

What does a nation's architecture say about its aspirations, politics and drawbacks?

SUNDAY STORY PAGE 11

Here lies your data

With the government introducing a data protection Bill, a look at the country's data centre market

BIG PICTURE PAGES 12-13

Jamia Square

Why Jamia, a university with no student union and no history of protests, is the focal point of anti-CAA unrest



ANTI-CAA DEMONSTRATIONS

Protests spread across UP, toll now 15, CM Adityanath issues appeal for peace

Among dead, 8-yr-old in Varanasi; DGP denies any casualties in police firing

MANISH SAHU, AVANEESH MISHRA, ASAD REHMAN & KAUNAIN SHERIFF M LUCKNOW, KANPUR, AMROHA, DECEMBER 21

WITH VIOLENCE in Rampur leaving one dead and five injured on Saturday, the total number of deaths in the three days of protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act in Uttar Pradesh has reached 15, including an eight-year-old boy.

Earlier, four deaths were reported from Meerut, two each from Firozabad, Kanpur, Sambhal, Bijnor, and one each from Lucknow and Varanasi. The eight-year-old was killed and another minor left injured in a stampede that followed a police lathicharge in Varanasi Friday. Another person injured in the stampede is said to be serious.

In the evening, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath made an appeal to religious leaders and intellectuals to help the administration maintain peace and to spread "actual information" on the CAA. Internet has been suspended in several major cities of the state, including Lucknow.

Violence was also reported from Bihar, with at least 24 people receiving injuries, including bullet injuries. There was large-scale vandalism and disruption of rail and road traffic during a bandh called by opposition parties against the CAA.

In Delhi, that saw violent clashes Friday, security remained tight in the affected areas of Old Delhi and Seemapuri.

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Policemen on guard at Court Chowraha in Amroha on Saturday following Friday's clash. Praveen Khanna

After five deaths, anger, unsteady calm in Meerut

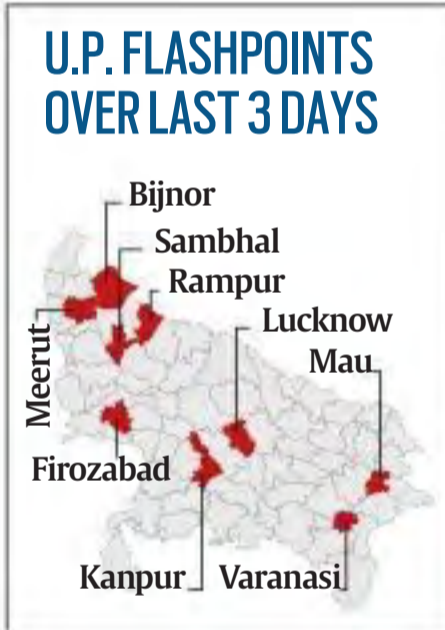
KRISHN KAUSHIK MEERUT, DECEMBER 21

AS THE evening sun went down, the body of Areef was lowered into a grave in the Ahmednagar area. Nearby was an empty grave, waiting for its occupant who, the locals said, had also been killed in police firing during the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests in the city on Friday. His body, they said, was being brought in.

As hundreds of locals walked down the narrow lanes of the neighbourhood to bury their youth, the mood was taut. Police confirmed that five people had been killed in the violence that erupted on Friday afternoon — apart from Areef, in his early 20s, were 33-year-old Zaheer, 30-year-old Asif and 28-year-old Mohsin, all local youths,

and Asif, a 20-year-old resident of Jhimil Colony in Delhi. Though both police and residents blamed each other for starting the violence, the protesters said no shots were fired from their side, a claim the police contests.

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Cause or symptom or both: BJP, Oppn watch with fingers crossed

RAVISH TIWARI NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

WHILE THE week of nationwide protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens is yet to ring serious alarm bells within the BJP or government, there is a growing realisation in sections of the party of the need for political spadework.

As the demonstrations spread from Darbhanga to Malegaon, these sections believe the protests can't be dismissed simply as led by "a coalition of the marginalised minority and the liberal losers of 2014 and 2019" — a description the BJP likes to use. For, this is, arguably, the first time in the country that

Muslims are coming out in such strong numbers to protest against a law, invoking their rights as enshrined in the Constitution.

On Saturday, the BJP announced a "massive contact programme", to be held over the next 10 days, to clear "confusion" over the CAA, claiming it has been spread by vested interests. As part of the campaign, it will hold press conferences at 250 places across the country.

