



## 92<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION "INDIA: ROADMAP TO A \$5 TRILLION ECONOMY"

20 - 21 December, 2019  
Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi

### UNION MINISTERS

(Opening Plenary)



**Mr. Piyush Goyal**  
Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, GOI



**Mr. Nitin Gadkari**  
Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport & Highways and MSME, GOI



**Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad**  
Hon'ble Minister for Law & Justice, Communications and Electronics & IT, GOI



**Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan**  
Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel, GOI

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Hon'ble Chief Minister Chhattisgarh

### DY. CHIEF MINISTER



**Mr. Sushil Kumar Modi**  
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Bihar

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Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha  
Bhartiya Janta Party



**Prof. Rajeev Gowda**  
Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha  
Indian National Congress



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Hon'ble MP, Lok Sabha  
Bhartiya Janta Party



**Mr. Bharat Margani**  
Hon'ble MP, Lok Sabha  
YSR Congress Party

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Secretary, DPIIT  
GOI



**Mr. Injeti Srinivas**  
Secretary, Ministry of  
Corporate Affairs, GOI



**Mr. Heeralal Samariya**  
Secretary, Ministry of Labour  
& Employment, GOI



**Mr. Alok Srivastava**  
Secretary, Department of Justice,  
Ministry of Law & Justice, GOI

### FICCI LEADERSHIP

#### President's Message



**Mr. Sandip Somany**  
President, FICCI

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's vision to achieve a \$5 Trillion economy is achievable if all stakeholders work together with single-minded purpose. FICCI is committed towards working with all stakeholders for realising this dream.



**Dr. Sangita Reddy**  
President-Elect, FICCI



**Mr. Uday Shankar**  
Vice President, FICCI



**Mr. Dilip Chenoy**  
Secretary General

### INDUSTRY LEADERS



**Ms. Gita Gopinath**  
Chief Economist  
IMF



**Mr. Anil Agarwal**  
Founder & Chairman  
Vedanta Resources Ltd.



**Mr. Rajnish Kumar**  
Chairman  
SBI



**Mr. Anil Kumar Chaudhary**  
Chairman  
Steel Authority of India Ltd.



**Mr. Sanjiv Puri**  
MD  
ITC Ltd.



**Dr. Dave Richards**  
Co-founder, Innovation Labs, MIT and  
Board Member, India Research Centre

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**REGIONAL OFFICE (U.P.)**  
TC-3V, VIBHUTI KHAND, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW - 226010

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
On line tenders under two bid systems are invited for appointment of vendors for providing Vehicle Tracking Services (VTS) for owned / hired / rented vehicles used by FCI road transport contractors during transportation of foodgrains by road in UP Region. The terms and conditions and other details are available at <https://procure.gov.in/procure/app> and FCI website <http://www.fci.gov.in>. Document download / Bid submission etc. date is from 19.12.2019. Online Technical Bid will be opened on 16.01.2020 at 03.00 pm. Prebid meeting in reference to above tenders is to be held on 26.12.2019 at 12:00 Noon. Further, any corrigendum in this regard will be published on CPP portal or on the FCI website <http://www.fci.gov.in> if necessary.

**GENERAL MANAGER (UP)**

**भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड**  
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.

**TENDER NOTICE (E-Tender cum Reverse Auction Mode Only)**  
CONCOR invites Online Open E-Tender in two bid system for the work of "Construction of Road in NME yard at DCT/Dhila, New Delhi only through e-tendering mode. The bid document can only be downloaded after paying Rs1000.00 through online from the website ([www.tenderwizard.com/CCL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CCL)).

Tender No.	172/2019-20
Estimated Cost	Rs.123.62 Lakhs (Inclusive of all)
Completion Period	08 months from the 15th day after date of issue of letter of acceptance
Earliest Money Deposit	Rs. 2.11.810/- through e-payment
Cost of Document	Rs. 1000/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment
Tender Processing Fee	Rs. 5.31/- inclusive of all taxes and duties (Non-refundable) through e-payment
Date of Sale (On Line)	from 20.12.2019: 11:00 hrs. to 09.01.2020 upto 17:00 hrs.
Last Date & Time of submission of Tender	10.01.2020 upto 15:00 hrs.
Date & Time of Opening of tender	On 13.01.2020 at 15:30 hrs.

For eligibility criteria and other details please log onto [www.concorindia.com](http://www.concorindia.com) or [procure.gov.in](http://procure.gov.in) or [www.tenderwizard.com/CCL](http://www.tenderwizard.com/CCL). Bidders are requested to visit the website regularly. CONCOR reserves the right to reject any of all the tenders without assigning any reasons therefor.

**Group General Manager /Tech/Northern Region**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a man namely **Parmod Kumar Arora, S/o Kishan Lal R/o T-83, Baljit Nagar, Near dispensary, Patel Nagar, Delhi** has been missing since 27/08/2019 at 1:00 p.m. from his house. In this regard a **D.D. No. 145A, dated 16/09/2019** has been registered at **P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing man but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing man is as under:  
**Name:** Parmod Kumar Arora, **Gender:** Male, **Age:** 48 years, **Height:** 57", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Long  
If anyone has any information regarding this missing Man, kindly inform SHO/ Patel Nagar, Delhi  
**E-mail :** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
**Ph.:** 011-24368638, 24368641  
**Fax :** 011-24368639  
**SHO P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi Ph. No.:** 011-25872637, 25874034

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT P-II**  
**SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES SOURA SRINAGAR**

**Sub: Extension in eNIT**  
**Ref: eNIT No. SIMS 12 (P-II) of 2019 Dated: 29.10.2019**

The schedule dates for downloading & submission of tenders invited vide above referred eNIT for **Supply of "Office Stationery & Medical Record Material" (Group-A "Paper")** at SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar is hereby extended as per following.

1	Last Date for Downloading of Tenders	30.12.2019 (01:00 PM)
2	Last Date for Deposited in Electronic Format	30.12.2019 (04:00 PM)

The tenders (Technical bids) of (Group-A "Paper") shall be opened on **02.01.2020 at 04.00 pm** or any other date convenient to Tender Opening Committee.  
Other terms & conditions of the eNIT shall remain unchanged.

**Sd/- Asst. Materials Management Officer**

**Government of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES SOURA SRINAGAR KASHMIR**  
**Department of Materials Management (Imports Section)**  
E-mail: [ammoimports@skims.ac.in](mailto:ammoimports@skims.ac.in), Fax: 0194-2403404

**Extension/Corrigendum**  
**Subject:** 3rd Extension to the eNIT No. SIMS-324-NIT 16 (Imports) of 2019 dated 03.10.2019 (Tender ID 2019\_SKIMS\_83006\_1) to Tender-ID 2019\_SKIMS\_83006\_7 regarding supply/ Installation, Testing & Commissioning of various Bio-Medical Equipments for Cardiology SKIMS.

The NIT is hereby extended as per following schedule:-  
Last Date for Submission 23.12.2019 upto 4.00 P.M. of Online Bids  
Date of Opening of Technical Bids 26.12.2019 at 12.30 PM.

Further the corrigendum is issued in respect of terms & conditions as per following:-  
NIT Clause No. 29(C) is hereby deleted  
NIT Clause No. 35 Force Majeure; following words are hereby deleted:  
"However force majeure clause shall not apply for the installation of the equipment its repairs and maintenance by the Company's Engineer and the service contract after the expiry of the warranty period".  
Rest of the NIT/terms and conditions shall remained unchanged.

**Sd/- Asstt. Materials Management Officer SKIMS**

**कोटेशन आमन्त्रण सूचना**

जिला सिरसा के सभी सात खंडों के गांवों में विकास कार्यों के लिए Fly Ash Bricks की आपूर्ति हेतु अधिकृत आपूर्तिकर्ताओं/ फर्म से बंद लिफाफे में कुटेशन आमंत्रित की जाती है।

Sr. No.	Item	Unit	Rates
			Baragudha/Dabwali Ellenabad N.Chopta Odhan Ranjia Sirsa
1.	Fly Ash Bricks	1000 Nos.	

इच्छुक आपूर्तिकर्ता/ फर्म दिनांक 30.12.2019 को सांघ 3.00 बजे तक बंद लिफाफे में कुटेशन कार्यकारी अभियन्ता पंचायती राज, सिरसा के कार्यालय में जमा करना चाहें। कुटेशन उसी दिन सांघ 4.00 बजे आपूर्तिकर्ता/ फर्म या उनके द्वारा अधिकृत प्रतिनिधियों की उपस्थिति में खोली जाएगी। यदि कुटेशन खोलने की तिथि छुट्टी के दिन होती है तो अगले कार्य दिवस पर कुटेशन खोली जाएगी। अस्पष्ट या सशर्त कुटेशन स्वीकार नहीं की जाएगी। जिला अनुमोदन समिति बिना किसी कारण बताए कुटेशन को स्वीकार या अस्वीकार कर सकती है।

**नियम व शर्तें निम्नानुसार हैं :-**

- जी.एस.टी. सरकार द्वारा जारी हिदायतनुसार अलग से लागू होगा।
- निर्माण सामग्री के रेट सिरसा जिले के सभी खंडों के लिए आर्मात्रिफ्रैक्ट जावें हैं। सामग्री के रेट मौके (F.O.R) पर पहुंचाए जायेंगे।
- सामान की अदायगी मौके पर सामग्री की गुणवत्ता व मात्रा (Quality & Quantity) संबंधित अधिकारी द्वारा सत्यापन (Verification) उपरंत की जाएगी।
- समस्त सामग्री आपूर्ति आदेशों (Supply Order) के 7 दिन के अन्दर-2 मौके पर पहुंचानी होगी।
- दरें तीन माह या आगामी आदेशों तक मान्य होंगे।
- किसी भी प्रकार की जानकारी/विषयण के लिए अतिरिक्त उपयुक्त सिरसा (01666-247235), जिला विकास एवं पंचायत अधिकारी सिरसा (01666-249883) व कारकीर्ती अभियन्ता पंचायती राज सिरसा (01666-247479) के कार्यालय में सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।
- यदि नियंत्रित नहीं है कि कितनी मात्रा में सामग्री खरीद की जानी है यह केवल सरकार द्वारा स्वीकृत फंड पर आधारित होगी।
- सबसे कम दर पेश (Quoted Rate) करने वाली फर्म को आपूर्ति आदेशों के सात दिन के अन्दर सामग्री की आपूर्ति करने के लिए बाध्य होगी। सबसे कम दर पेश करने वाली फर्म यदि सामग्री आपूर्ति करने में विफल रहती है तो फर्म को तीन वर्षों के लिए ब्लैकलिस्ट कर दिया जाएगा।

हस्ता./- कार्यकारी अभियन्ता, पंचायती राज सिरसा।  
79667/HRV.

**E-Tendering Notice**  
**U.P POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.**  
**E-Tender Notice-53/ECTC/AGRA/2019-20**

E-Tender in two parts, Part-I & Part-II valid for four months are invited for the work mentioned as under:-

Tender Specification No.	Name of Work	Period of Work	Earnest Money	Tender Cost (Including GST) & NIT Charges	Total Tender Cost	Date and Time of Submission	Date and Time of opening
172	Construction of Open Store & maintenance of internal road 220 KV Sub-station Sikandra Agra	02 Month	45,000.00	1770+250	2020.00	22.01.2020 / 12.00	23.01.2020 / 12.00
173	Landscapeing & other development work at Erector Hostel 220 KV S/S Sikandra. (Agra)	02 Month	40,000.00	1770+250	2020.00	22.01.2020 / 12.00	23.01.2020 / 12.00
174	Increasing Capacity work of (2x160 MVA to 3x160 MVA T/F) at 220 KV S/S Chhata Mathura	02 Month	1,40,000.00	5900+690	6590.00	22.01.2020 / 12.00	23.01.2020 / 12.00
175	Providing and Fixing Electronic accessories For Erector Hostel at 220 KV S/S Sikandra Agra	01 Month	20,000.00	1770+250	2020.00	22.01.2020 / 12.00	23.01.2020 / 12.00

The tender document against this bid specification can be downloaded from e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> & [www.upptcl.org](http://www.upptcl.org) Tenders can be only submitted on e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> upto schedule date & time as above The bidder must go through properly pre-qualifying condition & ensure that all related papers are uploaded. For participating in bids through the e-bidding system, it is necessary for the bidders to get themselves registered with UP Electronics Corporation Limited Lucknow. Undersigned reserves the right to amend or withdraw any of the terms and conditions contain in the tender document or accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason thereof. Please visit website <http://etender.up.nic.in> or [www.upptcl.org](http://www.upptcl.org) regularly for any correction/modification/amendments/extension till the date of submission of tender. Cost of Tender and Earnest Money Submitted in the Account of Executive Engineer, Electricity Civil Transmission Division, 220 KV S/S Sikandra (Agra) with A/C No-30065294923, IFSC Code- SBIN0005717 Payable at S.B.I Foundry Nagar (Agra) U.P Pin Code-282006. through NEFT/RTGS. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, ELECTRICITY CIVIL TRANSMISSION CIRCLE AGRA

UPPTC WEB SITE:- [www.upptcl.org](http://www.upptcl.org)  
E-PROCUREMENT WEBSITE: <http://etender.up.nic.in>  
"SAVE ENERGY IN THE INTREST OF NATION"

Sd/-  
पत्रांक: 1154/वि.पा.मं. आ. / निविदा दिनांक: 19/12/2019  
**SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**

**INDORE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
Nehru Park, Swachh Bharat Mission Office, Indore - 452 003, Phone: 0731-2535572  
Email: [swachhindore01@gmail.com](mailto:swachhindore01@gmail.com), [swachhindore@gmail.com](mailto:swachhindore@gmail.com)

**NIT No. 17/SBM/19-20** **SHORT TENDER NOTICE** **Date: 17.12.2019**

Online bids are invited for following work. Tender forms may be purchased online by the bidders having relevant experience.

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost of Work (₹)	Cost of Tender form (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Duration of Contract
1	Marketing and Sale of city Compost produced from processing of organic waste at Indore.	---	5,000/-	1,00,000/-	02 Years

**Key Dates:-**

S.No.	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last date for purchase of tender (Online)	24/12/2019 till 17:30 Hrs.
2.	Last date for submission of tender (Online)	24/12/2019 till 17:30 Hrs.
3.	Technical Bid opening (Online)	26/12/2019 at 16:00 Hrs.
4.	Last date for submission of hard copy of technical bid.	26/12/2019 till 15:00 Hrs.

**Note:**  
1. Tender documents and other details shall be available on: Website-[www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in)  
2. Amendment to NIT, if any would be published only on website [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in)  
3. The EMD shall be in the form of online payment using Debit Card/ Credit Card/ Internet Banking or system generated challan.

**Superintending Engineer Indore Municipal Corporation**

**Bharat Nirman through Rural Roads**  
**Chief Engineer (Kangra Zone) HPPWD Dharamshala H.P., 176215**  
**BHARAT NIRMAN**  
**UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)**  
**e-Procurement Notice**

The Government of India has received a loan/credit number "P124639" under **PMGSY (Rural Road Project) Rural Roads** Financing towards the cost of Rural Roads Project (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of works and **PMGSY(Regular)**. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the bidding document.

The Chief Engineer (Kangra Zone) HPPWD Dharamshala-176215 on behalf of Governor Himachal Pradesh invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the District of Chamba as detailed in the Table below from the eligible contractors registered with HPPWD/CPWD/P&T, Railways/other state govt./Central Govt. agencies. Non-registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Division	Package No.	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Total Cost (In Lacs)	Period of Completion (Months)	Bid Security (Rs. Lacs)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bharmour	HP-02-325	Construction of Patti to Khund Road Km 0/0 to 3/300.	279.53	-	279.53	12	5.60
Bharmour	HP-02-368	Construction of Dadima to Chaled Road Km 0/0 to 4/800.	317.38	28.90	346.28	18	6.93
Bharmour	HP-02-331	"Construction of Dalli to Sanh Road" Km 0/0 to 5/190.	343.56	31.25	374.81	18	7.50
Bharmour	HP-02-324	Construction of Pilli to Suai Road Km 0/0 to 5/400.	359.91	-	359.91	18	7.18
Bharmour	HP-02-301	Construction of Garoundi Road (Portion Churi to village Fadi) Km 0/0 to 6/570.	393.88	-	393.88	18	7.88
Bharmour	HP-02-323	"Construction of Rakh to Dhanaara Road" Km 0/0 to 8/325.	449.79	50.13	499.92	18	10.00
Bharmour	HP-02-329	Construction of Kilod to Kuned Road Km 0/0 to 5/0.	622.59	-	622.59	18	12.45
Bharmour	HP-02-373	Construction of 25.00 RCC Box Girder Bridge over Batou Nallah on Kilod Kuned Road at RD 0/315.					
Bharmour	HP-02-367	"Construction of Hadsar to Kugti Road" Km 0/0 to 10/320.	691.05	62.15	753.20	18	15.00
Bharmour	HP-02-328	Construction of Andrehad Road Km 0/0 to 5/500".	708.05	-	708.05	18	17.70
Bharmour	HP-02-372	Construction of 40.00 Mtrs Span Bridge over Ghatour Nallah on Koda to Andrehad Road at RD 0/15.					
Bharmour	HP-02-322	Construction of Choli to Quarsi Road (Portion Lambo to Quarsi) Km 0/0 to 8/990.	683.21	-	683.21	18	13.70
Bharmour	HP-02-344	Construction of Churi to Bakkal Road Km 0/0 to 8/0.	891.38	48.18	939.56	24	18.80
Bharmour	HP-04-383	Construction of Rajgunda to Bara Bhangal Road Km 0/0 to 21/400.	3855.69	-	3855.69	24	77.11
Bharmour	HP-04-401	Construction of 40.00 Mtrs Span Steel Truss Bridge over Gargu Nallah on Rajgunda to Bara Bhangal Road at Rd 4/750.					
Bharmour	HP-04-402	Construction of 40.00 Mtrs Span Steel Truss Bridge over Dhadi Nallah on Rajgunda to Bara Bhangal Road at Rd 8/430.					
Killar	HP-02-361	Construction of link Road to village Thandol Km 0/0 to 6/285	496.75	37.85	534.60	18	10.70
Killar	HP-02-357	Upgradation of Kirn Dharwas to Sural Bhatoni Road Km 0/0 to 17/900	1072.85	104.18	1177.03	24	23.25
Killar	HP-02-360	Upgradation of link Road from Sach Khas to Towan Km 0/0 to 24/290	1365.06	148.68	1513.74	24	30.30
Chamba	HP-02-316	Construction of 33.00 Mtrs Span Steel Truss Bridge over Lol Khad to link road to village Sanoutha at RD 0/590	151.12	-	151.12	12	3.02
Chamba	HP-02-312	Construction of 90.00 Mtrs Span Bridge over River Ravi on Rajera Ball Road at Bhanal Rd 0/140.	899.39	-	899.39	18	18.00
Salooni	HP-02-370	Construction of 19.75 Meters Span RCC T-Beam Bridge over Khared Nallah on Sundia Girjindoo Road at Rd 32/615.	34.63	-	34.63	9	0.70
Salooni	HP-02-345	Construction of link Road to village Dhugar Km 0/0 to 3/300.	256.11	13.85	269.96	12	5.40

Other details can be seen in the bidding document. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.  
Submission of all physical documents will be accepted only up to or before the time and date of submission of bids. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.  
**Last Date/Time and place for receipt of bids through e-procurement:-**  
Bids can be submitted online from Date 23 Month 12 Year 2019 to Date 06 Month 01 Year 2020 upto 1700 Hours and will be opened on Date 07 Month 01 Year 2020 at 1130 Hours in the office of Superintending Engineer, 7th Circle, HPPWD, Dalhousie.  
For further details please log on to <https://pmgsytendershp.gov.in>.  
The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons there-of.

**Sd/- Chief Engineer, Kangra Zone, H.P.P.W.D., Dharamshala-176215. Fax:011892-223100, Tel: 011892-224948.**

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कार्पोरेशन लि. निविदा निरस्तकरण सूचना रिटेण्डर एवं 04 बार निविदा विस्तारित उपरान्त भी निविदा संख्या टी-23/2019-20 में एकल निविदा प्राप्त होने के कारण निविदा को निरस्त किया जाता है। हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत परिषण मंडल उ.प्र.पा. ट्रा.का.लि., 400 के.वी.उपकेन्द्र, पाली, ग्रेटर नोएडा। "राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचाए।" कृपया वेब साईट [etender.up.nic.in](http://etender.up.nic.in) पर सभी सूचना, अन्य संशोधन/विस्तार हेतु निविदा खुलने की तिथि तक लॉग ऑन करें। पत्रांक: 2175/वि.पा.मं./गै.ना./T-23/2019-20 दिनांक 17.12.2019

कानपुर विद्युत आपूर्ति कंपनी लि. 14/71, सिविल लाइन्स, केस हाउस, कानपुर। अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा विस्तारण सूचना अपरिहार्य कारणों से ई-निविदा सं. 15/19-20 दिनांक 02.01.2020 तक विस्तारित की जाती है, जो की वेबसाईट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (भंडार क्रय) संख्या STP/A-11/878/2019-20 दिनांक 19/12/2019

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, SUB-TRANSMISSION DIVISION DODA**  
**Notice Inviting e-Tender**  
**e-NIT NO:eNIT/STD/Doda/32 of 2019 dated:14.12.2019**

For and on behalf of the Govt. of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, Superintending Engineer O & M Circle Kishtwar invites e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) from reputed A-class electrical contractors / registered firms enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency, for Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Supply, survey, Transportation, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 3.15 MVA, 33/11KV Receiving Station in Jwalapur, Bounjwah, District Kishtwar - J & K along with Bus-In-Bus-Out arrangement at the station.

Sr. No.	Description of Work	Name of the Office	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Last date of submission of e-bid upto
01.	Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Supply, survey, Transportation, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 3.15 MVA, 33/11KV Receiving Station in Jwalapur, Bounjwah, District Kishtwar - J & K along with Bus-In-Bus-Out arrangement at the station.	Superintending Engineer, O&M, Circle Kishtwar	2,45,00,000/-	4,90,000/-	4000/-	28.12.2019 upto 4.00 P.M.

1. Bidders are advised to study the Standard Bidding Document and scope of the work carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.  
2. The tender document is available on website <http://ktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, and submit their e-Bid on line up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A.	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <a href="http://ktenders.gov.in">http://ktenders.gov.in</a> from 17.12.2019 from 10:00 A.M.
B.	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	17.12.2019, 10:00 A.M.
C.	Sale of Bid Document (End)	27.12.2019 upto 4:00 PM

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division, Doda**  
No.: STD/Doda/ 2292-95 Dated: 14.12.2019 DFP-10930

**HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**  
1st & Ground Floor, I.T. Bhawan, Mehli, Shimla-171013  
Tel. No. 0177-2623259, 2623313, 2623620, 2623513  
2623043, FAX: 0177-2626320  
Website: [www.hpsecd.in](http://www.hpsecd.in)

No.: HPSEDC/CC/Excise/SI/2k19-10335 Date:18-12-2019

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

e-Tenders are invited for identification of new vendor for taking over the work under HP VIT-IT project i.e. Data centre operation, operation & maintenance of application, web portals and helpdesk etc. of Excise & Taxation Department, Himachal Pradesh. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 26/12/2019 at 02:00PM at HPSEDC, 1st Floor, IT Bhawan, Mehli, Shimla.  
Last date for online e-bid submission is 07/01/2020 (upto 02:30 PM) and shall be opened on the same day at 3:00PM. Detailed Tender Document containing Technical Specifications and Terms & Conditions are available on HPSEDC website [www.hpsecd.in](http://www.hpsecd.in) and <https://hptenders.gov.in>.

0585/HP **General Manager (Technical)**

**OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA**  
**NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR**  
File No. B-IV-H-(ALMC)-8/19 Ltr. No-52958 Bhubaneswar, the 16th Dec.2019

**1st Corrigendum**

**Bid Identification No. CE(B) - 21 / 2019-20**  
**Name of the Work-** "Construction of 100 seated New Govt. Medical College & Teaching Hospital at Jaipur on Turnkey Basis in the state of Odisha."

Description of Activity	Scheduled Date	Extended Date
Bid documents shall be available for downloading	Dt. 17.12.2019	Dt. 27.12.2019
pre-bid meeting shall be held	Dt. 27.12.2019 at 11:00 AM	Dt. 07.01.2020 at 11:00 AM
Online Submission of Bids shall be on or before	Dt. 08.01.2020 upto 5:30 PM	Dt. 21.01.2020 upto 5:30 PM
hardcopy shall be received on or before	Dt. 15.01.2020 upto 5:30 PM	Dt. 28.01.2020 upto 5:30 PM
Bids received online on due date and time, shall be opened	Dt. 16.01.2020 at 11:30 AM	Dt. 29.01.2020 at 11:30 AM

2. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

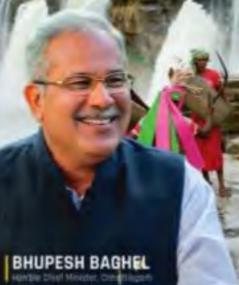
34117/11/0052/1920 **Chief Engineer (Buildings), Odisha**

**OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION,**  
JAL "O" PARIMAL BHAWAN, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001, ODISHA  
Tel: 0674-2395734, FAX: 0674-2394946, e-mail: [cerwssodisha@gmail.com](mailto:cerwssodisha@gmail.com)

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

**BID IDENTIFICATION NO.10745 EIC/RWSS/74/2018-19**  
**NO. Date:19/12/2019**

1	The Engineer-In-Chief, RWSS, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department, Governor of Odisha invite tenders in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only for implementation of LED Street lighting system in one village of each Grampanchayat districtwise in 16 districts of Odisha on turn-key basis including AMC for 5 years after one year guarantee period and 2 years extended warranty period throughout the state.
2	Nature of work : Implementation of LED Street lighting system in one village of each Grampanchayat districtwise in 16 districts of Odisha on turn-key basis including AMC for 5 years after one year guarantee period and 2 years extended warranty period throughout the state.
3	Number of works : 16 Nos individual works (01 no. per each district)
4	Estimated Cost : Ranging from Rs. 1.0 crore to Rs.7.5 Crore
5	Cost of Bid Document : Rs. 10,000/- each district(Non-refundable)
6	Class of Contractor : Sole Proprietor/Partnership firms/ company having



## Chhattisgarh: India's Trust

### Strengthening the Trust of Tribals

- New era of justice, returned land to villagers in Lohandiguda
- Tendupatta collectors getting Rs. 4000 per sac
- Acquiring 22 forest products at support price
- People facing fabricated criminal charges released



# CITIZENSHIP



After 1,200 were detained at Red Fort and Mandi House, protesters gathered at Jantar Mantar Thursday to call for a repeal of the new citizenship law and a freeze on NRC. Tashi Tobgyal



Historian Ramachandra Guha detained in Bengaluru; image spread across as a symbol of civil society protest

FULL COVERAGE: [PAGES 6, 9, 16](#)

## Violence as protesters, police clash: 2 killed in Mangalore, 1 in Lucknow

**JOHNSON TA & AVANEESH MISHRA**  
BENGALURU, LUCKNOW,  
DECEMBER 19



A police outpost vandalised in Lucknow. Vishal Srivastav

THREE PERSONS were killed in alleged police firing — two in the coastal Karnataka city of Mangalore and one in the Old Lucknow locality of UP — after protests against the new citizenship law turned violent in these areas despite prohibitory orders. "There are two bodies at the Highland Hospital of persons who died in the police firing. One is Abdul Jaleel, 49, and the other is

Naushin, 26," said a councillor in the Mangalore City Corporation, Abdul Lathif, who was at the hospital Thursday night.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



## Protests against NRC and CAA move beyond campus

NRC will come, says Nadda; what use of Hindu rashtra with unrest, says Thackeray

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW,  
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 19

FROM DELHI, Lucknow and Bengaluru to Kolkata, Mumbai and Patna, protests against the

new controversial citizenship law today moved out of university campuses in multiple cities as thousands poured into the streets defying prohibitory orders. The protests hit normal life in many places. In the national

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** New protests, new risk

THE WIDENING of anti-CAA protests across the country poses new challenges to the Centre and states: law and order and the potential risks of communal polarisation. Violence in BJP-ruled states may sharpen the faultlines and set the stage for a crackdown.

## First time, Internet, voice, SMS shut down in capital

**KARISHMA MEHROTRA**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

IN A first, mobile internet, voice and SMS services were snapped in several parts of Delhi against the backdrop of protests against the new citizenship law.

This came after a letter was sent to "Nodal officers" of "Airtel, Vodafone-Idea, Jio, MTNL/BSNL"

by DCP (Special Cell) P S Kushwah. The letter states: "In view of the prevailing law and order situation, it is hereby directed that communication of all types, that is, voice, SMS and internet, be halted from 9 am to 1 pm (on Thursday) in the Cell IDs/BTS covering the following areas: Walled city areas of North and Central districts, Mandi House,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



## Don't know what is Glamping? Come and figure before 31<sup>st</sup> Jan.

Parasailing, Stargazing, ATV rides, Rifle shooting, Archery, Jet Ski, Banana Boats, Speed Boats, Bicycles, Beach Volleyball  
Food Festival, Beach Market, Cultural Shows and lots more

At Ramchandi Beach, Konark



Luxury Cottages



Water Sports



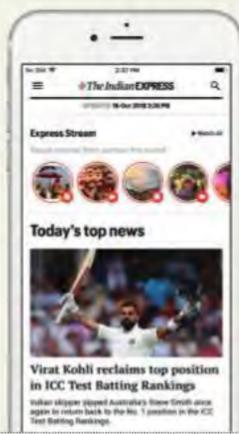
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IPL AUCTION 2020: COMPLETE LIST OF PLAYERS SOLD, UNSOLD WITH PRICE

IPL Auction 2020 Sold, Unsold Players List: This year's auction is the last one before the franchises disband next year and prepare to assemble fresh squads from 2021 at a mega auction

VIDEO OF THE DAY



INTERNET SHUT DOWN IN DELHI  
 Mobile internet services were cut in some parts of the Delhi

FULL COVERAGE



CAA PROTESTS LIVE UPDATES  
 Home Ministry called meeting to review the security situation

EXPRESS AUDIO

What is Section 144 and when can it be implemented?

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Yesterday, Section 144 was imposed in parts of the country and hundreds of anti-CAA protestors were detained. We explain when Section 144 is implemented

DEFECTIONS

Speaker stresses on transparency

Dehradun: Expressing concern over remarks made by the judiciary in certain cases of Assembly Speakers' decisions on defections, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday stressed on transparency in presiding officers' decisions in the matters of defections.

Birla said a panel has been formed to suggest changes in the legislative rules and in Constitution. He was speaking to reporters after addressing valedictory session of two-day Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies of India in Dehradun. **ENS**

FROM PAGE ONE

First time, mobile internet shut down in Delhi

Seelampur, Jaffrabad, Mustafabad, Jamia Nagar, Shaheen Bagh and Bawana."

"This should be treated as an absolute direction and compliance should be reported," it states.

As protesters as well as local residents reached out to the telecom companies for clarity on Twitter, Vodafone responded: "As per the directive received from the government, services are stopped at a few locations. As a result of this, you will not be able to use services till 1 pm at these locations."

"There is a government order and we are just following it," PTI quoted Bharti Airtel chairman Sunil Mittal as saying.

Sources in Reliance Jio told *The Indian Express*, "There was a standard instruction given to all the telecom companies, so everybody had to comply and we did too. This is part of a government process."

Telecom service providers are bound by their licence agreements to comply with government orders. Sources from a telecom firm confirmed this was the first time mobile internet was suspended in the national capital.

While the most direct laws related to internet shutdowns are the Temporary Suspension Rules, 2017, in which the Centre or State's Home Secretary orders the shutdown, District Magistrates have interpreted their powers under Section 144 of the Criminal Code of Procedure to include restrictions on telecom and internet. In Delhi's case, however, the order to telecom firms was issued by a Deputy Commissioner of Police.

Meanwhile, mobile services were also snapped for 24 hours in Ghaziabad late Thursday night. "There is a possibility that anti-social elements can misuse internet services and create rumours that can lead to law and order problems since there have been violent protests against CAA. Keeping this in mind, the administration will be shutting down all mobile services between 10 pm on Thursday to 10 pm Friday," the official letter read.

Protests against NRC and CAA move beyond campus

capital, internet and telecom services were snapped for the first time.

In the Old Lucknow neighbourhood in UP and in Karnataka's Mangalore, protests took a violent turn as angry mobs fought pitched battles with the police and set ablaze buses and vehicles. One was killed in Lucknow and two in Mangalore.

In Delhi, senior Opposition leaders and hundreds of students and activists were detained by police as they marched from Red Fort in the old city area. Among those detained included Left leaders Sitaram Yechury, D Raja, Brinda Karat, Congress's Ajay Maken and Sandeep Dikshit and activists like Yogendra Yadav. Students leaders like Umar Khalid too were among those detained near Mandi House in the heart of the capital.

In Bengaluru, historian and author Ramchandra Guha was detained, his stand-off with the police and detention captured on video that spread across social media as a powerful frame of civil society speaking up and calling out the new law.

A large number of protesters gathered at the Jantar Mantar as well. While protests remained largely peaceful in Delhi, where there were violent demonstrations and police action in Jamia Millia Islamia just a few days ago, clashes broke out in Lucknow and there were reports of arson.

Protesters pelted stones at the police and set on fire a police post. A passenger bus was set on fire in the Sambhal area. DGP P Singh said police had

to fire tear-gas shells to control the situation in Madayanj area, while nearly 20 people have been taken into custody. AMU teachers held a silent march opposing the new law in Aligarh.

Talking tough, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said there is no place for violence in a democracy and promised "revenge" on those behind the violence. "There was violence in Lucknow and Sambhal and we will deal with it strictly. All properties of those involved in damaging public assets will be seized and auctioned to compensate for the losses...They have been captured in video and CCTV footage. We will take 'badla' (revenge) on them," he said.

In Mangaluru, police lobbed tear gas shells, resorted to baton charge and fired in the air to disperse protesters. Authorities have imposed Section 144 for the next three days starting from Thursday in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Mangaluru, Belagavi, Hubballi, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru and Hassan and Chikkaballapura.

Several Metro stations were closed in Delhi and authorities ordered shutting down of internet and telecom services in select areas. Congress's Abhishek Singhvi said Delhi is seeing a "Kashmir-like situation." "Why has the internet been shut down? Have all residents of Delhi become urban naxals?" asked senior Congress leader P Chidambaram. Singhvi said "there is undeclared emergency in the country."

"Section 144 has been imposed near Red Fort...Metro stations are

closed down...There are obstructions everywhere, roads are closed...The normalcy that is being talked about in Kashmir has reached here. And what is the Kashmir-like normalcy...Airtel...Jio have said that internet has been shut down under direction...Yeddyurappa has imposed Section 144 in almost all of Karnataka...there are huge demonstrations in Kolkata...AASU is protesting all over Assam...In Bihar, posters have surfaced about missing Chief Ministers. Schools and colleges are shut...there are protests in Patna...this is not BJP-kaal...this is aghosht apaatkaal (undeclared emergency)," Singhvi said.

The BJP hit back with the party's working president J P Nadda asserting that the citizenship law will be implemented and "going forward National Register of Citizens (NRC) also will be brought in." Nadda accused the Congress of spreading hatred and indulging in the politics of appeasement.

He said the language of Pakistan and that of the Congress was the same. India, he said, is marching ahead under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will continue to do so. "The Citizenship (Amendment) Act will be implemented, so will be the NRC in future," he said.

Commenting on the protests across the country, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray told reporters at his official residence in Nagpur: "The environment of unrest is there across the country. If unrest is going to remain in the country, then what is the use

of such a Hindu rashtira?"

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee dared the Government to conduct a UN-monitored referendum on the Citizenship Act and the proposed nationwide NRC. "Just because BJP has got the majority doesn't mean they can do whatever they want. If the BJP has guts, it should go for a United Nations-monitored referendum on the issue of Citizenship Amendment Act and the NRC...If the BJP loses this mass vote, then it should step down from the government," she said.

Yechury said the situation in Delhi was worse than that during the Emergency. "India today has the ignominy of being the largest internet shutdown in the world. It is unacceptable. Metro stations were closed. This is worse than what we saw during the Emergency. The manner in which they are dealing with democratic protests is unacceptable. Today's protests showed the determination of youngsters to not let democracy be butchered. This was not a one off protest, such protests will continue," he said.

AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the voice of people cannot be silenced by force. "Every time force is applied to dominate and rule, every time you beat and suppress, every time you push people to the wall, they will rise up stronger, their resolve will strengthen and their voice will grow louder. Our freedom movement was proof of this, our constitution is the guarantor of it and our people are the soul of it," she said.

Two die in Mangalore, one in Lucknow

In Lucknow, officials identified the man who died as Mohammad Wakeel (25) from the Daulatganj area. Authorities at the King George Medical University said he was brought to the trauma centre with a "gunshot wound" on the ab-

domen. The trauma centre in-charge said Wakeel was among four persons who were admitted between 4 pm and 4.55 pm Thursday with "gunshot injuries". However, UP DGP P Singh said Wakeel's death had "nothing to do with the agitation".

In Karnataka, senior officials were silent on the deaths although Mangalore Police Commissioner P

S Harsha participated in a press conference with Muslim leaders who said that two deaths had occurred during violence in the city.

CCTV footage from the hospital showed policemen entering the premises Thursday evening and resorting to a lathicharge to disperse those gathered in the compound.

Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa asked ADGP (law and

order) Amar Kumar Pandey to rush to Mangalore to take charge of the situation. "I have given instructions to police to not allow such incidents to happen again in the region," he said. The state home department also banned internet services in the Mangalore region for 48 hours.

On Wednesday, Yediyurappa had said that CAA would be implemented in the state. On Thursday,

he moved to assure the Muslim community that their interests would be protected by the BJP government in the state.

"I appeal to Muslim brothers to maintain peace and order. Protecting your interests is our responsibility. The CAA law will not affect you. The CAA is no threat to the people of this country. It is an Act applied to people from other countries who seek citizenship. CAA does not discriminate people on the basis of religion. Citizenship is accorded on the basis of nationality and not on the basis of religion or caste," he said.

In Lucknow, meanwhile, police said Wakeel suffered a "bullet injury in his stomach in the Old Lucknow area" while protesters were returning home after a demonstration. They said he was "immediately rushed to hospital where he died during treatment".

Speaking to reporters, DGP P Singh said: "I do not think the death has any connection with today's agitation, or with the police reaction and action. We are not going to discuss what happened and what didn't, and our priority is to maintain law and order. We will analyse what happened later. At present, the priority is law and order, and to peacefully organise Friday prayers tomorrow. Our forces and magistrates are all on the field and the situation is normal across the state."

Sandeep Tiwari, the trauma centre in-charge, said the "four persons admitted were identified as Jilani (15), Ranjeet Singh (47), Mohammad Wakeel (25) and Waseem Khan (22)". "All except Ranjeet have gunshot injuries. Wakeel succumbed to injuries," said Tiwari, who also heads the trauma surgery department.

Late Thursday, a purported video was shared on social media in which a man claiming to be Wakeel's brother alleged that a Sub-Inspector near the Hussainabad police post had shot his brother. The man claimed that he and his brother were auto drivers. He claimed his brother had got married around 18 months ago, and that his wife was pregnant.

"My brother had to go to the United Arab Emirates, and we were never involved in any matter related to police," the man claimed.

Circle Officer (Chowk), Durga Prasad Tiwari, said he had not seen the video but denied the allegations that the death occurred in police firing.

NIZAM OF HYDERABAD FUNDS

UK High Court orders Pak to pay millions in legal costs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
 LONDON, DECEMBER 19

A UK High Court judge, who ruled in favour of India in a decades-old legal dispute with Pakistan over funds belonging to the Nizam of Hyderabad at the time of Partition in 1947 and deposited in a London bank account, on Thursday ordered Pakistan to pay millions of pounds in legal costs.

The Nizam's descendants, Prince Mukarram Jah — the titular eighth Nizam of Hyderabad — and his younger brother Muffakham Jah, had joined hands with the Indian government in the legal battle against the Pakistan government over around GBP 35 million lying with NatWest Bank plc in London.

Justice Marcus Smith ruled in October that the "Nizam VII was beneficially entitled to the Fund and those claiming in right of Nizam VII — the Princes and India — are entitled to have the sum paid out to their order".

At the end of a follow-on "consequential hearing" at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on Thursday, Justice Smith concluded that Pakistan must pay the other parties 65 per cent of their legal costs on account, with detailed assessment to follow if agreement is not reached on the final amount. "Today's hearing brings this litigation, which started in 2013 but

where the underlying dispute dates back to in 1948, to an end at long last," said Paul Hewitt, partner at Withers LLP, the law firm which acted for the eighth Nizam.

"We are pleased that Pakistan has decided not to contest Mr Justice Smith's judgment," he said. As part of the legal costs order, GBP 367,387.90 is related to the costs of NatWest Bank, which has held the funds for over 70 years. While the bank's costs have already been paid from the Fund, Pakistan would be reconstituting the fund in respect of those costs.

Under the 65 per cent costs covered by the court order, India is entitled to around GBP 2,802,192.22, Prince Muffakham Jah to GBP 1,835,445.83 and the eighth Nizam of Hyderabad Prince Mukarram Jah GBP 795,064.63.

During a trial earlier this year, the High Court had been asked to determine the "central question" of who exactly is the "beneficial" owner of funds belonging to the late Nizam, Osman Ali Khan.

The Nizam, who faced the quandary of joining Pakistan or staying with India at the time of the funds transfer in 1948, had later reportedly sought the return of the funds. NatWest Bank has since held on to funds deposited into the London bank account of then Pakistan High Commissioner Habib Ibrahim Rahimtoola in safekeeping until its rightful legal owner is established.

AMU VIOLENCE

Police charge 26 people for attempt to murder

AMIL BHATNAGAR  
 NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

ALIGARH POLICE have charged 26 people for attempt to murder in connection with the Sunday night violence at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) against the citizenship law and police action on students of Jamia Millia University in Delhi.

The FIR stated that students fired at police with country-made pistols. Among those named in the FIR are outgoing Aligarh Students' Union president Salman Imtiaz and other office-bearers. "The students gathered at Bab-e-Syed gate (of AMU) and began protesting against the citizenship law and in support of the students of Jamia Millia University. The crowd was incited by student leaders. The crowd then broke the gate and began pelting stones at the police. The crowd became further agitated and broke the gate. After which the protesters fired with country-made pistols and pelted stones at policemen with the intention of killing them," the FIR stated.

According to the FIR, the po-

lice barricades placed in front of the proctor's office were damaged by the mob. The FIR also stated that police initially made public announcements calling for maintaining peace, but to "contain the crowd of 1,200-1,300 people", they had to resort to lathicharge and tear gas shelling.

According to police, 21 security personnel were injured in the protests out of which three were hospitalised. University officials, on the other hand, had said that four students were injured in the clashes. The students though put the number of those injured between 25 and 30. The university on Monday had declared early winter vacation and postponed exams.

No arrests have been made, a senior police official said.

File replies, orders HC

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday asked the Uttar Pradesh government and the AMU administration to file its replies within two weeks on a plea about police resorting to lathicharge and using tear gas shells against students who were protesting against the new citizenship law. **PTI**

NITI Aayog set to start drafting roadmap for population stabilisation

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
 NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

INVOKING THE Prime Minister's concern over rising population, the NITI Aayog is set to start a process of drafting the roadmap for population stabilisation in the country.

Taking the first step, the Aayog is organising a national consultation on "Realising the vision of population stabilization: leaving no one behind" on Friday.

