



RAJ MALHOTRA IAS: REVOLUTIONISING IAS COACHING IN CHANDIGARH

Every year, lakhs of aspirants aspire to clear the IAS exam; one of the most competitive exams. After all, it opens up the doors to a career with endless opportunities, a significant job and a platform where you can impact lives on the ground level. Over the years, students from all over India have been travelling to Delhi and stay there to prepare for the examination. There are hundreds of institutes which are offering to coach for the civil services exam in Old Rajendra Nagar Market of Delhi. This locality is popularly known as "IAS Factory" with lakhs of students staying in those small streets and competing

with each other to get their name in the final selection lists. But, off late, this trend is changing and a new hub for Civil Services Coaching is coming up just 200 KM away from Delhi - The City Beautiful, Chandigarh. Some academies in Chandigarh have really made a name for the city when it comes to IAS Exam Coaching! Raj Malhotra's IAS Study Group is leading the clan offering a few things that even some institutes in Delhi have not been able to offer

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JHARKHAND CAMPAIGN ENDS TODAY

Why don't Cong, its cronies announce Indian citizenship for all Pakistanis: PM

Modi warns students against being used by 'urban Naxals'

ABHISHEK ANGAD
BARHAIT, DECEMBER 17

WINDING UP BJP's campaign for Assembly polls in Jharkhand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday accused the Congress and its allies again of spreading lies over the new citizenship law, and dared them to publicly declare they would give Indian citizenship to all Pakistanis.

Addressing his last rally in the state, Modi said, "Main aaj Congress aur unke jitne chele chaapate hain, jitne unke saathi dal hain, unko aaj khule aam chunauti deta hoon, agar unmay himmat hai, khul kar ke ghoshna karein ki woh Pakistan kay har naagrik ko Bharat ki naagrikta dene ke liye taiyyar hain. Keh dein zara, desh unka hisaab chukta kar dega."

(Friends, I dare the Congress and its allies to accord Indian citizenship to all Pakistani citizens. Let them announce it publicly... The country will settle its score with them.)

The campaign for the fifth and final phase of Assembly elections in Jharkhand, currently ruled by a BJP-led alliance, ends Wednesday, with voting for the 16 seats in this phase on December 20. The results for all 81 seats are scheduled to be declared on December 23.

Two days ago in Dumka too, Modi had accused the Congress

RELATED REPORTS
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Opposition leaders A K Antony, Javed Ali Khan, D Raja, Ram Gopal Yadav, T R Baalu, Ahmed Patel, Sonia Gandhi, Derek O'Brien, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Manoj K Jha and Sitaram Yechury after meeting President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi on Tuesday. Anil Sharma

Opp at President's door: Protests echo spreading fear, ask Govt to repeal Act

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

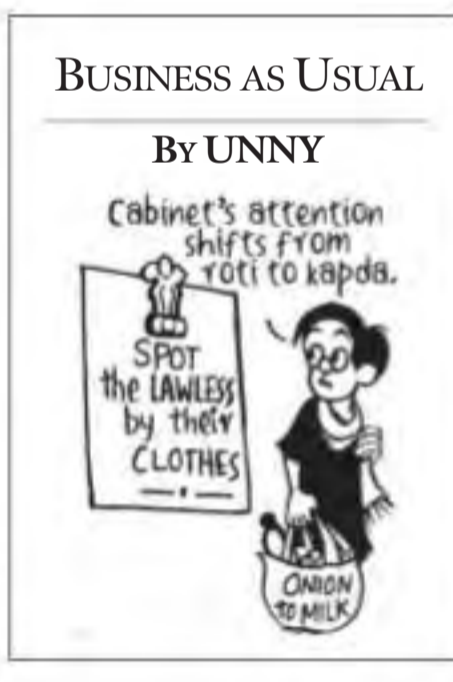
AMID PROTESTS against the new citizenship law, leaders of 12 Opposition parties led by Congress president Sonia Gandhi met President Ram Nath Kovind Tuesday and requested

him to intervene and advise the government to immediately repeal the Act.

Arguing that the "unconstitutional" and "divisive" Act was passed with "undue haste", they told the President that the "widespread protests" echo the "fear" that has spread among people.

The Opposition leaders told the President that the "government's divide and rule policy and its blatantly divisive agenda has disturbed peace and harmony".

In their memorandum to the President, the leaders referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks in Jharkhand that those



Both Govt and party underline NRC but dial down the rhetoric, for now

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

AS PROTESTS against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act grip different parts of the country, the ruling BJP seems to be dialing down its rhetoric on the proposed National Register for Citizens (NRC) - at least, for the

time being. For the record, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the Congress of creating an atmosphere of fear over CAA and the BJP has decided to launch a nationwide campaign on "provisions" of the law.

BJP's national president and Home Minister Amit Shah, who ratcheted up the NRC rhetoric

Protests turn violent in Seelampur: 12 policemen are injured

SOURAV ROY BARMAN & AMIL BHATNAGAR
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

PROTESTS AGAINST the new citizenship law took a violent turn in northeast Delhi's New Seelampur on Tuesday, with police being pelted with bricks and stones and two buses being vandalised. At least 12 police personnel were injured.

The epicentre of the violence was the New Seelampur Chowk, where a large crowd gathered in the afternoon responding to a call for a protest. The crowd of over 2,000 mainly comprised

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Gen Musharraf sentenced to death, Pakistan Army hits back

He can never be a traitor, pain and anguish over verdict: Pak Army

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, DECEMBER 17



PAKISTAN'S FORMER dictator General Pervez Musharraf was on Tuesday sentenced to death in absentia in the high treason case for subverting the Constitution in 2007, drawing a sharp reaction from the powerful military which has ruled the coup-prone country for nearly half of its 72-year history.

A three-member bench of the special court, headed by Peshawar High Court Chief Justice Waqar Ahmad Seth, pronounced the verdict in the landmark case launched in 2013 against the former Pakistan Army chief by the previous government of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

The court found the ailing 76-year-old retired General, now living in Dubai on self-exile, guilty of high treason by abrogating the Constitution and imposing extra-constitutional Emergency in Pakistan in November 2007. By handing him the death sentence, the verdict made him the first military ruler to receive the capital punishment in Pakistan's history.

Musharraf's sentencing provoked the Pakistan Army to swiftly condemn the judgment. Saying that the decision has been "received with lot of pain and anguish by rank and file of Pakistan Armed Forces", Army

spokesman Maj Gen Asif Ghafoor said in a statement: "An ex-Army Chief, Chairman Joint

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

China's bid to rake up Kashmir in UNSC fails

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

A MOVE by China to get the Kashmir issue on the agenda for consultations in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has been thwarted by other members led by the US and France.

China had earlier managed to hold informal closed-door consultations on Kashmir in the UNSC on August 16, 11 days after India revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 on August 5.

This time, sources said, Beijing sent a note to the UNSC over the weekend to "echo the request" of Pakistan for a briefing on Kashmir. On December 12, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi had written to the UNSC and expressed concern about a possible escalation of the situation.

But the US, which holds the presidency of the UNSC for

Murder accused gunned down inside courtroom in UP

AMIT SHARMA
MEERUT, DECEMBER 17

AN ACCUSED in a double murder was killed when three men opened fire inside a courtroom, where he had been brought for a hearing, in Bijnor on Tuesday afternoon. Three policemen and a court employee were injured in the attack.

The incident occurred in Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Yogesh Kumar's courtroom in Bijnor, where Shahnawaz Ansari (34) - accused in the murder of local BSP leader Haji Ehsan (50) and his nephew Shadab Ali (17) in May - and co-accused Jabbar Ahmed (26) had been brought for a hearing from Tihar Jail.



Haji Ehsan, nephew Shadab Ali were killed in May

According to police, three gunmen entered the courtroom while the proceedings were on, and opened fire. "Ansari died on the spot. About 20 rounds were fired within three-four minutes," said Ramesh Chand Sharma, the officer-in-charge at the local police station.

Police said two of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



IN CONVERSATION
Author William Dalrymple with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, and Seema Chishty, Deputy Editor, The Indian Express, at the Express Adda in New Delhi on Tuesday. Abhinav Saha

SC scraps HC stay, lets work resume on Mumbai coastal road

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

STAYING A Bombay High Court order, the Supreme Court Tuesday allowed the resumption of work on the Mumbai coastal road project but barred any associated development without further directions.

A bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde, and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant, stayed the High Court's order of July 16 quashing the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance granted for the southern part of the Rs 12,000-crore project.

The court was hearing a petition filed by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai challenging the High Court order. The bench said it will take up the matter for final hearing in April next year.

Appearing for the petitioner,



At a coastal road work site in Worli, Mumbai. File

Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi said the CRZ notification would apply only to roads and not high-ways. Though the initial proposal was to include both, the road portion was deleted from the notification, he said, adding there was thus a distinction

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WORLD



CLERGY ABUSE: POPE ABOLISHES 'PONTIFICAL SECRET'

US DEFENCE SECY WANTS TO CUT TROOPS IN AFGHAN

PAGE 1 ANCHOR



SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS

It's our responsibility, for our sanity, to stay calm and spread love

Former India all-rounder responds to criticism over his tweet expressing concern for students from Jamia, points out how he stood up in Pakistan

LET ME start with a personal story. When I went to Pakistan in 2004 for the Friendship tour, I went to a college in Lahore along with Rahul Dravid, L Balaji, and Parthiv Patel. In a question-and-answer segment attended by 1,500 students, one girl got up and asked, almost in anger: why do I play for India despite being a Muslim? I stood up and said I am

not doing any favours (ehsaan) by playing for India. It's my country, and I am lucky, proud and honoured to represent it. It's my mulk, my country, a place where my ancestors all come from. Everyone in that college clapped.

If I can speak like that in Pakistan, in an open gathering, puffing out my chest, then I don't need anyone's permission in my own country to say what I feel. I have represented my country. Some people should realise that. When I ran in to bowl for India, I didn't think I am a Muslim. I am an Indian first before anything else.



Irfan Pathan coaches the Jammu & Kashmir team. File

students of #JamiaMilia #JamiaProtest? Is there anything wrong? Is there any hate speech there? Whenever there are two sides to an argument, and both strong, I don't tweet about it. Here, the issue was different. Peaceful protest in a democracy is a fundamental right. I wanted the attention to go there so that there is no loss of life there, the situation doesn't worsen. These are kids, our future.

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Former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian expands on his twin-balance sheet analysis to explain how the Indian economy reached the current state of turmoil.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



PROTESTS AGAINST CITIZENSHIP LAW
A protest on Tuesday turned violent in Delhi's Seelampur area

FULL COVERAGE



OPPOSITION MEETS PRESIDENT ON JAMIA CRACKDOWN
Want judicial probe, says Sonia

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FROM PAGE ONE

NRC

CAA and the NRC are two separate issues — a recalibration of the earlier strategy to link the two.

In fact, Shah had clearly said that the "chronology will be that the CAB will be succeeded by NRC."

But at least two senior leaders in the BJP told The Indian Express Tuesday that the party does not want to be seen as highlighting the issue of NRC for now but wants to keep the focus on "persecuted" non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

There is also a political reason. There is disquiet among the BJP's allies on NRC. While both the JD (U) and LP voted in favour of the CAA in Parliament, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is said to have assured his vice president Prashant Kishore that the NRC exercise will not be implemented in Bihar. Sources said that in a meeting of the LJP too, its leaders extended "wholehearted support" to the CAA but had several questions and fears over the NRC.

While Shah had categorically said that NRC would be brought across the country and would not spare a single infiltrator in his reply to the debate on CAB in the Lok Sabha, he was silent on NRC in his Rajya Sabha speech barely two days later.

"We will bring the NRC across

the country. Not a single infiltrator will be spared," Shah had said in the Lok Sabha. But on November 21 in the Upper House, Shah said: "NRC will be carried out across the country. No one, irrespective of their religion, should be worried. It is just a process to get everyone under NRC."

On December 2, addressing an election rally in Jharkhand, Shah said: "The Congress says don't implement NRC, don't send infiltrators. We will implement NRC in the entire country and send each and every infiltrator outside the country by the 2024 elections."

But in his election speeches on December 14 in Giridih, Deoghar and Mahagama and on December 16 in Pakur and Poreyahat, the BJP president did not refer to NRC, according to the text of his speeches on BJP's official website. In fact, in his speech Monday, he raised the pitch on Ram Temple saying that "within four months, a sky-high Ram temple will be built in Ayodhya."

On Monday, as protests against the CAA intensified, Shah also tried to allay fears among the minorities. "CAA is to give citizenship to religiously persecuted refugees, its not take away citizenship of any Indian. Some parties are spreading rumours and inciting violence for their political interest. I request students to go through the CAA once and not fall

in their trap," Shah said.

On Tuesday, at a program organised by India Today group, Shah said that no citizen, irrespective of his or her religion will be harassed when the NRC is implemented. "Mein aapko aashwast karta hun ki jab bhi hum naya NRC lekar ayege, yahan ke ek bhi alp-sankhyak ke saat anyay nahi hoga. Lekin koi ghuspaithiyen bhi bach nahi payenge (I want to assure you that whenever the NRC exercise is on, no injustice will be done to minority in this country. But no infiltrator will be saved too)," Shah said.

Meanwhile, BJP's working president JP Nadda has written to all party MPs seeking their participation in a nationwide campaign. Pointing out that "millions of persecuted minorities" from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan will become eligible to become Indian citizens via this law, Nadda wrote: "This is my request to all the Members of Parliament to contact such minorities living in their and in nearby vicinities, to apprise them all about the provisions of this bill, have their conferences, intellectual meetings and public meetings etc."

His letter makes no reference to the NRC. One reason behind this shift could be tactical, sources said. "Anti-CAA mobilisation will not last a long time. Indian Muslims do not want Pakistani Muslims to come to India and settle here," said BJP general secretary P Muralidhar Rao. Slamming the Opposition for trying to "provoke" protesters, Rao said comparing the protests in Delhi to Jallianwala Bagh massacre — as done by Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray — "is an insult to the martyrs" and to "Indian democracy."

Seelampur

local youth, workers and traders of the area.

While protesters initially stuck to sloganeering, as things began to wrap up, a few bare-chested youths hurled bricks at personnel keeping an eye on the gathering. Soon, some from the crowd vandalised buses, triggering police to retaliate with lathi-charge and teargas. A public toilet next to a police picket was also set on fire.

A resident said several stone pelters had their faces covered. As traders started downing shutters, those fleeing from the police tried to enter the shops. Six people, including passersby, received injuries. Raees, 50, said he was passing through the area when he saw a "shell" coming through the air. To shield himself, he raised his right hand and the shell exploded, said Raees, who works at an eatery in Jamia.

Alok Kumar, JCP, eastern range, said, "Police used teargas when some protesters pelted stones... protesters had dispersed and we suspect a shell might have hit other civilians as well. The shell can cause burn injury on skin; we are checking medical reports and probing the matter."

Metro stations across the area, including Seelampur, Welcome and Jaffrabad, were shut in the wake of the violence. To maintain peace, calls to stop violence were made through the mosque's speakers. By 4.30 pm, the situation was largely under control.

Alok Kumar, Joint CP, East, said: "Over 3,000 people were marching towards Seelampur. Our teams were there and had put barricades. We tried to stop them and told them to conduct a peaceful protest. For around 45 minutes, they were there, but when the crowd dispersed, a few of the men started pelting stones at policemen. We used teargas and pushed the protesters back. They destroyed two buses, a few bikes and also broke the windows of a Rapid Action Force vehicle... this lasted for an hour, after which we took the help of locals. People from mosques, madrasas and

PM hits out at Congress, 'its cronies'

and its allies for raising a storm and fuelling unrest over the new citizenship law. He had said those "spreading the fire" could be "identified by their clothes". "Jo aag laga rahe hain, TV pe unke jo drishya aa rahe hain, yeh aag lagaane vaale kaun hain, woh unke kapdon se hi pata chal jaata hai," he said.

(The Congress and its allies are making a noise, creating a storm. And if that doesn't work, they are spreading a fire. From the visuals on TV, those setting the fire can be identified by their clothes.)

On Tuesday, Modi also challenged the Congress and its allies to announce, if they had the

courage, to bring back Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir and the criminalisation of instant triple talaq. "Congress is chunauti ko sweekar karein, khul kar kay ailaan karein wama desh se jooth bolna, desh mein bhram failana, doosron ko apni dhaal bana kar yeh gorilla rajneeti band kare," he said.

(Let Congress accept this challenge and announce it publicly. Else, they should avoid misleading people and spreading lies, and stop its guerrilla politics by firing from others' shoulders.)

The Prime Minister assured that not a single Indian, be it Muslim or Hindu, Parsi or Christian, would be affected by

the new citizenship law. "It does not take away the right of any Indian, or hurt anyone. Still, Congress and its allies, are fuelling fears among Muslims," he said. A day earlier, he tweeted, "I want to unequivocally assure my fellow Indians that CAA does not affect any citizen of India of any religion. No Indian has anything to worry... This Act is only for those who have faced years of persecution outside and have no place to go except India."

Modi also appealed to protesting college and university students to bring forth issues for discussion with the government in a "democratic manner". "Lekin aapko yeh

samajhna hoga ki kahin kuch dal, khatir urban naxals, kayi apne aap ko buddhi jiwi kahne wale log, aapke kandhe par bandook chala kar aapna rajnitik ulla to seedha nahi kare rahe hain? Aapki barbaadi kame kay peeche kahin inka shadyantra toh nahi hai. Yaad rakhiye, aur yeh desh 20 saal se dekh raha hai, unhe sirf aur sirf Modi se nafrat hai."

(But you need to understand whether some groups, so-called urban Naxals, people who claim to be intellectuals, are using you for their own politics, whether they are conspiring as they play with your lives. Do remember, for the last 20 years, they have just been hating Modi.)

Opp leaders meet President: 'Ask Govt to repeal Act'

behind the violence could be "identified from their clothes" and said: "The Prime Minister, instead of appealing for calm, made a comment, which is inconsistent with the status of the office he holds... By any standard, this brand of politics is unjustified. If persons holding the highest offices in the country seek to, through their statements, serve narrow sectarian interests, it would dismantle the constitutional edifice that has been so carefully built since Independence."

The leaders implored the President to "safeguard" the Constitution "from being violated" and ensure that the "fed-

eral structure is not disturbed by the Government... by abusing state power".

Referring to the police action in Jamia Millia Islamia, the leaders told the President that "if the legitimate constitutional right to protest is sought to be muzzled in the fashion, our democracy will be destroyed".

At the same time, they urged the President to ask the government to set up a commission of inquiry to "ensure that all those guilty of perpetuating violence in whatever form be brought to book".

Among those met the President include Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha

Ghulam Nabi Azad, Congress leaders Ahmed Patel, A K Antony, Anand Sharma and Kapil Sibal, TMC's Derek O'Brien, CPM's Sitaram Yechury, CPI's D Raja, DMK's T R Baalu, SP's Ram Gopal Yadav and Javed Ali Khan, JLS's Sharad Yadav, RJD's Manoj K Jha, IUML's E T Mohd Basheer and representatives of the National Conference, AIUDF and RSP.

"We are anguished at the manner in which the police has dealt with peaceful demonstrations. We have the example in Delhi where the police entered the Jamia women's hostel and dragged women students out. It mercilessly beat other stu-

dents not only here in Delhi who were demonstrating which is their democratic right as is ours", Sonia Gandhi told reporters.

O'Brien said the Opposition has asked the President to advise the government to withdraw the "diabolical and divisive Act". Yechury said they told Kovind that he "cannot allow his government to violate the Constitution" since he is its custodian.

Raja said, "The President is also the chancellor of many central universities... so we appealed that he must intervene and stop the brutal attacks on our students."

RWAs appealed to the protesters to maintain peace. Some policemen were also injured."

Irfan

Aren't the Jamia kids ours?

Aren't the IIM kids ours? Aren't the North-East kids ours? Aren't the kids from Kashmir and Gujarat ours? All of them are our kids. I saw some videos, images, visuals from media and from Twitter. I kept checking the facts over and over again. Then I decided that it's a right way to express my concerns about the students. Whether they are from Jamia or from IIM or any others, they are the future, the ones that will take our country forward.

No one should, of course, indulge in violence. There is nothing wrong in supporting students because they are our future. If they are doing something wrong, then there are peaceful ways to bring them back on track. And if they aren't doing anything wrong and protesting peacefully, then there is nothing wrong with it. If I present my opinion on society, is it wrong? Haven't I done anything for my society? I have. I also know that in this era of social media, there would be reactions and I also know that many of them are fake accounts.

I thought that I needed to speak. I started and then, lots of others started to speak out. Sometimes, it needs one to start tweeting, and others follow it. Then the focus goes there. Who will start it is the big question, but I always have loved to bowl with the new ball! Jokes apart, I felt I needed to speak out and so, I did. That episode in Pakistan did come to my mind yesterday after I tweeted. I have smashed stumps on the field in Pakistan and did the same off the field in that country, and my intent is being questioned in my own country?

When I tweeted against Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, who had uttered words such as 'bloodbath' and 'fight to end', in a speech in United Nations in October, I was a "laadla", a darling. Now I am not? Now when I am talking about the wellbeing of our own country's kids, I am wrong?

I am often asked whether celebrities should speak their mind on issues in the country. I have always believed that it's up to the individual concerned. And it also depends on the situation.

Let me share another personal example. I was in Kashmir, coaching the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team, when the Pulwama episode happened and our Army was attacked. Our team was shifted to Jammu. The families of our soldiers were in shock and in sorrow, and you could feel it. I was holed up in a hotel and could see out of my window that the people of Jammu, affected by what had happened, were burning bikes and cars in protest. Whose bikes and cars were they? Those of our own people. But I didn't tweet anything then; I could see that our people were angry, our jawans had been killed. I could have tweeted, 'don't protest violently, don't burn vehicles' but it would have been silly. It's not right to protest violently but I could see the underlying emotions there.

It's important that as long as I speak my mind — as long as it's not a hate message — people will take it positively. You will never find any hatred in my tweets. Even when I am speaking about Imran Khan, I am talking about peace. I will always advocate peace.

I am also asked in particular about cricketers — should we speak out more? The reality is that there is much at stake for us cricketers. It is for the individuals to decide whether they want to speak out or not.

I also realise that much of the so-called atmosphere, or mahoul, is created in the virtual world. I have seen it before while returning from losses in cricket games. Some elements would trigger stone throwing or whatever, and say people are angry. Sometimes, that mahoul is created by the media itself. I have stopped reacting to such negativity.

Similarly, now, we all know how the vicious atmosphere is created today — how social accounts can be bought with money and fake atmosphere of negativity or positivity over any issue created. We, as citizens of

our beautiful country, need to be alert that its peace isn't destroyed.

When it comes to the political climate in our country, first it used to be about roti, kapda aur makaan (food, clothes and housing). Then, it's development. Now and then, religion comes in. But remember, most people care about wellbeing and growth.

When I speak to my friends, we never discuss religion. We talk about each other's work, life, how to grow. No one says, I won't work with a person who is of a different faith than me. We all want to grow and take care of our families. If you grow, the country will grow.

Don't spread hate. We should retain positivity in our minds. It's not like before, a random text message of hate, now it's everywhere; just open the phone and it will flood in. It's our responsibility, for our own sanity, to stay calm and spread positivity and love.

(Irfan Pathan, a member of the 2007 T20 World Cup winning team, spoke to Devendra Pandey)

Musharraf

Chief of Staff Committee and President of Pakistan, who has served the country for over 40 years, fought wars for the defence of the country can surely never be a traitor.

"The due legal process seems to have been ignored including constitution of special court, denial of fundamental right of self defence, undertaking individual specific proceedings and concluding the case in haste," he said. "Armed Forces of Pakistan expect that justice will be dispensed in line with Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan," Ghafoor said. Earlier, Justice Seth, in a short verdict, announced that the court found that Musharraf was guilty of violating Article 6 of the Constitution that says that suspending the Constitution is an act of treason.

Musharraf can file an appeal against the judgment within 30 days. But he would have to return to Pakistan for it unless allowed by the higher court.

According to media reports, Musharraf, who is undergoing treatment in Dubai, expressed re-

gret at the judgment and said he would give a detailed response after consulting his lawyers. —PTI

Coastal road

between the two.

The bench said: "We are of the prima facie view that the notification does not apply... we will see." Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, also appearing for the petitioner, said the project's road segment was 19 km and that so far only about 1 km had been completed. He said heavy machinery brought in for construction was lying unused at the site and urged the court to allow resumption of work subject to the final outcome of the hearing.

Rohatgi said the project was not a straight road but had a zig-zag design and added that portions of land at the curved portions have been earmarked exclusively for green projects like gardens, etc.

Opposing the plea, Senior Advocate Colin Gonsalves contended that the road being developed on reclaimed land blocks tidal waters. Also, he said, the concrete being poured into the sea destroys coral structures along the shoreline.

Opposing this, the petitioner's counsel said there was minuscule presence of corals near the shoreline. Senior Counsel CU Singh said granting the stay would in effect amount to the court clearing the project without hearing the matter in detail.

Gonsalves said the road was planned to decongest traffic along the route from South to North Mumbai and added that the Mumbai Metro, which was also coming up along the same route, can compensate and serve the same purpose.

Quashing the CRZ clearance after hearing a clutch of petitions, the Bombay High Court bench of Chief Justice Pradeep Nandrajog and Justice N M Jadhav had underlined "a serious lacuna in the decision-making process" and "lack of proper scientific study".

The High Court had said that the Corporation cannot proceed with the work without obtaining environmental clearance under the Environmental Impact

Assessment (EIA) notification.

The project, given the go-ahead in 2017, was envisaged to connect South Mumbai's Marine Drive area to Kandivali in North Mumbai.

Courtroom

attackers were minors; all three have been arrested. The CJM and others present in court had to duck for cover, said police sources. "The CJM escaped unhurt, while a court employee and three policemen sustained bullet injuries when they tried to overpower the assailants after the firing. All the three men who opened fire in the courtroom have been arrested," said Sanjeev Tyagi, Bijnor SP.

Haji Ehsan, a property dealer and local BSP leader, and his nephew Shadab Ali were gunned down by three assailants inside their office in Najibabad area of Bijnor on May 28 this year. Police said the killings were over a business rivalry. Ansari, a history-sheeter, was the main accused in the case. In June, Ansari and Ahmed surrendered at a police station in New Delhi, and were sent to Tihar Jail. Another accused, Danish Khan (30), was arrested from Mumbai.

China

December, did not yield to the latest request by China. France also joined in and said that the Kashmir issue has to be discussed bilaterally. "We have highlighted this several times recently, including in New York," French diplomatic sources said. Chinese has withdrawn its request, and no meeting on Kashmir will be held, sources said. The UNSC is now meeting Tuesday on the issue of Sudan and South Sudan, as per their original schedule.

China's move was rebuffed at a time when External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh are meeting their American counterparts for the first 2+2 engagement. Singh reached New York Monday.

Delhi, meanwhile, rejected a resolution passed unanimously Monday by Pakistan's parliament, the National Assembly, which referred to Kashmir and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, and condemned the Indian government over what it described as "discriminatory legislation" and "human rights abuses".

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) responded by "categorically" rejecting the resolution. "It is a thinly veiled attempt by Pakistan to further its false narrative on the issue of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. It seeks to provide justification for Pakistan's unrelenting support for cross-border terrorist activities in India. We are confident that such attempts will fail," it said.

"It is laughable that the National Assembly of Pakistan, that has itself passed discriminatory legislation against religious minorities, should point fingers at others. We call upon Pakistan to engage in serious self-introspection rather than to falsely accuse others of what they themselves are guilty of," the statement said.

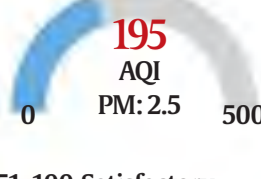
In Geneva, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan claimed at the Global Forum on Refugees that millions of Muslims could flee India due to the curfew in Kashmir and India's new citizenship law. In response to a query on Khan's statement, MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said: "Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has once again peddled familiar falsehoods at a multilateral platform to advance his narrow political agenda by making gratuitous and unwarranted remarks on matters entirely internal to India. It should now be clear to the entire world that this is an established pattern of his habitual and compulsive abuse of global forums."

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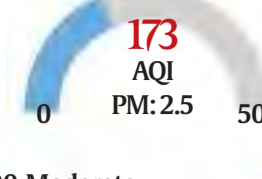
0-50 Good

ANAND VIHAR
Moderate



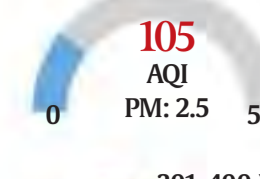
51-100 Satisfactory

SIRIFORT
Moderate



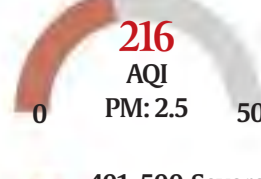
101-200 Moderate

SHADIPUR
Moderate



201-300 Poor

DWARKA-SECTOR 8
Poor



401-500 Severe

TEMPERATURE EXPECTED TO INCREASE FROM THURSDAY

Delhi sees coldest Dec day in 22 yrs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

THE CAPITAL Tuesday recorded its lowest maximum temperature in December in the past 22 years, with 12.2 degrees being the highest reading of mercury, India Meteorological Department officials said.

This is the lowest the temperature has dipped to since 28 December 1997, officials said, when it was 11.3 degrees Celsius.

Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist at IMD, said the temperature was also the second lowest since 1992.

He added, "It was caused due to strong and cold north westerly winds from western Himalayan region and a layer of low clouds stopping the

sunlight from reaching the surface of the earth."

The difference between the maximum and minimum temperature Tuesday was also very low with the minimum temperature recorded at 10.4 degrees Celsius.

Experts have said the condition is likely to persist on Wednesday as well, after which the temperature would increase.

On Monday, the maximum temperature in the city was 12.9 degrees Celsius, lowest since December 2003.

As per an IMD official, 28 December 1973 has so far been the day which holds the record for having the lowest maximum temperature, at 11.2 degrees Celsius.

The cloud cover over Delhi was said to be around 500 to 1,000 me-



The maximum temperature was recorded at 12.2 degrees Celsius Tuesday. *Gajendra Yadav*

tres above ground, which is considered "very low," and is credited with causing the dip in temperature.

The IMD has forecast dense fog in

isolated parts of the city on Wednesday morning.

Meanwhile, Delhi's average air quality index (AQI) was in the 'mod-

erate' category Tuesday with a reading of 168, as per the Central Pollution Control Board.

Among NCR cities, Gurgaon's AQI was 106 in the moderate range, while Ghaziabad's was 238 and Noida's 211 in the 'poor' range.

A report by the Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research Tuesday said high surface level wind speed, which help in dispersion of pollutants, are forecast to continue until Wednesday night. The report added, "A decrease in wind speed is forecast for December 19 and therefore AQI is likely to deteriorate to the higher end of 'poor' or the lower end of 'very poor' category. On December 20, the AQI may further deteriorate to the 'very poor' category."

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As mercury dips, IGI Airport says better prepared to deal with fog

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

MOST FLIGHT diversions at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) happen because pilots are not trained to make landing in dense fog conditions, in which visibility can be as low as 50 metres, a senior official of Airport Authority of India (AAI) said Tuesday.

The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), which handles the IGIA, said Tuesday that it has enhanced its capabilities to manage operations safely during reduced visibility conditions at the airport.

The measures taken include setting up the new 102-metre high Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower — which became operational in August — procurement



IMD officials have said longer spells of low visibility days could be expected in January. *Archive*

of thermal imaging headgear for personnel engaged in airside operations, and a 24x7 social media command centre.

SBS Sharma, general manager of air traffic management at Delhi, said, "With the new ATC tower and procurement of world-class gadgets, air traffic controllers will be able to work

with ease and handle more number of flights."

He added, "Delhi airport's collaborative decision making (DA-CDM) cell, which has representatives of ATC, domestic airlines and DIAL, works for better coordination among all the stakeholders, especially during periods of reduced visibility."

Moreover, the runways 28, 29 and 11 at the airport are certified for CAT-IIIb operations, which allows compliant aircraft and trained pilots to land even when the runway visibility is down to 50 metres, a statement from DIAL said. The lowest visibility at which flights can take off is 125 metres.

On November 3, more than 30 flights were reportedly diverted at the airport due to poor visibility. Sharma said this was not because the airport was not prepared to handle such a scenario, but because flights were not equipped to make a landing in such conditions.

Dr R K Jenamani, director of IMD's National Weather Forecasting Centre, said the number of dense fog days have reduced in the last few years, and with it the number of diversions have also reduced.

Bharat Vandana Park to be ready by 2022

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

THE FOUNDATION stone for Dwarka's Bharat Vandana Park, spread over an area of 200 acres in Sector 20, was laid Tuesday. The park was inaugurated by Home Minister Amit Shah in the presence of Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri, L-G Anil Bajjal, MP Parvesh Verma and Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari.

The space will consist of a recreational area, a conservatory, a fun park, an eco-trail, an adventure park and a lake view restaurant. The DDA intends to complete the project by March 2022.

A senior DDA official said the park will have a cultural ground, a paved plaza, a food court, a toilet block and a café.

A dense green zone will consist of Herbal Vatika meant as a display garden for medicinal



At the inauguration of the project, Tuesday

plants. The park will also have replicas of monuments from across the country.

The project, however, is facing some resistance. Environmentalist Diwan Singh said the area doesn't need an amusement park. "We need a green space to control air pollution, not an amusement park. The space should be envisioned as a city forest," he said. A senior DDA official said the park would act as a pollution ameliorator.

Woman, her 2 kids dead after being hit by train

New Delhi: A 36-year-old woman and her two children, aged 13 and 8, died Tuesday after they were hit by a train while crossing a railway track near Shivaji Bridge railway station, said police.

Police said three other family members who accompanied them sustained injuries.

Harendra K Singh, DCP, (Railways), said the incident took place around 6:20 pm, when the six people were crossing tracks between Tilak and Shivaji Bridge.

The family was on its way to board a train to Bahadurgarh in Haryana. Police said they are probing the matter. **ENS**

PANJAB UNIVERSITY, CHANDIGARH (Advt. No. 01/20/CET)		
The University will hold entrance tests for admission to various courses in the Teaching Departments/ Institutes and its affiliated colleges, for the session 2020-21 as under:-		
Sr.No.	Name of Entrance Test	Dates of Tests for-2020
1	PU-CET (U.G.)	26.04.2020 (Sunday)
2	PUTHAT	15.05.2020 (Friday)
3	PU-B.A./B.Com. LL.B. (Hons.) (5 years) Integrated Course	24.05.2020 (Sunday)
4	PUMMET	31.05.2020 (Sunday)
5	PU-CET (P.G.)	13.06.2020-14.06.2020 (Saturday-Sunday)
6	PU-LL.B. (3 Years)	27.06.2020 (Saturday)
7	M.Phil. & Ph.D.	12.07.2020 (Sunday)
8	PULEET	19.07.2020 (Sunday)
9	MBA (Executive) for USOL	26.07.2020 (Sunday)

Information about all the entrance tests would be available on University Website www.puchd.ac.in from time to time. **Controller of Examinations**



अशोक गहलोत
मुख्यमंत्री, राजस्थान



“जन सुविधाओं का नया आधार” जन-आधार

एक नम्बर, एक कार्ड, एक पहचान

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जन-आधार कार्ड से।
व्यक्तिगत एवं पारिवारिक पहचान के लिए एक ही कार्ड
जिसमें परिवार की मुखिया महिला।

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आयोजना व सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी और संचार विभाग, राजस्थान

Meanwhile, a peaceful march in Old Delhi

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

AROUND 400 people from the areas surrounding Jama Masjid and Darya Ganj Tuesday took out a protest rally against the new citizenship law and the police action on students of Jamia Millia Islamia.

WhatsApp messages were circulated among locals in the morning, following which they mobilised and marched towards Delhi Gate through G B Pant Hospital.

While the leaderless crowd was evidently confused about the next step of action — whether to move towards old police headquarters at ITO or the Turkman Gate, and whether to block roads or let traffic pass — at no point did the protest get out of hand.

The protesters heavily outnumbered policemen, who were not more than 20 and without lathis. The march went through adjoining areas all through the day and culminated at Turkman Gate. Traffic was allowed to pass and women and children were helped in crossing the road.

Mohd Zahid (23), a nursing assistant at the nearby Lok Nayak Hospital, said he was protesting the new law and the assault on Jamia students.

"Today they are excluding Muslims, tomorrow they will target Dalits. We have to resist this together," he said.

Mohd Sagir (40), who works in a cosmetic shop in the area, said the law would have far-reaching consequences.

"The government also wants to create the Hindu-Muslim binary, and divide and rule like the British. They want to divert attention from real issues like the state of the economy. The way other countries are responding to the law, it will also affect tourism and the economy will take a further hit," he said.



At the Old Delhi protest



Police rush to take cover during Tuesday's protest in Seelampur. Prem Nath Pandey

SEELAMPUR VIOLENCE

20 surrounded us, pelted stones: Injured constable

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

"I WASN'T expecting that the protest would turn violent in a moment and hundreds of men would turn hostile. They hit us with bricks and stones. We tried to stop them, but they didn't listen to us," said Dara Singh, a constable posted with Seelampur police station, who was injured in Tuesday's violence.

Singh was among 12 policemen who sustained injuries during the protest. Six protesters were also injured. Police said more than 2,000 protesters gathered around Seelampur Chowk at 2 pm and held a "silent protest" against the new citizenship law for an hour.

Alok Kumar, Joint Commissioner of Police, Eastern Range, said protesters were initially calm and police officers too asked them to be peaceful. Later, as they started dispersing, some of them attacked police. "We exercised restraint and

used teargas to remove the protesters, but they pelted stones at the team. Twelve policemen were injured and rushed to the hospital. The protesters also destroyed three bikes, two buses and a Rapid Action Force (RAF) van," said Kumar.

Police said three RAF personnel and six civilians were also injured in stone-pelting and were taken to Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital before being discharged later.

A Delhi Police spokesperson told *The Indian Express* that Dara Singh and a civilian were later referred to CTB Hospital.

Singh said, "I was standing with five to eight other policemen when more than 20 men surrounded us and pelted stones and bricks. Although I was wearing a helmet, a stone hit my left eye and I fell to the ground. I could hear my colleagues trying to pacify the angry crowd, but they were still pelting stones at us. Soon, officers came to my help and took me to the hospital."

A senior officer from Gokalpuri police station also sustained injuries on his leg when he was trying to remove protesters from the site, said police. JCP Kumar said police took help from locals from RWAs, mosques and madrasas to pacify the crowd.

