

## (NRC) UNBORN BABY: MINORITY AFFAIRS MINISTER NAQVI

# Protests swell, allies push back: Govt signals a climbdown on all-India NRC

Allies Nitish and Chirag Paswan oppose NRC; Ram Madhav, Naqvi say no plan yet

LIZ MATHEW, ABANTIKA GHOSH, SANTOSH SINGH  
NEW DELHI, PATNA, DECEMBER 20

AS PROTESTS against the new citizenship law swelled nationwide and there was a pushback from state governments and even its allies, the first voices from the government and the ruling BJP were heard Friday climbing down on the plan for a pan-India National Register for Citizens (NRC).

'So far, no discussion on matter'

'Why to implement it?'

While JD(U) president and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said the NRC would not be implemented in Bihar, Lok Janshakti Party president Chirag Paswan said his party would not support any legislation which is not in the interest of the common people. Both are BJP's allies in Bihar and had supported the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Parliament. In Patna, breaking his silence on the NRC, Nitish said: "Kahe ke liye laagu hoga, ekdum nahi laagu hoga (Why should it (NRC) be implemented? It will not be implemented (in Bihar))." And Paswan weighed in: "The way demonstrations are taking place in the country, linking the CAB



Protesters at a demonstration against the new citizenship law at Jama Masjid; the protests turned violent in the evening, in New Delhi on Friday. Praveen Khanna



## Six killed in protests across UP; Net shutdown in several districts

AVANEESH MISHRA & MANISH SAHU  
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 20

AT LEAST SIX persons were killed in firing during protests in UP on Friday against the Citizenship Amendment Act, taking the death toll from the agitation over two days to nine. Police said that over 660 people from towns across UP



Security forces in Lucknow on Friday. Vishal Srivastav

## Karnataka HC slams govt: 'You will ban each protest? Can't an author speak up?'

RALPH ALEX ARAKAL  
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 20

A DAY after police in Bengaluru detained several persons, including historian Ramachandra Guha, for defying prohibitory orders to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act, the Karnataka High Court criticised the state government for impos-

ing those curbs in the city under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). While hearing a clutch of petitions against the security clampdown, Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka asked: "Are you (state) going to ban each and every protest? How can you cancel permission previously granted following due course of process?..."

were taken into custody as part of "preventive action".

According to police, two persons died in Bijnor, and one each in Meerut, Kanpur, Firozabad and Sambhal. Doctors at the Meerut Medical College, however, said there were two deaths in the city.

Officials and police said at least 38 policemen were injured

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## After daylong peaceful protests at Jama Masjid, violence erupts in Old Delhi

AMIL BHATNAGAR & SHIVAM PATEL  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

AT LEAST 45 people, including 13 police officers, were injured as Walled City protests that had largely remained peaceful till 5 pm turned violent on Friday evening—a turn of events police have attributed to over 1,000

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GOVT ISSUES NOTE TO CLARIFY: THOSE BORN HERE BEFORE 1987 ARE INDIANS

OPPOSITION DRAWS NRC-NOTE BAN PARALLEL

IN MANGALORE, POLICE TARGETED HOSPITAL TOO

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## After Bengal, Kerala govt puts NPR on hold

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DECEMBER 20

THE CPI(M)-LED government in Kerala on Friday ordered a "stay (on) all the activities connected with the updation of National Population Register (NPR) in the state forthwith".

Earlier this week, the TMC government in West Bengal had put on hold the NPR updation process amid fears that it was the "first step" to the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Citing similar fears, the order in Kerala, issued by the General Administration Department, said the decision was taken "considering the apprehension



Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan

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## Jaishankar cancels key US Congress panel meeting to avoid a J&K critic

Jayapal introduced resolution calling for lifting of curbs in J&K; Elizabeth Warren says deeply troubling

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

IN AN unusual step that has raised a few eyebrows in Washington, Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is said to have cancelled a meeting with the influential Congressional committee on foreign affairs because it included Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal who introduced the resolution urging India to lift all restrictions in Jammu and Kashmir after revoking Article 370.

This prompted a response from one of US Presidential candidates Elizabeth Warren, a top Democrat leader. "Efforts to silence Pramila Jayapal are deeply troubling. The US and India have an important partnership—but our partnership can only succeed if it is rooted in honest dialogue and shared respect for religious pluralism, democracy, and human rights," Warren tweeted.

Following Jaishankar's snub, Jayapal's House Resolution 745—introduced on December 6—which urged "the Republic of India to end the restrictions on communications and mass detentions in Jammu and Kashmir as swiftly as possible and preserve religious freedom for all residents" and had 19 co-sponsors, now added 10 Democrats over the last 24 hours, making the count at 29 on Friday.

While Jaishankar said he had "no interest" in meeting Jayapal, she tweeted that this "only furthers the idea that the Indian government isn't willing to listen to any dissent at all".

The Washington Post first reported that Jaishankar "abruptly cancelled a meeting with senior members of Congress this week after US lawmakers refused demands to exclude" Jayapal from the meeting. Jaishankar was to meet chairman of the House



Jaishankar with US State Secy Mike Pompeo. AP

### EXPLAINED Curious step from a veteran

JAISHANKAR has engaged with a range of members of the US Congress and overcome many a diplomatic challenge in DC. His rejection sends a signal that Delhi is thin-skinned. The panel is bipartisan and singling out a member makes it harder for India's friends on Capitol Hill.

Foreign Affairs Committee, Congressman Eliot L Engel, committee's top Republican Michael McCaul and others, including Congresswoman Jayapal, the report said.

The US House Foreign Affairs committee is a powerful bipartisan committee in the US Congress, which has been an advocate of stronger Indo-US ties, Jayapal has been vocal in her criticism of the government's moves in Kashmir over the last few months, including at the October hearing.

The committee has also been critical of the recent Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Last Monday, US House Foreign Affairs

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## Expelled BJP MLA Sengar gets life term in Unnao rape case

ANAND MOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

A DELHI Court on Friday sentenced expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar to life imprisonment "for the remainder of his biological life" for raping a minor girl in Unnao in 2017.

Saying that Sengar "was a public servant" when he committed the "depraved act" and "betrayed" people's faith, District Judge Dharmesh Sharma said "all possible coercive measures were employed against the (victim's) family".

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 25 lakh on Sengar, of which Rs 10 lakh will be given to the victim and the rest to the Uttar Pradesh government for costs incurred during the trial. The CBI has been told to continue to assess the threat perception to the



Court also imposed a fine of Rs 25 lakh. File

life and security of the victim and her family members, and to provide them a safe house, and, if needed, new identities.

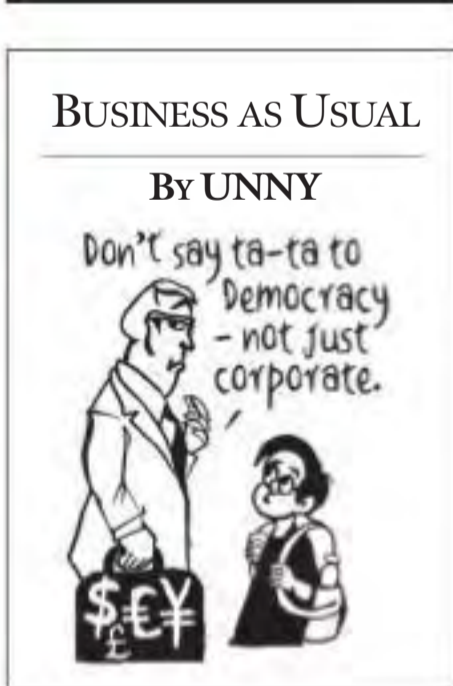
Sengar broke down in the courtroom when he was handed a copy of the judgment.

As per the judgment, the investigating officer recorded the victim's statement in the rape case and then went on to record her statement in the gangrape

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BY KHALED AHMED  
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### 'ECONOMY WILL EMERGE STRONGER'

## PM tells India Inc: Decide and invest boldly, no reason to fear

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

STATING THAT he was aware of the discourse around the economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday that the country had seen such "ups and downs" and the economy has the potential to come out of the current situation. Modi said the economy was heading for disaster five years ago and his government brought about discipline and built a strong foundation for a \$5-trillion economy.

"I am well aware about the discussions related to the economy. But, within those discussions, we have to remember that during the previous government, GDP growth in one quarter had fallen to 3.5%, CPI inflation had touched 9.4% and fiscal deficit had breached 5.6% of GDP. I do



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday. PTI

not want to get into the debate that why some people stayed quiet then. There were ups and downs in the economy earlier too. Our country has shown the capability to come out from such situations always and it has come

out stronger. And, this time also, India will come out of this situation," the Prime Minister said at a function organised by industry body Assocham to celebrate its centenary year.

India's GDP growth has slowed to over a six-year low of 4.5 per cent in July-September, the second quarter of this financial year. Modi said the government has decriminalised many provisions of the Companies Act and that work is underway to bring in more provisions, adding that the government listens to industry, understands their needs and is sensitive to their suggestions. He also said that the government is working to eliminate the inverted duty structure (where taxes on inputs are more than the tax on output).

Modi said that no inappropriate decisions will be taken in case

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## Jharkhand voting ends, most exit polls predict defeat for ruling BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
RANCHI, DECEMBER 20

EXIT POLLS for the Assembly elections in Jharkhand have predicted a lead for the JMM-Congress-RJD alliance in the 81-member House. While the India Today-Axis survey has predicted that the Opposition alliance is likely to form the next government, the IANS-C Voter-ABP poll has predicted a hung Assembly.

The ruling BJP currently has a clear majority in the House. Assembly polls in the state were held in five phases—the last on Friday. The final and fifth phase saw 71.69 per cent polling across 16 seats. The counting of votes will take place on December 23.

The India Today-Axis survey predicted 38-50 seats for the Opposition alliance and gave

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### DECISION 2019

JHARKHAND

### THEIR FORECAST

#### INDIA TODAY-AXIS

BJP 22-32

JMM+ Cong+RJD 38-50

AJSU 3-5

JVM(P) 2-4

#### IANS-C VOTER-ABP

BJP 28-36

JMM+ Cong+RJD 31-39

AJSU 5

JVM(P) 3

### PAGE 1 ANCHOR

## Kerala slowdown fast-tracks return of migrant workers from East

SHAJU PHILIP  
KOCHI, KOZHIKODE, DECEMBER 20

HIS CELLPHONE is ringing but Divakar Kumar, a migrant worker from Bihar, is reluctant to answer. That's because he knows who is calling and why.

"It's my wife," says Kumar, standing outside his rented room on Kochi's outskirts. "She wants me to send Rs 5,000 immediately to buy five blankets; for my children, aged parents and her. How will I arrange that amount? This time last year, I was sending home Rs 15,000,

but now I am struggling to scrape together Rs 3,000 every month. There are hardly any jobs left here now," he says.

The 26-year-old's predicament captures the crisis that has engulfed migrant workers from states in the north and North-East in Kerala due to the economic slowdown. At the last official count—a government study of 2013—the state had around 25 lakh migrant workers, mainly employed in construction and allied areas, and the service sector, especially hotels and restaurants.

Kumar, for instance, has been a construction worker in Kochi

for the last three years. But now, he says he is struggling to feed his family in Lakhisarai district's Babhangawan village. "There were 40 men from my village working in construction sites in Kochi. But 25 have returned home over the last three months. Last week, I got work only for two days. If this is the situation, all of us will have to return," he says.

Sravan Kumar, 35, from Nawada in Bihar, says it's been five days since he got any work. "I have been here for five years, but I have never faced this situation. There were seven others in my room and all of them have gone back. Our contractors say there



Waiting for work in Perumbavoor. Floods, recession have hit the construction sector. Nirmal Harindran

are no jobs. The daily wages were around Rs 800 last year, it's Rs 600 now. Even then, we get work only for two or three days a week. We have nothing left to send home," he says.

At Kodusvally in Kozhikode district—the state's famed Gulf pocket—labour contractor V T Shihab says migrant workers from the eastern states have been returning home over the last six months. "I was managing over 150 workers, mainly from Malda and Murshidabad in West Bengal. Now, there are about 25. Not a single new project is coming up in rural and semi-urban areas due to the financial crisis

and entrepreneurs' reluctance to make fresh investments. What is happening now in the construction sector is mainly completion of pending and government-sponsored work," he says.

Shihab says he is getting frequent calls from those who have returned to their home states. "They are ready to come back if there is work only for 2-3 days a week. In the present situation, I can't give any assurance. It seems these workers have no other place to go now," he says.

According to economist and state finance commission chairman Dr B A Prakash, the return of migrants should be seen

against the backdrop of a severe recession in Kerala. "The floods in the last two years have damaged trade, agriculture and small-scale industries. Business activity has come down considerably in rural and semi-urban areas. Purchasing power has shrunk and non-resident Keralites are returning from the Middle East due to job losses there," he says.

"The slump in construction, which is the major economic activity across Kerala, has affected the prospects of migrant workers, mainly the unskilled ones," says Prakash.

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**VIDEO OF THE DAY**



**'ARE YOU GOING TO BAN EACH AND EVERY PROTEST?': KARNATAKA HC RAPS GOVT**

The Karnataka HC has also directed the Advocate General (AG) to check whether the police had initially granted permission for staging protests but later revoked it after imposing section 144. The AG was asked to submit his reply at 4 pm today

**HOW DELHI POLICE STORMED JAMIA**

A student of Jamia Millia Islamia shares her account



**FULL COVERAGE**

**CITIZENSHIP ACT PROTESTS**

Violent protests break out in western UP, vehicles torched

**EXPRESS AUDIO**

Technology we're looking forward to in 2020

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

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**FROM PAGE ONE**

**Delhi protests**

minors who were apprehended and remained inside Darya Ganj police station premises till late Friday night. Outside, several lawyers had gathered after receiving panicked WhatsApp messages from civil rights activists.

According to the nearby Lok Nayak hospital, the injuries ranged from fractures to bruises and lacerations on the head. Around 11 pm, an impromptu protest started outside the old Delhi Police headquarters at ITO, with people demanding the release of those detained in Darya Ganj, 2 km away.

The day had started far more calmly, with thousands gathering at Old Delhi's Jama Masjid following the afternoon prayers. Among them was Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad, who reached the venue after evading Delhi Police. As Azad, with Constitution in hand, started speaking, police moved in to detain him. In the crowd and chaos, though, he managed to give personnel the slip — only to reappear at the mosque two hours later and head inside for evening prayers. Till late Friday night, Azad was inside the mosque as Delhi Police teams waited outside.

Around 3 pm, people started moving from Jama Masjid to Delhi Gate, 2 km away, but the protests were limited to sloganeering. Around 5 pm, protesters had started to leave, police said. Delhi Police spokesperson Mandeep Singh Randhawa said, "Local protesters from the area had left and this was a group from outside (that clashed with police). They set a private vehicle on fire and we used water cannons. No teargas or rubber bullets were used."

Police attributed the root of the violence to a large gathering forming in Seelampur through the day, which grew to 30,000 people at one point. Thousands had also gathered in four more areas in Northeast Delhi. It was

when splintered groups of these protesters decided to head to Delhi Gate that trouble started, said a senior police officer.

**Six killed in protests**

in the violence, including six who suffered bullet injuries. They said violent protests were reported mainly from 12 districts, including Firozabad, Muzaffarnagar, Bulandshahr and Bahraich.

Officials said that Internet services have been blocked in several districts, including Bulandshahr, Sambhal, Lucknow, Kanpur, Bijoor, Firozabad and Muzaffarnagar.

Senior police officers claimed that protesters opened fire at police in many protest sites. Around 25 vehicles were set ablaze, police said.

"The situation is now under control. The cause of deaths of six persons would be ascertained only after the autopsy report is obtained. Action will be taken against assailants after identifying them," said Praveen Kumar, IG (law and order).

Police identified those killed Friday as Aftab Alam (23) in Kanpur, Bilal (24) in Sambhal, and Anas (21) and Suleman (35) in Bijoor. The others are yet to be identified, they said.

On Thursday, a 25-year-old man was killed in alleged police firing during a protest in the Old Lucknow area, while two others died of "bullet injuries" in Karnataka's Mangalore.

"In preventive action following today's incidents, police have taken a total of 667 persons into custody," UP Police said in a statement. "At places of violence and arson, a total of 38 policemen were injured in which a few sustained firearm injuries. Around two dozen vehicles were set ablaze and vandalised. Deaths of six persons have been reported so far," the statement said.

(WITH AMIT SHARMA IN MEERUT)

**Govt signals climbdown on all-India NRC**

with the NRC... it has become clear that the government has been unsuccessful in removing the misconception among an important category."

Chirag Paswan tweeted a letter he had written to Home Minister Amit Shah on December 6 demanding that an NDA meeting be convened to discuss the CAB before it was tabled in Parliament. His father, Ram Vilas Paswan, is a minister in the Narendra Modi government.

Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said there is "no plan for a nationwide NRC" and that "there has so far been no discussion on the matter at any level of government."

"It's premature to talk about NRC as the government has not yet made any details about it available," BJP General Secretary Ram Madhav, in charge of northeastern states, told The Indian Express. "Right now, the focus is on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. NRC is a proposed activity Home Minister has announced to be taken up in 2021. No details have been made available to us. It's premature to talk about it. There are no details available about it."

Speaking to The Indian Express, Naqvi added: "NRC is limited to Assam. There is no plan of NRC in any other part of the country. You are talking about an unborn baby... Spreading rumours about it."

Asked about statements from top BJP leaders including one from its working

president J P Nadda on Thursday reiterating BJP's promise on a nationwide NRC, Madhav said: "...It's an announcement made by the Home Minister. Since it has to happen two years down the line and no details have yet been made known to the country, this is not the time to talk about the NRC."

These remarks signal a climbdown on the stand reiterated by Home Minister Amit Shah that the NRC will follow the controversial act. And that every illegal Indian will be picked up "one by one." Shah had clearly said that the "chronology will be that the CAB will be succeeded by NRC."

Naqvi's remarks marl the first time a government functionary has clearly said there is no plan for NRC across the country after Shah, while replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, made references to a countrywide NRC. He had also committed to an all-India NRC while addressing BJP workers in Kolkata's Netaji Indoor Stadium in October this year.

Reminded about Shah's statements, Naqvi said: "Who is NRC for? It is for Indian nationals. Does it say it is only about Indian Muslims? No, it does not. NRC, if it at all happens... no government can do it surreptitiously. That is why the government has clarified, issued advertisements and said that there is no process on that yet, no discussion at any level in the government so far on a nationwide NRC."

In the RS, replying to a question by nominated MP Swapan Dasgupta, Shah had said: "...The NRC exercise in Assam was undertaken as per an order of the Supreme Court and as per a separate Act. When the NRC exercise is replicated across the country, it will naturally have to be redone in Assam. I want to again make it clear that followers of no religion should feel scared. Everybody will be included in NRC. As for the gazette notification that the member referred to, it is applicable across the country."

In December last year, the Home Ministry (then under Rajnath Singh) had told the Lok Sabha in a reply: "The exercise to update NRC 1951 is being conducted under the special provisions in respect of State of Assam under the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the Citizenship Rules, 2003. At present, there is no proposal to extend the National Register of Citizens to states other than Assam."

While JD(U)'s national vice-president Prashant Kishor had said last week that Nitish does not support a pan-India NRC, this is the first time that the Bihar Chief Minister has spoken out on the issue. He joined a list of chief ministers, including Odisha's Naveen Patnaik, West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee, Punjab's Amarinder Singh, Rajasthan's Ashok Gehlot, Chhattisgarh's Bhupesh Baghel and Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan, who have opposed the NRC.

**After Bengal, Kerala govt puts NPR on hold**

among the general public about the conduct of National Population Register-related activities lead (ing) to the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the wake of the Citizenship Amendment Act."

An official communication from the office of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the state had always extended full support and cooperation for the Census exercise. "The government is duty-bound to continue its cooperation for the conduct of the Census

as that exercise in an inevitable one. The decision to stay the NPR-related activities in the state was taken against the backdrop of the factors that the issue is before the Supreme Court and the amended citizenship Act has deviated from the Constitutional values," it said.

Vijayan, as also his party, has made it clear that he is against the new citizenship law and the proposed pan-India NRC exercise. The NPR update is to be done across

India (except Assam) from April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020, along with the next Census enumeration.

Last month, the Kerala government had issued an order regarding the preliminary arrangements and appointment of Census officers. Accordingly, the first phase of Census operations, which includes house listing, house census and updation of NPR, was slated to take place in April-May next year.

to assure no inappropriate action will be taken in case of genuine commercial decisions," he said, adding that the interest of the labour force should also be taken care of.

The Prime Minister highlighted improvement of India's position in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings from 142 to 63 among 190 nations in three years and noted that India is among the top 10 nations to have, in the last three years, made continuous improvement. "This hasn't come without having to face anger and allegations from people. We have been told that we are corporate agents. But we are agents of 130 crore Indians," he said.

The government has also undertaken reforms in the banking sector to make it more transparent and profitable, he said. "Owing to the steps taken by the government, today 13 banks are on the path of profit, out of which six banks are out of PCA (Prompt Corrective Action). We have also hastened the process of unification of the banks," Modi said.

The Prime Minister said Rs 100 lakh crore will be spent in the coming years on building infrastructure and another Rs 25 lakh crore on rural economy and this, in turn, will help nearly double the size of the Indian economy to \$5 trillion by 2024.

Modi said the time taken to register companies has been cut to few hours from months and better infrastructure has enabled the cut in the turnaround time at airports and ports. Dynamic changes have been made in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on the suggestion of trade and industry, he said, adding that the government is "not afraid of any challenges".

**Jaishankar**

Committee had tweeted: "Religious pluralism is central to the foundations of both India and the United States and is one of our core shared values."

"Any religious test for citizenship undermines this most basic democratic tenet," the panel had said.

Jaishankar, who was in Washington DC for the Indo-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue, said the resolution introduced in the House of Representatives was not a fair characterisation of the situation in J&K.

"I am aware of that (Congressional) resolution. I don't think it's a fair understanding of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, or a fair characterisation of what the government of India is doing. And I have no interest in meeting (Jayapal)," he said in response to a question. "I have an interest in meeting people who

are objective and open to discussion but not the people who already made up their minds," Jaishankar said.

Jayapal, in her response, tweeted, "The cancellation of this meeting was deeply disturbing. It only furthers the idea that the Indian government isn't willing to listen to any dissent at all." She was quoted by The Washington Post as saying: "The seriousness of this moment should have been a reason for a conversation, not dictating who's in the meeting, which seems very petty."

Jayapal, a Democrat, said she had planned to advance her resolution on Kashmir this week but was urged to wait until after meeting with Jaishankar. Now she plans to renew her push for the resolution in January, the report said. She is a Chennai-born US Congresswoman, who was visiting her family in India when the Indian government revoked J&K's special status.

"My constituents care about the human rights situation, thousands of people detained without charges, and a communication crackdown that makes daily life more difficult," she was quoted as saying.

PTI quoted sources saying the meeting was cancelled as the Committee kept changing the ground rules — a day before the meeting, the committee added Jayapal (she isn't a member of the committee) and several other lawmakers who were known "India-bashers."

Asked if New Delhi had a problem with Democrats, Jaishankar said: "My own sense is that support for the (India-US) relationship is extremely strong in a very, very wide cross section members of Congress and political leaders outside the Congress," he said. "So, I wouldn't take a few voices and necessarily reach a sweeping conclusion, which your question seems to suggest."

"I'm not personalising this. I don't want to get into names. All I'm saying is we have always operated in this country because we are always engaged with everybody (who) was reasonable and open-minded," Jaishankar said.

Peter Lavoy, a former US Assistant Secretary of Defence in the Obama administration and an avid India-watcher in Washington DC, said, "Very surprised that @DrSJaishankar did this. He usually is resilient to this kind of engagement and criticism."

Former minister of state (external affairs) and now, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said: "This is totally unworthy of a great democracy like India. I can't believe @DrSJaishankar with all his diplomatic experience would refuse to

engage with a critic; whether you agree with him or not, he is able to debate anybody! This intolerance of dissent is a BJP political failing."

Jaishankar met the leadership of the Senate Foreign Relations Affairs Committee including its Chairman Senator James E Risch and ranking Member Senator Bob Menendez.

On the eve of the ministerial, he also met some key members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee including Congressmen Ami Bera and Brad Sherman from the Democratic party and Ted Yoho and Francis Rooney from the Republican Party.

The second 2+2 ministerial dialogue was hosted by US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark T Esper.

(WITH INPUTS FROM PTI IN WASHINGTON)

**Sengar gets life term**

case "to take a different version" from her.

The judge noted that there is "more to the story than meets the eye", and observed that the "victim girl cannot be crucified at the altar of investigative findings" in the gangrape case, and the merits of the gangrape case cannot be reflected in the present case.

Acquitting co-accused Shashi Singh of criminal conspiracy charges, the court said: "The investigation has not unearthed any evidence on interpersonal relationship between the family of the victim girl and Shashi... The circumstances brought on record leave an impression that accused Shashi Singh was not in a position to resist, protest or raise an alarm or seek any help to save the victim girl from the evil clutches of Kuldeep Singh Sengar."

The court also criticised the CBI for not analysing the data from Sengar's two mobile phones and the two mobile phones belonging to the victim's uncle, despite reminders on four separate occasions.

"The whole scenario leaves an impression that the IO and his team did not make any endeavour to examine the data in the external hard disk, and therefore, a vital piece of evidence which would have been crucial to support the case of the complainant was not produced before the court," the judge said.

The court relied on the victim's testimony, which it found cogent and of sterling quality. When the defence counsel, Tanveer Ahmad Mir and Dhruv Gupta, raised the issue of delay in reporting the matter, the court said: "Due regard must be had to the rural background of the victim/ survivor, her predicament of having been sexually assaulted by a powerful man, a bahubali of the area, and her understanding or trust or be-

trayal in the words of Shashi Singh that nobody could dare to raise voice against the MLA (Sengar), whose brother had even attempted to kill a Superintendent of Police but no action was taken in law."

The case dates back to June 4, 2017, when the victim, then 17 years old, was raped by Sengar, a four-time BJP MLA from Bangermau in Uttar Pradesh — he was expelled from the BJP in August this year.

About a year later, on April 3, 2018, her father was allegedly framed in an illegal arms case and arrested. He died in judicial custody a few days later, on April 9, 2018.

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

On August 1, the Supreme Court transferred the rape case, along with four other related cases, to Delhi, and directed the court to complete trial in 45 days. The judge heard the case on a day-to-day basis from August 5.

The four related cases are: framing of the victim's father in an illegal firearms case and his death in judicial custody, conspiracy in the accident case, and a separate case of her alleged gangrape by three others in Unnao on June 11, 2017.

**Jharkhand exit polls**

22-32 seats to the BJP. The majority mark in the 81-member Assembly is 41.

The IANS-C Voter-ABP poll, on the other hand, predicted that the BJP would win between 28 and 36 seats and the Opposition alliance would get between 31 and 39 seats. Both polls indicated that the All Jharkhand Students' Union (AJSU) and the Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Pranjantrik) (JVM-P) is likely to win 3-5 seats each and could end up as "kingmakers".

A local news channel, News 11, predicted 30-35 seats to BJP, 17-22 seats to JMM, 9-12 seats to Congress, 8-12 seats to AJSU and 4-6 seats to JVM-P, pointing at a hung Assembly.

The BJP had initially campaigned on the issues such as Article 370, Ram Temple and Triple Talaq and the focus shifted to the Citizenship Amendment Act in the later phases. The Opposition raised local issues such as lack of employment, water scarcity and the protection of "jal, jungle, zameen".

In the 2014 Assembly elections, the BJP had bagged 37 seats and formed the government with alliance partner AJSU that won five seats. Six MLAs of the Babul Marandi-led JVM-P joined the BJP soon after the elections. The JMM and the Congress won 17 and 6 seats, respectively.

**Kerala slowdown**

In several semi-urban and village areas across Kochi and Kozhikode, houses and tin-sheeted one-room camps erected for migrant workers wear a deserted look. At Perumbavoor, the state's largest migrant hub, the Sunday "bhai market" is now a pale shadow of its peak days.

"Most of the contractors have sent back their workers. I have already dropped 20 migrants who were with me over the last year," says Hazrath Ali, a contractor in Perumbavoor.

The exit has impacted local trade and public transport, as well. "Most migrant workers in our area have gone back. When they were here in large numbers, they used to spend money on mobile recharge and accessories, poultry and grocery. In the peak morning and evening hours, transport buses used to be full of these workers but they are running empty now," says K Illiyas, who runs a mobile shop at Katharammal, in Kozhikode, which is a hub of migrant workers.

Many hotels, too, have begun avoiding migrant workers due to the crisis. "Business has come down by 50 per cent in recent months. Due to shrinking job opportunities, locals are ready to work without bargaining for wages," says Moithenkutty Haji, who heads the Kerala Hotel and Restaurant Association.

According to a state labour official, the job crisis is mainly in semi-urban and rural areas where workers are hired by local contractors for daily wages, mainly in the agriculture sector. "There is a dip in construction and other activities in the rural areas. The crisis has not yet been felt in cities, where major projects are being executed," says the official.

Those who are staying back — mainly from Bihar, Odisha and Assam — say those who have gone back are seeking jobs again. "Some of us, who can manage little bit of Malayalam, are looking for jobs in other areas in Kerala," says Muhammed Aslam from Assam.

Sagar Naik, 23, from Suruda in Odisha's Ganjam district, is now depending on other migrant workers for food. "I haven't got any work in the last one month. My marriage is fixed for next March and my house is under construction. But without work and salary, I don't know how to manage," he says.

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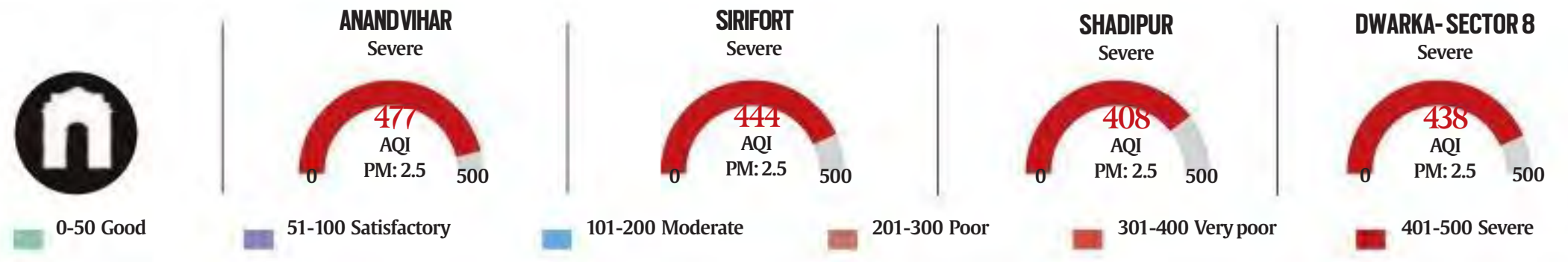
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# DU tells colleges: Ad hocs can continue till permanent posts filled

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

IN AN order issued to all its colleges Friday, the Delhi University administration clarified ad hoc faculty can continue teaching till permanent appointments are made. The clarification came at the behest of the HRD Ministry, after three DU colleges—Aryabhata College, Lady Shri Ram College and Keshav Mahavidyalaya—issued notices ending or suggesting the end of services of ad hoc teachers appointed this year. This was reported by *The Indian Express* Thursday. This step, colleges said, was taken in the absence of specific orders from the DU administration.

DU registrar Tarun Kumar Das told *The Indian Express*, "No direction has been issued by the university for termination of ad hoc teachers in respect of the colleges. College principals are responsible for any action taken by them." On December 5, the government, in the wake of protests by DU teachers, asked the varsity to amend its August 28 circular to

categorically state that ad hoc teachers can continue till permanent appointments are made. In the August 28 circular, DU had advised colleges to "fill permanent vacancies at the earliest," and appoint guest faculty in the interim "against new vacancies arising first time in 2019-20". This caused confusion over what the 'new vacancies' were. As a result, several colleges did not issue appointment letters to ad hoc teachers at the time of renewal of their 120-day contracts or release their salaries, which led to protests. "Colleges shall fill permanent vacancies in a timebound manner...if vacancies which have to be filled for maintaining smooth academic functioning of colleges/institutions, ad hoc/temporary/contract/guest faculty can be appointed till permanent faculty is recruited," read DU's Friday order. On Thursday, the UGC passed a resolution to amend its regulation on minimum qualification for appointment of teachers to permit ad hoc faculty to appear for the interview for permanent appointment in the same university.

# SISODIA SAYS SLOGAN 'CAME FROM PEOPLE' AAP hits poll pitch with new slogan, padyatras, report card

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

IN LESS than a week of the Aam Aadmi Party tying up with JD(U)'s Prashant Kishor-led Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) for its election campaign, the party announced its official slogan for the party.

Like it was for the 2015 polls, the slogan this time—*Achhe baete paanch saal, lage raho Kejriwal* (Five years went by well, carry on Kejriwal)—centred around party chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. In 2015, the party went with 'Paanch saal Kejriwal'. The slogan and the party's strategy for the next fortnight were declared at AAP's party office near ITO. The party will also release a report card of its five years in power. The office also bore a different look—complete with a stage for all MLAs to sit on, multiple life-size hoardings of Kejriwal and the slogan, and a registration desk.



Manish Sisodia, Gopal Rai, Sanjay Singh, Satyendar Jain at Friday's event. Senior leaders and MLAs will undertake padyatras ahead of the polls. Praveen Khanna

Party officials said I-PAC's team had started working closely with party members and Friday's press conference was the first such event handled primarily by the I-PAC team. Neither Kejriwal nor Kishor were present. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that the slogan had come from the people. "When we go and meet people, they talk about our reforms in education, health and our water and power schemes. They are the ones who say that the past five years have been good. They have only one wish that Arvind Kejriwal becomes the CM again."

# At LSR, IMF's chief economist points to economic slowdown

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20



Gita Gopinath at LSR, Friday

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund (IMF) chief economist Gita Gopinath said India's economy has slowed down much more than predicted by many forecasters, while interacting with students at her alma mater Lady Shri Ram College for Women Friday. "People expected growth to be slow, but the most recent numbers have surprised everyone. There has been a sharp slowdown in investment and consumption growth has also dropped. So growth now is primarily driven by government spending," she said. In response to a question on what the primary problems are, she pointed to the financial sector. "There appears to be a bit of a credit squeeze in the market. We've had a problem with banks and their non-performing assets. In other countries, which have inherited a large amount of non-performing assets, it took a long time to resolve. But in India, new institutions like the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and the National Company Law Tribunal had to be set up. You are trying to do non-performing assets resolution with a new set of rules and banks that still don't have a very good sense of how all of this will work out," she said. She also pointed to the rural sector, pointing to the fall in food prices in the last year leading to a shrink in rural demand. She added that more needs to be done by India to assure the rest of the world that it is fiscally sound. "The corporate tax cut was announced, but there was no announcement on where the revenue would come from, and revenue mobilisation has not been very good with the GST," she said.

# 'Give jobs to kin of 1984 riot victims'

PRITAMPAL SINGH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

THE DELHI High Court directed the Lieutenant Governor and Delhi government to give jobs to children or family members of those killed in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, after verification of applicants and on the basis of evidence on record. "In case employment is denied by the government, a speaking order shall be passed by respondents, elaborating the reasons as to why the claim of such applicant is not covered by circular dated 16.01.2006 or by rules, regula-

tions and government policy applicable to the facts of the case," a bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar said. The Centre's 2006 circular had directed that the children or other family members of those killed in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots be provided jobs on compassionate grounds. Asking the authorities to follow their own circular "in accordance with law, rules, regulations and the government policy", it said, "If the list for giving employment is already prepared by the respondents, after proper scrutiny, the list will be implemented in serial, as per the requirements of the re-

spondents". The order came on a PIL filed by the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) last year, which alleged that despite the passage of 12 years since the 2006 circular, not a single applicant was provided employment by the Delhi government. Following the court's direction, Delhi government's additional counsel Anuj Aggarwal, appearing for the authorities, said that they will "follow the circular and if any children or family members of those who died in 1984 riots is found fulfilling the criteria of the circular, employment will be given to them".

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Prem Nath Pandey



(Clockwise from bottom left) Scenes from Seelampur, where 30,000 people gathered through the day and police were on their toes; a drone keeps an eye on Jama Masjid, which saw peaceful protests in the afternoon; and at Delhi Gate, where a water cannon was used. Photos: Praveen Khanna

PROTESTS AGAINST NEW CITIZENSHIP LAW

# As Darya Ganj goes from calm to chaotic, police station, hospital turn nerve centres

AMIL BHATNAGAR & SHIVAM PATEL  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

MINUTES AFTER a peaceful protest from Jama Masjid to Delhi Gate turned violent Friday evening, leaving 45, including 13 policemen, injured, Lok Nayak hospital saw a flurry of activity. Though hospital administration said the injuries were "not serious", *The Indian Express* found multiple patients with bandages wrapped around their heads and in bloodstained clothes. A group of policemen were also being treated in the ward, which was guarded by hospital security and policemen. A doctor in the ward said, "There are blunt trauma injuries on the head, lacerated wounds and fractures too."

protests and was hit on the head during stone pelting and then injured in a stampede. Nearby, Ashok, a constable from Darya Ganj police station, said, "I was standing in a line with other officers, trying to douse the fire in a car that had been set ablaze. As we tried to remove protesters, they charged at us. Many locals got injured in the stampede; a group of protesters were pelting stones and pushing us. I was wearing a helmet but one stone hit my face and I fell."

**Ground zero**  
At Delhi Gate, barely a kilometre away, there was chaos as families of those detained and lawyers stood outside the Darya Ganj police station, scrambling for information. Several minors were among those detained. Mohd. Amir's family received a text at 8.20 pm from him which just read "Darya Ganj". Panicked relatives rushed from Subhash Nagar to Delhi Gate. "He had

stopped at Jama Masjid for the evening namaz. We don't know what happened during the violence but we know he had nothing to do with it. He is not there at the hospital and we don't know if he is inside the station. All we want is his safety," said Mohd. Akram, a relative. Messages meanwhile were circulated on social media and WhatsApp calling for lawyers to gather at the police station, and a group reached by 9 pm even though entry was barred. Tara Narula, a lawyer who was allowed inside, said that there were 32 persons detained. "There are two doctors tending to the injured inside. I was told by police that no minors have been detained and they are only waiting for family members of the boys to come and pick them up. We are facilitating their release," she said. Amna, the mother of 24-year-old Akram, who she couldn't trace, said: "He called me around 6 pm claiming he was being taken

by police. He is not in the hospital, so he must be inside. Many have been picked up while returning after namaz." **Earlier in the day**  
The scenes were a stark contrast to the afternoon, when some protesters outside Jama Masjid were handing roses to police personnel. Even though slogans against the new citizenship law were raised, the gathering remained peaceful. Among those on the steps of the grand mosque was Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad. He was surrounded by protesters holding pictures of Ambedkar and Gandhi and waving the tricolour as they chanted "kaala kanoon wapis lo". Resident Mohd. Aslam said, "This is a way to divert attention from matters such as unemployment. They said a lot of things when they came to power; now where is *sabka saath sabka vikas*?" Most condemned the new

legislation, as they feared it would be used to push them out of the country when a National Register of Citizens is implemented. "The issue now concerns people's homes. If we don't come out on the streets with our own wish today, we will be compelled against our wish to come out tomorrow," said Mohd. Umair Siddiqui (18), who works at a shoe shop near Jama Masjid. Harpreet Singh, a resident of Mukherjee Nagar, who was at the protest, said, "If we don't come here and support this cause today, it can happen to us tomorrow." The crowd started leaving for Delhi Gate around 3 pm, and was about to disperse around 5 pm when trouble started. Police have maintained people from outside the area, predominantly from Seelampur, were the ones who indulged in violence, including setting a constable's car on fire. Additional DCP (northeast) RP Meena confirmed that over 2,000 protesters had moved from

Seelampur and Jaffrabad areas to Delhi Gate. Randhawa said that the group from outside insisted on walking towards India Gate or Jantar Mantar and were told not to. "We spoke to their leaders but the protesters didn't listen to them either," he said. Around 5 pm, announcements were made from a nearby mosque through which an activist appealed to people to start returning. At 5.30 pm, police received information on wireless that a crowd from Northeast Delhi was heading their way. RAF and police officials were deployed at barricades outside the DCP office and water cannons were brought closer. Around 5.50 pm, plastic bottles and stones were hurled from the side of the protesters towards security officials. Amid the clashes, as several people ran inside the lanes of Darya Ganj, police could be seen running after them with lathis and dragging them out.

## Seelampur barrier breached, police plan to limit protests fails

ABHINAV RAJPUT & SOMYA LAKHANI  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

THREE DAYS after violence broke out in North East Delhi's Seelampur during a protest against the new citizenship law, thousands turned up on the streets for a protest despite prohibitory orders. Joint CP (Eastern Range) Alok Kumar said, "A total of 30,000 people protested at Seelampur, and 15,000 each in Mustafabad, Khajuri, Brijpuri and Shastrri Park. Apart from police personnel, 10 companies of CRPF and RAF were also deployed to contain the protesters." Despite barricades, police presence and 10 drones in the area, at least 2,000 protesters managed to breach the barricades and reached Delhi Gate in the evening, where a private vehicle was set ablaze. Police resorted to lathi charge and used water cannons. At least 45 people have been admitted to Lok Nayak hospital. Kumar said, "At all vantage

points, police was alert as crowds were massive. From Yamuna Khadar side, some people managed to climb on to Signature Bridge and then GT Road." A senior police officer said "efforts were made to stop them but the numbers swelled and it was a tough task." In Shahdara's Seemapuri, protesters allegedly pelted stones at police and Additional DCP (Shahdara) Rajbir Singh suffered injuries on his forehead. "Protests in the district were largely peaceful, apart from one incident of stone pelting which lasted a few minutes," said Kumar. Police also took out a flag march with maulvis and Aman Committee members of the area in the afternoon. The Seelampur protest started in the afternoon after Friday prayers, despite prohibitory orders, and dispersed early evening. At 5.30 pm, however, a group from Loni gathered at the same spot. Kumar said, "Local leaders circulated WhatsApp videos to people to not indulge in violence and announcements were also made on police microphones."

