

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT AHEAD OF JAISHANKAR-RAJNATH VISIT NEXT WEEK

## CAB's diplomatic echo: Washington and Dhaka flag worry, Japan PM visit called off

UN human rights official says law is fundamentally discriminatory

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

IN A strongly worded statement on the new citizenship law — its first on the issue — the Trump administration Friday urged India to “protect the rights of its religious minorities” in keeping with its “Constitution and democratic values”.

The statement, which was released by the US State Department in Washington DC and shared by the US Embassy in Delhi, came on a day when the agitation in Assam against the law simmered down after two days of violence in which two people were killed in Guwahati during clashes with security forces.

The new law came into effect after the President gave his assent to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill late Thursday. It grants citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, Jains and Parsis — but not Muslims — who entered the country from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan until December 31, 2014.

“We are closely following developments regarding the Citizenship Amendment Bill. Respect for religious freedom

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At a protest against the new citizenship law outside the Jamia Millia Islamia university in New Delhi on Friday. Praveen Khanna

### Assam was setting stage for Abe visit, dates deferred

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

LESS THAN 48 hours before Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was scheduled to arrive in India for the annual bilateral summit meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, New Delhi and Tokyo on Friday decided to put off his visit in the backdrop of protests in the North-East, especially Assam,

after local residents joined the students, who had planned a march to Parliament, taking the number of protesters to over 1,000. However, students alleged police had “used excessive force during a peaceful march”.

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### In Delhi, Jamia protest turns violent, police use teargas

SHIVAM PATEL  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

AT LEAST 42 students were detained and over 25 injured Friday after Delhi Police fired tear gas shells and resorted to lathi charge during a protest against the new citizenship law at Jamia Millia Islamia.

Police claimed that they took action to control the situation

after local residents joined the students, who had planned a march to Parliament, taking the number of protesters to over 1,000. However, students alleged police had “used excessive force during a peaceful march”.

“Forty-two students were detained, of which 10 are from DU. The protesters were asked not to hold the protest as they didn’t have permission. They

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## In a first, regulator hikes prices of essential drugs

PRABHA RAGHAVAN  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

TO ENSURE supply of crucial medicines, India’s drug pricing regulator has allowed an increase in the maximum retail prices of 21 drugs currently under price control by as much as 50 per cent. This is the first time the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) — which is known to slash prices of essential and life-saving medicines — is increasing prices in public interest to prevent patients opting for costlier alternatives in the face of shortage of these drugs.

Most of these drugs are used as first line of treatment and are integral to public health programmes.

The decision by the NPPA, taken at a meeting on December 9, will apply to formulations like the BCG vaccine for tuberculosis, Bangladesh’s Acting Foreign Secretary Kamrul Ahsan, in a rare move, summoned Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das at the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry on Thursday evening and requested extra security for the mission.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque is at The Hague for the ICJ hearing on the Rohingya issue. According to officials, the security vehicle escorting Shah Mohammad Tanvir Monsur, Bangladesh’s Assistant High Commissioner in Guwahati, was attacked by protesters on Wednesday. Some protesters

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### EXPLAINED Building capabilities need of day

MANUFACTURERS HAVE been citing difficulties in supplying these drugs as the cost of making them has gone up, and inaction by NPPA could have led to a shortage. Experts say to avoid such a situation, India has to build capabilities to manufacture the key ingredients for these medicines.

The Indian Express had, in July, reported that the Authority was mulling a proposal to increase prices of certain medicines under price control to offset potential shortages due to increasing prices of key ingredients used to make them.

“The Authority noted that the twenty one scheduled formulations being considered for

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## In Bengal govt-Governor standoff, one pending Bill hangs on ‘optical illusion’

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA  
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 13

AFTER BEING adjourned for two days last week, the West Bengal Assembly’s winter session was concluded sine die on Tuesday, over the unprecedented reason of “delay” by the Governor on Bills. One of the Bills under contention is a legislation against lynching, over which Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and the Mamata Banerjee government have exchanged a series of letters since August, with the Law Department citing “optical illusion” as an explanation in one communication.

The West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill was passed by the Assembly on August 30, just over a month after Dhankhar took over



Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar outside the Assembly. File

as Governor. The Bill contained provision for death penalty, unlike the draft that had life term as the severest punishment.

The Governor is yet to clear the Bill.

The Indian Express accessed the official communication over the legislation between the government and Raj Bhavan. On

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## NRC buzz triggers advisories, videos: Get IDs ready

MOHAMED THAYER, AMRITA DUTTA & RAHUL PISHARODY  
MUMBAI, BANGALURU, HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 13

THE UNUSUAL advisory is issued just before Friday prayers begin: gather your ID papers, keep them ready. Then, there are tutorial videos on WhatsApp groups, and seminars and workshops, to en-

sure uniform spelling across these documents. A guide book in Urdu has gone into its third edition in less than a month.

From Bengaluru to Kolkata, and Mumbai to Hyderabad, mosques, Muslim groups, lawyers and activists are rushing to ensure that community members have their identity documents in place.

Their fear is that “shoddy record-keeping” may have

“robbed thousands” of citizenship during the NRC in Assam this year — 19,06,657 people were excluded in the final list.

And there’s no time, they say, not after Union Home Minister Amit Shah declared in Parliament this week what was largely seen until then as election rhetoric: After the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, the government will roll out the National Register of Citizens

(NRC) across the nation.

“For the last three months, we have asked people to rectify errors or mismatches in identity documents,” said Maulana Imran Maqsood, the imam of Bengaluru’s Jamia Masjid, which has opened a help centre.

Some of the most common issues are spelling errors, he says. “The name Mohammad can be spelt in many ways. Then there

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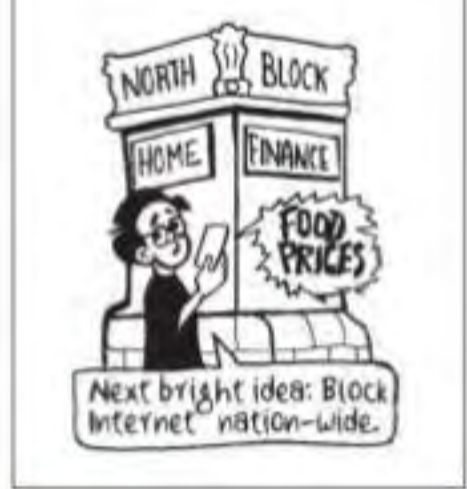


17-YEAR-OLD AMONG 2 KILLED IN ASSAM

FULL COVERAGE  
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### BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



### WORLD

BORIS JOHNSON WINS UK POLLS, SAYS BREXIT SOON  
PAGE 17

## Man at centre of ‘honey trap’ in MP faces heat: 6 properties hit in a week

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

MILIND GHATWAI  
BHOPAL, DECEMBER 13

ON DECEMBER 5, the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) pulled down a plush hotel in the city owned by businessman Jeetu Soni, even as the High Court was hearing a plea by his lawyers seeking more time to respond to the corporation’s showcause notice.

This is just one of his six properties that faced action — four, including the hotel, were demolished on December 5, one on December 9, and another on December 11.



Hotel partly demolished while HC was hearing plea

Soni, who owned and edited Sanjha Lokswami — an evening in Indore that had

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### MARINE DRIVE ECO RETREAT

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Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare  
Science & Technology and Earth Sciences  
Govt. of India

Guest of Honour  
**Sh. GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT**  
Hon'ble Union Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti  
Govt. of India

Director  
**DR. G.S. TOTEJA**  
Additional Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR), New Delhi and  
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WEB EXCLUSIVE

HOW THE CITIZENSHIP LAW DIFFERS FROM THE BILL THAT LS CLEARED IN JANUARY

To amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, an earlier version of the CAB was introduced in 2016. This Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on January 8, 2019. However, it lapsed with the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha this summer

VIDEO OF THE DAY



RAHUL'S 'RAPE' REMARK TRIGGERS ROW

BJP leaders protest in LS and demand an apology from him

FULL COVERAGE



ANTI-CAB PROTESTS: LIVE COVERAGE

Amit Shah's visit to Meghalaya, Arunachal cancelled

EXPRESS AUDIO

Tech Roundup- Looking back at 2019

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

On Our Own Devices, tech reporters discuss what trends they've noticed this year. They discuss everything from tablets good enough to forego laptops and whether 64MP cameras are really any better than 48MP to how social media changed

FROM PAGE ONE

Abe visit

to defer the visit to a mutually convenient date in the near future... Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) official spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said on Friday.

Abe, who was scheduled to arrive on Sunday for a three-day visit (December 15-17), was expected to travel to Guwahati for the meeting. While the MEA had announced the dates, there was no official announcement on the venue — although preparations were underway in Assam's capital.

But with the ongoing protests in the region, the situation was considered "not conducive" for a "high-profile visit".

Sources said the idea of picking Guwahati as the venue was to showcase India's Act-East policy in tune with the Japanese government's support. Abe's presence was meant to signal the priority to North-East in India's diplomacy.

But the current situation led to an assessment by Japanese diplomats that the time was not appropriate for a visit, which would be marred by the attention to the ongoing protests. Sources said Japan was keen that the visit should take place in an atmosphere where the outcomes get the attention and priority they deserve. "It was not supposed to be a visit for the sake of a visit," a source said.

Delhi was a last-minute option, but since the signal to the North-East was a common priority, the two sides decided to cancel the visit for now.

Sources said the summit was now likely to take place in 2020, but the common understanding between Delhi and Tokyo is that it should be held in the North-East.

Odisha, which was initially considered as a possible venue, could not be readied in such short notice. However, sources did not rule out the summit taking place in the eastern state as well.

NRC buzz

are elderly people, whose dates of birth vary from document to document, simply because they were born at home, and no one kept exact records," said Maqsood.

"There are about 1,800 mosques in Karnataka. A message at the end of each Friday prayer will go a long way in spreading awareness," he said.

In the city's Frazier Town area, the Masjid Haji Ismail Sait has been circulating "self-assessment" forms to prepare for any enumeration exercise. The forms ask people to list various ID documents in their possession, from PAN to Aadhaar, birth certificates to property records.

"We check for any inconsistencies in names, addresses. For those who do not have PAN cards or voter cards, we try to put them in touch with the required agencies and start the process. We have distributed 6,000 forms, and invited everyone, irrespective of religion or caste, to fill them out," said Suhail Ahmed, secretary of the Masjid.

The form also asks residents to keep service records, if employed by the government, list out court cases, and copies of IT returns. "All this is to be on the safe side, to prepare for unforeseen demands. With all this talk of NRC and the Citizenship Amendment Bill, there is worry," said Ahmed.

The BJP-ruled state's Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai has already declared that his government is planning to implement the NRC in the state.

In Mumbai, All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) member Maulana Sayyed Atharali said: "Nearly two months ago, we conducted seminars at several places in south Mumbai. These were steered by lawyers, ulemas and attended by around 200-300 people."

Advocate Momin

Musaddique, who practises in Bombay High Court and hails from the textile town of Malegaon, said one of the main objectives of the drive is to prevent the spread of misinformation.

"The Noori academy has shot two videos with me where I explain basic issues like the fact that 1971 deadline was for Assam on account of reasons specific to the state. Even if there is nationwide NRC, 1971 will not be the cut-off date," he said.

Facing a high number of queries, Musaddique asked his friend Ata-Ur-Rehman Noori, a research scholar from Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar University in Aurangabad who also runs the academy, to write a book on the issue.

"I wrote the book 'NRC Andeshe, masle aur hal (NRC Anxieties, questions and solutions)' and released it on November 17. Such has been the demand that two editions - 1,100 books each — have been sold out and a third edition is underway," said Noori.

The 183-page book "is meant to clear misinformation so that people don't end up wasting money doing unnecessary paperwork," he said.

Zubair Azmi, director of Urdu Markaz, a Mumbai-based literary and cultural organisation, said his group studied the problems that cropped up during the NRC exercise in Assam. "We held a meeting this week and decided to start a programme called 'Documents Perfect' whereby we will be conducting workshops to ensure there is uniformity in spellings," he said.

In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the Jamiat-e-ulama, in coordination with other organisations, held a silent protest Friday, with participants sporting black armbands and holding black flags, against CAB and NRC outside mosques after offering prayers.

Peer Khaleeq Ahmed Sabir, general secretary of the organisation in the two states, said preparations have been on for the last five months. "We have opened centres in all districts for document verification and clarification. We have organised 48 special programmes so far," he said.

In Hyderabad, a group of NGOs have started awareness drive focused on the Friday congregation, and starting with 30 mosques in slum areas. "We read out information about CAB and NRC and what needs to be done on reading the documents. It is part of a larger campaign to sensitise the economically weaker sections," said Mujtaba Hasan Askari of Helping Hand Foundation, which is steering the drive.

As The Indian Express reported on September 27, panic reached a fever pitch in West Bengal in the weeks after the final NRC list was released in neighbouring Assam on August 31, with hundreds queuing up outside government offices to get their documents in order.

(JOHNSON TAIN BENGALURU, SREENIVAS JANYALA IN HYDERABAD, SWEETY KUMARI IN KOLKATA)

Convoy attacked

also tore down two signposts of the Bangladesh Assistant High Commissioner, close to the chancery premises.

"Monsur landed in Guwahati, after consultations in Delhi, on Wednesday and was stranded at the airport along with Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. He was escorted out of the airport by security personnel; on his way to the mission, some protesters targeted one of the police escort vehicles. Monsur was not harmed, nor was his vehicle attacked," said a source.

"The authorities asked him to shift to a hotel if he wanted, and assured that security would be provided there. But he did not

Washington and Dhaka flag worry

and equal treatment under the law are fundamental principles of our two democracies," said the US statement.

"The US urges India to protect the rights of its religious minorities in keeping with India's Constitution and democratic values," it said.

The US and the UK also issued travel advisories asking their citizens to "exercise caution" while visiting the North-East in the wake of the protests.

"The US government has temporarily suspended official travel to Assam," the US advisory said. The UK advisory asked travellers to "monitor local media" and "follow instructions of the local authorities".

In New York, a spokesperson for UN chief Antonio Guterres said the UN is "closely analysing the possible consequences" of the amended law. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, meanwhile, said they are "concerned" that India's new Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 is "fundamentally discrim-

inatory in nature" and appear to "undermine the commitment to equality".

The US statement — from the highest level of government — came days before External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visit Washington DC next week for the second 2+2 ministerial dialogue with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark T Esper.

Their meeting on December 18 is expected to focus on bilateral strategic issues, but a discussion on the citizenship law and the Kashmir situation cannot be ruled out.

There was no official response from India to the US statement but sources said the government has taken note of it.

In Geneva, a spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed concern that the new law "does not extend... protection to Muslims, including minority sects". The spokesperson said: "The amended law would ap-

pear to undermine the commitment to equality before the law enshrined in India's constitution and India's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to which India is a State party, which prohibit discrimination based on racial, ethnic or religious grounds. Although India's broader naturalization laws remain in place, these amendments will have a discriminatory effect on people's access to nationality."

At the UN, a deputy spokesman for the Secretary-General said: "We are aware that the lower and upper houses of the Indian Parliament have passed the Citizenship Amendment Bill, and we are also aware of the concerns that have been publicly expressed. The United Nations is closely analysing the possible consequences of the law."

The spokesman said that some of the UN human rights

mechanisms, including rapporteurs, "have already been expressing their concerns about the nature of this law..."

"As I mentioned a few days earlier, of course, we have our basic principles, including those enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and expect those to be upheld," he said. On Monday, after the Lok Sabha passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, the US House Foreign Affairs Committee had tweeted: "Religious pluralism is central to the foundations of both India and the United States and is one of our core shared values. Any religious test for citizenship undermines this most basic democratic tenet."

The MEA had said: "We feel that given our strong engagement with the Congress and other stakeholders in the US on matters of mutual interest, we expect that the members of the US Congress will take into account our views before drawing a conclusion on the Bill."

Jamia protest turns violent, police use teargas

pellet stones and police had to resort to mild lathi charge," DCP (South East) Chinmoy Biswal said.

Police claimed a dozen personnel received injuries. The nearby Holy Family Hospital confirmed that 30 people — three policemen and 27 students — were brought in for treatment, and 25 had been discharged by the evening. One of the students was referred to AIIMS for plastic surgery on his injured hand.

While a protest gathering had been called by the Jamia Teachers' Association at 2 pm, a march, by the university students, was to begin at 3 pm. The plan was to walk from Jamia's gate 7 to Parliament, roughly 11 km away.

Around 3 pm, when police asked protesters to back down, some tried to push through barricades near Jamia's gate 1. The situation spiralled out of

control when roughly 100 locals, who were on the police side of the barricades, rushed and pulled the metal structures down. By this time, the number of protesters had crossed 1,000.

By 3.30 pm, police had resorted to firing teargas shells, while protesters were retaliating with stones. Some protesters also tried slinging teargas shells back at the police, along with broken pavement stones. University sources maintained locals, and not students, had indulged in stone pelting.

At 4.15 pm, as a round of teargas made protesters rush for cover inside premises near gate 3, police personnel chased them down with lathis. At least three men who had their backs against the wall were repeatedly hit as they pleaded with personnel to stop. A video of the incident was captured by The Indian Express.

The injured were helped to their feet by others, and taken away from the protest site on motorcycles.

An engineering student from Jamia, who did not wish to be identified, alleged: "They used force first; ours was a peaceful protest. People are badly injured; teargas has been thrown inside classrooms." Police said around 25 teargas shells were fired in the course of the day.

Students from the engineering faculty were taking an examination between 2 pm and 5 pm, which was held as per schedule. But faculty members later claimed teargas had entered the campus, making it difficult for students to write their papers.

Some residents, who were not part of the protests, found themselves stuck in the area. Saiyed Ahmed Ullah, 67, a resident of Noida, had come to a

health clinic near Jamia but could not leave because of the violence. Ali Raza, 47, a former Jamia student, said, "The force police used is wrong, but so is the stone pelting."

The situation remained tense till Friday evening, with protesters refusing to disperse and police resorting to another round of lathi charge. At 7.15 pm, a group of policemen dressed in riot gear and holding lathis started proceeding from gate number 1 of the university to Sarai Julena, where students had blocked the street. At 7.20 pm, just outside Holy Family Hospital, policemen wearing motorcycle helmets began a fresh round of lathi charge to move protesters away from the street. Some protesters fell on the pavement, but did not escape the blows. As the crowd dispersed, the road was littered with slippers and broken spectacles.

shift to a hotel, and has been staying at his residence," said the source.

Sources said the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh assured the authorities in Dhaka that New Delhi was being immediately alerted to enhance the security of the chancery and residential premises of the Bangladesh Assistant High Commissioner in Guwahati.

"The appropriate Indian authorities have already taken enhanced security measures to protect the Assistant High Commissioner's premises, its personnel and members of their families," the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry said.

It said the "government of Bangladesh believes that the attack on the convoy of the Assistant High Commissioner and vandalism of the signposts was a one-off incident, and will not affect the excellent bilateral relations that Bangladesh and India enjoy".

On Thursday, two top ministers in the Sheikh Hasina-led government — Foreign Minister A K Abdul Momen and Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan — cancelled their visits to India. Momen said on Wednesday that the new citizenship law could weaken India's character as a secular nation and rejected allegations that minorities were facing religious persecution in his country.

'Optical illusion'

October 18, the state government's Law Department attrib-

uted the "error" to "optical illusion".

The relations between the two constitutional bodies has hit a new low, with the Governor securing his entry to the Assembly blocked and the government curbing his powers as chancellor of universities. On Tuesday, the Trinamool Congress walked out of Parliament demanding Dhanekar's recall.

The Governor was sent the lynching Bill for his consideration on September 13, a fortnight after the Assembly had passed it. On September 17, Congress MLA and leader of the opposition Abdul Mannan and Left Front leader Sujan Chakrabarty met the Governor and alleged "serious procedural lapses", saying the draft circulated on August 28 and the Bill that was passed were different.

On September 18, Dhanekar demanded an explanation from the secretary of the Assembly, who said the Assembly Secretariat was not involved in the circulation of the draft or passing of the Bill.

On September 26, the Governor demanded that "a status report... be secured urgently from the department which initiated the process of obtaining recommendations (over the draft bill)". Accordingly, the Home Department sought a report on the recommendations, tagging, "accord priority". The next day, Raj Bhawan wrote to the state Home Department.

secretary of the Home and Hill Affairs Department wrote to the Governor saying it was after the Bill had been sent to the Law Department for printing and circulated in the Assembly that they had discovered the discrepancy. The Home Secretary added, "It was noticed that three words, viz 'death sentence or', were missing from the printed version of the (draft) Bill." The communication accepted that "inadvertently a printing error crept in".

On October 1, Dhanekar sought a status report from the Law Department. After two weeks, it replied, saying, "The Bill as published in the Kolkata gazette for the first time, was sent to the WBLA (West Bengal Legislative Assembly) without modification as above (change) in Clause 7(c) was solely due to optical illusion while proofreading was undertaken. When the unintentional omission was identified, the correct Bill was published in the Kolkata gazette and instantaneously sent to the WBLA."

The back-and-forth continued. On October 23, the Governor summoned the Law Department Secretary, seeking a briefing. Seven days later, the Law Secretary finally met the Governor, who then sought a written report, which was sent on November 5.

This Law Department note was sent to the WBLA Secretary for his response, and he reiterated on November 13 that his department was not involved in circulating or passing the Bill.

On November 14, the Governor sought the Assembly proceedings regarding the Bill. On November 21, the Assembly secretary detailed the proceedings concerning the unrevised Bill.

On November 26, Dhanekar sought the final Assembly proceedings, to which a reply is awaited.

On December 1, the Governor wrote, "It would thus appear that the response rendered on behalf of the government that a mistake has in fact been committed... the issue could be resolved only by looking at the final proceedings of the House, which according to the response of the secretary WBLA are under preparation."

Apart from the lynching Bill, the West Bengal State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Bill, 2019; West Bengal Lifts, Escalators and Travelators Bill, 2019; West Bengal Municipal Amendment Bill, 2019; and The Hindi University, West Bengal Bill, 2019, are awaiting Governor Dhanekar's assent.

Dhanekar told The Indian Express that he was only exercising his duties as the constitutional head of state. "My hands are tied. I have to go through the Bills properly. The Opposition highlighted lapses and I sought a clarification from the government. I cannot give assent blindly."

Accusing the Governor of acting at the behest of Opposition leaders, Chandrima Bhattacharya, West Bengal Minister of State, Health and Family Welfare, said,

"The draft of the West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019, had an error. In the Assembly, the error was rectified and an error-free Bill was introduced. Later, after discussion, it was passed. The Governor is deliberately creating road blocks in the functioning of the government and Assembly."

WITHATHRIMITRA

Essential drugs

upward price revision under para 19 of DPCO (Drug Price Control Order) 2013 are low priced drugs and have been under repeated price control. Most of these drugs are used as first line of treatment and are crucial to the public health program of the country. Many companies have applied for discontinuation of the product on account of unviability," the minutes of a meeting of the authority held on December 9 said.

Noting that the mandate of NPPA is to ensure availability of drugs at affordable prices, the minutes said "while ensuring affordability, access cannot be jeopardised and the life saving essential drugs must remain available to the general public at all times. Therefore, the Authority is of the considered view that unavailability of these formulations should not lead to a situation, where these drugs become unavailable in the market and the public is forced to switch to costly alternatives".

NPPA said it has been receiving applications for upward price revision under para 19 of DPCO, 2013, since last two years citing reasons like "increase in API (key ingredient) cost, increase in cost of production, exchange rates etc. resulting in unviability in sustainable production and marketing of the drugs". The Indian Express has viewed a copy of these minutes.

The Authority further noted that in its 62nd meeting, it had deliberated upon 49 such applications consisting of 72 formulations, received from manufacturers/ marketers seeking upward revision of ceiling price under paragraph 19 of DPCO, 2013 and shortlisted 19 formulations for "further examination".

The NPPA had constituted a committee comprising Adviser General of Health Services and Deputy Drug Controller, DCGI (Drugs Controller General of India) under the convesnorship of Director (Pricing), NPPA for "further examination" of these 19 formulations based on "parameters of essentiality, market share of the applicant company and available alternatives etc".

"This Committee in its second meeting... recommended that these 19 formulations could be considered for an upward price revision under para 19 of DPCO, 2013 to ensure availability of these medicines and these recommendations were presented to the Authority in its 68th meeting of 25th June, 2019," it stated.

MP 'honey trap'

carried a series of reports on the alleged 'honey trap' case that has rocked the administration in the state — is on the run, along with his family members. So far, over 40 FIRs have been lodged against Soni and his associates, with charges ranging from land grab to extortion and human trafficking.

On December 2, a team of the IMC inspected the premises of Best Western PLUS O2, Soni's star hotel in South Tukoganj locality of Indore, served a notice for violating building bye-laws, and asked the management to show cause within 48 hours as to why the structure should not be demolished.

With Soni and his family absconding, his lawyers moved the High Court on December 4, seeking more time to respond to the notice. But on December 5, while the matter was still being heard in court, the IMC went ahead with the demolition. His lawyers claimed in court that they had

valid documents to justify the construction as legal but needed more time to file the reply. "IMC has started demolition at 6 am without giving us breathing time," they told the court.

The IMC lawyer, however, argued that under Section 307 of the Madhya Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act, 1956, no time limit has been prescribed to submit a reply to a notice and, hence, the corporation was right to start the demolition "in the absence of any reply by the petitioner to the notice".

In his order, Justice Vivek Rusa said, "In the considered opinion of this court, 48 hours' time is not sufficient to give immediate response to the showcause notice. At least seven days time ought to have been given for submitting effective reply." But, by the time the lawyers reached the hotel with a copy of the HC order, a major part of the hotel had been pulled down, with the hotel guests told to vacate the premises only the previous evening.

The 'honey trap' case came to light in September, following a complaint by an IMC superintendent engineer, Harbhajan Singh, who alleged that he was being blackmailed by five women and a man, who had video clips of him in a compromising position. While the five women and the man, along with their driver, were arrested, there has been no new complainant since then.

Soni's Sanjha Lokswami had carried reports with lurid details naming a former BJP minister, a principal secretary to former chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Harbhajan Singh, among others. Soni had threatened to make more revelations in his paper, when the raids happened.

On the night of November 30, the administration cracked down on Soni and his business, with teams of Revenue, Excise, IMC, Police, Food and Women & Child among nine departments that searched his house, hotels and the evening's office in Indore's Press Complex.

On December 5, the day Soni's hotel was pulled down, the administration also demolished his 7,800-sq-foot bungalow Jag Villa; Café O2; and the family owned restaurant-bar My Home. On December 9, another bungalow owned by the businessman was demolished. On December 11, the evening's two-storey office built on a 15,000-sq-foot plot and an event management company office located on an adjacent plot, were also razed.

About 40 cases have been lodged against Soni on offences ranging from loot to extortion, blackmailing, forgery and violations of the Arms Act. Amit, one of Soni's two sons, was arrested and charged under the Information Technology Act and also booked for human trafficking.

"Some of these constructions are 10 or 20 years old. You can't give a notice one fine day and demolish the properties without following the due procedure of law," said advocate Vishal Baheti, who has represented Soni in cases related to the demolition of his bungalow and hotel. "There is no one in the family to move contempt petitions. The authorities are giving notices after notices. Maybe they want him to surrender."

"I was ready with a petition to challenge the demolition of the newspaper office but nobody from the family approached me. The police have ensured they don't reach me," alleged Manohar Dalal, another advocate representing Soni. Dalal alleged the crackdown by the administration was in retaliation to the exposés by Soni's newspaper in the 'honey trap' case. Before going underground, Soni had submitted a hard disk containing hours of audio and video footage to the High Court through Dalal.

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# MARINE DRIVE Eco Retreat

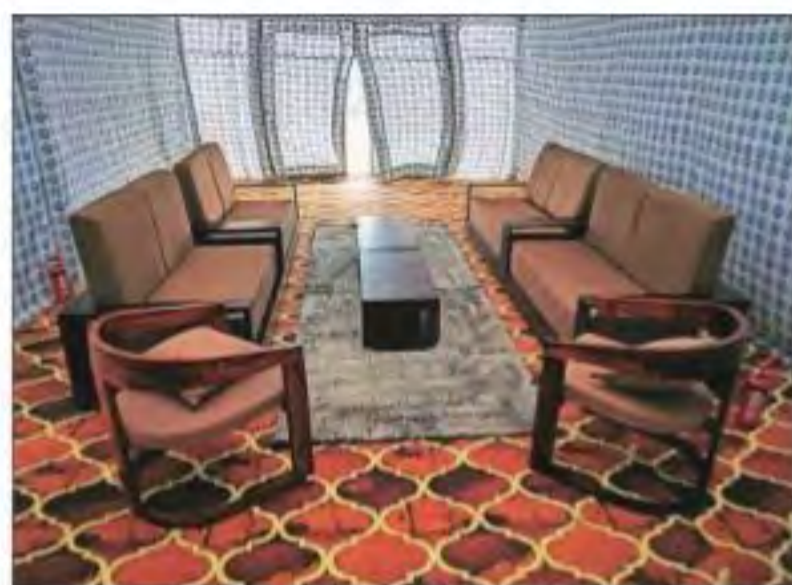
## Odisha Tourism's new Beach Retreat set to revolutionise year-end celebration

**O**DISHA TOURISM'S relentless campaign to boost the global appeal of its key destinations recently got a boost with the Marine Drive Eco Retreat. "We realised that Puri Konark Marine Drive, despite boasting a beautiful synthesis of heritage, nature, artistic finesse and food, was largely a day tourism destination. Its potential as a premium beach holiday destination was underexplored. While we had fortified our vision with the principle of sustainability, our quest to develop the destination as an experience rich beach tourism hub of global standards was undaunted", said Hon'ble Tourism Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi.

The Marine Drive Eco Retreat has been envisioned as eastern India's first 'Glamping' festival — a unique experience of Glamorous Camping — set up at the pristine Ramachandi Beach near the grand Konark Sun Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Scheduled from December 14, 2019 to January 31, 2020, the Eco Retreat promises to be a unique experience of glamorous camping in 50 luxury cottages, delectable cuisine, beach spa, adventure and water sports activities, nature trails and wholesome day itineraries, cultural evenings and a lot more.

Earlier this year in May, Odisha's coast was battered by an extremely severe Cyclone Fani (Category 4) which wreaked havoc and caused immense damage to flora and fauna and infrastructure of the state. However, the state worked remarkably well to get back on its feet just weeks after the tragedy.

The Marine Drive Eco Retreat has been



developed as an environmentally sustainable model incorporating best practices in material utilisation, zero liquid and sewerage discharge and holistic waste management.

### Available facilities:

The Eco Retreat has a full-fledged corporate conferencing facility accommodating 150 participants. "Odisha's MICE tourism quotient will surely get a golden touch with the corporate package that we are offering through the Eco Retreat. It is an ideal corporate offsite destination with every ingredient required to make it a wholesome memorable experience. I'm sure the Eco Retreat will soon be recognised as the most favoured MICE product in the country," said Commissioner and Secretary Vishal Dev (IAS).

Apart from the exclusive facilities, the Eco Retreat comprises a food festival, a beach market, and an event venue for mega evenings — all of which, besides thrilling water sports, will be accessible to day visitors at affordable entry prices.



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik has kindly consented to inaugurate the Eco Retreat on the afternoon of December 14, 2019.

What to expect at the Marine Drive Eco Retreat:

### GLAMPING

Stay in the middle of nature's bounty in a

luxury cottage with the ambience and hospitality of a five star hotel. The concept of Glamping i.e glamorous camping has caught on with not only the current generation but also people of different age groups.

At the Marine Drive Eco Retreat you can experience a unique luxurious accommo-

modation offering rich thematic ambience, a dedicated dining area and multiple options of staying at luxury cottages replete with facilities like air-conditioner, television, sofa sets, as per your requirement.

### ADVENTURE SPORTS

Odisha is already known as the 'Sports Capital of India' and with a 480 km coastline to boast of, it has started focusing on adventure sports as well. And who doesn't love an adrenaline rush especially when it's by the water. With activities like jet-ski, speed boating, parasailing, ATV, archery, rifle shooting, bicycles, beach volleyball, zorbing, water roller among others on the charts, the Eco Retreat promises to be a thrilling experience.

### WELLNESS

While the Ramachandi sandbar itself makes for a therapeutic walk, the exclusive spa by the sea for guests offers the ultimate detox. The itinerary includes early morning nature trails in the Balukhand Sanctuary which are the best way to resettle you to your instinctive and natural best. One can

chase the calm with the competitive zest of beach volleyball.

### CULTURE MIXTAPE

While niche talent and folk artistes from across Odisha and India will exhibit their talents every evening, the weekends promise to resonate with the best of rock, indie pop, folk genres, celebrity DJs and the Bollywood's known voices take the stage and make you groove.

The who's who set to take the stage are Euphoria, followed by Indian Ocean, Harshdeep Kaur, Mame Khan, Benny Dayal, Papon, Divya Kumar, Salim Suleiman and Krishna Beuraa.

See the full artist line-up below. Shows start at 7 pm.

14 Dec 2019	EUPHORIA
21 Dec 2019	INDIAN OCEAN
25 Dec 2019	HARSHDEEP KAUR
30 Dec 2019	MAME KHAN
04 Jan 2020	BENNY DAYAL
11 Jan 2020	PAPON
18 Jan 2020	DIVYA KUMAR
23 Jan 2020	SALIM SULEIMAN
31 Jan 2020	KRISHNA BEURAA

Tickets starting at Rs 50 per head will be available at the entry points to the Eco Retreat.

Eco Retreat Website:

<https://ecoretreat.odishatourism.gov.in/>

E-mail for bookings: [ecoretreat@panthanivas.com](mailto:ecoretreat@panthanivas.com)

For more information: Contact

[info@odishatourism.gov.in](mailto:info@odishatourism.gov.in) or call

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Both sides accused the other of excesses. While police claimed they used lathi charge and teargas to disperse protesters who had started pelting stones, protesters claimed they were only retaliating against police violence. Photos: Praveen Khanna

# Sticks and stones as Jamia protest runs into police

Students to boycott exams as part of 'university lockdown'

ARANYA SHANKAR & SHIVAM PATEL  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

STUDENTS OF Jamia Millia Islamia plan to boycott exams on Saturday, as part of what they are calling a "university lockdown". This comes after a protest march by students and teachers against the new citizenship law was stopped by police on Friday, leading to stone pelting by a section of protesters and lathi charge by police personnel, who also used teargas grenades.

While the protest initially appeared to have ended by evening, students did not move away from the streets. By 7 pm, the large mass of students and locals had split into smaller groups who kept sloganeering at different places on the main road outside the campus.

The anger was palpable, with students taking turns to kick and stomp on police barricades. At more than one place, copies of the Bill were set on fire. At the junction of two roads, locals took turns delivering speeches.

The nearby Holy Family

Hospital remained under a heavy security cover, with police not allowing entry until one could specify who they wanted to meet.

With students refusing to disperse, another round of lathi charge took place around 7.15 pm. By 8:30 pm, large groups of police personnel and protesters had gathered outside Jamia's gate number 1. While police maintained all 42 students detained earlier had been released, protesters refused to believe them and said they wouldn't back down until everyone was let go.

The violence earlier in the day had both sides on edge, with several protesters admitting they had pelted stones and even thrown back teargas shells, but "in retaliation".

"We are using a piece of cloth to cover our palms while throwing teargas shells back at the police," said one protester, his face covered with a cloth.

Police said about 25 teargas shells were used during the day.

Some protesters were seen carrying lathis and breaking pavement stones with iron rods to hurl them at the police. "If

they are hitting us, should we just stand and watch? We did not want any of this," said one protester.

Police maintained they had tried to reason with protesters, but in vain. Delhi Police additional PRO Anil Mittal said, "(Protesters) were persuaded to protest peacefully (at Jamia) and requested not to march towards New Delhi area. However, they got agitated and aggressively confronted police personnel. They broke barricades and indulged in stone pelting."

Students from the engineering faculty at the university, who were appearing for an examination between 2 pm and 5 pm, claimed teargas has entered their classroom. Saif Ullah Khan, 21, a BTech student, said, "We were tearing up. Plus it was so loud outside that we couldn't focus." A faculty member also claimed teargas had entered the campus.

The faculty was also holding viva examinations for another batch of students, many of whom couldn't make it to the venue on time because of the violence and barricading outside.

## 3 policemen among 30 taken to hospital, 5 admitted for the night

ASTHA SAXENA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

AS MANY as 30 people were admitted to Holy Family Hospital near Jamia Millia Islamia university following clashes between protesters and police on Friday. These included three police officers and 27 students.

According to the hospital administration, 25 patients had been discharged by Friday evening, while four are still undergoing treatment. One student, Mohd Fahad, has been referred to AIIMS by the hospital. Three patients with head injuries have been admitted to the neurosurgery department and one with a hand injury is at the orthopedics ward. Among those in the neurosurgery ward was a policeman injured in the protest.

"One of the students suffered serious injuries to his hand



An injured policeman

which requires plastic surgery. We have referred him to AIIMS for further treatment. Apart from him, none of the patients have suffered a serious injury. Those who came to the emergency department had minor bruises on the hand and face; we gave them first-aid and sent them back. The others still admitted to the hospital are also stable," Father George P A, director of Holy Family Hospital, told *The Indian Express*.

## How Delhi Police strategy to keep protesters in check went for a toss

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

HOURS BEFORE the protest march by students from Jamia Millia Islamia to the Parliament, police officers of the South East district were directed by seniors from Delhi Police Headquarters not to use force and to restrain protesters in the area around the campus. But the law and order situation got out of hand when, instead of stopping protesters a few metres from the university, police stopped them just outside the university gate.

A senior police officer said this may have been a miscalculation by local district police. Initially, there were just 200 police personnel from the district and one extra company. "The plan suggested to the district police by senior officers was to restrain protesters after taking them away from the campus to near NFC and divert traffic accordingly. But dis-



Police said they are filing an FIR

trict police informed seniors they were in touch with the main organisers, who had assured them they were not going to agitate on a large scale. Keeping this in mind, senior officers asked them to stop protesters near the university area," an officer said.

But this, an officer said, didn't have the anticipated effect as some protesters started trying to get through the barricades. "Before police could stop them, some ruffians from the locality joined the protesters and started pelting stones at personnel," the officer said.

As the situation got out of hand, police used lathi charge. "Some students in the meantime started pelting stones from inside their campus. A message was conveyed to senior officers and three extra companies of force along with more police personnel from the district were called in. Police then used teargas, and while ruffians managed to escape, students faced the heat," the officer said.

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# GREATER NOIDA WEST



## How to Evaluate the Price of a Property? Unfolded!

### How does pricing of a property influence a first-time homebuyer's purchase decision?

Whether for self-use or investment purpose, the purchase decision of a first-time homebuyer depends on many factors — the price of the property, brand, location, facilities and amenities, builder's credentials, possession time etc. Buying a home is an expensive affair and needs careful planning beforehand. Financial considerations largely determine the right and affordable choice among a plethora of available options. However, price of the property is one such factor that can single-handedly decide the outcome of the decision-making process of a prospective homebuyer.

The price fluctuation of property varies according to the type of developer the homebuyer opts. If the homebuyer chooses a big brand national developer, he will end up paying extra to the tune of 20-25% at a low risk. If he opts to buy from a regional brand with good past track record of delivery at a lower price compared with big brands then moderate risk is involved.

The homebuyer could also buy from a new developer from start-up real estate groups, at a lower price, compared with above two options. Some good players in the industry carry good vision and use the same architects and consultants like the regional or national developer, but have no debt or capital cost and use the same material for construction, so even they could satisfy the homebuyer with a complete transparent process.

### How does demand-supply economics affect the pricing of the property?

As far as the demand-supply economics is concerned, price of the property is directly related with this. If there are large numbers of unsold homes (more supply) in the area,



*First-time homebuyers go through the arduous task of deciding which property to buy based on their budgetary constraints. Hence, a genuine question pops up in their mind, "What is the correct price of a property?"*

*ABHISHEK PATHAK speaks to Sanjeev Kathuria, COO, CRC Group, who talks about the major attributes that affect the price of a property, addressing many previously unresolved queries of first-time homebuyers*

price appreciation is likely to be slower. However, if the area surrounding the housing society, or the society itself, is well-occupied then the price of the property and its price appreciation in future will be high. The location with ready infrastructure or ready-to-move-in homes comes under huge demand leading to higher prices. For the first-time homebuyer, a location that has good connectivity and transportation facility and is available at a moderate price should be a right product to buy within the budget.

**Whether it's about renting out the apartment or self-using it, people covet spacious homes. How important do you think is the space factor for these homebuyers?**

While buying a property, the homebuyer

should always give preference to appropriate accommodation over the size of the accommodation. The general mistake people do is they aspire for bigger size apartments and not the appropriate accommodation that they require. Generally, different brands offer same accommodation in various sizes.

**For a comfortable living a homebuyer generally looks for thoughtfully designed modern conveniences like a play room for kids, fitness centre etc. In this regard, please share how big amenities and facilities factor for first-time homebuyers?**

The millennials are very aspirational towards the amenities and facilities that go with their choice of lifestyle. To avail the

benefit of choicest of amenities and facilities, millennials prefer to shell out extra to live the high life in their dream home. No wonder then it is an important factor in the decision-making process of a homebuyer. It is also a matter of one's financial readiness to choose amenities as per his requirements.