A constable from Jafrabad police station said, "I thought the protesters were leaving. We weren't even ready for the violence. Everything was fine until a small group of people shouted slogans and tried to attack us. We tried pushing them and used teargas. I tried to speak to some men. But they even attacked other protesters and those who were trying to cross the road. We had to stop them."

A local who sustained an injury on his head was discharged from GTB in the evening, said police. Anil Mittal, additional PRO, Delhi Police, said two FIRs were registered at Seelampur and Jafrabad police stations. Five men have been detained and further probe is on.

AMAN COMMITTEE CALMS TEMPERS

New Delhi: As hundreds of protesters thronged the streets, a call for peace could be heard in the background — that of Aman Committee members urging people to resist violence. "Announcements were made on loudspeakers. We spoke to groups to de-escalate tension," said Dr Faheem Beg, a committee member. "One of our biggest tasks is to make sure rumours are not spread, since we have seen how one wrong information can impact it. We made announcements and explained to people that it's our democratic right to protest in a peaceful manner," he added. — AMIL BHATNAGAR

Jamia student says lost sight in one eye

ABAN USMANI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

MINHAJUDDIN (26), a final-year LL.M student at Jamia Millia Islamia, has alleged he lost sight in one eye after being injured during the police action on campus Sunday.

The student from Bihar's Samastipur alleged he was studying inside the ibn-e-sina block of the library Sunday when "20-25 police personnel stormed in and rained lathis on students". He said he was injured in the chaos.

"Everyone ran for cover and I hid in the washroom afterwards," he said. A video of him leaning against the wall with a handkerchief partially covering his face has since been widely circulated. He was helped by another student to move to the hostel behind the library after some time as he "was feeling too weak to escape the spot alone".

Students at the hostel arranged for an ambulance and called his friends and local



Said he was in library before police action

guardian to reach Alshifa hospital 2 km away, from where he was referred to AIIMS.

He said he "plans to take legal measures for this loss".

While the trauma centre did not respond to the incident, a senior ophthalmologist who has seen Minhajuddin's medical report said that at present, there is no vision in the left eye.

"But if that is due to corneal rupture, which is yet to be operated on, the situation will have to be monitored in the coming days. It will depend on his next visit when the swelling decreases and pain subsides," the doctor said.

Speeches & poetry at ITO protest led by women

New Delhi: Around 200 people, comprising mostly women, gathered at ITO Tuesday night to register their protest against the CAA and the police crackdown at Jamia Millia Islamia.

Students, activists, lawyers and residents of Old Delhi gathered at Shaheed Park, and in a gesture symbolic of non-violent resistance, covered their mouths with black cloth. The protest was organised by women to forefront their resistance to the new citizenship law and police violence.

What followed was an evening of poetry, speeches and sharing of information on the crackdown at Aligarh Muslim University. "Most of the time, women are left behind in matters of resistance, especially Muslim women. Women of Old Delhi decided to gather and raise our voices against what is happening," said Farheen Naz, an education administrator. Seema Tahira, who was at the protest, said: "If our children are beaten up, women will have to come out." ENS

Shah to students: Tell us if you feel provision discriminatory

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

SPEAKING IN the national capital Tuesday, Home Minister Amit Shah said the Aam Aadmi Party and the Congress were misleading people on the new citizenship law, and asked students opposing it to read the Act online.

"(Arvind) Kejriwal and Congress party should stop throwing stones into water. I would like to tell the youth that they should read the Act on the website... If you feel there is anything, that there is any provision that is discriminatory, then tell us... this Narendra Modi government does not do injustice to anyone," he said.

"No one is going to lose Indian citizenship. This act is to give citizenship, not to take away anyone's citizenship," he said.

Shah was speaking at the foundation stone laying event of Bharat Vandana Park in Delhi's Dwarka area.



The Act is to give citizenship, not take it away: Shah

"Where will these people (refugees) go — the Hindus, Sikhs and others — if not to India?" he said. He added that that this was the part of "Nehru-Liaquat Pact, which the Congress did not implement".

He said that the BJP is firm on implementing the new law. "For 70 years, Hindus, Sikhs and others were living a life without job, land, water. I want

CM, L-G appeal for peace in same voice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

AS VISUALS of the violent protest in Seelampur against the new citizenship law started streaming Tuesday, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal appealed to the people of the city to maintain peace.

"It is my appeal to Delhiites to maintain peace. There is no place for any kind of violence in a civilised society. Nothing will be achieved with violence. You have to speak your mind peacefully," the Chief Minister tweeted Tuesday.

The CM had reached out to the Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss Delhi's law and order situation on Monday, but has not been granted an appointment so far, government officials said.

The law and order in Delhi is not a state subject since Delhi is not a full state. The Delhi Police reports directly to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal, who is the Centre's representative in Delhi and oversees law and order, also made a similar appeal.

"It is my appeal to all Delhiites to maintain peace. Do not be part of violence and inform Delhi Police about any rowdy elements. Violence is not only illegal but also inhuman. Use democratic and peaceful medium to speak out," he said.

As the protest escalated in Seelampur, 12 police personnel, three Rapid Action Force (RAF) members, and six civilians were injured.

to tell political parties to go and see their condition, how they are living their life," he said.

Under the new law, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities, who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014 and are facing religious persecution there, will not be treated as illegal immigrants but given Indian citizenship.

Shah also took a dig at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, challenging him to debate West Delhi MP Pravesh Verma on the issue of "unauthorised colonies."

"The reason you got ownership rights after a five-year delay is the Kejriwal government. Had they fast-tracked work like us, this would have been done very fast," he said.

He said the Delhi government deliberately delayed the process of regularisation because they wanted to use it as an opportunity to pull down the central government.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (PROJECT) W-I DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI, ROOM NO. 511, VARUNALAYA PHASE-I KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005
E-mail Id: ee-1.djb@gmail.com
NIT No. 07 (2019-20)

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.) (non-refundable)	Tender Fees (Rs.)	Date of Release of Tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of submission of tender through e-procurement solution	Tender ID
1.	Re-boring of 05 nos. 11wells at (i) CHT (B/P) Sultan Apartment, Saiduljajab Village (ii) CHT J-Block, Paryavaran Complex (iii) CHT DVP, Ground Neb Sarai Ext. (iv) CHT Hanjan Basti Neb Sarai (v) CHT Neb Sarai Ext. (Near Indira Enclave) under Chhattarpur constituency (AC-46)	29,56,956/-	59,200/-	500/-	13.12.2019	23.12.2019 upto 03:00 PM	2019_DJB_185546_1

Note: Any further amendment/corrigendum made in this NIT will be uploaded and can only be seen on website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 671/2019-20 E.E. (Proj) W-I

OBITUARY

NK Mohd Shahe Alam Khan made the supreme sacrifice while on duty in counter insurgency (OP ORCHID) in Dimapur on 10 Dec 2019. He was a brave soldier whose courage will be forever remembered by those he has left behind. His brothers salute their brave comrade and pledge to follow his footsteps and forever be guided by his immortal spirit.

NK MOHD SHAHE ALAM KHAN
CO AND ALL RANKS, 3 CORPS OPERATING SIGNAL REGIMENT

DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WEST-I O.H.T. BERIWALA BAGH, SUBHAS NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110064
PRESS NOTICE TENDER NO. 70/W-I(2019-20)

S. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Providing and laying new water line in sub divided plots at D2 Block Jeewan park in Ward No. 18S AC 30 Janak Puri under West-I Tender ID : 2019_DJB_185615_2	Rs. 30,10,178/-	26.12.2019 up to 3:00 PM

Can view this particular statement in detail <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 665/2019-20

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (WEST) I (O) 25125273

ARUNACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Naharlagun Division, PWD, Arunachal Pradesh, Naharlagun invites on behalf of Governor of Arunachal Pradesh online item rate single bid system for following work:-

NIT No.: ND/2019-20/103, Name of work: C/o. Sewa Kendra at Jullang

The bid forms and other details can be downloaded from the website <https://pwwar.etenders.in> from 1030 hrs of 18/12/2019

DIPR/ARN-7566-68/2019

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Corporate Office: 4/A, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
WAREHOUSING FOR EVERYONE

Corrigendum to Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIT No. CWC/FD/ICEX/2019-20)

RFP for Sale of equity stake in Indian Commodity Exchange Ltd. (ICEX). Last date of bid submission is extended to 06.01.2020 upto 15:00 hrs.

For detailed information log on to www.cwceprocure.com or www.cwcear.nic.in.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD

Office of the Sr. Divl. Materials Manager DRM Office, Allahabad
Corrigendum No.19196555
Date: 06.12.2019

SECOND CORRIGENDUM

On behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Material Manager, North Central Railway, Allahabad is issued corrigendum for cancellation of EPS-Advt. Tender No.19196555 whose opening date is 10.12.2019, which is Published against EPS Tender Notice No. 19/12 dated. 29.10.2019

20x7 यंत्रों सेला हेतु लागू न. - 138 1578/19 (A)

AGRA SMART CITY LIMITED
AGRA NAGAR NIGAM, AGRA

Advertisement No: ASCL/RECT/02/2019 Dated 17/12/2019

Agra Smart City Limited (ASCL) is seeking suitably qualified people to submit Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for the following vacancy:

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HOW TO APPLY
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LAST DATE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS:
6th January 2020 by 5:00 p.m.
FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS KINDLY CONTACT:
Growthmode Consulting Limited
+91 8008804997, +91 8008804991
+91 9346673068

Chief Executive Officer, Agra Smart City Limited, Agra.

Government of Chhattisgarh Directorate Of Local Fund Audit

Block-1, Second Floor, Indrawati Bhawan, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar Chhattisgarh

Phone: 0771-2253808, Fax- 0771-2254234
E-mail- lfa.cg@nic.in; website - ww.lfa.cg.nic.in

CORRIGENDUM-1

Reference No.:LFA/CGPFMAP/CS/REOI/02/2297 Date:13December 2019

With reference to the REOI letter No. - LFA/CGPFMAP/CS/ REOI/01 -Dated 20 November 2019 and G-75191 the bidding process shall be in two stages. Financial bid and EMD is not required at stage-1 .Details, further updation and clarifications may be seen on web site <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> and <https://lfa.cg.nic.in>. Revised key dates are - bid due date: 28-12-2019, physical document submission end date : 30-12-2019 and bid opening date :03-01-2020.

Sd/- Director Local Fund Audit

75815

HARYANA STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY
O/o Director General Health Services, Haryana, Swasthya Bhawan, Sector-6, Panchkula

CORRIGENDUM

In reference to the advertisement published in "Indian Express" and "Dainik Tribune" on dated 12.12.2019 for filling up the vacant posts, it may be noted that the last page of advertisement was inadvertently not published in the above mentioned newspapers containing important instruction i.e. last date of receiving the applications and where to apply for the posts. Remaining part of the advertisement may be read as under:-

Desirous candidates should send their applications along with attested photocopies of certificates/ testimonials / Experience Certificate to the office of Concerned district Civil Surgeon. The application should reach the office of concerned Civil Surgeon by 5.00 P.M. on 10.01.2020. Original Certificates/ Testimonials shall be verified at the time of written test. Incomplete applications shall be summarily rejected. All other terms and conditions of advertisement will remain unchanged. HSACS reserves the right to cancel the above advertisement at any time without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Project Director Haryana State AIDS Control Society, Panchkula

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Signal & Telecommunication Department

TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DSTE/CO/Kota for and on behalf of President of Union of India invites e-tenders against Tender No. Kota/S&T/Tele/2019/06, Due date to open mentioned below. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Tender No. - KOTA/ S&T/Tele/ 2019/06, Name of work- WCR- Replacement of obsolete and overaged telecom gears on 'A' route in Kota-Nagda section. Approx. Cost of the work- ₹ 26,41,519.87, Earnest Money- ₹ 52,900/-, Last Date & Time of submission and opening of tender- 15:00 Hrs. on Date 08/01/2020. The Tenders can be viewed at web site www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderer/ bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/ bidders can participate in e-tendering. Also should have valid GSTIN.

Sr. DSTE (Co.), Kota
West Central Railway, Kota Division

रेल यात्रा के दौरान शिकायत हेतु 138 पर एवं सुरक्षा हेतु 182 पर सम्पर्क करें

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
(SURVEY & CONSTRUCTION) E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, Chief Administrative Officer (Construction), North Western Railway, Jaipur invites e-tenders under "TWO PACKET SYSTEM" from the agencies fulfilling the eligibility criteria for the following work:- 1. E-Tender No.: No. UDZ-HMT-GC-T-61.2. Name of the work with its location : Construction of balance works of Road Under Bridges and Road Over Bridges (Box-type) in lieu of level crossings and all other works like road works, drainage works, height gauges, retaining wall etc. in connection with the commissioning of Road Under Bridges and Road Over Bridges in Udaipur-Dungarpur section. 3. Approximate cost of work : Rs. 12,25,43,362.47. 4. Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 7,62,700.00. 5. Date of submission of e-Tender : 17.01.2020 at 15:00 hrs. 6. Details and particulars of website where e-tender can be seen & filled up : www.ireps.gov.in ; 7. Official email address: dyccecdz@gmail.com 1316-AD/19

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Ex-Congress MLA and student leaders named in Jamia FIR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

SEVEN PERSONS, including former Congress MLA from Okhla, Asif Khan, have been named by Delhi Police in three FIRs as the main accused for allegedly leading the protest and riots in Jamia Nagar Sunday. Apart from Khan, three others are local politicians and three are associated with different student unions.

The three FIRs were registered on the basis of police's complaint, but no arrests have been made in any of them. However, police arrested 10 people they identified with the help of CCTV footage. "To identify the attackers, police had sent their teams inside the campus. Despite several warnings, the attackers kept attacking, following which police used 'minimum force' to take them out," one of the FIRs states.

The first FIR was registered on Friday, wherein police claimed protesters entered into a scuffle with personnel while protesting over the newly passed citizenship law. "The second FIR was registered on SHO Upender Singh's complaint, who mentioned the name of Asif Khan, three local politicians — Ashu Khan, Haider, Mustafa and three student leaders — AISA member Chandan Kumar, SIO member

Asif Tanha and CYSS member Kasim Usmani," an officer said.

When contacted, Asif Khan said, "We were giving moral support to the students. Action should be taken against police. It is our right to protest peacefully and we will continue to do so."

In the FIR, SHO Singh alleged that apart from Asif Khan, other persons were leading the protest on Sunday. Asif, Ashu and other local politicians were instigating protesters since Friday, it is alleged. "All the protesters blocked Mathura Road and also turned violent. They started damaging public property and several DTC buses were set on fire. They were asked to calm down, but they started raising slogans and blocked the campus's gates 4, 7 and 8," the FIR said.

"We tried asking them to clear the road, but they started damaging public property and started pelting stones. Several police personnel fired gas shells, which aggravated them. They then started pelting stones from within the university campus," Singh said.

Kasim Usmani and Chandan Kumar could not be reached for a comment. Asif Iqbal Tanha from SIO said "I reject the charge that I instigated anyone... At the time the action happened, I was in campus attending a meeting with the alumni and Jamia Teachers Association."

No student in 10 held for Sunday's violence

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

IN RAIDS held during Monday night and early Tuesday morning, Delhi Police arrested 10 men from the South East district for alleged rioting, damage to public property and assaulting police personnel at the protest near Jamia Millia Islamia university Sunday. None of the men are students of the university, DCP (South East) Chinmoy Biswal said.

"The men are in their 20s and 30s and live in Zakir Nagar, Taimoor Nagar, Noor Nagar, Shaheen Bagh. We identified them using CCTV analysis and local intelligence. Some have been involved in past cases under Arms Act, cases of robbery, assault of public servant," he said. While six men were arrested by Jamia Nagar police, four were arrested by New Friends Colony police.

On Tuesday evening, the men were produced before a Delhi court where police said they were involved in "burning three police booths, injuring police personnel and causing damage to public property, as per instructions from local politicians".

The accused told the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Kamran Khan they were "never at the site of protest and were picked up by the Delhi Police from their workplace". They also



Protests continued in Kalindi Kunj Tuesday. Tashi Tobgyal

"admitted to having previous criminal records for which they are now being vilified".

The court sent the accused to 14-day judicial custody. The Indian Express spoke to eight of the ten accused, many of whom said they were mechanics, vegetable vendors and labourers.

Mohd Hanif (22), one of the accused, is a resident of Noor Nagar and works as an auto driver. His lawyer K Ansari told the court that most accused produced have past criminal cases against them and the court should produce CCTV footage they're relying upon. His father Jamil said, "I pelted stones but my son, a working man, doesn't have time for this."

Samir Ahmad (25), who works at a bike repair shop in Shaheen

Bagh, told the court he was picked up by policemen at 6.30 pm. He told The Indian Express: "I am a car mechanic. The police picked me up from Shaheen Bagh; I was never involved in stone-pelting."

From Azim Dairy, vegetable vendor Sharif Taj Mohammad (34) was picked up. He told the court he had "fractured his limbs 20 days ago when he met with an accident and can barely move". He said "though there is a previous case against me, I am innocent in this one".

Danish Zafar (21), a plumber, and Mohd Dilshad (21), a labourer, were together in Okhla Vihar when they were arrested Monday. Zafar claimed, "Police asked us to accompany them to the station. When I asked questions, they forced us into the van."

Mohd Danish (22), who works as a solar panel fitter, is the only accused who has studied till class X. He said he was asleep when police came home. "I don't even know what the protest is about," he told The Indian Express.

Four men, identified as Jumman, Anwar, Amal Hussain and Yusuf Khan, were produced later in the evening. Jumman works at a meat shop and lives in Taimoor Nagar. The four men were represented by a DLSA lawyer and their bail application will be filed Wednesday. Police said efforts are on to identify more accused from the area.

Govt may await HC view before deciding Jamia plea for probe

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

THE HUMAN Resource Development Ministry may not decide Jamia Millia Islamia's request for a high-level probe immediately, as a plea seeking a judicial inquiry into police action against university students is already before the Delhi High Court.

JMI Vice-Chancellor Najma Akhtar met the higher education secretary Amit Khare Tuesday and handed over a report on the Sunday incident, along with the resolution of the Executive Council seeking a high-level or judicial inquiry. It also carries details of 35 people detained and later released by the police.

"We are cognisant of the (EC's) resolution. Since the matter is already before a court, it would be best if we wait a day or two before deciding (on JMI's re-



Jamia V-C Najma Akhtar met higher education secretary over Sunday's incident

quest)," said a ministry official on condition of anonymity.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court refused to intervene in the matter of excessive force used by Delhi Police against JMI students. The apex court said that the high courts should be approached first.

A plea against police action on students is already before the Delhi High Court. However, on Monday, the HC refused to list the matter for an urgent hearing.

On Monday, Akhtar held a press conference to condemn police action against her students. During the interaction, she reiterated JMI's old demand before the government to close the thoroughfare cutting through the university campus. This, she said, would make the campus secure.

"Closing that road cannot be a solution since it serves not only the university but also the local community living in the area. Other alternatives will have to be explored for campus security," the ministry official added.

Apart from the JMI V-C, heads of Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Hamdard also met Khare Tuesday.

"With the exception of Jamia and AMU, no other central university has faced any violence. Neither are their academic calendars affected. In fact, in Delhi there is another university, Jamia Hamdard, which is absolutely peaceful," the officer said.

'Empty cartridge found, cops didn't fire'

New Delhi: The Union Home Ministry said Delhi Police did not open fire on protesters near Jamia Millia Islamia Sunday, but added that an empty cartridge was found in the area.

Three people had been admitted to Safdarjung and Holy Family hospitals, a senior MHA official said.

No bullet injury was found on the patient admitted to Holy Family, who has been discharged, while medical and police investigation is on to ascertain the kind of injury on the ones admitted to Safdarjung, the official said.

"Delhi Police did not fire any bullet on protesters at Jamia. However, investigation concern-

ing an empty cartridge found at the spot is underway," the official said.

In a purported clip in which one person in civilian clothes was seen with police personnel, the official said it was a Delhi Police constable posted in South East district, who is part of the anti-auto theft team. ENS

BRIEFLY

CJI sets new bench to hear plea of Dec 16 convict

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India S A Bobde Tuesday recused himself from hearing the review petition of the December 16 2012 gangrape case convict Akshay Kumar Singh, after he noticed that one of his kin was the counsel in an earlier matter for the victim's family. He then constituted a new bench to take it up Wednesday.

Pvt varsities lend support to Jamia

New Delhi: While students of public universities across Delhi and the country have been protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act and police action in Jamia Millia Islamia, students and staff of two prominent private universities — Jindal Global Law School of OP Jindal Global University and Ashoka University in Sonapat — joined the chorus in solidarity. Students of Ashoka University held a small protest Monday evening.

Mayor inspects public toilets in Gurgaon

Gurgaon: Gurgaon mayor Madhu Azad conducted an inspection at 20 of the city's public toilets Tuesday and found several deficiencies, which she said would be taken up with the commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram and the city's deputy commissioner.

Defamation trial against CM stayed

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Tuesday stayed proceedings on a defamation complaint against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia by BJP leader Vijender Gupta. Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar issued notice to Gupta, seeking his stand on a joint plea by Kejriwal and Sisodia before February 27, the next date of hearing. ENS

Short-staffed and overburdened: How doctors at Alshifa hospital managed — with some help

ASTHASAXENA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

ON SUNDAY, Alshifa Multi-Speciality Hospital in South Delhi's Okhla was in a fix as the number of people injured following the police action on Jamia Millia Islamia campus kept increasing. The hospital had only two doctors and a few nursing staff to cater to more than 150 people—mostly students standing at the hospital's gallery, with complaints of breathlessness or injuries to their legs, hands and torso. As the doctors made frantic calls to colleagues, they found most of them were stuck due to the chaos and barricading in the area.

To their surprise, five doctors — one each from AIIMS, RML, Lady Hardinge and two from private hospitals residing nearby — volunteered to help. From an



Five doctors—one each from AIIMS, RML and Lady Hardinge and two from private hospitals nearby—volunteered to help

anesthetist to a gynaecologist, doctors from the area came forward to handle the rush of injured.

"Our doctors were unable to reach the hospital due to the situation in the area. As it was Sunday, the hospital strength was ex-

tremely thin. We were trying to provide treatment to each and every patient coming to us," said Dr Modassim Azim, consultant at the hospital's emergency unit.

"This was all unexpected and staff at the hospital were not enough to deal with the patient

load. But doctors managed to treat all patients, and some doctors from other hospitals also volunteered," said Dr Abdul Nazir, the hospital director. On Sunday, there were just three nurses in the emergency to deal with the patient load.

Dr Saif Nizam, who works with a government hospital and lives in Okhla, turned up after seeing posts on social media. "Whenever there's a casualty, we are always called to the hospital to treat patients. I was home when news of the violence broke. Being a doctor, and above that, a citizen, I thought I should immediately reach and see if they need help. The hospital staff was already trying to manage patients," he said.

Dr Nizam treated around five-six patients and offered them basic first-aid and stitches. Doctors at Alshifa soon began

updating their WhatsApp statuses, asking fellow doctors for help. One such message reached Dr Adiba Siddique, a resident medical officer at a private hospital in Shaheen Bagh. "Several doctors put up statuses on WhatsApp and Facebook asking for help. As I lived nearby, I rushed to the hospital and met doctors in the emergency department. I helped them provide basic medical care and some medical examinations," said Dr Siddique.

Senior officials said injections, bandages and other basic medicines were in short supply Monday, as the influx continued through the day. Dr Samia Ansari, a gynaecologist at Lady Hardinge hospital, said: "My brother's friend was seriously injured. He called and asked if I could help. The hospital is five minutes away from my home, so I rushed to help."

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raebareli
(An Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India) Munshiganj, Raebareli - 229405, Uttar Pradesh, India
www.aiimsrbl.edu.in

No. AIIMS/RBL/ADMIN/SR/RC/2019-20 Dated: 17.12.2019
NOTICE FOR WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR AIIMS, RAE BARELI (UP)

The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh intends to fill up 11 (Eleven) posts of Senior Residents in different specialities purely on ad-hoc basis in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh through walk-in-interview.

The candidates willing to appear in the above said walk-in-interview must bring their brief bio-data (in triplicate) in the proforma attached (Annexure 'A') along with certificate of age, qualification, experience and caste complete in all respects on 30.12.2019. The document verification will be done on 30.12.2019 from 10:00 AM to 01:00 P.M. in AIIMS, Rae Bareli (UP) followed by interview of eligible candidate from 02:00 PM onwards on the same day. For further details like total number of posts along with break-up, age, qualification, experience, caste and remuneration etc., the candidates may visit our website www.aiimsrbl.edu.in.

DIRECTOR

The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library
cordially invites you to a Public Lecture
on
"The Literary and Intellectual Worlds of Qasbah Towns in Colonial India"
by
Dr. Raisur Rahman
Wake Forest University
North Carolina, USA

Thursday, 19 December 2019 at 3.00pm
Venue: Seminar Room, Library Building
Nehru Memorial Museum and Library
Teen Murti House, New Delhi-110011

For More info, please visit: Website: <http://nehrumemorial.nic.in> or
Contact us on: ccs2nmm1@gmail.com
For live webcast, please visit: www.facebook.com/NehruMemorialLibrary/;
www.youtube.com/user/nehrumemoriallibrary

All are Welcome

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India
(A Statutory Body of the Government of India)
AERA Building, Administrative Complex,
Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi-110003
Ph : 24695044-47, Fax : 24695048,
Website: <http://aera.gov.in>

VACANCY NOTICE

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority, invites applications from eligible candidates for filling up posts of **Deputy Chief (01 no.), Under Secretary (Policy & Statistics) (01 no.), Bench Officer (01 no.), Stenographer (05 nos.), Receptionist-cum-telephone operator (01 nos.)** in New Delhi on deputation basis. Details are available on AERA's website <http://aera.gov.in>. Last date for receipt of applications through proper channel is 17.01.2020 till 5:30 pm. Corrigendum, if any, in this regard would be published only on AERA's Website.

davp 03112/11/0011/1920 Director (P&S), AERA

MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD INSTITUTE OF ASIAN STUDIES
(An Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India)
Azad Bhavan, IB-166, Sector-III, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700 106.
Website : www.makaias.gov.in

Application is invited for the vacancy as stated below at Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata.

Sl. No.	Post	Group	Pay Scale/Level	No. of Vacancy	Category	Educational Qualification/ Age limit (Relaxable as per Govt. Norms)
1	Administrative-cum- Finance Officer	A	(15600-39000) GP-6600 Level-II (7 CPC)	01	Unreserved	Essential Qualification : Bachelor's degree from a Recognised University with 10 years experience in a Government/ Autonomous Organisation/ Corporate body. Desirable : Candidates having higher and specialised qualifications such as MBA/ACA/ACWA/ACS/SAS/LLB will be given preference. Age Limit : 40 Years

* **THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY APPLIED IN RESPONSE TO THE EARLIER ADVERTISEMENT IN EMPLOYMENT NEWS DATED 22-28 JUNE 2019 NEED NOT TO APPLY.**

Applications must reach to the Director, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS) within Three weeks from the date of publication of this advertisement in "The Employment News" along with all copies of certificates and documents. Applicants working in Govt./Semi-Govt./Autonomous Bodies/PSUs should apply through proper channel. The Envelope should be superscribed "Application for the post of Administrative-cum-Finance Officer". The detailed application may be downloaded from the website of the Institute www.makaias.gov.in

davp 09123/11/0005/1920 Director, MAKAIAS

LADY TATA MEMORIAL TRUST
Founded 1932
Bombay House, Homi Mody Street Mumbai 400 001.

Applications are invited for the
Young Researcher Award - 2020
And
Junior Research Fellowship 2020-21
And
Institutional Research Grant 2020-21

YRA award is instituted by the Lady Tata Memorial Trust (LTMT) to annually recognize and reward young Indian scientists with outstanding track record in biological sciences and potential for high quality research with a deep commitment to find innovative solutions to major problems related to human diseases, blood disorder with special references to leukaemia and for scientific research towards alleviation of human suffering from disease. Application are also invited for Junior Research fellowship and IRG for the year 2020-2021. For Detailed Information Sheet and online application process, please access our website www.ladytatatrust.org. The last date for submission of online application for the above Awards is 15th January 2020.

Program Officer

CENTRE FOR DNA FINGERPRINTING AND DIAGNOSTICS
(An autonomous Institute of the Department of Biotechnology Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India) Inner Ring Road, Uppal, Hyderabad - 500 039, Telangana, India, Ph: +91-40-2721 6015, Fax: +91-40-2721 6006, Website: <http://www.cdfd.org.in>

Admission for Research Scholars Program - II - 2019

The Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, invites applications from highly motivated candidates, willing to take up challenges in modern biology, for admissions to our Research Scholars program. Keeping in view the interdisciplinary nature of modern biology, we especially encourage persons from diverse backgrounds to apply. Those admitted as Research Scholars would be encouraged to apply for the Ph.D. program of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, University of Hyderabad, Regional Centre for Biotechnology or ACSIR.

To be eligible all the candidates must have:

1. Completed Master's degree in any branch of Science, Technology, or Agriculture from a recognized University/ Institute OR MBBS.
2. A valid fellowship: (Please see CDFD website for details).

Selection Procedure:

Admission to CDFD-Research Scholars Program is based on a Walk-in interview starting on 3rd February 2020. As there would be more than one round of interviews, the candidates should plan to stay in Hyderabad till 5th February, 2020. Please note that if the candidates appearing for interview are more in numbers, written examination will be conducted on 03.02.2020, for shortlisting the candidates for interview.

Interested candidates who fulfill the above conditions may register their names for **RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM - II - 2019** by applying in the prescribed application form online at <http://www.cdfd.org.in>. The printout of the completed application form alongwith the copies of certificates in support of date of birth, educational qualifications, caste and NET fellowship etc. should be sent to "The Dean - Academics, Centre for DNA Fingerprinting & Diagnostics, Inner Ring Road, Uppal, Hyderabad - 500 039". In the case of candidates who are not able to apply online, "SPOT REGISTRATION" can be done on 03.02.2020.

The candidates should report at CDFD on 03.02.2020 at 08.00 A.M. with all the required documents (in original) along with two recent passport size photographs and copies of all the Certificates for completing the formalities/verification of documents.

No TA/DA will be paid. Director, CDFD reserves the right to accept / reject any or all applications without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Visit the CDFD website <http://www.cdfd.org.in> for detailed advertisement / General terms and conditions.

6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



SLIGHT CHANGE

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill passed by Parliament and now an Act says that citizenship will be granted to members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who have come to India from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014, following religious persecution. But when BJP working president J P Nadda wrote a letter to all party MPs seeking their participation in the BJP's campaign on the "historic" decision of the Modi-led government, there was a slight change. It said: "Millions of persecuted minorities (Hindu, Sikh, Bodh, Jain, Jews and Christian) from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan will become eligible to become Indian citizen through the provision of the Bill." The Parsis were replaced by Jews in the party letter. Sources said it was an inadvertent error.

POLL FOCUS

NOW THAT the Parliament session is over, the ruling BJP's attention has turned to organisational elections. There has been a long wait for clarity on the posts of state presidents. Only after completing the process in 50% of the states can the procedures for the national president election take place. General secretaries have been sent to various states for consultation for the appointment of state chiefs, but no selection is expected before January 15. The period between December 15 and January 14 is considered inauspicious for new appointments and announcements, sources said.

STANDING APART

THEY STOOD united in Parliament in opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, but some Opposition parties were missing when a delegation led by Sonia Gandhi went to meet President Ram Nath Kovind on the issue. AAP did not join the delegation. Congress's new-found ally Shiv Sena was also missing, as was the NCP. The BSP, which has not been part of joint Opposition efforts in the last few months, stayed away too. One gets to hear that BSP MPs plan to meet the President on the issue separately Wednesday.

SC rejects request for panel to look into police 'excesses'

Top court not a trial court, not an institution that can ensure law and order: CJI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

THE SUPREME COURT on Tuesday asked petitioners who sought inquiry into alleged police excesses in Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University and violence in many parts of the country in the wake of protests over the new citizenship law to approach respective High Courts in their states, which will make "appropriate inquiries".

A bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices B R Gawai and Surya Kant said that after hearing all sides the High Court could appoint suitable committees comprising retired High Court or Supreme Court judges to look into the facts.

Turning down the request to constitute a committee to look into incidents that have occurred in various states, the bench said it will not be possible to have just one committee to go into facts in different states, as that will entail collection of evidence from

various states.

The court asked the petitioners to approach respective High Courts within whose jurisdiction the incidents allegedly occurred. After hearing the petitioners and the respective states, the court said, "We are confident that the Chief Justices (of different HCs) will cause appropriate inquiries to be made, including by former judges of this court or High Court."

Appearing for one of the petitioners, senior advocate Indira Jaising urged the court to order the police not to arrest any student until the petitions are filed in respective High Courts.

But the bench refused to grant the request and said, "Needless to say, the High Courts will be at liberty to pass appropriate orders with regard to arrest." It also said the High Courts could look into "all other aspects of the matter".

At the outset, the counsel of one petitioner said the protests had started from the north-eastern states and then spread to universities. He claimed that se-

curity personnel had laid "siege" to universities, which was not permissible under law.

Intervening, the CJI asked, "Are you turning us into a trial court? Why don't you go to High Courts? The protests have occurred in different places, and each has different consequences... We cannot go into all facts... we are not belittling the problem."

The counsel said the protests may escalate if the apex court does not intervene, to which CJI Bobde remarked, "It's a law and order problem."

The CJI also said, "We are not justifying the government stand or at the moment deciding the Bill... we are not an institution that can ensure law and order. We are not saying it's serious... but go to High Court."

Jaising said, "FIRs have been filed against students across the country, (and) if you want peace you can't have FIRs against students and throw them in prison."

The CJI said, "I am not pre-judging, but if the police see

someone indulging in violence they should not file FIR?"

Jaising replied that she was only saying there should be no arrests of students. CJI Bobde observed, "We are not allowing anyone to commit any offence."

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, also appearing for a petitioner, raised the issue of alleged violence in AMU and urged the court to send a retired judge to look into the situation.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Centre, denied the charges that any student had been arrested and said "no student has been arrested till now".

He said there was a written request from the proctor of AMU seeking police presence in the light of rumours of two deaths in Jamia.

On reports that a protestor had suffered bullet injuries in his palm, Mehta said it may have occurred due to explosion of tear gas shell, when the person may have caught it and thrown it back at the police.

Won't sign NRC, why should I prove I am Indian: Baghel

DIPANKAR GHOSE
RAIPUR, DECEMBER 17



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel

CHHATTISGARH Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday said he would be the "first person" not to sign on the NRC if the central government implements it.

"We have a big challenge in front of us with the BJP at the centre. Their policies are only to mislead people, to instigate people, to set fire, to cut and divide. It is a big challenge for the country. Today the country is burning. In different states there are fires burning, there is violence. There is misbehaviour with students, there is assault on them. There is murder, arson. They are creating an environment of fear in the country. Their only objective is to stay in power," said Baghel, speaking at the Congress headquarters here on an occasion marking one year of the Congress being in power in the state.

"First they cut your pockets. They did notebandi and got your money in the banks, and Vijay Mallya and who knows who else ran away with it. Then they implemented the GST. One nation one tax. But what happened? In notebandi people even died. In GST, businesses went bust. The wheels of industry stopped."

Baghel said that while the BJP came to power riding on the "surgical strike", they are yet to tell the country how the Pulwama attack came to pass and "how RDX reached the spot".

"Now they have brought the new citizenship law. All of Assam is burning. Its effects are being felt in West Bengal, in Assam, in Uttar Pradesh. It's spreading like fire. And (Home Minister) Amit Shah says this is the beginning and they will implement NRC. When they do this, what will happen if you sign the register? They will certify if you are Indian. If someone doesn't have land, or someone is old, or isn't literate, how will they prove they are Indian? And if they can't prove, where will they send (them)?" Baghel said.

"There are lots of people who leave their villages. Somebody from Bastar goes to Surguja. A person from Surguja has come to Raipur. A Raipur person has gone to Korba. How do they prove they have lived here for a hundred years? They have no land and aren't literate. A person from here is in Assam, is in Nagpur, is in Delhi. How does he prove he lives here?"

The CM added, "Today I want to say from this stage on the 150th anniversary of Gandhiji that during the time of the Britishers, Gandhiji refused to sign the register and recorded his protest. I want to say from this stage that if they implement NRC, I will be the first person not to sign the register. Why should I prove I am Indian? The whole country has these headlines, and protests. I will not sign the register. This is Gandhiji's way that he started in South Africa. Tab angrez shuru kar rahe the. Ab ye kale angrez shuruat karat hai (The Britishers had then started it. Now the dark-skinned Britishers are starting it)."

Baghel said the Congress and the people have to "fight together", and that the BJP while marginalising minorities, Dalits and tribals have done nothing for Hindus either. "To divert attention from core issues of the country, these people bring notebandi, GST, new citizenship law. They can't even give us the money they owe us for GST. They owe us Rs 900 crore and they can't give it to us. All their policies failed. All they do is divide," he said.



Mamata Banerjee leads a rally against the new citizenship law in Kolkata, Tuesday. Partha Paul

Never thought people can be differentiated by dress: Mamata

3 cops injured as protesters hurl crude bomb

Kolkata: At least three policemen received splinter injuries after a crude bomb was hurled at them by people protesting against the new citizenship law and National Register of Citizens (NRC) at Sankrail in the Howrah district on Tuesday.

"Deputy Commissioner of Police (Headquarters) Ajeet Singh Yadav has been admitted to hospital with injuries in his legs and face," said a police officer. However, his condition is stated to be stable, sources said.

Sources said around 6 pm, when police tried to detain a few people, the protesters allegedly attacked them with crude bombs. Yadav and two other policemen received splinter injuries. **ENS**

DMK rallies against law, blames BJP, AIADMK for crisis

'Govt subverting Constitution, not solving issues'

Chennai: A day after moving a petition in the Supreme Court against the new citizenship law, actor-turned-politician Kamal Haasan on Tuesday said what had happened at Jamia Millia Islamia and AMU were a slap on the face of Indian democracy.

Addressing a press meet in Chennai, he said the country was witnessing the beginning of the end of anti-national forces. "Instead of taking any step towards the problems faced by farmers and their suicides, the government is using religion to divide the country and the people. When attacks against women are increasing day by day, this government is busy subverting the role of the Constitution instead of finding remedies to real issues. This approach of the government itself is an attack on the country," he said. **ENS**

Meanwhile, Madras University students continued their protest against the new citizenship law for a second day on Tuesday, even as defiant students said they will continue their agitation "through the night".

AIADMK made this compromise to continue their business of looting," he maintained. If the Citizenship Act was to protect the rights of people, Stalin said, the latest amendment was brought in to grab these rights from the people. He said: "I ask

No question of rolling CAA back, says Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

EVEN AS protests raged against the CAA, Home Minister Amit Shah said there was no question of rolling back the new citizenship law.