"The recommendations from the consultation will contribute to a NITI Aayog working paper to help achieve India's vision of attaining population stabilization, as voiced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15 August 2019," said an official statement by the Aayog.

"The consultative meeting being organised in partnership with Population Foundation of India (PFI) will bring together senior officials, experts and subject matter specialists to discuss ways and means of strengthening India's population policy and family planning programmes," said the statement. **PTI**

months after the Prime Minister voiced concern over the issue.

Modi said in his Independence Day speech, "This rapidly increasing population poses various new challenges for us and our future generations."

"Time has now come that we should take challenges head-on. Sometimes decisions are taken keeping in mind political advantage but they come at the cost of growth of future generation of our country. I would like to highlight the issue of population explosion..." Modi had said.

Modi said, "In our society, there is a section which is very well aware of the consequences of the uncontrolled population growth. They all deserve accolades and respect. This is also their expression for their love for the nation... We should learn from them. We need to worry about population explosion."

India with a current population size of 1.37 billion is the second most populous country in the world. India's birth rates are falling but the population continues to grow due to the fact that more than 30 per cent of the population is young and in the reproductive age group.

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OVER 100 HOTSPOTS IN PLACE

# On day of internet curbs, CM launches free WiFi scheme

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated the long-awaited free WiFi scheme at ITO Thursday, even as mobile internet was blocked in several parts of the city for four hours. Over a hundred WiFi hotspots have been installed across Delhi.

Speaking after the inauguration, Kejriwal said: "Ajeeb si baat hai, jis din Dilli main internet band hai police ke order pe, uss din hum ye project launch kar rahe hain. (It is odd that we are launching this project on a day that internet services are down because of a police order)," he said.

The CM has questioned the Centre's decision to bring in the new citizenship law, saying it



Kejriwal and Jain at the launch ceremony. Express

does not solve problems of the people of India.

At the inauguration, Kejriwal said: "Providing free WiFi connection to the people is the last promise on our manifesto, and I believe this is the first and the only government in Delhi to have fulfilled all the promises it

has made in the manifesto."

A total of 11,000 WiFi hotspots are to be installed across Delhi. Of these, 4,000 will be installed at bus stops and 7,000 at market places and locations suggested by RWAs. Each hotspot will cover a radius of 80 metres. Of the total, 6,100 hotspots will have a speed of 200 Mbps while 4,900 hotspots will have a speed of 50 Mbps.

"By evening, 109 WiFi hotspots will be active and after the completion of the installation of the initial 100 hotspots, 500 hotspots will be installed every week," he said. Users will be given a free data limit of 15 GB per month, with a data limit of 1.5 GB per day.

### 'Fear among people'

The CM also said that the de-

teriorating law and order situation in the country was worrisome. "There is fear among people belonging to all religions and faiths. They are wondering what they will do when they will be asked to produce papers to prove their citizenship. The poor in our country don't possess such papers and nearly 70% people would not have them. As a consequence, these people would be told to leave the country. Where will they go? This is our country and it belongs to our people, all of us were born here, our parents, grandparents were born here too... I appeal to the central government with folded hands that there is no need of this law. At this time, the biggest requirement is to provide jobs to our youth... In my view, Centre should take back this law," he said.

BRIEFLY

### Record job offers at IIT-D

New Delhi: IIT Delhi has seen the highest ever number of selection of students in the first phase of its placements, where over 960 offers were made. Of the 967 job offers, 943 were domestic and 24 were international. Students have also bagged 187 pre-placement offers. ENS

### Man held for smuggling at IGI airport

New Delhi: A Venezuelan man has been arrested at Delhi airport for allegedly trying to smuggle narcotics worth Rs 88 lakh by concealing it in his body, customs department said Thursday. PTI

## Funds 'diverted', SC asks Centre to take over Unitech

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

THE SUPREME Court has asked the Centre to take over the management of the beleaguered real estate group Unitech Limited and appoint independent directors, saying that funds raised by the group from home buyers and financial institutions were "prima facie found to have been diverted, siphoned off and misappropriated".

Observing that a forensic audit of the group's accounts had highlighted "diversion of funds to off-shore tax havens" and "related companies", a bench of Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice M R Shah also asked the government Wednesday "to take urgent action".

The order said that the "interim report" submitted by the forensic auditors of M/s Grant



The bench also directed a probe in the matter

Thornton showed that of the Rs 14,270 crore collected from 29,800 home buyers, around Rs 5,063.05 crore was "potentially not utilised... for the construction/execution of the 74 identified projects".

Similarly, Unitech availed Rs 1,805.86 crore from six financial institutions, out of which Rs 763.06 crore, was not utilised for projects.

The report indicated that "between 2007-2010, three subsidiaries of Unitech made investments of Rs 1,745.81 crores in 10 companies in Cyprus".

The bench directed that a probe be held "both from the angle of money laundering and other related facets". The court also ordered a copy of the report be given to the Attorney General of India for further action.

The court also rejected the bail pleas of the group's promoters, taking "serious note" that despite its successive orders, full data and information relating to the group's accounts was not provided to the forensic auditors.

The court had earlier sought to know if the NBCC will be able to take over the unfinished projects. In response, Attorney General K K Venugopal said NBCC can only act as a project management consultant, under the supervision of a committee.



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# Beach Shacks Now Open For The First time In Odisha at The Marine Drive Eco Retreat

THE MARINE Drive Eco Retreat, a unique initiative by Odisha Tourism, now boasts of Beach Shacks with a vibrant ambience and delectable food accompanied by a wide range of beverages with a beach view that makes the most sought-after getaways pale in comparison. This is also the first time that beach shacks have been set up in Odisha.

The place offers a perfect getaway for tourists as well as locals, and the golden sands and the sound of the turquoise waves promise visitors quality time to rejuvenate.

The beach shacks are open all day at the Marine Drive Eco Retreat in Konark from today till 31 January 2020.

Moreover, the crowd will be treated to cultural performances and a light and sound show at 6 pm every day.

Vishal K. Dev, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Odisha Tourism and Odisha Sports said: "Beach shacks are very popular not just among youths but also among families and we wanted to give not just the in-house guests but everyone a chance to come and soak in the ambience of the sea and Marine Drive Eco Retreat. With Christmas and New Year just around the corner, this is a perfect place to be at."

### About Marine Drive Eco Retreat:

Scheduled from 14 December 2019 to 31 January 2020, the Eco Retreat promises to be a unique experience of Glamorous Camping in 50 luxury cottages, delectable cuisine, beach spa, adventure & water sports activities, nature



trails and wholesome day itineraries, cultural evenings, and a lot more.

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

The Marine Drive Eco Retreat has been developed as an environmentally sustainable model incorporating best practices in material utilisation, zero liquid and sewerage discharge and holistic waste management.

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



### Retreat: GLAMPING

Stay in the middle of nature's bounty in a luxury cottage with the ambience and hospitality of a five star hotel. The concept of GLAMPING i.e. Glamorous



Camping has caught on with not only the current generation but also people of different age groups.

At the Marine Drive Eco Retreat you can experience a unique luxurious accommodation offering rich thematic am-

biency, a dedicated dining area and multiple options of staying at the Luxury Cottages replete with facilities like air-conditioning, television, sofa sets, as per your requirement.

### ADVENTURE SPORTS

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

### WELLNESS

While the Ramachandi sandbar itself makes for a therapeutic walk, the exclusive spa by the sea for guests offers the ultimate detox. The itinerary includes early morning nature trails in the Baluk-

hand Sanctuary which are the best way to resettle you to your instinctive and natural best. One can chase the calm with the competitive zest of beach volleyball.

### CULTURE MIXTAPE

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

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

See the full artist line-up below. Shows start at 6 pm.

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

Bus Transport to and from the Eco Retreat @Rs. 100/- per person will be available on event days on first-cum-first-serve basis from:

KIIT | Khandagiri Square: 4:00 PM  
Kalinga Stadium | Vani Vihar: 4:30 PM  
Kalpana Square: 5:00 PM

Eco Retreat Website:  
<https://ecoretreat.odishatourism.gov.in/>  
E-mail for bookings:  
[ecoretreat@panthanivas.com](mailto:ecoretreat@panthanivas.com)

Tashi Tobgyal



Gajendra Yadav



Abhinav Saha



Gajendra Yadav



Thursday's protests began at Red Fort and Mandi House. As people started being detained, the venue was shifted to Jantar Mantar, where over 1,000 protesters gathered by evening. Jamia, too, saw protests through the day

MEANWHILE



The human chain outside Jamia

Students, locals form human chain

New Delhi: At the protest outside Jamia Millia Islamia Thursday, students and locals made a human chain around people offering namaaz. Sunday's protest involving locals and university students had turned violent with buses being set on fire and police resorting to lathi charge. Police had also entered Jamia campus in the evening and beaten up students after rounding them up from the library.

AIIMS warns docs against protest

New Delhi: Ahead of a scheduled demonstration against the new citizenship law, the AIIMS administration Thursday warned its students, resident doctors, faculty and staff from holding any protest or strike within the premises of the institute. A group of doctors had planned a candlelight march in front of Jawaharlal Nehru Auditorium Thursday, but observed a silent march and recited the Preamble of the Constitution outside gate no 1 of the hospital.

Rs 5 lakh to student who lost sight

New Delhi: The Jamia Millia Islamia student who lost sight in one eye after he was injured in a police crackdown inside the campus Sunday has been offered financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh and a job at the Delhi Waqf Board by Okhla MLA Amanatullah Khan, who is also the board's chairperson. **ENS**

PROTESTS AGAINST NEW CITIZENSHIP LAW

# AT THE BARRICADES

On day of protests, border choked, Metro stations, net shut

**SHIVAM PATEL, SOURAV ROY BARMAN & SHARDHOOL SHREENATH**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

MORE THAN 1,200 protesters were detained from thousands that took part in protests at three different locations in the capital, demanding a rollback of the new citizenship law and a proposed country-wide National Register of Citizens.

Red Fort, Mandi House and Jantar Mantar were the centre of these protests that kept security forces on their toes even with mobile communication and internet services snapped and 20 Metro stations being shut down in parts of the city. Movement was restricted not just for Delhi residents, but also for those coming in from Haryana, as heavy barricading meant most couldn't cross into the capital for hours.

Protest marches were organised from Red Fort and Mandi House to Shaheed Park, with participation of political leaders and students. But amid heavy detentions by security forces, over a 1,000 protesters from both marches decided to gather at Jantar Mantar by mid-afternoon, where the air resonated with chants of 'azadi'; some offered snacks and tea to the crowd; and others handed out roses to security personnel.

Among those detained in the protests were students and political leaders including Swaraj India's Yogendra Yadav and Prashant Bhushan. Left leaders Sitaram Yechury, D Raja and Brinda Karat, and human rights activist Harsh Mander. Yadav was detained along with over a 100 protesters from Red Fort around 11 am as the march was about to begin.

At Red Fort

Around 400 security personnel were deployed at the Red Fort, and those detained were taken away in hired private buses. After the initial round of detentions, protesters found themselves scattered, with the few who managed to pass through the barricades immediately being chased and detained. "It's our right to protest and march peacefully. We only want our voices to be heard but that is being suppressed," said Hasan Badr (27), a resident of Okhla.

DCP (Central) Mandeep Singh Randhawa said CrPC section 144 had been enforced in the area, which prohibits organising of

public gatherings or rallies. He added that organisers had sought permission for the march but it was rejected.

By 2 pm, protesters were scattered and it was business as usual for local residents, daily wagers and shop owners.

At Darya Ganj

While the Red Fort area was swiftly cleared by the police, a large crowd gathered near Darya Ganj's Sunehri Masjid, outside Parda Bagh market.

A large contingent of police and Rapid Action Force (RAF) was rushed to the spot, where DCP Randhawa, DCP (North) Monika Bhardwaj and Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) Ajit K Singla also arrived.

The loose band of protesters — mostly students from Shyam Lal College and Kirori Mal College — sat on a dharna near the mosque. Shops had shutters down by that time. In nearby Lala Lajpat Rai Market, the association president was announcing that "we are with the government, the government is with us, kindly do not fall for rumours".

At Parda Bagh, every poster, every banner, every slogan was emphatic in terms of rejecting the NRC and CAA. As TV cameras approached a protester, Wasim, asking for his stand, he said: "Ye NRC aur CAA sage bhai hain, isko alag karke mat dikhaiye aap log (NRC and CAA are brothers, you people should not project them as separate issues)".

Women from DU, part of a platform called Bhagat Singh Ekta Manch, did the coordination work at the gathering, which civil rights activist Kavita Srivastava also attended. "For me, the tipping point was the police assault on Jamia students. I realised it was time to hit the streets. It is not so much about the detentions or arrests, but the brutality on students in the library that has left me shaken," said Shabi Mirza (19), who hails from Bulandshahr.

Around 3.30 pm a stone came flying towards the gathering from a nearby rooftop, creating a flutter. Police rushed to the spot to quell tensions. Later, personnel were deployed on rooftops lining the road where the gathering took place. The crowd peacefully dispersed around 5.45 pm.

At Mandi House

At Mandi House, a protest began at 11 am but was quickly controlled by security officials after

30 minutes by announcing the imposition of Section 144. Officials were seen chasing protesters to detain them and send them away in buses. Police said all those detained at the protests were released by 5.30 pm.

At Jantar Mantar

Those left behind were informed to reach Jantar Mantar. Sanj (23), a student of OP Jindal University, said, "When I reached, there were barely 50 people, but we stuck around and within half an hour, more than 1,000 showed up."

From Gurgaon to Mustafabad, people from across Delhi-NCR were present at Jantar Mantar, including those released from police detention. The spot became a gathering of students, political groups, writers and citizens who voiced their resentment towards the new legislation with placards, songs and slogans.

Radhika, a student from Ashoka University, was among students handing out roses to cops. "These are symbols of peace we are offering. These officers are doing their duty because of orders but at the end of the day, they are also human. We want to bridge the gap and the tension between us and them," she said.

Without a central leadership, protesters formed multiple groups and chanted slogans accompanied with tambourines and drums. Among the protesters was Manisha Pandey (46), who promised her daughter who could not attend, that she would go as her "representative". "Our Constitution is based on secularism but laws are now being made based on religion. If we don't wake up now, it will be difficult later," she said.

At detention centres

Of the detained protesters, 400 were taken to Surajmal stadium, 400 to Northwest district and 400 to Rajiv Gandhi Khel Parisar. Those from Red Fort were taken to Surajmal Stadium, where they were offered tea, samosas and bananas. Around 5:30 pm, they were released, an officer said.

Among those detained were Tara Bhatnagar (30), a documentary filmmaker, and her mother. "My mother was standing behind me while I was shooting the Lal Quila protest on my camera. Police personnel first detained my mother, and when I protested, they detained me as well."

## Checking on border, Gurgaon grinds to a halt, 19 flights at IGI cancelled

**SAKSHI DAYAL**  
GURGAON, DECEMBER 19

COMMUTERS TRAVELLING from Gurgaon to Delhi via National Highway 48 and Mehrauli-Gurgaon road were stuck in traffic jams lasting several hours as Delhi Police sealed borders and checked vehicles in the backdrop of protests against the new citizenship law in the national capital. The traffic backlog also meant several parts of Gurgaon were crawling through the day.

As many as 16 flights from IGI Airport were delayed and at least 19 were cancelled as flight crew were delayed due to barricading at the Delhi-Gurgaon border on NH 48 Thursday. Acknowledging the inconvenience, various airlines announced that they would be waiving charges for flight cancellations and changes for passengers. "Due to heavy traffic congestion on Delhi-Gurgaon Highway, consumers who miss their flight will be accommodated on next Vistara flight for no extra fee or fare on the basis of seat availability. We are also offering free changes and cancellations for those booked to travel from Delhi today," Vistara said in a statement. Air India stated that



The traffic jam lasted several hours

"reissue/no-show/cancellation and refund charges for all domestic and international tickets for travel from Delhi" Thursday would be waived in light of "the current heavy traffic congestion". A statement by Delhi International Airport Limited said 19 Indigo flights were cancelled "due to crew getting stuck in traffic jam and other issues".

Gurgaon Police said they did not receive any intimation about heightened security arrangements at the border from their counterparts in Delhi until barricades had been set up, around 7.30 am. They were finally removed around 4 pm.

"We received the information in the morning only, at the time when they started restriction.

Traffic backlog is there across the city, mostly the Delhi-bound roads are blocked and we have tried to inform people through various channels not to travel towards Delhi," said Himanshu Garg, DCP (Traffic).

"We also tried to make some diversions at points, but making diversions on National Highway is very difficult, so we are trying to request people at various points, through loudspeakers, that if you are travelling towards Delhi please turn back. We have also imposed restrictions on commercial vehicles, and heavy vehicles have been restricted at places like Panchgaon Chowk so they cannot enter the city," he said.

The first warning about the traffic situation, issued via

Twitter, however, came too late for hundreds of commuters, already in the thick of the congestion at Sirhaul toll plaza, where Delhi Police had set up barricades and were allowing vehicles to pass one by one.

"I saw the tweets put out by traffic police from Delhi only around 10 am, by which time I was deep into the traffic jam... If they have to take such measures, they should issue a prior warning," said Shubhi Sharma, a resident of Sector 15 stuck at the border for over two hours.

The same situation prevailed at the border on MG Road. Nisha Jain, a Gurgaon resident, said she was stuck in her car for two hours while taking her three-year-old to playschool in Chattarpur.

Some private schools in the city also had to tweak timings. Among these was Shiv Nadar School, which, in a message to parents at 2.30 pm, stated: "Due to the prevailing heavy traffic situation in Delhi/NCR, we are unable to ply Delhi bus routes... at 3 pm today. Kindly make arrangements for the pick-up of your ward accordingly. The staff is in the school till all students are dispersed. The children will be taken care of until you reach the school for the pick-up."

## How late-night meeting with NSA and top cops set the strategy for Thursday

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

ROUGHLY TWELVE hours before people started gathering outside Red Fort, the capital's North Block witnessed a meeting called by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, with Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik, Special CPs (law and order), JCPs of two ranges and DCPs of six districts in attendance, it is learnt.

On the agenda was a strategy to maintain law and order the following day. "Intelligence agencies had received inputs that some people from Haryana's Mewat would be coming to Delhi in large

numbers and could create trouble on the law and order front," a senior officer from Delhi Police's intelligence wing told *The Indian Express*. And so, barricades were put up on Gurgaon-Delhi border, and cars started being checked.

Speaking about last night's meeting, a police source said: "He (Doval) discussed the situation with senior officers and asked for their viewpoints. The police chief suggested that a protest march could be allowed, but the NSA referred to a tweet by one of the DCPs which had earlier mentioned that no permission had been granted for the march. So it was decided that only a designated place like Jantar Mantar can be chosen for the protest."

He is also learnt to have taken a stern view of the "failure" of local intelligence during the first three days of the protest at Jamia, and for "allowing local politicians and anti-social elements to hijack" the students' protest.

An officer who attended the meeting, which lasted 90 minutes, said it was decided to call all personnel from specialised units, Crime Branch and EOW, and deploy them at sensitive spots with anti-riot gear. Paramilitary force personnel were also called in with advanced gear. "It was also decided to coordinate with police counterparts in neighbouring states, following which border with Haryana was sealed," the officer said. Following the meeting,

DCP (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah wrote a letter dated December 18 to nodal officers of four telecom service providers, asking them to stop mobile internet, voice and SMS services in certain areas.

Sources said after the meeting with the NSA, senior officers held a meeting among themselves at the New Delhi DCP's office at Parliament Street. This meeting, addressed by Patnaik, ended around 1.15 am. "It was decided that they will allow protesters to gather at Jantar Mantar, but those assembling elsewhere will be detained under CrPC Section 144. It was also decided to approach DMRC to shut some Metro stations," an officer said.

# Sloganeering in HC over Jamia issue

After court refused to grant interim protection from coercive action to students

**PRITAMPAL SINGH**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

THE DELHI High Court witnessed drama Thursday as lawyers and students burst into sloganeering of "shame, shame" after the court refused to grant interim protection from coercive action to students protesting in the capital against the new citizenship law.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar said "no" to persistent requests made by senior advocates for students of Jamia Millia Islamia that they should be granted interim

protection from police action; preservation of CCTV footage; and appointment of a committee to examine the situation.

The bench issued a notice to the Centre, Delhi government and Delhi Police on pleas filed by Jamia students, former students of the varsity, Okhla residents and advocates. It directed authorities to file their affidavits in the matters, and listed it for hearing on February 4.

It advanced the matter from March 4 to February 4 after senior advocates Indira Jaising, Salman Khurshid, Sanjay R Hegde and Colin Gonsalves, appearing for the petitioners, sought interim

protection for students. During the hearing of the petitions in the packed courtroom, Jaising said, "Issue is how do we maintain balance between right to protest and free speech, and maintaining law and order." She added that "nobody is in favour of violence".

The Chief Justice did not pay any heed to their prayers, rose from the court and started walking towards his chamber. The courtroom then witnessed chants of "shame, shame, shame on the judiciary, shame".

A couple of young lawyers present in the courtroom also burst into tears, and senior coun-

sel could be seen consoling them, saying they would move the Supreme Court. Lawyers and some students present during the hearing walked out of the courtroom chanting "shame on you".

The demand for protection was made during hearing of PILs, including one by Jamia students Ladeeda Farzana and Ayesha Renka and an advocate Nabila Hasan, who sought direction to set up a court-monitored committee headed by a retired High Court or Supreme Court judge to conduct judicial inquiry into acts of violence and arbitrary detention by police and paramilitary forces in a time-

bound manner. An advocate, R P Luthra, opposed the sloganeering and said, "This is a court of law and there has to be judicial discipline." However, other advocates countered Luthra and pointed to the "miscarriage of justice".

Later, Chairperson of the Bar Council of Delhi, K C Mittal, said, "It has come to our notice that some lawyers shouted shame, shame in court 1 (of Delhi High Court Chief Justice), which we condemn strongly. We express displeasure at this kind of behaviour by lawyers. We have to maintain the dignity and decorum of the court at any cost."

# Unruly policemen, brutal action on students: Jamia police complaint

**ARANYA SHANKAR**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

FOUR DAYS after Jamia Millia Islamia filed a police complaint against "brutal action" of "unruly policemen" who beat students and damaged university property, police are yet to register an FIR in the matter. University sources alleged Sunday's incident, wherein tear gas was lobbed on campus and students were beaten inside the library, caused property damage worth Rs 2.5 crore.

"Most of the damage in the library is due to breaking of glass panes. CCTVs, tubelights are also damaged. Thankfully, no books or

manuscripts were touched," said librarian Tariq Ashraf. Chief Proctor Waseem Ahmad Khan had filed a police complaint with Jamia Nagar police station Monday. It stated: "On Sunday, a protest was organised by the residents of the colonies around Jamia... the procession was stopped by police, which led to a showdown between them."

"In the lathi charge that ensued, a large number of policemen forcibly entered the Jamia campus through gates 4 and 7 and started mercilessly beating students, both boys and girls. Many students of the university received serious injuries and were being treated at hospitals,"

it added. Khan said some "unruly policemen broke open the main library gate and also the glass doors of the building and fired tear gas on peacefully studying students even inside the library". "The unprovoked and brutal action of the policemen caused damage to government property belonging to the university. You are requested to take cognizance of the aforesaid illegal acts of the said policemen who had illegally entered the campus, had severely beaten the innocent students and damaged the government property. In this backdrop, you are urged to lodge an FIR and take strict action against the said erring policemen," he said.

# Doors will close on the right: Protests prompt Metro to shut several stations

**SOURAV ROY BARMAN**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

TWENTY METRO stations across Delhi were shut Thursday — the highest ever to be closed in a single day — to prevent protests from reaching Mandi House and Red Fort, with police maintaining that the measure was taken to "avoid ruckus".

DCP (Railways) Harinder Singh said the order to shut down the stations are issued so that "hooligans don't damage Metro property and the crowd could be stopped from reaching a place and creating ruckus". There are 249 Metro stations in Delhi.

Asked if it is assumed that people going to a march will create ruckus, Singh said: "Police take a number of precautionary measures to prevent untoward incidents. The closing of Metro gates is one such measure."

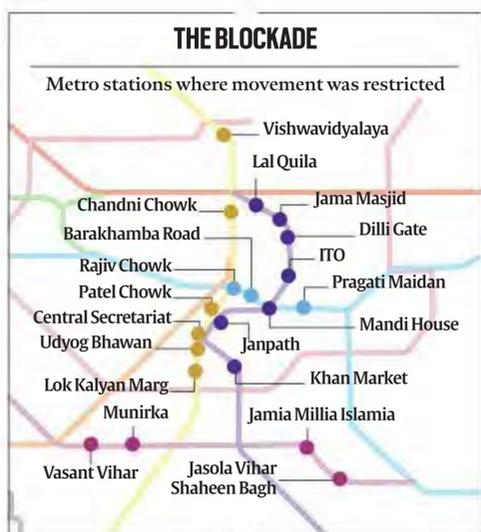
Thursday's shutdown was the sixth instance in December, and seventh in less than a month, when Metro closed a selected number of centrally located stations "based on police inputs".

DMRC has maintained such measures aimed at ensuring safety and security. However, stations in the vicinity of peaceful protests have also been shut without prior notice.

On December 15, when campuses across the city had called protest marches against the police crackdown on students in Jamia, DMRC shut down 16 stations. The move was ostensibly



Red Fort Metro station was closed Thursday. Amit Mehra



aimed at preventing students from gathering in front of the police headquarters, which was reflected in the choice of stations identified for closing down — Vishwavidyalaya, IIT, Vasant

Vihar, Munirka, RK Puram.

The DMRC said the authority to close stations lies with the security agencies. "Owing to safety and security reasons, we had to close some stations for a few hours this week. The safety of our passengers and the security of Metro property is paramount to us and we have to ensure the same as per the advice given by the authorities," it said in a statement on Wednesday.

A number of stations were also closed on December 16, a day after violence in Jamia, when student associations organised protests in many parts of the city.

On December 14, as people started turning up at Jantar Mantar to protest against the new citizenship law, DMRC announced closing of entry and exit points at Janpath station. On December 13, when Youth Congress organised protests in Central Delhi, the entry and exit at Patel Chowk and Janpath stations were closed. Authorities had said this was done on the "advice of Delhi Police".

December 9 saw gates of four stations — Udyog Bhawan, Lok Kalyan Marg, Central Secretariat — being shut as JNUSU took out a march against fee hike in the university. Udyog Bhawan, Patel Chowk, Central Secretariat, Lok Kalyan Marg and Jorbagh stations were shut down on November 18. The move effectively covered all the possible exit points that the JNU students may have taken to lead their scheduled march till Parliament against the fee hike.

# HC rejects Dec 16 convict's juvenile claim

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

THE DELHI High Court Thursday dismissed a plea claiming juvenility filed by one of the four death row convicts in December 2012 gangrape murder case, observing that the Supreme Court had already rejected the petition.

Irked over the conduct of the counsel, Justice Suresh Kumar Kait also imposed a cost of Rs 25,000 on convict Pawan Kumar Gupta's advocate A P Singh, who

was missing from court despite several communications sent to him on behalf of the court, for playing "hide and seek".

Dismissing the petition, the court noted that Gupta had earlier raised the juvenility claim in his review petition against the death penalty before the Supreme Court, which had dismissed his plea on July 9 last year.

It also asked the Bar Council of Delhi to take action against the advocate for filing the affidavit and observed that he had done

so either without applying his mind or deliberately to delay the case.

The court ordered that the fine amount be deposited within one week in favour of 'Nirmal Chhaya' for the welfare of destitute women and children.

The order against the lawyer was passed after he failed to turn up before the court post lunch. In the morning, he appeared in the matter and sought adjournment on the pretext of filing some additional documents, without informing the other

party. On his request, the court had adjourned the plea for January 24.

But the Delhi Police counsel and the advocate for the victim's parents, who were present in court, informed the court that the issue of juvenility was already decided by the Supreme Court.

They submitted that the convict's plea was not maintainable and it was filed to delay and drag the matter so that execution of death sentence does not take place in near future.



**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT**  
**(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT)**

**Invitation of Applications for the National Awards for outstanding services in the field of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse, 2020.**

**The National Awards would be given on 26th June, 2020, on the occasion of "International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking".**

**Categories:**  
Applications are invited for the National Awards for the outstanding services in the field of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse under each of the following categories: -

**I. Institutional Category:-**

- Best Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCA) for providing rehabilitation services to alcoholics and drug users.
- Best Panchayati Raj or Municipal Body working for prevention of alcoholism and substance (drug) abuse.
- Best Educational Institution doing outstanding work in awareness generation and prevention of alcoholism and substance (drug) abuse.
- Best Non-Profit Institution, other than Serial Number (i), (ii), (iii), with outstanding contribution in Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse.
- Best Research or Innovation.
- Best Awareness Campaign.

**II. Individual Category**

- Outstanding achievement by an individual.

**Procedure for Applications:**

- Application can be submitted by organizations, Institutions and Persons fulfilling the prescribed criteria. The Application should be in Hindi or English language only. Criteria laid for each of the above category of awards and full details of the Scheme of National Awards, 2020 may be seen at [www.socialjustice.nic.in](http://www.socialjustice.nic.in)
- The following agencies or persons are authorized to nominate and recommend eligible institutions or individuals for the Awards:
  - Concerned Ministries or Departments of the Government of India and their Autonomous Institutions with the approval of the Minister-in-charge of the Ministry;
  - State Governments or Union Territory Administrations with the approval of the concerned Chief Minister or Lt. Governors in Union Territory Administrations;
  - Regional Resource and Training Centres working in the field of drug de-addiction within their own jurisdiction;
  - Members of the National Consultative Committee on De-addiction Rehabilitation (NCCDR);
  - Renowned Apex Chambers like Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Confederation of Indian Industry, The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, etc;
  - Past Awardees;
  - Organizations like University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Medical Council of India (MCI), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Universities, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), etc; and
  - Collector of the District/District Magistrate in which the Institution or Individual is working;
  - Commissioner of Commissionerate in which the Institution or Individual is working.
- Only nominations or recommendations emanating from Authorized Agencies or persons, designated for the purpose, supported by adequate justification, shall be considered.
- Applications in the prescribed proforma should be sent to the Joint Secretary (SD), Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Room No. 616-A, 'A' Wing, Shatri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001, latest by 31st January, 2020.

Application received after the last date and/or not recommended by the prescribed authority/persons will not be entertained.

davp 38101/11/0034/1920



**The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library**  
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on  
**"Citizenship: Institutional and Civilizational"**

by  
**Shri Arif Mohammed Khan**  
Hon'ble Governor of Kerala

Chair:  
**Dr. Ravi K. Mishra**  
Deputy Director, NMML

**Saturday, 21 December, 2019 at 2.00 pm**

Venue: Seminar Room, Library Building  
Nehru Memorial Museum and Library  
Teen Murti House, New Delhi-110011

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<input type="checkbox"/> Pass in 10 <sup>th</sup> Standard from a recognised Board <b>or</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial Training Institute (ITI) pass	<b>18 and 25 Years of age</b> (Relaxations as per extant Govt. of India rules).	<b>Tier-I : Computer Based Test (CBT) for Screening</b> <b>Tier-II: Computer Based Test (CBT) for Final Selection</b>

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\*The full advertisement regarding detailed information of vacancies, eligibility, registration, application & selection procedure will be published in Employment News dated 21-27 December 2019 and will also be available on (<https://www.drdo.gov.in>). Online registration will begin on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 (10:00 hrs) and closing date is 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 (17:00 hrs). Apply early, to avoid network congestion and ensure your candidature for the online examination. The Date of Exam will be published on our website later.

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\*The Number of Vacancies may vary depending on organisational requirements.

DAVP 10301/11/0122/1920

# 8 GOVT & POLITICS

## Afghan NSA meets Doval, India says no persecution of minorities under Ghani

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

AS AFGHANISTAN'S National Security Advisor Hamdullah Mohib met NSA Ajit Doval in New Delhi on Thursday, the government said religious persecution of minorities is not taking place under the government led by Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said religious persecution had taken place under the Taliban regime and the Mujahideen. "It is not happening under the present government... the present government addressed the concerns of minorities in Afghanistan," he said, adding that Taliban had given a call in 2001 for minorities to convert to Islam.

His comments assume significance as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act grants citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, Jains and Parsis — but not Muslims — who entered the country from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014.

According to the Afghan embassy in Delhi, the Afghan NSA said during the meeting with Doval that terrorism is a common threat for the region.

Doval welcomed Mohib and "stressed collective commitment by all countries to fight terrorism", the Afghan embassy said. Doval told Modi that India is willing to cooperate, the embassy said.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of the Indo-US 2+2 ministerial meeting of External Affairs minister S Jaishankar and Defence minister Rajnath Singh with their American counterparts, US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo and US Defence Secretary Mark Esper, in Washington DC on Wednesday.

According to the joint statement, the ministers conveyed their shared interest in a "peaceful, secure, stable, united, democratic, inclusive and sovereign



NSA Ajit Doval

Afghanistan". "They expressed support for Afghan-led and -owned negotiations that culminate in a sustainable peace, cessation of terrorist violence and preservation of the gains of the last 18 years. They applauded India's efforts to build trade linkages and multimodal connectivity infrastructure for Afghanistan to enhance its regional connectivity to sustain growth and development over the long term," the joint statement said.

During the media interaction in Washington DC, Jaishankar said, "We are concerned about the future of Afghanistan. Which is why we've had a large development assistance program there. We believe that the reconciliation process in Afghanistan should be Afghan-led and Afghan-owned. We have every confidence that the gains which have been achieved by the international community over the last two decades will be protected and preserved in that process."

Pompeo said, "With respect to conversations that Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad is having in the region, we shared with our Indian counterparts, as we have consistently throughout our efforts to develop intra-Afghan negotiations and peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, the path that we're headed down. We are very transparent. We understand the concerns, too, that India has. Rightful concerns that they have about terrorism emanating from Pakistan, and we assured them that we would take that into account."



BJP working president JP Nadda meets refugees from Afghanistan supporting the new citizenship law in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

## Citizenship law, NRC will be implemented, asserts Nadda

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

ON A day protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act spread to more cities across the country, BJP working president JP Nadda on Thursday asserted that the law will be implemented, and "going forward", the National Register of Citizens (NRC) will also be brought in.

"India is marching ahead under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will continue to do so. The Citizenship Amendment Act will be implemented, so will be the NRC in future," Nadda said.

After a meeting with a group of Sikh refugees from Afghanistan, who are to be granted citizenship under the new law, Nadda took on the Opposition for what he called was "vote bank politics". He said, "Those opposing the citizenship

law should meet them (refugees from Afghanistan). These people have been living in India for 28-30 years but cannot admit their children in schools or buy a house, as they do not have citizenship. Our rivals cannot see anything beyond their vote bank politics."

Nadda said the process of granting citizenship to minority refugees from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan would now be expedited. "There will be a helpdesk for them. Along with this, we will make arrangements in refugee camps also. The party will take all steps," he said.

The team of Sikh refugees met Nadda at the BJP headquarters here and thanked the party for bringing amendments in the citizenship law. Nadda said these Sikhs had left Afghanistan nearly three decades ago and came to India to protect their faith.

Nadda's remarks come at a

time when a large section of BJP leaders are trying to differentiate between the new citizenship law and NRC, with many leaders stating that NRC is not in the government's immediate agenda. Sources in BJP said the party would intensify its campaign to urge people not to see both CAA and NRC together.

According to a party leader, while CAA will "definitely bring advantages" to BJP, especially in states such as West Bengal, confusion over a nationwide NRC could damage its prospects.

Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said the government has not decided when the NRC exercise would begin. "The draft is also not yet prepared. Neither the Cabinet nor the legal department has approved it. NRC is not going to happen immediately. Some people in the name of NRC are trying to spread fear," Reddy told NDTV.



Home Minister Amit Shah

## SSB must ensure borders with friendly nations not misused: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

ON A day when several cities, including the national capital, witnessed widespread protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB) must ensure that India's borders with friendly neighbours are not misused for activities against the country, while seeing to it that the people living in border areas are not adversely affected.

"India has an open border of around 2,450 kilometres with neighbouring countries Nepal and Bhutan and the SSB has performed a good job in ensuring that not a single infiltrator sneaked into our country," he said while presiding over the 56th Raising Day Parade of SSB in New Delhi.

He praised the force for nabbing over 50 intruders, mostly Pakistanis, at Indo-Nepal border in the last one year, besides nabbing contraband items, including drugs worth Rs 380 crore.

He added that India cannot become a global economic power if its borders are not secure, especially when the country has hostile neighbours constantly engaged in cross-border terrorism, insurgency, illicit trafficking of humans, drugs, fake currency, cattle, among others.

The SSB is the first central paramilitary force that included women in its ranks, he said adding that the lady officers had earned accolades with their brilliant performances within the country as well as UN Missions abroad.

## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



### NEW FRONTIERS

FORSOME years, Haryana used to hog the limelight at Congress's big rallies at the Ramila Maidan — most party workers would come from Haryana, and the factionalism in the state unit used to play out at the rally venue. There was a change this time as workers from other states outnumbered party workers from Haryana. And many in the party are praising AICC general secretary KC Venugopal for having ensured a sizeable presence of Congress workers from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and even from as far as Bihar. Venugopal, too, is said to be over the moon since former party chief Rahul Gandhi mentioned him while thanking party general secretaries, states in-charge, state Congress chiefs and heads of the party's front organisations for the rally's success.

### LYRICAL LANGUAGE

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi has appreciated the increasing use of regional languages in Rajya Sabha and complimented House Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu for encouraging this development. Speaking at the second meeting of the National Committee for Commemorating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday, Modi recalled the Mahatma's dream of promoting Indian culture and languages and referred to Naidu allowing more Rajya Sabha members to speak in their mother tongue in the just-concluded 250th session of the Upper House. Modi is learnt to have specially referred to Sarojini Hembram, the MP from Odisha, speaking in Santhali — a first in 67 years since the inception of Rajya Sabha.

### BUDGET WORK

AT A time most when Union ministers and BJP leaders are busy countering criticism of the citizenship law, party spokesperson on economic affairs Gopal Agarwal is on a different track. From Thursday, Agarwal began a consultation process from the party's side for the Union Budget. This pre-Budget stakeholders' dialogue at the party headquarters, which will run parallel to the consultation being held by the Finance Minister, will go on until January 14. Reports from these meetings, after deliberations with party's working president J P Nadda and general secretary (organisation) B L Santosh, will be forwarded to the government.

## Can't agree to NRC before reading full draft: LJP

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, DECEMBER 19

EVEN AS the chorus of protests against a nation-wide National Register of Citizens (NRC) is building up, the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) on Thursday said it cannot agree to an NRC without reading its draft. The party also requested the Central government to talk to students protesting over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the NRC.

LJP president Chirag Paswan said, "LJP cannot say yes to NRC without fully reading its draft. We have requested the Union home minister to take all aspects into consideration. As for CAA, it would have no adverse impact on Muslims living in India."

He added that the party had always stood by Muslims. "We have always fought for social jus-

...tice. We have never sided with the wrong. We have opposed every Bill or decision that is against interest of the nation," he said.

LJP MP from Khagaria Choudhary Mehboob Ali Qaisar, who is the lone NDA Muslim Lok Sabha MP, told *The Indian Express*: "Our party has supported the CAB [Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019]. But we have not taken a clear line on NRC yet. It is a tricky question."

Paswan did not comment on a question on whether the party was in favour of an NRC in Bihar.

LJP spokesperson Ashraf Ansari said the party decided to support the new citizenship law only after reading the full draft. "CAA was necessitated only because Nehru-Liyaqat agreement failed. CAA and NRC should not be confused with each other. We will take a call on NRC when its draft is ready," said Ansari.

## Carry out UN-monitored referendum on citizenship law and NRC: Mamata to govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 19

CHALLENGING THE BJP-led government at the Centre to conduct a United Nations-monitored referendum on the contentious new citizenship law and the proposed nationwide NRC (National Register of Citizens), West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said the saffron party should step down from the government if it loses.

The Trinamool Congress chief also alleged that BJP workers in skull caps were fomenting trouble and damaging public property to malign Muslims as "they want to make the protest against the citizenship law and NRC a fight between Hindus and Muslims".



Mamata Banerjee

"Just because the BJP has got a majority, it doesn't mean they can do whatever they want. If the BJP has guts, it should go for a United Nations-monitored referendum on the issue of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the NRC... If the BJP loses in this mass vote, then it should step down from the government," she said at a rally in Kolkata.

Accusing the BJP of dividing the country, she said, "Suddenly, after 73 years of Independence, we have to prove that we are Indian citizens. Where were the

BJP's head and tail at that time?" "The BJP is dividing the country. Don't stop your protest because we have to get the CAA revoked... Until and unless BJP withdraws CAA and NRC, our movement will go on. We started this movement and now it has spread to almost all over the country," she said.

This was Mamata's fourth rally in as many days in Kolkata against the new law and the proposed NRC. Since Monday, she has been holding protests every day criss-crossing the city and culminating in a rally.

"Tomorrow (Friday), we have a protest meeting at Park Circus. I would request everybody to maintain peace. Don't fall into the trap of the BJP. They want to make it a fight between Hindus and Muslims. We have specific inputs that the BJP is buying skull

caps for its cadres are wearing them while vandalising properties to malign a particular community," she alleged.

She said that the BJP won't succeed in curbing protests despite imposing prohibitory orders in various parts of the country. Reiterating that the contentious citizenship law and NRC won't be implemented in West Bengal "till she is alive", Mamata said that while the BJP was founded in 1980, it was asking for citizenship documents of 1970 from people.

"We are born here, and that is our biggest identity. The BJP doesn't have the right to determine our citizenship. Do we have to wear BJP's amulet to prove our citizenship? A party which was formed in 1980 is seeking documents from 1970," she said.

### NEW CITIZENSHIP LAW

## Cong slams curbs on protests, accuses govt of suppressing people's voice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

AS PROTESTS against the new citizenship law spread to many cities and authorities resorted to unprecedented clampdowns, the Congress on Thursday accused the government of suppressing the voice of the people and their right to democratic protest.

"If there is so much feeling about this black law, you have in your power to rethink, to redraw, to withdraw but you are too egotistical, too arrogant and too adamant to contemplate hearing and listening. Leave aside recalibrate it. That is the tragedy of India. That is the tragedy of the ruling party," Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi tweeted, "This government has no right to shut down colleges, telephones & the Internet, to halt metro trains and to impose #Section144 to suppress India's voice & prevent peaceful protests. To do so is an insult to India's soul."

"In the year that we have just celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the right of peaceful assembly and protest has been taken away from the people of this country. There can be no greater shame!" former Union minister PCC Chidambaram said on Twitter.

The Congress also slammed the government for shutting down Internet and telecom services in some parts of the national capital. "Why has the internet been shut down? Have all residents of Delhi become urban naxals?" Chidambaram tweeted.

Addressing a press conference, Singhvi said a "Jammu and Kashmir-like normalcy" now pre-



Rahul Gandhi

vails in many parts of the country. "The numbers which the internet shutdown tracker has tracked were in single digit from 2012-2013... From 2015 it was in double digits... 14... then in 2016 it doubled to 31, 2017 it doubled to almost 80, it again almost registered 80% increase to 134 and so far now it is very high at 94 in the current year. That tells you its own story," Singhvi said.

"It is a sad day for the rest of India outside J&K... We now have dissatisfaction, anger, reaction, strong statements, demonstrations, campaigns, speeches across the country in every nook and cranny. In Delhi, you are imposing (Section) 144 almost over the entire or substantial chunk of old Delhi... You have stopped roughly 16 metro stations... Every part of Delhi is choking with snarls, with obstructions... Bengaluru has almost the whole city under Section 144," he said.