### What are the various attributes that affect the pricing of the property, affecting the first-time homebuyer's purchase decision?

To understand the price of a property, there are three major attributes which determine the price of the unit:

**■ Cost of the land which is based on location:** Land cost contributes approximately one-third towards the total cost. Location of the

land plays an important role in fixing the price, for example, if we talk about Gurgaon — cost of land on Golf Course Road is much higher than Golf Course Road Extension or Sohna Road for that matter. Whereas in Noida, land cost in Sector 43 is higher than that of Sector 104, which is further higher than the cost of land in Sector 150. Land cost generally varies from Rs 400 per sq ft to Rs 4,000 per sq ft or more based on location.

### ■ Cost of construction — based on material being used

The type of material being used in the construction of the property is the second most important attribute to evaluate the correct cost of the property. The material and technology used in construction process play a vital role in consolidating the cost of the

property. The cost of construction starts from as low as Rs 1,200 per sq ft, the range could further vary from Rs 1,400-1,800, Rs 2,300-2,500 and Rs 3,500-4,000 per sq ft. Check the material, viz. specification in detail to evaluate which range and type of material is being used for construction.

### ■ Finance Cost

Finance cost is the third most important attribute in determining the correct cost of the property. Finance cost is not only the debt cost (cost of capital) but also the establishment cost of the enterprise. The cost of capital ranges from 8% to 24%. This results in the end product bearing an inflated cost.

The establishment cost can increase the cost of the end product from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 per sq ft. Attractive infrastructure pulls us to make a swift decision, but at the end it makes the property more expensive.

The developer also adds brand value delta to his selling price (delta can be as high as 25%) which the homebuyer builds in while evaluating his buying decision.

The combined cost (land cost + cost of construction + finance cost) gives an idea of the cost to the developer. On top of this, the developer adds his profit which ranges from 12 to 18%. This is the cost which is offered in the market or in simple language, 'The Selling Price'. For the homebuyer, it is very important to understand how the big branded national developer impacts the pricing of the product at the same location with the same specification. They have a well-formed legacy and hence an advantage over other developers.

They get their capital at a low cost (8 to 12%) versus regional local developers who get their capital starting from 14% to 24%.

Hence, the big brands are able to sell their product at a price (15 to 25%) higher than the regional local developers. It is a trade-off for the homebuyer to buy safety — trust versus cost of the product.

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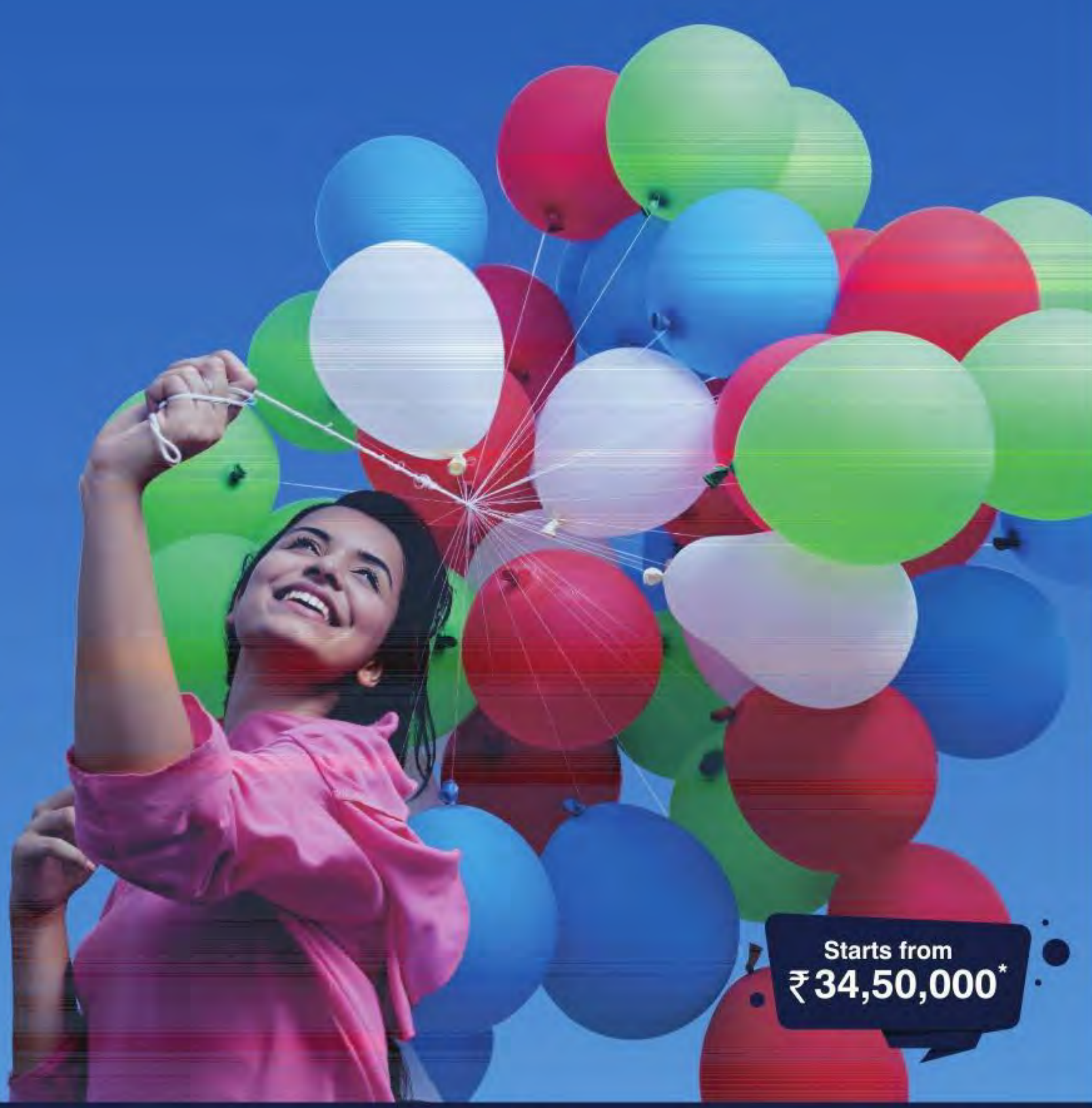
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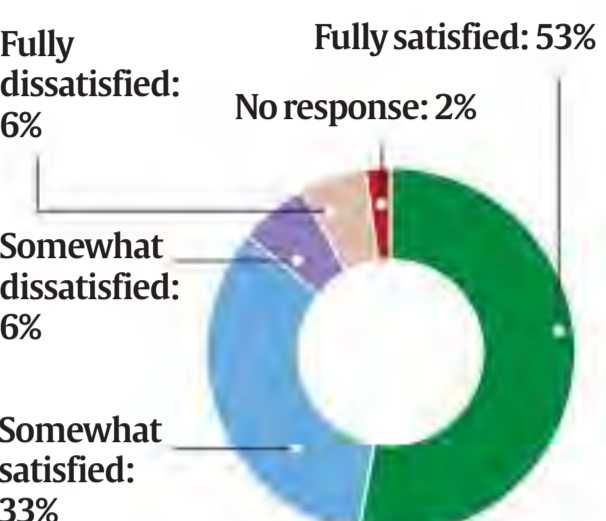


# Response to politics and policy

Kejriwal remains popular among Delhi voters, most of whom appear satisfied with his govt's performance in the last five years, a Lokniti-CSDS survey shows

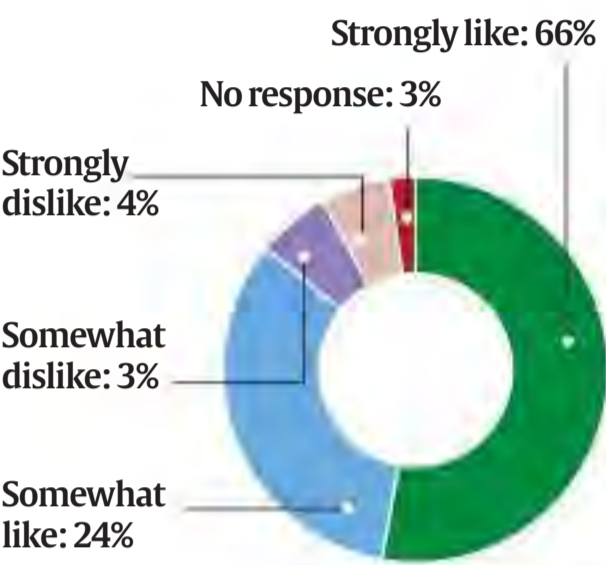
## 1: OVER FOUR FIFTHS SATISFIED WITH AAP GOVT'S PERFORMANCE

**QUESTION ASKED:** Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the performance of the AAP government of Delhi during last five years?



## 2: NINE OF TEN DELHI VOTERS LIKE KEJRIWAL; TWO THIRDS STRONGLY

**QUESTION ASKED:** Do you like or dislike Arvind Kejriwal? (And to what extent)



Note: Figures may not total 100 due to rounding.

## SUHAS PALSHIKAR, SANJAY KUMAR & SANDEEP SHASTRI

SIX YEARS ago, the Aam Aadmi Party came into being as an experiment — it is not often that an agitation transforms itself into a political party, but the anti-corruption agitation of 2011-12 did just that. Its first brush with power left many in doubt about the AAP's ability to move beyond its maverick and adversarial image and entrench itself into a party that could govern. Even after securing 67 of 70 seats in Delhi Assembly, its top leadership briefly flirted with the image of 'fighters' — taking on the BJP and the PM on various issues. Soon, it tamed itself, and probably with good results.

Residents of Delhi may not be interested in criticisms of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but they also do not seem to be in the mood to remove AAP from power, an opinion survey among 2,298 Delhi voters, conducted by the Lokniti programme of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, suggests.

Through this week, key findings from the survey showed that the AAP government, according to most Delhi residents, has fared well on fronts of education, health and transport. As of early December, the AAP government enjoys a fair amount of voter satisfaction (table 1) — for almost every nine respondents who are very satisfied with it, there is only one very dissatisfied.

Moreover, respondents expressed satisfaction about the performance of their MLAs, indicating that the party has gained sufficient goodwill on the basis of its work, programmes and promises. In addition, the party also has the advantage of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's continued acceptability among voters in Delhi. While more than two thirds of the respondents said they like Kejriwal very much, only 4% disliked him very much (table 2).

## 3: KEJRIWAL EMERGED ON TOP WHEN DIRECTLY PITTED AGAINST MODI

**QUESTION ASKED:** Which leader do you like more: Narendra Modi or Arvind Kejriwal?

	Like Modi more than Kejriwal	Like Kejriwal more than Modi	Like both	Like neither	Can't say
Overall	32	42	16	3	6
Congress's Lok Sabha voters	11	65	10	11	3
BJP's Lok Sabha voters	56	22	18	2	2
AAP's Lok Sabha voters	14	71	12	1	2
Others' voters or did not reveal	20	37	21	5	17

Note: Figures may not total 100 due to rounding.

Does the BJP, then, stand a chance to dent the popularity of AAP? In terms of personal popularity, Modi is certainly popular among Delhi voters: half the respondents said they strongly liked Modi with another 30% saying they liked Modi (table 4). While it is noteworthy that Kejriwal's popularity appears a little more than Modi's, this may be because respondents were aware of the context — this survey was about Delhi, rather than national-level politics. That is why, when voters were asked to choose, 42% chose Kejriwal over Modi, and 32% chose Modi over Kejriwal.

That said, three in every four voters are quite satisfied with the Modi government. But for as many as 20% respondents, unemployment, price rise and other economic concerns will be main voting issues. Among such voters, the net satisfaction with the Modi government's performance was found to be only 43%, the lowest across all answer categories.

To dent the AAP, the BJP-led central government recently announced its decision to regularise unauthorised colonies in the city. The survey, conducted before the passage of

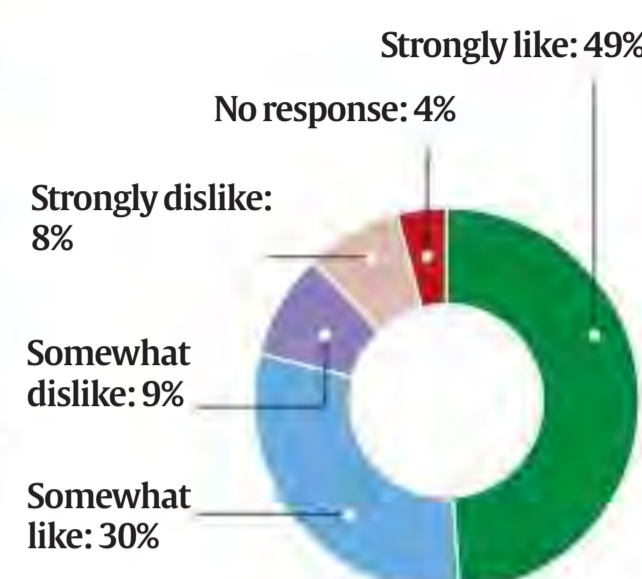
the regularisation/ownership Bill in Lok Sabha but after the announcement had been made, found that most voters had a mixed opinion on the issue (table 5). Voters were not sure if this decision is only for the purpose of winning votes or if it is a genuine gesture. Moreover, most voters were not sure if the government will be able to implement it. Most interestingly, when it came to giving credit for the decision, 49% of the voters, even those living in unauthorised colonies (47%), said it had been taken by the Delhi government.

With elections at least a month or two away, these findings cannot claim any finality as to likely trends. Nevertheless, there are some key takeaways. One, in voters' perception, the Delhi government has done well. Two, though voters are not particularly dissatisfied with BJP's central government, they may well opt for an alternative during the assembly polls. Three, Delhi presents a peculiar case of multiple levels of governmental power being exercised — and voters expect better coordination among the different levels.

But above all, as we conclude this report

## 4: EIGHT OF TEN DELHI VOTERS LIKE MODI; HALF STRONGLY SO

**QUESTION ASKED:** Do you like or dislike Narendra Modi? (And to what extent)



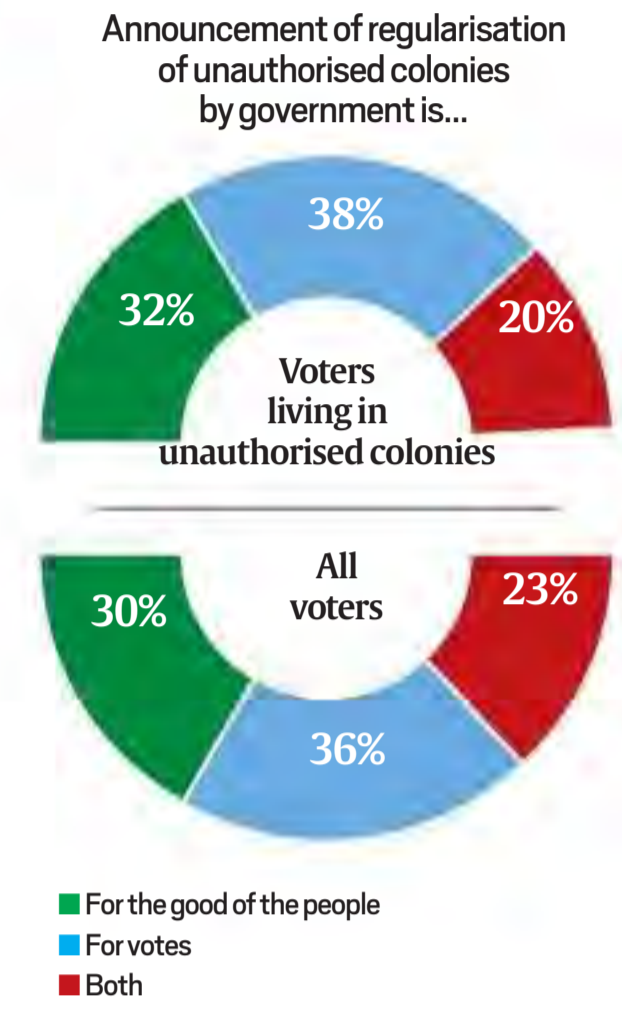
Note: Figures may not total 100 due to rounding.

that appeared following the 43 deaths due to a fire, the single biggest takeaway might be this: AAP seems to have delivered on delivery and redistribution, but what worth is governance, if it fails on the basic regulatory function of government? In the political one-upmanship and possible face-off between Kejriwal's AAP and Modi's BJP, this nagging fact needs to be remembered beyond elections and beyond parties.

(Suhas Palshikar is the Co-director of the Lokniti programme of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and the chief editor of 'Studies in Indian Politics'. Sanjay Kumar is the Director of the CSDS and the Co-director of Lokniti. Sandeep Shastri is the Pro Vice Chancellor of Ashoka University, Bengaluru and the National Co-ordinator of the Lokniti network.)

## 5: PLURALITY OF VOTERS SEE DECISION TO REGULARISE UNAUTHORISED COLONIES AS A VOTE CATCHING EXERCISE; A SIMILAR SENTIMENT PREVALENT IN UNAUTHORISED COLONIES AS WELL

**Question asked:** Recently the government announced the regularisation of unauthorised colonies. Do you think this announcement was made for the good of the people or just to get votes in the elections



## 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 Khemani, Aditya Pandey, Neel Madhav, Fakra Zaman, Deepthi Mary Minji, 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 Chatteraj 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

### SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Rfn Akhilesh Kumar of 1/11 Gorkha Rifles (BATALIK) left for heavenly abode in an unfortunate road accident at Mehndia village, Dist - Arwal (Bihar) on 14 Dec 2017. The soldier will always be remembered for his valuable service to the Nation. To this braveheart we pledge that we shall always be guided by his immortal spirit and will make his name proud.

**CO AND ALL RANKS, 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES (BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE) (BATALIK)**

### NOTICE FOR INVITING TENDER

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited  
IT Procurement Department  
Corporate Headquarters  
M A Road Srinagar 190001

On-line Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection and engagement of vendor for Access Control Server (ACS) Services (second factor authentication) for Online Debit and Card Transactions

Complete tender document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from the Bank's online portal <https://sauction.auctiontiger.net> from 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 16:00 onwards and the notice of said RFP is also available on Bank's Official Website [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com)

RFP Ref No. JKB/ITP/ACS/2019-011  
Date: 13-12-2019

### BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI

4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001.

OA No. 1498/18 Date : 03.12.2019

**BANK OF MAHARASHTRA & ANR. APPLICANT**

**VERSUS**

**AMRAPALI LEISURE VALLEY DEVELOPER PVT. LTD. & ORS. RESPONDENT**

1. M/S AMRAPALI LEISURE VALLEY DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD.  
307, 3rd Floor Nipun Towers Community Centre Karkardooma, Delhi-92

2. MR. ANIL KUMAR SHARMA S/O MADAN MOHAN SHARMA  
R/o 83, AGCR Enclave Delhi-92

3. M/S ULTRA HOME CONSTRUCTIONS PVT. LTD.  
307, 3rd Floor Nipun Towers Community Centre Karkardooma, Delhi-92

4. M/S AMRAPALI HOMES PROJECTS PVT. LTD.  
307, 3rd Floor Nipun Towers Community Centre Karkardooma, Delhi-92

5. M/S CHINTAPURNI ESTATE PVT. LTD.  
H-13, 1st Floor Laxmi Nagar Delhi-92

6. M/S AMRAPALI GRAND  
B-113, 2nd Floor Lajpat Nagar, Delhi-24

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 304,52,52,020/- (RUPEES THREE HUNDRED FOUR CRORES FIFTY TWO LAKHS FIFTY TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY ONLY) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 18.12.2019 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

By order of the Tribunal  
Section Officer, DRT-II, Delhi

### भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड

CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.

(A Navratna Undertaking of Govt. of India)

Regd. Office: CONCOR Bhawan, C-3 Mathura Road, Opposite Apollo Hospital, New Delhi-110 076. Phone: 91-11-41573933-96; Fax: 91-11-41673112

Website: [www.concoronline.com](http://www.concoronline.com)

**Tender Notice : CON/IT/1260/19/01 (E-TENDERING MODE ONLY)**

Online Open e-Tender in Two Bid System for Upgradation / Procurement of On-Premise Hardware and Software for ETMS, DTMS, Standby, Mailing System and other applications on turnkey basis with One Year Warranty, Four years AMC and ATS Support at CONCOR's Central Site at ICD/ Tughlakabad, New Delhi only through e-tendering mode. The bid document can only be downloaded from the website [www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL).

Estimated Cost	₹ 92,20,38,572.61
Completion Period	180 Days (period for supply, installation, commissioning, integration, migration, testing, acceptance and one month successful run), one year warranty, first year ATS and 4 years for AMC & ATS period.
Earnest Money Deposit	₹ 10.00 Lakhs (₹ Ten Lakhs only) through e-payment.
Cost of Document	₹ 1,000.00 inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment.
Tender Processing Fee	₹ 4,500.00 plus taxes as applicable (Non-refundable) through e-payment.
Date of Sale (Online)	From 14.12.2019 16:00 hrs. to 06.01.2020 (upto 16:00 hrs.).
Pre-Bid Meeting	On 20.12.2019 at 11:30 hrs. at CONCOR's Corporate Office at New Delhi
Issue of Corrigendum (if any)	On tenderwizard.com/CCIL only
Date & Time of Submission	07.01.2020 at 11:00 hrs.
Date & Time of Opening	06.01.2020 at 11:30 hrs.

CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason therefor. For complete details login to [www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL).

Executive Director (MIS)

### U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd.

(ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company)  
Visheshwaralya Bhawan, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

**Notice Inviting e-TENDER**

The Project Manager, Electrical Unit-3, Lucknow invites for and on behalf of General Manager (Electrical Zone-4), U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd., online percentage rate bids for 03 Nos Modular OT work at SGPGI, Lucknow in two bid system for the following work:

Sr. No.	Work	Tender No.	Estimated Value	EMD	Last date of Submission
1	SITC OF MODULAR OT & 85/APM(E)/EU-3/ MEDICAL GAS PIPE LINE/RNN/TENDER/19 WORK AT SGPGI, RAIBARAILY ROAD, LUCKNOW	Di. 11-12-2019	564.98 Lacs	11.30 Lacs	03-01-2020 at 03:00 PM

The bid forms and other details can be obtained / downloaded from the website: <https://etender.up.nic.in>. The NIT is also available on <http://www.upnm.co.in>.

### RITES LIMITED

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)  
CIN No. -U74899DL1974GOI007227

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The Group General Manager (S&T), RITES Ltd., Gurgaon for invites on line Percentage rate tender on two packet system for the following works-

NIT No. RITES/CO/RIS/S&T/PMC/NTPC/Sipat/2019-20. Name of work - "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Signalling & Telecommunication system for coal transportation at Wagon Tippler at NTPC, Sipat (Chhattisgarh)".

Estimated cost of work - ₹ 6,62,44,053/-, Earnest money - ₹ 6,62,44,117/-, Period of completion - 08 (Eight) months. Last date and time of submission of tender: 14.00 Hrs (IST) on 13.01.2020. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website- <https://etenders.gov.in/procure/app>

GGM/S&T/RITES/Gurgaon

### कार्यालय मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, निमाण विंग

उत्तराखण्ड सरकार, विकास एवं निमाण विभाग (उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उत्तरक)

403 / 1, इण्डिया नगर, देहरादून-248 001

ई-मेल: [egm@nirmanwing@yahoo.com](mailto:egm@nirmanwing@yahoo.com), [egm@nirmanwing@gmail.com](mailto:egm@nirmanwing@gmail.com)

**PRESS NOTICE**

Government of Uttarakhand "e" procurement Notice

Bit Identification No. 3966/Nivida (Garhwal)/289 Dated: 13/12/2019

1 Name of the Works : CONSTRUCTION OF AGGREGATION CUM BREEDING FARM (ACBF) AT PASHULOK, VIKASNAGAR

2 Estimated Cost : Rs. 370.00 Lac

3 Period of Completion : 18 Months

4 Date and Time of Availability of bid documents in the portal : 14/12/2019 - 17.00 Hrs.

5 Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal : 03/01/2020 - 17.00 Hrs.

6 Name and Address of Officer Inviting the Bid : General Manager, Construction Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, 403/1, Indra Nagar, Dehradun

7 Pre bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place : 18/12/2019 - 11.00 Hrs. C.G.M. Construction Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, 403/1, Indra Nagar, Dehradun

8 Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc., may be obtained from the website. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<https://tenders.uttarakhand.gov.in/>"

General Manager

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION, DIRECTORATE OF RAJBHASHA & O&M

**Rajbhasha Book Award Scheme: 2018-19 for books originally written/translated in Hindi.**

Books originally written/translated in Hindi in the field of Defence Science and Technology and Allied subjects are invited for the under-mentioned awards to promote writing books in Hindi.

### Defence Science & Technology and Allied subjects

1st Prize (one)	50,000/- ₹
2nd Prize (one)	40,000/- ₹
3rd Prize (one)	30,000/- ₹
Consolation Prize (Two)	20,000/- ₹

Details of the scheme alongwith the prescribed application form, can be obtained from the Director, Rajbhasha & O&M, DRDO HQ., Ministry of Defence, DRDO Bhawan Rajaji Marg, New Delhi - 110011 . Last date for submission of application form is **31st JANUARY 2020.**

davp/0301/11/0118/1920

## Given 'injection' by chemist, two-yr-old dies back home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

A TWO-YEAR-OLD girl died after she was allegedly administered "an injection" by a chemist in Shahdara's GTB Enclave Thursday afternoon. DCP (Shahdara) Amit Sharma said, "The child had been sick for a few days and was taken to the nearby chemist by her mother. The chemist allegedly gave her an injection and by the time the child was back home with her mother, she had begun frothing at the mouth."

While Chandni was declared dead on arrival at GTB Hospital, a case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder has been registered against the chemist, Manish Kumar, the DCP said.

## Man jumps in front of train; wife, daughter found hanging

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NOIDA, DECEMBER 13

A 31-YEAR-OLD woman and her five-year-old daughter were found hanging in their apartment in Noida's Sector 128, hours after her husband jumped in front of a train at JLN Stadium Metro station Friday.

"At around 11:27 am, a call was received that a person has jumped in front of an oncoming train at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Metro station on platform 2. He was immediately rushed to RML Hospital where he was declared dead. During enquiry, it was found that the man, identified as Bharat J (33), hailed from Chennai and had been working at a private company. He was staying with his family in Noida," said a Delhi Police officer.

Bharat's wife, Shivranjani, and daughter Jayshrita reached RML Hospital in the afternoon. According to Noida Police, the two returned to their home in Jaypee Pavillion Court and allegedly hanged themselves from a ceiling fan. The family had shifted to Delhi from Kathmandu in September.

A police officer said that the chemist was not presented with a prescription by the victim's mother nor did he have a medical licence to administer injections. Sharma said, "The post-mortem report will determine what led to the death."

Police said that during the initial probe, the accused only managed to furnish requisite licence to run the shop, but not any medical degree that allowed him to give any medication to a patient.

Chandni's mother Sushma (22), a homemaker, said that her child had been sick for a few days due to cold. She said, "She had a fever, a bad cough and a congested chest. On Wednesday, I took her to the chemist next door, and the owner of the shop,

Manish, checked her and gave her some medicines."

A day later, when the child's condition didn't improve, Sushma again took her to the chemist on Thursday. "She was given nebulisation and an injection by the chemist and I paid him Rs 100 for that," said Sushma.

According to Sushma, 30 minutes later, the child, who was home by then, began frothing from the mouth.

"There was blood coming out of her mouth. My brother-in-law called the police and we rushed her to GTB Hospital where I was told she had died," she said.

The victim's father Nilesh Kumar (28), a daily wage labourer, said, "We didn't think she was that sick and that's why didn't take her to the hospital."

## Woman's quick thinking leads police to railway bag thief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

AFTER TWO men snatched her designer bag, containing money and jewellery worth Rs 10 lakh, from inside the compartment of a Kerala Express train and then jumped off at Nizamuddin railway station Thursday morning, the victim took a quick photograph of the jump point. The photograph in G Snigdha's phone, taken from a moving train, became a vital clue for the police to track down the accused.

DCP (Railways) Harendra K Singh said, "A close study of the photo clicked by the victim revealed that the men probably ran towards the area near the Delhi Zoo. The victim had said that the men ran towards a 'jungle', by which they meant the topography around the zoo. We started doing the recce of the area and got local intelligence inputs."

The recce led investigators to a few young men, following which raids were conducted and one accused, Pawan Sharma (26), a resident of Mathura, was arrested from Sarai Kale Khan. The other accused Nand Kishore



The accused, Pawan Sharma, was caught from Sarai Kale Khan

(22), a resident of Agra, managed to escape.

"The men entered the train when it stopped at Mathura Junction. They then scanned some compartments and found their target — a bag they could easily snatch and run away with," said Singh.

In the FIR, the victim stated that the men jumped off a moving train around 4 pm, as soon as it left the Nizamuddin railway station. She claimed, "The Michael Kors bag has Rs 5,000, ATM cards and gold and diamond jewellery."

Police have recovered all the contents of the bag, worth over Rs 10 lakh.

## BRIEFLY

### Students to take pledge to respect women: CM

New Delhi: Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal said Friday that all school students will take a pledge to respect women in the coming days. At a FICCI Ladies Organisation event, he said: "In all private and government schools of Delhi, we will soon make students regularly take a pledge to respect women and help make society safer for them."

### DU ad hoc protest raised in Parliament

New Delhi: Raising the ongoing strike by Delhi University teachers, demanding absorption of 4,500 ad hoc teachers into the work force, as a matter of public concern in the Lok Sabha, Congress MP from Tamil Nadu Manickam Tagore Friday said "genuine demands" should be met.

### 2 IGI airport staff struck by lightning

New Delhi: As heavy rains lashed Delhi-NCR Thursday, two ground staffs employed at the IGI airport were struck by lightning. The men — Vijay and Dharmender — work at a ground handling operations company called SATS. "They are admitted at the hospital and are stable. They will be discharged by Saturday," said a source at SATS. DCP (Airport) Sanjay Bhatia said the incident took place around 8.50 pm when the victims were at the take-off area, as a plane readied to leave. "They were removing chocks when lightning struck and as it was raining, the current may have struck them," he said. ENS



**PLEA SEEKING ISSUANCE OF DEATH WARRANTS**

# Will await SC outcome before hearing Dec 16 plea: Court

**ANAND MOHAN J**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

A DELHI court will hear a plea seeking issuance of death warrants against the four accused in the December 16, 2012 rape and murder case on December 18, after it was informed that one of the convicts, Akshay Kumar, has filed a review petition before the Supreme Court.

Additional Sessions Judge Satish Kumar Arora said he will wait for the outcome of the review petition hearing in the top court, and issued fresh notices to the four convicts and their lawyers to appear before the court on December 18.

"At least I have to wait till the time (Akshay Kumar's) review is pending. My view is that once the review is pending before the Supreme Court, let's wait for the outcome," the judge said.

The four convicts were supposed to be produced in person before the court, but due to security concerns, the proceedings were held in-camera.

At the hearing, Dr A P Singh, counsel for convicts Vinay, Pawan and Akshay, filed a status report before the judge regarding various stages of their legal remedies. He told the court that he has to file curative petitions for two convicts, and a review petition filed on behalf of Akshay and a case over the issue of juvenility of two convicts were pending in court.

The judge told Singh, "This petition has been pending for over a year. Why are you filing it now? You are making this an endless exercise."

The counsel for the victim's mother, Jitender Kumar Jha, told the court, "These are just delay tactics, my lord."

The Special Public Prosecutor

in the case, Rajiv Mohan, and the Additional Public Prosecutor, Irfan Ahmad, told the court that there was no impediment on the court from issuing the death warrant.

The amicus curiae in the case, Vrinda Grover, told the court that if warrants are issued, then it will set a time limit for the Supreme Court to decide the review petition.

After the hearing came to an end, the victim's mother, who moved Supreme Court challenging Akshay's review petition, said, "I will keep fighting for justice for my daughter and for the death penalty of those who snatched her from me. I want them to be hanged before December 16."

Tihar Jail authorities had on October 29 informed the four convicts on death row that they had "exhausted" all legal remedies, "except the provision of filing of mercy petition" before the

President of India.

The notice to the four convicts — Mukesh (31), Pawan Gupta (24), Vinay Sharma (25) and Akshay Kumar Singh (33) — was signed by the Superintendent, Central Jail No. 2, Tihar Jail.

On December 16, 2012, a 23-year-old woman was gangraped and assaulted in a moving bus in South Delhi by six persons, before being thrown out on the road. She died on December 29, 2012.

In September 2013, a fast-track court held the four convicts guilty of 13 offences including gangrape, unnatural sexual assault and murder of the woman, and attempt to murder her male friend.

One of the accused, Ram Singh, hanged himself in jail, while another, a juvenile, was convicted of rape and murder and given the maximum sentence of three years' imprisonment in a reform facility.

# Delhi govt to provide 30 new services under its doorstep delivery scheme

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal Friday announced the addition of 30 new services to the government's doorstep delivery scheme. The scheme, launched in September last year, will now cover 100 services of 14 Delhi government departments, of which six were added recently.

Kejriwal said the doorstep delivery of services has a higher success rate as compared to other methods. Of 2.89 lakh calls for availing various public services, over 2.64 lakh were disposed of in a period of one year and three months, with a success rate of 91%, he said.



Launched in Sept last year, the scheme will now offer 100 services from 14 Delhi govt departments. Archive

"This revolutionary initiative in governance has been successful for the last fifteen months. Now there are three ways to get things done at the government offices in Delhi—by visiting government offices, where the success rate is 57% and 43% of the

applications get rejected; by applying online, wherein 45% of the applications get cleared while 55% get rejected; and doorstep delivery, where the success rate is 91% and only 9% of the applications get rejected. This is due to the involvement of mobile sahayaks, who ensure that all documents are complete and attached in the right order, along with the applications," he added.

Nearly 300 personnel — 120 mobile sahayaks, 110 call centre executives, 11 supervisors, 35 dealing assistants and 25 coordinators — are working under the scheme. The doorstep delivery of public services scheme is implemented by the administrative reforms department of the Delhi government. The

scheme offers various government services at the homes of citizens, helping them avoid queues, touts, bribery and multiple visits to government offices. The scheme has been implemented in three phases. In the first phase, 40 services were launched on September 10, 2018. In the second phase, 30 more services were added in August 2019.

The 10 services most asked for under this scheme are the issuance of: caste certificate — OBC (21%), SC (19%) and ST (0.43%); income certificate (17%); learners' licence (8%); domicile certificate (5%); marriage registration (2.5%); AAY/priority household card (2%); delayed birth order (1.8%); and surviving member certificate (0.82%).

**The Indian EXPRESS**  
— JOURNALISM OF COURAGE —

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Indian Navy invites online application for a four year degree course under the 10+2 (B.Tech) Cadet Entry Scheme from unmarried eligible Male candidates who Passed Senior Secondary Examination (10+2 Pattern) or its equivalent examinations from any Board with at least 70% aggregate marks in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics (PCM) and at least 50% marks in English (either in Class X or Class XII).

**Age Limit.**

Born between **02 Jan 2001** and **01 Jul 2003** (Both dates inclusive).

**Note:**

- (a) Candidates are to register and submit their application on the recruitment website [www.joinindiannavy.gov.in](http://www.joinindiannavy.gov.in) from 29 Nov to 19 Dec 2019. To save time during the application submission window, candidates can fill in their details and upload documents in advance.
- (b) Online (e-application):- Whilst filling up the e-application, it is advisable to keep the relevant documents readily available to enable correct filling up of personal particulars.
- (c) Details are to be filled up as given in the Matriculation Certificate/12<sup>th</sup> Certificate.
- (d) Fields such as e-mail address, mobile number are mandatory fields.
- (e) All relevant documents (preferably in original) Date of birth proof (as per 10<sup>th</sup> /12<sup>th</sup> certificates), 10<sup>th</sup> marksheet, 12<sup>th</sup> marksheet, JEE (Main)-2019 score card (indicating All India Rank) and a recent passport size colour photograph should be scanned in original in JPG/TIFF format, for attaching the same while filling up the application.
- (f) If any scanned document is not legible / readable for any reason, the application will be rejected.
- (g) Print one copy of online application form and carry it along with original certificates/documents while appearing for SSB interview.

**IMPORTANT –**

- (a) The full advertisement regarding detailed information and selection procedure will be published in Employment News dated 23 Nov 19 and will also be available on [www.joinindiannavy.gov.in](http://www.joinindiannavy.gov.in). The candidates can apply 29 Nov to 19 Dec 2019. It is advisable to apply early, to avoid network congestion on last date.
- (b) Please read the instructions given on the website carefully before finally submitting your online application.
- (c) Your application is subject to subsequent scrutiny. The application can be rejected, if found INELIGIBLE/INVALID at any point of time.
- (d) After closing of online application, no request will be entertained for amendment in the uploaded documents.
- (e) Your candidature will be cancelled if any declaration is found wrong at any stage of selection process.
- (f) **The terms and conditions, given in this Advertisement, are subject to change and should, therefore, be treated as guidelines only.**

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Step2: Open QR Code Scanner App and Scan it  
Step3: Open URL & follow the instructions





# 8 CITIZENSHIP LAW

## MHA: States have no power to reject law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

WITH FIVE chief ministers from Opposition parties saying that the citizenship law would have "no place" in their respective states, top sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs Friday said that states have no powers to reject the implementation of the new law.

"The new legislation has been enacted under the Union List of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution, so it is a subject on which states have no power," said a top MHA source.

Chief Ministers of West Bengal, Punjab, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have indicated that the new law will have no place in their respective states.

There are 97 items which are under the Union List of the 7th Schedule that includes Defence, External Affairs, Railways, Citizenship and Naturalisation, among others.

On Thursday, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had said that "an anti-constitutional law will have no place" in his state.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said, "In your (BJP) manifesto, instead of development issues, you have put in a promise to divide the country. Why will citizenship be on the basis of religion? I will not accept this. We dare you..."

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said his government would not allow the legislation to be implemented in his state.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said the Act was "clearly unconstitutional". "Whatever decision is made at the Congress party forum on the Bill, will be applied in Chhattisgarh," he said.

## More petitions against new law filed in SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

ABOUT A dozen petitioners, including Congress leader Jairam Ramesh and the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), moved the Supreme Court Friday questioning the constitutional validity of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 even as the top court refused to grant an immediate hearing to a plea filed by Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra on the issue.

Moitra's petition was mentioned before a bench headed by Chief Justice of India S A Bobde with her counsel urging the bench to take it up during the day or next week. "Today? Nothing today. You go to the mentioning officer," the bench, also comprising justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant, told the counsel.

Another plea by two NGOs, Rihai Manch and Citizens Against Hate, filed through Advocate Fauzia Shakil, said the Act is "discriminatory and manifestly arbitrary" and violates the fundamental rights, including that of equality before law, and the basic structure of the Constitution.

Others who approached the SC on Friday include the Peace Party, Advocate M L Sharma and some law students.

Ramesh, in his plea filed through Senior Advocate Devdutt Kamat and Advocate Nishant Patil, contended that the Act is a "brazen attack on the core fundamental rights envisaged under the Constitution".

## India a safe haven for minorities: Maldives Speaker

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

THE NEW citizenship law is an internal matter of India, Maldives' Parliament Speaker Mohamed Nasheed said on Friday while noting that the country has always been a safe haven for persecuted minorities.

Citing his own example, Nasheed said the Indian high commission gave him refuge at a time when he was going to be arrested by Maldives' former president Abdulla Yameen. "Religious persecution is wrong and India will always give refuge to those persecuted. When President Yameen wanted to arrest me and when I went to Indian High Commission, they gave me refuge. They were quite willing to bring me to India too. Secularity of India, respecting minorities, are founding ideas of India," he said.

Nasheed said the new law is an internal matter of India. "I have complete trust in Indian democracy and whatever comes out from the process would be what majority of people from India want. It is India's internal matter. India is one of the safe havens for persecuted minority communities," he said.

Mohamed Nasheed

## 2 KILLED IN ASSAM: 17-YR-OLD AND 21-YR-OLD

# 'He went to protest as everyone was... also to see musician'

TORA AGARWALA  
GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 13

ON THURSDAY, when Sam Stafford, his cousins and friends set out for Guwahati's Lataasil playground, the city was under curfew. But the spirits were high — almost everyone in their locality was heading to the field for the protest organised by the All Assam Students' Union and Zubeen Garg against the citizenship law. Sam (17) was especially excited. A percussionist, he was going to see Garg — his favourite musician and idol.

The largely peaceful protest ended 3 pm and Sam and his friends headed home to Hatigaon Bhetapara, 9 km away. By then, there were sporadic protests in the city — with tyres burning, road dividers destroyed, stones thrown, and clashes between security forces and protesters.

When they reached Hatigaon, a group of protesters — about 500 strong — were in the area. "We were only shouting slogans," says lbadul Hoque, Sam's classmate. Suddenly, the streetlights went off, police started firing, and he "ran for his life, it was terrifying," he said.

"When the firing stopped, we heard someone had been shot," says Hoque. Then they saw Sam lying on the road, dead. "He was shot



The father of Sam Stafford (right), a student from Hatigaon who died in alleged police firing, at the Guwahati Medical College on Friday. Dasarath Deka

through his mouth," says Hoque on Friday, at Sam's home, as relatives and family members waited for the body to be brought from Guwahati Medical College and Hospital.

Hoque has a hunch that Sam was up in front trying to help people, because that was how Sam was: always smiling and helpful. "Sam dada asked me to join him in the protest. He told me not to worry because he was there to save me," says 15-year-old Shenaz Ahmed, a neighbour.

