marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR), making home, car and other retail loans linked to MCLR cheaper. The reduction comes after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) left the key policy rate unchanged last Thursday at 5.15 per cent.

SBI, the country's biggest lender, has announced a cut in one-year MCLR rate by 10 basis points (bps). After the latest cut, SBI's one-year MCLR has come down to 7.90 per cent per annum from 8.00 per cent per annum. This is the eighth consecutive cut in the marginal cost of funds-based lending rate by SBI this fiscal.

HDFC Bank cut its MCLR on loans for all tenors by up to 15 bps. Last month, HDFC Bank cut its MCLR across tenors by up to 10 bps.

While the RBI had cut its repo rates by 135 bps in five policy reviews in 2019, the one-year median MCLR has declined by only 49 bps. The weighted average lending rate (WALR) on fresh rupee loans sanctioned by banks declined by only 44 bps.

KEY POINTS

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Currency in circulation at ₹21 lakh cr as on Mar '19

Currency in circulation peaked to over ₹21 lakh crore at the end of March 2019, having dipped to ₹13 lakh crore at the end of fiscal 2016-17, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha

₹18,037 bn: Notes in circulation in the fiscal ended March 2018	₹15.31 lakh crore: Value of currency notes returned by public from the ₹15.41 lakh crore worth of ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes in circulation on November 8, 2016	>1,454 crore: Number of e-transactions recorded for 3,702 services since January 2019, according to statistics available on e-Taal platform	99.3%: Percentage of invalid ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes that were returned by public to the banking system, as per the Reserve Bank of India's Annual Report for 2017-18
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'ECONOMY ALREADY ADJUSTED TO NEW SCENARIO': To a question whether government has taken note of the fact that non-availability of ₹1,000 currency causes problems to the citizens, Thakur said the economy has already adjusted itself to the new scenario where the earlier series of ₹500 and ₹1,000 had ceased to be a legal tender

'NO FORMAL ASSESSMENT ON DIGITAL INDIA IMPACT': To a question if the government has assessed any impact for past one year on digital adoption of currency, Thakur said no formal assessment to measure the impact of Digital India programme has been conducted by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

'NO PROPOSAL ON TOTAL ELIMINATION OF CASH': On asked if the government proposed total elimination of cash from the market, Thakur said, "No such proposal regarding total elimination of cash from the market is under consideration of the government"

Source: PTI

Mutual fund equity inflows fall 84.4% in Nov

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 9

INFLOWS INTO equity schemes of mutual funds plummeted 84.4 per cent in November, despite stock market indices like Sensex hitting a record peak and foreign investors pumping over Rs 25,000 into the stock market during the month.

Open-ended equity schemes witnessed an infusion of Rs 1,312 crore, while there was an outflow of Rs 379 crore from close-ended equity plans, taking total equity inflows to Rs 933 crore in November as against inflows of Rs 6,015 crore in October, the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) said on Monday.

However, SIP (systematic investment plan) inflows soared to all-time high of Rs 8,272 crore, up Rs 27 crore from last month's numbers. Total number of SIP ac-

INDUSTRY'S OVERALL AUM AT ALL-TIME HIGH

While equity net inflows fell sharply in November, partly due to investors booking profits, the overall mutual fund industry's AUM hit an all-time high of Rs 27 lakh crore, on the back of inflows in debt-oriented schemes including banking and PSU funds, which have a high allocation to highest rated bonds

Open-ended equity schemes witnessed an infusion of Rs 1,312 crore, while there was an outflow of Rs 379 crore from close-ended equity plans, taking total equity inflows to Rs 933 crore in November as against inflows of Rs 6,015 crore in October, the Association of Mutual Funds in India said

investments from retail investors continue to grow steadily, with SIP AUM at an all-time high at Rs 3.12 lakh crore. While equity net inflows have come down sharply in November, partly due to investors booking profits, the overall mutual fund industry AUM reached an all-time high of Rs 27 lakh crore.

NS Venkatesh, CEO, AMFI, said, "Goal-based, long-term SIP

The mutual fund industry saw its assets base cross the Rs 27 lakh crore-mark in November-end, on the back of inflows in debt-oriented schemes including banking and PSU funds, which have a high-allocation to highest rated bonds.

The AUM of the sector rose from Rs 26.33 lakh crore in October-end to Rs 27.04 lakh crore by November-end, representing a growth of 3 per cent, according to AMFI.

Fund houses witnessed an overall inflow of Rs 54,419 crore last month, as against Rs 1.33 lakh crore in October, a decline of over 59 per cent. Fund managers attributed growth in the asset base to strong inflows of around Rs 51,000 crore in debt-oriented schemes.

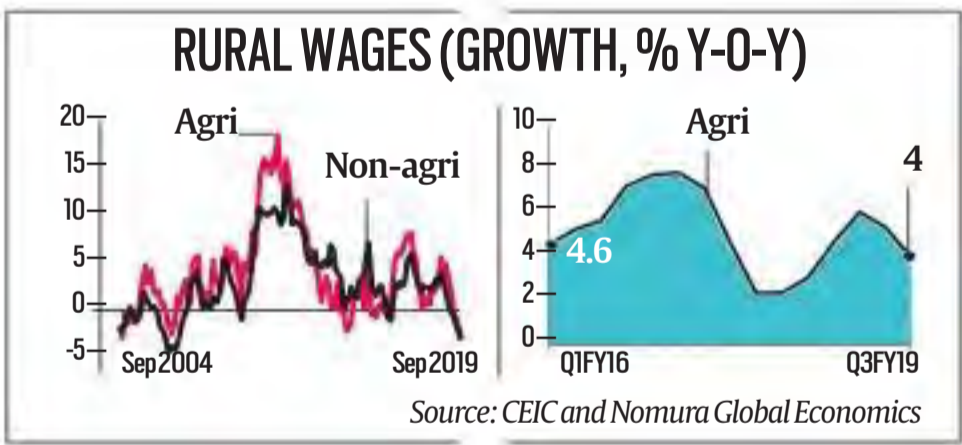
Among debt-oriented schemes, overnight funds — which invest in securities with a maturity of one day — received

'Q3FY20: Growth in rural farm wages falls to four-quarter low'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

WAGE GROWTH for rural agricultural labourers slipped to a four-quarter low of 4 per cent in the third quarter of the current fiscal, a Nomura report has said, in what could cement the perception that a revival of the demand in the economy is getting delayed.

The rural agriculture wage growth fell sharply from 5 per cent in July to apparently negative territory in September, ahead of the Diwali season. Rural farm wages — a significant proxy for consumption demand — had grown at 5.4 per cent in Q2FY20, 6.1 per cent in Q1FY20, 4.7 per cent in Q4FY19 and 3.1 per cent in Q3FY19.



Stating that consumption demand was still in the red, Nomura said, "Among less cyclical indicators, diesel consumption and rural wages continue to disappoint, suggesting endemic weakness persisting in urban and rural segments." It added that data on investment demand remained lacklustre too, with all indicators significantly worse in October.

While a further deterioration was seen in railway traffic on a net tonne/km basis — the annual growth in this segment plunged from 0.9 per cent in Q2FY20 to (-)7 per cent in Q3 — the volatile public capex slowed sharply. "After 2016, there has been hardly any growth in rural wages. So, it's a picture of stagnant rural wages," former Planning Commission member Abhijit Sen said. FE

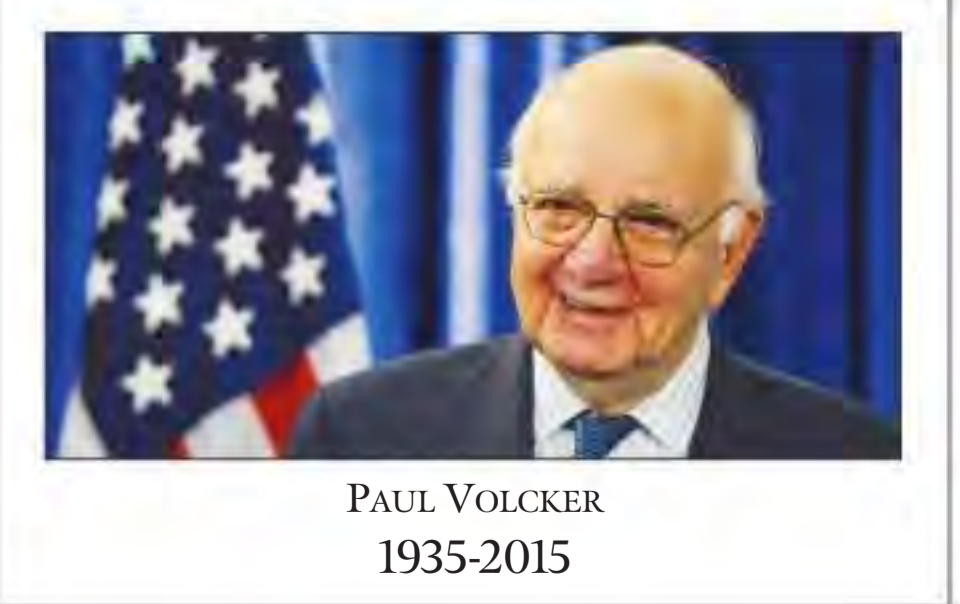
FORMER US FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIRMAN PASSES AWAY AT 92

Inflation tamer, inspiration for 'Volcker rule' during 2008 crisis

DANIEL TROTTA & JONATHAN SPICER
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 9

PAUL VOLCKER, the towering former Federal Reserve chairman who tamed US inflation in the 1980s and decades later inspired tough Wall Street reforms in the wake of the global financial crisis, died Monday at the age of 92, his daughter Janice Zima said.

Volcker, who Zima said had been suffering from prostate cancer, was the first to bring celebrity status to the job of US central banker, serving as chairman of the Fed from 1979 to 1987. As with the man who succeeded him, Alan Greenspan, Volcker could soothe or excite financial markets with



just a vague murmur. In 2018, he published a memoir, "Keeping at It: The Quest for Sound Money and Good Government," and expressed concern about the direc-

2018. "We've got an enormous number of enormously rich people that have convinced themselves that they're rich because they're smart and constructive. And they don't like government and they don't like to pay taxes."

In 2009, Volcker began serving as a key financial adviser to President Barack Obama and faced a maelstrom of financial turmoil, government bailouts and fallout from the deepest recession since the 1930s Great Depression.

In working to help the US economy recover from the 2008 crisis, he proposed what became known as the Volcker rule that restricted banks from making high-risk investments with depositors' cash. Since Donald Trump, who favors fewer regulations, became

president in 2017, the rule has been under review.

Volcker stood 6-foot-8, smoked cheap cigars, wore old suits and spoke with a rumbling baritone, creating a mystique that intimidated congressmen and even presidents. Part of his aura was due to the Fed's unusual nature — the central bank's governors, although appointed by the president and overseen by Congress, are effectively answerable to no one. In 2018, when Trump regularly attacked the Fed as "crazy" for raising rates, Volcker advised Chairman Jerome Powell to simply ignore the criticism.

Volcker, who slammed the economy's brakes like no other Fed chair, also absorbed his share of barbs from lawmakers in the 1980s. But he faced down both that criticism and, ultimately, inflation that had spiked higher than any point since the 1940s.

Many have credited that effort for setting the stage for steady economic growth and a long bull market that since the early 1990s brought prosperity to millions of Americans. Yet critics say he also pushed the US into an unnecessarily severe recession in 1981-82.

Volcker was appointed Fed chairman by a Democratic president, Jimmy Carter, and then reappointed by a Republican, Ronald Reagan. He was only a few months into the job when on October 6, 1979, he announced a 1-point rise in the discount interest rate to an all-time high of 12 per cent. REUTERS

'US seals demise of WTO appeals bench'

REUTERS
GENEVA, DECEMBER 9

THE FATE of the World Trade Organization's top court was effectively sealed on Monday after the United States said it would not back a proposal to allow it to continue, trade officials said.

The Trump administration has been blocking appointments to the WTO's seven-member Appellate Body that rules on trade disputes for over two years, with US officials saying the court had gone beyond its remit. The Appellate Body needs a minimum of three judges to function but the terms of two of the three remaining members of the appeals panel expire on Tuesday and there are no replacements in sight because

of the US blocking strategy. Another attempt was made on Monday to reach a consensus. But the US Ambassador to the WTO, Dennis Shea, said other members had not addressed Washington's concerns about what he called the court's "overreach" and "disregard" of WTO rules.

Shea said in a speech, the text of which was released by the US mission, that the United States did not support the proposal to start filling Appellate Body positions.

Much of the US displeasure stems from how the WTO has tied its hands in dealing with China. In binding rulings, WTO judges have given Beijing the benefit of the doubt on subsidies. One Asian ambassador said: "The US said it can't join a consensus. We'll be writing the obituaries."

Kochhar termination: HC seeks RBI reply, next hearing Dec 18

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 9

THE BOMBAY High Court on Monday sought responses from the Reserve Bank on a plea by Chanda Kochhar challenging her termination as the chief executive and managing director of ICICI Bank, months after she voluntarily left the second largest private sector lender.