"There is no question of roll back of CAA," he said, adding that the agitation against the law is confined to only four universities, while the rest have given

only a "symbolic support" to students in the wake of law and order issues and resultant violence. On protests against the CAA in universities, Shah asked that is students were doing peaceful protests then why were vehicles burnt, stones pelted.

These violent protests are totally politically motivated which are trying to instill a fear in the minority community against the citizenship amendment act, he said.

Urban Naxals, PFI, Cong members behind street violence, says Himanta

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 17



Himanta Biswa Sarma

ASSAM MINISTER Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday alleged that members of the Congress, Islamic organisation Popular Front of India (PFI) and an unnamed academician working in a Central institution in Assam were behind the massive street violence which unfolded in front of the state Secretariat in Guwahati last week.

Sarma claimed there was "a conspiracy to burn down the whole Secretariat". He accused certain Congress members of urging the mob to gather in front of the Secretariat while adding that an "leading academician" was coordinating the "attack" from a "control room"—though he did not give any name.

"Some sections of Congress party have specifically called their cadres to assemble before Janata Bhawan and indulge in different anti-social activities. The plan was to burn down the Assam Secretariat (Janata Bhawan). That is not my interpretation but the electronic evi-

dence recovered pointing out that the entire work was under the direction to burn down Assam Secretariat and to destroy it...," Sarma said.

The BJP leader said the powerful All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and Asom Jatiyatibadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) were not involved.

"It was a design of PFI and a so-called agitationist group of Assam, along with activists of a section of the Congress party - I don't want to name the entire Congress party," he added. "The Janata Bhawan attack was a deadly combination of so-called urban naxals, PFI and a section of the Congress party," said Sarma.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, DECEMBER 17

THE DMK, the main opposition in Tamil Nadu, organised protests across the state against the new citizenship law on Tuesday and took on both the Centre and the state government, accusing the BJP of "destroying" the country into "bits and pieces" and holding the AIADMK responsible for the ongoing crisis and agitation across the country by voting for the citizenship Bill in Parliament.

Addressing a rally in Kancheepuram, near Chennai, party chief and Leader of Opposition in Assembly MK Stalin said the Narendra Modi government is working towards the destruction of India and all crucial sectors are caught in huge crises.

He demanded that the Centre should give citizenship status for Indian-origin Tamils and Sri Lankan Tamil refugees living in the state for the last three decades.



MK Stalin

Stalin listed several pre-election promises of BJP and said the Modi government has failed to deliver on all these fronts and is, instead, busy "destroying this country into bits and pieces".

Saying India is a diverse and secular Indian culture transcending faith, religion, language and ethnicity, he said, "The BJP is literally poisoning that diverse cultural situation, trying to change the character of this country."

Maintaining that the Bill could not have been passed in Rajya Sabha had AIADMK voted against it, Stalin said, "This party

EXPLAINED Why this could be embarrassing time for AIADMK

THE CAUSE of Sri Lankan Tamils is a prominent issues in Tamil Nadu politics. So when AIADMK decided to support the Citizenship Amendment Bill, it had to automatically give up on the long-standing cause of over 1 lakh Lankan refugees living in 107 refugee camps in the state for three decades, as the new law has provision for giving Indian citizenship to "persecuted minorities" only from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

With opposition DMK expected to take full political mileage over the issue, this could be embarrassing for AIADMK, as party founder MGR and Jayalalithaa were empathetic to the cause of Lankan Tamil refugees.

played a major role in leading this country into chaos. India is burning now, and AIADMK is the reason." He said if the BJP was "least bothered" about the cause of Lankan Tamil refugees in India, the AIADMK also turned a blind eye towards them. "They

(AIADMK) made this compromise to continue their business of looting," he maintained.

If the Citizenship Act was to protect the rights of people, Stalin said, the latest amendment was brought in to grab these rights from the people. He said: "I ask

7 EXPRESS NETWORK



NORTH

On way to file rape complaint, girl's clothes torn by accused

Lucknow: A 17-year-old girl's clothes were torn and her father assaulted allegedly by two brothers and their father when the former were heading to a police station in Gorakhpur to file a rape complaint against the brothers on Sunday. The brothers, aged 23 and 19, and their 48-year-old father, a farmer, were arrested and sent to judicial custody by a local court in Gorakhpur on Monday, said the station house officer of a local police station where the case was registered. The girl told *The Indian Express* that the brothers had molested her and raped her 24-year-old sister-in-law on Sunday morning. **ENS**



Tourists ski in Kufri on Tuesday. Pradeep Kumar

SOUTH

38-year-old woman gives birth to 17th child, infant dies

Aurangabad: A woman from Maharashtra recently gave birth to her 17th baby in Karnataka, but the infant did not survive, a health official said on Tuesday. Lankabai (full name not disclosed), resident of Majalgaon tehsil of Maharashtra's Beed district, gave birth to a baby girl in a sugarcane field in Belgaum district of Karnataka, he said. "We have learnt that Lankabai gave birth to her 17th child, a girl, who died soon afterwards. We are trying to find out more details," Beed health officer Dr R B Pawar said. The woman, who belongs to the nomadic Gopal community, first drew attention of health officials in September when they found that she was pregnant for the 20th time. **PTI**

EAST

Muzaffarpur victim asked for death for perpetrator: Family

Patna: A girl in Bihar's Muzaffarpur, who was set afire after she fought off a molestation bid earlier this month, died Monday night. According to her family, she kept asking for her attackers to be given the death sentence. The girl was doused in kerosene and set on fire after she fought off a molestation bid by her neighbour. She was admitted to a Patna hospital on December 7 with 80 per cent burn injuries, and succumbed to her injuries Monday. The girl's mother on Tuesday said: "Whenever she would regain consciousness, she demand the death sentence for the accused. Last night, before she succumbed to her burn injuries, she had repeated her demand." **ENS**

WEST

Man shoots self after failing to kill brother-in-law

Mumbai: A 32-year-old man allegedly shot himself dead after a failed attempt to kill his brother-in-law, a police official said on Tuesday. The incident took place on Monday night when Batukeshwar Trilok Tiwari came to visit his sister Vandana and brother-in-law Rohit here, he said. Tiwari first fired a shot at his brother-in-law, but the latter ducked. Rohit and Vandana then ran outside the house, following which Tiwari allegedly shot himself dead in their apartment, the official said. According to preliminary inquiry, Vandana married Rohit against her family's wishes. The couple had a court marriage six months ago, the official said. **PTI**

AHEAD OF 2+2 TALKS

US to India on CAA: Respect right of peaceful assembly

Statement also tells protesters to refrain from violence

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

FOUR DAYS after it urged India to "protect the rights of its religious minorities" in keeping with its "Constitution and democratic values", the US on Tuesday asked Indian authorities to "protect and respect the right of peaceful assembly."

"We are closely following developments regarding the Citizenship Amendment Act. We urge authorities to protect and respect the right of peaceful assembly. We also urge protesters to refrain from violence," a US State Department spokesperson said in a statement in Washington DC.

The statement comes after the spate of protests across the country, especially by students, against the new citizenship law. It also sets the stage and tone for the 2+2 ministerial dialogue between two sides on Wednesday in Washington DC — External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with their American counterparts, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark T Esper.

While the agenda of the meeting is to discuss bilateral strategic issues, a discussion between the two sides on issues like new citizenship law and



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at an event organised by the Consulate General of India in New York. Singh said Muslims are not included in the new citizenship law as "in an Islamic state, at least those who follow the religion of Islam do not face religious persecution". *Twitter*

Kashmir cannot be ruled out.

Earlier on December 13, while stressing that "respect for religious freedom and equal treatment under the law are fundamental principles of our two democracies", the US State Department had said, "The United States urges India to protect the rights of its religious minorities in keeping with India's Constitution and democratic values."

With two statements in a span of four days, Washington is indicating a strong signal — especially days after the US House Foreign Affairs Committee had voiced concerns over the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, noting that any religious test for citizenship undermines pluralism, which is one of the core shared values for both India and

the United States.

The US government's statement does not yet condemn the move, but has gently nudged New Delhi to act as per the Constitution of India and "democratic values". However, the UN Human Rights chief is much more expansive.

Last week, 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," it had said.

Meanwhile, US Congressman André Carson — one of three Muslim members currently serving in the US Congress — slammed the legisla-

tion and said that the move is yet another attempt to "effectively reduce Muslims in India to second-class citizens".

India, which has come under increased scrutiny in the US Congress since Article 370 was abrogated and Jammu and Kashmir's special status was withdrawn, has responded to the statement by an advisory body on international religious freedom to the US Congress, US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), which took a harder line on the new citizenship law, as it called for sanctions against Home Minister Amit Shah and other leaders, if the Bill is passed in both Houses of the Parliament.

The Ministry of External Affairs had responded to the USCIRF statement, and said that it is "neither accurate nor warranted", and added that it is "regrettable" that the body has chosen to be guided only by its "prejudices and biases" on a matter on which it clearly has "little knowledge and no locus standi".

On the US House Foreign Affairs committee's statement, the MEA spokesperson has said that they have reached out to the members of the US Congress and other stakeholders to share its perspective on the Bill.

"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," he added.

Arrested for remarks on Nehru, others, actor Payal Rohatgi gets bail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 17

A local court in Bundi granted bail to model-actor Payal Rohatgi on Tuesday, a day after she was sent to judicial custody following her objectionable comments against Motilal Nehru and Jawaharlal Nehru, among others.



Payal Rohatgi

Rajasthan Police had picked up Rohatgi from Ahmedabad on Sunday and presented her at the ACJM court Monday which sent her into judicial custody. Her lawyer had filed a bail plea in the sessions court on Monday which was heard Tuesday.

Talking to journalists, she said, "This was my first jail experience - I hope it was the last... The (jail) food is not very good but it is good for those who want spicy food, since it is winter..."

OBC certificates of Guna MP, son cancelled

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, DECEMBER 17

THE OBC certificates of BJP Lok Sabha member from Guna K P Yadav — who shot to fame after defeating Jyotiraditya Scindia — and his son have been cancelled by the Ashok Nagar district administration on the ground that his income is above the Rs 8-lakh ceiling for the 'creamy layer'.

Children of persons with annual income of Rs 8 lakh or more are not entitled to reservation benefits meant for OBCs. Yadav's son had been issued the OBC certificate in July because his father's income was shown to be Rs 5 lakh.

Sub-divisional Magistrate Brijbihari Srivastava told *The Indian Express* that an OBC certificate is issued only to applicants whose income is less than Rs 8 lakh. The MP's son was issued the certificate because the parliamentarian gave a declaration that his annual income is Rs 5 lakh. He said the certificate was cancelled after a complainant submitted details of Yadav's income.

JAMIA VIOLENCE

Uddhav: Seems Jallianwala days are back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NAGPUR, DECEMBER 17

MAHARASHTRA CHIEF Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday drew a parallel of Sunday's police lathicharge on students of Jamia Millia Islamia University in New Delhi with the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

His statement, however, evoking a sharp reaction from Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis.

Speaking to mediapersons outside the Assembly, Uddhav said: "An atmosphere of disquiet is being created in the country. Yes, I am consciously using these words. The manner in which police entered the Jamia Millia university and fired at the students, it (seemed) as if the Jallianwala Bagh days are back. It seems as if an atmosphere of fear like the one existed at that time is being created." "I am afraid a country, where

youths are on the edge... that country can't remain stable. I wish to tell the government please don't make youths edgy. They are our future. The Prime Minister often says this country will be the youngest in the world by 2021. So, they should not try to put fire to this bomb called youth," he added.

Fadnavis, meanwhile, termed Uddhav's comparison as a "big insult to all the martyrs".

"Equating the Jamia Millia University incident with Jallianwala Bagh massacre by CM Uddhavji Thackeray is big, big insult to all the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for our nation. Entire nation and Maharashtra want to know if Uddhavji agrees with these slogans. By promoting and encouraging such agitations, it is now very clear to what extent Shiv Sena has stooped down on compromises for personal greeds," he tweeted.

House adjourned as BJP, Sena MLAs scuffle over farmer relief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NAGPUR, DECEMBER 17

BOTH HOUSES of the Maharashtra legislature were adjourned Tuesday as members of the BJP and Shiv Sena indulged in a scuffle and charged at each other over the issue of assistance to farmers affected by unseasonal rains.

The Legislative Assembly witnessed pandemonium as BJP MLAs marched into the House with flex boards carrying a report published earlier in the Sena mouthpiece *Saamana*, demanding Rs 25,000 per hectare aid for farmers hit by untimely rains. As Sena MLAs tried to snatch the flex boards, the House plunged into chaos following which Speaker Nana Patole adjourned

the House within minutes after it had assembled for the day.

As the proceedings resumed, Finance Minister Jayant Patil informed the House that the government had made arrangements to pay Rs 6,600 crore to farmers and had already disbursed Rs 3000 crore to district collectors.

"We have sought Rs 14,495 crore from the Centre... We have sought Rs 7,000 crore for rain-hit farmers and another Rs 7,000 crore for those affected by unseasonal rains from the Centre," he said.

Urging Opposition members to cooperate by using their good offices with the Centre instead of creating a ruckus, Patil added, "Those creating ruckus here should go ask the Centre about it."

UP Assembly adjourned as BJP MLAs protest, Oppn MLAs back them

Loni MLA says harassed by govt officers

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 17

THE UTTAR Pradesh Assembly witnessed rare scenes on Tuesday as BJP MLAs protested against their own government to back one of their colleagues, who tried to raise the issue of his alleged harassment but was not allowed to speak in the House.

Nand Kishore Gujjar, MLA from Loni in Ghaziabad, alleged that he was being harassed by officers in the government and demanded that they be summoned in the Assembly. While Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna and Speaker Hriday Narayan Dixit tried to convince him to raise the issue later, as he had not given prior notice, a large section of BJP MLAs along with MLAs of the SP and Congress demanded that his grievances be heard. SP and Congress MLAs moved into the Well demanding justice for Kishore.

After several adjournments, the Speaker adjourned the Assembly for the day as MLAs from treasury benches and the Opposition continued to demand that Kishore's issue be heard. Even after the adjournment, several BJP, SP and Congress MLAs remained in their seats. Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma and minister Khanna tried to persuade them to leave but to no avail.

Late in the evening, after an hours-long meeting of senior ministers with some MLAs and the Speaker — who promised to personally intervene in the issue — the stalemate was broken. The MLAs said they would wait until Wednesday or protest again.

Protests first began during Zero Hour, when Opposition parties including SP, Congress and BSP raised the issue of the new citizenship law and staged a walkout, demanding that a resolution be passed seeking with-

drawal of the Act as it was leading to unrest. Meanwhile, Kishore, who was recently served a notice by state BJP president Swatantra Dev Singh for allegedly misbehaving with a local food inspector, stood up and said that his life was under threat and he wanted to raise the issue of personal harassment inside the Assembly. An FIR has also been registered against Kishore.

As the Speaker tried to proceed with the business, SBSP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar said Kishore should be given a chance to raise an issue. Rajbhar, a former BJP ally, was told by Khanna that it was a party issue and that they would handle it.

Leader of Opposition Ram Govind Chaudhary said that according to the tradition of the Assembly, the MLA should be heard and appropriate direction given to the government. Soon, several BJP members stood on their seats and demanded that Kishore be allowed to speak. SP and Congress MLAs moved into the well shouting "*tanashahi nahi chalegi*". MLAs also shouted, "*Mananiye sadasya ko nray do*."

Asking members of his party to sit, Khanna told Opposition members that it was a party matter and that all grievances would be heard. Kishore and other MLAs then went inside the lobby, and Chaudhary requested the Speaker to intervene. Dixit maintained that there was no notice and the MLA could not be allowed to speak, while Leader of Opposition said it can be done as per tradition. As members of treasury benches rose on their benches and chanted "vidhyayak ekta zindabad", the Speaker adjourned the House.

However, many MLAs from the BJP and Opposition refused to budge. Later in the day, after a meeting, sources said Kishore was assured that his issue would be resolved before the start of the session at 11 am on Wednesday.

Sikhs stand for equality, include Muslims in CAA: Akal Takht Jathedar

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 17

CLAIMING THAT the new citizenship law has led to the alienation of Muslims, Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh on Tuesday said that the community should have been included in the amended law. The Jathedar, meanwhile, welcomed the inclusion of the Sikh community in the Act.

"There were many Sikhs and Hindus, who were living as refugees in India and the CAA has provided them relief. It is a good development and a welcome step. The CAA will be of big relief for the Sikhs who were facing religious persecution. There are Afghan Sikhs who have been attacked and forced to leave their birth place. They will benefit from this Act," the Jathedar said while talking to *The Indian Express*. But he maintained that Muslims should not be kept outside of the purview of the Act.

"According to principles of Sikhism, we Sikhs cannot differentiate against anyone on the basis of religion and caste. In the same way, the Constitution also does not differentiate on the basis of religion and caste. So, there was no need to keep the Muslims out," the Jathedar added.

Asked whether Muslims needed to be included in the Act when they were in majority in several Islamic countries, the Jathedar said, "It is true that Muslims are in majority in those countries, but it is also a fact that Muslims are a minority in India. Excluding them from the CAA has led alienation of Muslims."

"Religious persecution in any country, whether it is Pakistan, Afghanistan or Bangladesh, should be condemned. Respective countries should take measures that all minorities living there can follow their religion," he added.

Many Sikh bodies have come in support of activists protesting against the CAA.

Citizenship law, NRC will not affect Sikkim: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 17

SIKKIM CHIEF Minister Prem Singh Tamang has made it clear that the new citizenship law and NRC do not affect the state as it enjoys special status under Article 371 (F).

His remarks came after sporadic protests in Sikkim against the citizenship law and NRC.

"Some political parties and individuals are trying to misguide the Sikkimese people by emotionally playing with the Citizenship Amendment Act. The SKM government and party had already cleared its stand on

the issue that the Act must not be implemented in the state," Tamang said during a public programme in Ranka on Monday.

He said that apart from his own petitions to the Union government and Home Minister, Sikkim MP Indra Hang Subba had submitted a protection of Article 371 (F) when the Bill was discussed in Parliament.

"In the reply to our MP's submissions, Home Minister Amit Shah clearly said that Sikkim will not be affected by the new citizenship law and NRC and that the people of Sikkim need not worry... We must trust the statement of the minister in Parliament," said Tamang.

Pappu Yadav claims house arrest to stop protest, police deny allegation

Patna: Former MP and Jan Adhikar Party chief Rajesh Ranjan, better known as Pappu Yadav, Tuesday claimed he had been put under house arrest to thwart him from protesting against the NRC and the new citizenship law, a charge the police denied.

Patna district magistrate's office said they were informed that Yadav was planning to carry out a protest march without permission, so the police restrained him.

Yadav, who sent pictures of police presence at his residence,

said: "I was told by policemen from Kotwali and Buddha Colony police stations that I had been put under house arrest as per advisory from the Union Home Ministry. I'm carrying out a protest illegal?"

DGP Guptheshwar Pandey said: "It is not house arrest. The police, with an executive magistrate, went to his house to know whether he was planning a protest march in prohibited area, and if so Yadav had to furnish a bond. Yadav said no, and the police team returned." **ENS**

SC junks plea for identifying minorities at state-level

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

THE SUPREME COURT on Tuesday dismissed a plea seeking guidelines on who is a minority and for identifying minorities at the state level.

A bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant turned down the plea by Delhi BJP leader and advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, saying religious classification should be on all-India basis and not state-wise.

Upadhyay had approached the apex court against the Centre's October 23, 1993 notification issued under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. Under this, the Union government notified Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis as "minority", he pointed out, and contended that this was done with-

out defining who is a "minority" or framing any guidelines for identification of minority.

Appearing for him, senior advocate Mohan Parasaram said that in the TMA Pai case, the court had laid down that the unit for determining the minority status should be the state but "the Notification failed to treat the State as a Unit despite law in this regard".

Upadhyay said Hindus had been reduced to minority in eight states and prayed that they should be granted minority status.

But the bench said that while language is considered state-wise, "religion must be considered pan-India". It asked the petitioner "what is the problem if Muslims are majority in Kashmir and minority elsewhere?"

"Languages are restricted state-wise. Religions don't have state borders. We have to take a pan-India approach," observed the CJ.

The petition was originally

filed in November 2017 and the court had asked Upadhyay to approach the National Commission for Minorities with the prayer.

The National Commission for Minorities, however, said that it has no jurisdiction to deal with a prayer to designate Hindus as minority in some states and that only the Centre can do this.

Upadhyay plea had contended that Muslims were "actually majority in Lakshadweep and Jammu & Kashmir" and there was "significant population in Assam, West Bengal, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar".

"However, they are enjoying the 'minority' status, and the communities which are real minorities are not getting their legitimate share because of non-identification of minorities at State level, thereby jeopardizing their fundamental rights," he contended.

"This clearly reflects arbitrariness and illegality" in Section 2(c) and the Notification, his plea said.

SC judge stresses need for effective legal aid to the poor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

JUSTICE N V Ramana of Supreme Court has stressed the need to provide effective legal aid to the needy — right from the stage they are summoned to a police station — and for training advocates enrolled under the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in law relating to pre-arrest, arrest and remand so that they can effectively represent clients.

Justice Ramana, who took over as executive chairman of NALSA recently, highlighted this in a video conference with the executive chairmen and member-secretaries of all State Legal Services Authorities on Monday.

The session was held primarily to discuss priority areas and identify sectors that require strengthening. Sources said the discussions concentrated on core areas for better coordination and implementation of plans and ideas.

"Ways and means to focus more on providing competent legal aid in courts to needy and eligible people, conduct more well-structured training programmes for panel lawyers, making monitoring and mentoring committees at the district level effective and rigorously implementing



Justice N V Ramana

NALSA guidelines on the subject were discussed," a source said.

The meeting also took up the implementation of "Legal Aid Defence Counsel System" to make legal aid more professional and responsive. Seventeen districts have been selected for initially implementing the system, which will engage lawyers on full-time basis.

Legal Aid Defence Counsel System was adopted at the NALSA all-India meet in Nagpur, wherein it was proposed that lawyers will be exclusively engaged on a full-time basis to conduct legal aid cases in sessions courts.

Underlining the need for this, Justice Ramana, who is also the second most senior judge of the SC, had said that one of the biggest problems in the way of successful legal aid was the lack of continuity, focus and accountability. The new system is aimed at increasing this by assigning cases from the beginning to advocates whose sole attention will be on legal aid cases, and whose performance will therefore be more effectively reviewed.

HC sets aside CIC order holding EVM as 'info' under RTI Act

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

THE DECISION of the Central Information Commission that electronic voting machines (EVMs) fall within the definition of "information" under the RTI Act was set aside by the Delhi High Court on Tuesday.

Allowing the Election Commission's appeal against the CIC's order, Justice Jayant Nath observed that the production of EVM models cannot be sought under RTI application. The court's order came on a plea by the poll panel challenging the CIC's February 12 order, by which it was held that EVM, which is available with the EC in a material form and as sample, is an information under the Right To Information (RTI) Act.

The CIC had decided this on a plea by Rajasthan resident Razaak K Haider, who sought access to an EVM maintained by the EC under the RTI Act. Haider had argued that as per Section 2(f) and 2(i) of the RTI Act, the definition of 'information' and 'record' also includes 'any model or any sample' held by a public authority. He initially filed an application with the Central Public Information Officer designated by the EC seeking access to an EVM maintained by the poll panel. It was rejected, after which he appealed before the Appellate Authority, which reiterated that the request is beyond RTI scope. He then approached the CIC.

Health, WCD ministries identify areas of convergence to enhance woman, child nutrition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

UNION HEALTH and Family Welfare Minister Harsh Vardhan and Women & Child Development and Textiles Minister Smriti Irani have identified areas of enhanced convergence and collaboration for

meeting goals for nutrition and health of women and children to achieve the global goal for health and nutrition. The two met at Nirman Bhawan on Monday.

Laying out the context of the meeting, Vardhan said, "We are committed to Universal Health Coverage. Our policies and programmes are directed towards

making sure that every mother, every child and every adolescent survives and thrives". He said under-nutrition and other social determinants are associated with maternal-child survival and development and since these issues are also a concern for WCD, this is a pertinent area of enhanced collaboration for the two ministries.

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, CD-XII, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, GNCTD Opp. ESI Hospital, Basai Darapur Office Complex New Delhi-110027 invites on behalf of the President of India, online Item rate tender from approved and eligible contractors for the following works :

1. NIT No. EE/CD XII/19-20/82- (ID No.2019_IFC_185438_1)-HOA-2711-NON PLAN-A/R & M/O Drains. SW-Removal of obstructions from KSN Drain from RD. 4100 m. to RD. 1700m (Revised). E.C. Rs. 24,12,392/- Earnest money Rs. 48,248/- period of completion 60 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 21.12.2019 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:30 P.M respectively). AE-I.

Note :- 1) Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded from the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.

2) Amendment(s)/alteration(s)/corrigendum if any, will be available at website only.

3) EMD in the form of Banker's Cheque or Demand Draft or Fixed Deposit Receipt (drawn in favour of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD XII, I&FC DEPTT., GNCT OF DELHI) shall be scanned and uploaded to the e-tendering website within the period of bid submission. The original EMD should be deposited in the office of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD XII, I&FC DEPTT., GNCT OF DELHI within the period of bid submission. (The EMD document shall only be issued from the place in which the office of receiving division office is situated).

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, CD-XII, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, GNCTD Opp. ESI Hospital, Basai Darapur Office Complex New Delhi-110027 invites on behalf of the President of India, online Item rate tender from approved and eligible contractors for the following works :

1. NIT No. EE/CD XII/19-20/80 - (ID No.2019_IFC_185351_1) - HOA-2711-NON PLAN-A/R & M/O Drains. SW-Improvement and Widening of Road from village Bakkarwala to Dichaon in Distt. West. E.C. Rs. 48,36,332/- Earnest money Rs. 96,727/- period of completion 60 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 19.12.2019 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:30 P.M respectively). AE-II.

2. NIT No. EE/CD XII/19-20/81 - (ID No.2019_IFC_185354_1) - HOA-2702-NON PLAN-A/R & M/O Minor Works. SW-Improvement of existing road Opp. Keshopur Pump House in Distt. West. E.C. Rs. 35,72,857/- Earnest money Rs. 71,457/- period of completion 60 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 19.12.2019 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:30 P.M respectively). AE-II.

Note:- 1) Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded from the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.

2) Amendment(s)/alteration(s)/corrigendum if any, will be available at website only. 3) EMD in the form of Banker's Cheque or Demand Draft or Fixed Deposit Receipt (drawn in favour of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD XII, I&FC DEPTT., GNCT OF DELHI) shall be scanned and uploaded to the e-tendering website within the period of bid submission. The original EMD should be deposited in the office of EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD XII, I&FC DEPTT., GNCT OF DELHI within the period of bid submission. (The EMD document shall only be issued from the place in which the office of receiving division office is situated).

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER/CD-XII DIP/Shabdarth/1142/19-20

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER /CD-XII DIP/Shabdarth/1140/19-20

Office of The Executive Engineer P.W.D. (B/R) Division Anuppur

NIT No. 05/SAC/APR/2019-20 Tender Notice Anuppur Date- 11/12/2019

Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender has been uploaded on the e-Procurement system of Public Works Department on the Portal www.mptenders.gov.in Tender details are as below:-

S. No.	Tender no.	District	Nature of work	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. In)	Cost of Tender Doc.	Earnest Money	Time Allowed	Online Document at the office of as mentioned.
1	2019_PWD/R B_68883	Anuppur	24-5054 Plan	Construction of Approach road from thodaha to Baskhala Village Total Length 3.30Km (C.C.D. 30 Km + BT. 3.00 Km) I/C 05 Nos. Hume Pipe Culvert and Plantation and Construction of Approach road from Kotma Keshwahi Road (Banjari Chouk, Burhanpur Village, Pateratala NH-43 Total Length 3.00Km (C.C.T. 0.04+BT.2.00) I/C 04 Nos Hume Pipe Culvert & Plantation Work	First	319.21	15000/-	319210/-	12 Month	Chief Engineer, PWD(B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
2	2019_PWD/R B_68922	Anuppur	24-5054 Plan	Construction of Majhoul to Shivalaya Ghat road in Gram Panchayat Khetgoan Length 1.20 Km	First	92.84	10000/-	92840/-	09 Month	Chief Engineer PWD(B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
3	2019_PWD/R B_68923	Anuppur	8443 Deposit work	Upgradation of Jamuna Parasi Dhanuashin road Km. 6,7,8,9,10 and 13,14-7.00 Km. including 03 No. H.P. Culvert	First	254.23	15000/-	254230/-	06 Month	Chief Engineer, PWD(B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
4	2019_PWD/R B_68924	Anuppur	24-3054 B.T. Renewal	B.T. Renewal of Pondi Karangara road Km 1,2 and 3. Total Length 3.00 Km	First	43.93	5000/-	50000/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer PWD(B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
5	2019_PWD/R B_68925	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal of Dulhara Kansha Pagna road Km. 5,2(100mtr),5/4-10,6,7,8 Length 3.90 Km	Vilth	24.43	5000/-	48860/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer PWD(B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
6	2019_PWD/R B_68926	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal on Lapta to Chhotthathi road Km 4 to 6=3.00 Km	Vilth	21.69	5000/-	43380/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer PWD(B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
7	2019_PWD/R B_68927	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal on Dhangawan Guwari Amgawan road Length 4.80 Km Proposed Km 1 to 3/6=2.80Km	Jlrd	17.75	2000/-	55500/-	03 Month	Executive Engineer PWD (B/R) Division Anuppur
8	2019_PWD/R B_68929	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal of Darsagar Bagdumra road Length 6.20Km Proposed Km 1.2,3,4,5/2/08=4.80Km	lind	37.56	5000/-	50000/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer PWD(B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
9	2019_PWD/R B_68932	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal of Anuppur Mediyaras Amrai road Length 8.80 Km Proposed Km 1,2,4,5,6=5.00Km	lind	31.30	5000/-	50000/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer PWD(B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
10	2019_PWD/R B_68934	Anuppur	Maintenenc work	B.T. Renewal of Jalhathi Sonri Semarwar road Proposed Km 1 to 7=7.00Km	lind	45.07	5000/-	50000/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer PWD(B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
11	2019_PWD/R B_68936	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal of Lapta Chorbhali road Length 7.50 Km Proposed Km 1 to 3/7 to 8/2-4(6/100)=4.50Km	lind	35.21	5000/-	50000/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer PWD(B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
12	2019_PWD/R B_68937	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal of Kapildhara approach road Length Km 1/4 to 6/6=5.26 Km	lind	35.91	5000/-	50000/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer PWD(B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
13	2019_PWD/R B_68939	Anuppur	Maintenance work	B.T. Renewal of Kabir chabutra approach road Length Km 1/4 to 3/10=2.66 Km	lind	22.10	5000/-	44200/-	04 Month	Chief Engineer PWD(B/R) Rewa Zone Rewa
Total 13 No						981.23				

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase of Document on line is Dated 27/12/2019 up to (17:30). Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper. The Original FDR & Other document will be received on by Post Dated 30/12/2019 (17:30), in the office mentioned.

G-20588/2019

नि:शुद्ध अर्थिका की शक्ति किसी भी परिस्थिति में सार्वभूम शक्ति से सर्वश्रेष्ठ होगी। - माताला गायी

Sd/- Executive Engineer P.W.D (B/R) Division Anuppur (M.P.)

E-TENDER PRESS NOTICE

The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD-XIII, I&FC Department Govt. of Delhi, on behalf of the President of India, invites Online Percentage rate tender from the approved and eligible contractors registered with IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT. The contractors who are registered with other department and now got their registrations verified from I&FC Deptt. are eligible to participate in Tender process for the work:

1. NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/132 (ID No. 2019_IFC_185345_1) Major Head of Account 4515-Plan (RDB) Name of Work: Construction of Multipurpose Hall in Kh. No. 183/1 at village Dhansa in N.G. Block. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 2,53,83,207/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 5,07,664/- Time allowed 360 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 18-12-2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively.

2. NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/133 (ID No. 2019_IFC_185459_1) Major Head of Account 4217-Plan (MLA LAD) Name of Work: Construction of Boundary wall of Govt. land in different location in Vikasuri Constituency AC-31. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 49,90,725/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 99,815/- Time allowed 120 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 18-12-2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively.

3. NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/134 (ID No. 2019_IFC_185471_1) Major Head of Account 4515-Plan (RDB) Name of Work: Repair/Renovation of chaupal near Phirni at village Mitraon in N.G. Block. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 27,36,228/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 54,725/- Time allowed 60 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 18-12-2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively.

4. NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/135 (ID No. 2019_IFC_185472_1) Major Head of Account 2711 (Revenue) Name of Work: Removal of Obstructions and Cleaning of Jungle from both banks from RD 6950m to RD 12500m of Mundella Drain. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 12,42,754/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 24,855/- Time allowed 30 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 18-12-2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively.

5. NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/136 (ID No. 2019_IFC_185478_1) Major Head of Account 4217-Plan (MLA LAD) Name of Work: Construction of Temporary shed by Laying Metro Sheet on Gram Sabha land bearing Kh. No. 11/4, 15/2 and 113/10, 11 at village Dhansa in N.G. Block. AC-35. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 32,81,396/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 65,628/- Time allowed 45 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E. Procurement System 18-12-2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively.

6. NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/137 (ID No. 2019_IFC_185490_1) Major Head of Account 4217-Plan (MLA LAD) Name of Work: Improvement and Repair of Gymnasium (Vyayamshala) at village Issapur in AC-35 (Najafgarh) Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 29,56,138/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 59,123/- Time allowed 90 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 18-12-2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively.

7. NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/138 (ID No. 2019_IFC_185497_1) Major Head of Account 8443- (Deposit Delhi Jal Board) Name of Work: Restoration of road cuts by R.M.C. at village Surakhpur and Dharampura in AC-35 (Najafgarh) (Deposit work on behalf of D.J.B.) Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 77,92,588/- Earnest Money in Rs. 1,55,852/- Time allowed 90 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 18-12-2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively.

8. NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/139 (ID No. 2019_IFC_185481_1) Major Head of Account 4217-Plan (MLA LAD) Name of Work: Supplying and Installation of Wrestling Mat at Vyayamshala in village Surhera in Najafgarh Block (AC-35) Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 5,25,000/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 10,500/- Time allowed 30 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 18-12-2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively.

9. NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/140 (ID No. 2019_IFC_185517_1) Major Head of Account 2711 (Revenue) Name of Work: Providing and fixing of Solar Light on Various bridges of B.C Drain of CD-XIII. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 22,01,262/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 44,025/- Time allowed 60 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 18-12-2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively.

10. NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/141 (ID No. 2019_IFC_185507_1) Major Head of Account 2711 (Revenue) Name of Work: Providing and fixing of Solar Light on Various bridges of Mungeshpur Drain of CD-XIII. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 36,73,240/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 73,465/- Time allowed 60 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 18-12-2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively.

11. NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2019-20/99/4th Call) (ID No. 2019_IFC_185528_1) Major Head of Account 8443 (Deposit works of DCHFC) Name of Work: Providing and fixing of fire safety equipments at Delhi Co-operative Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DCHFC). Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 9,74,853/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 19,497/- Time allowed 60 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 18-12-2019 on 15.00 Hrs & 15.05 Hrs respectively.

Note :-

1) Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded from the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

2) Amendment(s)/alteration(s)/corrigendum if any, will be available at website only.

3) EMD in the form of Bankers Cheque/DD/Fixed Deposit receipt in Flo EE/CD-XIII, I&FC Deptt Shall be scanned and uploaded to the e-tender website within the period of bid submission. The original EMD should be deposited in the office of EE/CD-XIII, I&FC Deptt. within the period of bid submission.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD-XIII DIP/Shabdarth/1144/19-20

CORRIGENDUM

The opening date of following tenders vide Tender Notice No. 03/2019, Dated: 05-11-2019 may please be read as under: Tender Due on: 30-12-2019 instead of 19-12-2019. Tender may log on to the website www.upptcl.org All other terms & conditions remain unchanged.

Principal Chief Material Manager/Con NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY (Construction Organisation) "Serving Customers with a smile"

Sidbi

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

SIDBI invites bids for taking a residential premises of 3/4BHK with servant room on lease or leave and license basis in New Delhi. Visit our website <https://sidbi.in/en/tenders> or Central Public Procurement Portal (CPP Portal) for further details / bid formats. The last date for submission of bids is January 07, 2020 up to 03:00 p.m. Any changes/modifications in the advertisement/bid document will be notified on SIDBI's website only.

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER: DISTRICT CENTRAL 14, DARYA GANJ, NEW DELHI-110002

No.F. DEO/C/1097/Vehicles/2020/2846 dated: 16/12/19

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders (Online tenders) are invited by the District Election Officer (Central)/DEO(Central) from reputed transporter/fleet owners having capacity to supply the required numbers of vehicle (AC & Non AC) and having provided such number of services to the Government Department, Public Sector Undertaking etc. or other similar nature of work done in the past having average annual turnover of Rs. 50 lakh and above for the last 3 years, for providing vehicles (Taxi cars) hiring on rental basis as per requirements, for the smooth conduct of Delhi Legislative Assembly Election 2020 in r/o District Central.

TENDER ID NUMBER: 2019_REV_185720_1

The Last Date of submission of e-bid is 01/01/2020 at 02.00 PM

More details please visit e-tender website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/>

Sd/- **SDM (ELECTION) DISTRICT- CENTRAL**

DIP/Shabdarth/1143/19-20

Jagan moots multiple state capitals for decentralised growth



Andhra CM Jagan Reddy

GREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 17

ANDHRA PRADESH Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday said that his government was considering establishing multiple capitals in the state so that there is decentralised development.

Making a statement in the Assembly during a discussion on Amaravati capital city, Jagan strongly advocated decentralised development. "The priorities of the state should be in tune with the aspirations of the people and the option of multiple capitals could be considered," he said.

The CM's statement deals another blow to the possibility that the YSRC government could continue to develop Amaravati as the state capital, which former CM N Chandrababu Naidu had started building.

Jagan said that a committee has been formed to decide on the capital area region, and it will submit its report in a couple of days.

"We have to discuss in the direction of developing all the regions and the concept of multiple capitals too could be considered. We can think in terms of having three capitals - one being the legislative capital and the other two being an executive capital and a judicial capital. A reputed consultancy

firm will give its report and a decision will be taken after discussing the details and logistics," he said.

Officials said that Visakhapatnam - which has better civic infrastructure - can be considered for the executive capital without much investment, while Amaravati can be retained as the legislative capital and Kurnool can be considered the judiciary capital, which would lead to balanced development.