At Sam's family home in Hatigaon Bhetapara, his relatives were inconsolable, and Sam's parents (Biju, his father, who drives a city shuttle) and mother (Mamoni) were in no condition to speak.

"I don't think he even knew the full meaning of the citizenship law, he just went to protest because everyone was doing so. He also went to see Zubeen Garg," says Dolly Deka, Sam's 22-year-old cousin, sobbing. "People are dying and the government paid no heed. We

# Protests continue in Assam, govt says no major violence

66 injured in Meghalaya, Assam agitation leaders announce daytime protests

ABHISHEK SAHA  
GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 13

VIOLENT PROTESTS and street arson seemed to be simmering down in Assam on Friday with the administration claiming that no major incidents of violence were reported in Guwahati, and agitation leaders announcing that the protests will be held only during the day.

Indefinite curfew and internet suspension remained in place in 10 districts.

Thousands of people, including student leaders, culture icons, and public intellectuals gathered at the 10-hour hunger strike, called by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), at Assam Engineering Institute ground in Chandmari. AASU general secretary Lurinjyoti Gogoi said, "We have announced that protests will be held in daytime till 5 pm for a week and normal life will continue parallel to the protest movement. Schools, educational institutes and offices will continue and the protest movement will also continue." Gogoi said the students' body has approached the Supreme Court against the citizenship law.

Shops and petrol pumps opened in Guwahati after three days and people queued up to purchase essentials. The state government also set up helplines and arranged bus services for stranded passengers from different railway stations.

"Protests in Assam turned violent at a number of places leading to law and order situation. To arrest the deteriorating law and order situation, particularly in Guwahati, Morigaon, Sonitpur and Dibrugarh, Assam Rifles was requisitioned. Till now, a total of eight columns have been requisitioned which include one in Bongaigaon, one in Morigaon, four in Guwahati and two in Sonitpur," an Army spokesperson said.

Kamrup (Metro) DC Biswajit Pegu said, "Essential services are exempt from the curfew in the city. On Friday, no major incidence



A protest against the citizenship law in Guwahati on Friday. Dasarath Deka

of unruly situation has been reported. Some items have become bit costlier at the shops."

Additional DCP (Law and Order) G P Singh told *The Indian Express* on Friday afternoon that the number of casualties due to violence remained two, as reported on Thursday.

Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal blamed opposition Congress, "ultra Left" and "communal forces" for the widespread violence, saying strong action will be taken against those involved in arson and vandalism during the anti-citizenship law protests. Sonowal also said the violence was part of a political conspiracy against the BJP-led government in Assam and asserted that he was committed to protecting the rights of the indigenous people of the state.

Meanwhile, three policemen and at least 63 protesters were injured in Meghalaya's capital Shillong on Friday after thousands of protesters attempted to storm into the Governor's House as police resorted to lathicharge and tear gas shelling to disperse the crowd, a senior police officer said.

## Shah cancels visit to Meghalaya, Arunachal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

Home Minister Amit Shah has canceled his visit to Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh, scheduled for Sunday and Monday, officials in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said. The development comes in the backdrop of widespread protests in Assam and Meghalaya against the new citizenship law.

The MHA did not cite any reason behind the cancellation.

Shah was to take part in the passing out parade at the North Eastern Police Academy near Shillong on Sunday and a festival in Tawang in Arunachal the next day.

voted for them. We thought they would do something. But what they did was they killed our brother, who had no evil intentions."

Sam's friends from the Phalguni Rabha Assamese medium school say he was saving up money from his small tabla performances around the city. "He was going to start a YouTube channel for Assamese music," says Intaj Khan, a friend.

His friends say they didn't discuss the citizenship law much, until the protests began. "But, as Assamese boys, we were worried about the future of Assam. We never wanted illegal Bangladeshis to take over," says Hoque.

About 30 minutes before the body arrived, Garg arrived at the Staffords' house, in tears.

While *The Indian Express* was unable to access Sam's post mortem report, eyewitnesses said he was shot point blank in the face. ADGP (L&O) G P Singh confirmed the death.

"He had sinusitis, it was common for him to cover his face with a black mask. He was hefty too. Is that why the police fired at him?" asks Bishop Stafford, Sam's uncle.

## The injured

According to information available at the Guwahati Medical College and Hospital, as of Friday 6:30 pm, 26 people were injured, 11 discharged and two dead. Apart from Sam

Stafford, the deceased included 21-year-old Dipanjal Das, who hails from Chaygaon (Kamrup district), an employee at Sainik Bhavan canteen in Guwahati.

While Das was shot at in the city's Uluberia area, Sam died during a clash in Hatigaon area.

*The Indian Express* spoke to the families of some of the injured. On Thursday evening, Nazmeen K Afroz, a 51-year-old housewife, set out with her daughter, Suzana, 25, and neighbour (also tenant, Najma Begum, 45). "We needed milk. We there a few shops had opened. We could see tyres burning and vandalism, but there were so many people, so it seemed safe," says Suzana.

Suddenly, she said, the road plunged into darkness and they heard gunshots for five minutes. "Everyone started running and we took refuge in a lane. My mother and I lay flat on the ground," says Suzana. "I heard my mother whimper in pain. I touched her leg and felt blood and flesh. It was then that I realised she had been hit with a bullet." A bullet also grazed their neighbour Najma's ankle.

Both women got back home late Thursday, and are recovering.

Rajen Medhi, an auto driver in his sixties, had stepped out for groceries. "He was shot in the thigh and is in hospital," says Amrendra Yadav, a neighbour.

## MEANWHILE



A protest at Uluberia in Howrah on Friday. Express

## Road blockade, 2 rly stations targeted

*Kolkata:* Protests against the new citizenship law continued unabated in West Bengal for the second day on Friday with rail and road blockade and arson in Kolkata, Murshidabad and Howrah districts, among other places. At least two railway personnel were reportedly injured in the incidents of violence and arson at Beldanga station in Murshidabad district, bordering Bangladesh, and Uluberia in Howrah. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar have appealed for peace. In Kolkata, protests were held in Park Circus, Wellington and Rajarhat areas where protesters waved black flags and burnt copies of the new law. They shouted slogans against Home Minister Amit Shah and demanded scrapping of the legislation and the proposed nationwide implementation of the NRC.

## AMU march halted, internet suspended

*Lucknow:* On the sixth day of the protests against the citizenship law on the AMU campus, a march by more than 1,000 students to the District Magistrate's office was halted at the Bab-e-Syed entrance of the university. "The students were stopped from marching to the DM's office, at the

university gates. A large crowd had gathered and the effort was to ensure no untoward incident takes place... The protest concluded peacefully," said Anila Samania, Circle Officer, City. As the protest march was stopped, the District Magistrate reached the campus and received a memorandum from the AMU students union. The letter, addressed to CJS A Bobde, requested that the new citizenship law be declared "unconstitutional and illegal". The district administration has blocked internet services in Aligarh district since midnight in view of the protests. Protests were also held in several areas in UP, including Lucknow and Kanpur.

## 10 detained in Mumbai ahead of protest

*Mumbai:* At least 10 protesters, including former IAS officer Kannan Gopinathan, who had resigned in August stating that he was "losing his voice" under the current government, were detained at Marine Drive police station on Friday evening, as they started to gather for a protest against the new citizenship law. They were released after being held at the police station for a couple of hours. "We were just reading the Constitution of India when the police detained us. In a democracy, we have the right to peacefully assemble," said Gopinathan.

ENS INPUTS FROM MUMBAI, LUCKNOW & KOLKATA

## AIADMK draws flak, DMK calls statewide stir on Dec 17

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHENNAI, DECEMBER 13

AMID PROTESTS over the new citizenship law in various parts of the country, the ruling AIADMK in Tamil Nadu is caught in an embarrassing situation for supporting the central government on the legislation, which does not have the issue of one lakh Sri Lankan Tamils sheltered in Tamil Nadu within its purview.

The youth wing of main opposition DMK organised protests across the state on Friday. Hundreds of DMK cadres, including party chief M K Stalin's son and actor-turned-politician Udhayanidhi, were taken in cus-

tody as they marched in the city. Hundreds of students of New College in the city also organised a massive protest calling the law anti-national and anti-constitutional.

According to police sources, over 500 people were taken in custody.

The DMK has called a statewide agitation on December 17.

On being asked why the AIADMK supported a Bill that ignored the issue of citizenship for Sri Lankan Tamils, senior state minister Rajendra Balaji had no comments. However, he said, the BJP government had no intention to deny citizenship status to Sri Lankan refugees. "The AIADMK government will take all necessary steps to make sure that CAB also benefits Sri Lankan Tamils."

## Nath hints at pushback, says will do what Cong-ruled states do

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

WITH FOUR opposition-ruled states indicating that they will not implement the controversial citizenship law, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath indicated that his state may join them as he described the legislation as "sowing seeds of divisiveness which is the anti-thesis of this country".

Nath, who held an informal interaction with women journalists at the Indian Women's Press Corps, also criticised the BJP-led government for its efforts to "distract" and

"change the orbit of people's imagination" by taking such steps when the country had more serious issues to face. "This is *dhyan modne ki rajniti* (it's politics of diverting attention)," Nath said.

The veteran Congress leader said the time has come for the Opposition to have a joint agenda and common understanding. Nath also said the central government had not consulted the states before bringing such a legislation. "We will do what other Congress-ruled states do. Whatever stand the Congress party has taken on Citizenship Amendment Act, we will follow that..." he said, adding that the "Congress has never accepted such legislation".

## Mamata calls for protest, TMC says govt embarrassing country across world

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, KOLKATA, DECEMBER 13

EVEN AS West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called for mass protests against the new citizenship law, her party TMC accused the Union government of "internationally embarrassing the country" and "making enemies out of friends".

Speaking at Digha on Friday, Banerjee said, "They may send us to jail, may torture us but we will not allow them to divide our country. We will fight back and I am calling all parties and organisations to join us. We together will go for a mass movement against the NRC and CAB."

She announced that the TMC will organise protest marches starting Sunday. "All political party except BJP are welcome in this protest," she said.

Banerjee expressed concerns over India-Bangladesh relations after the law. Citing the cancellation of visits by Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as well as Bangladesh's Foreign Minister A K Abdul Momen and Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, she said the developments are a "matter of shame for the country".

The West Bengal CM, who is also the TMC chief, also assured that her government will not implement the new citizenship law in the state. "We will not implement the amended Act, even though it has been passed in Parliament. The BJP can't just bull-



'They may jail us, but we will not allow them to divide our country'

doze the states to implement it," she said.

Banerjee has also called a meeting of all TMC Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs and MLAs to discuss the party's strategy on the new law and the NRC on December 20.

Meanwhile, TMC spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Derek O'Brien called the new citizenship law a "maha emergency". "The North-East is burning and you are trying to score cheap political points with divisive rhetoric. This government is internationally embarrassing the country. It is a thing when your enemies don't agree with you now managing to turn friends into enemies. International visits are being cancelled," O'Brien said.

"During the Emergency, things were shamelessly done. This is a maha Emergency because it is being disguised. Look at the media advisory issued by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. Just the way it has been framed... it bars anything that 'promotes anti-national attitudes and/or contains anything affecting the integrity of the nation', which amounts to muzzling the media..."

## RJD slams Nitish over support to Bill, JD(U) digs out Lalu speech

*Patna:* Under attack from the RJD for supporting the new citizenship law, the JD(U) on Friday dug out a 1989 speech of then Janata Dal MP Lalu Prasad, who had then blamed the Congress for the Bhagalpur riots, and said his party had defended the BJP and RSS.

The V P Singh-led Janata Dal government was then supported by the BJP from outside.

Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav of the RJD on Friday said: "How can Nitish Kumar support the black law if he calls himself secular? The Bihar CM has once again sold out his principles. It seems as if making India a Hindu rashtra is as much a dream of the JD(U). Nitish Kumar very well knows CAB is discriminatory but has been still supporting it to remain in power."

JD(U) spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said: "RJD cannot do politics of convenience. The so-called flag-bearer of secularism had blamed Congress for 1989 Bhagalpur riots".

Quoting from Lalu Prasad's speech in Lok Sabha on December 29, 1989, Kumar said: "Lalu Prasad had said... (the riot was engineered) to defame Bhagalpur, BJP, RSS and Janata Dal... Congress party called their workers to wear caps which on one side read 'garv se kahao hum Hindu hain' and 'Radheshyam Baba ki ja' on the other."

Bihar BJP spokesperson Nikhil Anand said: "There are intentional fools in this country who don't have faith in parliamentary democratic system... Some hired professionals are pressed into service to defame our country on CAB and NRC..."



# 9 IN PARLIAMENT WINTER SESSION

## FROM THE GALLERY

### 5 QUESTIONS



CONGRESS LOK SABHA MEMBER **JOTHAMANI S** TROOPED TO THE WELL PROTESTING AGAINST BJP MPs DEMANDING AN APOLOGY FROM HER PARTY COLLEAGUE RAHUL GANDHI. SHE SPOKE TO **AVISHEK G DASTIDAR** ON WHY SHE PROTESTED.

**What were you protesting about?**  
Rahul Gandhi has spoken in favour of safety of women and against the government. The BJP, instead of responding to that, are politicising the issue.

**How is that?**  
They should be ashamed of the rapes happening and ashamed of the national flag being raised for the Kathua rape accused... They should be ashamed of the Prime Minister's silence on the whole thing. Instead of that, they are demanding an apology from Rahul Gandhi...

**But BJP is accusing the Congress of the same thing: of politicising the issue by speaking about it at an election rally.**

Rape happens for a variety of reasons. But what is dangerous is that a Prime Minister, who is otherwise so vocal about all sorts of issues on social media and otherwise, maintains absolute silence...

**The BJP is saying 'Make in India' has nothing to do with this.**

What has been said is that every day we open the newspaper expecting to see Make in India's progress, but instead we see rapes in India... They don't want to accept the truth.

**What do you want the government to do?**

The PM should say, 'I'm the Prime Minister and I will take care of you'... That is the job of the Prime Minister. When the (December 16) 2012 gangrape in Delhi happened, we (the UPA government) owned responsibility of it. At that time, Modi ji said Delhi is the rape capital. But Rahul Gandhi never said such things...



## PAYING TRIBUTE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu and Home Minister Amit Shah, along with Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, pay tribute to those killed in the December 13, 2001 terror attack on the Parliament. *Renuka Puri*

## Hopeful new Parliament building will be completed by 2022: Speaker

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

LOK SABHA Speaker Om Birla on Friday indicated that the new Parliament building will be ready by 2022.

Birla, who was speaking to the media after the conclusion of the Winter Session, said: "We are working to have our session in a new Parliament building when we celebrate 75 years of Independence. I am hopeful that it will be completed by 2022."

When asked about the location of the proposed building, Birla said two or three sites were under the consideration of the government. He did not offer more details. The new Parliament building will reportedly be equipped with contemporary technology.

When Birla was asked about the post of the Deputy Speaker being vacant even after the second session of the 17th Lok Sabha had concluded, he said it was for the government to take a decision.

He also hinted that the subsidy on food in the Parliament canteen may be dispensed with till the next session begins. "You may not get subsidised tea in the next session," he said, while replying to question.

## Pragya's privilege complaint against Rahul sent to panel

PRADEEP KAUSHAL  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

LOK SABHA Speaker Om Birla on Friday indicated that a complaint of breach of privilege, submitted by BJP member Pragya Thakur against senior Congress member Rahul Gandhi for calling her a terrorist, had been sent to the Committee on Privileges.

Birla, who was addressing a media conference, stated in response to a question that he had sent complaints against different members to the committees concerned. It was now for these panels to take a call on them.

Committee chairman Sunil Kumar Singh told *The Indian Express* he had learnt from his office that Pragya's complaint had been received. "I have not seen the complaint because I am away to my constituency, Chatra (Jharkhand), due to the ongoing Assembly polls. I will be able to comment on the matter only after my return on December 18," he said.

Pragya had triggered a row praising Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse as a "deshbhakt" (patriot) in Lok Sabha during the Winter Session. Rahul Gandhi had



Speaker Om Birla

then tweeted, "Terrorist Pragya calls terrorist Godse, a patriot. A sad day in the history of India's parliament."

Pragya made the complaint against Rahul for the tweet, saying that she has not been convicted and the Congress leader had breached her privilege as an MP. Pragya had tendered an apology for her remarks on Godse though she maintained that she had not mentioned Godse's name and she had been misquoted.

While the Opposition pressed for an apology by Pragya in Lok Sabha, BJP member Nishikant Dubey demanded the initiation of a breach of privilege motion against Rahul for calling her a "terrorist". He also requested the Speaker to ensure that "the dignity of parliamentarians" was maintained.

## As Venkaiah lauds RS productivity, last day ends with disruptions

ABANTIKA GHOSH & MANOJ C G  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

RAJYA SABHA chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Friday lauded the 99 per cent productivity recorded by the Upper House during the Winter Session, but the last day of the session was marred by frequent disruptions over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "Rape in India" remarks and the situation in the North-East over the new citizenship law.

Proceedings began on a serene note during Zero Hour, with homage being paid to those killed in the December 13, 2001 Parliament attack.

However, the situation soon went out of hand as several BJP MPs, mostly women, raised slogans following a point of order by nominated MP Sonal Mansingh about a Congress "high functionary" saying that 'Made in India' has been replaced by "Rape in India".

The sloganeering continued even as CPI member Binoy Vishwan valiantly attempted to speak about his 267 notice on the North-East amidst the din.

Earlier, Congress's Anand Sharma demanded that the Prime Minister immediately call an all-party meeting with chief ministers of all states to assess the situation as sensitive border states such as Assam, Tripura and Manipur were on the boil.

When the House reconvened after a brief adjournment, the TMC led the charge with its member Derek O'Brien's aggressive protests against a government media advisory against broadcasting anything that promotes "anti-national attitudes", party MPs trooping into the well and Dola Sen tearing up a copy of the day's list of business, much to the annoyance of Naidu.

The chairman refused to let Question Hour be interrupted, with nobody from the Opposition, including Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad, being allowed to speak. The disruptions went on even as many members pleaded with Naidu to "protect the interest of the members".

When Azad stood up to speak, his mic

## LS productivity at 116%, RS at 99%

New Delhi: Lok Sabha recorded a productivity of over 116 per cent during the Winter Session, which concluded on Friday. The Rajya Sabha record for the session was 99 per cent.

According to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, a total of 18 Bills were introduced in Lok Sabha, of which the House passed 14, while Rajya Sabha passed 15. The total tally of the Bills cleared by the two Houses was 15. These Bills would become Acts after Presidential assent.

The Winter Session, which commenced on November 18, witnessed 20 sittings over 26 days. **ENS**

was switched on for a few minutes, during which time he demanded a statement from the government on the situation in the North-East — only for the mic to be turned off again.

After prolonged disruptions, Naidu permitted DMK's Tiruchi Siva to speak, but he was barely audible in the din. Naidu adjourned the session soon afterwards.

In the afternoon, in his customary end-of-session address, Naidu noted that the previous session had recorded a productivity of 104 per cent, while the productivity of the Winter Session was 99 per cent. "For me, this is a certain proof of this ship being steered and all of you deserve credit for it. As against the total scheduled available time of 108 hours 33 minutes during this session with 20 sittings, the House functioned for 107 hours 11 minutes resulting in a productivity of 99 per cent," he said.

A total of 11 hours, 47 minutes, accounting for about 11 per cent of the available time of the House, had been lost due to interruptions. However, members sat for an extra 10 hours, 52 minutes, resulting in productivity of 99 per cent.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the general public that my client intends to purchase the schedule property from M/s. Kalbuzz Trading Pvt. Ltd., having its registered office at: Flat No. A-23, Navarathna Apartment, 17<sup>th</sup> Cross, Malleshwaram West, Bangalore-560 055 which claims to be the absolute owner of schedule property.

**Schedule**  
All the piece and parcel of property bearing Plot No.1 (Part), situated in Sy.No.14 to 18, 22,30,31 and Part of 36 and 37 at Belawadi Industrial Area, YelwalaHobli, Mysore Taluk, Panchayath Katha No.6/1, measuring 5133.29 sqmtrs, having unique No. 152200407129020353 and the building standing thereon, bounded on East by: Plot No.1 and 1-P-A/1 and 1-P-A/2  
West by: 1 & 1-P-C  
North by: Mysore-Hunsur Main Road  
South by: Private property  
Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of December 2019  
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-  
**P.S.Manjunath**  
**T.P.Vivekananda**  
Advocate  
No.19, 2<sup>nd</sup> Main, 5<sup>th</sup> Block  
Kumara Park West, Bangalore-560 020  
Cell No.9844254843

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the general public that my client intends to purchase the schedule property from M/s.SLPKG Estate Holdings Private Limited, A Company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 having its Registered Office at Plot No.10, 11 Floor, MF/50/10, MF/31 to 59 SFS, Nandini Layout, Opposite to Nandini Layout Bus stand, Bangalore 560 096 which claims to be the absolute owner of schedule property.

**Schedule**  
All the piece and parcel of property bearing Plot No.1 (Part), situated in Sy.No.14 to 18, 22,30,31 and Part of 36 and 37 at Belawadi Industrial Area, YelwalaHobli, Mysore Taluk, Panchayath Katha No.6, measuring 49347.74 sqmtrs, having unique No. 152200407129002873 and the building standing thereon, bounded on East by: Road  
West by: Plot No.1 and 1-P-B/1 and 1-P-B/2  
North by: Mysore-Hunsur Main Road  
South by: Private property  
Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of December 2019  
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-  
**P.S.Manjunath**  
**T.P.Vivekananda**  
Advocate  
No.19, 2<sup>nd</sup> Main, 5<sup>th</sup> Block  
Kumara Park West, Bangalore-560 020  
Cell No.9844254843

## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS (DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING)

Applications are invited for filling up of the post of Chief Information Commissioner and four posts of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission located at New Delhi.

The details of eligibility conditions and the proforma for sending particulars for consideration for the posts of Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner may be downloaded from the Department of Personnel and Training website: [www.persmin.nic.in](http://www.persmin.nic.in). The last date for receipt of the completed applications in the Department is 03.01.2020

davp 32201/11/0008/1920

## South Zone Cultural Centre (Ministry of Culture, Government of India) Dakshini, medical College Road, Thanjavur 613 004 Tamil Nadu

### INVITES APPLICATION FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS ON DIRECT RECRUITMENT

Sl No.	Name of the post	No. of Post	Category	Scale of Pay	Age limit as on 15.12.2019
01.	Programme Executive	3	UR	Rs. 35400 (PL-6)	Minimum 18 years - Maximum 30 years
02.	Assistant Programme Executive	2	UR	Rs. 25500 (PL-4)	Minimum 18 years - Maximum 25 years
03.	Junior Hindi Translator	1	UR	Rs. 35400 (PL-6)	Minimum 18 years - Maximum 30 years
04.	Junior Assistant	2	UR	Rs. 25500 (PL-4)	Minimum 18 years - Maximum 25 years

The details and Application form can be obtained from the website [szccindia.org](http://szccindia.org) Application along with Postal order/ Demand Draft for Rs. 100/- as application fee payable at Thanjavur in favour of Director, South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur (SC/ST and Female candidates are exempted from the above fee) may be sent to the Director at above address. Last date for receipt of application is: **17th January 2020.**

Sd/-  
**Director**  
**South Zone Cultural Centre,**  
**Thanjavur**  
davp 09132/11/0006/1920

भारत सरकार/Government of India  
अंतरिक्ष विभाग/Department of Space  
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन/Indian Space Research Organisation  
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE  
तिरुवनंतपुरम/Thiruvananthapuram - 695 022

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INVITES ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS

क्रम सं. / Sl. No.	पद एवं वेतन स्तर / Post & Pay Level	अनिवार्य योग्यता / Essential Qualifications	पदों की सं. / No. of Posts
1	वैज्ञानिक / इंजीनियर-एसडी Scientist / Engineer - SD स्तर/Level 11 (₹ 67,700 - ₹ 2,08,700)	भौतिकी / वायुमंडलीय विज्ञान / मौसम विज्ञान / अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान / ग्रहीय विज्ञान / वांतरिक्ष / माइक्रो-इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स / गतिकी प्रतिस्वप्न एवं वांतरिक्ष यानों के नियंत्रण / सक्षिप्त हाइड्रोजन के संरचनात्मक विश्लेषण / घातुकर्म / पदार्थ विज्ञान (सिरेनिक प्रोटोगिकी) / रासायनिक इंजीनियरी / बहुलक प्रोटोगिकी / रसायनविज्ञान (आणविक प्रतिस्वप्न) / प्रयोगात्मक शीत परमाणुओं / शीत परमाणु विषो / शीत आयन पाशो / बोस एन्स्टीन द्रव में पौचुंडी Ph.D in Physics / Atmospheric Science / Meteorology / Space Science / Planetary Science / Aerospace / Microelectronics / Dynamics Modelling and Control of Aerospace Vehicles / Structural Analysis of Composite Hardware / Metallurgy / Material Science / Material Science (Ceramic Technology) / Chemical Engineering / Polymer Technology / Chemistry (Molecular Modelling) / Experimental Cold Atoms / Cold Atom Chips / Cold Ion Traps / Bose Einstein Condensate.	19
2	वैज्ञानिक / इंजीनियर-एससी Scientist / Engineer - SC स्तर/Level 10 (₹ 56,100 - ₹ 1,77,500)	औद्योगिक इंजीनियरी / नियंत्रण प्रणाली इंजीनियरी / नियंत्रण एवं यंत्रिकरण / नियंत्रण एवं निर्देशन / नियंत्रण एवं अभिकलन / नियंत्रण एवं स्वचालन / प्रणाली एवं नियंत्रण इंजीनियरी / औद्योगिकीय संस्था इंजीनियरी / पदार्थ विज्ञान एवं इंजीनियरी / पदार्थ इंजीनियरी / फुल इंजीनियरी / वांतरिक्ष इंजीनियरी / वैमानिकी इंजीनियरी / मशीन अभिकलना / नौदन / निर्माण इंजीनियरी / अविनाशी परीक्षण / घातुकर्म / पदार्थ विज्ञान / कंप्यूटर विज्ञान / विद्युत मशीनों / डिजिटल सिग्नल प्रक्रमण / प्रतिविध प्रक्रमण/ वोल्टेजएसआइ / आरएफ/ बहुलक प्रोटोगिकी / बहुलक इंजीनियरी / रासायनिक इंजीनियरी में एम.ई./एम.टेक या समकक्ष M.E / M.Tech or equivalent in Industrial Engineering / Control Systems Engineering / Control & Instrumentation / Control & Guidance / Control & Computing / Control & Automation / Systems & Control Engineering / Industrial Safety Engineering / Material Science & Engineering / Material Engineering / Surface Engineering / Aerospace Engineering / Aeronautical Engineering / Machine Design / Propulsion / Manufacturing Engineering / Non Destructive Testing / Metallurgy / Material Science / Computer Science / Electrical Machines / Digital Signal Processing / Image Processing / VLSI / RF Engineering / Microwave Engineering / Radar Engineering / Polymer Technology / Polymer Engineering / Chemical Engineering.	42
3	चिकित्सा अधिकारी-एसडी Medical Officer - SD स्तर/Level 11 (₹ 67,700-₹ 2,08,700) लाभभ्रम वेतन Approx. salary ₹ 1,03,000/-	गणित / अनुप्रयुक्त गणित / रसायनविज्ञान / बहुलक रसायनविज्ञान में एम.एससी M.Sc. Mathematics / Applied Mathematics / Chemistry / Polymer Chemistry रासायनिक इंजीनियरी / ऑटोमोबाइल इंजीनियरी / घातुकर्म / पदार्थ विज्ञान में बी.ई./बी.टेक या समकक्ष B.E / B.Tech or equivalent in Chemical Engineering / Automobile Engineering / Metallurgy / Material Science.	5
4	चिकित्सा अधिकारी-एससी Medical Officer - SC स्तर/Level 10 (₹ 56,100-₹ 1,77,500) लाभभ्रम वेतन Approx. salary ₹ 85,800/-	1. किसी मान्यताप्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से सामान्य चिकित्सा में एमडी / सामान्य चिकित्सा में समकक्ष स्नातकोत्तर की उपाधि MD in General Medicine from a recognized university / Equivalent Post Graduate Degree in General Medicine. 2. भारतीय चिकित्सा परिषद/राज्य चिकित्सा परिषद में अतिरिक्त योग्यता (एमडी या समकक्ष) का फंजीकरण Registration of additional qualification (MD or Equivalent) with Medical Council of India / State Medical Council.	1
5	चिकित्सा अधिकारी-एससी Medical Officer - SC स्तर/Level 10 (₹ 56,100-₹ 1,77,500) लाभभ्रम वेतन Approx. salary ₹ 85,800/-	1. किसी मान्यताप्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से एमबीबीएस / समकक्ष MBBS / equivalent from a recognized University. 2. भारतीय चिकित्सा परिषद में स्थाई फंजीकरण Permanent Registration with Medical Council of India 3. किसी प्रतिष्ठित अस्पताल में कम-से-कम 2 वर्षों का नैदानिक अनुभव Minimum 2 years' clinical experience in a reputed hospital. औद्योगिक स्वास्थ्य में डिप्लोमा या एसोसिएट फेलो ऑफ इंडस्ट्रियल हेल्थ (एएफआईएच) को तर्जनीह Preferably with Diploma in Industrial Health OR Associate Fellow of Industrial Health (AFIH)	1

विस्तृत विज्ञापन वीएसएससी वेबसाइट <http://www.vssc.gov.in> में दिया जाएगा। अभ्यर्थियों को साहज हो जाती है कि पद सं., वेतन स्तर, स्नातक (पूर्वाभिक्षित) तथा स्नातकोत्तर स्तर पर अनिवार्य योग्यता(ओ), आयु सीमा, प्रत्येक विधा के लिए पदों की संख्या, कार्य की प्रकृति एवं विशेष दिशाओं के लिए वह विस्तृत विज्ञापन देखें।  
Detailed advertisement will be hosted in VSSC website <http://www.vssc.gov.in>. Candidates are advised to go through the advertisement for Post No, Pay Level, Essential Qualification(s) at Graduate (Pre-requisite) & Post Graduate level, Age limit, No. of Posts for each discipline, Nature of job and special notes if any.

1. खपयुक्त पदों के लिए आवेदन केवल ऑन-लाइन प्राप्त किए जाएंगे। / Applications for the above posts will be received on-line only.  
2. आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने हेतु दिनांक 20.12.2019 को 1000 बजे से 03.01.2020 को 1700 बजे तक वेबसाइट खुला रहेगा। / The website will be open for submission of on-line application from 1000 hours from 20.12.2019 to 1700 hours on 03.01.2020.  
"सरकार एक ऐसे कार्यबल का प्रयास करती है जो लिंग संतुलन की अभिव्यक्ति करता है तथा महिला उम्मीदवारों को आवेदन देने हेतु प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है।"  
"Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply".



# 10 GOVT & POLITICS

## Ganga Council meet today, River Cities, dolphins on the agenda

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
KANPUR, DECEMBER 13

THE NATIONAL Ganga Council, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is set to meet for first time at Kanpur on Saturday with a proposal to save and enhance the population of the Gangetic Dolphin, to discuss the concept of 'River Cities' and an action plan to provide sewer connection to every household in towns along the Ganga and its tributaries.

The body, which is responsible for cleaning the Ganga, may also ask states to demarcate floodplains and strictly prevent the encroachment and dumping of waste in the same, said sources. Chief ministers of all states along the Ganga are expected to attend the meeting. However, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar will not be able to attend, sources said.

While Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Modi will represent Nitish at the meeting, there is no confirmation about participation of

### EXPLAINED E. Much-delayed first meet

THE NATIONAL Ganga Council comprises the chief ministers of 5 states along the Ganga — Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Jharkhand — along with nine Union ministers and the NITI Aayog vice-chairman.

The council, which has been tasked with the "protection, prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution in River Ganga and its rejuvenation to its natural and pristine condition and to ensure continuous adequate flow of water", was to meet once a year, but not a single meeting has taken place since its inception.

West Bengal.

"So far there is no information about who will represent West Bengal," said Gajendra Shekhawat, Minister of Jal Shakti, on Friday.

At the meet, a special programme called 'Project Dolphin', along the lines of Project Tiger, may be cleared to enhance the population of dolphins, a source said.

The dolphin was declared the national aquatic animal at the first meeting of the erstwhile National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in 2009. According to an official report, the Gangetic dolphin is among the four freshwater dolphins found across the world.

The council may ask states and the HRD Ministry to promote river conservation in

school education and related activities in colleges.

To effectively utilise the sewerage network constructed under the Namami Gange programme, an action plan may be approved at the meeting to provide the sewer connection to all households on priority basis in towns along Ganga and its tributaries, said the sources. A proposal to extend the programme beyond 2020, may also be approved, they said.

Sources said the Prime Minister will also review projects being implemented under Namami Gange. The focus of the discussion will be on projects related to domestic sewage and industrial effluents. The 'Namami Gange' was approved on May 13, 2015 to rejuvenate river Ganga and its tributaries and a total amount of Rs. 20,000 crore allocated for this project to be spent over the next five years, till 2020.

According to sources, the council will also discuss the concept of River Cities based on the urban river management plans to be prepared by the respective states.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Maldivian counterpart Abdulla Shahid in New Delhi. PTI

## India, Maldives to boost anti-terror cooperation, maritime security ties

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

INDIA AND the Maldives on Friday vowed to boost anti-terror cooperation and expand their maritime security ties to deal with common challenges in the Indian Ocean, a region where China has been rapidly expanding its military presence.

After talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Maldivian counterpart Abdulla Shahid, both sides inked two pacts providing for cooperation in financial intelligence and election-related issues besides exchanging an instrument of ratification for a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

"Both sides noted that India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Maldives' 'India First' policy were

working in tandem to further strengthen a dynamic, multifaceted and mutually beneficial partnership that rests on the foundation of mutual trust, understanding and sensitivity to each other's concerns," a joint statement issued after the talks said.

In the meeting, both sides also reviewed the ongoing construction of police training facility in the Maldivian city of Addu and capacity building projects being implemented with India's assistance.

The bilateral defence cooperation in financial intelligence and election-related issues besides exchanging an instrument of ratification for a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. "Both sides noted that India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Maldives' 'India First' policy were



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



### THE HEALTHY WAY

UNION HEALTH Minister Harsh Vardhan, who celebrated his birthday on Friday, wanted to do it in a healthy way. Instead of distributing the usual sweets, he brought oats chocolates to Parliament for his fellow MPs and ministers. The minister, who has been inspiring people to shift to healthier ways of life for the last few months, seems to have also been inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday message for him. Early morning Modi tweeted: "On his birthday, my greetings to the humble and affable @drharshvardhan Ji. He has distinguished himself as a hardworking and diligent administrator, who is working to ensure a healthier India. May he lead a long and healthy life."

### SPECIAL SPIRIT

AT THE customary post-session meeting Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu had with leaders of about 20 parties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recalled an incident that holds a mirror to the spirit of tribals. He did so when Sarojini Hembram, who spoke in the Rajya Sabha in Santhali for the first time in 67 years, entered Naidu's chamber and she was introduced to the PM by Naidu. Modi recalled that during the shooting of the film Mrigaya, Mithun Chakraborty shot an arrow using his thumb. Tribals nearby rushed in rage to Mithun and reminded him that Eklaya cut his thumb and gave it to guru Dronacharya on being asked, and the thumb should not be used. Mithun then practised shooting arrows without using his thumb.

### NOTICE IN OFFING

THE TMC is set to serve a showcause notice to party MP K D Singh for violating the party whip on Wednesday when the House voted on the citizenship Bill. Singh, sources said, will get till January to reply. Incidentally, that is also when his term comes to an end along with that of several other TMC MPs. While Singh is unlikely to be fielded again, MP Jogen Chowdhury, whose term is also ending, has told the party that he enjoyed his term but would like to get back to his artistic pursuits.

## As company faces ED probe, Ashok Lavasa's son quits as director

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

ABIR LAVASA, son of Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa, has resigned as the director of Nourish Organic Foods Pvt Ltd in the wake of the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) investigation against the company.

When contacted by *The Indian Express* on Friday, Abir confirmed that he resigned on December 3 and said the company hasn't accepted it yet. He did not comment further.

Abir has made three appearances before the ED since it launched an investigation against Nourish Organic Foods for alleged violation of foreign exchange laws.

As first reported by *The Indian Express* on November 12, the ED is looking at the Rs 7.25 crore raised by Nourish Organic Foods Pvt Ltd in March, 2019, from Saama Capital, a Mauritius-based, India-focused early-stage investor.

Saama Capital has invested in a number of start-ups in India including PayTM, ChaiPoint, Vistaar (NBFC), Snapdeal and

SKS Microfinance. Abir had been the director of Nourish Organic Foods Pvt Ltd since November 14, 2017.

Sources close to Abir said that he decided to resign to "save the company from any further harassment".

Three members of the Lavasa family, including Ashok Lavasa's wife, are under the scanner of the Income Tax Department for alleged non-declaration of income and disproportionate assets. Nourish Organic and Ashok Lavasa's sister, Shakuntala Lavasa who is a pediatrician, have also received I-T notices.

Ashok Lavasa is one of the three commissioners in the Election Commission (EC) who had on five occasions opposed the clean chit given by the EC to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former BJP president Amit Shah on charges of violating the Model Code of Conduct during the campaign for the Lok Sabha elections.

Lavasa, who is second in seniority to Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, had later recused himself from EC meetings on the MCC.



(Left) Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses the media at Parliament House; (right) Union minister Smriti Irani and other BJP MPs after meeting the EC at Nirwachen Bhawan in New Delhi.



### UPROAR IN BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

## BJP slams Rahul's 'rape in India' remark, he says attention being deflected from N-E

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

BOTH HOUSES of Parliament saw frequent disruptions over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "Rape in India" comment during an election rally in Jharkhand, with members of the ruling BJP calling on the Wayanad MP to apologise for his remarks.

Right after Lok Sabha assembled for the last day of the Winter Session, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal said the ruling party members had given notice for an adjournment motion over Gandhi's remarks. "This is condemnable activity. How could he say 'rape in India'? He must apologise to the House here. Although he has made the remark outside the House, there is such a precedence in Parliament. Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti had said something outside but she had apologised in the House," Meghwal said.

The protests were led by BJP members who assembled together just near the Well to attack Gandhi, took up the scheduled business of Lok Sabha and forced Speaker Om Birla to adjourn the proceedings twice.

Union minister Smriti Irani said Gandhi had "insulted" the women and men of India, claiming the Congress leader's remarks

amounted to inviting people to rape women. Seeking his apology, Irani said he should be punished.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also attacked Gandhi and said such MPs don't have moral right to be a member of the House. "He has hurt not only the House but the entire country," Singh said.

Amidst the din, DMK's Kanimozhi defended Gandhi, saying he was referring to cases of sexual assault and violence against women in the country.

Joshi termed the DMK leader's response "unfortunate", while Irani said her defence of Gandhi was "disgusting to say the least".

Outside the House, Gandhi said he would not apologise for his remark and asserted that the BJP is making his comment into an issue to deflect attention from the turmoil in the North-East over the new citizenship law. He also put out an old campaign video of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in which he is purportedly heard accusing the Congress of making a Delhi a "rape capital".

"The main issue is how the BJP, Narendra Modi and Amit Shah have left the North-East burning... Now to divert attention from that issue... Narendra Modi and the BJP are saying this about me," Gandhi said after Parliament was adjourned.

Talking to reporters, Gandhi repeated what he had said in

Jharkhand. "What I said was that Narendra Modi had been talking about 'Make in India'... But when we open the newspapers today... we get to read only about rape in India. There is not a single state left where the BJP is in power where rapes are not reported on a daily basis."

The Congress claimed Gandhi had approached Speaker Om Birla, seeking a chance to speak in the House after the BJP raised the issue. "It is sad that the Speaker allowed the Defence Minister to allege something on Rahul Gandhi but he was not given time to speak. Is it correct?" Congress MP Manickam Tagore said.

"Surprising duplicity of BJP - ask for Rahul Gandhi to be present but didn't allow him to speak even though Congress put forward his request. Their attempt to deflect the discussions from the unrest in North-East India is blatant and cowardly," Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said.

Hours later, Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury shot off a letter to Birla saying the voice of the Opposition has been throttled by the ruling party in the House. He wrote, "...It is regrettable to note that while the ruling party have been hurling allegations against our party leaders, we had not been able to defend ourselves because the Chair has not allowed

us to speak... Sir, you are our custodian. That is why, I got prompted to express our grievances before you, so that we would not be ever deprived from articulating our voice inside the Parliament"

Later in the day, a delegation of female MPs from the BJP approached the Election Commission seeking "strongest action possible" against Gandhi.

"The entire nation looks upon this constitutional authority (EC) to ensure that dignity of women is upheld and those politicians who seek to use rape as a political weapon are reprimanded with the severest punishment possible," Irani said.

According to an EC spokesperson, the commission, after receiving BJP's complaint, sought a certified copy of the transcript of Gandhi's speech from the Chief Electoral Officer of Jharkhand.

Meanwhile, in Rajya Sabha, the treasury benches disrupted proceedings over Gandhi's comment even as members, with the permission of the chair, attempted to speak about the situation in the North-East over the new citizenship law.