The high-profile ex-banker had on November 30 moved the Bombay High Court challenging "termination" of her employment by ICICI Bank which also denied her remuneration and clawed back all the bonuses and stock options between April 2009 and March 2018 for her alleged role in granting out of turn loans worth Rs 3,250 crore to the Videcon Group which benefitted her husband Deepak Kochhar.

Her petition claimed that her termination on January 30, 2019, came months after the bank approved her voluntary resignation on October 5, 2018 and therefore the termination is "illegal, untenable, and unsustainable in law."

Tit-for-tat against nations discriminating with Indian firms: Goyal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

ANY COUNTRY discriminating against Indian companies in the award of contracts would not be allowed to participate in public procurement contracts, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday. "Free and equal access" is the policy adopted by this government two years ago, he said at an event organised by EXIM Bank here.

"When we took the stand not to be a part of RCEP, one of the major stumbling blocks was also the fact that our businesses in the areas of our strength do not get an equal and fair opportunity when it comes to engaging with contracts or businesses in other geographies," he said.

The minister said he had not heard that China ever opens up any of their government contracts.

Centre lowers onion holding limit to 2 tn from 5 tn for retailers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

INA bid to check hoarding and arrest rising prices, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on Monday further reduced the stock holding limit for retailers from 5 tonnes to 2 tonnes of onions. Sources said that the Ministry also asked states to carry out immediate anti-hoarding operations, but clarified that the stock holding limit shall continue to be the same for wholesalers. Besides, importers will continue to remain exempted from these stock limits for imported onions.

This is the second time in less than a fortnight that the Centre has cut the stock holding limit of onions. On December 3, the Ministry halved the stock holding limit for retailers from 10 to 5 tonnes and for wholesalers from 50 to 25 tonnes. The move comes at time when onion prices are skyrocketing, with retail prices crossing Rs 100 per kg in some cities.

Last week, Union Home Minister Amit Shah held ministers and top officials to discuss and review the price and availabil-

ity situation of onion. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar attended the meeting.

Earlier this month, the Centre had asked state-run MMTC to place an order for import of 11,000 metric tonnes of onion from Turkey, which would begin arriving late December or early January next year. These will be in addition to the 6,090 MT of onions which will start arriving from Egypt mid-December. The Centre had, on November 9, directed MMTC to import up to one lakh MT of onion from surplus nations. In fact, the Ministry roped in Indian embassies in major onion exporters like Iran, Afghanistan and Egypt to facilitate import of the bulb.

Last month, the Union Cabinet approved importing 120,000 tonnes onion to improve the domestic supply and control prices which have skyrocketed to Rs 75-120 per kg across major cities now. The government has directed National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India, or NAFED, to procure surplus onion from Rajasthan, Maharashtra for distribution in deficit States.

PHARMACEUTICALS AND MEDICAL DEVICES

Beyond trade margin caps, patient groups call for legal oversight of pharma marketing, promotion

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

AS THE government works on finalising a policy to cap margins taken on medicines and medical devices across the supply chain, a group of civil society bodies have said that the move alone will not help make these products affordable.

The bodies have written to Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers DV Sadananda Gowda, calling for a statutory code to prevent corruption and unethical marketing practices in these industries.

"We ... submit that TMR (trade margin rationalisation) regulation will not be successful as an isolated policy. The government must bring a statutory instrument for legal oversight of marketing and promotion of pharmaceuticals and medical devices," stated the group consisting of the All India Drug Action Network (AIDAN), Third World Network (TWN), Partners in Change, Praxis: Institute for Participatory Practices and

CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS WRITE TO MINISTER

■ A group of civil society bodies have written to Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers DV Sadananda Gowda, calling for a statutory code to prevent corruption and unethical marketing practices in these industries

■ The group claimed that "numerous" instances of "corrupt" promotional

activities and "failure" of the industry to self-regulate using the DoP's UCMPMP have been brought to the government's attention

■ The UCMPMP is a code of marketing practices for the Indian pharma industry which was to be voluntarily adopted and implemented from January 1, 2015

Prayas, Rajasthan.

The group, in its letter dated December 7, claimed that "numerous" instances of "corrupt" promotional activities and "failure" of the industry to self-regulate using the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) have been brought to the government's attention.

The UCMPMP is a code of marketing practices for the Indian pharma industry which was to be voluntarily adopted and im-

plemented from January 1, 2015.

The code was to be reviewed after a period of six months and, if it was found not to be implemented effectively, the code stated that the government "may" consider making it a statutory code.

"We are dismayed that, in spite of repeated requests, the government has not brought out a statutory code, which we can only presume is due to pressure against such an initiative from the pharma industry lobby," stated the group in its letter to

the Minister.

The patient groups asked DoP to "immediately" replace the voluntary UCMPMP with a statutory instrument to regulate pharmaceutical and medical device marketing and promotion.

This regulation should have "strong" penal and enforcement provisions and cover "all relevant actors", including pharma and medical device companies, their agents, medical professions, medical associations and health institutions, demanded the group in its letter.

"Care must be taken specifically to ensure escape routes are closed for companies to organise the same unethical practices in a 'legitimate' way," it stated.

The activist bodies have further alleged that TMR as the primary form of regulation is "inadequate" to meet the government's objective of affordability for critical medical devices and is also "poorly adapted to addressing secondary objectives of curbing profiteering and corruption."

The letter to the minister follows a recent study on promo-

tional practices of India's pharma industry by Arun Gadre and Archana Giwate of Pune-based public health group SATHI.

The study, which focussed on interviewing medical representatives, stated that trends in promotional strategies have changed from providing scientific information to doctors to "only focussing on generating business by any means".

Its findings also highlight unethical practices such as bribes and, in certain instances, pharma companies catering to demands by doctors for "women for entertainment".

This study has been opposed by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), which has reportedly asked the Maharashtra Medical Council to take action against the researchers.

"The report contains no generalising or sweeping statements and has quotations from MRs (medical representatives) whom it has interviewed. The report also states that a section of doctors is very ethical," stated SATHI Monday in response to IMA's move.

Parliament approves legislation to regulate recycling of ships

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

PARLIAMENT ON Monday passed a Bill to regulate the shipbuilding industry in the country. The Recycling of Ships Bill, 2019 was passed in Rajya Sabha by a unanimous voice vote. The Bill, which also seeks to restrict use of hazardous material on ships, had been passed in Lok Sabha last week.

Assuaging the concerns of the members of the Upper House who participated in the discussion, Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh L. Mandaviya said that there "will be an inventory of all the hazardous waste on a ship" and said that India can use its coastline to develop a ship recycling industry which will also provide jobs, and environmental concerns will also be kept in mind.

He thanked the 18 members who participated in the debate and said that suggestions given by them "will give direction for the rules to be laid down" under the

The Recycling of Ships Bill, 2019, which had got nod in the Lok Sabha last week, was passed in Rajya Sabha Monday by unanimous voice vote

Bill. The minister said that the Hong Kong convention "is in favour of India" and that several countries will send their ships to be recycled to India.

The convention mentioned by the minister is the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009.

Mandaviya added that the 7,500-km coastline provides India "nature's abundance that supports ship recycling" 131 ships can be beached at a time together.

Responding to a question why the Bill was for recycling and not ship breaking, he said "because 95 per cent of the ship gets recycled".

'State-owned banks turn profitable in Apr-Sept'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

PUBLIC SECTOR banks (PSBs) returned to profitability in 2019-20, posting an aggregate profit of Rs 3,221 crore in the first half ending September, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said in Parliament on Monday.

PSBs had posted huge losses in 2017-18 and 2018-19 financial years due to heavy provisioning for non-performing assets and other contingencies, according to the minister.

State-run lenders had posted aggregate operating profits dur-

ing 2017-18 and 2018-19 of Rs 1,55,603 crore and Rs 1,53,871 crore respectively.

However, they made aggregate provisions for NPAs and other contingencies of Rs 2,40,973 crore and Rs 2,35,623 crore in FY2018 and FY2019, respectively, he said in a written reply in Lok Sabha.

This resulted in aggregate net losses of Rs 85,370 crore and Rs 81,752 crore in 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively.

"Further, PSBs have returned to profitability in the current fiscal, reporting an aggregate profit of Rs 3,221 crore in the first half of the current fiscal," the minister said.

'Central GST collection falls short of BE by 40%'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

THE CENTRAL GST collection fell short of the Budget Estimate (BE) by nearly 40 per cent during the April-November period of 2019-20, according to the data presented in Parliament on Monday.

The actual CGST collection during April-November stood at Rs 3,28,365 crore while the budgeted estimate is of Rs 5,26,000 crore for these months, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said in a written reply in Lok Sabha. He added that the data was, however, provisional.

In 2018-19, the actual CGST collection stood at Rs 4,57,534 crore as against the provisional estimate of Rs 6,03,900 crore for the year, he said. In 2017-18, the CGST collection was Rs 2,03,261 crore.

Thakur said that as many as 999 cases were registered till October in FY20 for GST evasion and Rs 8,134.39 crore has been recovered. In FY19, a total of Rs 19,395.26 crore were recovered (1473 cases) and in FY18, recovery was of Rs 757.81 crore (148 cases). For strengthening monitoring tools to prevent GST evasion, emphasis has been laid on system based analytical tools and system generated intelligence, he added.

BRIEFLY

Rupee rises 16p to 71.04 against dollar

New Delhi: The rupee pared initial losses and settled 16 paise up at 71.04 against the US dollar on Monday amid softening crude oil prices and weakening of the greenback vis-a-vis other currencies overseas. Fresh foreign fund inflows and positive developments on the US-China trade front also propped up the local unit, forex traders said.

Unbundled licensing: Trai invites views

New Delhi: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) Monday released a pre-consultation paper on unbundling of different elements of telecom like infrastructure, network, services and application layers through differential licensing. The move came after the Telecom Department sought the regulator's recommendation on the issue.

BoB to sell up to 1.04 cr shares in UTI AMC

New Delhi: Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Monday said it will take part in the proposed IPO of UTI Asset Management Co (AMC) Ltd by way of offer for sale of up to 1.04 crore shares. The bank said it will offer up to 1,04,59,949 equity shares held by it.

Jaguar Land Rover sales fall 3.4% in Nov

New Delhi: Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) Monday reported 3.4 per cent decline in total retail sales at 46,542 units in November as compared to the year-ago period. The sales of the Jaguar brand were at 11,464 units during the month, down 23.1 per cent from November last. Tata Motors said in a BSE filing.

Four airports, airstrips up for bidding

New Delhi: The Civil Aviation Ministry Monday said it has invited bids for three unserved airports/ airstrips in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and one unserved airport in Lakshadweep Island under the fourth round of the regional air connectivity scheme. The list of unserved airports/airstrips are Campbell Bay and Car Nicobar and Shippur in Andaman & Nicobar. In Lakshadweep Island, it is at Agatti, as per a release. PTI

'Mumbai may see correction in property rates in 2020'

The overall economic slowdown has also hit Mumbai, the nation's costliest property market, with prices seen falling marginally next year after remaining stable in 2019, according to a study by Knight Frank

28th: Mumbai's rank among fastest-growing prime residential market in the world, during third quarter of 2019

12.7%: Appreciation in prime residential properties in the city in just the past decade

2.21 lakh: Number of unsold ready-to-move-in units in Mumbai as of September this year, despite city's price stability



AREAS IN MUMBAI WHERE APPRECIATION OF PRIME RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES AND LUXURY HOMES ARE LIKELY TO SEE FALL BY 1% IN 2020:

- Cuffe Parade
- Lower Parel
- Juhu
- Bandra (West)
- Nepean Sea Road
- Worli
- BKC
- Khar (West)
- Colaba
- Tardeo
- Santacruz (West)
- Prabhadevi

Source: PFI

Meghwal in Rajya Sabha: No job loss threat in auto sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

THERE IS NO threat of job losses in the automobile sector and no reason for worry, Minister of State for Heavy Industries Arjun Ram Meghwal said in Rajya Sabha on Monday. "The automobile sector is presently in a transitional phase where it has to mi-

grate to BS VI from BS IV by April 1, 2020, the deadline given by the Supreme Court," he said during Question Hour.

"Therefore, the worry (over job losses) that has been expressed, this is a recycle. There is no reason to worry. No jobs are in danger and the government has taken all required measures for improvement after speaking to stakeholders," he said.

'Corporate tax rate cut done to boost investments'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

CHIEF ECONOMIC Adviser KV Subramanian on Monday said private investment is key to economic growth and the recent cut in corporate tax rate was done to boost investments.

"Private investment is the driver of economic growth. Steps that we are taking, be it corporate tax rate cut, be it code on wages and industrial relations, is to try and create a more favourable environment for investment," Subramanian said at the FICCI Young Leaders Summit here. He said investment is required for a sustained economic growth. "So there is indeed well thought out agenda in implementing these measures and the effects of these will show (results)," he said.