Jagan said the previous TDP government had brought in a grand design of a capital city, developing 53,000 acres at a cost of Rs 1.09 lakh crore, but there were many irregularities which the House has discussed earlier. "But as and when I have that kind of amount of Rs 1.09 lakh crore, the priorities of our government would be different...", he said.

UNNAO RAPE CASE

CBI points to crime's impact on society, wants life term for Sengar



Kuldeep Singh Sengar

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

THE CBI on Tuesday told a special court that expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar must be awarded the life sentence for rape of a minor girl in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh, and called it a case of an individual's fight against the system.

The court had on Monday found Sengar guilty of rape, and under Sections 5(c) and 6 of POCSO Act. His co-accused, Shashi Singh, was acquitted after the court granted him benefit of doubt.

CBI prosecutor Ashook Bhartendu on Tuesday told the court: "It was basically the fight of an individual against the system. Keeping in view the kind of impact such offences have on the society, the mindset of the people, in this case the accused deserves maximum punishment."

District Judge Dharmesh Sharma adjourned proceedings on quantum of sentence to December 20 after arguments remained inconclusive.

The court also sought a copy on Sengar's election affidavit to ascertain assets he had declared to decide the compensation to be awarded to the victim.

During the arguments on quantum of sentence, Bhartendu cited several Supreme Court judgments to drive home the point that gravity and seriousness of the offence, and its impact on the society, has to be looked into. Citing a Supreme Court judgment, he told the court, "Any liberal attitude by imposing a meagre sentence or too sympathetic a view merely on the account on lapse of time...may be counterproductive in the long run and against societal interest, which needs to be taken care of..."

He also said, "It has been clearly and categorically laid down by the Supreme Court by

various judicial pronouncements that gravity and seriousness of the offence and its impact over society at large is to be looked into."

The CBI told the court that it is the duty of every court to award proper sentence regarding the nature of the offence, and the manner in which it was committed. "It is expected that the court would operate the sentencing system so as to impose such sentence which reflects the conscience of the society and the sentencing process has to be stern," Bhartendu told the court.

The victim's counsel, Dharmender Kumar Mishra, told the court that she must be awarded compensation, apart from the one already awarded by Supreme Court. Judge Sharma said, "No amount of compensation would repair her injury."

Sengar's counsel, Tanvir Ahmad Mir, told the court that a minimum sentence must be implemented. Reading out a list of development work carried out by Sengar in his constituency - bridges, power plants, and pri-

mary health care centres, etc - he argued that there was no blemish on his career.

"Looking into his previous conduct, depraved mentality is not seen in prior conduct. For the indictment and conviction in such a scenario a minimum sentence must be implemented," Mir told the court.

He also said Sengar is father of two minor children and there was no complaint against him during his stay in Tihar jail.

The court had conducted day-to-day hearings from August 5 this year after the Supreme Court transferred five cases from the Unnao incident to Delhi.

Sengar had raped the victim, then 17, on June 4, 2017. On April 3, 2018, her father was allegedly framed in an illegal arms case and arrested. He died in judicial custody on April 9, 2018.

On July 28 this year, a speeding truck rammed into the car in which the victim, her two aunts and their lawyer were travelling. Her aunts were killed and the victim and her lawyer were critically injured.

STATES/UTs WITH 'SECOND' CAPITAL

UTTARAKHAND DEHRADUN IS the temporary capital of Uttarakhand, with the state yet to get a permanent capital 19 years after its formation. There have been demands from several quarters to declare Gairsain in Chamoli district as the permanent capital. It has been argued that Uttarakhand was formed as a hill state and its capital should also be in the hills.

The government has held Assembly sessions in Gairsain, too, where a Vidhan Bhawan and residential buildings are being developed. However, Dehradun has a Vidhan Sabha, Secretariat, CMO. Headquarters of state bodies and regional centres of several Government of India departments are also based in Dehradun.

MAHARASHTRA NAGPUR IS referred to as Maharashtra's 'second capital', but it has no such legal status. According to former advocate general of Maharashtra, Shrihari Aney, "Nagpur was only deemed to be the second capital of Maharashtra as per the Nagpur Pact of 1953 that led to Vidarbha becoming part of

Maharashtra in 1960. Since Nagpur lost its status as capital of erstwhile Central Provinces & Berar, it was declared the second capital, where the state government was supposed to move once a year. Thus, the winter session of the state legislature is held in Nagpur. It doesn't have any legal status as a capital."

HIMACHAL PRADESH AFTER COMING to power in 1993, then CM Virbhadr Singh started the practice of a winter sojourn in Dharamshala. He would camp there for a month in order to give greater attention to lower Himachal. The practice was followed by successive CMs and in December 2005, the Vidhan Sabha held its winter session in Dharamshala. Since then, the winter session has been held there in an Assembly complex built in 2006. A mini-secretariat was also built. In 2017, the Congress-run government issued a notification declaring Dharamshala the 'second capital'. The BJP soon came to power and notification is yet to be implemented. The sojourn was also discontinued. As of now, only the winter session is held in Dharamshala.

conditions and take the higher rungs of administration to people in both provinces. The practice costs Rs 150 crore for transporting files, equipment, DA payment, etc. Former CM Feroz Khan Noon tried to stop the practice, but withdrew the decision after protests by people.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR J&K may have become a Union Territory, but it continues to observe the 147-year-old practice of bi-annual durbar move between its two capital cities, from Jammu to Srinagar with the onset of summer and vice versa in winter. The tradition was started during Dogra rule to avoid extreme weather

UP: Month after 'rape', youth arrested; SHO suspended for delay in FIR

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 17

A DAY after an audio recording of a panchayat trying to allegedly settle a rape case was uploaded on social media, a 20-year-old youth was arrested on Tuesday for the alleged crime against his 15-year-old neighbour at a village in Kushinagar last month.

A station house officer (SHO) of the local police station concerned was suspended for alleged delay in filing an FIR and arresting the accused.

Further, Kushinagar Superintendent of Police (SP) Vinod Kumar has ordered an inquiry into reports that the panchayat on December 6 tried to hush up the rape case by paying the victim's family Rs 1.5 lakh.

Kushinagar police on Monday lodged an FIR against the accused on charges of rape and intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace. Police also invoked the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act of the accused.

"The accused, a farmer, was produced before a local court of Lucknow which sent him to judicial custody," said a sub-inspector.

According to the complaint, the incident took place on November 21 when her parents had gone out for some work. Her father alleged that the accused took the girl to his home and raped her there. The victim returned home and narrated the incident to her parents, the father alleged.

It is alleged that due to pressure by villagers, the girl's family did not approach police. "Three days later, the family reached the local police station and filed a complaint. They claimed that when they returned from the police station, villagers again asked them to compromise with the accused. On December 6, a panchayat directed the accused's family to pay Rs 1.25 lakh to the victim to settle the case," said the SI.

The officer said the money was not paid to the girl's family.

'A govt committed to democracy has nothing to fear from dissent'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17



Justice Gautam Patel

INSTITUTIONS THAT are responsible for implementing the Right to Information Act should not be anything but completely autonomous, Bombay High Court judge Justice Gautam Patel said on Tuesday.

"A government committed to democracy and the Constitution has nothing to fear from information and dissent," he said. "Any government that discourages dissent and autonomy of ideas is not a liberal government."

Justice Patel's comments on the RTI Act came a day after Chief Justice of India SA Bobde flagged fears of abuse of the legislation and indicated that the Supreme Court could frame guidelines to review its working.

Delivering the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy's annual lecture, Justice Patel spoke on

Patel cited environmental protection bodies such as the Pollution Control Board and Central Board for Film Certification (CBFC) as among the institutions that must have institutional autonomy.

"Adjudication cannot be done as per the palate of the ruling government. Doing that would be the very essence of fascist regime and going away from a constitutional mandate," Justice Patel said on the role of CBFC. "Art is political. All art is dissent. Art has value even if it is directly in opposition to the ideology of the government."

Justice Patel said that institutions in a democratic republic are often ignored. He also regretted that the quality of discourse in the country is deteriorating. "The Constituent Assembly debates are an example of exemplary civility. Despite strong sentiments, the tone remained measured and debates were reasoned," he said.

Providing little or no autonomy to educational institutions defeats the purpose of education itself, he added.

Apart from offices of information commissioners and educational institutions, Justice

4 booked after school students re-enact Babri Masjid demolition in Karnataka

DARSHAN DEVAIAH B P
MANGALURU, DECEMBER 17



Students re-enact the demolition of Babri Masjid as part of its sports day programme at Sri Rama Vidyakendra High School in Kalladka town.

KARNATAKA POLICE booked four members of the management committee of Sri Rama Vidyakendra High School in Kalladka town after its students in a play reenacted the demolition of Babri Masjid as part of its Sports Day programme on Sunday.

The school is owned by Kalladka Prabhakar Bhat, who is a member of the south-central regional executive committee of the RSS. According to Mangaluru police, a case was registered against Bhat along with Vasanth Madhav, Narayan Somayajyi and Chinappa Kotiyar at the Bantwal town police station on Monday evening.

The police registered a case based on a complaint filed by a PFI leader Aboobacker Siddique. Dakshina Kannada SP B M

Laxmi Prasad told *The Indian Express*. "Four people from the management committee of the school are named in the FIR. The case has been registered under IPC Sections 295A (Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class

by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and 298 (Uttering, words, etc., with deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings of any person) and the investigation is in progress."

A video clip of the play, which went viral on social media, shows

more than a hundred students, dressed in white shirts and saffron dhotis and holding saffron flags, rushing towards a poster of the Babri Masjid as a narrator says in Kannada. "They demolish the structure with anything they can get their hands on. With enthusiasm, Hanuman bhakts with Hanuman's anger demolish the Babri structure."

The narrator then says, "Bolo Shri Ramachandira ki jai! Bharat mata ki jai!", at which point the poster of the Babri Masjid is brought down by the students.

At this point, members of the audience start cheering.

Present in the audience were Pudukchery Governor Kiran Bedi, Union minister D V Sadananda Gowda, Karnataka Minister for Women and Child Welfare Shashikala Jolle and other political leaders, who had been invited as guests to the school's annual 'Kreedotsava'.

'Rare actor, highly intelligent, had logic to apply to character'

ATIKH RASHID & DIPANITA NATH
PUNE, DECEMBER 17

DR SHRIRAM Lagoo, who acted in more than 100 Hindi and Marathi films, around 40 Marathi, Hindi and Gujarati plays, and directed a number of Marathi plays, died in Pune due to age-related complications. He was 92.

Lagoo is most well known for playing a retired and elderly actor in Marathi play *Natasamrat*, and a shy and glibble teacher in V Shantaram's film *Pinjara*, apart from his performances in Jabbar Patel's political dramas of the 1970s.

"He was bedridden for about a year. He was suffering from age-related issues includ-

ing dementia. He passed away at about 9.30 pm," said Uday Lagoo, his cousin. Doctors at Dinanath Mangeshkar Hospital said Lagoo had cardiac problems.

Born in Satara in 1927, Lagoo did his schooling and college in Pune. He enrolled for medicine at BJ Medical College there, and went on to specialise as an ENT surgeon from London and obtain an FRCS qualification. He worked as a medical practitioner in Tanzania before deciding to take the plunge as a full-time actor at age 42.

Before his debut in Vasant Kanetkar's play *Ithe Oshalala Mrityu*, Lagoo was linked with Pune's Progressive Dramatic Association and would work there in various capacities when time permitted. He soon



DR SHRIRAM LAGOO
1927-2019

started working on the silver screen and came into the limelight with *Pinjara*. This was fol-

lowed by roles in political dramas like *Saamna* (1974) and *Sinhasan* (1979), both directed

by Jabbar Patel. He also did minor roles in Hindi films and in 1980 won a Filmfare Best Supporting Actor award for *Gharonda* (1980).

Lagoo was the first actor to play the protagonist in V V Shirvadkar's epic Marathi play *Natasamrat*. He played the role of a celebrated actor who has retired from public life but is neglected by his family.

His last prominent appearance on the silver screen was in Sandesh Kulkarni's *Masala* (2012), in which he played the role of an aging perfume seller.

Jabbar Patel said, "Lagoo was a rare actor. He was highly intelligent and had logic to apply to the character. I can say he was a modern method actor... He was my guru and I was directing him, but he never gave me the feeling that he was a

senior and I was a newcomer." Lagoo was closely linked with late rationalist Narendra Dabholkar's Maharashtra Andhashradha Nirmulan Samiti (MANS). "He was a pillar of support for my father when he was building MANS. He believed in enlightened ideas and was ready to pay the price for his beliefs," said Narendra Dabholkar's son Hamid.

Lagoo had also started an award for theatre personalities in his late son Tanveer's memory. This year the award was given to actor Nasiruddin Shah.

Condoling Lagoo's death, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said, "We have lost a versatile personality. He was a unique theatre actor who dominated the silver screen and created impact. At that same

time he was a social activist."

Playwright Satish Alekar said, "Lagoo's acting calibre was comparable with the best in the world. He was to us what Sir Lawrence Olivier and Richard Burton were to the West. He had been acting for more than 50 years and created a syllabus of performance on stage, from his early work, *Natasamrat*, to the recent *Surya Pahilela Manus*, in which he played Socrates at the age of 75 and used to deliver a 20-minute monologue."

Lagoo is survived by wife Deepa, son Anand and daughter Shubhangi.

"His last rites will be performed on Thursday. His remains will be kept in Balgandharva Auditorium's premise for people to pay respects," Deepa said.

TELLING NUMBERS

India 112th out of 153 countries in gender parity index, Iceland and Norway at top spots

INDIA HAS ranked 112th among 153 countries in the annual Global Gender Gap Index for 2020, published by the World Economic Forum (WEF). Iceland, Norway, and Finland occupy the top three spots in the Report.

Now in its 14th year, the Report benchmarks countries on their progress towards gender parity in four dimensions: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival and Political Empowerment.

The analysis presented in the Global Gender Gap Report 2020 is based on "a methodology integrating the latest statistics from international organizations and a survey of executives", the WEF said. The Report aims to serve "as a compass to track progress on relative gaps between women and men on health, education, economy and politics". Through this annual yardstick, the Report says, "stakeholders within each country are able to set priorities relevant in each specific economic, political and cultural context".

Among the main findings are:
 ■ Globally, the average (population-weighted) distance completed to gender parity is at 68.6%, which is an improvement since last edition.
 ■ The largest gender disparity is in political empowerment. Only 25% of the 35,127 seats in parliaments around the world are occupied by women, and only 21% of the 3,343

TOP COUNTRY for gender parity is Iceland, for the 11th year running

MOST IMPROVED countries are Albania, Ethiopia, Mali, Mexico, Spain

101/149 IMPROVED their scores on the 2019 index

UNCHANGED performance seen for 48 countries

IN EDUCATION, 35 countries achieved gender parity

IN HEALTHCARE, 48 countries achieved near-parity

ministers are women.

■ Projecting current trends into the future, the overall global gender gap will close in 99.5 years, on average, across the 107 countries covered continuously since the first edition of the Report.

■ At the current pace, gender gaps can potentially be closed in 54 years in Western Europe, 59 years in Latin America and the Caribbean, 71.5 years in South Asia, 95 years in Sub-Saharan Africa, 107 years in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 140 years in the Middle East and North Africa, 151 years in North America, and 163 years in East Asia and the Pacific.

GLOBAL GENDER GAP INDEX RANKINGS 2020

Rank	Country	Score
1	Iceland	0.877
2	Norway	0.842
3	Finland	0.832
4	Sweden	0.820
5	Nicaragua	0.804
6	New Zealand	0.799
7	Ireland	0.795
8	Spain	0.798
9	Rwanda	0.791
10	Germany	0.787
21	United Kingdom	0.767
50	Bangladesh	0.726
53	United States	0.724
81	Russian Federation	0.706
92	Brazil	0.691
101	Nepal	0.680
102	Sri Lanka	0.680
106	China	0.676
112	India	0.668
121	Japan	0.652
151	Pakistan	0.564
153	Yemen	0.494

%AGE OF WOMEN IN COMPANIES' BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Top five countries in each category)

OVER ONE-THIRD	France	43.4%
	Iceland	43%
	Norway	42.1%
	Sweden	36.3%
	Italy	34%
OVER ONE FIFTH	Netherlands	29.5%
	Latvia	28.8%
	Australia	28.7%
	United Kingdom	27.2%
	Canada	25.8%
OVER ONE-TENTH	Austria	19.2%
	Ireland	17.6%
	Portugal	16.2%
	Slovak Republic	15.1%
	Colombia	15.1%
	India	13.8%

Source: Global Gender Gap Report, 2020; Scores from 0 to 1, where 0 is the lowest

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Mumbai's contentious Road

Tuesday's Supreme Court order sets the stage for resumption of work on certain key stretches. What is the Mumbai Coastal Road project, what is its progress, which parts of it were caught in litigation, and why?

SANJANA BHALERAO & KAVITHAIYER
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 16

ON TUESDAY, the Supreme Court stayed a Bombay High Court order that had quashed Coastal Regulation Zone clearance granted to the southern part of Mumbai's coastal road project. A look at the project, why clearance had once been squashed, and what happens after the stay:

What is Mumbai's Coastal Road project?

The Bandra-Worli Sea Link in the financial capital was originally planned as one arm of a longer sealink that would connect Bandra, queen of the suburbs, with Nariman Point, the commercial hub of south Mumbai. The Worli-Haji Ali Sea Link was already tendered out when, in 2011, amid wider differences between the Congress and the NCP on various issues, then Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan suggested replacing it with a coastal road, a sea-kissing highway that would be less expensive than a sea link. The sea links were then being planned and executed by the NCP-controlled Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC).

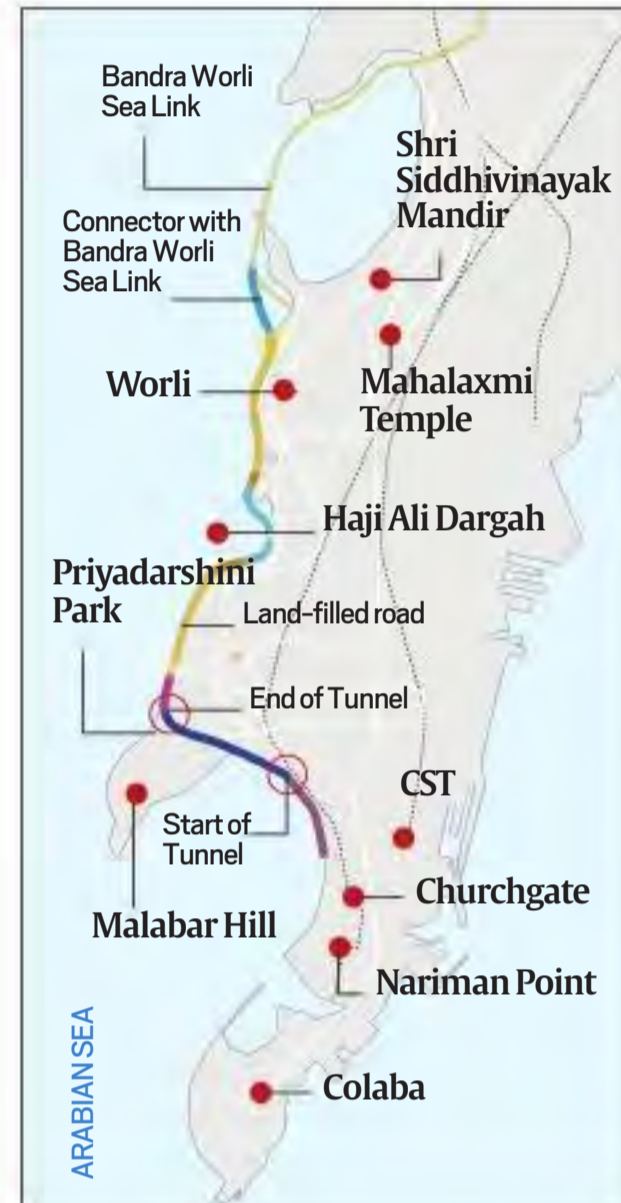
The government appointed a technical committee and it reported that while the sea link could cost approximately Rs 600 crore per kilometre, reclamation of land along the coast for a seaside highway would cost Rs 100 crore per km. The Worli-Haji Ali Sea Link project was cancelled abruptly, and replaced with plans for a coastal road connecting Nariman Point with Kandivali, a suburb towards the northern end of the western seaboard. This is planned to be a 35.6-km freeway that will complement another freeway running along the eastern coastline, from South Mumbai to Chembur. While driving from Nariman Point to Kandivali in average traffic is today at least a 2-hour journey, the coastal road will reduce travel time between these two points considerably. Eventually, Chavan also decided that the coastal road would be built by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, not the MSRDC. The Bandra-Worli Sea Link was completed in 2009. In the decade since, traffic between the suburbs and south Mumbai has grown even as Mumbaiers wait for the next logical arm of the proposed connectivity between Bandra and Nariman Point.

Were all approvals for the project in place before litigation began?

June 2015 was a milestone for the project and for infrastructure development in Mumbai for, after a complete ban on reclamation for



Site near Malabar Hill. *Nirmal Harindran*



nearly 25 years, the central government gave permissions for the reclamation. Much of Mumbai as we know it today is on reclaimed land, and the proposed reclamation for the coastal road was given the nod conditional to final CRZ clearances. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) considered the proposal for CRZ clearance in July 2016, after the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) accorded sanction. The MoEF&CC, however, sent the proposal back — it lacked a

disaster management plan, the environment impact reports had lacunae and there was also no approval from the state and central pollution control bodies. It also said the proposal failed to highlight the exceptional circumstances for grant of clearances for reclamation.

In October 2016, the BMC submitted a revised proposal to the MCZMA, limiting it to the first phase of the project. This is a 9.9-km coastal road from Marine Drive to the Worli or south end of the Bandra-Worli Sea Link. Only 90 hectares would be reclaimed in this phase. Of this, 20 hectares would be used for the road while the remaining reclaimed land would house parks, cycle lanes, jogging tracks, promenades, and open green spaces, a luxury in Mumbai. The MoEF&CC granted its final CRZ approval in May 2017.

What is the dispute?

Environmentalists, activists and fishermen opposed the project. Their main contention was that the BMC is implementing the project with faulty and 'illegal' green clearances accorded in May 2017 by the MoEF&CC. They have claimed the project lacks a mandatory prior environmental clearance under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) notification of 2006. Activists had demanded that a biodiversity study of the Mumbai coast is also required before going ahead. Activists have argued that BMC had cut several corners to get clearances. They also called a National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) report flawed as it relied on only 14 days' pre-monsoon data. An EIA study requires impact in all four seasons to be studied, they contended. Fishermen also claimed that the reclamation will destroy shallow water fishing and increase the turbidity of water, and that the narrow gaps between

pillars will hinder movement of fishing boats.

Is the proposed coastal road to be entirely built on new reclamation?

According to the BMC designs, the coastal road will be a combination of roads on stilts, roads built on reclamation, a small sea link our bridge portion, and a proposed under-sea tunnel, as well as the Bandra-Worli Sea Link.

From the Princess Street flyover on Marine Drive to the Priyadarshini Park garden, there is a provision for an underground tunnel. From there, a land-fill road in the inter-tidal zone runs from Priyadarshini Park to Mahalaxmi temple. The next section is in close proximity to two key religious institutions, the Mahalaxmi temple and Haji Ali Dargah, and this section will be a sea-side road with space for pedestrian circulation. Further north, there is to be reclamation on the seaward side of the existing shore, currently marked by a rocky outcrop. An embankment will be constructed on this reclaimed portion, which then merges with the Worli-Bandra Sea Link.

The rest of the highway is to be considered in Phase 2, for which clearances are still to be sought. This will include a coastal road from the Bandra end of the Sea Link till Khar Danda village, where a small bridge on the sea-ward side of Chimbai village will provide navigation space for fishing boats. The land filled road is proposed to be designed so that it does not obstruct a dense mangrove patch here. From Carter Road to Bharat Nagar, the alignment is a tunnel that starts near Ritumbara College. From the Bharat Nagar end of the tunnel to Kandivali junction, a double-deck elevated corridor and a road on stilts over a dense mangrove area will go further north via Andheri West to Kandivali. A spur is to be built for future connectivity all the way to Madh Island. Of the 35-km freeway, roughly 18 km will be constructed on reclaimed land. The two tunnels will be about 9 km in length.

What happens now?

After the Supreme Court stayed the Bombay High Court's July order on Tuesday, the BMC will resume reclamation work at four points - Priyadarshini Park, Napeansea Road, Haji Ali and Worli. Work will begin on Wednesday. In July, when the HC had quashed the MoEF&CC's CRZ clearance for the southern stretch of the project, the BMC had already completed four to five per cent of reclamation required at these sites. Having exhausted their legal remedies, the petitioners who said on Tuesday that they were disappointed with the SC order, said they would work with the government and authorities, and would try to ensure that the livelihood of fishermen is not impacted.

Trial and death: The Pervez Musharraf story

MEHR GILL
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

A SPECIAL court in Islamabad on Tuesday sentenced former military ruler General Pervez Musharraf to death for high treason under Article 6 of Pakistan's Constitution.

ARTICLE 6 SAYS: "Any person who abrogates or subverts or suspends or holds in abeyance, or attempts or conspires to abrogate or subvert or suspend or hold in abeyance the Constitution by use of force or show force or by any other unconstitutional means shall be guilty of high treason."

THE PUNISHMENT for high treason, as per Pakistan's High Treason (Punishment)

Act, 1973, is death or life imprisonment.

AN APPEAL against the verdict will lie in Pakistan's Supreme Court. Even if the top court upholds the special court's verdict, the country's President can pardon him under Article 45 of the constitution: "The President shall have power to grant pardon, reprieve and respite, and to remit, suspend or commute any sentence passed by any court, tribunal or other authority." Pakistan's army has already declared that Musharraf "can surely never be a traitor", and that the "armed forces expect that justice will be dispensed in line with the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan". In any case, it is not expected that Musharraf, who is in self-imposed exile in Dubai, will return to

Pakistan to carry the case through to the end.

THE CASE against Musharraf began in December 2013, six months after Nawaz Sharif, whom the general had ousted in 1999, returned to power. He was charged with treason for having imposed an emergency in November 2007 and arresting several judges, and was indicted in March 2014. As the trial negotiated several twists and turns and passed through delays, Musharraf left Pakistan in March 2016 for treatment.

THE VERDICT was reserved by the special court on November 19. The court said it would give its judgment on November 28; however, Pakistan's government petitioned the Islamabad High Court asking that "the special court be restrained from passing fi-

nal judgment in the trial". The High Court temporarily restrained the special court from pronouncing its verdict, and asked the government to notify a new prosecution team. This team appeared before the special court on December 5, and was told that it would be heard on December 17, after which the verdict would be pronounced.

THE EXTRAORDINARY development, even if largely symbolic, marks the first time that a military dictator in Pakistan — a country that has been ruled by the generals for more than half its life — has been held accountable for his actions in power. Sharif, who stood up the most to the army among all Pakistani politicians, sought to use the treason case to assert civilian supremacy.

AN EXPERT EXPLAINS

How Pakistan grants citizenship, what provisions cover its minorities



FAIZAN MUSTAFA

THE NEWLY passed Citizenship Amendment Act makes it easier for religious minorities of three neighbouring countries to get Indian citizenship. What are the constitutional and legal provisions for citizenship and rights of religious minorities in countries neighbouring India? A look at Pakistan:

How does the preamble to Pakistan's Constitution compare with the preamble to India's?

The preamble to the Indian Constitution declares the country as a "sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic", with the terms "socialist" and "secular" having been added by the 42nd Amendment, 1976. On the other hand, as many as 60 Constitutions

in the world refer to God including those in Germany, Brazil, Greece and Ireland. Pakistan's Constitution starts with "In the name of Allah, the most beneficent, the merciful", acknowledges sovereignty of God in respect of the universe, and contains references to Muslims and Islam. When this provision in the Objective Resolution was moved by Liaquat Ali Khan on March 12, 1949, it was opposed by non-Muslim members of Constituent Assembly. Sris Chandra Chattopadhyaya said, "There is no place for religion in the State... The state religion is a dangerous principle."

Does Pakistan give citizenship on the basis of religion?

Although an Islamic state, Pakistan does not have any religious test for citizenship. Its Citizenship Act, 1951 is similar to India's Citizenship Act in certain respects may be seen as more liberal. Section 6 lays down that any person who migrated to Pakistan before January 1, 1952 is a citizen. Section 3 gives citizenship on the commencement of the Act (April 13, 1951) to anyone who, or any of whose parents or grandparents, was born in the territories included in Pakistan on March 31, 1973. Pakistan grants citizen-

ship to any person who migrated there before April 13, 1951 (India's cutoff is July 19, 1948, except in Assam, where it is March 25, 1971) from any territory in the subcontinent with the intention of permanently residing there. Like India's law, Section 7 in Pakistan says that a person who migrated to India after March 1, 1947 shall not be a citizen of Pakistan except if (s)he returned under resettlement or permanent return.

While Section 4 in the Pakistan law lays down that every person born in Pakistan after the commencement of the Act shall be a Pakistan citizen by birth, India has added restrictive qualifications by amendments in 1986 (one parent should be an Indian citizen) and 2003 (both parents should be Indian citizens, or one a citizen and the other not an illegal migrant). Section 5 of the Pakistan Act talks of citizenship by descent if one of the parents was a Pakistani citizen at the time of the person's birth.

J&K migrants to Pakistan are deemed to be Pakistan citizens until Kashmir's relationship with Pakistan is finally deter-

mined. British residents were similarly deemed to be citizens. Citizenship can also be given to Commonwealth citizens by the government.

What is different in the way Pakistan and India define freedom of religion?

Unlike the preamble to the Constitution of India, Pakistan's Constitution explicitly lays down in the preamble itself that "adequate provision shall be made for the minorities freely to profess, practice freedom of religion and develop their culture" and that "adequate provision shall be made to protect legitimate inter-

ests of minorities and backward classes". Of course, the expression "legitimate interests" in respect of minorities is restrictive.

Unlike India, Pakistan gives the right to freedom of religion only to citizens. In India everyone, including foreigners, has freedom of religion and that's why foreign missionaries have a right to propagate Christianity.

Unlike in India, freedom of speech in Pakistan specifically includes freedom of press - but this is subject to "glory of Islam".

Due to this restriction, Pakistan has a regressive blasphemy law with a mandatory death penalty, which runs contrary even to fundamental principles of Islamic criminal law. Its widespread abuse raises questions about Pakistan's commitment to free speech.

What steps has Pakistan taken to protect the 'legitimate interests' of minorities, as provided for?

Article 36 says the state shall safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of minorities including their due representation in the federal and provincial services. While religious minorities do face discrimination, the Constitution makes a provision of reservation for them. In the National Assembly, 10 seats are reserved for them. In Balochistan, though religious minorities constitute just 1.25% of the population, reservation for them is 4.62%; in Punjab, they are 2.79% and have reservation of 2.16%; in Sindh, they are 8.69% and reservation is 5.36%; in NW Province, they are 2.46% but reservation is just 0.56%.

Hindus in West Pakistan (today's Pakistan) in 1951, after migration to India of about 5 million post-Partition, were just 3.44 per cent. In the 1961 Census, non-

Muslim population got reduced to 2.83 per cent in today's Pakistan. This went up to 3.25 per cent in 1972, 3.30 per cent in 1981, and 3.70 per cent in 1998.

Are there personal laws for religious minorities in Pakistan?

Yes. Although there is a provision that laws that are inconsistent with the state religion are to be struck down as unconstitutional, Article 227(3) of Pakistan's Constitution does exempt personal law of minorities from this provision. In India, any provision of personal law that is inconsistent with the Constitution is null and void. Triple talaq was thus declared invalid in 2017.

In 2016, Sindh province, which has the highest number of Hindus in Pakistan, passed legislation outlawing forced conversions. The Punjab Assembly enacted the Sikh Anand Marriage Act in 2018.

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NEXT: BANGLADESH



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

THE COST OF FOOD

Return of food inflation may not allow RBI to further slash interest rates but opens up room for delayed reform

RETAIL FOOD INFLATION crossing 10 per cent, the first time in nearly six years, isn't good news for an economy already mired in a deep slowdown. The suddenness of the increase (from under 3 per cent in August to 10 per cent plus in November) and the fact that the Narendra Modi government's tenure has been marked by low consumer food prices (an average rise of hardly 3.3 per cent year-on-year during its first term from June 2014 to May 2019) makes it all the more unsettling. That "core" consumer inflation — which excludes price increases in the more "volatile" food and energy components — is still only 3.5 per cent cannot be any consolation. Food prices strongly shape the inflation expectations of Indian households and, in turn, their spending behaviour. Given that the monetary policy's overarching concern is price stability, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), for one, has to pay as much attention to inflation expectations as actual inflation. Food inflation, in other words, cannot be dismissed as "non-core".

The right question to ask, then, is whether this inflation, which has been sudden and sharp, is transient. In the case of onions and other vegetables, that could well be the case. This year's unusual combination of delayed onset of the southwest monsoon (resulting in reduced/late kharif sowings) and prolonged unseasonal rains in October-November (damaging the standing crop at the harvesting stage) has caused significant supply disruptions. The impact of it has been felt most in vegetables, which have registered the highest inflation of almost 36 per cent for November. But since the extended rainfall has also helped fill up reservoirs and substantially recharge groundwater aquifers, one can expect a production rebound in the current rabi crop due for harvesting from March-end. However, there's reason to believe that the inflation apparent or likely in pulses, milk (Amul and Mother Dairy have just raised prices) and even sugar is not one-off. Most agri-commodities have gone through a protracted bear phase, with consumer food inflation during the period between September 2016 and August 2019 not only averaging a mere 1.4 per cent, but consistently trailing overall retail inflation. At some point, prices have to play catch-up and it's quite possible that's beginning to happen.

If food prices are simply correcting from lows, neither the government nor the RBI should do much to stop that. Rather than resorting to export bans, subsidised imports or stockholding restrictions — these will only discourage investments in modern warehousing, cold storage, processing and farm extension support — the focus of policymakers should be on removing structural impediments to the production and free movement of agri-produce. The return of food inflation may not allow RBI to further slash interest rates now, but it certainly opens up room for much-delayed reforms in agriculture. Farmers will not mind the rationalisation of subsidies when prices are looking up.

UNFREE SPEECH

Case against Payal Rohatgi, detention in Rajasthan, undermine Congress's professed commitment to liberal values

ON SEPTEMBER 21, former Bigg Boss contestant Payal Rohatgi — who has often courted controversy on social media through ill-informed and prejudiced posts — shared a video in which she made unseemly and unsubstantiated personal remarks about the Nehru-Gandhi family, going back to Motilal Nehru and Kamala Nehru. Earlier this week, Rohatgi was remanded to nine days in judicial custody under Sections 66 and 67 of the IT Act by a court in Bundi in Congress-ruled Rajasthan — she has subsequently got bail. The case against her was filed by Charmesh Sharma, a Youth Congress leader in the state. There is little that is defensible in the content of Rohatgi's video. And yet, for all those who claim to uphold liberal values — as the Congress so loudly does — her right to free speech must be respected.

In Parliament, in election rallies and at public meetings, the senior leadership of the Congress, including party president Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, have accused the Narendra Modi government of stifling dissent, and creating an atmosphere of fear. For this accusation to ring credible, however, the Congress can ill afford to be seen to conspicuously falter on that very yardstick in the states where it holds office. The fact is, the Congress does not have a creditable record on matters of free speech. But the Rohatgi episode only serves to draw unflattering attention to this reality even as the Congress in the state, and in the country, takes on the BJP regime's evident intolerance of dissent and disagreement. There are many in the ruling party and Union government who have sought to stifle dissent by using the law — including the IT Act and Section 124a of the IPC (sedition law) — claiming offence either to religious or "nationalist" sentiments. In a liberal, plural society, speech acts, no matter how uncomfortable they make some people, should not be deemed criminal unless they can be proved to directly incite violence. While the Constitution does allow for "reasonable restrictions" to free speech, the state must not wield the tedium of the legal process as a punishment against those that offend it.

The filing of a case under the IT Act against Rohatgi and her detention violate these principles. Nine days in custody for a video, however reprehensible, is nine days too many. There was only one reasonable action against her tasteless diatribe. Ignore it.

MOTHER CHRISTMAS?

Gender battles are made of things larger, and smaller, than acts of renaming

AMUM HAS been trolled on Facebook for referring to Santa Claus as "Father Christmas". The woman who lives in Plymouth, UK, said she was only referencing Raymond Briggs's book — in which Father Christmas is a working man, toiling through the day, without elves or Mrs Claus for help, returning home to a lonely Christmas and disappointing gifts. But the internet took offence as, for a while now, there has been a demand from the part of the world concerned about such things that Santa Claus be made more "gender-neutral". Do we hear Mrs Claus letting out a long sigh? Here, for one day, she has the man of the house doing the heavy lifting of picking out the gifts, making everyone happy, getting minimal sleep, and putting on a holiday's game face, while she can rest her stockinged feet next to the fire, watching him slide down one chimney after another.

Behind most Internet firestorms these days, however, there is likely some survey. And one such poll done by a graphics firm last year on how to rebrand Santa, gave Claus skinny jeans, tattoos, iPhone, and a crushing diet — even if picturing that personage out on the snow, hauling a bag, is almost painful. No, thank you. Gender battles, women would tell you, are not won by piecemeal gestures like renaming Father Christmas, Mother Christmas — or the term in between. Before Christmas, there is Christmas eve. How about this time the fathers hang up those socks, bake those cookies, put out the milk, and pick out those gifts, while also doing all that mothers accomplish in between?

The rest of the year? Let women grow their hair white and unruly, do not judge them on the size of their stomachs, allow them their guffaws, don't frown on snacking at midnight, and let the world be welcoming enough for them to roam alone on a sleigh at night.

Touching a nerve in Assam

New citizenship law is seen as an antithesis of the ideas of regional and linguistic nationalism



ARUPJYOTI SAIKIA

ASSAM IS WITNESSING an epic re-enactment of the protests in Tamil Nadu in 1965 against the government of India's proposal to impose Hindi as its official language. Tamil protestors refused to bow down to the pressure of the votaries of Hindi. Since Independence, the argument has been made that Hindi deserves to be India's national language since its speakers are the most numerous. The movement lasted for more than 50 days, forced the government of India to bring in the Official Languages (Amendment) Act of 1967. This Act ensured that English would remain as an associate official language. But the anger against the imposition of Hindi went way beyond that. In 1967, Indira Gandhi's party was voted out of power in Tamil Nadu.