"Because you want to brush under the carpet, you want to suppress dissent, you want the country to know everything is hunky-dory. You have redefined a new definition of normalcy, a J&K definition on normalcy now prevails in the rest of the country. This is an uncaring, unthinking, unseeing, unhearing government and ruling party. It has become the Bharatiya Zid Party," he said.

### CHURCH LEADERS COME OUT AGAINST NEW CITIZENSHIP LAW

## If any church doesn't want to be included, it can give it in writing, says NCM vice-chairman

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

AT A time several Christian leaders have come out against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) vice-chairman has said that if any Church does not want Christians to be in the purview of the Act, it can give it in writing and they can be excluded.

NCM vice-chairman George Kurian, who initially claimed that all denominations of the Church have accepted the legislation, told *The Indian Express* that he had received many messages and calls welcoming the new law. "But the heads of the church do not want to come out in its support." On

### EXPLAINED

### Fresh headache for saffron party

AT A time when a section of the BJP is trying to project that only Muslims are behind the ongoing protests, Christian leaders speaking up against the new law is likely to create a fresh headache for the BJP. The community leaders' stand on the issue also has the potential to hurt the BJP's prospects in Kerala and several states in the Northeast which have a sizeable Christian population.

Wednesday, however, three Church leaders came out against the Act.

"Religion cannot be a criterion for deciding one's citizenship," Cardinal Baselios Cleemis, Major Archbishop of Syro-Malankara

Catholic Church and former head of Catholic Bishops Conference of India, told *The Indian Express*.

But the Cardinal added the Church did not support violence. "People have the right to protest against the new law or the way it

has been brought. But violence will spoil the whole purpose of our fight... Also the government should bring in people concerned across the table and start a dialogue," he said.

Gregorios Mar Stephanos, Bishop of Malankara Marthoma Church, said his church has not yet taken an official stance. "Secularism should be sustained. If any force works for destruction of the secular nature of the country, it should be opposed," he said.

Thiruvananthapuram Archbishop of Latin Church Soosa Pakiam said, "We are a democratic country. We cannot accept discrimination against one particular community. I am of the view that it will affect our democratic and secular credentials," he said

on Wednesday.

An editorial of the latest issue of *Indian Currents*, a publication of Catholic Church in India, has said, "Brute majority has been used to bulldoze a Bill, through both Houses, which discriminates people on religion. The move to confer citizenship to all, except Muslims, who came from the neighbouring countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan due to persecution is a clear indication that the nation under the present dispensation is moving towards the goal of Hindu Rashtra..." the editorial said.

Kurian, who is a BJP leader in Kerala, said earlier this week that NCM was flooded with messages from Christian leaders welcoming the new law. "They tell me jus-

...tice has finally been done to Christians who are victims of draconian blasphemy laws, conversions and abductions," he said.

Asked about the Christian leaders coming out against the law, he said, "If the Church feels that the Christians from these countries do not want refuge in India, it can give it in writing, we can recommend it. Any church or community that does not want to be included are free to say it," Kurian said.

He said that when Jawaharlal Nehru had suggested that Christians could be given reservation, the then Christian leaders had given in writing that the community did not require quotas. "If a similar request is made, they can be dropped," he said.

# 9 EXPRESS NETWORK

## PROTESTS ELSEWHERE

### TAMIL NADU

**Chennai:** A protest organised by a collective of over a dozen civil society groups against the new citizenship law drew hundreds at Chennai's Valluarkottam area.

Actor Siddharth and Carnatic singer and Magsaysay awardee T M Krishna were among prominent faces at the protest venue. Some women protesters were seen wearing both the hijab and bindi, ostensibly in protest against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks that the protesters can be identified by their clothes.

### BIHAR

**Patna:** Bihar witnessed large-scale disruption of traffic, vandalism and arson during Thursday's protests, with several small parties such as former MP Pappu Yadav's Jan Adhikar Party and Mukesh Sahni's Vikassheel Insaan Party, a constituent of the opposition alliance in the state, taking part in the dawn-to-dusk protests.

The largest Grand

Alliances constituent, RJD, extended "moral support" and the party's workers stayed away from enforcing the bandh, saying they have called a shutdown on Saturday. Other constituents of the coalition — the Congress, RLS and HAM — had on Wednesday pledged support to both shutdowns, although not much active participation was seen from these parties on Thursday.

### MADHYA PRADESH

**Bhopal:** Tension prevailed briefly in a couple of localities in communally sensitive Khandwa town when a group of people insisted on taking out a rally to protest against CAA and NRC.

As police did not allow a procession, there were heated exchanges and a few stones were allegedly thrown at the police in Impilura and an adjacent locality, forcing the police to come some of them. Khandwa SP Shivdayal Singh said no complaint had been filed by anyone and there were no reports of injuries.



An AVBP rally in support of the new citizenship law at Savitribai Phule Pune University. Pavan Khengre

## Rallying in favour of new law

**Jaipur:** A rally in support of citizenship law was taken out in Jaipur on Thursday. "Our main objective was to tell the people that the new law has been passed by the government for welfare of the country. Lawyers formed a human chain in front of the

district collector's office in support of the new law," said Surendra Singh Naruka, state convener, BJP legal cell.

Later, more people joined and walked from Statue Circle to the Amar Jawan Jyoti in the state capital.

## NEW CITIZENSHIP LAW

# Violence in UP, Yogi warns of revenge against arsonists

ASAD REHMAN, MANISH SAHU & AVANEESH MISHRA  
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 19

AS PROTESTS turned violent in parts of Uttar Pradesh, including Lucknow and Sambhal, on Thursday, with protesters pelting stones and torching vehicles, police resorted to lathi-charge and fired tear-gas shells to disperse the crowd.

Taking a tough stand, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said his government would take "revenge" on those involved in the violence by confiscating their properties. "Iss hinsa mein lipt pratyek tatwa ki property ko zapt karenge, aur uss zapt se sarvajanik sampatti ko hue nuksaan ya kahin par public property ko jo damage kiya gaya hai, iski bhara-pae bhi hum un sabhi upadrayiyon se karenge. Kyunki yeh sab chinhit chahre hain. Wo sab videography mein aa chuke hain, CCTV ke footage mein aa chuke hain. In sab ki property ko zapt kar ke, inse hum iska badla lenge aur sakhti se nipatne ke liye maine iske baare mein kaha hai," he said.

"(The property of each element involved in this violence will be confiscated, and used to recover compensation for public property which was damaged. All their faces have been identified. They are visible in the videography and CCTV footage. We will take revenge by confiscating their properties, I have ordered strict action.)"

In Lucknow's Hazratganj area, protesters, including students, lawyers, social activists and political workers, started gathering around 1.30 pm. In the next half-an-hour, several protesters were detained and sent away in private and police vehicles. State



Protesters pelt a police vehicle with stones in Lucknow on Thursday. Vishal Srivastava

Congress chief Ajay Kumar Lallu was detained from Parivartan Chowk, near Hazratganj area, around 2.30 pm.

Around 3.30 pm, a group of protesters, mostly youths, started pelting stones from across a police barricade at Parivartan Chowk. At least 10 private vehicles, including an OB van of a news channel, were set on fire. Police then used lathi-charge and tear-gas to disperse the protesters.

A protester said the arson started suddenly. "We had been protesting peacefully since 1.30 pm. We were coordinating with police, and they assured us of our safety. We also assured them that our protest would be peaceful," he said.

A woman protester said some "political workers" indulged in violence. "They swamped the Parivartan Chowk and indulged in arson and violence all of a sudden... Before

that, the protest was peaceful," she said.

Protesters also vandalised Madheyganj and Sakhandia police outposts, in the Old City area, first pelting stones and later setting ablaze vehicles parked outside.

Inspector General, Law and Order, Praveen Kumar said they were trying to identify those involved in the violence, and strict action would be taken against them.

Violent protests were also reported from Sambhal in the afternoon. According to sources, several SP leaders and workers were placed under house arrest early in the day, as they had announced a protest.

Around 1.30 pm, protesters gathered near Chaudhary Sarai police outpost, in Kotwali police station area of Sambhal, and indulged in violence. A state roadways bus was set ablaze and another was vandalised, along with several private vehicles, in the vi-

olence that continued for an hour.

"The situation is under control now. Around 20 arrests have been made so far; an identification and search process is still on, and more arrests are expected. Internet facilities have been suspended... Police personnel are carrying out a flag-march in the affected area. Serious action will be taken against those involved in today's violence," said Sambhal District Magistrate (DM) Avinash Krishna Singh.

The UP police said 3,417 people were taken into custody across the state as part of preventive action. While 13 FIRs have been registered for objectionable posts on social media, five persons have been arrested. According to the police statement, 16 police personnel were injured in Lucknow and two others in Sambhal.

Meanwhile, Internet services have been suspended in parts of the state.

# Guha detained in Bengaluru: 'Are we a totalitarian regime?'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 19

HISTORIAN AND Padma Bhushan awardee Ramachandra Guha, 61, became the face of protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in Bengaluru on Thursday. Guha was nabbed by police during a protest outside the Town Hall where police had imposed prohibitory orders on Wednesday night.

Guha raised slogans against the new law before he was dragged away and put under what police called "preventive arrest". He was later released.

The protest was organised by various activists and Left-leaning groups under the banner of "Hum Bharat Ke Log". It was initially sanctioned by Bengaluru Police, but the permission was withdrawn late on Wednesday and police imposed Section 144 of CrP in the area.

On Thursday morning, organisers sent out messages that the protest would be held in defiance of the restrictions. "When injustice becomes the law, then resistance becomes our duty. Calling on all Bangaloreans to gather at Town Hall to voice our protest against the unconstitutional CAA as well as the unconstitutional imposition of prohibitory order under Section 144..." said the messages from the organisers.

As soon as people started gathering at Town Hall around 11 am, the policemen stationed at the venue began accosting the protesters and whisking them away in police vans.

Guha came to the spot with a

picture of B R Ambedkar. "We are protesting against this totally discriminatory Act which is against our Constitution and also against Section 144. Are we a totalitarian regime? During the British Raj, the Section 144 was used to suppress Gandhi ji's movement. I feel sorry for the police that their masters in Delhi are making them do this," he told the media.

"We believe in the values of pluralism and democracy. I am the biographer of Mahatma Gandhi and I know what Gandhiji stood for and this present government in Delhi, the BJP government, is completely anti-theoretical to the values of our freedom struggle and the Hindu-Muslim unity which Gandhi advocated," he said.

He was soon accosted by security personnel who grabbed him and took him away.

After Guha and other protesters were taken away from the protest site, more protesters started gathering at the Town Hall and raising slogans. Congress MLA Rizwan Arshad was also taken into custody.

On hearing about Guha being detained, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa asked, "Where? ...without reason police should not take law into their hands. I will immediately issue instructions."

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "Action should be taken against 'goonda' elements and those indulging in disturbing law and order, and no action should be taken against common people, if any such thing has happened action will be taken against officials."

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# 80 injured, dozens held as Mangaluru erupts in protest

JOHNSON TA  
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 19

OVER 80 people were reported injured and dozens arrested after the protest against the new citizenship law turned violent in Mangaluru with protesters pelting stones and torching vehicles.

The violence broke out when protesters were returning after attending the main protest against the new citizenship law, in defiance of prohibitory orders under CrP Section 144.

Police lobbed tear gas and fired in the air against protesters after they gathered in large numbers and some of them began pelting stones at police personnel in the city centre.

Local police officials said as many as 40 policemen were injured in the stone pelting, following which, police reportedly opened fire against the protesters. Local leaders in Mangaluru

have accused the Congress MLA from Ullal, UT Khader, of triggering the violence with a statement he made on Wednesday.

Mohan Raj, the leader of a local Hindu organisation, has filed a complaint against Khader with Mangaluru Police.

On Thursday, Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa also claimed that "people like Khader" were responsible for triggering the protests against the new citizenship law.

Protests were also held in several other areas in Karnataka on Thursday, including Bellary, Udupi and Kalaburagi although no incidents of violence were reported from anywhere other than Mangaluru.

Karnataka police authorities have imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Mangalore, Belagavi, Hubballi, Shivamogga, Hassan, Chikkamagaluru and Chikkaballapura for three days until Saturday evening.

# Protests at Azad Maidan, the cradle of Quit India Movement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 19

CARRYING BANNERS and chanting slogans, nearly 20,000 protesters poured into the historic August Kranti Maidan, the cradle of 1942 Quit India Movement, in Mumbai on Thursday to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act and NRC. The four-hour protest was peaceful and without incident, with about 2,000 police officers keeping vigil.

When members of 14 civil society groups met on Monday to discuss the protest, and organised themselves under the banner of 'Hum Bharat Ke Log', they were not sure about the turnout, or whether the police would even give permission. But Thursday's turnout far exceeded their expectation.

Going by police estimates, the five sections of the ground were packed way beyond their capacity of 15,000. And when no more could be accommodated, people gathered in surrounding streets, unwilling to be left out of the protest.

The activists who spearheaded the public meeting asked people to demand that the Maharashtra government must not implement the "discriminatory Act".

Participants complimented Mumbai Police for facilitating the protest meeting. In the morning, the police had put out an advisory for traffic diversions.

Besides thousands of students, youths, women and even many senior citizens, film personalities such as Swara Bhaskar, Nandita Das, Rakeysh Om Prakash Mehra, Anurag Kashyap, Farhan Akhtar, Javed Jaffrey, Saeed Mirza, Huma Qureshi, Raj Babbar and Sushant Singh, activists Teesta Setalvad, Feroze Mithborwala, Dolphy D'Souza, Javed Ahmed, Varsha Vilas, freedom fighter G G Parikh and political workers of the Congress, Samajwadi Party and the NCP participated in a turnout that covered a wide spectrum of Mumbai's citizenry.

Parikh, 94, told *The Indian*



A protest against the new citizenship law at August Kranti Maidan in Mumbai. Prashant Nadkar



Farhan Akhtar: Was important to raise voice

*Express*, "I am a follower of Gandhi, a follower of the Constitution, and I am a freedom fighter. I came here because only a mass movement can change the situation in India. Remember the J P movement... protest and mass movement can have a huge impact."

Actor Farhan Akhtar's appearance was brief but purposeful. While he did not deliver a speech at the venue, unlike his industry colleagues such as filmmaker Mehra and actors Bhaskar and Jaffrey, he told the media at the protest site that to raise one's voice against something wrong is an "absolute democratic right". As a citizen, and as someone who grew up "with a certain idea of what India is, it is important to raise my voice against this", he said.

Mehra, who made films such as *Rang De Basanti* and *Dilli-6*, evoked the idea of "rang (colours)" in his speech. Comparing India's diversity to a garden, he said, "There are many

kinds of flowers in our garden, and we should not insist that there should be just one kind of flower, and in one colour."

Bhaskar said if the government could give citizenship to singer Adnan Sami — born in London to a Pakistani father — then it could give citizenship to refugees from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, too. "Why do they need to change the Constitution for that," she asked.

Remembering freedom fighters Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan and Roshan Singh, activist Prakash Reddy said, "The British hanged a Hindu, a Muslim, and a Sikh — they fought for our freedom together; that is our history. Today, we should (unite and) fight for our freedom."

Mithborwala, one of the organisers of the protest, said Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi thought they could "divide us" but unwittingly "united all Indians". The venue, he said, was changed from Girgaum Chowpatty to August Kranti Maidan to accommodate more people. "But we never imagined these many people to turn up," he told *The Indian Express*.

## In Malegaon, rally against 'kaala kanoon'

**Mumbai:** A massive protest rally was taken out against the citizenship law and proposed nationwide NRC in Maharashtra's textile town of Malegaon on Thursday, with nearly 60,000 people participating in it, the police said. Shops and schools in the town remained closed as part of the protest.

The rally was organised by Dastoor Bachao Committee (Save Constitution Committee), and was backed by Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) and the Republican Party of India (RPI) and comprised thousands of powerloom workers and students.

They marched through the town, condemning CAA as a "kaala kanoon" and demanding that it be repealed.

VBA leader Prakash Ambedkar said: "The CAA is an eyeshaw. What has raised apprehensions is NRC."

SP, Nashik (rural), Arti Singh said, "There were 600 police personnel and the protests went by smoothly." **ENS**

# Govt should not trample on Constitutional values, civil rights: Kerala CM

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
DECEMBER 19

PROTESTING THE arrest of Left leaders in Delhi, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the Union government should not harbour the delusion that a democratic protest can be overwhelmed by lodging leaders in jail and denying people's right to freedom of movement.

In a statement, Vijayan said the Union government should not trample over Constitutional values and civil rights. "By arresting leaders, denying freedom of movement and clamping prohibitory orders, no mass agitations could be repressed. Instead of trying to cover up the protests erupting across the country, the Union government should be ready to abandon the wrong legislation (the new citizenship law). The protests across the country reflect the sentiments of the people," he said.



Pinarayi Vijayan

Vijayan said the NDA government is wielding "brute power" which was not there even during the Emergency period. The denial of permission for protest marches in Delhi amounted to the encroachment into a person's civil rights, he said.

In a letter, the CM urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to take necessary steps to ensure the safety of students from Kerala in various campuses across the country.

Meanwhile, DYFI and SFI, the youth and student wings of CPI (M) respectively, marched to Raj Bhavan in protest against the arrest of Left leaders in Delhi. Elsewhere in Kerala, there have been street marches in protest against the developments in Delhi.

Minorities panel chief condemns police action in Jamia, AMU

ABANTIKA GHOSH NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19



Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi

CALLING POLICE action at Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University "absolutely wrong", National Commission for Minorities (NCM) chairman Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi on Thursday said...

turn violent either." He said, "If her (Jamia V-C Akhtar's) contention that she did not call them (police) in is true, she should file an FIR."

Pointing out that the situation now is "very heated", Rizvi said, "Once normalcy is restored, we will certainly meet students, including the person who seems to have suffered such grievous injuries to the eye. To do so in the present situation may be counter-productive."

On the minority panel's appeal to the government, Rizvi said, "The Home Minister (Amit Shah) has already given an assurance that whenever NRC is rolled out interests of Indian Muslims will be protected. We had reached out to the government some time back with this appeal."

Rizvi, who holds a diploma in Mechanics from the Industrial Training Institute in Kanpur, worked for 30 years in the telecom and manufacturing industry before assuming charge as chairperson of UP Minority Finance Development Corporation.

Under him, the NCM formed a committee to look into whether Hindus should get minority status in eight states where they are not the dominant religious group — a PIL on this was recently rejected by Supreme Court. Rizvi had also said that those who support Pakistan in sports should go to that country, or should be deported there.

ASSAM ACCORD

Assam MLAs meet CM Sonowal, push for implementation of Clause 6

ABHISHEK SAHA GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 19

A GROUP of Assam MLAs met Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Thursday to push for steps towards protection of Assamese language and the implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, while informing him about their experience of the violence last week.

"On CAA, we will accept whatever the court says. Assamese people are scared today due to the spread of misinformation. So we urged the CM to take powerful steps towards the protection of our community by implementation of Clause 6 of Assam Accord, for which a high-level committee is already working. And the cabinet should pass a resolution that Assamese language will remain as the state language of Assam and that there will never be a threat towards Assamese language," Padma Hazarika, BJP MLA from Sootea constituency, told reporters after the meeting.

He added, "If people of my constituency unitedly say that Padma Hazarika should resign, I will immediately resign... On December 6, I have myself got 500 houses of suspected illegal Bangladeshis evicted on my own initiative and chased them away — is that an anti-community work I have done?"

Hazarika described the violence that had unfolded on a particular BJP office in the state. He said that at one location, the saffron party's office was attacked with "miscreants" taking down the party's flag and entering the office to attack women. "I urge the CM to make it clear your opinion. Come and speak to the point. Assure the Assamese people that how you can protect the community — and we MLAs are with you."

BJP's Prasanta Phukan, the Dibrugarh MLA whose house was attacked during last week's violence in the state, told reporters, "We have urged the CM to take steps to dispel the fears that are in the minds of the Assamese people. Even we are scared today. Hiding for eight days at our houses, we have come today... Youths, of the age of my grandchildren, shouted lewd abuses at me — it pains me."

Later, speaking to The Indian Express, Phukan said, "We have urged the CM to speak to Delhi and immediately take all necessary steps to protect our identity and our language. I can replace the broken glasses of my house and car but what pains me is the way youngsters abused me during the protests. The non-violent movement is fine, but people with malafide intention entered the protests and burnt tyres and caused violence."

Phukan added, "If you talk from a vote angle, I will say there has been some 'minus', some loss. Say a 40-45 per cent loss due to the agitation — not the votes of the other linguistic communities but a considerable loss of the votes of the Assamese-speaking population. I will try my best to recover it."

Clause 6 of Assam Accord promises "Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards... to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people."

Sonowal had earlier described Clause 6 as the "the soul of the Assam Accord" and said his government would be implementing the provisions very soon. A high-level committee led by Justice (ret'd) Biplob Kumar Sarma is preparing a report to recommend suggestion for its implementation.



At a protest against the new citizenship law in Guwahati on Thursday. Dasarath Deka

HC orders restoration of mobile Internet, govt says will do it Friday

ABHISHEK SAHA GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 19

MOBILE INTERNET services in Assam remained suspended for a ninth day, despite a Gauhati High Court order calling for the government to restore the services by 5 pm on Thursday.

The High Court had asked "the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, Home and Political Department, to restore the mobile internet services of all Mobile Service Providers in the state of Assam, commencing 1700 Hrs (5 pm) today".

"Needless to say, it would be open to the State authority to take steps to curb and stop dissemination of explosive messages, videos on various social media platforms which may

have a tendency to incite violence and disruptions affecting public safety on cogent and justifiable grounds and materials," the HC order said.

However, PTI quoted senior Assam minister Himanta Biswa Sarma as saying that the mobile internet services will be restored Friday. Sarma did not mention a time-frame for the same.

Meanwhile, protest songs, speeches on protecting the community's identity and slogans against the BJP and the new citizenship law continued to mark the demonstrations across Assam on Thursday.

In Guwahati, well-known artistes participated in a large demonstration in Chandmari area and the protest saw speeches by leaders of the ongoing agitation against the CAA in Assam and songs by popular

musicians, including Zubeen Garg, who is also key organiser of the ongoing protests in the state capital.

Protests were reported from various towns of the state following calls given by organisations like the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), Asom Jatiyatibadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) and scores of other organisations representing indigenous communities of the state.

The state unit of the Congress party also held sit-in demonstrations against the new law. At the Guwahati demonstration, Ripun Bora, state unit president, told reporters, "Whenever people of Assam have been in trouble, we have fought for them." He added that the BJP has "no answer" to the protests raging across the country.

KARNATAKA

Police to HC: Initiating deportation when illegals held or FIR filed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, DECEMBER 19

THE KARNATAKA government is initiating deportation procedures against alleged illegal immigrants in the state as soon as an immigrant is arrested or an FIR is registered, the state government told Karnataka High Court on Thursday in a report filed in connection with two PILs seeking deportation of illegal immigrants in the state.

"The deportation process is initiated at least three months before completion of sentence of foreigners and for this process the instructions are laid down in a Government of India letter dated July 1, 2019 which is followed scrupulously," the Karnataka government told the High Court in connection with PILs filed by the Bharat Purnaruthana Trust, run by VHP leader Girish Bharadwaj and local advocate K B Vijaykumar.

Besides seeking deportation of all illegal immigrants, the PILs have sought the setting up of a special investigation force to find illegal immigrants and to carry out deportation procedures.

"In view of the time taken for nationality verification and issue of travel documents by Embassy/High Commission of the country concerned the process of deportation is initiated immediately on arrest of the foreigner or on filing of FIR whichever is earlier...," says the report.

In November when the PILs were first heard, the high court directed Karnataka to provide "details of the action initiated against illegal immigrants".

There are "103 cases registered against 270 illegal immigrants in the last three years in the state of Karnataka for various offenses under different laws", the state government has said in its report.

EC calls for reports over Hemant's 'rape' comments

ABHISHEK ANGAD PAKUR, DECEMBER 19



Hemant Soren

THE ELECTION Commission on Thursday sought reports from local authorities in Pakur and Sahibganj on a complaint filed by the ruling BJP against Jharkhand Mukti Morcha executive president Hemant Soren regarding a speech he made on Wednesday, in which he said those wearing saffron clothes were "robbing the honour of women".

"We have asked the DCs of Pakur and Sahibganj to send reports and a CD (of the speech)," Jharkhand's CEO, Vinay Kumar Choubey, was quoted as saying by PTI. Speaking at public meeting

in Bararwaha block of Sahibganj district, Soren had asked people to use their democratic rights and give a befitting reply to the state's "dishonest government". He mentioned that he had got to know that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister had been cam-

paigning in the region. He then went on to claim that those wearing "saffron clothes" were "robbing the honour of women".

"... Aaj aap dekhie ki UP mein balatkariyon ko aspatal mein aaram farmaya jaa raha hai aur pidion ko jail mein thoos diya jaa raha hai... (Today, you see that in UP, rapists are relaxing in a hospital while the victim is in jail,)" he added.

Reacting to Soren's speech, the BJP had filed a complaint with the EC the same day. In the

complaint, the party said Soren has "hurt Hindu sentiments" in Jharkhand and in India.

Meanwhile, Soren too lodged a complaint with the EC against Chief Minister Raghubar Das for allegedly abusing him in a speech on Wednesday. Das, while referring to Hemant and his father, former chief minister Shibu Soren, abused in his speech, but apologised immediately.

The last phase of the Jharkhand Assembly polls will be held on Friday.

Meghalaya Assembly adopts resolution on Inner Line Permit

ABHISHEK SAHA GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 19

THE MEGHALAYA Assembly on Thursday adopted a resolution for implementing the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime in the state, which will impose restrictions on the entry and movement of 'outsiders' in the hill state.

"Thanking all the legislators from ruling and the opposition bench for articulating and reciprocating the aspirations of the people of the State, Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said that the Government will urge upon the centre to include Meghalaya in the preamble of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations, 1873," a statement

The ILP is a special permit that is required by 'outsiders' to enter the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram

from the chief minister's office said.

"It is important to note that this (resolution on ILP) is nobody's victory or nobody's loss, we are all in it together for the interest of the people," Sangma said.

"We put on record our appreciation and effort by different political parties, stakeholders, and the citizens of the state to ensure that we move in a positive manner to safeguard and protect the rights of the people and the state."

The ILP is a special permit that is required by "outsiders" from other regions of India to enter the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram. The ILP, which can be received after applying either online or physically, states the dates of travel and also specifies the particular areas in the state which the ILP holder can travel to.

It is pertinent to note that the new citizenship law says "nothing in this section shall apply to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram or Tripura as included in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution and the area covered under 'The Inner Line' notified under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873".

Home Minister Amit Shah had announced recently that Manipur will now come under the ILP regime and hence be exempted from the provisions of the new law.

Meghalaya may not have had an ILP regime but three Autonomous District Councils under Sixth Schedule cover practically the entire state. In November, the Meghalaya Cabinet approved amendments to the Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Act (MRSSA), 2016, which will lead to laws that require non-resident visitors to register themselves. The move came in the backdrop of demands for an ILP-like regime.

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PROPOSAL FOR THREE ANDHRA CAPITALS

Amaravati farmers accuse Jagan of 'politics of revenge'

B Narasimha Rao, who gave 20 acres of land, accused Jagan of going back on his assurances that the capital would not be shifted. "Farmers of this region gave 33,000 acres to the TDP government, which has given back developed plots. The land rates were good until the government changed and now prices are falling. If the capital is shifted, the lives of thousands of Amaravati farmers will be ruined," Rao said. Bezawada Ramesh, whose family gave up 100 acres, said farmers would suffer due to YSRC's "politics of revenge". "New governments do not completely scrap any project that was started by the previous government. Due to this politics of revenge, there is lot of uncertainty and farmers are going to suffer if the capital is shifted," he said. Finance and Legislative Affairs Minister B Rajendranath said establishing three capitals was just an idea and not a final decision. Information and Public Relations Minister P Venkatarajam alleged that the protests are politically motivated. "People from all regions of the state support the idea of establishing three capitals for all-round development of the state. These protests are sponsored by the opposition party."

HETERO DRUGS FIGURES IN CHARGESHEET AGAINST JAGAN

Firm named by CBI in assets case to develop AP schools

THE ANDHRA Pradesh government on Thursday signed agreements with five pharmaceutical companies to develop 2,566 of 45,000 government schools in the state and improve facilities in these institutions. Among these companies is Hetero Drugs, which figures in a CBI chargesheet filed against Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy in the disproportionate assets case, which is going on at a special CBI court in Hyderabad.



Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy

Hetero Drugs is owned by Dr P B S Reddy. Two directors of the firm, Attari Venkata Narasa Reddy and Partha Saradhi Reddy Bandi, were named in the CBI chargesheet for investing close to Rs 20 crore in Jagathi Publications, owned by Jagan Mohan Reddy, which publishes Sakshi Telugu newspaper and airs the Sakshi News TV channels. The Indian Express could not get a comment from the company's representatives on this development despite attempts. On November 14, the Chief Minister had announced that the state government will improve infrastructure in all 45,000 government schools in the state. He did not specify at the time that private

companies will be tasked with the responsibility to develop their infrastructure. Under the government's 'Nadu Nedu' programme, thousands of government schools in AP are set to undergo a major renovation under a Rs 12,000-crore exercise. Apart from repairing crumbling walls and ceilings, a major component of the plan is to build separate toilets for boys and girls in 45,000 government schools — 15,575 in the first phase — build new classrooms, provide safe drinking water and secure the schools with compound walls and gates. After considering the financial situation of the state, the government decided to hand over the programme to renovate and develop the schools to private firms. The agreement was signed with Hetero Drugs, Vasudha Pharma, Adileela Foundation, Rain Carbon, and Laurus Labs. Together, these firms would contribute over Rs 85 crore for development of infrastructure in these schools, it was announced. As per the agreement, Hetero Drugs would take part in devel-

opment of 402 schools and contribute over Rs 20 crore; Vasudha Pharma would contribute around Rs 21 crore to develop 428 schools; Rain Carbon will contribute Rs 1.65 crore for development of 66 schools; the Adileela Foundation is to develop 281 schools and contribute Rs 25 crore; while Laurus Labs would spend Rs 18 crore for development of 359 schools, it was announced. Representatives of the companies signed memoranda of understanding with the Social Responsibility Wing of the AP government in the presence of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, PTI reported. The Chief Minister said 45,000 government schools across the state would be developed under the 'Nadu-Nedu' programme with a total expenditure of Rs 12,000 crore. "The state is facing a serious financial crisis. But we can't ignore development of infrastructure and facilities in schools and hospitals. I thank the companies for their support to the programme," Jagan said, according to PTI.

UP teen dies 5 days after being set on fire

Her uncle in jail on charges of sexually assaulting her, setting her on fire

of the accused had agreed to this, but the girl's family did not. "The girl died during treatment at around 8 am on Thursday. The only accused has already been arrested and sent to jail... We have video statements of people saying that the accused was present at the panchayat when the incident took place... However, we are collecting forensic evidence to support this," said Fatehpur SP Prashant Verma. On Saturday, District Magistrate Sanjeev Singh had said that according to local villagers, the panchayat was about to end when the girl went inside her house and those at the panchayat saw fire and smoke coming out. A statement by police had said the panchayat was called after the victim and the accused, who were in a relationship for two years, were spotted together in an adjoining village on Friday. SHO of Mahila police station had said the girl shouted on her way to hospital that her uncle sexually assaulted her and set her on fire, but sources said that in her statement, the girl did not blame her uncle.

FIVE DAYS after she was allegedly assaulted sexually and set on fire by her uncle, with whom she was reportedly in a relationship with, an 18-year-old girl from Fatehpur district of Uttar Pradesh succumbed to injuries on Thursday. The girl had suffered around 75 per cent burns and was at a hospital in Kanpur. The 25-year-old accused was arrested on Saturday and sent to jail after being produced before a magistrate. Confirming the girl's death, senior police officers on Thursday maintained that they have evidence suggesting that she was not set on fire by the accused and that she took the extreme step minutes after a panchayat directed her and her uncle to end the relationship. According to police, the panchayat had directed the man to stay away from the village till the girl's marriage. It was also mentioned in the panchayat that both the man and the girl wanted to marry each other and the father

Ruckus in MP House over bonus promise to wheat-growers

MILIND GHATWAI BHOPAL, DECEMBER 19

THE ISSUE of paying bonuses to wheat-growers in Madhya Pradesh saw acrimonious exchanges between the treasury benches and the Opposition BJP in the Assembly on Thursday, with the BJP MLAs staging walkouts twice. During his tenure as Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan had started the practice of paying a bonus over the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to wheat growers nearly a decade ago till the Narendra Modi government at the Centre raised the red flag, arguing that the populist measure was distorting the market price of the commodity besides saddling the Union government — which picks the MSP tab — with additional expenditure. On Thursday, BJP lawmakers wanted the Kamal Nath government to come clean on whether it was going to pay the Rs 160 bonus per quintal announced by it in March this year. The Centre has refused to pay for seven lakh MT of the 73 lakh MT of wheat procured in the state, saying the bonus was responsible for the surplus procurement. The refusal has left the state with bill of Rs 1,400 crore. Opposition MLAs repeatedly asked the government whether it was going to pay the bonus. They asked if the state government took the consent of the Centre when it promised the bonus. In response, Nath said the BJP has 28 Lok Sabha members and they should take up the matter with the Union government. "Munh chalan aur sarkar chalan mein antar hota hai," the Chief Minister said, without referring to anyone in particular. BJP members vehemently protested against the



Milind Ghatwai

Nath Chouhan

comment, saying it was objectionable. Nath later said he did not target anyone but could not help it if Chouhan interpreted it that way. During the session, Chouhan retorted, "Humne bhi sarkar chalay, munh nahin." Revenue Minister Govind Singh Rajput said the government will pay the bonus under a different name — Kisan Samruddhi Yojana. Former Cabinet minister Narottam Mishra countered this, saying that the government had not made a budgetary provision for making the payments. Iterating that his government had paid bonus of Rs 265 per quintal under a different name, Chouhan asked Nath to pay the amount as compensation or under any different head. Later, calling the Congress government anti-farmer, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Gopal Bhargava led a walkout by BJP members.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI

4 FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001 Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993. In the matter of: OA.No.272/2019/DRT-III CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA Versus SMT. LAXMI DEVI & ANR. Defendants To, (D-2) M/S. SHUBHKAMNA BUILDTech PVT. LTD. Having its Registered Office at: 197-E, Pocket-IV, Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-110091. Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on 23.12.2019 at 10:30 A.M. Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 28th Day of October, 2019. By Order of the Tribunal Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI

4 FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001 Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993. In the matter of: OA.No.619/2018/DRT-III CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA Versus SMT. SHALINI GARG & ORS. Defendants To, (D-3) M/S. SHUBHKAMNA BUILDTech PVT. LTD. Through its Authorised Officer / Director Sh. Harish Kumar S/o. Sh. Ghanshyam Dutt, Having its Regd. Office at: 197-E, Pocket-4, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110091 Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal on 20.02.2020 at 10:30 A.M. Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 29th Day of November, 2019. By Order of the Tribunal Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD. (A Government of India Undertaking) Employment Notification No. : CO/P-R/1/2019 KRCL invites applications for following posts in regular cadre for its Design Cell at Delhi: 1. Deputy Chief Engineer/Design in PML-12. No. of Post-1. 2. Asst. Engineer/Design in PML-10. No. of Post-1 Candidates should see the detailed notification, eligibility criteria, on the KRCL's website www.konkanrailway.com at the link -> Recruitment -> Current Notification and may apply accordingly. Chief Personnel Officer

OFFICE OF THE CANTONMENT BOARD, DANAPUR CANTT PUBLIC NOTICE As laid down under the Cantonment Electoral Rules 2007. The drawing of lots among Ward no. 01, 03, 04 and 05 of Danapur Cantonment for reservation of 02 wards for women in Cantonment Board, is scheduled to be conducted by the President Cantonment Board on 04.01.2020 @ 12:30 Hrs at Danapur Cantonment Board Office. It is hereby notified that all members of public who are interested, may witness the proceedings on the said date and time fixed. Sd/-XX/ President Cantonment Board Office, Danapur Cantt. Letter No. CBD/Election/1246 Dated 19/12/2019

EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. Edelweiss CIN - U67100MH2007PLC174759 Registered Office : Edelweiss House, Off CST Road, Kalfina, Mumbai 400098 +91 22 4088 6090 / 6620 3149 APPENDIX - IV-A [See proviso to Rule 9 (1)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES Public Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrower and Guarantor(s) in particular that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited acting in its capacity as Trustee of EARC Trust SC-18 ("EARC") viz. the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on January 10, 2020, for recovery of Rs. 12,79,56,343/- (Indian Rupees Twelve Crores Seventy Nine Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Three Hundred Forty Three only) being due on July 02, 2015 together with further interest and other expenses/costs thereon to EARC viz. Secured Creditor from M/s Asha Technologies (Partnership Firm) ("Borrower") & 1.Smt. Rajini Verma, 2. Smt. Kamlesh Verma, 3. Shri Pawan Verma, 4. Shri Ashok Verma, 5. Smt. Ram Murti Verma and 6. M/s Asha Telecom Pvt. Ltd. ("Guarantors"). The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit for each property shall be as follows: Reserve Price (in Lakhs) Earnest Money Deposit (in Lakhs) Rs. 130 Rs. 13 Description of the Property: Plot No. 17/3, Khatoni No. 96/95, Khatoni No. 104, Village Achronaha, Mathura Road Industrial Area (Near Dabul Cable), Faridabad, Haryana - 121 001 measuring 334.20 sq. yards and bounded by: North by :- Road West by :- Other Property South by :- Dalton Cable East by :- Other Property For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.edelweissarc.in/PropertySale (Date : 20/12/2019 Authorized Officer Phone No: 7506642334/778169269

Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India) Chaturshrungi, Savitribai Phule University Road, Pune - 411 007, 020- 25701000 / 25701311 Fax 020 25537735 cme@vamnicom.gov.in Invites Application for the post of ACADEMIC ASSOCIATE on CONTRACT BASIS Last date for submission of application: 6th January 2020 Please visit: www.vamnicom.gov.in for details DIRECTOR

Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences "M.A.I.D.S. Complex, B.S. Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002" Email: ddamaids@gmail.com, registrarmails@yalloo.com Contact No. 011-23233884; 23235211, Ext. No. 1155, 1156 Fax: 011-23217081 (ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCH) Notice for Recruitment on Contract Basis in MAIDS Opening Date: 20-12-2019 Closing Date: 31-01-2020 Applications are invited by 31/01/2020 for the Post of Assistant Professor in various specialties to be filled purely on Contract basis initially for a period of one year or till regular arrangement is made, whichever is earlier, from eligible candidates. Candidates, who fulfil the requirement of qualifications and eligibility conditions, may apply on the prescribed proforma. For further details, w.r.t. No. of Posts, fee, eligibility, qualification, mode of selection and application form etc., please visit institute's website i.e. www.maids.ac.in "Those who have already applied in r/o our earlier advertisement dated 10/12/2018 need not apply again" Sd/- (Prof. (Dr. Sangeeta Talwar) Director-Principal DIP/Shabdarth/1151/19-20

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as Capital First Home Finance Limited) IDFC FIRST Bank CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792 Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600031 TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 / FAX: +91 44 4564 4022 Authorized Officer - Mr. Rohit Dudgea | Contact Number - 7838324723 APPENDIX - IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of erstwhile Capital First Home Finance Limited now IDFC FIRST Bank Limited, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 07.01.2020, for recovery of INR 50237447/- as on 10-May-19 due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Home Finance Limited) from SUSHIL KUMAR KEJRIWAL, SUPRA ENTERPRISES, PUSHPA DEVI KEJRIWAL, UMANG KEJRIWAL. The Reserve Price will be INR 4,66,00,000/- and the Earnest Money Deposit will be INR 46,60,000/- DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY FRONT PORTION OF GROUND FLOOR PLOT NO-4, COMMONLY KNOWN AS BP-4 MATHURAROAD, JANGPURA-A, NEW-DELHI For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in IDFC FIRST Bank website i.e. www.idfcfirstbank.com Disclaimer : Please note that the said notice is issued for sale of immovable property only and IDFC FIRST Bank Limited has no right to sale the movable assets, if any, present at the immovable property. Sd/- Authorized Officer IDFC FIRST Bank Limited Date : (18/12/2019 (Formerly known as Capital First Home Finance Limited)

FORM NO. INC-26 PUBLIC NOTICE [Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014] BEFORE THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NORTHERN REGION, NEW DELHI In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 AND In the matter of Juhu Foam Private Limited having its registered office at Plot No 307-308 Sector-5, I.M.T., Manesar, Haryana-122050, India. Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on 16th December, 2019 to enable the company to change its Registered Office from the "NCT of Delhi and Haryana" to the "State of Uttar Pradesh". Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing Investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post to his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of objection to the Regional Director, Northern Region, at the address B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor, Parvayaran Bhawan, CCO Complex, New Delhi -110003, India within fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the application to change the Registered Office from the "NCT of Delhi and Haryana" to the "State of Uttar Pradesh". For and on behalf of the Applicant Juhu Foam Private Limited Sd/- (Pradip Kumar Gupta) Director Place: Delhi DIN : 01208939

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) (As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002) Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the receipt of the said notice with future interest and incidental charges. The Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act with rule 9 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The borrower(s)/ guarantor(s)/ mortgagee(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for an amount stated herein below plus interest and incidental expenses incurred by bank. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. 1. Name of Borrower, Guarantor and Base Branch: Borrower: Mis B.K. Rice Product (Proprietor) B. K. Kamal Kumar S/o Ashutosh Kumar At: Fulwar Tola, Post- Karnaul, PS- Brahampura, Dist-East Champaran (Bihar) Pin-845401 Demand Notice: 01.10.2019 Possession Notice: 17.12.2019 Amount: 24,85,294/- (Rupee Twenty Four Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Four) Base Branch: Banjaria, Motihari A/c No. 1934050000828 2. Name of Borrower, Guarantor and Base Branch: Borrower: Mr. Kameshwar Sah S/o vishwanath Sah At: Gingshiya Hiban, Chailahar, Banjaria Dist- East Champaran (Bihar) Pin-845401 Demand Notice: 01.10.2019 Possession Notice: 17.12.2019 Amount: 28,78,465/- (Rupee Twenty Eight Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Five only) Interest and other charge as on 01.10.2019 Base Branch: Banjaria, Motihari A/c No. 1934040000356 3. Name of Borrower, Guarantor and Base Branch: Borrower: Late Mr. Avinav Kumar Singh (name of the Deceased) Through Legal Heir/ Representative Mrs. Sindhu Devi W/o Late Avinav Kumar Singh Demand Notice: 27.09.2016 Possession Notice: 18.12.2019 Amount: 19,65,587/- (Rupee Nineteen Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Seven only) Interest and other charge Base Branch: Mahuli, Jamui 4. Name of Borrower, Guarantor and Base Branch: Proprietor: Mr. Jai Prakash Singh Demanda Notice: 24.09.2019 Possession Notice: 18.12.2019 Amount: 20,10,903.52 (Rupee Twenty Lakh Ten Thousand Nine Hundred Three and Paise Fifty Two only) as on 23.09.2019 Interest and other charge Base Branch : Mahuli, Jamui Loan A/c No. 00070500000284