Several BJP MPs, mostly women, raised slogans following a point of order by nominated MP Sonal Mansingh about a "high functioning" of the Congress saying 'Made in India' has been replaced by rape in India.

## Satisfied with fact-finding report saying no J&K minors detained, says apex court

ANANTHAKRISHNAN  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

A FACT-FINDING inquiry by the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court found allegations of the detention of children in the wake of the August 5 abrogation of Article 370 to be untrue, the Supreme Court said Friday, adding that it was satisfied with process undertaken by the committee.

Justice NV Ramana, heading a three-judge bench, said the four HC judges of the committee had "personally visited each jail. They spoke to many children also" and reported that "there

is nothing of the sort as alleged... that no such instance has taken place".

The bench, also comprising Justices R Subhash Reddy and B R Gavai, was hearing a petition by child rights activists Enakshi Ganguly and Shanta Sinha, who contended that security forces had detained children in J&K after August 5.

The court said it did not want to sit in review over the exercise undertaken by the four HC judges and disposed of the plea, giving liberty to the petitioners to approach the appropriate forum in case they had any grievance with individual instances.

Initially senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for

the petitioners, urged the court not to dispose of the plea and to keep it pending till he could respond to the findings in the report.

The judges said he could peruse the report but added that they had called for it only for their own satisfaction as Ahmadi had raised doubts on the findings of an earlier report submitted by the committee in September and did not want to sit in appeal over it.

"It affects their morale," said Justice Gavai.

Justice Ramana said the judges can't be distrusted. "We all went through the reports in detailed manner. If there was anything in it, we ourselves

would have done something. If you don't believe us also we can't help it," he said.

Ahmadi replied that he did not mean to say so. Opposing the suggestion to dispose of the plea, he referred to the first report submitted by the committee and said that according to it, the state had admitted that over 80 children had been detained.

Attorney General K K Venugopal and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta opposed Ahmadi's plea to keep the matter pending and said there would be no end to it if the request was allowed.

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

## Police work pending: J&K approves new prosecution wing, changes yet to take shape

NAVEED IQBAL  
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 13

SINCE NOVEMBER 1, the day after the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir became a Union Territory post the suspension of Article 370, prosecution powers were taken away from the J&K Police and a separate prosecution wing has been set up for the UT. With close to a lakh trials pending, the setting up of the new wing is expected to accelerate trials in J&K which has a nearly 38 per cent conviction rate.

However, in the wake of the separation of the wing, police work has remained pending

since the structural changes brought to the prosecution wing are yet to take shape.

Ahead of J&K's transition as a UT, prosecutors largely operated out of police offices and assisted police with legal advice, vetting of chargesheets and documents ahead of trials. There are around 250 public prosecutors available to the wing, of which some come from the J&K bar association.

Syed Ahfadul Mujtaba, J&K's first Director General (Prosecution) told *The Indian Express*, "Ideally, we would like to have public prosecutors in each district to work with the courts. The rules are yet to be formed. I think it is likely that the pendency, which is at over a

99,000 for 2018 and close to that number for 2019 as well, should go down with the new wing coming into place."

Srinagar district alone is dealing with approximately 15,000 cases. Officials expect that with prosecution powers being separated from the police, more transparency will be brought into the process of "assisting the courts in the delivery of justice".

On October 26, the State Administrative Council (SAC), as it existed before October 31, had approved the establishment of an independent prosecution cadre with a separate Directorate. The SAC approved creation of a separate Prosecution cadre, with mem-

bers of the existing Prosecution wing as its initial constituents, and establishment of a Directorate of Prosecution to be headed by a Director.

Meanwhile, 12 deputy directors are to be appointed to assist the Director — six in Jammu and six in Kashmir. It is likely that the office-bearers of the wing will operate out of the deputy commissioners' instead of the SP offices as they previously did.

Additionally, the state administration is also considering hiring retired prosecutors to assist with the large pendency of trials, sources told *The Indian Express*.

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com



Govt announces bureaucratic rejig

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

THE GOVERNMENT appointed T V Somanathan as the new Expenditure Secretary, a post lying vacant since October, as part of a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected on Friday.

The post was lying vacant since October 29, when Girish Chandra Murrmu relinquished it upon being named as the first Lieutenant Governor of the newly-created Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional charge of the Department of Expenditure was given to Atanu Chakraborty, a 1985-batch IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, Secretary, Economic Affairs in the Finance Ministry.

Somanathan's appointment comes a month-and-a-half ahead of the Budget for 2020-21 — to be presented on February 1 — by the Modi government.

The Budget Estimates for 2020-21 are provisionally finalised after the Expenditure Secretary completes discussions with other secretaries and financial advisers.

In other appointments made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Ravi Mittal has been named the Information and Broadcasting Secretary in place of Amit Khare.

Mittal, a 1986-batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre, is at present Special Secretary, Department of Financial Services.

Senior bureaucrat Sushil

HIGHER EDUCATION SECY MOVED AMID JNU ROW

New Delhi: Higher Education Secretary R Subrahmanyam was transferred out of the HRD Ministry on Friday amidst an unrelenting protest by students of JNU against a hike in the hostel fee. The order came less than two hours before the officers-elect of the JNU Students Union (JNUSU) were scheduled to meet him for the third round of talks.

Kumar will be Secretary, Mines. He is currently Additional Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, and Secretary, Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The Committee also approved the rank and pay of Secretary to Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Director, Enforcement Directorate. He is a 1984-batch officer of Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax), the Personnel Ministry said.

Culture Secretary Arun Goel has been appointed as Secretary, Department of Heavy Industry in place of Asha Ram Sihag, who superannuates on December 31.

Kshatrapati Shivaji, Executive Director, Asian Development Bank, is now Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. The 1986-batch Maharashtra cadre officer will also hold additional charge of the post of Secretary, Department of Pensions and Pensioners Welfare.

Various reasons. The fraud relates to allotment against these 400 plots. An EOW official told The Indian Express amounts were collected from members and deposited in the society's bank accounts and then fraudulently withdrawn. The embezzlement is to the tune of Rs 22.70 crore.

EOW files FIR in MP housing society 'fraud'

MILIND GHATWAI BHOPAL, DECEMBER 13

A DAY after Chief Minister Kamal Nath said that he had given a free hand to officials to crackdown on the mafia, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) on Friday registered an FIR in connection with an alleged fraud in a housing society where members were collected from members and deposited in the society's bank accounts and then fraudulently withdrawn.

The agency registered an FIR under Sections of the IPC that relate to conspiracy, forgery and criminal breach of trust, among others. More than 20 office-bearers of the society, an advocate and an accountant were named. Ghanashyam Rajput was named as the main accused. He added that the investigation will focus only on fraudulent transactions and disappearance of documents.

The officer said, Of the 400 people whose memberships were cancelled, some members could not register plots allotted to them because they had already been sold and registered in someone else's name. Then, the district administration promised plots to them in another area and were asked to pay Rs 4.5 lakh each.

Several complaints had arisen regarding allotment of plots and fraudulent bank transactions in the society, spread over 100 acres. The society's initial membership was 1,900 but membership of 400 members was cancelled citing

Army to set up more than dozen integrated battle groups by 2020

KRISHN KAUSHIK NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

PREPARING FOR the changing character of warfare across the world, the Indian Army will be ready with more than a dozen Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs) by next year. Senior sources in the defence establishment told The Indian Express that four each of the IBGs will come up facing China and Pakistan, while the Mountain Strike Corps will also be converted into IBGs.

A top source said the Mountain Strike Corps "has become too huge, a bit of an elephant" and will be "divided into five to six IBGs".

IBGs were first proposed in one of the four studies regarding the reorganising of the Army, which was commissioned last year by Army chief General Bipin Rawat. The proposal to establish the IBGs has already gone to the government and the Army is

Explained: Significant changes to streamline Army

AS GENERAL Bipin Rawat is set to retire this month, he is one of the top contenders to become India's first CDS. In his three-year term as Army Chief, Rawat has initiated major changes in the Army that will see fruition. Trimming the flab at the Army Headquarters for more streamlined decision-making is one. But the other significant change is the formation of the IBGs, which will be quicker, flexible and self-sustainable combat units as the Army readies itself for future warfare.

waiting for approval, the source said.

According to the source, the unit "has to be terrain specific", and moving ahead, the Army cannot have a one-size-fits-all formula. "Difference in formations should depend on the terrain," the source said, adding that the Army has to go ahead "with smaller forces, this is what we are calling the IBGs".

It will also include a signal company, a field company and engineering and ordnance will be "merged to become the logistics unit". Each formation has to be given equipment depending upon what they are, the source said.

"Think of them as oversized brigades," the source explained. There will be four IBGs in Sikkim and another four in the Jammu-Sialkot sector facing Pakistan. The IBGs will have the

capacity to 10-15 km deep into enemy territory without requiring support.

The source said in modern warfare, attacking a significant city can lead to a severe-counter attack, leading to a pyrrhic victory. The source said that "either you can go deep into the enemy's territory" or "you can capture a similar territory linearly along the border".

"Rather than going deeper, to capture the same territory linearly" the forces may not require Strike Corps and can be done by the IBGs, the source said. "But you do not want to not have the capacity to go deeper," the source said, adding that this was why the Army needs to retain the Strike Corps as well.

The source said that after these initial IBGs are set up, more will come up. The transition to IBGs and to modernise the forces has to happen "gradually" as you cannot have the Army in "turmoil", the source said.

There will be four IBGs in Sikkim and another four in the Jammu-Sialkot sector facing Pakistan. The IBGs will have the

Major restructuring at headquarters awaits approval of Appointments Committee

KRISHN KAUSHIK NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

THE ARMY'S plan to restructure staff and operations at its Headquarters (HQ) is awaiting approval from the government's Appointments Committee while the Ministry of Defence has given its go-ahead, sources told The Indian Express.

According to the restructure plan, the HQ will have a senior officer for human rights who will directly report to the Vice Chief of the Army.

Another senior vigilance officer reporting to the Army Chief and approximately 100 officers will be moved out to the field in a bid to "prune the headquarters and send officers to the field," senior Army sources said.

The changes will remove duplicate functions as several officers are performing similar duties currently, they said.

However, they added that the revamp will not have any effect on the number of Lieutenant Generals at the HQ and will also be "revenue neutral".

According to them, there has not been rejig in the HQ since Independence and "add-ons"

were made according to requirements over the years, which led to "duplication". They mentioned that during the Doklam stand-off between India and China in 2017, it was felt that "everything was under different verticals", which meant there were several officers providing similar inputs to the Army leadership.

Sources said that during crisis situations an operations and planning steering committee is created to advise the Vice Chief. During the Doklam stand-off, "everybody was coming and pitching in," they said, adding that it was felt that the group should

be permanent. After the restructure, there will be "single point advice" for the Vice Chief. A Deputy Chief will look after military operations, intelligence, perspective and information warfare. It will be a newly-created post.

Another Deputy Chief for capability development and sustenance will look after capital and revenue procurements. In another significant change, the Director General for the Rashtriya Rifles and all its staff will be moved to the Northern Command.

FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com

'Not aware of who used Pegasus'

KARISHMA MEHROTRA & LIZ MATHEW NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

FACEBOOK REPRESENTATIVES told the IT parliamentary standing committee on Friday that they were not aware of who used the Pegasus software to surveil citizens in India, it was learnt.

Along with the company, citizens affected by the WhatsApp-

Pegasus breach and cyber experts deposed in front of the IT Standing Parliamentary meeting. Attended by around 15 members, the group discussed government powers to surveil, the data protection law and the citizen's right to privacy, it was learnt.

Three citizens from Delhi and Chandigarh, whose WhatsApp was breached, spoke in front of the committee. Two cyber lawyers and one representative

from Ernst & Young also discussed legal parameters. It was learnt that the Facebook representatives were asked what steps they had taken after the Pegasus breach. The representatives said they had filed a lawsuit in the US court against the firm that developed the software, the NSO Group, and was working with Citizen Lab to research further. One of those who was targeted by Pegasus said he had filed an FIR, it is learnt.

ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (A STATUTORY BODY OF THE GOVT. OF INDIA) Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, Ph. No. 011-29581000, Website: www.aicte-india.org AICTE Quality Improvement Scheme (AQIS) 2019-20 (Financial Support) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) invites applications from AICTE approved Technical Institutes eligible for financial assistance under the following Schemes of Quality Improvement for financial year 2019-20

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Sept 2018 order not the last: SC on Sabarimala case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday reiterated that its September 28, 2018 judgment in the Sabarimala women's entry case was "not the last" in the matter and advised two women activists who sought security to enter the shrine to "wait".

Senior advocates Indira Jaising and Colin Gonsalves, appearing for the petitioners Bindu Ammini and Rehana Fatima respectively, told the bench headed by Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde and also comprising Justices B.R. Gawai and Surya Kant that the 2018 order had not been stayed so far.

CJ Bobde agreed, adding "it's equally true that it has been referred to a larger bench".

He said that as far as the situation in the temple is concerned, the practice has existed for thousands of years and the "balance of convenience is that we do not pass such an order today".

"If the decision in the review petitions is in your favour, we will enforce our order," the CJ added. "There is a judgment... it's not the last," the CJ stressed.

Jaising repeated the earlier verdict had not been stayed and sought to tell the court what the law on the subject is. The CJ said, "We know the law and the law is in your favour... It's very emotive... That's probably why this was referred to larger bench." ENS

HYDERABAD GANGRAPE-MURDER State govt won't file FIR against police personnel involved in encounter

SREENIVAS JANAYALA HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 13

THE TELANGANA government won't file the FIR that is mandatory according to Supreme Court guidelines against the police personnel involved in the alleged encounter on December 6 of the four accused in the gangrape and murder of a veterinary doctor on November 27.

On Friday, Telangana Director General of Police M Mahendar Reddy said he would not like to comment on the matter.

At least 10 armed police personnel, drawn from various police stations under Cyberabad Police jurisdiction were involved in the alleged encounter.

The four accused allegedly snatched guns from them and opened fire in a bid to escape when they were taken near the spot where they had allegedly burnt the veterinarian's body.

On September 23, 2014, the Supreme Court had issued a set of 16 guidelines to be followed in case of police encounters.

The main guideline is that an FIR should be registered immediately and the same shall be forwarded to the court under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc).

While forwarding the report, the procedure prescribed under Section 158 of the CrPc shall be followed. Another guideline states that "an independent investigation into the

incident/encounter shall be conducted by the CID or police team of another police station under the supervision of a senior officer (at least a level above the head of the police party engaged in the encounter)."

According to Cyberabad Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar, on December 6, two of the four accused hurled stones and sticks at the police team and snatched two guns and fired at them, which prompted the police to retaliate, resulting in the deaths of all four accused.

The Telangana State Forensic Science Laboratory has submitted its report to the police, in which it has stated that semen samples collected from the clothes of the gangrape-murder victim matched with the DNA of all the four accused.

The DNA of the sternum bone of the victim, which was analysed also, matched with the DNA of her parents, confirming that the charred body was of the missing victim.

The Telangana government submitted in the Supreme Court that no FIR would be filed against the police personnel involved in the alleged encounter as there was no case against them. It made the submission during a hearing on a petition by a group of lawyers demanding a probe into the alleged encounter.

"The government has set up an SIT which is already investigating the encounter. We will proceed based on its findings," a senior police officer said.

Andhra to make list of sexual offenders public

SREENIVAS JANAYALA HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 13

ANDHRA PRADESH will establish, operate and maintain a registry of sexual offenders — to be called the 'Women and Children Offenders Registry' — under the Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill, 2019. The register, in electronic form, will be accessible to the public as well as law enforcement agencies.

The Bill, which prescribes death penalty for rape in cases where adequate and conclusive evidence exists, was introduced in the Assembly and passed on Friday.

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister M Sucharita, who introduced the Bill in the House, said while the Central government has launched the National Registry of Sexual Offenders, it is not digitised, nor is it accessible to the public. "We are the first state to make the list of sexual offenders public," she said.

Concerns have been raised from some quarters about a clause in the Bill that protects investigation teams from prosecution or legal proceedings "for anything in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act". Civil rights advocate B Ravindranath said it was unconstitutional. "Police are expected to discharge their duties fairly, not offered protection for whatever they do. This clause won't withstand legal scrutiny. Under pressure to solve or dispose of cases, police can do anything they want if this kind of protection is offered. They will be emboldened to do things like encounter killings or extract confessions," he said.

According to officials, the government will also introduce the Andhra Pradesh Special Courts for Specific Offences against Women and Children Bill, 2019, to constitute special police teams and set up special courts in each of the 13 districts in the state to exclusively deal with cases of crime against

women and children. The special team in each district would be headed by a Deputy Superintendent of Police. The government will appoint 13 special public prosecutors for each of the special courts.

In cases of rape with substantial and conclusive evidence, the Disha Bill also reduces the investigation and trial period to 21 days as against four months as per the Nirbhaya Act, 2013.

Two new sections, 354F and 354G, will be inserted in the IPC so that those guilty of sexual offences against children can be given life imprisonment, as against a punishment of 3-7 years in jail under the POCSO Act, 2012.

In cases where adequate and conclusive evidence exists in cases of sexual offences against children, the investigation period has been reduced to 7 working days and the trial is to be completed in 14 days. Also, the period for disposal of appeals has been reduced to 45 days from three months.

One held for 'rape', murder of 2 minors in Jharkhand

ABHISHEK ANGAD CHATRA (JHARKHAND), DEC 13

A DAY after a man in Jharkhand's Chatra was arrested for the suspected rape and murder of two minor girls, residents of villages in the district on Friday demanded justice "like Hyderabad", referring to the encounter killing of four accused in the rape and murder of a veterinarian in the Telangana capital earlier this month.

The incident in Chatra took place on Wednesday when two girls and a six-year-old boy went missing while playing in a field in their neighbourhood. On Thursday morning, the children were found injured in a forest in the district. The first girl was declared brought dead at a local hospital, while the second girl, who was referred to a Ranchi hospital, died en route.

On the basis of the boy's statement, police arrested one man, who allegedly lived in the same neighbourhood as the three children.

Jharkhand DGP K N Choubey said the accused, in his confes-

sional statement, said he attempted to sexually assault the girls, when they started screaming. "This was when he decided to kill them and started beating them. However, we are waiting for the board of medical doctors to ascertain whether there was any sexual assault."

In Chatra, the parents of the girls said, "On Wednesday, when they did not return home for lunch, we went looking for them. In the field, we found their cycle, a bundle of firewood, a hair band and some wild fruits. After we could not find them, we informed the police."

The parents said when they located the boy, "his hands were tied with the clothes that he wore. He took the name of the person who took the girls".

The parents of the other girl said, "The boy told us that the accused took them to the jungle. He hit him on his head and he (the boy) fell unconscious. A few hours later, when the accused came to look for him, the boy pretended to still be unconscious. He told us that the accused came again to check if he was dead."

BAGHPAT RAPE VICTIM TESTIFIES

'If am afraid of threats, how will I support my daughter when she needs me?'

PRITAMPAL SINGH NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

TWO DAYS after a note was pasted outside the house of an alleged rape victim in Baghpat, threatening her of consequences worse than that of the "Unnao incident" if she testified in the case, the woman and her parents walked into the Delhi court on Friday for her deposition.

Her father told The Indian Express, "If I am afraid of these threats, how will I support my daughter when she needs me?" The family was escorted under tight security cover, and the woman testified. Proceedings

were held in-camera. The father said he was approached by relatives of the accused on many occasions since the incident in July 2018 to settle the case, but he refused. "There is no point getting scared. I will have to walk out of my house every day to do my job. I will not compromise," he said.

Both Delhi Police and the woman have sought cancellation of bail of the accused — Soran Singh (28) — in view of the threat note. The judge sought the response of the accused by December 19. Soon after the woman's grandfather lodged a complaint with police, the accused was arrested on Thursday and produced before

the Delhi court on Friday. According to sources, he denied pasting the pamphlet.

The woman also filed an application stating that she and her family "needs police protection from the accused and his companions as they were attacked several times".

Patna students demonstrate after girl alleges gangrape

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PATNA, DECEMBER 13

HUNDREDS OF students of various colleges in Patna took to the streets on Friday after an undergraduate student alleged gangrape by a student she was in a relationship with and three others on 9 December. The victim's father lodged a case on Thursday. Two of the accused have surren-



Police lathi charge students at a protest in Patna. Nagendra Kumar Singh

dered before the court, police said. The girl said in the FIR she was in a relationship with one of the accused, Bipul Kumar, from six months and on December 9, he called her to his residence, where she was allegedly gangraped by him and three others.

On Friday, students from the Patna University Students' Union and other student unions took to the streets demanding action. The police had to resort to mild lathi-charge to disperse them.

Additional SP Swarn Prabhat said: "Two accused surrendered. We are conducting raids to arrest the two others."

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.

Table with 3 columns: NIT No., Tender ID No., Name of work. It lists three tender items for construction of steel structures at various ISBT locations in Delhi.

The Tender forms and other detail can be obtained from the website https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/

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DETAILS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT https://defproc.gov.in. THE DETAILS OF CONTACT PERSON FOR ANY QUERY IS AS FOLLOWS:-OFFICER-IN/CHARGE (MEDICAL STORES) ON TELEPHONE : 022-27238654. davp 10702/11/0211/1920

UJVN Limited advertisement for tender extension notice regarding electrical work and power supply.

King George's Medical University U.P., Lucknow advertisement for e-tender/re-e-tender inviting notice for various medical equipment.

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY advertisement for engineering department open tender for various railway projects.

DAHOD SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED advertisement for construction of boundary wall and waste treatment plant.

King George's Medical University U.P. advertisement for e-tender notice for selection of hemodialysis, CRRT and sled unit service provider.

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**स्थान: चन्द्रशेखर आजाद कृषि एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय, कानपुर**

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### A NEW BRITAIN

Boris Johnson's landslide victory seals Britain's exit from Europe. Delhi needs to re-imagine the relationship with London

CONSERVATIVE LEADER AND UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's promise to "get Brexit done" has found unexpectedly wide resonance with the people of Great Britain. With 364 seats out of 650 in the House of Commons, the election marks the largest victory for the Tories in recent memory. That the Conservatives were able to breach traditional bastions of the Labour Party, including in North England, and erode its working class base, signals the entrenching of the disenchantment with globalisation and European integration. In 2016, when Britain chose to exit the EU after a referendum, it marked the beginning of the West's retreat from the global order it had set up, and the liberal values that shored it up. Nearly four years later, even as the complexities and costs of Brexit have become apparent, the British people have chosen to overwhelmingly back it once again. For the UK, in the short term, the verdict holds an answer on how to proceed on a vexed question. But it has also raised more fundamental and complex concerns on the relationship between democracy, liberal values and populism.

This election was, first and foremost, an attempt by Johnson to secure legitimacy for a hurried Brexit deal — Parliament had insisted on a more considered approach. The Conservative PM can now ensure that the deal is pushed through by the January 31 deadline. For Jeremy Corbyn, who has pushed Labour more to the Left, this is the third consecutive electoral defeat. In the near future, the prospects for both Corbyn and Labour appear dim. But even for PM Johnson, the road ahead will be challenging. He must now rise to the more arduous task of steering Britain through life after Brexit. This will involve negotiating new trading arrangements with the EU — the UK's largest trading partner — along with rejoining the WTO and unveiling a new strategy for the country's economic growth. Another problem that will confront the new government comes from within the UK: The anti-Brexit Scottish National Party has won in 48 of the 59 seats in Scotland, and it could push for another referendum on Scottish independence. As new border mechanisms come into play between the UK and Ireland after Brexit, Johnson must pay heed to Irish concerns.

As Britain leaves Europe, India may need to boldly reimagine the bilateral relationship. Delhi needs to look beyond the questions of Pakistan and Kashmir and seize the new opportunities for trade with Britain. As Tories revive the British interest in the Commonwealth, India has an opportunity to restructure this organisation. Britain will now likely try and recover a global role for itself, and reclaim its maritime orientation — on this front, there will be much Delhi could do with London. To succeed, though, Delhi needs to get its own house in order, especially on the economic front. An India that turns on itself at home and retreats into protectionist mode will find it hard to engage the new Britain.

### IMPROVING THE CODE

Amendments to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code will reduce uncertainty, shore up confidence in resolution process

ON WEDNESDAY, THE Union cabinet approved amendments to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) aimed at strengthening its functioning. The amendments seek to ring-fence assets of companies from offences committed by the previous management or promoters. They have also sought to raise the minimum threshold for initiating the resolution process, and have clarified that licences, permits and clearances cannot be suspended during the moratorium period. Each of these amendments, designed to address specific concerns, will help reduce investor uncertainty, and go a long way in shoring up confidence in the resolution process.

The decision to ring-fence assets of companies comes at a time when there have been instances of government agencies initiating action against companies whose resolution process has been completed. A case in point is the complication that arose in JSW Steel's plan to acquire Bhushan Power and Steel (BPSL) with the Enforcement Directorate attaching some of BPSL's assets. While under the law, dues owed to the central government rank below those due to financial creditors, the lack of clarity on the issue injected a degree of uncertainty in the process, led to delays, and disincentivised buyers. The amendment now seeks to address this issue. The cabinet has also increased the minimum threshold for initiating the resolution process. In the case of real estate projects, the minimum number of applicants has been increased to 100 or 10 per cent of the total applicants. This is designed to bring an end to the filing of frivolous cases in the NCLT. Further, by ensuring that licences, permits, concessions, and clearances are not terminated, suspended or renewed during the moratorium period, the amendment seeks to ensure the continuation of a business as a going concern. It will help preserve its value and retain its attractiveness for prospective buyers.

These latest amendments come after the Supreme Court judgment in the case of Essar Steel that restored the primacy of the committee of creditors on the issue of distribution of funds from the sale of stressed assets. Coupled with that judgment, these amendments address some of the remaining contentious issues surrounding the functioning of the IBC. The government should now step up its efforts to ensure that the promise of speedy resolution, one of the most appealing aspects of the IBC, is delivered upon.

### BRUSH WITH THE PAST

Figuratively speaking, the finds in Sulawesi call for a revisioning of the prehistory of art, and of the human imagination

THE RECENT DATING of cave art near Makassar on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi to a staggering 44,000 years ago will change the way in which the prehistory of art is conceived. For years, the Eurocentric view, built upon the exemplars of Lascaux, Altamira and La Marche, had been yielding ground to older finds in Australia, South Africa and Indonesia. Now, Sulawesi has trumped the rest of the world. The finds there are not new, technically, since they were known locally for a long time. And one of the motifs, the human hand outlined in ochre — saying, very powerfully, "I was here!" — is a common sign in prehistoric art the world over. What's new is the antiquity of the artwork, arrived at by dating the mineral patina covering it.

But the most striking drawing also tells a story — a hunting scene in which the human figures are not completely human, but have animal attributes. Are we seeing the first evidence of totemism and shamanism, in which humans identify with an animal and try to assume its powers? This must remain a matter of speculation, but nevertheless, this single panel comic strip from 44 millennia ago is clearly evidence that the human imagination is immeasurably old. Abstract and symbolic thinking was at least as important for the development of sapiens as the opposable thumb that held the paintbrush. It made religion, philosophy, cooperation and culture possible, and paved the way from magic and mystery to Boolean algebra and Cubism.

The finds in Indonesia reveal not only the prehistory of art, but also that of the human mind. They suggest that millennia before our specie created the civilisation, the cities and the technology it identifies with, it had imagination. And it could tell a story.



SUHALS PALSHIKAR

# Politics after CAB

On the one hand, are principles emptied of meaning. On the other, a clear-headed majoritarian project

PARLIAMENT HAS PASSED the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. The debate over the bill bears testimony to the significance of the values of constitutionalism and secularism and the importance of icons like Gandhi and Ambedkar. For, in defending the bill, the ideological deceit of the BJP — along with its cowardice — could only hide behind these fig leaves. Nowhere in the debates has the BJP or its supporters shown the courage to say that they want to change the basis of what constitutes citizenship. The constant refrain is that what they are doing is true secularism and that even Ambedkar would have been happy with what is being done.

This situation is compounded by a combination of over-use and abandonment of those same values and icons by the "secular" forces. For long, secular politics has resorted to these values and icons without bothering to infuse among the masses their implicit message and meaning. They have also taken recourse to the selective or symbolic use of these ideological and intellectual resources. Thus, Ambedkar or Gandhi are conveniently used for limited purposes, leaving the public exposed to distortion, fraud and rank falsehood in the name of the Constitution, Ambedkar or Gandhi.

No wonder, the larger public, which was mostly unconcerned about the CAB during the Lok Sabha election (Lokniti's pre-election survey showed that over three-fourths of the respondents did not know about the CAB), is now willing to be convinced that the bill is fair and does not violate the Constitution nor deviates from the ideas of Gandhi and Ambedkar. Such a complete rigging of public discourse has probably never happened in our democratic history so far.

Now that the bill is passed, what are the pathways of opposition and democratic recovery? The first is public campaigning over values, ideas and ideals. "Eminent citizens" have signed letters, scholars are writing in public media, small groups of activists are trying to mobilise public opinion. There have been more dramatic individual cases of civil disobedience, protest and sacrifice. These are morally valuable, intellectually rewarding and ideologically necessary actions. Yet, they are most likely to lack real political traction. One, because they are isolated, two, because the present regime is not sensitive to such critical responses, and three, because these protests would mostly lack mass participation.

The other route is institutional. Parliament

has chosen to pass the bill speedily. Now if the law is challenged, will the judiciary dispose of it equally quickly? Will it stick to its own basic structure ruling? These are complex matters and have been dealt with in these columns ("The morning after CAB", Pratap Bhanu Mehta, IE, December 12). If one goes by that assessment, there is not much to be gained from the judicial route. Another institutional response that has already emerged can be characterised as the crisis of the federal structure.

With the abrogation of Article 370, the practice of asymmetric federalism was abandoned. But the Centre has revived it in the Northeast in order to placate anti-CAB public anger in the region. Will the Centre similarly address anger in Assam and Tripura? Now, some state governments have declared that they will not abide by the changes in the citizenship law. While this might not have much legal significance, such declarations signify another flashpoint.

In the domain of mass protests, two very different strands of opposition are emerging. One is from Assam and Tripura. This is mainly in response to the fear that the change will allow "Bangla Hindus" to claim citizenship. This has the local vs Bengali dimension. This protest has two layers within it. One, it portends a rupture in the sketchy peace brought about by the Assam accord. Two, exclusion of some territories of the Northeast tends to fracture the fragile internal balance among states and communities of the region. This is a huge challenge and while the government is sure to quell the protests, the scars will further burn bridges among communities within the region and between the NE and rest of India.

While, at the moment, attention is focused on this protest because of its severity, another muted opposition, more about the signal given by the amendment, may begin to take shape among Muslims. Because, along with consolidating a Hindu vote bank, the changes unambiguously send a message to the Muslims about their status — that they will be tolerated, but just that. The danger, here, is apparent. Besides the spectre of a Hindu-Muslim divide, this could further ghettoise and communalise Muslim politics. The politics of the Muslim community often shows a tendency to slip into the hands of the more orthodox, conservative elements. Like the Ayodhya agitation, this moment too, further erodes the possibility of a liberal, internally progressive leadership among Muslims. Muslim mobilisa-

tion will give the appearance of democratisation but at the same time it will remain blind to questions of internal democracy and inter-communal harmony.

Both these protests will be most certainly discredited, divided, and suppressed. The festering wound will remain, but the system will ignore that. After all, non-secular and non-democratic nations are often built on the debris of not just principles and aspirations, but also of actual people, the opponents and the protesters.

At the same time, protests in the Northeast and among Muslims will disappoint the old-world secularists. While they follow entirely different, and even somewhat contradictory, logic, they do not necessarily flow from the abstract principles of secularism and religious non-discrimination as foundational values of the Constitution. Therein probably lies the most critical lesson from the CAB controversy. Democratic struggles for high principles do not happen in a vacuum; nor do they occur on absolutely abstract principles, howsoever lofty. The limitation of liberalism is that it expects abstract rationality to win politically in favour of principles whereas democratic struggles are mainly about the here and now, which is less about principles. Principles get strength only collaterally.

If one recalls the Ayodhya agitation, besides being similarly anti-Muslim, it was a warning that ordinary Hindus (and ordinary Muslims) were not interested in questions of secularism as a principle or democracy as an abstract phenomenon of negotiation and compromise. Similarly, the idea of social justice could get traction only when it became a clumsy and controversial site for contesting interests of different social sections. The current debates over the "idea of India" are unfortunately happening in a world of imbalance.

On the one hand, is the romance with principles and deployment of icons emptied of meaning willfully by the supporters themselves, and on the other hand, a clear-headed project of telling one community that it owns this land and therefore the ideas that should govern it. No expert is needed to tell us what the outcome will be, unless principles are married to lived realities and actual group anxieties.

The writer, based in Pune, is chief editor of Studies in Indian Politics and co-director of Lokniti research programme

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## THE UIGHUR CONNECTION

Why a besieged community in China evokes fear in Central Asia, Afghanistan



KHALED AHMED

ON OCTOBER 26, columnist Irfan Husain asked in the *Dawn*: "So why the deafening silence across the Islamic world when around 1.5 million Muslims in China's Xinjiang province have been forced into vast 're-education centres'?" It is indeed unforgivable that the world should abandon the Uighur Muslims but of late, there have been some protests at least. Yet, the tragic fact is that the Uighur, as a small Muslim community in China, have responded to the stimulus of al Qaeda in the region and come to Pakistan in gangs to attack the country's "deviation" from true Islam.

Other Muslim states are also scared of them. Uzbekistan is hounded by an Uzbek Islamist outfit that not too long ago was based in Pakistan along with the al Qaeda-led Taliban and Punjabi terrorists. Afghanistan was Islam's other boiling cauldron and Uzbekistan was facing all the heat from it. Totalitarian Uzbekistan gave a drubbing to Tahir Yuldashev, the Uzbek terrorist who fled to Pakistan with his warriors. Pakistan kowtowed to him till he was killed by an American drone. The Central Asian states are scared of what the Uighurs together with the al Qaeda and ISIS may do to them.

Uighurs made up a part of the terrorist group of Yuldashev, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU). The Uighur outfit was

called the Islamic Jihad Union (IJU). The al Qaeda in Syria also had a lot of Uighurs fighting on its side. One was Abu Omar al-Turkistani, who was killed in a US drone strike in Idlib Province. He began fighting in Afghanistan after migrating there from Xinjiang sometime before the US invasion.

Abu Omar fought in the Battle of Tora Bora before fleeing to Pakistan, where he was arrested and held for a decade. After his release he went back to Afghanistan and joined the IJU. He spoke multiple languages — including Pashto, English, and Russian — and this enabled him to become a IJU commander — a position retained till 2015, when he migrated to Syria to join the jihad there. In July 2016, al Qaeda chief Al Zawahiri, who was hiding somewhere in Pakistan, praised the Muslims of "East Turkistan" for their dedication to "waging jihad around the globe".

The Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), a largely Uighur jihadist group, affiliated to the al Qaeda, operates in Afghanistan and Syria. Its latest video from Afghanistan shows the spoils taken from the Afghan military — Afghan military vehicles, including several Humvees, and weapons, including M16 and M4 variant rifles. It put up a similar video in 2018. In 2015 too, the outfit boasted about its "victories" with videos. A training camp's photograph indicated it was not a temporary fixture.

The China Metallurgical Group Corporation has bought a controlling stake in the Aynak copper field — one of the largest copper fields in the world — in Logar province for \$3 billion. China's largest oil company has won the rights to exploit the first oil field to be tendered in northwestern Afghanistan. This could bring the Chinese into a confrontation with the Uighurs in Afghanistan.

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China knows what is in store for its Belt and Road project in the region. With the Americans gone, the Taliban will oust India from Kabul, penetrate a vulnerable Pakistan and look to conquering the Xinjiang region to "raise the Uighur from slavery". Pakistan is not too clear about what will happen next. It is fencing its western border but is not capable of pushing back the religious radicalism of its middle class and the army.

That China is worried is clear from the FATF decisions under its presidency. China is using strong-arm methods to control the Uighur on its territory and forcibly change their minds — something that has not worked historically. Pakistan is scared too and has succumbed to China's persuasion inside FATF to control its own homegrown terrorists which it used as non-state actors in its proxy war with India.

The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan

## DECEMBER 14, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

NO RESERVATION RATHER THAN CHOOSING a path of confrontation with the President, caretaker Prime Minister Charan Singh has dropped his plans to announce pre-election concessions like reserving jobs for backward classes and restoring to Aligarh Muslim University its minority character. These two items and a proposal for giving state aid to candidates in the elections had been listed on the agenda of the cabinet meeting. All the three items were taken off the agenda. The decision to remove them followed a meeting between the president and the caretaker prime minister where Sanjeeva Reddy is reported to

have cautioned Singh against taking any decision which may seem to be concessions to any sections of society.

INDO-BANGLA BORDER AT THEIR FIRST day's talks in Delhi, both India and Bangladesh are reported to have adopted "a practical approach" for resolving their irritating border problems such as in the Belonia sector where the security forces of the two countries have been exchanging fire during the last few weeks. That India is attaching considerable importance to the talks is evident from the fact that the political affairs committee of the cabinet met and dis-

cussed what should be India's stand before the two delegations met. The two delegations met twice during the day and as the problems were of technical nature they set up three groups to address the issue.

US VERSUS IRAN PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER ACTED against Iranian diplomats in mild retaliation for the continued detention of American diplomats in Iran as hostages. He ordered a drastic reduction in the Iranian diplomatic establishment in the US. The number of diplomats in the Iranian consulates in New York is to be reduced from 57 to 15.





# A promise kept, a mandate betrayed

Assam feels let down by the BJP as it pushes through the CAB against the people's wishes



ARUPA KALITA PATANGIA

EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE in Assam have been agitating strongly against the Citizenship Amendment Bill, the BJP government didn't pause to reconsider its decision to introduce it in the Rajya Sabha. It left no stone unturned to muster the votes needed in the House to pass the Bill.

The people of Assam have been opposing the CAB for various reasons. There are those who oppose it for its communal, divisive and unconstitutional character. Others oppose it because it is going to make the NRC in Assam useless and nullify the Assam Accord. Some others are opposing it for it will give legitimacy to illegal Hindu immigrants, while depriving their Muslim counterparts of citizenship and sending them to detention camps. Another reason — the most emotionally charged one — is the apprehension of the indigenous Assamese people that it will open the floodgates for the Hindu Bengalis of Bangladesh, who may enter Assam in great numbers. The fear is that this will jeopardise the already precarious existence of the indigenous Assamese people, who will be outnumbered. There is fear that the language and culture of the indigenous people will be wiped out and they will be reduced to second-class citizens in their homeland.

It may be argued that such fear is not well-founded, since the Hindus of Bangladesh are in no hurry to come to Assam, given that the condition in Bangladesh is not so inimical towards them at the moment — though they have suffered a lot, even in the recent past. However, it may be pointed out that with the CAB in place, any change in the political climate of Bangladesh, that is, if the reigns of power are captured by the fundamentalists at any future date, Hindus there could be tempted to escape religious persecution and cross over, secure in the knowledge that India will give them shelter. The Assamese people fear that in such a scenario, Assam will suffer. Thus, the very idea of the CAB is fraught with danger to the indigenous people of Assam.

In the aftermath of the passage of the Bill in the Rajya Sabha, there has been relentless agitation in Assam. There is a feeling of humiliation, insult, neglect and a sense of betrayal that has stung the people. As a result, they have taken to the streets in large numbers, protesting against the BJP government, even defying the curfew that has been clamped in Guwahati and a number of other towns. The situation is extremely tense and uncertain and it is very difficult to say what course the movement will take in the days to come.

Unlike during the Assam agitation, there is hardly any acknowledged leadership and the outpouring on the streets seems mostly spontaneous. Incidents of violence and arson are being reported. At least two people have been killed in police firing. If the government does not want the agitation to escalate further, it should stall the Bill, even though it has been passed in both Houses. It should reach out to the people of Assam with a sincere and firm assurance that the CAB will not be imposed in the state without the consent of its indigenous people. People are wary of the vague promises of constitutional safeguards for the language, culture, political and other rights, including the right to the land. The recent withdrawal of Article 370 of the Constitution with respect to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir is being cited as



C R Sasikumar

an example of the unreliability of such safeguards. People are also questioning why such safeguards were not implemented before the Bill was introduced in Parliament.

Assam voted the BJP to office despite the fact that the party's leaders — including Amit Shah and Himanta Biswa Sarma — had declared in no uncertain terms that they would reintroduce the CAB. They had, however, postponed placing the Bill in the Rajya Sabha during the first term of the Modi government for fear of not being able to pass it. Even before the election, people in Assam had been agitating against the Bill, and it was largely assumed that the party would fare badly because of the agitation. Strangely, that did not happen and the BJP won handsomely.

In hindsight, we may explain the BJP victory in Assam bearing in mind two factors. One, Sarbananda Sonowal, the chief minister of Assam, a charismatic leader enjoying the people's love and trust, won the confidence of the people as he declared that he would do nothing that would harm the Assamese people. Two, the BJP government was displaying the welcome intention to fight corruption, which had been so rampant under the previous Congress government. People were full of high hopes, convinced that here was a government that meant business. However, as the days passed, those hopes began to give way to resignation, with

The people still had great trust in Sonowal, who was once hailed as a jatiyo nayok (national hero). They believed that he would not let something like the CAB happen. Nobody, not in the least the BJP, had any inkling of the enormity of the public outrage and anger that erupted once the Bill was passed. One thing is sure, even Sonowal will have a tough time to assuage the hard feelings of the Assamese who so naively, and unquestioningly, put their faith in Sonowal, their jatiyo nayok

the people, once again, realising that promises are made to be broken.