A contentious piece of legislation about Indian citizenship is at the core of the ongoing political protests in Assam and in many parts of India. Simmering tensions against this legislation have been there since 2018. Meetings and conferences debating the pros and cons of this legislation took place across Assam. That wave of protests only marginally influenced the outcome of the general election of 2019. The election manifesto of the BJP had promised that if voted to power they would push for such a bill — but hardly anyone reads an election manifesto. Instead, during election time, public attention is captured by the words of the leaders.

The present movement surfaced in this Winter Session of Parliament. Led by small numbers of Guwahati-based students in the first couple of days, the movement was confined to their campuses. Young students listened to many public speakers about how detrimental this legislation is to the idea of Assamese identity. As the Indian lawmakers assembled in Parliament to debate this legislation, the movement spilled over to the streets.

Common people entered the fray; a strike was successfully observed. The students also gave a call for a protest march. Several Guwahati-based colleges became empty as their students joined those marching to Dispur. Street vendors, city dwellers and many others joined them. Youths from urban Assamese families were in the forefront. Speaking Assamese, English and Hindi and probably a few other languages including

Peasants and traders, youngsters from all classes, workers of the tea gardens, middle classes, non-resident Assamese, swelled the numbers of the protesters. Unlike earlier instances, non-Assamese speakers also willingly merged with the movement. The Assamese artist fraternity and several religious and cultural bodies provided emotional strength to the movement. The Assamese Vaishnavite monasteries' rebuttal of this legislation seriously undermined the RSS narratives of a monolithic Assamese cultural history.

Bengali, playing western music, this sea of humanity marched towards Dispur, their slogans acquiring a rhythm: "We do not want CAB". They sang patriotic Assamese songs, including the Assamese national anthem.

Soon, the protestors were confronted by the security forces. The argumentative protestors knew that their political masters had no answers, no responses to their apprehensions. They became more restless. The security forces unsuccessfully tried to chase away the restive crowds. In the space that had been created for a wide spectrum of political protests, a section of violent protestors targeted the city's new-found symbols of wealth. The police machinery came down heavily, there was firing, curfew was imposed, the internet was banned.

Spontaneous protests soon swept across major parts of Assam. Angry protestors incessantly hurled slogans against the legislation. The protesters made it clear that they felt deceived by the BJP-AGP political coalition. Peasants and traders, youngsters from all classes, workers of the tea gardens, middle classes, non-resident Assamese, swelled the numbers of the protesters. Unlike earlier instances, non-Assamese speakers also willingly merged with the movement. The Assamese artist fraternity and several religious and cultural bodies provided emotional strength to the movement. The Assamese Vaishnavite monasteries' rebuttal of this legislation seriously undermined the RSS narratives of a monolithic Assamese cultural history.

This protest unpacks several layers of critical and interwoven faultlines that have remained buried within Assam's modern history. In the forefront is the contested history of India's regional nationalism. In the rise of a powerful Union government, the Assamese regional middle classes, like others across India, see a threat to this much-cherished idea. This perception is further reinforced by the beleaguered idea of Assamese linguistic nationalism. The citizenship legislation is seen as an anti-thesis to this idea. This new wave of linguistic nationalism is also emboldened by the aspirations of a much-globalised Assamese population. The recent attempts to assertively recast the linguistic nationalism as an extension of Indian nation-

alism produced in the Hindi heartland has also backfired.

Assam had a fraught relationship with the government of India in the middle of the last century. True, the region had a deep engagement with other regions of India, intellectually, culturally and economically prior to the 19th century. The British era redefined and further intensified these connections. Much has been written about how the British imperial government had miserably transformed Assam and her neighbourhood into a major colonial hinterland. That political and economic framework was not corrected during the first three decades of India's independence.

The political unrest of 1979-85 moderately changed this but it was short-lived. The benefits of India's post-1991 economic liberalisation did not impact the region's economic structure. Regional inequalities further deepened. Yet many continued to hope and waited for something dramatic to happen to improve their general economic lot. What, then, worked as a catalyst to shape the recent events? Assamese leaders across the social spectrum have suddenly woken up to the fact this legislation essentially erased the political promises made to them by the government of India in 1985.

Is there a way out? A careful reading of the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly's Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas chaired by none other than Sardar Patel can be of help now. Ideas enshrined in these deliberations ultimately gave moral strength to Assam's Gopinath Bordoloi-led sub-committee to imagine the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India. This was intended to protect the political and economic needs of a frontier province. Provisions encapsulated in Article 371 of the Constitution of India also partly emerged from this creative mechanism.

The political experiences emanating from all these can possibly provide a ray of hope in these troubled times. Whether Assamese and Indian leaders can learn from this, only time will tell.

Saikia is a Guwahati-based historian and author of *The Unquiet River: A Biography of the Brahmaputra*. Views are personal



LUV PURI

SOUND AND FURY

ICJ hearing fails to break impasse on violence against the Rohingya

FROM DECEMBER 10 to 12, Nobel laureate and Myanmar's State Counsellor and de facto foreign minister, Aung Sung Suu Kyi, appeared before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to defend her country against charges of committing genocide.

The case at ICJ revolves around proving genocidal intent and commission of actual genocide by Myanmar in October 2016 and August 2017, when more than 80,000 and 7,40,000 members of the Rohingya community left Myanmar's Rakhine state for Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. Apart from alleged cases of sexual violence against women, surveys conducted by Médecins Sans Frontières in Bangladeshi refugee camps estimated that at least 9,000 Rohingya died in Rakhine state, between August 25 and September 24, 2017.

The three-day ICJ hearing offered few surprises: Similar arguments had been made at multiple forums in the past. On such occasions, Myanmar has denied the charge of genocidal intent and Bangladesh, a country where Rohingya fled to in 2016 and 2017, has charged Myanmar of continuing with the "decades-long state practice of deprivation, disenfranchisement and atrocities".

At the ICJ, as expected, Suu Kyi disputed the allegations of genocide and called it an "incomplete and misleading factual picture of the situation in Rakhine state in Myanmar". Repeating the military's position,

At the ICJ, as expected, Suu Kyi disputed the allegations of genocide and called it an "incomplete and misleading factual picture of the situation in Rakhine state in Myanmar".

Suu Kyi stated it was the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), an extremist group of some members of Rohingya community, that first carried out attacks on military posts. Aware of the domestic sensitivities, she didn't use the term "Rohingyas" but addressed them as "Muslims". In Myanmar, the usage of the term is an indicator on which side of the debate one stands. The Rohingya are officially called Bengalis by the authorities whereas Rohingya have repeatedly asserted their right to self-identify.

In her defence at the ICJ, Suu Kyi admitted that "it cannot be ruled out that disproportionate force was used by members of the defence services in some cases in disregard of international humanitarian law, or that they did not distinguish clearly enough between ARSA fighters and civilians". She also expressed unhappiness over the military's pardon of four officers and three soldiers who were sentenced to 10 years in prison with hard labour for executing 10 Rohingya in Inn Din village.

Parallel to the ICJ case, the International Investigative Mechanism (IIM) established on September 27, 2018 by the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council is gathering prosecutorial evidence, making use of the information handed over to it by the Fact Finding Mission established in March 2017. At the UN, Myanmar has mentioned there were at least seven mechanisms at the UN "with a focus

on Myanmar with a total spending of more than \$35 million from the precarious regular budget resources (of the UN)". It has stated that it will not engage with the IIM because "the country does not accept double standards and, selective and discriminatory application of human rights".

At the ICJ, only "provisional measures" to protect the Rohingya can be imposed before the case can potentially be heard in full. The Security Council has struggled to come out with a united response for several weeks. Ultimately, there was a consensus on a non-binding presidential statement that was issued on November 6, 2017, where it called on "Myanmar to end excessive military force, inter-communal violence in Rakhine State". By then, only around half a million Rohingya were left in Rakhine; the rest had crossed over to Bangladesh. Therefore, the provisional measures being demanded carry less weight. The approximate number of Rohingya living in Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, India, the UAE and Malaysia are as follows: 9,47,000, 5,00,000, 3,50,000, 40,000, 50,000 and 1,50,000. Those living outside Myanmar are scared to return and several efforts involving Myanmar and Bangladesh for repatriation of refugees have failed.

The writer was a member of UN Secretary-General's Good Offices on Myanmar



DECEMBER 18, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

POLITICS AND MUSLIMS ACHARYA J B Kripalani has in a statement urged the Muslims to rely on the goodwill of the Hindu community instead of relying on selfish politicians. The veteran Gandhian said in a statement released in Delhi today that "there is a reciprocity of relations. It must be understood that neither the average individual nor communities are cast in the heroic mould that they can turn the left cheek when their right has received a blow." The acharya said it would be in the best interest of the Muslim community in India for it to fraternise with the majority community, and not to negotiate for securing advantages for itself from political parties, in the form of seats

for the mid-term election to the Lok Sabha or for reservation of posts in the services.

BANGLA BORDER ISSUES THE BANGLADESH HIGH Commission in New Delhi said that an early ratification by India of the Land Boundary Agreement, 1974, will pave the way for final resolution of the border problems between the two countries. The release said "firm and unequivocal commitment of Bangladesh to implement the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement is reflected in its decision to proceed with the demarcation of the disputed areas along the borders even without ratification by India." The statement expressed surprise at reports that

Bangladesh is "going-back" on the 1974 border agreement.

SUGAR PRICE CONTROL WITH THE RE-INTRODUCTION of the dual pricing system, the Centre brought sugar under price, distribution and movement control. This will enable government agencies to sell sugar to consumers at a uniform price of Rs 2.85 per kg all over the country through fair price shops, official sources said. Under the dual pricing system as it existed before August 16, 1978, the mills have to sell 65 per cent of the output as levy sugar through official agencies at a fixed price. Thirty-five per cent is sold in the free market.

13 THE IDEAS PAGE

The way we move

Why do migrants from India today show preference for non-Anglophone countries? Migration studies need to put in perspective changing patterns of movement



S IRUDAYA RAJAN & H AROKKIARAJ

MIGRANTS HAVE MADE notable contributions to their countries of origin as well as destination. This is especially true for South Asia. To commemorate their efforts, the UN celebrates the International Migrants Day on December 18 every year.

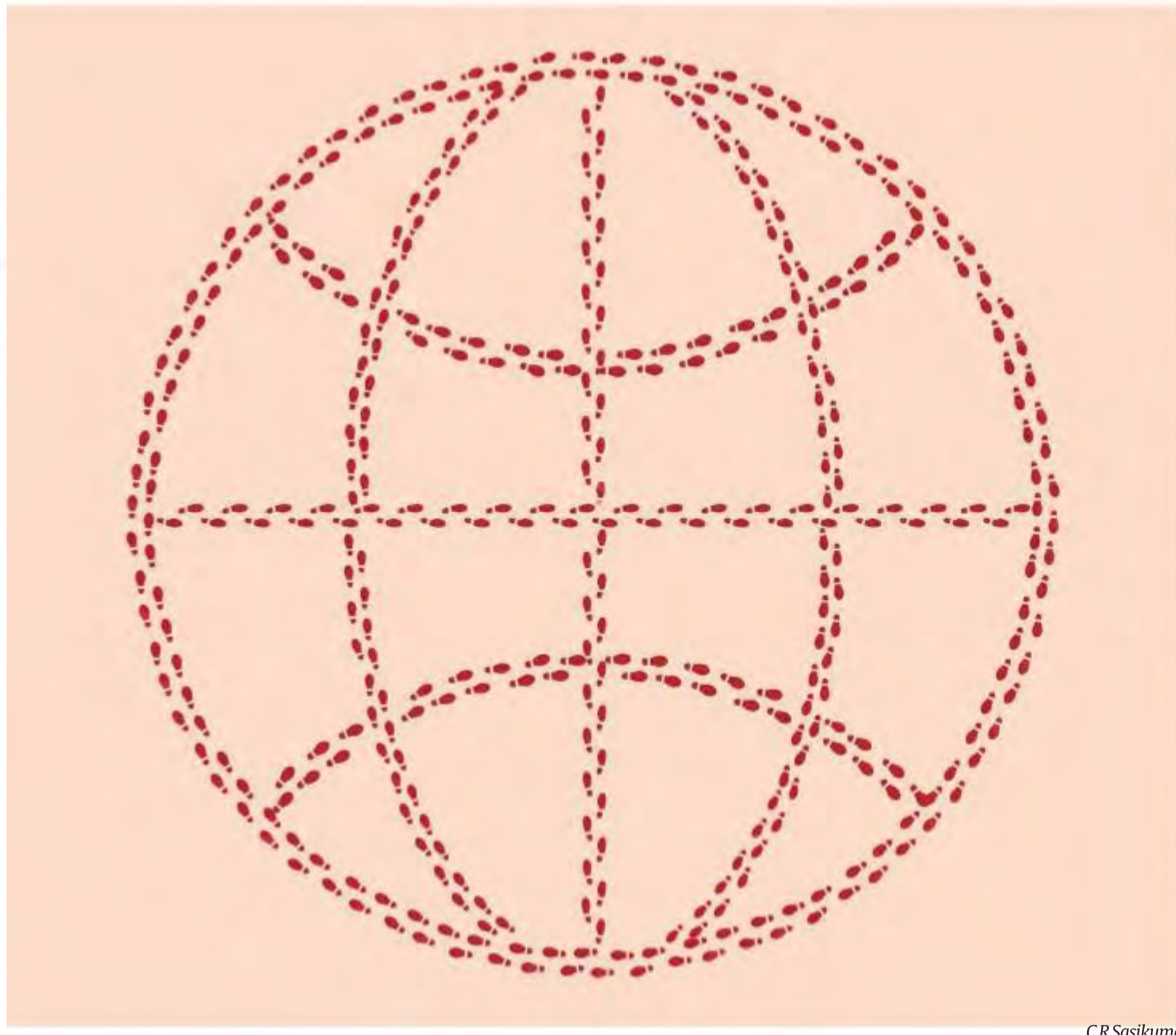
For several years, India has ranked the highest among countries that receive remittances from migrants. States such as Kerala have benefited enormously from migrants to countries in the Persian Gulf. But there is a need to understand international migration from the country in all its diversity. In other words, we need to understand the distinctive characteristics of migrants from different states of the country, their choice of destinations and the patterns and purposes of migration.

Today, India's international migrants are not just from the southern states but also come from the north, including from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar — this is partly due to the demographic dividend of these states. However, there has been very little by way of research to understand the changing patterns of migration from India. We need fresh thinking at both the national and state levels. But before we do that, it is equally important to discuss the current state of research on migration from India.

Kerala has conducted a series of eight migration surveys while Tamil Nadu, Goa, Punjab and Gujarat have produced state-level data only once. Migration is a changing phenomenon and understanding its dynamics requires research at adequate intervals. Moreover, state-level surveys have focused only on legal and voluntary cross-border migration. And, surveys have focussed on households to understand the emigrants or return migrants. It was only last year that a survey in Kerala tried to understand the people intending to migrate.

Moreover, migration studies cannot be confined to labour. While there is much work on labour migration from India, we are yet to study cross-border human trafficking, undocumented migration, small and medium Indian entrepreneurs in different countries, student migration, family migration, left-behind husbands and the challenges faced by migrants in integration. These themes need both methodological and theoretical attention. We must conceptualise migration studies beyond producing databases — though that too is important. We need to understand migration through the lens of historians, psychologists, sociologists, geographers and legal specialists. An interdisciplinary approach could make the field that is currently dominated by economists and demographers much richer.

We also know that migration patterns are dissimilar between genders. Migration studies would, therefore, benefit from a gender studies perspective. Current research focuses on a small sub-population of woman migrants such as nurses and domestic workers. However, Indian woman migrants also comprise students, professionals, including scientists, doctors, IT engineers and teachers as



CR Sasikumar

well as beauticians, sales associates and hotel workers. Besides, women are trafficked to different countries in the Gulf for a variety of purposes ranging from domestic work to immoral activities. Much work is, therefore, needed to deepen our understanding of migration and gender.

Of late, there have been changes in the destination choices of Indian migrants. The preference seems to be for non-Anglophone countries despite the integration challenges. Indian students are moving to China, Japan, Germany and the countries of the former Soviet bloc; we can also see a South-South pattern of student migration along the India-Nepal corridor. Yet, the predominant focus of migration studies is on Anglophone countries.

India is also a destination for students from African countries, but such migration is largely an unresearched area. Nurses and teachers from India migrate to African countries such as Zambia, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Among the Indian professionals, the trend is slowly changing towards migrating to Southeast Asian countries such as South Korea and Taiwan, and European countries such as Norway, Sweden and Belgium. We need to study the considerable challenges and problems of living in non-English speaking countries.

Distress migration does not receive enough attention. Such migrants can be victims of human trafficking, workers who do not have proper documents, migrants trapped in a war zone or conflict areas or those who have been involved in workplace accidents. We do not know much about Indian migrants jailed in different countries

Migrants can be victims of human trafficking, workers who do not have proper documents, migrants trapped in a war zone or conflict areas or those who have been involved in workplace accidents. We do not know much about Indian migrants jailed in different countries or cheated by fake recruiting agents. We know that the cases of Indian workers dying in the Gulf countries have been on the rise over the years. However, we lack national- and state-level data on deceased Indian workers.

or cheated by fake recruiting agents. We know that the cases of Indian workers dying in the Gulf countries have been on the rise over the years. However, we lack national- and state-level data on deceased Indian workers. In recent years, there have been reports of Indian workers held captive by pirates in African countries. There have also been reports of human smuggling from Punjab to Greece and Italy.

Social media has become a powerful tool to highlight the plights of migrant workers. In several cases, the Union Ministry of External Affairs has taken swift action after there were reports on the plight of migrants in social media. But migration studies have not given much thought to increasing the use of social media for migrant welfare.

Centres for migration studies can be established in universities and research institutions. Recently, a research programme on 'International Migration from Kerala' was inaugurated at the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram. The erstwhile Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs had set up a research unit on international migration in 2006.

One way to bridge the knowledge gap is to replicate the Kerala model of migration surveys in all states. Finally, it is equally important to frame a comprehensive national migration policy to address the issues faced by migrants.

Rajan is Professor at the Centre for Development Studies, Kerala and Arokkiaraj is Post Doctoral Fellow at Leibniz Science Campus, Eastern Europe-Global Area, Leipzig, Germany

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Narendra Modi and his Hindutva-infused dispensation, by singling out India's Muslims and laying the groundwork for legal discrimination against the community, are playing with fire." — DAWN

Addressing a Partition left-over

Granting citizenship to people persecuted for their faith does not violate the Constitution



BHUPENDER YADAV

THE WINTER SESSION of Parliament has come to an end. Just like the previous session, it was a productive one. While on the one hand, the government had to deal with critical issues such as the state of the economy, and had to decide whether to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, on the other hand, some important bills were passed.

Among the bills that were passed, the most important was the Citizenship Amendment Bill. Citizenship of any country is a critical political question. When the government recognises a person as a citizen of the country, it extends to them all kinds of rights related to their safety and security so that they can live their lives according to their beliefs and value systems.

Among the rights guaranteed under the Indian Constitution, some are granted to everyone, while some extend only to citizens. A lot of questions were raised by the opposition parties and sections from the North-east in relation to the Bill. Under the legislation, there is a provision to grant citizenship to minority groups, especially Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis who have come to India from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

There are three critical questions here. First, why did the government feel the need to bring this legislation? Second, does it discriminate among people on the basis of religion in granting citizenship? And third, does the entire process of bringing in the Bill stand constitutional validity?

The answer to the first question about why these people are being given citizenship lies hidden in India's history. It is a fact that our country was partitioned along religious lines in 1947, and East and West Pakistan came into existence. In 1950, a pact was signed between the then Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru, and his Pakistani counterpart Liaquat Ali Khan, which avowed to provide security to the minority communities in both countries. Islamabad reneged on that promise, and hence, people in large numbers have been coming to India from Pakistan and Bangladesh. The main reason why these people flocked to India was religious persecution and a grave threat to their religious identity in their host countries.

It is not like this problem has been recognised only by the incumbent government. Between 2004 and 2014, the UPA government reiterated at least 15 times that religious minorities in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan were being persecuted, and hence they have come to India. Not just that. In 2003, when the NDA government was in power at the Centre, Manmohan Singh raised the question of granting citizenship to these persecuted religious minorities. CPM leader Prakash Karat had written a letter to Manmohan Singh on the basis of the statement he made in 2003. To address this long festering problem, the incumbent government brought in the

Citizenship Amendment Bill.

On the question of its constitutional validity, we must remember that the Preamble to the Constitution says that every person has, "Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship." People who believe in any religious ritual have an equal right of religious freedom to practise those rites and rituals.

The main question raised by the Opposition is with reference to Article 14 of the Constitution. They are contending that by giving citizenship only to certain religious minorities of neighbouring countries, the government is indulging in the politics of discrimination.

The truth, however, is far removed from the Opposition's allegations. If the government of a welfare state segregates people on any ground and then extends equal rights to all members of the segregated group, then that arrangement is valid under Article 14.

It is the same as segregating people to grant them the benefits of reservations. It doesn't mean that if 10 per cent of the people in the country are granted reservations, the policy is against the taxpayers of the country. It also doesn't mean that reservations for OBC Muslims is against upper caste Hindus. In the *TMA Pai* case, the Supreme Court upheld the segregation of people on religious and linguistic grounds. Hence, such issues being raised by the Opposition are baseless.

There is also a charge that the legislation is against Northeastern states. This also is not true. The government has exempted all Inner Line Permit regions of the Northeast from its ambit. Further, it has not included the tribal areas in the northeast.

The government has set a cutoff date of December 31, 2014, for granting citizenship to people under the Act. This means that new immigrants will not be included among the people for granting of citizenship. It only grants citizenship to people who have entered on or before the cut-off date.

The NDA government in 2003 and even the UPA government in 2013 had granted citizenship to Hindu immigrants from Pakistan through a circular. Hence, granting citizenship to people on the basis of religious persecution is not a violation of the tenets of the Constitution.

In fact, by passing the Bill, the government has provided a definitive answer to a long-festering problem. By granting citizenship to people who had been living a life of uncertainty and insecurity without any rights, seeing only darkness in the name of future, the Indian government has done a service to the cause of human rights.

Today, no doubt, we are hearing voices of dissent against the Act. But all governments, across the world, need to standardise and streamline immigration. If India needs to move ahead on the road of development, ensuring that each citizen benefits from the country's development, then we need to know what is the exact number and condition of citizens in our country. Once we are able to determine these facts, it will help the government take the fruits of development to each Indian citizen.

This legislation is a step towards Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, and the credit for this step goes to the Prime Minister of the country, Narendra Modi.

The writer is National General Secretary, BJP and Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

A time to unite

Citizenship law strains nation's fabric. Opposition must come together to fight it



SHARAD YADAV

FOR THE PRESENT NDA government, unemployment touching a 45-year high, GDP growth slowing down to 4.5 per cent, inflation touching double digits, increasing farmers' distress, deteriorating law and order situation, an increase in mob lynchings in the name of cow protection, education and teachers' problems and hospitals for the poor are not priority issues. Their priority is the ruthless passage of the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) in Parliament through political maneuvering.

The law is a severe blow to the basic tenets of the Constitution. Further, this amendment has been justified with the argument that had Partition not been done on religious lines, the Bill would not be required. Considering we are enabling a law that will decide the fate of over 130 crore people in this country, this argument sounds immature. The CAA/NRC is another ploy in the series of continuous diversionary actions by the government to deflect the people's attention from their basic needs.

Unfortunately, going by the BJP's agenda, this contentious legislation will also become part of a Hindu supremacist agenda — the same agenda the party has been pushing for nearly six years. Many feel that the CAA is part of a deeper strategy to polarise India, an apprehension that is given credence by the government's actions on triple

talaq, removal of Article 370 and so on. The priority of the government is to arouse sentiments, especially among Hindus, along religious lines for vote-bank politics. The BJP's priorities revolve around notions like love jihad and ghar wapas. Even during elections, the party has given the least number of tickets to minorities.

The CAA is the most significant move yet to profoundly alter India's secular nature, as enshrined by its founding leaders. This mischievous piece of legislation could well strike a fatal blow to India's globally-acclaimed fabric of pluralism.

One instantly gets the feeling that the CAA is fundamentally discriminatory, something which undermines India's commitment to international law and the Constitution. Only a year ago, India endorsed the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration, which obliges all states who are part of the pact to commit themselves to respond to the needs of migrants "in situations of vulnerability, avoiding arbitrary detention and collective expulsions and ensuring that all migration governance measures are human rights-based".

What is highly discriminatory and unacceptable is, that while the biased legislation seeks to expedite citizenship for six religious minorities fleeing persecution in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, it

does not extend the same protection to Muslims. Does it mean that Muslims have not been persecuted in these countries, and is there any authority which has verified this? Further, the question remains as to why these three countries have been chosen and not others — such as Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Bhutan.

Given the vociferous, nation-wide protests against the CAA, the Modi government must seriously introspect before going ahead with its proposed move to put in place a country-wide National Register of Citizens (NRC). Theoretically, the NRC would ask all citizens to prove their citizenship. This, in itself, is grotesque: The equivalent of holding all citizens guilty until they prove themselves to be innocent. It is actually much worse than that because, in effect, the only citizens who would have to provide documentary proof of their belonging would be Muslims — because going by the terms of the CAA, all non-Muslim illegal immigrants would have an unannounced path to citizenship, immune to the dangers of internment or deportation. It is not only Muslims, but the socio-economically weaker sections of society — who bear, literally, only their bodies with them, and who have left their homes behind in search of work — who will find it difficult to produce any documentation.

NRC was a promise made in the Assam Accord. However, in the recent NRC exercise conducted in the state, over 19 lakh foreigners were identified — as based on the 1985 Assam Accord cut-off date — and a majority of those denied citizenship were found to be Hindus or from the indigenous tribes. So, the local people are now saying that the CAA has been brought in to accommodate those Hindus.

In Assam, except in Barak valley where Bengali speakers are in a majority, people fear that the CAA will lead to lakhs of Hindus from Bangladesh swarming indigenous communities, leading to a burden on resources and threatening their language, culture and tradition. This move will further alienate not only Muslims, but also the weaker sections of society from the national mainstream: It will instill a feeling of being second-class citizens in the Northeast and the entire country. This will prove disastrous to India's much-acclaimed ethos of secularism and pluralism.

I would like to conclude by saying that the need of the hour is unity of all opposition parties so that the anti-democracy and unconstitutional actions of the ruling party are curtailed: It is imperative if we are to create a better and prosperous India for the future generation.

The writer is a former Union minister

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HATE SCHOOLING

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Karnataka school re-enacts Babri demolition' (IE, December 17). The RSS member-owned Sri Rama Vidyakendra High School seems oblivious of the Supreme Court ruling that the Babri Masjid demolition was a criminal act. What is the message that is being conveyed to impressionable students? It is deeply disturbing that Union minister D V Sadananda Gowda, and Puducherry Governor Kiran Bedi and Karnataka Minister Shashikala Jolle attended the event.

L R Murmu, Delhi

AGAINST STUDENTS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Listen to them' (IE, December 17). It seems that the government is fishing in troubled waters. The PM has spoken on vandalism and arson in the aftermath of the CAA but not touched upon the pressing economic issues confronting the country. Equating any protest of the government's action with the involvement of Pakistan is preposterous. It is incumbent on government to refrain from heavy-handedness against its own citizens.

Deepak Singhal, Chennai

COP'S FAILURE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'CoP that flopped' (IE, December 17). Given the data and insights from important reports that were available to the delegates at COP25, everyone expected a better out-

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

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

come. Having ignored the warning about the unpreparedness to meet the targets of the Paris Pact, the UNFCCC will have its task cut out in its next meeting.

Deepak Sharma, Panchkula

DENTING IMAGE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'At great cost' (IE, December 16). Since ancient times, people from different parts of the world came and settled in India irrespective of their faith and religions. But the CAA is discriminatory. It does not talk about the minority refugees from Myanmar, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. In the long run, India's image as a secular state faces irreparable damage.

Ravi Prakash Singh, Nainital

14 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Chung Sye-kyun

SOUTH KOREA
Seoul appoints 'Mr Smile' as Prime Minister

Seoul: South Korean President Moon Jae-in appointed an anodyne former parliamentary Speaker known as "Mr Smile" as Prime Minister Tuesday, after a previous Cabinet appointment triggered a corruption scandal and mass protests. Chung Sye-kyun — a six-term lawmaker and former commerce minister — earned the sobriquet for his mild demeanour, and local reports say he has six times been voted the "most gentlemanly lawmaker" by reporters covering the National Assembly. "He has always pursued politics that listen, by valuing dialogue and compromise with his gentle personality," Moon said.

CHINA
14 people killed in coal mine blast

Beijing: At least 14 miners were killed on Tuesday in a coal and gas outburst at a mine in southwest China with two workers still trapped underground, authorities said. The accident happened at around 1.30 am (local time) at the Guanglong Coal Mine in Anlong County, Guizhou province, when 23 workers were working underground, authorities were quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency. Seven workers have been rescued safely, while 14 were confirmed dead and two others still remain trapped, the report said.

PAKISTAN
Lawyer who fought for unlawfully held is abducted

Islamabad: A Pakistani lawyer known for pursuing cases of those unlawfully detained by the country's security agencies was abducted overnight from his home in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, his son said Tuesday. According to the son, several armed men knocked on the gate of the family's home on Monday night. When the family opened the door, the men barged in and took his father, Inamur Rehman, shoved him into a car and then sped away. Rehman, a lawyer and a retired military officer, was never a threat to anyone, said the son.

US Defence Secy wants to cut troops in Afghanistan 'with or without' peace deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 17

DEFENCE SECRETARY Mark Esper said Monday he wants to reduce the number of US troops in Afghanistan "with or without" a peace agreement in order to give higher priority to strategic competition with China.



Afghanistan, "is confident that he can go down to a lower number" of troops.

The Trump administration is expected to announce plans to withdraw around 4,000 troops from Afghanistan, according to US media, after peace talks resumed a week ago between the US and the Taliban.

Esper told reporters Monday that Austin Miller, the head of the NATO mission and US Forces

Miller "believes he can conduct all the important counterterrorism missions and train, advise and assist" the Afghan army, Esper said on a plane as he flew back from Belgium, where he had attended the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

"...The best solution for Afghanistan is a political agreement. But I think we can go down with or without that political agreement."

— MARK ESPER
U.S. DEFENCE SECRETARY

best solution for Afghanistan is a political agreement" between the government and the Taliban, Esper added.

"But I think we can go down with or without that political agreement," Esper said he had not yet ordered any downsizing, noting that the decision was ultimately the responsibility of President Donald Trump.

About 13,000 US troops are currently in Afghanistan, though the number fluctuates according to rotations.

Trump said last month that he planned to cut the overall troop presence to 8,600, with further reductions possible. He had also insisted on the need for a ceasefire.

IMPEACHMENT SET TO MOVE FROM HOUSE TO SENATE

Senate majority leader rejects Democrats' demands to call top Trump aides during trial

MICHAEL D SHEAR
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 17

SENATOR MITCH McConnell, the Republican leader, on Tuesday rejected demands by Democrats to call four White House officials as witnesses during US President Donald Trump's impeachment trial in the Senate.

On the eve of a House vote Wednesday that is all but certain to result in Trump's impeachment on two charges, McConnell said he would not agree to call the witnesses — all of whom have first-hand knowledge of Trump's dealings with Ukraine — including Mick Mulvaney, the White House chief of staff, and John Bolton, the former national security adviser. The White House blocked them from appearing during the House impeachment inquiry.

Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer, the minority leader, had insisted in a letter to McConnell

GIULIANI: TRUMP 'RELIED ON' HIS CLAIMS ABOUT U.S. AMBASSADOR TO UKRAINE

Washington: Rudy Giuliani, US President Donald Trump's personal lawyer, says he provided the President with information that the US ambassador to Ukraine was impeding investigations that could benefit Trump politically. Within weeks, she was recalled from her post.

In an interview, with *The New York Times*, Giuliani portrayed himself as directly involved in the effort to oust Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, and he indicated that Trump

knew of that effort.

Giuliani said he passed along information to Trump "a couple of times" about how Yovanovitch had frustrated efforts that could help Trump, including efforts to have Ukraine investigate political rival Joe Biden. Trump, in turn, passed the information on to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Giuliani said. Within weeks, Yovanovitch was told Trump had lost trust in her and she was recalled as ambassador.

that they might be heard from.

But in remarks on the Senate floor Tuesday morning, McConnell said there was no reason for the Senate to immediately agree to take testimony from officials who

might bolster Democrats' case against the President.

McConnell called Schumer's demand for witnesses "a strange request at this juncture," leaving open the possibility that the

Senate could decide to call witnesses after a trial is underway. But McConnell made it clear that making that decision before the trial started was premature.

"If House Democrats' case is this deficient, this thin, the answer is not for the judge and jury to cure it here in the Senate," he added. "The answer is that the House should not impeach on this basis in the first place."

Schumer responded moments later, saying that holding a trial without witnesses "would be an aberration" and vowing to demand votes by senators on whether to call witnesses and subpoena documents during the trial.

McConnell's comments came as the most politically vulnerable House Democrats in moderate districts continued to announce their support for the impeachment charges, signalling that the House vote expected Wednesday is likely to be almost entirely along party lines. **NYT**

MEANWHILE
INSTAGRAM EXPANDS FACT-CHECKING GLOBALLY

Instagram on Monday announced it had gone global in its fight against misinformation, expanding its third-party fact-checking network around the world. The Facebook-owned social platform launched a fact-checking programme in the US early this year. "Today's expansion is an important step in our ongoing efforts to fight misinformation on Instagram," it said in an online post.

Pope Francis scraps 'pontifical secret' in clergy abuse cases

'Epochal decision' takes away any excuse for Church to not comply with legal requests, says Vatican's top investigator

NICOLE WINFIELD
VATICAN CITY, DECEMBER 17

POPE FRANCIS abolished the "pontifical secret" used in clergy sexual abuse cases Tuesday, responding to mounting criticism that the high degree of confidentiality has been used to protect pedophiles, silence victims and prevent police from investigating crimes.

"The carnival of obscurity is over," declared Juan Carlos Cruz, a prominent Chilean survivor of clergy abuse and advocate for victims.

In a new law, Francis decreed that information in abuse cases must be protected by church leaders to ensure its "security, integrity and confidentiality." But he said "pontifical secret," the highest form of confidentiality in the church, no longer applies to abuse-related accusations, trials and decisions under the Catholic Church's canon law.

The Vatican's leading sex crimes investigator, Archbishop Charles Scicluna, said the reform was an "epochal decision" that will facilitate coordination with civil law enforcement and open up lines of communication with victims.

While documentation from the church's in-house legal proceedings will still not become public, Scicluna said, the reform now removes any excuse to not cooperate with legitimate legal requests from prosecutors, police or other authorities.

Francis also raised from 14 to



Pope Francis also raised from 14 to 18 the cutoff age below which the Vatican considers pornographic images to be child pornography. **Reuters**

EXPLAINED
How Church laws worked in sex abuse cases

POPE JOHN Paul II issued a decree in 2001 stating that cases of alleged sexual abuse of minors by the clergy must be handled by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and that the doctrine of "pontifical secret" must apply to these cases. The Church justified this as a means to protect the privacy of the victims and the accused. However, this has been criticised as having been used as a means to hush up scandals. Moreover, under the Church's in-house canon law, the highest punishment for a priest was being defrocked. This is why there has been repeated demands in recent years to abolish "pontifical secret" in grave cases.

18 the cutoff age below which the Vatican considers pornographic images to be child pornography — a response to the Vatican's increasing awareness of the prolific spread of online child porn that has frequently implicated even high-ranking churchmen.

The new laws were issued Tuesday, Francis' 83rd birthday, as he struggles to respond to the global explosion of the abuse scandal, his own missteps and demands for greater transparency and accountability from victims, law enforcement and ordinary Catholics alike. **AP**

Imran to skip Kuala Lumpur summit due to 'Saudi pressure'

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, DECEMBER 17

PAKISTAN PRIME Minister Imran Khan has decided to skip the Kuala Lumpur Summit due to pressure exerted by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, diplomatic sources said Tuesday.



Pak PM Imran Khan

Khan was scheduled to share the stage with leaders from Iran, Turkey and Qatar during the three-day summit beginning on Wednesday.

The Pakistani leader made a telephonic call to Malaysian leader Mahathir Mohammad and informed him about his decision, according to the Malaysian government.

Sources here said Pakistan decided to skip the summit after Saudi Arabia made it clear that Riyadh was against the summit of Muslim nations evolving into a group rivalling the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which is dominated by the Gulf Kingdom.

The Saudis and Emirati leaders also objected that Pakistan would be sharing stage with Iran and Qatar, seen as challengers to

their dominance in the region, according to sources.

Initially, Pakistan was willing to send Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi to represent Khan at the summit, but officials said that it was decided to stay away from the event for the sake of the country's "core national interests".

Khan travelled to Riyadh over the weekend while Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa went to the UAE to persuade the leaders of the two Arab nations not to oppose Pakistan's participation in the summit but apparently both came back empty handed, sources said. **PTI**

Boris to outlaw Brexit extension beyond 2020

UK PM holds 1st Cabinet meeting after election, says 'you ain't seen nothing yet'

AGENCIES
LONDON, DECEMBER 17

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson was seeking Tuesday to outlaw extending the Brexit transition period beyond the end of 2020, as he prepared to put the EU divorce deal before MPs.

Johnson won a big majority in last week's general election on a promise to "get Brexit done" by taking Britain out of the European Union by the end of January.

A transition period will then

3 INDIAN-ORIGIN MINISTERS REMAIN IN CABINET



Three Indian-origin ministers — Home Secretary Priti Patel; Alok Sharma, the secretary of state for international development; and Chief Secretary to the Treasury Rishi Sunak — have retained their posts in PM Boris Johnson's Cabinet.

follow, during which London and Brussels hope to negotiate a

trade agreement before the end of December next year.

10 from Afghan family killed while on their way to funeral

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KHOST, DECEMBER 17

TEN MEMBERS of the same family were killed Tuesday when their car detonated a roadside bomb as they were travelling to a funeral in eastern Afghanistan, officials said.

The victims had been driving in Khost province in a large station wagon-type vehicle when the blast occurred, according to local and national officials.

"The casualties include five men, two women and three chil-

dren all from one family," Talib Mangal, a spokesman for Khost's governor, said. "They were travelling to Logar province to attend a funeral." Provincial police spokesman Adil Haidar confirmed the toll and incident details, while interior ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi added it was a Taliban bomb placed by the side of the road.

The Taliban did not immediately comment. Deadly violence continues to grip Afghanistan even as the US and the Taliban negotiate a peace deal.

China's 2nd aircraft carrier joins service; focus on SCS

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, DECEMBER 17

CHINA ON Tuesday launched its second aircraft carrier from a key base in the South China Sea (SCS), boosting its military ambition in the region where Beijing's claims of sovereignty is challenged by the US and other nations.