सार्वजनिक सूचना सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन रेवाड़ी के अधीन निम्नलिखित बस स्टैंड पर दुकान/साईकिल/मोटरसाईकिल/कार स्टैंड की नीलामी आगामी वित्तीय वर्ष 2019-20, 2020-21 व 2021-22 के लिए दिनांक 30.12.2019 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे कार्यालय महाप्रबंधक, हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन रेवाड़ी में की जाएगी। क्र. दुकानों का विवरण स्थान अर्थात् 1. दुकान नं. 01 बस स्टैंड रेवाड़ी। दिनांक 31.03.2022 तक 2. दुकान नं. 04 बस स्टैंड रेवाड़ी। -सम- 3. दुकान नं. 05 बस स्टैंड रेवाड़ी। -सम- 4. मोची का स्थान कोसली बूथ के पास, बस स्टैंड रेवाड़ी। -सम- 5. साईकिल व मोटरसाईकिल स्टैंड बस स्टैंड रेवाड़ी। -सम- 6. दुकान नं. 02 आउट गेट, बस स्टैंड रेवाड़ी। -सम- 7. दुकान नं. 03 आउट गेट, बस स्टैंड रेवाड़ी। -सम- 8. दुकान नं. 04 आउट गेट, बस स्टैंड रेवाड़ी। -सम- 9. दुकान नं. 01 गुजवाड़ा, रेवाड़ी। -सम- 10. दुकान नं. 03 गुजवाड़ा, रेवाड़ी। -सम- 11. दुकान नं. 09 गुजवाड़ा, रेवाड़ी। -सम- 12. साईकिल व मोटरसाईकिल स्टैंड बस स्टैंड धाकहेड़ा। -सम- 13. साईकिल व मोटरसाईकिल कार स्टैंड बस स्टैंड चावल (पुराना) -सम- 14. दुकान नं. 1 बस स्टैंड चावल (पुराना) -सम- 15. दुकान नं. 2 बस स्टैंड चावल (पुराना) -सम- 16. दुकान नं. 2 बस स्टैंड कोसली -सम- ईच्छुक बोलोदाता किसी भी कार्यदिवस को भवन लिपिक को 500/- र. अदायगी करके उपरोक्त दुकानों की नीलामी से संबंधित नियम एवं शर्तों से संबंधित फार्म महाप्रबंधक, हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, रेवाड़ी के कार्यालय से प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं। हस्ता./- महाप्रबंधक, हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, रेवाड़ी। 79679/HRY

12 CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Shyam Singh S/o Shyam Singh R/O-RZD-32/A, Gali No.5, Syndicate-Enclave, New Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Shyam Singh Ramola. 0040524518-8

I, Jatinder Suri S/o Vidya Parkash R/O-F-21 C, Mukhram Garden, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name from Jatinder Suri to Jatinder Kumar for all future purposes. 0040523909

It is for general information that I Sarita Rani W/o Kapil Kumar D/o Balbir Singh residing at C-63, Gali No-3, North Chhajpur, Delhi-110094 inform that the name of my father has been wrongly written as Balvir Dhama in my all documents. The actual name of my father is Balbir Singh respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0040524789-8

I, Sonu Singh S/o Avtar Singh R/O-G-9/204, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110080, have changed my name to Siddharth Singh for all future purposes. 0040524815-2

I, Rooham Jallil W/o Mohammed Abdul Rashid R/O-Street.No.1/1, Greater Azad Enclave(W), Dhorrah Afzi, Aligarh, U.P.-202002, have changed my name to Rooham Rashid. 0040524815-4

I, Punita Mohan Patel W/o Ravinder Singh Ahluwalia R/O-D-31B, Sector-26, Noida, UP-201301, have changed my name, after marriage to PUNITA AHLUWALIA permanently. 0040524815-1

I, Monica Sharma W/O-Ravi Kant Kaushik R/O-698/43, Shambhu-Nagar, Onkar-Nagar, Trinagar, Delhi-110035. Changed My Name to Monika Kaushik. 0040524826-5

I, Matiug Ahmed S/o Mohd. Yakub R/O-A-3/18B, DDA Flats, Inderook, Delhi-110035, have changed my name to Matloob Ahmed for all future purposes. 0040524815-3

I, hitherto Known as Ashish Dua S/O Sh. Satish Dua R/O-B-20, First Floor, Friends-Colony West, Srinivas Puri, New Delhi-110065, have changed my name to Prem Chand Bansal for all future purposes. 0040524766-2

I, Yatan Lal Barkade alias Yetalnal Barkade S/o Tulisiram Barkade R/O Ward No. 10, Bichhua Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh-480111 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Yetalnal Barkade. 0070688956-1

I, Urvi Joseph Varghese D/o Joseph Varghese R/O 3097/4, Gali No.4, Ranjeet Nagar, South Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Adi J. 0070688947-1

I, Umesh Kumar S/o Vinod Kumar Nirbhay R/O-B-3/192, Block-B-3, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Umesh Kumar Nirbhay for all purposes. 0040524747-1

I, Sushila Kumari W/o Umesh Kumar Nirbhay R/O-B-3/192, Block-B-3, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-110053, have changed my name after marriage to Sushila Sharma W/o Umesh Kumar Nirbhay for all purposes. 0040524748-1

I, Sunita/Sunita Devi D/O, Kishan Sahay R/O H.No-216 Vill Jamalpur, Gurgaon-122503 have changed my name to Sunita Yadav for all purposes. 0040524786-3

I, Sunita W/o Rajinder Kumar Verma R/O-G-109 Ashok Vihar Ph-I, Delhi-52, changed my name to Sunita Verma. 0040524789-7

I, Suman Awana W/o Sh. Jagesh kumar R/O-B-23, Sec-5 Harola Gautam Budh Nagar Noida have changed my name to Suman Devi for all future Purposes. 0040524777-1

I, Sukhinder Kaur W/o Baldev Singh R/O Fattu Dingha Kapurthala Punjab have changed my name to Ravneet Kaur. 0040524797-4

I, Sonam Ghai W/o Kapish Ghai R/O-Flat.No.404, Block-B6, CLEO-County, Plot.No.GH-05, Sector-121, Noida, UP, have changed my name to Sonam Sahn. 0040524826-1

I, Shivkumar Singh Raghuvanshi alias Shiv Kumar Singh Raghuvanshi alias Shiv Kumar Singh S/o Shankar Singh Raghuvanshi R/O Ward No.12, Narsingpur Road, Sankat Mochan Nagar, Chitnavis Ganj, Chhindwara, M.P.-480001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shivkumar Singh Raghuvanshi. 0070688941-1

I, Shakeel Ahmad S/o Mujeeb Ahmad R/O-H.No.B-44 Street.No-18, Man Singh, Nagar Old-Mustafabad, Delhi-110094, that mine and my father name has been wrongly written as Shakil and Mujib Ahmed in my Passport, the Actual name of mine and my father is Shakeel Ahmad, Mujeeb Ahmad. 0040524738-1

I, Sat Pal S/o Puran Chand Add House No A/54 Devli Road, Khanpur Extension, Delhi 110062, Changed My Name To Satpal. 0040524787-2

I, Mohd. Jalal Uddin S/o Wali Mohammad R/O-H.No. 3/4, S/F, Baghichi No.3, Harinagar, Ashram, Delhi-110014, have changed my name to Mohd Jalal. 0040524817-2

I, Mohd Imran Khan S/O Mohd Isha R/O-L-1ind, H.No-1104, Gali No-24. Sangam Vihar, N.Delhi-110062. Changed My Name To Mohammad Imran. 0040524826-10

I, Manoj Sain S/O Raja Ram Sen R/O 39-D, Prem Kunj, Sangam Park, Rana Pratap Bagh, Delhi-110007 have changed my name from Manoj Sain to Manoj Sen for all future purposes. 0040524784-1

I, Manoj Kumar S/O Balwant Rai Purthi Add-H-29, South Extension Part-1, New Delhi-110049, Changed My Name To Manoj Kumar Pruthi. 0040524787-4

I, Manoj Gupta S/O Sh. Amar Nath Gupta R/O-B-22, First Floor, Duggal Colony, Khanpur, New Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Manoj Kumar Gupta for all purposes. 0040524778-1

I, Ishita D/o Ajay Kumar R/O-69, Gali No-14, West Azad-Nagar Delhi-51, have changed my name to Ishita Thakur. 0130014093-1

I, Anil Kumar S/O Khazana Ram R/O-A-26.Sai Complex, Khasra No-629, Chhattarpur-Enclave Phase-1, South/Delhi-110074. Changed My Name To Anil Sharma. 0040524826-9

I, Sandeep S/O Bhagwat Swaroop Nagar R/O-C-3/7A, Swarn-Park, Near Khateek Muhalla, Mundka, Delhi-110041 have changed my name to Sandeep Nagar. 0040524797-6

I, Salabuddin S/O Mr. Faiz Bukhash, R/O/H. No. 141, Street No 5, Near Sunheri Masjid, Brij Puri Delhi 110094 Have Changed My Name To Salaudiddin As Per Affidavit Dated 17 December, 2019 For All Purpose. Both The Names Are Same Of One Person. 0070688859-1

I, SYED MOHAMMAD BILAL S/G-Mr. Syed Nazam Askari R/O-H.No.536/6, 2nd-Floor, Zakir Nagar, JamiaNagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name from Mohammad Bilal to SYED MOHAMMAD BILAL for all future purposes. 0040524797-1

I, Prem Bansal S/O Chotu Ram R/O-D-41, Sector-20, Noida(U.P.) have changed my name to Prem Chand Bansal for all future purposes. 0040524745-1

I, Ruminder Monga W/O Sh. Kawaljit Singh R/O-H.No.J-9/48A, First-floor, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Ruminder Singh for all purposes. 0040524789-2

I, Rookpishor S/O Chet Ram R/O-144, Third Floor, Pkt-12, Sector-20, Rohini, Delhi have changed my name to Rookpishor Singh for all purposes. 0040524789-10

I, Rohit Kumar Harshana S/O Omprakash R/O H.No-152, Near Govt. School, Baiyawaas, Gwal Pahari, Gurgaon, Haryana-122003, have changed my name to Rohit Harshana for all purposes. 0040524752-1

I, Ratan Kumar Dokwewala S/O Sohan Lal Goyal R/O A-3, Prem Kutir Society Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi, have changed my name to Ratan Kumar Goyal for all purposes. 0040524787-1

I, Ram Lارايت Diwakar S/O Late Sukh Lal R/O-F-2/237, Sangam-Vihar, New-Delhi-110062, do hereby informs that Ram Lارايت Diwakar and Ram Lارايت is one and same person and I have changed my name from Ram Lارايت Diwakar to Ram Lارايت for all future purposes. 0040524789-9

I, Rajesh/Rajesh Kumar S/O Sheodan Singh Yadav R/O Vill Jamalpur, Gurgaon-122503 have changed my name to Rajesh Yadav for all purposes. 0040524786-2

I, Rajesh Kumar Tripathy S/O Ram Dutt Tripathi R/O 339 Sector-I Type-III, Sadia Nagar, ND-49 have changed my name to Rajesh Kumar Tripathi. 0040524786-4

I, Radhey Raman S/O Madan Lal Sharma R/O 208, Raisson Armor Homes, Ahinsa Khand-2, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Radhey Raman Sharma. 0070688950-1

I, Pratap Singh S/O Umed Singh R/O House No.143, Sector-5, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001 have changed my name to Pratap Kataria for all future purposes. 0040524761-1

I, Pavnai Chawla D/O Puneet Chawla R/O-H.No-9, Roadno.42, West Punjabi Bagh, Central Market, Delhi-110026. Changed My Name to Pavnai Chawla. 0040524797-8

I, Patal Ann Nicholson W/O Robert Nicholson R/O-20/12, 2nd Floor, Pantnagar, Jangpura, Delhi-110014, have changed my name to Petal Nicholson. 0040524817-6

I, Mukesh Chand Meena, R/O B-20, B.K.Dutt Colony, New Delhi have changed my son's name from Chintu Kumar Meena to Navin Kumar Baiplawat for all purposes 0040524749-1

I, Baboo Lal S/o Sampat Lal R/O-RZ-D-84, Nihal Vihar, Nangloi, New Delhi, have changed my name to Babu Lal permanently. 0040524817-4

I, Dheeraj S/O Chander Mohan Bajaj, R/O 5A, J&V, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, have changed my name to Dheeraj Bajaj for all purposes. 0040524818-1

I, Madan Dewan S/O Manna Ram Dewan R/O-H-110, Upper Ground Floor, Shivaji Park, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Madan Lal Dewan. 0040524751-1

I, Kulwant Singh Sondh S/O S.Jaswant Singh R/O-D-42, 3rd-Floor, Saraswati-Garden, N.Delhi-110015, have changed my minor son's name Sahibjeet Singh to Sahibjeet Singh Sondh. 0040524817-7

I, Km. Prajesh Agrawal W/O Rajendra Kumar R/O-125/9, G.F., KishanGarh, VasantKunj, New Delhi-110070 have changed my name to Priya. 0040524789-4

I, Kiran W/O Anil Kumar Singhat R/O D-14 Hakikat Rai Road Adarsh Nagar Delhi-110033, Changed My Name to Kiran Singhal. 0040524819-2

I, Khushi D/O Rajiv Mohan Goswami R/O-G-71, Naraina Vihar, N.Delhi-110028, have changed my name to Kashish Goswami. LIC Policy- No.330868935. 0040524817-5

I, Kartik S/O Naveen Pujari R/O 13-C Firozshah Road New Delhi-01, have changed my name to Kartik Pujari for all purpose. 0130014093-1

I, Kanwaljit Kaur W/O Narinder Singh R/O Khasra No. 7/23, C-Block, Galino-6, Kamalvihar, Kamalpur, Santnagar Burari, Delhi-110034. Changed my Name to Kawal Jeet Kaur. 0040524797-10

I, Kamrudin S/O Hussain R/O D-92, J.J Colony, Shaktipur, Delhi-110034. Have Changed My Name To Kamrudin. 0040524797-9

I, Jasica Singh D/O Satinder Singh R/O-B-209, Ashok-Vihar Phase-1 Delhi-110052. Changed My Name To Jessica Madan. 0040524826-7

I, Hitherto Known AS Ashish Dua S/O Sh.Satish Dua R/O-B-20, First Floor, Friends-Colony West, Srinivas Puri, New Delhi-110065, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known AS Aashish S Dua. 0040524819-7

I, Harvinder Kaur W/O Lt Col. Narender Singh Sahi R/O 595, Sector-29 Noida(U.P.) have changed my name to Harvinder Kaur Sahi for all future purposes and my DOB 26/01/1951. 0040524766-1

I, Gurjinder Singh Bawa S/O-Sardar Jagjit Singh R/O-Wz-185, Upper-Ground-Floor, Street No-3,4 Lajwati-Garden, Jankpuri, Nangal-Raya, South/West Delhi-110046, informs that have changed my minor Son's name Jaspreet Singh to Jaspreet Singh Bawa, both are same and one person for all future Purposes. 0040524787-7

I, Gulshan Nasim W/O Nasim Ullah R/O-P-133, S.F.Gali.No-2, Pehalwan-Chawk Jamia-Nagar, Okhla Delhi-110025. Changed My Name To Gulshan Naseem. 0040524826-8

I, FAKHR UZ ZAMAN S/O Mumtaz Ali R/O A-392, Ground Floor, Khasra No-124, Gali No.9, Village Wazirabad, Delhi-84, inform that my father name wrongly mentioned in my Voter-ID Card, Driving License & Passport as Mumtaz Ahmed. But his correct name is Mumtaz Ali. 0040524768-1

I, Dilip Kumar Sharma S/O-Late Shri.M.D Sharma R/O-H.No.524D, Gali.No-17, Sadh-Nagar, Palam-Colony, New-Delhi-110045, have changed my minor daughter's name from Riyaat to Riya Sharma for all purposes. 0040524787-8

I, Deepak S/O Ramesh Chand Garg R/O II-C-131, Nehru-Nagar, Ghaziabad. Have changed my name to Deepak Garg for all purposes. 0040524826-2

I, Chanchal W/O Deepak Garg R/O II-C-131, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Chanchal Garg for all purposes. 0040524826-3

I, Champa Thawani W/O Harish Chander Thawani R/O J-42, 2nd-Floor, Lajpat Nagar-2, N.Delhi-24, have changed my name to Madhu Thawani 0040524746-1

I, Baby Shagun Sehgal D/O Dinesh Sehgal R/O-K-14 Bhagat Singh-Road Krishna Nagar Delhi-110051. Changed My Name To Shagun Sehgal. 0040524826-6

I, Bibek Kumar Ojha S/O Prabhans Narayan R/O-C-334, Lajpat Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Vivek Kumar Ojha. 0040524819-10

I, Atul Kaushal S/O Kaushal Kishore R/O 2047, Gali No-10, Surya Colony, Sehatpur, Amarnagar, Faridabad, Haryana-121003, that name of my father has been wrongly written as Kaushal Kishor in my Schooling Certificates. The actual name of my father is Kaushal Kishore 0070688935-1

I, Ashok Kumar alias Ashok Kapil S/O-L.S. Kapil R/O-802, Gali No-7, Govindpuri, Kalkaji, N.D-19, Have changed my name to Ashok Kumar Kapil S/O Lotan Singh Kapil. 0040524817-1

I, Aquila Suleman W/O Khurshid Akhter R/O D-338, Tripathi Enclave, Prem Nagar-2, Kirari, Suleman Nagar, Delhi-86 Have Changed My Name to Akila Suleman. 0040524819-6

I, Anurag/Anurag Dineshwar Prasad S/O Dineshwar Prasad R/O 353, First Floor, IP Colony, Sec-30-33, Amarnagar, Faridabad Pin-121003, have changed my name to Anurag Sinha for all purposes. 0040524822-1

I, Gurjinder Singh Bawa S/O-Sardar Jagjit Singh R/O-Wz-185, Upper Ground Floor, Street No-3,4 Lajwati Garden, Jankpuri, Nangal-Raya, South/West Delhi-110046, informs that Have Changed My Minor Son's Name Winpreet Singh To Winpreet Singh Bawa Both are one and same person for all future purposes. 0040524787-5

I, Gurinder Kaur W/O Anmol Singh Kochhar Add.-B10 First-Floor Rana Partap Bagh Delhi-110007, Changed My Name To Gurinder Kaur Kochhar. 0040524819-4

I, Chhotey Lal S/O Sh. Srinath Patel R/O-H-23 B/3, Upper Second Floor, Garhwali Mohalla, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Chhotey Lal Patel for all purposes. 0040524739-1

I, Shirish Gangadhar Deshpande S/O Late Gangadhar Bhagwant Deshpande R/O C-2, Awanti Vihar, Ram Nagar, Rampur, Polopahar, Viduyt Nagar, Jabalpur, M.P.-482008 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Deshpande Shirish gangadhar in my service record. The actual name of mine is Shirish gangadhar Dehpande, which may be amended accordingly. 0070688945-1

I, Rajiv Sharma alias Rajeev Sharma alias Rajeev Kumar S/O Late Suraj Bhan Sharma R/O 52, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rajeev Sharma. 0070688949-1

I, Kaustav S/O Narendra Kumar R/O 181, Sector-4, Chiranjeev Vihar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201002 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Nishant Kumar. 0070688954-1

I, Himani Soni D/o Joginder Singh Soni W/o Bharat Bhushan R/O H.No. 136/1-A, Bhuddatt Colony, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana-121004 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Himani Soni Sharma. 0070688938-1

I, Santosh Aggarwal Alias Barkha Gupta D/o Banwari Lal and W/o Harish Aggarwal R/O 20/325, Lal Chand Colony, 3/191, Gali No-3, Lal Chand Colony, Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar, Haryana-124507, have changed my name to Barkha Gupta. 0070688928-1

LOST & FOUND

Lost original Lease Deed for property No.W-139, Rewari Line Industrial area, Phase-2, Delhi belonging to Surender Kumar S/O Hari Singh. FIR lodged vide LR No.2008221/2019 dated:18-12-2019. Founder inform at above address. 0040524743-1

I, Puneet Prakash S/O Late Ram Prakash have lost my LPR (US Green card) in Delhi. Please contact 9532486003 if found. 0040524744-1

I, Shashi Bhushan Sharma S/O Durga Dass and Nutan W/o Brij Bhushan R/O A-816, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052, have lost our original document payment proof and Possession letter etc. of Bhawana Plot No. 70, vide application no 36352, if find by anybody please contact above 8800921208. 0040524663-1

I, Aditi tyagi D/o Sanjeev Kumar Tyagi, R/O-361 Dheerpur near-Nirankari-Colony Delhi-110009. Have lost my original certificate class-10th year-2017 Rollno-8177117 CBSE-Delhi. 0040524819-9

My Alloment letter, Possession letter and NOC documents of property H/No. 130C BIK-B, PKT-U&V Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-88 are missing somewhere.FIR/NCR to that effect has been lodged to Crime Branch, Delhi Police vide LR No. 2009336/2019 on 18/12/2019. Anybody aware or in possession of aforementioned documents is to contact on above address within 15 days of publish of this notice Pardeep uberoi, Mob No. 9911108500.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I, Vivek Singh S/O Sh. Shiv Pal Singh R/O 12251-E, Gali No. 13, Tikal Marg, East Ram Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as Vivek, Vivek Chauhan, Vandana Chauhan and Vandana in my minor son Shreyansh Chauhan aged 13 years birth certificate and school record and name of mine has been wrongly written as Vivek Chauhan in my minor son Shreyansh Chauhan aged 13 years Aadhar Card. The actual name of mine and my wife is Vivek Singh and Vandana Singh, which may be amended accordingly.

**NOTICE**  
Public information hereby informed that my client Mr. Ashok Kumar, son of Mr. Lakh Chand, resident of House No. 422, Wazirpur, Gali No. 7, Gurugram Haryana, intends to purchase Property, Plot No. C-12 comprising 333 Sq. yards situated at New Market Scheme, Old DLF Colony, Gurugram, Tehsil & District Gurgaon (the Property) from Mr. Meenu Mehta wife of Shri. Suresh Kumar Mehta & daughter of Late Shri. Ramesh Chander Sahasrana, resident of R-192 Greater Kailash Part I, New Delhi (the legal owner of said Property). Any person who has got right, interest, title, claim, encumbrance, or any other matter whatsoever in respect of the aforesaid Property (or any part thereof) concerned thereto should file their documentary evidence, if any, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, shall be deemed that the said Property is sold to me from all claims, interest, charges, encumbrances etc. This notice is published on 20th December 2019.

**IMPORTANT**  
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**सर्वजनिक सूचना**  
मेरे मुकदमे की नतीजात कृपया कृपया पत्र पत्र की कृपया लाल का फिरोजी, FF-3, चक-2, नं-35, जवाहर नगर-2, हरद्वारपुर, गाँवियाबाद, उत्तर प्रदेश नं. अमरे पुत्र चतुर्वर्ण का एवं पुत्रवर्ण दिव्या का को उनके मूलतः आवरण, लखनौ, इगुहे तथा अग्रदत्तित व्यवहार से बचने हेतु अपनी समस्त चल-चलत्त सम्पत्ति से वैकल्पिक कर दिव्या से भविष्य में उत्पन्न किसी भी कृपया को मेरे मुकदमे से कोई संबंध नहीं होगा।  
हस्ता...  
राजेश खन्ना (अधिकृत)  
संख्या नं.-988, विद्युत् केंद्र गाँवियाबाद, उत्तर प्रदेश

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**NORTH**

### Two college students shot dead in Chandigarh

Chandigarh: Two college students from Haryana were shot dead by unidentified assailants at their rented accommodation here, police said on Thursday. The victims, both in their early twenties, were identified as Ajay, a student of a private university, and Vineet, who was attending a government

college here, Superintendent of Police (Central) Ram Gopal said. The incident took place late Wednesday night when the victims were with their friend Mohit on the second floor of the building. Mohit, who managed to escape, was being questioned. The police officer said a case has been registered. **PTI**



People shop ahead of Christmas in Pune on Thursday. Pavan Khengre

**EAST**

### Maoist killed in encounter with police in Chhattisgarh

Sukma: A female Maoist operative was gunned down in an encounter with police in Sukma district on Thursday, an official said. The incident took place in a forest near Singanmadgu village under Chintagufa police station limits around 9 am when security forces were out on a counter-insurgency operation, Sukma SP Shalabh Sinha

said. Acting on inputs, separate teams had launched the operation, he said. When one of the patrolling teams was advancing through the forest area, a gun-battle broke out. However, the Maoist operatives soon disappeared, the official said. During a search of the spot, the body of the woman was recovered, he said. **PTI**

**WEST**

### Shiv Sena functionary in Mumbai shot at

Mumbai: A 55-year-old Shiv Sena functionary was injured after a man opened fire on him in suburban Vikhroli on Thursday morning, police said. The incident took place around 7.15 am, he said. The functionary, Chandrashekhar Jadhav, was sitting in a temple when the attacker, Abhay Vikram Singh (22), fired four to five rounds at him, the of-

ficial at Vikhroli police station said. Jadhav sustained injuries on one of his shoulders and was admitted to a hospital, he said. Jadhav's son, who was present at the time of the incident, and others nearby caught hold of the assailant and handed him over to the police. The accused, a native of Allahabad, also sustained injuries, police said. **PTI**

**SOUTH**

### NIA to take over UAPA cases against two Kerala students

Kochi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has decided to take over UAPA cases against two students who were arrested by the Kerala police recently from Kozhikode for allegedly distributing pro-Maoist pamphlets, official sources said here on Thursday. "We have re-registered the case yesterday (on Wednesday)

and will take over the investigation in coming days," a NIA official said. The Kerala High Court on November 27 had dismissed the bail plea of two student activists of CPI(M) — Thwaha Fazal (24) and Alan Suhail (20). The court had admitted the evidence submitted by the police to prove the two had Maoist links. **PTI**

# Govt eyeing 15-yr residency norm in J&K and Ladakh

ARUNSHARMA  
JAMMU, DECEMBER 19

TO ALLAY fears among locals in the newly created Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, the Centre is considering a 15-year residency requirement for obtaining government jobs, seats for professional courses in public colleges and ownership of land, top government sources told *The Indian Express*.

While different states have different residency norms, the general view among various ministries on the two new UTs is to fix a 15-year minimum residency norm for an outsider to attain domicile status, sources said.

However, sources said, there would be no such condition for industrial houses to buy land for setting up business ventures and construct quarters for their employees.

Officials in different central ministries are also working on "four-five" categories of people

from outside who would be exempt from this norm while availing other benefits, including admission in government higher education institutions, sources said.

These categories could cover central officials and their children, and students from other states and UTs who may have cleared their Class 10 or Class 12 board exams in J&K or Ladakh.

Officers from all-India services and their children are considered domicile of their respective cadre states usually, sources said, but "a considered view" needs to be taken before extending this status to AGMUT-cadre officers in Ladakh and J&K.

In the case of students, sources said, there may be some who come along with their parents during job postings, including in the private sector, and pass the board exams at any of the two UTs. The "general viewpoint" is to consider them eligible for admission in government higher education institutions in the two UTs, they said.

According to sources, the government move is also aimed at "bringing uniformity for Indian citizens across the country" and "preventing Opposition politicians from spreading false propaganda" that there will be fewer jobs and land for locals after the special status of J&K was removed and the state was bifurcated into two UTs.

Incidentally, a similar residency norm was fixed by the last Dogra ruler of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state, Maharaja Hari Singh, who issued a notification on June 27, 1932, fixing ten years of continuous residence as a mandatory requirement before "foreign nationals" can purchase immovable property and be considered as Class III state subjects.

It read: "The foreign nationals residing in the State of Jammu and Kashmir shall not acquire the nationality of the Jammu and Kashmir State until after the age of 18 on purchasing immovable property under permission of an ijazatnama and on obtaining a

rayatnama after ten years continuous residence in the Jammu and Kashmir State as laid down in Notification No.-I-L. of 1984, dated 20th April, 1927."

However, this provision was altered by the Constituent Assembly in 1954 when it amended the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution Act, 1939, defining permanent residents of the state as any person who, before May 14, 1954, "lawfully acquired immovable property in the State" and "has been ordinarily resident in the State for not less than ten years prior to the date".

The amendment deprived thousands of refugees from erstwhile West Pakistan, who had settled in Jammu province following the 1947 Partition, from becoming permanent residents of the state.

Sources said these refugees will get domicile status and be eligible to buy land, get jobs and obtain admission in professional colleges in these UTs once the government decides on a new residency norm.

# India's responsibility to remind world of Mahatma's vision: Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Thursday addressed the second meeting of the national committee of "Gandhi at 150" commemorations — at Rashtrapati Bhavan — where he said it was India's responsibility to keep reminding the world of the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's vision.

The meeting was presided over by President Ram Kovind and attended by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, members of the Union Cabinet, Chief Ministers of various states and noted Gandhians. Prime Minister of Portugal Antonio Costa, the only foreign Prime Minister to be a member of the committee, also participated in the meeting.

The committee also has nine international members, including two former Secretaries-General of the United Nations — Kofi Annan and Ban Ki-Moon. The Committee was constituted for commemorating Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary at the national and international level. The Commemoration has been undertaken taken for two years — from October 2, 2018 to October 2, 2020

While former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and senior BJP leader LK Advani were present at the meeting, many other members, including Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, CPI(M) secretary general Sitaram Yechury, former Maharashtra chief minister Sharad Pawar skipped the meet.

In his address, President Kovind commended the executive committee, working under the direct supervision of Modi, for turning the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Father of the Nation into a 'Jan Andolan',



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Portuguese counterpart Antonio Costa in New Delhi on Thursday. Anil Sharma

with the Prime Minister providing personal leadership to initiatives like Swachh Bharat and spreading the Mahatma's teachings on protecting the environment through initiatives like working towards elimination of single-use plastic.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Modi said today, the world is eager to know Gandhi and ready to accept him. Hence, it becomes India's responsibility to keep reminding the world of the abiding relevance of Mahatma and his vision, he added.

Prime Minister underlined the fact that 'Gandhi at 150' was not just a one-year programme. "All citizens need to imbibe Gandhian thought and vision in their lives and take it ahead in the times to come," he said,

adding that while government commemorations of centenaries are held from time to time, the 'Gandhi@150' commemorations have become far more than an occasion.

Modi also reiterated his message for all citizens to "buy local". This basic philosophy of Gandhi has the potential to help India develop and progress, he said urging citizens to live by the message as a way of life.

He added that it was a matter of pride for the country when, during the recently-concluded 250th session of the Rajya Sabha, members came forward to speak in local languages. "Even as we work to take Gandhi's message global, we must work together to keep the Mahatma's message relevant in a contemporary form for the

common man across the country," he said.

In his address, Portuguese PM Costa, said, "Gandhi's message of tolerance and love was revolutionary in his time, and in many parts of the world, it is still revolutionary today."

"Gandhi's legacy continues to guide common efforts designed to combat discrimination and promote cultural and religious tolerance, co-existence among communities, peace among peoples and respect for nature," said Costa.

After the meeting, Prime Minister Modi tweeted, "Had excellent exchange of ideas at the second meeting of the National Committee of 'Gandhi-150' celebrations. The meeting was further enriched by the insights of Mr. @antoniocostapm!"

## 2+2 DIALOGUE

# India, US conclude Industrial Security Annexe agreement

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

INDIA AND the US have concluded the Industrial Security Annexe agreement, which will facilitate collaboration between defence industries by supporting the secure transfer of key information and technology.

At the second India-US 2+2 dialogue between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence minister Rajnath Singh with their American counterparts Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark Esper in Washington DC, the US talked tough on Pakistan and both sides asked Islamabad to take immediate, sustained and irreversible action on fighting terror.

However, there was no forward movement on the trade deal.

After the talks, Singh said, "I'm happy that we have been able to sign the Industrial Security Annexe before the 2+2 Dialogue. We hope that this will enable a smooth transfer of classified technology and information between private entities of USA and India."

A joint statement said the ministers welcomed the signing of the Industrial Security Annexe (ISA) which will facilitate the exchange of classified military information between Indian and the US defense industries. Both sides also "expressed intent to meet in 2020 to discuss ISA implementation", it said.

On Pakistan, Pompeo said, "We understand the concerns, too, that India has, rightful concerns that they have about a terrorism emanating from Pakistan, and we assured them that we would take that into account."

In response to a question, Pompeo said, "We have been unambiguous in our partnership with the Indian government about terror. Terror, from wherever it emanates, whether it's from inside of Pakistan or from anyplace else. We are determined to protect the American people from the threat of terrorism and we're determined to work with our great democratic friends like the Indians to protect the people of India as well, and we'll continue to work on it."

Jaishankar also underlined cross-border terrorism, as he said, "Our counter-terrorism ef-

**EXPLAINED**  
**Tough task at hand**

INDIA AND the US have concluded an important defence pact, and have called for Pakistan to act against terrorism. While these are positive outcomes, the two sides tried to underplay the lack of progress on trade deal and the concern in Washington on the recent political turmoil. Delhi and Washington have a tough task at hand to keep their ties from not being affected by these challenges.

fort was also discussed at today's meeting. And it has been boosted by a growing consensus on the nature of terror threats in the region, and the dangers of cross-border terrorism and sanctuaries... We discussed ways to address these challenges, including by working closely, together at the FATF. We also took note of exchanges between our judicial academies for appreciation of challenges and evolving practices in adjudicating counter-terrorism cases, and agreed to further facilitate such exchanges in the areas of criminal jurisprudence."

The US remained cautious in its position on the new citizenship law in India. Responding to a question, Pompeo said, "We care deeply and always will about protecting minorities and religious rights everywhere. We honour Indian democracy as they have a robust debate on the issue that you raised."

Jaishankar, in his response, said, "The question that you asked relating to India, if you had followed the debate on that particular legislation carefully, you would see that it is a measure which is designed to address the needs of persecuted religious minorities from certain countries... If you look at what those countries are and therefore what their minorities are, perhaps you understand why certain religions were identified in terms of characterising those who had come across."

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## GOA SERENDIPITY ARTS FESTIVAL

# Art work shut, Assam poet says no one wants our voice to be heard

SMITANAI & DIPANITA NATH  
PANJIM, DECEMBER 19

AT THE exhibition, 'Look Outside This House', of the Serendipity Arts Festival in Goa, two shut rooms and some empty screens reminded visitors of the artwork that remained under lock and key Thursday.

The exhibition, curated by Sudarshan Shetty at the prestigious festival, was briefly shut Wednesday after visitors scribbled slogans against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act on blank canvases. Since then, films on two Miya poets of Assam and a Dalit poet Ashok Kamble — as well as a display, titled Goggles for the Blind, and another exhibit, Art Ink — have not been open to the public.

Organisers of the festival said, "The exhibits still remain closed due to a technical glitch and the festival is looking into it." Curator Sudarshan Shetty said, "One of the main curatorial approaches to 'Look Outside This House' is based upon bringing forth voices from the margins that need to be heard and I hope they are heard by one and all visiting this show."

Speaking over the phone from Assam, Prof Hafiz Ahmed, one of the Miya poets whose work is no longer on display, said, "This only proves that we have no right to speak, not even the right to listen. This pulling down of our poetry as an art exhibit is a fundamental rights violation. Our poetry were words of protest expressing the discrimination unfolding in the Northeast against a select community. When we were first

approached by the curator Sudarshan Shetty, we were grateful that our suffering will be shown to a bigger audience. Now, we are disappointed, hurt and upset by the organisers of the festival."

Miya poetry is a genre in Assam that is being used to express anguish over citizenship issues. The video recording at Serendipity showed Ahmed reciting from his work, 'Write Down I am a Miyah'.

His work went viral in 2016 when he wrote the poem 'I am Miya' and, subsequently, had four FIRs filed against him in Assam for allegedly presenting the entire Assamese community as xenophobic.

The other works included Ashraf Hussain's 'In the Name of My Dead Mother'.

"We are in Assam and our communication channels are limited. We live in an environment of fear and far away in Goa, we really believed the podium to be a quality platform for art. Now, it has given 'technical glitch' as reasons for not playing our poetry. This is nothing but political suppression," said Hussain.

"This is not a technical glitch. No one wants our story to spread. We have depicted the bitter truth. If the festival is about art from across the country, then our art is an exhibit too. If they respect the truth, they should put it up again. If they are not in favour of our suffering, they should not do this," said Ahmed.

Meanwhile, the Goa Police sent a notice to the organisers to submit details of the band, 'Dastaan Live', as well as video footage of their concert on Tuesday where they allegedly "insulted the Hindu faith".

## Jaipur blasts: Court to pronounce punishment today

Jaipur: A special court will on Friday pronounce the sentence against the four men convicted for the Jaipur serial blasts which killed 71 people and injured 185 in 2008.

The court on Thursday heard arguments on the quantum of punishment for the four men.

Public prosecutor Srichand said the court will pronounce the sentence at 4 pm. The maximum punishment is a death sentence.

"I have demanded death penalty for them," he said, calling the blasts the second deadliest incident of the kind after the serial blasts in Mumbai. He claimed the four convicts did not display any fear in the courtroom.

On Wednesday, the court convicted Mohammad Saif, Mohammad Sarwar Azmi, Mohammad Salman and Saifur alias Saif ur Rehman Ansari. Another accused, Shahbaz Hussain, was acquitted with the court giving him the benefit of the doubt. The serial blasts rocked Jaipur on the evening of May 13, 2008 within a two-kilometre radius in the walled city. **PTI**

## BID TO BOOST TOURISM

# Rhinos to be re-introduced in Uttarakhand

LALMANI VERMA  
DEHRADUN, DECEMBER 19

THE UTTARAKHAND State Wildlife Board has cleared a proposal by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to introduce rhinoceroses in the Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR) to boost tourism and revive the habits of species that survive on low-height grass.

According to officials, around 10 rhinos will be brought in CTR in the first phase and subsequently, 10 more would be added. State Chief Wildlife Warden Rajiv Bhartari said that a proposal will be sent to the Centre soon in this regard to transport rhinos from either Assam or West Bengal or both. The capture and translocation are likely to cost about Rs 15 lakh per individual animal.

Experts claim that protecting these rhinos from poaching will be the only challenge for the state's forest department staff



10 rhinos will be brought to Corbett Tiger Reserve in the first phase and subsequently, 10 more would be added. Archive

after the move.

They added that the geographical terrain and environmental conditions in CTR are suitable for rhinos. The ideal sites chosen in Corbett are valley habitats bounded on either side by the lower Himalayas (north),

Shivalik Hills (south) and the Ramganga Reservoir (east), which would also act as natural barriers to rhino movement outside these areas, thereby minimising conflict with people.

WII Dean YV Jhala said rhinos were once found in the Terai

grassland in the state and adjoining areas but were wiped out by poaching. The horn of a rhino is believed to be an aphrodisiac. "Corbett is well protected and hence the rhinos will safely survive there," Jhala said.

Experts say that each of the founding population animals would be fitted with a GPS radio-collar. A team of researchers would be allocated for monitoring their ranging patterns, foraging habits, demography and habitat use. The Forest Department would be responsible for the safety of these re-introduced rhinos. Researchers will share data with the department's staff.

"There are less challenges in re-introduction of rhinos. The animals only have to be brought her. Food and water are available," Jhala said.

According to wildlife experts, rhinos reduce the size of elephant grass by eating it. This would mean that species that thrive on lower-height grass —

Hog Deer, Cheetal, Sambar and Swamp Deer, among others — would also be encouraged.

According to WII experts, the rhino's range was once continuous across the flood plains of the Indus, Ganges and the Brahmaputra, but today, it is limited to small fragmented pockets in India and Nepal as a result of anthropogenic pressures. Re-introduction into habitats in its historic range would not only create safety-net populations for the species but also restore their ecological role in these faunally-degraded habitats, they said.

"The majority of the decline in rhino population in the state of Assam occurred during the period of political unrest. Similar trends in population decline were observed in Nepal during the Maoist movement. Uttarakhand has no such history of political instability and thus would be an ideal site for re-introduction," the WII proposal reads.



WORDLY WISE  
HISTORY DOESN'T HAVE A CURFEW.  
— JOHN GREEN

## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY  
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# What the young say

Implementation of nation-wide NRC will put India in a state of conflict. Government must listen, step back



NAJEEB JUNG

## WITHOUT FEAR

That was the place on the street across the country where women and men, citizens all, stepped out to be seen and heard

SO MANY OF the images and videos from the people's protests in cities across the country on Thursday, including and especially the national capital, are a reproach to the Narendra Modi government. They frame mostly young, mostly anonymous people who took to the streets mostly peacefully, to raise their voices against a citizenship law that seeks to recast and redefine citizenship of this country in majoritarian terms, faced with a grim and repressive state machinery in BJP-ruled states. They frame historian, Gandhi biographer and prominent public intellectual Ramachandra Guha being pulled and pushed and arrested by policemen in Bengaluru for no evident crime other than holding up a placard showing a picture of the father of India's Constitution, BR Ambedkar, and articulating his own disagreement with the regime's new law. They frame intellectuals and writers and activists being hauled away from protest venues in Delhi. They frame, essentially, a nervous and paranoid government that appears to have lost the ability to either listen to its intellectuals or its young, or to talk to them. A government that seems to respond to dissent only by suppressing it — by imposing Section 144, through arbitrary detention and by snapping voice, internet and sms services. That the world's fastest growing internet market is also now a global leader in cutting off access to small and large swathes of its population, that the internet clampdown as a way of blocking protests is becoming increasingly commonplace, and that in this, India is in the company of countries like Myanmar, Pakistan, Sudan, Syria and Venezuela, is a reason for deep embarrassment to all those who take pride in the argumentativeness of its democracy.

The summary attempt to crack down on dissent against the citizenship law takes place in a grey context. In the backdrop of the current moment is the revocation of Article 370 in Kashmir in August in a manner that has isolated and continues to isolate its people, the detention of thousands of its political workers and leaders, including 83-year-old former chief minister Farooq Abdullah — his incarceration was extended by three months a few days ago — and the longest ever continuous internet shutdown in the country. The scenes that played out in the national capital on Thursday have sent out the signal that the apparent obduracy and imperviousness of government is not limited to its treatment of a long-standing trouble spot. It is the reflexive response to all disagreement and discontent. This is a disquieting signal to the country.

There has also been violence and arson, as in Seelampur in the capital, in parts of Lucknow and Mangalore on Thursday. It is incumbent on the state governments and the entire political establishment, including the Opposition, to do whatever it takes to keep the peace. But in doing so, the world's largest democracy cannot look like it cannot accommodate its young who disagree, it cannot afford to signal that it is so ill at ease with itself. At any time, and especially when its economy is in slowdown, India risks a lot if it begins to be seen as a place where the dissenter's mind is not without fear.

## RESET THE BOARDROOM

NCLAT ruling on Tata Sons case flags deeper questions of corporate governance that need to be addressed urgently

THREE YEARS AFTER being abruptly unseated, Cyrus Mistry appears on course to being reinstated as executive chairman of Tata Sons, the holding company of one of India's largest business conglomerates, with the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) ruling on Wednesday that his sacking in October 2016 and the subsequent appointment of N Chandrasekaran was illegal. This is an extraordinary development in the history of corporate battles in India. It could have a destabilising impact on not just the scores of companies in the over \$100 billion diversified group but also on markets and investors.

The tribunal has said that the manner in which Mistry was suddenly removed, the absence of any discussion at the board meeting on October 24, 2016, and his subsequent removal as a director in group companies, amounted to prejudicial and oppressive action. It has ordered that Mistry be reinstated as director of four Tata companies, while setting aside the decision to convert the company from a public to a private firm. The tribunal's verdict will become operational only after four weeks with a window being provided for the Tatas to appeal to the Supreme Court. But irrespective of the final verdict in this case, there are some larger issues which need to be addressed by corporate India.

These questions concern corporate democracy or democratic behaviour in listed corporate firms, be they promoter-driven companies or professionally managed companies and appropriate governance structures including independent boards. It is important in a public corporation to make a clear distinction between decisiveness and arbitrariness. While corporate governance in any country may be shaped by several factors, including the cultural backdrop, it is also about ethical values, integrity standards and following the spirit of the law. At a fraught time when many Indian companies are struggling to manage their balance sheets, one of the grave risks that the latest ruling poses is that of further deepening the distrust of corporates by many investors hurt already by events in many firms over the past few years. That could be a dampener for long-term investment in India and for companies and entrepreneurs looking to bet on projects here. Much will depend on how swiftly the Supreme Court ensures an early closure to this corporate feud, and the behavioural change in India's boardrooms over the next few years.