India's GDP growth slowed sharply to a pace of 4.5 per cent in the July-September, hit by a slump in manufacturing output. The pace of GDP growth has moderated from the 5 per cent rate in April-June and 7 per cent in July-September quarter of 2018.

Moody's maintains stable outlook for power sector

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

GLOBAL RATING agency Moody's said it expects an overall supportive business environment for the power sector in India and has maintained a stable outlook for the industry.

Referring to the recently implemented 'letter of credit' mechanism of the Union Power Ministry, the agency noted that the tariff reforms allowing timely recovery of costs are seen to be incentivising private investment in the sector.

In its latest 'Asia-Pacific 2020 Outlook' for the sector, Moody's also noted that "easing constraints on fuel supply" have also helped Indian electricity generators. Currently, power plants are sufficiently stocked with coal which can last them for as many as 16 days.

The fuel reserves had critically come down to nine days in the same period last year. Most rated power issuers in the country are under "steady availability-based regulated return regimes and will not be affected by power demand slowdown", it pointed out.

However, it flagged the deterioration in the financial health

"As the share of renewables grows, the key regulatory challenge in the long run will be to balance new renewable capacity with protecting existing coal-fired units"

MOODY'S
IN 'ASIA-PACIFIC 2020 OUTLOOK'

of state electricity boards as one of the factors which continues to pose a challenge to the sector's development.

Moody's also noted that changes in sovereign outlook are adversely affecting Indian power utilities, such as NTPC, Power Grid Corporation, NHPC and Adani Renewable Energy.

"As the share of renewables grows, the key regulatory challenge in the long run will be to balance new renewable capacity with protecting existing coal-fired units," it said. The country is trying to achieve the national target of 175 GW of renewables capacity by 2022. Currently, there are around 85 GW of such generation units.

NSE launches interest rate option on govt bonds

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 9

THE NATIONAL Stock Exchange (NSE) Monday launched interest rate options on 10-year Government of India (GOI) bonds. "The first day of launch witnessed turnover of 5,926 contracts. Participation was observed from more than 50 trading members," the NSE said.

Vikram Limaye, MD and CEO, NSE, said, "By launching interest rate options, we have added one more instrument to the fixed income derivatives asset class. Interest rate options will provide institutional investors the ability to manage risk through a non-linear product which is otherwise not available to them. Market participants can use options to trade and hedge interest rate risk on a transparent platform."

"With different categories of investors being allowed to participate from day one such as banks, primary dealers, foreign portfolio investors, corporates etc, we hope to bring the same depth, breadth and efficiency that other asset classes have to this product," Limaye said.

Interest rate options are based on the underlying GOI 10-year bonds — the 7.26 per cent 2029

bond and the 6.45 per cent 2029 bond. The unit of trading is Rs 2 lakh face value of GOI securities, corresponding to 2000 units.

"The order quotation is the premium quoted as the price of GOI security and the tick size is Rs 0.0025. The options contracts available are European Call and Put Options with minimum 8 in-the-money, 8 out-of-the-money and 1 near-the-money strike prices and a strike interval of Rs 0.25," the NSE said.

"The contracts will be available for 3 serial monthly contracts followed by 3 quarterly contracts of the cycle March/June/September/December. The contract expiry is on the last Thursday of the expiry month and will be cash settled," it added.

Currently, interest rate futures are available on 7 GOI bonds as the underlying, for residual maturity ranging from 4 years to 15 years.

The contracts are available for 3 serial months followed by 3 quarterly contracts of the cycle March/June/September/December. The contract expiry is on the last Thursday of the expiry month and will be cash settled.

An average daily turnover of around Rs 1,480 crore is observed in the current financial year on the NSE, it said.

आर्योड विमानचतन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
E-TENDER NOTICE
Airports Authority of India invites item rate e-tender on CPP Portal for the work of "Project Management Consultancy for Supervision of Extension of Terminal Building at Surat Airport." Bid number 2019. AAI_37536 1 and estimated cost of Rs.2,37,30,000.00 with period of completion twenty (20) months and O&M period of twenty-four (24) months. Last date of sale & submission of tender document is 23/12/2019. The clarification / corrigendum in this if any will be put-up only on AAI website. For detailed information please log on to: <https://etenders.gov.in> & www.aai.aero

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in
Tender Notice No.RWF/S/P/003/2019-20 Dated: 09.12.2019
On behalf of the President of India, Principal Chief Materials Manager invites electronic tenders from interested vendors for supply of the following items on the Indian Railways E-portal - www.ireps.gov.in. The Tender documents and the Corrigenda to the Tenders, if any, will be available on the portal only.

Tender No.	Due Date	Short Description	Quantity
P1190626	26.12.2019	Steel Rabbie as per RWF Drawing	1230 Nos.
P1190628	30.12.2019	Grinding Wheels as per RWF specification	2400 Nos.
P1190645	06.01.2020	Water Cooled Roof as per RWF drawing	4 Nos.

Principal Chief Materials Manager

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Donimalai Complex, Post: Donimalai, PIN-583118
Taluk: Sandur, Dist: Ballari-Karnataka
OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION
Sealed tenders in two bid system are inviting from the competent and experienced bidder for the following work:
1. Tender No. CE/W/10(138)/2019 vide Date of notification 10/12/2019 and Name of Work: "Construction of 2 nos toilet block (Ladies & Gents) including electrical works at Bommaghatta Village" with estimated cost of ₹19.08 Lakhs and period of completion for work 06 months (Excluding Rainy Season from July to October) with EMD is ₹19,077.00 and sale/download period from 11/12/2019 to 10/01/2020.
For accessing the tender document or download from NMDC Limited website <https://www.nmdc.co.in/nmcdctender/default.aspx>.
For any clarification bidders may contact DGM (Civil), by mailing to dliomcivil@nmdc.co.in or by fax message to 08395-274644.
For and on behalf of the NMDC Limited
Dy. General Manager (Civil)

FACT THE FERTILISERS AND CHEMICALS TRAVANCORE LIMITED
PIONEERS IN PROGRESS (A Government of India Enterprise)
UDYOGAMANDAL - 683501, KOCHI, KERALA, COCHIN DIVISION, AMBALAMEDU, KOCHI- 682303
Phone: +91-484-277-3361/3646/3226 Fax: +91-484-2720948. Website: www.fact.co.in. CIN: L24129KL1943G0000371
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
FACT LTD invites On Line Item Rate E-Tender in Two covers for the following work. Details of Tender are available at e-procurement platform <https://eprocure.gov.in>. Time extension, Corrigendum, Addendum etc. if any, will be hosted in the website only.
Establishment of IP Network & other infrastructure for Video Surveillance System in FACT - CD, Ambalamedu & Willingdon Island
Tender No. 04028/2019-2020/E20647 (CPP e-Tender ID - 2019_FACT_525245_1).
Last date to upload the e-Tender - 31.12.2019, 11:00:00 hrs IST.
Deputy General Manager (P&P)-CD

Office of the Chief Engineer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. Notice Inviting E-Tender for construction of minor bridge.

कानपुर विद्युत आपूर्ति कम्पनी लिमिटेड. Notice Inviting E-Tender for construction of minor bridge.

Table with columns: E-Tender ID, Items, Bid submission start and end date. Includes items like Air Conditioning Spares, Bus Green Finishing Paint, etc.

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED. TENDER NOTICE for procurement of DSLR Cameras.

Office of the Executive Engineer, P.D., PWD, Aligarh. Notice Inviting E-Tender for construction of minor bridge.

भारतीय विद्युत निगम लिमिटेड. Notice Inviting E-Tender for construction of minor bridge.

महर्षि दयानंद सरस्वती विश्वविद्यालय, अजमेर. Notice Inviting E-Tender for construction of minor bridge.

कानपुर विद्युत आपूर्ति कम्पनी लिमिटेड. Notice Inviting E-Tender for construction of minor bridge.

PURVANCHAL VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED, VIDYUT NAGAR. Tender Notice E-Short term tender for the following material.

Government of India Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER for procurement of DSLR Cameras.

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED. TENDER NOTIFICATION for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of following material.

उप. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अनुभवों की श्रेणी कार्यवाही.

उप. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अनुभवों की श्रेणी कार्यवाही.

PURVANCHAL VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED, VIDYUT NAGAR. Tender Notice E-Short term tender for the following material.

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH. TENDER NOTIFICATION for Outsourcing of Laundry Services.

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग University Grants Commission. PUBLIC NOTICE regarding establishment of chairs in universities.

उप. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अनुभवों की श्रेणी कार्यवाही.

उप. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अनुभवों की श्रेणी कार्यवाही.

PURVANCHAL VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED, VIDYUT NAGAR. Tender Notice E-Short term tender for the following material.

ODISHA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION. QUOTATION CALL NOTICE for Sealed quotations.

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD. NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM E-TENDER for Automated Document Management System.

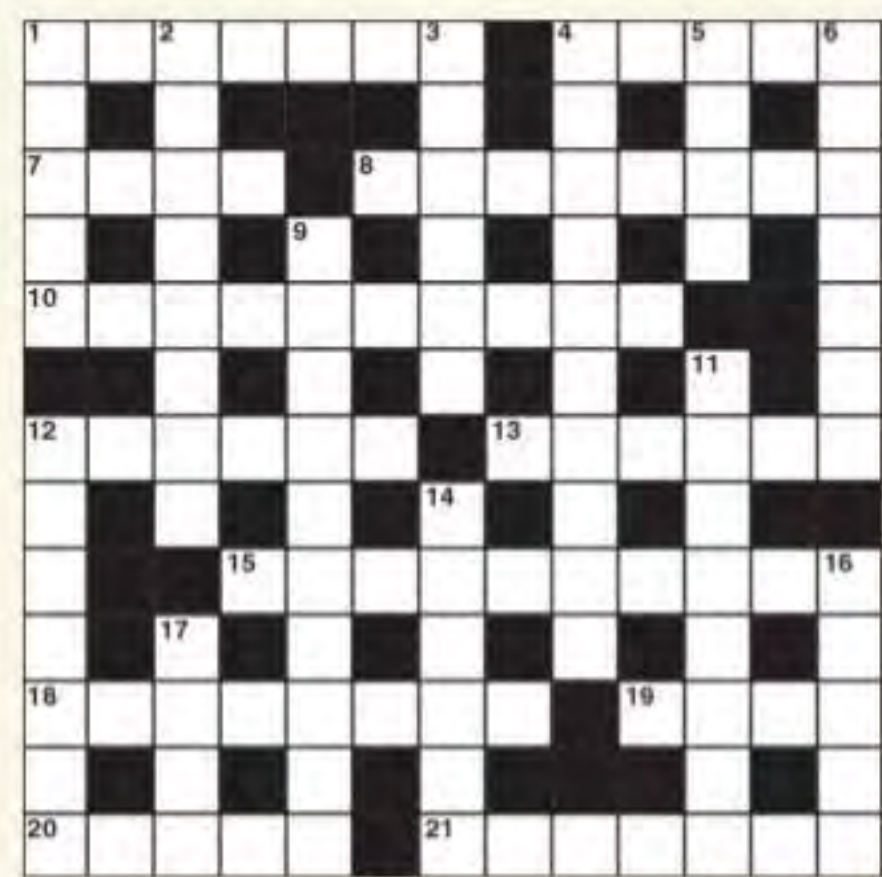
उप. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अनुभवों की श्रेणी कार्यवाही.

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PURVANCHAL VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED, VIDYUT NAGAR. Tender Notice E-Short term tender for the following material.

Government of Odisha Finance Department. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL for IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PERIODICAL MAINTENANCE OF RURAL ROADS IN ODISHA.