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## Shaheen Bagh stir on for 5 days, road shut

ASTHA SAXENA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

AT SHAHEEN Bagh, the southernmost colony in Delhi's Okhla, over 1,000 locals have been sitting on the road since Sunday night, protesting against the new citizenship law and implementation of NRC. This meant a majority of shops were shut and the stretch connecting Noida to Delhi through Kalindi Kunj was closed. Throughout the gathering, the sentiment was similar: "Ye Hindu Muslim ki ladai nahi hai, ye sahi aur galat ki ladai hai (This is not a fight between two religions; it is a fight about right and wrong)." Most protesters, especially women, dissuaded everyone from giving the issue a communal tone. "The Constitution never divides people on the basis of religion. We are living here by choice and not by birth. At present, the



Kids play on the Kalindi Kunj road. Abhinav Saha

Constitution is in danger and we want to fight that. This is a peaceful protest and we will continue until the government rolls back CAA," said Mahid Begum, who has been living here for 25 years. Like her, many women stepped out to protest against the Act. Through the day, food was served and protesters were provided with blankets to brave the cold. In one lane, a group of boys on bikes, holding the Tricolour, shouted slogans of "azadi". "We don't want politics, we want love. We don't want to make it communal," said Sultan Ahmed, who moved to the area two years ago. Ahmad said he was also getting support from his

old neighbours in Tilak Nagar, where he was living earlier. Due to the protest, the Kalindi Kunj road has remained shut since December 15. The DND has seen traffic jams owing to this. During daily meetings of Delhi Police with members of RWA and Aman Committees, DCP (South East) Chinmoy Biswal appealed to them about getting the stretch vacated. Biswal said, "We are intervening in the matter through local people, as we do not want a confrontation. This protest on the highway is a big inconvenience to the locals there. Members of RWAs and Aman Committees are meeting them and trying to convince them."

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# At India Gate and Jamia Campus, protests are alive

**SUKRITA BARUAH & JIGNASA SINHA**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

AS VIOLENCE was breaking out at Delhi Gate Friday evening, hundreds of people gathered at India Gate for another protest against the new citizenship law.

With their phone flashlights in hand, the protesters read the Preamble of the Constitution in unison — a practice now common at protests against the new Act — after sunset.

Along with students and activists, many had travelled to the venue as they were unable to protest, mostly due to police restrictions in their localities. A group of five friends from Ghaziabad — where CRPC Section 144 was in force along with the rest of UP, and mobile internet connectivity was suspended — were among those at the spot.

"After today's afternoon prayers, people tried coming out of the mosque to protest against the Act, but were chased away by police in Kaila Bhatta. We then got WhatsApp messages about the protest here at India Gate, so we came to exercise our right," said Muhammad Junaid (28), who works in a private company.

Similarly, many protesters came from Seelampur, where violence had broken out between protesters and police Tuesday.

"Around 30 of us left from Seelampur together for Jama Masjid to attend the afternoon protest, but we were unable to get there as the area had been heavily barricaded. Some managed to get in, the rest of us walked to Jantar Mantar, where we heard of another protest, but there too we were chased away. Finally, we found out about this protest and came here. This is a safe place to protest," said Maqsood Alam (47),

an e-rickshaw driver. Several people from Old Delhi had also made their way to India Gate.

Meanwhile, outside Jamia Millia Islamia, songs about 'Nari shakti', 'Modi-shah ki tanashahi' and 'Dilli Police ki maar' marked protests by locals and college students Friday. Young artists from Mumbai and Delhi came to perform songs, mostly parodies of Bollywood numbers, to support Jamia students. Locals were also offered tea and biryani, wrapped in the paper on which was written, 'No NRC and no CAA'.

Aamir Aziz, famous for his song 'Ache Din Blues', recited a poem: 'Tum goliyo se humein maar zarur sakte ho, lekin hum marr jayeein ye zaruri nahi'. He spoke about resistance and praised women, who led many protests across the city.

Artist Asif Tanha, who claimed he has been named in two FIRs, said, "I was injured after the protest Sunday, but police have still been blaming me for instigating other students and for rioting."

Protests started in Jamia a week ago. Since then, protesters have not vacated the space outside the university and organised a sit-in protest every day.

"Our student committee is busy with protesting, arranging meals for protesters, managing traffic on the street and handling the public. We will continue to protest till the government changes its stance," said Shah Alam, a student from Jamia.

Students used ropes and barricades to make boundaries and ensure protesters don't block traffic. Fatima (45), a housewife from Batla House, said: "We saw how brutally police attacked children inside the library. I have never participated in a protest before this, but those images moved me," she said.



Azad reads the Preamble to the Constitution at Jama Masjid, Friday. Praveen Khanna

## AT JAMA MASJID

# Police, Azad in cat and mouse through Friday

**SHIVAM PATEL**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

SEVERAL TEAMS of Delhi Police had been trailing Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad before he appeared in front of Jama Masjid Friday afternoon. Policemen soon detained him, but amid resistance from the crowd, he managed to give them the slip. In a dramatic chase, he ran from house to house and jumped across rooftops with police on his heels before disappearing from sight. Police were yet to catch him till late night as he headed inside Jama Masjid later.

Prior to the drama, on Thursday, police from the Southern Range and Crime Branch had been trying to approach Azad after he called for a protest march from Jama Masjid to Jantar Mantar. But he "avoided the calls", after which they approached his advocate, who said Azad would turn up at Jama Masjid.

On Friday morning, the Central district police made arrangements by deploying staff in and around Jama Masjid, where thousands were expected

to gather. "Failing to trace Azad, the Special Cell of Delhi Police was also roped in by afternoon to locate his whereabouts, as he had switched off his phone at around 10.30 am," a senior officer said.

Police personnel were standing at all 10 entrance gates of Jama Masjid when suddenly, soon after afternoon prayers, they came to know that Azad, who held a copy of the Constitution in one hand and a photo of Ambedkar in the other, was at the stairs of the mosque with supporters.

"Police rushed towards him, but they could not reach him as there was lot of resistance from the crowd. After a lot of effort, police managed to get hold of him and tried to take him out from the crowd. DCP (Central) Mandeep Singh Randhawa, along with one of his team members, was taking him out. Azad requested they don't hold him like an accused, but as soon as they relaxed their grip, he escaped," an officer said, adding that police chased after him but in vain.

Azad later turned up at Gate 1 of Jama Masjid around 4 pm when the late afternoon prayers began. Cops from a police post

across the mosque watched him as he made his way, waving at the protesters and requested them to maintain peace.

As the crowd began to go inside the mosque for the prayers, Azad went in with them. As he was climbing the steps of the mosque, an officer at the police post deployed a drone to track him but by then, he couldn't be found in the crowd.

Azad tweeted at 5pm: "I am sitting on the steps of Jama Masjid to tell the Modi government that Modiji, we will not let you kill the Constitution. This country is ours and we will fight till our last breath to save it."

Later, after incidents of violence were reported, Azad tweeted around 6.30pm: "Those who are doing violence are not our people. Ours is a peaceful protest at Jama Masjid. Ambedkarites do not engage in violence. People who are doing it are from the RSS. I am at Jama Masjid and will stay here. People who are spreading violence want to weaken our movement."

Police, meanwhile, said they were waiting for him to come out of the mosque.

# Who will take responsibility for the current deaths: Azad

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

BHIM ARMY founder Chandrashekhar Azad, who evaded the Delhi Police and joined protesters at Jama Masjid, says he will continue his protest till the government rolls back the new citizenship law.

## What exactly is the Bhim Army protesting against?

The whole nation is protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act and the NRC. While whole country is burning, should we remain silent? Bhim Army stands for the protection of the Constitution which is bestowed by B R Ambedkar. We will not allow the division of the country.

## What will be your next step?

Our protest is not over yet. Laks of people are assembled here (near Jama Masjid). We are getting calls from all over the country as well as outside of the

country. People are supporting us. We will continue our protests.

## The government says that CAA does not apply to Indian citizens, they will be not be affected?

I don't believe the people who lie. All the slogans of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah are lies. What happened during the *notebandi* (demonetisation)? Many people died. Who is responsible for their deaths? Today, six people have died in Uttar Pradesh? Who will take responsibility of their death? People do not trust them now. Why are they doing NRC? Muslims are patriots. They did not protest when the government abrogated Article 370. When the verdict in the Babri Masjid demolition case was pronounced, they did not protest. They did not protest when the Parliament passed the tripartite law. But now, we will protest the undemocratic move of this government.

## Union Home Minister Amit Shah wants a nationwide NRC. What is your view on it?

He (Amit Shah) is holding a constitutional post. But whatever he is saying is not democratic — it's dictatorship. You cannot divide this country based on (Vinayak Damodar) Savarkar model. CAA-NRC are aimed at dividing the people of the country. We will not allow that.

## Why did you choose Jama Masjid as the protest site?

There is a *mazar* (mausoleum) of one of the greatest freedom fighters, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, in the area. This is from where he challenged the British. There can be no better place to protest against an undemocratic government. A lot of people, especially women, are coming out and taking part in protests.

## Till when will you continue the protest?

Until the government takes back CAA and its decision to conduct NRC.

# At CP, a march in favour of the new law

**ANANYA TIWARI & SHAARDHOOL SHREENATH**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

HUNDREDS OF people assembled at Central Park in Connaught Place to support the Citizenship Amendment Act Friday evening.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari, who attended the march, said, "The people protesting have a fear that NRC will come on the basis of the Act. But NRC has not even been drafted yet."

Meanwhile, in a video posted on Twitter, Kapil Mishra, who joined BJP from AAP, can be heard leading a crowd and shouting: "Desh ke gaddaron ko, goli maaro saalon ko (Shoot the nation's traitors)."

Supporters marched around the Inner Circle, with traffic being diverted for them.

For many of those gathered, the Act presents an opportunity for persecuted minorities, particularly Hindus, living in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, to settle peacefully in India.

Naval Kishore Jha (62), of the BJP-affiliated Bijay Vihar Mandal, said, "Kejriwal spreads the myth that this Act is against Muslims, but it is not. It only provides citizenship to Hindus from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who have been in India since before 2014."

The event was organised by Shekhar Chahal, who runs a social media page.

(Shaardhool Shreenath is an intern with The Indian Express)

# Mahila Cong gathers outside Shah's house

New Delhi: Around 50 members of the Delhi Mahila Congress staged a flash protest in front of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's residence on Krishna Menon Marg against the new citizenship law Friday, following which they were detained at Mandir Marg station. Daughter of former President Pranab Mukherjee and currently DMC president, Sharmistha Mukherjee, who led the protest and was detained, said, "The dictatorial way in which police has been tackling these protests... we are against that. Why can't we protest in front of HM's house? This is a democracy, and hasn't been elected by people?" Many women had roses in their hands. Block president Namisha Srivastava said, "We want to show we are holding a peaceful protest." **ENS**



At the protest at India Gate, Friday. Abhinav Saha

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In the C-DAC recruitment advertisement no. CORP/GR.A/03/2019 notified in various newspapers on 19th December, 2019, the last date of application may be read as **12th January, 2020**. The other terms & conditions in the said advertisement remain unchanged.  
davn 06132/11/0014/1920

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Qualification 10th pass  
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Tenure Two Years from the date of joining, Not extendable on any ground.  
Visits Four hours per day as per timing fixed by officer in charge Family welfare center.  
Honorarium **Rs. 9000/-**. No TA/DA & other allowances admissible. In the event of absence without any authorized leave **Rs. 346/-** will be deducted for each day of absence.  
Leave Casual Leave for 08 days in a year. Sunday and National Holidays will be observed as holidays, unless otherwise notified.  
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Web Link : <http://210.212.29.221:8080/apex/f?p=168>  
General Manager (P/EE)  
Executive Establishment Dept.

**BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - III, DELHI**  
PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI: 110 001  
Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993). In the matter of  
OA\_525/2019/DRT-III, BANK OF BARODA Applicant Vs M/S VED VATI TEXTILE & ORS. Defendants  
D-1 M/S VED VATI TEXTILE THROUGH ITS PROPRIETOR, MR. VIPIN YADAV, REGD. ADDRESS - SHOP NO. 3, PLOT NO. H 17/4B, 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO. h 17/4B, 3rd FLOOR, TANK ROAD, KAROL BAGH, DELHI-110005.  
D-2 MR. VIPIN YADAV, R/O 98, 2ND FLOOR, SUKHDEV VIHAR, DELHI-110025.  
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 **06.03.2020 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 11th day of Dec. 2019.  
By Order of the Tribunal Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

**Government of India, Ministry of Culture**  
**Advertisement for the post of Director, West Zone Cultural Centre (WZCC), Udaipur**  
Applications are invited in duplicate from eligible candidates for filling up of one post of Director, West Zone Cultural Centre (WZCC), Udaipur, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. The WZCC, Udaipur is one of the seven Zonal Cultural Centres set up by the Government of India to promote folk, tribal arts and culture of different regions across the country.  
The appointment will be on deputation / short term contract basis for a period of 3 years which is extendable by 2 years depending upon the performance of the incumbent. Officers who are working in the rank of Deputy Secretary/Director to the Government of India and have experience of working in organizations related to Art & Culture, eminent cultural personalities (practicing artistes, scholars or experts in the field of art and culture with at least 10 years standing and experience) are eligible to apply.  
The application complete in all respects should reach the office of the Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan, Raj Bhawan, Jaipur within 45 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in Employment News/Rozgar Samachar. The application forms and other details are available on the website of the Ministry of Culture: [www.indiaculture.nic.in](http://www.indiaculture.nic.in) and WZCC: [www.wzccindia.com](http://www.wzccindia.com)  
(Director-in-Charge) WZCC, Udaipur

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# 6 GOVT & POLITICS



## SILENT ON NRC

THE SILENCE of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on the proposed nationwide NRC is discomfiting to the Congress. The common minimum programme of the Shiv Sena, NCP and the Congress specifies that the three parties will take a "joint view" after holding consultations and arriving at a consensus on contentious issues of national importance. But there has been no consultations so far on the NRC among the parties. The Sena's support to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Lok Sabha had enraged the Congress. The Sena then nuanced its stance in Rajya Sabha and stayed away from voting. Interestingly, Thackeray's silence is in contrast to the likes of Nitish Kumar and Naveen Patnaik who have come out opposing a nationwide NRC after supporting the CAB.

## ON RECORD

THE BJP's training programme, after successfully completing a massive membership campaign, is considered to be one-of-its-kind as the party has become a political force with the largest pool of trained human resources working on political engagement. Now, the party wants to put all those efforts and programmes on record. It is set to release a coffee table book on how it accomplished the mission of ideologically training its members. The book — Training For A New India: Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya Prashikshan Mahabhijyan — edited by former Organiser weekly editor R Balashankar and Hemant Goswami, narrates on the BJP's growth from 2014, training sessions in the states, different morchas and how technology was used for the purpose.

## THE COUNTER

AS CONGRESS president Sonia Gandhi has become the voice of her party on the issue of protests against the new citizenship law, the BJP has fielded Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to counter her. On Monday, Gandhi came out against police action on Jamia students, attacking the government for not having any "compassion" in "shutting down people's voices", while Sitharaman warned that "people must be wary of jihadists, Maoists and separatists" infiltrating student protests. On Friday, when the Congress president, in a video message, slammed the government for using "brute force" against the protesters, Sitharaman was fielded to convey that the government will not start the NRC exercise without consulting the stakeholders.

## DOUBLE ROLE

INFORMATION AND Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare, a 1985-batch IAS officer, was appointed as higher education secretary last week. Before this announcement, Khare was already holding additional charge of the school department since October 15. There is a strong buzz in the bureaucracy that the government may not appoint a full-time school education secretary. In other words, like the early 2000s, the HRD Ministry could have only one secretary looking after both school and higher education.

## India belongs to Muslims as much as it belongs to Hindus: Law Minister

UNION MINISTER Ravi Shankar Prasad on Friday said India belongs to Muslims as much as it belongs to Hindus, and asked people protesting against the citizenship law if they had ever seen the pain of those displaced. He also said that the new law is not applicable on citizens of the country. Those who are citizens of India, be it Hindus or Muslims, can live here with honour, Prasad said while addressing a rally. "The country belongs to Muslims as much as it belongs to Hindus. It feels good when Muslims progress and become president, vice-president, chief justice. If they progress within the BJP, we respect them and will continue to respect them," he said. He asked people protesting against the new law, "if they ever saw the pain of those displaced; the way they and their daughters have been mistreated". "In such cases, isn't it the moral obligation of India to honour them?" he asked. "If we have given gas connections to 8 crore women to get rid of black smoke and provided electricity connection in every village, did we leave Muslim families behind? We are proud of Muslims who are doing good in Digital India. We do not do this work for votes because we have an obligation as the people have chosen us to run the government," he said.

## CITIZENSHIP LAW

# Govt issues note to clarify: Those born here before 1987 are Indians

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

SEEKING TO quell the ongoing protests against the amended citizenship law, the government on Friday clarified that anyone born in India before 1987 or whose parents were born in India before 1987, are bona fide Indian citizens according to law and don't need to worry about the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, or the proposed pan-India NRC.

Additionally, the government clarified that in the event of a countrywide NRC, "for pre-1971 genealogy, you do not have to submit any type of identity card or any documents like the birth certificate of parents/ancestors. It was valid only for the Assam NRC, based on the 'Assam Accord' and the directive of the Honourable Supreme Court. For the rest of the country, the NRC process is completely different and under The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003."

It said "there is absolutely no compulsion to submit any document by/ of the parents", and "it would be sufficient for you to provide the details of your birth". However, "if you do not have the details of your birth, then you will have to provide the same details about your parents".

A top government official said that according to the 2004 amendments of the Citizenship Act, if one parent is an Indian and neither is an illegal immigrant, a person is considered an Indian



Former Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje at a rally organised by the state BJP in support of the new citizenship law in Jaipur on Friday. Rohit Jain Paras

citizen. However, this does not apply to Assam.

"The government is also open to receiving suggestions, if any, from anyone on the CAA," he said, adding, "We are also trying to remove doubts of the people about the CAA through various ways."

In a note issued by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) titled "Q&A on NRC", the government said: "Citizenship can be proved by submitting any documents related to date of birth and place of birth. However, a decision is yet to be taken on such acceptable documents. This is likely to include voter cards, passports, Aadhaar, licences, insurance papers, birth certificates, school leaving certificates, documents relating to land or home or other similar documents issued by government officials."

It said "the list is likely to include more documents so that no Indian citizen has to suffer

unnecessarily".

The home ministry spokesperson also tweeted on Friday: "Citizenship of India may be proved by giving any document relating to date of birth or place of birth or both. Such a list is likely to include a lot of common documents to ensure that no Indian citizen is unduly harassed or put to inconvenience."

The spokesperson also tweeted, "Indian citizens do not have to prove any ancestry by presenting documents like identity cards, birth certificates etc of parents/ grandparents dating back to pre-1971 situation."

On whether the NRC would require old documents that are difficult to collect, the PIB note said: "There is nothing like that. Common documents will only be required to prove identity. When the NRC is announced at the national level, then rules and instructions will be made for it in such a way that no one will

face any trouble."

It said that if a person is illiterate and does not have relevant documents, "the authorities will allow that person to bring a witness. Also, other evidence and community verification etc. will also be allowed."

Saying that the assumption that poor people may not have any documents was "not entirely correct", it said: "... they also got the benefit of the welfare schemes of the government. Their identity will be established on the basis of that."

Emphasising that NRC has not been announced for the entire country, it said that if it is implemented it "does not mean that anyone will be asked for proof of being Indian." "NRC is merely a normal process to register your name in the citizens' register. Just like we present our identity cards or any other document for registering our names in the voter list or getting Aadhaar card made, similar documents shall need to be provided for NRC, as and when it is carried out," it said.

On some chief ministers saying that they would not allow NRC or CAA to be implemented in their states, the top official said state governments don't have the power to deny the exercise. As per the central government order, the power to grant citizenship is currently delegated to district magistrates. The official said the Centre may rescind that order to vest that power in the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

# Oppn draws NRC-note ban parallel, says it'll hurt poor most

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

AS PROTESTS against the new citizenship law and the proposed nationwide NRC showed no signs of abating, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday drew a parallel between NRC and demonetisation and said the "poor and vulnerable" will be particularly "hurt" as they will be forced to stand in queues to prove their citizenship and face hardships similar to what they endured three years ago.

Sonia's remarks were echoed by AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who visited a protest at India Gate.

CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the NRC will unleash hardships on millions of poor and marginalised Indians. "NRC will drag all to government offices and queue up. It's about documents which most Indians do not have. It will be life in detention camps for so many, especially poor and marginalised sections. Indians now see through this sinister design of the BJP to rule by fear. It can't succeed," he said.

Their remarks, invoking demonetisation and the problems people faced then, suggest a subtle but conscious attempt to frame the NRC as an exercise which will affect not just one community but the poor and marginalised sections across the religious divide.

Earlier this week, AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had aired similar concerns. "Seventy per cent people in this country do not have documents...the rich will get documents made using money. During demonetisation also...it was said that the rich will suffer. The rich converted their notes giving commission...it was the poor who had suffered," Kejriwal said.

"There are around 3-4 crore non-Muslims in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Even if half of them come to our country, who will give them jobs? ...Will they be provided housing in Delhi, Mumbai, Gujarat, Assam, Tripura. Our kids are not getting jobs in our country..." he had said.

On Friday, Sonia said "the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is discriminatory and the proposed nationwide NRC will particularly hurt the poor and vulnerable. Like at the time of note-bandi, they will have to stand in line to prove their and their ancestors' citizenship. People's apprehensions are real and legitimate."

Talking on similar lines,



Sonia Gandhi

Priyanka said both the citizenship law and the NRC are against the poor. "The rich will show the passports...but what will the poor do...the poor mostly will not have documents...and then they will have to stand in queues and face hardships like they had faced during demonetisation..." she said.

Their remarks also come at a time when NDA allies who backed the new citizenship law in Parliament have changed their tune on the NRC. JD(U) president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has said the NRC will not be implemented in Bihar and IJP chief Chirag Paswan has asserted that the party will not support any legislation which is not in the interest of the common people.

Parties like the BJD, which backed the citizenship legislation in Parliament, too, are wary of the NRC exercise. Party chief and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has expressed his opposition to NRC.

The Opposition is acutely aware that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has over the years cultivated a pro-poor image with his populist schemes and chants. By framing the NRC as an exercise which will hit the poor, the Opposition seems to be trying to hit the BJP's soft spot.

Sonia also hit out at the BJP government for its handling of the protests and accused it of using "brute force to suppress dissent".

"There have been spontaneous protests in the universities, IITs, IIMs and other leading academic institutions throughout the country against the divisive agenda and anti-people policies of the BJP government. In a democracy, people have a right to raise their voice against wrong decisions and policies of the government and register their concerns."

"Equally, it is the duty of the government to listen to the citizens and address their concerns. The BJP government has shown utter disregard for people's voices and chosen to use brute force to suppress dissent. This is unacceptable in a democracy," she said and condemned the actions of the government.

# Assam will always remain with the Assamese, says Sonowal

ABHISHEK SAHA  
GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 20

ASSAM CHIEF Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Friday reiterated his commitment towards protecting the interests of the Assamese people and said his government has begun the process of initiating a dialogue with leaders of the ongoing agitation against the new citizenship law in the state.

"I want to tell the people of Assam from the bottom of my heart, as a son of the soil, that Assam will forever be for the Assamese. Land, hearth, culture, heritage, language of the Assamese people will always be protected. No one can snatch away the rights of the indigenous sons of the soil of Assam," Sonowal said at a press conference in Guwahati.

The CM said his government was committed to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord and bring legislations to protect Assamese language and culture. The clause promises "Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards... to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of Assamese people."

"It is clear that Assam will always remain with the Assamese. For this, whatever legislation is required, we will bring the legislation... We have brought a policy in place to ensure Assamese language, culture, heritage, land will be protected and well



Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal with state Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at a peace rally in Nalbari district on Friday. Dasarath Deka

guarded by implementing Clause 6 of Assam Accord," Sonowal said, thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for assuring Assam that adequate measures will be taken to get Clause 6 implemented.

Assam has witnessed widespread protests against the new citizenship law, with a large section of society holding it as a threat to the interests of the Assamese people. But Sonowal said "misinformation" was spread by certain "enemies of the people". He held them responsible for the violence in the state last week.

"Banks have been burnt, panchayat offices have been burnt, public properties have been damaged, houses of our MLAs were attacked, and MP and

Union minister Rameshwar Teli's house was set on fire," he said.

"Taking advantage of the movement, a number of evil forces have spread misinformation. They spread numerous wrong facts and created confusion among people. Someone is saying 1 crore people will come, someone is saying 1.5 crore will come... They are spreading misinformation," he added.

"Those people who have faced religious persecution and have been living with us for decades will be eligible to apply for citizenship, and the number of such people will be negligible. Once the application process is over, this data will be clear and that will prove what I am saying today. The mask of those who are spreading misinformation will be taken off then," he said.

## Assam BJP holds peace march, protests continue

ABHISHEK SAHA  
GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 20

THE BJP in Assam began its outreach programme to protesters on Friday with a peace march in Nalbari, even as widespread protests and cultural demonstrations against the new citizenship law continued across the state.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and state BJP president Ranjeet Dass marched silently through Nalbari town, along with several other top BJP ministers and a large gathering of supporters.

To counter the BJP's march, protest demonstrations against the new law were held in Nalbari under the banner of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU).

Mobile internet in the state was restored on Friday although the Gauhati HC had on Thursday ordered restoration by 5pm.

The state government also appealed to the HC seeking a review of the order and suspension of mobile internet in the night for a few more days. But the HC dismissed the petition.

Meanwhile, protest demonstrations continued across the state by citizens, artistes and even lawyers and persons with disabilities. On December 21, women's sit-in demonstrations also were planned across the state.

## NATIONAL POPULATION REGISTER UPDATION

# Centre to seek info on date and place of parents' birth

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

AMID PROTESTS over the NRC, the Union Home Ministry has approached the Cabinet for Rs 3,941 crore to update the National Population Register (NPR). The upcoming NPR exercise will require people to declare 'date and place of birth of parents' which was not asked in the earlier NPR — this holds significance in the context of the proposed nationwide NRC.

According to the sources, the Home Ministry has sought Rs

8,754 crore for Census 2021 and Rs 3,941 crore for updating the NPR. The Cabinet, headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is likely to approve the proposal on December 24.

"The data for NPR will be updated alongside the first phase of Census...No biometric data is being collected during the updation exercise," said a source.

Sources further said data on 21 points will be collected for updating the NPR. These include date and place of birth of parents, last place of residence, Permanent Account Number, Aadhaar (on voluntarily basis),

of residence, passport number, Aadhaar ID, PAN, Driving Licence number, Voter ID card and Mobile number. The three points of mother's name, father's name and name of spouse have been made into one point this time.

According to the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, notified on December 10, 2003, a Population Register is 'the register containing details of persons usually residing in a village or rural area or town or ward or demarcated area (demarcated by the Registrar General of Citizen Registration) within a ward in a

town or urban area. "It is mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR. A usual resident is defined for the purposes of NPR as a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more," says the Census of India website.

Meanwhile, sources said several new initiatives are being taken to conduct Census 2021 which include the facility to the public for self-enumeration and the use of a mobile application time for data collection.

## NRC process will be smooth: Javadekar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

UNION MINISTER Prakash Javadekar on Friday said the National Register of Citizens (NRC) process, when it commences, "will happen smoothly", and Indian citizens should not worry about being left out of the list.

When asked what documents would be required to prove citizenship, the minister pointed to the Aadhaar card as proof. "Everybody has an Aadhaar card now. This is enough. There is no need for any Indian citizen to worry about being left out," Javadekar said.

Speaking about the new citi-

zenship law, Javadekar said, "...Let us understand what the actual issue is — it is whether to allow illegal immigrants to stay in the country. This is something that no other country in the world allows... The Act allows those who were once a part of India, to come back... these people were Indians at one point. And of course, also those who are being persecuted on the basis of religion."

With regard to opposition to the law, Javadekar said, "We have to see who in the country are opposing this. Some people want to create confusion. Those who are opposing the Act are supporting illegal immigrants. These are the people talking the language of Pakistan."

The Minister added that the issue is simple — that of refugees in the country who have fled Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan due to religious persecution and have been staying in the country for the past 20 years in deplorable conditions.

He also criticised West Bengal Mamata Banerjee for asking the BJP to go for a UN-monitored referendum on the new law and NRC. "Why should the UN be brought in on this issue? Why should there be a referendum when the people of the country have elected their members to represent them...? This is an insult to the whole country and Mamata Banerjee should apologise," Javadekar said.

# 7 EXPRESS NETWORK

## NEW CITIZENSHIP LAW

### Meanwhile



In Kolkata. Partha Paul

#### GUJARAT

Vadodara city police opened fire to disperse mobs as violence erupted in Hathikhana area, leaving two police officers injured in stone pelting and a police vehicle damaged.

#### KARNATAKA

At least 50 people who had arrived from Kerala were taken into custody for trying to enter the Mangaluru without identity cards. Some mediapersons were detained for entering the Government Wenlock Hospital, where the post-mortem of those killed in Thursday's police firing was underway. Internet services were suspended in Dakshina Kannada district.

#### KERALA

Protesters blocked Karnataka state transport buses in Kozhikode. Congress workers blocked roads and burnt tyres in Kozhikode, while a group of activists also burnt an effigy of Home Minister Amit Shah.

#### MAHARASHTRA

Protests turned violent in Beed, Nanded and Parbhani districts, with mobs pelting stones at State Transport buses, police said.

#### MADHYA PRADESH

Indefinite curfew was clamped in four police station areas of Jabalpur after over a dozen police officials were injured in stone pelting.

### MASSIVE PROTEST IN PUNE



■ Pune saw its largest protest so far, with thousands taking to the streets.

■ A silent foot march was held against the new citizenship law and the police action against protesting students of Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi.

■ The protest march was organised by Samvidhan Bachao Kruti Samiti, an umbrella body of various social organisations.

■ The most notable incident in the march was when the huge crowd made way for an ambulance to pass.

■ In Nagpur, where the Winter Session of the Maharashtra legislature is underway, thousands marched against the law. Muslim clerics led the protests, raising slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'. Arul Horizon

### UP man was out to get ration when he was shot, says family

ASAD REHMAN & AVANEESH MISHRA  
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 20

"I TOLD him to get ration. Groceries were almost over and there was a curfew-like situation," says Shabeena (28), whose husband Mohammad Wakeel (32) died on Thursday of a bullet injury during the violence in Lucknow's Aminabad area. Shabeena and Wakeel married on November 4 last year.

Local residents have gathered outside Wakeel's house in Daulatganj area of Thakurganj. Aslam, Wakeel's neighbour, says Wakeel pulled an auto-rickshaw that he had rented from someone. "His father Sarfuddin is a mason and the family has been living in the area for many years."

Wakeel's mother Nagma says Wakeel was not out to protest, but had gone to buy groceries and medicines after there were rumours that curfew will be imposed.

Wakeel, the eldest among siblings, has four brothers and three sisters — two sisters are married.

His 18-year-old brother Shameem says, "We got to know around 5 pm that he was shot. We don't know who shot him. When we rushed to the hospital, we were told he is dead," says Shameem. "We are still figuring out if the police and administration will allow the body to be brought to the house before it can be taken to the graveyard."

Outside the mortuary where the post-mortem was done sits

Wakeel's friend Sameer Khan (28), waiting for officials to hand over the body. "Someone had called me to ask if I know a person named Wakeel. He told me that Wakeel is being taken to KGMU. I rushed to the hospital, but when I reached, doctors said he is no more," says Sameer.

Around 4 km from Wakeel's home, three patients, including a minor, are battling for their life at the KGMU trauma centre.

Sitting near an unconscious Shameem, his mother Shadiya cannot stop crying. She just says her son is innocent and was "at the wrong place at the wrong time".

Shameem (18) has suffered a gunshot injury in his abdomen. Doctors at KGMU trauma centre said that though they have operated on him, he is not out of danger yet. "On Thursday, he was on a construction site and around 4.30 pm, his boss asked him to go have his lunch. He was coming back home, around half-a-km away, when he saw a police team coming. When he spotted a group of civilians on the other side, he tried to run but a bullet hit his abdomen from the back. No one helped him," says Shameem's father Waseem, who plies a tempo.

At KGMU, Rani Khatoun (41), the mother of 15-year-old Mohammad Jeelani, is pressing his legs. "He left home around 2.30 pm and was going to his maternal grandmother's house in Khadra when was stuck in the violence," she says.

"He was operated and doctors are saying he is still critical," says his aunt Reshma Khatoun.

### Caught on camera: Mangaluru hospital tear gassed as cops look for protesters

JOHNSON TA  
MANGALURU, DECEMBER 20

ON THURSDAY, when protesters opposing the new citizenship law clashed with policemen in Mangaluru, CCTV cameras at the city's Highland Hospital caught policemen attacking the hospital to target protesters.

Soon after police firing occurred in the Bunder region of the city, nine people were rushed to the hospital. Two people — Abdul Jaleel (49) and Naushin K (24) — were brought dead with bullet wounds in the eye and the back respectively, two others were seriously injured by bullets and others had injuries from police beatings or stone pelting, hospital officials said.

"Soon after the news spread of the victims from the protests being at the hospital, a small crowd gathered near the hospital. As a precaution and given the situation, we alerted the police and sought security. We called the police for security but they ended up firing three tear gas shells in the hospital and scaring patients and staff by barging in and trying to find protesters in the hospital rooms," a senior Highland Hospital official, who did not want to be named, said.

The CCTV footage at the Highlands Hospital shows a group of youths entering the hospital premises shouting slogans at 6.06 pm on Thursday — an hour after the dead and injured were brought in. A few minutes later, one of the youths in the hospital compound is seen throwing a stone outside the hospital wall.

Within minutes, a tear gas

shell lands in the front yard of the hospital. "It seems that the group of men who came into the hospital compound threw stones at a bus on the main road before coming into the hospital premises and the police followed them," said the hospital official.

Subsequent footage from the CCTV cameras shows the police entering the hospital compound and beating up persons found standing around before entering the ground floor, where special wards and an ICU are located, and trying to kick open doors in an attempt to find protesters they suspected to have been in the front yard.

"When they opened some of the ward doors, they found only patients and their attenders. They then tried to enter the ICU," a hospital official said, corroborating visuals seen on the CCTV footage. "Our staff, attenders of patients were among those who were in the front area when the commotion occurred and the police entered. They ran helter-skelter in fear and the police thought they were the protesters."

A total of 60 patients apart, from the nine victims of the police violence, were at the hospital when the police entered to look for protesters from the streets, the official said.

"In the night, the police came into the hospital and created a ruckus. All the patients and the staff were scared and hiding," said Abu Sali, 45, who suffered a bullet injury on his right arm in the police firing and was admitted at the hospital.

"The tear gas shells that were fired in the hospital caused difficulty in breathing for some of our patients with heart prob-

lems. Two of them had to be shifted into ICU after the incident for ventilator support," Dr Mubarak, an intensive medicine specialist, said.

Highland Hospital officials have decided to approach an association for hospitals and the Indian Medical Association with complaints about the police action at the hospital premises.

Senior police officials said the police tear gassed the hospital and entered its premises only because protesters were pelting stones from its campus. There is, however, a general sense in the city that the police used excessive force to control violence on Thursday. "The violence cannot be condoned but the police used excessive force... (that) is the sense that we get," said rationalist Narendra Nayak.

The Mangalore police commissioner said that the police resorted to firing in "self defence" from apprehension that the protesters in the Bunder area would attack the local police station outside which protesters gathered.

"The police commissioner called Muslim leaders and told them to convince the protesters to back down. Local leaders like former mayor K Ashraf and others convinced the protesters and they were dispersing when the police firing started," said Wahab Kudroli, an activist.

Ashraf is among those in intensive care following the violence.

"To control a crowd of around 150 people, there was no need to fire. Tear gas shells would have dispersed the crowds. We do not know why firing was considered necessary," Congress MLC Ivan D'Souza said.

### Were at wrong place at wrong time: Kin

JOHNSON TA  
MANGALURU, DECEMBER 20

THE NARROW streets around the Bunder area in the heart of Mangaluru, where two men were killed in police firing on Thursday, wore a deserted look on Friday. There was evidence of the protests over the new citizenship law in a 500-metre stretch in front of the Bunder police station — strewn with patches of burnt signboards and tyres — where local residents say the police firing had occurred.

On Friday, as prayers ended at mosques in Mangaluru — following a relaxation of curfew for two hours — two families waited for police to facilitate the transportation of the bodies of Naushin K (24) and Abdul Jameel (49) from the morgues of the government Wenlock Hospital to two mosques in the region for their final rites.

"What kind of a world is this?" said Naushin's mother Mumtaz, as she waited at her rented home in the Kudroli area for the body of her youngest son to be released by the police.

"He worked as a welder in the Bunder area. Yesterday he came home for lunch, like he did every day, and then left again for work. He did not even eat properly. The next thing we heard was that he had been shot in police firing. He did not even participate in the protests," Mumtaz said.

The family is unaware of



Naushin K's mother Mumtaz said her son did not participate in the protests.

what the protests were all about.

Barely a kilometre away, in the Kandak area, the family of Jaleel waited outside his uncle's house for the body to arrive. The 49-year-old, who worked in the local fish market, was shot dead two streets away when he ventured outside the narrow lane where his rented home is located to see what the commotion on the streets were all about.

"He had just eaten his lunch and there was tear gas shelling on the main street near his house so he went to see what was happening. He barely stepped on the main street from the side lane and he was shot," said Faisal Bengre, a cousin of Jaleel.

"He was not part of the protests. He had come home for lunch and went out to see what was happening....," said another relative.



Mohammad Wakeel's mother (right) and wife. Express

### Karnataka minister warns of 'Godhra-like situation if majority loses patience'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 20

WITH PROTESTS against the new citizenship law continuing across the country, Karnataka minister and senior BJP leader C T Ravi courted controversy after he said a "Godhra-like situation" would arise if the majority in the state "loses patience".

Referring to the protests, Ravi, the minister for Tourism and Culture, said, "It is this very mindset that burnt a rail in Godhra, also burning karsevaks alive. Because the majority community here is patient, you are trying to put fire everywhere. I advise you to look back and see what happens when our patience runs out. Our patience is our weakness. We are also seeing how you are damaging public property and putting fire in the state."



C T Ravi

A video of Ravi's remarks went viral on social media, drawing flak from many.

Senior Congress leader and Gandhinagar MLA Dinesh Gundu Rao dubbed the minister's words the "most intimidating provocative threat".

He said, "The police must immediately book a case against him (Ravi) and take him into preventive custody. Holding a constitutional post he has no business to speak like this."

### Kerala journalists, crew detained by Karnataka cops

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
DECEMBER 20

SEVEN MEDIA persons from Kerala were on Friday taken into custody by the Karnataka police, detained for seven hours and handed over to the Kerala police at an inter-state-border near Mangaluru.

The media persons, from various TV channels, had gone to Mangaluru to cover the develop-

ments in that city a day after two men were shot dead in police firing during a protest over the amended citizenship Act.

Their detention triggered outrage in Kerala, invited the intervention of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, DGP Loknath Behera and veteran journalists in the morning itself. But, the Karnataka government freed the seven in the evening.

The journalists were taken into custody from the premises of a hospital where the bodies of the

firing victims were taken for post-mortem. The seven were later moved to a local police station. In the evening, after the bodies were handed over to their families, police took the journalists to the Karnataka-Kerala border in Kasaragod district and handed them over to the Kerala police.

Asianet New TV reporter Mujeeb Rahman, one of the journalists detained, said they had been reporting from the premises of the Mangaluru hospital from early morning. "Around 8.30 am,

Mangaluru police commissioner PS Harsha wanted the media persons to go out and sought ID cards. When we showed him the media accreditation cards, the commissioner snubbed us saying those were issued by the Kerala. The police then herded us into a van saying they wanted to verify our details."

He said the police also confiscated their mobile phones and equipment, and forced them to sit in the vehicle for four hours. "We were not allowed to contact

others. They ill-treated us without giving food or water. After four hours, we were taken to a local police station, where they put up us for another three hours. After 4 pm we were handed over to Kerala police at inter-state border as if we were criminals," he said.

Earlier in the day, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan wrote to his Karnataka counterpart BS Yediyurappa expressing concern over the detention of the journalists.

### Cong leader among 49 held for violence in Ahmedabad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 20

POLICE ARRESTED 49 people, including a Congress corporator, for attempt to murder, criminal conspiracy and rioting, a day after clashes broke out between the police and protesters at Shah-e-Alam area of Ahmedabad during a demonstration against the new citizenship law and National Register of Citizens (NRC) in which more than 10 policemen were injured due to stone pelting.

Heavy security was deployed in Shah-e-Alam area.

Congress corporator of Shah-e-Alam area, Shahzad Khan Pathan (30), was among the 49 who were arrested on charges of criminal conspiracy and unlawful assembly.

Along with Pathan, 80 others have been booked.

"The situation is under control and we have deployed one battalion of RAF and multiple teams of local police. We will keep the forces present at the site for now," said RB Rana, ACP, J-division, Ahmedabad.

### PROTESTS IN MALEGAON

## 'Time for making documents over, now is time to protest'

SRINATH RAO  
MALEGAON, DECEMBER 20

ADAY after thousands took to the streets of Malegaon to protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC), prominent religious and political leaders said the time for Muslims to get their identification documents in order was over.

"Since the past one month, we have stopped telling residents to concentrate on putting together their documents. After the citizenship Bill became an Act,

we have been appealing to people instead to come out on the streets," said Maulana Umrain Mahfooz Rahmani, secretary of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board and founder of the Dastoor Bachao Committee.

Maulana Rahmani was the organiser of Thursday's massive protest. Even as violent protests swept parts of the country, slogans opposing CAA and NRC were etched along the route of the march.

"When the NRC exercise was underway in Assam, we had circulated an appeal to the town's Muslim residents along with a

list of 23 essential documents, which they must ensure are in proper condition and have no spelling mistakes. It is strange that the Central government is talking of offering to make identification documents for minorities fleeing religious persecution in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, but will not grant citizenship to local residents if there are spelling mistakes in their documents," Maulana Rahmani said.

Following the alleged paranoia over the Assam exercise, queues of worried Muslims outside the Malegaon Municipal Corporation have grown over

the past six months.

Malegaon Central MLA Mufti Mohamad Ismail said the town's Muslim residents have been going to extreme lengths in preparing for the NRC.

"A large chunk of Malegaon's population migrated from Uttar Pradesh nearly two centuries ago. Locals, whose families have been settled in Malegaon for at least three generations, have been travelling to their native villages in UP to search for documents proving that their ancestors had purchased property there. People are really scared," he said.

Immediately after he was elected to the state Assembly in October, the MLA had gone on a letterhead printing spree.

"To get a spelling mistake in an Aadhaar card corrected, you need a letter from your local MLA. In the first few weeks after I got elected, at least a thousand people would visit my office every day requesting for such letters," he said.