## JUST IMAGINE

USDA has ended a free trade agreement with a fictional country created by Stan Lee. But are real countries for real?

T IRED OF BATTLING China, the United States has launched a trade war against the state of Wakanda, the world's only source of the metal vibranium, by taking it off the online list of nations with free trade agreements. That's as unbelievable as putting it on the list of the Department of Agriculture in the first place, since Wakanda is a fictional African nation which exists only within the Marvel universe, as the home of Black Panther. Imagine some unsung lower-rung bureaucrat, tired of death of moving files on alfalfa and Brussels sprouts, swerving to his monitor and with a rebellious but steady hand, injecting the database of the world's biggest economy with the fiction of Wakanda. This is fandom at its noblest.

Sadly, the imaginary country was quietly removed from the pages after a software engineer in New York discovered it on the list and alerted the Twitter community. All traces of Wakanda vanished, down to interesting details like tariffs on tobacco and booze, live animals and dairy products. What a pity, when the myth of the relatively stodgy Kailasa, allegedly established by fugitive rape accused godman Nithyananda, is allowed to linger, to offer succour to allegedly dispossessed Hindus from the world over, who have "lost the right to practise Hinduism authentically" in their countries.

On the other hand, maybe Wakanda and Kailasa are authentic, and those who doubt their existence aren't. The world is now full of people who wonder if they had been sleepwalking in the alternate histories of their countries, and have now woken up in the authorised version. But actually, it is we who make history. Tintin exists irrespective of whether Syldavia and Borduria exist, but these mythic nations can only exist in Tintin's world.

THERE HAVE BEEN signs that anxiety was building up among the youth for some years now. The initial manifestation came with the agitation following the unfortunate suicide of Rohith Vemula in January 2016 in Hyderabad, which highlighted the callousness and insensitivity of university administrations towards Dalit students. At the same time, JNU was simmering: Its vice-chancellor had done enough to damage what is arguably the most outstanding university in India. Harsh actions against students and faculty, locking up of spaces to curb the movement of students within the campus, restrictions on speech caused umbrage in universities not just in India but across the academic world. There have been protests elsewhere too. Adding to this anger is the fact that there are few jobs available to students leaving universities.

Protests in Jamia Millia Islamia against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) provided the spark for an inferno to rage across the country. Jamia was established 100 years ago. Gandhiji (like Madan Mohan Malviya for BHU) travelled throughout India collecting funds to set it up. Jamnalal Bajaj became the university's first treasurer. Its founders participated in the freedom movement and none went to Pakistan. The university retains its tradition of nationalism and India's syncretic culture. Jamia's students have never participated in a protest of a communal nature. To give a communal colour to the recent protests betrays a lack of understanding. Today, students of Jamia are mobilising against the National Register for Citizenship (NRC) and CAA, which they believe are contrary to the secular values enshrined in the Constitution.

It is true that students at Jamia, AMU and some other universities have been increasingly concerned over the repeated challenges to their patriotism or nationalism. Many of these young boys and girls come from India's mofussil towns. They share the same dreams as the students who may follow other beliefs. To this end, they need confidence-building measures. Quite naturally, they have concerns about how they are, at times, viewed as the "other". This new legislation claims to help those fleeing persecution abroad but divides communities

within. It underlines the fact that Muslim citizens are not intrinsically "Indian".

It is tragic that Jamia's authorities did not counsel the students towards restraint. The students had no senior leader to turn to. In fact, it is devastating that the Muslim community has no seasoned leadership to turn to. Its leadership has fallen into the hands of poorly educated, backward-looking, conservative maulanans. And, with palpable antagonism from the government, young Muslims have no one to turn to.

So far, most Muslim students in leading universities have been removed from negative influences. But anxieties and frustrations run high among them. Statements of ministers and ruling party spokespersons that the NRC will be implemented across India have only increased their anxiety. There have been reports of detention camps coming up in some states. The government is pushing increasingly provocative policies and using tactics like shutting down the internet to stifle dissent and free speech. The CAA was the final straw that broke the camel's back.

While the constitutionality of the CAA is for the Supreme Court to judge, the India-wide NRC is the immediate cause for concern. Originally meant only for Assam, it is intended to be extended to all of India. Such an exercise is understandably feared for its potential to disenfranchise millions of Indian Muslims.

The final register in Assam became a major source of embarrassment both for the Union and state governments. The majority of people excluded from it were reportedly non-Muslims, who would now have to go through the tedious and expensive process of appeal, and even then would not be certain of their inclusion. Thousands of non-Muslims in Assam were potentially in fear of losing their homes and being condemned to a life in camps. Faced with a major embarrassment, the government rushed in to pass the CAA to reassure the non-Muslims that their right to Indian citizenship is fully protected. Under the new law all others, barring Muslims, who having come into India (from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan) till 2014, are guaranteed citizenship. Simply put, only Muslims' citizenship is under threat and there will likely be thousands of them who

will not have the required documents.

The protests by students may quieten soon. But they will possibly recur with greater ferocity in the near future. Assam and many parts of the Northeast are seething. The uncertainty of the NRC process destroyed people emotionally — some committed suicide, unable to bear the anxiety. They are now burdened with the appeal process, having been excluded from the Register. Once the CAA comes in, there is fear of being swamped by non-Muslim refugees — that will challenge the ancient Assamese culture and burden Assam's scarce resources. There are similar concerns in other parts of the Northeast.

This week has seen the biggest display of opposition to the government since it assumed office. This is largely because it confirms the fears among many that the country's government is taking it on the trajectory of becoming a Hindu nation with minimal dissent allowed. Unease among many of us — Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and secular-minded people who believe in the principles of the Constitution — will remain. There will be more protests. In all probability, thousands will boycott the NRC process. States will decline the Centre's diktat, challenging the very core of our federal structure. Where will the detention camps be built? What will be the cost? How much of administrative manpower will be used?

Those of us with some administrative experience know the cost of usual work for conducting elections or carrying out the census exercise. Almost all routine work in field offices comes to a halt. School teachers, revenue officers, panchayat employees are all utilised, causing delays. Where will state governments get the manpower for this exercise? I need not add the beating India's image is taking in the international community.

The implementation of the NRC will put India in a state of conflict. It is up to the Union government to quickly step in, initiate dialogue with a range of people that should include political parties, Muslims, students and civil society, and come up with some understanding to restore the people's confidence urgently.

The writer is a former vice-chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia and was Lieutenant Governor of Delhi

## ASSAM'S EDGE

Restiveness in the state has come full circle with the Citizenship Amendment Act



KAUSTUBH DEKA

A WHOLE NEW generation in Assam has recently been introduced to curfews in their towns and army flag marches in their lanes — though, for the older generation, this means revisiting a trauma.

The current sense of dismay in Assam is primarily due to what they perceive as the BJP's backtracking on pre-poll stances like securing an "immigrant free Assam" and "protecting the indigenous" by putting the state under the purview of the Citizenship Amendment Act without any exemptions. This is precisely why the repeated assurances by the home minister about bringing "safeguards to the indigenous of Assam" in the context of the CAA has not found many takers in the state. While the government is promising to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, which promises protection to the cultural-economic identities of the Assamese, in the same breath, it seems to be denouncing the essence of the Accord by not respecting the cut-off year of 1971. The Accord also refrains from making religion a criterion of identification.

The present agitation is largely a reaction to the perceived breach of this political commitment, given by the government of India to Assam. At the base of this equation lies another cardinal political truth about Assam — that language has historically trumped religion as a primary marker of identity. This

foundation quickly lapses into the argument that with the "acceptance" of Bengali Hindu migrants, there appears a real possibility that the Assamese speakers and the other "indigenous" communities will be turned into absolute minorities, linguistically and politically. It is often pointed out that with consecutive census reports, the number of Assamese speakers has been coming down — to 47.8 per cent (2001) from 57.8 per cent (1991). During the same period, the share of Bengali speakers has gone up — to 27.5 per cent (2001) from 21.7 per cent (1991); number of Hindus declined to 64.9 per cent (2001) from 67.1 per cent (1991), and, further declined to 61.47 per cent (2011 census). During the same period, the number of Muslims went up by 2.4 per cent in 2001 — that number stood at 34.22 per cent in the 2011 census.

Evidently, during 1991-2001 the rise of Bengalis as a linguistic group seems to be due to the growth of both Hindu and Muslim Bengalis in Assam. The statistics do not support a linear relation between the growth of the "Muslims" alone (which the ruling party insists on projecting as a threat to "Assamese identity") and the decline in the number of Assamese speakers.

As different mass programmes have been announced jointly by multiple groups — political and otherwise — across districts in Assam, parallels are being drawn with the

Assam Movement of the Eighties. That was a social movement launched by an "apolitical-cultural front", spearheaded by students and backed by different segments of society through a complex alliance. It succeeded in overthrowing the Congress government in the state by forming a new regional party. As that regional party, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), once hailed as paragon of regionalism in Assam, finds itself the object of people's wrath today, many wonder if the final demise of the AGP will usher in the entry of a new regional force in the state.

A road near my house that is now tarred with the rubber of burnt tyres, ringing with the uneasy silence of curfew and patrolled by army trucks, still bears the sign, "Asian Highway 1". People look at it and wonder what sense notions like the "Act East" policy make when one is beneath the military boots? I thought of taking a picture of it recently to send it to a friend abroad, only to realise that internet services had been suspended. Perhaps "normalcy" will be restored in a few more days, but by then, India would have taken a few strides backwards when it comes to acquiring the good faith of smaller "nationalities" within the larger design of the nation state.

The writer is assistant professor, department of political science, Dibrugarh University

## DECEMBER 20, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

**GANDHI'S MISTAKES**  
TWO COSTLY MISTAKES of Mahatma Gandhi are responsible for the problems tormenting post-Independence India, according to Prime Minister Charan Singh. He said these mistakes were Gandhiji's support to the Khilafat movement in 1920 and his preference for Jawaharlal Nehru as the Congress president in 1945, ignoring the claim of Sardar Patel. According to Singh, the first "mistake" bred communalism and led to Partition and the second led India down "the path of superficial westernisation."

**US SANCTIONS POLICY**  
WASHINGTON HINTED THAT it might go as

far as to blockade Iran if the American hostages in Teheran are tried or investigated by a "grand jury" in Teheran. White House press secretary Jody Powell said that the Iranian authorities should be aware that they would bear "full responsibility for any ensuing consequences."

**JANATA VS INDIRA**  
THE JANATA PARTY appealed to the Lok Dal and other parties to facilitate direct contest between its nominees and Mrs Indira Gandhi in Rae Bareilly and Medak. The party's general secretary, Surendra Mohan, wanted the Lok Dal leaders to realise that Mrs Gandhi's defeat "is in the interest of democracy."

Replying to questions, Mohan said the retirement of other candidates was necessary to defeat Mrs Gandhi in both constituencies.

**ASSAM ELECTIONS**  
ELECTIONS WILL BE held as scheduled in three Parliamentary constituencies of Assam — Karimganj, Silchar and autonomous districts. S L Shakhder, chief election commissioner, confirmed this. Doubts about elections cropped up in the light of a press report that KS Rao, chief electoral officer of Assam, had said that he had written to the Election Commission for the postponement of elections in these constituencies due to the law and order situation.



# 15 THE IDEAS PAGE

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The verdict in the treason case against retired Gen Pervez Musharraf marks a seismic shift in Pakistan's history."  
—DAWN

# India's Great Slowdown

Standard remedies for getting out of the current predicament aren't working. Out-of-the-box solutions are needed to resolve the balance sheet problems



ARVIND SUBRAMANIAN AND JOSH FELMAN

SEEMINGLY SUDDENLY, INDIA'S economy has taken ill. The GDP numbers are worrying enough, but the disaggregated data are even more distressing. Production of consumer and investment goods is falling. Indicators of exports, imports, and real government revenues are in negative territory, or close to it. Clearly, this is not an ordinary slowdown. It is India's Great Slowdown.

The government and the RBI have been trying vigorously to bring the economy back to health. But the standard remedies for getting out of the current predicament aren't working. Monetary policy is stymied by a broken transmission mechanism, which impedes the pass-through of cuts in policy rates to lending rates. And the scope for fiscal stimulus is limited, since fiscal deficits are already close to double-digits (when properly measured) and larger bond issues will only further crowd out the private sector, by pushing up already-high interest rates.

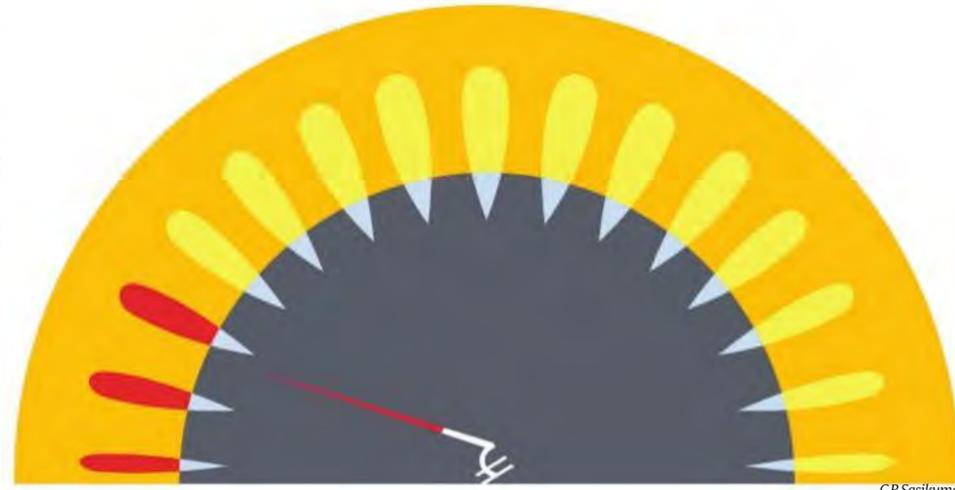
In a recent paper, we argued that the Great Slowdown stems from a balance sheet crisis that arrived in two waves. The first wave — the Twin Balance Sheet crisis, encompassing banks and infrastructure companies — arrived after the global financial crisis, when the world economy slowed and infrastructure projects started during India's investment boom of the mid-2000s, began to go sour. These problems were not addressed adequately, causing investment and exports, the two engines propelling rapid growth, to sputter.

The second wave came from the collapse of a credit boom, led by NBFCs, and centered on the real estate sector. The collapse owed to the recognition that the boom involved unsustainable financing of a rising inventory of unsold housing. As a result, the economy now confronts a Four Balance Sheet (FBS) problem — the original two sectors, plus NBFCs and real estate companies.

What then can be done to address the FBS? We propose a comprehensive plan in our paper, including a new asset quality review (AQR-2) to get a more honest recognition of the magnitude of stressed assets, and further strengthening the IBC. Here we focus on one idea, namely the creation of special resolution mechanisms for two sectors: Real estate and power.

These special mechanisms are needed because even a strengthened IBC will not be suitable for certain types of cases, notably those where social considerations are as important as commercial criteria, where public subsidies of one kind or another are inevitable, and where coordination across government is critical. The real estate and power sectors fulfill these criteria.

Consider first the real estate sector. In most residential cases, developers have funded their building partly through pre-selling, that is by requiring prospective owners to pay in advance for their promised flats. So when builders go bankrupt, prospective owners are left with neither money nor flats. It is obvious that the plight of these individuals cannot be ignored — a point underscored by the Supreme Court. But, it is equally obvious that



CR Sasikumar

they will not be well served by the IBC. For a start, it is unclear how the prospective owners could be represented on the creditors' committee. And, even if a way could be found, it hardly seems acceptable to ask them to wait for years, only to receive a small fraction of the money that they paid, and perhaps even nothing at all. It would seem far better to provide them with a speedy settlement, with a guaranteed minimum fraction of the amount that they paid. But this will require a government mechanism, most likely with government subsidies, since recovery rates from builders are likely to be very low.

The stressed power-sector assets pose another major quandary. Unlike most assets, private power firms cannot be easily sold, since they are incurring heavy operational losses and their prospects are highly uncertain. Even the public sector power producers have been reluctant to take them. But neither can they be liquidated. Although, supply currently outstrips demand, and the plants are only operating at half capacity, eventually the gap will close. And, technologically and environmentally, these power plants are good assets, in many cases better than the fully-utilised plants.

The essence of the problem, the reason there cannot be a private sector led solution, is that the viability of power assets is inextricably entwined with government policies. For example, demand for power depends on whether the state electricity boards are financially strong enough to buy the power that the public is demanding. Similarly, demand for the stressed assets depends on the pace at which the government, Centre and states, phases out much older, environmentally inefficient public sector plants. As a result, the government would need to be heavily involved in any solution to this sector's problems.

Consider how a bad bank for the power sector might work. The first step would be to take these loans, exceeding Rs 2.5 trillion, off the books of the banks, for that would free up balance sheets and management attention, allowing banks to focus again on their core business of supporting economic growth.

Once removed, the assets will need to go somewhere. A few of the plants could probably be sold off, once their debts are reduced to manageable levels. But most of the plants would need to be 'warehoused' until they can be returned to the private sector. To do this, the government could create a holding company, which would purchase the assets and manage them.

Essentially, the holding company would operate like a public-sector asset rehabilita-

tion agency (a "bad bank"). The holding company would buy power companies at prices based on the recommendations of independent parties, such as investment banks, which would take into account a special regulatory regime that the government would establish for these assets. Importantly, this regime would include pre-announced levels of subsidies.

Such an open, ruled-based procedure would allow the transaction to be seen as fair by all stakeholders: The holding company, banks, and perhaps most importantly, the public. In addition, fair prices would give the holding company some chance to make a profit in the long run as power demand increases. And, the prospect of profits, in turn, might induce private investors to provide some of the capital that the bad bank would need, thereby alleviating the upfront cost to the government.

One may then ask what the holding company would do with the assets. The ultimate objective would be to sell the plants back to the private sector. In fact, this objective should be built into the charter, which should state that the purpose of the holding company is to sell off the assets within five years, after which it would be dissolved. To realise this objective, the holding company should endeavour to reduce uncertainty, especially by securing long-term contractual arrangements for coal inputs to be supplied by Coal India and output to be purchased by state electricity boards. Once this is done, and as demand for electricity grows to the point where the plants can operate at somewhere close to full capacity, the appetite for these assets will gradually revive, at which point they could be sold.

Of course, bad banks are not magical solutions. They will take some time to establish, and will require difficult political choices, in particular about how to allocate the costs amongst creditors, promoters, home owners, and taxpayers. But, equally, something needs to be done: The nation cannot allow vital power plants to continue to deteriorate, operationally and financially. And, by now, all the alternatives have been tried, and found wanting.

The Great Slowdown is upon us. Two bad banks to resolve the Four Balance Sheet problem might be one critical element of the solution.

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

## Philosopher of Marathi stage

For Shriram Lagoo, theatre was a serious art form and advancement of culture its function



RAMU RAMANATHAN

The date: December 9, 2006. The place: Chavan Natyagruha, Pune. The occasion: The third edition of the Roopvedh Pratishthan, a trust created by Deepa and Shriram Lagoo.

VIJAY TENDULKAR WAS to be bestowed the Tanveer Sanmaan. I was to be honoured with a youth fellowship, the Tanveer Abhyaasvritti. The auditorium was jam-packed. The stage had a lot of heavyweight personalities, and there were many more in the audience. Grandiloquent speeches were being made and lofty dialectics were being bandied around. After the ceremony, a select few moved to a hall in a nearby hotel. More dialogue-baazi and a little bantering. It was well past midnight when I sauntered into the cloakroom, and said to myself in the mirror, a few minutes more, and then you can go home.

Just then the door opened. A dramatic entry. It was my host for the evening, Dr Lagoo. He said, "Budmaash!" A dramatic pause. He continued, "I've been keeping an eye on you throughout the evening. You escaped into the wings during the speeches, and during the party, you wandered off for a walk. Now, where will you escape?"

I mumbled my apology. Then we stood there and chatted for a long while. We spoke about his book, which demystified the science of voice through simple voice exercises for overworked stage actors, and how his practice as an ENT surgeon provided a scientific foundation. "If your pitch is Kali 2 (black 2), you must speak in Kali 2. Despite this, if you keep straining every nerve to reach Pandhari 4 (white 4), you will destroy your voice."

Then we spoke about his letter to Bhalbha Kelkar, who was the president of Progressive Dramatic Association (PDA). This public letter criticised Kelkar for his narrow-mindedness during the *Ghashiram Kotwal* imbroglio. Lagoo used to act in the PDA plays and Kelkar was his director. Lagoo's assessment: "Bhalbha Kelkar was a Varkari of the Natya-Pandhari, a pilgrim on his way to the shrine of theatre. He worked till the end as devotedly as a pilgrim who sets out on a pilgrimage. But Bhalbha's morality was puritanical. He didn't bother to intellectually analyse his work. That's why PDA, which was founded in 1951, ceased to be progressive, 10 years later."

It was a warning to my generation of theatrewallahs! Theatre is a serious art form and the advancement of culture is the function of the theatre movement.

Other than as a theatre theorist, my memory of Lagoo was that of a true theatre professional. A glowing example of this is how in a single day, he would perform the lead roles of three blockbuster plays that played to a full house: *Natasamrat* in the morning, *Himalaychi Savli* in the afternoon, and *Gidhade* in the night. It was an extraordinary testimony to his physical stamina and mental alertness — a true-blue athlete-cum-

philosopher. For theatre *rasiks*, he was memorable as Sridhar Kulkarni in G P Deshpande's *Uddwastha Dharamshala* and then, Siddheswar Bhatji in Premanand Gavjee's *Kirwant*. Other than the politics of the play, he was able to capture the pathos of the Brahmin character whose hands were tied up in an unusual sort of mannerism. It was non-verbal acting at its best.

He staged *Antigone* during the most repressive phase of the Emergency. As the state police was overseeing the censorship, Lagoo went to meet the officer. No one (including the omnipotent state) had any idea about the focal point of *Antigone*. In fact, the group was approached by Doordarshan officials, and the play was telecast. Subsequently, the vexed political issues in the play were discussed on stage and off-stage. Lagoo said, "It's a mad, mad world, this realm of censorship." One more lesson for us, theatrewallahs. Never ever give up.

With Vijay Tendulkar's *Gidhade*, the censor board had spotted 150 highly objectionable bits and pieces. Lagoo and his team were nonplussed. Like all theatrewallahs, they had three options: One, to concede to the objections and delete the unsavoury bits from the play; two, cancel the show; or three, to carry on with the show in spite of the objections of the censor board. And that's what Lagoo did.

Lagoo told the board chief that they didn't accept the cuts that the board had suggested. The cuts were eventually reduced from 150 to 125, and then to 100. Who stood by the beleaguered theatrewallahs during this period? Interestingly it was the women: Kumud Mehta, Shanta Shelke, Sarojini Vaidya and Durga Bhagwat who would say, "The censor board is foolish! Continue to perform... you are doing a good job."

*Gidhade* played a big role in Lagoo's life. Ramakrishna Naik of the Goa Hindu Association attended a show of *Gidhade*. Now, Lagoo had criticised the Goa Hindu Association's *Raigadla Jenvha Jag Yete* in the periodical, *Rasaranga*. Ramakrishna Naik told Lagoo that V V Shirwadkar (Kusumagraj) had written a new play. This was *Natasamrat*.

Lagoo was ready to play Ganpatrao Belwalkar. *Natasamrat* was to be mounted in one month. Lagoo had a busy schedule. He attended the first rehearsal of *Natasamrat* after memorising all the lines in the play. He did this for the first time in his life. This was *Natasamrat*, play with the cult classic line, "*Natmanje bhavahak, lamahn*" (We actors are but a nomadic tribe that transports goods from one place to another).

In the case of Lagoo, besides transporting the goods, he travelled across his beloved Maharashtra to raise funds for the Samajik Krutagnyata Nidhi and supported Medha Patkar's Narmada Bachao Andolan and Narendra Dabholkar's Andhashradha Nirmoolan Samiti.

As we exited that cloakroom in the wee hours of the morning, Lagoo quoted Thoreau, "If a soldier is walking out of pace, he is probably hearing a different drummer. (*The famous Lagoo tremor here*). Try to be that soldier." Lagoo followed what he preached. He didn't hear the drumbeats that the rest of the society was dancing to. His drummer was different.

Ramanathan is Mumbai-based playwright

## A moral law

A misinformation campaign is underway to make Muslims fearful of CAA



PRADEEP BHANDARI

THE PASSAGE OF Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA) is not only historic but also upholds the democratic and moral values of Indian republic. It is not just the expression of the majority but an article of faith to protect the minorities. It is not a law which grants citizenship based on religion but one that grant's citizenship based on religious persecution. Religious persecution per se is against the minority by a majority in a non-secular state.

It is a fact that religion was a prominent factor in the partition of India and the Constituent Assembly even debated the demand for naturalised citizenship for communities that were forced into becoming minorities in countries in our neighbourhood. However, amidst the influx of refugees, it became impossible for rules and procedures to be drafted in this regard. But the Constitution left the window open to make laws for these minorities, who feared religious persecution, in Articles 6,7,10 and 11.

India has always stood for what is moral and just. It would have been unjust, immoral and unethical for the liberal and secular Indian democracy to look the other way when lakhs of people living in India, having fled from Pakistan after Independence, continue to remain without an identity or voice

despite their residence and ancestral linkages here. Not only has the Indian state given such people citizenship in the past on a case-by-case basis, leaders across the political spectrum from Jawaharlal Nehru to Jayaprakash Narayan and even Manmohan Singh have expressed the need to grant them citizenship.

India has given the right to a dignified life to its minorities and believes in the principle of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*. When secularism is under threat in the neighborhood, must a secular state not perform its Gandhian duty? Selective secularism goes against constitutional morality. Many have asked why the Bill did not include Muslims. The purpose of the Act is to address religious persecution, not economic migration. Human rights reports by the UN and countless media reports have the persecution of Jain, Sikhs, Christians and Hindus in these countries. How can a follower of Islam face persecution in a country where the state religion is Islam? Even if such exceptional cases arise, the doors for naturalised citizenship remain open.

Given that the CAA does not impinge on a single constitutional right of an Indian citizen, the protests against it on the pretext that it is anti-Muslim are dishonest and against the secular fabric of this great nation. The

truth is that the Constitution provides enough protection to minorities in case of discrimination. Morality teaches us to favour positive discrimination for minorities to bring them on a level-playing field. The CAA is based on the principle of positive discrimination for the minorities suffering from human rights' abuses in our neighbourhood. How can steps to protect minorities in India be termed secular, but steps to protect similar minorities in the neighbourhood be called communal? A global power cannot be silent when minorities are facing existential threats across its border.

Conscious fear-mongering over the CAA is not only against India's national interest but it also hurts the cause of informed dissent on the law. Informed dissent is legitimate, but violence has no place in a society governed by the rule of law. Those who think the law is unconstitutional should approach the Supreme Court and those who think that the anti-CAA protests reflect the mood of the people should make it a part of their political narrative. Anti-CAA protests must eschew radical, violent and communal thoughts and protesters must not vandalise public property. Police excesses should be investigated by the judiciary and, if found guilty, the perpetrators should be punished. However, the

principle of "innocent until proven guilty" must be applied equally, across the board. Neither law enforcement agencies nor protesters have the license to break the law. Students have right to dissent but they should be cautious of becoming tools for groups with vested interests.

Parliament is the most legitimate institution reflecting the will of the people. The CAA was passed with an absolute majority. What will a majority government do if not bring policies which were part of its manifesto? The parties supporting the anti-CAA protests need to test their belief against the popular will. The AAP government in Delhi should campaign on its anti-CAA stand, as should the RJD in Bihar and Congress in UP.

A misinformation campaign is being undertaken to make Indian Muslims fearful of the new Act. Why should the second-largest Muslim population in the world be threatened by an attempt to grant citizenship to a few lakh persecuted minorities in a fraternal democracy? No one is deporting Indian citizens; no one can deport an Indian citizen. Every right-minded citizen should spread facts, not fiction, about the CAA.

The writer is founder, Jan Ki Baat and hosts Lalkaar on Republic Bharat

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### STILL WE RISE

INDIA IS STANDING up. This government stands exposed and discredited. This is a day when love and solidarity face down bigotry and fascism. Everybody has joined in to protest against the unconstitutional CAB and NRC. We are Dalits, Muslims, Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Adivasis, Marxists, Ambedkarites, Farmers, Workers, Academics, Writers, Poets, Painters and most of all Students who are the future of this country. This time you will not stop us.

Arundhati Roy, via email

### NRC WORRIES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'States stand up' (IE, December 19). It is not the CAA but rather the proposed nationwide NRC that is the cause for so much concern and opposition. The CAA is not against Indian Muslims; it will prevent only Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Afghan illegal Muslim immigrants from acquiring Indian citizenship. But, as far as the NRC is concerned, there are genuine fears surrounding documents to prove citizenship. Though such fears apply to all communities equally, but the fears are possibly more among Indian Muslims, as they may be dubbed as illegal immigrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh or Afghanistan in the event of their inability to produce the required documents to prove citizenship and

### 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](mailto:editpage@expressindia.com) or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

parentage. Anoop Srivastava, Greater Noida

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'States stand up' (IE, December 19). The difference between dictatorship and democracy is that there are multiple centres of power and checks and balances in the latter. The erosion of democratic institutions has been underway in India since they were first conceived. But every now and then, a few people emerge who help reinstate our faith in them. The resistance from chief ministers is the best example of Indian democracy thriving. Hopefully, the NRC is undone or the CAA doesn't apply to NRC results.

Safdar Ali, Kolkata

TELLING NUMBERS

India had most deaths caused by pollution in 2017: new report

In 2017, pollution was responsible for 15% of all deaths globally, and 275 million Disability-Adjusted Life Years. India saw the most pollution deaths — about 2.3 million — a new report has found. The 2019 Pollution and Health Metrics: Global, Regional and Country Analysis report from the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP) updates findings from The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health, and provides a ranking of pollution deaths on global, regional and country levels. The report uses the most recent Global Burden of Disease data from the Institute of Health Metrics Evaluation.

ANNUAL PREMATURE POLLUTION-RELATED DEATHS

1 India	23,26,771
2 China	18,65,566
3 Nigeria	2,79,318
4 Indonesia	2,32,974
5 Pakistan	2,23,836
6 Bangladesh	2,07,922
7 USA	1,96,930
8 Russian Federation	1,18,687
9 Ethiopia	1,10,787
10 Brazil	1,09,438

POLLUTION DEATHS PER 1,00,000 PEOPLE

1 Chad	287
2 Central African Republic	251
3 North Korea	202
4 Niger	192
5 Madagascar	183
6 Papua New Guinea	183
7 South Sudan	180
8 Somalia	179
9 Serbia	175
10 India	174

ANNUAL PREMATURE AIR POLLUTION-RELATED DEATHS

1 China	12,42,987
2 India	12,40,529
3 Pakistan	1,28,005
4 Indonesia	1,23,753
5 Bangladesh	1,22,734
6 Nigeria	1,14,115
7 USA	1,07,507
8 Russian Federation	99,392
9 Brazil	66,245
10 Philippines	64,386

Source: GAHP

The top 10 countries with the most pollution deaths include both the world's largest and wealthiest nations, and some of its poorer ones. India is followed by China in the number of pollution deaths, with about 1.8 million. The United States makes the top 10 list with 1,97,000 pollution-related deaths, while ranking 132nd in the number of deaths per 100,000 people.

The report includes three lists on pollution-induced deaths. India is the only country that features in the top 10 in all three lists (right).

In the list of top 10 countries with the most pollution-related deaths in proportion to their population, there are many smaller countries where the impact of pollution in relation population size is more intense. Chad tops this list with 287 deaths for every 1,00,000 people, whereas India is at number 10 with 174 deaths for every 1,00,000 people.

The list of top 10 countries with the most deaths related to air pollution, significantly, corresponds closely to the list of top 10 countries with the most pollution-related deaths. Air pollution — both ambient and indoor — is one of the largest and most obvious types of pollution affecting global health.

THIS WORD MEANS

MERIT PTAH

Said to be the first woman physician. Was she?

FOR DECADES, an ancient Egyptian has been celebrated as the first woman physician. Known by the name Merit Ptah, she appears in online posts about women in STEM, in computer games, and in popular history books; even a crater on Venus is named after her. Now, a researcher from the University of Colorado has suggested that no physician by that name ever existed. Dr Jakub Kwiecinski of the Department of Immunology and Microbiology believes that the attribution might be the result of mistaken identity.



Merit Ptah

Kwiecinski found that Ptah was first mentioned in the 1930s, when Kate Campbell Hurd-Mead, a medical historian, wrote a history of women in medicine. Her

book mentioned a picture of a woman named Merit Ptah on the site where a tomb in the Valley of Kings was excavated.

In 1929-30, an excavation in Giza uncovered a tomb of Akhetetep, an Old Kingdom courtier, which mentioned a woman called Peseshet as "Overseer of Healer Women". Both Peseshet and Ptah came from the same period, and mentions to both were made in the tombs of their sons.

According to Kwiecinski, Hurd-Mead confused Ptah with Peseshet, "and from a misunderstood case of an authentic Egyptian woman healer, Peseshet, a seemingly earlier Merit Ptah, 'the first woman physician' was born".

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

How Section 144 CrPC works

Several state governments have invoked Section 144 to crack down on protesters against new citizenship law. What powers does the administration draw from this provision, and how have courts interpreted it?

APURVA VISHWANATH & SHRUTI DHAPOLA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

AS PROTESTERS against the Citizenship Amendment Act hit the streets in large numbers in several states on Thursday (December 19), state governments sought to tamp down on the demonstrations by issuing prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Code Of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973. On Wednesday, Section 144 was imposed in Bengaluru for three days, while the entire state of Uttar Pradesh remains under this provision.

What is Section 144?

Section 144 CrPC, a law retained from the colonial era, empowers a district magistrate, a sub-divisional magistrate or any other executive magistrate specially empowered by the state government in this behalf to issue orders to prevent and address urgent cases of apprehended danger or nuisance.

The magistrate has to pass a written order which may be directed against a particular individual, or to persons residing in a particular place or area, or to the public generally when frequenting or visiting a particular place or area. In emergency cases, the magistrate can pass these orders without prior notice to the individual against whom the order is directed.

What powers does the administration have under the provision?

The magistrate can direct any person to abstain from a certain act or to take a certain order with respect to certain property in his possession or under his management. This usually includes restrictions on movement, carrying arms and from assembling unlawfully. It is generally believed that assembly of three or more people is prohibited under Section 144. However, it can be used to restrict even a single individual. Such an order is passed when the magistrate considers that it is likely to prevent, or tends to prevent, obstruction, annoyance or injury to any person lawfully employed, or danger to human life, health or safety, or a disturbance of the public tranquility, or a riot, or an affray.

However, no order passed under Section 144 can remain in force for more than two months from the date of the order, unless the state government considers it necessary. Even then, the total period cannot extend to more than six months.

Why is the use of power under Section 144 criticised so often?

The criticism is that it is too broad and the



Police lathicharge protesters in Lucknow on Thursday. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC have been clamped on Uttar Pradesh. Vishal Srivastav

words of the section are wide enough to give absolute power to a magistrate that may be exercised unjustifiably. The immediate remedy against such an order is a revision application to the magistrate himself. An aggrieved individual can approach the High Court by filing a writ petition if his fundamental rights are at stake. However, fears exist that before the High Court intervenes, the rights could already have been infringed.

Imposition of Section 144 to an entire state, as in UP, has also drawn criticism since the security situation differs from area to area.

How have courts ruled on Section 144?

In *Re: Ardeshir Phirozshaw ... vs Unknown* (1939), a British judge of the Bombay High Court censured the Chief Presidency Magistrate in Bombay for passing an illegal order under Section 144: "A Magistrate acting under Section 144 may no doubt restrict liberty. But he should only do so if the facts clearly make such restriction necessary in the public interest, and he should not impose any restriction which goes beyond the requirements of the case." The judge criticised application of power under Section 144 for two months, "not only to the particular riot, but to any past riots and any future riots which may take place within the next two months are strong measures and; require cogent facts to justify them".

The first major challenge to the law was made in 1961 in *Babulal Parate vs State of Maharashtra and Others*. A five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court refused to strike down the law, saying it is "not correct to say that the remedy of a person aggrieved by an order under the section was illusory".

It was challenged again by Dr Ram Manohar Lohiya in 1967 and was once again rejected, with the court saying "no democracy can exist if 'public order' is freely allowed to be disturbed by a section of the citizens".

In another challenge in 1970 (*Madhu Limaye vs Sub-Divisional Magistrate*), a seven-judge Bench headed by then Chief Justice of India M Hidayatullah said the power of a magistrate under Section 144 "is not an ordinary power flowing from administration but a power used in a judicial manner and which can stand further judicial scrutiny". The court, however, upheld the constitutionality of the law. It ruled that the restrictions imposed through Section 144 cannot be held to be violative of the right to freedom of speech and expression, which is a fundamental right because it falls under the "reasonable restrictions" under Article 19(2) of the Constitution. The fact that the "law may be abused" is no reason to strike it down, the court said.

"Occasions may arise when it is not possible to distinguish between those whose conduct must be controlled and those whose conduct is clear. A general order may be necessary when the number of persons is so large that the distinction between them and the general public cannot be made," the court said, justifying blanket prohibitory orders passed under Section 144.

In 2012, the Supreme Court came down heavily on the government for imposing Section 144 against a sleeping crowd in Ramliila Maidan. "Such a provision can be used only in grave circumstances for maintenance of public peace. The efficacy of the provision is to prevent some harmful occurrence

immediately. Therefore, the emergency must be sudden and the consequences sufficiently grave," the court said.

Does Section 144 provide for communications blockades too?

The rules for suspending telecommunication services, which include voice, mobile internet, SMS, landline, fixed broadband, etc, are the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017. These Rules derive their powers from the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885, Section 5(2) of which talks about interception of messages in the "interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India".

However, shutdowns in India are not always under the rules laid down, which come with safeguards and procedures. Section 144 CrPC has often been used to clamp down on telecommunication services and order Internet shutdowns.

In Sambhal, UP, Internet services were suspended by the District Magistrate under Section 144. In West Bengal on June 20, 2019, mobile internet, cable services, broadband were shut down by the District Magistrate in North 24-Parganas under Section 144 over communal tensions.

Under what provisions were telecom services interrupted in parts of Delhi?

In Delhi on Thursday, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Special Cell, issued an order to the nodal officers of telecom operators including Airtel, Reliance Jio etc to interrupt services in specific areas.

"No specific legal reason has been cited for this. Police cannot issue these directions because they are not the proper authorities to permit internet shutdown. In Delhi's case since it is a Union Territory, it would have to be authorised by the Home Ministry itself," Apar Gupta, Executive Director at Internet Freedom Foundation told *The Indian Express*. Under the 2017 Rules, directions to "suspend the telecom services shall not be issued except by an order made by the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs in the case of Government of India or by the Secretary to the State Government in-charge of the Home Department in the case of a State Government (hereinafter referred to as the competent authority)."

The Rules also say that in case the confirmation does not come from a competent authority, the orders shall cease to exist within a period of 24 hours. Clear reasons for such orders need to be given in written, and need to be forwarded to a Review Committee by the next working day.

What is the Meghalaya law held up by Gov?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 19

ON MONDAY, Nagaland Governor R N Ravi was given additional charge of Meghalaya, whose Governor Tathagata Roy is learnt to have gone on leave. In the days leading up to the move, Roy had tweeted controversially on the Citizenship Amendment Act, and had also upset many in the state by not giving assent to amendments to The Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Act, 2016. The amendments had been approved by the Meghalaya Cabinet by an Ordinance.

What is the Ordinance about?

The existing 2016 Act deals with registration and documentation of non-state residents living in Meghalaya. The Ordinance, cleared by the Cabinet in November, seeks to extend similar rules to cover all non-state residents visit-

ing or living in the state, Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong said last month. "This Act is indicative only for those people who are interested in visiting our state as tourists, labourers or for education and business. With this Act in place, they will need to comply with guidelines to be prepared in the form of rules," Tynsong had told *The Indian Express*.

What is the point of the amendment?

It came in the backdrop of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) process in Assam, which led to concerns among civil society and political leaders, including Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, that people excluded from the Assam NRC might try to enter Meghalaya. Besides, political parties and activists in Meghalaya had long been demanding replication of the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regime of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram, which has now been extended to Manipur following the passage of the Citizenship

Amendment Bill. While the ILP-regime states are exempt from the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), practically the whole of Meghalaya is exempt by virtue of special protections under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The Ordinance itself was not a fallout of the citizenship legislation, but a precautionary measure in view of the Assam NRC.

How would the registration take place?

Amid concerns that followed the Ordinance, the Meghalaya government clarified last month that the modalities for registration of visitors have not been finalised. The Director of the Tourism Department issued a statement on November 5: "The registration process will be designed keeping in mind the convenience of tourists who are visiting our state. It will be a simple process with both online and offline registration options and will be similar to the registration when you check into your hotel. There will

be no need to stand or wait in queues when you enter the State. We understand that your time and resources are precious. Meghalaya welcomes all domestic and international travellers who wish to explore our landscapes and experience our culture and traditions. Make your plans and watch our official channels for further updates."

So, Governor Roy had not given assent?

By some accounts, he had refused to sign the amendments. Robertjune Kharjhrin, chairperson of CoMSO, an umbrella organisation of 22 NGOs and civil society organisations in Meghalaya that are opposing the new citizenship law, told *The Indian Express* recently: "There has been a lot of anger among the people in Meghalaya against the Governor because he has been refusing to sign the Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Act. This was compounded by his tweet about North Korea."

Key takeaways from NCLAT order; will Mistry be back at Tata HQs?

AASHISH ARYAN  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

THE NATIONAL Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Wednesday reinstated Cyrus Pallonji Mistry to the position of Executive Chairman of Tata Sons and Director of the Tata Group of companies for the remainder of his tenure.

Mistry, who was at one time the favourite protégé of Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata, was unceremoniously sacked both as Executive Chairman and Director in 2016.

The NCLAT held Mistry's sacking and the subsequent appointment of N Chandrasekaran to the top post at Tata Sons illegal, prejudicial, and oppressive. It set aside a July 2017 order by the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), which had upheld Mistry's removal from his positions at Tata Sons and other Group companies.

The NCLAT was constituted under

Section 410 of The Companies Act, 2013 to hear appeals against the orders of the NCLT(s). It is also the appellate tribunal for orders passed by the NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, and for orders passed by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) under Sections 202 and 211 of the IBC.

The order of the appellate tribunal, passed by NCLAT Chairman Justice (retd) S J Mukhopadhyaya, a former judge of the Supreme Court, included directions on several major questions of corporate governance.

MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS

The appellate tribunal directed Tata Sons to consult all its minority shareholders before making any appointments in the future to the posts of Executive Chairman, Independent Director, and Director on the boards of Group companies.

The NCLAT direction will empower the minority shareholders, and will force Independent Directors to take their objections more seriously. The Code for

Independent Directors, which is part of The Companies Act, 2013, says that one of their functions is to "safeguard the interests of all stakeholders, particularly the minority shareholders".

The directive will give a boost to the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, which is owned by Mistry's family and which, although a minority shareholder (18%), is still the biggest outside shareholder in Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group.