CROSSWORD 3984



- CROSS**
- 1 Sporting fish seen around Noah's ship (7)
4 Strolling player from Scotland (5)
7 Marine feature which may be permanent (4)
8 A train driver (8)
10 Vegetarian fare for an athlete? (6,4)
12 US port in a state of inactivity (6)
13 Possibly alerts to changes (6)
15 Openly enjoying a stay in the country? (7,3)
18 Ugly in an awkward way (8)
19 Heap of carpets (4)
20 A trap set outside a second time (5)
21 Hair style on the beach (7)
- Down**
- 1 Become less neat (5)
2 Very hungry creature that flies round the States (8)
3 Not too clean, like a caterpillar's young? (6)
4 The kind of wind that is generally expected (10)
5 Look for an equal (4)
6 Variety of red rose seen in church (7)
9 Flags put out in honour of a brave man (10)
11 Beginning to be seemly (8)
12 On reflection, a must as a fruit (7)
14 Times of enchantment (6)
16 The main idea of work, perhaps (5)
17 Where to see the Taj Mahal in a gracious setting (4)

Solutions Crossword 3983: Across: 1 Half-hearted, 9 Net cord, 10 Vesta, 11 Ears, 12 Lacerte, 14 Reckon, 16 Desert, 18 Go-astern, 19 Eemit, 22 Taken, 23 Peanuts, 24 Personality. Down: 2 Actor, 3 From, 4 Ender, 5 Reviewed, 6 Enslaw, 7 Interrogate, 8 Taken to task, 13 Fortunes, 15 Crackle, 17 Trepan, 20 Mount, 21 Ta

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Love is an irresistible ___ to be irresistibly ___ - Robert Frost (6...7)

PVEEE GOPISS
 RICER AENDDD

SOLUTION: PVEEE: PEEVE, CRIER, GOSSIP, ADDEND
 RICER: RICE, CRICKET, RIVER, CIDER
 GOPISS: GOSSIP, ADVENT
 AENDDD: ADEPT, DANCE, DENIED, DANCE, DENIED
 Answer: Love is an irresistible desire to be irresistibly desired - Robert Frost

Difficulty Level 2s

Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

SUDOKU 4055

	1					2		
	9		8	6				4
				7	6	1		
1		2	7		5	6		
		6		8				
3	2		5	9		8		
4	7	8						
1			3	4		9		
2						3		

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4054

4	9	8	1	7	6	5	2	3
7	5	1	9	3	2	4	6	8
3	2	6	4	8	5	7	9	1
5	8	3	6	4	9	2	1	7
6	7	2	3	1	8	9	4	5
1	4	9	2	5	7	8	3	6
2	1	7	8	9	3	6	5	4
9	3	5	7	6	4	1	8	2
8	6	4	5	2	1	3	7	9

NOTICE BOARD

CALENDAR & DIARY FOR 2020-HUDCO

Dr M Ravi Kanth, CMD, HUDCO, recently released HUDCO calendar and diary for the year 2020, at a function held to mark the 63rd death anniversary of Babasaheb Dr BR Ambedkar, Architect of our Constitution.

INAUGURATION OF INDIA PAVILION-EPCH

The India Pavilion of EPCH was inaugurated by Shantmanu, IAS, Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India during 24th APL Artigiano in Fiera, Milan along with senior officials.

CELEBRATION-D/O WCD, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

The Department of Women & Child Development, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, recently launched the campaign 'Suposhit Janani Vikshit Dharani', to implement the flagship scheme 'Pradhan-Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana' more effectively.

ECO-FRIENDLY FUEL-MINISTRY OF PNG

Minister of PNG, Dharmendra Pradhan, recently experienced Hydrogen Fuel Cell based car manufactured by Toyota. He expressed happiness on learning that the only emission from this car is water.

AWARD-THDCIL

THDCIL has been conferred with outstanding performer award in debt market by BSE in a recently held conference at Delhi. The award was given for successfully raising funds through issue of Corporate bonds of Rs 1500Cr.

AGREEMENT-AAI & IATA

AAI has signed a training agreement with IATA for online course on 'Overview of the Air Transport System'. The agreement was signed between Anuj Aggarwal, Member (HR), AAI & Stephanie Siouffi, Director IATA-Training during an event.

AWARD-GAIL

GAIL has been awarded the "Project Management Company of the Year" for successfully completing Phase 1 of the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Pipeline Project. The award was received by GAIL CMD & Dir. (Projects), Dr Ashutosh Karnatak.

Digital Museum & Library-PUNJABI ACADEMY

DTDC will give two towers to the Punjabi Academy at Delhi Haat, Janakpuri for establishment of Guru Nanak Digital Museum & Digital Library based on the life and teachings of Guru Nanak Sahib in Delhi.

AWARD-THDCIL

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WALL CALENDAR 2020-PSB

Recently, Dr Charan Singh, Non Executive Chairman, PSB, along with S Harisankar, MD & CEO of the Bank, inaugurated the bank's Wall Calendar 2020, in presence of other senior officials of the Bank at Head Office, New Delhi.

OCCULAVE 2019-NHPC

NK Jain, Dir. (Pers.), NHPC, addressed the inaugural session of OCCULAVE 2019, the 7th Global Conclave of AEOHD (Association of Environmental & Occupational Health Delhi) recently at New Delhi. He was also the Chief Guest on the occasion.

AWARD-NMCG

NMCG has been honored with "Leadership in Rejuvenation & Protection of Fresh Water Systems in India" at the recently held GeoSmart India conference. The event brings together the evolving world of geospatial & emerging technologies.

Disaster Resilient Infrastructure-DTL

DTL has developed disaster resilient infrastructure & has retrofitted existing infrastructure for resilience & is moving towards smart grids now. DTL has also procured Emergency Restoration System (ERS).

AWARD-THDCIL

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WALL CALENDAR 2020-PSB

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'SWATCH YAMUNA TATT ABHIYAN'-DELHI POLICE

On the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, South-East District of Delhi Police had launched 'Fit Ho India-Swachh Ho India' campaign and organized a Plogging Run & cleanliness drive 'Cleanathon' at the bank of Yamuna river. In continuation of its efforts, during the 'Swachh Pakhwada', South-East District of Delhi Police organized 'Swatch Yamuna Tatt Abhiyan' at Kalindi Kunj Ghat, with an aim to keep the rivers clean.

MOU- NSIC & ARAMCO ASIA

An MoU to pave way for accredited Indian MSMEs to carve out a space as vendors in the Global space has been signed between NSIC & Aramco Asia for the development of MSME Ecosystem in India in Oil & Gas Sector.

AGREEMENT-CWC

CWC has signed an agreement with EPIL for construction of state-of-the-art high-rise warehouse complex at Greater Noida for e-commerce, white & brown goods, automobile spares. It will fast-track warehouse logistics projects of CWC.

ONGC

Two ONGC sportspersons, Kirpal Singh & Suresh Kumar, have won Gold medals for India in the South Asian Games currently underway in Kathmandu (Nepal). Kirpal Singh created history in Discus Throw with a new SAF Meet record en-route winning the Gold medal. He is the reigning national champion of India in Discus Throw and is an officer at ONGC. S. Kumar bagged Gold in the 10,000 metersmen's category, continuing his excellent form after winning the national Open Athletics Championships in Ranchi to become the national champion. He too is an officer at ONGC.

MOU-BHEL & CSIR

BHEL signed an MoU with CSIR for commercialisation & implementation of indigenously developed technologies by CSIR. The first project will be commercialisation of various water purification/sewage disposal related technologies.

ITPO

The 14th edition of Paperex-2019 was organised in the newly constructed AC Halls (i.e. A3GF, A4AGF, A4BGF and A5GF) along with existing Halls 8 to 12A of the International Exhibition and Convention Centre (IECC) complex at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Around 608 participants from 28 countries participated in the event, which was a new experience for the exhibitors and business delegates.

OBC

OBC has decreased its Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR) by upto 15 bps across various tenors. The new MCLR rates will be in effect from 10.12.2019 till next review by the Bank.

SAIL has recorded more than 36% jump in sales during November 2019 on year-on-year basis. The Company's sales during November 2019 stood at 1.409 Million Tonnes. The sales figure for November is also one of the industry's best, reflecting the Company's renewed thrust on marketing strategy to seize the market opportunity.

MAIDS recently organised a Dental Health Utsav 'Delhi Smiles - 2019' in its campus, with an aim to create a much-needed awareness for dental healthcare. The 5-day-long Utsav comprised Free Dental Check up, dental health awareness through novel exhibits & lectures.

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Continue to press on with what you know must be done, and don't be put off your stride by people who see it as their divinely-inspired task to get in your way, wind you up and generally drive you to distraction. There are, by the way, big choices in the offing, so get ready.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Although there's still a good deal of background tension in the air, you seem particularly well set up. Your stars are basically favourable, and there seems to be little pressure on you to do anything against your will. If you're facing family arrangements, you can put off the inevitable for another few days.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Throughout every area of life, it's a question of dealing with fundamentals. Everything you do should have a beginning, a middle — and an end. Deviate from this regular, ordered pattern and you'll run the risk of coming unstuck. But stay as you are and you may miss a major opportunity. You can always leave the final choice for another few months.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
There are decisions to be made, but first there are discussions to be held. You should know by now that the moment you rush ahead without consulting others, conflict invariably follows. It's time you broke this pattern and gave up your tendency to over react.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
When it comes to finance, there are two rules at the moment. Where your own personal money is concerned, pay the most intense attention possible to every single detail. Where joint rearrangements are concerned, place the emphasis on getting on with people and reaching agreements.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Your romantic stars are powerful, but partners may have the edge when it comes to a battle of wits. You may soon be obliged to accept an unhelpful situation as a fait accompli. At least, for now. In another couple of months, when circumstances have

moved on, you'll be able to correct the situation in your favour.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
The accent is on pleasure over the coming days, and the best way to personal fulfilment is through devoting extra time to your creative Libran skills. Ideally, you should now be on holiday rather than at work. If you feel a little shaky, you can rely on a partner.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
Excellent prospects arise largely from the fact that you're left to pursue your own interests. There's no need to give in to the nine-to-five slog, and every chance to break out of your rut. Yet family pressures may very soon reach bursting point.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
Sort out your priorities and organise yourself to fit in a useful chat with a friend or someone you look up to. You may receive unsolicited advice which could help you out of a domestic impasse. Yet what is said today may be contradicted tomorrow.

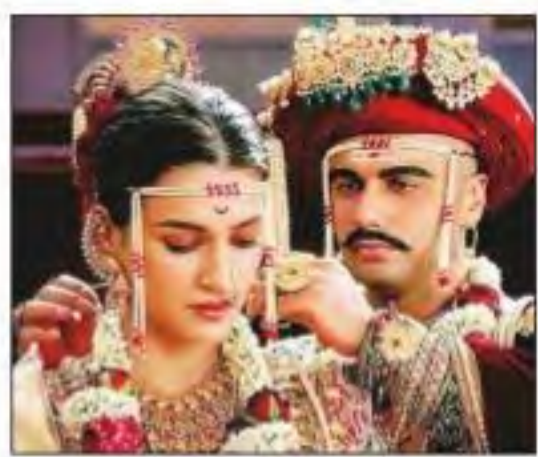
CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Your energy should be high at present but, if you're one of those Capricorns who is feeling under the weather, the reason lies in your unhealthy lifestyle. The solution is to cut out all those bad habits. Public pressures may be easing, but you have to tie up loose ends first.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
If life has been a little confusing, you're entitled to blame Neptune, ruler of illusion, which has been making a subtle aspect to your sign. However, romantic undercurrents are steadily growing stronger and you should now be much more sure of your feelings.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Your short-term plans will soon receive a boost from some unexpected good news, although a slight adjustment will almost certainly be advisable. If you're taking major decisions it's imperative to consider all the angles — and to take whatever time you need.

19 TALK ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD

SNAP SHOTS



Revisiting History

PANIPAT, THE recent offering from Ashutosh Gowariker, which narrates the story of the Third Battle of Panipat fought in 1761, has found itself in a controversy. Rajasthan Tourism Minister Vishvendra Singh has alleged that *Panipat*, which hit screens last Friday, depicts his ancestor Maharaja Surajmal in an unfavourable light. In a statement, Singh said, "It is very sad that a great man like Maharaja Surajmal Jat of Bharatpur has been depicted in the film *Panipat* in a very wrong way while tampering with historical facts. I believe that the film should be banned in view of the huge opposition in the Jat community of Haryana, Rajasthan and north India, otherwise, the law and order of the country may deteriorate." Vasundhara Raje, former CM of Rajasthan, has also criticised the film.



Digital Debut

ACTOR MADHURI DIXIT Nene will lead an upcoming web series that will be produced by Karan Johar's Dharmatic Entertainment and streaming giant Netflix. The series will be directed by Sri Rao. "Karan and his team have been like family for me, so when I got this opportunity to play the protagonist in this series, I was beyond excited... This series is entertaining, riveting, and yet heartwarming," said Dixit.



In Memoriam

ACTOR RENÉ AUBERJONOIS, best known for his role of Father John Mulcahy in the television series *M.A.S.H.*, passed away at the age of 79. The actor died on December 8 at his Los Angeles home. He was suffering from metastatic lung cancer. Auberjonois made a mark for himself by working as a character actor across several platforms — from the dynamic theater of the '60s to the prime period of network television in the '80s and '90s. He also played Odo, the shape-shifting Changeling and head of space-station security, in *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*.



(Clockwise from above) Stills from *Pather Panchali*; *S Durga*; Josh Siegel

Cinema as Art

Josh Siegel, film curator at the Museum of Modern Art, on rediscovering lost films and his association with Indian cinema

ALAKA SAHANI

RECENTLY, Josh Siegel, a film curator at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, was at the National Film Development Corporation's Film Bazaar in Mumbai for a conversation, and to watch new and exciting Indian films. Siegel, who has been behind more than 90 film, media and gallery exhibitions, spoke on curating movies for 26 years, his interest in Indian cinema and an upcoming documentary film festival in New York.

What kind of interest does MoMA have in Indian cinema?