Kishore Gaikwad, president of BJP's Malegaon unit and a sitting corporator, however, dismissed the fear prevailing in his town as "propaganda spread by maulvis and maulanans".



**NORTH**  
**Severe cold continues to grip J&K, Ladakh**

Jammu: Severe cold wave conditions gripped Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh after recent snowfall with the meteorological department forecasting fairly widespread rains and snow in J&K and at isolated places in Ladakh in the next two days. The night temperature in most parts of the two UTs saw a dip, with

Drass belt of Ladakh recording the lowest temperature of -16.1°C, while Banihal belt in Jammu region was the coldest area in the region at -1.5°C and Kashmir's Gulmarg belt registering -6.5°C. Jammu city registered a low of 8.2°C — 2.4 notches below normal, a meteorological department official said. **PTI**



MNS chief Raj Thackrey greets the family of veteran actor Shreeram Lagoo, who died December 17. Lagoo's funeral was held with full state honours. *Ashish Kale*

**EAST**  
**Pinaka missile system flight-tested for second day**

Balasore (Odisha): India's indigenously developed Pinaka missile system, which is capable of striking up to range of 75 kilometres, was successfully flight-tested for the second consecutive day on Friday, in a boost to its artillery power, defence sources said. Developed by DRDO, the Pinaka MK-II rocket is modified as a mis-

sile by integrating the navigation, control and guidance system to improve the end accuracy and enhance the range, they said. The missile system, capable of striking into enemy territory up to a range of 75 kilometres with high precision, was fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near here. **PTI**

**WEST**  
**Sheena Bora case: Court rejects Indrani's bail plea**

Mumbai: A special CBI court here on Friday rejected a bail plea of Indrani Mukerjea, the prime accused in the 2012 Sheena Bora murder case. Mukerjea had filed the bail application before special judge for CBI cases J Jagdale about six months ago on health grounds. This was her fourth attempt to seek bail. "Her medical condition is se-

vere, deteriorating and aggravating. Path is not towards cure...Path is towards deterioration," Indrani's lawyer Tanveer Ahmed had said earlier. "Medical experts have opined the infirmity with the lady is of an irreversible condition...So, deterioration is something which is inevitably going to happen," he had added. **PTI**

**SOUTH**  
**Kerala NCP chief Thomas Chandy dies at 72**

Thiruvananthapuram: NCP state unit president Thomas Chandy, who represents Kuttanad, died after prolonged illness on Friday. He was 72. Chandy, also a businessman and a three-time legislator, had served as transport minister in the present LDF regime for eight months from April 2017, after his party colleague A K Saseendran quit. In

November 2017, Chandy was forced to step down on charges of alleged land encroachment. A close aide of the late Congress leader K Karunakaran, he moved to Democratic Indira Congress, a rebel outfit. In 2006, he contested with Kuttanad and won. Later he moved to the NCP and retained the seat in 2011 and 2016. **ENS**



**REFUGEES FROM PAK, AFGHANISTAN RALLY IN FAVOUR OF CAA**

Sikh and Hindu refugees from Pakistan and Afghanistan, along with VHP and BJP leaders, rally in favour of the new citizenship law in Amritsar on Friday. **PTI**

**'Rumours being spread to misguide'**

**'Appeal to not spread false propoganda... Bill not against interest of anybody in India'**

BJP GENERAL secretary **RAM MADHAV** speaks to **LIZ MATHEW** on why Citizenship (Amendment) Act is not against interests of any citizen and why it is premature to talk about NRC now.



There seems to be a lot of confusion about a nationwide NRC in the BJP. What do you have to say?  
Right now, the focus is on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. NRC is a proposed activity the Home Minister has announced to be taken up in 2021. No details have been made available to us. It is premature to talk about it.

Why are there two views? BJP working president JP Nadda said on Thursday that NRC exercise will be there?

There are no two views, it is an announcement made by the Home Minister. Since it has to happen two years down the line and no details have been made known yet, it is not the time to talk about NRC. Right now, the government is implementing CAA.

But there have been protests across the country against it?

Violence is unfortunate. It is a result of a wrong propaganda and misinformation campaign unleashed by certain communal groups and political groups. We appeal to the people not to spread false propaganda. There is no need for any agitation. The Bill is not against the interest of anybody in India.

Most of the protests, including the ones led by the students, say its a law that discriminates on the basis of religion?

It is completely false. There's no discrimination on the basis of religion. See, certain Acts are for certain groups in society. For example, in the Constitution, Article

25-30 exclusively deals with minorities. Does it mean they are discriminatory against the majority?

What do you appeal to the protesting students?

We want the students to read the Act. They should not resort to violence. There is no need for taking to streets as there is nothing against the interest of any section.

But in Assam, the protests are not about "discrimination". What is BJP doing to bring normalcy there?

In Assam, there are some genuine concerns being expressed by the people. Assam has had waves of influx from the neighbourhood. So people of the state are concerned about their core identity, language, culture, demography etc. We understand their concerns. We would like to reassure the people of Assam that we will take all the measures to protect their identity. We are working on implementing Clause 6 of Assam

Accord which gives protection to Assamese identity. I would like to differentiate between the communally motivated protests in the rest of the country and protests by people of Assam.

There is a view that protests have turned violent in the states ruled by BJP while other states have witnessed peaceful protests.

I don't discriminate between BJP-ruled and non-BJP ruled states. It can be said the other way too — the protests in states where the BJP is in power are unnecessarily violent. But let's not talk about it. Protests in a democratic country should not be violent.

Some, including a section of BJP leaders say these protests could polarise votes and it could be advantageous to the BJP in places like Delhi?

We have not done anything keeping any election in mind. We don't want polarisation.

This is the first time after 2012 that street protests in India got international attention and support. Has it damaged the image of India?

Any violence will affect people inside and outside the country. We will make sure the situation becomes normal. In any case, law and order situation is a state subject. We would like the cooperation of all state governments.

What's your comment on the view that the protest is a result of accumulated disenchantment against the government over joblessness and agrarian crisis?

It's propaganda. If that's the case, protests should have been held across the country. It's not a nationwide phenomena.

Minority Affairs Minister **MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI** tells **ABANTIKA GHOSH** that the protesters against the new citizenship law are misguided. Excerpts



The situation is very tense in many parts of the country.

It is very unfortunate. Rumours are being spread to misguide people about Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), some people are using NRC to spread anarchy. But we are confident good sense will prevail...There is nothing in CAA that takes away citizenship of any Indian. No community, including Muslims, has anything to fear because so far as we are concerned, they are equal partners in the progress of the nation.

Was the government caught unawares by the scale of the protests?

You have to understand the CAA process started in 2003. Later, the Manmohan Singh government talked about giving citizenship to Hindus from some areas of Pakistan. The only thing that the 2019 amendment has done is to include minorities other than Hindus — Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, Buddhists and Jains.

Also, by the Pant Mirza agreement of 1955, protection and preservation of non-Muslim shrines in Pakistan and Muslim shrines in India, in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs, is the mandate of Ministry of Minority Affairs. This also includes taking care of their social and religious concerns — the agreement refers mainly to Hindus.

Unfortunately, there is a conspiracy to misguide people and that is why rumours are being spread... As far as NRC is concerned, it is limited to Assam. There is no plan of NRC in any other part of the country. You are

talking about an unborn baby...

We have heard the Home Minister talk about a nationwide NRC inside and outside Parliament.

Tell me, NRC is for whom? It is for Indian nationals. Does NRC say anywhere it is for Indian Muslims? No, NRC, if it happens...no government is bringing it surreptitiously.

Mamata Banerjee has been opposing it and now Nitish Kumar too has said he will not implement NRC.

People who say this do so from the conviction that there is so far no process of NRC in any state.

What is your view on police action in Jamia, deaths in other parts of the country?

Peaceful protest is a democratic right. Unfortunately, in such peaceful protests, some anti-social elements try to spoil the situation. We have to be cautious of such forces...



Ajit Pawar

**IRRIGATION SCAM**  
**2018 affidavit didn't have letter in favour of Ajit: ACB**

**VIVEK DESHPANDE & MOHAMED THAYER**  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 20

IN AN affidavit filed before the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court on Friday, Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) chief Param Bir Singh said his predecessor, who was investigating the irrigation scam, had not mentioned in his affidavit — filed before the court in November 26, 2018 — a letter from the government that would have gone in favour of NCP leader Ajit Pawar.

While in his affidavit, then ACB DGP Sanjay Barve had said that Pawar was involved in awarding contracts, Singh's affidavit, while stating that "no criminal liability was disclosed against Pawar", added that when Barve filed his affidavit one year ago, none of the investigating officers in the case had yet submitted reports relating to Pawar's role in the scam.

Explaining the sharp contrast between his affidavit and Barve's, Singh said, "The November 26, 2018 affidavit was filed on the basis of his (Barve's) interpretation of the material available then... It is worthwhile to note that when the said affidavit (Barve's) was filed, none of the investigating officers had submitted any report relating to the role of Respondent No. 7 (Pawar). Therefore, it didn't have the advantage of record now available."

Singh filed the affidavit following a directive of the Nagpur bench, clarifying why the affidavits filed within a year by the ACB on the role of then Maharashtra deputy chief minister and water resource minister Ajit Pawar were at variance with each other.

Significantly, Singh in his affidavit stated that Barve had not included a letter from the Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation (VIDC), dated March 26, 2018, filed by the state water resources department (WRD) in response to a query by the Amravati (ACB) SP. "...unfortunately, it appears that the same wasn't noticed by the Affiant (Barve), which becomes clear by the fact that neither it is mentioned nor contents of which are dealt with anywhere in the aforesaid affidavit," he added.

Sources said the VIDC letter was a response to a query by ACB, directed to it through the state agriculture ministry. The queries were about mobilisation advance, updation, cost escalation of the Jigaon project and whether an ED-rank official had the same role and responsibilities as a secretary vis a vis the minister.

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

**Boundary talks: Chinese foreign minister, NSA Doval to meet today**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

CHINESE FOREIGN Minister Wang Yi and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval will hold boundary talks here on Saturday under the framework of Special Representatives dialogue, the Ministry of External Affairs has said.

Wang's visit to India will be the first high-level one from China after the Modi-Xi informal meeting in October as well as after New Delhi pulled out of the RCEP following a meeting of the group's leadership in Bangkok recently. "The 22nd meeting of the Special Representatives (SR) for India-China boundary question will be held in New Delhi December 21," an MEA statement said.

Doval and Wang are the designated Special Representatives of the two countries for the

boundary talks.

Sources said the two sides are likely to review implementation of decisions taken at the second informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in October. Wang was to visit India for the SR talks in September but the trip was postponed then.

The two sides have already held over 20 rounds of talks under the framework of SR dialogue which was set up to find an early solution to the border dispute.

The India-China border dispute covers 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control. China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of southern Tibet while India contests it.

Both sides have been asserting that pending the final resolution of the boundary issue, it is necessary to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas.

**ELGAR PARISHAD CASE**

**In letters to kin from jail, a slice of life of detainees**

**SEEMA CHISHTI**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 18

SEVEN OF the nine incarcerated activists, academics and lawyers in the Bhima-Koregaon-Elgar Parishad matter have written letters from the prison to their family members, which *The Indian Express* has accessed. They reveal a slice of their lives behind bars.

**SUDHA BHARADWAJ**

Academic, activist and lawyer, Bharadwaj writes in Hindi. In one letter, she draws parallels of the case with what the British tried in 1929 to establish as the "Meerut conspiracy case".

She recalls the search of her house on August 28, 2018. "...two months of house-arrest, and nine months in Yerawada jail's separate ward, there is only

one so-called childish and non-credible 'evidence'...there is some evidence and material, then we can plan how to battle it, but a fake electronic file? How does one fight that?" she writes.

Sudha thanks all those who think of her and fight for her. "...the sun rising after a long night, or showers after the unbearable heat. All this fills me with hope for betterment and progress in the human life."

**VARAVARA RAO**

The Telugu poet and activist writes that he was "the last person to come to Yerawada jail" of the nine in this case. He speaks of time spent close to the gallows, where the "tip of the gallows was always visible".

Describing fellow occupants and discussions, he writes, "...our discussion shifted to Harry Potter... She was in such a hilari-

ous mood and while talking to us she crafted a paper bird, with a small tail and wings. If you pull the tail, the bird will move its wings and fly into sky, into Azadi...but alas, we don't have tails to be pulled so that we can fly into sky without wings..."

**SHOMAN SEN**

Academic and prominent activist Sen writes, "Sitting where I am, I can see how little has changed as we approach the 72nd Independence Day. Women, mostly from unprivileged, lower caste backgrounds, barely literate, married off at 14 or 15 years of age, form the bulk of those who are languishing in jail. They are living examples of how patriarchy functions in society and in the judiciary."

**VERNON GONSALVES**

In his letters, the activist has de-

scribed his nightmares. In a letter titled *Restless*, he writes, "Finally, I must get up — to the silent steadfastness of the chipped granite walls around me. They are not closing in. There are also those familiar bars with their unwavering shadow patterns. It feels good to know I'm not being broken down, not being flattened out. Nowadays, it's despair that's dominating. The scenery is beautiful, but enveloped in a gloom of terror and sadness. War echoes in the distance. Someone is being bombed. A child cries, and the lovely lake turns a ghastly red. I awake with a chill and a shiver. My beloved bars calm me, bring warmth. I'm behind bars. In their embrace, what have I to fear?"

**RONA WILSON**

A research scholar who has worked on the condition of political prisoners, Wilson wrote a letter on August 12 about the 'GDP of fear'. The letter comments on the Jammu and Kashmir situation after the reading down of Article 370. "The deafening silence to the level of dehumanisation, mistreatment, brutalisation and debasement of like of the people of J&K is a direct measure of our

**MAHESH RAUT**

An activist with work among tribals, Raut has written a poem





Mahathir Mohamad

## Mahathir raises citizenship law, India hits back

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

MALAYSIA'S PRIME Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Friday spoke out against the amended citizenship law, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, saying "people are dying" because of this law.

New Delhi was quick to reject the comments as "factually inaccurate", and called upon Malaysia to refrain from commenting on internal developments in India.

Talking to reporters after visiting the media centre at the Kuala Lumpur Summit on Friday, the Malaysian PM said, "I am sorry to see that India, which claims to be a secular state, is now taking action to deprive some Muslims of their citizenship."

"If we do that here, you know what will happen. There will be chaos, there will be instability and everyone will suffer," he said. "Already people are dying because of this law, so why is there a necessity to do this when all this while, for 70 years almost, they have lived together as citizens without any problems."

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.

Mahathir added that Malaysia has granted citizenships to people from the Chinese and Indian communities.

Reacting to these comments, the Ministry of External Affairs said in New Delhi in a statement, "The Prime Minister of Malaysia has yet again remarked on a matter that is entirely internal to India. The Citizenship Amendment Act provides for citizenship through naturalization to be fast-tracked for non-citizens who are persecuted minorities from three countries. The Act does not impact in any manner on the status of any citizen of India, or deprive any Indian of any faith of her or his citizenship."

"Therefore, the Prime Minister of Malaysia's comment is factually inaccurate. We call upon Malaysia to refrain from commenting on internal developments in India, especially without a right understanding of the facts," the MEA statement said.

In recent months, Mahathir had commented on the Indian government's move to revoke the special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370.

In September, Mahathir had said at the UN General Assembly that India had "invaded and occupied" Kashmir, a disputed Muslim-majority region also claimed by Pakistan.

The MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar had then "deeply regretted" the comments and had said that they were not based on facts.

## 'Countries that benefited from carbon emissions must help carry burden'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

UNION MINISTER for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar on Friday said that the BASIC countries — Brazil, South Africa, India and China — had impressed upon developed countries at the COP25 meet in Madrid earlier this month to pay developing countries funds to the tune of US \$1 trillion as public finance with no double accounting.

"The world that benefited from carbon emissions that made them developed, must pay. They must help developing countries carry the burden. The developed world promised \$1 trillion over the past 10 years. Only 0.2 per cent of this has actually been given out. The BASIC countries have made this demand. It will be discussed further at COP26 next year," he said.

The Minister added that India's efforts to meet the Paris

# Four sentenced to death in 2008 Jaipur blasts case

HAMZA KHAN  
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 20

A SPECIAL court on Wednesday sentenced four persons to death in connection with the 2008 Jaipur bomb blasts which killed 71 people and injured 185 others.

Ajay Kumar Sharma, special judge for Jaipur bomb blast cases, sentenced Mohammad Saif alias Carryon, 32, Mohammad Sarwar Azmi alias Rajhans Yadav, 34, Saifur alias Saifur Rehman Ansari, 32, and Mohammad Salman, 26, to death. All four are residents of Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh. On December 18, while convicting the four, the court had acquitted Shahbaz Hussain, 42, a resident of Lucknow.

Around 4.15 pm, Sharma sentenced the four to death under IPC section 302 (murder) and section 16 (1a) of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Detailing the sentencing, Special Public Prosecutor Srichand said the accused have been sentenced to death and fined Rs 50,000 each under IPC 302 and UAPA 16 (1a); to life imprisonment and Rs 50,000 fine under UAPA 18 (punishment for conspiracy of a terrorist act, etc.), rigorous imprisonment for seven years and Rs 10,000 fine under IPC 307 (attempt to murder); imprisonment for three years and Rs 5,000 fine under IPC 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means) and rigorous imprisonment for five years and Rs 10,000 fine under IPC 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means).

The four, he said, have also been sentenced to imprisonment for one year and Rs 10,000 fine under IPC 427 (mischief causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees); life imprisonment and Rs 50,000 fine under IPC 121A (conspiracy to commit offence under IPC 121: waging, or attempting to wage war, or abetting waging of



The convicts arrive at the court in Jaipur on Friday. PTI

war, against the government of India); life imprisonment and Rs 50,000 fine under IPC 124A (sedition); imprisonment for three years and Rs 50,000 fine under IPC 153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc.); life imprisonment and Rs 50,000 fine under section 3 of the Explosives Act, 1908 (punishment for causing explosion likely to endanger life or property) and rigorous imprisonment for seven years and Rs 50,000 fine under UAPA 13 (punishment for unlawful activities). The Special Public Prosecutor said the prosecution had presented nearly 1,300 witnesses due to which the trial took time. He said they will appeal against Shahbaz's acquittal in the High Court.

Advocate Paker Farooq, amicus curiae for the four held guilty, said, "This is the first such case where death penalty has been awarded solely on the basis of circumstantial evidence. I cross examined all the witnesses and not a single one of them could point out and say that yes, one of these four had planted the bomb on a bicycle."

Farooq claimed that there are several loopholes in the prosecution story. "They presented bills of purchase of bicycles which they claimed were used in the blasts. However, the frame number of the bicycles — as given in those bills — is different from the frame number of bicycles used in the blasts. Moreover, they deliberately did not cite strong evidence such as CCTV footage from around the locations, since this would have exonerated the four."

"The Jaipur bomb blasts were unfortunate and many innocents died. However, since day one, we have been stating that these men were falsely implicated. We will definitely appeal against their acquittal in the High Court," Farooq said.

On May 13, 2008, a total of nine bombs exploded in eight locations — all in Jaipur's crowded old city — between 7.20 pm and 7.45 pm. The first of the IED blasts was near Manak Chowk. It was followed by blasts near Badi Chaupar, Johari Bazaar, near Hanuman temple at Sangneri Gate, near Choti Chaupar, Tripolia Bazaar, in front of Kotwali police station, and two blasts near Hanuman temple at Chandpole. A live bomb was found on a bicycle near shop number 17, in front of Ramchandraj temple, Chandpole, which was defused.

A day after the blast, in an email sent to news channels and news agencies on May 14, 2008, the Indian Mujahideen had claimed responsibility for the attack.

Following the sentencing, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said, "A right decision has been taken on Jaipur serial blasts, this decision should be welcomed and it should be a lesson to those who believe in violence, no matter who they are."

Intelligence Department had been tracking the movements of the seven accused from several days and their activities were under surveillance. The Navy Intelligence Department also assisted in the operation — which was codenamed 'Dolphin's Nose' after the hill in Visakhapatnam where the Navy has its residential quarters.

"Targets were young personnel. They were identified through their Facebook profiles with photos in uniform, training area etc. Suspected Pakistan Intelligence officials approached them using fake profiles of young women and got them in to conversations. In some cases, there was impersonation of Intelligence officers from the Indian Navy itself. After getting the young personnel to commit errors in these chats, sensitive information was being sought from them," a source said, adding that the hawala operator who used to route the money to the seven accused has also been arrested.

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JAMMU AND KASHMIR

# Communication blockade affects counter-terror ops

NAVEED IQBAL  
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 20

THE UNPRECEDENTED communications shutdown in Kashmir has hit the government's counter-militancy operations, according to top J&K Police officials.

A total of 82 operations took place in J&K so far this year, including two in Jammu region, down from 97 anti-militancy operations conducted in 2018.

Data accessed by The Indian Express shows this year's figures for the number of militants killed are at a three-year low.

Since the beginning of the year, 155 militants have been killed in the Valley in these 82 operations, a sharp decline from last year's figure of 246. A majority of these 155 militants — approximately 120 — were killed up to the end of July, before the lockdown began on August 5 with the announcement of scrapping of the state's special status under Article 370.

The comparative figures in the number of militants killed in 2016 and 2017 were, respectively, 130 and 200, and going up to 246 in 2018.

Director General of J&K Police Dilbag Singh told *The Indian Express*, "Communication does affect anti-militancy operations, so partially, yes, it is that. But this dip is also because of the police's preoccupation with law

and order duties during this period (since August 5, when special status to the erstwhile state under Article 370 was scrapped)."

According to officials, the figures are "relatively low" also owing to the fact that operations at the Line of Control (LoC) saw a sharp decline. "Compared to approximately 30 operations last year along the LoC, this year there was only one operation, in which two militants were killed," a source said.

D-G Dilbag Singh had told *The Indian Express* in September that lack of communication was affecting anti-militancy operations in the Valley. "The police also work with sources (informers), but if the sources' phones are not functional how do we speak to them? To some extent, yes, information is a little delayed. But it is reaching us," Singh had said.

Meanwhile, sources said 608 individuals are currently under "preventive detention" in J&K, including those booked under PSA, and more than 200 people are held in jails outside. "Not more than 1,400 individuals are in Kashmir jails, and that includes (people accused in) all crimes," a police source said.

In terms of "law and order incidents", police records show 310 incidents recorded since August 5, including 240 in Srinagar alone. In comparison, more than 1,500 law and order incidents were reported from Kashmir in 2016 in the uprising following the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen militant Burhan Wani.

The administration has claimed that no lives have been lost in action by security forces in Kashmir since suspension of special status. In comparison, 62 civilians lost their lives in the unrest in 2016.

## Friday prayers held at Jamia Masjid first time since Aug 5

ADIL AKHZER  
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 20

CONGREGATIONAL FRIDAY prayers were held for the first time at the historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar's old city area since August 5 — the day the state's special status was revoked. There have been no prayers for 19 consecutive Fridays at the mosque. A protest was held later, by some of those who had come to pray. Police said the situation remained peaceful.

Authorities started allowing prayers at the mosque since Wednesday. Hurriyat Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who delivers the sermon at the mosque, however, continued to remain under detention at his home and was not allowed to go to the mosque on Friday.

On Friday afternoon, less than 1,000 people, mostly from nearby areas offered prayers at the mosque. Usually, thousands from different parts of the city are seen at the mosque on Fridays. Zubair Ahmad, a resident of the city's Hawal area who has been regularly offering prayers at the mosque, told *The Indian Express* that during the previous months, he would visit

the mosque every Friday, but would be turned back by the police. "We were not allowed to pray here all these months, which has hurt my sentiments. Today, I am little bit relieved. It is 20th Friday today after August 5," he said.

Outside the mosque, a strong presence of security personnel was established, and senior police officers were present on the spot.

Moulana Ahmad Sayeed Naqashbandi, the grand priest of the mosque who delivered the

## Human intel, phone intercepts impacted

WHILE THE state's administration has argued that the communications shutdown was essential to curb the possibility of terrorist activities in the Valley, the measures have also come as a hurdle in gathering of human intelligence and technical inputs from phone intercepts, according to officials familiar with security operations.

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**The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library**  
cordially invites you to a Public Lecture

on

**"Citizenship: Institutional and Civilizational"**

by

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

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

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

For More info, please visit: Website: <http://nehruememorial.nic.in> or  
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Limited seats are available on first come first serve basis. Kindly confirm your participation in advance.  
RSVP: [ccs2nmml@gmail.com](mailto:ccs2nmml@gmail.com); Phone: 011-23010666

**All are Welcome**

**Department of Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry of Social Justice And Empowerment Government of India**

Online Applications are invited for scholarship under National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Caste etc. Students for the year 2019-20 to fill up 08 unfilled slots from Landless Agricultural Labourers, Traditional Artisans & Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes categories. The number of Scholarships is 02 for Landless Agricultural Labourers & Traditional Artisans and 06 for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes.

The scholarship covers cost of tuition fees, fixed maintenance allowance, contingency allowance etc. under the fields of Engineering and Management, Pure and Applied Science, Agricultural Science and Medicine, International Commerce, Accounting, Finance, Humanities, and Social Science. The scholarships are for pursuing higher studies at Master's and Ph.D. abroad from an university/institution accredited by the authorised body of that country. The candidate should be below 35 years as on 1st April, 2019. The total family income of the candidate should be less than Rs 6.00 lakh in the preceding year, i.e. 2018-19.

In case of Scholarship for Masters Degree abroad, minimum required qualification is Graduation Degree whereas for Ph.D, the minimum qualification requirement is Masters Degree. A minimum 55% of marks are required for availing scholarship.

For details please refer to online portal <http://nosmsje.gov.in/>. The detailed documents required and other instructions for filling the form are available in the portal which will be opened from 1st Jan, 2020 to 31st Jan, 2020.

davp38101/11/0035/1920

ANDHRA PRADESH MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. 2nd Plot No.9, Survey No.49, 11 Park, Mangalagiri - 522 503. Ph. No. 8978680708, email: apmhidc@gmail.com

CSIR-NORTH EAST INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. A constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). (Under Ministry of Science & Technology) JORHAT: ASSAM

NOTICE INVITING GLOBAL OPEN TENDER. Director, CSIR - NEIST invites Tenders under Two Bid System for supply and installation of the following equipment from Original Equipment Manufacturers (Foreign/Indian), Foreign/Indian Principals and their authorized dealers/Indian Agent.

E-TENDER PRESS NOTICE. THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD-VI, I&FC Department, Govt. of Delhi, Bharat Nagar Office Complex, Delhi-110052, invites on behalf of the President of India, online time tender from the approved and eligible contractors registered with I&F Department and contractor who are registered with other Deptt. and get their registration verified from I&FC Deptt. UPTO 3:00 PM, on 23.12.2019 for the following:-

1. Name of Work: Construction of Hall for Senior Citizen at Kh. No.110 in Village Bakhtawar in Alipur Block. Head of Account:- 8443-Deposit Work (MLA-LAD-FUND). Estimate Cost:- Rs.13,50,915.00, Earnest Money:- Rs.27,018.00, Time Allowed:- 03 Month, Last Date & Time of Submission of Bids Through E-Procurement Solution:- 23.12.2019 upto 3:00 P.M., Time & Date of Opening of Tender:- 23.12.2019 at 3:10 P.M., Tender ID No. 2019\_IFC\_185782\_1.

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (POWER WING). Corrigendum-2 NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER. NIT No. 826. Name of Office: Resident Engineer, Gangwal & Kotla Power Houses Division, BBMB (PW), Gangwal, Dist- Ropar-140123 (Punjab)

DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004. Bid No. E-59/2019-2020. E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only E-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class (I) Digital Signature and Registration on IREPS.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited. Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001. CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813. Website: www.pspcl.in

NOTICE INVITING Expression of Interest (EOI). Department Name: IT Department, PSPCL. Issuing Authority: SE/IT(A&PM), PSPCL, Patiala. Expression of Interest (EOI) 225/DIT-959 Dated: 19.12.2019

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. निविदा विस्तारिकरण सूचना पर्याप्त निविदाकर्ताओं द्वारा भाग न लेने के कारण ई- निविदा संख्या टी-131/19-20, टी-151/19-20 एवं टी-152/19-20 दिनांक 28.12.2019 तक विस्तारित की जाती है।

Superintending Engineer, Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr. E-Procurement Inviting Tender Notice. On behalf of Government of Uttar Pradesh, S.E. Bulandshahr Circle, U.P.P.W.D., Bulandshahr invites following percentage rate bid online through http://ctenderupnic.in from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, from dt. 06.01.2020 to 14.01.2020 upto 12.00 PM.

SL. No. Name of Work Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac) Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs) Work Completion Tender document fee including GST Contractors Category

गवालियर स्मार्ट सिटी डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड. Regd. Office: Gwalior Municipal Corporation, Narayan Krishna Shejwalkar Bhawan, City Center, Gwalior (M.P.) 474011 IN, CIN: U75100MP2016SGC041727. Email ID: gwaliorsmartcity@gmail.com, Ph.: 0751-2438386, 2438750, 2438751

Notice Inviting Tender. Gwalior Smart City Development Corporation Ltd. (GSDCL) invites online Percentage bids for the following works. The Details are as under:

MAHARASHTRA SCHEMES CAG report warns of misappropriation of funds

However, 32,750 utilisation certificates, aggregating to Rs 65,921.35 crore in respects of grants released up to 2017-18, were in arrears, said the report titled 'State Finances Audit Report' for the year that ended on March 31, 2018. The report further listed out the departments in which the cases of non-submission utilisation certificates were pending. These include urban development, school and education and sports, planning, public health, tribal development, industries energy and labour, rural development and water conservation, agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy development and fisheries, social justice and special assistance, among others.

PRESS NOTICE INVITING PERCENTAGE RATE e-TENDER. Executive Engineer (C), Postal Civil Division, New Delhi invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate (CPWD-7) e-tenders for the following works:- N.I.T. No.: NIT/EEPCND/2019-20/98 (2nd call) Name of Work: Repair and maintenance of Krishna Nagar Head Post Office Building. Estimated Cost: ₹25,74,712/-, Earnest Money: ₹51,494/-, Period of completion- 3 (Three) months.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, ग्रामीण अभियन्ता विभाग, परिमण्डल-अलीगढ़। पता: धनीपुर स्टाक, रोड, निकट केनर बैंक ट्रेडिंग सेंटर, धनीपुर अलीगढ़। दिनांक 11.12.2019

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु कार्य/ आपूर्ति हेतु ई-निविदाये दो भागों में (जी.एस.टी.) में पंजीकृत, प्रतियुक्त एवं अनुभवी उद्योगों/ फर्मों से आमंत्रित की जाती है, निविदा के प्रथम भाग (ऑन-लाइन) में निविदा मूल्य तथा धरोहर राशि आदि जी.एस.टी./ एन.एफ.टी./ बैंक गारंटी के माध्यम से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारंपण मण्डल, मुरादाबाद के भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, मुख्य शाखा- मुरादाबाद में संचालित चालू खाता सं.- 10896364702, IFSC Code- SBIN 0000682 (MICH No. 110024101) में निविदा खुलने की तिथि से 01 दिवस पूर्व सायं 17.00 बजे तक जमा कर, यूटीआर सं., खाता के नाम/ सं., निविदा सं., जारी करने वाले बैंक अधिकारी तथा निविदादाता द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित प्रति, इन्कम टैक्स, पैन नं., जी.एस.टी. पंजीकरण प्रपत्र की छायाप्रति, अनुभव सम्बन्धी प्रपत्र तथा पात्रता के अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें अद्यतन होने चाहिए अन्यथा की विधि में निविदा का भाग- 2 विचारणीय नहीं होगा।

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु कार्य/ आपूर्ति हेतु ई-निविदाये दो भागों में (जी.एस.टी.) में पंजीकृत, प्रतियुक्त एवं अनुभवी उद्योगों/ फर्मों से आमंत्रित की जाती है, निविदा के प्रथम भाग (ऑन-लाइन) में निविदा मूल्य तथा धरोहर राशि आदि जी.एस.टी./ एन.एफ.टी./ बैंक गारंटी के माध्यम से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारंपण मण्डल, मुरादाबाद के भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, मुख्य शाखा- मुरादाबाद में संचालित चालू खाता सं.- 10896364702, IFSC Code- SBIN 0000682 (MICH No. 110024101) में निविदा खुलने की तिथि से 01 दिवस पूर्व सायं 17.00 बजे तक जमा कर, यूटीआर सं., खाता के नाम/ सं., निविदा सं., जारी करने वाले बैंक अधिकारी तथा निविदादाता द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित प्रति, इन्कम टैक्स, पैन नं., जी.एस.टी. पंजीकरण प्रपत्र की छायाप्रति, अनुभव सम्बन्धी प्रपत्र तथा पात्रता के अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें अद्यतन होने चाहिए अन्यथा की विधि में निविदा का भाग- 2 विचारणीय नहीं होगा।

SCRAP FOR SALE (E-AUCTION). E-Auction forms are invited from intending buyers for disposal, strictly on 'As is Where is' basis, on lot basis of approx. 200 MT collapse ESP material. M/s. Steel Mills & Transformers excluding taxes. Salvage belonging to M/s. NTPC Ltd. Material can be inspected at Mouda Super Thermal Power Station, Mouda-Ramtek Road, P.O. Mouda, Distt. Nagpur (Maharashtra) site between 23.12.2019 to 05.01.2020 after taking prior appointment from Mr. Mohd. Aslam-9404515660/ Mr. G.P. Dilip Kumar-9422686165

Government of Jammu & Kashmir. Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, J&K Lakes & Waterways Development Authority, Dockyard Complex Ishbar Nishat, Northern Foreshore Road, Srinagar. Head Office: Vice Chairman, LDAW, Miskeen Bagh, Srinagar. Ph. No. 0194-2451073, Fax: 0194-2451025, E-mail ID: xenmechlda@gmail.com, wclwda@yahoo.com, Website: www.jklwda.org

गवालियर स्मार्ट सिटी डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड. Notice Inviting Tender. Gwalior Smart City Development Corporation Ltd. (GSDCL) invites online Percentage bids for the following works. The Details are as under:

B.S. CHAWLA & Co. (SURVEYORS & VALUERS) Delhi/Allahabad. Mob. 09415218645, 09810108428 e-mail: bschawla.ce@gmail.com

CITIZENSHIP LAW I&B issues second advisory on protests

New Delhi: For the second time in about 10 days, the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) on Friday issued an advisory to private TV channels regarding coverage of protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. In the advisory, the ministry said some TV channels are "in the spirit" of Programme Code, even though it had mentioned this in an advisory on December 11. The latest advisory read "it observed that not withstanding the previous advisory "some TV channels are telecasting content which do not appear to be in the spirit of the Programme Codes".

JHARKHAND BNP candidate acquitted in murder case

A RANCHI court on Friday acquitted BJP candidate from Panki Assembly constituency of Jharkhand, Shashi Bhushan Mehta, who was accused of destruction of evidence and murder of his school's warden Suchitra Mishra. Additional Judicial Commissioner Vijay Kumar Srivastava acquitted six accused, including Mehta, who were booked under IPC provisions 302 (murder), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender), among others. Defence counsel Vishwajeet Mukherjee said: "The prosecution brought forward circumstances which were not cogent and substantial for conviction. There were no eyewitnesses. So based on circumstantial evidence and the law regarding it, this case ended in acquittal."

Accident kills 4

Jaipur: Four persons, including a woman, were killed on Friday when a container truck rammed into a car on the Jaipur-Delhi highway in Jaipur rural area, police said. The car was on its way to Beval in Haryana from Kotputli, they said, adding that the dead have been identified as Rakesh (38), Deepak (35), Asha Devi (30) and Aaryan (8). PTI

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY. OPEN TENDER NOTICE. DRM/ Electrical, North Western Railway, Jodhpur for & on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tender for the following work: 1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No.: http://www.ireps.gov.in. 2. Date & time of closing of e-tender: 13.01.2020 upto 15:00 hrs. 3. Date & time of opening of e-tender: After 15:00 Hrs. on 13.01.2020. Tender No: 16/19-20; Name of Work: Electrical work in c/w Establishment of Quick watering arrangement of trains at Jodhpur station. Approx Cost of the work (In Rs.): Rs. 19,13,312.49; Tender No: 17/19-20; Name of Work: Improvement of power supply system for mechanized laundries at Jodhpur. Approx. Cost of the work (In Rs.): Rs. 42,75,171.00. For detailed information visit http://www.ireps.gov.in 1345-AD/19

**DELHI LIBRARY BOARD**  
(MINISTRY OF CULTURE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)  
**DELHI PUBLIC LIBRARY, DR. SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJEE MARG, OPP. OLD DELHI RAILWAY STATION, CHANDNI CHOWK, DELHI-110006**  
**Shreshth Patrika Par Puraskar**

Delhi Library Board invites entries for the year 2019 from private publishers, institutions, NGOs who publish the best Non Commercial Weekly, Monthly, Fortnightly, quarterly, magazines in Sanskrit, Hindi, Punjabi, and Urdu language to honor them. The above mentioned may send two copies of their latest issue to Deputy Director (Admin) at above mentioned address within one month of the date of publication of this advertisement. Details of Prize money are as follows:

<b>Hindi</b>	<b>Sanskrit, Urdu, Punjabi</b>
<b>First Prize</b> : Rs 1 lakh only	<b>First Prize</b> : Rs. 1 lakh only
<b>Second Prize</b> : Rs 75,000/- only	<b>Second Prize</b> : Rs 75,000/- only
<b>Third Prize</b> : Rs 50,000/- only	
<b>Consolation Prize</b> : Rs 25,000/- only	

**Chairman** **SLO**  
**Delhi Library Board** **Delhi Public Library**  
davn 0911/11/0005/1920

**DELHI LIBRARY BOARD**  
(MINISTRY OF CULTURE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)  
**DELHI PUBLIC LIBRARY,**  
**Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Marg, Opposite Old Delhi Railway Station, Chandni Chowk, DELHI-110006**  
**KRITI SAMMAN YOJNA**

Delhi Public Library invites entries for the year 2019 to honor the writers who have written memoirs and compositions about culture and bravery of martyrs. Details of prizes are as follows:

- Name of Award**
- (1) Sanskriti Manishi Samman**  
(For holistic writings related to Indian culture, human values, life of great men, Geography of India, Ancient history, Science etc. in Hindi)
  - (2) Maharishi Dadhichi Samman**  
(For the holistic writings related to the martyrdom of Indian soldiers and their lives in the Hindi language)(For the writers more than age of 35 years)
  - (3) Sanskriti Gathanra Kirti Samman**  
(For Hindi translation of the original text written in Indian languages in relation to Indian culture)
  - (4) Durgabhahi Samman**  
(For the holistic writings related to lives of brave women, their life stories and problems related to women)
  - (5) Nanaji Deshmukh Samman**  
(For the holistic writings related to life style of Advaitas (tribals), tribal public life, Public culture and problems related to them)
  - (6) Sant Ravidass Samman**  
(For writings related to Dalits, their problems and solutions, life of great men from dalit community)
  - (7) Baal Sahityashree Samman**  
(For the holistic writings related to topics of children)
  - (8) Sahityashree Kirti Samman**  
(For best creation in Hindi literature)
  - (9) Shaheed Bhagat Singh Kirti Samman**  
(For best creation related to martyrs of India, life of brave fighters, their feats written by youngsters between the age of 18 to 35 years in Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi languages)

Interested scholar writers should send details of their personality and work to the Deputy Director (Admn.) At the above address for one month from the date of publication of this advertisement. For more information kindly visit website of Delhi Public Library at [www.dpl.gov.in](http://www.dpl.gov.in).

**Chairman** **SLO**  
**Delhi Library Board** **Delhi Public Library**  
davn 0911/11/0006/1920

**बिहार विद्यालय परीक्षा समिति, पटना**  
नई दिल्ली शाखा कार्यालय के लिए सहायक एवं लेखापाल तथा समिति विद्यालय, पटना के लिए सहायक एवं लेखा सहायक के पद पर नियोजन हेतु सूचना

एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि बिहार विद्यालय परीक्षा समिति, पटना द्वारा समिति की नई दिल्ली शाखा हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या पी०आर० 394/2019 में अंकित सहायक एवं लेखापाल पद के लिए एवं समिति कार्यालय, पटना हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या पी०आर० 413/2019 में अंकित सहायक एवं लेखा सहायक पद हेतु दिनांक 28.12.2019 को समीकृत रूप से लिखित परीक्षा (Written Test) का आयोजन पटना स्थित सिमिन केंद्र पर निर्धारित किया गया है।

उक्त पदों पर आवेदन करने वाले अर्थात् दिनांक 21.12.2019 से समिति के वेबसाइट <http://biharboardonline.bihar.gov.in> से Admit Card, Application No. एवं D.O.B प्रविष्टि कर download कर सकेंगे।  
पी०आर० 491/2019

**सचिव**

**Odisha State Health & Family Welfare Society (OSH&FWS)**  
Health & FW Department, Govt. of odisha  
SIH&FW Annex Building, Unit-8, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-12

**Adv. No./ 59/19** **Dt: 19.12.2019**

**Express of Interest (Eoi) for empanelment of Agencies/Institutions to execute evaluation/ assessment of NGO led health programmes under OSH&FWS.**

Odisha State Health & Family Welfare Society invites applications from eligible Agencies/Institutions for three years empanelment to undertake evaluation/assessment of NGO led health programmes implemented under National Health Mission from time to time. The Agencies interested in the Eoi document.

The filled up and signed applications complete in all respect and attached with the relevant signed documents along with cost of Eoi document in form of DD/Banker Cheque should reach the Mission Director, NHM-cum Member Secretary, OSH&FW Society on or before dated 17.01.2020 by 5.00 PM, either by registered post/ speed post/ courier. The sealed envelope should be clearly labeled with "Application for empanelment of Evaluating Agencies for evaluation/assessment of NGO projects". The detailed Eoi document and the prescribed formats of application is available in the website [www.nhmodisha.gov.in](http://www.nhmodisha.gov.in).

Incomplete applications/ applications received in an open envelope/ applications from blacklisted Agencies will be summarily rejected. Further, the authority reserves the right to reject any applications without assigning any reason thereof. No personal enquiry shall be entertained.

Sd/-  
**Mission Director, NHM, Odisha**  
**Cum-Member Secretary,**  
**OSH&FW Society,**  
10084/11/0043/1920

**SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA**  
STRESSSED ASSETS, RECOVERY BRANCH SCO 7, (GROUND FLOOR) SECTOR 5, PANCHKULA-134109, PHONE NO. 0172-2681850, 573570

**[Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)**

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of State Bank of India, S.A.R.B, S.C.O.70, Sector 5 Panchkula under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 in exercise of the powers conferred by clause 13(1)(2) read with rule 3 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice to borrower on the date mentioned hereunder, calling upon the Borrower to repay the amount due within 10 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower in particular and the public in general, that the undersigned had taken the Physical Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of the Section 13 of Act read with Rule 6 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 the date mentioned against the account.