USE OF ARTICLE 75

The NCLAT has barred Tata Sons from taking any action against Mistry, Shapoorji Pallonji, Cyrus Investments, and other minority shareholders under Article 75 of the Articles of Association of the Tata Group. This provision grants Tata Sons the right to transfer the "ordinary shares" of any shareholder, including those of the Mistrys, by-passing a special resolution in the presence of nominated directors of Tata Trusts.

In doing so, the NCLAT has ensured that any decision taken by the Tata Group does not

take the Mistrys or other minority shareholders by surprise, which was one of the main allegations made by Mistry and his team.

MAKING PUBLIC COMPANY, PRIVATE

The NCLAT has held that Tata's decision to convert from a public limited company to a private company was "prejudicial and oppressive to the minority members and depositors" and, therefore, illegal.

Tata Sons, which had functioned as a private concern until 1975, had to turn into a public company following the insertion of Section 43A(1A) in The Companies Act, 1956. This provision forced certain companies to turn public based on their turnover, irrespective of their paid-up share capital. The NCLAT order built on the issues of oppression and mismanagement, and observed that the company's affairs were still being conducted in similar ways — a "winding-up order" against Tata Sons would, therefore, be justified.

What had the NCLAT said?

In 2017, the NCLT had observed that just because the board of Tata Sons had held a board meeting at short notice or included the item agenda (that removed Mistry from his post at the top) at the last minute, it could not be termed as a fraud.

"Of course, removal of Cyrus would have become heart-burn not only to Mr Cyrus but to others holding the shareholding of the petitioners, but it cannot *ipso facto* become a grievance," the NCLT had held.

The tribunal had also upheld Tata's decision to go private because it had not "altered any of the Articles of Association so as to bring any new entrenchment to the articles already in existence". This action, the NCLT had said, could not be said to have been prejudicial to the Mistrys.

What next for the Tatas?

Tata Sons will likely move the Supreme Court as soon as it opens after the winter vacation. In the interim, they will have to call Mistry for any/all board meetings of companies where he was a Director before

his ouster. The company is likely to keep in abeyance major decisions until contentions such as those on the use of Article 75 of its Articles of Association, are decided by the Supreme Court.

Will Mistry return to Bombay House?

No, and yes.

Although the NCLAT passed an order restoring Mistry to the top position at Tata Sons, the execution of the order has been suspended for four weeks. This will allow the Tata Group to challenge the NCLAT decision before the Supreme Court.

However, barring the direction to reinstate Mistry, the NCLAT has not stayed the execution of any of its other directions. This means Mistry will be immediately restored to his position as Director on the boards of at least three Tata Group companies, including Tata Steel and Tata Chemicals.

He will, therefore, have to be invited to the board meetings of these companies, thus ensuring his return to Tata's Bombay House headquarters, albeit as only a Director.

# 17 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



MYANMAR

Small blasts hit Rakhine town as Suu Kyi visits

Yangon: Three small explosions went off in a southern Rakhine town in Myanmar Thursday just before civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi landed there in a rare visit to the conflict-ridden state, a local official said. The blasts happened in the normally quiet town of Manaung on an island off Myanmar's western coast where Suu Kyi was due to open a solar power plant. "There were three explosions, but no casualties," Win Myint, spokesperson for Rakhine's regional government, said. He said it happened before Suu Kyi arrived, but since they were on the other side of town the event went ahead as planned and she had since left safely on a flight to Yangon.

UK

Scottish leader steps up battle for independence

London: Scotland's nationalist leader Nicola Sturgeon will consider "all reasonable options" if Prime Minister Boris Johnson tries to stop her from holding a referendum on Scottish independence, she said on Thursday. Sturgeon's pro-independence, anti-Brexit Scottish National Party (SNP) won 48 of Scotland's 59 parliamentary seats in last week's UK-wide election, which she said showed overwhelming support for her agenda to hold such a referendum. As things stand, a referendum cannot take place without UK government consent.

ALGERIA

New President sworn in

Algiers: Algeria swore in Abdelmadjid Tebboune as president on Thursday as the Hirak protest movement debated its response to his offer of dialogue to end a months-long political crisis. Hirak has mobilised huge street protests since February demanding a full clear-out of a shadowy, long entrenched ruling elite that it sees as corrupt and undemocratic, and the army's withdrawal from politics. Mounted guards lined the way into the Palais des Nations as Tebboune entered, Algeria's flag fluttering overhead.

USA

Stabbing at Oregon shopping centre kills 1

Beaverton: An attacker carried out a series of stabbings and carjackings at a suburban Portland shopping centre and in nearby town Wednesday, killing one person and wounding three others before being arrested, authorities said. Police in the city of Beaverton said two people were stabbed inside a Wells Fargo bank and a man was stabbed at a gym next door. After the stabbings, the assailant stole the man's car and drove into the suburb of Tigard, where he stole another woman's car and stabbed her. He eventually got out of the car and ran from officers before being caught, police said.

IMPEACHED FOR ABUSE OF POWER, OBSTRUCTION OF CONGRESS

BECOMES ONLY 3RD U.S. PRESIDENT TO FACE SENATE TRIAL

# TRUMP IMPEACHED

NICHOLAS FANDOS & MICHAEL D SHEAR WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 19

THE HOUSE OF Representatives on Wednesday impeached President Donald Trump for obstruction of Congress and abuse of power, making him the third president in history to be charged with committing high crimes and misdemeanors and face removal by the Senate.

The votes on the two articles of impeachment fell largely along party lines, after a bitter debate that reflected the deep polarisation gripping American politics in the Trump era.

All but two Democrats supported the article on abuse of power, which accused Trump of corruptly using the levers of government to solicit election assistance from Ukraine in the form of investigations to discredit his political rivals. Republicans were united in opposition. It passed 230-197, with Speaker Nancy Pelosi gaveling the vote to a close from the House rostrum.

On the second charge, ob-

struction of Congress, a third Democrat joined Republicans in opposition. The vote was 229-198.

The vote set the stage for a historic trial beginning early next year in the Senate, which will have final say — 10 months before Trump faces reelection — on whether to acquit the President or convict and remove him from office. Acquittal in the Republican-controlled chamber is likely, but the proceeding is certain to aggravate the political and cultural fault lines in the country that Trump's presidency has brought into dramatic relief.

On Wednesday, Democrats characterized his impeachment as an urgent action to stop a corrupt president whose misdeeds had unfolded in plain view from damaging the country any further.

"Over the course of the last three months, we have found incontrovertible evidence that President Trump abused his power by pressuring the newly elected president of Ukraine to announce an investigation into President Trump's political rival," said Rep. Adam Schiff, Intelligence Committee chairman, who led the impeachment inquiry. **NYT**



HITTING BACK: US President Donald Trump posted this meme on Twitter soon after he was impeached, in what is seen as a message to his supporters. **Twitter**

■ Trump also wrote on Twitter: "SUCH ATROCIOUS LIES BY THE RADICAL LEFT, DO NOTHING DEMOCRATS, THE PRESIDENT WROTE. 'THIS IS AN ASSAULT ON AMERICA, AND AN ASSAULT ON THE REPUBLICAN PARTY!!!!'"

■ Moments after the House voted to impeach him, he used a campaign rally in Michigan, a crucial state in the 2020 presidential campaign, to describe the vote as an attempt to "nullify the ballots of tens of millions of patriotic Americans".

THE VOTE IN NUMBERS



## Fearing 2020 backlash, 3 Democrats vote no; Gabbard votes 'present'

SUSAN CORNWELL WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 19

WEDNESDAY'S IMPEACHMENT vote against President Donald Trump posed a political test for 31 House Democrats who represent districts that backed Trump in the 2016 presidential election, as Republicans warned that those lawmakers could face a backlash if they supported the effort to remove the president from office.

In the end, only three of the 31 voted against one or both of the articles of impeachment that accuse Trump of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

Representative Tulsi Gabbard, who represents a safely Democratic district in Hawaii, voted "present" on both charges.

The three who voted "no" said they were not convinced of the case against Trump. The two articles of impeachment allege the president abused his power in dealings with Ukraine and obstructed Congress' attempts to investigate.

Trump "has not committed a crime", Representative Collin Peterson of Minnesota, one of



Tulsi Gabbard neither opposed nor supported the impeachment articles

the "no" votes, said last Saturday. Peterson said most people in his rural Minnesota district were not bothered by the allegations brought against Trump by the Democrats.

Representative Jeff Van Drew of New Jersey voted no and told reporters after the vote that he will announce in coming days whether he will leave the Democratic Party.

Jared Golden an ex-Marine and freshman lawmaker from Maine, voted "yes" on abuse of power and "no" on obstruction of Congress. He said Tuesday that Trump had crossed a "clear red line" by asking Ukraine to help him win re-election. **REUTERS**

## Senate trial in limbo as Pelosi holds out for assurances

Speedy trial and acquittal at Republican-controlled Senate could boost Trump ahead of 2020 presidential election

NICHOLAS FANDOS WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 19

SPEAKER NANCY Pelosi indicated Wednesday night that the House could indefinitely delay sending the articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump to the Senate, leaving ambiguous the timing of a trial to decide whether to acquit him or convict and remove him from office.

After a historic nearly party-line vote to impeach Trump for two articles, abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, Pelosi said she would hold the articles back until it was clearer that the upper chamber would give the case a fair hearing. The strategy suggested she was keeping the charges as leverage in a coming negotiation over the terms of a Senate trial.

But it could leave the matter in limbo until early January, delaying the start of a trial for an unknown period.

"We will make our decision as to when we are going to send it when we see what they are doing on the Senate side," Pelosi



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announces the passage of the first article of impeachment. **AP**

said. "So far, we have not seen anything that looks fair to us."

With Trump and his allies said to be interested in a speedy trial and acquittal, which they expect will help their cause in the 2020 presidential election, Pelosi believes slowing down the proceeding could force Senate Republicans to set procedures the Democrats find more favourable to their case, according to Democratic officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to dis-

## Impeachment over 'far-fetched' reasons: Putin backs Trump

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV & HARRIET MORRIS MOSCOW, DECEMBER 19

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin said Thursday that US President Donald Trump was impeached for "far-fetched" reasons, calling the move by Democrats a continuation of their fight against the Republican leader.

"The party that lost the (2016) election, the Democratic Party, is trying to achieve results by other means," Putin said at his annual news conference in Moscow.

He likened Trump's impeachment to the earlier US probe into collusion with Russia, which Putin played down as groundless. Former special counsel Robert Mueller concluded earlier this year that the Russian government interfered in the 2016 US presidential election in a "sweeping and systematic fashion."

Noting the Republicans have a majority in the Senate, where a trial of Trump will be conducted, Putin said "they will be unlikely to remove a representative of their own party from office on what seems to me an absolutely far-fetched reason." **AP**



## Pakistan court on Musharraf: Drag his body to Islamabad square, hang for 3 days

ASIF SHAHZAD ISLAMABAD, DECEMBER 19

A PAKISTAN special court issued a bizarre but apparently symbolic order for former military ruler Pervez Musharraf on Thursday, saying his corpse should be dragged to Parliament and hang for three days if he dies before his execution.

The court sentenced Musharraf to death on Tuesday after finding him guilty of high treason for subverting the constitution in 2007.

Thursday's announcement came after the government said it had found fault with the sentence, apparently taking sides in a split between the military and the judiciary, and the general's lawyers said he plans to appeal.

The court directed law enforcers to apprehend Musharraf, currently receiving medical treatment in Dubai, to ensure the death sentence is carried out.

But if found dead beforehand, "his corpse (should) be dragged to D-Chowk, Islamabad, Pakistan, and be hanged for three days", it said.

The chowk, or roundabout, is just outside parliament.

Legal experts termed the instructions unconstitutional, even if symbolic.

There is only one precedent — a court sentenced a serial killer to hanging at a public place and his body to be cut into 100 pieces in front of the families of the victims. The sentence was never carried out.



## PAK GOVT WANTS 'MENTALLY UNFIT' JUDGE REMOVED

Islamabad: Furious over a special court's verdict to drag General (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf's corpse to the Parliament and hang it for three days, the Pakistan government on Thursday said that it would move the Supreme Judicial Council to unseat the "mentally unfit" head of the tribunal. "The federal government has decided to go to the Supreme Judicial Council as the government believes that such a person cannot be a judge of any High and Supreme Court. If a judge gives such a judgment then such a judge is mentally unfit and incompetent," Law Minister Farogh Naseem said. **PTI**

Information Minister Firdous Ashiq Awan said on Wednesday the government's legal team had found "gaps and weaknesses" in the original death sentence after lawyers briefed PM Imran Khan about the case. **REUTERS**

QUEEN'S SPEECH

## UK confirms fast-track visa for doctors from countries such as India

ADITI KHANNA LONDON, DECEMBER 19

THE UK government on Thursday confirmed plans to introduce a new visa for qualified doctors and nurses from countries around the world, including India, to address workforce shortages in the state-funded National Health Service (NHS).

Prime Minister Boris Johnson had made references to such a new so-called "NHS visa" on the election campaign trail, which was confirmed as part of the Queen's Speech in Parliament on Thursday — the formal process of Queen Elizabeth II laying out the parliamentary agenda of the newly elected Johnson-led Conservative Party government.

"A modern, fair, points-based immigration system will welcome skilled workers from across the world to contribute to the United Kingdom's economy, communities and public services," the speech notes.

An accompanying government briefing paper elaborates that under its "NHS People Plan", qualified doctors, nurses and allied health professionals with a job offer from the NHS, and who have been trained to a recog-

EXPLAINED E.

## Seeking to assure maiden Tory voters

THE ELECTIONS earlier this month saw Boris Johnson's Conservatives win big over Jeremy Corbyn's Labour. A major reason for the victory has been attributed to how unpopular Corbyn was as a leader. This resulted in many people voting for the Conservatives for the first time, shunning Labour because of Corbyn. Soon after the election victory, Johnson assured such voters their interests would be protected. With the Queen's Speech focusing on boosting health-care funding, one of the key campaign promises of Labour, Johnson is reassuring the former Labour voters that they can trust him.

nised standard, will be offered fast-track entry, reduced visa fees and dedicated support to come to the UK. **PTI**

## Sikh taxi driver assaulted in US in second such attack in under 2 weeks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW YORK, DECEMBER 19

A 57-YEAR-OLD Indian-origin Sikh taxi driver has been brutally assaulted and hit with a barbecue grill cover in the head in front of his home in the US state of California, media reports said, second such attack in less than a fortnight.

Baljeet Singh Sidhu, who works as a mail carrier and a Uber driver, was attacked on Sunday while he was parking his car outside his home near Hilltop Mall, Richmond, California, after finishing his duties, SFGate.com reported.

While he was parking his car, a man came up to his cab and asked him for a lighter.

Sidhu said he didn't have one and the man left, but then he returned with another request. "He asked me and said he had \$5 and he needed a ride. It looked suspicious," Sidhu was quoted as saying by the KTVU television station.

He told the man his shift was over. Then the suspect came back a third time and attacked Sidhu and hit him in the head with a barbecue grill cover, knocking him down and then choking him.

The attack is second such attack in a fortnight. On December 5, Another Indian-origin Sikh taxi driver was assaulted and racially abused in the American state of Washington in a suspected hate crime. **PTI**

## State of emergency declared as bushfires rage in Australia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BUXTON, DECEMBER 19

A STATE of emergency was declared in Australia's most populated region on Thursday as an unprecedented heatwave fanned out-of-control bushfires, destroying homes and smothering huge areas with a toxic smoke.

As thousands of firefighters battled blazes, temperatures neared 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit) in some places and authorities warned the extreme weather conditions could get even worse.

Australia endures bushfires every year but the early and intense start to this season, along with the record temperatures, has fuelled concerns about global warming.



Police block the Old Hume Highway as a blaze jumps the road near the town of Tahmoor, near Sydney, on Thursday. **Reuters**

In New South Wales, Australia's most populated state with Sydney as its capital, more than 100 bushfires were burning on Thursday, many of them out of control.

New South Wales premier Gladys Berejiklian declared a seven-day state of emergency, the

second since the bushfire season began early in September, due to "catastrophic weather conditions". At Buxton, about 100 kilometres southwest of Sydney, long-time resident Paul Collins said a nearby bushfire that had destroyed dozens of buildings was "much worse" than in past years.

## Cuba to name first prime minister in 40 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA HAVANA, DECEMBER 19

CUBA IS to resurrect the position of prime minister in a parliamentary session at the end of the week, with President Miguel Diaz-Canel nominating a candidate to the post which has remained dormant for more than 40 years.

The last time Cuba had a prime minister, it was Fidel Castro.

However, the position was abolished in 1976 when Castro transitioned to the presidency, taking over from Osvaldo Dorticos after the country's constitution was restructured.

No one knows yet who will be appointed, and the general public is in the dark as to what the role will even entail.

"I don't know what his functions will be, I imagine that he'll



President Miguel Diaz-Canel is set to nominate a candidate for PM

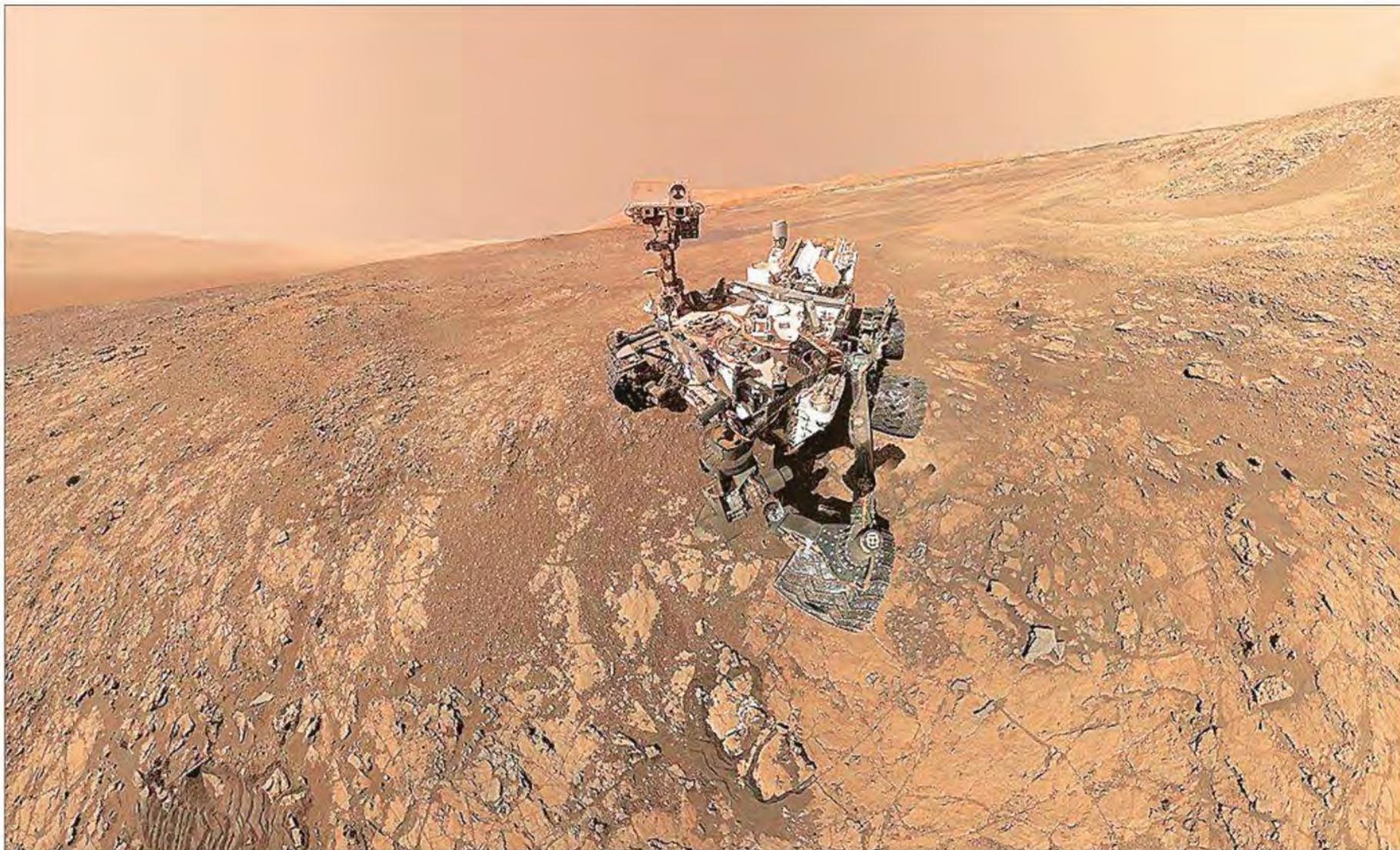
be helping that poor Diaz-Canel who never stops, going here and there trying to sort out the country," said Maria Fernandez, a 65-year-old pensioner.

Parliament will meet on Friday and Saturday before appointing the prime minister based on a proposal by Diaz-Canel. The new official will become "head of government" for a five-year term.

## ASTROBIOLOGY

## Bringing rocks back from Mars

A cosmic relay race



NASA's Curiosity Mars Rover snaps a self-portrait on the Martian surface in February 2018. NASA/JPL-Caltech/MSSS/Handout via Reuters

THE IDEA, popular in science fiction, that alien life will do bad things to life on Earth if the two come into contact, is not restricted to the activities of malevolent extraterrestrial intelligences. In "The Andromeda Strain", a novel by Michael Crichton, the baddies are mysterious and deadly (but completely unintelligent) microbes that hitch a ride to Earth on board a military satellite. They start by killing everyone in the town of Piedmont, Arizona, and then wreak havoc in a secret underground government laboratory, as scientists struggle to understand and contain them.

Move one state north, to Utah, and at least part of that fiction may, some hope, soon become true. For Utah is the planned landing place of the first samples to be collected from the surface of Mars. Optimists like to think that those samples might contain traces, even if only fossil, of life on Mars. And in case they do, the samples' ultimate destination will be a purpose-built receiving facility with level-four biosafety controls—the highest category possible.

The Mars Sample Return (MSR) mission intended to achieve all this will require three launches from Earth over the course of a decade, and five separate machines. The organisations involved—America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, and the European

Space Agency, ESA—are each responsible for specific craft in the chain of what David Parker, ESA's head of human and robotic exploration, calls "the most ambitious robotic pass-the-parcel you can think of".

## Delta force

On December 11th, at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco, space scientists and astrobiologists outlined the details of the MSR. The project will begin with the launch, next July, of NASA's Mars 2020 mission. This will carry to the planet a successor to Curiosity, a rover that has been crawling productively over the Martian surface since 2012. The Mars 2020 rover, yet to be named, will land in a 45km-wide crater called Jezero, in February 2021. Its main purpose is to search for signs of ancient microbial life. Around 3.5bn years ago, Jezero contained a lake. Mars 2020 will drill for samples from the clay and carbonate minerals now exposed on the surface of what used to be a river delta flowing into this lake.

When the rover finds something that its masters want to bring back to Earth, it will hermetically seal a few tens of grams of the material in question into a 6cm-long titanium test tube, and then drop the tube on the ground. It can deal in this way with around 30 samples as it travels to different parts of the crater. Once it has

dropped a tube it will broadcast that tube's location to the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, a satellite already on station that is armed with a high-magnification camera. This camera will take photographs of the tube and its surroundings, so that the tube can be found at a later date. The tubes are intended to be able to survive for more than 50 years on the surface of Mars, at temperatures less than 20°C.

The next phase of the project will begin in 2028, when a "fetch rover" designed and built by ESA will be sent to Mars to find and collect the tubes. This rover will be small, nimble and ten times faster than any of its predecessors. It will also be semi-autonomous, which will permit it to spot, pick up and manoeuvre the test tubes into the interplanetary equivalent of a test-tube rack without detailed instructions from Earth.

Once the fetch rover has collected all the tubes, it will deliver the rack to a

NASA-built craft called the Mars Ascent Vehicle (MAV). This rocket will have arrived from Earth, filled with fuel, in the same mission as the fetch rover. Once it has the samples, it will launch itself from the surface of Mars—the first ever rocket launch from a planet other than Earth.

Once in orbit, the MAV will throw its basketball-sized payload overboard. Waiting nearby to intercept the cargo will be yet another craft, the Earth Return Orbiter (ERO), built by ESA. This will have been launched from Earth independently of the MAV-and-fetch-rover mission. The ERO will find, ingest and seal the payload, to avoid contaminating it with any organisms that might have hitched a ride all the way from Earth. Using a gentle, solar-powered electric propulsion system, the ERO will then take the payload back to Earth over the course of the subsequent few years.

When the ERO eventually goes into orbit around Earth (which will be in 2031,

at the earliest) it will release the payload. This will be packed into a special, dome-shaped Earth Return Vehicle designed to carry the samples safely through the ferocity of atmospheric re-entry to a landing in the desert of Utah—whence they will be taken to their new bio-fortified home for examination. Once examined and deemed safe, the samples will then be distributed to researchers around the world for study.

## Lakeside view

It is, then, an extraordinary enterprise. But all of this complexity does raise the question of why researchers would go to so much effort to collect Mars rocks. The answer, as Michael Meyer, the scientific boss of NASA's Mars Exploration Programme, told the conference, is that although, when you are on another planet, you have to hand all the rocks that you could ever want, you are also stuck with the handful of instruments that you took with you to look at them. Using sophisticated X-ray scanners or grinding samples up and feeding them through a chemistry set is not an option.

It is true that Martian rocks are already available for study, in the form of 200 or so meteorites that have arrived on Earth after having been blasted from the Martian surface by asteroid impacts. However, though these are geologically

valuable they have little to offer about any putative Martian biology because they have spent millions of years travelling through the harsh conditions of space, being bombarded by radiation that will probably have destroyed any complex molecules within them that were made by living things.

A sample-return mission will not be cheap. Researchers from NASA and ESA, who have established a working group to harmonise technical efforts for the various stages of the project, estimate it will cost \$7bn to complete. ESA already has approval for some of its parts. When ministers from its 22 member countries met in November to discuss the agency's next three-year budget, they agreed to make €450m (\$500m) available to pay for the project's early stages. For its part, NASA expects to hear about funding for MSR in February 2020, as part of next year's federal budget.

NASA needs to confirm its role in the project as soon as possible if the planned timetable is to be met. If it is begun and not ended, though—perhaps because the money runs out halfway through—participants will have the comfort that the bottled-up samples are ready and waiting for collection whenever it is that politicians choose to loosen the appropriate purse strings.

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**Martian rocks are already available for study, in the form of 200 or so meteorites that have arrived on Earth. However, they have little to offer about any putative Martian biology because they have spent millions of years travelling through the harsh conditions of space, being bombarded by radiation**

## ALCOHOL IN AFRICA

## Adventurous spirit

Elephant dung is fuelling South Africa's gin boom

YOU MIGHT think that elephant dung is best kept far away from gin, which most people find tasty enough served with tonic water and a slice of lime. Not so, say Paula and Les Ansley, South African distillers who infuse theirs with pachyderm poo to capture "the textures and flavours of the African bush" and sell it for 659 rand (\$46) a bottle. Indlovu gin may be aimed primarily at those with an "adventurous spirit", but it is only the latest splash of ethanol on a market that has caught fire. In 2018 South Africans sipped 54% more gin than the year before, reckons IWSR, a research firm.

Meeting this demand are dozens of new firms. At the inaugural SA Craft Gin Awards in August there were 110 entries. "For decades we have been drinking many imported British gins," says Jean Buckham, who runs The Gin Box, a subscription service that deals exclusively in South African craft gin. "Until

**South African distillers Paula and Les Ansley infuse their gin with pachyderm poo to capture "the textures and flavours of the African bush" and sell it for 659 rand (\$46) a bottle**

recently, we had never really South Africanised it." In 2015 there were fewer than a dozen gin distilleries. Now there are 50, of which 30 are in the Western Cape. Part of the region's attraction is its wealth of "botanicals", or natural flavourings, which make each gin taste different. Inverroche, one of the pioneers of South Africa's craft industry, uses fragrant fynbos shrubs. It makes 18,000

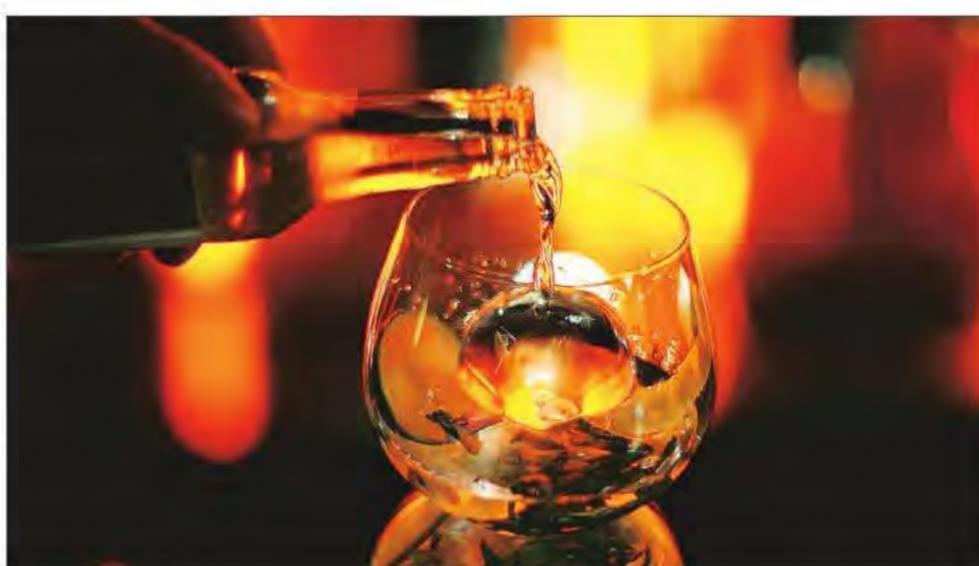
bottles a month and exports to 17 countries.

Three factors explain South Africa's boom. The first is that gin is becoming more popular everywhere. Consumption increased by 8% around the world and 52% in Britain in 2018. Another was a liberalisation of licensing laws after the end of apartheid in 1994 that made it easier to start a distillery and for non-whites to consume the same types of alcohol as whites. (Under the racist regime it was hard for black South Africans to go to liquor shops to buy "white" booze; instead they went to informal boozers called shebeens.)

The last is that producers of South Africa's more famous drink, wine, are struggling. A gin distillery can be set up in a warehouse; a vineyard needs sun, water and land. Across the Western Cape vintners are wrestling with recent droughts, contested land claims and weak prices. BDO, a consulting firm, reckons that only half of vineyards are making money.

Even as posh new craft gins generate a buzz, most South Africans stick to the cheaper stuff. Gins that cost more than 225 rand a bottle account for just 6% of sales. But for those who can afford to splash out, the delights of elephant dung and tonic await.

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In 2015 there were fewer than a dozen gin distilleries in South Africa. Now there are 50. Reuters

# 19 ECONOMY

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>RUPEE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹38,804	₹71.03	\$66.79	₹45,485

\*Indian basket as on December 18, 2019

SENSEX: 41,673.92 ▲ 115.35 NIFTY: 12,259.70 ▲ 38.05 NIKKEI: 23,864.85 ▼ 69.58 HANG SENG: 27,800.49 ▼ 83.72 FTSE: 7,561.37 ▲ 20.62 DAX: 13,178.30 ▼ 43.86

\*International market data till 1900 IST

## PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS: SUGGESTIONS GIVEN ON M&As, TAXES

# Industry seeks further 'ease of doing biz', better rate transmission at meet with FM

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

IMPROVEMENT IN ease of doing business, policy stability, income tax cuts, better transmission of interest rate cuts, ways to boost consumption to support growth were some of the issues taken up by industry leaders, including Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal, CII president Vikram Kirloskar and Assocham president Balkrishna Goenka during their pre-Budget consultations with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Thursday.

Mittal said making business easy was his main suggestion to the government, adding that a combination of low tariffs and high consumption is affecting the telecom industry and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) needs to intervene to strike a balance between protecting investments and consumer interest. "I have come here today to discuss only one thing: make doing business easy in the country. That was what my thrust was," he added. Mittal further said the issue has been on investments side and new technologies have to be put in, 5G has to be ushered into this country, adding that average revenue per user (ARPU) should go up from Rs 200.

"My view is Rs 200 is to eventually going to Rs 300... at the lower end, Rs 100 for a customer over a month of consuming rich data, voice and other services and on the upper end Rs 450-500... therefore, blended eventual landing point of Rs 300 a month, which will still be \$4 a month... by far, the lowest anywhere in the world and yet consuming two or three times more data than anywhere else in the world.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman along with senior officials at a pre-Budget meeting with industrialists, in New Delhi, on Thursday. PTI

"That's the balance we need to get to try and Trai has to work on this because the industry has not been able to have an orderly mechanism to get to that point via getting this industry in a manner which is not conducive for industry and that's why we need Trai intervention," he said.

Suggestions around mergers and acquisitions (M&As), demerger, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) process, certain sections of income tax which were coming in the way of M&A or slowing them down were also made during the meeting.

Assocham president Balkrishna Goenka said "ease of doing business, states have to play an important role" and last mile issues are there that need to be resolved. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) president Vikram Kirloskar said, "We talked about the ease of doing business, which are the issues concerning many industries."

The industry body also raised the issue of delayed payments and contract enforcement, along with raising the issue of how price controls lead to uncertainty and lack

of confidence in the functioning of markets. RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group chairman Sanjiv Goenka said the discussions "centred more around what can be done to stimulate growth, to facilitate the ease of doing business."

On the current slowdown and its impact on capacity utilisation across industries, he said, "We all recognised that it is going to take a couple of quarters, three quarters, four quarters, before this capacity gets utilised. We understand that, and that is the reality of the situation."

Fici president Sandip Somany said the industry representatives gave suggestions to the Finance Minister "to reduce income tax for those who earn less than Rs 20 lakh in a year so that there is more disposable in the hands of consumers and the economy benefits."

He added, "We have also asked the FM to take measures about reducing EMIs (equated monthly installments), which can happen only if the banks reduce the interest rates on loans."

Stating that while the Reserve Bank of India has cut 135 basis

points (bps), banks have reduced only 45 bps, Somany said, "If there can be more transmission of RBI's cut to consumers, then the EMIs will be reduced and it will also improve consumption."

"During the interactive session lasting over two hours, prominent industrialists spoke about improving regulatory environment to safeguard investments through ease of doing business, increasing export competitiveness, reviving private investment and kick-starting growth measures, were particularly in focus at the meeting.

Issues related to mergers and acquisitions (M&As), demergers, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) process, certain Sections of income tax which were coming in the way of M&As or slowing them down, were also flagged.

In the pre-Budget consultations in connection with the forthcoming General Budget 2020-21, industrialists also suggested many ways to boost the rural economy, especially to increase consumption, the statement further said.

Other suggestions included improvement in insolvency process in relation to NCLTs and banks; faster M&As and demerger processes, ways to reduce time for foreign direct investment (FDI) approval; structural changes in laws for effective and stable business environment; and time-bound decisions for augmenting

### EXPLAINED

## Focus on reviving pvt investment, growth

IMPROVING REGULATORY environment to safeguard investments through ease of doing business, increasing export competitiveness, reviving private investment and kick-starting growth measures, were particularly in focus at the meeting.

Issues related to mergers and acquisitions (M&As), demergers, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) process, certain Sections of income tax which were coming in the way of M&As or slowing them down, were also flagged.

ease of doing business both at the central and state levels.

Other industry leaders who took part in the consultations were GMR Group chairman BVN Rao, Ashok Leyland managing director and chief executive officer Vipin Sondhi, Wipro Global chief financial officer Jatin Dalal, K Raheja Corp Group president Ravi Raheja and Patanjali Ayurved Ltd chairman Acharya Balkrishna, among others.

# Tata Sons-Mistry case: Not the first when NCLT, NCLAT differed, till SC overruled

AASHISH ARYAN  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

THE NATIONAL Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) Wednesday order to reinstate Cyrus Mistry as the executive chairman of Tata Sons diametrically reverses a judgment delivered by the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in July 2017. As the issue is now headed for the Supreme Court, the Tata Sons case is not the first instance where the NCLT and its appellate authority — NCLAT — have delivered sharply different verdicts. The Tata Sons case is one in a series of cases where the tribunal, the appellate court and the SC have had completely different views on the same issue, leading to cascading reversals in sequential verdicts in the same case.

Consider the case of Essar Steel: the case was finally put to rest with a Supreme Court judgment clearing ArcelorMittal's bid this November after more than 835 days in litigation. Multiple intervention applications filed by stakeholders apart, the non-linear understanding and interpretation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) by the different forums contributed to the delay, with wide vacillations on the question of the powers of committee of creditors (CoC) and issues such as the supremacy of operational or financial creditors, till it was settled by the apex court's November.

Initially, the Ahmadabad bench of NCLT had — while approving the plan for Essar Steel — "suggested" that the funds from ArcelorMittal be distributed in 85:15 ratio. The NCLAT censured this observation and held that operational creditors must be given equal footing. It went ahead and changed the terms of ArcelorMittal's bid to give all creditors 60.7 per cent of their admitted claims. Then, the SC, on a subsequent appeal, held that there must be an absolute "judicial hands-off" and that the supremacy of lenders was non-negotiable. It then went on to restore the original payment structure for lenders.

The difference in interpretation of IBC, experts concur, could be due to the nascent stage at which the insolvency resolution process currently is. Others, however, say that there must be "an internally coherent view" of commercial courts on IBC.

The insolvency of New Delhi-based Rave Scans, similarly, took two U-turns before being decided. Lenders to Rave Scans, one of the first firms to be taken to NCLT under the IBC, had initially rejected all four bids that came for the firm. After a nudge from the NCLT, they reconsidered one plan, which was later approved. That plan too, however, ran into trouble as one of the financial creditors, Hero Fin Corp, dissented and claimed a higher payout. The NCLT rejected Hero Fin's contentions, which

### DIFFERENT FORUMS, VARIED VERDICTS

#### CASE: ESSAR STEEL FORUM

**NCLT:** Approved Suggested Rs 42,000 crore be distributed among financial and operational creditors in 85:15 ratio

**NCLAT:** Modified plan to give higher payout to operational creditors, fixed pay for everyone at 60.7%

**SC:** Reversed NCLAT decision, upheld primacy of CoC, restored original payout planned by CoC

#### CASE: LA FIN FINANCIAL FORUM

**NCLT:** Allowed insolvency proceedings filed by IFIN against La Fin

**NCLAT:** Upheld NCLT judgment, said plea by IFIN filed within time

**SC:** Reversed both NCLT & NCLAT judgment, said case filed after limitation period exhausted, disallowed insolvency

#### CASE: RAVE SCANS FORUM

**NCLT:** Approved resolution plan, rejected plea for equal pay by dissenting creditor, the Hero Fin Corp

**NCLAT:** Reversed NCLT decision, said CoC must treat Hero Fin Corp on par with other financial creditors, give 45% of admitted dues

**SC:** Reversed NCLAT decision, held that since resolution plan and process was already in place, it could not have been altered

#### CASE: SEVENHILLS HOSPITALS FORUM

**NCLAT:** Held that Municipal Corp of Greater Mumbai pleas are self contradictory, approved resolution plan

**NCLAT:** Barred MCGM from taking action, including claiming land as own, said would hamper the resolution process

**SC:** Held that MCGM must uphold its public duty and claim over BMC land, set aside the resolution plan approved by NCLT, NCLAT

#### CASE: BK EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FORUM

**NCLT:** Held that the filing of plea was barred by limitation and thus insolvency could not have been initiated

**NCLAT:** Reversed the NCLT decision, held that there was no scope of rejection of insolvency application if there was a continuous effort to recover debt

**SC:** Reversed NCLAT decision, said laws of limitation applicable to insolvency applications

then approached the NCLAT.

The NCLAT upheld the plea and added that if Hero Fin was not given the same treatment as other financial creditors within a month, the resolution plan would stand set aside. Subsequently, when the matter went to the SC, a two-judge Bench of Justices Arun Mishra and S Ravindra Bhat overturned the NCLAT's decision by simply holding that the resolution process had begun well before the amended regulation (which gave equal footing to dissenting financial creditors in IBC), and thus the appellate tribunal's decision would be set aside.

Apart from inconsistencies in interpretations, many are related to issues of contingent liability, treatment of guarantees, payout to operational creditors, and scope of moratorium. Suharsh Sinha, partner at AZB & Partners, said, adding that on most of these issues the case laws had been inconsistent.

The case of Jignesh Shah-promoted La Fin Financial Services, threw up another instance of contrasting interpretation of the well-settled law of limitations. IL&FS Financial Services (IFIN) had moved an insolvency plea against

La Fin, which the latter challenged, citing that the insolvency plea was barred by limitation.

In their respective judgments, the NCLT and NCLAT held that IFIN's plea was not barred by limitation as it was filed well within the time limit of three years from December 1, 2016, when IBC was introduced. The SC, however, overturned the decision and said that IFIN's plea was barred by limitation as it was filed well beyond three years from August 2012, when the first default occurred. It also held that IFIN had approached the courts only when La Fin saw its net worth erode in 2015. "That does not mean there is no prospect of the company ever making a profit in the future. It does not also mean that the company abandoned its business and therefore will not be able to pay," the apex court had said.

Experts point out that the difference in interpretation could be as these laws have to be read in consistency with the IBC. "Even for laws that are well established, for example, the ones on laws of limitation are not being read in isolation. They have to be read with the code," said Karan Mitroo, partner at L&L Partners.

## Unions urge FM to hike I-T ceiling, minimum wages

New Delhi: In a pre-Budget consultation with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday, trade unions urged the government to provide minimum wage of Rs 21,000, minimum pension of Rs 6,000 under Employees' Pension Scheme and tax exemption on annual income of up to Rs 10 lakh. The unions have also raised concerns over rising unemployment in the country, saying "employment generation has nose-dived in recent period".

During the meeting, they suggested that massive public investment in infrastructure, social sectors and agriculture would generate employment and the Union Budget should give it a priority and allocate necessary funds for this. They also demanded that vacant sanctioned posts in various government departments should be filled through fresh recruitment. **ENS**

## 'GST compensation of 9 states could double in FY20'

GST compensation payment of nine select states, including Gujarat, Maharashtra and Kerala, is expected to double to ₹ 60,000-70,000 crore in 2019-20, according to a report by ICRA

The timing of release of such grants by the Government of India (GoI) to these states would critically affect their cash flows, ICRA said in a report.



**STATES WHOSE GST COMPENSATION COULD DOUBLE**

**CAPEX BELOW BUDGETED LEVEL:** A reduction in capital expenditure, or capex, below the budgeted level appears imminent in the current fiscal

**CONSIDERABLY LOWER SGST COLLECTIONS:** The actual SGST collections this current fiscal will likely be considerably lower than the level of revenues protected under the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017

**RISE IN GST COMPENSATION GRANTS:** The lower collections would necessitate a significant rise in the GST compensation grants required by the states from the Centre

**₹59,500-77,000 CRORE:** Amount by which central tax devolution (CTD) to these states in 2019-20 would be lower than what central government has budgeted, which has emerged as a key revenue risk for the states in this fiscal

## DEMAND WEAKENED FOR MANUFACTURING Corporate profits fall 54.3% as demand drops: RBI

GEORGE MATHEW & SANDEEP SINGH  
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, DEC 19

THE ONGOING economic slowdown hit the corporate sector badly with a group of 2,696 firms reporting a 54.3 per cent fall in net profit for the second quarter ended September 2019 as "demand conditions facing the manufacturing sector weakened, with contraction in nominal sales that became broad based across industries".

A big factor in the drop in aggregate profits has been the huge losses announced by Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) during the quarter on account of provisioning for adjusted gross revenue (AGR). While Bharti Airtel announced a loss of Rs 23,045 crore, VIL announced a loss of Rs 50,922 crore for the quarter.

While the group of 1,706 companies in the manufacturing sector saw their sales decline 7.7 per cent, their profits grew by 17.4 per cent. A group of 505 companies in the services sector had an aggregate loss of Rs 53,167 crore and 166 firms in IT sector announced a 8.4 per cent rise in net profit for the quarter.