The ship named after Shandong Province in east China was launched from Sanya, located in the South China Sea coast by President Xi

Jinping, who is also the General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) and head of the country's military.

The aircraft carrier is China first domestically-built ship.

China currently has one aircraft carrier *Liaoning*, a re-fit of the Soviet era ship which was commissioned in 2012. It is largely used for training, specially to test the fighter jet J-15, which has been specifically developed to operate from the decks of the aircraft carriers. **PTI**

UN medal given to Indian peacekeepers in South Sudan

YOSHITA SINGH
UNITED NATIONS, DECEMBER 17

ABOUT 850 Indian peacekeepers serving in South Sudan have been awarded the prestigious UN medal for their service and contribution to building peace in the strife-torn nation and supporting the local communities.

India is among the largest troop contributing countries to UN peacekeeping operations. Currently, 2,342 Indian troops and 25 police personnel are deployed with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

The UNMISS said the Indian peacekeepers have been "recognised for their strong contribution to building peace in conflict-affected South Sudan as well as for going above and beyond their duties to support local communities."

The 850 Indian troops serving with the UNMISS received the United Nations Medal for their dedication and sacrifice, "serving so far away from home to protect civilians and build durable peace in South Sudan," according to a statement by the UNMISS. The Indian troops were particularly praised for their efforts to support peace talks. **PTI**

ADULTS IN THE VILLAGE COMPENSATE FOR THE LACK OF CHILDREN WITH THE COMPANY OF HUNDREDS OF GIANT HANDMADE DOLLS

There are no children in this Japanese village, just lots of life-size dolls

MOTOKO RICH & NADIA SHIRA COHEN
NAGORO, DECEMBER 17

THE LAST children were born in the remote mountain village of Nagoro 18 years ago.

Now, a little more than two dozen adults live in this outpost straddling a river on the Japanese island of Shikoku. The elementary school closed its doors in 2012, shortly after the last two students completed sixth grade.

But on a recent bright autumn Sunday, Tsukimi Ayano brought the school back to life.

It just so happened that she did it with dolls rather than humans.

Ayano, 70, had arrayed more than 40 handmade dolls in a life-like tableau on the grounds of the shuttered school. Recreating a school sports day known as "undokai," a staple of the Japanese calendar, she had posed child-size dolls in a footrace, perched on a swing set and tossing balls.

"We never see children here anymore," said Ayano, who was born in Nagoro, and has staged an annual doll festival for the last seven years.

"I wish there were more chil-

dren because it would be more cheerful," she said. "So I made the children."

Japan's population is shrinking and ageing, and nowhere is the trend felt more intensely than in its rural regions, where a low birthrate is exacerbated by dwindling employment opportunities and an inconvenient lifestyle.

"There are no chances for young people here," said Ayano, who remembers when the village had a medical clinic, a pachinko gambling parlor and a diner. Now, Nagoro does not have even one shop. "They can't make a living."



Elderly Japanese people exercise during a health promotion event. Japan's population is fast shrinking and ageing. **Reuters**

Some 350 dolls made by Ayano and her friends outnumber the human residents by more than 10-to-1. All around Nagoro, she has staged the dolls — made of wood and wire frames, stuffed with newspapers and dressed in old clothes donated from across Japan — in various scenes evoking the real people who once populated the village.

An old woman tends a roadside grave, while another rests in a wheelchair. Construction workers smoke cigarettes on break while others wait at the bus stop. A father pulls a wagon

full of children. A mischief maker shakes chestnuts from a tree.

Inside the school, dolls loiter on the stairwells or sit at desks in front of teachers giving eternal lessons. Ayano has a playful touch, giving many of her dolls an impish mien. The overall effect, of a town dominated by dolls, is not as eerie as it might initially sound.

"I don't think it's creepy," said Fanny Raynaud, 38, a nurse from France who was travelling through Japan on a motorcycle with her husband, Chris Monnon, 55. They stopped in Nagoro after reading about the

dolls on a travel blog. "I think it is a beautiful way to make the village alive again," Raynaud said.

Another visitor scrawled a more pointed message on a chalkboard in one of the school's classrooms: "Where are the living?"

Nagoro is one of several hamlets consolidated into a municipal area where more than 40% of the residents are 65 or older.

Even with child care subsidies, discounted medical bills and housing support, the area has little luck attracting new residents or luring back adults who were born in the region. **NYT**

15 ECONOMY

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹38,771	₹70.98	\$65.82	₹45,610

*Indian basket as on December 13, 2019

SENSEX: 41,352.17 ▲ 413.45 NIFTY: 12,165.00 ▲ 111.05 NIKKEI: 24,066.12 ▲ 113.77 HANG SENG: 27,843.71 ▲ 335.62 FTSE: 7,503.07 ▼ 15.98 DAX: 13,301.05 ▼ 106.61

*International market data till 1900 IST

WITH ONLY 4 MONTHS LEFT, GST TARGET IS ₹4.55L CR; DIRECT TAX IS ₹7.78L CR

Amid slowing revenue collection, govt sets targets for tax officers

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

WITH TAX targets looking out of reach amid slowing revenue stream and the economic slowdown, the Revenue Department under the Finance Ministry has exhorted both direct and indirect tax officers to achieve targets without troubling the taxpayers. With only four months left to meet the overall target, Goods and Services Tax (GST) target has been set at Rs 4.55 lakh crore (Rs 1.10 lakh crore for three months each and Rs 1.25 lakh crore in one month), while direct tax officials have to collect Rs 7.78 lakh crore in the same period.

EXPLAINED Corporate tax cut, low growth may increase challenge for govt

WITH JUST four months remaining in the current financial year and tax collections lagging behind the budget estimates, the Finance Ministry has exhorted tax officers to achieve targets of both direct and indirect taxes, with the rider that officers do not "trouble" taxpayers in the process. The GST target has been set at Rs 4.55 lakh crore for these four months, while direct tax officials staring at the onerous task of collecting Rs 7.78 lakh crore, or 58.2 per cent of the Budget target during this period. Collection of past arrears and matching of income tax data with GST data are some of the measures which would also be undertaken as the government struggles to meet its targets. The recent corporate tax cut and flagging economic growth are expected to compound the challenge.

Principal Chief Commissioners and Chief Commissioners have been asked to make field visits on a regular basis every week, the official said. Information will also be shared between GST and income tax authorities to detect cases of tax evasion and recover the due amount of tax. "Information of GST and income tax and other financial dealings will be shared and the tax evaders will be

Revenue analysis, augmentation to be areas of focus in today's GST Council meeting

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

REVENUE ANALYSIS and revenue augmentation measures, coming in the backdrop of delayed compensation payments to states, will be the primary areas of discussion in the 38th Goods and Services Tax Council meeting Wednesday. Though the Council has refrained from listing any major tinkering of rate slabs in the official agenda, it is expected to correct inverted duty structure (when tax on inputs is higher than the final product) of several items such as fabrics, solar modules, railway locomotives either by a rate hike or tweaking conditions for input tax credit. Compliance measures and a hike in compensation cess may also get discussed, even as several states have already raised concerns against any significant rate tweak amid the slowdown.

Over 2 years into insolvency process: CoC approves NBCC resolution plan for Jaypee Infra

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

MORE THAN two years after Jaypee Infratech went into corporate insolvency resolution process in August 2017, the committee of creditors (CoC) of the beleaguered real estate company has finally approved the resolution plan submitted by state-owned NBCC. While this comes as a big relief to almost 20,000 homebuyers awaiting the delivery of their housing units, as per the resolution plan submitted by NBCC, the project for homebuyers would get completed within the next 3.5 years.

In the latest round of bidding, NBCC and Suraksha Realty had submitted their proposals and that submitted by NBCC received 97.36 per cent votes in the voting conducted on Monday.

In a filing with the BSE, Jaypee Infratech's Interim Resolution Professional Anuj Jain informed that NBCC got 57.66 per cent vote of homebuyers and 0.13 per cent of fixed deposit holders. The public sector firm got 39.57 per cent votes of lenders out of total 42.21 per cent votes.

While IFCI, which had 1.21 per cent voting rights abstained from voting process, ICICI Bank (1.31 per cent) and SREI Equipment Finance Ltd (0.12 per cent), voted against

NBCC offered 1,526 acre of land in lieu of debt to lenders and a penalty payment of Rs 5 per sq ft per month to homebuyers on delay

NBCC's bid. Of the 21,781 homebuyers that are part of the CoC, as many as 12,147 flat owners voted on NBCC's resolution plan — of which 97.02 per cent were in favour. As many as 13 banks, 914 FD holders and 21,781 homebuyers had voting rights in the CoC. After the CoC approval, NBCC's bid has to be approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). Sources said while Suraksha Realty offered Rs 190 crore upfront cash payment to lenders, they also offered 2,320 acres of land in lieu of debt and proposed delay penalty payment of Rs 10 per sq ft per month to homebuyers. It also proposed to complete the project within three years.

By comparison, NBCC offered 1,526 acres of land in lieu of debt to lenders and a penalty payment of Rs 5 per sq ft per month to homebuyers on delay. NBCC proposed to complete project for homebuyers within 3.5 years.

While homebuyers' claim amounting to Rs 13,364 crore and lenders' claim worth Rs 9,783 crore have been admitted, NBCC has proposed to transfer the road asset to lenders but before that it will take a loan of around Rs 2,500 crore against toll revenue to fund construction spend. **WITHPTI**

SECTOR WATCH BANKING: E-PAYMENTS

Stolen, cloned card complaints more than double in FY19: RBI Ombudsman

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 17

THE NUMBER of complaints relating to ATM and debit cards filed with the Reserve Bank of India's Ombudsman rose 18.65 per cent to 36,539 during the year ended March 2019 from 24,672 complaints in the previous year. Complaints relating to use of stolen and cloned cards more than doubled to 4,961 (2.53 per cent of the total complaints) in 2018-19 from 2,117 a year ago, data released by the RBI has showed.

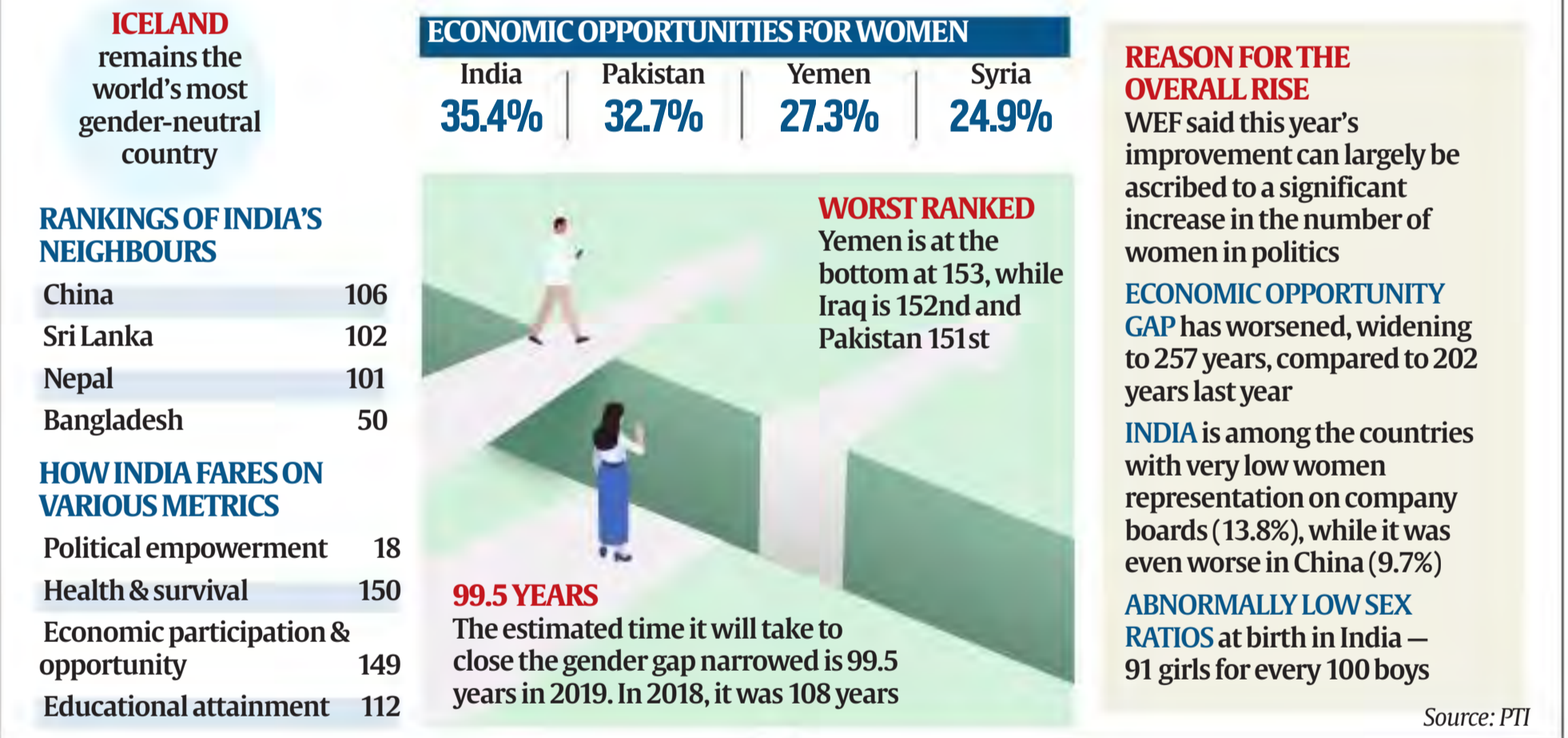
Of the total number of ATM and debit cards complaints, 'account debited but cash not dispensed by ATMs' accounted for almost 53%

and debit cards complaints, a major sub-category was 'account debited but cash not dispensed by ATMs' which accounted for almost 53 per cent of the ATM related complaints, the RBI report on the Ombudsman's scheme said. "While non-observance of fair practices code continued to remain the major ground of complaints during the year, its percentage came down from 22.10 per cent in the previous year to 19.17 per cent in the current year. ATM and debit card issues had increased from 15.08 per cent in last year to 18.65 per cent this year," the report said. According to the RBI, the complaints on the ground relating to digital transactions (mobile, internet, ATM and credit cards) rose by 18,801 to 64,607 complaints and accounted for 32.98 per cent of total complaints, a 6.48 per cent increase in share of complaints over the previous year. "This, however, did not include the digital related complaints falling under other grounds under the scheme. The rise in complaints reflects rising popularity of digital modes of transactions," the report said.

Overall, the complaints received at Ombudsman's offices rose by 32,311 taking the total to 1,95,901 in 2018-19 over the previous year (1,63,590), recording a year on year (Y-o-Y) increase of 19.75 per cent. Of these, 72.19 per cent were received electronically — through the online portal and by emails as against 63.61 per cent in the previous year. Complaints received on grounds relating to pension, levy of charges without notice, credit card related issues and remittance have declined this year vis-a-vis the previous year. The number of complaints pertaining to 'mis-selling' have gone up from 579 complaints in 2017-18 to 1,115 complaints this year, an increase of 92.57 per cent.

'Gender gap: India slips to 112th place'

India has slipped four places to rank 112th globally in terms of gender gap amid widening disparity in terms of women's health and survival and economic participation — the two areas where the country is now ranked in the bottom-five, as per the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Report



ON TRUST DEFICIT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND INDIA INC 'It takes two to clap ... Key is to run in a transparent way'

CONFEDERATION OF Indian Industry (CII) president VIKRAM KIRLOSKAR on Tuesday said the government should expand the fiscal deficit in the current year to push infrastructure spending for boosting growth. The industry and government should also work to narrow the trust deficit between the two, he said in an interview with SUNNY VERMA. Edited excerpts:

CII met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today in a pre-Budget meeting. What are your suggestions for economic revival?
We have met the Finance Minister, along with several other associations. We made few key suggestions. First is we felt that the government should perhaps pay less attention to fiscal deficit this year and let it expand by small amount and increase the infrastructure spending, and then go back to reducing the deficit over the next few years. This is again to push for demand. Second, payment of Rs 4,000 per farmer (under PM-KISAN) should be front-loaded. It has already been committed so that's not an extra burden. On pending payments to private companies, the government has already assured that they have released about Rs 60,000 crore. We also spoke about how liquidity to NBFCs can be improved.



"We have met the FM... we felt that the govt should perhaps pay less attention to fiscal deficit this year and let it expand by small amount... increase the infrastructure spending"
VIKRAM KIRLOSKAR
PRESIDENT, CII

law, be very strict and close those issues, but generally most people are following the law, don't unnecessarily criminalise items in our normal work. **Basically you are talking about trust deficit between industry and government?** Yes, industry (and) government. Because of various issues, you start putting in very strict laws to make it (offences) criminal, whereas for criminal issues, the law of the land is already there. Please take action and do whatever you have to do and do it fast, no one will say that don't do that. But, people who are running legitimate businesses,

should not be hampered by all kind of laws which make it difficult to run the business.

You spoke of trust deficit, and another industry veteran, Rahul Bajaj, recently spoke about fear in the country. What's your view? I think it always takes two people to clap. Industry should run in a very transparent way and request the government to be run in a very transparent way. That's the only way you can build trust and that cannot happen overnight.

CII has been very vocal on economic issues, but did not issue any statement or comment when numbers for GDP for second quarter were released, which pegged growth for July-September at 26-quarter low of 4.5 per cent. You know headwind is a headwind, by saying you cannot make it a tailwind. The only thing we can do is get more data, try to find out what are possible solutions, what we think are good ideas, talk with our members and go back to the government explain what our members are thinking. You have to do it the hard way. Just saying things that this is bad or this is good, what difference is it going to make. From CII's viewpoint, our intention is not just to criticise for the sake of criticising. We like to work cooperatively with the government. People say you are being very nice and sweet, that's not the issue. I think the issue is trying to come to a common un-

derstanding of the problem, then try to solve the problem rather than create it.

While corporate tax cut would help businesses, are there any sectoral issues or sectors which require support? Well definitely, my industry (automobiles) definitely requires support. How to get it is the question. Support that we are looking for is that policy should remain firm. For example, CAFE-1 (Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency) that we are doing now and moving to CAFE-2 from 2022 — the next set of norms. No one should change CAFE-2 (deadline) all of sudden. There is a cycle in the auto industry for development and amortisation and you have to respect that cycle. Then the government should keep long term policy and not short term policy, and make it simple.

Some industry leaders argue there is oligopolistic formation in many of the sectors in India such as telecom and e-commerce. Are you concerned? I don't know what you think in Delhi, but in Bengaluru we see 200-300 new companies being formed every month. And Bangalore is still adding about 10-14 million square feet of prime office space every year, it's not going to the existing companies. There are a lot of new players coming in a big way, mostly in the tech space. You will see new player come up because our market is very open.

'Likely to be a significant downward revision for India' in Jan: Gopinath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 17

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund is set to cut the growth estimate for India "significantly", its India-born chief economist Gita Gopinath said on Tuesday.

The Washington-based institution had come out with an estimate in October and will be reviewing the same next month in January, she said at the India Economic Conclave organised by Times Network. A fall in consumption, lack of private investments and sluggish exports are being blamed for a slower GDP growth which slid to a six-year low of 4.5 per cent in September. The RBI and other watchers have done downward reviews of their growth forecast for India for FY2020.

Gopinath said India is the only emerging market which has thrown a surprise of this kind. "If you look at recent incoming data, we would be revising our num-

bers and come up with numbers in January, and it is likely to be a significant downward revision for India," she said, refusing to share a number or even mention if it would be under 5 per cent. The IMF in its October forecast had projected 6.1 per cent growth for India in 2019 and the same to go up to 7 per cent in 2020. She also sounded doubtful about the country achieving \$5 trillion GDP target by FY2025, and chose to present her case arithmetically. The economist said India will have to grow at 10.5 per cent in nominal terms as against 6 per cent in the last six years, and 8-9 per cent in real terms in order to achieve the target. She pitched for the government utilising its massive mandate to bring in land and labour market reforms as essential aspects if India were to achieve its \$5 trillion aspiration. Gopinath also said that it is good for an economy to have aspirations and India should be doing all in order to achieve the number.

Boeing's halt to 737 MAX production could hurt US economy, jobs



Unpainted Boeing 737 Max aircraft sit on the tarmac at the Renton Municipal Airport in Renton, US on Tuesday. Reuters

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 17

BOEING'S DECISION to stop production of its best-selling 737 MAX aircraft involved in two fatal crashes will impact the US economy and employment, but the pain may be brief and concentrated in areas where suppliers are located, analysts say. The biggest assembly-line halt in more than two decades at Boeing will cut first quarter 2020 gross domestic product growth by half a percentage point, Michael Feroli, chief US economist at JP Morgan, predicted Tuesday. While Boeing has said it would not lay off any of the roughly 12,000 employees who make the 737, the planemaker's suppliers may not be able to keep all of their

workers, which could hurt US employment numbers or consumer spending and dent GDP. However, resuming production will provide a lift to GDP, Feroli wrote — whenever that occurs. Boeing holds unique sway in the US economy: It is the largest US goods exporter and is the largest weight in the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the blue chip stock index tracked worldwide as a bellwether of wealth creation. Since a global grounding of the 737 MAX in March, key US economic data series such as durable goods orders and export sales have been hit. Aircraft exports between March and October are down \$5.5 billion from their level over the year-ago period, adding to a drag on economic growth from slumping overseas sales.

Sensex ignores weak macro data, hits record high on trade deal

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, DECEMBER 17

DESPITE SLIDING macroeconomic fundamentals, India's top stock indices - Sensex and Nifty - on Tuesday hit new peaks as strong global cues and sustained foreign fund inflows boosted the sentiment.

GAINERS

4.38%: Tata Steel was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging 4.38 per cent. Up to 4.37%: Bharti Airtel surged 4.37 per cent, Vedanta 3.50 per cent, Tata Motors 3.03 per cent, HDFC 2.46 per cent and Bajaj Finance 2.39 per cent on the BSE

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty Index soared to its new intra-day high of 12,182.75 before ending 111.05 points, or 0.92 per cent, up at 12,165, also a record closing level. Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services, said, "Positive global sentiments buoyed by easing trade war tensions between the US and China continued to pump up the market.

cent to a six-year low of 4.5 per cent in the September quarter and retail inflation rose to 5.54 per cent, much above the central bank's 4 per cent medium-term target. Siddhartha Khemka, head-research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said: "Metals stocks rallied on hopes of global economic recovery post US reaching an in-principle trade deal with China".

Retail loan book set to double to ₹96 lakh cr in next 5 years: Report

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, DECEMBER 17

RETAIL LOAN book of lenders will double to Rs 96,00,000 crore by March 2024 as compared with Rs 48,00,000 crore in March 2019, says a report unveiled by ICICI Bank and Crisil.

As per the report, the mortgage loans market is expected to double to Rs 46.1 lakh crore in FY24

pillars that are going to support expansion of the market are: Greater information availability progressively reducing the risk in lending; lower costs for customers due to intensifying competition; regulatory and government initiatives; five-fold increase in digital lending for private consumption - home, car, consumer durables, credit cards etc - willingness of consumers to take loans, increased availability of various consumer data, improved usage of data analytics and regulatory initiatives propelling growth in low cost housing loans and micro, small & medium enterprises (MSME) loans.

Through the credit offtake in the current financial year has remained sluggish, the report said the rapid growth in the retail book will take place in the next five years on the back of increased demand for private consumption - home, car, consumer durables, credit cards etc - willingness of consumers to take loans, increased availability of various consumer data, improved usage of data analytics and regulatory initiatives propelling growth in low cost housing loans and micro, small & medium enterprises (MSME) loans.

CONSULTATION WITH FINANCE MINISTER

Pre-Budget meet: India Inc seeks export boosters, easing of compliance burden

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

IN A pre-Budget consultation with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Tuesday, stakeholder groups from industry, trade and services sectors recommended measures for promoting exports, lowering of taxes on equity capital and expansionary fiscal policy for boosting growth.

Agri experts demand scrapping GST on agri-inputs, revamp of PMFBY

New Delhi: The government should remove GST on agri-inputs, revamp crop insurance scheme, land lease rental while fixing MSP and ban futures trade on agri-commodities are some of the suggestions made by farm experts during pre-budget meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday. Measures to promote or-

ganic farming, cut in import duty from 30 per cent to zero on live embryo, animal and semen, tweaking of electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) and revisiting of Food Security Act were some other recommendations made during the meeting. This is the fourth pre-Budget meeting on agriculture and agro-processing sectors. PTI

Free Trade Agreement with the European Union. India's GDP growth rate at 4.5 per cent for Q2, 2019-20, has hit a 26-quarter low in July-September, dragged down by a contraction in manufacturing, weak investment, and lower consumption demand.

THE TELECOM Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) on Tuesday retained the current termination rate of 6 paise per minute for another year - January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 - after which the rate will become zero. While reducing the termination rate by 57 per cent to 6 paise per minute in September 2017, Trai had said that from January 2020 operators would move to a regime of zero rate. On Tuesday, while retaining the rate for another year, Trai said that it has to keep the interests of 2G/3G subscribers in mind. At the end of September 2019, out of approximately 1,174 million mobile subscribers, 557 million are 4G data subscribers and the remaining 617 million are still using 2G/3G services. "While reviewing the IUC, it is necessary to balance interests of both of these subscriber segments," Trai said.

The regulator though said all three private operators have rolled out VoLTE extensively and plans to further expand the 4G networks. Soon the government will also assign 4G spectrum to public sector telcos. "Accordingly, it appears that soon all the wireless access service providers would offer 4G services to customers across India," the regulator said. Through the incumbent operators welcomed the move of retaining the current rate for one more year they added that ideally it should have been extended by two years. Meanwhile, Trai has come out with a consultation paper on setting a floor price for telecom tariffs. The paper comes after industry body COAI urged the regulator to fix a floor price for data services. Trai has come out with a list of 19 questions wherein it wants to know what could be the methodology to fix floor price for data and voice services as well as bundled offers. The regulator also wants to know if there should be a floor ceiling also, so that interest of consumers could be safeguarded. FE

The representatives submitted suggestions concerning reduction of compliance burden and tax litigation, allowing self-certification in low risk industry, decriminalisation of tax and company laws. Besides, they demanded reduction of cost of equity capital, simplification and rationalisation of duties and labour laws, adoption of international standards of alternative dispute resolution, export development funds for helping MSME exporters and ease of investment flow into manufacturing sector. Industry chamber CII suggested to the government for adoption of an expansionary fiscal policy, with a range of around 0.5 per cent to 0.75 per cent deviation from the target of fiscal deficit of achieving 3.3 per cent of

GDP. The additional leeway could be spent on asset creation, especially in rural infrastructure. Industry leaders also suggested the government to remove long-term capital gains tax on shares. "The main areas of discussion during the aforesaid meeting included regulatory environment impacting private investment, measures for promotion of exports amidst rising protectionist tendencies, industrial production, logistics, media & entertainment services & IT-enabled services among others," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, CII President Vikram Kirloskar said: "They (ministers and government officials) have understood the situation, the headwinds in the economy and they have looked at all the possible suggestions whether it is to have fiscal easing which is what we have suggested, various ways to improve tax collection, improve demand". To promote international trade, CII suggested the government should sign India-EU Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement, which will enable resumption of talks on

Trai: 6p/min charge on outgoing calls to other networks extended

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

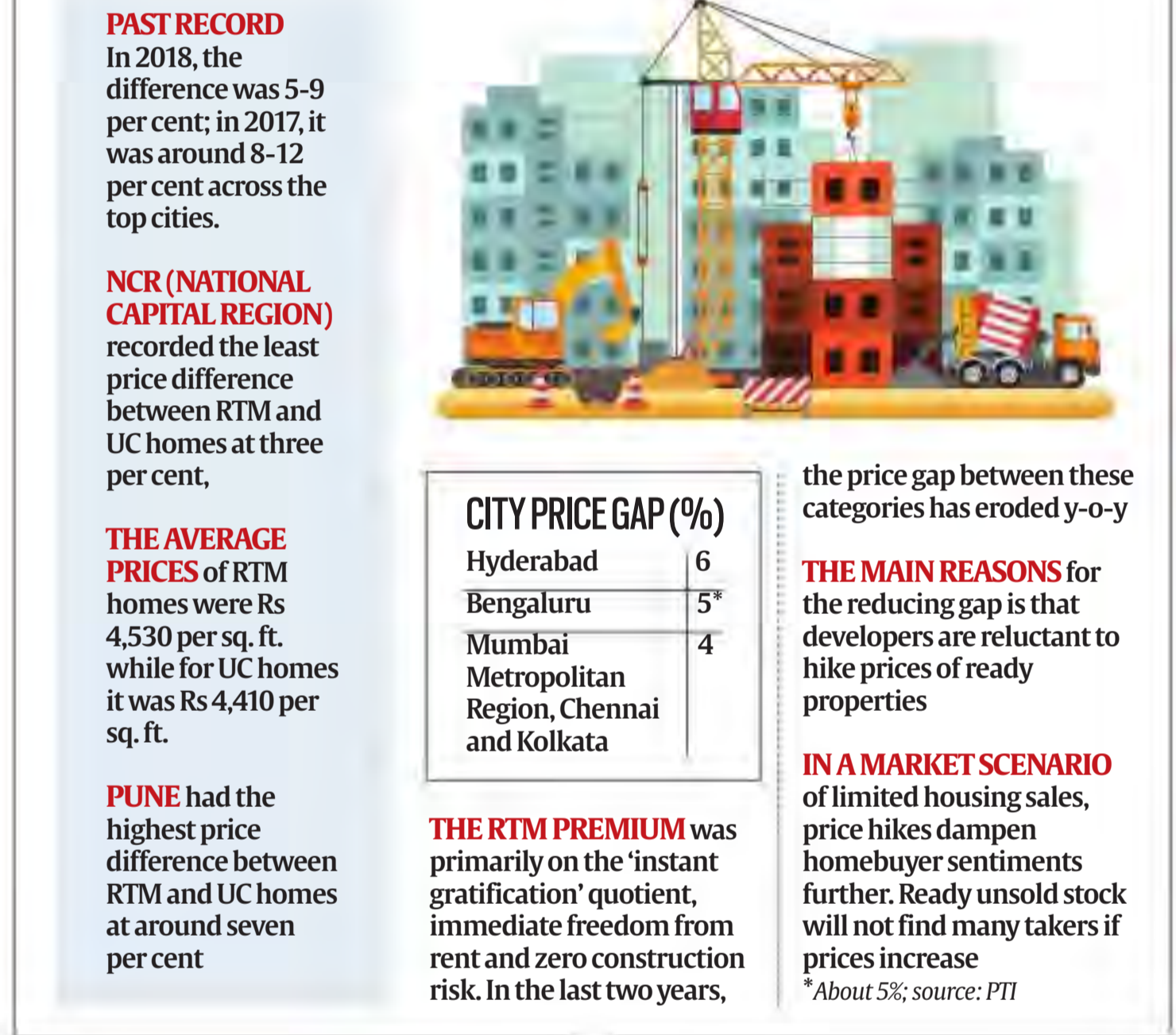
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'Price gap between ready and under-construction homes falls 3-7%'

The price gap between ready-to-move-in (RTM) and under-construction (UC) homes in top seven cities has dipped to a mere 3-7 per cent in 2019, as per Anarock



Goyal: Centre to go slow on FTAs to avoid RCEP-like impasse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

INDIA WILL not sign any free trade agreement in a hurry or to the disadvantage of industry and exporters, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday, more than a month after the country walked out of the China-backed mega trade deal RCEP.

On November 4, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in Bangkok that India will not join RCEP as negotiations failed to address New Delhi's "outstanding issues and concerns". Speaking at an event organised by CII, Goyal said the government took the bold decision in the national interest because clearly, the pact had become nothing but an India-China FTA which "nobody wants". This, according to Goyal, was a bold decision "as for the first time it reflected the resolve of the government that diplomacy will not prevail over trade. Trade will stand on its feet, on its leg."

BRIEFLY

'Broadband in all villages by 2022'

New Delhi: The government on Tuesday promised broadband access in all villages by 2022, as it launched the National Broadband Mission entailing stakeholder investment of Rs 7 lakh crore in the coming years.

D Subbarao cautions against 'fiscal profligacy'

New Delhi: Former Reserve Bank Governor D Subbarao on Tuesday asked the government to ensure fiscal deficit is within the targeted number and warned that "fiscal profligacy" can lead to crisis situations.

EAC-PM member on the economy

New Delhi: India missed the bus by not turning gains of lower inflation into low interest rates, which is pricking the economy on the growth front, said Neelkanth Mishra, a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, Tuesday.

16 MAJOR STATES' DATA SCRUTINISED Non-GST tax revenue subdued in current fiscal

HARIKISHAN SHARMA NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

EVEN AS the government struggles to shore up the GST revenue, the collection of non-GST tax revenue too seems to be subdued at a time when the economy is slowing down. A scrutiny of revenue figures of 16 major states reveals a sluggish growth in non-GST tax collection during the first seven months of the current financial year as compared to the same period last fiscal. The data, compiled from unau-

dated provisional figures of states' monthly accounts available on the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) website, shows that combined non-GST tax collection of 16 Non-Special Category states during April-October 2019 was Rs 3,03,106.03 crore, 50.52 per cent of the budget target of Rs 5,99,987.7 crore. It is lower in comparison to the 52.72 per cent collected during the same period of the last fiscal against the budget targets of 2018-19. The non-GST taxes include mainly four taxes: Stamps and Registration Fees; Land Revenue;

Sales Tax; and State Excise Duties. The states for which data have been analysed include Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Telangana. There are 18 Non-Special Category states but the latest data is not available for Bihar and Goa. The data have been compared against Budget targets of current and last financial years as comparable full year non-GST revenue figures of states are available only

2018-19 onwards. The analysis shows the combined mop-up of State Excise Duties in these states was Rs 81,764.25 crore or 51.29 per cent of their total Budget target during the first seven months of the current financial year. However it was Rs 74,809.6 crore or 55.05 per cent in the year-ago period. The state excise duties levied on liquor is the second biggest contributor to the state's Own Tax revenue after sales tax. Though there is no reason given for the sluggishness in the collection of state excise duties, it can be attributed to the slowdown as well as prohibi-

tion in few states. Besides this, collections of Stamps and Registration Fees and Land Revenue are also subdued. During the April-October period of 2019-20, the collection of Stamps and Registration Fees in these 16 states was Rs 68,367.97 crore - 53.40 per cent of the Budgeted target of Rs 1,28,035 crore. However, collection of Stamps and Registration Fees was much faster - 58.35 per cent of the Budget target of Rs 1,10,668.96 crore in the first seven months of 2018-19. The collection of sales tax has also been sluggish this fiscal.

राजस्थान राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड, वृत्त-श्रीगंगानगर. विड आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 02/2019-20. दिनांक 13.12.2019

SAVITRIBAI PHULE PUNE UNIVERSITY Ganeshkhind Road, Pune 411007. E-Tendering. Invites online tender for procurement of. Sr. No. Details. EMD (in Rs.). 1. Request for Proposal for RCL (Reconfigurable Computing Laboratory) with Tender ID 2019_UOFP_520305_1. EMD(INR 3,20,000 = Three lak Twenty thousand only)

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice. Tender No.: 32, 33 & 34/19-20/SE/PH/CPK. KILFB - 17-18 - CWSS to Malampuzha constituency, Kozhijangara and adj. pts, Vandaazi and adj. pts - Construction of 11.5L, 20LL & 8LL OHSR and CWP and pumpset, Construction of 11LL OHSR and CWP and pumpset. EMD - Rs. 50000 - 500000. Tender Fee - Rs. 5600 - 16800. Last Date for submitting Tender: 18-01-2020 03:00:pm. Phone: 04912544827. Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ लि. ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED. (A Government of Odisha Undertaking). Regd. Office, Jangthp, Bhubaneswar-751 022 (Odisha). CIN: U40102OR2004SGC007553. e-Tender No. CPC-14/2019-20. For and on behalf of ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD, Senior General Manager (C.P.C) invites Tenders from reputed manufacturers in two part bidding system for supply of 500KVA, 33/0.433KV Station Transformers (Bis energy level-2). Bidders would be required to enroll themselves on the tender portal www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL for participating in the above tender. Complete set of bidding documents are available in www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL, from dt.18.12.2019 (10:00 Hrs.) to dt.16.01.2020 (12:00 Hrs.). Interested manufacturers may visit OPTCL's official website http://www.optcl.co.in and www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL for detail, specification. N.B: All subsequent addendum / corrigendum to the tender shall be hosted in the OPTCL's official website http://www.optcl.co.in and www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL only. Senior General Manager (CPC)

AviationMin to NCLT: Will consider concrete biz plan for Jet

Mumbai: The Aviation Ministry and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Tuesday informed the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) that they will positively consider any concrete business plan for Jet Airways. The counsel representing the Ministry told the tribunal that it will examine the issue if Jet Airways prospective investors come up with a concrete business plan. He further said that slots are perishable assets and it cannot be utilised by other airlines. The deadline for applying for the next round of airport slots is January 15. The Ministry said two new foreign investors have shown very early interest for the grounded airline besides South Americas Synergy Group. PTI

'Kotak Mahindra Bank best suitor for Yes Bank'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

TWO OF India's top bankers on Tuesday publicly said Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) is best suited to acquire rival Yes Bank. Both Yes Bank, where accelerated non-performing assets recognition under new chief executive Ravneet Gill has reduced buffers, and the capital-flush Kotak Mahindra Bank denied any transaction being in the works. Yes Bank's capital raising plan is also passing through uncertainties and there are speculations on whether Yes Bank is an acquisition target, which has been consistently denied by the lender. "I think Uday (Kotak) is the best candidate to acquire Yes Bank. You need deep pockets, Uday has that," SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar said at Times

Network's India Economic Conclave. When the same question was posed to third-largest lender Axis Bank's MD and CEO Amitabh Chaudhry, he said: "We are a smaller bank. We are trying to ensure that we grow big so that at some stage we can acquire others. So, yes Mr Kotak, they are best suited rather than us," he said. Gill of Yes Bank called talk of any deal as "idle speculation" and termed it as "casual banter" and reiterated that there is nothing in the works. When contacted, Kotak Mahindra Group chief communication officer Rohit Rao said, "these are comments made by other bankers and reflect their views, and not ours". Meanwhile, speaking at the same event, Kotak said there is a need to resist a "colonialisation" of Indian finance, hinting at share sales to foreign investors.