The BJP government failed to realise that the trust placed on it was waning. Which is why Sonowal and company didn't take the protests against the CAB seriously, dismissing the outcry as a conspiracy of a disgruntled elite without any mass base. They were not entirely mistaken. The people still had great trust in Sonowal, who was once hailed as a *jatiyo nayok* (national hero). They believed that he would not let something like the CAB happen. Nobody, not least the BJP, had any inkling of the enormity of the public outrage and anger that erupted once the CAB was passed.

One thing is certain — even Sonowal will have a tough time assuaging the hard feelings of the Assamese who so naively and unquestioningly put their faith in their *jatiyo nayok*, Sonowal, to many youth of the state.

It is fair to assume that we will not see the end of the agitation very soon, since people are talking of continuing the protests even while preparing to challenge the CAB in the Supreme Court. Let us see how the government responds to the demands of the people in the wake of the massive protests taking place in the state.

Patangia is a Guwahati-based novelist and short story writer in Assamese. She won the Sahitya Akademi award in 2014

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

In terms of reform capacity, the Western capitalist countries, such as the US, are far from role models to the world. — GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

# Strengthening Indian values

Citizenship Amendment Bill will end persecution of those for whom Partition is an ongoing reality



ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL

THE LOK SABHA witnessed a historic moment at the stroke of midnight on December 9 with the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019.

India has a long history as a secular democracy where religious communities of every faith have thrived. The CAB has emerged as a "rights and relief giver" to persecuted illegal migrants, among Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The exclusion of Muslims from the ambit of this Bill flows from the obvious reality that these three countries are Islamist in nature, as stated in their own constitutions. Over the course of their history, the targeting of minorities for conversion or harassment is clearly visible from the fact that the minority population in Pakistan has decreased from 23 per cent in 1947 to 3.7 per cent in 2011. Similarly, the minority population in Bangladesh has decreased from 22 per cent in 1947 to 7 per cent in 2011.

In the beginning of 1950, resulting from the religious persecution of Hindus in erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), lakhs of Hindus left their homes and came to India to live here. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, then minister in the interim government, urged strong action against Pakistan, but Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru signed a pact with Liaquat Ali Khan, Pakistan's prime minister.

In protest, Mookerjee resigned from the central cabinet two days before the pact and devoted himself wholeheartedly to the cause of the refugees. After resigning from the Union cabinet, during the statement in the provisional Parliament on April 19, 1950, Mookerjee pointed out the concerns of refugees: "At that time (Partition) little knowing that I would join the first Central Cabinet, I along with others, gave assurances to the Hindus of East Bengal (then East Pakistan and now Bangladesh), stating that if they suffered at the hands of the future Pakistan government, if they were denied elementary rights of citizenship, if their lives and honour were jeopardised or attacked, free India would not remain an idle spectator. Their just cause would be boldly taken up by the Government and people of India".

Here, it is also important to recall the noted scholar, activist and reasoned voice of Dalits, Jogendra Nath Mandal, who travelled to Pakistan and returned to India soon due to the growing hostility of Pakistan on minorities. He had established the Bengal branch of the All India Scheduled Caste Federation, which was led by B R Ambedkar nationally. After

Partition in 1947, Mandal became a member of the Constituent Assembly and then the highest-ranking Hindu minister — the first law and labour minister — of Pakistan. His time as a Hindu minister in Muslim-majority Pakistan remained one under suppression. Such dynamics, eventually, led to a situation where, in his resignation letter dated October 8, 1950, and addressed to Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, Mandal highlighted the plight of Hindu minorities, their forced conversion and suppression, and their general dismal future: "I can no longer afford to carry this load of false pretensions and untruth on my conscience and I have decided to offer my resignation as your Minister, which I am hereby placing in your hands and which, I hope, you will accept without delay. You are of course at liberty to dispense with that office or dispose of it in such a manner as may suit adequately and effectively the objectives of your Islamic State."

On April 8, 1950, the Nehru-Liaquat agreement was signed regarding the security and rights of minorities in India and Pakistan, in New Delhi. Also, exactly six months after the Nehru-Liaquat agreement, Mandal resigned from his ministerial post with the Pakistan government, and fled to India — which clearly became an example of the failure of the treaty.

Similarly, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from neighbouring nations who were facing hardships fled to India. Consequently, many institutions, NGOs, civil society groups have been deliberating and advocating for easing the lives of these minority refugees who still believe that the partition is not yet over for them.

The passage of the Bill in Parliament will give relief to these minorities (illegal migrants) who have entered India without valid documents and continue to stay in India after the expiry of their documents even as they are deprived of basic civic facilities.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government has sought to provide what the Nehru-Liaquat pact could not so far. Home Minister Amit Shah has explained the intent of the Bill in Parliament and meticulously clarified how the proposed CAB is going to complete this unfinished agenda, and, become a boon for all the victims of Partition, ending persecution of such minorities. This historic move, of granting citizenship rights to all these minorities, will bring them under the umbrella of mainstream development and various welfare programmes of the government. It is a moment of pride for all of us as this step will further strengthen India's centuries-old ethos of assimilation and belief in humanitarian values.

The writer is Union minister of state for parliamentary affairs, heavy industries, and public enterprises and is a Member of Parliament representing Bikaner constituency, Rajasthan. A longer version of this article is available at [indianexpress.com](http://indianexpress.com)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### JINGOISM AGAIN

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Region's edge' (IE, December 13). The NRC process failed miserably in Assam. Even then, the Centre has harped on jingoism. The CAB is in line with measures such as the so-called surgical strikes, the Pulwama attack and abrogation of Article 370. The CAB is not an antidote to the common man's woes.

Deepak Singhal, Chennai

### DIFFERENT TIMES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A boy called Yusuf' (IE, December 13). Yusuf belonged to an era when the idea of India was capacious, when our national landscape was both sensitive and respectful to the concerns of minorities and where on being questioned about your identity, you could answer using Shakespeare's famous words, 'What's in a name?'

Sangeeta Kampani, Delhi

### ACT OF EXCLUSION

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A law that includes' (IE, December 11). The Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) is only about excluding Muslims. The reason for granting relaxation in citizenship from three Muslim majority countries to their minorities lacks thought and speaks of division on the basis of religion. The examples from Partition and the Bangladesh liberation war speaks of the absent-mindedness of the writer.

Viraj Gupta, Mumbai

### LETTER OF THE WEEK

#### STRIKE IT DOWN

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Brute majority' (IE, December 12). During the debate over Citizenship Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha, Home Minister Amit Shah said that "reasonable classification" is allowed under Article 14 of the Constitution. But perhaps he forgot that in Chitra Ghosh vs Union of India (1969), the Supreme Court said that any classification based on language, caste, religion or place of birth is not reasonable. Therefore, it is likely that the SC will strike down provisions that bring in a religious criterion for citizenship.

Monu Kumar, Patna

### NOT JUSTICE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'An encounter with injustice' (IE, December 13). When corruption and incompetence become the defining attributes of the law enforcers and the trial process is tedious, the common man, in an emotionally charged state, equates instant revenge to fair justice. Instances of police encounters are lauded as acts of valour. This is dangerous.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

## THE URDU PRESS

### CAB CONCERNS

AN EDITORIAL IN *Munsiff* (December 11) says: "The Citizenship Amendment Bill being passed with a majority in the House clearly indicates that the country is losing its secular image — in fact, it has lost it for a long time now. India is by law a secular democracy, where all people from all religions have equal rights and full religious freedom. But now, those, who till a few days ago celebrated November 26 as the birthday of the Constitution, blew apart its secular edifice."

The newspaper writes that no one minds if citizenship laws are changed and some people allowed in. The objection is to the sole exclusion of Muslims. Muslims are an integral part of India, yet have been left out of the CAB. Hence, this is another stark example of discrimination against Muslims and the first step towards making India a Hindu rashtra.

*Siasat*, on the same day, has an editorial based on the "Amreeki" Commission terming the CAB as dangerous. It cites the US Commission on Religious Freedoms, which asked for "restrictions" against India's Home

Minister Amit Shah. It says the Commission believes this (CAB) is a step that would take India in the wrong direction. "The Commission believes that the steps taken by Amit Shah and other leaders will ensure that only a few people will be targeted and harassed because of this Bill, especially Muslims. Opposition parties have protested this Bill. India's precious history is based on secularism and the Constitution gives everyone the same rights."

*Urdu Times* in an editorial ("Yeh Kaisa Insaf"), speaks of "Rohingya Muslims, who have come to India after facing persecution on grounds of religion in Myanmar... Can Amit Shah not see this? His statements make it clear that he is planning to go after Muslims. He must first think of the rights he enjoys as a citizen. The Constitution has bestowed exactly the same rights on Muslim citizens." The paper adds: "If non-Muslims are being persecuted on grounds of faith in their countries and we are protecting them, then we must protect all those Muslims too who are being persecuted in their respective countries. This Bill would not have been opposed had all

manner of people been accommodated. An MP from Tamil Nadu asked Amit Shah why (Sri Lankan) Tamils, residing in India for 30 years, have not got any justice?"

*Roznama Rashtriya Sahara* ("CAB and Secularism") is critical of those parties that went along with the BJP to back this Bill. "It is true that to succeed in politics, an ideology is required. But it is also true parties that change ideologies with time to succeed in politics also lose their image quickly. They are unable to do long-term politics. But those parties for whom secular and communal are merely two words, we cannot expect them to think of their long-term interests and that they should be careful to ensure that no one is discriminated against."

The *Etemaad* of All India Majlis-e-Ltehadul Muslemeen says, "We need to oppose this kind of *hathdharmi* — meaningless stubbornness."

### THE NRC SPECTRE

INQUILAB (DECEMBER 12) has an editorial on the National Register of Citizens. The

newspaper states that "the BJP is pushing (the NRC) as much as the opposition to it is rising. The BJP claims it is doing this as it is a promise made in its 2014 and 2019 manifestos, and that 13 crore Indians back it. But the BJP omits the fact that all Indians have not voted for it. As far as its manifesto goes, there are so many promises in it, and if the right kind of promises are fulfilled, the lives of Indians could be so much better. The GDP is not under control, nor is productivity getting better. The condition of women has not improved. But the government's resolve against triple talaq or for demonetisation and GST is not seen in the case of issues that matter." The editorial says that "despite the BJP being so 'disappointed' with the NRC in Assam, it is asking for the process to be carried out all over India. The NRC in Assam cost Rs 1,600 crore, took 10 years and involved 52,000 government officers. To use this formula all over India would be a big waste and drag on time, resources and money."

Compiled by Seema Chishty





A protest by civil society in Guwahati on Friday. They defied curfew and security forces to mark their peaceful opposition to new citizenship law. PPT

**SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER**

# Citizenship amendment law, decoded

The newly passed amendment to the Citizenship Act redefines the way migrants from three countries can become Indian citizens, linking this to their religion. What are the concerns about it nationwide, and why has it faced such fierce resistance in Assam? How does it relate to government's plans for an all-India NRC?

**APURVA VISHWANATH & KABIR FIRAQUE**  
 NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

THE CITIZENSHIP Amendment Bill (CAB) became law after receiving the President's assent on Thursday, following a bruising debate in Parliament. Assam has been in the throes of violence since Wednesday, when Rajya Sabha took up the Bill after it was passed in Lok Sabha, with its capital under indefinite curfew, and Army and paramilitary columns rolling across multiple towns. At least three Opposition ruled states — Kerala, Punjab and West Bengal — have said they will not implement the new citizenship law, and legal challenges have been made in the Supreme Court. Why is a change in the law, which the government claims is sympathetic and inclusionary, being called unconstitutional and anti-Muslim, and triggering such powerful reactions?

**Why is Assam in particular seeing such strong protests?**

In Assam, what is primarily driving the protests is not who are excluded from the ambit of the new law, but how many are included. The protesters are worried about the prospect of the arrival of more migrants, irrespective of religion, in a state whose demography and politics have been defined by migration. The Assam Movement (1979-85) was built around migration from Bangladesh, which many Assamese fear will lead to their culture and language being overtaken, besides putting pressure on land resources and job opportunities.

The protesters' argument is that the new law violates the Assam Accord of 1985, which sets March 24, 1971 as the cutoff for Indian citizenship. This is also the cut-off for the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, whose final version was published this year. Under the new law, the cutoff is December 31, 2014, for Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, Buddhists and Jains from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. It has become controversial largely because it excludes Muslims.

**Under the earlier law, how could these categories of people apply for Indian citizenship?**

Under Article 6 of the Constitution, a migrant from Pakistan (part of which is now Bangladesh) is to be granted citizenship if she entered India before July 19, 1948. In Assam, which has seen large-scale migration from East Pakistan (later Bangladesh), a migrant will get citizenship if she entered the state before the 1971 date mentioned in the Assam Accord. As far as illegal immigrants are concerned, India does not have a national policy on granting asylum or refugee status. The Home Ministry, however, has a standard operating procedure for dealing with foreign nationals who claim to be refugees. The government has dealt with refugees on a case-by-case basis by either granting them work permits or long-term visas. Significantly, there was no provision in the Citizenship Act to grant citizenship particularly to minorities or refugees till the latest amendment.

**What are the citizenship laws for others?**

Under the The Citizenship Act, 1955, there are four ways to obtain citizenship. **CITIZENSHIP BY BIRTH:** In 1955, the law provided that anyone born in India on or after January 1, 1950 would be deemed a citizen by birth. This was later amended to limit

citizenship by birth to those born between January 1, 1950 and January 1, 1987.

It was amended again by the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2003; those born after December 3, 2004 will be deemed a citizen of India by birth if one parent is an Indian and the other is not an illegal immigrant. So, if one parent is an illegal immigrant, the child born after 2004 will have to acquire Indian citizenship through other means, not simply by birth. The law describes an illegal migrant as a foreigner who: (i) enters the country without valid travel documents, like a passport and visa, or (ii) enters with valid documents, but stays beyond the permitted time period.

**CITIZENSHIP BY DESCENT:** A person born outside India and who has at least one Indian parent will be granted citizenship provided that the birth is registered within 1 year with the Indian consulate in the jurisdiction.

**CITIZENSHIP BY REGISTRATION:** This is for persons related to an Indian citizen through marriage or ancestry.

**CITIZENSHIP BY NATURALISATION:** Section 6 of the Citizenship Act states a certificate of naturalisation can be granted to a person who is not an illegal immigrant and has resided in India continuously for 12 months before making an application. Additionally, in the 14 years before the 12-month period, the person must have lived in India for at least 11 years (relaxed to five years for the categories covered under the new amendment).

**WAIVER:** If in the opinion of the central government, the applicant has rendered distinguished service to the cause of science, philosophy, art, literature, world peace or human progress generally, it may waive all or any of the conditions in the Act. This is how the Dalai Lama or Adnan Sami, the Pakistani singer, were granted Indian citizenship.

**How many people could now be given Indian citizenship under the new law?**

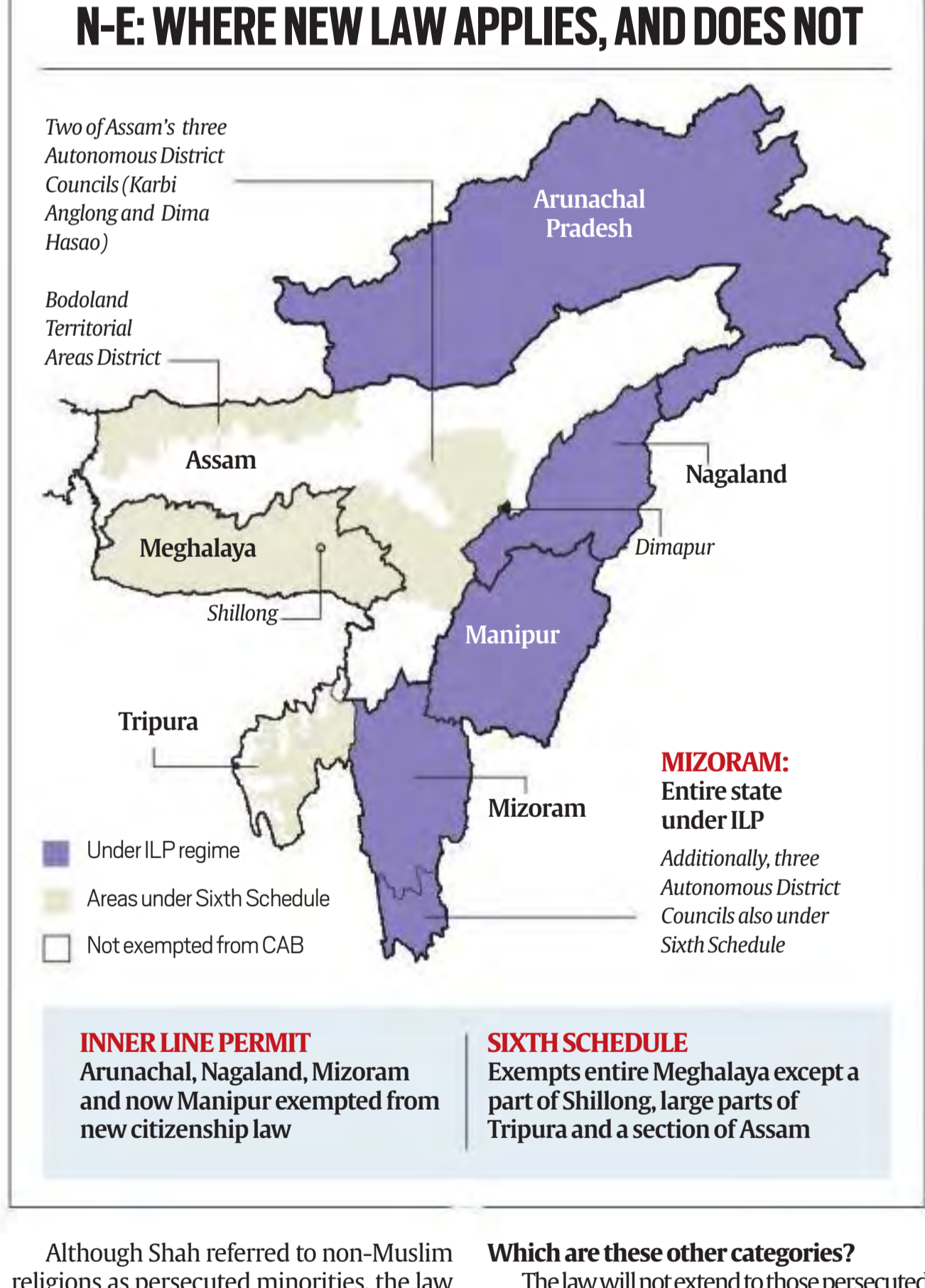
Home Minister Amit Shah referred to the amendment as bringing relief to "lakhs and crores of non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan". As of December 31, 2014, the government had identified 2,89,394 "stateless persons in India", according to data presented in Parliament by the Home Ministry in 2016. The majority were from Bangladesh (1,03,817) and Sri Lanka (1,02,467), followed by Tibet (58,155), Myanmar (12,434), Pakistan (8,799) and Afghanistan (3,469). The figures are for stateless persons of all religions.

For those who came after December 31, 2014, the regular route of seeking refuge in India will apply. If they are regarded as illegal immigrants, they cannot apply for citizenship through naturalisation, irrespective of religion.

**Are the communities mentioned indeed persecuted in these three countries?**

In Rajya Sabha, the Home Minister relied on news reports as evidence of religious persecution against Hindus in Pakistan, ranging from forced conversion to demolition of temples. Notable examples were Asia Bibi, a Pakistani Christian convicted of blasphemy who spent eight years on death row before being acquitted by the Pakistan Supreme Court.

In Bangladesh, cases of killings of atheists by Islamic militants are well-documented. While Shah claimed that persecution has been rampant since the death Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's present Foreign Affairs Minister A K Abdul Momen has denied any religious persecution.



Although Shah referred to non-Muslim religions as persecuted minorities, the law avoids using the word persecution in its text.

**What exactly is debatable about the law, legally and constitutionally?**

Legal experts and Opposition leaders have argued that it violates the letter and spirit of the Constitution. One argument made in Parliament is that the law violates Article 14 that guarantees equal protection of laws. According to the legal test prescribed by courts, for a law to satisfy the conditions under Article 14, it has to first create a "reasonable class" of subjects that it seeks to govern under the law. Second, the legislation has to show a "rational nexus" between the subject and the object it seeks to achieve. Even if the classification is reasonable, any person who falls in that category has to be treated alike. If protecting the persecuted minorities is ostensibly the objective of the law, then the exclusion of some countries and using religion as a yardstick may fall foul of the test.

Further, granting citizenship on the grounds of religion is seen to be against the secular nature of the Constitution which has been recognised as part of the basic structure that cannot be altered by Parliament.

Shah argued that "persecuted minorities in three neighbouring countries, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, whose state religion is Islam", is a reasonable classification. Another argument is that the law does not account for other categories of migrants who may claim persecution in other countries.

**Which are these other categories?**

The law will not extend to those persecuted in Myanmar (Rohingya Muslims) and Sri Lanka (Tamils). Shah has repeatedly made statements that not a single Rohingya Muslim will be allowed in India. Further, by not allowing Shia and Ahmadiyya Muslims who face persecution in Pakistan, or the Hazras, Tajiks and Uzbeks who faced persecution by the Taliban in Afghanistan, the law is being seen as potentially violating Article 14. In Parliament, Shah argued that Muslims can never be persecuted in Islamic countries.

Defending the exclusion of Shias and Ahmadiyyas from Pakistan, BJP MP Subramanian Swamy said a persecuted Shia would rather go to Iran than come to India.

About Sri Lanka and Bhutan, Shah insisted that neither country has Islam as the state religion. Incidentally, both Bhutan and Sri Lanka offer constitutional patronage to the state religion, Buddhism.

**Are these persecuted groups?**

The Second Constitutional Amendment in Pakistan declared the Ahmadiyyas to be "non-Muslims" and their penal code makes it criminal for Ahmadis to refer to themselves as Muslims, and places restrictions on the community including denying it the right to vote. In 2016, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended declaring Pakistan a tier-1 Country of Particular Concern for severe violations of religious freedom under the International Religious Freedom Act.

In August this year, the US, the UK and Canada expressed concerns about religious oppression in China and Pakistan in a meeting on safety of religious minorities in armed conflict.

**Given that the law excludes only non-Indian Muslims, why is it being said that it is against Indian Muslims?**

On the face of it, the amendment is not to exclude any Indian citizen. However, the NRC in Assam and the latest citizenship law cannot be decoupled. The final NRC left out over 19 lakh people. The new law gives a fresh chance to the Bengali Hindus left out to acquire citizenship, whereas the same benefit will not be available to a Muslim left out, who will have to fight a legal battle.

Shah and BJP leaders have maintained that the NRC process in Assam will be replicated in the rest of the country, fuelling fears among Indian Muslims. Plugged with NRC, the new amendment becomes an enabling law to potentially disenfranchise an individual of a religion not mentioned in the amendment.

Politically, the law is expected to impact West Bengal and Northeastern states. Assam and West Bengal head for polls in 2021.

**But if a nationwide NRC based on documents indeed happens, won't many Hindus also end up being excluded?**

Exclusion of Hindus is a possibility. However, the citizenship law can shield many such Hindus. Shah said in Parliament that no documents or proof of persecution will be asked of non-Muslim minorities when applying for citizenship.

Congress leader Kapil Sibal said in Rajya Sabha that a Hindu left out of the NRC in Assam, and who will now apply under the new law, would effectively be lying. In the NRC process, an individual would have submitted an application that she is an Indian. Now, while applying for citizenship, she would have to submit that she fled Bangladesh, Afghanistan or Pakistan where she faced religious persecution.

However, an exercise like the NRC, which cost approximately Rs12,000 crore in Assam alone and took years, will be mind-boggling for all of India in terms of scale and cost. Unlike Assam, where there was broad political and public consensus for NRC, a pan-India NRC is likely to be resisted by parties, governments, groups, and individuals.

**Shah said in Parliament that the legislation was intended to correct the flaws of the Nehru-Liaquat Pact of 1950. What was this agreement?**

In the aftermath of Partition and the communal riots that followed, Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Liaquat Ali Khan signed a treaty, also known as the Delhi Agreement, on security and rights of minorities in their respective countries. India had constitutional guarantees for rights of minorities and Pakistan had a similar provision in the Objectives Resolution adopted by its Constituent Assembly. Shah claims India has kept its end of the bargain while Pakistan has failed, and it is this wrong that the new law seeks to correct.

**Kerala, West Bengal and Punjab have refused to implement it. Can they?**

The non-BJP ruling parties in these states are making a political point. Citizenship, aliens and naturalisation are subjects listed in List 1 of the Seventh Schedule and fall exclu-

sively under the domain of Parliament.

Most states of the Northeast are, however, wholly or partially exempted under special provisions for tribal areas, such as Inner Line Permit (Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and now extended to Manipur) and the Sixth Schedule with special provisions in practically all of Meghalaya, and a large chunk of Tripura.

**How much of Assam is exempt?**

In Assam, three Autonomous Districts are exempted but the new law remains applicable to the major area. This also raises the question: can there be two citizenship laws applicable to the same state?

Under Clause 5.8 of the Assam Accord, "Foreigners who came to Assam on or after March 25, 1971 shall continue to be detected, deleted and practical steps shall be taken to expel such foreigners."

**What is the Assam Accord and how did it lead to the NRC?**

It was signed on August 15, 1985 by the Governments of India and Assam, and the All Assam Students' Union and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad in New Delhi. It came at the end of a six-year mass movement, spearheaded by students, against illegal migration from East Pakistan/Bangladesh. The process of identifying foreigners was laid down in the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act of 1983, applicable only to Assam. In 2005, it was struck down by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional. The petitioner, Sarbananda Sonowal (now Assam Chief Minister), had argued that the provisions were so stringent that it virtually made "detection and deportation of illegal migrants almost impossible".

The present NRC (an update of the existing NRC of 1951) began in 2013. On a litigation by NGO Assam Public Works seeking removal of names of illegal immigrants from the voters list, the Supreme Court relied on two rulings on cases filed by Sonowal, and justified its intervention to update the NRC. The process was monitored by the Supreme Court.

**The Home Minister assured that Assam's culture would be protected under Clause 6 of the Assam Accord. What is it about?**

This was added to the Assam Accord as a balancing factor. While the citizenship cut-off date for a migrant from Pakistan for the rest of the country was July 19, 1948 (before the amendment), for Assam it was set at March 24, 1971. Because of the additional migration, Clause 6 promised that "Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the culture, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people."

This protection is covered under Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, which created "special provisions as to citizenship of persons covered by the Assam Accord." The constitutional validity of Section 6A is under challenge before the Supreme Court.

It has not yet been defined who will be listed as the "Assamese people". A widely held view is that it should cover those who could trace their ancestry in Assam back to at least 1951, excluding citizens who came during 1951-71. A committee set up by the Centre is yet to make recommendations on what form the special provisions would take — land rights, political rights, cultural preservation.



If anyone thinks that what I and the science are saying is advocating for a political view - then that says more about that person than about me. That being said - some are certainly failing more than others.

**TOP OF THE WORLD**



A rescue vessel with the bodies. AP

**NEW ZEALAND**

**Volcano erupted: Six bodies found, two still missing**

Whakatane/Wellington: A military team recovered six bodies on Friday from the volcanic island that fatally erupted earlier this week, in an operation watched by dozens of grieving family members waiting on the mainland. An eight-person bomb disposal squad was helicoptered in and spent four hours on White Island, which experts have said still has a 50-60% chance of another eruption in the coming hours. Six of the eight bodies were successfully retrieved and taken to a naval patrol vessel for transfer to the mainland, New Zealand police said.

**AFGHANISTAN**

**Roadside bomb blast kills 10 civilians**

Ghazni: Ten civilians, including four women and a child, were killed when their vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb in eastern Afghanistan, officials said Friday. The explosion happened in the volatile district of Jaghatu in Ghazni province after the US and Taliban paused ongoing talks Thursday. "Unfortunately, in the explosion 10 people, including four women and a child, were killed," Ghazni provincial governor spokesman Aref Noori told AFP. All the victims of the blast were civilians, he added, saying six others were wounded.

**GERMANY**

**One dead, 11 injured in explosion**

Berlin: One person was killed and at least 11 were injured in an explosion Friday at a residential building in the German city of Blankenburg, authorities confirmed on Friday. The mayor of Blankenburg Heiko Breithaupt told reporters at a press conference that 11 people had been injured, despite earlier police estimates putting the figure at around 25. The mayor added that the building was now a "scene of devastation". Police were also unable to say if the blast was deliberately set off or if it was an accident.

**CHINA**

**US troublemaker of the world, says minister**

Beijing: China's foreign minister on Friday labeled the US the "troublemaker of the world," citing its withdrawal from a number of international treaties. Wang Yi said the US had conceded its right to international leadership and had "seriously damaged the foundation of the hard-won mutual trust between China and the US." "We are willing to resolve the contradictions and differences with the US through dialogues and discussions based on equality and mutual respect, but we will never accept any unilateral sanction or bullying," he said.

**EU WARNS OF 'CHALLENGING' TIMEFRAME TO SECURE DEAL**

# Boris after win: Brexit will happen

**AGENCIES**  
LONDON, DECEMBER 13

ELECTION-WEARY British voters gave Prime Minister Boris Johnson a "powerful new mandate" in the historic polls as his Conservative Party on Friday won a commanding majority in Parliament to allow him to finalise UK's divorce deal with the European Union next month. Johnson, 55, who vigorously campaigned on a simple slogan "Get Brexit done," vowed that he will work "night and day" to repay the trust of the voters after the Conservatives' most emphatic majority since the 1980s under Margaret Thatcher. A 364-seat haul gave the party a solid 78-seat majority in the 650-strong House of Commons.

Addressing a victory rally, Johnson hailed a "new dawn" which "unarguably" broke the Brexit deadlock and vowed not to let down the "sacred trust" placed in him by the voters, who turned out for the first winter election in decades to register a 67 per cent turnout. Johnson hailed the Conservative Party's triumph as a "powerful new mandate" to move forward with his deal to leave the 28-member economic bloc on January 31. "It does look as though this One Nation Conservative government has been given a powerful new mandate to get Brexit done - and not just to get Brexit done but to unite this country and to take it forward," he said.

"With this election I think we've put an end to all those miserable threats of a second referendum," he said, as he got the crowd to repeat "Get Brexit Done" numerous times during an energetic victory speech. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Friday warned of the tight timing for securing a trade deal with Britain. "The timeframe ahead of us is very challenging," von der Leyen said. EU Council President Charles Michel warned that the 27 member states would not accept a deal blindly, stressing that the bloc would insist that Britain respect European norms to win the deal. "There is no question of concluding a deal at any price, said Michel, who coordinates EU summits, after the talks.

**EXPLAINED**  
**Labour loses strongholds**

AN ELECTION dominated by the Brexit issue saw the Conservatives take over a number of Labour bastions. Johnson's 'Get Brexit Done' message resonated in areas of north and central England, which usually vote in favour of Labour. Johnson now has a clear majority in the House, while Labour faces its lowest seat count in over 80 years. Brexit is now almost certain to happen on January 31, barring intractable difficulties in talks with the EU. The Opposition will no longer be able to force a deadlock in these proceedings.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Friday warned of the tight timing for securing a trade deal with Britain. "The timeframe ahead of us is very challenging," von der Leyen said.

EU Council President Charles Michel warned that the 27 member states would not accept a deal blindly, stressing that the bloc would insist that Britain respect European norms to win the deal. "There is no question of concluding a deal at any price, said Michel, who coordinates EU summits, after the talks.



Prime Minister Boris Johnson during a Conservative Party event in London on Friday. Reuters

**Sturgeon to seek independence vote in Scotland**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
LONDON, DECEMBER 13

THE LEADER of the Scottish National Party, which made strong gains in the British election, says Prime Minister Boris Johnson has "no right" to stand in the way of a fresh independence referendum for Scotland.

Nicola Sturgeon, who is Scotland's first minister, said she will next week publish plans for a second independence vote.

The SNP won another 13 seats in the House of Commons in Thursday's election, taking the party's tally up to 48 of the total of 59 in Scotland. Sturgeon says she will not be asking for Johnson's permission to hold another vote.

She says it is an assertion of the democratic right of Scots to decide their future. She told Johnson, "It is the right of the people of Scotland - and you as the leader of a defeated party in Scotland have no right to stand in the way."

**Won't lead Labour in any future general election: Corbyn**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
LONDON, DECEMBER 13

Jeremy Corbyn on Friday said he would not lead Britain's main opposition Labour party at the next general election, after predictions of a crushing defeat at nationwide polls.

"I will not lead the party in any future general election campaign," the veteran socialist, 70, said after winning his north London seat for the 10th time.

Corbyn went into Thursday's election offering a radical leftist programme for social change, including huge investment in public services, as well as a second referendum on Brexit. But he was criticised for his handling of allegations of anti-Semitism within Labour and supposed sympathies with proscribed terrorist groups. Senior Labour figures have



Jeremy Corbyn

indicated Corbyn was responsible for heavy losses. He admitted in an acceptance speech the results were "very disappointing". But he stopped short of saying he would stand down immediately, instead announcing he would lead the party during a "process of reflection" into what went wrong.

Corbyn defended his "manifesto of hope" and maintained they were "extremely popular" during the campaign.

**15 Indian-origin MPs register strong results**

**ADITI KHANNA**  
LONDON, DECEMBER 13

A RECORD 15 Indian-origin politicians entered the UK's House of Commons on Friday after a historic election won by Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Indian-origin candidates in the Conservative and Labour parties registered strong results of seven wins each, with around a dozen MPs retaining their seats alongside some new faces.

The new Parliament voted in also produced the most diverse Parliament ever, with one in 10 MPs now from an ethnic minority background. All the MPs from the previous Parliament contesting this time were successful in clinching their seats, with Gagan Mohindra and Claire Coutinho for the Conservative Party, Navendu Mishra for Labour and Munira Wilson for the Liberal Democrats among the first-timers. PTI

**Many congratulations to PM @BorisJohnson for his return with a thumping majority. I wish him the best and look forward to working together for closer India-UK ties."**

**NARENDRA MODI**  
PRIME MINISTER

**Britain and the United States will now be free to strike a massive new Trade Deal after BREXIT. This deal has the potential to be far bigger and more lucrative than any deal that could be made with the E.U. Celebrate Boris!"**

**DONALD TRUMP**  
US PRESIDENT

**"We expect, as soon as possible, a vote by the British parliament... It's important to have clarity"**

**CHARLES MICHEL**  
EU COUNCIL PRESIDENT

**"Congratulations, Boris Johnson, on your resounding victory. I look forward to working with you for the friendship and strong cooperation between our nations"**

**ANGELA MERKEL**  
GERMAN CHANCELLOR

**Panel approves impeachment articles, House to vote next week**

**NICHOLAS FANDOS**  
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 13

A FIERCELY divided House Judiciary Committee pushed President Trump to the brink of impeachment on Friday, voting along party lines to approve charges that he abused the power of his office and obstructed Congress.

After a fractious two-day debate steeped in the Constitution and shaped by the realities of a hyperpartisan era in American politics, the Democratic-controlled committee recommended that the House ratify two articles of impeachment against the 45th president. In back-to-back morning votes, they adopted each charge against Trump by a margin of 23 to 17 over howls of Republican protest.

The partisan result and the contentious debate that preceded it were harbingers of a historic proceeding and vote on the House floor, expected next week,

**THE TWO CHARGES AGAINST TRUMP**

**ABUSE OF POWER**  
Trump is accused of of "ignoring and injuring national security and other vital national interests" by carrying out a scheme to corruptly solicit election assistance from Ukraine through probes to smear his Democratic political rivals

**OBSTRUCTING CONGRESS**  
The second article charges that the president engaged in "unprecedented, categorical and indiscriminate defiance of subpoenas issued by the House of Representatives", thereby obstructing Congress in its inquiry

to impeach Trump, whose nearly three-year tenure has exacerbated the nation's political divisions. Trump, who insists he did nothing wrong, is now only the fourth American president in history to face impeachment by the House of Representatives for "high crimes and misdemeanors" and possible conviction and removal from office by the Senate.

The charges ratified on Friday arise from a House Intelligence Committee investigation that concluded this fall

that the president has manipulated his administration to pressure Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joseph R Biden Jr, his political rival, and a theory that Democrats conspired with Ukraine to interfere in the 2016 election.

Trump then sought to conceal the scheme from Congress, the committee charged, ordering unprecedented, across-the-board stonewalling of its investigation unlike any "in the history of the Republic." NYT

**No significant progress made on key issues, talks to continue next year**



**EXPRESS IN MADRID**  
**AMITABH SINHA**  
DECEMBER 13

UNABLE TO make any significant progress on main agenda issues such as the creation of new carbon markets, as was expected, discussions on contentious issues at the Madrid climate talks are set to be postponed to next year.

The talks, scheduled to end Friday evening, were set to go into extra time, as is routine with such annual conferences, but decisions on the main issues are unlikely. The draft texts on carbon markets that appeared Friday continued to be heavily bracketed, each bracket representing an unre-



In Madrid on Friday. Reuters

solved difference. Further revision of the texts are not expected to be substantially different.

The final decisions from the Madrid talks are likely to address one of the major concerns of developing countries like India by allowing for some mechanism to assess the performance of developed countries in meeting their pre-2020 commitments. India and others have been calling out developed countries for non-fulfilment of their pre-2020 targets, and blaming them for the cur-

rent inadequacy in global efforts to prevent the extreme impacts of climate change.

On the issue of carbon markets, most of India's concerns are reflected in the current draft text. In Madrid, countries were trying to create rules to establish a new carbon market under the Paris Agreement to replace the one under the soon-to-expire 1997 Kyoto Protocol. Carbon markets allow the buying and selling of emission reductions, in the form of carbon credits, between countries and private entities with the overall objective of incentivising deeper cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. Broadly, a country able to reduce emissions in excess of its targets can sell additional reductions to another country.

India, Brazil and a few others have been vocal in demanding that their unsold carbon credits from Kyoto markets be transferred to the next ones - a demand that developed countries were resisting. The current draft

text, unlikely to be significantly altered, keeps the options on transferring Kyoto credits to the new market. All details of the carbon markets are proposed to be decided over the next year by a "supervisory body" that will be set up. Significantly, the draft texts on carbon markets do not make any mention of "human rights".

Some countries and non-government organisations had been demanding that projects in developing countries, to be eligible to earn carbon credits and participate in carbon markets, should be asked to ensure that their activities do not have any negative impact on local communities, and were in line with human rights. Developing countries were strongly opposed to this demand on the grounds that the international climate framework had no mechanism or jurisdiction over human rights.

The next climate change conference is scheduled to be held in Glasgow next year.

**'SUCH AN ATTACK ON A HOSPITAL HAS NEVER TAKEN PLACE'**

# In Pakistan hospital, it was lawyers vs doctors: 3 patients died

**SALMAN MASOOD**  
ISLAMABAD, DECEMBER 13

CLAD IN black suits, white shirts and black ties, hundreds of lawyers forced their way into the Lahore cardiology hospital, smashing windows and damaging equipment. Doctors ran for cover, and unattended, panicked patients ran for their lives. The hospital wards were littered with shards of glass and broken furniture.

Riot police used tear gas canisters, water cannons and batons to disperse the intruders. The melee at the hospital, the Punjab

Institute of Cardiology, lasted for hours on Wednesday, shocking the country.

In the end, officials said, three patients died amid the chaos. And now at least 80 lawyers have been arrested by Pakistani authorities, while Prime Minister Imran Khan has ordered an investigation.

The lawyers said they were avenging an attack in November by doctors and staff of the hospital, after the lawyers demanded preferential treatment.

Local news media reported that a lawyer visited the hospital, where his relative was being



A patient evacuated during the clash at the hospital. AP

treated, in late November. He ended up arguing with the hospital staff and summoned some colleagues for support. The heated exchange turned violent, and the hospital staff and doctors injured three lawyers at the hospital building, the news reports said.

Afterward, the lawyers tried to have terrorism charges filed against the doctors and have them arrested. The Lahore police tried to mediate between both groups, and no arrests have been made at the lawyers' behest over that dispute. This week, lawyers carried out a strike and staged a protest demonstration against

the police for failing to arrest the doctors involved in the November incident.

On Wednesday, the lawyers said they decided to protest at the cardiology hospital after they felt provoked by the doctors.

"In any society, no matter what the situation, such an attack on a hospital has never taken place," said Muhammad Basharat Raja, the Punjab law minister. Paramilitary troops have been deployed at important government buildings in Lahore.

Some of the lawyers involved in Wednesday's attack said they

were moved to act by a viral video by one of the doctors, who mocked and ridiculed them through reciting poetry and belittling remarks.

The lawyers live-streamed the run-up to their attack on the hospital as they walked toward the building. In one video, an unidentified lawyer is seen challenging the doctors, saying the doctors had invited their death and could not escape the wrath of the lawyers.