The RBI said softening of commodity prices resulted in lower in-

### MAJOR FACTOR IN DROP WAS AIRTEL, VIL LOSSES

■ A big factor in the drop in aggregate profits has been losses announced by Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea (VIL) during the quarter due to provisioning for adjusted gross revenue. While Bharti announced a loss of Rs 23,045 crore, VIL announced a loss of Rs 50,922 crore

■ While the group of 1,706 firms in manufacturing sector saw sales decline 7.7%, their profits grew by 17.4%. A group of 505 companies in the services sector had an aggregate loss of Rs 53,167 crore and 166 firms in IT sector announced a 8.4% rise in net profit for the quarter

per cent in the October policy to 5 per cent, saying that it can even go down to 4.9 per cent. The lowering of growth rate by the RBI — which has a strong research department — has come after the government said the GDP growth in September 2019 quarter had plunged to a six-year low of 4.5 per cent, the lowest since the three months ended March 2013. India's industrial output contracted 3.8 per cent in October, against a 4.3 per cent contraction in September, according to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data released by the Centre on December 12.

"Operating profit of the manufacturing sector contracted by 11.8 per cent, mainly due to the production slowdown. Non-IT services companies, especially in

telecommunication, real estate and transport and storage services, registered sharp declines in operating profit," said the RBI study on private corporate business sector for the second quarter of 2019-20.

According to the RBI study, the operating profit margin dipped marginally for manufacturing companies, though their net profit margin increased, largely on account of lower tax provisions. IT companies maintained pricing power as reflected in stable profit margins. Non-IT services companies, however, registered a contraction in profit margins due to heavy losses recorded by telecommunication companies, it said. Sales growth moderated in the services sector (both IT and non-IT), especially in real estate, wholesale and retail trade companies.

RBI said that the funds mobilised by listed private manufacturing companies during the first half of FY20, were mainly used for fixed assets formation and deleveraging (reduction of debt). "These companies were investing in financial instruments such as investment and extending loans and advances during the last couple of years in the face of subdued demand. This shift in investment was found to be broad based," it said.

## Draft Bill proposes autonomy for National Statistical Commission, gives govt power to make final decision

Advisory nature of NSC retained

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

STARTING THE need for creation for an independent "apex advisory body for official statistics", the government has placed a draft National Statistical Commission (NSC) Bill for public comments that seeks to establish NSC as the nodal and autonomous body for all core statistical activities. Along with retaining the advisory nature of NSC, the draft Bill states that the decision of the central government, whether a question is of policy or not, shall be final, a proposal which experts say goes against the long pending demand to grant more powers to the NSC.

In a crucial change, the draft Bill also seeks to change the composition of the Commission by replacing NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer with the Finance Ministry's Chief Economic Advisor as the ex-officio member along with giving member status to Chief Statistician of India from the current status of secretary to the NSC.

As per the draft Bill, the NSC will have a Chairperson, five whole time members along with

Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Chief Statistician of India (CSI) as other members and Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, as the ex-officio member. The Chairman and the members of the Commission shall be appointed by the central government on the recommendation of a search committee, as prescribed, it said, adding that no appointment of a Chairperson or any member of the Commission shall be "invalid merely by reason of absence of any member in the meetings of the search committee".

The draft Bill stated that the central government may, from time to time, issue directions to the Commission as it may think "necessary in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality".

It also said that the Commission "shall in exercise of its powers or the performance of its functions, be bound by such directions or questions as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time. Provided that the Commission shall, as far as practicable, be given an oppor-

### VIEWS SOUGHT

■ NSC will have a Chairperson, five whole time members along with Deputy Governor, RBI, Chief Statistician of India as other members and CEA as ex-officio member

tunity to express its views before any direction is given."

The draft Bill states that the government shall seek advice from the Commission on any matter relating to official statistics. However, central government or a state government may issue directions as necessary to any government agency under its administrative control along with a report on reasons for not accepting any advice to the commission. A report on reasons for not accepting any advice of the commission shall be laid before Parliament or a state legislature for a total period of thirty days. Outlining the general powers of the NSC, the draft Bill states that the NSC shall have power to review the statistical system of any government agency in the light of concepts, definitions, standards, methodologies and es-

tablished policies, and recommend measures for enhanced performance; to prescribe a code of practice. Also, the Commission shall participate in, and in consultation with the central government coordinate with, national statistical organisations on matters of statistical standards, methodologies and classifications.

All nodal officers designated in central ministries/departments/state government shall be professionally responsible to Chief Statistician of India on core statistics, the Bill said. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has sought comments and suggestions from the public on the draft Bill by January 19, 2020. The Bill comes at a time when several statistical reports such as the unemployment survey were withheld and consumption expenditure survey was decided to be not released by the government. In January this year, the then acting chairman of NSC, PC Mohanan, a career statistician, and J V Meenakshi, Professor at the Delhi School of Economics, had resigned from NSC protesting against the withholding of the NSSO's first Annual Survey on Employment and Unemployment for the year 2017-18.

# MINUTES OF RBI MPC MEETING 'Rising inflation warranted a pause in rate reduction'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 19

THE RESERVE Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has said there is a need for greater clarity as to how the overall food inflation path is going to evolve and "it is prudent to expect higher than current readings over the next two or three months" which warrants a pause in the sequence of rate reductions that began in February 2019.

MPC members, who met on December 5, said it is prudent to expect higher than current readings over the next two or three months. "Arguably, the slump in real GDP growth warrants accommodative monetary policy actions and stance whereas the upturn in headline inflation for the third month in succession after a quiescent phase of nine months calls for an opposite response or at least status quo until there is ground to infer that the food price spirals that are driving it are on the ebb," according to the minutes of the MPC meeting released by the RBI Thursday. The RBI, which slashed its key interest rate — repo rate — by 135 basis points in 2019, unexpectedly left the rate unchanged at 5.15 per cent earlier this month, even as it slashed its forecast for economic growth to 5 per cent, its lowest in over a decade.

According to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, the surge in food inflation in last three months, driven up by a spike in onion and other vegetable prices, could be transitory. "It is likely to reverse gradually as late kharif output comes to the market. In view of this, even as current food price spike driven by vegetables can be looked through, there is a need for greater clarity as to how the overall food inflation path is going to evolve, as there is some uncertainty about the outlook of prices of certain non-vegetable food items such as cereals, pulses, milk and sugar," Das said.

According to RBI Deputy Governor BP Kanungo, the current uptick in inflation driven by a sharp increase in food prices is ex-

"(Surge in food inflation) is likely to reverse gradually as late kharif output comes to the market. In view of this, ... there is a need for greater clarity as to how the overall food inflation path is going to evolve ..."

SHAKTIKANTA DAS  
GOVERNOR, RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

pected to reverse. However, there exists considerable uncertainty on the food price trajectory, and the quantum of impact of unseasonal rains on kharif output would be known only early next year.

"The incoming data may also provide greater clarity on the growth outlook. It is better to wait and watch for the incoming data. Even as space exists for future monetary policy action, a pause at this juncture would help calibrate the appropriate policy response in future," he said. RBI Executive Director Michael Patra said that it is prudent to expect higher than current readings over the next two or three months.

"This warrants a pause in the sequence of rate reductions that began in February 2019. Second, inflation pressures are rotating from vegetable prices to those of other elements of food and beverages. By current reckoning, vegetables prices can be expected to reverse by Q4:2019-20 as the supply situation improves. They can, therefore, be looked through while setting monetary policy," he said. "The key question is: will the upside in other food prices reverse or persist, especially those of pulses and milk? If it persists, will it spill over into non-food inflation?" Patra said.

"In my view, it is prudent to wait and watch out for clarity on growth-inflation dynamics and gain some more confidence at this juncture before taking a decisive action on the policy rate front. In the meantime, there is enough slack for the markets to adjust to the rate cuts already made," MPC Member Ravindra Dholakia said.

# CGHS, ECHS: Hospitals to 'stop cashless services' if dues not paid in 30 days

PRABHA RAGHAVAN  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

SEVERAL PRIVATE hospitals empanelled under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) have decided to suspend cashless services to beneficiaries of the healthcare programme if the hospitals' dues are not paid in a month's time, said an association representing them.

"We have tried all avenues of getting the dues cleared from the government ... However, we have not made any significant headway," said Alex Thomas, president, Association of Healthcare Providers India (AHPHI). "It is now a question of survival for healthcare providers. We will continue to engage with

## TRIED ALL AVENUES: HOSPITAL BODY

■ We have tried all avenues of getting the dues cleared from the government ... However, we have not made any significant headway, said Alex Thomas, president, Association of Healthcare Providers India

■ This year so far, around

Rs 1,400 crore has been released to service providers for cashless services. More payments are under process," Alok Saxena, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, earlier told *The Indian Express*

the government, but if the issue is not resolved over the next few weeks, hospitals will be forced to stop cashless services to the beneficiaries," he told *The Indian Express*.

Cashless services for the Ex-

Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) may also be suspended, he said, adding that the association will wait for "about a month" for dues to be cleared. The lobby group represents over 9,000 hospitals, including

## RBI plans purchase and sale of govt securities under OMO

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

THE RESERVE Bank of India has decided to conduct simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under Open Market Operations (OMO) for Rs 10,000 crore each on December 23.

This follows "a review of the current liquidity and market situation and an assessment of the evolving financial conditions", an RBI statement said.

The central bank reserves the right to decide on the quantum of purchase/sale of individual securities, accept bids/offers for less than the aggregate amount and purchase/sell marginally higher than the aggregate amount due to rounding-off effects. It also reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bid/offers either wholly or partially without assigning any reasons, it added.

# Audio leak of BoE news conferences gave high-speed traders head start on briefings

REUTERS  
LONDON, DECEMBER 19

A ROGUE supplier has been misusing audio feeds from Bank of England (BoE) news conferences this year, the central bank said, giving traders access to potentially market-moving information seconds before rivals.

In response to a report in *The Times* newspaper, Britain's central bank said a third-party supplier had misused a back-up audio feed of some of its news conferences without its consent. Briefings by BoE Governor Mark Carney and other central bank officials often move the prices of financial assets such as currencies and government bonds, and early access to their comments could allow traders to make millions.

The supplier sent the feed to high-speed traders who could have had a five to eight second head start because sound can be compressed and transmitted faster than video, *The Times* said.



Bank of England Governor Mark Carney. Reuters file photo

misused by a third-party supplier to the Bank since earlier this year to supply services to other external clients," the UK central bank said. "This wholly unacceptable use of the audio feed was without the Bank's knowledge or consent, and is being investigated further," it said in a statement, without naming the supplier. The BoE has referred the misuse of the feed to the Financial Conduct Authority

## Bank of England holds rates steady

London: Bank of England says it has decided to hold its key interest rate at 0.75 per cent, as markets widely expected. The decision was announced Thursday after a regular monetary policy meeting. The bank said seven of the nine members of its monetary policy committee had voted to keep the rate unchanged, and that two continued to back a quarter-point reduction. AP

regulator, which is expected to start a scoping exercise, that can take months, before deciding whether to launch any investigation into potential offences such as market abuse.

Hedge funds have long sought to steal a march on rivals by getting data first, and the pressure to do so has grown in recent years as many funds have struggled to outperform market indexes, reduc-

ing the fees they can charge. Funds now scour the market for sets of "alternative data" that can give them an edge, which in turn has spawned an industry of data suppliers and service providers who charge thousands of pounds for their products and subscriptions.

In September, the ECB added a public audio feed for its news conferences on its website, in addition to its usual video webcast. The central bank said this was to allow all to follow the briefing in "almost real time". The ECB had become concerned that unaffiliated vendors were selling an unauthorised audio feed of its conferences to market participants, though it was not clear how the suppliers gained access to the sound. There is a lag of about 30 seconds between the ECB's new low-latency audio feed and its video webcast. The BoE's audio feed was intended as a fallback option if its official video feed of its news conferences failed, according to *The Times*.

The US Federal Reserve only provides a combined video and audio feed. A Fed spokesman said the central bank speaks its press conferences live on the internet.

## BRIEFLY

### MMTC to import 12,500 tonnes onion

New Delhi: MMTC has contracted an additional 12,500 tonnes of edible bulb from Turkey to boost domestic availability.

### Balkrishna is Ruchi Soya CMD

New Delhi: Acharya Balkrishna has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of Ruchi Soya and Swami Ramdev as non-executive director on its newly constituted board, according to a BSE filing.

### Hyundai unveils new compact sedan

Chennai: Hyundai Motor India on Thursday unveiled its upcoming compact sedan Aura which it plans to launch next month.

### Will look at any opportunity: Delta on Air India

Mumbai: American carrier Delta Air Lines Thursday did not rule out the possibility of investing in Air India, saying it will "look at any opportunity" that fits its plan, Jimmy Eichelgruen, Director (Sales) for Africa, Middle East and India at Delta Air Lines said.

### IL&FS gets nod for sale of its education biz

New Delhi: The IL&FS Group Thursday said Justice (Retd) D K Jain, who is overseeing the IL&FS resolution and divestment process, has granted approval for the sale of its education business, Schoolnet India Ltd, to Career Point Publications. PTI

# We are killing telecom industry: Sunil Mittal

PRES TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 19

SUNIL BHARTI Mittal has said a combination of rock-bottom tariffs and high consumption is killing the telecom industry and Trai needs to urgently intervene to strike a balance between the needs for protecting investments and consumer interest.

a balance between requirement of investments and consumer on the other side," Mittal, chairman of Bharti Airtel, told reporters after a pre-Budget meeting between Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and corporate leaders. The industry needs to get to that balance, he said adding that Trai needs to work on this as the industry "has not been able to have an orderly mechanism to get to that point".

"...but, I think we need to have

# Yahoo Japan exits Oyo's Japan apartment venture

REUTERS  
TOKYO, DECEMBER 19

SOFTBANK-CONTROLLED YAHOO Japan has pulled out of a Japanese apartment rental venture with Oyo Hotels and Homes, in the latest setback for the loss-making Indian startup.

Yahoo Japan said it exited the venture OyoLife, in which it had a 33.9 per cent stake, to focus on other initiatives. The internet firm has led a wave of consolidation in Japan this year, buying online fashion retailer Zozo Inc and scooping up messaging app operator Line Corp.

Oyo, also backed by SoftBank Group, on Thursday said it has bought the Oyo Life shares held by Yahoo Japan, now known as Z Holdings, for an undisclosed amount. Oyo expanded rapidly in India and abroad by promising to drive up hotel occupancy through its online booking system, but has faced pushback from hoteliers who say they have been blindsided by hidden fees.

The startup has been forced to relax expansion targets in Japan, where it also launched a platform for hotel reservations this year and faced complaints over its booking system and unmet promises of payment for room renovations.

# UTI MF files for IPO, 5 shareholders to sell stakes

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 19

AFTER A long delay, UTI Asset Management Company (UTI AMC), a leading asset management firm, has filed its offer document with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) for an initial public offering (IPO) of up to 3.89 crore equity shares of face value of Rs 10 each at a premium. The fund's US-based strategic investor T Rowe Price International is also selling part of its stake in the IPO.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Bank of Baroda (BoB) and State Bank of India (SBI) — which manage their own existing AMCs and hold 18.24 per cent each in UTI AMC — are selling 1.04 crore shares of UTI AMC through the IPO. Punjab National Bank (PNB) and T Rowe Price International are also selling 38 lakh shares of UTI. The net offer

## It is the seventh largest asset management company in India in terms of mutual fund assets as of September 2019, according to rating agency Crisil. Its total AUM was Rs 154,230 crore

would constitute around 30.59 per cent of the post-offer equity capital of UTI AMC.

PNB, which exited its AMC joint-venture last year, also owns 18.24 per cent stake.

As the crossholding rules of Sebi apply to all the four promoters, SBI, LIC and BoB will have to bring down the stake in UTI AMC, also known as UTI Mutual Fund, to below 10 per cent and give up board seats as they also have their own AMCs. T Rowe Price holds the remaining 26 per cent stake in UTI Mutual Fund. In March 2018, Sebi had introduced crossholding limits in mutual funds to eliminate potential conflicts of interest.

The markets regulator then mandated that if a shareholder has more than 10 per cent interest in a mutual fund, it cannot hold a similar-sized stake in another fund house and would also have to give up its board positions.

Sebi has been insisting that UTI's four domestic shareholders will have to pare their stakes to less than 10 per cent each and rejected the requests of shareholders for extension of stake sale.

"However, as UTI Mutual Fund didn't have a chief executive, it was unable to push for an IPO through which the four promoters could have offloaded their stake. The board of the UTI Mutual Fund couldn't appoint a full-time CEO after Leo Puri's tenure ad MD

ended last year," said an official. UTI AMC and its predecessor — Unit Trust of India — have been active in the asset management industry for more than 55 years, having established the first mutual fund in India.

UTI AMC is the seventh largest asset management company in India in terms of mutual fund assets as of September 2019, according to rating agency Crisil. Its total assets under management (AUM) was Rs 154,230 crore.

It also had the largest share of monthly average AUM attributable to B30 cities of the top ten Indian asset management companies as of March 31, 2019, according to Crisil.

UTI AMC's consolidated total income equalled Rs 500 crore and Rs 520 crore for the six-month periods ended September 2019 and 2018, respectively, and Rs 1080 crore, Rs 1,160 crore and Rs 1,050 crore for the fiscals ended March 2019, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

**Central University of Haryana**  
Mahendragarh (Haryana) - 123031

**Tender for Manpower and Security Services**

Sealed tenders are invited for providing manpower and security services in the Central University of Haryana, Mahendragarh. Detailed tender documents, terms and conditions can be downloaded from the University website www.cuh.ac.in. The last date of receipt of tender is 21-01-2020 upto 02:30 P.M. Any addendum/dedendum/corrigendum/notice in this regard shall be uploaded on the University website only.

Assistant Registrar (E&GA Branch)

**भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण**  
**AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
TENDER NO: AAI/RHQ/NR/CNS/UPS/2019

E-Tenders are invited by General Manager (CNS-NR) on behalf of Regional Executive Director (NR), Airports Authority of India (AAI) for "SITC of Conventional Online UPS at Northern Region Airports / Station". Estimated Cost of the Work: ₹32,84,980/- E-tender Bid Invitation Number: 2019\_AAI\_32873\_1. Last date of submission of tender is 02.01.2020. For other details please visit our website <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>.

Joint General Manager (CNS), Northern Region

**NMDC Limited**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
10-3-311/A, CASTLE HILLS, MASAB TANK, HYDERABAD - 500 028  
CIN: L13100TG1958G01001674

**E-AUCTION SALE OF ROUGH DIAMONDS FROM NMDC DIAMOND MINING PROJECT, MAJHGAWAN, PANNA**

NMDC will display lots of rough diamonds of about 22138 carats from 26-12-2019 to 28-12-2019 at NMDC Diamond Mining Project, Majhgawan, Panna to be sold through e-auction conducted by M/s MSTC Limited.

For further details regarding Time of display, E-Auction and admission procedure, buyers may visit NMDC Website: [www.nmdc.co.in](http://www.nmdc.co.in) or GM, Panna at 07732-271234 or contact DGM (Com), Panna at mobile no. +91-9490491738 or HO, Hyderabad at mobile no. +91-9490759607 M/s MSTC Limited +91-9650554645/+91-7406047869.

**DEOLA NAGARPANCHAYAT, DEOLA**  
DIST.NASHIK-423102. MAHARASHTRA

Tel :- 02592-229040 Email:- mcdeola1@gmail.com

**Re E-Tender Notice No. SMC/WS/2019-20**

This office invites e-Tender For The Execution Work of Water Supply Scheme Value of Rs. 8,36,70,525/- Bid Submission will start from Date : 20/12/2019

**For More Detailed Information Visit**  
[www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in)

Date : 19/12/2019 Chief Officer  
outward No./npd/793/2019 Deola Nagarpanchayat, Deola.

**Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune**

PCNDTA, New administrative Building "A" wing 3rd floor, Near Akurdi Railway Station Pune-411044  
Email : cepmrda@gmail.com

**E-Tender Notice No. 38 for FY 2019-2020**

PMRDA invites proposal through e-tendering for "CONVERSION OF EXISTING 220 KV OVERHEAD LINES TO UNDERGROUND CABLE INFRINGING THE METRO RAIL ALIGNMENT OF PUNE METRO LINE 3 PROJECT WHICH INCLUDES ENGINEERING, SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING OF THE WORKS AND, DISMANTLING OF UNUTILISED TOWERS AND HANDING OVER OF THE WORKS. Pune Dist."

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website : [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in) from 20/12/2019 at 16:00 Hrs. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 14/01/2020 up to 18:00 Hrs. The changes in tender notice and relevant information will be available on [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in)

Sd/- (Vikram Kumar)  
Metropolitan Commissioner & CEO  
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune

**KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A Government of India Undertaking)

The Konkan Railway Corporation Limited has invited following Open Tenders through [ireps.gov.in](http://ireps.gov.in) system

Sl. No.	Name of The Work	Tender No.	Cost of the Work (₹) (Excluding GST)	Closing Date & Time
(1)	Overhauling of Turnout Fittings under SSE/P.way/JD Section.	KR/KW/Q/W/2019/38/RB/RT-1	3.64 Lakhs	03/01/2020 at 15.00 Hrs.
(2)	Flattening of Side Slopes at Khatzane Cutting between km.382/5 - 9 under SSE/P.way/MAO Section	KR/KW/Q/W/2019/77/CB	77.15 Lakhs	03/01/2020 at 15.00 Hrs.
(3)	Tree Cutting in Cutting Slopes and Embankment In SSE/P.way/JD Section.	KR/KW/Q/W/2019/79/RB	21.29 Lakhs	03/01/2020 at 15.00 Hrs.
(4)	Hiring of Private Road Vehicle (pick up van) for Carrying of all types of Railway Materials (P-way) for Departmental use of JE/Pway/Karwar Section.	KR/KW/Q/W/2019/80/RB	6.32 Lakhs	03/01/2020 at 15.00 Hrs.
(5)	Hiring of Private Road Vehicle (pick up van) for Carrying of all types of Railway Materials (P-way) for Departmental use of JE/Pway/Kumta Section.	KR/KW/Q/W/2019/81/RB	6.32 Lakhs	03/01/2020 at 15.00 Hrs.

For further details, Contact Office of Senior Regional Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd, Karwar, Karnataka. For more details visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण**  
**AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Tender Id : 2019\_AAI\_38229\_1

Tenders are invited through e-tendering by Asst. Genl. Manager (Engg - Civil) on behalf of Chairman AAI from eligible agencies for the work of Modernisation of Chennai Airport, Phase II SH: Balance Civil works for Construction of STP-1 (2.25 MLD) and STP-2 (1.2 MLD) Civil Work, at Chennai Airport, Chennai. Time allowed 6 months. Date of issue of tender documents (Online) 18.12.2019 to 07.01.2020. Date of opening of tenders 13.01.2020.

For detailed information and prequalification criterion, log on to website [www.etenders.gov.in](http://www.etenders.gov.in) or [www.aai.aero](http://www.aai.aero). Contact no. of the Bid Manager is 04422563821. Further clarifications / corrigendum in this regard, if any, will be put up only on AAI website / portal.

# Indian IT professional among 5 charged with insider trading

PRES TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW YORK, DECEMBER 19

AN INDIAN IT professional and his four friends have been charged by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) with insider trading for repeatedly trading on confidential earnings information about a Silicon Valley cloud-computing company, reaping millions of dollars in trading profits.

Janardhan Nellore, 42 a former IT administrator at the technology company in Silicon Valley, was at the center of the trading ring, using his IT credentials and work contacts to obtain highly confidential information about his employer's quarterly earnings and financial performance, the Commission said in a statement.

As alleged in the complaint, until he was terminated earlier this year, Nellore traded in his company's securities based on the confidential information or tipped his four friends.

# China comes out with new tariff exemptions for US chemical, oil products

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING, DECEMBER 19

CHINA ANNOUNCED Thursday a list of US chemicals that will be exempted from import tariffs, just under a week after Beijing and Washington agreed a trade agreement that dialled down tensions between the two.

Both the countries have exchanged blows for more than a year, on Friday announced a mini-agreement to reduce some levies in a bruising trade war that has dragged on global growth.

Beijing released a list Thursday of products that will no longer be subject to the tariffs, including certain types of industrial glue and adhesives, industrial polymers and types of paraffin, which can be found in cosmetics and food.

The exemptions will come into force from December 26 until December 25 next year, according to a statement from the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council. Last week's "phase one" deal saw US President Donald Trump cancel a planned new wave of tariffs on Chinese

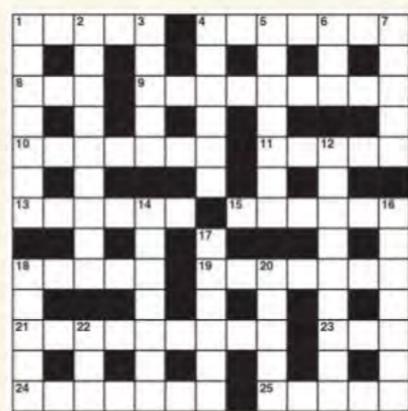
# 'Phase one' trade pact in early January

Washington: US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Thursday the United States and China would sign their so-called Phase one trade pact at the beginning of January, adding that it was completely finished and just undergoing a technical "scrub." He said the trade deal had already been put down on paper and translated. REUTERS

products, and China in turn saying it would suspend additional measures on US goods.

In September, China said it would exempt 16 categories of US products from tariffs including seafood items and anti-cancer drugs. China announced earlier this month that it will offer a tariff waiver to "some" imports of major products US soybean and pork.

CROSSWORD 3993



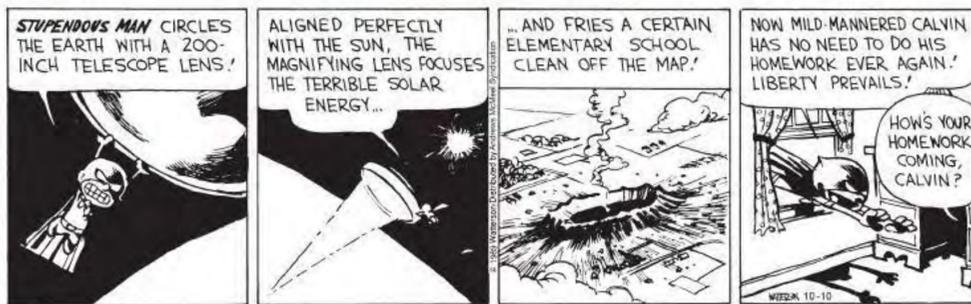
- ACROSS**
- Pot on the lawn (5)
  - Ambitious to lead (2-5)
  - Stick around for a drink perhaps (3)
  - Not a big audience, though it was for charity (9)
  - A boy champion confronted with suet pudding (7)
  - The innocent rise up and start the break out (5)
  - It comes as a sudden blow (6)
  - A way of acting (6)
  - Angry as a rodent that is trapped (5)
  - Canada's ratable exchange (7)
  - Financial expert comes into trouble (9)
  - A heavy weight? Perhaps not (3)
  - Stop being loyal (7)
  - Return the ones chosen (5)
- DOWN**
- Cocktails carpenters find boring? (7)
  - A bitter draught for assembled Argonauts (9)
  - A pie's turned brown (5)
  - He looks radiant, but could look furious (6)
  - He should be fit to revise the tale (7)
  - Stratagem used to catch a bird (3)
  - Lived in the past (5)
  - A leading light in the cinema? (9)
  - It makes one wild what people do when they retire (3,4)
  - Granted, it might be searchingly used (7)
  - Decorate without a central point and it becomes gaudy (6)
  - Wrong times for such pieces of news (5)
  - Swimming club he joined (5)
  - Eggs remaining sound (3)

Solutions Crossword 3992: Across: 1 Appreciate, 8 Rooks, 9 Epigram, 10 Spend it, 11 Aitch, 12 Scribe, 14 Boards, 17 Annoy, 19 Emerges, 21 Cleaner, 22 Guess, 23 Enterprise. Down: 2 Pioneer, 3 Rased, 4 Create, 5 Agitato, 6 Egret, 7 Emphases, 8 Resistance, 13 Bayonet, 15 Regrets, 16 Terror, 18 Niece, 20 Eager.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. Don't think, just do. - Horace (5...2)

**AROID**      **EERRDH**

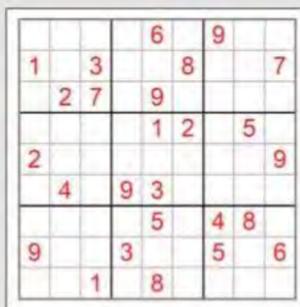
**AGRNT**      **ADEMSK**

SOLUTION: AROID, GRANT, HERDE, MASKED

Difficulty Level 5s

**INSTRUCTIONS**  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

SUDOKU 4065



**Difficulty Level**  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4064



NOTICE BOARD

EDUCATION

CELEBRATIONS, EVENTS, APPOINTMENTS, HONOURS



RETAIL CONCLAVE- JIMS, ROHINI

PGDM Retail Management Dept. at JIMS Rohini organised Retail Conclave 2019 on 'Enhancing Customer Engagement in Changing Retail Landscape' recently. As retailers look for ways to differentiate in today's highly competitive market, customer engagement strategies have become the critical components for optimizing the customer's shopping experience. Manoj Kulkarni, ED, Nielsen was the Chief Guest, & Deepak Chaudhary, Dir. Sales and CEO, Audi (New Delhi West) was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. The event started with lamp lighting ceremony followed by the welcome address by Pooja Jain, Director JIMS.



FUNCTION- GGSIP UNIVERSITY

Univ. School of Information, Comm'n & Technology (USIC&T), IP University organized Prize Distribution Ceremony for the B. Tech Major Project Competition 2019 at the Dwarka campus. The students of the affiliated engineering colleges of the University participated in the competition. Prof. R K Khandal, President - India Glycols Ltd. was the chief guest. The VC of the Univ. Prof. Mahesh Verma also graced the occasion. According to the Dean - USIC&T Prof. Arvinder Kaur, the major project was conducted under the supervision of experts from reputed institutes and organizations like DRDO, CSIR and Ministry of Railways, etc.



CONFERENCE-AMITY UNIVERSITY

To abreast the students about the research & developments in food processing industry, Amity Institute of Food and Technology organized a National Conference AMIFOST 2019 on "Functional Foods - Research, Innovations & Challenges" at University Campus Noida. The objective of the conference was to deliberate upon innovations in technology for value added food products and practices. The conference witnessed the participation of Scientists, Researchers, Entrepreneurs, Academicians, Chemists, Dietitians, Nutritionists, Engineers, Technologists from across the country.



PLAY-SOMERVILLE SCHOOL NOIDA

Somerville School Noida hosted the annual English play titled Across the Universe recently. The play is a revolutionary rock musical that re-imagines America in the 1960. The protagonist, Jude played by Lakshya Jaswal, Lucy, played by Yashaswini Kaul and Sadie played by Saumya truly raised the play to another level. The choir and musicians particularly drummers, Madhav Mehta and Parth Tuli, guitarists, Neel and Harsh and Joshua on the keyboard were highly appreciated by the audience. More than 300 children participated in the musical extravaganza. The auditorium was packed with parents, ex students and distinguished guests.



EXHIBITION- WORLD UNIVERSITY OF DESIGN

School of Visual Arts, at the World University of Design (WUD) organized a 3-day long exhibition of the winners of the National Youth Painting Competition - 'Tawny Teal Tan' to motivate creative students and prepare them for a professional career ahead. The competition which witnessed overwhelming response from young students from different nationalities between the age group of 15-18 years, was aimed at identifying students with best creative potential. As part of the 3 day-long exhibitions at Art Gallery, WUD Campus 50 best entries were showcased.



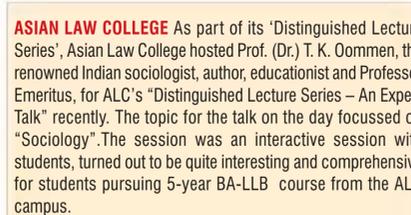
FELICITATION- INTELLIGENT MINDS TRUST

Intelligent Minds Trust (IMT), a group of 256 educationists which include, Chairmen, Directors, Advisers and Principals of private schools held a ceremony recently where Manan Budhraj was felicitated with Excellence in School Education Awards, 2019 by His Excellency "Lord Dubs" & "Baroness Thornton" Members, House of Lords, "Seema Malhotra" Honourable British Parliamentarian- Feltham & Heston (UK) along with "Guru Gaur Gopal Das Ji, Sanyam Bharadwaj, Controller of Examination, CBSE, Sh. Manish Agrawal, RO, CBSE & Mr. Rajesh Bajaj, Chairman, IMT at "The House of Commons, British Parliament".



BOOK RELEASE

Prodigy author Anantinee 'Jhumpa' Mishra's second book and debutant novel was released recently at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi. The book was released by the dignitaries: Mani Shankar Aiyar (Former Union Cabinet Minister Indian Diplomat), Padma Vibhushan Dr. S. Mansingh (MP, Rajya Sabha), P. Misra (MP, Lok Sabha) & Dr Sasmith Patra (MP, Rajya Sabha). The name of the novel is 'Manhattan to Munnar' & is published by Invinible Publisher, Gurgaon. Anantinee is of 12 yrs age, studying in Std.7 at Apeejay School, Saket, New Delhi. The first book that she had published was a compilation of short stories & is considered as best selling children short story book.



ASIAN LAW COLLEGE

As part of its 'Distinguished Lecture Series', Asian Law College hosted Prof. (Dr.) T. K. Oommen, the renowned Indian sociologist, author, educationist and Professor Emeritus, for ALC's "Distinguished Lecture Series - An Expert Talk" recently. The topic for the talk on the day focussed on "Sociology". The session was an interactive session with students, turned out to be quite interesting and comprehensive for students pursuing 5-year BA-LLB course from the ALC campus.



AWARD-GGSIP UNIVERSITY

A professor at University School of Environment Management (USEM) of IP University and Director - Int'l Affairs of the University Prof. Anubha Kaushik has been recently conferred with coveted FESM Award at 39th Annual Conference of the Academy of Environmental Biology organised at ICAR, Lucknow recently. Prof. Kaushik is recipient of a number of national and international awards in past for outstanding contribution in the field of Environment Management.



VISIT-BHATNAGAR INT'L SCHOOL

The students of Class VII endeavoured to learn about history of India's cultural heritage at the Royal City - Jaipur. They visited several world heritage sites - Hawa Mahal, The Amer Fort, Jantar Mantar, Raja Jai Singh's Museum to name a few. The visitation added to their learnings about rich scientific and vast expanse of India's riches. The Jaipur trip was a two nights and threedays activity, wherein the learners participated in fun games and went for shopping in the pink city.



VISIT- SOMERVILLE SCHOOL, NOIDA

German students of class VIII visited library at Max Mueller Bhawan, New Delhi. The purpose of this visit was to make students familiar with German culture & literature and consequently they were shown a short movie based on the history n culture of Germany which enriched their knowledge. Later the librarian shared many informations pertaining to library such as the facilities it provides to German students. The visit was completed with many fun games.



CELEBRATION- BILLABONG SCHOOL

Billabong celebrated the wonderful completion of a DECADE of Sanchetna - A centre for students with special needs under the aegis of G.D. Education Society. It was a dream envisioned by Director, Jasmine Gandhi which further sprouted and got nurtured with the support and guidance of co-founder Late Joysree Mukherjee in the year 2009. Sanchetna is a pioneer move in integrated and inclusive education.

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Life is full of surprises, but it all depends on how you deal with them. Sometimes you can be too brash and insensitive. However, over the next few weeks you can probably get away with being outspoken and even argumentative. Don't forget to follow your own advice.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Mercury has now withdrawn from its one relationship with your sign, only to replace it with another, so a great deal of what has been said in haste or anger may now be considered no more than water under the bridge. There's no use in dwelling on the past.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Venus, a planet with a critical and benevolent role in your affairs, is now coming to your aid, which means that, personally and professionally, you have too much going for you to be sidetracked by people who don't understand you. You might even end up making a profit.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

An emotional tie or attachment may now be reconsidered. The point is that important planetary pressures have been lifted, which means that you may take a fresh look at all current relationships. If anything seems to be bothering you, it's that a partner's sincerity is open to doubt. Give them time to explain themselves.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Just to look at the minus points in what is otherwise a very positive situation, I am concerned that you might become too selfish and demanding emotionally. This will not serve your cause, so watch it. You'd do better to start by asking partners what they want.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Those of you chasing professional success should feel confident that, even if applications don't succeed, they all represent vital steps on the path, or rungs on the ladder, if you prefer. You'll be keeping your romantic secrets, perhaps because you sense that someone is not ready to hear what you have to say.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

It's time to give a special message to all you artistic and creative types, whatever your particular forte: this is no time for wild self-expression, but rather for practical skills and traditional disciplines. You'll never make a dream come true unless you work at it.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

What other people often fail to realise is that you can be extremely good at building up a shrewd grasp of the facts, a quality which means that you are about to experience certain very important advantages in the financial arena. Stick to your guns.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

An entire group of planets is now encouraging you to go forth and multiply, metaphorically speaking of course. Spread yourself as widely as possible and let the whole world share in your hope and faith in the future. Traditional values will sustain your vision of a better world.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

When it comes to long-term finances, timing is of the essence. Do not be tempted to follow get-rich-quick schemes. The lure of instant winnings may be nothing more than an illusion, so be patient. When a loved one comes to you with a spending plan, tell them to think again.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

To those who know you, you are often an exciting person to be around, encouraging change in all things, even though your actions are often very helpful and positive. However, it may now be your turn to stick to the past and hang on to what you know best.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Much depends on how you handle discussions with people at home. If something seems to be unsaid, be the first to bring it into the open. Powerful planetary relationships will help you accomplish most practical tasks, perhaps because they give you the determination to win through.

**CORRIGENDUM NO.-01**  
Due to administrative ground the Tender Notice No. KIR/Engg/57 of 2019, dated: 13-11-2019 is hereby treated as CANCELLED.  
Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Katihar  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
"Serving Customers with a smile"



I arrive at a conclusion not an assumption.

Inform your opinion detailed analysis.

The Indian Express. For the Indian Intelligent.

# 'We need accountability and supervision; we don't need suspicion'



N Chandrasekaran in conversation with The Indian Express Group Executive Director Anant Goenka and The Financial Express Managing Editor Sunil Jain at Express Adda at Taj Lands End, Bandra, Mumbai

**T**ata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran was the guest at the Express Adda in Mumbai last week. He spoke with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, and Sunil Jain, Managing Editor, *Financial Express*, on his book *Bridgital Nation*, the economic slowdown and how the liquidity problem is largely behind us.

### On the fear of machines replacing human beings

In general, whenever there has been a technology disruption, it has dramatically increased the market opportunity and has created a huge number of jobs. This was true at the time of steam engines, electricity, you can go back and look at any big disruption or technological breakthrough. But the problem is that there is a period when this disruption happens and then the impact happens with a lag and there is a period where there are a lot of jobs that are lost. But from the technology disruption that we are currently talking about, AI and Mission Learning and whatever else that we can bundle together, IOT (Internet of Things), Cloud, and everything else, there are two points I want to make. One is, this will create jobs here and now, but coming specifically to the book (*Bridgital Nation*), which is focused on India, I think the opportunity clearly is immense. India has fundamentally a lot of demand and we have a lot of supply in terms of talent. And we are trying to solve the demand problem differently and the supply problem differently. As a result, we are not getting both to meet.

What do we mean by that? We have a shortage of healthcare. Our patient-to-doctor ratio is one of the worst in the world. If you take rural areas, it's even worse. Same thing can be said of education, judiciary, physical infrastructure, and we don't have the luxury of time and the luxury of capital to be able to do it the traditional way. So the only way to solve this problem is using technology. If you can bring this technology to the common people, then it dramatically changes the equation.

### On the government and private sector working together

Unfortunately, we have a problem in our country. We either blame the government, or we blame somebody. I think this will require everybody to play a part. Private sector can play a big part. The problem is that the environment has to be created for the private sector. Let's say, for example, we want to fix primary healthcare. It can be done. It will require government

and private sector to work together. Not necessarily in terms of JVs or anything like that but clarity has to be there on who does what.

### On GDP numbers and economic slowdown

You can't react to one quarter's GDP. I believe this market has huge potential. There are a number of trends and these trends are irreversible. Rising aspiration of people is irreversible. Whether it is a political mistake, whether it is an economic slowdown, it doesn't matter. These things will happen. But what we are going through is also a correction process. We have had excesses. These excesses have to be corrected. Only thing is we are taking too long to correct those excesses. If so much NPA is there, the fact is, it's there. It has all accumulated in front of our eyes. So this correction has to happen, but it has to happen fast.

### On whether the headlines have affected what foreign markets think of India

You see, the problem you have today is very different from seven or eight years ago. Earlier, if there was a problem, there would be a newspaper article in the morning and after that people would forget it. But now what is happening is there is a tweet, everybody is a reporter, and (there are) WhatsApp groups. So the negative perception of anything is of a different magnitude.

### On whether we need to become more protectionist

It's a case by case phenomenon. There are areas in which you need to open up and areas which you need to calibrate. We have to calibrate, there's no question. We can't just say that everything is fine. There are repercussions if already the small and medium entrepreneurs, people in a particular sector are suffering, and you just have to take that into account. Because we have so much of growth potential, we need to make sure we have the right environment to capture the growth potential, competition is always a good thing. But at the same



Roopa Purushothaman, Chief Economist and Head of Policy Advocacy, Tata Sons



P Krishnamurthy, Chairman, PK & Associates



Prashant Ruia, Director, Essar Group



Jitender Bhargava, Former Executive Director, Air India



Leena Tewari, Chairperson, USV Pvt Ltd



Mohit Burman, Vice Chairman, Dabur



(Left) Chhavi Moodgal from InCred with Akhilesh Tilotia, Head, Strategy and New Initiatives, Axis Bank Ltd



Writer Gita Piramal



Shekhar Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director, Bajaj Electricals



Shom Hinduja, President, Alternative Energy and Sustainability Initiatives, Hinduja Group



(Left) AP Parigi, Former Managing Director, Entertainment Network India Limited with Sudhanshu Vats, Group CEO and Managing Director, Viacom18 Media Private Limited



The audience at Express Adda



Guests taking photographs with N Chandrasekaran



George Varghese, Group CEO, *The Indian Express*, presents a portrait by Suvajit Dey, Illustrator, *The Indian Express*, to N Chandrasekaran

time, we have to calibrate. We can't just say that we are open for everything. It cannot be done like that.

**On whether the government is open to suggestions**

I will tell you one thing about this government, they probably work harder than anyone else. Second, I have not found a situation where I had to say something — I don't go and meet them regularly — but if I have to communicate on a policy matter, I have found them to be very receptive. At least, I can put my point across. For example, you take the power sector. What should be the reforms? If you take the real estate sector, what is the real situation on the ground? If these are the things I want to communicate, I find they patiently hear and take the inputs. Whether that input will drive their vision, I cannot say and I cannot expect also. I'm pretty sure there are 20 other people giving them inputs. So I'm only hoping that if 25 people give inputs, they will synthesise it in some form and take a call. If I run my company, it's the same thing. If ten people want to give me inputs, I will listen, and finally I will take a call on what I think is right.

**On whether we should be protective about our data**

We should be careful about data. The core issue is simple. In data, one is privacy and the other is ownership of data and localisation. And these two are real issues. There is a case from the tech companies' point of view why consolidation of data in single location, free movement of data enables more tools to be applied. But there is an equally strong case of ownership of data which has originated in a country, we have control over that data and there are three-four possible solutions. The solutions will not be uniform, they have to be bilateral. There will be some countries where you have reciprocal arrangements, in some countries you cannot have. Geopolitical relationship between nations also influence. And there are two or three possible alternatives and that need to be discussed. Between India and the US, this has to be agreed and each one will maximise what they will get out of it.