The Borrower in particular & the Public in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property & any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of State Bank of India, S.A.R.B, S.C.O.70, Sector 5 Panchkula for an amount mentioned herein below.

Name of the Account Holder & Borrower/ Guarantors	Description of the Immovable property	Date of Demand Notice Issued (T)	Date of Physical Possession	Amount Outstanding as on the date of demand notice
M/s. Vashwani Cosmetics Industries Pvt.Ltd. Regd. Office- 022, Universal Tower Sector-4/2, Behra Road, Gurgaon	All that part and parcel of land building on a plot measuring 171 sq meters situated in Sector-4/2 Urban Estate Gurgaon, bearing No. 118-A, owned by Sh. R.K. Saxena & Sh. Ram Parkash Saxena vide registration letter No. 2249 dated 09.07.1939 and Registered Conveyance Deed No. 168 dated 04.04.2007, duly registered in the office of Sub Registrar Gurgaon and Equitably Mortgaged to the Bank.	29.10.2018	17.12.2019	Rs. 7,41,04,883/- as on 29.10.2018 inclusive of interest upto 28.10.2018. The future interest at the contractual rate as per the above mentioned agreement together with the legal expenses, court charges, etc. accrued there after till the repayment, if any.

Date: 19.12.2019 Place: Gurugram (Authorised Officer)

**MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.**

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/01/2020 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges-

DELHI, DELHI, DWARAKA BRANCH 7: 11367000010302: 0979, 0987, 0988, 1021, 1038, 1039, 1056, 1068, 1078, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1095, 1097, 1100, 1101, 1104, 1112, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1155, 1159, 1162, 113760730003964, GEETHA COLONY, 1167590700020512, 1280, 1389, 1453, 1514, 1515, 1520, 1527, 1528, 1536, 1556, 1560, 1575, 1583, 1586, 1595, 1597, 1602, 1605, 1611, 1612, 1614, 1625, 1642, 1644, 1646, 1658, 1662, 1663, 1668, 1669, 1674, 1675, 1678, 1681, 1682, 1683, 1686, 1690, 1696, 1698, 1702, 1716, 107590730004374, 4375, 4615, 4828, 4839, 4841, 4843, 4970, 4978, 4979, 4980, 5017, 5027, 5032, 5033, KAKARDOOMIA, 102760700009570, 9723, 102760700010133, 0136, 0140, 0143, 0147, 0148, 0158, 0159, 0160, 0168, 0172, 0191, 0197, 0198, 0222, 102760730004585, 4671, 4738, 4739, KALKAJI, 100870700006218, 8519, 6091, 6735, 7522, 7892, 8022, 8104, 8194, 8236, 8243, 8274, 8661, 8509, 8565, 8639, 9800, 9870, 9895, 9902, 9938, 9955, 9964, 9978, 9988, 9989, 100870700060005, 0019, 0095, 0096, 0108, 0112, 0116, 0120, 0127, 0130, 0139, 0144, 0159, 0172, 0175, 0177, 0187, 0195, 0203, 0207, 0213, 0216, 0218, 0222, 0252, 0270, 0287, 0292, 0303, 0335, 0344, 0347, 0366, 0368, 0375, 0380, 0387, 0395, 0420, 0422, 0428, 0429, 0442, 0445, 0446, 0449, 0456, 0461, 0464, 0466, 0468, 0469, 0471, 0475, 0477, 0478, 0479, 0481, 0485, 0486, 0492, 0502, 0504, 0508, 0509, 0515, 0517, 0525, 0547, 0548, 100870730014455, 4456, 4482, 4774, 4800, 4829, 4864, 4866, 4936, 4969, 5121, 5128, 5129, 5146, 5166, 5275, 5280, 5282, 5356, 5357, 5394, KRISHNAN NAGAR, 108530700015485, 5498, 5499, 5544, 5664, 5665, 5931, 6439, 6443, 6455, 6456, 6467, 6498, 108530730012452, 2453, LAXMI NAGAR, 100890700052536, 2780, 4193, 4389, 5470, 5712, 5870, 5960, 6002, 7073, 7074, 7075, 7076, 7080, 7088, 7089, 7153, 7161, 7162, 7163, 7169, 7227, 7246, 7247, 7264, 7321, 7338, 7339, 7347, 7366, 7370, 7374, 7382, 7383, 7384, 7415, 7445, 7474, 7484, 7489, 7496, 7508, 7511, 7513, 7515, 7516, 7522, 7530, 7531, 7532, 7533, 7536, 7546, 7547, 7548, 7552, 7560, 7569, 7577, 7587, 7601, 7610, 7621, 100890730013145, 3312, 3322, 3501, 3561, 3698, 3736, 3754, 3756, 3761, 3762, 10090700036731, 9543, 9569, 9821, 10904070004116, 1158, 1173, 1215, 1242, 1355, 1373, 1377, 1383, 1465, 1518, 1557, 1568, 1658, 2516, 2940, 2979, 3012, 3020, 3032, 3047, 3049, 3058, 3062, 3082, 3083, 3084, 3085, 3133, 3150, 3196, 3232, 3234, 3240, 3233, 3380, 3416, 109040730004296, RANIBAGH, 108720700011095, 1215, 1622, 1673, 1674, 1680, 1686, 1690, 1698, 1699, 1708, 1726, 1731, 1744, 1746, 1753, 1760, 1761, 1762, 1765, 1777, 1789, 1805, 1811, 1813, 1817, 1819, 1832, 108720730004457, 4811, 4812, 4813, 4839, 4998, 4996, ROHINI, 10090070015296, 5330, 5349, 5364, 5364, 5363, 5415, 5436, 5437, 5448, 5455, 100900730004927, 4928, 5172, 5218, VISHWAS NAGAR DELHI, 123330700016993, 8401, 9425, 9426, 9429, 9448, 9449, 9453, 9467, 9465, 9497, 9522, 9539, 9552, 9556, 9562, 9563, 9564, 9571, 9584, 9589, 9607, 9624, 9626, 9632, 9634, 9636, 9650, 9651, 9657, 9660, 9664, 9665, 9670, 9671, 9673, 9683, 9684, 9690, 9696, 9694, 9695, 9696, 9704, 9709, 9721, 9731, 9740, 9747, 9773, 9774, 9777, 9783, 9801, 9819, 9826, 9845, 123330730005324, 5454, 5457, 5549, EAST DELHI, BHAIJANPURA DELHI, 122040700036997, 9848, 122040700047033, 0742, 1053, 1127, 1180, 1506, 1570, 1758, 1826, 2431, 2519, 2671, 2927, 3125, 3389, 3469, 3491, 3959, 3965, 4015, 4024, 4031, 4032, 4076, 4174, 4058, 4203, 4204, 4205, 4236, 4256, 4273, 4284, 4309, 4302, 4473, 4509, 4782, 6200, 6562, 6687, 6690, 6683, 6640, 6845, 6852, 6856, 6868, 6883, 6890, 6894, 6897, 6922, 6915, 6919, 6928, 6936, 6943, 6947, 6953, 6966, 6985, 6971, 6983, 6984, 6989, 6993, 6997, 7002, 7013, 7014, 7058, 7060, 7061, 7065, 7069, 7091, 7101, 7114, 7123, 7154, 7157, 7158, 7159, 7170, 7176, 7177, 7180, 7206, 7217, 7242, 7247, 7262, 7264, 7272, 7275, 7277, 7278, 7279, 7280, 7287, 7289, 7290, 7292, 7315, 7322, 7345, 7346, 7353, 7354, 7355, 7356, 7357, 7362, 7369, 7385, 7400, 7410, 7417, 7437, 7442, 7443, 7458, 7474, 7475, 7476, 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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# General and a labyrinth

From army chief to convict for treason — Pervez Musharraf has fallen a long way



KHALED AHMED

ON DECEMBER 17, a special court convicted former army chief and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf of high treason under Article 6 of the Constitution and sentenced him to death. The three-judge court was formed under special orders of the Supreme Court to prosecute him for imposing emergency and subverting the judiciary in November 2007. It was a summary process after General Musharraf had "failed to appear on summons six times" while "recovering" from ill health in his luxury apartment in Dubai.

In an unusual response, the Pakistan Army spoke through its spokesman: "An ex-Army Chief, Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff Committee and President of Pakistan, who has served the country for over 40 years, fought wars for the defence of the country, can surely never be a traitor." Perhaps encouraged by a reluctant-to-prosecute government, the army and its several retired generals who appear regularly on TV, clearly put forth a point of view that was expressed only indirectly in the past.

The case was brought before the Supreme Court in 2007 by the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) of Nawaz Sharif that the general had overthrown through a coup in 1999. He dodged the court repeatedly, helped by his namesake-successor army chief, General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, till 2014, when he denied the charge. After two years of playing hide-and-seek, he was helped by the next army chief, General Raheel Sharif, "through pressure", to leave the country.

The ill-fated year 2007 was also the year that saw the leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Benazir Bhutto, assassinated in Rawalpindi. She had escaped death at the hands of an earlier suicide-bomber in Karachi but succumbed to a more well-planned attack in Rawalpindi. Musharraf,

who didn't want her to return to Pakistan, was seen to be in the dock. In so far as he appeared to have deliberately failed to provide her routine protection, he was dubbed guilty by many Pakistanis.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, whom he overthrew, chose him as his army chief because he looked "liberal" and not "too religious", a decision he was to regret later. The breaking-point came with the Kargil war that Musharraf unleashed, saying the prime minister had okayed it. Taking place between May and July 1999, the conflict was a disaster for Pakistan. But rather than face punishment for his failings, its planner-executioner, General Musharraf, staged a coup against the democratically elected government in October 1999, grabbing the reins of power for nearly a decade.

Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif couldn't have acquiesced in the "Kargil Operation" because when it was initiated he was receiving his Indian counterpart, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in Lahore in what appeared to the world to be the final reconciliation between India and Pakistan. General Musharraf, in fact, was embarrassed meeting Vajpayee while his troops were attacking the Indian positions in Kargil. After winning the Kargil war, Vajpayee had observed that his visit had been "a stab in the back".

General Musharraf took over in 1999 and was still casting about for relief to the economy, which had been badly crippled by the Kargil misadventure, when, in 2001, the fateful 9/11 happened. Under a plot hatched by al Qaeda in Pakistan, America was attacked by airborne suicide-bombers, triggering the Chapter Seven resolution at the United Nations that caused an international invasion of the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. Musharraf joined the invasion and was thus rescued from the post-Kargil economic crisis.

The army, then, didn't like him too much. There were at least two serious attempts on his life by army officers in cahoots with the non-state actors employed for infiltration into Kashmir. There were defections from the army as officers fled from special training camps and joined the Taliban-al Qaeda combine.

America came to his rescue, as narrated by Shuja Nawaz in his latest book, 'The Battle for Pakistan: The Bitter US Friendship and Tough Neighbourhood' (2019): "A very senior member of Musharraf's government told me that he had been informed by senior staff of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi that during a visit of Crown Prince Mohammed of Abu Dhabi to President George W Bush at Camp David, the idea was bruited that Musharraf should be encouraged to depart Pakistan with a promise of 'protocol' and property. As a result, the Saudi King, Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, provided \$2 million, and the ruler of Abu Dhabi another \$2 million."

This accounts for Musharraf's reluctance to leave the comforts of Dubai and enter Pakistan and face the court. But the bets are now on Musharraf rather than the Supreme Court.

Imran Khan, who had called him a traitor in 2007, is now reluctant to prosecute him, his party speaking in unison with the GHQ. The Opposition parties, their leaders facing court cases for corruption, have welcomed the verdict but are in no position to back the Supreme Court with street power. The TV discussions that began with a welcoming note are now inclining in favour of Musharraf; and the expert view is that, on appeal, Musharraf's conviction will be overturned by a repentant Supreme Court.

The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan

## A FRAYING PACT

GST council votes for first time, departing from its consensual decision making model so far. Centre must heed warning

DEPARTING FROM THE consensual nature of decision-making that has marked the GST Council so far, on Wednesday, the council, for the first time, voted on an issue, of the taxation of lotteries. Though the issue has been pending for long, and the Kerala government reportedly stuck to its stance of maintaining the dual rate structure, that the final decision had to be put to a vote illustrates a deterioration in relations between the Centre and states. It goes against the idea and spirit of cooperative federalism. Moreover, this is unlikely to be a one-off. With GST revenues falling well short of expectations, relations between the Centre and states may be further strained as states are likely to press for extending the compensation period by a few years.

The genesis of the distrust seemingly stems from the Centre delaying compensation to states for their revenue loss. Under the GST regime, states have to compensated if their revenue growth falls below 14 per cent each year over the 2015-16 base year. While the practice so far had been to transfer the compensation amount after two months, the Centre delayed payments for August and September, much to the states' consternation. Though the Centre released Rs 35,298 crore as compensation just prior to the council meeting, and the finance minister said that the Centre was committed to discharging its obligation, several state governments appear unsure. With the economy slowing sharply, there is concern that the amount being collected through the compensation cess will not be enough to compensate for the shortfall in collections this year. The states' concerns don't end here. With the Centre's own revenues likely to fall short of its budgeted target, tax devolution to states will also be lower this year. This will impact their spending. And as much of states' revenue expenditure is sticky in nature, lower revenues will force them to cut back on capital spending, further intensifying the slowdown. Sensing this, some state governments have asked for relaxing the fiscal deficit limit to 4 per cent. While it is not clear if the Centre will accede to this demand, it does underline the severity of the stress in both Central and state government finances.

In the run-up to this council meeting, suggestions were made to raise tax rates to shore up collections. That the council shied away from doing so at the current juncture is welcome. While rate rationalisation is indeed required — in some sectors inputs are taxed at higher rates as compared to final products — raising taxes when the economy is slowing down would have been counter-productive. What is needed is a comprehensive review of the GST architecture, addressing, in particular, the issues flagged by the CAG.

## AT STAKE, IN RANCHI

The election result in Jharkhand comes in a fraught moment, will set off a larger echo

MUCH DEPENDS ON the outcome of the Jharkhand assembly elections — results will be declared on Monday. The BJP, which is seeking another term in office, needs to win the state especially because, in contrast to its spectacular performance at the national level, it is yet to win an assembly election convincingly since its successes in UP, Uttarakhand and Tripura in 2017-18. The party has lost major states, including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, while failing to gain a simple majority in Haryana. It was outwitted by the Opposition in Maharashtra despite winning the assembly election and, in the process, lost its oldest ally, the Shiv Sena. For the Opposition, battered in the May general election, another state government wrested from the BJP will boost its confidence.

The last two phases of voting in the five-phase contest in Jharkhand were held after Parliament passed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) sparking wide protests. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah flagged the citizenship debate in Jharkhand in a language and tone that was polarising: The PM remarked about the dress of CAA protestors and alluded to Pakistan while talking of the political Opposition. The JMM-Congress-RJD alliance, on the other hand, kept the focus on governance-related issues: Land alienation of tribals, lack of jobs, the police action on para teachers and anganwadi workers. Though the BJP campaign initially centred on Raghuraj Das providing a stable government — Das, an OBC leader, is the first chief minister to complete a full term since the formation of Jharkhand in 2000 — it soon shifted focus to work done by the Modi government on national security. That Das is also seen as a contentious figure within the BJP state unit — his main opponent in the Jamshedpur East constituency is his former deputy Saryu Rai — may have influenced the party to shift focus. It may also be counting on the Modi charisma, despite the fact that though it has netted votes for the BJP in general elections, it has not always been helpful in attracting voters in assembly contests.

The gathbandhan's projection of Hemant Soren as the CM nominee has added a subtext to the polls: Should the CM of a state born out of a movement that emphasised the agency of tribals be from a Scheduled Tribe community or should the CM office be above such considerations? For Soren, this election is a battle to establish his claim to the legacy of Shibu Soren, arguably Jharkhand's tallest Adivasi leader, and the JMM's claim to be the sole representative of the state's tribals.

## BUYERS AND PLAYERS

IPL auction was about some hardheaded math, some fairy tale excitement

TWITTER TRENDS SELDOM reflect the ground reality but it is still noteworthy that news about the IPL auction dislodged, to some extent, netizens' attention from the ongoing street protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens. Within 20 minutes, the auction news was the top-trending item — be it the Australian fast bowler Pat Cummins going for a whopping Rs 15.50 crore, Glenn Maxwell, who took a break from international cricket to take care of his health, going for Rs 10.75 crore or England ODI captain Eoin Morgan picked up for Rs 5.25 crore.

Perhaps people needed a break from the gathering political and economic tensions. But it's been the same story every year for a while now during the auction — there is something irresistible about it, with all the elements that enthrall and tease human imagination: Who was sold for the most? Who was not even picked up? Which odd-ball came through? Why is a little known player being paid so much? Why was a reputed player ignored?

A few critics, unable to come to terms with players being "sold", have termed it a cattle-auction. But the event also throws up heart-warming stories of rags to riches. This year, at least three players, sons of a small farmer and a driver, and a boy who used to sell chaat, have turned millionaires overnight. There were, as there always are, a few oddities as well — Pravin Tambe, who at 48 was the oldest player in the auction, was picked up for Rs 20 lakh, and the youngest, the 14-year-old Afghanistan bowler Noor Ahmad, wasn't selected. There were a few surprises as well, the veteran Piyush Chawla was taken for Rs 6.75 crore, Varun Chakravarthy, the legspinner who played just one game last season, went for Rs 4 crore, and Jaydev Unadkat continues to rake in the riches at the IPL, fetching Rs 3 crore.

## UNREASONABLE RESTRICTIONS

Achieving public order by suspending freedoms is unacceptable



MALAVIKA PRASAD

COMMUNICATION SHUTDOWNS AND curfews have rained on us thick and fast this week. There have been reports of shutdowns — as SMS blacks, social media blocks, suspension of mobile internet or suspension of internet access — across Assam, districts of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal in the wake of protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act. Curfew was declared for three days in Bengaluru in anticipation of similar protests, even though all preceding protests in that city had been entirely peaceful. The most egregious version of a shutdown, as a curfew alongside a blanket suspension of landline, cellular line, mobile and broadband internet, was imposed in the Kashmir Valley with no evidence of likely violence on August 4. This shutdown continues to subsist as a prepaid SMS and internet shutdown 137 days later — the longest ever in a democracy.

The pattern is clear. Something is done that may trigger protest, which the government reads as a threat to public order. As a preventive measure, and without there being any signs of actual public disorder tending to violence, the government suspends communication media and/or imposes curfew. While curfew is declared under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, to "prevent danger to human life, health or safety, or a disturbance of the public tranquillity", communication shutdowns are declared under the Telecom Suspension Rules, 2017, as well as under Section 144. However, both derive their justificatory basis in the government's power to impose "reasonable restrictions" on the freedom of speech and expression. With the rejection of parliamentary supremacy, Indians rejected a culture of authority and heralded in its place a culture of

justification — enforced through the Constitution. Thus, as lawyer-scholars Jahnavi Sindhu and Vikram Aditya Narayan argue, the government is expected to justify not only that it has enacted restrictions to realise the state interests under Articles 19(2)-(6), but also that it has acted in a manner that is suitable, necessary and proportional.

However, there is an even more basic question one must ask of curfews and blanket shutdowns, that are imposed preventively: Does the government have a carte blanche as to choice of restriction, within the express parameters of Articles 19(2)-(6)? Can government order literally anything — in the name of public order — when there is no evidence of any public disorder or incitement to violence?

In our constitutional scheme, the government can use its power to swallow up a right only in exceptional and constitutionally-specified circumstances — when a proclamation of Emergency is in force. Even such an Emergency can only be in force for a period of one month, unless it is also approved by Parliament — which can extend it to six months. In all other contexts, the suspension of freedoms is not permitted. Only "reasonable restrictions" are. It follows then that "reasonable restrictions" can never be suspensions of fundamental rights, least of all for over four months.

One way to think of this would be that there are implied limitations on the government's power to enact restrictions — a restriction cannot swallow up the right itself. This flows from the Supreme Court's own reading of our fundamental freedoms. To ensure women's safety, can we deny the woman's freedom to choose to be employed at places serving alcohol? Answering in the negative, the Court held in *Anuj Garg v. Hotel Assn of*

*India*, (2008): "Privacy rights prescribe autonomy to choose profession whereas security concerns texture methodology of delivery of this assurance. But it is a reasonable proposition that the measures to safeguard such a guarantee of autonomy should not be so strong that the essence of the guarantee is lost. State protection must not translate into censorship."

The Court thus propounds an important theory of restriction. State interests like security are important because they are the prerequisites for us to exercise our freedoms. In pursuing a state interest — towards safeguarding freedoms — the freedoms themselves cannot be suspended. This is a theory of beneficial constraints — we must do less to be able to do more. For instance, lanes constrain driving so that more of us can reach our destinations safely and efficiently. Thus, to ensure more of us can get around, government cannot altogether ban us all from trying to get around, as that would defeat the very purpose — of enabling us to get around!

In short, the pursuit of public order is towards enabling us all to exercise our freedoms as engaged citizens. Achieving public order by suspending our freedoms — whether as a blanket communication shutdown, or as a curfew order — defies logic. To use the words of Justice Vivian Bose, "it is the right which has been made fundamental, not the fetters and limitations with which it may be circumscribed." (*Krishnan v. State of Madras*, AIR 1951). It is high time we resumed viewing these state interests as designed to further rather than eviscerate our freedoms.

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## DECEMBER 21, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO



SHILLONG UNREST SHOOT-AT-SIGHT ORDERS WERE issued and indefinite curfew reimposed in Shillong following violent sectarian clashes which left a youth dead and 70 injured. Six shops were burnt down and another eight were looted. A few buildings were damaged in stone throwing outside the secretariat. The youth killed in today's clashes was identified by the police as Purkayastha, 22, student of St Edmund College. Two hours after the incident, the army was alerted to stand by to assist the civil administration.

ASSAM CONSENSUS LEADERS OF THE Janata Party, Congress,

Plains Tribal Council of Assam, Revolutionary Communist Party of India and some other smaller groups in Assam have reached a consensus on the foreign nationals issue, according to reports reaching Shillong from Guwahati. The agreement envisages preparation of "correct" voter lists by deleting the names of all foreign nationals, inclusion of the names of genuine Indian citizens, holding of the Lok Sabha elections in all 14 constituencies within six months, initiation of steps to prepare a national register of citizens, detection and deportation of foreigners as per law and tightening security measures along the international borders to prevent further influx of aliens.

INDIRA'S PROMISES EDUCATED MUSLIMS SEE nothing much in Mrs Gandhi's promise to provide reservation for minorities if she came back to power. In the past, Muslim leaders have been demanding proportional representation of Muslims in government services. The late A J Faridi, a former member of the UP legislative council, had contended that Muslim representation in government services, particularly in the police and PAC, was not adequate. A section of the Muslims in Lucknow believe that many top leaders make tall promises during election campaigns, but when the time comes to deliver, the administrative machinery puts many hurdles in place.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The prime minister is obliged by politics and pride to pretend that the deal he struck is a great one. He imagines he can achieve another such triumph in the next phase of Brexit in the same way." — THE GUARDIAN

# Uneasy nation, lines within

India's decision-makers must pause and consider the costs of majoritarianism



ARUN PRAKASH

MIRPUR WAS A small town in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) — it's now a part of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Soon after the invasion of Kashmir by Pakistani irregulars, approximately 25,000 Hindu men, women and children — amongst them, my close relatives — were force-marched to a refugee camp in Ali Beg. There were massacres and kidnappings en route, and only 5,000 made it to the camp. A year later, when the International Red Cross reached Ali Beg camp, it found a mere 1,600 Mirpuri survivors awaiting repatriation to India.

Many of my relatives either perished or were abducted during this tragic episode, but my immediate family was luckier. We lived close to Srinagar and the arrival of Indian troops, on October 27, 1947, enabled my mother and siblings to flee in the Dakotas which had flown them in. We returned to the Valley, six months later, to find our home burnt to cinders.

My reasons for gratuitously offering these personal details to the reader are two-fold. Firstly, notwithstanding the bloodbath of 1947, no member of my extended family — whether of the pre-Partition or post-Partition generation — bears hatred towards the "other" or carries a sense of "victimhood". Like lakhs of other refugees we realise that, in the madness of Partition, such tragedies occurred on both sides. I also wish to establish my bonafides and exercise my right of expression as a non-partisan, septuagenarian-citizen, and a military veteran without being assigned absurd ideological labels — a current practice to discredit every contrarian viewpoint.

This is being written as the nation's sociopolitical fabric comes under tremendous strain in the aftermath of the passage of the Citizens' Amendment Bill, as well as the impending creation of a National Register of Citizens. Without entering into a debate on the merits of these incendiary issues, I wish to draw attention to other factors which have assumed critical importance for the nation.

No matter what its root causes are, India's economy is in parlous straits. With continuing agrarian distress — varying only in degree from state to state — and slowdown in manufacturing, jobs have been scarce for a long time. As schools and colleges continue to churn out young and hopeful job-seekers, frustration levels amongst the youth are rising. The "demographic dividend" that India had once dreamt would help it overtake an "ageing China" is turning into a nightmare. The current unrest and protests in college campuses as well as increasing blue-collar crime and gender-violence could be the early manifestations of approaching tumult.

Placed 102 out of 117 countries in the 2019 Global Hunger Index, India remains home to a third of the world's poor. Our filthy cities, teeming with slums, have seen India placed at 129 out of 189 in the 2019 UN Human Development Index. So mesmerised are we by the GDP numbers and so injured have we become to our country's vast and



C R Sasikumar

endemic poverty that "poverty alleviation" did not find mention in the 2019 election manifestos of the major political parties.

With the common man still in the quest for roti, kapda, makan, one had expected that utmost priority would be accorded by our elected representatives to addressing unemployment, hunger, healthcare and education. It is bitterly disappointing to see our resources, attention and energies being frittered away on far-less urgent but inflammatory issues related to religion, places of worship and even bovine welfare. These may garner votes but we cannot evade the reality that unless India's national leadership focuses on economic, industrial, scientific and technological progress, the country will remain backward and firmly anchored in the Third World.

India is unique in its religious, ethnic, linguistic and caste diversity; models of governance, applicable to homogenous societies, simply do not work here. Pakistan, next-door, provides an example of how simplistic approaches can have disastrous consequences. Created as the first theocratic state of modern times, Pakistan started unravelling as soon as it adopted Islamic fundamentalism as state policy and mobilised sharia laws to victimise religious minorities and non-conformist Muslim sects. By 1971, it had become clear that religion could not provide the glue to hold together two distinct ethnic entities, and East Pakistan freed itself to become Bangladesh.

Historically, the prime causes for India succumbing to foreign invaders have been lack of visionary leadership and absence of internal cohesion. If history has a lesson for us, it is that divisive bigotry and religious hysteria can destroy nations while social cohesion and

nationalism hold them together. Those who believe that converting India into a theocratic state — a virtual Pakistani clone — will make it strong and united are living in a delusory world. Worse still, such an objective will set the country on a path of fratricidal conflict and eventual disintegration.

To put things in the simplest perspective, let me cite our military leadership, which has frequently called for readiness to fight a "two and a half front war". The "two fronts", obviously, refer to our neighbourhood adversaries, China and Pakistan who, individually and collectively, pose a formidable threat. While the "external threat" is quantifiable and can be countered militarily, it is the "internal threat", arising from India's socio-economic disparities as well as religious, sectarian and caste-based tensions, that poses a far greater peril. If internal discord is going to be superimposed on the existing Naxal insurgency and ongoing separatist movements in Kashmir and the Northeast, they could cumulatively pose an existential threat to India.

At this critical juncture in our history, it is for India's decision-makers to pause and consider whether India's security, well-being and international image will be enhanced or undermined by pursuing majoritarianism of any kind by engendering insecurity in any segment of our heterogeneous society and alienating a major section of our citizens through intimidatory or discriminatory legislation? On the other hand, will the nation not be immeasurably strengthened if we retain sharp focus on enhancing internal cohesion through assimilation, inclusivity and maintenance of domestic harmony — and above all, on economic development?

The writer is a retired chief of naval staff

# The language of revenge

Celebration of Hyderabad encounter, passage of CAA, show the same disquieting desire for vengeance



SHAH ALAM KHAN

TWO DEVELOPMENTS THIS month have further pushed us and the institutions of our democracy into an ignominious spotlight. On December 6, in Hyderabad, the alleged rapists of a young veterinarian were killed in an encounter while in police custody. On December 11, the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) was passed by Parliament.

The celebrations which followed the encounter of the alleged rapists as well as after the passing of the CAA reveal a common thread that ties both actions together. In both cases, the perception was that "revenge" has been extracted. This was a narrative which both the police and the ruling dispensation was comfortable with in the respective cases. In case one, the policemen were lavishly feted for avenging the brutal rape and murder of a young girl, while in case two, the common explanation for excluding Muslims from the CAA was that non-Muslim minorities were mistreated in neighbouring Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan and hence, it was morally correct to exclude possible persecuted Muslim migrants from trying to enter into India. In a nutshell, the Act was dressed up as "revenge" on the Muslims for the alleged wrongs by people of their faith in another land. Even those who pretended that the CAA was a tool for revenge for the wrong doings against non-Muslims were aware of this background.

The desire for revenge is among the most intense of all sentiments. The morality of revenge, however, teeters precariously on its journey towards fairness. Revenge, as in the Hyderabad encounter case, is erroneously seen as fairness or justice even when it is neither. One may ask, then, on a "moral metre" of revenge, where we would place Uddham Singh's revenge on Michael O'Dwyer? The American legal philosopher Joel Feinberg puts vengeance in close company with a longing for blood as well as with schadenfreude. In his book, *Doing and Deserving: Essays in the Theory of Responsibility*, he claims that whereas retributive punishment is righteous, vengeance comes from anger. Thus, Uddham Singh's revenge on O'Dwyer, unlike the Hyderabad encounter, can be classified as retributive punishment. To make matters simpler, it should be crystal clear to us that police encounters are extra-judicial murders meant not to provide justice but to evade responsibility, remove witnesses/evidence or to reduce public pressure, as in Hyderabad. The police is a law enforcement unit, not a justice-dispensing agency.

The CAA is the handiwork of a majori-

tarian political party trying to fulfill the long-pending agenda of its parent organisation, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). That the RSS's agenda is to push Indian Muslims and Christians towards becoming second-class citizens is well documented. In the narrative of revenge, the celebration of the CAA by a large section of Indians is best explained by Friedrich Nietzsche's idea of "ressentiment" — a psychological state resulting from suppressed feelings of envy and hatred, which cannot be satisfied. Ressentiment is not retributive punishment. It is, in essence, the transfer of one's own pain or sense of humiliation, real or imagined, on a scapegoat. It is hence important to understand that this psyche of revenge works at multiple layers. In an Indian context, narratives of revenge can be built by those in power as has happened with the CAA, to a hide long-held hatred against ethnic and religious minorities.

The narrative of revenge in our country has been created and transmitted through multiple channels — cinema, folklore, literature, radio, television and newspapers. Revenge even forms the basis of some of the most important heroes of our mythology. Off the top of my head, I can remember at least 10-15 Hindi films which had the word *badla* (revenge) in their titles. Since our childhood, we have often heard stories of kings and paupers who extracted revenge on their most treacherous enemies. It is strange that, as a nation, we are hooked on to the idea of revenge. This is a dangerous proposition in a country which harbours a multitude of ethnicities, religions and most importantly, one which has a 3,000-year-old, well-oiled caste system in place.

It is thus imperative that we should be able to see through the curtains of narratives whenever we encounter one. Revenge as a narrative to justify heinous crimes like extra-judicial killing or to justify an unconstitutional law like the CAA is something that should bother us all. The moral turpitude of a law that views the right to citizenship through the lens of religion is something that must not be camouflaged by the blinding hubris of revenge.

The broken moral universe we inhabit today is a dangerous place. In a country trying to locate itself in an imagined past, anything and everything that is served on a salver of morally correct propositions needs careful scrutiny. Police murders like the one in Hyderabad are not events to celebrate but occasions to introspect. The total lack of faith of the common people in the judicial system is something which should worry us all. Similarly, total impunity in passing an unconstitutional law should also be an occasion to introspect. The more we think, the more we will get closer to truth. And fortunately, truth does not need a celebration. It comes wrapped in its own skin, impervious to rhetoric and deaf to bombast.

The writer is professor of orthopaedics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. Views are personal

# Crime and instant punishment

Vigilantism, encounter killings draw attention to justice delayed



G P JOSHI

THE INCIDENT INVOLVING the encounter killings of four alleged rapists by the Hyderabad police has received a mixed response. It has been condemned on the ground that the police encounter was fake and it violated two interlinked principles of the rule of law on which the system of jurisprudence in this country is based. One, a person accused of committing a crime is to be treated innocent till he is pronounced guilty by a court of law, and, two, it should be ensured that not even one innocent person gets punished even if in the bargain 10 guilty individuals get away.

While the police action has been denounced by some, it has simultaneously received wide public support and appreciation. Showering of flower petals on police vehicles, touching of the feet of the police personnel, distributing sweets, beating of drums, bursting of crackers, singing and dancing with joy on the streets — these are just some of the ways in which the public, particularly women, expressed their enthusiasm and appreciation of what the police did. Celebrations were reported not merely from Hyderabad but from other parts of the country as well.

The police in this country generally have a poor image. They are alleged to be oppressive and corrupt. The puzzling question is why, suddenly, were the police personnel

involved in killing the accused accorded a grand hero's welcome. The answer is that the general public over time has become hugely dissatisfied, in fact, disgusted, with the way the criminal justice system has been functioning. This discontent is essentially due to two reasons: Lack of or a very poor rate of conviction, and enormous delay in the disposal of criminal cases. As the Madhava Menon Committee on Reforms of the Criminal Justice System has observed: "It is common knowledge that the two major problems confronting the criminal-justice system are huge pendency of criminal cases and the inordinate delay in disposal of criminal cases on the one hand and the very low rate of conviction in cases involving serious crimes on the other." This has occasionally encouraged people to take the law in to their hands to deal with crime and criminals.

According to the police, they took the accused to the crime spot at night so as to protect them from being lynched by the public. This fear on the part of the police was not misplaced. There is an increasing tendency on the part of the public to deliver instant "lynch justice" by killing those who are caught while committing a crime, or even suspected of a crime. It is the public fear of crime and the incompetence of the criminal

justice system to deal with criminality in a fair and swift manner that promotes a tendency amongst people to engage in vigilante justice — and beat up the accused or suspects of a crime to death. Such public fear and perception sometimes provide a license to the police to deal with crime and criminals by using rough and illegal methods. The blinding of criminals by the Bhagalpur Police, back in the early Eighties, was another example of such license. The present incident, once again, shows how closely linked police vigilantism is to public vigilantism. The prominent danger in ignoring public vigilantism is that it is likely to promote greater acceptance by the public of police vigilantism. Turning a blind eye to incidents of public or police vigilantism is a sure and certain way of sounding the death-knell of a civilised democratic system of governance based on the rule of law.

Public outrage at any injustice perceived to have been meted out to victims of crime has been seen in the past and, on some occasions, with beneficial outcomes. Both in the Jessica Lal case and the December 12 rape and murder case in Delhi, people organised street marches, held candlelight vigils, circulated petitions and sent messages protesting against what was perceived to be a clear miscarriage of justice. In one case, the government was

forced to appeal to the high court against the acquittal and, in the other case, the rape law was thoroughly revised and made harsher.

Public outcry over ghastly crimes is thus welcome if it results in improving the working of the criminal justice system. It must, however, be ensured that public outrage results in guaranteeing fast delivery of justice and in strengthening the rule of law, and not in subverting it. Public outrage can easily descend to mob vigilantism, some signs of which were seen in many furious responses to the Hyderabad incident.

The criminal justice administration has been one of the most neglected areas of governance in this country: The price for that is being paid by the citizens, not only in terms of an increase in victimisation, but also in terms of the overall deterioration in the quality of life resulting from an overpowering fear of crime. It is time the government devoted greater attention to reforming the criminal justice system. The capability of the system to control crime and deliver justice in time must be enhanced. Till this happens, the incidents of instant "lynch justice" done in anger or for "revenge" — either by the public or by the police — will continue to occur.

The writer retired as director in the Bureau of Police Research and Development

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FAILING THE CITIZENS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Discrimination, not justice' and the editorial, 'States stand up' (IE, December 19). There is no denying the institutional failure in upholding justice and ensuring rights of the vulnerable sections of society and minorities. Many institutions have often let us down. The nationwide protests, initially by students, and later joined by all sections of the society, indicate the growing dissatisfaction and fear in the country. It is high time the ruling party understands this.

**Manzar Imam, Delhi**

### WITH MINORITIES

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A moral law' (IE, December 20). The CAA along with NRC will prove disastrous for India's secular fabric. The argument that the CAA will provide relief to persecuted religious minorities in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh is not sound. The exclusion of Muslims is an attempt to create a Hindu vote bank. The article refers to the "majority expression". But what about the nationwide protests for secularism, equality, love, peace and brotherhood? Let us first stand with our own minorities, the Muslims.

**Anurag Ekka, Ranchi**

### BOARDROOM BATTLES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Reset the boardroom' (IE, December 20). Cyrus Mistry was sacked as the executive chairman of Tata Sons in 2016. The National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai turned down his legal chal-

### LETTER OF THE WEEK

#### DIFFUSE POWER

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'States stand up' (IE, December 19). The sole 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 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.

**Monu Kumar, Patna**

lenge against Tata Sons last year. But the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal, Delhi, has now reinstated him. Tata Sons is likely to file an appeal in the Supreme Court. For the 150-year-old and \$111 billion conglomerate spread over more than 100 countries, this messy and prolonged leadership struggle is unfortunate. Disputes are common in business but there are glaring loopholes in the processes for resolving them. The disputes at ICICI Bank and Infosys also involve boards that failed to address issues before they aggravate.

**Sanjay Chopra, Mohali**



# CONNECTING DELHI TO THE WORLD

## A BEGINNING WITH 109 WIFI HOTSPOTS

Another step has been taken by the Delhi Government towards making Delhi a high-tech city. 109 wifi hotspots have been started in Delhi. After this, approximately 500 wifi hotspots will be added every week.

The speed of the wifi will be 50-200 Mbps and 40-150 people can simultaneously use internet at a hotspot.