"Look at the sea of lawyers, doctor," the lawyer said in a bombastic tone. "Today, we will insert stents in the doctors." NYT



# 18 REVIEWS CINEMA & MUSIC



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**MARDAANI 2 ★★★**

Director: Gopi Puthran Cast: Rani Mukerji, Vishal Jethwa, Vikram Singh Chauhan, Shruti Bapna, Rajesh Sharma

## Time and Again

SHUBHRA GUPTA

SHIVANI SHIVAJI Roy is back. In this sequel to the 2014 film, the feisty, fearless police-woman has switched cities, from Mumbai to Kota, but nothing else has changed: she is still straight arrow, fearless, standing up, being counted.

This time around, her antagonist is a twenty-one year-old, baby-faced, hazel-eyed young man. Scratch that. Sunny (Jethwa) is more monster than human, and not about to hide it: he wrecks havoc wherever he goes, leaving a trail of horribly battered and bruised female bodies.

*Mardaani 2* brings Rani Mukerji back on screen after a considerable period, and as befits a Yashraj film, she leads from the front. No surprises there. In a smart move, the 'villain' is a new face, and is fashioned as a demoted, unhinged guy, who takes pleasure in each heinous act of rape and murder.

Mukerji is clearly the hero. The men around her, a subordinate who badmouths her, a few loyal juniors, a senior who alternately backs her and scolds her, all have familiar beats. Mukerji is also a familiar presence even as she fills the screen, and is in command right through as she works to a script which pushes her to the fore at every given chance.

Jethwa plays the smooth faced rapist with a smug swagger which mostly works. Where he goes over the top (and there are some moments in which you can see him lower his guard), he falters. As does the film, which veers between creating a Hollywood style bad guy and a desi villain, and bungs in more than one eye-brow raising contrivance to amp up the drama.

The other problem, which is much more in our face, is the hammer-it-in approach when it comes to descriptions of *mard* and *aurat*. The tone is strident and the running



down of *aurat jaat* are many and varied. For a film which has a strongly feminist stance, and claims to wave a banner for women and their rights, this is problematic: the climactic comeuppance of the bad guy, which you know will happen right from the first frame, comes right at the end, by which time there has been gory, bloody violence visited upon a bunch of women.

On the brink of a brand new decade, Shivani Shivaji Roy is poised as a necessary

protagonist. We need more strong female leads in our movies but they don't have to be surrounded by misogyny and distasteful dialogues. Why does a film need to be so on-the-nose even in this day and age? Why can't we take some supportive characters, including men, for granted? Why does this wheel need to be reinvented every time? Is it because the filmmakers don't trust the audience or do they know that their viewers can handle a redemptive arc for women only af-

ter they've been brutalised for nearly the whole film? That only after suffering a great deal do they get to hit back?

The best line of the film belongs, of course, to our *mardaani*, when she talks of *hissa*, participation and equality for women. Mukerji delivers it straight and true, and even if it is a dialogue singularly crafted for her, you want to applaud.

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## Cut to the Chase

6 UNDERGROUND (NETFLIX) ★★★

Director: Michael Bay  
Cast: Ryan Reynolds, Mélanie Laurent, Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, Adria Arjona, Corey Hawkins, Ben Hardy and Dave Franco

EKTA MALIK

WONDER WHY Michael Bay chose to present *6 Underground* on a streaming platform, because the plane crashes, car pile-ups and lengthy car chases would lend themselves perfectly to a theatrical cinematic experience, and not one where you are squinting onto your phone and trying to take in the scale and magnitude of it. The film packs a lengthy car chase sequence in the brick-lined streets of Italy, complete with al fresco diners being eviscerated, and some ancient sculpture being demolished — Michelangelo's *David* was saved by a hair — there is a plane crash in the Grand Canyon of Colorado and a minor surgery is conducted at the back of a lime green Alfa Romeo, all in the first ten minutes of the film. What we have on our hands is a motley group of six people, who are dead to everyone living, and have taken on themselves to 'make the world a better place'. Ryan Reynolds, a

former tech-billionaire-turned-vigilante heads this group, and the current task at hand is to remove a despot from the nation of Turgistan and replace him with his democracy-loving brother. For the millionth time, we see an American, if not America, restoring democracy in a war-torn area, and for the millionth time, we see a gifted band of people become 'family' in the due course of the film.

The film ticks all the boxes — the not-so-delicate banter between the team, pop-culture references, pop music — we even hear Spice Girls crooning *If you wanna be my lover*, as a cavalcade of SUVs trail Reynolds and team — and some soppy back stories of the group as they empty magazines of guns in their pursuit to 'do the right thing'.

Reynolds, a bit greyer, is in *Deadpool* mode, though he tries harder to be acerbic and aloof. The rest of the team are standard tokens — the skywalker/parkour guy, the doctor, the spy, and the sniper and a driver. The diversity box is checked too, this being an almost international outreach programme.

The problem with *6 Underground* is not the story, but the repetition in the narrative. The over two-hour film would have worked better had it been shortened at least by half-an-hour. Near death situations work well to keep us on the edge of our seats, but they stop being effective if you use the ploy one too



many times. The action sequences are well executed, and the one which involves a crane and the top floor of a skyscraper is akin to a heist, but the violence and the body counts distract from the main action.

The upbeat soundtrack helps in the melodramatic intake of the story, and is often used to fill gaping holes in the narrative. Michael Bay is known for taking a humane approach in most of his work, but this one tries too hard.

In the desire to be a fast-paced, action-packed film, with an overriding emotional-quotient, *6 Underground* ends being a loud and shallow attempt. But we have a feeling that this will be the next big money-spinning franchise from the Netflix stable. Don't be surprised if you hear '6 Underground: 2.0' being announced soon enough.

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## Not Game Enough

JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL

Director: Jake Kasdan  
Cast: Jake Kasdan, Kevin Hart, Jack Black, Karen Gillan, Awkwafina, Danny DeVito, Danny Glover

SHALINI LANGER

IF THE idea was superfluous the last time, there was no real chance of *Jumanji*, once again a video game blown up literally into a film, finding the "next level" now.

Mildly funny as Johnson and Hart play the buffier, younger avatars of old squabbling men, in this edition of the video game, *Jumanji* this time too has them chasing some jewel, which is to be again restored to somewhere, to once more keep a forest intact.

Animals are little more than obstacle courses in this artificial forest, with ostriches and mandrills casually swatted aside as our

avatars make their way to the aforesaid jewel, which is in the possession of a villain by the name of Jurgen the Brutal. As the film limps towards the end, Nick Jonas shows up looking exactly like Nick Jonas while riding a horse that is not actually a horse.

It remains a mystery as to why the whole lot of them are so nervous about their dwindling 'lives' — each one gets three in the game — when dying means far from dead. The "rebirth", that involves them falling head first from the skies, appears more worrisome in comparison.

What one keeps wishing is that the film had stuck around for longer in the real world, where DeVito and Glover play two old and ageing men with a history that involves real pain. DeVito stumbling around sportingly with a mending hip packs in more punch than Johnson's pecks.

That said, the Rock is getting really good at having fun, especially poking jokes at himself.

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## Flat Lines

THE BODY ★★★

Director: Jeethu Joseph  
Cast: Emraan Hashmi, Rishi Kapoor, Sobhita Dhulipala, Vedhika

MAURITIUS-BASED businessman Ajay (Hashmi) is a prime suspect in the death of his beautiful wealthy wife Maya (Dhulipala). Is he the culprit? Or is it someone else hiding in the shadows?

*The Body*, based on a 2012 Spanish film of the same name, starts with a missing body. We know from the beginning who is responsible. Or do we? As Hashmi's two-timing husband acts all hurt and innocent, the cops, led by a bearded middle-aged sleuth (Kapoor), swing into action: was the body stolen? Is Maya really dead? Or is she, shudder, a ghost?

There's enough meat in the story for it to have been an engaging thriller. But it's been a while since I watched such an inept film. Everything in it is flat: the plot, the performers, the alleged twists. And that must have taken some doing, given that the filmmakers had a ready made plot to dip into.

Dhulipala's Maya is all svelte and twisty, and is to be seen holding a glass of red wine very often. Newcomer Vedhika gets to act weepy and say: *tum wahaan se bhaag jao!* Hashmi works hard at appearing convincing, but being forced to zip around a morgue for the most part of the movie is a bummer. And Kapoor, as the grizzled sleuth with a tragic backstory, stomps about tossing off instructions to his fellow investigators: Arrest him! Warrant *lao!* Don't let him go!

It's almost as if the cast was at rehearsal, and the cameras started rolling and kept going. And of course, a Bollywood remake has to have a few songs. One has lyrics which go like this: *Main jaanta hoon ki teri naa mein chhupi hui si haan hai.*

You better believe it.

SG

## MUSIC THIS WEEK

DABANGG 3, COMPOSERS: SAJID-WAJID ★★★

## Lather, Rinse, Repeat

SUANSHU KHURANA

IF ONE looks at the *Dabangg* brand of music, the kind that's been created by composers Sajid-Wajid three times now, it remains an intriguing combination of hits and misses. Some of these tunes remotely bank on and are influenced by UP's *Purabiya* style folk and deliver very approachable melodies. There has been *Dagabaaz re* from *Dabangg 2*, sung by Rahat Fateh Ali Khan and Shreya Ghoshal. It merged folk and contemporary and got our unbridled adoration. The fuller harmonium pieces, power-packed voices and the robust dholak beats were all on point. There was also the soft



*Chori kiya* by Sonu Nigam and Ghoshal and a tabla-dominated *Mast mast nain* by Khan and Ghoshal. One may have heard Khan more on the air because he crooned the hook but the middle, female section of the song, is its lifeblood. The songs have stayed. Even though the films haven't.

And then there is a more contemporary section — simple hooks which are often acceptable in terms of a valid tune, but on other occasions, there are some plain aberrations. Like the one sung in *Dabangg 3* by Salman Khan and Payal Dev. Salman has been brought in tune through machines for a song that's flat to begin with. It's difficult to find the difference between some of the auto-tuned, off-key Bhojpuri item songs that float on YouTube

and *Yun karke*, which has kissing noises as a hook. It's an art to pull of the tawdry well. *Munni badnaam* is an example. This one has *Munna badnaam huya*, which takes off from a new tune and merges in the old. It uses the same singer, Mamta Sharma, and even works. But the composers are inviting comparisons. *Munni* wins over *Munna* by a fair margin.

Rest of the album is better. There is a breezy *Naina lade* by Javed Ali. The song's structure is a clear reminder that it was created for Khan, who, perhaps did not record because of the current Indo-Pak relations. Ali fills in well. The note structure is another permutation and combination of *Dagabaaz re*, but it's blissful nonetheless. It's hard not to miss Khan. There is also

*Awara* by Salman Ali and Muskaan. While Muskaan's base voice has been worked by the machines, Salman Ali's large, pure voice impresses. Violins along a tabla dominate the composition, which is balanced, has a great hook and a voice that lifts it from being a simple composition to a special one. This is followed by *Habibi ke nain*, which again sits cheek by jowl with *Mast mast nain*. Sung by Jubin Nautiyal and Ghoshal, it follows the typical '90s harmonium and dholak format. It's difficult to deliver consistency three times in a row. The team hits a wall with quite a few pieces. Salman Khan fans are likely to fall for the melodies and give it much love. We, however, will have to be content with the strains that mattered in the previous two.

## BREAKING DOWN NEWS

### The New Normal

With news of protests and unrest pouring out of Assam and the Northeast, good tidings come only from afar



BY PRATIK KANJILAL

ASSAM AND some other states in the Northeast, which have erupted into normalcy, are being compared to Kashmir, which has remained normal ever since National Security Advisor Ajit Doval dropped in for a plate of biryani with the locals. But J&K was locked down and the political leadership was put away, so that the government could have its way, while in Assam, it's exactly the opposite. Chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal was briefly marooned in Guwahati airport by protests in the city which appeared to spring up on their own, without visible formal leadership. This is very different from the movements of the late Seventies and the Eighties, when student leaders led from the front.

The scenes coming out of Assam this week are extraordinary. Torch-lit protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) in major campuses, including Gauhati and Tezpur universities, Assam Engineering College, and thousands of

common citizens on the streets of cities. Fires on the Guwahati-Shillong Road in the heart of town, and placards for the Indo-Japan summit in the city, where Narendra Modi and Shinzo Abe were to meet, set on fire. Initially, while protests concerning the CAB were covered well in Tripura, the turmoil in Assam was covered by cellphone cameras in private hands. The national TV channels caught up a little later.

The I&B ministry had issued an advisory warning TV channels against broadcasting material that is 'likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promotes anti-national attitudes or contains anything affecting the integrity of the nation'. The ambit of the offences listed here is so large and so open to interpretation that it is completely useless as a guideline. Opposition leaders have read it as a threat to media freedom, and they may have been dismissed but for Mirror Now showing CCTV footage of the offices of Prag News, one of the oldest local news channels in the Northeast, which has been on the air for almost two decades. They

showed paramilitaries bursting into the premises and threatening staffers with lathis, causing them to flee. The channel clarified that they felt baffled and intimidated, because its programming had been calling for calm, in keeping with the government's guidelines.

Good news comes from afar these days. Amidst the uproar over the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha, glad tidings came from the region of Santa Claus, with the Finns electing a young woman from a "rainbow family" to head a female-majority cabinet. But a couple of other stories about European music, which made headlines the world over, were glossed over here. The Swedish pop rock band Roxette is no more, with vocalist Marie Fredriksson succumbing to cancer 17 years after she was diagnosed. Her health had forced the band to abandon the Neverending World Tour in 2016, ending a run of three decades on the world charts. Coincidentally, this week, Coldplay announced that they would not be touring until they can find a way to make concerts sustainable, and actually beneficial to the

Initially, while protests concerning the CAB were covered well in Tripura, the turmoil in Assam was covered by cellphone cameras in private hands. The national TV channels caught up a little later

planet. It's a tall order, because while solar powered venues and no single use plastic are obvious options, how to cancel out the carbon footprint of jet travel with a whole concert crew on board is baffling. Anyway, it's the thought that matters. As younger audiences become more environmentally conscious, the music industry is clearly beginning to respond to their concerns.

Another international story which initially did not excite news stations was the Aramco initial public offering, which surged 10 per cent within seconds of trading. The lack of interest in the world's biggest IPO, which has left the Alibaba IPO behind, is rather odd. Especially since in the lead-up last month, channels like CNBC-TV18 had even taken the trouble to explain how Indian investors could subscribe through the Liberalised Remittance Scheme.

Good, clean fun, too, is elsewhere. In September, Andy Borowitz had reported in the *New Yorker*: "In the latest in a string of humiliating blows to the British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson's dog has abruptly resigned as his pet". Johnson's dog is back in the news, but it's a brand new dog, a cross-breed puppy named Dilyn, which is apparently Welsh for 'follow'. Dilyn had dined the prime minister closely on the campaign trail and was cuddled and nuzzled by Johnson when he met the press after the Conservatives won. The world is unfair. When Johnson plays with his dog, the cameras just lap it up. But when Rahul Gandhi played with his dog, Himanta Biswa Sarma left in a huff and the Congress lost Assam after 15 years in office.

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# 19 ECONOMY

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>RUPEE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹38,486	₹70.83	\$64.43	₹45,189

\*Indian basket as on December 11, 2019

SENSEX: 41,009.71 ▲ 428.00 NIFTY: 12,086.70 ▲ 114.90 NIKKEI: 24,023.10 ▲ 598.29 HANG SENG: 27,687.76 ▲ 693.62 FTSE: 7,403.76 ▲ 130.29 DAX: 13,375.47 ▲ 153.83

\*International market data till 1900 IST

## US-China trade deal: Tariffs rolled back over farm purchase commitments

**REUTERS**  
BEIJING/WASHINGTON, DEC 13

THE UNITED States and China cooled their trade war on Friday, announcing a "Phase one" agreement that reduces some US tariffs in exchange for increased Chinese purchases of American farm products and other goods.

Beijing has agreed to buy \$32 billion in additional agricultural goods over the next two years, US officials said, from a baseline of \$24 billion purchased in 2017, before the trade war started. China would also ramp-up purchases of US manufactured goods, energy, and services.

The United States would suspend tariffs on Chinese goods due to go into effect on Sunday, and re-

duce others, officials said. A deal is expected to be signed the first week of January in Washington by principal negotiators.

US President Donald Trump tweeted Friday morning "We have agreed to a very large Phase One Deal with China." Officials in China have "agreed to many structural changes and massive purchases of Agricultural Product, Energy, and Manufactured Goods, plus much more," he said. During a later news conference in the White House, Trump said he thought China would hit \$50 billion in agricultural purchases.

In a press conference Friday night in Beijing, Chinese officials said the two countries have achieved major progress in their phase one trade negotiations, and agreed on the text of a deal, but of-

ferred no specific details on the amount of US goods Beijing had agreed to buy.

The agreement was announced as the US House Judiciary Committee voted in Washington to charge Trump with abuse of power and obstruction during an impeachment inquiry. Some US business groups hailed the deal as an end to uncertainty that's slowed global growth; critics questioned whether the trade war had been worth the job losses and drop in sales. China has agreed to aim to purchase \$50 billion in farm products a year, Robert Lighthizer, the United States Trade Representative, told reporters at the White House on Friday.

To get there, Beijing has committed to buying \$16 billion more



Wang Shouwen, Vice Minister of Commerce and Deputy International Trade Representative at a press conference on the trade deal with the US in Beijing on Friday. AP

a year in farm products over the next two years, he said.

The United States has been pushing for the \$50 billion figure after Trump said during an

October 11 press conference that the two countries had agreed to a "Phase one" trade deal that included a "purchase of from \$40 (billion) to \$50 billion worth of

agricultural products."

Beijing has since balked at committing to buy a specific amount of agricultural goods during a certain time frame, however. Chinese officials said they would like the discretion to buy based on market conditions.

China will import more US wheat, corn, and rice after the deal, China's vice agricultural minister said Friday, but did not elaborate. China has not been a major buyer of US corn, wheat or rice in the past - though in recent years it has been the No. 3 or 4 buyer of one particular variety of wheat, US spring wheat used for blending. China was a top 5 buyer of US corn from 2011 to 2014 but has not been a major buyer since.

Soybeans made up half of China's agricultural purchases in

2017. Asked specifically about Trump's \$50 billion figure, officials in Beijing said Friday that details on value will be disclosed later.

Lighthizer didn't offer any details about Chinese commitments to import US energy or other products. The US has agreed to suspend tariffs on \$160 billion in Chinese goods due to go into effect on Dec. 15, Trump said on Twitter, and cut some existing tariffs to 75 per cent.

The December 15 tariffs, which would have hit nearly \$160 billion worth of Chinese-made consumer goods, including cell phones, laptop computers, toys and clothing, were scheduled to go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday. The US Trade Representative's office would need to file a Federal Register notice to rescind them, US

trade lawyers say.

A USTR statement Friday did not mention the December 15 tariffs, but said the US would leave in place 25 per cent tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese goods. The US administration will cut the tariff rate in half, to 7.5 per cent, on another \$120 billion list of Chinese imports that was levied on Sept. 1, USTR said.

The products getting the lower tariff rate include flat-panel television sets, smart speakers, Bluetooth headphones and many types of footwear. The agreement Friday covers intellectual property, technology transfer, agriculture, financial services, currency, and foreign exchange, the United States Trade Representative said in a statement.

Neither offered details.

## Sensex jumps on Brexit certainty, trade deal; Wall Street muted

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 13

THE STOCK markets on Friday joined a global market rally on reports that a trade deal has been agreed in principle between the US and China and Boris Johnson's win in UK general elections will give more clarity to the Brexit plan of the UK. Despite the rise in inflation and contraction in the industrial growth, the Sensex soared 428 points to close above the 41,000-mark on across the board buying.

After hitting a high of 41,055.80 points, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 428 points, or 1.05 per cent, higher at 41,009.71. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty settled 114.90 points, or 0.96 per cent, higher at 12,086.70.

Analysts said markets

**News of the US-China trade deal failed to impress Wall Street in early trade. As of 11:32 am ET, Dow Jones was down 78.19 points, or 0.28 per cent, at 28,053.86, and the S&P 500 was down 9.28 points, or 0.29 per cent, at 3,159.29**

shrugged off weak macroeconomic numbers released post market on Thursday and ended in the green on positive global cues. As per government data, rising food prices pushed the retail inflation in November to over three-year high of 5.54 per cent, while the industrial sector output shrank for third month in a row by 3.8 per cent in October.

Before the trade deal news came to light, share indices in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo soared up to 2.57 per cent. Stocks in Europe also traded sig-

nificantly higher. Meanwhile, Wall Street fell in volatile trading on Friday, as investors remained confused about signs of progress on a US-China trade deal despite comments from both sides that they had arrived at an initial agreement.

All three major stock indices hit fresh record highs earlier in the session as Beijing said it had agreed on the context of a trade pact with Washington, but turned lower after comments that a deal had not yet been for-

mally signed.

"At this point, I don't think we know what we know about the deal ... so markets are going to pause, and wait and see," said Randy Frederick, vice president of trading and derivatives for Charles Schwab in Austin, Texas.

US investors also missed out on a global rally fueled by a landslide victory for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

At 11:32 am ET the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 78.19 points, or 0.28 per cent, at 28,053.86, the S&P 500 was down 9.28 points, or 0.29 per cent, at 3,159.29 and the Nasdaq Composite was down 9.94 points, or 0.11 per cent, at 8,707.38. The S&P index recorded 71 new 52-week highs and one new low, while the Nasdaq recorded 89 new highs and 34 new lows. **WITH REUTERS**

**EXPLAINED**  
**E.**  
**Indian markets factored in deal**

INDIAN MARKETS have largely factored in the US-China deal. It's expected to neutralise the bad news on the domestic economic front in the near term. If the Brexit deal is also settled amicably, it will further boost Indian markets.

However, going forward, stocks will have to take into account the domestic macros.

## 'CLEARLY NOT AN ORDINARY SLOWDOWN' Former CEA: It is India's Great Slowdown, economy seems headed for the ICU

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

FORMER CHIEF Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian has said that the Indian economy is currently experiencing a "second wave" of the Twin Balance Sheet (TBS) crisis, which is behind what he terms as a "Great Slowdown".

"Clearly, this is not an ordinary slowdown. It is India's Great Slowdown, where the economy seems headed for the intensive care unit," Subramanian has said in a draft working paper of the Harvard University's Centre for International Development.

Subramanian had flagged the TBS problem - of debts accumulated by private corporates becoming non-performing assets (NPA) of banks - back in December 2014, while he was CEA to the Narendra Modi government. In his new paper co-authored with the former head of the International Monetary Fund's India office Josh Felman, Subramanian, who now teaches at the Harvard Kennedy School, has made a distinction between the original TBS and "TBS-2".

TBS-1 was about bank loans made to steel, power and infrastructure sector companies during the investment boom of 2004-11 turning bad. TBS-2 is largely a post-demonetisation phenomenon involving non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and real estate firms. After demonetisation, considerable amounts of cash made their way to banks, who on-lent a major part of that to NBFCs. The NBFCs, in turn, channelled this money to the real estate sector. By 2017-18, NBFCs were accounting for roughly half of the estimated Rs 5,00,000 crore of outstanding real estate loans.



**'SECOND WAVE' OF TBS CRISIS**

The economy is currently experiencing a "second wave" of the Twin Balance Sheet crisis, former CEA Arvind Subramanian said in his new paper co-authored with the former head of the IMF's India office Josh Felman

According to Subramanian, the collapse of IL&FS in September 2018 was a "seismic event" not only because of the Rs 90,000 crore-plus debts of the infrastructure-cum-lending behemoth, but also its "prompting markets to wake up and reassess the entire NBFC sector".

What the markets discovered was profoundly disturbing. A lot of NBFC lending in the recent period was concentrated in one particular industry - real estate - which itself was in a precarious situation. At the end of June 2019, the total number of unsold houses/flats in the top 8 cities was almost 10 lakh, valued at Rs 8 lakh crore or equivalent to about 4 years' of sales.

Once the extent of their exposure to real estate became known after IL&FS went belly-up, banks as well as mutual funds virtually stopped lending to NBFCs. "In some ways, this may have been India's version of the US housing bubble," Subramanian and Felman argue. Worse, it has created a new wave of stress for banks, some of whose credit to NBFCs amount to 10-14 per cent of their loan books. With banks turning cautious - on top of fund-starved NBFCs that had emerged as a key source of lending for small businesses

and consumer durable purchases in the post-demonetisation period - flow of commercial credit has collapsed from a peak of Rs 20 lakh crore in 2018-19 to "virtually nothing" in the first six months of this fiscal.

Subramanian and Felman say that India is now facing a situation of an unresolved legacy TBS problem along with a fresh TBS-2 crisis, both of which have pushed the economy into a downward spiral. "High rates and little credit are causing the economy to slow, thereby intensifying the stress on the corporate sector and on the financial system itself, "which then prompts the financial sector to become even more cautious".

The current slowdown, they note, is worrisome not just because GDP growth has slowed down to 4.5 per cent in the second quarter of 2019-20. Even more distressing is the disaggregated data. "The growth of consumer goods production has virtually ground to a halt; production of investment goods is falling. Indicators of exports, imports, and government revenues are all close to negative territory. These indicators suggest the economy's illness is severe... [this] slowdown seems closer to the 1991 balance of payments crisis," they add.

## Looking at the economy, intervening where it is needed, says Sitharaman

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

THE GOVERNMENT is monitoring the economic situation and will take measures for the sectors that require intervention, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Friday. She also said the Centre is aware of the pending GST compensation to states and will honour its commitment, adding that her team has not discussed any hike in GST rates yet.

Asked about by when does she expect the economy to revive, she said: "I'm not engaging in any prediction based thing. I am looking at the economy, where I need to intervene, I am intervening and I shall continue to address the problem of the industry as and when it rises." Sitharaman, while addressing a press conference on the state of the economy along with senior Finance Ministry and Corporate Affairs Ministry officials, declined to comment on the narrative of stagflation - slow growth, rising unemployment coupled with high inflation. "No comment on that. I have heard it. Stagflation is a narrative which is going on. I am hearing it," she said.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey at a press conference in New Delhi on Friday. Anil Sharma

On the talks of a hike in GST rates, Sitharaman said her team has not discussed it. "The buzz is everywhere other than my office. I don't know where this is coming from. I have not been to GST Council yet. So whether it's going to request them for a hike or ask them to review, nothing have I spoken among ourselves. We have not had any conversation yet. But it's good to see all this churning outside, it helps to clarify our

thought processes," she said.

When asked if the option of rate hikes is not on the table, she said, "No, no, I am not even saying that. I am saying we as a team have not spoken yet on what we want to go to the GST Council with, so it's good that so much of thought is having its own churn outside, helps me to understand how the mindsets work, we have not taken a call, the buzz is everywhere else."

On the rising onion prices, the Finance Minister said prices in some places are coming down with imports of the commodity. With fresh crop coming in the market, the prices will further decline, she said, adding a Group of Ministers is regularly reviewing onion prices.

The Rs 25,000-crore fund being set up to kickstart stuck real estate projects has found traction from 13 domestic financial institutions including HDFC, State Bank of India and LIC, Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian said Friday. "Fund is fully operational and investment committee is completing due diligence on the first set of deals today," he said making a presentation titled Major Interventions to Boost the Economy. The fund has executed legal documentation for Rs 10,530 crore.

Last month, the Finance Minister announced the creation of a special window to provide last-mile funding for stressed housing projects. While the commitment of funds to be infused by the Centre in the affordable and middle-income group housing sector via the special window was

set at Rs 10,000 crore, the fund had planned to seek matching contributions from banks and others to generate a corpus of about Rs 25,000 crore. Subramanian said the Fund is doing due diligence of projects in record time of six to eight weeks as against six to eight months usually.

Highlighting other measures, he said 32 Central Public Sector Enterprises have cleared more than 60 per cent of their dues worth Rs 61,000 crore in last two months in order to inject liquidity into the economy.

Of the 32 CPSEs, 21 have set up online bill tracking systems to reduce pendency in bill payment and reduce accounts payables of permanently, and presently only Rs 4,877 crore of their dues are pending, he said. Re-counting steps taken in recent months, he said the government has also taken a series of measures to deepen and widen the corporate bond, government securities and equities market.

He said the government has infused Rs 60,314 crore of equity into public sector banks in the current year, enabling them to disburse Rs 4.9 lakh crore worth of loans.

### EXPRESS IT AWARDS

## AI applications will bring social impact: Ramadorai

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 13

THE EXCITING aspect of modern information technology is that it's being used for social good in areas of healthcare, education and agriculture, S Ramadorai, former vice chairman of Tata Consultancy Services, chief guest at the seventh Express IT Awards said on Friday. He added that solutions to mobility even for daily commute could use digitisation and new technologies, including artificial intelligence. These would be welcome disruptions, Ramadorai said.

"Artificial intelligence is being used to weigh newborn babies by scanning the volume of their bodies instead of putting them on the spring scale," he said, citing an example of social impact of new technologies.

While new technologies threaten conventional jobs and demand new skill sets suited for



Winners with chief guest S Ramadorai at Express IT Awards in Mumbai on Friday. Amit Chakravarty

future jobs, Ramadorai said that the problem-solving skills are the most important for innovating solutions for the everyday problems. He lamented the 'abysmally low' spend by the government

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**EXPRESS IT AWARDS**  
Presenting Partner

and private sector on research and development (R&D), and said that output of R&D exercises could be inputs of other businesses. Ramadorai said that sustainability of technologies was fundamental to an economy in the way material usage to wastage process is to be handled. Earlier, during a panel discussion, Sharad Sharma, co-founder

of iSPIRT Foundation, said that India needed to develop technological solutions tailored to its requirements as no other global template would work for the country.

The bankers on the panel - V Vaidyanathan of IDFC First Bank and Rajiv Anand of Axis Bank - agreed that democratisation of data had enabled them to target retail customers who could earlier use only local moneylenders for their capital needs. Use of Aadhaar, tablets and credit bureaus helped bankers underwrite small businesses and provide them the same quality of service as was available to more affluent customers earlier, Anand said.

Vaidyanathan allayed fears of traditional jobs becoming redundant due to proliferation of technologies. He said that while new services were being created through technologies, they aren't necessarily replacing old ones. **FE**

### WINNERS LIST

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

SANJEEV BIKHCHANDANI, founder and executive vice chairman Info Edge India

**NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR**

HARSH JAIN, co-founder & CEO, Dream 11

**IT INNOVATION - LARGE**

Rank 1: Tata Consultancy Services  
Rank 2: Infosys

**IT INNOVATION - MSME**

Rank 1: ePayLater  
Rank 2: Halt Dos.com

**CLOUD SOLUTIONS**

Rank 1: Moglix - Mogli Labs India  
Rank 2: OptiSol Business Solutions

**DIGITAL SOLUTION OF THE YEAR**

Rank 1: CRMNEXT (Acidaes Solutions)  
Rank 2: Tech Mahindra

**MOBILITY SOLUTIONS**

Rank 1: RateGain  
Rank 2: Truebil

**FINTECH SOLUTIONS**

Rank 1: ACKO General Insurance

**START-UP OF THE YEAR**

Rank 1: Bizongo

**E-GOVERNANCE AWARD**

Rank 1: ITE&C Department, Govt of Telangana  
Rank 2: IRCTC

**ANALYTICS SOLUTION**

Rank 1: Cryon Data

**SOFTWARE PRODUCT OF THE YEAR**

Rank 1: Tricog Health Services



TRADE DEFICIT AT \$12.1 BN AGAINST \$11 BN A YEAR AGO November exports shrink 0.34% amid pressure on manufacturing

ENSECONOMICBUREAU NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS shrank 0.34 per cent year-on-year in November to \$25.98 billion, the fifth contraction in the past eight months, despite a relatively favourable base, as faltering domestic manufacturing on top of external headwinds continue to bite. Commerce Ministry data on Friday showed imports, too, fell for a sixth straight month in November, by 12.7 per cent against a fall of 16.3 per cent in October, mirroring a collapse in domestic demand. However, goods trade deficit in November shrank up to \$12.1 billion against \$11 billion a year ago, as contraction in imports narrowed month-on-month. Though the contraction in exports was less broad-based last month, as many as 17 of the 30 key

Services exports up 5.25% in Oct

Mumbai: India's services exports rose 5.25 per cent to \$177.0 billion in October, while imports remained nearly flat at \$10.86 billion, data from the Reserve Bank of India showed on Friday. The services exports or receipts were \$16.82 billion in October 2018, while the imports or payments were worth \$10.10 billion. PTI

segments witnessed a decline. The decline in goods trade is the latest in a series of crucial indicators — industrial output shrank 3.8 per cent in October; retail inflation hit a 40-month high and non-food credit growth is hovering around a two-year low — which reinforced fears of a protracted slowdown in the economy, especially after growth hit an over six-year low of 4.5 per cent in the September quarter. However, policy-makers can seek some comfort from the fact

a slow return to demand due to the marriage season. However, thanks to the persistent import contraction, trade deficit in the first two months of the third quarter (October-November) has averaged just \$11.6 billion, against \$14 billion in the previous six months. This will ease pressure on the country's current account balance, deficit in which had worsened sequentially to 2 per cent of GDP in the June quarter from 0.7 per cent in the January-March period; although it was still better than 2.3 per cent in the first quarter of FY19. A 3.7 per cent year-on-year fall in Brent crude oil prices has contributed to a drop in both exports and imports of petroleum. With this, overall goods exports in the April-November period contracted 2 per cent to \$211.9 billion, while imports shrank 8.9 per cent to \$318.8 billion. FE

SBI report cautions against hike in GST rates; cites methodological biases in inflation calculation

ENSECONOMICBUREAU MUMBAI, DECEMBER 13

ASTATE Bank of India (SBI) report has cautioned that an upward revision in GST rates could pose upward risks to inflation, adding that there could be methodological biases in consumer price inflation estimation by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) which is creating uncertainties in markets and policy decisions. Maintaining that the Reserve Bank of India is likely to continue a pause in its interest rate action in the wake of the rise in food inflation and low economic growth, the SBI report said, "Given the situation of low growth and high inflation (a possible situation of stagflation though it is too early to dub it as stagflation), we believe that the coming months are crucial for the RBI to decide on any action at rate front." "We believe that rising inflation till January 2020 may hold the

"We believe that any upward revision in GST rate and inclusion of excluded item will pose upside risks to inflation and downside risks to already fragile growth" SBI ECOWRAP

rate cut for this financial year. As of now, we are holding onto a pause in RBI rate action for February and April policies. The possibility of a rate cut beyond April will be data dependent, but we assign a low probability to such an action," it said. The 'Ecowrap' also said, "We believe that any upward revision in GST rate and inclusion of excluded item will pose upside risks to inflation and downside risks to already fragile growth. We firmly believe, increasing GST rates at this juncture will be self-defeating and if compliance does not improve, it is likely that GST collec-

tions could actually show minimal improvement, as happened in the past, when rates were cut." "Besides the risk of inflation due to increased GST rates, our estimate suggests that the exorbitant increase in telecom tariffs (almost 40 per cent in some of the cases) could technically result in 40-50 bps increase in headline inflation," the report said. The report further said there could be methodological biases in CPI estimation by the CSO and this is creating uncertainties in markets and policy decisions. The weighting pattern of food items in CPI at 45.86 per cent is based on 2011-12 Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES). "This is significantly different from the share of food and beverages (30 per cent) in the Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE), published by the National Account Statistics (NAS). Against such a backdrop, we believe that there is urgent need to rationalise the weights under CPI," it said.

2019 growth: Amid low consumption demand, Moody's cuts forecast to 5.6%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

MOODY'S INVESTORS Service on Friday said it has lowered its 2019 GDP growth forecast for India to 5.6 per cent as slow employment growth weighs on consumption. It expects economic growth to pick up in 2020 and 2021 to 6.6 per cent and 6.7 per cent respectively, but sees the pace of growth

The agency expects growth to pick up in 2020 and 2021 to 6.6% and 6.7% respectively

remaining lower than past. "We have lowered our 2019 gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India to 5.6 per cent, which is lower than 7.4 per

cent growth in 2018," Moody's said in a report. "India's economic growth has decelerated since mid-2018, with real GDP growth slipping from nearly 8 per cent to 5 per cent in the second quarter (April-June) of 2019," it noted. It further slipped to 4.5 per cent in July-September quarter. "Consumption demand has cooled notably, with slow employment growth weighing on consumption," the agency said.

RBI Central Board reviews functioning of co-operative banks, enforcement mechanism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHUBANESWAR, DECEMBER 13

THE RBI Central Board on Friday reviewed functioning of the urban cooperative banks and enforcement framework in the backdrop of scam in the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank affecting lakhs of depositors. The Central Board headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das also discussed the current economic situation, as well as the

domestic and global challenges facing the country, the RBI said in a release. "The Board's discussions focussed on issues related to urban cooperative banks, extension of enforcement policy and framework to cooperative banks and NBFCs (non-banking financial companies)," it said. Following exposure of scam in the PMC Bank, which had over 9.15 lakh depositors, the RBI had imposed restrictions on withdrawals. Statutory inspection of PMC

by the RBI had revealed large group exposure toward Housing Development and Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL) Group companies to the tune of about Rs 6,226.01 crore (inclusive of interest accrued in the related accounts). Out of the total exposure of Rs 6,226.01 crore at the end of March 2019 to the HDIL group, only Rs 439.58 crore was disclosed to the RBI and remaining Rs 5,786.43 crore remained undisclosed. The RBI release further said the report on trend and progress

of banking in India for the year 2018-19 and other policy and operational issues. RBI Deputy Governors N S Vishwanathan, B P Kanungo and Mahesh Kumar Jain and other directors of the Central Board — N Chandrasekaran, Bharat Doshi, Sudhir Mankad, Manish Sabharwal, Ashok Gulati, Prasanna Kumar Mohanty, Satish Marathe, Swaminathan Gurumurthy and Revathy Iyer, attended the meeting. Union Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar also attended the meeting.

India in RCEP will signal its commitment to multilateral trading systems: Indonesia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

INDONESIAN FOREIGN Minister Retno Marsudi on Friday said India joining the RCEP will send a powerful signal to the world that ASEAN and New Delhi remain committed to a free and fair multilateral trading system amid rising protectionism. Speaking at the Third Annual Developing Country Forum organised by South Centre and Research and Information System For Developing Countries — a think tank focussed on global economic issues — she said ASEAN and India have experienced positive economic growth above the global economic growth. "To ensure that we continue this positive trend in midst of ris-

ing trend of protectionism, ASEAN and India economies should continue to uphold an open and inclusive strategic outlook," the Indonesian foreign minister said. "ASEAN and India partnership should remain committed to promote a win-win and a zero-sum paradigm. The conclusion of RCEP will send a powerful signal to the world that ASEAN and India remain committed to an open, free and fair multilateral trading system. The implementation of concrete project will strengthen our economic cooperation," she said. Last month, at an RCEP Summit in Bangkok, India declined to join the free-trade agreement, comprising the ASEAN nations, China, Japan, Australia and South Korea, stating that its key concerns have not been addressed.

Lacklustre US retail sales cast shadow on Q4 growth

REUTERS WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 13

US RETAIL sales rose less than expected in November as Americans cut back on discretionary spending despite a strong labor market, raising fears the economy was slowing a bit faster than anticipated in the fourth quarter. As per the report released by the Commerce Department on Friday, retail sales rose 0.2 per cent last month. Data for October was revised up to show retail sales increasing 0.4 per cent instead of climbing 0.3 per cent as previously reported. November's meager sales gains are at odds with reports from retailers of brisk Black Friday business. Excluding automobiles, gasoline, building materials and food services, retail sales edged up 0.1 per cent last month after rising by an unrevised 0.3 per cent in October.

'NBFC crisis poses more bad loan risks for banks'

The continuing liquidity crunch facing non-banking financial firms is likely to result in rising bad loans risks for banks from these shadow banks as well and companies relying on such lenders for funding, as per a Moody's report

Infographic detailing NBFC risks: SOURCE OF ASSET RISK, RISKS, REDUCED LENDING, THE SPILLOVER OF STRESS, TIGHT FUNDING FOR NBFCs, NON-BANK LENDERS. Includes an illustration of a hand holding a coin over a building.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER, DR. S.N. MEDICAL COLLEGE & ASSOCIATED GROUP OF HOSPITALS, JODHPUR. Shastri Nagar, Residency Road, Jodhpur (Raj). 342001. E-mail: medicalcollegejodhpur@yahoo.com, prmedclg-jod-rj@nic.in. BID NOTICE No. 08/2019-20 (e-tender). Details regarding terms and conditions can be downloaded from the website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH. Tender Notice No. PI(EP)/19-20/11. Sealed tenders are invited from the manufacturers or their sole authorized distributors/ agents on the prescribed form for purchase of various items against tender No. 1-24. Includes a table of items and quantities.