We, at MoMA, believe that cinema as an art form belongs alongside paintings, sculptures, photographs and so on. Our programming encompasses the entire history of cinema in every region. We have an abiding interest in Indian cinema. In the '50s, MoMA had a role in the making of *Pather Panchali* (1955). Monroe Wheeler (then MoMA's director of Exhibitions and Publications) was in India for an art show when he heard about this young filmmaker, Satyajit Ray, who seemed very promising but didn't have enough money to finish his debut film. So, Wheeler went back to the trustees and rounded up a little cash for Ray to finish the film. It had its world premiere at MoMA. Subsequently, we did a massive exhibition called "Film India" in 1981, which showcased Indian cinema from different states. It was a deep dive into Indian cinema as far as New Yorkers were concerned.

Could you talk about your association with Indian cinema?

I created a festival about film preservation, "To Save and Project", about 17 years ago and I've shown several restored Indian movies. I've done a number of exhibitions on contemporary Indian cinema with Uma Da Cunha (curator and casting director). These attempted to look at some of the trends taking place in Indian cinema — from the mainstream to artistic films. We have a festival with Lincoln Center, called "New Directors/New Films", where we've shown several Indian films over the years, including *Titi* (2014), *Court* (2014) and *S Durga* (2017).

When MoMA helped Ray, was that a one-off case of the museum supporting a filmmaker?

It was, in fact, a very rare case. We obviously put our money on

the right horse because he turned out to be one of the greatest filmmakers of all time. We do today provide completion funds for films, but on rare occasions. Most often they are filmmakers we have a close relationship with, such as Agnes Varda. We have also helped Steven Soderbergh and Isaac Julien.

How much film preservation work does MoMA undertake?

We have a very robust preservation programme. MoMA is the only archive in the US that collects from across the globe. I suppose the Library of Congress is the closest institution that the US has to a national repository of cinema. It's not exhaustive or complete. We have, over the

years, acquired many Indian films.

The "To Save and Project" festival was a very selfish effort on my part. I read about all these films that were being restored around the world. I thought it was really unfortunate that I'm never going to see them. I decided to create a festival so that I can watch these movies myself in New York. The idea is to showcase the efforts of some of the archives and independent filmmakers around the world to save their cultural heritage.

How is your life as a curator?

My glamorous life as a curator involves answering the 19,000 emails that I have in my inbox. Everyone, including my wife, thinks that all we do all day is watch movies. I do have a great job but the reality is that a lot of the work is grind work and detective work, in finding the best material possible for certain films. The tragic reality is that a lot of films have disappeared altogether. So, a lot of my time is spent trying to find the best possible exhibition copy of a certain film and that can take months.

Who are the Indian filmmakers that you discovered during your stint at MoMA?

Well, certainly the contemporary filmmakers. We had showcased their works in the two series that we did — "India Now" and "The New India". Most of them, I hadn't heard of at that point, and some have gone on to receive success. I arrived at MoMA when I was 22. So, I would say, a lot of Indian filmmakers who are well-known here, were new to me at some point. We've also showcased films of Buddhadeb Dasgupta, Adoor Gopal krishnan and Mani Kaul.

Could you share details of the upcoming show that you are working on?

I'm working on a festival of documentaries, called "DocFortnight", that takes place in February. It's an international selection of non-fiction cinema. I'm deeply immersed in watching documentaries right now. I just saw a film from Uzbekistan about women who are essentially kidnapped in their own homes and enslaved by their husbands as teenagers. Some of these documentaries are astonishing and offer glimpses of cultures that are foreign to most of us. I attended Film Bazaar to look at non-fiction films. I am also looking at fiction films to consider for "New Directors/New Films".



For the People

The annual Nandan Mela in Santiniketan sees students and alumni come together for art



Glimpses from the Nandan Mela in Santiniketan

VANDANA KALRA

THE VOICES of students singing Bangla songs could be heard from outside the Kala Bhavana campus in Santiniketan that was decorated with fairy lights and works of students of the prestigious art institute. Like each year, this year too, the much-awaited Nandan Mela began before dusk on December 1, when students and teachers were seen setting up stalls that featured their works — allowing visitors to both admire art and also take it home at prices much below those on the white cube tags. "The aim of this mela has also been to build a bond with the immediate community. We have tried to continue that tradition," says Sanjoy Mallik, principal of Kala Bhavana.

So while one corner of the campus had students rustling up meals for the visitors, another had an installation made of plastic waste. The walls were painted with graffiti and on the grass were works by students of art alongside some of pioneering modernist Ramkinkar Baij's most acclaimed sculptures. A candle was lit before the photograph of former alumni KG Subramanyan, inside the building with his black-and-white mural on its facade. And apart from art for the walls in varied mediums, on sale were also handmade calendars, coasters, toys and cushion covers.

In times when the 'C' in art denotes commerce instead of colour, the Nandan Mela perhaps represents the ethics and ethos promoted by Rabindranath Tagore, who founded Kala Bhavana in 1919. The mela began years later, in 1973, as a fund raiser for a student of Kala Bhavana who had met with an accident. The students and the faculty — including Somnath Hore and Dinkar Kowshik — had decided to put their works on sale, and since then the annual two-day event has taken the form of a fund raiser for students' welfare at the institute. "In 1973, there was no art market in India and this was a way to reach out to the community. Even the art works you see around on the campus were part of the philosophy of putting art in the community. It erased the difference between fine art, crafts and design," says R Sivakumar, professor of history of art at

Kala Bhavana. While the preparations on campus begin weeks in advance, contributions also often come from alumni and retired faculty. "It is for a good cause and we all have fond memories of being on campus and of the mela," says artist Jogen Chowdhury, who started teaching in Kala Bhavana in 1987, and was there for more than a decade. This year, selling at the mela were his drawings (Rs 10,000 onwards), prints, sculptures (Rs 50,000 onwards) and textile works (Rs 5,000 onwards). "I, too, have bought several works from the mela over the years," he adds.

He was one of the numerous visitors to the mela this year. Also seen on campus, among others, were artists Manisha Gera Baswani and Prabir Kumar Biswas, and Delhi-based caterer-author and art facilitator Prima Kurien. Retired government employee Rabi Dey noted how he travels from Midnapore to Santiniketan for the annual event each year. "I haven't missed any year since it began. Through the mela, several people learn how to understand art," says Dey, 73, who also did a certificate course in sculpture from the institution. His collection includes works by Subramanyan, Chowdhury, and a drawing gifted to him by Baij. Sivakumar notes how the mela was once an opportunity to get works of the masters for as little as Rs 5 or 10. "Some of the things are still not too expensive. The prices only started increasing during the art boom, when galleries started coming here to look for the works of masters and middlemen started coming to sell them further. It is a little like the old days now that the boom is no longer there," adds Sivakumar.

For students, perhaps, this is also an opportunity to come face-to-face with art buyers "It is a collaborative effort, where students and teachers work together. Also, we have people giving us feedback," says Subhajit Mondal, who is pursuing his graduation in sculpture from Kala Bhavana. His installation featuring origami birds was an ode to the environment and had several halting for a selfie. Meanwhile, at the stalls, the art moved rather swiftly, including terracotta platters, that once bore paintings by Subramanyan.

About Life and Experiences

Author Sudha Murthy on bringing a social change through storytelling

SURBHIGUPTA

AUTHOR SUDHA MURTHY is a spontaneous speaker and notes that she has "never ever prepared any speech". It will be no different at the 13th edition of The Penguin Annual Lecture in Delhi this week. She will decide what to say there and then. "All my experiences are true and fascinating, and people like to listen to the truth rather than imagination," says Murthy, who is also the chairperson of Infosys Foundation.



To be held on December 11 at The Imperial in Delhi, the lecture titled "Storytelling and Social Change: How Literature Influences Who We Are and What We Do", will see Murthy bring two of her passions together — storytelling and social work — to showcase a deep-rooted connection between literary arts and philanthropy, taking cues from her written

work and life experiences.

"I've been writing since the age of 15, it is the expression of joy, anxiety and happiness. I have unexpectedly found that reading has sparked an interest in some men, women and even children to begin to make a difference in a small way. To me, that is the real success of my work," she says.

Recipient of the 2006 RK Narayan Award for Literature, Murthy has written over 30 books, including novels, collections of short stories and non-fiction. Recently, her experience of being the lone female student at BVB College of Engineering and Technology, in Hubli, which did not even have a girls' wash-room, went viral on social media after she spoke about it on the show *Kaun Banega Crorepati*. It is one of the many stories that make her 2017 book *Three Thousand Stitches: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives*.

Lately, she also released the fourth book in her popular mythology series for children, titled *The Daughter from a Wishing Tree: Unusual Tales about Women in Mythology*. "Mythology is written mostly

by men and usually talked about from their point of view. There are so many women who have silently worked and have given so much courage to their husbands, but are not talked about. We only talk about Sita and Draupadi, but there are so many more. So it was that gap that made me write about unknown women who played an important role in mythology," she says.

'I am as much of an activist as I am an actor'

During his visit to India, actor Jerome Flynn spoke about climate change and being part of *Game of Thrones*

AUDITA BHATTACHARYA

Could talk about being in Pune as part of the Climate Healers tour?

I am here because I seem to be as much of an activist as I am an actor. I am here to explore how we move forward together in these very critical times. I feel our experiences are the same to some degree and it is important to share them. We must be thankful for what we have, but also grieve for what we're losing. That gives us the fire in our hearts to bring a change, to come together and stand up when we need to. Also, we have to make individual choices, and being vegan is one of the most important choices to make.

What made you actively participate in the fight against climate change?

I was vegan and on goat products. Then I realised, that wasn't any better than the rest of it. I have always cared about animals and have been a patron of a few charities. However, the environmental activism has just begun. I am emotionally connected to it now. There's a lot that doesn't feel right about the amount of suffering that we're



Actor Jerome Flynn; (right) in a still from *Game of Thrones*



causing. I'm inspired by youngsters who are saying, 'No, what we're doing is crazy. We want change and this doesn't make sense.' People who have the power, however, seem to be powerless to do the right thing because of the nature of the system we are in. If you get one courageous politician who

asks for a rational solution, there is opposition. Competitive politics is not productive at all.

What do you hope people will take away from the film *A Prayer For Compassion*, which has you as one of

the executive producers?

We hope that their hearts are touched. We were in a school a few days back and asked students, "Is there anybody here who would willingly harm an animal?" and none of the kids put their hands up. We don't need animal meat or any produce. I've been a vegan and I've run three marathons. Our bodies don't need it.

You've been part of *Game Of Thrones*, one of the biggest and possibly the most unsustainable television productions of our time. Do you refuse roles that are against your moral principles?

I recently did a pilot for a new Amazon series that is very poignant. If we do end up making the series, the producers, me and the rest of the cast, will jointly plant trees. I am going to tie up with the organisation Tree Sisters. If you're doing a production, you plant a forest because we need to reforest the world. One must become conscious. You must make sure that none of your plastics go to landfills and do not use single-use plastics at all. We come and fill our water bottles up. Hopefully, we will put back more than what we take.

Shaw shows shades of Little Master

Mumbai opener's cameo of 66 from 62 balls against Baroda on Day One of the Ranji season triggers comparisons with Tendulkar

DEVENDRA PANDEY
VADODARA, DECEMBER 9

PRITHVI SHAW just couldn't do anything. His feet were locked in the crease, pre-committed, unbalanced and out of position to tackle a cracking nip-backer. The ball seamed in sharply, threaded through the gap between his legs to take the bails with it. One of those deliveries that Shaw would want to forget soon and one that Abhimanyu Singh will treasure forever.

Until that moment, Shaw's return to red-ball cricket couldn't have been better. Sublime touch, graceful cover drives and the ability to ping gaps made him a tough batsman to bowl to. Watching in the sidelines was former India wicketkeeper Kiran More, who couldn't help himself comparing the style to Sachin Tendulkar. Shaw's team-mate Shardul Thakur too raved about his ability to pick bowlers' lengths early.

On what was a mixed day for Mumbai — it was due to the 108-run partnership for the eight wicket between Shams Mulani and Shardul Thakur that lifted them to 362 for 8 — it was Shaw who ensured that they sped off to a quick start. The runs kept flowing as Shaw seemed intent on reminding people his shot-making talent.

By the time Baroda got the first breakthrough of Jay Bista, castled by Abhimanyu, Mumbai has run away to a fiery start: 74 from a mere 9.5 overs. Baroda called Bharghav Bhatt, their most experienced left-handed spinner but Shaw didn't spare him either. He slugged one six and creamed two elegant cover drives to go past the fifty mark. It was then that Abhimanyu produced a cracker to take him out. Shaw's knock of 66 had 11 fours and a six and came off 62 balls, and though it gave his team a good start, he must be ruining the missed chance of making a real big one on his comeback game.

Middle order collapse

Shubham Ranjane tried his best at No. 3, starting off with two feisty square cuts but on the brink of lunchbreak, he was tempted by a flighted delivery from Bhatt but missed the line completely and was stumped by the wicketkeeper Viraj Bhosale. Three balls into second session, Mumbai's captain Suryakumar Yadav too fell, stumped. Aditya Tare looked good initially, reeling off two fours off Bhatt, but it was the left-arm spinner who had the last laugh as he was caught in slips by Kedar Devdhar, trying to drive. Mumbai kept losing wickets but Ajinkya Rahane provided some resistance.