# LOCATION OF 109 HOTSPOTS INSTALL IN FIRST DAY

SNO	CONSTITUENCY	LOCATION	SNO	CONSTITUENCY	LOCATION
1	NEW DELHI	D-455, MANDIR MARG	65	BADLI	I-3132, NEAR BY A-BLOCK, BUS STAND
2	NEW DELHI	DELHI SECRETARIAT GATE NO-6	66	BADLI	I-675, I-BLOCK, JAHANGIRPURI
3	NEW DELHI	ITO NEW DELHI	67	BADLI	J-4950 JAHANGIRPURI
4	NEW DELHI	J BLOCK NO 11 H NO. 706 KALI BARI	68	BADLI	K-20, K-BLOCK, JAHANGIRPURI
5	NEW DELHI	MANDI HOUSE	69	BADLI	K-820, K-BLOCK, JAHANGIRPURI
6	NEW DELHI	SARAI KALE KHAN BUS STAND	70	BADLI	MANOJ KUMAR 101/111, CD PARK JHUGGI
7	NEW DELHI	SECTOR -4 39-69 BLOCK, RAJA BAZAR	71	BADLI	SUNDER 101/4, C.D. PARK JUGGI
8	SEEMA PURI	A/2 419 NAND NAGRI	72	MALVIYA NAGAR	H.15/1, SHOP NO-2, MALVIYA NAGAR
9	SEEMA PURI	A-1/194 NAND NAGRI	73	MALVIYA NAGAR	HARI RAM H.NO-US-8/87, BALMIKI CAMP, BEGAMPUR
10	SEEMA PURI	A3, 310 NAND NAGRI	74	MALVIYA NAGAR	HERITAGE PROPERTIES, 25 CORNER MARKET
11	SEEMA PURI	A-4/141 NAND NAGRI	75	MALVIYA NAGAR	MADAN MOHAN MALVIYA HOSPITAL GATE-1
12	SEEMA PURI	B1/305, NAND NAGRI	76	MALVIYA NAGAR	MADAN MOHAN MALVIYA HOSPITAL GATE-2
13	SEEMA PURI	B-2/455 NAND NAGRI	77	MALVIYA NAGAR	NILL 26A MALVIYA NAGAR
14	SEEMA PURI	B3/205 NAND NAGRI	78	MALVIYA NAGAR	S-83/265, INDIRA CAMP, BEGUMPUR
15	SEEMA PURI	B-4/205 NAND NAGRI	79	MALVIYA NAGAR	SHOP NO-18, NEW MARKET MALVIYA NAGAR
16	SEEMA PURI	B-4/275 NAND NAGRI	80	MALVIYA NAGAR	SHOP NO-36, BHAGAT SINGH BADI CHOPAL ZAMRUDPUR GK
17	SEEMA PURI	B-5/245 NAND NAGRI	81	GREATER KAILASH	BUS STOP NEAR ARCHANA SHOPPING COMPLEX
18	SEEMA PURI	B-5/441 NAND NAGRI	82	GREATER KAILASH	DDA- MARKET ZAMRUDPUR, NEAR WINE SHOHP
19	SEEMA PURI	C-3/7 NAND NAGRI	83	GREATER KAILASH	GURU NANAK MARKET, HEMKUND GK-1
20	SEEMA PURI	D1/E61A/136 NAND NAGRI	84	GREATER KAILASH	HOUSE NO-133 B ZAMRUDPUR GK-1
21	SEEMA PURI	D-2/400 NAND NAGRI	85	GREATER KAILASH	KAILASH COLONY MARKET GK-1
22	SEEMA PURI	D3/397, 398 NAND NAGRI	86	GREATER KAILASH	OPP. ANUPAM SWEET GK-1
23	SEEMA PURI	H.NO 39 B VILLAGE KACHIPURA NAND NAGRI	87	GREATER KAILASH	KAILASH COLONY MARKET GK-1
24	SHAHDARA	143, GALI NO. 3 . JAWALA NAGAR	88	GREATER KAILASH	OPP. ICICI ATM
25	SHAHDARA	27/109-B1 NEAR SCHOOL, JAWALA NAGAR	89	GREATER KAILASH	KAILASH COLONY MARKET OPP. MAXIMA SHOP GK-1
26	SHAHDARA	27/137/3 JAWALA NAGAR	90	GREATER KAILASH	M BLOCK MARKET OPP PRINCE CORNER GK-1
27	SHAHDARA	27/5/3F-1 CHURCH ROAD JAWALA NGAR	91	GREATER KAILASH	M BLOCK MARKET, M-73, GK-1
28	SHAHDARA	370 JAWALA NAGAR	92	GREATER KAILASH	M BLOCK MARKET, OPP KA20, GK-1
29	SHAHDARA	67/2A/2 PAL GALI JAWALA NAGAR	93	GREATER KAILASH	M BLOCK MARKET, OPP M-20, GK-1
30	SHAHDARA	7/172, NEAR GAO SALA JAWALA NAGAR	94	GREATER KAILASH	M BLOCK MARKET, OPP-RAJSON, M-56 GK-1
31	SHAHDARA	754-B GALI NO. 6 . JAWALA NAGAR	95	GREATER KAILASH	MAHAVIR MANDIR PHADI WALI GK-1
32	SHAHDARA	77/06 JANTA COLONY	96	GREATER KAILASH	MARKET, MCD OFFICER FLAT R BLOCK
33	SHAHDARA	77/9 GALI NO 1 JAWALA NAGAR	97	GREATER KAILASH	MOHALLA CLINIC, B BLOCK GK-1
34	SHAHDARA	77C/52 GALI BOTH VIHAR JAWALA NAGAR	98	GREATER KAILASH	NEAR ARCHANA COMPLEX
35	SHAHDARA	781 CHURCH ROAD. JAWALA NAGAR	99	GREATER KAILASH	MOHALLA CLINIC, HEMKUND COLONY
36	SHAHDARA	8/3 KEDHRI MOHOLLA	100	GREATER KAILASH	N BLOCK MARKET GK-1 OPP. RATAN JAIPUR SHOP
37	SHAHDARA	82/5 JAWALA NAGAR CIRCULAR ROAD	101	GREATER KAILASH	NANDI VIDHI ROAD MARKET ZAMRUDPUR GK NEAR BALAJI ELECTRICAL SHOP
38	SHAHDARA	898 JAWALA NAGAR, OPPOSITE INFRA PARK	102	SHAKUR BASTI	ZAMRUDPUR GK NEAR BALAJI ELECTRICAL SHOP
39	SHAHDARA	H.NO 180, JAWAHAR NAGAR, MOHLA, FARSH BAZAR	103	SHAKUR BASTI	PUNJABI MOHALLA HOUSE-26-A, OPP. 30A
40	SHAHDARA	SHRI SHIV DURGA MANDIR	104	SHAKUR BASTI	SHIV MANDIR ZAMRUDPUR GK-1
41	MOTI NAGAR	7070 GHAS MANDI PAHARI DHIRAJ	105	SHAKUR BASTI	A-BLOCK H NO. A-162 SARSWATI VIHAR PITAMPURA DELHI-34
42	MOTI NAGAR	BLOCK 5 KIRTI NAGAR	106	SHAKUR BASTI	BEHIND H.NO 214, DEEPALI ENCLAVE, PITAMPURA, DELHI 34
43	MOTI NAGAR	BLOCK 5 KIRTI NAGAR INDUSTRIAL AREA	107	SHAKUR BASTI	BEHIND H.NO-193 TARUN ENCLAVE PITAMPURA DELHI-34
44	MOTI NAGAR	BLOCK-7 KIRTI NAGAR	108	CHANDINI CHOWK	H.NO- 121, DEEPALI PITAMPURA DELHI-34
45	MOTI NAGAR	CAMPA COLA	109	TIMARPUR	H.NO- 139 TARUN ENCLAVE PITAMPURA DELHI-34
46	MOTI NAGAR	ESI DISPENSARY/CGHS DISPENSARY			H.NO-76 JAIN NIWAS DEEPALI ENCLAVE PITAMPURA DELHI-34
47	MOTI NAGAR	FURNITURE BLOCK KIRTI NAGAR			OUTER RING ROAD FARASH BAZAR KASHMERE GATE
48	MOTI NAGAR	FURNITURE BLOCK KIRTI NAGAR			DU GATE NO 2 NEAR VISHWAVIDYALAYA METRO STATION
49	MOTI NAGAR	FURNITURE BLOCK KIRTI NAGAR INDUSTRIAL			
50	MOTI NAGAR	KIRTI NAGAR RAILWAYB STATION			
51	MOTI NAGAR	NOV BHARAT MILL			
52	ADARSH NAGAR	A-145, DDA FLAT PUNJABI CAMP, JHANGIRPURI			
53	ADARSH NAGAR	A-146, DDA MARKET MAHINDRA PARK			
54	ADARSH NAGAR	A-16, GALI NO-36, MAHINDRA PARK, DDA FLAT			
55	ADARSH NAGAR	A-250, JAHANGIRPURI			
56	ADARSH NAGAR	A-267, DDA FLAT PUNJABI CAMP			
57	ADARSH NAGAR	C-1, DDA FLAT PUNJABI CAMP JAHANGIRPURI			
58	ADARSH NAGAR	DDA FLAT, TPDDL OFFICE JAHANGIRPURI			
59	ADARSH NAGAR	G-16, GALI-39, MAHINDRA PARK			
60	ADARSH NAGAR	GURUDAWARA DDA FLAT JAHANGIRPURI			
61	ADARSH NAGAR	I-21, GALI NO-35, RASITA POINT STORE MAHINDRA PARK			
62	BADLI	B/301, B-BLOCK, JAHANGIRPURI			
63	BADLI	B-1695, B-BLOCK, JHANGIRPURI			
64	BADLI	GAURAV KUMAR H.NO-I/10 I-BLOCK JAHANGIRPURI			



दिल्ली सरकार  
आप की सरकार



TELLING NUMBERS

Snapshots of the insurance sector: little change in a year

THE INSURANCE density of the life insurance sector in 2018 was \$55, unchanged from the life insurance density of the previous year, the annual report of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for 2018-19 released this week, shows. Life insurance penetration for 2018 was 2.74%, slightly lower than the 2.76% of 2017.

Insurance density is measured as the ratio of premium (in US dollars) to the total population; insurance penetration is measured as the ratio of premium (in US\$) to GDP (in US\$). Insurance density and insurance penetration indicate the level of development of the insurance sector.

The IRDAI report notes that the insurance density of the life insurance sector rose steadily from \$9.1 in 2001 to \$55.70 in 2010, and thereafter fell for three years to reach \$41 in 2013 before rising again. Life insurance penetration increased from 2.15% in 2001 to 4.60% in 2009, and has thereafter showed a generally decreasing trend. There was a slight increase to 2.72% in



2015 from 2.60% in the previous year, and penetration, after holding steady at 2.72% in 2016, increased in 2017.

The insurance density of the non-life insurance sector has risen from \$2.4 in 2001 to \$18 in 2017 and to \$19 in 2018. The non-life insurance penetration has risen from 0.56% in 2001 to 0.97% in 2018, shows the report.

INSURANCE PENETRATION AND DENSITY IN INDIA

Year	Life		Non-life	
	Density (US\$)	Penetration (%)	Density (US\$)	Penetration (%)
2001	9.10	2.15	2.40	0.56
2002	11.70	2.59	3.00	0.67
2003	12.90	2.26	3.50	0.62
2004	15.70	2.53	4.00	0.64
2005	18.30	2.53	4.40	0.61
2006	33.20	4.10	5.20	0.60
2007	40.40	4.00	6.20	0.60
2008	41.20	4.00	6.20	0.60
2009	47.70	4.60	6.70	0.60
2010	55.70	4.40	8.70	0.71
2011	49.00	3.40	10.00	0.70
2012	42.70	3.17	10.50	0.78
2013	41.00	3.10	11.00	0.80
2014	44.00	2.60	11.00	0.70
2015	43.20	2.72	11.50	0.72
2016	46.50	2.72	13.20	0.77
2017	55.00	2.76	18.00	0.93
2018	55.00	2.74	19.00	0.97

Source: Swiss Re, Sigma, Various Issues via IRDAI Annual Report 2018-19

LIFE, NON-LIFE INSURANCE PREMIUM, 2018 (In \$ billion)

Region/Country	Life	Non-life	Total
Advanced markets	2,231.35 (54.61%)	1,854.79 (45.39%)	4,086.14
Emerging markets	588.82 (53.19%)	518.27 (46.81%)	1,107.09
Asia Pacific	1,092.85 (64.95%)	589.66 (35.05%)	1,682.51
India	73.74 (73.86%)	26.10 (26.14%)	99.84
World	2,820.18 (54.30%)	2,373.05 (45.70%)	5,193.23

Figures in parentheses are share of the segment. Source: Swiss Re, Sigma 3/2019 via IRDAI Annual Report 2018-19

NEW INDIVIDUAL POLICIES ISSUED BY LIFE INSURERS, FY 2018-19 (In lakh)

Insurer	2017-18	2018-19
LIC	213.38 (5.99%)	214.04 (0.31)
Private sector	68.59 (8.47%)	72.44 (5.61%)
Total	281.97 (6.58%)	286.48 (1.70%)

Figures in parentheses are growth over the previous year. Source: IRDAI Annual Report 2018-19

SIMPLY PUT

Why EU Green Deal matters

The European Union has come up with a climate action plan when the global climate talks failed to reach key objectives. What is the EU's plan, how does it compare to others', and how much remains to be done?

AMITABH SINHA  
PUNE, DECEMBER 20

THE ANNUAL climate talks ended in Madrid last week with a disappointing outcome. The talks were unable to define the rules of a new carbon market to be set up under the Paris Agreement, the only major agenda before it. Nor were they able to persuade countries to commit to increase the scale of climate actions by next year, a demand being made again and again in view of scientific assessments that show that current efforts to tackle climate change were not enough.

While the meeting was still on, the European Union, whose 28 member countries are together the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world after China and the United States, came up with an announcement on additional measures it would on climate change. Called the European Green Deal, the EU announcement was hailed as a major step forward, even though it needs complementary efforts from other countries to make a significant impact.

The two key decisions

Two major decisions are at the heart of the European Green Deal. One is about achieving "climate neutrality". The EU has promised to bring a law, binding on all member countries, to ensure it becomes "climate neutral" by 2050. Climate neutrality, sometimes also expressed as a state of net-zero emissions, is achieved when a country's emissions are balanced by absorptions and removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Absorption can be increased by creating more carbon sinks like forests, while removal involves technologies like carbon capture and storage.

Over the last few months, there had been a growing demand for countries to commit to net-zero emissions by 2050. The UN Secretary General had convened a special meeting on the sidelines of the General Assembly session in September to persuade countries to commit to this target. Over 60 countries had agreed to scale up their climate actions, or to the 2050 target, but these were all relatively small emitters. The EU is now



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at a session to present the Green Deal plan, in European Parliament in Brussels last week. Reuters

the first major emitter to agree to the 2050 climate neutrality target. It has said it would bring a proposal by March next year on a European law to enshrine this target.

The second decision pertains to an increase in its 2030 emission reduction target. In its climate action plan declared under the Paris Agreement, the EU was committed to making a 40 per cent reduction in its emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. It is now promising to increase this reduction to at least 50 per cent and work towards 55 per cent.

Even at 40 per cent, the European Union had the most ambitious emission reduction targets among the developed countries. The US, for example, had agreed to cut emissions by 26-28 per cent by 2030 from 2005 levels, but having withdrawn from the Paris Agreement, it is under no obligation to fulfill even that target.

The EU also happens to be only one among major emitters to retain the 1990 baseline for emission cuts, originally mandated under the Kyoto Protocol for all devel-

oped countries. Most other countries have shifted their baselines to 2005 or even later under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

The Green Deal includes sectoral plans to achieve these two overall targets, and proposals for the policy changes that would be required. For example, it has proposals for making the steel industry carbon-free by 2030, new strategies for transport and energy sectors, a revision of managements of railway and shipping to make them more efficient, and more stringent air pollution emission standards for vehicles.

Better than others

The European Union, as a whole, has been doing better than other developed countries on reducing emissions. In 2010, the EU had pledged to reduce its emissions by at least 25 per cent by 2020 from 1990 levels. By 2018, it claimed to have achieved 23 per cent reduction in emissions. In terms of emission reductions, it probably is on track to meet the 2020 target, unlike any developed country

outside the EU.

Canada, which walked out of the Kyoto Protocol, reported last year that its emissions were down 4 per cent from 2005 levels, but compared to 1990, this was an addition of about 16 per cent. Japan, another country to have abandoned the Kyoto Protocol, said its emissions for the year ending March 31, 2018 had come to about 8 per cent below the 2013 baseline it has chosen for itself. But this is a minuscule decrease compared to 1990 levels.

Even the EU, however, has not been fulfilling all its climate obligations. The Kyoto Protocol required the rich and developed countries to provide finance and technology to the developing countries to help them fight climate change. In those respects, there has been little climate money flowing out of the EU, especially for adaptation needs of developing countries, and transfer of new climate-friendly technologies has been mired in patent and ownership complications.

This is the reason why developing countries, like India and China, have been repeatedly raising the issue of unfulfilled obligations of developed countries in the pre-2020 period, that is covered by the Kyoto Protocol.

Still miles to go

The Green Deal is important but inadequate in itself to achieve the emission reductions that scientific assessments say would be required to save the world from catastrophic and irreversible impacts of climate change. There has been no signal from other big emitters, including large developing countries like China and India, that they were considering immediate scaling up of their climate actions.

While announcing the deal, the EU urged other countries to raise the ambition of their actions as well. "As long as many international partners do not share the same ambition as the EU, there is a risk of carbon leakage, either because production is transferred from the EU to other countries with lower ambition for emission reduction, or because EU products are replaced by more carbon-intensive imports. If this risk materializes, there will be no reduction in global emissions, and this will frustrate the efforts of EU and its industries to meet the global climate objectives of the Paris Agreement."

Blow to NASA ISS mission: what happened?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

A SPACE capsule built to ferry astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS) has failed its first test flight, and will now return to Earth without completing its mission. The capsule, named Starliner, has been built by Boeing, and was successfully launched by NASA from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Friday morning (evening in India).

What went wrong?

The United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket lifted off successfully, and Boeing's CST-100 Starliner separated as expected. Updates on the flight tracker on the NASA website said it was "flying on its own, embarking on its inaugural flight to the International Space Station". The rocket was

supposed to fall in the Pacific Ocean near Australia, while Starliner, "after a series of orbital adjustments", was to be "on course for rendezvous and docking with the space station at 5 am on Saturday, December 21".

However, the Starliner apparently fired its engines at the wrong time and, as a result, entered a wrong orbit. NASA reported that the capsule was "not in its planned orbit", although "in a stable configuration while flight controllers are troubleshooting".

A top Boeing official, Jim Chilton, was quoted by *The New York Times* as saying "we don't understand the root cause" of why the spacecraft's clock was set at the wrong time. Attempts to send a command to fix the problem apparently did not reach the spacecraft because it was in between satellite communication links, the *New York Times* report said, quoting NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine.

At a news conference, Bridenstine said the faulty thrusting had caused far too much fuel to be burned, and the mission would no longer be pursued. "That's safe to take off the table at this point," he said. "It's not worth doing at this point given the amount of fuel we burned." NASA was planning to have the capsule land in California on Sunday.

How big a setback is this?

This was a trial mission, with no one on board except a spacesuit-wearing mannequin called Rosie strapped to one of the seats. Sensors on Rosie were supposed to measure the forces that future astronauts would feel in the spacecraft. NASA said any astronauts on board would not have been at risk due to Starliner veering off-course — in fact, they might have been able to take over the spacecraft and tried to get the thruster burn right.

Yet, the failure is likely to push back further NASA's already delayed — and repeatedly postponed — attempt at resuming human spaceflight from the United States. NASA has contracts with Boeing and Elon Musk's SpaceX to build spacecraft to ferry astronauts to and from the ISS. For more than eight years, no human has gone to space from US soil, and NASA has relied on Russia to get its astronauts on the space station.

Friday's failure could delay the programme by perhaps a couple more years, reports were saying. It is unclear in what shape the Starliner would be when it lands, and whether it would be possible to examine the reason for the thruster malfunction.

SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule is scheduled to launch on January 11. It will be a crewless flight, and if it succeeds, SpaceX could be in a position to send astronauts into space in the first half of next year.

AN EXPERT EXPLAINS

Reading Bangladesh provisions for citizenship and freedom of religion



FAIZAN MUSTAFA

AMONG THE three countries from where certain categories of migrants have become eligible for Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act, Bangladesh is significant. A look at the laws under which Bangladesh grants citizenship, and what its Constitution says on freedom of religion:

How does the Bangladesh Constitution define the country?

The Bangladesh Constitution, adopted by the Constituent Assembly on December 4, 1972, refers to its war of liberation as "historic war" and establishes the independent sovereign People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The original preamble mentioned 'Nationalism, Democracy, Socialism and Secularism' as fundamental principles. Unlike India's Constitution, the Bangladesh Constitution's commitment to socialism is explicitly mentioned. The preamble says the fundamental aim of the state is to realise through democratic process socialist

society free from exploitation — a society in which rule of law, fundamental human rights and freedoms, equality and justice, political, economic and social will be secured to all citizens. The expression "rule of law" is not used in the Indian Constitution.

But isn't Islam the state religion?

In 1977, the military dictator Ziaur Rahman removed the term "secular" from the Constitution. In 1988, President Hussain Muhammad Ershad got Article 2A inserted, which says the state religion of the republic is Islam but other religions may be practised in peace and harmony. The amendment was struck down by the Bangladesh High Court in 2005 and the Supreme Court in 2010. The SC said that in spite of Islam being the state religion, the Constitution remains secular. It observed that the "preamble and the relevant provision of the Constitution in respect of secularism, nationalism and socialism as existed on August 15, 1975 (Mujibur Rahman was assassinated on this day) will revive". On June 30, 2011, the Constitution was amended and the term "secular" reinserted. The amendment also removed the expression "absolute faith and trust in Allah" from the preamble but retained, above the preamble, the expression "in the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful" that had been added in 1997. To accommodate other religions, it also mentions "in the name of our Creator, the merciful".

How does the idea of a state religion coexist with that of secularism?

While Islam is the state religion, other religions have been given "equal status" and "equal rights" by the Constitution and their followers have been given an equal right to freely practise their religions. This seems to be a contradiction as it is not in line with classical secular formulation.

Article 8(1) of the Bangladesh Constitution mentions secularism along with nationalism, democracy and socialism as the fundamental principles of state policy. Article 12 was revived by the 15th Amendment and in a way this, unlike the Indian Constitution, explains the essential ingredients of secularism and how it will be achieved. It says the principles of secularism shall be realised by elimination of communalism in all forms, granting of political status in favour of any religion, abuse of religion for political purposes and any discrimination against, or persecution of, persons practising a particular religion. With such a progressive provision, the charge of religious persecution has no legs to stand on as far as the text of the Constitution is concerned, just because Islam is the state religion.

Unlike Pakistan's Constitution, there is no Muslim qualification required for the office of President or other constitutional offices.

How is freedom of religion defined?

Article 41 of the Bangladesh Constitution says every citizen "subject to public order and morality" has the right to profess, practice or propagate any religion. In India, Article 25 guarantees religious freedom in a narrower sense — in addition to "public order and morality", it is also subject to "health" and "other fundamental rights", and the state can also restrict freedom of religion in respect of any economic, financial, political or other secular activity associated with religious practices, and can also do so in the name of social reforms. But in another sense, India's religious freedom is broader as it is not confined to just citizens.

Like India's Article 26, Bangladesh's Article 41(b) gives every religious community or denomination the right to establish, maintain and manage its religious institutions. Like India's Article 28, Article 41(c) in Bangladesh lays down that no person attending any educational institution shall be required to receive religious instruction or take part in or to attend any religious ceremony or worship, if that relates to a religion other than his own. The difference is that while India does not permit any religious instruction in any institution that is maintained out of state funds or is recognised by the government, Bangladesh permits religious instruc-

tion but only of one's own religion.

Article 28(1) is a replica of India's Article 15 and prohibits the state from discriminating against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. This includes admission to any educational institution. India's Article 15 does not mention educational institutions and gives right of access only in respect of places maintained wholly or partly out of state funds or dedicated to the use of the general public. The Bangladesh Constitution prohibits all discrimination based on religion, which weakens the argument of religious persecution there.

What are the laws on citizenship?

Article 6 of the Constitution says citizenship in Bangladesh shall be regulated by law and people shall be known as "Bengalees as a nation". On December 15, 1972, a Presidential Order, Bangladesh Citizenship (Temporary Provisions), conferred citizenship from March 26, 1971 on anyone who, or whose father or grandfather, was born in the territories then comprising Bangladesh and who was a permanent resident on March 25, 1971 and continued to be a resident of Bangladesh. Any person who, for studies or employment, was in territories within a country at war or engaged in military operation (Pakistan), and was being prevented from returning to Bangladesh, would also be citizen.

The Bangladesh government, like Pakistan, may grant citizenship to a person who is citizen of Europe, North America or

Australia or any other state. But knowledge of Bangla would be necessary. Foreign women married to Bangla men can also get citizenship after two years' residence. Irrespective of place of birth, if one's parents are Bangladeshi, citizenship would be given. In 2017, it was provided that anyone who invests \$150,000 can get citizenship.

Does Bangladesh grant citizens to non-Bangla-speaking residents?

Many Urdu-speaking people who had supported Pakistan in the war became stateless with the creation of Bangladesh as the law did not give citizenship to those who sided with the enemy country. There were some 10 lakh such people in 1972. Under an agreement among India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, 1,780,969 were repatriated to Pakistan, followed by about 1 lakh more subsequently, but 2.5 lakh remained. In 2008, the Supreme Court in *M Sadakat Khan* reaffirmed the citizenship of all Urdu-speaking citizens. The 1951 Citizenship Act of Pakistan also remained in force. In 2016, a draft citizenship law was prepared that gave dual citizenship but was criticised for other provisions like termination of citizenship.

The author is an expert in constitutional law and Vice Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad

NEXT: AFGHANISTAN



# 17 THE WORLD

IN COLD NUMBERS

## 1,000

The number of child abuse complaints reported to the Vatican from around the world this year alone. A skeleton staff is struggling to keep up with the increasing cases. "We're effectively seeing a tsunami of cases at the moment, particularly from countries where we never heard from (before)," said John Kennedy, the head of the discipline section

### TOPOF THE WORLD



Nawaz Sharif

PAKISTAN

### 'Nawaz Sharif diagnosed with complicated heart disease'

**Islamabad:** Former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif, under treatment in London, has been diagnosed with a complicated heart disease, his personal physician has said. In a tweet on Thursday, Shari's physician Adnan Malik said he underwent comprehensive cardiovascular evaluation at the Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospital in London, the Dawn News reported. Sharif is "diagnosed of complicated coronary artery/Ischemic Heart Disease with significant disease burden", he said.

SYRIA

### Over 80 killed in latest clashes, says monitor

**Beirut:** Clashes between Syrian regime forces and armed groups in the country's last major opposition bastion have killed more than 80 on both sides in the past 24 hours despite UN calls for de-escalation, a war monitoring group said Friday. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 38 jihadists and allied rebels had been killed in battles with regime forces in the northwestern province of Idlib since Thursday night. The fighting near the jihadist-held town of Maaret al-Numan also killed 23 Syrian regime loyalists, the Observatory said.

JAPAN

### Rouhani, Abe meet amid tension with US

**Tokyo:** President Hassan Rouhani became the first Iranian head of state to visit Japan for two decades on Friday, as Tokyo seeks to mediate between Tehran and Washington amid spiralling nuclear tensions. The two men inspected a guard of honour at Abe's central Tokyo office before summit talks and a dinner scheduled to last into Friday evening. Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabiee has played down the mediation aspect of the trip, saying the visit to Tokyo had "nothing to do with issues such as negotiations with America".

## Angry Trump looks to vindication after House impeachment: 'It's a hoax, a setup'

NEW YORK TIMES  
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 20

PRESIDENT TRUMP sat forward on the edge of his chair and chatted at length with reporters in the Oval Office Thursday, unbowed but for him a little subdued. The day after he was impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors, he dismissed the judgment of the House of Representatives and punched back by celebrating with a Democratic congressman who switched parties to stand with him.

"I don't feel like I'm being impeached because it's a hoax, it's a setup," Trump insisted as he showcased Representative Jeff Van Drew of New Jersey, the newly minted Republican, and looked beyond his seemingly certain acquittal in a Senate trial to next fall's election.

"I'm beating everybody by a lot," the president said, "and I think that's where we're going."

For Trump, it was the first day of his new reality, the first day when he woke up with the scarlet letter of impeachment marked with indelible ink on his page in the history books. No matter what else happens, he now enters posterity as the third president to be impeached.

But barring the unforeseen, he will also be the first impeached president to face re-election, setting up a 320-day campaign to convince voters that he was right and his accusers were wrong. He has a chance that Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton never



**"I don't feel like I'm being impeached because it's a hoax, it's a setup... I'm beating everybody by a lot (ahead of polls) and I think that's where we're going"**

— DONALD TRUMP

had — to mitigate, at least, the sting of impeachment — and his political operation wasted little time mounting a counterassault on what Trump characterises as the corrupt, liberal Democrats who orchestrated a largely party-line scheme to nullify his election.

In a blistering editorial on Thursday evening, a prominent magazine, Christianity Today, called for Trump to be removed from office. The move was a pointed departure from the vast majority of Trump's white evangelical base.

"The president of the United States attempted to use his political power to coerce a foreign leader to harass and discredit one of the president's political opponents," wrote Mark Galli, the editor in chief.

## Democratic debate: Seven candidates clash, slam Trump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LOS ANGELES, DECEMBER 20

DEMOCRATIC WHITE House candidates have attacked President Donald Trump but also clashed sharply with one another during Democratic debate, where a smaller field allowed lesser-known candidates to shine against the frontrunners.

One day after Trump's ignominious impeachment, seven candidates united to declare the president must be defeated at the 2020 ballot box. "We need to restore the integrity of the presidency," said frontrunner Joe Biden on Thursday, who accused Trump of "dumbing down" the office "beyond what I even thought he would do."

Senator Bernie Sanders blasted Trump as "running the most corrupt administration in the modern history of this country," while fellow Senator Elizabeth Warren said the president ignores the poor to do "everything he can for the wealthy and the well-connected."

Warren launched her sharpest attacks yet on rival Pete Buttigieg, saying the 37-year-old mayor of South Bend, Indiana, has been holding closed-door fundraisers for the wealthy, including at a billion-



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Presidential hopefuls Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Pete Buttigieg. Reuters



aire-owned "wine cave" in California.

"Your net worth is 100 times mine," Buttigieg, whose star has risen substantially in the past two months of campaigning, said. "I don't sell access to my

time," Warren shot back. The showdown marks a significant drop from the 10 candidates in November's debate. The centrist Biden is leading polls, trailed by Bernie Sanders, age 78, and 70-year-old Warren.

### Duterte says won't answer to ICC: 'Hang me'

REUTERS  
MANILA, DECEMBER 20

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte dared the International Criminal Court (ICC) Friday to jail him or hang him over alleged extrajudicial killings in his war on drugs, but said he would refuse to cooperate with foreigners.

"You do not scare me that you will jail me in the International Criminal Court. I will never allow myself to answer these whites," Duterte said. "I will never, never, never answer any question coming from you. It's bulls\*\*t to me. I am only responsible to the Filipino. Filipinos will judge."

He added: "And if you hang me for all what I did, go ahead. It will be my pleasure."

## WON'T ALLOW INTERFERENCE IN HK, MACAU: XI



Macau Chief Executive Ho Iat-seng (left) takes oath in front of Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday. Reuters

President Xi Jinping said on Friday China would never allow foreign forces to interfere with Hong Kong and Macau, as he swore in a new pro-Beijing government for the gambling hub of Macau.

Xi, speaking at a ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of Macau's handover to Chinese rule, heaped praise on the former Portuguese colony for its patriotism and loyalty

While protesters in Hong Kong, across the mouth of the Pearl River, are furious about what they see as Beijing's erosion of their freedoms, Macau has seen little dissent

## French surgeon accused of molesting 349 children

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LORIENT, DECEMBER 20

A RETIRED French surgeon may have raped or sexually abused as many as 349 children over his near 30-year career, a prosecutor investigating what could be France's biggest-ever paedophilia case said Friday.

Joel Le Scouarnec, 68, is set to go on trial in March for the rape and sexual abuse of four child victims. Allegations against him cover the three decades he practised in hospitals.

They include accusations

that he raped a six-year-old girl living in his neighbourhood, raped a young relative and sexually assaulted another, abused a child patient, and indecently exposing himself. After charges were brought against him in these cases, investigators discovered secret diaries in which Le Scouarnec described sex scenes involving scores more children.

Le Scouarnec's lawyers have said the entries were "fantasies".

On Friday, Laureline Peyrefitte, chief prosecutor of Lorient in Brittany, northwest France, said the number of possible victims now stood at 349.

## ICC to investigate alleged war crimes in Palestinian Territories

REUTERS  
THE HAGUE, DECEMBER 20

THE INTERNATIONAL Criminal Court's chief prosecutor said on Friday she will launch a full investigation into alleged war crimes in the Palestinian Territories, which could include charges against Israelis or Palestinians.

"I am satisfied that ... war crimes have been or are being committed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip," Fatou Bensouda said in a statement.

**"The court has no jurisdiction in this case. The ICC only has jurisdiction over petitions submitted by sovereign states. But there has never been a Palestinian state"**

— BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the ICC has no jurisdiction to investigate in the Palestinian Territories. "The court has no ju-

isdiction in this case. The ICC only has jurisdiction over petitions submitted by sovereign states. But there has never been a Palestinian state," Netanyahu said in a statement.

Bensouda said the preliminary examination into alleged war crimes, opened in 2015, had rendered enough information to meet all criteria for opening an investigation. The ICC prosecutor said she had filed a request with judges for a jurisdictional ruling, because of the contested legal and factual status of the Palestine territories.

### 'ON TRACK FOR JAN 31 EXIT'

## UK PM wins vote for Brexit deal in House

ELIZABETH PIPER & KYLIE MACLELLAN  
LONDON, DECEMBER 20

PRIME MINISTER Boris Johnson won approval for his Brexit deal in parliament on Friday, the first step towards fulfilling his election pledge to deliver Britain's departure from the European Union by January 31 after his landslide victory.

Lawmakers voted by 358 to 234 to pass the second reading of the legislation, underlining Johnson's large majority in parliament that should ensure a smooth ratification of the divorce deal.

More than three years since Britain voted to exit the EU in a 2016 referendum, the deep uncertainty over Brexit has now been replaced by a firm deadline of the end of January. Only after that will the prime minister face talks to secure a trade deal with the bloc and another target date of the end of next year.

Getting "the Brexit vote wrapped up for Christmas" was the main aim for Johnson showing that, unlike his predecessor Theresa May who was thwarted in parliament, he now has free reign to drive Brexit forward.

"This is the time when we move on and discard the old labels of 'leave' and 'remain' ... now is the time to act together as one reinvigorated nation, one United Kingdom," Johnson said.

### EXPLAINED

## The next few steps

HAVING PASSED through the House with little difficulty, as was expected, the final ratification of Brexit will happen after Christmas. Parliament's lower house will have to approve it by January 9, after which it will have about 3 weeks to get through the upper house. Meanwhile, the prime minister will also have to engage in negotiations with the European Union to work out the finer details of the divorce deal. Boris will also have to secure new terms of trade with the EU and set other terms on how future engagements with the bloc will work.

"Now is the moment to come together and write a new and exciting chapter in our national story, to forge a new partnership with our European friends, to stand tall in the world, to begin the healing for which the people of this country yearn." REUTERS

## Malicious campaign against me, judiciary: Pak's Chief Justice

SAJJAD HUSSAIN  
ISLAMABAD, DECEMBER 20

PAKISTAN'S OUTGOING Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khosa on Friday said he was retiring with a crystal clear conscience but noted that a "malicious campaign" has been launched against him and the judiciary following the death sentence handed out to Pervez Musharraf in the treason case against the ex-military ruler.

Khosa, 64, who would retire at midnight on Friday, said the judiciary and he were being singled out in the criticism.

A three-member special court bench sentenced 76-year-old Musharraf to death in absentia on Tuesday for high treason following a six-year legal case.

He was given death sentence for abrogating the Constitution in 2007, angering the powerful military and the Imran Khan government. Law minister Farogh Naseem said on Thursday that the judge who wrote the judgment was mentally unfit and should be stopped from performing his duties.

UK-educated Khosa said: "A malicious campaign has been started against the judiciary and myself. The allegations are baseless and incorrect. We know the limits of our powers

### BAR COUNCIL SLAMS ARMY RESPONSE

THE PAKISTAN Bar Council has slammed the Army for criticising the judgement, terming it a violation of legal and constitutional provisions

WE DISAPPROVE of the statement of Director General ISPR, who has criticised the judgment of the special court..." the PBC said in a statement

THE CRITICISM gives an impression that all institutions are "subservient to the Armed Forces, to follow its dictation", it said

and we know that the truth shall always prevail".

Addressing a gathering in his honour, the outgoing Chief Justice said that he tried to give "100 per cent to the job, tried to perform beyond the call of duty, never raised my voice, spoke mainly through my pen, never delayed a judgment unduly and after giving the best years of my life to this public service..." PTI

### 'I'VE KILLED MORE THAN 80 CRIMINALS... I'M A HERO TO MY PEOPLE'

## Masked vigilantes, Brazil's police leave a trail of bodies and fear

AZAM AHMED  
BELÉM, DECEMBER 20

THE MASKED gunmen pulled up to Wanda's Bar at 3:49 p.m. on May 19 and began firing the moment they left their vehicles. Two people, including Wanda herself, died on the spot.

Inside, the gunmen worked in silence: two in front, shooting unarmed patrons at the bar and in the main room, while a third followed behind with a gun in each hand, firing a single shot into the head of anyone still moving.

When the massacre ended, 11 people lay dead, slumped

over the bar, draped across chairs or huddled on the floor. Only two people survived, one by hiding under a friend's lifeless body, case files show.

Once again, masked gunmen had struck in the Brazilian city of Belém, as they have for nearly a decade, stalking the streets in open defiance of the law. Robbing, extorting and killing without compunction. Yet they did not belong to one of the many gangs that traffic drugs or guns in Brazil, leaving a trail of corpses.

They were cops. The killings drew national attention to the police militias that have long plagued Belém, a di-

lapitated port city on the Amazon River. Part death squad, part criminal enterprise, their ranks are filled with retired and off-duty police officers who kill at will, often with total impunity.

In fact, the slaughter at Wanda's Bar was not unique because off-duty police officers gunned down civilians without cause. Such killings are routine. What made this case stand out beyond its brutality was the government's response: It decided to prosecute.

Of the seven people charged with the crime, four were off-duty police officers — including the three suspected gunmen.



The ROTAM police force is known for its military culture. NYT

"We've discovered a cancer inside the police," said Armando

Brasil, one of the prosecutors. "Now, we are seeing just how far

it has spread."

The militias operate in the shadows of a severe crackdown on crime by the Brazilian government, which has openly declared war on the gangs, thieves and drug dealers afflicting the nation. Killings by the police have soared in recent years, as a force long known for its deadliness has managed to outdo itself.

But even police officers acknowledge that the official statistics are only part of the picture. There is a parallel form of police violence, masked from the public and carried out by illegal militias that draw their ranks from officers with little patience or re-

spect for due process, according to interviews with militia members here in Belém.

"We're going after criminals who hurt innocent people," said one militia commander who, like others, asked that his name be withheld because he confessed to extrajudicial killings.

In their telling, militia members are delivering a public service, eliminating threats to society who, they fear, may never get convicted or will simply participate in sprawling criminal networks from prison, as often happens in Brazil.

"I've killed more than 80 criminals in my time as a police

officer," said another militia leader. "I'm a hero to my people. They love me."

The militia men interviewed for this article all felt the killings at Wanda's Bar were inexcusable, but they defended the militias in general. To them, violence was the only solution, and the only question was how to wield it.

"There's a way to fix this," said one of the militia leaders. "The governor should call the good cops and let us go and allow us to kill anyone. Only the bad people, the criminals, those who prey on the weak."

"That will finish the violence once and for all," he said. NYT



# 19 ECONOMY

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>RUPEE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹38,894	₹71.12	\$66.79	₹45,786

\*Indian basket as on December 18, 2019

SENSEX: 41,681.54 ▲ 762 NIFTY: 12,271.80 ▲ 12.10 NIKKEI: 23,816.63 ▼ 48.22 HANG SENG: 27,871.35 ▲ 70.86 FTSE: 7,589.02 ▲ 15.20 DAX: 13,279.54 ▲ 67.58

\*International market data till 1900 IST

## RESERVE PRICE SET AT ₹5.22 LAKH CRORE

# 5G spectrum auction slated for Mar-Apr; DoT panel rules against reserve price cut

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

THE DIGITAL Communications Commission (DCC) on Friday decided to accept all the recommendations made by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) on spectrum auctions, including on keeping the reserve price for the sale of 8,300 mega hertz (MHz) spectrum at Rs 5.22 lakh crore.

The DCC, which is the top decision-making body of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), said that upcoming auctions will be held between March and April next year, and will also offer for auction airwaves for 5G telephony services.

"The DCC has approved the Trai recommendations including that of not reducing prices. Trai has given detailed reasons, so DCC thought it fit to accept that," Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash said. A Cabinet note for the approval of spectrum auction will be floated next month for getting approval from the Cabinet

## EXPLAINED Govt hopes telcos will bid, even as AGR dues remain

THE TIMING of the 8300 MHz spectrum auction could spark yet another debate as the incumbent telecom companies have raised concerns on their inability to participate in them. Of the three big telecom companies, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have to come up with Rs 43,000 crore and Rs 54,000 crore, respectively, within a month. The government has maintained that it expects participation from all players.

The approval by DCC comes nearly two months after Union Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had, while inaugurating the India Mobile Congress, assured industry leaders that the Central government was considering "pricing reforms in the sector", hinting at the reserve price for spectrum auction. Of the three biggest telecom players in the country, both Sunil

in October, said that the telecom company sought an enabling regulatory environment so that it could make the necessary investments. India's telecom sector — which is now largely a three way fight between Bharti Airtel, Jio, and Vodafone Idea — has been reeling under debt and low average revenue per user, triggered by a tariff war started by Jio.

The Supreme Court judgment on adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues put Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea under further pressure, as they have to come up with Rs 43,000 crore and Rs 54,000 crore, respectively, within a month. The pressure on telecom players notwithstanding, the government hopes that the companies will participate in the 5G as the "telecom operators do require spectrum". "I think we should be able to sell. Their services are expanding, their networks are expanding. There should be good competition in bidding for this. I will wait and watch" the Telecom Secretary said.

For the spectrum auction of more than 8,300 MHz spread

across all 22 licensed spectrum access (LSA) or telecom circles, successful bidders will have to pay upfront 25 per cent of the total amount upfront for sub-1,000 MHz, and 50 per cent upfront for all frequency bands above 1,000 MHz. Bidders, however, will have some relief in payment for the auctions this time around. It has also been decided that bidders will only have to pay the entire cost of spectrum only for the band which is being vacated within a month of bidding.

If the spectrum is not vacant, the bidder will have to pay 10 per cent for sub-1,000MHz frequency, and only 20 per cent for above 1 Giga Hertz frequency band range, the Telecom Secretary said, adding that the rest of the amount will have to be paid one month before the spectrum is vacated.

Meanwhile, in a meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, industry body Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) raised the issue of adjusted gross revenue and sought cut in levies like licence fee and spectrum usage charges.

# India Inc silent on protests, Hero's Naveen Munjal says may hit image

SANDEEP SINGH, ANANCHAL MAGAZINE, PRABHA RAGHAVAN & ASHISH ARYAN NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

EVEN AS some public figures across sports, cinema, literature and the arts, among others, have come out to speak on the countrywide protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC), India Inc has remained largely silent on the issue and its impact on "Brand India".

The Indian Express tried to speak to a range of prominent India Inc leaders on the sidelines of the FICCI and ASSOCHAM events Friday. Most of them excused themselves from talking on the ongoing protests. A few who responded to queries said that while people have a right to protest, these mass demonstrations contribute to building a negative image and could hit investment sentiment.

Naveen Munjal, managing director, Hero Electric, said that he doesn't know who is right and wrong and that he doesn't know much about the issue. However, he added: "Any country which has country-wide protest (you look at Hong Kong, India) and where it happens on a mass scale, it certainly has a very negative image in the international media and press. Investors get anxious, people stop coming, tourism comes to a standstill." He added that while a number of business visitors were supposed to come, "they are cancelling out saying because of the economy ... we say it's no big deal but how the media plays up, that's a different story."

While Munjal said that protests are hurting country's image, Anil Agarwal, chairman of Vedanta Resources did not feel so. Responding to a specific

## Many prominent India Inc leaders excused themselves from talking on the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens

query, Agarwal, on the sidelines of the ASSOCHAM Event celebrating its 100 years, said, "I can tell you that out of the three people who are being named as leaders of the world, Narendra Modi is one of them. His brand image is tremendous, there is no question. Government is taking bold decisions, I have never seen any government taking these kind of bold decisions that are very important. I am not a politician and I don't understand. The only thing I understand is that this government takes decisions without vested interests and that is very important."

On the protests, Sangita Reddy, joint MD, Apollo Hospitals Enterprises said: "I think it is too early to say (if the protests will have an impact). We need to see how it pans out. I wouldn't take a bet on this either way right now. I think India is a strong and secular democracy and that is one of our fundamental strengths and it will remain a fundamental strength." She, however, declined to share her views on CAA and NRC.

The chairman-and-managing director of a leading Gujarat-based pharmaceutical company, who did not wish to be named, said, "I don't think there is any impact on the industry ... I think people have the right to protest but I don't have a view specifically with respect to this issue."

A top executive of a large telecommunications firm, who

did not wish to be identified said, "It is too early to say if this will affect business. If there is a standstill in the way you do business and you are not able to operate due to agitations, that definitely has an impact, but think it is still too early to tell."

There were others including Sanjiv Puri, CMD, ITC; Niranjan Hiranandani, MD, Hiranandani Group; Harshpati Singhania, VC and MD, JK Paper who declined to comment.

Many corporates were in town for the annual convention of ASSOCHAM and FICCI and both events were around India's aspiration to become a \$5-trillion economy. While ASSOCHAM's convention attended by the Prime Minister along with other senior cabinet ministers was on "New India: Aspiring \$5 trillion Economy", FICCI's annual conference that was attended by several key ministers of the central government among others, was titled, "India: Roadmap to a \$5 trillion Economy."