'Paytm parent raises over \$660 mn from investors'. approved allotment of shares worth over \$660 million to investors, documents sourced by Toller showed. ONE97 COMMUNICATIONS, the parent company of Paytm, has raised over \$660 million (around Rs 4,724 crore) from investors, including Alibaba's Alipay and funds managed by T Rowe Price, as per regulatory documents. The board of One97 Communications has

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR. Construction of ACTO Office Building at Kaki, District-Ajmer. 234.00 Lac.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice. Tender No: 12, 13, 14 & 15/2019-20. BUDGET - 2017-18. KIIFB - Water Supply Scheme to Edavanna Panchayath, KIIFB project TRAN 10-WRD 025-05-Waler Supply Scheme to Edalur Panchayath, KIIFB - Manjeri Suburban Drinking Water Project & KIIFB project TRAN 10-WRD 025-13-WSS to Ramanchadi- Alagar in Malappuram District- Package 1. EMD : Rs. 500000 for each. Tender fee : Rs. 16800 for each. Last Date for submitting Tender : 13-01-2020 03:00 pm. Phone : 04832734871. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

SBI State Bank of India. Network & Communication Dept., State Bank Global IT Centre, Main Building, Sector 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614. CORRIGENDUM. With reference to the RFP No.SBI/GITC/NW&C/2019-20/670 dated 06.12.2019 for procurement of Immersive Video Conferencing solution for State Bank of India, the Bank has issued Corrigendum dated 12.12.2019. For details, please refer 'Procurement News' at Banks website, https://bank.sbi

BRIEFLY

Six coal mines under allotment process: Govt

New Delhi: The Coal Ministry Friday said it is considering allotment of six coal mines that have been marked for end-uses like power, iron and steel and sale of coal.

Spectrum auction: DoT invites bids

New Delhi: Department of (DoT) Telecommunications has invited bids from agencies to conduct e-auction of 8526 megahertz of spectrum worth Rs 4.98 lakh crore, with January 13 being the deadline by which interested firms can submit bids.

FM in Forbes' Most Powerful Women list

New York: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, ranked at 34th, is among the Forbes' ranking of 100 most powerful women in the world, a list topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel for the ninth straight year.

GIC settles insider trading case with Sebi

New Delhi: General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) has settled with regulator Sebi a case of alleged violation of insider trading norms by paying over Rs 1.23 crore towards settlement charges.

RIL arm buys stake in Asteria Aerospace

New Delhi: Reliance Industries (RIL) Friday said its subsidiary Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Ltd has bought 51.78 per cent stake in Asteria Aerospace for Rs 23.12 crore. PTI

Nissan rolls out Red Weekends initiative

New Delhi: Nissan India has announced the 'Red Weekends' initiative, featuring lucrative offers on Nissan and Datsun models. This month, customers can visit any Nissan dealership, and take part in activities to win gifts such as instant vouchers amounting to Rs 1 crore on Nissan and Datsun models. ENS

Brent crude price rises 1.3%, reaches 3-month high

WASHINGTON, Dec 13 (Reuters) - Oil prices rose on Friday to their highest in nearly three months as investors cheered progress in resolving the United States-China trade dispute and a decisive general election result in Britain. Washington and Beijing announced a "Phase one" agreement that reduces some US tariffs in exchange for increased Chinese purchases of American farm goods. Brent futures, the global benchmark, were up 85 cents, or 1.3 per cent, to \$65.05 a barrel at 1:22 p.m. EST (1822 GMT), while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was up 71 cents, or 1.2 per cent, to \$59.89. During the session, both contracts jumped to their highest since September 17, with WTI topping \$60 a barrel.

Information Technology Dept., Corporate Office, Chennai.

Interested parties may refer Bank's Website: https://www.indianbank.in/tenders for details.



Classifieds PERSONAL

We, Ritu D/O Late Jaibir W/O Shri Suprit R/O-138/A, Shahpur Jat, New Delhi-110049 And Sachin Dagar S/O Late Jaibir R/O Ujwa, South West Delhi, Delhi-110073. Do hereby inform That Our Father Known As Jaibir Singh, Jaibir Dagar And Jaibir Names, Jaibir Dagar And Jaibir Names Are One And Same Person I.E. Our Father.

Rahul S/O-Rakesh Verma R/O-House.No.444, Street Number-7, Moonga Nagar, Dayalpur, North East Delhi-110094 have changed my name from Rahul to Rahul Verma for all purpose.

CHRISTOPHER ANTHONY, S/O- LT Sh. Anthony Arakya, R/O-257, Dreamland Apartment, Sector-1A, DDA Flats, Dwarka, New Delhi-110045, affirm that my name has been changed from CHRISTOPHER to CHRISTOPHER ANTHONY vide affidavit dated-22nd Nov 2019, sworn before notary Kanta Rana Delhi.040524130-1

Tayyab Chaudhary S/O Mohammad Ilyas R/O-H-49/14, Galib Apartment, 3rd-Floor, Batla-House, Jamianagar, Okhla, N.Delhi-110025, changed the name of my minor son from Mohammad Arhan Choudhary to Mohammad Talha.

Tayyab Chaudhary S/O Mohammad Ilyas R/O-H-49/14, Galib Apartment, 3rd-Floor, Batla-House, Jamianagar, Okhla, N.Delhi-110025, changed the name of my minor son from Mohammad Arhan Chaudhary to Mohammad Arhaan.

Surinder Pal Singh Ghai S/O Awtar Singh Ghai R/O House No.-A-342, Sector-46, Noida (U.P.) have changed my name to Surinder Pal Singh S/O Awtar Singh for all future purposes.

Sumare Singh S/O Tekram R/O-97, S.F. PKT-21, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Sahil Ohlyan.

Paras S/O Sushil Kumar Setia R/O Third floor, 16/52, Subhash Nagar, Delhi-110027, have changed my name to PARAS SETIA.

Srinivasa Gayathri W/O Murali Sundararajan R/O H2-101, 10th Floor Assotech Springfields, Sector Zeta-1, Greater Noida (U.P.) have changed my name Srinivasa Gayathri to Gayatri Murali permanently.

Son Pal Singh S/O Ramkumar Singh R/O-H.No.15, Barahi-Mela Wali Gali, Surajpur, Greater-Noida, UP, have changed my name to Sonpal Singh Raghav.

Shelaja Saxena W/O Vishal Bhatnagar R/O H.No.1242, Adarsh-Apartment, Sector-4C, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad (U.P.) after-marriage have changed my name to Shaikha Bhatnagar, for all purposes.

Shakti Taneja D/O Mr. Ashok Taneja R/O H-2/137, Bengali Colony, Mahavir Enclave, Part-1, Palam, New Delhi-45, have changed my name to Shakti Sharma for all purposes.

Shafi Ahmed R/O House No-C-1, Ekta Vihar, Apartment, Basai, Sector-70, Noida (U.P.) have changed my Son's name from Mohd Owais to Mohammad Owais for all future purposes.

Sanjeev S/O Jeet Singh, H.No-33/184, Tripathi, Delhi-110091 Have Changed My Name To Sanjeev Kumar. 040524112-4

Sanjay Kumar S/O-Late Shri. Brij Mohan Lal R/O-H.No.92, Saraswati Mandir, Suraj Kund Road, Meerut, UP, have changed my name to Sanjay Sharma. 040524116-8

Sanjay Kumar H.No-533/19 Sakti-Haryana Green Road Rohtak Haryana-124001. Changed my minor child's name Adhitya To Aditya Khurana. 040524116-2

S. S. Murali (Sundararajan Murali) S/O Rajagopalan Sundararajan R/O H2-101, 10th Floor Assotech Springfields, Sector Zeta-1, Greater Noida (U.P.) changed my name S. Murali (Sundararajan Murali) to Murali Sundararajan permanently. 040524110-2

R. Sundhathan, Resident of H.No.C-1, Block-19, Railway-Colony, Punjabi Bagh, West/Delhi, Delhi-110026. Have changed my religion from HINDU to ISLAM (Muslim) w.e.f 11.12.2019 for all purposes. 040524116-10

Priyanka Awana W/O Manoj Chaudhary R/O House No.618, Village-Atta, Sector-27, Noida (U.P.) have changed my name to Priyanka Chaudhary. 040524118-1

Rajiv Kumar S/O-Nand Lal R/O-6/172-2nd-Floor D.D.A-Flats East-Of-Kailash New Delhi-110065. Changed My Name To Rajeev Kumar Pawani. 040524116-5

Alka Rana D/O Late Sh.Om Hari Singh Rana R/O House No.93, Street No.4, Shankar Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 have changed the name of my minor son from Samarth Alka to Samarth Rana for all purposes. 040524073-3

Kapil Soni S/O Govind Parsad Soni R/O-B-975, Shastri-Nagar Delhi-110052, Have Changed My Name From Kapil To Kapil Soni For All Purpose. 040524117-5

Sunil Kumar Singh R/O Munna Lal singhal R/O-WA-109, Flat.No.A-1, Upper Ground Floor, Gali No.16, shakarpur, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Sunil singhal. 040523615-1

Pankaj S/O Ramesh Kumar Addt-274/11 Shri-Nagar Colony Rohtak Haryana-124001, Changed My Name To Pankaj Saini. 040524116-3

Mumtaz Ali S/O Sadik Ali R/O-H.No.167 Gali No.3 Rajiv Gandhi-Nagar New-Mustafabad Delhi-110094, have changed my name Mumtaz Ali to Mumtaz Ali, for all future purposes. 040524112-10

Pankaj Kumar S/O Prem Chand Bansal R/O-A-708, UNESCO Apts, Plot No.55, I.P. Extension, Delhi-110092 have changed my name from Pankaj Kumar Bansal and Pankaj Kumar for all purposes. 040524079-1

Mohammad Ahmad S/O Mohammad Usman Ram, Resident Of-2344, Second-Floor, Gali Miri Madari Road-Garden, Chandni-Chowk, Delhi-110006, have Changed My Name From Mohammad Ahmad Ad Ahmad Reza To Ahmad Raza For All Purposes. 040524117-4

Manoj Awana S/O Rati Ram R/O House No.618, Village-Atta, Sector-27, Noida (U.P.) have changed my name to Manoj Chaudhary. 040524118-2

Km. Garima D/O Mukesh Kumar R/O 16/24/1 MBR-Enclave Pochanpur, Dwarka Sector-23 New Delhi-110077, have changed my name to Garima. 040524112-6

Jasvinder Singh S/O late Kashmir Singh R/O A-3/27, Bhajanpura, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to JASVINDER SINGH SIDHU. 040524081-1

Ishwar Lal Nagar S/O Late. Leela Ram Naagar R/O-16/162, Amir-Kaurpuri, Tank-Road, Galin-1. Hanuman Mandir, Karolbagh, N.Delhi-110005 have changed my name to Ishwar Lal Naagar. 040524112-7

Diksha Sandeepkumar D/o Kaira Sandeepkumar Gurdharshalal New W/o Ankit Dhal R/O RZ-B1/42, B Block, Raghu Nagar, Palam, South West Delhi, Delhi-110045 have changed my name after marriage to Diksha Dhall for all records and future purposes. Diksha Sandeepkumar and Diksha Dhall is one and same person. 040524077-1

Dhaneshwari Awana W/O Rati Ram R/O House No.618, Village-Atta, Sector-27, Noida (U.P.) have changed my name to Dhaneshwari. 040524118-4

Devender Banthia S/O, Puneet Banthia R/O C-75 Second Floor, lane 4, mahendru Enclave Delhi-110033 have changed my name to Dev Banthia for all purposes. 040524112-9

Damini Vishwakarma D/O Uma Shankar Vishwakarma R/O Katangi Rod, Gram Jhagra Belkhadu, Jabalpur Madhya Pradesh-482002 have changed my name to Damini Vishwakarma. 0070688095-1

Chenu Bala W/O Ashwani Goel R/O B-2/20-21, Sector-6, Rohini, Delhi-110085, Have Changed My Name To Cheenu Goel. 040524112-1

Ramesh Chitkara S/O Ram Lubhaya Chitkara R/O-M-87 Saket N.D-110017, have Changed my Name to Ramesh Kumar for all purposes 040524078-1

Prabven Kahtoon W/O Mohammad Imtiyaz R/O H.No.106, Second Floor, Near Amina Masjid, Wazirabad Village, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Mohammad Imtiyaz for all purposes. 040524073-2

Meva Ram S/O Chote Lal Sharma R/O- E-3/264 Sultampur-Nithari Delhi-110086, Changed My Name To Meva Ram Sharma. 040524117-6

Inderjeet Singh S/O Charanjeet Singh R/O-F-11 Sham Nagar Vishnu Garden Delhi have changed my name to Inderjeet Singh. 040524112-3

Iffat Zahir W/O Mehfooz Khan R/O C-591, GF, New Friends Colony Delhi-25, have changed my name to Iffat Khan. 040524138-1

Gurbachan Singh Chandioik Alias Gurbachan Singh S/O Sujan Singh R/O-C-134, Sector-50, Noida, U.P. Have Changed My Name From Gurbachan Singh Chandioik Alias Gurbachan Singh To Gurbachan Singh For All Future Purposes. 040524116-6

Anju Digra W/O Pawan Gulati R/O-B-847, Avantika, Sector-1, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Anju Bala. 040524117-1

Abhishek Prakash Rao@ Abhishek Rao@ Rao Abhishek Prakash, S/O Sh.Prakash Koteswar Rao, R/O-C-2, Flat No.102, Uniworld-City West, Sec-30, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana have changed my name to Abhishek Prakash Rao. for all purposes. 040524117-3

Suniti S/O Roshan Lal R/O 20/187 DakshinPuri Extn New Delhi-110062 have changed my name to Sunil Kumar permanently. 040524112-2

Shyam Bilas S/O Khazan Singh R/O-B-512 Gali No-4 Mallis Park Adarsh Nagar Delhi-110033, Changed My Name To Shyam Bilas Gupta. 040524117-7

Richa Sharma W/O Nishank Dua R/O-Z-6, Hans Apt. East Arjun Nagar Cbd Shahdara Delhi-110032 Have Changed My Name To Richa Dua. 040524112-5

Sarabjeet Kaur Chandhioik D/O-Gurbachan Singh R/O-C-134, Sector-50, Noida, U.P. Have Changed My Name From Sarabjeet Kaur Chandhioik To Sarabjeet Kaur For All Future Purposes. 040524116-7

Harshita, D/O Ajay Chauhan, R/O Flat No-26, Gaur galaxy Apartments, Sec-5, Vaisali, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010, have changed my name to Harshita Chauhan. 040524138-5

Anil Singh S/O Mukund Singh R/O-C-2/6A, Shyam-Vihar, Ph-11 Najafgarh N.D-110043, have changed my name to Anil Singh Rawat for all purposes 040524078-2

Rukhsar Bano D/O Mohd.Hasan W/O Afsar Ali, R/O-1653/A, Gali No-15, Govind-Puri, Kalkaji New Delhi-110019, Have Changed My name to Aysha Bano 040524071-1

Renu W/O-Pankaj Saini address-274/11 Haryana-124001, Changed My Name To Renu Saini. 040524116-4

Rati Ram Awana S/O Bhatkwar Singh R/O House No.618, Village-Atta, Sector-27, Noida (U.P.) have changed my name to Rati Ram. 040524118-5

Ram Singh Sehgal S/O Pratap Singh Sehgal, DOB 19/09/1958 R/O A-2/74, A-Block A2 Keshav Puram Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Ram Singh. 040523614-2

LOST & FOUND Lost my original Certificate of Main Secondary Exam Year-2019, Roll No.8674880 passport from CBSE. Finder May Contact-Manshi H.No.275, VIII. Sanoth, Narela, Delhi-40. 040524138-8

BUSINESS ONE Liquor Manufacturing Co. in running condition, required Distributor/J.V. Partner. Contact: 7558234491. 0070688056-2

SITUATION VACANT WANTED: DSA Direct sales agent. Earn 3 lakhs income, Gold coin fine 999; Purity refinery to retailer. No securities/ Bullion license. WhatsApp- 6309095489. 0070687798-1

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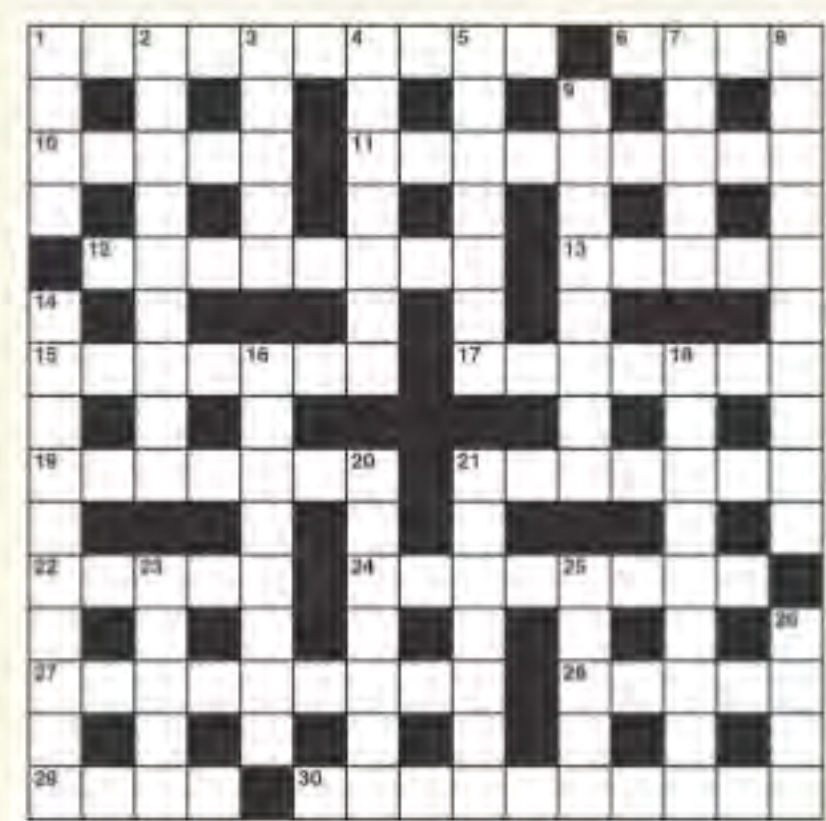
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## CROSSWORD 3988



- ACROSS**
- A celebrity's due (5,5)
  - Just a trade show (4)
  - Ocean-tossed paddle boat (5)
  - Got up to mischief, but was ineffective (3,2,4)
  - It's used extensively by bandsmen (8)
  - Fruit that's a variety of lemon? (5)
  - He reads about what paste does? (7)
  - The case of the broken latches (7)
  - Meals for father in breaks from work (7)
  - Untidy fringe in which there's nothing alien (7)
  - Country dropping a point in its currency (5)
  - Ann becomes engaged to a lean historian (8)
  - Change follows an agreement for an instrument (9)
  - Leader is ridiculed in speech (5)
  - Bull or cow that makes an impression (4)
  - It's very well known to have had a festival (10)
- Down**
- Engine mad? (4)
  - No whisper about possession (9)
  - Cook minced meats (5)
  - Horrible house I'd demolish (7)
  - Is a shade embarrassed? (7)
  - Island naturally formed in a ring (5)
  - Together they may make a catch (3,3,4)
  - He trains regularly before work (8)
  - Twin propellers (4,2,4)
  - One does nothing to recover by taking it (4,4)
  - An irritating habit (4,5)
  - One minute, it's not a land measure (3,4)
  - Money fine can upset (7)
  - Bill's getting a new car that's capital (5)
  - Drink to a royal uprising (5)
  - You need to be careful to pay it (4)

**Solutions Crossword 3987:** Across: 1 Phantom, 5 Habit, 8 Narcissus, 9 Yap, 10 Hope, 12 Curtains, 14 Castor, 15 Etudes, 17 Nowadays, 18 Ows, 21 For, 22 Office boy, 24 Raps, 25 Lottery. Down: 1 Punch, 2 Air, 3 Twig, 4 Museum, 5 Hesitate, 6 Bay window, 7 Typists, 11 Passwords, 13 Road hogs, 14 Conifer, 16 Eyeful, 19 Slightly, 20 Scut, 23 Bye.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
Another week, another Monday, and what this means for you is a sensible, efficient and organised beginning. Underneath it all, the Moon is in a supportive mood, so everything needs to be taken one step at a time. Yet you can count on getting your own way at home.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
Something secret could be bothering you today. Just what this could be is far from clear, but it could be connected with regret for affairs which didn't work out. Stop being such a perfectionist and realise that you can't relive the past - at least, not now.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
Six out of a possible ten planets are in directly supportive positions, backing your interests. That's not a bad tally! You should be able to take life at your own pace today, so anyone who tries to pressurise you could be out of luck. Make the most of any passing good fortune.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
Social influences are looking very pronounced today, if a little serious. What you need from friends now seems to be a sense that they're going to look after you, or provide emotional security. I know this may be asking too much - but I'm sure you can cope.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
Home and domestic matters are bound to take up a fair bit of your time and, even if you're at work, the best way to get on with colleagues will be to imagine you're all part of one big family. Not a perfectly happy one necessarily, but a family nonetheless.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
Career and professional affairs now require their fair share of attention, all the more so if you are laying your own ideas on the line. With just a little shove in the right direction it looks as if your past efforts could be about to bring the desired rewards.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
Make serious plans and take practical decisions. It has never been more important to look only at the significant details and put all your hopes, wishes and fantasies to one side. Don't be perturbed by delays. But do keep a very close watch on every detail concerning cash.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
After last week's energetic stars, this week's point to a shift of gear. You may therefore feel that you have a right to sit down and put your feet up, but any spare time is likely to be disrupted by the need to swing straight back into action.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
Although you may be preoccupied with the trivia of material survival, dwelling over questions such as how to save the odd bit of cash here and there, this is in fact a somewhat optimistic and adventurous time. All that is asked of you is that you take the right decisions.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
You still seem to imagine nobody else understands you. The key is to listen very carefully to what your imagination is trying to tell you rather than always trying to ignore it. There's just no time to stick your head in the sand - so don't.

**VRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
The Moon is well situated, strong, supportive and sympathetic. This is a welcome symbolic indication that you can have it all your own way at home, but only if you face up to hidden problems and deep undercurrents. People who think differently should soon be able to apologise for their errors.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
You always find criticism difficult, for you allow it to undermine your confidence. However, nothing would do you more good at the present time than a little friendly advice. Romantically, by the way, you could soon be on to a total winner.

## 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.

My motto is: Contented with \_\_\_, yet wishing for \_\_\_ - Charles Lamb (6...4)

**IYEER**      **ANSULT**

**APIOT**      **GSUYLM**

SOLUTION: EYRE, PATIO, SUSAN, SMUGLY. Answer: My motto is: Contented with little, yet wishing for more - Charles Lamb

**Difficulty Level 5s**  
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 4059

**Difficulty Level**  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4058



**कार्यालय प्रधानाचार्य: राजकीय मेडिकल कालेज, बौदा।**  
पत्रांक-रा.वि.वि./2019/2520 दिनांक-06/12/2019

**साक्षात्कार:-**

राजकीय मेडिकल कालेज, बौदा में संधिदा के आधार पर आचार्य, सह-आचार्य, सहा. आचार्य एवं सीनियर रेजिडेंट/जूनियर रेजिडेंट/ट्यूटर के पदों पर सेवायोजन हेतु विज्ञापित:-

दिनांक-17.12.2019 onwards प्रातः 10.00 बजे से प्रधानाचार्य कार्यालय, राजकीय मेडिकल कालेज, बौदा।

नोट- शासन द्वारा आरक्षण के सम्बन्ध में 100 बिन्दु नोट्स एवं शासनादेश संख्या-5/2019/4/11/2002/क-2/2019/टी.सी.-1 दिनांक-13 अगस्त 2019 के आधार पर ही चयन की प्रक्रिया की जायेगी एवं प्रदर्शक (ट्यूटर/विमान्यट्रेटर) के पद हेतु एम.सी.आई. मानकों के अनुसार एम.बी.बी.एस. अभ्यर्थी ही मान्य होंगे तथा साक्षात्कार के सम्बन्ध में समस्त जानकारी कालेज की वेबसाइट [www.gmcbanda.ac.in](http://www.gmcbanda.ac.in) में उपलब्ध है।

हस्ता./-  
प्रधानाचार्य  
राजकीय मेडिकल कालेज  
बौदा।

[www.upgov.nic.in](http://www.upgov.nic.in) दिनांक-11/12/19  
UPID No. 146474

**उत्तर प्रदेश गन्ना शोध परिषद, शाहजहापुर।**  
पत्रांक 4724-25/ सात-17 दिनांक 13.12.2019

**शुद्ध पत्र**

दिनांक 13.12.2019 कम्प्यूटरों के आमंत्रित ई-टेंडर को प्राप्त करने की तिथि दि. 20.12.2019 निर्धारित की जाती है।

हस्ता./-  
निदेशक  
उ.प्र. गन्ना शोध परिषद, शाहजहापुर।

**E-Procurement Notice**  
**GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH**  
**HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)**  
**REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)**  
**(Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)**

National Open Competitive Procurement  
Name of Project: Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)  
Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.: To be allotted  
Date: December 12, 2019

The Chief Engineer-cum-Project Director, State Roads Project, Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh, India on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites online bids (separate) on or before 11:00 hours Standard Time (IST) on January 27, 2020 for the construction of the works detailed in the table:-

Package No.	Name of Work	Reference No.	Bid Security (Rs.)	Cost of Document (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Estimated Cost (INR)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Package-1	Upgradation of Baddi - Sal Ramshahar Road in Solan Distt. from Km 11/600 to Km 26/400 (14.8 km)	IN-HPRIDC-144245-CW-RFB	1.32 Crore	5,000/-	18 Months	66 Crore
Package-2	Upgradation of Badli-Sal-Ramshahar Road in Solan Distt. from Km 26/400 to Km 44/700 (18.3 km)	IN-HPRIDC-144266-CW-RFB	1.64 Crore	5,000/-	18 Months	82 Crore
Package-3	Upgradation of Dadihol - Ladour road from Km 0/00 to Km 13/500 (13.5 km)	IN-HPRIDC-144268-CW-RFB	1.30 Crore	5,000/-	18 Months	65 Crore

The detailed Request for Bids (RFB) Notice, Bidding Document alongwith other necessary information will be available on <https://hptenders.gov.in> and official web site of HPRIDC from December 20, 2019.  
Note: Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Bids (RFB) Notice shall be available to all interested bidder on official web site of HPRIDC under <http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html> link.

Chief Engineer-cum-Project Director, State Roads Project, HPRIDC, Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh, India. Tel: +91-177-2626063; Fax: +91-177-2626062; E-mail: [pdsrhp@nic.in](mailto:pdsrhp@nic.in)

**DELHI JAL BOARD (Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi)**  
**OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C)DR-III**  
**Kanhaiya Nagar Delhi-110035**  
Phone : 011-27394876 Email: [eeedr3@gmail.com](mailto:eeedr3@gmail.com)  
PRESS NIT NO-01 (2019-20)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV) Amount put to tender	Earnest Money (EMD) (Rs.)	Tender processing Fee Non Refundable (Rs.)	Date of Release of Tender/ Tender Id.	Last date/time of receipt of tender
1.	Construction of weir for intercepting waste water flowing in drain no.6 for its treatment at Narela STP Delhi	1,00,72,964/-	2,02,000/-	1000/-	13.12.2019/ 2019_DJB_185544_1	03.01.2020 upto 03.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 65/2019-20

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer(C) DR-III

**BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI**  
PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110 001

Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993). In the matter of O.A. No. 660/2018/DRT-III

**ALLAHABAD BANK** Vs **MR. DEEPAK GOYAL & ORS.**  
Applicant Vs Defendants

D-3 MR. VINAY AGGARWAL  
4A, JD BLOCK, PITAMPURA, DELHI-85

D-4 RAVI GUPTA  
H-32/103, SECTOR-3, ROHINI, DELHI-110085

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and 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 advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 27.12.2019 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of Dec., 2019.

By order of the Tribunal  
Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

**E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

1. The Executive Engineer Seraj Division HPPWD Janjhli, Distt. Mandi on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on item rate, in Electronic Tendering System, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved Contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Eligible Class of Contractor
1.	C/o PHC building at Chhatra In Sub-Tehsil Chhatra Distt. Mandi (SH- Construction of building portion, WS&SI, rain water harvesting system, septic tank and Site development).	2,29,97,087/-	2,65,700/-	5000/-	Class A
2.	C/o Govt. Sen Secy School Murah in Tehsil Balichowki Distt. Mandi (SH- Construction of building portion and Site development).	64,83,747/-	97,500/-	2000/-	Class C-B
3.	C/o Additional Accommodation for Govt. Sr. Sec. Building at Bagsaid in Distt. Mandi ( SH- C/o Two Rooms in 2nd floor).	15,20,810/-	31,000/-	500/-	Class C-D

2. **Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:** The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. **Key Dates:**

1. Date of Online Publication	23.12.2019 11.30 hrs.
2. Document Download Start and End Date	23.12.2019 11.30 hrs. upto 06.01.2020 09.00 hrs.
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	23.12.2019 11.30 hrs. upto 06.01.2020 09.00 hrs.
4. Physical Submission of EMD Cost of Tender Document and original technical document	06.01.2020, 10.30 hrs.
5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	06.01.2020 11.00 hrs.

4. **TENDER DETAILS:**  
The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:  
i) **Cover 1:** shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information".  
ii) **Cover 2:** shall contain "BOO/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.  
5. **SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS:** The bidders are required to submit (a) Original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) Original Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in/O Executive Engineer Seraj Division HPPWD Janjhli, Distt. Mandi as specified in Key Dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.  
6. **BID OPENING DETAILS:** The bids shall be opened on 06.01.2020 at 11.00 hrs. in the office Executive Engineer Seraj Division HPPWD Janjhli, Distt. Mandi H.P. by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.  
7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.  
8. The Bidder are advised to quote rates inclusive of GST as applicable. GST shall not be paid extra.  
9. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CIVIL) PLANT SDW S/E**  
SRINIWASPUR: NEW DELHI: 110065  
Press N.I.T. No. 38 (2019-20)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Construction of cement concrete approach road around boundary wall at STP Ghitori Under EE Civil Plant SDW South East. 2019_DJB_185483_1	32,31,730/-	12.12.2019	01.01.2020 upto to 3:00 P.M
1	Repair/strengthening of gravity duct 1/6 provision of stopping of over flow and leakage towards PGDAV college & Vinobapuri side 2019_DJB_185483_2	32,30,396/-	12.12.2019	01.01.2020 upto to 3:00 P.M

\* Further detail in this regard can be seen at <https://delhi.govtprocurement.com>  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 65/4/2019-20

Sd/-  
EX. ENGINEER (CIVIL) PLANT SDW S/E.

**Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited**  
(A Government of India (Ministry of Railways) Enterprise)

**Notification of Request for Expression of Interest**

Number - 2019/HO/EN/WC-I/Bridge Instrumentation dated 13.12.2019

**Name of the Project -** Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd.

**Assignment Title -** Installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of Instruments on bridges for Structural Health Monitoring of bridges of DFCCIL.

1. The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) now invites eligible Parties/Firms to indicate their interest in providing the Instrumentation Scheme for Bridge Health Monitoring of DFCCIL i.e. "Installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of Instruments on bridges for Structural Health Monitoring of bridges of DFCCIL". Interested Parties/Firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services.

2. Interested Parties/Firms are informed that a Notification, bearing same reference number & containing requisite instructions & further information for EOI submission, has been uploaded on DFCCIL Website 'www.dfccil.com', for downloading.

3. Parties/Firms are requested to download the EOI notification, prepare and subsequently submit their EOI, accordingly, up to 15.01.2020 at the address given in the aforesaid Notification.

**UJVN Limited**  
H.O. "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Tele/Fax: 0135-2763506, 2763808 & Fax- 0135-2763507  
CIN No. U4101UR2001SGC025866 | [www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com](http://www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

For and on behalf of UJVN Ltd., Executive Engineer (Civil), Pashulok Barrage Rishikesh, invites sealed & separate tenders from interested contractors for following works:

1. **Tender Notice Reference:**  
NIT No.-22/2019-20/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage:- Annual M&R Work of Road from Chilla Power House to Bhimgoda Barrage.

2. **Estimated Value of Tender** : Rs. 9,66,646.45.  
3. **Tender Cost** : Rs. 590.00 (Including GST).  
4. **Earnest Money** : Rs. 24,500.00.  
5. **Period of Completion** : 12 Months.  
6. **Last Date of Downloading of Tender** : 03.01.2020 upto 17:00hrs (IST).  
7. **Last Date of Submission of Tender** : 04.01.2020 upto 14:00hrs (IST).  
8. **Date of Opening Tender** : 06.01.2020 at 11:00 hrs. (IST).

For eligibility criteria and full and further details kindly visit our web site. The tenders can be downloaded from our web site i.e. [www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com](http://www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com) and tender cost shall be paid at the time of submission of the tender.

पत्रांक: 716 दि. 13.12.2019  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**DELHI PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES & RESEARCH UNIVERSITY**  
The First Pharmacy University of India  
(Established under Act 07 of 2008, Govt. of NCT of Delhi)  
Delhi Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research (DIPSAR)  
Included  
Pushp Vihar Sec III. M.B. Road, New Delhi- 110017  
PH 29553771

No. DPSRU Lib./Vendor Emp/2019/11382 Dated: 4/12/2019

**Request for Proposal (RFP)**

**Empliment/Registration of Vendors for Supply of Books to DPSRU Library**

Interested book vendors/ book distributors/ book suppliers may submit the filled in application forms with required documents/details to The Registrar, Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences & Research University (DPSRU), Mehrauli-Badarpur Road, Sector-III, Pushp Vihar, New Delhi-110017.

RFP has been uploaded on DPSRU website and it is available along with terms and condition at <https://dpsru.edu.in/>. The important dates & details of the RFP are:

S. No.	Description	Important Information
1.	Date of publishing of RFP on institute website	12 Dec, 2019
2.	Date of closing of RFP	13 Jan, 2020
3.	Date of opening of RFP	15 Jan 2020
4.	Earnest Money Deposit by Demand Draft	Rs. 30000/-

Please refer to website <https://dpsru.edu.in/> for eligibility, terms and condition and other details.

Sd/-  
(Prof. Harvinder Popli)  
Offg. Registrar, DPSRU  
DIP/Shabharth/1130/19-20



# 23 BODY & MIND

## Children will lie. It is not a flaw but a necessary milestone

Lying is a pretty smart and sophisticated protective strategy children adopt when faced with oppressive and so-called "disciplinary" practices



IMAGINE  
BY SHELJA SEN

"NEVER LIE"; "Honesty is the best policy"; "Jhoot bolna paap hai" — we have all grown up hearing these phrases. Therefore, it is not surprising that when asked, "What value would you want your children to have?", we immediately reply, "Honesty." We want children who are completely honest and never, ever lie to us. Nothing troubles parents as much as a child who lies. After all, isn't lying a sign of some inherent defect, a flaw that shows that they will grow up to be horrible human beings? What if I tell you that lying is necessary and not optional? And if your child is not lying at all, then you definitely need to be concerned. Let me unpack lying a bit and explain why kids need to lie every now and then.

As they grow older, they start understanding the shades of grey and the nuances of it. According to extensive research carried out by psychologist Dr Victoria Talwar in McGill University, four-year-olds will lie once every two hours. In contrast, six-year-olds will lie once every hour. It could be about most inconsequential things like lying about having washed their hands before dinner or swearing that they haven't touched the chocolate in the fridge.

**It shows the child has imagination and advanced cognitive skills.** Lying requires what psychologists call 'theory of mind' — a nuanced understanding that what is going on in her mind is different from what's going on in someone else's mind. Once the child discovers this, then she is like a little scientist, telling little lies ("I drank my milk") and enjoying the sense of autonomy it gives her. It also fires children's world of fantasy and imagination. As Po Bronson, author of *Nurture Shock*, puts it, "A child who is going to lie must recognise the truth, intellectually conceive of an alternate reality, and be able to convincingly sell that new reality to someone else."

**It helps in social interaction.** Can you imagine the horror if four little ones started becoming painfully honest in all social situations? "I don't like you because you stink"; "Mummy thinks that dinners in your house are very boring!" They need to pepper their way with lit-



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

tle lies to ease themselves in new social territories like schools, friends' homes and the neighbourhood parks. No wonder lying is seen as a huge milestone for celebration when a child with Autism starts lying as it shows that he is developing a theory of mind and sense of a separate agentic self, and is someone with his own wishes, desires and hopes.

**It is a life skill.** A dash of dishonesty isn't optional, it's necessary. In the initial years, children might lie just to explore and flex their fascinating imagination, or they might lie to avoid punishment, but as they grow older, the rea-

sons become much more complicated. It could range from lying as a way of being considerate and empathetic ("You did not get the prize but your drawing was the best"), keeping secrets, forging bonds of friendship ("We will tell ma'am that both of us are not feeling well"), or even as a way of increasing a sense of power and control ("My father is the strongest man on this earth").

**Protective strategy.** In my experience I have noticed that in our society, children lie about their studies — about their marks, homework etc. Keeping in mind the amount of pres-

sure we put on them, I would consider lying a pretty smart and sophisticated protective strategy they adopt when faced with oppressive and so-called 'disciplinary' practices. This applies to many areas where they are subjugated — punitive restrictions on girls, control of what they wear, who they choose as friends, how they behave in public.

**It can be survival skill for kids who have gone through trauma.** Children often start lying as a way of coping with turbulent situations. In our work with street children, we have found that they end up lying a lot. It is very easy from our privileged position to judge them as being ethically corrupt but we need to understand that a child on the street is most vulnerable and his reality is constantly shifting as he hangs on to basic threads of survival. He will lie about his name, age, family, anything so that he can get some money to survive that day. Similarly, children who grow up in abusive homes might often lie as they have learned very early on that lying is the only thing that will keep them safe.

Now I am not giving a complete carte blanche on lying. If the lying becomes persistent, then we might need to get to the bottom of it. In my work with families, when parents complain about a child lying to them, rather than getting alarmed and seeing it as a problem, I am more curious to know if it is becoming a pattern and what is pushing the child to do so. *The child is not the problem, the problem is the problem.*

**Taking a moral or righteous stand will not work.** Our relationship with our children is like a bank account — we are constantly making deposits (love, caring, fun times) and also with-

drawing (shouting, scolding, criticising) from it. Often, when the withdrawals surpass the deposits, it leads to a relationship bankruptcy and kids might push back by being secretive, rebellious or by lying. So next time your child lies to you, just reflect on your emotional bank account and start working on making healthy deposits rather than being harsh on him.

**Suppose you messed up at work and you knew that if you did share it with the boss, he would react by ridiculing, shaming and putting more sanctions on you.** What are the chances that you would own up to your mistake every time and not lie to protect yourself? The same goes for children. They need to get the message that you value honesty and if they do share something with you, then treat them with respect and not react harshly.

**Finally, let's be honest about the fact that we all lie.** It is hypocrisy to tell the kids not to lie when they see you lying about the smallest things like your age or calling in sick at work. I always find an open discussion with kids on white or convenient lies and nonnegotiable honesty very crucial. In the words of the famous and notorious Dr House, "Everybody lies." So, children will lie too, they will fib, they will weave stories. But, hopefully, with time as they grow and learn, honesty will not just remain an empty word but become a value that can help them build muscles of authenticity and trustworthiness as they navigate their way through life.

(Dr Shelja Sen is therapist, writer and co-founder of Children First, a child & adolescent mental health institute) write to shelja.sen@childrenfirstindia.com

## Air pollution tied to hospitalisations for wide range of illnesses

LISARAPAPORT

OLDER ADULTS who are exposed to tiny particles in air pollution for just a day or two are more likely to be hospitalised for a wide variety of common health problems, a US study suggests. Researchers focused on so-called PM 2.5, a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter that can include dust, dirt, soot and smoke. They confirmed previously-known links between short-term exposure to PM 2.5 and an increased risk of hospitalisation and death from heart and lung diseases, diabetes, and clots in the large veins of the legs. They also found new links between short-term exposure and increased hospitalisations for conditions ranging from sepsis to kidney failure.

The study team examined hospital data for Medicare patients nationwide from 2000 to 2012. They focused on 214 different health conditions, and looked at data on average air pollution levels the day before and the day of each hospitalisation based on patients' home zip codes. "We discovered several previously unknown but common diseases among older adults, such as fluid and electrolyte disorders, septicemia, anemia, urinary tract infections, and renal failure, even when daily PM 2.5 concentrations were below the current World Health Organisation (WHO) air quality guidelines," said lead study author Yaguang Wei, an environmental health researcher at the Harvard T H Chan School of Public Health in Boston. "PM 2.5 is composed of tiny solids and liquids floating in the air and once inhaled, these particles can pass through the respiratory system, sneak into the blood and circulatory system, and cause serious health problems," Wei said by email.

"The most consistent and dangerous health effects identified have been cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, which are the leading causes of hospitalisation, emergency room visit, and even death," Wei added. Under WHO guidelines issued in 2005, people shouldn't be exposed to average PM 2.5 levels over 24 hours that exceed 25 micrograms per cubic meter of air (ug/m3).

Short-term exposure to fine particulate matter was associated with an increased risk of several common causes of hospital admissions including sepsis or septicemia, a life-threatening reaction to a bacterial infection in the bloodstream; fluid and electrolyte disorders; kidney failure; and intestinal obstructions. These diseases have rarely been studied in the context of PM 2.5 and hospitalisation, the study team writes in *The BMJ*.

For these rarely-studied diseases, each 1 ug/m3 increase in short-term average fine particulate matter levels was associated with an average annual increase of 2,050 hospital admissions, 12,216 total days in the hospital and \$31 million in hospital and post-acute care costs. Air pollution levels below safety standards set by WHO were also associated with an increased risk of hospitalisations for conditions like cardiovascular and respiratory disorders that have previously been tied to PM 2.5. For these diseases previously linked to air pollution, each 1 ug/m3 increase in short-term average fine particulate matter levels was associated with an average annual increase of 3,642 hospital admissions, 20,098 total days in the hospital and \$69 million in hospital and post-acute care costs. **REUTERS**

## What to do about an overtalker

Here's what to do if you get stuck at the receiving end of a one-way conversation

NANCY WARTIK

MAYBE the person sits near you at work. Maybe he or she is your second cousin-in-law, your Hinge date or your seatmate on a 19-hour flight to Sydney. Most of us have met a compulsive talker: A person who dominates discussions with non-meaningful chatter and misses, or ignores, cues that listeners are scanning for the exit.