Rahane showed his class, played in the 'V' — Of the ten fours he hammered, three rushed past the bowler. The pitch offered some turn and bounce but Rahane used his crease effectively. Bhatt tried to vary his lengths but Rahane wasn't premeditated in offense. He slammed two fours off Bhatt and put away Abhimanyu as well.

It was left to the veteran Yusuf Pathan, who managed to lure Rahane into edging one to slips and got Baroda back in the game. But Mumbai's tail waggled away with the No. 7 Shams Mulani and Shardul Thakur adding 108 for the eighth wicket, which ensured Mumbai reached a score that had looked a touch doubtful.

Of the two, Thakur was more aggressive; he charged the seamer Sohey Soparaiya for two fours before following it with a 14-run over off Abhimanyu. He hit 11 fours and a six before he top-edged Pathan to miscue a simple catch to mid-off. With Mulani unbeaten on 56, Mumbai will look to cash in more in the first couple of hours on the second day.

BRIEF SCORES: Mumbai first innings 362 for eight (Ajinkya Rahane 79, Prithvi Shaw 66, Shardul Thakur 64, Shams Mulani 56; B Bhatt 3/110) vs Baroda.



Mumbai made 362 for eight on Day One of their Group B Ranji Trophy fixture against Baroda on Monday. Bhupendra Rana

Prithvi set to go to New Zealand as third opener

DEVENDRA PANDEY
VADODARA, DECEMBER 9

PRITHVI SHAW'S recent form has once again put him in reckoning for the third opener's slot for the Test series in New Zealand in February. *The Indian Express* understands that Shaw might be part of the Test squad as the selectors are hoping he will continue his white-ball form in the longer format too. Shaw started off the first-class season with an elegant 66 against Baroda in the opening Ranji Trophy game.

Shaw is scheduled to be part of the India A team that will play two four-day games against New Zealand A just before the Test series begins. It's learnt that three other Indian Test players will play the 'A' games in New Zealand, along with Shaw. Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane and Mayank Agarwal are the three who will play the second of the two 'A' games to get some quality practice in New Zealand conditions before the Test series.

The selection committee wants these three Test regulars to get at least two practice games before the Tests start. Aside from the 'A' games, the Indian team will be playing a tour game.

"The selection committee is of the view that it's better that Test specialists travel early to get used to conditions. It will help them get enough practice," sources in the BCCI informed. India A will travel to New Zealand in the first week of January.

Shaw started his comeback in November in a Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy game after serving a back-dated eight-month suspension by the BCCI for failing a dope Test. He started off with a 39-ball 63 in that game, and has continued to be prolific.

"I will just keep scoring runs. It is all about the selectors and what they think. My job is to score runs and win games for the team," Shaw had said then.

Once he returned to competitive cricket, Shaw also spoke about how he bounced back from the ban.

"I had never thought that something like this would happen. I was obviously upset. For the first 20-25 days after I was banned, I was not able to understand how did it happen. Time passed by. I went to London and chilled out there as I was not allowed to practise till September 15. After that I stabilised myself and kept myself mentally stronger by telling myself these three months would pass. But each day was hard, it was getting longer. It's all past now.

"I think this period has been a big learning experience for me. Obviously, I committed a mistake. I had no idea what I was consuming," he said. "In that period I was alone and was trying to stay away from people and their advice. I was telling myself that I can get out of this mess and be mentally strong."

Shaw also talked about the role of Rahul Dravid, who is the head of cricket in Bangalore's National Cricket Academy, in his comeback.

"After returning from London, Rahul (Dravid) sir called me to the NCA for training. There I went through a series of fitness tests like yo-yo. Under Rahul sir a lot of focus was on fitness. I had to clear all my fitness tests. What also helped was that during the nets good bowlers were available like Kuldeep Yadav, Bhuvni (Bhuvneshwar Kumar) and Varun Aaron. Besides, Rahul sir was always there for guidance and mental issues."

Recently, Shaw, 20, got raving support from Brian Lara, who picked him as a likely candidate to break his record of 400 runs in a single Test innings. "It will need an attacking option. I know he's fell off the radar a little bit. Prithvi Shaw was one of those attacking options. Hey, here's a 19-year-old who has the world in front of him, hopefully, he can come back soon."

Debutant who took alternate track to first-class cricket

VISHAL MENON
MEERUT, DECEMBER 9

WHILE GROWING up in the bylanes of Chhawla, a dusty South-West Delhi suburb adjoining Najafgarh, an impressionable young Dinesh Mor aspired to walk in the footsteps of MS Dhoni. He would binge-watch all his matches; Dhoni posters would adorn the walls of the small two-room apartment where he lived with his parents and elder brother; and later when he decided to pursue cricket, the first thing he would grab was the wicketkeeping gloves.

For Dinesh, the MS connect did not end there. Last year, his cricketing exploits on the junior circuit helped him secure the job of a ticket examiner with Indian Railways. He could not help but gush when asked about the parallels with the former India captain. "It's just destiny I guess," he says with a chuckle, before adding: "During my off-season this year, I was posted at Delhi Cantonment station."

On Monday, the ticket examiner would give an impressive account of himself on his Ranji Trophy debut for Railways. Pitted against Uttar Pradesh in the idyllic setting of Meerut's Victoria Park — a charming first-class venue replete with whitewashed seats and a structure called O'Donnell's Pavilion — Railways got off to a disastrous start before the debutant wicketkeeper-batsman's unbeaten 89 helped his team finish Day 1 at a somewhat respectable 244/8, a score that seemed well beyond them at 36/3 in the morning session, with Uttar Pradesh's pace trio — Ankeet Rajpoot, Shivam Mavi and Yash



Dinesh Mor moved from Delhi to Railways. He is batting on 89*.

Dayal — breathing fire on a lively pitch with substantial grass cover.

Dinesh's batting partner was another debutant — Navneet Virk. The duo forged an 83-run stand for the fifth wicket that calmed frayed nerves in the dressing room. Virk was dismissed just before tea for a well-compiled 58, but Dinesh marched on. He brought up his half-century with a fierce upper cut through the third-man region. The UP team tried its best to unnervise the debutant — Rajpoot sledged him, and Mavi targeted him with a barrage of short-pitched deliveries. Dinesh also had to cop several blows on his stomach, and even received a deep gash on his right eyebrow.

But the assault didn't affect his momentum. Dinesh's dazzling stroke-play — especially his cover drives — lit up the afternoon session. "I looked to bat positively and backed myself to play my shots, because I realised that on such a green-tinged track, if you look to just survive,

it's only a matter of time before you would nick one to the 'keeper or slips," he explained.

That Dinesh performed so admirably in a difficult initiation to first-class cricket does not come as a surprise to those who have watched him from close quarters. Right from his U-16 days, Dinesh was known as his teams' crisis manager. "He always delivers in crunch situations," would be the common phrase used to describe him. A fitting example of his match-winning exploits was the U-23 CK Nayudu semifinal against Tamil Nadu two seasons ago. Playing for Delhi back then, Dinesh walked in at No. 7 and scored an unbeaten 152 to take the team into the final against Mumbai.

In the summit clash, he would score 46 not out to help Delhi clinch the title. "If he would not have scored that century against Tamil Nadu in the semifinal, Delhi would not have won the U-23 title," Sashikala, his childhood coach, tells *The Indian Express*.

Buoyed by that win, an entry into Delhi's Ranji Trophy squad loomed on the horizon. But after being snubbed for two consecutive seasons, Sashikala advised his ward to try his luck elsewhere. "He was picked for Delhi's U-16 squad, scored runs consistently and was also good behind the stumps. But he was not picked in U-19s. He kept performing well and got into the U-23 side, only to be ignored for the Ranji Trophy," Sashikala remembers.

Dinesh was drafted into the Railways U-23 squad the following year (2018-19) after impressing selectors in the trials, and also bagged the job of a ticket examiner through the sports quota. He made most of this opportunity by topping the run-scorers' chart at the U-23 level.

"I was 23 and we needed a steady source of income. So, yes, there were cricketing aspirations. But more than that, I just needed a stable job, which is why I decided to accept the offer from the Railways," Dinesh adds.

"In days' cricket, I had scored 692 runs with three centuries and in one-dayers, 258 runs with one century. All these runs handed me a first-class debut."

Despite father Jagbir's financial struggles — he once worked as a farm hand, before earning a living by transporting building materials on his truck — both his children were able to follow their childhood passion in cricket. Dinesh's elder brother Sandeep is also trying to break into the Delhi senior team.

A dotting son, younger brother, ardent Dhoni fan, ticket examiner, and his teams' crisis manager, the 24-year-old has performed various roles with aplomb. But there's little doubt that it's his latest one — a first-class cricketer — which would fill him with the most pride.

BRIEF SCORES: Railways 244/8 (Dinesh Mor 89 not out, Navneet Virk 58; Yash Dayal 3-47) vs Uttar Pradesh

RANJI ROUND-UP

PUJARA BOWLED, YET AGAIN

IN HIS LAST 9 Test innings, Cheteshwar Pujara has been either bowled or nailed leg before the wicket two times apiece. Both bowled were hatched by two of the finest seam-bowlers around, Kumar Roach and Vernon Philander, the former with an inch-perfect nip-backer and the latter with a beastly nip-backer. The feet, on both instances, were crease-tied. In Dharamshala, an obscure 21-year-old medium-pacer, Vaibhav Arora burst through his defence, for a meagre two on an apparently fast-bowler friendly surface that saw 17 wickets fall on the first day. Alas, there's no footage of the dismissal, but the nerdy Kiwi pacemen would jot that point in their notebook. Arora, meanwhile, pouched two more as Saurashtra are fighting to eke out first-innings lead, though the match in all likelihood would have a clear result.

BRIEF SCORES (AT DHARAMSHALA): Himachal Pradesh 120 all out (Prashant Chopra 33, Sumeet Verma 22; Prerak Mankad 3/13, Chirag Jani 3/26) vs Saurashtra 93/7 (Snell Patel 42, Arpit Vasavada 16, Vaibhav Arora 3/20, Pankaj Jaiswal 3/29).

VIHARI BACK IN BUSINESS

It attests to India's batting depth and permutational priorities that Hanuma Vihari, two innings after he scored his maiden Test hundred, found himself out of the eleven for the two Tests against South Africa and the Bangladesh series. But Vihari has quietly returned to the domestic circuit, doing stuff that he has been routinely doing for Andhra. Much of Andhra's resurgence in the last few years has been down to the stability he has afforded them, and he did so yet again with a strokeful 83 in a total of 211 runs against champions Vidarbha, who began their quest to a hat-trick of Ranji titles on a clinical note.

ANDHRA (AT VIJAYAWADA) Innings 211 (Hanuma Vihari 83, Aditya Sarwate 4/50 in 18 overs) vs Vidarbha 26/0

MAYANK WINS ASHWIN BATTLE

Ravichandran Ashwin nearly burst his lungs, as he ran frantically after dismissing the in-form Mayank Agarwal in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy final in Surat. In a week's time, they encountered again in Dindigul, but this time Agarwal won the battle. Ashwin struck rhythm straight away,



A snake briefly interrupted play on Day 1 of the Andhra-Vidarbha game. BCCI

and almost had him caught at short-leg, only for the edge to elude him. But thereafter, Agarwal dead-batted and defused him. The characteristically aggressive batsman pulled the shutters down on his scoring, and at one stage he scored just three off 38 balls. But post-drinks, he was in a different mood, straightaway lofting Ashwin over

long-on for a six. Swiftly, he moved to 43 off 76 balls, scoring 39 off his next 38 balls, before he gifted his wicket to debuting left-arm spinner Manimaran Siddharth. But with Ashwin, defanged, half the battle was won for Karnataka.

BRIEF SCORES (AT DINDIGUL):

Karnataka 259/6 (Devdutt Padikkal 78, Pavan Deshpande 65; M Siddharth 2-33, Baba Aparajith 1-24) vs Tamil Nadu.

CATCH 22 FOR UTHAPPA

Just two tournaments into the domestic season, Robin Uthappa was already a man under immense pressure, after his lacklustre returns for new team Kerala. He was even stripped off captaincy, but Uthappa returned to form with a patient hundred, 102 coming off 221 deliveries, against Delhi's resourceful pace quartet. Uthappa began slowly, if labouriously until he completed his half-century. He then raced to his first first-class hundred in nearly two years and 20 innings, his 22nd overall. As for Delhi, they will rue the bizarre four-seamer ploy on a slow surface.

BRIEF SCORES (AT THUMBA): Kerala 276/3 (Robin Uthappa 102 off 221 balls, Ponnamm Rahul 97) vs Delhi.