On November 30, The Indian Express reported that leading corporate voices active on Twitter such as Uday Kotak (CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank); Anand Mahindra (chairman, Mahindra Group); Harsh Goenka (chairman, RPG Enterprises); Nandan Nilekani (chairman, Infosys); Sanjiv Bajaj (MD, Bajaj Finserv & Bajaj Holdings); Gautam Singhania (CMD, Raymond Ltd); Vijay Shekhar Sharma (founder-CEO, Paytm); and Harsh Mariwala (chairman, Marico) were prominent among many who chose to maintain silence on the GDP numbers on their handles after the government announced a 4.5 per cent growth for the second quarter ending September 2019.

In sharp contrast, when the government announced a cut in the corporate tax rate in September, the entire corporate sector had cheered the move saying it would spur growth.

## NCLT okays extension of 90 days for Jet insolvency resolution

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, DECEMBER 20

THE NATIONAL Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Friday allowed Ashish Chhawchharia, resolution professional (RP) for Jet Airways, to extend the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) of the grounded airline by 90 days. Earlier this month, the RP had sought an extension for the resolution period after the Colombian Synergy Group failed to submit a business plan for the revival of Jet Airways by December 16.

Jet Airways was admitted for insolvency on June 20, after lenders failed to sell the grounded airline. The 180-day deadline as stipulated under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Act, 2016, for the resolution of the airline ended on December 16.

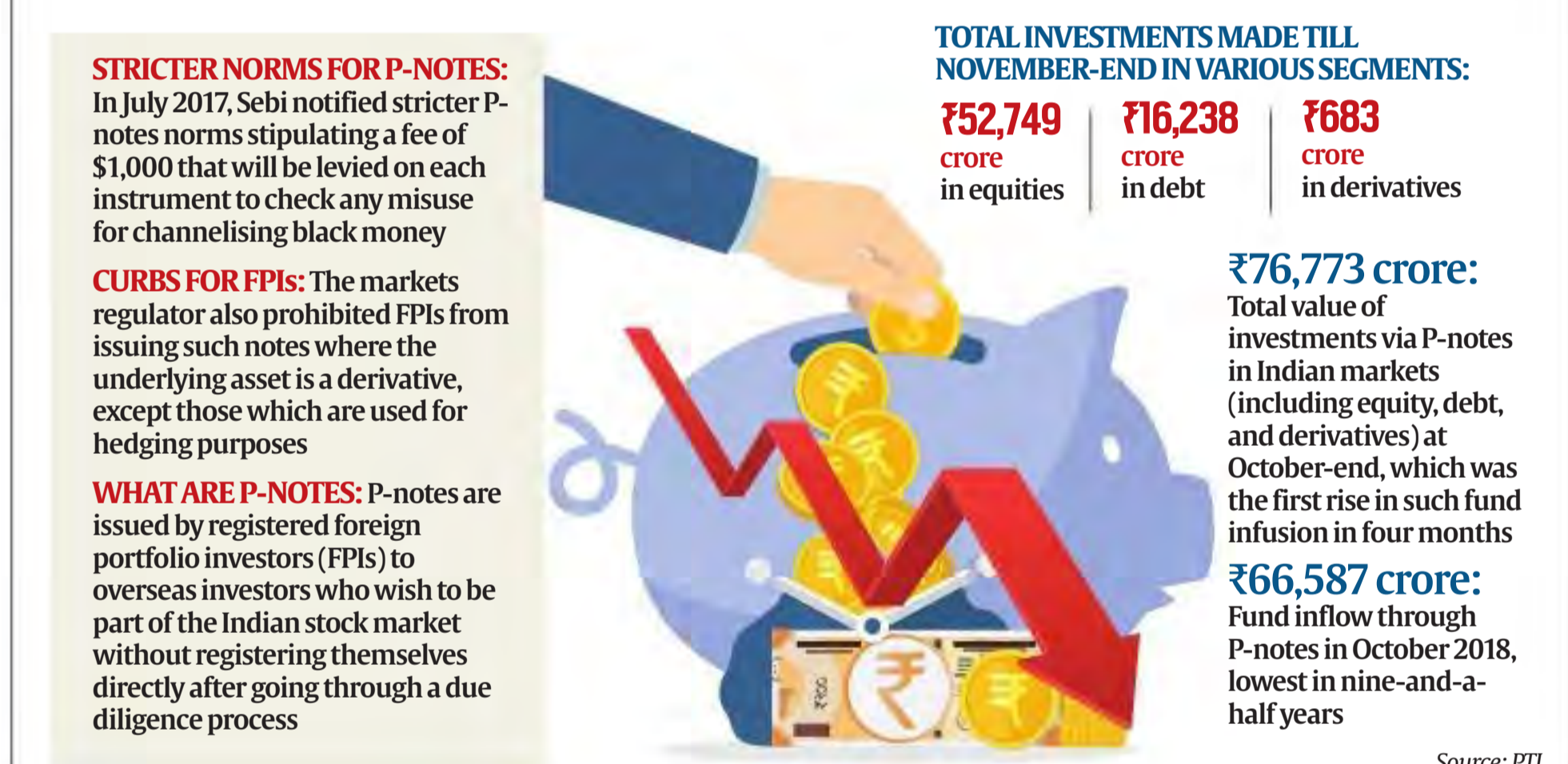
Meanwhile, earlier this week, two parties besides Synergy Group expressed initial interest in Jet Airways. FE reported that lenders had in-principle agreed to call for fresh bids for the beleaguered airline. The final decision will be taken by Saturday.

On Thursday, the two-member Bench of the Mumbai NCLT had asked the committee of creditors (CoC) to decide within three weeks on calling for fresh expressions-of-interest for Jet Airways.

On Thursday, the NCLT met Synergy Group Corp chief operating officer Michael Welch and told representatives of the Synergy Group to "take a decision early" on Jet Airways. FE

## Investments via P-notes hit 13-month low at Nov-end

Investments in Indian capital market through participatory notes (P-notes) hit a 13-month low of ₹69,670 crore till November after registering a rise in such fund infusion in the preceding month, as per Sebi data



**STRICTER NORMS FOR P-NOTES:** In July 2017, Sebi notified stricter P-notes norms stipulating a fee of \$1,000 that will be levied on each instrument to check any misuse for channelising black money

**CURBS FOR FPIs:** The markets regulator also prohibited FPIs from issuing such notes where the underlying asset is a derivative, except those which are used for hedging purposes

**WHAT ARE P-NOTES:** P-notes are issued by registered foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly after going through a due diligence process

## Fitch slashes FY20 forecast to 4.6% from 5.6%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, DECEMBER 20

FITCH RATINGS on Friday slashed India's GDP growth rate forecast to 4.6 per cent, from 5.6 per cent projected in November, for the financial year ending March 2020 (FY20). During FY19, the economy had registered growth of 6.8 per cent.

"We expect growth to gradually recover to 5.6 per cent in FY21 and 6.5 per cent in FY22 with support from easing monetary and fiscal policy and structural measures that may also support growth over the medium term," Fitch Ratings said. However, it has affirmed India's long-term for-

## Affirms India's long-term foreign currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'BBB-' with a stable outlook

peers, even though growth has decelerated significantly over the past few quarters, due mainly to domestic factors, in particular a squeeze in credit availability from non-banking financial companies (NBFC) and deterioration in business and consumer confidence," it said.

Fitch said Indian economy is less developed on a number of structural metrics than many of its peers. "Governance remains weak, as illustrated by a low score for the World Bank governance indicator (49th percentile versus

the 'BBB' median of 59th percentile). India's ranking on the United Nations Human Development Index (32nd percentile versus the 'BBB' median of 67th percentile) also indicates relatively low basic human development. Average per capita GDP also remains low, at US \$2,102, compared with the 'BBB' range median of US \$12,152," it said.

"The affirmation of the ratings incorporates our expectation of moderate fiscal slippage relative to the central government's deficit target of 3.3 per cent of GDP in FY20. The government is again facing a trade-off between stimulating the economy and reducing the deficit in the medium term," the rating agency said.

# Economists to FM: Expand fisc, keep Budget numbers credible

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

ECONOMISTS ON Friday asked the government to expand the fiscal deficit target for FY21 and stressed that it need not be apologetic about the slippage, as elevated spending is probably the only counter-cyclical tool at its disposal now to reverse a sharp deceleration in growth.

For the current fiscal, the government has set the target at 3.3 per cent, which is all set to be missed, given the revenue shortfall. In a pre-Budget consultation meeting with finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the economists also advised the government to keep the Budget numbers realistic, reflecting the true state of economy. Credible numbers, they say, better prepare the markets for any eventuality.

The economists were split in asking for a cut in the personal income tax rates. FE

## Industry needs to come out of 'self doubt' mood, says FM

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday asked India Inc to come out of "self doubt" mood and unleash the animal spirit as she stressed that steps taken post Budget have started showing some results on the ground.

The government has shown conviction to change India's system, take some tough decisions and make sure it is responsive to industry, she said at industry body ASSOCHAM's event here.

"I would appeal to you that please get out of the mood of self doubt. Can we do it? Can India do it?... why is this negative mood? Get

out of this self doubt," she said and emphasised that most of the macro economic indicators are strong.

"This government does not want businesses to close. We want to help them to be revived by legislative and other administrative changes... we are with you. I want this mood of self doubt to be completely removed from your minds.

"Believe in India. You have done that for last 100 years. There is a need for all of you do it even more now. You have to be the change agent and don't ask animal spirits to be brought to you. You have inside, get it out," she noted. ENS & PTI

# Succession plan: Anand Mahindra to become M&M non-exec chairman

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, DECEMBER 20

MAHINDRA & Mahindra (M&M) Friday announced a major rejig of its top management with Anand Mahindra, currently the executive chairman, transitioning to the role of non-executive chairman with effect from April 1, 2020.

Pawan Goenka will be re-designated as managing director and CEO with effect from April 1, 2020. There will be no change in any reporting relationships as a result of this re-designation, M&M said in a statement. Goenka will retire on April 1, 2021, but will continue to retain direct responsibility of Ssangyong Motors as chairman of its board till his retirement date.

Anish Shah will transition to becoming managing director and CEO on April 2, 2021 with full oversight of all group businesses, in two phases. The company said, "On April 1, 2020, he will join the

M&M board as Deputy Managing Director and Group CFO, with responsibility for the Group Corporate Office and full oversight of all business sectors of the group other than auto and farm sectors (AFS). He will have direct accountability to the board for his non-AFS responsibilities." "On April 2, 2021, he will be appointed as Managing Director and CEO," it added.

According to the statement, over the next 15 months, a number of key leaders at M&M will be retiring. "... over the past one year the governance, nomination & remuneration committee (GNRC) of the board has completed a structured and rigorous review of top management succession, which has now been ratified by the board of directors," it said.

The company said Rajesh Jejurikar will join the M&M board as executive director (AFS), with direct operational responsibility and accountability for the sectors on April 1, 2020.

## Are we seeing the progress on ground?

There are some issues. In our sector of electric vehicles, the intent is there. The government is talking on the need to go 100 per cent or convert to electric because of fuel and environmental reasons, but the policies are not strong enough. Right now, there are some gaps. There is talk of supporting the higher end of the vehi-

## REUTERS LONDON, DECEMBER 20

BRITAIN'S NEW government named Andrew Bailey as the Bank of England's next boss on Friday, entrusting a veteran regulator and technocrat with steering the economy and its vast finance industry through Brexit.

## What were your suggestions to the Finance Minister in the pre-Budget consultations?

When we look at mobility, what we are looking at is that you have to innovate, go into new processes, technology etc. and have to move away from oil dependency, as much as we possibly can. We have to go for zero pollution because at the end of the day, if we look at urban pollution, 70 per cent of the urban pollution is vehicular. Country-wide, when we look at it, it's different, but urban (areas) are where the problem is. 12 out of 15 most polluted cities in the world are in India. Also, we know that 75 per cent of oil is imported. So, the quicker we convert,

## Is slowdown a worry?

See, it's a very good idea to have a goal. \$5 trillion is very good to have. Now, you have to figure out with the stakeholders about some key things that need to be done and how they need to be done. Various ministries are discussing and listening patiently. They are absorbing the issues, and hopefully they will get resolved.

# Bailey to succeed Carney as BoE Guv

global financial crisis. Since 2016 he has led the industry's watchdog, the Financial Conduct Authority. Finance Minister Sajid Javid called him "the stand-out candidate" as Britain maps out its future outside the EU, and he hailed Bailey's role in quelling the 2008-09 crisis.

"It is a tribute to his integrity and his character that he emerged from that... with his reputation enhanced in Whitehall, in the City of London and in financial capitals," Javid said.

Andrew Bailey will serve an 8-year term starting March 16. Reuters file photo



# Reinstatement of Mistry: Tata Sons to move SC soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

LAWYERS FOR Tata Sons Ltd on Friday said it is getting ready to approach the Supreme Court against the November 18 order of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) restoring Cyrus Pallonji Mistry as its executive chairman. The NCLAT had suspended its direction for Mistry's reinstatement for four weeks, on a request by senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi who appeared for Tata Sons.

"We are taking all appropriate legal recourse and everything will be activated well before expiry of four weeks granted as a stay by NCLAT", Singhvi told *The Indian Express*. About the grounds on which the appeal would lie, Singhvi said "as a lawyer for the losing party, you must discount what I say. But I do believe that the judgment is deeply flawed."

He said there were several "legally inform conclusions" and elaborated some of these. "Firstly, it turns the fundamental substratum and overriding principle of corporate law on its head viz corporate majority, which is at the heart of corporate decision making. Secondly, its direction for majority and minorities to consult each other before appointments are made is unprecedented in corporate law. Thirdly, assuming without in any manner conceding that there was any error in Mistry's removal, it is unheard of in corporate law to direct reinstatement as executive chairperson of Tata Sons, and of operating companies, or even as director of these companies, after the board

"... taking all appropriate legal recourse and everything will be activated well before expiry of four weeks granted as a stay by NCLAT"

**ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI**  
LAWYER FOR TATA SONS

has lost confidence in Mistry and after an interval of three years", the senior counsel said.

He also said the "analogy of the old saying that a dismissed employee will not be foisted on an unwilling employer, applies very much here". He pointed out that in the verdict, there was an "extraordinary and repetitive reliance on a November 2016 press statement" which was issued "in response to leaked speculative information against Tata Sons and was to impart stability and clarity". However, the judgment "ironically" uses it "as proof of global concern about Tata's instability", he said.

Singhvi claimed that the relief of reinstatement was one Mistry had "given up ... seeking". Directing Mistry's reinstatement as executive chairman of Tata Sons Ltd and director of the Tata companies, the NCLAT had declared as "illegal ... the proceedings of the sixth meeting of the Board of Directors of 'Tata Sons Limited' held on Monday, 24th October, 2016 so far as it relates to removal and other actions taken against" him. The appellate tribunal restrained Ratan N Tata and the nominee of the Tata Trusts from taking any decision in advance which requires majority decision of the Board of Directors or in the Annual General Meeting.

# Goyal to industry: Tell me which nations are using non-tariff barriers

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

COMMERCE MINISTER Piyush Goyal Friday asked the industry for details of non-tariff trade barriers imposed by other countries on India's exports, adding that the government was not afraid to implement retaliatory measures. India has initiated a review of its free trade agreements (FTAs) and is examining these trade barriers, according to him.

"I have been pleading ... please tell me which country is using any trade remedial measure or non-tariff barrier which impacts your exports to that country," said Goyal at the 92nd FICCI Annual Convention.

"The government is willing to stand by you. The government is willing to look at retaliatory action. The government is willing to impose similar ... trade remedial measures. We will learn from the NTBs (non-tariff barriers) that others are setting up against your

**'USE DOMESTICALLY-MADE RAW MATERIALS'**

■ The Commerce Minister also encouraged industry representatives to use domestically-made raw materials

■ MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari said he was "saddened" that India was importing coal, newsprint and other commodities

exports and we may learn a few things (about) what India needs to do," he said.

Goyal also encouraged industry representatives present at the event to use domestically-manufactured raw materials over imported products, even if they cost more, to support other players in the value chain. "Somewhere, all of us will have to invigorate that nationalist spirit that we care for India, we care for the future of all the industry in India," he said.

He further urged the industry to invest in innovations in "every aspect of business and industry so that the competitive edge of industry is improved".

Compared to other countries,

India's investment in research and development is only around 0.6-0.7 per cent of its GDP. This is below the expenditure of countries like the US, China, Israel and Korea, he said. According to the minister, the industry and the government would have to work together towards solutions to help the country become a \$5 trillion economy.

In a separate panel discussion during the convention, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Minister Nitin Gadkari said he was "saddened" that the country was importing coal, newsprint and other commodities despite having the indigenous capacity for these products.

"I am saddened to see huge

imports... It is a matter of concern that we have capacity to export huge coal but we are importing it. Coal can be transported from Paradip port to Kandla for power plants in the Western region.

"This will bring down power prices by 35 to 40 paise per unit," he said. India has the potential for huge bamboo plantation which could revive the country's domestic paper mills and be exported as well, he said.

Plans are in motion to push the turnover of khadi and village industries to Rs 2 lakh crore in the next five years from Rs 75,000 crore currently, Gadkari added.

He also urged the industry to take advantage of the difficulties faced by China, "besides an increase in cost", to grab a larger share of global trade. "China has a good record in trade business and accounts for 17 per cent of the global exports. Our share is barely 2.6 per cent. We have an opportunity to take it to 8 to 10 per cent ... We should eye at increasing our share," he said. WITHPTI

# Gopinath on Indian economy: We're seeing weakness in investment

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

HIGH FREQUENCY indicators have dampened hopes of revival of India's economy in the near future, according to International Monetary Fund chief economist Gita Gopinath. There is a need to fix problems on the financing side as well as improving the sentiment of the industry, she said.

There has been a "steep" slowing in private sector demand, with growth in the last couple of quarters relying "quite heavily" on the government sector, she said at the 92nd FICCI Annual Convention Friday. A "sharp" weakness in investment and consumption growth and a "big" cut-back in imports have also indicated this low demand in the economy, she added.

"Looking at some of the high frequency indicators, we are not seeing the kind of uptick we projected," Gopinath said. Earlier this week, Gopinath had announced that India's economic growth es-

timates would see a "significant downward" revision by IMF.

The country's consolidated fiscal deficit, combining the Centre and states, is "one of the highest in the G20" and borrowing costs are high, said Gopinath. "So it's not a free lunch and this has to be carefully managed," she said.

"What we are seeing right now is weakness in investment and if there is prolonged weakness in investment, that, by construction, affects potential growth," she said, adding that India's business sentiment was better in 2014-15 compared with 2019.

"To get manufacturing off the ground and for India to have a bigger presence on the export stage, that would require another set of very big reforms. There are important reforms that are needed with respect to land acquisition, with respect to labour laws and it's hard to generate an ecosystem where you could end up with large scale manufacturing... without these kinds of reforms taking place," the senior IMF official said.

# 10-yr bond yield falls after RBI 'twist'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU MUMBAI, DECEMBER 20

THEYIELD on 10-year benchmark bond Friday fell 13 basis points (bps) to 6.60 per cent after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to conduct its version of 'Operation Twist' for the purchase and sale of government securities under Open Market Operations (OMO) for Rs 10,000 crore each on December 23.

Bond yields have been rising

after the central bank unexpectedly left key rates unchanged on December 5, even as it slashed its forecast for economic growth to its lowest in over a decade.

'Operation Twist' is the name given to a US Federal Reserve monetary policy operation that involved the purchase and sale of government securities to boost the economy by bringing down long-term interest rates.

The RBI has decided to purchase Rs 10,000 crore worth of one security — the 6.45 per cent

GS 2029. This is a long term 10-year bond. On the sell side, it has proposed to sell four securities for a total of Rs 10,000 crore — 6.65 per cent GS 2020, 7.80 per cent GS 2020, 8.27 per cent GS 2020 and 8.12 per cent GS 2020. All these four securities are short term, and maturing in 2020.

Meanwhile, the rupee fell by 9 paise to close at 71.12 against the US dollar on Friday due to a steady rise in crude oil prices, strong dollar overseas and the RBI decision to conduct a special OMO.

# Land area requirement norms for SEZs relaxed

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

THE MINISTRY of Commerce and Industry on Friday amended the existing legal framework for special economic zones (SEZ) in India, in a move expected to make it easier to attract investments and boost exports. The amendments simplify and relax the minimum land area requirement to set up an SEZ and their categorisation.

Consequent to three recent amendments, the minimum land area required for setting up a multi-product SEZ has been re-

vised to 50 hectares (ha) from 500 ha earlier. In case an SEZ is proposed to be set up in Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Goa or in a union territory, area shall be 25 ha or more. "Minimum built-up area requirements for services have also been significantly reduced," a Ministry spokesperson said.

Following the amendments, all existing and new SEZs become multi-sector SEZs, "thereby enabling coexistence of a SEZ unit from any sector along with any other SEZ unit," the official said.

# CARE Ratings MD Rajesh Mokashi resigns

New Delhi: CARE Ratings on Friday said its Managing Director Rajesh Mokashi has tendered his resignation. Mokashi was sent on leave by the company in July. The order had said that he would be on leave till the company had examined an anonymous complaint against him sent to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

"While the board of CARE Ratings at today's (Friday) meeting have taken on record the said resignation, the same is without prejudice to the ongoing examination of anonymous complaints forwarded to CARE Ratings Ltd and any action, if required to be taken pursuant thereto," the agency said in a regulatory filing. T N Arun Kumar will continue to act as the interim CEO of the firm. PTI

# 'Lenskart raising over \$231 mn in fresh funding'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 20

LENSKART IS RAISING Rs 1,645 crore (\$231.42 million) in fresh funding led by SoftBank Vision Fund (SVF), according to the company's RoC filings sourced from business signals platform *paper.vc*. The investment, which is part of the firm's Series G round of financing, is estimated to give it a post-money valuation of \$1.5 billion, said Jayraj Patel, analyst at *paper.vc*.

In September, the Faridabad-based eyewear retailer had raised around Rs 400 crore from Kedaara Capital, fetching it the 'unicorn' status. The latest financing takes its total fund tally to over \$400 million. Lenskart's narrowed its losses by 76 per cent to Rs 27.88 crore in the year to March 2019. Revenue from operations rose to Rs 474.28 crore in FY19 from Rs 292.35 crore in FY18. Total expenses of the firm, however, rose to Rs 514.15 crore in FY19 compared to Rs 428.97 crore in the previous year. FE

# BRIEFLY

**Bharat Bond ETF garners ₹12,000 crore**

New Delhi: The Bharat Bond ETF closed for subscription Friday with over-subscription of 1.7 times, garnering Rs 12,000 crore to be utilised for capex of PSUs.

**OYO appoints Ankit Gupta as COO**

New Delhi: OYO Hotels & Homes Friday said it has appointed Ankit Gupta as chief operating officer and senior vice president for its coliving, rental homes and self-operated hotel businesses in Indian and South Asia. PTI

**Trump: Had 'very good talk' with Xi on trade**

Washington: US President Donald Trump said Friday he had a "very good talk" with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on a partial resolution of their nations' trade war, but did not give a date for the "phase one" deal. AFP

**US economy grows steadily in third quarter**

Washington: US economic growth rose in third quarter, the Commerce Department said Friday, with gross domestic product rising at an un-revised 2.1 per cent annualised rate. REUTERS

**Hajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR**  
No. NIT/2019-20/2734-44 Date: 19.12.2019  
Supply & Fixing of Furniture at New Executive Hostel Building at HCM, RIPA, Jaipur. UBN No.: RRC1920WS0B0621

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW) II DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI NEAR DWARKA, WTP, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110043**  
NIT No.39(19-20) Item No. 01 & 02

S. No.	Name of work	Amount Put to Tender	EMD & TENDER FEE	Completion Period	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last Date /time receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Re-Boring of 05 Nos. Tubewells at Gali No.11 (Tubewell No.73) A-Block, Gali No.04 K-Block, Prabhua Wala Bore Opposite CISF Camp Tubewell No. 71), Near Prakash CTR house A-Block and K-Block Near DDA Park, Mahalpur Extn. in Bijwasan Constituency under EE(SW)-II (2019_DJB_185977_1)	Rs 38,27,051/-	Rs: 76,600/- & Rs. 500/-	120 Days	19.12.2019 5:00 PM onward	03.01.2020 Up to 3:00 PM

NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on DJB Web Site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 686/2019-20

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING**  
Pant Krishi Bhawan, JAIPUR (Raj) E-Mail-dir.dam@rajasthan.gov.in

Ph. No. 0141-2227115 No. 48696-48699 Dated: 12.12.2019

**NOTICE INVITING BID (NIB-02-05/2019-20)**

E-Bids are invited up to 6.00P.M. of 06.01.2020 for procurement of equipments, instruments on rate contract on behalf of office of the Director, Department of Agricultural Marketing, Pant Krishi Bhawan, Jaipur for rate contract period of 18 Months. Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at the office of the Director, Department of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur or State Public Procurement Portal website 'sppp.rajasthan.gov.in' or 'https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in' or website 'www.mandi.agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in' The bidding document may be downloaded from either of the above websites and uploaded duly filled in with payment of Rs. 2000 (Rs. 1000 for SSI Unit of Rajasthan) through banker's cheque/demand draft, in favour of Director, Department of Agricultural Marketing, payable at Jaipur. Details of bid are following:-

SN	BID Title	NIB Reference No	UBN No
1	Grain Physical (Morphological) Analyser	DAM1920A0394	DAM1920GLRC00668
2	Oil Testing Machine- NIR/Grain Analyser	DAM1920A0395	DAM1920GLRC00669
3	Mobile Cleaning and Sorting Machine (2 TPH) with Generator 20 KVA	DAM1920A0396	DAM1920GLOB00670
4	Weighing Scale (200Kg) Integrated to e-NAM with POS	DAM1920A0397	DAM1920GLOB00671

Sd/-  
Addl. Director  
Department of Agricultural Marketing  
Rajasthan, Jaipur  
DIPR/C/10915/2019

**BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.**  
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)  
CIN No. U27310WB1920GOI003601

**NIT NO. MO / 51180 / NIT / CIVIL WORK / SC / 01**

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed and experienced Sub-Contractors for "Civil Works pertaining to " Construction of Proposed Inland Container Depot (ICD) of Adani Logistics Ltd. at Talaja, Maharashtra".

For details please log on to our Website <http://www.bridgeandroof.co.in>.  
Corrigendum / Addendum, if any shall be hosted in company's website only.  
The last date of submission of tender is 04.01.2020 (Upto 15.00 Hrs.)  
Date of Opening of Offer: 04.01.2020 at 16.00 Hrs.

**GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT CUM MEMBER SECRETARY, RAJASTHAN MEDICARE RELIEF SOCIETY, SAWAI MAN SINGH HOSPITAL, JAIPUR**  
[Sawai ManSingh Road, Tonk road, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302001]  
[Phone 0141-2518222, 2560291, Email-ms.smshospital@gmail.com]  
**NOTICE INVITING BID (UBN No. MCJ 1920 GLOB00143)**

Sealed Single Stage Two- envelopes unconditional online Bids for One Year Rate Contract, are invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan for the procurement of Goods as listed below, from manufacturers/ importers/ distributors/ authorized dealers/ stockists/ bona fide dealers/ Marketing company/ Agents up to 5.00 PM on 20.1.2020.

S.N.	Name of Goods	Estimated Cost for one Year (Rs Crores)	Amount of Bid Security Money (Rs)	Price of Bid Document (Rs)	RISL Processing Fee (Rs)
1.	Cochlear Implants	5.00	10,00,000.00	1000/-	1000/-

Details of NIB, Bidding Schedule, conditions and Bidding Document may be seen on the website of the State Public Procurement Portal <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> or e-procurement portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> and may be downloaded from there.  
Sd/-  
SUPERINTENDENT CUM MEMBER SECRETARY  
DIPR/C/11061/2019

**BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD**  
Office of the Chief Engineer (K), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore 560 009.

No. BWSSB/CE(K)/ACE(K)-1/TA-11/AE-2/2369/2019-20 Date: 19/12/2019

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
**BWSSP (Phase-3) International Competitive Bidding (ICB) (JICA Loan ID - P266)**

- The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board has received an ODA Loan from the Japan International Co-operative Agency (JICA) for Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Project (Phase-3) vide Loan Agreement ID-P266, dated 24th January 2018.
- The Chief Engineer (K) BWSSB, invites sealed bids for the Contract of: Sewerage Facilities to 110 Villages: Design, Engineering, Construction and Commissioning of Sewage Treatment Plants and Intermediate Sewage Pumping Stations with Operation & Maintenance thereof for Seven Years (Works-A) and Procurement and Construction of Main Sewers including Manholes in Mahadevpura & Bommanahalli (K&C Valley Catchment) (Works-B) (Package BWSSP (III)/JICA/P-26).
- This project area is located in Bengaluru City, at (Bommanahalli, Mahadevpura Zone, K&C Valley Catchment) in the State of Karnataka, India
- Intending bidders can obtain hard copies of the Bid documents, on submission of a written application with payment of non-refundable fee of INR 25,000/- + GST (5%) = INR 26,250/- (Indian Rupees Twenty Six Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty only). The fee shall be payable in the form of a demand draft drawn in favour of The Chairman, BWSSB, Bangalore, drawn from a Nationalized / Scheduled Bank and payable at Bangalore. The bidders can also download only Volume-I of Bid documents from the website <http://www.bwssb.gov.in>
- Bidders who require further information may be obtain the same from the employer at the above address during working hours. Bid submission is acceptable only through hard copy (Technical and Financial proposal) in sealed envelopes.
- The Hard copy of the bid documents will be available in this office from 24-12-2019.
- The last date of submission of requisition for Blank Tender Form will be 24-02-2020 till 15.00 hrs.
- The hard copy bids (Technical and price proposal) shall be submitted as per ITB on or before 15.00 hrs. on 25-02-2020.
- Technical Bid Opening Date: 25-02-2020 at 15.30 hrs.

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer (Kaveri)  
BWSSB

**GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM SMART CITY CORPORATION LIMITED**  
Ref.No:GVSCCL/Projects/156 (CTIS-PMC)/2019-20; Dt:16/12/2019

**Notice Inviting Request for Proposal**

GVSCCL desires to invite Request for Proposal for "Selection of Project Management Consultant (PMC) for assisting Greater Visakhapatnam Smart City Corporation Limited to Design, Develop and implement "Social Inclusion through Modernizing GVMC Schools as Smart Campus" under the CTIS program (City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain)" in Visakhapatnam. The detailed tender documents can be downloaded from website of [www.apeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in) from 18/12/2019, 5.00 pm onwards. The last date for online submission of bids is 08.01.2020 upto 5.00 pm.

For more details contact:  
E-mail: visakhapatnamsmartcity@gvsccl.in  
Cc: manager@gvsccl.in  
Mob No. 07729995934  
Sd/-  
MD & CEO

**ACHARYA TULSI REGIONAL CANCER TREATMENT AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BIKANER (REGIONAL CANCER CENTER) ASSOCIATED GROUP OF HOSPITALS, S.P. MEDICAL COLLEGE, BIKANER 334003 (RAJ.)**  
Ref No. RT/ATR/BKN/19/905 Date: 13.12.2019

**REQUIREMENT**

**For Consultant, Nuclear Medicine**

Application from suitable candidates on plain paper supporting with documentary evidences are invited for attachment/ appointment as consultant, Nuclear Medicine, in this Institute having following qualifications:

- Essential academic : MBBS with Diploma in Radiation Qualification required Medicine (DRM)/MD (Nuclear Medicine)
- Monthly fixed Salary : Rs. 2,00,000/- Per Month

The application should reach in this Institute latest by 31.01.2020 through email (dirccraj@gmail.com) or by post. Selection shall be made by a committee headed by Principal S.P. Medical College, Bikaner. No. TA/DA shall be permissible for attending interview.

Sd/-  
(Dr. M.R. Bardia)  
Director  
Acharya Tulsi Regional Cancer Treatment & Research Institute, Bikaner

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (NW) II H-BLOCK: SECTOR-15: ROHINI: DELHI-110089 PH: 27851040 (E-MAIL eenw2.djb@gmail.com) PRESS NIT No. 46 (2019-20)**

**Press Notice Tender**

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender	Earnest Money / Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution/ I.D. No.	Last date/time of receipt of bid through e-procurement solution
1.	Augmentation of water supply system at Phiri road near NDPL office to Agawal sweet Pehladpur village in AC-07 Bawana constituency under EE(NW)-II	Rs. 32,63,680/-	Rs. 65,300/-	18.12.2019 2019_DJB_185886_1	30.12.2019 Upto 3.00 PM
2.	P.L. DI water line in Mamoorpur Krishna Nagar Colony in AC-01 Narela under EE(NW)-II (Re-invite)	Rs. 32,84,900/-	Rs. 65,700/-	18.12.2019 2019_DJB_185890_1	30.12.2019 Upto 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. /683/2019-20

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer (NW) II

# 21 REVIEWS

CINEMA & MUSIC



DVD & BLU-RAY  
ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD  
★★★★  
₹169/-

## Under a Spell



**THE WITCHER (NETFLIX)**  
★★★★

**Created by:** Lauren Schmidt Hissrich  
**Cast:** Henry Cavill, Anya Chalotra and Freya Allan

### EKTA MALIK

EVERY MAJOR streaming network is trying to fill the huge *Game of Thrones* shaped hole that now exists in pop culture. Amazon Prime attempted *Carnival Row*, replete with fae, elves and other beasts; Apple TV has *See*, where they blend science fiction with a dystopian vibe; and we now have Netflix throwing in their hat with *The Witcher*. The eight-part series, which is based on Polish author Andrzej Sapkowski's books and short stories, is no *Game of Thrones*, but is a riveting fantasy show in its own right. Superman Henry Cavill is the titular Witcher, Geralt Of Rivia, a mutant, and a skilled swordsman, who hunts monsters for money. The 'White Wolf', as he is often addressed, is shunned by society on the continent, but he is not the only one. The dominant humans dispense the same treatment to anyone who is 'different', be it elves, dwarves, gifted people or supernatural beasts. The 'them vs us' narrative is sown early on in the show and it only gets magnified as it progresses.

Sufficiently tortured and a master of the brooding act, Geralt of Rivia is on a quest as he travels the continent, killing one monster after another. His cold exterior hides a heart of gold (why are we not surprised?) and he believes in reforming and saving monsters rather than killing them. His paths cross with Yennefer of Vengerberg, played by British-Indian actor Anya Chalotra. Yennefer is a skilled 'mage' (magician) who has her own past demons to exorcise and who is on a similar quest. But even as they deal with life-threatening situations amidst hair-raising action sequences, the quest lingers on. The missing piece of the puzzle is teenaged Princess Ciri, who is bound to both of them, unknown to them. Go figure.

We meet haranguing creatures, a kikumora, a golden dragon, a djinn, a succubus, a doppelganger and many others, each more horrifying than the last. The world building in *The Witcher* is on point, as we see

many expansive outdoor locales, quite a welcome break from the otherwise grey and dark toned *Game of Thrones* and its ilk. Influences of Slavic mythology are all too apparent, and we can assure you, they are here to stay. The geeks and the nerds of the world have found their new *Dungeons and Dragons*. The other thing that is now crystal clear, *Game of Thrones* is now a certified genre, and given its mammoth success and impact, it's little wonder that every network wishes to cash in on it.

It's heartening to see women leading the way — Queen Calanthe wields her sword with abandon as she meets with the Nilfgaard army, Yennefer too matches Geralt step by step in battle — though the repetitive violence and bloodshed might make you cringe.

Themes of migration, acceptance and a new global-world order are recurring in the show. The narrative could well be set in today's time, and not some Slavic ancient folklore and myth alone. There is also a nod to the heaves and the havenots.

A heaving emotional speech by Yennefer, who too has been a victimised by society for her differences — she was sold for four marks by her family — sets you thinking about Shylock's famous speech in Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*. In a corrupt and cruel world, where everyone is talking about exclusivity and expulsion, Geralt's code of conduct and morality serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration. Wish we could have something similar to Geralt Of Rivia, Greta Thunberg comes quite close though.

*The Witcher* works because it sticks supremely close to the source material of the books, which have quite a cult following in Poland and Eastern Europe. The details are quite right, as Sapkowski is a creative consultant on the show. The intrigue factor is kept sufficiently high, without resorting to sensational gimmickry, though there is ample nudity and bloodshed. What *The Witcher* might lack in scale, it definitely makes up for in heart and hope.

Henry Cavill works as the silver haired Witcher, with his voice tempered to a rather husky, gravelly tenor but we would have liked more of his backstory. With a second season already being greenlit, there is ample time for that.

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## Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants

### INVISIBLE LIFE

**Director:** Karim Ainouz  
**Cast:** Julia Stockler, Carol Duarte, Flávia Gusmão, António Fonseca and Hugo Cruz

### GLENN KENNY

THERE'S SUCH a disconcerting rush of lush imagery and action in the first 40 minutes or so of *Invisible Life* that one is apt to wonder whether there's any kind of focused narrative. But the casual misdirection is setting the viewer up for an emotional kill.

The Brazilian movie, based on a popular novel by Marta Batalha and directed by Karim Ainouz, begins with two sisters sitting on a mountaintop; beyond them, you can see Rio de Janeiro's Christ the Redeemer statue. They lose each other on the way down. But not for good — or not yet.

Guida (Julia Stockler), lively and small of stature, has just discovered guys, and she's crazy about one in particular, Iorgos, a Greek sailor. Eurídice (Carol Duarte), tall, thin, intense, is a talented pianist intent on studying at a Vienna conservatory. This being the early 1950s, their father Manuel, a baker, isn't thrilled about either girl's activities. Their mother, Ana, doesn't dare a word against her husband. So the sisters confide in each other, advise each other, love each other unconditionally — although they drive each other crazy in plain sight.

The household is upended when Guida elopes with Iorgos, sailing across the Atlantic. Eurídice is pushed into a marriage with a family friend, Antenor (Gregorio Duvivier), who will keep her in Rio. On the day of her wedding, an older woman advises the virginal Eurídice — who, unlike Guida, had little interest in matters carnal — on male desire. Their wedding-night scene yields one of the movie's most startling sights, a shot of a substantial male erection from an angle appropriate to a 3D movie. And this is not a 3D



movie. Antenor is an ardent lover, which intrigues Eurídice for a bit.

Then Guida returns to Brazil, abandoned and visibly pregnant. Manuel disowns her, banishes her, and worst, lies to her. He tells her Eurídice is in Europe, studying piano. The dropping of this shoe, then, puts the narrative on a straightaway and tragically explains the title.

Guida finds a home in a vibrant slum, finds friends there, puts together a life. All the while she writes letters to her sister in "Europe," in care of her parents' address. Manuel and Ana hide the letters and say nothing to Eurídice, who begins to obsess about Guida, hiring a private detective to track her. Her stress affects her piano playing; once-tolerant husband Antenor gets fed up regularly and eventually goes full patriarch. The movie's most virtuosic scene is also its most excruciating. Eurídice is dining with her father (it's a tense lunch) at a restaurant where Guida is turned away. Each woman's child, a stranger to the other, takes in the wonders of the restaurant's fish tank side by side.

*Invisible Life* is a modern melodrama that's proud to be one. Its mix of vivid period detail and raw frankness about sexuality and poverty and women's oppression is heady and bracing; its depiction of female friendship and love is pointedly ferocious. The movie also makes a strong case that men are a leading cause of what was once called manic depressive psychosis in women. **NYT**

## From the Heavens Above

### STAR WARS: EPISODE IX - THE RISE OF SKYWALKER

★★★★

**Director:** J.J. Abrams

**Cast:** Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, Richard Grant, Joonas Suotamo, Anthony Daniels, Lupita Nyong'o, Ian McDiarmid

### SHUBHRA GUPTA

THERE IS a reason why the *Star Wars* franchise is called a space opera: everything happens in a galaxy far, far away, and almost everything—the rattle of sabres, the stomping of the storm-troopers, the squeak of the droids, the innumerable skirmishes and chases on land and air—is accompanied by swelling operatic riffs.

*Episode IX* is the third of the trilogy (*The Force Awakens* and *The Last Jedi*), and the fi-

nal episode of the *Legend of Skywalker*. Only those who are die-hard fans will remember the order and the sequence of the films, and have an instant reckoner of the characters that flit in and out of this mammoth saga, which began more than forty years back. For someone like me, who has seen every single film, and will continue to do so because, well, nostalgia, and, well, how can you not, it's more about curiosity—how does this end? Does it end at all?

The film opens on a brisk note. Rey (Ridley) is hard at work, being trained under the kindly but firm eye of Princess Leia (Fisher). Soon enough she and her mates, crack pilot Poe (Isaac) and stormtrooper Finn (Boyega) are out and about, taxed with saving the universe from

the evil intentions of the Dark Lord of Sith (McDiarmid) and his icy lieutenant (Grant). But before Rey gets to her target, she has to contend with Kylo Ren (Driver), who seems to stand between her and her destiny. Or is he?

**How different can one space chase be from another? Why, by making at least one absolutely spectacular: the screen explodes in an orange ball of fire, and you exhale, just at that very minute**

This is just the bare bones of a film stuffed with overused *Star Wars* tropes—and plotlines you can think of, but what Abrams does is to keep things moving very swiftly. How different can one space chase be from another? Why, by making at least one absolutely spectacular: the screen explodes in an orange ball of fire, and you exhale, just at that very minute.

But the reason why this one works (as opposed to the many editions which were overpowered by clanking machines) is be-

cause of the emotional connects it creates with us. You feel for our old pal C-3PO (Daniels is the only actor to have appeared in every film of the series) as it yanks hard at its memory banks. You are anxious when the furry Chewbacca (Suotamo) is taken prisoner.

But most of all you feel for the two people who are at the heart of this film, Rey and Ren, as they clash, come close, pull apart, exploring the strange bond between them. There's one scene between the two, when there is silence, broken only by their words, that is the most powerful of the film. And even if I did guess what's coming (this is what comes of too much familiarity), I still exited the theatre smiling.