Nasscom opposes Bill in US

New Delhi: Nasscom Tuesday said a new Bill in the US that proposes to bar a section of Indian IT firms from bringing in global talent on H1B visas will have a "damaging effect" on the competitiveness of US firms and create an uneven field. PTI

BANYAN

Aung San Suu Kyi has gone from hero to villain

Yet she has not changed very much



Aung San Suu Kyi obviously wishes Myanmar's institutions worked better, but is not ready to countenance outside interference to compensate for their deficiencies. Reuters

THE COMMITTEE that awarded the Nobel peace prize to Aung San Suu Kyi in 1991 described her as "an important symbol in the struggle against oppression" and an inspiration to those "striving to attain democracy, human rights and ethnic conciliation by peaceful means". But to the crowd of protesters who gathered outside the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague this week, she is just the opposite: an apologist for military brutality, an oppressor of ethnic minorities and an abettor of genocide. "Aung San Suu Kyi, shame on you!" they chanted. As her motorcade glided past, windows tinted, the jeers and boos rose in a crescendo.

Ms Suu Kyi, who since 2016 has been Myanmar's president in all but name, was at the ICJ to defend her country against charges of genocide in a complaint brought by Gambia on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation, a group of Muslim

countries. The case concerns the Rohingyas, a Muslim minority group that has suffered varying degrees of persecution since Myanmar's independence in 1948. In 2017 the Burmese army went on the rampage in Rohingya areas in the far west of the country, in response to attacks on military outposts by a small Rohingya guerrilla group. The court heard horrifying descriptions of mass shootings and throat-slittings, with babies tossed into burning houses and women gang-raped or stabbed in the vagina. Listening to the accounts, Ms Suu Kyi sat, poised and calm, with fresh flowers in her hair, just as there always had been during her decades doggedly opposing military rule.

That a woman who was herself locked up by the Burmese army for 15 years would travel halfway around the world to defend it has astonished many. In a certain sense, her battle with the generals continues.

Aung San Suu Kyi, who since 2016 has been Myanmar's president in all but name, was at the ICJ to defend her country against charges of genocide in a complaint brought by Gambia on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation, a group of Muslim countries

Despite heading the civilian government, she is not in charge of them. The constitution they put in place before allowing democratic elections to be held in 2015 makes the army a law unto itself, and awards it a quarter of the seats in parliament — enough

to veto any constitutional amendments. Many of Ms Suu Kyi's admirers had attempted to exonerate her of the pogrom against the Rohingyas, saying she was powerless to prevent it and would only have made herself look weak by railing helplessly against it.

Ms Suu Kyi's trip to The Hague has put paid to that argument. It is one thing to maintain a pragmatic, if reprehensible, silence, quite another to come showily to the army's defence. Ms Suu Kyi could, after all, have sent a drab functionary to present Myanmar's case. Instead, she loudly advertised her trip, knowing full well that few Burmese have any sympathy for Rohingyas, whom they see, wrongly, as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh who threaten the Buddhist character of the nation. Rallies have been held across Myanmar, hailing her as a dauntless defender of national pride. It is hard to escape the conclusion that she is

exploiting the Rohingyas' misery to boost her party's prospects in elections due in 2020.

When the moment came for Ms Suu Kyi to make her case, she was oddly muted. She disappointed those who had hoped she would reveal herself, once and for all, to be an unapologetic villain by denying that the Rohingyas had suffered any abuses, as some in her government have claimed. But she also failed to admit the scale of the atrocities or the army's leading role in them. Instead, she argued that the burning of villages and the flight of almost 1 m Rohingyas to neighbouring Bangladesh should be seen as unfortunate side-effects of the army's ongoing war with various guerrilla groups. Where there was clear evidence of wrongdoing by soldiers, she claimed, the authorities were attempting to bring those responsible to book — although she also hinted at her government's lack of influence over mil-

itary justice. Nonetheless, the fact that any courts martial were being held at all, she argued, proved that her government did not intend to commit genocide.

It was neither a ringing defence of the army, nor any sort of admission of guilt. This ambiguity probably reflects the true Ms Suu Kyi. She is clearly a nationalist, unhappy to see her country excoriated. She obviously wishes its institutions worked better, but is not ready to countenance outside interference to compensate for their deficiencies. She is not a full-throated apologist for the army, but does not trust anyone else to take on the top brass. The same stubborn self-belief that helped deliver Myanmar from military rule, in other words, is now standing in the way of justice for some of its most vulnerable inhabitants.

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THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Should the federal govt subsidise students, or make college free?

Another fault line in the Democratic policy primary

A CURIOUS thing seems to be eternally recurring in the Democratic presidential primary. Policies that not long ago looked like far-reaching progressivism are now deemed moderate milquetoast by the party's left flank. A public option for health insurance bores when compared with Medicare for All, a proposed single-payer set-up. Comprehensive immigration reform is deeply unfashionable next to decriminalisation of illegal immigration and the abolition of the nation's immigration-enforcement agency.

The same has happened with the debate over higher-education costs. Pete Buttigieg, the moderate mayor of South Bend, Indiana, newly rising in the polls, would like to expand subsidies significantly for public institutions. But he proposes to extend free tuition only to families making less than \$100,000 a year (70% of all households), not to all students. For this, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a popular lefty congresswoman, has accused him of parroting "a GOP talking point used to dismantle

public systems". "Just like rich kids can attend public school, they should be able to attend tuition-free public college," she added.

Ms Ocasio-Cortez's preferred candidate, Bernie Sanders, is offering a maximalist solution to the problem. Not only would all tuition fees at public institutions be eliminated, but all \$1.6trn of existing student-loan debt, from both public and private universities, would be cancelled. Elizabeth Warren, another leading progressive candidate, has a similar plan, though with a few more conditions on debt forgiveness. She reckons her plan would cost \$1.25trn over a decade, paid for by her (at this point somewhat overextended) wealth tax, whereas Mr Sanders thinks his would cost \$2.2trn, which he would pay for by hitting "Wall Street speculators" with a 0.5% tax on all trades of stock.

Arrayed against this sort of solution are the ideas of ideologically moderate contenders like Michael Bennet, Joe Biden, Mr Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar, who would like to subsidise



Few countries in the world guarantee free college, but in most countries college is cheaper than in America. Reuters

higher education more without making it entirely free. Unlike the debates over Medicare for All and immigration, the agitation of the progressive wing over free college probably does not run the same risk of electoral backlash; few Americans are committed to the current system of university financing. Finding the optimal solution, however, requires a clear understanding of two matters: the scope of the current problem and the best way to target the benefits of enlarged subsidies.

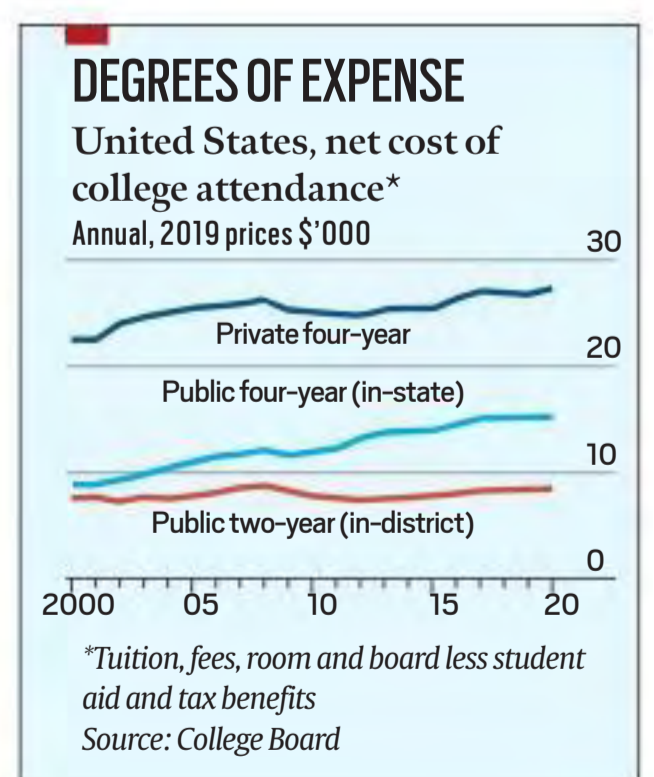
The stereotypical embodiment of America's high university costs, much loved by journalists, is the part-time barista with a liberal-arts degree and a six-digit debt. Such luckless espresso-pullers undoubtedly exist,

but they are far from typical. The average recipient of a bachelor's degree in America graduated with \$16,800 in outstanding debt. Though this is 24% higher than it was in 2003, it seems unlikely to trigger the kind of indented servitude so often imagined.

One reason that public perception and reality are so misaligned is the preoccupation with the costs of elite private colleges (which have indeed rocketed). In 2000 tuition at Harvard cost \$31,400 per year without financial aid in current dollars. Today it costs \$46,300. In part because America devotes considerable public dollars to higher education — spending twice as much as a share of GDP than Britain, for example — costs are lower

than imagined. After aid and tax benefits are taken into account, private colleges charge an average of \$27,400 each year in tuition and fees. In-state public college costs much less — about \$15,400 on average — whereas local two-year colleges cost just \$8,600.

A universal college benefit would disproportionately help families that are already comfortable. Even among young Americans (those between the ages of 25 and 29), only 37% have a bachelor's degree or a more advanced one. They are disproportionately white and wealthy. There are clear public benefits from higher education, but also considerable private benefits, given the large wage premium college graduates enjoy over



less-educated workers. Nor would free college do much to advance racial minorities. Racial inequalities in educational attainment, which persist in the present cohort of young Americans, probably owe more to the quality of earlier schooling than the anticipated cost of college. For that reason, universal pre-kindergarten may be a more effective use of resources than universal free college.

Few countries in the world guarantee free college, but in most countries college is cheaper than in America. One outlier is Denmark, where colleges are not only free, but international students also receive a monthly stipend of 6,166 kroner (\$914). That could make for a nice Democratic presidential platform in 2024.

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CROSSWORD 3991



ACROSS 1 Refuse to acknowledge down is out (6) 4 Game needing a light touch with the whip (6) 9 No tea is brewed in this country (7) 10 Mean person from Seoul (5) 11 Short pants (5) 12 This is sung over the air (7) 13 Unable to span the production schedule? (11) 18 He's much smarter than his mate (7) 20 We rip out the mechanism for improving the outlook (5) 22 A preference just the same (5) 23 Notice to keep out nothing in the accounts (2,5) 24 The illumination comes down (6) 25 Acquired a list (6) DOWN 1 Profoundly improve a harbour? (6) 2 Grounds for development? (5) 3 Royal House set out in words (7) 5 Does nothing, and some did less (5) 6 Fight to save a battered used car (7) 7 Agreement to attempt to get some food in (6) 8 A welcome sign of advancing senility (11) 14 He has a fish for curing (7) 15 Just come in out of the running (7) 16 Lie, in an open sort of way (6) 17 Extremely ragged (6) 19 Misguided voter, that's obvious (5) 21 Not up, not down, not true (3,2)

Solutions Crossword 3990: Across: 1 Profits, 5 Loser, 8 Statisticians, 9 Rumba, 10 Outside, 11 Allied, 12 Sonnet, 15 Last out, 17 Plate, 19 Weather-beaten, 20 Drear, 21 Deserts. Down: 1 Poser, 2 On a small scale, 3 Imitate, 4 Sets on, 5 Licit, 6 Stationmaster, 7 Respect, 11 Allowed, 13 Oppress, 14 Stored, 16 Other, 18 Ernes.

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) If others seem to want a greater degree of license and freedom, you deserve it as well. The only complication concerns your relationships with children, and you are still unsure where to draw the line. The best approach is to be firm but sympathetic and compassionate, but you probably know that, anyway.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23) You're facing the old dilemma - whether to compromise, or not. If you decide to insist that you get your own way socially, you must show other people that you have just cause. If you don't know what you're talking about, you'll soon be found out. This is no time to bluff.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) You don't usually let the world see just how astute you can be. Yet recently you've come out with some very strange ideas which all of us can learn from. You are now ready to start dictating the pace at home. Begin by clearing up all muddles, misunderstandings and mess left over from the past.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) There is an increasing tendency towards silly accidents, a fact I point out solely so that you can take more care when handling priceless people or possessions. It's all down to carelessness, so the remedy is simple: watch out. And keep an eye open for an employer who is now on the warpath.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Professional influences remain strong and helpful, so you may, if you wish, allow work to take care of itself. It looks as if much of what happens over the coming two months will be based around endless meetings, interviews or conferences. Get your story ready.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22) Business and pleasure can merge in mysterious ways. Complete all purchases of luxury items or investments in the arts or any other frivolous area. By the same token, agreements and arrangements affecting your working conditions must be finalised.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) You have endured partnership conflicts, restlessness and estrangements, but this is all part of the crazy dialogue with your sign, set up by the celestial awkward quad - Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. If you wish, you may now put emotional complications to one side.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) It's a fair enough day for making applications, attending interviews and handling discussions, and you can do well if you're selling ideas. On the romantic front, certain emotional complications should by now have died down or have come to seem strangely irrelevant.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) Pull out all the stops and spend whatever is necessary to pay for your dreams. It doesn't matter whether you have one pound or dollar or a million, or whether you have any cash at all - in any currency. What's important is that you allow yourself a morale-boosting treat.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) There are so many awkward alignments in your horoscope that some of you may be feeling a little bewildered and hard done-by. Perhaps it's time to remind you that according to every tenet of your birth sign, you thrive on a challenge. In fact, there's nothing worse than having nothing to do.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) Planetary activity over the next few days allows you to wallow in a bout of sentiment and romance. Also, you'd do well to devote a great deal of attention to establishing just what makes other people tick. Once you've found out, then you'll be able to give them what they want.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) The world should generally be moving in your direction, today. This doesn't mean that you'll be able to get your own way; neither should it, for the universe has other ideas. It does show however, that you will be well fitted to cope with whatever life throws at you.

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. Every ___ is a blessing. - Walt Kelly (6)

REBKI, GINRUD, FITNU, ARRSUB. Grids for jumbled words.

Answer: Every burden is a blessing. - Walt Kelly

SUDOKU 4063

Difficulty Level 3s 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 grid for 4063 with numbers 4, 1, 3, 4, 2, 5, 9, 7, 8, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 1, 9, 8, 1, 6, 2.

SUDOKU 4062

Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

Sudoku grid for 4062 with numbers 7, 3, 2, 6, 1, 9, 5, 4, 8, 8, 4, 5, 2, 3, 7, 1, 6, 9, 1, 9, 6, 5, 4, 8, 2, 3, 7, 2, 8, 7, 9, 5, 4, 3, 1, 6, 5, 1, 4, 3, 8, 6, 7, 9, 2, 3, 6, 9, 7, 2, 1, 4, 8, 5, 4, 2, 1, 8, 6, 5, 9, 7, 3, 6, 7, 3, 4, 9, 2, 8, 5, 1, 9, 5, 8, 1, 7, 3, 6, 2, 4.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Sher Bahadur @ Shera S/o Ram Bahadur, R/o Village Chaura, Sector-22, Noida, UP, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 221/12 u/s 411 IPC at PS. Darya Ganj, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Sher Bahadur @ Shera cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Sher Bahadur @ Shera has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation u/s 82 CrPc is hereby made that the said Sher Bahadur @ Shera accused of FIR No. 221/12 u/s 411 IPC is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 22.01.2020. By Order Sh. Sunil Gupta Metropolitan Magistrate (Central-10) Room No. 345, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED (A Government of India Undertaking) e-Tender No.: IRCON/2067/IG-BW-NWD to KSC/Tender/2019/13 Dated: 17.12.2019

THE H.P. STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LIMITED TOTU, SHIMLA - 171011 SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE H.P.Milkfed invites the online bids on item wise in electronic tendering system...

AYUSHMAN BHARAT-HARYANA HEALTH PROTECTION AUTHORITY Plot No. 152, Sector-12, Panchkula TENDER NOTICE

NOTICE INVITING BIDS FOR HIRING OFFICE PREMISES AT PANCHKULA The Ayushman Bharat Haryana Health Protection Authority, an autonomous organization under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Haryana intends to hire a commercial building having total area of 6000 sq. ft within walking distance (approx. 500 meter) from existing O/o Ayushman Bharat Plot No. 152, Sector 12 Panchkula with all infrastructural facilities including 45 KVA power backup and water supply with parking space for vehicles. The premises should be ready for immediate occupation. The contract for hiring the building will be for 3 years extendable from time to time by mutual consent of the parties. The competent authority has full right to accept/ reject any bids/tender.

CRITICAL DATE SHEET Bid Sale Start Date: 16.12.2019 (04.00P.M) Bid submission Start Date: 16.12.2019 (04.00P.M) Bid submission End Date: 07.01.2020 (03.00P.M) Bid Opening Date: 09.01.2020 (03.00P.M) Duration of Contract: 3 Years (Extendable as per the terms & conditions) Tentative date & time for opening Financial Bid of eligible Tenderers: 13.01.2020 (Date will be intimat-ed by e-mail/registered post) Validity of Bid: Till the tender of document.

Haryana Medical Services Corporation Limited (A Government of Haryana Undertaking) Bays No. 59-62, Sector 2, Panchkula Phone: 01722567945 NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT) Tender Enquiry No.: 81, 91-93/Tend/2019-20/3/4-A Online Tender for the Rate Contract of Haryana for a Period of Two Year for "Group A, B, C" and documents can be downloaded from 11.12.2019 onwards on e-procurement portal www.etenders.hry.nic.in. For Managing Director HMSCGL, Panchkula

कायालय नगर विकास प्रन्यास, उदयपुर (राज.) No.:F-2(01)Acct/Contract/2019/313-315 Date: 12-12-2019 ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या: 55/2019-20 न्यास, उदयपुर द्वारा निम्न कार्यो मय विक्रेत लाइलिटि अर्बि को कि निविदा प्रत्र म अकिन हे के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदको से निवारित प्रत्र में ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से अनिवार्य निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है निविदा प्रत्र www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in से दिनांक 17.12.2019 को प्रतः 10.00 बजे से 26.12.2019 को सार्थ 6.30 बजे तक Download/Upload कर सकते हैं। निवारित EMD, Tender Fee & Processing Fee दिनांक 17.12.2019 को प्रतः 10.00 बजे से दिनांक 26.12.2019 को सार्थ 6.30 बजे न्यास वेबसाईट urban.rajjasthan.gov.in/uitudaipur पर Online डी जमा करा सकते। प्रतः अनिवार्य निविदादि दिनांक 27.12.2019 को प्रतः 11.00 बजे खोलो जायें।

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES & GROUND WATER SURVEY CIRCLE SIHAVA BHAWAN CAMPUS, CIVIL LINES, RAIPUR (C.G.) e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in (1st Call)

System Tender No.: 59100/NIT No.: 08/SAC/2019-20, Raipur, Dated : 13.12.2019 Online Tenders are Invited for the following works up to 03.01.2020 at 17:30 Hour (IST):- Name of Work : RENOVATION OF ABHANPUR TANK AND C.C. LINING FROM R.D. O.M. TO 1110 M., 01 NO. SLUICE GATE, 06 NOS. DIRECT OUTLET, 04 NOS. FALL & 01 NO. V.R.B. IN ABHANPUR BLOCK OF RAIPUR DISTRICT. Probable Amount of Contract : Rs. 120.05 Lakhs The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) from Date 20.12.2019, at 17:31 Hours (IST) onwards. NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Water Resources Division, Raipur for, Superintending Engineer, Water Resources & Ground Water Survey Circle, Raipur (C.G.)

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Riya, D/o Harish Kumar R/o G-90, Mangol Puri, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 19.11.2019 from the area of P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi. In this regard, DD No. 61-A dated 20.11.2019 has been registered at P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under: Name: Riya, Gender: Female, Age: 19 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Identification Mark: An old scar on his left eye, Wearing: Yellow colour t-shirt, grey colour trouser and slipper in her feet. If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped girl, kindly inform SHO/ Mangolpuri, Delhi. E-mail : cbc@cbl.gov.in Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax : 011-24368639 SHO P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi DP/2952/OD/19 Ph. No. 011-011-27921168, 27922186

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely Sadhana D/o Rakesh Kumar R/o VPO: Sikhrona, Distt: Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh has been missing/kidnapped since 15.03.2019 from the area of P.S. Bawana, Delhi. In this regard a case vides FIR No. 128/19 dated 26.03.2019 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Bawana, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under: Name : Sadhana, Father's Name : Rakesh Kumar, Age : 15 years, Height : 4'9", Face : Round, Complexion : Fair, Built: Strong, Wearing : Red Colour Suit & Salwar and Red Colour Shoes in feet. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned. SHO P.S., Bawana, Delhi Ph.: 011-27751949 27756090

SEARCH FOR SUSPECTED PERSON

General public is hereby informed that a suspected person (depicted in the photo), Namely : Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown is wanted in a case vide FIR No. 13/2018 u/s 420 IPC dated 15.01.2018 registered at P.S. Sadar Bazar, Delhi. The description of the suspected person is as under:- UNKNOWN the suspected person is as under:- Age : 25-30 year (Approx.), Height: About 5'7", Complexion : Shallow, Built : Medium, Face : Oval Wearing : Off white colour Jacket & pant. Any person having any information/clue about this suspected person, may inform SHO, Sadar Bazar, Delhi at E-mail : cbc@cbl.gov.in or Website: http://cbl.nic.in. SHO P.S. Sadar Bazar, Delhi North Distt., Delhi DP/1710N/19 Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph. No. 011-23512411, 23512412

Tribal Haute Couture

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has ties up with designer Ritu Beri to add an edge to tribal handlooms and handicrafts



A Naga shawl from Tribes India

DIVYAA

IN MARCH this year, designer Ritu Beri was appointed as the Cultural Ambassador of Uzbekistan in India. This was an attempt to recognise her contribution towards bringing the two countries together through her collection 'Ferghana Fantasy', which merged Uzbek ikat with Indian khadi. Last week, she came on board the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to promote Indian tribal crafts and culture. Tribes India, a chain of 117 retail stores, established by TRIFED, has tied up with Ritu Beri Designs as the chief design consultant.

Beri, who combines Indian fabrics with western sensibilities, will be guiding over 1.5 lakh tribal master craftsmen associated with TRIFED to develop globally relevant handlooms and handicrafts. "Arts and crafts come naturally to those from tribal areas. They just need to be supported to package right and design their products to reach a global audience," says Beri, who has proposed a wide range of initiatives to mainstream tribal art forms. These include creating a tribal museum, promoting a wall art festival, fashion shows, remodelling tribal products, an annual tribal design competition and a round table with her organisation, The Luxury League, to promote tribal art.

Pravir Krishna, MD of TRIFED, says, "The partnership is going to be lifelong." He added that some collaborative collections will also emerge, possibly from the Northeast since the Ministry is focussing on the region. She will eventually work in tribal areas and give direct input to artisans on weaves, motifs, design, pricing and packaging. Beri has already selected some products to be displayed in her show. A showcase of the same will be held at The Taj Village Goa, starting December 20. This will include Naga shawls, stoles, dhokra handicraft items, jewellery and hair accessories. "Plans are also afoot to set up a tribal museum in Delhi to exhibit, document and archive tribal heritage. The next step is to fine-tune the Tribes India flagship store in Delhi," she says.

According to Beri, the idea is to present Indian tribal art in a way that it's saleable and market savvy. The profit will go directly to the artisans and not the middlemen. "Each product is custom-made and bespoke; people abroad consider it luxury. They just need some design inputs and some marketing edge," she says.

Home Away From Home

Pune-based band, Alif, is documenting life and culture in Kashmir

SURBHIGUPTA

DURING THE soundcheck of Alif — a band that performed at the Spoken Fest held in Delhi earlier this month — Mohammad Muneem Nazir takes off his shawl, one with Kashida embroidery on it, and wraps his microphone stand with it. This is something he does before every performance. The band members also wear a phiran or cover their gear with similar shawls. It reminds Nazir of "the feeling of home, of Kashmir, and the feeling of being rooted".

Pune-based band, Alif, which came into being in 2008, is one of the few indie acts in the country that creates songs in Koshur, one of the dominant languages spoken in Kashmir. Their song, *Ride home* raises concerns that artistes have in the Valley, where

livelihood is a struggle and spaces to perform are limited. It is one of the band's most popular songs with over 2.5 million hits on YouTube. The five-piece band collaborated with folk artiste Noor Mohammad from Handwara for the same. Mohammad can be seen singing an ode to mothers in the video, holding his rabab. Through *Lalnawath*, which means 'to cradle' in Kashmiri, the band members try to give wings to the stories of Kashmiris — ones that otherwise "get buried between the mountains of this vale". The video, in which we can see Nazir cradling a coffin, won the best music video award at the Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival in 2018.

Released in 2016, their song *Jhelumas*, which also makes an appearance at the festival, is still as popular. Nazir wrote it as a response to the floods in Kashmir and compared the courage and resilience of the



Mohammad Muneem Nazir

Kashmiri women to the river that provides livelihood to many. "When we see that so many people from across the country post covers of the song, singing it in Koshur, one realises that emotions transcend the language," says Nazir. But the song that first put the band into limelight was *Like a Sufi* — perhaps India's first Sufi rap. It was in collabora-

tion with popular rapper MC Kash. "The idea was to document. I don't know how long my life will be — maybe till tomorrow, day after or another year, but as long as I am there, I should be documenting. I think an artiste is the most important person in the society as he or she documents the culture, documents the language and documents the emotions," says Nazir, 36.

Describing his music as "Urdu and Kashmiri poetry with a contemporary sound", Nazir's tryst with writing started as a child when he maintained a diary. "It started from there. I attempted to write songs for others, but I couldn't. I tried finding people who could compose for me but that didn't happen. In the end, I had to do everything on my own. I picked up the guitar, started singing and composing my own songs," says the singer-songwriter. "There are things that you're supposed to do and things that you want to do. Our society is such that we're mostly doing things that we're supposed to do. But I wanted to do something that kept me inspired, and art always keeps you in gratitude. The idea was to share honest emotions," says Nazir, who, after *Sufiyed*, is working on another album that will release next year.



Seema Pahwa (above) Amit Chakravarty; a still from *Ramprasad Ki Tehrvi*

'Next time when I direct, I'll be more confident about what I want'

Veteran actor Seema Pahwa on her directorial debut, *Ramprasad Ki Tehrvi*, and operating from the point of view of an actor

ALAKA SAHANI

EVERN though Seema Pahwa had the story of *Ramprasad Ki Tehrvi* in mind for over five years, direction is something she had not considered. Known to a certain generation of audience as Badki of the popular television show *Hum Log* (1984-85), Pahwa has been in the reckoning after the appreciation she enjoyed for her role as Amma in *Ankhon Dekhi* (2014). Her cameos in movies that followed such as *Dum Laga Ke Haisha* (2015), *Bareilly Ki Barfi* (2017), and *Shubh Mangal Saavdhan* (2017) have ensured that she has an exciting second innings as an actor. She took this a notch higher when she wrote and directed *Ramprasad Ki Tehrvi*, an incisive look at the complex family emotions and relationships following a death. The movie premiered in the 'Spotlight' section of the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival with Star, and is one of the more impressive directorial debuts of 2019. Excerpts:

How was the experience of taking charge as a director?

Initially, I was scared. There are several factors that help in bringing a script alive on the big screen. I had never directed before. Not even a short film. For the first time, I was directing a feature film and that too with a cast of 27 actors. However, I was operating from the point of view of an actor, not director. I was paying more attention to each actor's character and its significance. Most of the times directors get bogged down by the technical aspects of a movie. They are easily pleased with what an actor delivers. They don't push the actors. I was more concerned with how my actors were portraying their characters. I have tried to do justice to even those who were playing small roles. I have played smaller roles in several films and found myself to be neglected.

What kind of preparation did you require before taking on this new role?

On the first day of the shoot, I was very nervous. Once I started working, I had a lot of clarity regarding what I wanted as we had done the pre-production meticulously, just the way we work in theatre. My experience of directing plays — Kamleshwar's *Bayaan*



and Bhisham Sahni's *Saag Meat* in Delhi as well as Bhishtotsav in Mumbai — helped me a lot. I didn't know much about post-production work. However, I had to go by what was suggested to me by those working on post-production. Next time when I direct a movie, I will be much more confident about what I want. Filmmaking, too, follows a pattern. We can experiment with certain technical aspects of it and bend the rules. Rules should not come in the way of touching the audience's hearts and storytelling.

How overwhelming was the response during the screening of the film at MAMI?

All my actors watched it together for the first time during the festival. My biggest worry was whether young audience would connect with the story. I was surprised that so many youngsters met me after the screening and talked about their grandparents and other family members. I was touched by the fact that the day after its screening Shabana Azmi called and was curious to know how I took the shots and managed a big cast. Naseeruddin Shah too praised the film.

Your father's death triggered your idea for this story.

Nearly 30 years ago, after my father passed away, my mother felt very lonely. I was married for a year by then. We had lost my elder brother, my sister was married and another brother lived abroad. My mother was very dependent on us emotionally. I wanted to introspect what goes wrong. After I worked in *Ankhon Dekhi*, I realised a movie on this plot could be developed. While shooting for *Dum Laga Ke Haisha*, I

wrote the synopsis and narrated it to Sharat Katariya. He encouraged me to write it. In 2015, when I was not shooting for a while, I started writing. I called a bunch of people home and read the script. They loved it. So, I told Sharat and Rajat Kapoor about the script and asked if they want to make the film. Rajat said since I know the story so well, I should direct it.

All your characters are flawed in some way.

No one is perfect or ideal. We do gossip about each other. In spite of all their flaws there is a bond that ties them together. Everyone is disturbed and bogged down by their circumstances. Some wondered why do I have so many characters. My understanding is that when you have fewer characters, you do find solutions. More the characters, more entangled the issues are. I was very clear about the casting. I didn't audition anyone. I tried to cast actors who get along and bring their camaraderie to the sets. When I approached some producers, they thought that without stars, my film won't work. I was not convinced. "I said during an interview that I have a script. Followed by that, Drishyam Productions called me and came on board. We finished shooting the film in December 2018.

What about Konkona Sen Sharma, who is probably not familiar with many of the theatre actors?

It was necessary to have Konkona as her character sticks out among them. She is very sweet and tried to mingle with others. But there was an awkwardness which was needed.

Word and Spirit

Actor Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub and others from the film industry on supporting the Jamia students

EKTAA MALIK

WE HAVE hit rock bottom. The only way is up," said actor Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, on the recent violence at Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia. "I grew up here. I was very concerned with the messages and calls that I got from the residents of Jamia, and I had to get down here. I was not sure about what I could do, or if I would be of any help at all, but I had to be here," says the actor, who grew up in Okhla, and has been in Delhi for the last couple of days.

Ayyub is not alone. There has been a spate of actors that has expressed concerns for the University and its students. "I think the incident of the police ravaging the library and attacking innocent students is what made everyone speak up. This was unprecedented and it shook up people. We are seeing a lot of people who are coming out and breaking their silence. I think public opinion has shifted, and they want their celebrities to be accountable too," said Ayyub, who also addressed a press conference at the Press Club of India in the Capital on Tuesday.

The actor feels that this is the time to come out on the streets, and social media activism doesn't really cut it. "The incident in Jamia and even earlier in JNU, is not just about the students or the university. It's a larger statement from the government. They want to send out a message. Just like JNU has the tag of Left and liberal attached to it, and obviously the government is trying to suppress all dissent, Jamia has the word minority attached to it, and they want to make an example of it," stressed Ayyub.

The expression of concern has also come from other members of the film fraternity. *Kapoor & Sons* actor Siddharth Malhotra said in his tweet that "...In a democracy like ours, it's sad to see violence against citizens for voicing their opinion through peaceful protests... I strongly condemn this act." Actor Renuka Shahane responded to PM Modi's tweet about main-



(From top) Zeeshan Ayyub, Vishal Bhardwaj; Huma Qureshi



My heart pains for the students of Jamia. Don't be silent



Citizens have the right to peacefully protest. Or that is not an option anymore

taining peace on Twitter. "Sir, please ask people to stay away from all your IT cell Twitter handles then...". Actor Huma Qureshi tagged PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah asking about citizens' rights to protest. "...Citizens have the right to peacefully protest. Or that is not an option anymore??..." she tweeted. Actor Manoj Bajpayee, too, condemned the violence against the students. "...With the students and their democratic rights to protest! I condemn violence against protesting students!!!" Filmmaker and music composer Vishal Bhardwaj shared an excerpt from Hindi poet Dushyant Singh's famed poem *Ho gayi hai peer parvat si* and tweeted, "My heart pains for the students of Jamia. Don't be silent. Don't be violent," he tweeted.

Sushant Singh Dropped from *Savdhaan India*

SUSHANT SINGH, on Tuesday, tweeted that his association with the Star India TV show *Savdhaan India*, which began in 2011, has come to an end. It was speculated that the development came after the actor's participation in protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

"I got to know last night that my contract is being terminated. I wasn't given a particular reason, and I don't even want to speculate. It can be a coincidence that it happened on the same day as my presence at the protest. I really don't know the reason, but the channel has the right to change the host," said Singh, who had replied to a followers on Twitter saying that "it's a small price one can pay for speaking the truth". He added, "I'm shaken by whatever is happening and do not regret my actions."

The *Indian Express* e-mailed Gaurav Banerjee, President & Head - Hindi GeC, Star India, about the termination, and got no response.

Many have accused Bollywood celebrities of being silent about the recent CAA protests and police action at Jamia Millia Islamia. When asked if the fear of losing work makes people mere spectators, Singh said, "I cannot take responsibility of others, but I believe I have a voice, and



I will speak. And it's not that none of them have spoken. There are people like Richa Chadha, Taapsee Pannu, Zeeshan Ayyub and even Anubhav Sinha, who have been vocal about the recent incidents. *Jinko galat laga woh bol rahe hai, jinko nahi, woh chup hai*. But it's their call, and we have to respect their opinions... I have a very simple principle — I sell my talent, not my conscience. When my kids grow up and ask me what I was doing when students were being tortured, I should have an answer."

The actor added that he was very disturbed with the way students were being treated. "First, it happened with JNU, where doctored videos were circulated, and students were given the tag of 'Tukde Tukde Gang'. No one apologised, and they are still called by the same name. Similarly, Jamia kids were not involved in violence... There has been a constant effort to bring down one community and students' voices. They are our future, and we cannot stay silent," he said.

SANA FARZEEN

SNAP SHOTS



Scam Story

NATIONAL AWARD-WINNING filmmaker Hansal Mehta will direct a series based on journalist Sucheta Dalal's best-selling book, *The Scam*, which is based on the 1992 Harshad Mehta scam. Actors Pratik Gandhi and Shreya Dhanwanthary will be the main protagonists in the financial thriller titled *Scam 1992*. Gandhi, who is known for his work in Gujarati theatre and cinema, will portray the role of Mehta, one of the most controversial stock brokers of all times, and Dhanwanthary, who has featured on shows such as *The Family Man* and *The Reunion*, will be seen playing the role of Dalal. The series will also feature actors Satish Kaushik, Anant Mahadevan, Rajat Kapoor, Nikhil Dwivedi, KK Raina, and Lalit Parimoo, among others. "Growing up in the '80s and '90s, we all knew Harshad as a fascinating, larger than life character, and I am happy to be able to tell his story," said the filmmaker.



Out of Race

ZOYAAKHTAR'S *Gully Boy*, starring Ranveer Singh in the role of a budding street rapper, is out of the Best International Feature Film race at the Oscars after the Academy unveiled shortlists for nine categories. India has made it to the top five during three occasions, with the last film being Ashutosh Gowariker's *Lagaan* in 2001. *Mother India* (1958) and *Salaam Bombay!* (1989) are the other two. The films that have made the cut are: South Korean director Bong Joon-ho's class satire *Parasite*, Pedro Almodovar's Spanish feature *Pain and Glory*, *The Painted Bird* from Czech Republic, Estonia's *Truth and Justice*, *Les Misérables* from France, North Macedonia's *Honeyland*, among others. In the nominations round, Academy members from all branches are invited to opt in to participate and must view all 10 shortlisted films in order to cast a ballot. The 92nd Oscars will be held on February 9 at the Dolby Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center in Hollywood.

20 SPORT



ACCOLADE FOR PUNIA

World championships silver medallist Deepak Punia has been named the 'Junior Freestyle Wrestler of the Year' by United World Wrestling (UWW) after a stellar season during which he made a phenomenal transition from junior to the senior circuit.

Pressure to attend frequent events affecting Hima's training: AFI chief

NIHAL KOSHI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

THE PRESSURE on India's star athlete, Hima Das, to attend government and private functions across the country is severely affecting her training, according to Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president Adille Sumariwalla. Clarifying that the Junior World Champion from Assam wasn't to be blamed for taking frequent breaks from the ongoing pre-Olympic national camp in Thiruvananthapuram, the AFI chief said: "Sometimes there is pressure from the highest sources and officials (to attend functions). Athletes are not able to resist the pressure. They are being used. The AFI is finding it increasingly difficult, we want to protect athletes. One of the reasons why we send athletes overseas for training is to keep them away from all these events."

Over the last fortnight, Hima has been away from the camp, attending events in three cities.

■ November 30: Khelo India Youth Games launch at Guwahati, where she shared the stage with the Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

■ December 6: India Today Conclave in Kolkata.

■ December 13: YPO South Asia Regional Conference in New Delhi, an event that also had table tennis star Manika Batra and Minister Rijiju.

The AFI president said the public appearances of elite athletes needed to be planned better and well in advance. "If we know in advance, we have no problem because we understand that an athlete has to do certain things. If they are getting paid and they have to devote 'X' number of days, the schedule needs to be in place in advance. It can't be



Hima Das, the 400 metres world junior champion, attended three events in a fortnight in three different cities. File

"Sometimes there is pressure from the highest sources and officials (to attend functions). Athletes are not able to resist the pressure. They are being used. The AFI is finding it increasingly difficult, we want to protect athletes. One of the reasons why we send athletes overseas for training is to keep them away from all these events."

ADILLE SUMARIWALLA
AFI, PRESIDENT

last minute when the athlete is in the middle of an important training period. I am very clear about that," he said.

Sumariwalla added that Hima's training would have been hampered further had he not refused at least two other requests of her

presence at events.

"I am saying athletes must give back and must be a source of inspiration for youngsters, especially somebody like Hima who is a youth icon. Having said that anybody who wants her to be at an event must sit with the federation in advance and we can put out the dates for the whole year, say when she has just finished a big competition like the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games or the Olympics Games, then we have a window there. For example after the World Championships we gave people rest or a break for 15 days," the former India sprinter turned official said.

Commenting on the impact of long breaks on Hima's preparedness for Olympic qualification events, a member of her coaching staff said that each day lost in training pushed her back by a week.

"The best athletes around the world don't deviate from their training schedule. If ath-

letes like Hima are expected to win medals at the international level and bring glory to the country then such distractions should be avoided as it is draining for an athlete and disrupts the training schedule. If it is a must to have an athlete at a promotional event, then it should be held in the same city as the training base of the athlete which will ensure minimal time is wasted in travel," the coach said.