REX PICKS 8

Left-arm seamer Rex Singh's 10-wicket haul in the U-23 Cooch Behar Trophy went viral last year, though first-class outings weren't quite as rewarding. Two games yielded just

two wickets for the Manipur lad, but against Mizoram in Kolkata, he grabbed eight wickets for 22 runs. Five of them were lbw, two were bowleds, requiring a fielder's assistance just once. He then returned to smack 58 off 66 balls. While his exploits have come against a callow side, he's worth keeping an eye on.

BRIEF SCORES (AT KOLKATA): Mizoram: 65 all out in 16 overs (Taruwar Kohli 34; Rex Singh 8/22) vs Manipur 255/7 in 71 overs (Chingangbam Singh 89, Rex Singh 58; Bobby Zothansanga 4/75).

STUTTERING START FOR UNMUKT

Unmukt Chand's career-restoring bid began shakily, as he survived only seven balls in his maiden first-class excursion for Uttarakhand, who he also captains. His decision to bowl first seemed vindicated as Jammu and Kashmir were bundled out for 182, a score that looks unassailable as his Uttarakhand is tottering at 64/7.

BRIEF SCORES (AT DEHRADUN): Jammu and Kashmir 182 in 49.2 overs (SP Khajuria 47; RS Shah 3/18) vs Uttarakhand 64 for 7 in 25 overs (TM Srivastava 17; M Mudhasir 3/11).

WADA ups the ante, bans Russia

The four-year term, if the CAS upholds, would exclude the country from the 2020 Olympics, Winter Games and FIFA World Cup

TARIQ PANJA
LAUSANNE, DECEMBER 9

GLOBAL ANTI-DOPING leaders agreed unanimously on Monday to banish Russia from international sports — including next summer's Olympic Games in Tokyo — for four years, the latest and severest punishment yet connected to a years-long cheating scheme that has tarnished global sport.

The World Anti-Doping Agency's punishment means that Russia's flag, name and anthem will not be allowed at the Tokyo Games, though athletes not implicated in doping could compete under a neutral flag. The agency also barred Russian sports and government officials from the Games and prohibited the country from hosting international events.

The move, which comes four years after the first details of the scheme that peaked at the 2014 Sochi Olympics were made public, was hailed by WADA as a tough step, though some antidoping leaders questioned that. "For too long, Russian doping has detracted from clean sport," WADA president Craig Reedie said at a news conference. "Russia was afforded every opportunity to get its house in order and re-join the global antidoping community for the good of its athletes and of the integrity of sport, but it chose instead to continue in its stance of deception and denial."

To some, including many athlete groups and national antidoping agencies, the punishment does not go far enough, because it leaves open the possibility that hundreds of Russian athletes can appear in Tokyo, just as they did at the Winter Olympics in South Korea last year.

The decision is unlikely to surprise many given the scale of Russia's attempt to conceal, obfuscate and frustrate attempts to unmask the beneficiaries of a state-powered doping program, remarkable for its sophistication and scope. Still, Russia is almost certain to contest the decision. It continues to steadfastly deny many of the allegations, even after several independent investigations that have revealed a welter of evidence against it.

Russian officials have 21 days to lodge an appeal with the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport after the announcement from the antidoping agency, which convened for a special meeting near the International Olympic Committee's headquarters in Lausanne. The Russian prime minister, Dmitri Medvedev, encouraged an appeal, saying that the antidoping agency's decision looked to him like a "continuation of anti-Russian hysteria."

WADA officials said the practicalities of Russia's ban still needed to be worked out with individual sports federations. For example, Russia would be allowed to compete in the qualification matches for the 2022 World Cup, though should it progress to the tournament the team would be allowed to participate only as a neutral, without any insignia that would identify the team as being Russian.

If Russia is unable to have the ruling overturned, the country's ouster from the world of international sport would stretch to events well beyond the Olympics, including soccer's World Cup. What has angered many is Russia's mendacity in the face of efforts to rehabilitate the country after whistle-blower evidence helped unravel a meticulously planned — and ultimately successful — scheme in which Russian antidoping experts and members of the country's intelligence service surreptitiously replaced urine samples tainted by performance-enhancing drugs with clean urine at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

As part of the resolution of that case, Russia agreed to provide a set of testing results to doping regulators from its Moscow laboratory. It is that database, which Russia was found to have manipulated, that is at the heart of a crisis that threatens its sporting future.

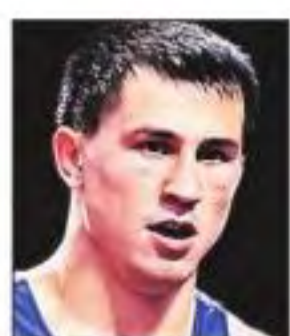
Taylor, who will be stepping down from his role at WADA at the end of the year, told *The New York Times* that he could understand why some people would think the penalties did not go far enough, but he insisted that the measures meted out amounted to a humiliation for the Russian authorities. "Don't tell me that



Russian officials have 21 days to lodge an appeal with the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport after the announcement from the anti-doping agency. AP

A COSTLY EXPULSION

Global sporting giants Russia's absence could leave the Olympics poorer. It could prevent some of the world's finest athletes from action as well. Here is a list of medal hopefuls at the 2020 Olympics who will not be allowed to compete under the Russian flag but may be allowed to compete as authorised neutral athletes (ANA) at the Tokyo Games.



ROMAN VLASOV (MEN'S WRESTLING): The two-time reigning 77kg Olympic champion, multiple European and World Champion, he is one of the most pedigreed wrestlers around.

MARIYA LASITSKENE (WOMEN'S HIGH JUMP): Ranked number one in the world, she won gold at the 2017 and 2019 World Championships and the 2019 European Indoor Championships.

ANZHELIKA SIDOROVA (WOMEN'S POLE VAULT): She had won gold at the 2019 World Championships in Doha as well as the 2019 European Indoor Championships.

MIKHAIL AKIMENKO (MEN'S HIGH JUMP): The ace jumper had claimed silver at the 2019 World Championships in Doha.

NIKITA NAGORNYY (Men's gymnastics): He had won three gold medals at the 2019 World Championships in Stuttgart, besides silver (team) at the 2016 Olympics. Supposedly one of the finest in the world. Also missing will be Artur Dalaloyan, who won gold (team) at the 2019 World Championships in Stuttgart.

VLADIMIR MOROZOV (MEN'S SWIMMING): The current world record holder in the 100m individual medley, clocked the fastest times of the season in 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle and 50m breaststroke.

KLIMENT KOLESNIKOV (MEN'S SWIMMING): One of the finest young talents around, he won six gold medals at 2018 Summer Youth Olympics, apart from silver and two bronze medals at 2019 World Championships.

ANTON CHUPKOV (MEN'S SWIMMING): One of the best in his format, he won the 200m breaststroke gold at the 2019 World Championship and the 200m breaststroke bronze at the 2016 Olympics. Also will be missing Evgeny Rylov, who won the 200m backstroke gold at the 2019 World Championships and women swimmer, the versatile Yulia Efimova, multiple silver-medal winner at the 2016 Olympics. Also missing will be the synchronized swimming team, which has captured all gold medals from 2000 to 2016.



DANIL MEDVEDEV (MEN'S TENNIS): Arguably the finest ever Russian tennis player, who's ranked number five in the world and was the runner-up at the 2019 US Open.

Russia can play in 2022 WC qualifiers: WADA-linked official

Lausanne: An official linked to the World Anti-Doping Agency said on Monday Russia can participate in qualifying for the 2022 World Cup despite receiving a four-year ban from major global sporting events. WADA's executive committee placed the suspension on Russia earlier in the day after accusing Moscow of falsifying laboratory doping data handed over to investigators this year.

"Because the qualifiers don't decide the world champion, Russia can take part. The decision applies to the World Cup tournament because it decides the world champion," said Jonathan Taylor, chairman of WADA's Compliance Review

Committee. "FIFA would come with some new proposals," he added. World football's governing body said earlier on Monday it was seeking clarification about the extent of the suspension. Russia hosted the 2018 World Cup. FIFA has taken note of the decision taken by WADA Executive Committee today," a statement said.

"FIFA is in contact with WADA and ASOIF (Association of Summer Olympic International Federations) to clarify the extent of the decision in regards to football," it added.

Russia will be ruled out of the next Olympic cycle, and its government's offi-

cial will be barred from attending any major events, while the country will lose the right to host, or even bid, for tournaments. Under the sanctions, Russian athletes will still be allowed to compete at the Olympics next year and the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics but only if they can demonstrate that they were not part of what WADA believes was a state-sponsored system of doping.

Russia's participation at Euro 2020, in which Saint Petersburg will host four matches, is not affected by the ban because it is not defined as a "major event" for anti-doping purposes.

REUTERS

Russia was afforded every opportunity to get its house in order and rejoin the global anti-doping community, but it chose instead to continue in its stance of deception and denial."

CRAIG REEDIE
WADA PRESIDENT

doesn't affect them," he said. "There's national pride; what happens if this neutral team wins the World Cup and Putin's not there?"

But he offered a concession. "The Russian side, too, — by that I mean our sports community — still has significant problems with doping," he said. "This is undeniable."

Russia's response: Deliberate elimination of rivals

One Russian talk show described the revelations as an attempt by Russia's rivals to eliminate a potential medal-winning opponent, while a documentary tried to lay the

blame on the whistle-blower, Grigory Rodchenkov, who helped mastermind the scheme from his position as the head of the Moscow laboratory.

The claims mirror those of Russian officials who were proved by WADA investigators to frame Rodchenkov and hide the identity of the true culprits. Russia's denials and manipulations of data continued well after WADA had gone public in September with confirmation that thousands of crucial Russian files had been deleted or manipulated, and that the data that was provided did not match a database on Russian athletes that it received in 2017.

Margarita Pakhnotskaya, the deputy head of Russia's antidoping agency, said that the ban should prompt action by officials in her country who have suggested that Russia was being unfairly targeted. "This is another reason for sports executives to think about whether we are moving in the right direction," the Interfax news agency quoted her as saying. "I'm hearing presidents of federations and experts proudly trumpet their activities — 'We have given all the answers, we're surrounded

only by enemies who are attacking our athletes.' This all shows that there has been no change in our antidoping culture."

In a follow-up meeting in October to help explain the discrepancies, Russia's sports minister provided WADA with fresh data, which when studied revealed yet more manipulation. Taylor used an expletive to describe Russia's efforts to frame Rodchenkov, which involved fabricating messages between the former laboratory director and his staff, to suggest they were plotting to extort Russian athletes by falsely accusing them of failing drug tests. Details of that scheme and other manipulated evidence were brought to WADA's attention by the sports minister, Pavel Kolobkov. "I don't know if he is corrupt or incompetent," Taylor said of Kolobkov, a former fencer who was appointed to his post after revelations of Russia's vast doping scheme.

"After all of this, who can say whether there are any clean athletes in Russia if the crucial data is lost?" Rodchenkov said in a statement. "Russia dug its own grave and has ruined the chances for any clean Russian athlete to compete. If the files were deleted, how can any athlete credibly prove its innocence?" NYT

EXPLAINED

How Russia's ban could benefit India

IF THE ban remains unrevoked, it could benefit India in a couple of sports the two countries are likely to contest for medals at the Tokyo Games. In wrestling, for example, the path to podium one of India's biggest prospects Bajrang Punia could get relatively easier as reigning world champion Gadzhimurad Rashidov and Rio Olympics gold medalist Soslan Romanov won't compete unless cleared by United World Wrestling and subsequently by the International Olympic Committee.

Similarly, Ravi Kumar's medal chances in 57kg category will be boosted if Zaur Uguev - who won gold at the worlds this year - is not allowed to compete. The biggest loss, from a neutral point of view, will be if Abdulrashid Sadulev, considered one of the best fighters of this generation, won't be able to compete in 97kg; a category brimming with quality wrestlers from USA and Azerbaijan. In boxing, Manish Kaushik (likely candidate for lightweight category) can benefit if Ilija Popov won't be there. Mary Kom, too, can benefit from the absence of Liliya Aetbaeva. In shooting, the participation of Sergey Kaminskiy is in doubt.

ENS

DIVING DEEP

Nasreen, the flea-market vendor's daughter who harnessed the wind

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 9

INDIA'S SOUTH Asian Games (SAG) gold-winning kho-kho captain Nasreen says she learnt the art of eluding chasers while rising to challenging life threw at her.

Playing on hard mud surfaces, Nasreen's early coach would ask her to train with boys' teams, a daunting prospect given they were stronger and faster, and she was often left bruised. "Taang pakadke gira do usko" (pull her down by the leg) would be the standard instruction. I got so good at running fast and diving out of their grasp, I became fearless against tough chasing packs," she recalls.

India's ace diver in kho-kho, who is said to escape chasers like a pashmina slides through a ring, got even better at diving when she moved from mud to the cushioned mat.

A bigger leap had been taken by the family from Shakurpur in Delhi earlier. Her father Mohammad Gafoor sells steel utensils on the streets on most days. He is at the Monday market in Jahangir Puri near Machi market, selling thick, bright winter clothing material, proudly donning the scarf Nasreen brought from Nepal's South Asian Games.