And psst, maybe it was the end, and maybe not. A little giveaway strand in the climax hints at fresh adventures, so I'm guessing there will be more: after all, there are so many galaxies even farther away.

shubhra.gupta@expressindia.com

## Big, Bang, Whimper

### DABANGG 3

★★

**Director:** Prabhu Deva

**Cast:** Salman Khan, Sudeep, Sonakshi Sinha, Arbaaz Khan, Saiee Manjrekar

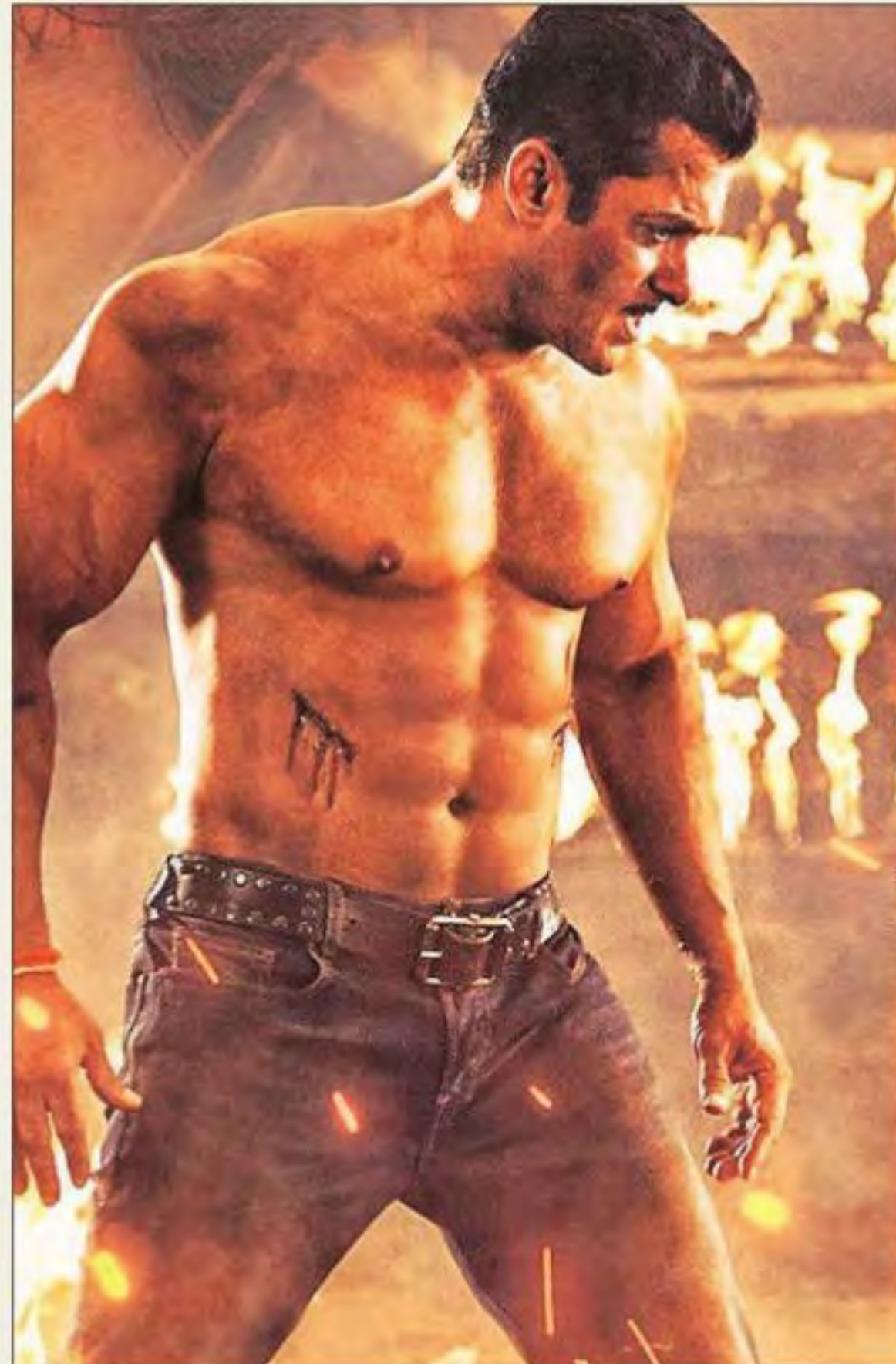
THE ONLY reason to watch the third edition of *Dabangg* is to see if Chulbul Pandey urf Salman Khan still has any *chulbulahat* left in him, that thing that made the first two fairly enjoyable despite their utterly predictable arcs.

But this one, which has a long backstory of how Chulbul came to be called Chulbul, is not just a dreary mish-mash of the previous ones; it's also a cringe-fest. The flashback takes us many years back to when our hero falls for a sweet young thing (Manjrekar), who when not smiling and simpering, has ambitions of further studies. *Woh padhai karegi, aur hum uski rakhwali: Rakhwali?* The poor thing will have no agency apart from batting her lashes and studying like a good girl? You're kidding, right, Pandey ji?

Of course not. This is not the kind of film which sees any problem with the hero doing *rakhwali* of the heroine. What else are heroes for? Even the bad guy, Balli Singh (Sudeep), knows his fate: he will get to be the villain and given an army of henchmen, illegal mines, and a side-business of prostitution, and some dialogues. But he knows, and we know, how it will all end.

The rest of it plays out like any other Bhai film minus the bits and pieces of comic-book fun that kept the first two *Dabanggs* afloat. Director Prabhu Deva's signature moves are visible not just in the bump-and-grind numbers, but also in the fight sequences, and everywhere else in the film. The lowest common denominator is reached over and over again: fart jokes, camera lingering on female bosoms (sexism, here it comes), juvenile jokes which curdle as soon as they are out of the mouth (haha, not), a phalanx of bare-bodied baddies all painted black, and shining with oil (racism, natch), and in one sequence, a urinating arc from three male orifices, the farthest one belonging, of course, no prizes for guessing, to our dabangg. Size matters, right? Sheesh.

When, right in the beginning, our Chulbul gave us a glimpse of his incredibly muscled legs, I thought, wait up, is this one really going to be different? No



**Director Prabhu Deva's signature moves are visible not just in the bump-and-grind numbers, but also in the fight sequences, and everywhere else in the film**

bare chest? Of course not. We get two for the price of one, Sudeep's as well as Salman's. Sorry bro, ain't workin'. Arbaaz's younger brother, Makkhi, is also same old. The only thing that has

SG



## It's the Season

### BLACK CHRISTMAS

**Director:** Sophia Takal

**Cast:** Imogen Poots, Aleyse Shannon, Lily Donoghue, Brittany O'Grady, Caleb Eberhardt

### BEN KENIGSBERG

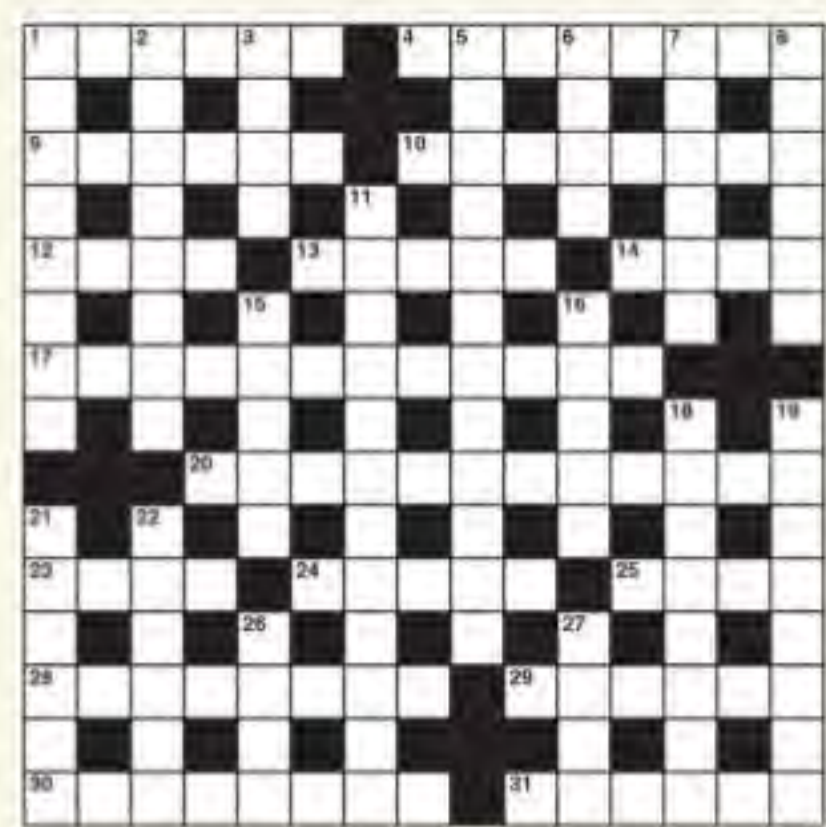
IF ALL you wanted for Christmas was a smarter *Black Christmas*, you are in luck. The director Sophia Takal, who wrote the screenplay with the film critic April Wolfe, has taken the 1974 Canadian sorority slasher standard — remade once before, in 2006 — and run with it, emerging with a movie significantly different in style and tone from its source. This *Black Christmas* speaks to an era of campus curriculum debates and a national reckoning over the reporting of sexual assault. (Takal says she drew inspiration from the Kavanaugh hearings.) Instead of prank phone calls, it has strangers sliding into your direct messages.

The bustle of activity mitigates a central implausibility of earlier versions, whose characters seemed slow to notice the missing women. The sorority's sisters are preparing for a talent show at which they plan to call out a graduated frat boy who raped the heroine, Riley (Imogen Poots), and escaped punishment. (This time, the police's hand-waving of complaints is not portrayed as funny.) Kris (Aleyse Shannon) is circulating a petition against a plummy professor (Cary Elwes) who favours white male authors.

Some of the new ideas are silly. Bows and arrows are tough to make look scary on-screen, and a supernatural element — the college's founder dabbled in the dark arts — undermines the movie's grounding in the here and now.

But if the 2019 *Black Christmas* is not nearly as chilling as the original, it is genuinely barbed as gender satire, and it cleverly pre-empts obvious outrage. Horrified men may consider that its assessment is no more damning than that of "The Stepford Wives," a male creation. They might also ponder that they are now forced to answer for self-appointed defenders of the "masculine spirit" like the Canadian academic Jordan Peterson, at whose worldview this *Black Christmas* takes implicit aim. **NYT**

## CROSSWORD 3994



- ACROSS**
- Channel without water, we hear (6)
  - In a way it repays harshness (8)
  - Not off upon a visit, but ready to make one (2,4)
  - This time yesterday (8)
  - Villain putting squeeze on the leader (4)
  - Jar - in which to put coal (5)
  - It was in form when very young (4)
  - Upset when given an open transfer (7,5)
  - Harmonious plan to brighten up the home, perhaps (6,6)
  - Bring in a number to help-sharp! (4)
  - Sees food in a ship (5)
  - Ruth as an infant? (4)
  - Habits found in one back street (8)
  - Got the wrong part of a city (6)
  - Standard-bearer (8)
  - Employment exchanges? (6)
- DOWN**
- It proves oddly gay (8)
  - Seek help concerning something on the menu (8)
  - Lied about being out of work (4)
  - A moving experience that will not take one far (5,7)
  - His victims lose heart (4)
  - Raid on raid, perhaps (6)
  - Acted sleepily as the new day breaks (6)
  - Scene of military operations? (4,8)
  - Sailor has half a bottle with a male superior (5)
  - Act as a paid informer (5)
  - Act when some come in late (8)
  - Liberal - one urges reform (8)
  - High rise central block in France (6)
  - Where a girl turns up after six (6)
  - Thunderous applause? (4)
  - Burn the fish (4)

**Solutions Crossword 3993:** Across: 1 Grass, 4 Go-ahead, 8 Mug, 9 Poorhouse, 10 Eustace, 11 Erupt, 13 Squall, 15 Method, 18 Irate, 19 Alberta, 21 Economist, 23 Ton, 24 Staunch, 25 Elect. Down: 1 Gimlets, 2 Angostura, 3 Sepia, 4 Glowler, 5 Athlete, 6 Emu, 7 Welt, 12 Usherette, 14 Lie down, 16 Dragnet, 17 Garish, 18 Items, 20 Bathe, 22 Ova.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLED 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 clue.

None \_\_\_\_\_ honestly and few heroically. - Clarence Darrow (4,4)

**TTWEE** **SUNLIT**

**DPSEI** **ILSYFM**

SOLUTION: TTWEE: SPIED, INSULT, FLAMES  
ANSWER: None meet life honestly and few heroically. - Clarence Darrow

## 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 4066



**Difficulty Level**  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4066



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Somewhat challenging planetary patterns relate to life's pleasures in curious ways. The celestial advice is therefore to set out to indulge yourself with determination and discipline. Cultural and high-brow outings will provide excellent stimulation.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

There still seems to be too much uncertainty about personal decisions and choices. There really is no point in trying to get others to sign on the dotted line just yet. There is plenty of time before final arrangements must be reached, so wait and see what happens next week.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

If you have your wits about you, and you certainly should, nobody will be able to get the better of you or pull the wool over your eyes. You may be angry one minute, the very essence of charm the next. If other people are confused, it's because they can't keep up with you.

### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Partners or close companions are certainly not as cold or hostile as they sometimes seem. Your best policy is to stop worrying about other people and look after your own affairs. Once you have sorted out your top priorities and principles then you will be able to extend proper help to those in need.

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

If you ever dreamt of living overseas or far from home, now could be the perfect moment to investigate the available options. Also, do make sure that any travel plans are sufficiently adventurous to satisfy your bold and confident spirit. Also, be sure to listen to an older relative's words of wisdom.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You're entitled to feel annoyed, but your behaviour should be carefully considered. You are torn between making a public song and dance on the one hand, and keeping yourself to yourself on the other. Perhaps you should wear your mystical or spiritual convictions on your sleeve.

### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Your best option is to take expert or legal advice before you go any further. Your social optimism should be boundless, but you may be so carried away that you double-book yourself or otherwise take on too many commitments. Catch up with old friends - someone is waiting to hear from you.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Contentment, it is said, comes from total immersion in worthwhile activities. This should be a busy day, one to take on more responsibilities. You may stretch yourself to the limit, for the more you accomplish now, the more time you will have to relax and enjoy yourself over the coming days.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

The winds of change are blowing through your relationships. The whole point about the current situation is that you must learn to listen. You must also try to understand other people's feelings and points of view without being unnecessarily judgmental.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Some of the strongest regions in your chart concern home, work and money. The problem is how best to integrate all these different areas. One interpretation suggests that if you work harder, you'll be able to pay for an improvement at home sooner than you thought.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

It's an ideal day for short excursions and meetings, and pleasant agreements could be concluded. Insist that everyone conforms to your ideas as to what is practical and possible, and they all will prosper. However, whether they agree with you is another matter.

### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You know what it is like to be caught off guard, and if someone takes advantage today, it could be over a matter of money. That said, this is a superb time for improvements in family relationships and a step up in your living conditions. Start by fixing everything that's in need of repair.

**उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग**  
उत्तराखण्ड भवन, हरिद्वार- 249404  
संख्या:- 612/10/सी.जे. जे.डी.-18/गोपन-1/2019-20  
दिनांक: 20 दिसम्बर, 2019

**विज्ञापित**  
एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उत्तराखण्ड न्यायिक सेवा सिविल जज (जूनियर डिवीजन) मुख्य परीक्षा-2018 के परीक्षा परिणाम दिनांक 28 नवम्बर, 2019 में सफल अभ्यर्थियों के लिए आयोजित सहायकार दिनांक 16 एवं 17 दिसम्बर 2019 के अन्तर्गत चार उत्तराखण्ड न्यायिक सेवा सिविल जज (जूनियर डिवीजन) परीक्षा-2018 का वयन परिणाम दिनांक 20 दिसम्बर, 2019 को घोषित कर दिया गया है। अभ्यर्थियों के लिए वयन परिणाम मुख्य परीक्षा एवं अंतिम वयन परिणाम के क्रम में सफल अभ्यर्थियों के श्रेणीवार/उपश्रेणीवार कट ऑफ़ मार्क्स एवं अभ्यर्थियों के प्रारंभिक आयोग की वेबसाइट [www.ukpsc.gov.in](http://www.ukpsc.gov.in) पर प्रसारित कर दिये गये हैं। (राजेंद्र कुमार) सचिव

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**  
**SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. Pc.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Akal Singh, S/o Sh. Ram Vilas, R/o H.No. A-30, Gali No. 21, Mahendra Park, Delhi & Village Kamalpur, P.S. Rani Ganj, PO Dhansa, Distt. Araria, Bihar is involved in case FIR No. 423/08, at P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Akal Singh cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Akal Singh has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant) . Processing U/s 82 Cr. P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Akal Singh, FIR No. 423/08, at P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi is required to appear in this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.01.2020.

By Order  
Ms. Pooja Aggarwal  
MM, Rohini Courts,  
DP/9579/NW/19-(Court Matter). Room No. 112, Rohini Court, Delhi

**GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF THE DISTT. ELECTION OFFICER:**  
**DISTRICT CENTRAL 14, DARYA GANJ, NEW DELHI-110002**

No.F. DEO/C/1096/Tent-Elec./2020/2790 dated:13/12/19

**E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders (Online tenders) are invited by the District Election Officer (Central) Delhi on behalf of the President of India from reputed firms/Companies/ Proprietors having minimum average turnover of Rs. Two Crore for the 3 three years and proven experience/capabilities of election work or other similar nature of work done in the past for supply of Tentages/Electrical items, goods and related services are required for setting up Counting Centres, Election training Centres, at Sir C.V. Raman IIT, Dheerpur, Dte. Of Trg. & Tech. Edu. GNCTD and FLC Centre at warehouse, community Centre, Timarpur & Tin Sheet barricading etc. at different places of District Central, Delhi for ensuring Delhi Assembly Election-2020, for all 07 Assembly Constituency under jurisdiction of District Central.

TENDER ID NUMBER: 2019\_REV\_185645\_1

The Last Date of submission of e-bid is 30/12/2019 at 11.00 AM

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

Sd/-  
SDM (ELECTION)  
DISTRICT-CENTRAL

DIP/Shabdarth/1157/19-20

## OBITUARY

**HC/GD, Sukhdev Singh, Police Medal for Gallantry of 209, COBRA made the supreme sacrifice during a counter-Maoist operation in the area of Vill- Bundu, U/P-Sonua, Distt- West Singhbhum (JKD) on 21st December, 2011. The CRPF proudly remembers the braveheart who laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with Maoists. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the Force.**

**IG & All Ranks of COBRA**

**Martyr of CISF on 21st December**  
HC/GD B. B. MANJHI PTPS PATRATU  
CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this brave-heart. On this day, he laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with miscreants at PTPS Patratu. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for his noblest deeds.

**Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT** **GVK**

**Mumbai International Airport Ltd.**

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BIDDING PROCESS FOR VARIOUS NON-AERONAUTICAL CONCESSIONS AT CSMI AIRPORT**

Mumbai International Airport Limited ("MIAL") is inviting parties to participate in the competitive bidding process for various non-aeronautical concessions at CSMIA. Parties are requested to visit the website: <https://csia.in> → Businesses → Business Opportunities → Commercial Opportunities for downloading form of Application for purchase of Request for Proposal document(s). Please check the website for Last date and time for submission of Application.

**बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा**  
**Bank of Baroda**

**www.bankofbaroda.in**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

Bank of Baroda invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for purchase of its property at Dena Corporate Centre, C-10, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051 from the interested parties.

Details are available under Tenders section on bank's website: [www.bankofbaroda.in](http://www.bankofbaroda.in).

"Addendum", if any, shall be issued on Bank's website under tenders section, i.e., on [www.bankofbaroda.in](http://www.bankofbaroda.in). Interested parties should refer the same before final submission of the EOI.

Last Date for submission of the above EOI will be on **6th January 2020**.

**General Manager - Head IMO/Premises Divestiture & Branch Relocation**

Place: Mumbai  
Date: 21-12-2019

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General Public is hereby informed that dead body of a male Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age 60 years. Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Normal, Face: Round Wearing: Grey colour Jacket & Black colour Pant, was found Unconscious in front of Lal Masjid, Lal Quan Delhi. He was admitted in LNJP Hospital and doctor declared him brought dead. His dead body has been preserved for 72 hours in the MAMC mortuary, Delhi. In this regard a **GD No.21 dated 13.12.2019** has been lodged at P.S. Hauz Qazi, Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO  
P.S. Hauz Qazi, Delhi  
Ph.: 11-23210414/23212482

DP/6832/CD/19

**WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION**  
**VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS**  
e-Tender Notice No. 23 of 2019-20 dated : 18.12.2019

Sr. No.	e-Tender No.	Name of work	Approximate Nit Cost (₹)	EMD Cost (₹)
01	DRM-ADI-123-2019-20	Ahmedabad (BG) : Providing 2.25 lakhs liters capacity RCC overhead tank in connection with setting up of quick watering arrangement on PF no. 1, 2 and 3 at Ahmedabad station.	34,14,430.55	66,300.00
02	DRM-ADI-124-2019-20	Maninagar : Replacement of Foot Over Bridge at Maninagar Station.	2,14,31,801.14	2,57,200.00
03	DRM-ADI-125-2019-20	Chandlodiya (B Panel)-Providing High level passenger platform at Chandlodiya 'B' panel	1,58,12,614.95	2,29,100.00
04	DRM-ADI-126-2019-20	Geratpur-Ahmedabad-Viramgam: CTR 3.28 km (P) 60 kg, TRR 1.26 km (P) 60 kg and TBR of P & C (1 in 12) and associated work in jurisdiction of Sr. DEN (South) Ahmedabad (Re-invited).	3,05,52,113.90	3,02,800.00

Closing date and time of e-tender: 21-01-2020 at 15:00 Hrs. Address of the Office: Sr. Divisional Engineering (Co-ordination)-Ahmedabad, DRM Office, Opp. New Swadeshi Mill, Naroda Road, Amdupura, Ahmedabad-382345. Website for participating e-tender: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) - Follow us on: [twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER**  
**MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN RAIPUR (C.G.)**

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>  
**CORRIGENDUM No. 01**

Following Amendment is made in System Tender No.: 59064 / NIT No.: 30/SAC/2019-20, Durg, Dated: 09.12.2019 Name of work **RENOVATION OF NANKATTI DIVERSION HEAD WORK, AND REMODELING & LINING OF CANAL WITH CONSTRUCTION OF 08 NOS V.R.B., 01 NOS D.C., 19 NOS INLET, 12 NOS COLABA FIXING IN BLOCK AND DISTRICT DURG...**

Earlier Published	Amendment
<b>Bid Start Date and time: 16.12.2019, 17:31 Hours</b>	<b>Bid Start Date and time: 17.12.2019, 17:31 Hour</b>
<b>Bid Due Date and time: 30.12.2019, 17:30 Hours</b>	<b>Bid Due Date and time: 31.12.2019, 17:30 Hours</b>

All other terms and condition will be unchanged,  
G.No..75720 Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Tandula Water Resources Division,  
Durg (C.G.)  
For, Chief Engineer,  
Mahanadi Godavari Basin, Raipur (CG).

**NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

Office of the Executive Engineer (Project), C.L. Zone  
Sindhora Kalan, Shakti Nagar, New Delhi - 110052, Tel. No. 011-23654558  
No. EEP/TC/CLZ/2019-20/09 Dated : 18.12.2019

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Seq No.	North Delhi Municipal Corporation stage	Start Date	Expiry Date
1.	Request of Tender Document From	23.12.2019	17:30 hrs.
2.	Issue of Tender Document From	23.12.2019	17:31 hrs.
3.	Request of Tender Document to	01.01.2020	17:00 hrs.
4.	Issue of Tender Document To	01.01.2020	17:30 hrs.
5.	Tender Closing Date & Time	03.01.2020	14:00 hrs.
6.	Cost Open Date and Time	03.01.2020	14:15 hrs.

The Executive Engineer (P)/CLZ on behalf of the Commissioner, North DMC invites sealed Item Rate/Percentage rate tenders from the approved and eligible Contractors registered with (General Wing) for execution of works and from specialized agencies (Open Category also) for execution of rehabilitation work of school building at Sr. No. 4 on online only at the website <https://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER>.

S.	Name of work	H/A	Tender Amount	Earnest Money
1.	Construction of Administrative cum Academic Block at RBIPMT Hospital in C-281/CLZ. SH- Construction of Boundary Wall, Guard Room and other Miscellaneous works. <b>FTC No. : 19/43/XXI-X-A-V/PC-354</b>	XL-IX-A-V	Rs. 75,68,403/-	Rs. 1,51,400/-
2.	Construction/Improvement of roads and drains by providing dense carpeting in Dakh Bhanjan Mandir Gali, Yadav Pur of Badli in Ward No. 23N/CLZ. SH- Construction of drain. <b>FTC No.19/66/ XL-VIII-S(d)/PC-066</b>	XL-VIII-S(d)	Rs. 59,24,882/-	Rs. 1,18,500/-
3.	Construction/Improvement of roads and drains by providing RMC in Gali No. 1 & 2 of Yadav Pur in Badli in Ward No. 23N/CLZ. <b>FTC No. 19/66/ XL-VIII-S(d)/PC-066</b>	XL-VIII-S(d)	Rs. 1,36,18,746/-	Rs. 2,72,400/-
4.	Renovation /Strengthening of external columns by retro-fitting, construction of chhajjas and improvement of roof terrace in M.C. P.S. School Jagatpur in C-8N/CLZ. <b>FTC No.19/24/XXVII-Edu./PC-201</b>	XL-VII-Edu.	Part 'A' Rs. 18,89,809/- Part 'B' @ Item Rate	Rs. 95,000

Tender Cost for Item No. 1 to 3 is Rs. 1,000/- & for item No. 4 is Rs. 500/-  
The time of completion for item No. 1, 2 & 4 is 6 months and for item No. 3 is 9 months. Rate holds go for all items is six months.  
**RO No. 192/DP/North/2019-20 Executive Engineer (Pr.) CLZ**

# 23 BODY & MIND



Gracia Lam: NYT

## When drug side-effects pose real dangers

The rule of thumb in medicine — first, do no harm — has as its corollary that the expected benefits of treatment should outweigh its potential risks

JANE E BRODY

ABOUT A month ago, I took myself off a medication without first contacting the doctor who prescribed it, a step I have often cautioned others never to do. A neurologist had put me on the anticonvulsant drug Keppra as a preventive in case a seizure had caused an otherwise unexplained fall on my head and brief memory loss. The neurologist was being appropriately cautious. Two years earlier, I'd had an equally mysterious accident accompanied by about a 15-minute memory gap.

A heart rhythm disorder was ruled out, and it would be weeks before I could undergo a three-day brain wave study to check for seizure activity. But after 10 days on Keppra, which the label warned could cause drowsiness, I was far worse than very sleepy. I could barely function. I was spending the day in bed, unable to work, read or even watch TV. And I was depressed, enough so that I began to list activities I could cancel, maybe even life itself.

When a friend told me she had been very fatigued and depressed while taking a different anticonvulsant, I had to know whether my symptoms were caused by the head injury or the drug, and the fastest way to find out on a Saturday night was to stop taking the drug. Within 36 hours, I was a new person, nearly back to my normal level of energy, ability to work and enthusiasm for life.

At first, I thought I would adjust to the drug's side effects, but they had only gotten worse each day. My friend said she had stopped taking the anticonvulsant when she found herself sitting out on the ledge of an open window. On Monday I called the neu-

rologist's office and was appropriately chastised for stopping the drug without his OK, but at least I lived to tell the tale.

I'm sure I'm not the only one who has abandoned a medication without — or even against — a doctor's advice. No doubt many, like me, experienced side-effects that seemed to be much worse than the condition the medication was supposed to treat.

The rule of thumb in medicine — first, do no harm — has as its corollary that the expected benefits of treatment should outweigh its potential risks, which is the basis for approval of prescription drugs by the Food and Drug Administration. Marketing approval includes review of the package insert, which is supposed to list possible side effects, from minor to serious, that showed up during premarket tests. Consumers are urged to read these inserts before taking a new medication. But as with the now-required lists of side-effects and warnings that accompany drug ads in print and on the air, these can terrify some patients, prompting them to refuse to take medications that would actually help them.

According to Timothy O'Shea, a clinical pharmacist who writes about prescription drugs, "Each year an estimated 4.5 million Americans visit a physician's office or emergency room because of side-effects related to their prescription medications." Among the 10 "scariest" side-effects O'Shea listed in an article are hallucinations that can result from psychiatric medications; sleep-enhancing

drugs and some anti-seizure drugs.

On a trip to Panama some years ago, my roommate developed psychotic hallucinations from the drug Larium, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had recommended at the time to prevent malaria. Also alarming is memory loss that sometimes results from "the nonbenzodiazepine sedative hypnotics, which include Ambien, Lunesta and Sonata," O'Shea wrote. Most worrisome, however, is an increased risk of suicidal thoughts in children, adolescents and young adults associated with all antidepressants.

All drugs, prescription and over-the-counter, have side-effects or the potential to cause them, and the secret to safe use lies in knowing what they might be and how they may be affected by your health, habits, diet, allergy sensitivities and other medications you take. Minor adjustments can often make a big difference in how effective and safe a medication will be for you.

For example, people on blood thinners must be cautious about taking aspirin and other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs that can increase the risk of bleeding.

In addition to harmful drug-drug interactions, many risks linked to medication result from interactions with foods, drinks, supplements, and other ailments. For example, some drugs, including most painkillers, are best taken with food to reduce gastrointestinal side-effects, whereas others should be taken on an empty stomach to enhance absorption.

The dose of the anticoagulant Coumadin

has to be adjusted for consumption of certain vegetables rich in vitamin K like spinach, kale and broccoli, which can diminish the drug's effectiveness. Grapefruit and pomegranate can increase effects of some statin drugs and drugs that treat high blood pressure. And blood pressure drugs called ACE inhibitors can impair excretion of potassium from foods like bananas. In general, it's best to avoid taking drugs at the same time that you take vitamins, herbal remedies or other supplements. And unless instructed otherwise, take all medications with a full glass of water.

Probably the most common harmful drug-diet interaction is that between medications and alcohol, which can enhance or diminish a drug's effects in dangerous ways. Drinking alcohol while taking a narcotic painkiller can result in an accidental, even fatal, overdose. Even in small amounts, alcohol can intensify a drug's side effects, causing sleepiness and lightheadedness. When prescribed a new medication, it's best to read the package insert before you take the first dose. You might also ask the pharmacist what you should know to ensure the drug's safe use.

If you suspect you're having an adverse drug reaction, don't follow my example. In most cases, you should continue taking the drug but contact the doctor as soon as possible. However, if you develop an allergic reaction like severe itching, swelling or shortness of breath, stop taking the drug immediately and go to the nearest emergency room.

Be especially wary if you believe you are reacting to a drug that has only recently come on the market.

Serious problems sometimes don't become apparent until a drug has been used for years by lots of people. **NYT**

**Probably the most common harmful drug-diet interaction is that between medications and alcohol, which can enhance or diminish a drug's effects in dangerous ways**

### SHORT COURSE

[20-40 YEARS]

#### Long hours at desk linked to masked BP

WORKING LONG hours behind a desk might raise the risk of undiagnosed high blood pressure, or hypertension, even when readings in a doctor's office are normal, a new study suggests. In an analysis of data from more than 3,500 white collar workers, researchers found those who spent long hours on the job were 66 per cent more likely to have sustained hypertension and 70 per cent more likely to have masked hypertension — blood pressure that is normal in the doctor's office, but high at other times. "If they're working long hours, people should ask their doctors about checking their blood pressure over time with a wearable monitor," lead author, Xavier Trudel, an assistant professor at Laval University in Quebec, said in a statement. **REUTERS**

[40-60 YEARS]

#### Processed foods can up your diabetes risk

EATING ULTRAPROCESSED foods may increase your risk for Type 2 diabetes. Ultraprocessed foods — including chips, instant noodles and other ready-to-eat fare — contain emulsifiers, thickening agents and food colouring. A study in *JAMA Internal Medicine* included 104,707 men and women, average age 43 and generally healthy. Over all, more than 17 per cent of their food by weight was ultraprocessed. There were 821 cases of Type 2 diabetes over six years of follow-up. "This is only one study that doesn't prove causality," said senior author Mathilde Touvier, a researcher at Inserm, the French public health institute. "But accumulation of evidence suggests the precautionary principle: Try to avoid ultraprocessed food as much as possible." **NYT**

[60+ YEARS]

#### Exercise reduces falling risk for older adults

OLDER ADULTS who exercise may reduce their risk of falls by more than a third compared to sedentary peers, a research review suggests. Workouts that focus on improving balance, coordination, mobility and flexibility all may help reduce the risk of falls more than getting no exercise at all, the study found. And getting a variety of different types of exercise may have the greatest effect, regardless of whether individuals start

with a low or high risk for falls. "All older adults should be regularly undertaking exercises that safely challenge their balance to prevent falls," said Cathie Sherrington of the University of Sydney in Australia, the study's lead author. The new study includes findings from 25 countries, including results that weren't available when the original came out, and provides more certainty about the effect of exercise on older adults, Sherrington said. **REUTERS**

### DIET DIARY

## The many benefits of black cumin seeds

Commonly used to season curries and pickles, these seeds boost immunity, help fight allergies



BY ISHI KHOSLA

ALSO REFERRED to as "Love in the Mist", black cumin seeds, also known as "kalonji" or "black caraway" is an annual herbaceous plant used to season curries, vegetables and pickles. Black cumin seed should not be confused with the herb cumin (*Cuminum cyminum*), which is found in many grocery stores. They have little aroma and a herb-like taste similar to oregano. They look similar to onion seeds and are often confused with them.

Traditionally, in many Arabian, Asian, and African countries, black seed oil was used as a natural remedy for a wide range of diseases. The use of black seeds in allergies has been emphasised in early human studies. Other benefits of these seeds that have been documented include their use in headache, tooth ache, nasal congestion, and intestinal worms. They have also been used for conjunctivitis, abscesses and parasites.

Medicinal plants have gained momentous support in the recent era for their therapeutic potential. Black seeds have been

studied for use in cancer, immune disorders (it is a powerful immunostimulant), inflammation, stomach and respiratory conditions. Their digestive and respiratory benefits have been demonstrated when these seeds are taken orally. They are believed to be useful for stimulation of menstruation and increasing milk flow (during lactation). Several studies attribute and support these effects. Further, these black seeds are known for a number of other pharmacological effects, including analgesic, antihistaminic, anti-asthmatic, antibacterial, anti-fungal, anti-viral, anti-parasitic, anti-hypertensive and hypoglycemic.

Compositional analysis revealed that they contain appreciable quantities of carbohydrates, proteins and fats. Moreover, potassium, calcium, phosphorus and magnesium were predominant minerals and considerable quantities of sodium, iron, manganese, zinc and copper were also present. It may be a good idea to flavour your food generously with 'kalonji'. However, black seeds are not recommended during pregnancy. But, during lactation it is an excellent form of added nutrition for both mother and the child. Its immunity boosting properties serve as a natural, safe way to build resistance against illness. As a therapeutic agent, it would be desirable to seek advice from a professional.

Author is a clinical nutritionist and founder of [www.theweightmonitor.com](http://www.theweightmonitor.com) and *Whole Foods India*

## The quiet brain of the athlete

The brains of fit, young athletes dial down extraneous noise and attend to important sounds better than those of other young people

GRETCHEN REYNOLDS

TOP ATHLETES' brains are not as noisy as yours and mine, according to a fascinating new study of elite competitors and how they process sound. The study finds that the brains of fit, young athletes dial down extraneous noise and attend to important sounds better than those of other young people, suggesting that playing sports may change brains in ways that alter how well people sense and respond to the world around them.

For most of us with normal hearing, of course, listening to and processing sounds are such automatic mental activities that we take them for granted.

But "making sense of sound is actually one of the most complex jobs we ask of our brains," says Nina Kraus, a professor and director of the Auditory Neuroscience Laboratory at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, who oversaw the new study.

Sound processing also can be a reflection of broader brain health, she says, since it involves so many interconnected areas of the brain that must coordinate to decide whether

any given sound is familiar, what it means, if the body should respond and how a particular sound fits into the broader orchestration of other noises that constantly bombard us.

For some time, Kraus and her collaborators have been studying whether some people's brains perform this intricate task more effectively than others. By attaching electrodes to people's scalps and then playing a simple sound, usually the spoken syllable "da" at irregular intervals, they have measured and graphed electrical brain wave activity in people's sound-processing centres.

And they have found interesting variations in proficiency. The brains of trained musicians, for instance, tend to show greater spikes in processing activity when they hear the "da" than do the brains of other people, indicating that learning and practising musicianship also hones and refines the portions of the brain that process sound.

More recently, Kraus and her collaborators began to explore whether the reverse might also be true and that some experiences might blunt sound processing. In particular, they wondered about the effects of knocks to the head, such as concussions, a

question that drew them, naturally, to athletes. Might contact injuries to the head during sports alter and sour sound processing, they wondered, and perhaps even serve as a marker of the severity of any brain injury?

To find out, she and her colleagues partnered with the athletics department at Northwestern University several years ago and began checking the sound-processing abilities of 495 Division I male and female athletes at the school, as well as another 500 students who weren't athletes.

The athletes played sports ranging from football to track, some involving tackling and similar contact and others little contact but considerable exertion. Kraus and her colleagues began testing them at the start and end of their competitive seasons and after any suspected concussions, with a plan to compare the readouts after heavy training and injuries and look for patterns.

That study is ongoing, but Kraus realised in the meantime that she possessed a wealth of baseline data about the brains and sound-processing abilities of fit, young athletes and other students. She could crosscheck their brain wave readouts, she thought, and see if



Gettyimages

the athletes, when healthy, processed sounds differently than the other students.

So, for the new study, which was published this month in *Sports Health*, she did just that. And she found that the athletes did hear and make sense of sounds differently than most of us.

According to their electrical readouts, almost all of them attended to specific, specified sounds better than the other students. When the "da" syllable played, their brain waves jumped more than the other students. What interested and surprised Kraus,

though, was that the athletes' brains could focus on the "da" sound so well because they had filtered out more background noise beforehand than other students. Their brain wave response to the kind of constant, murmurous aural clutter around us was lower than among the other students, allowing the athletes to better amplify and pinpoint the sound they wanted.

"Basically, their brains were quieter," Kraus says.

Some of the athletes' acoustic agility most likely developed during years of attending to crucial sounds despite clatter, Kraus says.

"You have to be able to hear the coach yelling something or what a teammate is saying," she says. "Brains change in response to that kind of repeated experience," and the sound-processing components within the brain strengthen.

But many of the athletes played sports that, typically, are not noisy, she points out. Cross-country running and golf, for instance, most likely demand less sound filtering during most practices and competitions than a sport like football or basketball. But the university's runners and golfers had brains just as quiet as those of linemen.

For them, "fitness and regular movement of the body also change the brain", Kraus says. And sports that seem quiet can still demand a focus on subtle sounds and signals, like the whoosh of a breeze through branches alerting golfers and runners to wind speed or a creak in a joint that could warn of early injury.

Overall, the results suggest that being active, whether as part of a team or on your own, may alter how well brains respond to and understand sounds.

This kind of study cannot tell us definitively, though, whether being an athlete changed the young people's brains or whether they succeeded as athletes because they were better at sound processing from the start. Kraus hopes that her continuing research with the university's sports teams will help to answer that question, as well as whether older people can reshape their sound processing by becoming active. **NYT**

## Every Indian cricketer has to go through NCA: Ganguly on Bumrah's fitness test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 20

BCCI PRESIDENT Sourav Ganguly on Friday asserted that Jasprit Bumrah's fitness evaluation will be done at the National Cricket Academy after it was speculated that the Rahul Dravid-led body is not keen to conduct the test in Bengaluru.

Bumrah is on his way to regaining fitness after being laid low by a stress fracture of the back. He recently bowled at India's net practice ahead of the second ODI against the West Indies in Visakhapatnam.

"I am not aware of the issue. But Indian players will have to go back to NCA and we will make sure it's comfortable and logistically easier," Ganguly told reporters here.

He was responding to a report that Dravid had declined Bumrah's request for a fitness test at the NCA. It was said that the former India captain is miffed with Bumrah's decision to undergo rehabilitation under private trainers instead of the ones from NCA.

The 26-year-old Bumrah, the No.1 ranked ODI bowler in the ICC list, has been training with IPL franchise Delhi Capitals' trainer Rajnikanth Sivagnanam in Mumbai after recovering from the injury.

"NCA has to be the first and final point for International cricketers. It's a place for Indian cricketers. Everyone has to go through NCA," asserted Ganguly. They play cricket all over the places year long. We will also try and see whether NCA physios can come and help Jasprit in Mumbai. We will keep the monitoring under NCA. We want to make sure there's best people with NCA," he added.

Ganguly recently visited NCA and held discussions with Dravid, who was appointed the head of cricket there in July this year. "There's huge hope from Rahul. He's been a tremendous player. You will get perfection and commitment. We will sort it out," he said.

"We have given Dravid the charge at the NCA to get it more organised. Ultimately we will extend his role. I've spoken to him and the office-bearers. You will get to know the details in a week's time," he added.

### MI keeping a watchful eye

Meanwhile, Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene on Friday said Jasprit Bumrah's recovery from a back injury is well on track and he expects the Indian pace spearhead to feature in the upcoming limited-overs home assignments against Sri Lanka or Australia, early next year.

Asked about Bumrah's progress, Jayawardene told reporters, "It's good. He (Bumrah) has started training. He was in Vizag (Visakhapatnam) bowling to the guys (Indian players). MI staff is closely monitoring his progress."

As long as Bumrah and Hardik Pandya (recovering from back surgery) start playing by January and February.

"Hardik (Pandya) is (also) making good progress... (I'm) quite happy, hopefully they will play the Sri Lankan series (early January), or may be the Australian series (although) I am not sure how quickly they will be coming through," Jayawardene said.

Jayawardene was effusive in his praise for the Indian pace spearhead, who is also the leading bowler for MI. Bumrah has picked 82 wickets from 77 matches for the four-time IPL champions.

"You have to realize he is still young — Jasprit — so there is lot more to come from him. He is brilliant, he is learning — every day he is evolving (which) is great."

# Fire that fuels Iyer

The experience of leading Delhi Capitals and India A has benefitted the batsman



Shreyas Iyer used to be a trigger-happy batsman. Now he is a mature cricketer. AP

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
CUTTACK, DECEMBER 20

DELHI CAPITALS owner Parth Jindal confirmed the status quo; that Shreyas Iyer would continue to lead the franchise. Two high-profile arrivals - Ravi Ashwin and Ajinkya Rahane - ahead of the 2020 IPL auction provided enough validity to a captaincy-related question. Ashwin led Kings XI Punjab last term. Rahane is the vice-captain of the Indian Test team, with the experience of leading the country at the highest level.

Jindal, however, explained the team's thought process: "Last year Delhi went from being the eighth placed team in 2017 to coming third and Shreyas did a wonderful job last season. Also in the last 12 months, he has cemented his place in the Indian limited-overs team. So we see no reason to tinker with the winning formula."