Hima became a global star when in 2018 when she won the world junior gold at Tampere in Finland in the 400 metres.

The athlete, who is from Dhing in Assam, set the national record of 50.79 seconds en route to winning gold at the Jakarta Asian Games last year.

A recurring back injury put paid to her plans of qualifying for the 400 metres for the World Championships this year, but she is on a comeback trail aiming to make the cut for the Tokyo Games.

Hypenate or dehyphenate

Is the Kuldeep Yadav-Yuzvendra Chahal spin combination the best option for India going ahead?

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
VISAKHAPATNAM, DECEMBER 17

JASPRIT BUMRAH bowled off a full run-up and hurried Mayank Agarwal. He didn't look to be in any discomfort. India's fast bowling ace was at the ACA-VDCA practice arena on Tuesday as part of his reintegration process with the team after recovering from a lower back stress fracture.

For the first time since the injury had sidelined Bumrah after the West Indies tour in August-September, Bumrah trained with the Indian team.

Bumrah is not in the squad for the ongoing ODI series against West Indies. So with regards to the Indian team's immediate future - the second ODI here on Wednesday - he wasn't the main focus. In the context of tomorrow's game, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal going through their paces and bowling in tandem at the main playing arena had been of bigger relevance.

About 70 yards away, near the boundary line, Prithvi Shaw was having a session with the conditioning coach Nick Webb. That Shaw wasn't wearing a Team India kit, while Bumrah was wearing one offered a contrast. It is learnt that Bumrah collected his kit at the NCA, where he was doing his rehab. Shaw, meanwhile, came after playing a Ranji Trophy match for Mumbai and didn't have the time to go to the NCA and collect his Team India kit.

Back to the wrist-spin of Yadav and Chahal, and their bowling drills were arguably the biggest attraction during India's optional practice session on the match eve.

The 'Kul-Cha' combination no longer remains the definite pick for the Indian team. Since his return to the limited-overs fold, Ravindra Jadeja has managed to provide the required balance. In fact, last time the two wrist spinners had played together in an ODI was against England in the World Cup, on June 30. The duo had been accounted for 160 runs in their 20 overs in that match with a solitary wicket to show for his efforts. In the wake of the Chepauk hiding, though, the two wrist spinners might pair up again. Tomorrow's game is must-win for India, as another slip will give the Caribbeans an unsailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

At Chepauk, West Indies chased down 287 with consummate ease, on a pitch that became easier for batting under lights. The Vizag strip could offer a run-fest. Shai Hope said as much: "(It) looks better for batting. The ball will come on a bit more. I think it will be easier for scoring and bowlers will have a more difficult job on this surface."

The Caribbean opener is fresh from his unbeaten hundred in the first ODI and given the heavy artillery that the visitors possess, India are expected to do something different in this game. One option for them could be to play Chahal in place of Shivam Dube. The Mumbai allrounder was expensive - 0/68 in 7.5 overs - on his ODI debut. His pace, or rather the lack of it, might make him a soft target for the West Indies batters on a batting-friendly pitch. Another choice for the hosts could be to go with two wrist spinners,



Ravindra Jadeja's utility with both bat and ball could break up the Kuldeep-Chahal pairing. File

retain Dube and drop Jadeja. In that case, given that the Indian team has a softer batting underbelly, Manish Pandey might be included in the middle-order, at the expense of Kedar Jadhav. Then again, the latter batted well in Chennai and he can perform the role of an extra spinner, bowling skiddy off breaks with a slingy action.

The team management also have the option to include Shardul Thakur, in the squad as the injured Bhuvneshwar Kumar's replacement. Thakur bowled well at the nets today, but as a senior ACA-VDCA ground-staff told this paper on Monday, spinners might come into play in the second half of the match. So going with an additional medium pacer could be a luxury here.

West Indies' convincing win in the first match followed by the nature of the pitch at Vizag is sort of forcing India to weigh their options, with little margin for error. At the end, the hosts, as per their ODI template, will be chiefly dependent on Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to put up a big total or chase down a big target. But they will surely prepare for every possibility.

Poor fielding is another aspect that has been affecting the Indian team of late. Some dummies were dropped in the T20is. In the first ODI also, Hope got a life on 10, while Shimron Hetmyer was dropped on 106. Hope went on to score 102 not out, while Hetmyer made 139 off 106 deliveries. Together they had added 218 runs for the second wicket during which misfields, too, added to India's misery.

"We should have defended 287 (at Chepauk), as there was some help available from the track. We didn't bowl well to be honest. We have dropped too many catches in the last few games and that's a worry. The West Indies batsmen are more six hitters. (They have) a tendency to take the aerial route. A few catches will come your way and you have got to take them," medium pacer Deepak Chahal said at the pre-match press conference.



Jasprit Bumrah, sidelined after the West Indies tour in August-September because of an injury, trained with the Indian team in Vizag on Tuesday. AP

Focussing on white ball helped me break into Team India: Chahal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
VISAKHAPATNAM, DECEMBER 17

A REMARKABLY candid Deepak Chahal on Tuesday said he understood early in his career that switching his focus to white ball cricket and IPL was the fastest and easiest route to the India dressing room. The Agra-based Chahal started with a brilliant 8 for 10 in his Ranji Trophy debut against Hyderabad, but for all practical purposes, knew that a speed of 125 kmph with the red ball would take him nowhere near international cricket.

"When I changed my action to gain speed, I struggled with my state team. Now sud-

denly, I found that my road towards entering the Indian team to be very difficult. If I had to take the Ranji route, then I would have had to play more matches, play a whole first-class season, play Duleep Trophy. That's a longer road," Chahal said, there was a refreshing honesty in his admission.

"But if you do well in IPL, then you can quickly play for India and during that phase of my career, I decided to concentrate on white ball cricket," Chahal, who is an automatic choice in T20 cricket now, said ahead of India's second ODI against the West Indies.

The medium pacer came into India reckoning after two seasons with IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings. The most impressive

aspect of an interaction with Chahal was the clarity he has about his shortcomings and what he is doing to improve them. "When I came to the Ranji Trophy, I used to bowl 125 kmph. My struggle with injuries was due to my efforts to increase pace. Because I knew that I won't be able to survive with that kind of pace at the international level. I had to increase it close to 140 clicks and get it to swing."

"A swinging delivery at 135 to 137 kmph is the most difficult delivery for any batsman. I can vouch that even 150 km on a flat track can be easier to handle."

As focus shifted on becoming a good white ball bowler, Chahal realised that swinging a white ball is twice as difficult as the red

ball. "A red ball will even (reverse) swing if it's shiny on one side. That's why, at the Ranji level, a lot of bowlers can move the ball both ways. In white ball, the swing is not because of the shine (of lacquer). It is derived through action. So I worked on that also and increased my pace. I have a good slower bouncer and I am working on my yorker."

The confidence came under Mahendra Singh Dhoni's leadership at Chennai Super Kings ahead of the 2019 IPL season. "Before the 2019 IPL, I prepared a lot of bowling on Chennai track. Since I bowl three overs in Powerplay for CSK, and if you don't have a yorker at the Chepauk, where the ball doesn't swing, it will be difficult. But I can get even better."

Left-arm spinner Sante excels despite setback

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 17

RAVINDRA SANTE'S right hand is paralyzed. He was eight months old when an injection given by a local doctor had created complications. It took a while for his family to realise the problem, only when the toddler couldn't move his right hand at all, did they realise the gravity of the issue. The doctor even suggested amputating the hand but his father put his foot down.

On Tuesday, Sante starred with a seven-wicket match haul for Central Railway Mumbai Division against JP Morgan in a Times Shield C division cricket game, the oldest corporate tournament in the country. "I don't want people to sympathise with me as I believe that I can play as good cricket as others and I do," Sante says.

For a while now, his cricketing community have been surprised how long and pow-

erfully he can hit the ball with one functional hand. Just not batting, his left-arm spin have impressed his team-mates and coaches.

A few months ago, Sante has starred for India when he hit a half-century to enable the team to clinch the maiden Physical Disability World Series 2019. During the recent Kanga League encounter, he finished with five-wicket match haul for his side Bohra. "He bowls like any other spinner and one will not come to know about his physical problem until you see him field. His right hand has no power, so whenever he runs, he holds his one hand with other. He can hit six straight, he is really gifted," says Salim Shaikh, Railway team manager.

Sante says his oppositions team always doubted whether he can play or bowl properly but they change their minds after he performs.

"People come and ask, bhait tu batting mein maar lega na (you can hit, na?) but after seeing me bat they changed their perception. Similarly, with the ball, initially the



Ravindra Sante's right arm is paralyzed because of an injection. Express Photo

A few months ago, Sante has starred for India when he hit a half-century to enable the team to clinch the maiden Physical Disability World Series 2019.

batsman think whether I can bowl well without the support of the non-bowling arm but they also change their opinion after facing me," says Sante, who works as a clerk in Central Railways.

Sante, a resident of Dombivali which is 52 kilometres from Mumbai, began to play with tennis ball like most kids before leather-ball cricket happened. One of his friends told him to train in Virar, a two-hour train journey from home. "I used to leave home by 4:30 am, practise in Virar and take the same shuttle back home," before adding, "I love this game."

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MELBOURNE, DECEMBER 17

IN-FORM batsman Marnus Labuschagne on Tuesday earned a maiden call-up to the Australian ODI squad for the three-match series against India next month following a prolific year in Test cricket. Labuschagne has averaged 58.05 since making his Test debut last year, scoring hundreds in his last three games. All-rounder Sean Abbott has been recalled after five years while also making a comeback are pacer Josh Hazlewood and spinner Ashton Agar.

The big names missing from the squad are Glenn Maxwell, Usman Khawaja, Shaun Marsh and Nathan Lyon. Chief selector Trevor Hohns said Maxwell, who took a break to address his mental health issues but is back now in domestic cricket, is being watched closely.

"It's great to see Maxwell returning to the game with the Big Bash League. We will closely monitor his form after what would have been a disappointing 12 months in the one-day game by his standards," Hohns said.

The Indian fans will also get to see Australia's star players - David Warner and Steve Smith - in action. The first ODI will be played in Mumbai on January 14, followed by Rajkot (January 17) and Bengaluru (January 19). Hohns is confident that Labuschagne will come good in challenging Indian conditions. Head coach Justin Langer will not be travelling to India for the short tour with assistant coach Andrew McDonald taking charge.

SQUAD: Aaron Finch (captain), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins, Peter Handscomb, Josh Hazlewood, Marnus Labuschagne, Kane Richardson, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Ashton Turner, David Warner, Adam Zampa.

RANJI TROPHY (2ND ROUND: DAY 1)

Markande gives Hyderabad the chills

On cold and damp opening day in Patiala, spinners' incisive strikes keep Punjab warm as visitors bundled out for 242

GAURAV BHATT
PATIALA, DECEMBER 17

MAYANK MARKANDE reveals that he wasn't looking for a "wicket-taking ball" per se, but ended up delivering what was a perfect leg-spinner's delivery. Pitched on middle and off, the ball was full enough to draw Hyderabad batsman K Sumanth forward. The loopy ball would go on to grip the surface and break. A set Sumanth, top-scorer for the visitors with a grindy 79, could only nick it.

"Waise toh main out karne ja nahi raha tha (I wasn't going for a wicket per se). But I could feel it as the ball was leaving my hand. The grip felt nice and it turned sharply. Yes, it was something of an unplayable ball," smiles Markande, who finished the day with 3/65 as Punjab folded the visitors for 242 in the first innings.

Unplayable balls and self-assurance come easy to Markande, who bowled two skidding googlies in his debut IPL match last year to dismiss Ambati Rayudu and MS Dhoni. Later in the year, Markande finished his first Ranji season as the leading bowler for Punjab with 29 wickets. Success followed in the Emerging Cup (most wickets, 8) and India A stints (a five-wicket haul in the unofficial Test against England Lions). The dream run culminated in a maiden T20I against Australia this February, where he conceded 31 runs in four overs.

Asked about memorable moments from his national call-up, Markande responds with a mocking shrug and an almost-inaudible "Wickets hi nahi mili (didn't get any wickets)." The 22-year-old, however, is quick to add that he's not dismissive of the pointers earned in the dressing rooms.

"It's not like you learn a lot of new skills. To be playing Ranji for your state means you are skilled. But observing fellow spinners like Yuzvendra (Chahal) and Kuldeep (Yadav), and top players like Rohit Sharma in IPL. You learn a lot about mindsets. You learn how players adapt and excel."

Markande took a combined 25 wickets in the limited-overs competitions this season, and the team expects a lot of the bowler — the busiest of the bunch on Tuesday with 21 overs to his name. But with the wicket not suited for his quick, skidding googlies, he had to adapt to excel.

On the surface, the two-pacers play worked for the hosts, as exhibited by spinners Markande and Gurkeerat Singh Mann's (4/34) figures. But with the pitch moist (from the conditions and this being the first match of the season), it took a lot of tenacity and conservative field-placements to extract wickets.

Punjab came into their first home tie with the characteristically-dry Patiala wicket in mind. Even the chilly practice session the day before (the mercury never rose above 13 deg c on a dark, damp day) couldn't deter the plan. Hope was that the toss would go their way and the sun would break through; the former didn't happen (Hyderabad chose to bat first) and the latter happened well into the day.

Tuesday began similarly enough, as conditions delayed the start by an hour. Pacers Sandeep Sharma and Sanvir Singh capitalised with wickets in the 3rd and 4th over. Markande drew first blood after lunch when he trapped experienced Akshath Reddy and Sandeep returned to bowl BP Sandeep out to make it 53-4.

Sumanth and Himalay Agarwal then put on a 131-run partnership, as the three-pronged spin attack (debutants Karan Kaila and Akul Pandove, left and right-arm orthodox and leggie Markande) toiled. While the conditions improved, both batsmen — a left-right combo — were comfortable enough to drive along the line and adventurous enough to occasionally go against the spin.

"It was not your usual Patiala wicket. It had moisture and was a slow-turner. So we thought to control the runflow instead. You have to adapt to the conditions," says Markande. "So if it's a flat wicket, you work on the line and length. All of us tried to draw the players forward."

Captain Mandeep Singh decided to chance the golden arm of Gurkeerat, who responded by removing Agarwal. The 29-year-old offie



Hyderabad's Himalay Agarwal takes the aerial route against Punjab. His 131-run fifth wicket alliance with Kolla Sumanth gave the visitors respectability. Harmeet Sodhi



Markande finished with 3/65.

relied on the natural angle, rather than actual turn, to dismiss three lefties and a number 10.

Sumanth stitched partnerships and looked set to stay unbeaten before he faced 'the ball that turned'. "It was a good batting track, but it will definitely get better for spinners as the match progresses," says Markande. "It's over to our batsmen for now."

At ten minutes to five and twilight swiftly approaching, the umpires flirted with the idea of letting Punjab bat, long enough for Shubman Gill to gear up and enter the field, before calling stumps. A couple members of the host team fist-pumped and sighed in relief, as their top batsman walked to the nets instead, where he proceeded to face throw-downs in dying light for almost half an hour. The Shubman Gill show can wait for a day.

BRIEF SCORES: Hyderabad 242 (Kolla Sumanth 79, Himalay Agarwal 68, Mayank Markande 3/65, Gurkeerat 4/34) vs Punjab.

Sanju rescues Kerala with ton, coach Whatmore says best is yet to come

VISHAL MENON
DECEMBER 17

AFTER SPENDING six games in the Indian team's dug-out ferrying drinks, Sanju Samson turned up for his first Ranji Trophy match of the season at Thiruvananthapuram's St.Xavier's College Ground on Tuesday to register his 10th first-class century — a 182-ball 116 against Bengal.

Watching the star wicket-keeper batsman's exploits from the sidelines was Dav Whatmore, the usually fastidious Kerala coach, who hailed his knock as 'courageous and out of his comfort zone'. Whatmore, however, did not hold back his punches when he was asked about Sanju's lack of game time with the Indian team.

"It's okay to be performing and putting pressure, but there's got to be a spot open for you. He is fighting for his spot in the Indian squad as the second wicket-keeper batsman in T20Is. I keep reading that it's all about testing your bench strength in the shorter formats, but sadly that's not been the case with regard to Sanju," Whatmore told *The Indian Express*.

The 25-year-old was selected for the three-match T20I series against Bangladesh last month, but was dropped for the series against West Indies. He was then picked as the last-minute replacement after Shikhar Dhawan was ruled out with a knee injury.

This resulted in the MSK Prasad-led selection panel drawing considerable flak. Harbhajan Singh express his disappointment on social media. "I guess they're testing his heart #selectionpanelneedtochange need strong people there.. hope dada @SGanguly99 will do the needful," he tweeted.

Whatmore, though, was not overly perturbed. He reckoned that Sanju's best years were still ahead of him. Consistent performances at the first-class level and in the IPL was



Sanju Samson struck his 10th first-class century. Express

what was required to help him seal that elusive spot in the Indian team. "Even Sanju will know for a fact that he could do with a bit more consistency. He is still so young and I believe that there's a lot of cricket ahead of him. At the moment he is indeed in very good form, but trust me, his best is yet to come," Whatmore opined. Sanju, on his part, only enhanced his reputation with a fighting ton on a treacherous Thiruvananthapuram pitch that offered invariable bounce and even began to turn sharply by the afternoon session. When Sanju walked in at No.3,

Kerala had its backs to the wall. Kerala's openers — Ponnamm Rahul and the experienced Jalaj Saxena were dismissed cheaply with the score reading 15/2.

Sanju countered the early movement as well as the indifferent bounce quite admirably. The youngster found an ally in Robin Uthappa, and it was their 138-run fourth-wicket partnership that restored stability in

the innings. Whatmore said the beauty of Sanju's knock was the manner in which he curbed his natural aggressive instincts and dug deep. "It was unlike most of his other knocks. Batting was difficult and we lost three quick wickets upfront. But Sanju assessed the situation beautifully and played a very sensibly," he explained.

Once Uthappa was dismissed in the 65th over, only moments after having registered his half-century, Bengal sensed an opening. Kerala lost four wickets for just 46 runs in the final hour's play that pegged them back. The home team finished at a not-so-flattering score at 237/7 when stumps were drawn on Day 1. "We lost a couple of wickets too many, but as things stand, both teams are in with a contest. Either way, it's going to be an outright win," Whatmore concluded.

BRIEF SCORES: Kerala 237/7 (Sanju Samson 116, Robin Uthappa 50, Arnab Nandi 2/46) vs Bengal.

ROUND-UP

JUYAL TON GUIDES UP

UTTAR PRADESH opener Aryan Juyal struck a gritty 100, as he guided Uttar Pradesh to a modest 232/5 on the opening day of their Elite Group B Ranji Trophy game. Electing to bat first at the KSCA Hubli cricket ground, 18-year-old Juyal (109 off 251 balls, 11x4) stood tall, as he played a responsible and mature knock to pull his team out of trouble. Juyal was the cynosure of eyes, as he did not take any unnecessary risk and ensured that he converted his start into a three-figure mark. Juyal was ably supported by Mohammed Saif (56 batting off 124 balls, 8x4) who came in at number 5. The duo stuck a 109-run stand and resurrected the innings. Opener Almas Shaukat (22 off 76 balls; 3x4) and Juyal conjured a 56-run stand for the first wicket, before Karnataka pacer Ronit More dismissed Shaukat, who gave a catch to R. Samarth.

BRIEF SCORES (AT HUBLI): Uttar Pradesh 232/5 (Aryan Juyal 109, Mohammed Saif 56 batting; Abhimanyu Mithun 3-45) vs Karnataka.

DELHI DISAPPOINT

DELHI PUT up a disappointing batting performance to be bowled out for 215 on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy match against Andhra here on Tuesday. By stumps, Andhra were also struggling at 16 for two, with both their openers back in the hut. Playing their second match of the season following the draw against Kerala, Delhi lost the previous game's centurion, Kunal Chandela, early after being put in to bat. Kunwar Bidhuri (22) and Nitish Rana (51 off 51) repaired the innings with a 60-run stand for the fourth wicket before a mini collapse pushed them on the back foot. Their innings ended in 70.6 overs. Rana, who had scored a match-saving century against Kerala last week, saved Delhi the blushes again with a run-a-ball effort comprising nine fours and a six. Lalit Yadav (50 off 104) put up a much-needed fight while batting with tail-enders, taking his team past 200.

(AT ONGOLE) Delhi 215 (Lalit Yadav 50, KV Sashikant 5/38) vs Andhra 16/2 (Navdeep Saini 1/8).

ASHWIN SPINS A WEB

RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN starred with a five-wicket haul to help Tamil Nadu bundle out Himachal Pradesh for 158 in 71.4 overs on the opening day of the Ranji Trophy Group 'B' match here on Tuesday. B Aparajith, leading the team in the absence of Vijay Shankar who missed out due to a niggles, elected to bowl and the bowlers justified the decision as Ashwin (5/67) and left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore (3/22) had the HP batsmen in a spin. The visiting team looked in danger of being bowled out for a sub-100 score before Akash Vashist (35, 94 balls, 4 fours) and Mayank Dagar (33, 62 balls, 3 fours) got together at 76/7 to add 53 runs.

BRIEF SCORES (AT DINDIGUL): Himachal Pradesh 158 (A Vashist 35, Mayank Dagar 33, Sumeet Varma 30; R Ashwin 5/65, R Sai Kishore 3/22) vs Tamil Nadu 8/0.

SANKLECHA RUNS THROUGH J&K

ANUPAM SANKLECHA'S four-wicket haul helped Maharashtra dismiss Jammu & Kashmir for 209 in the first innings on the opening day of round two of its Ranji Trophy Group C match here on Tuesday. The home team finished the day at 51/3 in 15.4 overs, trailing by 158 runs. Sent in to bat, Jammu & Kashmir struggled against the Maharashtra attack led by veteran medium-pacer Sanklecha (4/56) and slipped to 79/6 before left-handed Abid Mushtaq (50, 55 balls, 2 fours, 4 sixes) batting at No. 9 began the rescue act. His 54-run last wicket partnership with M Mudhasir proved valuable as it took J&K past the 200-run mark.

BRIEF SCORES (AT PUNE): J&K 209 in 63.5 overs (Ahmed Bandyay 76, Abid Mushtaq 50; A Sanklecha 4/56) vs Maharashtra 51/3 in 15.4 overs.

Plucky India beat Thailand in U-17 tourney

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 17

AFTER 90 minutes of sluggish play, it was a hopeful cross in the first minute of added time that did the trick. There were no teammates inside the box when Kritina Devi Thounaojam skied her cross in the 91st minute of India's U17 women's match against their counterparts from Thailand. The right-back had already put her arms on the back of her head, grimacing in the shame of that hopeless cross, just as Thai goalkeeper Pawarisa Homyamyen came out to collect. Those hands, a moment later, stretched up to the sky in celebration, as the custodian spilled the ball into her own goal. All of a sudden, and not entirely against the run of play, India was leading 1-0, and it stayed that way till the final whistle at the Andheri Sports Complex in Mumbai.

The win takes them to the final on Thursday, where they will play Sweden. This was India's second outing in the three-team tournament, but this was the first time the junior Indian women's team — which next year will become only the second Indian outfit to compete at a FIFA World Cup across age groups — was playing matches against better quality opposition since they qualified as hosts for next November's elite event.

In the opener, they lost 3-0 to the Swedes.

AIFF TO INVESTIGATE SAUDI REFEREE'S 'RACIST' REMARK

New Delhi: AIFF has tasked its disciplinary committee to investigate the allegedly racist remarks made against Mumbai City FC's Serge Kevyn Angoué by Saudi Arabian referee Turki Mohammed Al Khudayr in an Indian Super League match. Mumbai City FC head coach Jorge Costa had alleged that the referee, who officiated his side's match against Bengaluru FC on Sunday, called Kevyn a monkey.

"AIFF has received a complaint from Mumbai City FC against Saudi Arabian referee Turki Mohammed Al Khudayr for making racist remarks to Mumbai City FC player Serge Kevyn Angoué in their Hero Indian Super League match against Bengaluru FC held on December 15, 2019,"

But in the opening minute of play against Thailand on Tuesday, they made their intent clear. The best opportunity to open the scoring, though, came in the 75th minute. Substitute Daisy Crasto marched into the box, rounded past her marker and the onrushing goalkeeper and then side-footed her effort into the empty goal. Inexplicably, a foot short of the goal-line, Sumita, clearly in an offside position, needlessly stepped forward and tapped the

said the AIFF in a statement.

"The AIFF follows a zero tolerance policy against racism and the complaint has been forwarded to the Disciplinary Committee to investigate into the matter and take appropriate action if found guilty," it added. Before starting his media conference after Mumbai City FC's 3-2 win over Bengaluru FC at the Kanteerava Stadium on Sunday, Costa read out a statement, saying that Alkhudhayr called Gabonese player Kevyn a monkey and "made some gestures" which were disrespectful. Kevyn hails from Gabon, which is an African country. He plays as a mid-fielder for the ISL club. PTI

ball in. The goal was disallowed. Ten minutes later Thailand had its best chance when India's goalkeeper Manju Ganju spilled a low-driven freekick and Janista Jinantuya hit the post on the rebound. A match that was destined to end as a goalless draw was littered with end-to-end action, but the conversion was lacking. "We need to work on the finishing," India's coach Thomas Dennerby said. "When we come to the World Cup,

The win takes them to the final on Thursday, where they will play Sweden. This was India's second outing in the three-team tournament, but this was the first time the junior Indian women's team was playing matches against better quality opposition since they qualified as hosts for next November's elite event.

against the best in the world, maybe we will get two chances in each half, but we need to score them because you won't get the seven or eight like we did today. It's about the players building in confidence, so that's something we need to work on." The goal did come, in the most unlikely of fashions. But Dennerby knows he cannot rely on such moments.

This tournament was designed by the host association to give India's coach a chance to analyse how his team performs. So far he's been impressed by the way his defenders have been disciplined, and by the chances that the team is learning to create. The plan now is to execute.

Nikhat 'worried' about fairness of selection trials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 17

NIKHAT ZAREEN, one of the four challengers for the lone Olympic qualifying spot, has expressed concerns over the fairness of the selection trials, to be held in New Delhi on December 27 and 28. Three spots have already been sealed for the trials and Nikhat is likely to secure the last remaining berth.

At the trials, each weight category will have four contenders. In the 51kg category, three spots have already been decided — Mary Kom (on the virtue of winning a medal at the World Championships), Jyoti Gulia and Ritu Grewal (finalists at National Championships).

The fourth contender was to be chosen on the basis of domestic rankings and performances, and Nikhat is the frontrunner on most counts. However, the 23-year-old demanded that the bouts be televised to ensure there was fairness. It is learnt that the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) intends to conduct the trials behind closed doors, but in-camera. Nikhat said she is 'worried' whether the decision will be fair.

"Now I have to prepare for the trails but I want the trials to be televised live on TV and

not in close doors so that people can know what happened in the bout," she said. "The bout will be videographed but it will be under BFI's custody. I am not worried but still there remains a doubt whether it will be a fair decision. Being a boxer and after going through such troubles you can't easily trust anyone. I am bit worried whether the decision will be fair or not..."

Nikhat claimed that she couldn't participate in the nationals as the BFI wanted her to play the IBL. "BFI wanted me to play the league so I didn't play the nationals and that's why I am right now the fourth choice boxer for the trials in 51kg. I was told by the BFI to play the league," said Nikhat. The BFI, on its part, said they will pick the fourth boxer in each weight categories for the Olympic trials on December 21.

"The selection committee including the coaches is scheduled to meet on Dec 21, 2019, to decide the fourth participant in all the 5 weight categories for Women's Boxing in which trials are slated to take place for the Olympic Qualifiers on December 27 and 28," the BFI said in a statement. Nikhat and Mary were scheduled to face each other in the Indian Boxing League here on Tuesday but the latter pulled out citing back problems.

Catalan separatists target El Clasico

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
MADRID, DECEMBER 16

SPAIN WILL deploy a large-scale security operation involving 3,000 personnel at the Clasico on Wednesday, when the likes of Lionel Messi and Sergio Ramos look set to share the limelight with Catalan separatist protests. Tension in Spain's north-east region boiled over in October when demonstrations and riots caused the original La Liga fixture between Barcelona and Real Madrid to be postponed.

Democratic Tsunami, the protest group advocating another independence referendum for Catalonia, has called publicly for its supporters to gather at Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium from four hours before kick-off at 1900 GMT.

Renewed fears of unrest have even raised the possibility of the match being postponed for a second time. "It will be played, the Clasico will be played," Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu said on Thursday, a pledge repeated in recent days by sports, political and police authorities in Spain.

Meetings have taken place between the police, clubs and the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) to ensure the safe arrival of the two squads and referees, as well as the nearly 100,000 fans expected to attend.

The operation will involve some 3,000 security personnel, as well as a cordon to prevent demonstrations blocking entrances to the ground.

In the stands, the numbers of private security staff will also be increased to reduce the threat of pitch invasions that could inter-



Lionel Messi will once again be key to Barca's hopes.

rupt the game. "The operation will ensure that the Clasico is played normally," said the chief commissioner of the Catalan regional police Eugeni Sallent.

Rescheduled fixture

The fixture was supposed to be played on October 26 but the RFEF decided to postpone "due to exceptional causes".

Violent protests had broken out in Catalonia after nine separatist leaders were sentenced to heavy prison sentences for their involvement in the independence referendum of 2017.

Democratic Tsunami has previously received support from former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola and hopes to transmit its message through one of the world's most famous football matches, which has an estimated global audience of 650 million.

In just a few months of existence, the group has already led major acts of disruption. In October, they partially blocked Barcelona airport and in November, they cut off the main motorway between Spain and France for two days.

Barcelona vs Real Madrid, Live on Facebook, 12.30am

Serie A faces flak for monkey painting in anti-racism campaign

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ROME, DECEMBER 17

SERIE A said "true art is provocation" after being criticized as insensitive toward racism for installing a painting at the Italian league's headquarters featuring three monkeys to represent three different races. While black players are regularly subjected to monkey chants in games, artist Simone Fugazzotto said his painting was meant "to show that we are all the same race."



The installation at the headquarters as part of the anti-racism campaign.

True art is provocation. The idea behind Fugazzotto's artwork is that whoever shouts racist chants regresses to his primitive status of being a monkey.

ITALIAN LEAGUE IN A STATEMENT

by my work," Fugazzotto said. "My paintings fully reflect the values of fair play and tolerance. I use monkeys as a metaphor for human beings because the color of our skin is not important."

Serie A CEO Luigi De Siervo said the league's commitment against prejudice was strong.

"We know that racism is an endemic and very complex problem, which we will tackle on three different levels; the cultural one, through works like that of Simone; the sporting one, with a series of initiatives together with clubs and players, and the repressive one, thanks to collaboration with the police," De Siervo said.

But Fare called the painting "an outrage," adding that it "will be counter-productive and continue the dehumanisation of people of African heritage. ... It is difficult to see what Serie A was thinking, who did they consult? It is time for the progressive clubs in the league to make their voice heard."

Also during the presentation of anti-racism initiatives on Monday, De Siervo said league officials were developing facial recognition technology to identify fans responsible for racist chants.



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

मुख्य अतिथि

औम प्रकाश यादव

सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता राज्य मंत्री (स्व.प्र.), हरियाणा

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति

दिनेश शास्त्री

दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त, हरियाणा

दिनांक: 18 दिसम्बर, 2019 (बुधवार)

समय: प्रातः 11:00 बजे

स्थान: रैड बिशप, सेक्टर 1, पंचकूला

आप सभी सादर आमंत्रित हैं

“हरियाणा सरकार राज्य पुरस्कार वितरण समारोह के अवसर पर सभी सम्माननीय नागरिकों की सुख-समृद्धि, स्वास्थ्य एवं लम्बी आयु की कामना करती है।”
मनोहर लाल, मुख्यमंत्री, हरियाणा



वरिष्ठ नागरिकों, दिव्यांगजनों एवं नशामुक्ति के सम्बन्ध में कल्याणार्थ योजनाएं

- ❖ वरिष्ठ नागरिक स्वैच्छिक सेवाएं संगठन व नेटवर्क
- ❖ व्योश्रेष्ठ सम्मान-वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के लिए राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार
- ❖ राज्य के सभी शहरी सम्पदा क्षेत्रों में सीनियर सिटीजन क्लब स्थापित करने की योजना
- ❖ वृद्धावस्था सम्मान भत्ता योजना
- ❖ वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के लिए विशेष पंक्ति
- ❖ वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को पहचान-पत्र देने की योजना
- ❖ हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन की बसों में वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के लिए किराए में 50 प्रतिशत छूट
- ❖ जिला शिकायत निवारण समिति
- ❖ वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के लिए राज्य पुरस्कार योजना
- ❖ वृद्धजनों के लिए समेकित कार्यक्रम योजना
- ❖ वरिष्ठ नागरिकों की जीवन एवं संपत्ति की सुरक्षा हेतु एकशन प्लान दिव्यांग जन पेंशन
- ❖ दिव्यांगों के लिए बहुउद्देशीय कैम्पों का आयोजन
- ❖ स्कूल न जाने वाले दिव्यांग बच्चों के लिए वित्तीय सहायता
- ❖ हरियाणा माता-पिता भरण पोषण अधिनियम, 2009 के अनुसार राज्य के सभी जिलों में ट्रिब्यूनल एवं एपीलेंट ट्रिब्यूनलों का गठन
- ❖ प्रौढ़ नेत्रहीन प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र, पानीपत
- ❖ दिव्यांग विद्यार्थियों के लिए छात्रवृत्ति योजना
- ❖ राजकीय अन्ध विद्यालय, पानीपत
- ❖ स्वैच्छिक संस्थाओं को अनुदान
- ❖ दिव्यांगजनों के लिए राज्य पुरस्कार योजना
- ❖ कृत्रिम अंग एवं सहायक उपकरण योजना
- ❖ मन्दबुद्धि दिव्यांगों हेतु राज्य स्तरीय गृह, सिरतार, रोहतक
- ❖ दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों की राशनमनी में वृद्धि
- ❖ भारत सरकार द्वारा संचालित UDID योजना के अन्तर्गत राज्य के दिव्यांगजन की पहचान तथा पहचान-पत्र जारी करने बारे
- ❖ दिव्यांगों के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा संचालित सुगम्य भारत अभियान योजना
- ❖ 'तेजाब हमले से पीड़ित महिलाओं/लड़कियों को वित्तीय सहायता' योजना
- ❖ सर्वश्रेष्ठ नशामुक्ति केन्द्र
- ❖ सर्वश्रेष्ठ पंचायती राज संस्थान
- ❖ सर्वश्रेष्ठ नगर निकाय
- ❖ सर्वश्रेष्ठ स्कूल
- ❖ सर्वश्रेष्ठ कॉलेज
- ❖ सर्वश्रेष्ठ कर्णात्मक अभियान
- ❖ सर्वश्रेष्ठ जागरूकता अभियान
- ❖ उत्कृष्ट व्यक्तिगत उपलब्धि पेशेवर
- ❖ गैर पेशेवर उत्कृष्ट व्यक्तिगत उपलब्धि

सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता विभाग, हरियाणा

Department of Social Welfare Govt. of NCT of Delhi

GLNS Complex Delhi Gate, New Delhi- 110002

Department of Social Welfare in association with Rao Tula Ram Hospital is organizing a General Disability Camp for areas of DISTRICT SOUTH WEST on 19th December 2019 (Thursday) and 20th December 2019 (Friday).

DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY

Date: 19th December 2019 (Thursday) and 20th December 2019 (Friday).
Time: 09:00 A.M. to 04:00 P.M. (Registration time from 10:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.).
Venue: Rao Tula Ram Hospital, Jafarpur, Delhi.

Constituency Areas of Distt South West to be covered in the camp - Najafgarh, Palam, Dwarka, Uttam Nagar, Matiala.

Contact Person	Ph.No.	Other Persons may be contacted	Ph.No.
Mrs. Saroj Rawat, Distt. Social Welfare Officer (SW)	011-25324210 9868467277	Sh. Sijo MM (Director) Social Vision Charity Home	7838619595
Sh. Ramashray Yadav, Welfare Officer, Distt. Office (SW)	011-25324210 9336939640	Ms. Shweta Shahi Kiwaniis Club of New Delhi	7289956395
Sh. Siraj Ahmed, Welfare Officer, Distt. Office (SW)	011-26528175 9990302509		
Ms. Karishma, Welfare Officer, Distt. Office (SW)	011-26528175 9654016294		

Contact Persons

The following services will be provided to the persons with disabilities residing in the areas mentioned for District South West:-

- 1) Issuance of Disability Certificate to the eligible persons with disabilities for locomotor Disability, Muscular Dystrophy, Leprosy Cured, Dwarfism, Acid Attack Victims, Low Vision, Blindness, Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the camp itself.
- 2) For other intellectual disabilities only IQ assessment through team of experts from NIEPID.
- 3) Issuance of Identity Card by SDM Office.
- 4) Issuance of Bus Passes by DTC.
- 5) Issuance of Railway concession Pass.
- 6) Registration in integrated Schools by Education Department.
- 7) Distribution of aids and appliances (Wheel Chairs, Tricycle, Artificial Limbs etc.) by the NGOs.
- 8) Awareness about UDID card project.
- 9) Information regarding various schemes, programmes for persons with disability.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- 1) Aadhar Card
- 2) 2 Passport size photographs and 2 postcard size photographs clearly showing orthopedic disability for Disability Certificate.
- 3) 6 Passport size photographs for other services.
- 4) **Proof of residence- Any one of the following-** (a) Ration Card, (b) Voter identity card, (c) Driving license, (d) Bank passbook, (e) PAN card, (f) Passport, (g) Telephone/Electricity/Water and any other utility bill indicating the address of the applicant, (h) A certificate of residence issuance by a Panchayat, municipality, cantonment board, any gazetted officer, or the concerned Patwari or Head Master of a Government school, (i) In case of an inmate of a residential institution for persons with disabilities, destitute, mentally ill, and other disability, a certificate of residence from head of such institution. (j) Aadhar number or Aadhar enrollment number, if any.

PARTICIPATING DEPARTMENTS AND NGOs

Department of Social Welfare, GNCT of Delhi, . GLNS Complex, Delhi Gate, New Delhi in collaboration with Rao Tula Ram Hospital, Jafarpur, Office of District Magistrate(Revenue District South West), Directorate of Education, SC/ST Corporation (DSFDC), Northern Railway Board Delhi Transport Corporation, other Govt. Departments and NGOs's (1) **Kiwaniis Club of New Delhi**, (2) **Social Vision Charity Home**, (3) **Indian Spinal Injuries Centre**.

DIP/Shabdarth/1141/19-20

Director
Department of Social Welfare