**On India's technological capabilities**

Unfortunately, you know, we don't appreciate what we have. India has every strength that is required to be able to create exceptional platforms on the more sophisticated technologies as far as this particular area is concerned. Where we lack is in the hardware area but definitely in software, AI and machine learning and everything else, we can create world-class platforms and it will happen. So, when it will happen, who will do it, I don't know the answer, but we are on a journey. You have to appreciate that our growth in this area has been in last 10–15 years.

**"I don't meet them (the government) regularly, but if I have to communicate on a policy matter, I have found them to be very receptive. At least, I can put my point across... I find they patiently hear and take the inputs"**

**On the need to put in more money for research**

We need to create more PhDs, we need to put in more money for more research. Our problem is that we don't invest in research. The PhDs are not respected, even the people who do PhDs, they don't do pure research immediately, they go back and take a job because the industry pays them more than academia. And even if you want to set up something in our institutions, to give an environment, it's very hard. If you want to do big scale research and want to create an environment in our institutions, the whole process that we have to go through to do that is very hard. So, to promote research, we need to create high paying jobs for researchers and we have to make it very attractive, otherwise we will create all these skills and they will go and then join the industry and do everything other than research.

Some companies have lot of research but collectively we can do more. Software is one area, but in many other areas we need to be creating more research, but it's just not us alone.

So, overall how do you create the ecosystem, how do you work with the institutions, how do you fund research in multiple institutions, how do you make it attractive so that those people continue to do research. In most of the western countries, when they go into research, that's a professional career for a lifetime, they don't move away from that but in our system, it is not like that. They will get three-four years experience and then they will move away. Because our system doesn't allow people to do the research and then parallelly do other things. So we have issues which we need to fix.

**On whether we need govt involvement in institutions and corporates**

I think empowerment is critical and agility is critical and state funding is critical but at the same time for many of the things — when people do research, they need the freedom to do so. I think we need simplified rules, at the same time we need accountability. I feel we need supervision, we don't need suspicion.

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Photos: Express Photo Service



Erika Watanabe Patriota, Deputy Consul General of Brazil in Mumbai



Sanjay Passi, Chairman and Managing Director, Pasco Group



Sabbas Joseph, Founder-Director, Wizcraft International Entertainment Pvt Ltd



Pradeep Guha, Managing Director, 9X Media Pvt Ltd



Rajesh Chaturvedi, Chairman, Adfactors PR



Senior journalist Senthil Chengalvarayan



Srinivas Rao Ravuri, Chief Investment Officer, Equities, PGIM India Mutual Fund



Sushil Jiwrajka, Chairman, OMC Power Pvt Ltd



Author Aparna Piralal Rajee



Life Coach Chhaya Momaya



Author Raghu Karnad



Madan Bahal, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Adfactors PR

**VOICE BANK**



**RIDDHISH SONI**  
RESEARCH SCIENTIST AT INDIAN INSTITUTE OF REMOTE SENSING, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

**What is the role of Tata companies in bringing about sustainable agriculture and new techniques like precision agriculture for the Indian ecosystem?**

It is too large a question. See, we have one of our companies focused on agriculture. They do a lot of work but I think the problem needs to be addressed, a lot more can be done and we have a limited role that we play. Probably, there is potential for us to expand our role; we will think about that.



**SUNIL ALAGH**  
CHAIRMAN, SKA ADVISORS PVT LTD

**In today's world, both in terms of organisations, when you reach a certain level, is the boss more important or the organisation?**

Always the organisation.



**CHHAVI MOODGAL**  
HEAD OF STRATEGY, INCRD

**You spoke about the potential of people and how they contribute to the growth of the nation but the other thing we need is capital and environment. The past few months has been very tight when it comes to liquidity, particularly for small and medium scale enterprises. What are your suggestions to ease that off?**

On this liquidity question, I think it is behind us. This is my own assessment, of what we see — from our own NBFC, our distributors and dealers, whether it is Tata Steel or Tata Motors — from all our companies. We deal with a lot of SMEs and our assessment at this point in time is that the liquidity problem is largely behind us. There may be still issues here and there but it is largely behind us. And I think it is a one-off. I do not think it is a cyclical thing. But I think the potential is there, capital will flow as long as they can execute.



**AYAZ MEMON**  
SPORTS WRITER

**What made you take up marathon? I am sure you are not doing it in two hours, probably much longer than it. Is that 'me' time or are you resolving lot of issues while you are running?**

So, 'me' time is the time you resolve issues also (laughs). Marathon time is very meditative, you keep running and I don't listen to music. I just keep running, so many thoughts come to my mind, sometimes business, sometimes next run, it could be anything. I organise my thoughts, definitely the day's agenda comes in the mind, but you don't control it. It's not like you decide that today while I am running, I am going to think about this, so you let go.



**It is not about new variations but more about varying pace according to nature of the track. In India, the tracks are on the slower side and you need to mix it up - sometimes fast, sometimes slow."**

**KULDEEP YADAV**  
ON HIS VARIATIONS

## Catch 2.2 m

Kolkata break the bank — Rs 15.5cr or \$ 2.2 mn — to get the services of Pat Cummins; KXIP bag Maxwell for Rs 10.75 cr

**SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY**  
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 19

THE OPENING bid for Pat Cummins was Rs 2 crore. It was just an overture, for the Australian fast-bowling all-rounder was always going to get a lot more than his base price.

The IPL 2020 auction in Kolkata on Thursday went on expected lines. Overseas fast bowlers were in demand as also the big-hitters. Almost every franchise was looking to add an overseas fast bowler. Little wonder then that Cummins, the most prized asset of the auction, was sold for Rs 15.50 crore. It's an IPL record for a foreign player and third most expensive in the overall list after Virat Kohli's retention amount of Rs 17 crore and Yuvraj Singh's auction value of Rs 16 crore.

Delhi Capitals wanted an overseas fast bowler. They were part of the bidding war but quit after a certain point. Royal Challengers Bangalore, too, desperately wanted to have a quality quick in their ranks. One of the reasons for RCB's underachievement has had been the lack of an impact bowler. But at Rs 14.75 crore they stopped. Kolkata Knight Riders seemed to be determined to have Cummins. They broke the bank.

KKR clinched the deal in slog overs, so to speak, joining the bidding war late. They moved in after the bid had touched Rs 14.75 crore. "I thought he (Cummins) was the best player of the auction. His development as a cricketer; he's grown, (his) body has become robust. He is now the vice-captain of the Australian cricket team which is a mark of his development. Delighted to have him back. Wonderful to secure a world-class player." Knight Riders coach Brendon McCullum said.

The franchise CEO Venky Mysore explained the strategy. "We would have come in earlier. We were certainly interested in him. (He) played for us. We were determined to get him when we got the first opportunity. It's great that (Eoin) Morgan and Cummins are both with KKR. Homecoming for them," he said.

Fast bowlers are at a premium in modern-day cricket. A significant chunk of that category hails from India. But all the front-line Indian fast bowlers are happily settled in their respective franchises. Overseas fast bowlers going for big money simply conformed to the law of supply and demand.

Cummins wasn't a case in isolation. RCB bought South African fast-bowling all-rounder Chris Morris — base price Rs 1.5 crore for Rs 10 crore. Having missed out on Cummins, they spent lavishly on the next best thing that the auction had to offer. Kings XI Punjab forked out a whopping Rs 8.5 crore for Sheldon Cottrell, 17 times the base price. Unlike Cummins and Morris, the West Indies fast bowler is an IPL greenhorn. But he is having a very good limited-overs series in India at the moment, and that he is a left-arm pacer added to his value.

Even Mumbai Indians, boasting of T20's fast-bowling royalty — Jasprit Bumrah and Lasith Malinga — spent Rs 8 crore for Australia's Nathan Coulter-Nile, an eight-time increase in his base price. Chennai Super Kings, a spin-heavy team, roped in England seaming allrounder Sam Curran for Rs 5.5 crore and Australian fast-medium bowler Josh Hazlewood for Rs 2 crore.

"There's a lot of money in the room spent on very small number of players, therefore the inflated prices," Rajasthan Royals co-owner Manoj Badale said.

### Power-hitters earn big

In October, Glenn Maxwell temporarily set aside cricket to deal with his mental health issues. He hasn't played any competitive cricket since. Today he went to Kings XI Punjab for Rs 10.75 crore — base price Rs 2 crore — after some frenetic biddings. Auction dynamics sometimes make certain players overpriced. But the way Kings XI went for Maxwell, it felt like they were banking on his 154-plus T20 strike-rate that provides the x-factor.

Kings XI CEO Satish Menon said as much. "He (Maxwell) was very much on our radar. Middle-order was a concern for us. He's been with us in the past so he knows the exact layout of the team. On the mental issues, these things come and go. I'm sure he is coming out of it. We have been tracking him a lot. We are sure he is back in his zone."



Pat Cummins triggered a fierce bidding war between Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore. Kolkata stepped in late and pocketed the Aussie pacer.

## Post-Millennials turn millionaires at auction

A boy who sold *chaat*, a driver's son and one from a family of marginal farmers — all born in the aughts — strike it rich

**DEVENDRA PANDEY**  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 19

SONS OF a farmer and a driver and a boy who sold panipuris and slept in a tent for three years have become millionaires overnight in the IPL auction. Kartik Tyagi, whose father is a small-time farmer, went for Rs 1.3 crores, Priyam Garg, whose father is a driver now and who used to sell milk door to door once, went for Rs 1.9 crores and Yashasvi Jaiswal, who spent his formative years as cricketer in a tent, bagged Rs 2.40 crores.

On the eve of their departure to South Africa, the India U-19 team were glued to the IPL auction on the televisions in a suburban Mumbai hotel. Ravi Bishnoi, a leg spinner from the team, went to Kings XI Punjab for two crores and Jaiswal and Tyagi were picked up by Rajasthan Royals, while Garg, the India u-19 captain, would play for Sunrisers Hyderabad.

"My father is a small-time farmer from Hapur. Many of my team mates have never heard about this name before. I was watching on TV when the auction was on, I'm very happy," an elated UP medium pacer Tyagi says. "The money part I will let my papa decide. I don't have much idea about it."

Tyagi wanted to be a batsman when he started the game but became a bowler. "My father dreamt that I will be a cricketer one day. I wanted to be a batsman but bowling in the nets made me a bowler. Now I feel, good I became bowler, otherwise who knows whether I would have played for India?"

Tyagi suffered a stress fracture on his back and didn't even realise the full import



Yashasvi Jaiswal (left) and Kartik Tyagi (right). Both went to Rajasthan Royals for Rs 2.4 crore and Rs 1.3 crore respectively. Meanwhile India Under-19 captain Priyam Garg was taken by Hyderabad for Rs 1.9 crore.

of it for two years. Until it started to affect his game. His father then took loans to get the treatment done.

"We come from a very humble background. And it was a big financial strain, I am sure, but somehow my father took loans and managed my treatment," Tyagi says.

### Windfall before Cup

Meanwhile, Jaiswal is at a few miles from his hotel at a ground where his cricket

had flourished. He had come to meet his coach Jwala Singh before the team's departure to South Africa on Friday. In a month's time, India would be playing their first U-19 World Cup game.

For three years, Jaiswal had lived in a tent at Mumbai's Azad Maidan ground after a relative had told the 11-year old that he can't sleep in their diary shop anymore. He sold pani-puris during Ramliila, helped ferry-walaha to sell fruits but it was the

cricket dream that had really sustained him.

Yashasvi lives with his coach these days and people have lined up there to congratulate him. His parents live in Uttar Pradesh. "I am yet to speak to my family, actually," Yashasvi says at the ground just after the auction. "I don't know how to react. I was at the ground when a few media people turned up and I watched my auction on their phone. I just wanted to play and get picked by any team. I didn't ever think about money. As at the moment, it doesn't matter to me, my game is important," Jaiswal told The Indian Express.

"I am just happy to be part of Rajasthan Royals team. Everyone has come to wish me. As far as money is concerned, I don't know how I will spend, I have left it to my coach," he added.

The U-19 captain Garg recalled the days when his father used to sell milk door to door during the day and would slip a Rs 10 note to him at night so that he could travel to Meerut for cricket nets.

"My father has done all sorts of odd jobs, from selling milk, to driving school vans, to loading goods, just to see me become a cricketer one day. He took me to Meerut and made sure that I get into a decent academy," Garg had told this newspaper.

His father now works as a driver in the health department. There were days when money was tight and Garg would travel on the roof of buses to pursue his dream. During those lonely journeys, the budding batsman would wonder whether he would ever make enough money to help his father make both ends meet. On Thursday evening, Garg became a crorepati.

## AUCTION REPLAY

### Unadkat stays relevant

JAYDEV UNADKAT'S value dropped from Rs 8.4 crore at the last auction to Rs 3 crore this term. Rajasthan Royals bought him back but probably they were a bit more cautious after the low output from the left-arm seamer in the 2019 IPL. Just 10 wickets from 11 matches and an economy rate north of 10 didn't offer value for money. So Royals played it smart. They offloaded Unadkat during the trading window and then brought him back to the fold at a much lower price. A scarcity of quality left-arm pacers kept the 28-year-old relevant.

### Surprises on offer

EVERY IPL auction throws up a few surprises. This one, too, was no different. Chennai Super Kings forking out Rs 6.75 crore raised many an eyebrow. Kolkata Knight Riders offloaded the veteran leg-spinner during the trading window. Then again, MS Dhoni has the ability to make the old guards fire. Harbhajan Singh would attest. KKR spending Rs 4 crore for Varun Chakravathy apparently defied logic. Kings XI had spent a staggering Rs 8.4 crore for the mystery spinner last term but he played just one game. Maybe, the two-time IPL champions wanted to have a back-up option after releasing Chawla.

### 14-yr-old to 48-yr-old

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD Afghanistan chinaman bowler Noor Ahmad features in the auction list. History, however, wasn't created in Kolkata, as franchises didn't bid for him. However, IPL veteran Pravin Tambe, who at 48 was the oldest player in the list, was snapped up by Kolkata for his base price of Rs 20 lakh. "I still play with a mindset like I am a 20-year-old young," Tambe, who has an 18-year-old son, was quoted as saying by PTI. "I will bring all my experience and energy to the team. And that positivity. I know that I can bring that, even if I'm with them not playing," said the leg-spinner.

"People say many things but I keep doing my job and put in a lot of hard-work. I will like to do well in whatever role given to me be it in fielding or bowling. It's not to prove anything. If that was the case, I could not have played so long. I'm really excited to play for them," Tambe, who works as sports teacher at DY Patil, said.

### Jammu teen for SRH



Samad, 18, is a middle-order bat who also bowls leg-spin.

J&K ALL-ROUNDER Abdul Samad had a lot to cheer about on Thursday. The 18-year-old hit an invaluable 78 against Maharashtra in the Ranji Trophy and was later trending on twitter within minutes of him being snapped up by the Sunrisers Hyderabad for Rs 20 lakh. The hard-hitting middle-order batsman who also bowls leg-spin hails from Kala Kot near Jammu. The son of a physical education teacher broke into the J&K U-19 squad last year. Impressed with his all-round skills, captain Pervez Rasool fast-tracked him into the senior team this year. He has not looked back since.

Sunrisers Hyderabad stacked their team with five uncapped Indian players — Virat Singh, Priyam Garg, Sandeep Bavanaka, Sanjay Yadav and Abdul Samad. In total they spent Rs 3.4 crore for the youngsters.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

## KPL fixing probe: Karnataka association secy under scanner

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 19

THE CENTRAL Crime Branch (CCB) unit of the Bengaluru police on Thursday carried out searches at the residence of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) secretary Santosh Menon as part of its investigations into the Karnataka Premier League match-fixing case.

"In the KPL case the CCB carried out morning raids at the house of Santosh Menon, KSCA Secretary. A search warrant was taken from the court," joint commissioner of police (crime) in Bengaluru city Sandeep Patil said.

Menon is the second KSCA official to come under the scanner for the fixing KPL games. Earlier this month, the CCB arrested KSCA committee member and Karnataka u-19 coach Sudhendra Shinde. He also happens to be the manager of the KPL side

Belagavi Panthers. Shinde was arrested for conspiring with Belagavi Panthers owner Asfak Ali Thara and captain CM Gautam to fix games.

"Shinde was the link between the Panthers owner Ali and the KSCA in the KPL fixing," police sources said. The crime branch has also asked KSCA to provide ownership patterns of KPL franchise and details about anti-corruption measures.

"We have sought a wide range of information from the KSCA about level of monitoring of matches whether corruption was reported and what action was taken. We have also sought information on all Indian Premier League matches played in Bengaluru. We are restricted to investigating matches and fixing suspected to have occurred in Karnataka," police sources said.

A total of 15 persons have been accused in the KPL fixing scam so far including three players, one coach, one manager, two owners and several bookies from around India.

## Pak bowlers hit back after Kumara, Embuldeniya show

Karachi: Pakistan fought back after being dismissed relatively cheaply Thursday as bowlers dominated the opening day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Karachi.

Lahiru Kumara and Lasith Embuldeniya grabbed four wickets each to dismiss Pakistan for just 191 before the home team had the visitors at 64-3 at stumps at the National Stadium.

Pacer Kumara took 4-49 while left-arm spinner Embuldeniya finished with 4-71 after Pakistan won the toss.

But Pakistan staged a fightback with the wickets of Oshada Fernando (four), Dimuth Karunaratne (25) and Kusal Mendis (13) leaving Sri Lanka still 127 runs behind on the first innings.

Lanky pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi had Fernando caught behind before Mohammad Abbas removed Karunaratne and Mendis.

At stumps, Angelo Mathews was eight not out and nightwatchman Embuldeniya unbeaten on three.

Pakistan were well set at 127-3 with Babar Azam (60) and Asad Shafiq (63) in-



Babar Azam made 60 before getting stumped off an Embuldeniya delivery. AP

involved in a 62-run stand for the fourth wicket, but once Azam fell the home side lost their last six wickets for just 24 runs.

Azam was shaping well after scoring his 13th half-century before Embuldeniya had him stumped off a well-disguised delivery.

Shafiq hooked Kumara tentatively to deep square-leg, ending Pakistan's hopes of a big total in their bid to win the series after the first Test ended in a draw due to poor weather in Rawalpindi.

Shafiq admitted the Pakistani batsmen were undone by the wicket. "It was unexpected turn and seam on the first day's pitch," said Shafiq, playing his 67th consecutive Test. "(But) If we bowl well we can get them out in this total and then put up a winning score."

**BRIEF SCORES (AT STUMPS, DAY 1):** Pakistan 191 all out in 59.3 overs (Asad Shafiq 63, Babar Azam 60, Lahiru Kumara 4-49, Lasith Embuldeniya 4-71) vs Sri Lanka 64 for three in 19 overs (Dimuth Karunaratne 25, Mohammad Abbas 2-21)

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

# After IPL clutter, Mandeep declutters

After tweaking his game to prosper in the shortest format, Mandeep returns to fundamentals to revive domestic-cricket career

GAURAV BHATT  
PATIALA, DECEMBER 19

ON THURSDAY, the murky clouds over Patiala finally gave way for the sun, allowing the first (almost) full-day's play of the Ranji Trophy match between Punjab and Hyderabad. For Mandeep Singh though, it rained and it poured.

After failing to score hundreds last season, Mandeep now has two in two matches; the second an unbeaten 204 that helped Punjab take a 201-run lead. The hosts then ran through Hyderabad's batting to leave the visitors reeling at 5/30, setting up what could be a second bonus-point win. It was during that top-order demolition job that the Punjab captain first heard murmurs of IPL auction discussion.

"At least till tea, nobody had spoken of IPL. It was when we had taken three wickets and the match was in our control that I heard talks like 'This guy was sold for this much! That guy's going to that team'. I said, 'we need more wickets. This can wait'," says Mandeep. "It's normal. During breaks, in dressing rooms, players sometimes count down to auction day. Youngsters want to get into IPL. But experienced players need to guide them. It's not in your hands. Perform in Ranji and IPL will come."

Teammate Sandeep Sharma is one such experienced player. The 26-year-old medium-pacer, who again provided an early breakthrough to allow spinners Mayank Markande and Akul Pandove to run roughshod, believes Ranji remains the ladder to the national team.

"Ranji is much tougher. More teams, more talent. Players are hungrier in Ranji, to break into your state team and then get the India jersey," says Sandeep, who has played two T20s. "Yahan se hande hue players nikalte hain (Ranji produces refined players). You look at Iyer, Agarwal in the national team, and you won't think it's some new player. It's a readymade India player."

Of course, it's easy for Mandeep and Sandeep to say; both retained by their respective franchises KXIP and SRH. "If I am in the auction pool next year, I will also be checking my status," says Sandeep. "But it's about importance. If a youngster gives more importance to IPL than Ranji trophy, that I feel is wrong."

But what if you get to play IPL before Ranji? Mayank Markande was picked during a Mumbai Indians trial and finished his debut IPL season last year with 15 wickets. Later, he also became Punjab's top wicket-taker last Ranji season.

"Ranji's importance hasn't gone down, and top performers are noticed. But with IPL, now you have another way into the Indian team. I believe that was the case with me too," says the leg-spinner who played a T20 in February. Markande has been traded twice this year: Mumbai handed him off to Delhi Capitals, who passed him onto Rajasthan Royals, leaving the 22-year-old amused and richer by 1.8 crore.

"It makes me laugh. I only learn about these things from news, or when people tweet at me," says Markande. "I have no input in the trades, but all a player wants is to be at a team where you'll get to play more."

Another player refreshing his news feed was Anmol Malhotra. The left-handed keeper-batsman followed his 76 against Rajasthan in the last match with a stylish 80 on Thursday; stitching crucial 100-run+ partnerships with Mandeep on both occasions. The 24-year-old admitted to butterflies, but not because he was playing his second first-class game or first on his home ground at Dhruv Pandove stadium.

"I've been feeling a little anxious since the auction began," says Malhotra, one of the 332 names to go under the hammer in Kolkata. "But that's not a priority. Even if you unsold, (he did) have Ranji, and when we took up cricket, IPL was not the target. 'Ranji khelenge, fir Test matches khelenge.'"

## T20 Batting messed up my game: Mandeep

Mandeep is fascinated, almost envious, of the generation of batsmen that grew up watching IPL. "They're such dynamic shotmakers. The shots they play now. I had to learn how to play T20 cricket because there wasn't any



Punjab skipper Mandeep Singh's unbeaten 204 consumed 301 balls. He struck 22 fours and three sixes. Harmeet Sodhi

**MS Dhoni ka bat bohut piche jaata tha, so I tried that. For a year or two then, I became so bottom-handed that I would only get out bowled, leg before. And that messed with my confidence.**

MANDEEP SINGH

when I grew up. It was after the Under-19 World Cup (the class of 2010 featuring his KXIP teammates KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal) that I started paying attention to how AB de Villiers, Yuvi paji, MS Dhoni hit sixes," says Mandeep.

It paid dividends in the short run. Mandeep was the find of the IPL 2012, where he outscored a 'Murderers' Row of Virat Kohli, Steve Smith, Dhoni, Sachin Tendulkar and AB de Villiers. But fixation with 'dynamic' batting and emulating heavy-hitters "Dhoni ka bat bohut piche jaata tha, so I tried that. For a year or two then, I became so bottom-handed that I would only get out bowled, leg before. And that messed with my confidence," says Mandeep. "The things I learned from IPL, and being around top players, is great. But I can say, technically, I ruined my game, especially red-ball cricket, by constant tinkering and it set me back at least two years."

He still changes things on the fly — "if it's reverse-swinging, reduce the back lift, reduce initial movements. That I learned from Sachin" — but Mandeep believes a better understanding of his batting has led to a consistent couple of seasons. "New players, the new generation keeps going for shots in the nets, hitting sixes no matter the format. I have stopped trying that," says Mandeep. "I want to spend a net session without getting beaten once."

Mandeep laughs when reminded that he turned 28 the day before, and all the 'younger generation' talk makes him sound much older.

"For a batsman, it doesn't matter. AB de Villiers once told me, 'all good batsmen become great after 28'. I am not getting younger. But I'm definitely getting better."

**BRIEF SCORES:** Hyderabad 232 and 30/5 trailing Punjab 443/6 declared (Mandeep Singh 204 not out, Anmol Malhotra 80; Mohammad Siraj 4/74) by 171 runs.

# On the day of his India return, Saini snares five; Delhi reeling

VISHAL MENON  
DECEMBER 19

IT WAS a day when Navdeep Saini could do no wrong. The pacer had hurled down 36 indefatigable overs for Delhi in their second Ranji Trophy encounter against Andhra at Ongole to finish with figures of 5/86. To cap it off, he realized by the afternoon that he would be replacing an injured Deepak Chahar for the third and final ODI against West Indies in Cuttack.

"Deepak felt mild pain in his lower back following the second ODI played in Vizag on Wednesday. The BCCI medical team examined him and has suggested that the fast bowler needs some rest in order to fully recover," the BCCI statement said. "He has thus been ruled out of the final ODI," it added. Navdeep, on his part, admitted that he was pleasantly surprised by the call-up.

He began his international career with a bang, during the three-match T20 series against West Indies in August. On his debut, he returned with figures of 3/17, which included a wicket in his very first over and then finished with a wicket maiden in the last over. The Karnail lad went wicket-less in the second match but impressed in the third game with figures of 2/34 as India won the series 3-0.

The team management will be hoping for a repeat on Sunday if he gets selected in the playing XI. Since those heady days in the Caribbean, Navdeep has been lying low with a groin injury, which he picked up during the Vijay Hazare Trophy earlier this year. "I was injured during a Delhi-Himachal Pradesh match and since then I have been undergoing my rehab at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru," he explained.

Thankfully for Delhi, he was fit and running just in time before the Ranji season



Despite Navdeep Saini's 5/86, Delhi are playing catch-up in the match. File

commented. Against Andhra, he didn't do anything spectacular. Instead, he just kept honing in on the batsmen like a hawk would swoop on its prey, and was rewarded for his perseverance. "In long-form cricket, it's your patience that counts. Today, I just kept things simple and waited for the batsmen to make mistakes," Navdeep offered.

His efforts could not mask Delhi's sordid tale with the bat, which saw them finish at a dismal 89/6 in their second innings — which saw them trail by 64 runs after Andhra had stacked up 368 on Day 3. As things stand, the home team could still claim for the bonus point and grab seven points if they notch up an innings win tomorrow. After resuming at

**In long-form cricket, it's your patience that counts. Today, I just kept things simple and waited for the batsmen to make mistakes.**

NAVDEEP SAINI

the overnight score of 249/6, Ricky Bhui carried his bat to register a splendid unbeaten 144, a knock that was laced with 15 boundaries and a six.

In reply, not a single Delhi batsman stood up to be counted. That Lalit Yadav, who was unbeaten on 23, was the team's highest scorer, summed up the 2008 Ranji Trophy champions' travails. On Thursday, they were done in by Chepurapalli Stephen, the swing bowler with an unorthodox action, who prised out four invaluable scalps.

Not surprisingly, he came out in support of his batsmen. "Such things happen in cricket. You have to realise that this is young and relatively inexperienced at the first-class level. So, you have to give them some time," he opined.

They found themselves under a similar set of circumstances in the second innings against Kerala in the season-opener at Thumba, before opener Kunal Chandel and captain Nitish Rana led a stunning riposte with fighting centuries to earn a draw after being bundled out for 142 and were forced to follow-on. Friday will be another hectic day for Navdeep. Immediately after this match commences, he will have to fly to Cuttack and join the Indian team. Navdeep is in a rush, and he is not complaining.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Delhi: 215 and 89/6 in 28 overs (Lalit Yadav 23 batting; Chepurapalli Stephen 4/74); Andhra 368 in 127 overs (Ricky Bhui 144 not out; Navdeep Saini 5/86).

## ROUND-UP

### Ashwin's efforts go futile, as TN stumble to second defeat

DESPITE RAVICHANDRAN Ashwin's stoic efforts, nine wickets and top scorer in the first innings, Tamil Nadu stumbled to their second successive defeat. Bouncing back after getting bowled out for 96 in the first innings was always going to be difficult, but the offie put the back in the match with a four-wicket haul that ended Himachal Pradesh's second innings at 158. But chasing 217, their batsmen batted shoddily and were shot out for 145. Left-arm spinner Akash Vashisht was the destroyer in chief as he took seven wickets for 33 runs. The two-time champions, thus, have yet to net a point after two games this season.

**BRIEF SCORES (AT DINDIGUL):** Himachal Pradesh 158 and 154 (S Verma 36, Rishi Dhawan 35, R Ashwin 4-55, T Natarajan 2-19) beat Tamil Nadu 96 and 145 (K Mukunth 48, Akash Vashisht 7-33, Rishi Dhawan 1-13) by 71 runs. HP: 7; TN: 0

### Shahbaz spins Bengal to win, before RCB picked the all-rounder

HOURS BEFORE Royal Challengers Bangalore snaffled him, left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed illustrated his utility with a sterling all-round performance that saw Bengal edge out Kerala by eight wickets. Responding to Kerala's 239, Bengal were at one stage 185 for before Ahmed joined hands with opener and centurion Abhishek Raman and engineered a comeback.

By the time, he departed for exactly 50, Bengal's lead had swelled to 50. He then returned to pick three wickets for 15 runs including that of dangerous Robin Uthappa. Kerala were subsequently bowled for a meagre 115 and Bengal strolled to an eight-wicket win chasing 48.

**BRIEF SCORES (AT THUMBA):** Kerala 239 and 115 (Robin Uthappa 33, Vishnu Vinod 33; Shahbaz Ahmed 3/15, Arnan Nandi 3/28) lost to Bengal 307 & 50/1. Kerala 0; Bengal 7.

### Yadav picks five, Rajasthan tottering

CARRYING ON his terrific form to the Test series against Bangladesh and South Africa, Umesh Yadav scythed through Rajasthan with a five-wicket haul (5/45). After a couple of strikes up the order, he came back to mop up the lower order, giving the two-time reigning champions a massive 250-run lead. Following on, Rajasthan were stuttering at 12/3.

**BRIEF SCORES (AT NAGPUR):** Vidarbha 510/8 declared lead Rajasthan 260 (Mahipal Lormor 97, Rajesh Bishnoi 39; Umesh Yadav 5/45, Aditya Sarwate 3/72) & 12/3 by 238 runs.

### Padikkal impresses

YOUNG OPENER Devdutt Padikkal continued his rich vein of form with a 74 that enabled Karnataka gain a precious 40-run lead over Uttar Pradesh. As he had been throughout this season, he batted fluently, his 74 coming off only 108 balls, his innings punctuated with 10 boundaries. However, Karnataka would rue not grabbing a bigger lead, thanks mainly to left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar's persistence (6/116).

**BRIEF SCORES (AT HUBBALLI):** Uttar Pradesh 281 and 29/1 (Madhav Kaushik 19 not out; Ronit More 1-16) trail Karnataka 321 (Devdutt Padikkal 74, Shreyas Gopal 58, Saurabh Kumar 6-116) by 111 runs.

# Gopichand on Indian badminton's ailments: They need a structure... earlier I was the structure

SHAHID JUDGE  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 19

PULLELA GOPICHAND has an ever-so-slight smile on his face as he pauses and allows himself a moment — a moment of reflection. About a half-hour earlier, Indian badminton's national coach spoke about how he found a winning formula at a time when his body could not support his playing career.

It was a formula he swore to impart on a set of youngsters who would then go on to become some of the biggest names in the world sport. One of them got ever so close to becoming only the second Indian to win an individual gold medalist at the Olympics, in Rio 2016. But the question that puts Gopichand in a pensive mood is what's changed since that historic match in Brazil. And the Dronacharya Award winner is not quite pleased.

"Now things are different. In 2008 onwards, the initial years, I was the coach, the physio, the manager, I was everything," he says. "Today there is a physio, there is a manager, there is a masseur, international coaches, someone for strength and conditioning... there are some 10 people. Now if I look at (the players) they will say, 'sir, my physio said this, my strength and conditioning guy said this...' So now I'm two steps back."



**P Gopichand feels that the presence of two many specialised support staff, his job has become tougher.**

The 46-year-old, a former world no 5 who became only the second Indian (after Prakash Padukone) to win the prestigious All England Championships in 2001, has had a telling impact on Indian badminton.

**Now Sindhu has a strength and conditioning coach, she has a physio, she has a masseur, she has a manager, she has parents... She's surrounded. In 2016, the pressure was mine.**

PULLELA GOPICHAND

With the emergence of his ward Saina Nehwal, a new and successful chapter had started for Indian badminton. Nehwal, who won India's first ever Olympic medal in badminton by winning bronze at London 2012, became the first Indian woman to become world no 1, Kidambi Srikanth became the first Indian man since Padukone (1980) to reach the top spot in 38 years, PV Sindhu won silver in women's singles at Rio 2016 and also became the first ever Indian to win gold at the World Championships.

Presently, there are three men's singles players, two in the women's singles event, and one men's doubles pair ranked in the top 25. And Gopichand has been close at hand to witness it all. But he laments that the way the sport has grown that has not allowed a stable structure to exist.

"Indian badminton needs a structure. Earlier, I was the structure. Everything had to go

through me," Gopichand says, on the side-line of a Badminton Gurukul event. "Now Sindhu has a strength and conditioning coach, she has a physio, she has a masseur, she has a manager, she has parents... She's surrounded. In 2016, the pressure was mine. What she eats, what she drinks, where she goes, that was all my decision. What Saina did was my decision. But now Saina has (her own support team). So everytime I ask them about something, 'sir my physio is saying this...' We are actually dealing with another ecosystem. I have one thought process, someone else has another. So I say this is my formula, the player has their own formula. We need a little more organisation to set up a structure."

For a while, Gopichand was where badminton coaching started and finished in India. And he's proven his ability to produce world beating players, just like some of his foreign peers who are now dominant coaches. It's a goal he continues to strive towards even today, but he cannot help shake the feeling that he's steadily losing grip of being the one in charge of that conveyor belt of top-notch shuttlers.

"This is now too big for Gopichand to manage. You have a Park Joo-Bong for Japan, Li Yongbo for China, where they are the supreme authority and nobody questions them. But in India it's different," he adds, just as that smile fades.

# Zeena stuns big names to win 10m air rifle gold

NITIN SHARMA  
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 19

HIMACHAL'S ZEENA Khitta beat much-fancied stars West Bengal's Mehuli Ghosh and World No.3 Apurvi Chandel to win the gold in the women's 10metre air rifle event at the 63rd National Shooting Championships on Tuesday. Zeena was fourth in the qualifying round but in the final held her nerve to shoot a world class 252.2 to top the field. Mehuli finished with 250.5, while Apurvi registered 227.6.

Zeena hails from Rohru, a town in the apple belt near Shimla in Himachal Pradesh. On Thursday afternoon she called her first coach Virender Singh Banshtu to check how bad the snowfall was on way to the eight-target range in her hometown. Zeena didn't want to rest on her laurels and wanted to get back to practice soon. In winter when it snows, the shooters use heaters within the shooting range at the Aradhana Public School in Rohru, 1,500 metres above sea-level to stay warm as temperatures dip as low as minus two-degree centigrade.

When she moves out of home, it takes her a short while to get used to the change in temperature — like when she was at the Madhya Pradesh State Academy shooting range in Bhopal where the nationals are being held.

"I definitely find it tougher shooting in



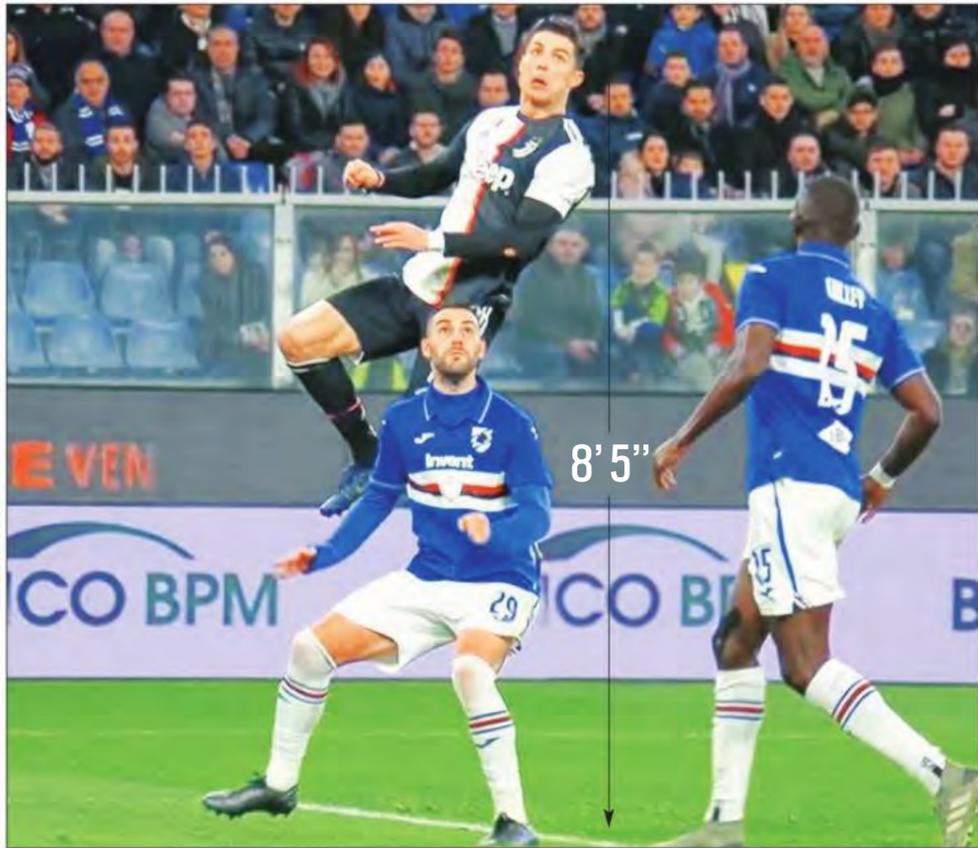
Zeena Khitta out-shot the seasoned Mehuli Ghosh and Apurvi Chandel.

much warmer conditions as compared to my home town Rohru, where temperatures are around 10 degrees in September and reach minus two degrees in winter," Zeena said.

Guns were always there in the household but not the kind used at shooting ranges. Khitta's father Prithvi Raj Khitta is an apple farmer in Rohru. Zeena recalls that from her grandfather's time, rifles were used to keep wild animals away from the apple orchards to prevent damage. But it was on the insistence of national shooter Banshtu that a young Zeena took up shooting in 2015. She won her first national medal, a bronze, at the junior event in Thiruvananthapuram in 2017. And she has not looked behind since.

# HIS AIRNESS

Cristiano Ronaldo scores a 'NBA style' goal in Juventus's win; compares his jump to Michael Jordan



**WITH A JUMP** of 2-foot-3-inches, Cristiano Ronaldo headed home Alex Sandro's cross in Juventus's 2-1 win over Sampdoria in Serie A on Wednesday. At the peak of his jump, the 6-foot-1-inch striker was 8-foot-5-inches above the ground, according to Juventus's website. This wasn't the first time he executed a gravity-defying jump: he had earlier scored goals from a height of 9-foot-6-inches and 8-foot-5-inches against Man United in 2013 and Wales in 2016 respectively, *AFP* reported. *Screengrabs/Reuters*

Ronaldo did something that you see in the NBA; he was up in the air for an hour and a half. There's nothing you can say about it..."

CLAUDIO RANIERI  
SAMPDORIA COACH

**1 MOVEMENT:** Brazilian defender Sandro received the ball on the left wing late in the first half. He had two teammates to aim inside the box, which was flooded by four Sampdoria defenders. Ronaldo was lurking on top of the box when the move began. But by the time he crossed the ball, he was already moving towards the back post.

**2 ANTICIPATION:** As the ball sailed towards the far post, Ronaldo slipped behind the defenders. As much as the jump, Ronaldo's anticipation was equally inspiring. He calculated the trajectory of the cross, and knew exactly where to meet the ball mid-air, as well as finding the angle and space to beat the goalkeeper with the header.



**3 AIR TIME:** The Portuguese striker leapt above a defender and hung in the air for 1.5 seconds to meet the cross, before cushioning the header into the top of the net for the winning goal on the stroke of halftime. After the match, Ronaldo compared his jump to Michael Jordan's. He tweeted: "CR7 AIR JORDAN" with an airplane emoji.

# No winner in Clasico in the time of protests

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BARCELONA, DECEMBER 19

BARCELONA AND Real Madrid played out a 0-0 draw for the first time in 17 years in a politically supercharged 'clasico' match played amid a large separatist protest that turned violent outside Camp Nou stadium. The game inside the stadium was completed without any major incidents - either on the field or in the stands. But in the streets outside on Wednesday, a detachment of riot police clashed with protesters soon after the start, and plastic trash cans were set on fire.

The smell of smoke from the streets outside reached the stands in the final minutes of the match.

The draw left both teams locked on points atop the Spanish league with Barcelona in front on goal difference. It was the first scoreless match between the fierce rivals since November 2002. Despite concerns by police that the protesters could also try to delay or interrupt the match, both teams arrived safely and on time to the stadium escorted by a heavy police detail. Fears of a pitch invasion by protesters in the stands also proved unfounded.

Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said he was pleased with both the performance and the fact that the game went ahead despite the abnormal circumstances. "Everything went well for Barca and for Real Madrid, and for football," Zidane said. "So we can all be happy."

Play was held up around a minute shortly after halftime when some spectators threw dozens of inflatable beach balls on the side of the pitch while shouting "independence." Stewards quickly cleared them away.

The public speaker also asked the around 100,000 spectators at Europe's biggest stadium to not use exits at one end of the stadium, apparently for security reasons. Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said his team was not affected by the protest since there is always an intense atmosphere surrounding games against Madrid.

"With the tension that the game had already, I saw there were a few yellow balls, but not many. We tried to treat it as normally as possible. People protested, but nothing more," Valverde said. "As a social event, I don't have an opinion. As a sporting event, we drew."

Before kickoff the spectators at the

**Play was held up around a minute shortly after halftime when some spectators threw dozens of inflatable beach balls on the side of the pitch while shouting "independence"**

99,000-seat Camp Nou held up red, blue and yellow square cards to form a mosaic during the playing and singing of the club hymn. Separatists unfurled a large banner reading "SpainSitandTalk" and "FREEDOM" as calls for the Spanish government to accept a negotiation over a possible referendum on secession. When the hymn was over, some spectators held up blue signs with the same message while shouting for the release from prison for several leaders of the movement.

The separatists want the wealthy northwestern region to break away from the rest of Spain. Catalonia's 7.5 million residents are roughly split by the secession question, according to polls. While both teams are more known for their high-powered attacks, it was defenders who stood out in the game as Barcelona's Gerard Pique and Madrid's Sergio Ramos both cleared goal-bound shots from their lines.

**Ramos sets record**

Ramos set a new record for the most clásicos by a player from either side with 43. The Spain captain blocked Lionel Messi's best chance in the 31st minute. Led by Messi, who thrilled the crowd from the start with several runs through Madrid's midfield, the hosts appeared in control.

Madrid, however, took the initiative by trying to take advantage of its superior height and bombarded the box with crosses. Pique cleared Madrid's best opportunity, a header from Casemiro in the 17th.

The second half was one of the tamest between the fierce rivals in recent memory. Neither generated much in attack. And even Messi was off key when he scuffed a shot from close range.

As smoke from outside wafted down, the tension shifted from the pitch to the clashes outside. The match ended with an eerie silence. There were no cheers and the tradition of playing the hymn was forgone.

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