He gradually grew into the job last season, with Ricky Pointing and Sourav Ganguly by his side. Both had the belief that Iyer, a quick learner of the game he, he would improve. As the 25-year-old bats in as India's white-ball No. 4, Iyer is thriving on his ability to learn quickly. One of Iyer's celebrated India team-mates had commissioned a Mercedes after bagging his first IPL contract. When a former BCCI official came to know about the cricketer's splurge, he offered a piece of advice; "If you want to spend money, buy a house. Even the finest Merc would

have a lower resale value if you decide to offload it the very next day'. Both were from the same city and the connection helped.

The 2015 auction was life-changing for Iyer. He suddenly became rich after Delhi forked out Rs 2.6 crore. A year later, Iyer's parents Santosh and Rohini spoke about their son's plan to buy a bigger house with the financial gains. He was then only 21-year-old but the future planning spoke volumes for his maturity. He is now close to shifting to a new house.

His batting in the series has oozed maturity. In the first ODI at Chepauk, with both Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma gone inside 19 overs and just 80 runs on the board, Iyer eschewed aggression and became a grafter. There is nothing unusual about it, but the whole idea of playing along the ground, even against Roston Chase's off-spin, was impressive. Off-spin is meat and drink to Iyer, but between the 15th to 35th over, he didn't play a single aerial shot. He might rue missing out on a century, but the discipline demonstrated his maturity.

At Vizag, Iyer's batting went a notch better. Iyer's job was to play second fiddle to Rohit Sharma, which he did to perfection. Later on, he accelerated, from run-a-ball 18 he shot to 53 off 32 balls, including a 31-run over against Chase that had four sixes. Chief selector MSK Prasad was mighty impressed. "We brought him 18 months ago when Virat was taking a break. We have been grooming him for the last two years

and irrespective of his performances, we were confident he would be doing well," he told *The Indian Express*.

The biggest change, he observes, is his composure. "He looks calmer and composed. Probably the two knocks he played in West Indies (71 and 65) gave him a lot of confidence. Maybe the captaincy he got at Delhi Capitals has helped him. We also made him the India A captain. Earlier this composure was missing a little bit."

For Iyer though, highs and lows have lived cheek by jowl. When he was 16, runs suddenly dried up in age-group cricket. Things became so difficult that Iyer's father Santosh took him to a sports psychologist, Mugdha Bavare. It was also the time, when former India batsman Pravin Amre, who was in charge of the Shivaji Park Gymkhana nets, began working as Iyer's mentor. The association continues. Amre advised the youngster to be optimistic — the proverbial glass half-full line.

### Still a work in progress

For all his development, Iyer is still a work in progress. He has certain weaknesses too — lofted drives on the leg-side have brought about his dismissals many times. Even in the first two matches in the series, he perished trying to play forcing shots on the leg side. "When everyone was (having a go at him), I was fighting for his place in the Ranji team, or the IPL auction, or when he came to the leadership. Now

my role is like, I tell him he is half full. My role now is to address the half-empty area. His game is so big, there's always room for improvement," Amre told this paper.

He put Iyer's "leg side compulsion" to instinct. "He is a player who backs his instincts. Even three of his four sixes the other day were hit on the leg side only. So maybe, that's also his strength. He is more matured now, knows when to attack."

Between December 2017, when Iyer made his ODI debut and the World Cup, he played five matches and scored 210 runs at 42. But by February 2018, the selectors had their eyes set elsewhere, on Ambati Rayudu as possible No. 4 for the World Cup. By then, Iyer's disappointment had given away to resignation. "Koi feeling hi nahi aa raha hai. For me somehow it (fussing about Indian call) isn't important. I am emotionless now. Someone comes and says, I'm in team, I am not in team, kuch farak nahi padhta (it doesn't matter much)," Iyer told this paper last year.

Amre tells his ward to forget about the past and look into the future. "He is young enough to play the next two World Cups. Last two years, he wasn't there anywhere to be honest. Now he is getting into the groove. Opportunity in Test cricket, too, will come gradually. Look at Ravindra Jadeja, who started with Rajasthan Royals. He is now an India Test regular. For Shreyas, right now his job is to be consistent. He has started doing it. He has to maintain that."

### BRIEFLY CRICKET

#### A day after million \$ bid, Maxwell hits a 39-ball 83 in BBL

Melbourne: Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell on Friday smashed a scintillating 83 off 39 balls for Melbourne Stars in the Big Bash League, a day after being picked by Kings XI Punjab for a whopping Rs 10.75 crore at the IPL auction. Returning to action after taking a break to focus on his mental health, Maxwell once again showed just why he is considered one of the most devastating batsmen in T20 cricket as he smashed seven boundaries and five sixes during his stay at the crease. The 31-year-old also equalled his fastest ever fifty (23 balls) on way to the blistering knock at the Metricon Stadium to help his team post 167 for 7 against Brisbane Heat. Kings XI Punjab took to twitter to hail the superb innings of Maxwell, who will be returning to the franchise after three years. "A BIG SHOW from the 'BIG SHOW'. @Gmaxi\_32 was at his lethal best as he led from the front for his side in @BBL scoring a breathtaking 83 off just 39 balls," Kings XI Punjab wrote on his twitter handle. Australian cricketers had a big pay day at the IPL players' auction on Thursday with Maxwell, who was not considered for the upcoming ODI series against India in January, returning to Kings XI Punjab with a price tag of Rs 10.75 crore after an intense bidding war with Delhi Capitals. In October, Maxwell had opted out of the T20I series against Sri Lanka midway to take a break after experiencing difficulties with mental health. Maxwell had played for KXIP from 2014 to 2017 before being bought by Delhi Capitals in 2018. He had opted out of the league in the last edition.

#### KKR lacks back-up options: Gambhir

New Delhi: Former India opener Gautam Gambhir believes his former IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders doesn't have enough back-up options and the team management could have gone for all-rounders in the players' auction to provide the squad more depth. The Kolkata franchise paid a whopping Rs 15.50 crore for Cummins, making him the costliest foreign player in the history of IPL auctions. Besides, they also spent big on England's World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan (Rs 5.25 crore) and Indian spinner Varun Chakaravarty (Rs 4 crore). "If you look at the squad as a whole, there is no backup for Andre Russell, Eoin Morgan, Sunil Narine who is a one of a kind bowler. If Eoin Morgan suffers an injury, the team has no middle order overseas batsman," Gambhir said while speaking at 'Star Sports' Cricket Live' show. "The management could have gone for a Mitchell Marsh or Marcus Stoinis who would have given more depth to the squad, so you have to hope all these players are there for the entire series. Gambhir said KKR don't have the bench strength to deal with any injury crisis in the top order. "If Pat Cummins suffers an injury, there is a replacement with Lockie Ferguson but with the top order there is no replacement for Kolkata Knight Riders," said the stylish left-hander, who led KKR to two titles in 2012 and 2014

## Head coach Boucher wants to build belief in 'new' South Africa

REUTERS  
PRETORIA, DECEMBER 20

SOUTH AFRICA head coach Mark Boucher is working to instil a new mindset and work ethic in the side ahead of the first Test against England in Pretoria starting on Boxing Day, admitting his team is short on confidence.

South Africa have lost their last five Tests, including two shock home losses to Sri Lanka and three heavy defeats in India, but the arrival of Boucher and an army of experienced technical team members has the potential to change their fortunes.

"One thing I know about South Africans, they are resilient," Boucher told reporters on Friday. "They have got that bouncebackability and we need to get that into the heads of the players. It's been very good so far, we have pushed the guys a bit. We have spoken about being open to a few changes, and the guys are really keen to turn around the whole view of South African cricket. They came in with a really good attitude and ready for a few challenges that we put to them."

Batting consultant Jacques Kallis will compliment Boucher and assistant coach Enoch Nkwe, while Charl Langeveldt has been drafted in as bowling coach and Paul Harris will work with the spinners.

"Having Jacques, he is the most capped

test player in this country and probably the greatest cricketer that has ever lived, so that is invaluable experience," Boucher added.

"It's like preparing for an exam, if you prepare well then you walk into the exam feeling confident."

"We've had some good chats. It has been very focused on this particular series against the English. I am very happy where we are as we built towards the first test."

South Africa have yet to gain any points in the new Test Championship, but Boucher says that is far from his mind. All he is focused on is the first session of the opening test in the four-match series.

### Bavuma ruled out

Meanwhile, South Africa were dealt a significant blow in the build-up to the first Test after middle-order batsman Temba Bavuma was ruled out with a Grade 1 hip flexor muscle strain. Bavuma will be sidelined for between seven and 10 days, according to a statement from Cricket South Africa, which should mean he is available for the second match that starts in Cape Town on January 3.

No replacement has been called up yet, with the selectors to consider their options after the round of four-day domestic first class matches currently underway, and the three-day fixture between South Africa A and England starting on Friday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
KARACHI, DECEMBER 20

PAKISTAN OPENERS responded aggressively to cut down Sri Lanka's lead to 23 runs on day two of the second Test on Friday. Abid Ali (32) and Shan Masood (21) scored at a brisk pace and guided Pakistan to 57 for 0 in 14 overs of their second innings before stumps were drawn for the day due to bad light.

Dinesh Chandimal's resolute 74 and Dilruwan Perera's equally splendid 48 had earlier helped Sri Lanka score 271 and get an 80-run first innings lead.

Abid made headlines when he became the first male international cricketer in the history of the game to score a century on debut in ODI and Test matches. He made a hundred in the drawn first Test at Rawalpindi last week.

Abid continued to impress after being given an opportunity at age 32, hitting four boundaries. Sri Lanka fast bowlers couldn't find any seam movement like they did on the first day, when Pakistan was bowled out for 191.

Left-arm spinner Lasith Embuldeniya, who took four wickets in the first innings, also couldn't get the breakthrough in his five overs.

Earlier, Chandimal featured in two half-century stands, adding 67 runs with first-Test century-maker Dhananjaya de Silva (32) and ensuring the lead by putting on 51 runs with Perera.

Pakistan fast bowlers Shaheen Afridi (5-



Shaheen Shah Afridi took five wickets for 77. AP

77) had his maiden five-wicket haul in Test cricket and Mohammad Abbas took 4 for 55. But leg-spinner Yasir Shah (0-43) again failed to get a wicket despite working with spin consultant Mushtaq Ahmed for three days when he was dropped from the first test squad.

Yasir, who holds the world record of fastest bowler to complete 200 wickets in Test matches, has been unimpressive in 2019 with only four wickets in four test matches. Afridi and Abbas had to share the bowling burden as 16-year-old paceman Naseem

Shah (0-71) also leaked runs at an average of 4.43 per over. Part-time left-arm spinner Haris Sohail finally ended Chandimal's knock before tea when he attempted a lose square cut off left-arm spinner Haris Sohail, being caught at point.

Abbas had raised Pakistan's hopes of restricting Sri Lanka's lead when he had Niroshan Dickwella clean bowled early in the second session with the visitors still seven runs away from wiping out the deficit.

But Chandimal and Perera were untroubled

by Yasir's spin and contributed with a meaningful half century partnership for the eighth-wicket stand before Pakistan took the second new ball. Afridi wrapped up the innings by having Perera lbw, and one ball later knocked back the off stump of No. 11 batsman Kumara.

In an extended first session of 2 hours, 40 minutes due to Friday prayers, Chandimal held the Sri Lanka innings together after the visitors resumed on 64-3.

Nightwatchman Embuldeniya (13) frustrated the fast bowlers for over half an hour before falling to an awful stroke.

Babar Azam missed a regulation catch that could have dismissed Embuldeniya on 11 in Naseem's third over before Abbas struck. Embuldeniya strangely attempted a swat sweep against Abbas but got a leading edge and was caught in the second slip.

Afridi then found the inside edge of Angelo Mathews' bat as the former Sri Lanka captain struggled in negotiating with the seam bowling of the three fast bowlers. But Chandimal and Dhananjaya settled in for a 67-run sixth wicket stand. Afridi broke the threatening stand in his second spell when Dhananjaya top-edged a pull shot and was caught at fine leg, before Chandimal and Dickwella ended Pakistan further success and took the lunch at 170-6.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Pakistan 191 & 57/0 (Shan Masood 21\*, Abid Ali 32\*) vs Sri Lanka 271 in 85.5 ovs (Dinesh Chandimal 74, Dilruwan Perera 48; Shaheen Shah Afridi 5/77, Mohammad Abbas 4/55).



# Tale of a storied ground

Sidhu's sixes, Dharmani's break, Ranjitsinhji's ton, Dhruv's memories and now Markande's fiver

**GAURAV BHATT**  
PATIALA, DECEMBER 20

WHENEVER MERCURY dipped below comfort level in Patiala, cricket stopped but cricket talk picked up. Walking over peanut shells, among huddles of spectators, one could listen in on muttered tales of the historic ground, modeled after Lord's by Maharajas, the red soil brought in from Australia. On the final day, the sun was in full force as Punjab cleaned up Hyderabad, securing an innings and 125 run win thanks to Mayank Markande's 5/19. Action over in a session, over endless cups of chai, finally unraveled conversations about the several legends surrounding the Baradari cricket ground.



You know how the story goes. Navjot Singh Sidhu, spurred by criticism of his batting approach, would hit 125 sixes daily and practice for hours. Not a hint of hyperbole, according to those who watched him do so at the ground. "Like a man possessed. His father too, sat there by the nets and kept watch daily," says Jagdeep, who has been a groundsman at the stadium since the late 70s.

"You will get tired if I list Sherry's memorable innings on this ground. So many centuries, big sixes to count," says septuagenarian Talwinder Singh, former Punjab Ranji coach who helped Sidhu become the first Patiala-born Test cricketer.

Then there was the match where Sidhu didn't get to bat at all. In 1986, when Ranji ties used to be three-day affairs, Haryana came visiting and batted for two-and-a-half days, allowing Punjab the final session to bat during which Sidhu didn't take the crease. Next season, Punjab returned the favour at Faridabad.

Current coach Munish Bali came to Patiala as a young hopeful from Hoshiarpur in 1989. Bali recalls: "One special match I remember is when the champion Punjab Under-19 team faced England Under-19 here in 1993. These stands were filled with my schoolmates, and I felt extra swagger as I was captaining Pankaj Dharmani, Amit Sharma, Anurag Thakur against Michael Vaughan."

It is the ground that rocket-strapped Dharmani to the Indian team. An unbeaten century in the practice match against Mark Taylor-led Australian team featuring Gilchrist, Waugh Brothers, McGrath and Gillespie got him a nod for the 1996 Titan Cup. "Usually, the ball would hit the centre of my bat at this wicket. Against them, it hit the steeper," says Dharmani. "They were a tad quicker and got bounce. But I dug in and frustrated them. That was the turning point for my career."

Dharmani, who played an ODI and was in the squad for the Tests in South Africa, was part of Punjab's only Ranji Trophy triumph in 1992-93 alongside Navjot Sidhu. "It's a good sign for the future that Punjab is doing well and that the matches are back in Patiala."

In spirit, it's a Ranji's-come-home moment.



He had already beguiled the English with his leg-glances in County and Test cricket, but it was in Patiala that Ranjitsinhji got his first taste of Indian cricket. Playing for the Tenth Maharaja Rajinder Singh, Ranjitsinhji scored centuries against 'Simla' and 'Umballa', and received Purdy guns and jeweled studs for his efforts.

Debates flare up on whether Rajinder wanted to recreate Lord's or not, enough to send multiple sets of thumbs dancing on the Google search bar, scouring old Lord's photos.

The old-world charm of the neo-gothic Raj architecture is undeniable. But the most alluring sights, as often are, remain out of bounds. The old pavilion has been cordoned off while the dressing rooms, which seated Amarnath and Sons, are stand behind a fence and are strictly for the members and guests



The old-world charm of the neo-gothic Raj architecture is undeniable at the Baradari cricket ground in Patiala. *Harmeet Sodhi*

at the adjoining Mahindra Club and Gymkhana.

Sure, it's Lord's: if you trade Regent's Park for Children's Park and are willing to give up St. John's Wood station for 21-number faatak behind the west stands. The visual of trains passing behind the west stands does further the aesthetic, and the sound can mask small edges, as happened once during Hyderabad's first innings.

A comparison with 'The Home of Cricket', however, is not far-fetched, seeing how son and eighth Maharaja Bhupinder named the stadium in Bombay after Lord Brabourne and called it 'the Lord's of India'.

Talwinder extends the idea of the setting to a general, idyllic, County ground. "Maharaja Rajinder was a big fan of County cricket. He was also aware that not everyone can go to England, so this stadium was to bring County to India," says Talwinder.

Bhupinder went several steps ahead, organising the 1911 England tour of the Indian team, employing elite cricketers such as Frank Tarrant as player/coach for the Maharaja XI (Tarrant, in turn, scouted a young Lala Amarnath and gifted India its first Test centurion) and covered expenses for pavilions and trophies, including the Ranji trophy, established at the time of his close friend Ranjitsinhji.

Ninth Maharaja Yadavindra Singh played a Test but gravitated towards the administrative aspects of cricket before becoming a diplomat in the post-independent India. The unofficial tenth, current Chief Minister Captain Amrinder Singh's valued contribution to the stadium was during his first stint in the early 2000s, when he restored the tower and got the clock ticking, which allegedly had "been standing still since the partition".

During last month's Kartarpur Corridor meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, Amrinder informed the World Cup-winning captain that his uncle Jahangir Khan had played for Maharaja Yadvinder Singh's XI in Patiala in 1934-35, "along with Mohammad Nisar, Lala Amarnath, fast bowler Amar Singh and the two Ali batsmen (Wazir Ali and Amir Ali)".



Dhruv Pandove, left his name imprinted on the Ranji Trophy and the cricket stadium which led to its genesis. Widely considered to be the next big thing in Indian cricket, Dhruv was killed in a road accident near Ambala while returning from the 1992 Deodhar Trophy quarterfinal, days after becoming the youngest to score 1000 Ranji runs at 17 years.

"His peers Kambl, Ganguly, Kumble would tell you how great a talent he was. But he was a better human being," says coach Amar Singh. "He once gave Rs 20,000 to a groundsman for his daughter's wedding. Paid the fees of six of the trainees at the academy here."

Dhruv's cousin Akul Pandove, who made his debut this week, says the heaviness in his heart overshadowed any nerves present. "It was very emotional for me," says the 22-year-old off-spinner, who took three wickets in Hyderabad's second innings. "It also feels like destiny, that I made a debut at the place where Dhruv made his name and it's now named after him. I hear stories of how great he was as a cricketer and a human, and in both senses, I've got big shoes to fill."

Including Akul, there were seven players from Patiala who played against Hyderabad, a sign of the power shift in the state after Chandigarh's exit. The ground didn't host a Punjab match for 17 years between 1997-2014. When a match was played at the ground, a bus was reserved to daily ferry top stars from Chandigarh, on account of inadequate hotels in Patiala. This was the first Punjab match in three years, with two more are scheduled; ample chance for this crop to create a fresh batch of memories. "I don't know the history, or Maharaja stories. My best memory is starting as a fast-bowler here," laughs the 22-year-old Markande. "The five-wicket haul today is another."

It's been out in the cold awhile, but the sun currently shines on the cricket ground in Baradari. **BRIEF SCORES:** Hyderabad 242 & 76 all out (Himalay Agarwal 21; Mayank Markande 5/19) lost to Punjab; 4/3 for 6d (Mandeep Singh 204; Mohammed Siraj 4/77)

## Baroda's Abhimanyu holds nerve in thriller

**DEVENDRA PANDEY**  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 20

ABHIMANYU SINGH waits for such "MS Dhoni moments", as he terms them. Ever since he started playing cricket and was awed by Dhoni's famous chases, he wanted to be like his idol. The young 21-year-old Baroda all-rounder started with a match-turning 27 in a low-scoring thriller to enable Baroda beat Madhya Pradesh. The equation had come down to 17 runs with two wickets in hand and they would lose one more wicket but he took them home.

"My colleagues call me 'finisher'. They believe I will come back only after finishing any game," Abhimanyu says. Like Dhoni, he always wanted to be the one who doesn't choke under pressure, instead performs even as the pressure suffocates the opposition. And he got his chance on Friday in Indore.

On a green top, chasing 174, Baroda had lost their No.8 batsman Anureet Singh after a vital 34-run stand for the eighth wicket that had revived them from 123 for 7.

The No. 10 batsman Soheb Sopariya hung around valiantly as Abhimanyu bridged the gap down with twos and the odd four.

When he needed just four more, Sopariya fell, bowled by Kuldeep Sen and Lukeman Meriwala came to the crease. "I just told Meriwala to somehow play out those remaining deliveries in that over. I told him that I will manage if you give me strike but don't get out. I wanted to win this won, one doesn't get so close games often," Abhimanyu says.

Lukeman Meriwala survived and the field spread out.

Eight men were patrolling the boundary but when Abhimanyu got a full ball, he crashed it through covers for the match-winning boundary to enable Baroda get maximum points from the game for an outright

**The young 21-year-old Baroda all-rounder started with a match-turning 27 in a low-scoring thriller to enable Baroda beat Madhya Pradesh.**

victory. It was a vital win as Baroda had lost to Mumbai in their first game.

"I have been in such situations before. I love to bat in pressure situations. I learned it from watching MS Dhoni. Just take it till the last and let pressure decide the course of the game. I loved to bat in pressure situations. In junior cricket too I have been in such situations and have done well under pressure," Abhimanyu said.

A few years ago, during an under 19 match, on a turner, he had slammed 149 against Karnataka, which had caught everyone's eye. But not long after, a back injury forced Abhimanyu to take a break from the game for more than a year. The comeback process was tough but he found emotional support from his family.

His father Viramsingh wanted to be a cricketer himself but couldn't pursue his dreams and he decided to help his son. Vikramsingh moved his family from the small district of Maharashtra - Nandurbar - to Vadodara to get proper cricket coaching for his son. To ensure his son got quality practice, Vikramsingh built a cement pitch to train at home.

"He used to bowl to me for hours. It's because of him and support of my coaches I'm here," says Abhimanyu.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Madhya Pradesh 125 and 270 lost to Baroda 222 and 174/9 (Kedar Devdhar 48, Abhimanyu Singh Rajput 27 not out; Avesh Khan 4/54, Kuldeep Sen 3/28) by 1 wicket.

## RANJI ROUND-UP

### Delhi thrashed by 9 wickets

**Ongole:** Medium pace duo of K V Sasikanth and Cheepurapalli Stephen returned with five wickets each as Andhra Pradesh notched up a comprehensive nine-wicket win over Delhi in their Group A Ranji Trophy match here on Friday. Sasikanth claimed three wickets on Friday to go with his two on day 3, while Stephen, who broke Delhi's back with four wickets on Thursday, picked up another one as the visitors folded for 169. **PTI**

**BRIEF SCORES:** Delhi: 215 & 169 (Lalit Yadav 55; KV Sasikanth 5/41, CV Stephen 5/91) lost by nine wickets to Andhra: 368 and 20/1 (G Manish 15 not out; Simarjeet Singh 1/12).

**POINTS:** Andhra 6, Delhi 0

### Nazir, Mudhasir shine in J&K win

**Pune:** Debutant Digvijay Deshmukh's gritty 83 while batting at No. 8 went in vain as Jammu and Kashmir beat Maharashtra by 54 runs on the final day of their Group C game. In his debut first class match, the 21-year-old Deshmukh was the lone Maharashtra batsman who made a semblance of a fight as his 83 came from just 71 deliveries. For Jammu & Kashmir, right-arm medium-pacers Mohammed Mudhasir (4 for 83) and Umar Nazir (4/86) did most of the damage. Nazir finished with match figures of 9 for 116. **PTI**

**BRIEF SCORES:** Jammu & Kashmir 209 & 263 bt Maharashtra 109 & 309 all out in 86.1 overs (Digvijay Deshmukh 83, Raturaj Gaiwalkar 71, MS Trunkwala 54; M Mudhasir 4/84, Umar Nazir 4/86). **POINTS:** J&K: 6 points, Maharashtra: 0.

### UP battle for draw, Karnataka take lead

**Hubli:** Hosts Karnataka took the first innings lead against Uttar Pradesh, as their Elite Group B Ranji Trophy game ended in a draw. After bundling out Uttar Pradesh for 281 in the first innings, courtesy a valiant half-century by all-rounder Shreyas Gopal (58), Karnataka posted 321 on the board to take a slender 40-run lead. In their second essay, Uttar Pradesh resumed the fourth and the final day at 29/1. Uttar Pradesh had to bat the entire day to salvage a draw and opener Almas Shaukat (103 not out) scored an unbeaten ton to ensure that the visitors don't end up losing the game. Shaukat had to bat as long as possible and he exactly did that. Shaukat remained on the crease for 210 balls. In the next round starting from December 25, Karnataka take on Himachal Pradesh in Mysuru, while Uttar Pradesh play against Saurashtra at Rajkot. **PTI**

**BRIEF SCORES:** Uttar Pradesh 281 & 204/3 (Almas Shaukat 103 not out; Madhav Kaushik 45, David Mathias 1-27) versus Karnataka 321 **POINTS:** Karnataka 3, UP 1.

### Innings win for Saurashtra

**Visakhapatnam:** Medium pacer Jaydev Unadkat took six wickets for 23 runs as Saurashtra completed an innings and 90-run win over the Railways. Arindam Ghosh and Avinash Yadav made 30s for Railways but none of the others batsmen made any major contributions. Fast bowler Chetan Sakariya took two wickets and left-arm spinner Dharmendrasinh Jadeja took two wickets each. Arpit Vasavada made an unbeaten 134 for Saurashtra. **BRIEF SCORES:** Railways 248 all out & 141 all out in 54.4 ovs (A Ghosh 38, Avinash Yadav 38; J Unadkar 6/23) lost to Saurashtra 479/9d in 136 ovs **POINTS:** Saurashtra 7, Railways 0.

## [SPORTS BAR]



### Mirabai Chanu wins gold at Qatar

Former world champion weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu notched up the women's 49kg category gold medal to open India's account at the 6th Qatar International Cup here on Friday. Chanu won gold with an effort of 194kg in the Olympic qualifying event, the points from which will come in handy when the final rankings for Tokyo 2020 cut are done. However, it was a performance way below her personal best of 201kg. The 2018 Commonwealth Games gold-medallist, who managed to register only one clean lift in both the snatch and clean and jerk categories. The 24-year-old Manipuri lifted 83kg in snatch and 111kg in clean and jerk to finish on top of the podium.

### IOA to decide on CWG bid on Dec 30

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) will take a decision on whether it should approach the government for a bid to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games during its Annual General Meeting here on December 30. The 2026 CWG bid and IOA's proposal to withdraw from the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games for dropping shooting from its roster will be the top agenda of the AGM to be held at its headquarters in New Delhi. IOA Secretary General Rajeev Mehta said it is up to the members to approve or reject the proposal.



Sumit Nagal is currently ranked at 130 in the world.

### Nagal hopes to break into top-20

Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal on Friday said he was aiming to break into the top 100 of the ATP rankings and then look at being in the 80s in the quest for an Olympics spot. "Like I said first it is the top 100 then look for the top 80 and look for the Olympics spot. I think it is around 80-85 to make it to the Olympics," he told reporters here on the sidelines of an event organised by Aspire High Performance Tennis Programme. Nagal, who is currently ranked 130 in the ATP rankings, after having a good season during which he qualified for the US Open main draw and also took a set off the legendary Roger Federer, is presently training at the Aspire Foundation centre at IIT-Madras premises here ahead of the 2020 season. The Indian made it to the semi-final or better of eight ATP Challengers this year, going through to the final twice and winning the title in Buenos Aires. He had wins over former world no 17 Albert Ramos-Vinolas and former world no 24 Martin Klizan and made it to the main draw of an ATP 500 (at Hamburg) for the first time in his career.

### Lohan records breakthrough win

Faridabad-based Abhinav Lohan recorded his breakthrough win on the PGTI, securing a narrow one-shot triumph at the Bengaluru Open golf championship here on Friday. The 30-year-old Lohan, who plays at the DLF Golf & Country Club in Gurugram, shot four-under 68 to take his four-day total to 13-under-275 at the Rs. 40 lakh event played at the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA) course. It was Lohan's first title on the TATA Steel PGTI and second win of the year as he had also emerged victorious at the PGTI Feeder Tour event in Lucknow two months back.



### Expert coaches needed, says Bhupathi

Former India Davis Cup captain Mahesh Bhupathi said young players in the country needed expert coaches to guide them to perform better at the international level. "Across India there is a lot of talent, but there is lack of expertise when it comes to coaching and proper guidance which prevents them from doing well at the international level," Bhupathi said. "I have seen this journey play out over the years. There's never been any doubt in anyone's mind about it." He recalled that there were several players who were in top five in the rankings at junior level in the 1990s, but could not go on to do bigger things. "I can tell you at the junior level, Sandeep (Kirtane), Nitin (Kirtane), Rohit Reddy and others were all top five in juniors, but they were not able to do well in the men's seniors as they were not able to get the right guidance," he added.

### Panthers beat Rhinos in Big Bout league

Punjab Panthers on Friday registered an overwhelming 5-2 victory over NE Rhinos to set up a Big Bout Indian Boxing League summit clash against Gujarat Giants. The Panthers won four bouts in a row to overturn the 2-1 advantage that the NE Rhinos had got through Meenakshi and Francisco Veron after Sonia Lather drew first blood. Naveen Kumar used his extra height, reach and body weight to bring the Panthers back on track. The India Open silver medallist had ceded some ground to Ergashev Timur in the opening round of the 91kg bout but gradually took control of the bout.

# Arteta called to set 'home' in order

Former midfielder returns as Arsenal coach; says ready to 'give every drop of blood' to make the club better

REUTERS  
DECEMBER 20

NEW ARSENAL boss Mikel Arteta said he was confident he would have the London club challenging for top honours again and asked for patience after being appointed head coach on a 3-1/2 year contract on Friday.

Arteta, who made 149 appearances for Arsenal between 2011 and 2016 before joining Manchester City's coaching staff as Pep Guardiola's assistant, replaces fellow Spaniard Unai Emery at the Emirates Stadium.

"This is a huge honour. Arsenal is one of the biggest clubs in the world. We need to be competing for the top trophies in the game," the former Arsenal captain said in a statement. "We all know there is a lot of work to be done to achieve that but I am confident we'll do it. I'm realistic enough to know it won't happen overnight but the current squad has plenty of talent and there is a great pipeline of young players coming through from the academy."

Arsenal are 10th in the Premier League table, seven points behind fourth-placed Chelsea, after five victories in 17 matches this season and travel to 16th-placed Everton for Saturday's early kickoff.

Emery was sacked last month after Arsenal's 2-1 Europa League home defeat by Eintracht Frankfurt which extended their winless run in all competitions to seven games, their worst streak since February 1992 under George Graham.

Soon after Arteta's appointment was announced, the 48-year-old Emery told the BBC that Arsenal had made the right choice in appointing the rookie. "He really is prepared to make that next jump," Emery said. "I do believe this is a good decision and I would also like it to be a good decision."

Arteta, who has never managed a club before, was named by British media as one of the candidates in the running to replace former Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger in 2018 before the club appointed Emery.

The 37-year-old has enjoyed great success



Mikel Arteta signed a 3 and a half-year contract to lead Arsenal. Reuters

at City, assisting Pep Guardiola as he guided the club to successive league titles.

Guardiola wished his former assistant success in his new job. "I'm pretty sure he will do a great job," Guardiola said. "He decided to move there. You cannot stop it, (you must) follow your dreams and Arsenal was a big part of his career." Arsenal's head of football Raul Sanllehi said Arteta stood out as the perfect person among several top-class candidates.

"We look forward to him getting down to work and bringing the best out of our squad as we work to get our season back on track," he said. After Arsenal's 3-0 league defeat by Manchester City on Sunday, interim boss

Freddie Ljungberg urged the club to make a quick decision on their next permanent manager. Arsenal director Josh Kroenke, son of the club's majority owner Stan Kroenke, and Sanllehi both thanked Ljungberg for his three-week stewardship.

### 'Will end on a high'

Interim Everton boss Duncan Ferguson has said he would like to sign off on a high if Saturday's early Premier League kickoff against Arsenal is to be his final game in charge of the Merseyside club.

The former striker, a longtime member of Everton's coaching staff, was handed the reins

**I will give every drop of blood for this football club to make it better. I know the expectations and the stature of this club and what it deserves. I've got a good vibe. I'm sensing a good energy. I feel so happy!"**

MIKEL ARTETA  
ON HIS NEW STINT

after Marco Silva was sacked earlier this month when Everton dropped into the relegation zone following a 5-2 defeat by Liverpool. Ferguson has steadied the ship since taking over, beating Chelsea at home and drawing at Manchester United in the league, and losing to Leicester City on penalties in the League Cup. Everton, who are now 16th in the standings, are expected to announce a new permanent manager soon, with Carlo Ancelotti widely reported to be the front-runner for the position.

"If it is to end tomorrow, then hopefully it will end on a high," Ferguson told a news conference on Friday. "The players have been incredible. I'm happy with the job I've done... I think we've got a little bit of the club back, back to the fans. We've all pulled together... (but) we're still in a perilous position."

"We've proved that we can beat top teams. We need to sustain that now... we need to continue it, push up the league and away from the relegation zone."

Ferguson said he did not know who Everton would unveil as their next boss and added that he would like to keep working at the club. "I've not spoken to anyone," he said. "It'd be fantastic to work under a top manager... Nobody knows the players better than me. I hope whoever comes in uses me."

He conceded, however, being aware of reports that Ancelotti, a three-times Champions League winner who has also won domestic league titles in England (with Chelsea), Italy, Germany and France, was in the frame.

## India accounts for 7% of world's dope cheats

Doping cases in international sport rose 13 percent in 2017 against the year before. India, once again, features in the top 10 of the countries with highest doping cases

**1,804 CHEATS, 114 NATIONALITIES, 93 SPORTS**

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) reported 1,804 Anti-Doping Rule Violations in the year 2017, a rise from 1,595 in 2016, according to its annual report released on Thursday. The report added the cases in 2017 involved people from 114 nationalities, across 93 sports.

### ITALY HAS MOST OFFENDERS

According to the report, Italy had the largest number of infractions, at 171, followed by France at 128 and the United States with 103. Brazil had 84 and Russia 82. Coincidentally, WADA's report was released on the same day that Russia said it would contest its ban from major sporting events over doping violations.

WADA had banned Russia from major global events -- including the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 World Cup in Qatar -- for four years for widespread, state-sponsored doping. China, India, Belgium, Spain and South Africa completed the list of top 10 nations with doping violations for the period covered by WADA's report.

### ATHLETICS, MOST NOTORIOUS OLYMPIC SPORT

Although Bodybuilding had the most number of violations - 266 - athletics had the highest number of offenders among Olympic sports (242) followed by cycling, with 218. Weightlifting had 123 cases, while football had 78 dope cheats. Wrestling (57), boxing (49) and aquatics (32) were other disciplines that had most offenders.

### INDIA'S BREAK-UP

SPORT	NO. OF DOPING OFFENCES
Athletics	20
Weightlifting	11
Powerlifting	9
Boxing	4
Wrestling	4
Bodybuilding	3
Cricket	1
Hockey	1
Football	1
Para-powerlifting	1
Taekwondo	1
Volleyball	1
Male: 40	Female: 16
Total: 57	

The gender of one athlete isn't revealed. The athlete was suspended on the basis of investigation and intelligence, without detection of prohibited substances. Source: WADA

### INDIA PLACED SEVENTH

With 57 violations, India was ranked seventh on WADA's list. Along with China and Belgium, the country accounts for seven percent of the world's dope cheats. In 2016, India was placed sixth, with 69 anti-doping violations, while the year before that, the rank was third. It is likely that India will rise substantially on the list when WADA releases its figures for 2019, considering that 156 athletes have been caught for doping till November 30 this year. In the last couple of weeks, in fact, four Olympic aspirants tested positive.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

## Master vs apprentice: Jose hosts former club, Lampard

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
LONDON, DECEMBER 20

FRANK LAMPARD will lock horns with former boss Jose Mourinho in a Premier League London derby this weekend as second-placed Leicester City seek to take advantage of Liverpool's absence at Manchester City.

Elsewhere, out-of-form Arsenal travel to Everton and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer takes his Manchester United side to bottom club Watford. League leaders Liverpool, who have a 10-point lead at the top of the table, are away at the Club World Cup in Qatar.

When Jose Mourinho took over as Tottenham Hotspur boss last month, his side were 12 points behind Frank Lampard's Chelsea and looked out of the running for the top four.

But Spurs will leapfrog their London rivals into fourth place in the Premier League if they come out on top on Sunday in a match pitting the grizzled Portuguese veteran against one of his key players during their time together at Stamford Bridge.

It is not the first time the pair have locked horns from opposing dugouts. Lampard came out on top last season when he took his Derby side to play Manchester United at Old Trafford in the League Cup, but both have since moved on to new clubs.

Chelsea have stumbled in recent weeks, losing four of their past five Premier League matches, with the boss hinting at striking reinforcements in the January transfer window. The mood is different at Spurs.

Former player Ledley King said confidence was back and the top four was a realistic goal.

"(Mourinho) is a winner," he told Sky Sports. "He's won everything. From my experience if someone like that comes into your club you listen, you take everything on board and you try to soak up as much as you can."

### Leicester's tough task

Leicester must realistically beat Manchester City and Liverpool in their next two matches to stand any chance of winning a second Premier League title in five seasons. A win for Brendan Rodgers' high-flying team on Saturday would close the gap to Liverpool to seven points ahead of their summit meeting with the Premier League leaders on December 26.

Defending champions City, on the other hand, can move to within one point of Leicester if they end the Foxes' nine-match unbeaten league run.

Rodgers urged his side to keep their progress in perspective after their run of eight straight wins was ended by Norwich last week.

"We are a team that's been developing over this last nine, 10 months from a mid-table position and now people are talking about challenging for titles," he said.

"For us our feet are very firmly on the ground and the players have been absolutely amazing."

### Solskjaer's United conundrum

How will Ole Gunnar Solskjaer approach Sunday's match away at lowly



Lampard came out on top last season when he took his Derby side to play at Old Trafford in the League Cup. Reuters

Watford? United have notched up some memorable results against the top clubs this season, beating Chelsea, Tottenham and Manchester City and drawing against leaders Liverpool.

But they have slipped up against the weaker sides, but totalled just one point from the four matches against Southampton, West Ham, Newcastle and Bournemouth.

United are unbeaten in their past six Premier League games but stumbled to a draw against Everton last week, losing some of their recent momentum.

Solskjaer's team have been at their best this season when conceding possession and using the searing pace of Marcus Rashford, Daniel James and the others on the break.

United enjoyed just 28 percent possession during their recent 2-1 win against Manchester City but when they are expected to dominate they struggle to unlock defences, as happened against Everton.

Solskjaer must find a way to inject more creativity into his midfield if he is to continue his drive towards the top four.

**FIXTURES: Saturday**-Everton v Arsenal, Bournemouth v Burnley, Aston Villa v Southampton, Brighton v Sheffield United, Newcastle v Crystal Palace, Norwich v Wolves, Manchester City v Leicester. **Sunday**- Watford v Manchester United, Tottenham v Chelsea.

## Infantino defends awarding event to China amid Uighur outcry

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
DOHA, DECEMBER 20

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has defended the decision to award the hosting of his much-vaunted new Club World Cup to China despite the country facing international condemnation for the treatment of its Uighur minority.

"Maybe that with going there, playing there, in China or anywhere else in the world, people will continue to speak about topics like this, to raise these questions, and maybe eventually the situations for people are going to improve," Infantino said to journalists on Friday in Doha.

There has been an international outcry at China's rounding-up of an estimated one million Uighurs and other mostly Muslim ethnic minorities in internment camps in the northwestern region of Xinjiang.

On Friday the European Parliament called for targeted sanctions to be imposed against Chinese officials. The issue crossed over into football last week when the Arsenal player Mesut Ozil, a German international of Turkish origin, condemned the treatment of the Uighur minority in a Twitter post.

In response, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV pulled its coverage of Arsenal's Premier League game against Manchester City. Ozil has also been deleted from Chinese versions of the popular Pro Evolution Soccer (PES) mobile game. Arsenal, however, distanced themselves from their player's comments.

Infantino is in Qatar for Saturday's Club World Cup final, with Liverpool facing Flamengo to decide the winner of what is currently a seven-team event.

Next year's competition will be the last in its current format before it goes to China as an expanded 24-team tournament to be held in June and July of 2021.

FIFA was also heavily criticised for awarding the 2022 World Cup to Qatar despite concerns over the country's treatment of migrant workers, including those involved in the construction of stadiums.

However, Infantino said that world football's governing body could not "solve issues that the world is not capable of solving." He added: "How many billions in trade is done every year by everyone in the world with all these countries that are criticised?"

"Nobody seems to have a problem with that. Suddenly it comes to football and there is a problem."

**Maybe that with going there, playing there, in China or anywhere else in the world, people will continue to speak about topics like this, to raise these questions, and maybe eventually the situations for people are going to improve,"**

GIANNI INFANTINO  
ON HIS NEW STINT

# INFLUENZA A (H1 N1)

Protect Yourself From

## SWINE FLU

Swine Flu is an influenza virus causing illness in people

SYMPTOMS	OTHER SYMPTOMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fever and running nose</li> <li>Cough and sore throat</li> <li>Difficulty in breathing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Body Ache and Headache</li> <li>Fatigue and Chills</li> <li>Diarrhoea and Vomiting</li> <li>Blood in Sputum</li> </ul>
<p><b>HIGH RISK GROUP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People with Chronic medical conditions</li> <li>Pregnant Women</li> <li>Above 65 years or older</li> <li>Children younger than 5 years of age</li> </ul>	<p><b>PATIENTS HAVING FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fever 101°F</li> <li>Sick look</li> <li>Difficulty in breathing</li> </ul>

**Should get immediately admitted in nearest health facility**

DO'S

- Say Namaste instead of shaking hands or hugs
- Cough and sneeze in your hand or tissues and wash immediately
- Wash hands frequently, when not possible use a hand sanitizer
- Avoid close contact with people having cough or cold
- Avoid touching your face, mouth and nose with your hands
- People with symptoms should avoid public places till symptoms subside
- Drink plenty of water and eat nutritious food
- Adopt healthy lifestyle

DON'TS

- Shake hands or hug in greeting
- Take medicines without consulting a physician
- Spit in public

Do not PANIC or spread RUMOURS

**IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE H1N1 FLU**

- Visit the nearest Government Health Institutions
- Stay at home, if advised by the doctor. Do not travel or go to work or school
- Avoid close contact with others for 7 days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom free for 24 hours whichever is longer

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE NEAREST HEALTH FACILITY**

**National Health Mission, Health Department, Haryana**