On some days, he earns a maximum margin of Rs 30 in the weekly markets, lugging his wares - bunches of stainless steel spoons and a pack of dozen water drinking glasses.



As soon as it became clear at school that Nasreen was exceptionally speedy on the kho-kho ground (she also participated in athletics and kabaddi), Gafoor knew he had to isolate her from ordinary woes that befall street sellers - from cops and municipality officials chasing away hawkers to unsteady income on lean days. "Khaane ki dikkat, police ke dande, karza,

udhaari, thelaa uthaake le jaaneka dar, yeh sab dimaag ke tension se door karna tha usko," he explains.

Nasreen recalls her father telling her that only her opponents were her enemies for the duration of the match. "Agar India khelegi to desh humaare liyesochega" (if you play for India, the country will think about us), Gafoor reck-



Mohammad Gafoor, Nasreen's father, flaunts a scarf her daughter brought from Nepal. Despite financial woes, he fully supported her. Premnath Pandey.

oned when the 21-year-old debuted a few years ago.

The father would also put his foot down against societal pressures holding her back. "We are Muslims. From childhood, we have been treated badly by all people, and nobody came to our help. When someone talked about purdah, I discussed with my wife and decided

that we'll not listen to anyone," he says. His daughter's dedication and stubbornness were infectious, he adds.

"Relatives had a problem with everything," Nasreen recalls. "Girls shouldn't play, they can't wear shorts, how did you let her go out for the Asian Championships for a week? How did you allow her to be at the national camp for a month in far-off Gujarat? My parents never got demotivated. They said 'let people keep talking, we trust you!'"

Nasreen was fourth among seven sisters and four brothers. Gafoor had come to Delhi from Araria district in Bihar, after being orphaned by age 14, and robbed of his ancestral property by relations. After Nasreen won gold at SAG, Gafoor says with pride: "Pehle woh Gafoor ki chhori thi. Ab main Nasreen ka papa karke jaana jaata hoon. (Earlier, she was Gafoor's daughter. Now I'm known as Nasreen's father.)"

In Nepal, Nasreen's team came up against a home team coached by Indians Munnijoon and Sheetal Chauhan. "They surprised us by showing our skills. We'll have to up our game," Nasreen says ahead of the inaugural franchise-based kho-kho league in February.

Now she brings home a monthly salary of Rs 26,000 from her Airport Authority of India job. Night markets meant renting out tables, lights and corners. "2000 in, 500 Rs out," Gafoor laughs.

Having played age-group nationals and

seniors simultaneously and shining at all levels, Nasreen started enjoying basic luxuries-like national holidays. "Earlier holidays meant markets closed for my father, and chances of no food on that day. As an athlete, I was always hungry, so we would dread holidays. Now I celebrate holidays like others," she says.

Kho-kho also fulfilled a dream she hadn't dared to dream as a municipal school girl in Class 3. "Properly London hoke aaye!" England plays kho-kho at the university level, so we went for an international series. I sat in a plane for the first time. My father laminated the entire newspaper page though my news was just two bars," Nasreen laughs.

The father-daughter duo also gathered courage to travel to Bihar and meet local officials to reclaim their snatched property earlier this year. Gafoor says Nasreen is India's gold-winning captain and speaks confidently "like an officer." As India captain, she likes forging team bonds and camaraderie, and solving language problems of players from across the country as she is quick to grasp different tongues. Nothing significant was achieved on the last visit to their native village, but Gafoor insists he was proud of how fearlessly his daughter put forward her point in front of highly-educated officials. "I've trained with men trying to drag me down by my feet in my sport. I can dive out of everyone's reach. I'm also confident of talking to anyone," says the second-year student.

BRIEFLY

SAG: India closes in on 300-medal mark

Kathmandu: India clinched 42 medals, including 27 gold, on the penultimate day of competitions to inch closer to 300-mark as the country is poised to finish on top spot for the 13th time on the trot in the South Asian Games. The Indian athletes also won 12 silver and 3 bronze to end Day 8 with 294 medals (159 gold, 91 silver and 44 gold) to further widen the gap with second-placed Nepal who have collected 195 medals (49 gold, 54 silver and 92 bronze). Sri Lanka are third with 236 medals (39 gold, 79 silver and 118 bronze). With just a few events -- including seven boxing finals -- left on the closing day on Tuesday, India is unlikely to cross the 309 total medals won in Guwahati and Shillong in the last edition in 2016 but may go past the 300-mark.

Real Kashmir's home matches postponed

New Delhi: Real Kashmir FC's two upcoming home I-League matches were on Monday postponed owing to inclement weather which has forced closure of the Srinagar airport, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said. Flight operations at Srinagar airport have been disrupted since Sunday due to dense fog. "With the Srinagar Airport not being operational due to poor weather conditions, Real Kashmir Football Club's first two home matches against Gokulam Kerala FC on December 12, 2019, and Churchill Brothers FC Goa on December 15, 2019, stands postponed," the AIFF said in a press release.

Jamshedpur draw with Chennaiyin

Jamshedpur: Jamshedpur FC and Chennaiyin FC settled for a point in the Indian Super League encounter which ended 1-1. Chennaiyin took the lead through Nerijus Valskis' fine strike in the 26th minute. However, Jamshedpur denied Chennaiyin a win by equalising in the 89th minute through Issac Vanmalsawma. Jamshedpur are in the fourth position with 12 points while Chennaiyin FC are still ninth with six points. **PTI**

Leaky Liverpool face soaring Salzburg

With an injury-hit backline, defending champions look to avoid defeat against free-scoring Austrian team

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON, DECEMBER 9

LIVERPOOL TRAVEL to Salzburg on Tuesday needing to avoid defeat to the confident Austrian champions to guard against an embarrassing Champions League group stage exit for the holders.

Jürgen Klopp's men are used to getting through to the knockout stages the hard way. In each of the past two seasons, they have needed home wins to secure a place in the last 16 before going on to make the final.

However, the spectre of a free-scoring Salzburg, led by the Champions League's top scorer in Erling Braut Haaland spells trouble for an injury-hit Liverpool backline that has consistently leaked goals this season despite streaking clear at the top of the Premier League.

The Reds' recorded a first clean sheet in 14 games in Saturday's 3-0 win at Bournemouth, but lost another centre-back as Dejan Lovren limped off in the first half.

Should the Croatian miss the trip to Austria, Joe Gomez will be Klopp's only fit partner for Virgil van Dijk in central defence. Van Dijk narrowly missed out to Lionel Messi in the battle for the Ballon d'Or last week in recognition of the transformative effect he has had on Liverpool's fortunes over the past two years.

But even the towering Dutchman has been incapable of stopping the steady flow of goals against in recent months. Injuries have meant there has been a constant rotation of Lovren, Gomez and Joel Matip alongside Van Dijk, while the attacking impetus offered by full-backs Andy Robertson and Trent Alexander-Arnold leaves space in behind to be exploited. Goalkeeper Alisson Becker also missed the first two months of the season due to a calf injury to further unsettle the backline. The Brazilian is now back, but another injury to Fabinho has robbed the back four of the best player to protect them in the holding midfield role.

Topsy-turvy first meeting

"I forgot how it feels, to be honest," said Klopp on finally ending the long wait for a clean sheet at the weekend.

"It's great, we should have them more often. It was the most-used word in the dressing room by the boys - 'clean sheet, clean sheet, clean sheet.' 'Obviously everybody was desperate for that, now we have it so let's have it more often. The next game where a clean sheet would be useful is already around the corner, against Salzburg on Tuesday."



Jürgen Klopp's men recorded a first clean sheet in 14 games in Saturday's 3-0 win at Bournemouth, but lost another centre-back as Dejan Lovren limped off in the first half. *Reuters*

That is easier said than done as Liverpool know from their first meeting with Jesse Marsch's men in October. The hosts seemed to be cruising to another Anfield win in the Champions League as they raced into a 3-0 lead, but Salzburg hit back to level at 3-3 before Mohamed Salah's winner ensured Liverpool edged a seven-goal thriller.

Salzburg have scored 87 goals in 24 games in all competitions this season, 28 of which have come from Norwegian wonderkid Haaland in just 21 appearances.

The 19-year-old started on the bench when the sides met at Anfield due to injury, but came on to inspire the visitors' revival in the second half and scored one of his eight Champions League goals. "He's not the only threat from Salzburg but he's a proper one," said Klopp of the danger posed by Haaland ahead of the sides' first clash.

Salzburg need to win to make the last 16 on their first appearance in the group stage in 25 years. A point would be enough for

Liverpool to progress, but they need to win to secure top spot in Group E ahead of Napoli.

Given Liverpool's paucity of clean sheets and Salzburg's thirst for goals, attack would appear to be the best form of defence for the European champions.

Chelsea's talisman Tammy

Tammy Abraham has emerged as Chelsea's talisman thanks to a breakthrough season that has taken his side to the brink of the Champions League last 16.

Just 18 months ago, Abraham was one of a host of Chelsea players packed off for yet another loan spell that seemed to indicate his chances of ever shining with the Blues were slim to non-existent.

But Abraham's time in the Championship with Aston Villa proved the making of the young striker and Chelsea are reaping the rewards. Now Abraham stands as the undisputed leader of Chelsea's attack, with his powerful presence and predatory instincts making

him an essential part of Frank Lampard's precocious team.

If Chelsea are to secure the win they need to make the Champions League knockout stages, then it is Abraham who is likely to play the key role in the Group H clash with Lille at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday. Abraham is just 22 and playing only his second season in the top flight, but the England international's huge value to Chelsea was clear to see over the last 10 days. When he was sidelined with a hip injury for their London derby against West Ham, Abraham's absence left Chelsea looking impotent as they slumped to a shock 1-0 defeat. But just days later, Abraham was back in the starting line-up and Chelsea were revitalised as he produced a goal and an assist in a 2-1 win against Aston Villa.

LIVE: Key fixtures: Salzburg vs Liverpool (23:25, SONY TEN 2 SD & HD); Inter Milan vs Barcelona (01:30, SONY TEN 2 SD & HD); Ajax vs Valencia (01:30, SONY TEN 3 SD & HD); Chelsea vs Lille (01:30 SONY TEN 1 SD & HD)

Lanka arrive for first Tests in Pakistan since 2009 attack

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD, DECEMBER 9

SRI LANKA'S cricket team arrived in Pakistan on Monday to play two-test series that will be the first tests in Pakistan in over a decade.

Sri Lanka was the last team to play a test match in Pakistan in 2009 before the tearful came under terrorist attack at Lahore and the doors to international cricket were closed on Pakistan. Eight people were killed and several Sri Lankan players and team officials were injured during the attack.

"It's a huge day for all the Pakistanis and we have been waiting for this day for quite some time," Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ehsan Mani said. "It will send a strong message to the whole cricketing world that Pakistan has the ability to host all its home matches in Pakistan."

The PCB has been trying for the last four years to convince foreign teams to play in Pakistan. Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, West Indies and World XI toured Pakistan during this period but all these matches were either ODIs or Twenty20s. The test series in Pakistan was made possible after Sri Lanka toured three months ago and played a ODI and a Twenty20 series at Karachi and Lahore without any security trouble. Pakistan's government has promised top-level security, normally reserved for heads of state. The two test matches will be played at Rawalpindi and Karachi.

A security force of over 4,000, including policemen from Punjab province and the Pakistan Army, will be deployed around the Pindi Cricket Stadium where first test starts on Wednesday. Karachi will host the second test from Dec. 19-23.

"We have suffered a lot for the last 10 years and I really want to thank all the (security) forces, especially the Pakistan Army, for making this dream come true," Mani, the PCB chairman said.

"I also want to thank the Sri Lanka Cricket for showing confidence in Pakistan's abilities to host international matches and I think the doors of international cricket will be completely opened for Pakistan."

PCB's director cricket operations Zakir Khan welcomed the Sri Lanka team members at Islamabad International Airport before the team drove to the hotel amid tight security on Monday.

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Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

APPEAL TO DRIVERS

Due to fog in the winter season, accidents increase on roads, causing loss of life and property. Keeping the current season in view, general public is requested to

- Check weather forecast before driving in fog to prevent accidents.
- Keep vehicles in good condition and ensure that parts like headlights, tail lights, fog lights, indicators and reflectors, brakes, tyres, windscreen wipers, battery and car heating system are in proper working condition.
- In case of fog warning try to delay travelling till the weather clears.
- Keep vehicle on low-beam because high-beam is not effective during mist.
- Use fog lights, drive in controlled speed, maintain proper distance between vehicles and keep in mind the white stripes marked on roads for guidance.
- Roll down windows of the vehicle for ensuring safe driving by listening to other vehicles if unable to see in dense fog.
- In case of an emergency, if the vehicle has to be stopped on the way, then park the vehicle safely down the road.
- Do not overtake and change lane unnecessarily while driving in fog.
- Avoid parking your vehicle on busy roads.

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