It's tempting to believe, when cornered by such a chatterer, that a chronic talker is a selfish egotist. Yet, it is often the opposite. Research has linked overtalking to anxiety, attention deficit disorder, being on the autism spectrum or to compulsive behaviour on the lines of shopaholicism or workaholicism. But you don't have to just stand there and take it. Here are some strategies to help: **Size up your overtalker and cut in appropriately:** What kind of talkaholic are you dealing with? If the person is being endlessly self-promotional, he or she may truly be a narcissist (And they're not that rare: In the United States, the lifetime rate of narcissistic personality disorder is about 6 per cent).

Alternatively, consider that your conversation partner is socially awkward. "Some socially awkward people can talk ad nauseam about topics they're passionate about," says Ty Tashiro, a psychologist in New York City and author of *Awkward: The Science of Why We're Socially Awkward and Why That's Awesome*. "They have obsessive interests and tend not to notice social cues. The other person is leaning back, giving them all these cues but they don't pick them up. They're like a vehicle gaining momentum and the brakes don't work." Either way, interrupt sooner than you might be comfortable with, to see if the talker yields the floor. If not, interrupt again, says Deborah Tannen, a professor of linguistics at Georgetown University and the author of several books about the meaning in our speech patterns.

If you suspect the person is a narcissist, escape. If you don't gain ground, maybe you're dealing with a narcissist and need to cut your losses. Try "Excuse me! I see my former public speaking teacher over there!" or "I have to take a private call in two minutes!"

If you are dealing with social awkwardness, lend a helping hand. "You can say, 'That's interesting, now let me see if I can summarise what you've said,'" Tashiro suggests. "You provide direct feedback and show you were actively listening. Then shift the focus to yourself, say 'I had a similar experience' or 'Here's what I want to talk about.'"

**Don't make assumptions:** In general,

Tannen suggests not leaping to immediate conclusions. "Try to see what's creating a frustrating dynamic," Tannen says. "Everything about how we talk is variable by culture, like how long a pause to take between turns. It could have to do with region, ethnic background or just different ideas about how to make conversation, not with pathology or bad intentions."

She cites a couple, the man a New Yorker, the woman a Midwesterner, on a first date: He was doing all the talking and she was thinking really negatively about him, Tannen recalls. "Then he finally said, 'Can you help me out here?' He explained he was doing all the talking because it was what he knew how to do. He was trying to keep the conversation going. She was waiting for a question, to show his interest." (The couple are now married.)

**Use subtle cues:** Sometimes, an overtalker is someone to whom you can't give short shrift: your boss, say or a future in-law. See if you can steer the conversation differently or build in a pause ("Interesting, I need time to think about that.") Or, work to get your message across with subliminal cues.

"Respond calmly, in a yoga teacher kind of voice and pace, deep breathe, see if you can get them to match you," says Lynda McCroskey, a professor of communications studies at California State University Long Beach. "Lean away from the person, avoid eye contact, don't touch them. As a last resort, check your watch or phone." If you must, set boundaries: If the man beside you on the cross-



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

country bus wants to tell you his life story, but you prefer not to hear it all, take preventive action. "Let them know upfront, you can have some talk time but then you have to get some rest or spend time reading," says Tashiro. "Tell them you'll have to shift focus. It might seem rude, but it's incredibly reasonable. In my experience, it's usually well-received."

**Know when to fold 'em:** You are not always going to be able to stop an overtalker. "Compulsive talking can be very ingrained," notes McCroskey. Longer-term relationships can be harder to manage than brief encounters. Some years ago, Jay Overbye, 55, a real estate broker, began noticing something in conversations with a new friend:

"Almost every time was a long-winded monologue," Overbye says. "I tried politely to get in. But as soon as I started to talk, she would interrupt." Eventually, Overbye proposed a signal: He would tug his ear when he wanted a turn to talk. She agreed to try. Shortly thereafter, "It was as if we had never had the conversation," Overbye recalls. "I realised our friendship quality was not going to be what I required. It wasn't reciprocal, it was absolutely depleting." He let the friendship go.

**When you are the overtalker:** What if you suspect you're the person who can't stop jabbering? Start by testing yourself on the Talkaholic scale. McCroskey, whose late father, Dr James McCroskey, a scholar in the department of communication studies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, helped develop the scale, admits to her own overtalking tendencies. She says her father joked that he came up with the scale because of her. "I've worked on it for a long time," Dr McCroskey says. "People aren't necessarily ignorant that they talk too much, but may not realise how debilitating it is to others."

If you prove to be an overtalker, consider the following tactics: **Approach interactions mindfully:** "Be aware of your own behaviours," McCroskey advises. "Tell yourself, you enjoy talking — other people do, too. For every sentence you say, let the other person say one. Pay attention to turn-requesting cues like leaning forward or saying 'Uh huh, uh huh,' that mean they want to talk."

**Replay recent conversations:** Keep a log of your conversations. How much were you talking? Was it a fair give and take? Set goals for future conversations. Counting slowly to seven after you finish a thought can help you see if the other person wants a word. Ask more questions. Remind yourself that people who ask questions of others tend to be rated as more likable. With practice, you really can learn to talk less, says McCroskey, drawing on her own experience. "I've seen a great difference in terms of my own talkaholicism," she says. "I have reined it in. You can do it. It kills me sometimes waiting for someone else to speak. But I know it's important other people get to share." **NYT**

### [0-20 YEARS]

#### 'C-Section not tied to obesity in kids'



SOME RECENT reports have suggested that women who give birth by cesarean section are more likely to have obese children. But a large new study found no link between the method of birth and obesity. Swedish researchers tracked medical records of 97,291 men born between 1982 and 1987, following them to age 18. The study is in *PLOS Medicine*. An initial assessment of the data found that obesity did vary by birth method. But women who delivered by C-section were on average older, with a higher body mass index. They also tended to smoke more, were more likely to have pre-pregnancy diabetes and high blood pressure, and were much more likely to have pre-eclampsia, the dangerous hypertension of pregnancy. When the researchers controlled for these and other factors, they found no link between mode of birth and obesity at age 18. **NYT**

### [20-50 YEARS]

#### A little alcohol may raise cancer risk



JAPANESE SCIENTISTS compared the drinking habits of 63,232 cancer patients with those of an equal number of healthy controls. All reported their average daily alcohol intake and the number of years they had been drinking. After controlling for smoking, hypertension, diabetes, obesity and other characteristics, they found that drinking the equivalent of six ounces of wine, 17 ounces of beer or two ounces of whiskey a day for 10 years increased the relative risk of cancer by 5 per cent. After two drinks a day for 40 years, the relative risk of having any cancer increased by 54 per cent. The associations were particularly strong for cancers of the mouth, throat, stomach and colon. But the study, in the journal *Cancer*, has certain limitations. The data was collected by self-reports, which can be unreliable, and the researchers were unable to control for family history. **NYT**

### [50+ YEARS]

#### Purpose in life linked to good health



THE PRESENCE of purpose and meaning in life are related to positive health and well-being, according to a study which suggests this relationship changes as people grow older than age 60. The researchers said meaning in life is associated with better health, and perhaps longevity. They examined data from 1,042 adults of ages 21 to more than 100, who were part of a study of senior residents living in San Diego County. The researchers assessed the presence and search for meaning in life with interviews, including a meaning in life questionnaire where participants were asked to rate personal statements like "I am seeking a purpose or mission for my life," and "I have discovered a satisfying life purpose." The study, published in the *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, said those with meaning in life are happier and healthier than those without it. **PTI**



# I was mentally, physically ruined: Maxwell

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

AUSTRALIAN ALL-ROUNDER Glenn Maxwell said being constantly on the road for the past "four to five years" had mentally and physically ruined him, forcing him to take a mental health break in October. Maxwell had opted out of Australia's T20I series against Sri Lanka after playing the first two matches to address his mental health.

"I was pretty cooked when I decided to take the time off. Big reason why I did take that time away is I was pretty mentally and physically ruined," Maxwell was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. "I think it was eight months on the road, living out of a suitcase and that probably had been going on for four or five years, just constantly on the road and it all just caught up with me at that time. I really want to thank Cricket Australia, Cricket Victoria and the Stars for giving me that space and allowing me to have that time away from the game and get myself right."

Maxwell said it was his girlfriend, who first noticed the change in him.

"It was actually my partner who suggested I speak to someone, she was the first one who noticed it, so I should probably thank her as well. Once I had that initial conversation it was a big weight off my shoulders," he said. "My girlfriend was probably No. 1, it wasn't an easy job for her to deal with me going through my mood swings for the first few weeks, but Michael Lloyd was the guy I had the initial conversation with, he's been someone who I've confided in since back in the academy days, so I've known him for well over a decade now."

On a comeback trail now, the 31-year-old will make his domestic cricket return, captaining Melbourne Stars in their opening Big Bash match later this month.

**I think it was eight months on the road, living out of a suitcase and that probably had been going on for four or five years, just constantly on the road and it all just caught up with me at that time."**

GLENN MAXWELL

"It probably took a bit longer than I thought it was going to take, it was an interesting six weeks, away from the game and there was probably times I thought I was going to come back earlier," Maxwell said. "I've been getting back in the swing of things for a while, I've been around the Vics change rooms for the last two or three weeks now, so I've sort of been floating around and watching a few of the one dayers and just trying to get back into the change room atmosphere again. Once I got back into club cricket, the cycle started to feel a bit more normal again and I feel like I'm back at home. Coming back here with the Stars feels like home again, a new coach, a bit of familiarity as an ex-player, but it's a great change room to be a part of, it's very welcoming."

Maxwell said he will try to manage his playing commitments better and also be more careful of his self-expectations in the remainder of his career.

"I did put a bit of pressure on myself to try and play as much as I could this year and, rightly or wrongly, I didn't come out of it the way I thought I was going to. I'll have a look at that next year," Maxwell said. "A holiday was actually spending time at home. I spent as much time at home as I could with friends and family. I tried to stay fit, and I still watched a fair bit of cricket over that time, but pretty exciting to get going now."

"I look at it a little bit differently, a little bit more respect for taking care of myself in all aspects of the game and not losing sight of taking care of myself in those times where you're in a hotel room pretty constantly and being able to have that time to myself and refresh," he added.



Australia's Steve Smith takes an acrobatic catch to dismiss New Zealand captain Kane Williamson on Day Two of the first Test in Perth on Friday. AP

# Starc burst, Smith catch put Aussies in control

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
PERTH, DECEMBER 13

ASTUNNING catch by Steve Smith snared the prized wicket of Kane Williamson as Mitchell Starc tore through the New Zealand top order on the second day of the first Test in Perth on Friday. Smith dived horizontally to his right at second slip to take the catch to remove Williamson for 34 from the bowling of Starc, just when it appeared New Zealand were fighting back well after losing their two openers with only one run on the board.

After Australia posted 416 in extreme heat on the back of a third successive Test century for Marnus Labuschagne the Kiwis were struggling at 109 for five in reply at stumps, still 307 runs in arrears. Ross Taylor, who put on 76 for the third wicket with Williamson and made 290 in his previous Test in Perth, was on 66 and BJ Watling was yet to score.

Smith's freak catch was a key moment, as the Kiwis slumped to 97 for five by losing three wickets for just 20 runs. Starc (4-31) did the damage with four wickets, including those of Henry Nicholls (7) and night watchman Neil Wagner (0) in successive balls.

However, Australia had also lost opening bowler Josh Hazlewood (1-0) with a left hamstring injury. Hazlewood bowled opener Jeet Raval for a duck in his first over, but managed just two balls in his second before pulling up short during his run up. He left the field immediately with a devastated demeanour, becoming the second fast bowler to succumb to injury in two days of scorching Perth heat.

Kiwi debutant Lockie Ferguson was forced out the game on the first day by a calf injury.

The wicket of Raval followed the dismissal of Tom Latham in the very first over, easily caught and bowled by Starc in his follow through.

Having claimed the two openers in quick time in favourable bowling conditions Australia looked in total control, but Williamson and Taylor rode their luck early and then settled in as the home side was forced to turn to former wicketkeeper Matthew Wade to send down a couple of overs of erratic medium pace.

Earlier, Labuschagne's 143 was the foundation of an Australian innings that lasted just a few balls shy of five full sessions as the mercury again climbed towards 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) and a bushfire broke out adjacent to the ground.

Labuschagne looked set for his third successive innings over 150 until he was bowled by the determined Neil Wagner (4-92).

**BRIEF SCORES:** Australia first innings 416 in 146.2 overs (Marnus Labuschagne 143, Travis Head 56, Neil Wagner 4-92, Tim Southee 4-93) vs New Zealand first innings 109/5 in 32 overs (Ross Taylor 66\*, Mitchell Starc 4-31).

**Day 3, Pindi: Only 27 min of play**

**Rawalpindi:** Pakistan's first home Test in a decade was affected by bad weather Friday, with rain and an already sodden pitch forcing officials to suspend play on the third day of the contest against Sri Lanka. After day three's first session was washed out by wet weather, only 27 minutes of play was possible before the players walked off with just 5.2 overs bowled. The umpires called off play at 15:35pm local time, after only 91 overs of play in three days.

Sri Lanka progressed to 282-6 from an overnight total of 263-6, with Dhananjaya de Silva on 87 — 13 short of his fourth Test ton.

Dilruwan Perera was unbeaten on six as stop-start play left the players and some 2,000 fans, mostly schoolkids, frustrated.

On Thursday, rain and poor light kept the teams off the field for all but 83 minutes.

For Pakistan, 16-year-old pacer Naseem Shah (2-83) and Shaheen Shah Afridi (2-58) were the most successful bowlers.

The conditions have put a dampener on the long-awaited return to Test cricket in Pakistan, following the 2009 militant attack on Sri Lanka's team bus that left eight people dead and several players and officials wounded. But despite the poor weather, schoolchildren were thrilled when Pakistan players went to the fence to take selfies with them. AFP

# An ODI storm in a T (20) cup

Next week's IPL auction and next year's World T20 lend context to the India-West Indies fifty-overs series

SANDIP G  
CHENNAI, DECEMBER 13

FROM MID-DECEMBER starts the month of *Margazhi*, when the air turns crisper and the sun sheds its intolerance in the city, when the riffs of Carnatic maestros flit through the streets of Mylapore and T Nagar, and when the city slumps into a festive mood. But the city has already begun the frantic scramble for the harvest festival, Pongal, exactly a month from hereon.

The multiplexes have duly hung glistening billboards intimating 'Pongal releases'—among them, the much-awaited Rajinikanth-starrer *Darbar* bossing the rest. Textile shops have put up gaudy banners with overlarge fonts, announcing 'Pongal Sale'.

In the month of *Margazhi*, the mood of Pongal is inescapable.

In as much as the way, the three-match ODI series that begins on Sunday between India and West Indies is overshadowed by two seemingly unrelated events, but correlated in the larger scheme. First, and imminently, the IPL auction scheduled on December 19 in Kolkata and then, more pertinently, the T20 World Cup which's (only) ten months away in Australia.

An ODI series it might be, but the thoughts have already begun veering towards the shortest format.

The underlying currents are so powerful that it risks flooding the central theme, especially when it is shaky to start with.

For, India-West Indies match-ups have long lost its charm and allure. These days, it ceases to thrill, other than if you're a cricket sadist, deriving pleasure from India trampling the once superpowers of the game. So one-sided has been India's supremacy—India have won 21 of the last 26 encounters this decade—their meetings are bereft of context (or competence) unless it's in the World Cup.

In that sense, the auction contextualises the series, at least the first two games. So much so that every limited-over-game, even the 50-over versions hereafter, would acquire the hue of an audition for the World Cup, more so with Virat Kohli's obsession of winning an ICC Trophy.

The priorities—though it's still too early—manifest in some of the selections. Like giving Shivam Dube an extended run to stock India's



Rohit Sharma and Kedar Jadhav at a practice session in Chennai on Friday. India and the Windies play the first ODI here on Sunday. PTI

medium-pace-bowling all-rounder department. Had the World Cup not been looming, and if it weren't in Australia, it's doubtful that the Mumbai youngster could have been considered, let alone poised for a longer run. Apart from the oddball Kedar Jadhav, everyone could push their case for the World Cup. Just to add intrigue, Virat Kohli had blared that "all but one spot is sealed in the World Cup squad."

**Upcoming auction**

A mind-blowing spell or mind-boggling knock could hook eyeballs. The age-old trism remains true—closer to the event, the bigger the impact.

Such performances wouldn't escape the ravenous eyes of the IPL scouts, CEOs, support staff. Their prices could double, the worth magnified and the bargaining more frantic. So even if some players admit that they're not swayed or distracted by the auction, subconsciously (or secretly), they would be less human if they claim they're utterly immune to what's happening on the auction table or whether they are not thinking about getting picked for the T20 World Cup.

Aside: There's the usual derision that West Indies players are only always motivated by the hefty paycheques they could command

from a clutch of good T20-esque performances.

Therefore, the proximity of the two events, separated by 10 months, could put the players in a genuine dilemma. Not for the big fishes like Rohit Sharma or Virat Kohli, or to a lesser extent Kieron Pollard and Shai Hope. But for those that aren't assured of permanence, or have been largely in the fringes, the ODIs could chart the route to the T20 World Cup.

Manish Pandey could be an interesting case study. He turned 30 in September—he was barely 20 when he became the first Indian centurion in the IPL—yet for all his glittering potential, his ledger reads 23 ODIs and 32 T20Is. For someone like him, establishing in the ODI side would be an incentive but the grand-prize remains the T20 World Cup spot, more so after narrowly missing out on the ODI World Cup. Same arguably with someone like Shreyas Iyer or Mayank Agarwal, summoned as the injured Shikhar Dhawan's cover.

Or even among the spin trio of Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav. So, prevalent in the series would be an innate urge to illustrate their T20 mettle. It would make for an engaging watch—the need vs desire tussle, reality vs dream bout. For all one knows, they could approach the ODIs with a T20 psyche. In a drivable half-volley down to

long-on, they might sniff a chance to clear the ropes. In a defensible back-of-length ball, they might plot a bottom-handed whip. A dab to the third man might not suffice, instead, they might uppercut or late cut it. Fielders prowling beside the ropes, no problem. The length ball could be heaved over mid-wicket rather than working it on the leg-side. Risk lurking, they would embrace it. The series, intriguingly, could turn out to be an exhibition of bit hitting.

Similarly, the bowlers could be tempted to showcase all their arcanery, the yorkers and cutters, the knuckleballs and slower balls, the flippers and wrong'uns. The fielders will be tempted to have a dart at the stumps, even if they know the batsmen are ambling for a single and they would be comfortable home. There could be, to use one of Kohli's favourite catchwords, more intent. More bustle, desire, and ambition.

Even the teams could not be blamed for thinking too far ahead. There are precedents of the team management taking a relatively insignificant series as a preparatory ground. Remember India pressing for a green-top surface in Kolkata for a Test against Sri Lanka (and it nearly back-fired) before the series to South Africa in 2018. Or more recently, Kohli was aghast when Australia stopped over for a brief limited-overs series that included two T20Is just before ODI World Cup.

Kohli was worried about bad habits slipping into the players, as there was a profusion of T20s, including the IPL, in the build-up to the World Cup. "All the people who are going to be part of the World Cup squad, they have to make sure that their games don't go too much away from the one-day mould of things. That means we will have to be very wary of the bad habits that might creep in during the IPL. That will take a consistent effort from all the players during the IPL to keep a check on that," he had said.

It could not have been more diametrically inverse now, though the team management wouldn't be too bothered about "bad habits" sneaking into a player's technique or mindset. The World Cup, after all is 10 months away, though the mood has kicked in. The IPL auction is an add-on. So just like the inescapable mood of Pongal in the month of *Margazhi*, is a pulsating T20 vibe to the 50-over series.

# Uncertainty over Assam-Jharkhand Ranji match in Guwahati after CAB protests

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 13

WITH PROTESTS against the Citizen Amendment Bill (CAB) intensifying in Assam, the BCCI is keeping a close eye on the situation in the North East which could affect the second round of Ranji Trophy.

Assam is scheduled to play Jharkhand in their second round Ranji match in Guwahati from December 17 and as per the BCCI, the Assam Cricket Association (ACA) has asked for another day's time before taking a call on shifting the game to another venue.

On Thursday, the fourth day's play between Assam and Services was called off due to security issues in Guwahati.

Jharkhand captain Saurabh Tiwary, whose team played Tripura in Agartala, informed that there there was an internet shutdown and the association had to take help of the police to

escort players to the stadium during the game. Jharkhand team was supposed to travel on Friday but were told to stay back.

"We were provided police security for the last game against Tripura. We are still in Agartala and we have been told by our association to travel to Kolkata on Saturday morning and wait for a day there. At the moment we don't know whether we are playing game in Assam or some other venue," Tiwary told *The Indian Express*. He added that the team didn't face an issue back in Agartala and at the moment situation is normal.

"We don't have much clue about what is happening in this part of the world. The internet services have only just resumed. The situation is calm near our hotel," Tiwary said. BCCI's general manager of cricket operations Saba Karim explained the board has been in constant touch with ACA and the situation is being monitored.

"They have informed us to wait one more

day before the board takes call on it. If they say 'no', we will see what necessary arrangement can be done to ensure the match is being played at some other venue," Karim stated.

It's not just the senior Assam team which is facing the heat of CAB agitation. The BCCI has called off Assam vs Odisha under-19 match which was supposed to be played at the Narul Islam Stadium in Assam. Karim said that the under-19 game will be rescheduled. "The match was supposed to start from today but we have decided to reschedule it," he added.

It was on Thursday that the Services-Assam game was abandoned and the teams were advised to stay indoors. Services team was supposed to fly back home after day's play but were asked to reschedule the flight.

Match referee Valmik Buch had stopped the fourth day's play after receiving an email from the Assam Cricket Association that expressed security concerns, while mentioning the law-and-order situation in Guwahati.

# Bravo ready for international return

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 13

WEST INDIES all-rounder Dwayne Bravo on Friday announced his return to international cricket, little over a year after he called it quits due to a bitter fallout with his country's board.

Bravo said the decision was prompted by the change of guard in the Cricket West Indies (CWI), where former team manager Ricky Skerritt took over as the new president replacing Dave Cameron earlier this year.

"Today I confirm the announcement of my decision to return to International Cricket to all my fans and well wishers all around the world," the 36-year-old said in a statement.

"It's no secret that this big announcement has come as a result of the changes made at the administration level. For a while now I have been contemplating my return to international cricket and my decision was solidified by these positive changes," he added.

Bravo had a bitter spat with Cameron and had accused him of destroying careers. This was

**It's no secret that this big announcement has come as a result of the changes made at the administration level. For a while now I have been contemplating my return to international cricket and my decision was solidified by these positive changes."**

WAYNE BRAVO

after a Bravo-led West Indies team abandoned a tour of India in 2014 midway during an ODI series owing to a pay dispute with the WICB.

The Caribbean side is currently in India for a limited-overs series, the T20 leg of which ended 2-1 in favour of the hosts. The three one-dayers will get underway on Sunday.

"With the current leadership of coach Phil Simmons and captain Kieron Pollard I'm really excited about this come back and about the chance to be part of something really special," Bravo said.

"We have a lot of young talent on the

team as well as cricketers with a wealth of experience such as Pollard, (Lendl) Simmons and Jason Holder and I believe that I can contribute to a positive change.

"With a powerful team such as ours we can definitely rebuild the WI T20I cricket team on and off the field and improve our rankings. I will remain fully committed to WI T20 team once selected. Thank you to all my fans and supporters for your continuous support as always," he added.

Although he announced his retirement in 2018, Bravo has not played for the West Indies since September 2016. His last international appearance was a T20I against Pakistan in the UAE.

Earlier in November, the 36-year-old hinted that he is considering playing international cricket again while congratulating the West Indies team for a 3-0 clean sweep over Afghanistan in an ODI series in Lucknow.

Bravo featured in 40 Tests, 164 ODIs and 66 T20Is for the West Indies. He continues to play T20 cricket for franchises across the globe.



# U-17 women's tourney: Not all is bleak for Indians against Swedes

**SHAHID JUDGE**  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 13

THE APPROACH to the Andheri Sports Complex, on a football match day, is quieter than usual. Just outside the stadium, there's a group of workers attempting to dismantle what's left of the decorations from a wedding reception held the previous day – plastic lions, flamingos, flowers et al.

A stone's throw away, some of the gates of the football stadium are locked, but an announcer asks approximate 200 people inside – the Blue Pilgrims (the Barmy Army of the Indian national football teams) – to rise for the national anthem.

The venue was the same that has hosted noisy Indian Super League matches in the confines of the 8,000-seater stadium. And it's here that the Indian U-17 women's team, which will compete at the age-group FIFA World Cup next year, were to play their first match at home ever since India was announced as hosts for the elite event in November 2020.

Since March, the junior women's team

has played in four matches in Hong Kong and just as many in at the SAFF Championships in October.

But on Friday, against Sweden in the opening match of tri-nation U17 football tournament, the Indians were coming up against top quality opposition.

Naturally, the nerves were palpable, and it came to a head in as early as the third minute when Swedish forward Monica Jusu Bah was brought down in the box and Matilda Liv Vinberg slotted home the resultant penalty.

This was in the first few minutes of the group of Indian teens playing in the big league – a glimpse of what might come at the World Cup next year. And though the eventual scoreline read 3-0 (with goals also coming in the 25th and 91st minute) to the visitors, not all remained bleak from the Indian lineup.

The most impressive from the Indian roster was striker S Lynda Kom. Not the quickest on the dash, but Kom showed her penchant for trickery that threw off the taller and physically stronger Swedish defenders on many occasions. The first came



India went down 0-3 to Sweden. AIFF

in the 11th minute, when she nicked the ball off a centre-back at the halfline and marched forward, slaloming between the tackles that came, finally pulling the ball onto her right foot and shooting from out-

side the box, but straight at the goalkeeper. In the 21st, she controlled a lob from defence neatly, threw in a few step-overs to make space for herself and then hit a long-range left-footer, again saved by Elin Svahn

in the Swedish goal.

India's best chance though came in the 12th minute. Sunita Munda on the right flank crossed perfectly into the box. Sumati Kumari, just outside the six-yard box got into position unmarked, but inexplicably failed to connect with the ball.

There weren't many occasions when India got into the box, but when they did, they were dangerous. There were many time Sweden marched into the Indian penalty area, and the score could have easily been much more than the three they did manage, but for the discipline in defence.

Skipper Hemam Shilky Devi was impressive at the back, and her positional sense and reading demanded greater effort from the Swedish forwards.

"(India) was good close to their own penalty box. In Monica, we have one of the fastest players in Sweden and she's also very strong. But the defenders read her play," says Sweden coach Par Lagerstrom after the match.

"They had good speed and could read (Bah's) game very well. India also was dangerous with the few chances they had. But

it's just that they need to sort out what the two boxes." No doubt, while the defensive work rate shone, and with the pace of Munda and Sumati up front along with the trickery and flair of Kom, there was no great presence in midfield. It's a gap that the Indian coach Thomas Dennerby also acknowledged.

"The build-up from the defending line was okay, but we needed to put some more pace on the ball in the build-up play," Dennerby says. "There were too many square passes and we gave the ball away too easily. We need to work harder on the build-up in midfield."

But these are the things that Dennerby wanted his players to go through. A match against top opposition was what was needed to bring into perspective what is working well and what isn't for the team that will become only the second from the country to feature at a FIFA World Cup next year.

Dennerby was satisfied with the first glimpse of what his players can do against quality opposition. And now that the process has started, this set of teenagers will soon become household names.

## WORLD TOUR FINAL

# Sindhu beats Bingjiao for consolation victory

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
GUANGZHOU, DECEMBER 13

ALREADY OUT of reckoning, India's PV Sindhu recorded a consolation win over China's He Bingjiao in the third Group A match to end her campaign on a positive note at the year-ending BWF World Tour Final here on Friday.

Sindhu, whose title defence lay in tatters after her second successive loss on Thursday, scripted an incredible turnaround after being 9-18 down in the opening game to eventually outwit Bingjiao 21-19 21-19 in minutes and finish third in the group. This win also snapped Sindhu's run of four straight losses to the Chinese, making their head-to-head record 6-9.

The Indian struggled with her precision initially, allowing Bingjiao to lead 7-3 at one stage in the opening game. The left-handed Chinese cruised to a 11-6 advantage at the break with the Indian misjudging a shuttle. Sindhu failed to reign in her errors even after the break, hitting the shuttle wide and long as Bingjiao jumped to a 18-9 lead.

However, the Indian effected a massive recovery, rattling off nine straight points to draw parity at 18-18. Bingjiao managed to break the run of points before a deceptive return to serve took Sindhu to 19-19. The Indian then gathered the remaining two points to edge past Bingjiao in the opening game.

Sindhu carried her momentum in the second game, opening up a 7-3 lead initially and then moving to 11-6 advantage at the interval. Bingjiao punished the two weak returns from Sindhu but then started committing unforced errors as the Indian lead 15-10.

The Chinese soon narrowed the gap to 16-18 before Sindhu won a point after a gruelling rally. A good judgement at the backline earned Sindhu three match points. Bingjiao saved two before Sindhu sealed it with a smash on the third. Sindhu will be next seen in the Premier Badminton League.

## Tasnim enters quarters

India's Tasnim Mir entered the quarter-finals of U-15 women's singles but Varun Kapur crashed out of U-17 men's singles at the Asia Badminton Junior Championships here on Friday. Gujarat girl, Mir has been steadily showing promise for the past few months as validated by her title win at the Dubai Junior International Series in September.

# Chelsea's secret weapon

Yoga expert Vinay Menon has helped some of Chelsea's biggest stars stayed relaxed in high pressure EPL environment

**TARIQ PANJA**  
LONDON, DECEMBER 13

VINAY MENON'S path to the Premier League started with a request from a former client in Dubai. Would Menon, a wellness consultant, travel to England to share his breathing and relaxation techniques with the man's daughter and her husband, a wealthy Russian living in London.

Of course, Menon replied, even though he had never been to Britain. He met with the Russian and his wife at their home in West London, where the couple asked about Menon's work, his background and the years he had spent studying and teaching yoga in his native India. Then they asked him if he would like to join them at a football game.

"I told them I didn't have a ticket," Menon said. That would not be a problem, he was assured. Menon and his prospective employers made the short walk to Chelsea's Stamford Bridge stadium, where they were quickly ushered to the suite level. It was only then, after they emerged into the owner's box and their faces appeared on the arena's giant video screen, that things clicked into place for Menon: His host was not merely a wealthy Russian football fan. He was Roman Abramovich. "I literally had no idea who he was," Menon said. "I just knew him as Dasha's husband."

Menon struggles to contain his laughter as he retells the story. Now in his 11th season at Stamford Bridge, Menon, 45, occasionally surprises himself when he stops to think about how a chance meeting has led to a decade in professional football – a sport he knew next to nothing about when he made that first trip to London – and to his becoming a fixture in the locker room of one of the world's richest teams and a valued confidant of some of the world's best players. "Roman Abramovich changed my life," Menon said. For some players, he has changed theirs, too.

Many roads have led to the Premier League, of course.

Players from 114 nations have turned out for its teams, and its ownership groups include not only Russian oligarchs like Abramovich but Chinese property companies and Middle Eastern royal families.

But Vinay Menon's path from an island village in Kerala – where his ambition once extended no further than becoming a police officer – to the inner sanctum of Chelsea F.C., where stars from Didier Drogba to Eden Hazard have embraced his teachings, is among the least likely of all.



A meeting with Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich led to Vinay Menon working in the EPL. *New York Times*

While the Premier League is a global business, in many ways it can be deeply parochial. Players and coaches are bound by routines and schedules that can sometimes make the smallest changes seem seismic.

To mitigate the shock, and aware that some might perceive him as "an alien from Mars," Menon kept things simple, he said, when he was first introduced to the Chelsea team: He described his work in simple language. He made a point of not forcing relationships, of watching from the sideline and explaining only to the players and coaches who asked what the yoga methods he espoused could do for them. (His sessions remain optional for Chelsea players.)

"In this world of European football they would have been thinking, Who is this guy?" Menon said. "Initially, they think I am doing voodoo or something."



Menon won over Hazard by showing him he could help him relax.

Menon determined early on that he would let his work do the talking, convinced that once the players experienced his one-on-one sessions, the benefits would be obvious. So when he wasn't traveling with Abramovich, Menon took to visiting Chelsea's Cobham training ground on

the days the team practiced.

It was there, while sitting in the largely empty staff canteen one day, that Drogba, then the team's star forward and a leader in the dressing room, popped in for lunch. Drogba and Menon struck up a conversation. Menon explained what he did, and that he had worked with influential figures at a retreat in the foothills of the Himalayas, where wealthy clients arrived by helicopter, and at a luxury hotel in Dubai.

Drogba said he would give it a try. "That one trial," Menon said, "took me to the world of football." His work with Drogba led to a session with another player open to his ideas. Then another. Then a few more.

"To be fair, when I saw him the first time, I said to myself: 'Who is this guy? Why is he here?'" Hazard said.

For seven seasons until he left for Real Madrid last summer, Hazard had been a Chelsea mainstay whose attacking talent

## [SPORTS BAR]



## 'Messi' saves the day for Kerala Blasters

Raphael Messi Bouli struck twice in the last 15 minutes to eke out a 2-2 draw for Kerala Blasters against Jamshedpur in an Indian Super League clash here on Friday. Kerala had the better chances to score but it was a Piti (38') penalty that broke the deadlock. CK Vineeth (71') added the visitor's second before Raphael Messi Bouli scored a brace (75', 87') to pull his team level. With the spoils being shared, Jamshedpur are third with 13 points from eight matches while Kerala sit seventh with seven points.

## Root left out of T20 squad by England

Joe Root was left out of England's Twenty20 squad for the three-game series against South Africa in February, signalling his spot in the team for that format's World Cup is no longer guaranteed. Root, the test captain, missed the five-match T20 series with New Zealand in November along with Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jos Buttler, Jason Roy, Ben Stokes and Mark Wood. While those six are back in Eoin Morgan's squad for the series with South Africa, Root remained excluded after scoring only one half-century for England during his last 12 innings in the shorter format of the game. He also struggled for form in the Big Bash competition. In announcing the squads for the one-day international and T20 series against the Proteas, national selector Ed Smith said he had 'one eye on the T20 World Cup.'

## Eyeing top spot, EB take on TRAU

Heavyweights East Bengal will miss their star midfielder Jaime Santos Colado when they host debutantes TRAU FC in an I-League fixture on Saturday. The Spaniard, who started with a brace in a 4-1 rout of Neroca FC in their last outing, has landed in trouble following his conduct with ball boys in their match against Punjab FC in Ludhiana on December 7. The East Bengal midfielder reportedly stirred a controversy when he walked over to the ball boys, started arguing and then kicked a ball towards them. The misconduct was later brought to the match commissioner's notice and subsequently it was forwarded to the disciplinary committee, which suspended the East Bengal player with a showcase notice.



Jurgen Klopp joined Liverpool in 2015.

## Klopp agrees new deal with Liverpool till 2024

Jurgen Klopp has agreed a contract extension with Liverpool until 2024, the runaway Premier League leaders announced on Friday. Klopp, who moved to Anfield in 2015, guided Liverpool to Champions League glory in June and they are currently eight points clear at the top of the Premier League. "For me personally this is a statement of intent, one which is built on my knowledge of what we as a partnership have achieved so far and what is still there for us to achieve," the 52-year-old Klopp told Liverpool's official website. "When I see the development of the club and the collaborative work that continues to take place, I feel my contribution can only grow." A statement from owners the Fenway Sports Group (FSG) said Liverpool had taken "giant strides in re-establishing themselves as one of world football's powerhouses" under the German. During Klopp's first campaign at Anfield, Liverpool reached the finals of both the League Cup and Europa League but ended the season empty-handed.

## Bangalore claim surprise win over Punjab

Bengaluru Brawlers recorded a stunning 4-3 victory over the fancied Punjab Panthers in the Big Bout Indian Boxing League at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium on Friday. While Anamika (51kg) and skipper Simranjit Kaur (60kg) gave the Bengaluru Brawlers a great start by winning the women's bouts, they were also well served by Dinesh Dagar, who won for the first time in four Big Bout ties, and Pawan Kumar Narwal (75kg), Bengaluru, trailing at the bottom of the table, thus picked up their maiden win in four matches. Having logged 12 points in their earlier matches, Punjab Panthers opted to field four Big Bout debutants in their penultimate league match. They rested the likes of skipper MC Mary Kom, Uzbek star Abdulmalik Khalakov and Manoj Kumar against Bengaluru Brawlers who had won only six points from three earlier matches.



## Boucher set to be SA's interim coach

Former wicketkeeper Mark Boucher is set to be the interim coach of the South Africa cricket team, which is going through one of its toughest phases both on and off the field. According to a report in ESPN Cricinfo: "Boucher will be unveiled as South Africa's interim coach by acting director of cricket Graeme Smith on Saturday." Current interim team director Enoch Nkwe is expected to stay on and work with Boucher. According to the website, legendary all-rounder Jacques Kallis in all likelihood will be named batting coach in the near future. Forty-three-year-old Boucher, a veteran of 147 Tests, will be taking over at a difficult time for the Proteas, who have lost five Tests on the bounce since the World Cup debacle earlier in the year. Former South Africa fast bowler Victor Mpsang is under consideration for the post of convenor of selectors.

## Manpreet hits quickfire ton for NSCC

Nscc's captain Manpreet Singh's explosive century – a 91-ball 124 – was the cornerstone of his team's thumping seven-wicket win over BSNL in the DCCA League opener. Singh's knock was studied with 16 boundaries and 7 sixes. Batting first, BSNL stacked up 223/9 in their allotted 40 overs. In response, NSCC overhauled the target in just 28.3 overs losing just 3 wickets.



# United's young Mason flaunts his craft

Teenager shines again with a brace in their 4-0 win against Alkmaar at the Europa League

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
PARIS, DECEMBER 13

TEENAGER MASON Greenwood again grabbed his chances for Manchester United, scoring twice in a 4-0 thrashing of AZ Alkmaar in the Europa League.

Earlier Arsenal came back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 at Standard Liege on Thursday and also make sure of a place in the last 32 as Group F winners.

With Wolves, who crushed Besiktas 4-0, also advancing, English clubs ended with a full house in Europe with the three Europa League entries following the Premier League's four Champions League teams into the knockout rounds.



United players celebrate after Mason Greenwood scores his second and the side's fourth goal on Thursday. Reuters

Spanish clubs also completed a full set when Getafe joined already-qualified Sevilla and Espanyol by scoring three times in the last 14 minutes to

beat Krasnodar 3-0 in a show-down for second place in Group C. However, Bundesliga leaders Borussia Moenchengladbach and Italian power Lazio made

surprising exits. At Old Trafford, in a battle for top spot in Group L, Alkmaar matched a youthful United side until the 53rd minute when veteran Ashley Young smashed the home team ahead. Greenwood pounced on a loose ball to snap the second into the corner of the net. After Greenwood was fouled, Juan Mata converted a penalty.

Then the Spaniard set up Greenwood for another crisp low left-footer inside the post.

"Mason's a different class as a finisher," said United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

"If there's anything around the box you expect him to get a shot off and on target, he's good at creating space for himself and right-foot, left-foot it does-

n't matter." Alexandre Lacazette and Bukayo Saka were on target in the space of three second-half minutes as Arsenal survived a scare to win their group.

They lived on their nerves as Eintracht Frankfurt were poised to knock them off top spot when the Germans led Guimaraes 2-1.

However, the Portuguese side, already eliminated, scored twice in the last five minutes to claim a 3-2 win.

"Saka was amazing, he's a tremendous talent," said Arsenal caretaker coach Freddie Ljungberg. Lieke took the lead just after half-time when a speculative Samuel Bastien shot took a huge deflection.

# Saudi Arabia to host women's golf event

AFP  
PARIS, DECEMBER 13

SAUDI ARABIA will host its first professional women's golf tournament in 2020 with a prize fund of USD 1 million, the Ladies European Tour (LET) announced. The Jeddah Royal Greens Golf and Country Club will stage the March 19-22 tournament, featuring three-time Tour winner Carly Booth.

Booth and four of her fellow professionals have agreed to act as ambassadors for the tournament despite the divisive issue of women's rights in the conservative kingdom.

"I'm looking forward to be-

ing part of history with the other ladies on the tour," said 27-year-old Booth.

"I have visited Saudi Arabia on a number of occasions and been lucky enough to spend some time teaching local women and girls how to play." The men's European Tour made its first foray into Saudi Arabia this year.

However, superstars Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy have both refused to play in the 2020 edition. McIlroy, who was reportedly offered USD 2.5 million, hinted in a Golf Channel interview earlier this week that "morality" had influenced his decision.

"100%, there's a morality to it

as well," McIlroy said of the Saudi International taking place in January next year.

"You could say that about so many countries, not just Saudi Arabia, but a lot of countries that we play in that there's a reason not to go, but for me, I just don't want to go."

Golfers participating in the inaugural event faced criticism, with the tournament taking place just months after the killing of US-based Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in October 2018. Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has been spearheading a wide-ranging liberalisation drive in the country.

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