BJP working president J P Nadda also held a meeting of party office-bearers from states on Saturday to chalk out a strategy.

"Since the victory of the Modi government in 2014, the Muslims have felt marginalised

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Yediyurappa reaches out to victims of Mangalore police firing

JOHNSON TA MANGALORE, DECEMBER 21

THE BJP government in Karnataka will consider building houses for the families of two Muslim victims of police firing in the city of Mangalore during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act on Thursday, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said on Saturday following a visit to Mangalore to meet the families and local officials.

"I spoke for a while to the families of the persons who died in the police firing on Thursday to understand their emotions

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Amid CAA anger, Assam readies land rights for its indigenous people

ABHISHEK SAHA GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 21

AS ANGER builds in the state over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, seen as a threat to its culture, the Assam government on Saturday announced a slew of measures to protect the interests of the indigenous people of the state, including giving them rights so that their land is not sold to "infiltrators", and safeguarding of Assamese language and culture.

"In the coming Assembly session, the government will bring in two new laws. First one will be for securing land rights of indigenous people. The outlines of the law were discussed in the Cabinet today... After we bring the law, an indigenous person can sell his/her land to an indigenous person only, not to anyone else," Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said at a press conference Saturday.

The second law, he said, will be regarding preserving land surrounding the heritage sites of Assam, including the Vaishnavite monasteries known as Xatras, preventing any kind of illegal occupation or sale of it.

With the definition of 'in-

EXPLAINED Question: Who is an indigenous?

WHILE THE Sonowal government hopes to contain anger over the CAA with the measures announced Saturday, the definition of 'indigenous' people of the state is fraught with risk. A committee set up to determine this as part of implementation of an Assam Accord clause is dealing with contesting cut-off dates.

digenous' person a contentious matter, the minister said they are waiting for a committee set up to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord. "Otherwise, we have readied a definition of our own... The basic motto of the law is that an indigenous can sell land to an indigenous — a Himanta Biswa Sarma can sell to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Elgar arrests wrong, says Pawar, seeks SIT probe, action against Pune police

ATIKH RASHID PUNE, DECEMBER 21

TERMINING THE arrest of activists in the Elgar Parishad case "wrong" and "vengeful", Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday said he would ask for a Special Investigation Team to probe the action taken by the Pune Police. The NCP is an alliance partner in the coalition government in Maharashtra.

"We will ask the Chief Minister for an SIT... to probe the police action. Facts should be verified," he said, adding that the SIT can be headed by a senior serving or retired officer or a sitting or retired judge.

Agreeing that there were "very strong opinions expressed in the speeches" at the Elgar, Pawar said, "In a democracy, people take such positions. I have seen this in the past, during the Samyukta Maharashtra movement. But people were not booked for treason then... This entire investigation needs to be looked into. It appears that police misused their powers and



Pawar in Pune Saturday. PTI

we can't be mute spectators to this... The conduct of the Pune Police Commissioner and some of his aides is highly objectionable. The action of the Pune Police is wrong and vengeful." Pawar also called for the suspension of police officers involved in the arrests.

On January 1 last year, violence erupted at an event in Pune to mark 100 years of the Bhima-Koregaon battle that left one dead and several injured, including 10 policemen.

Alleging that speeches made by people at the Elgar Parishad, an event organised at Pune's Shaniwar Wada on December

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

5 days later, tear gas shell in hostel, burnt walls, amputations

SOURAV ROY BARMAN ALIGARH, DECEMBER 21

FIVE DAYS after police entered the Aligarh Muslim University campus, allegedly lobbying tear gas shells inside hostel rooms and dragging students out and beating them, the signs of what happened on the night of December 15 can be seen on the premises.

Six injured students continue to be in hospital, while the right hand of one has had to be ampu-



BA student Tazeem Khan has fractures in both his arms. Gajendra Yadav

tated at the wrist. Doctors fear two others may have to undergo amputation.

Police have charged 26 people, including seven students, with attempt to murder, alleging that country-made pistols were used to fire at them. On Saturday, the AMU administration appointed former chief justice V K Gupta to probe the December 15 incidents and submit a report within three months.

The administration has sealed all AMU hostels till

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INSIDE



CAN BYPASS DMs OVER CITIZENSHIP: UNION MINISTER

UP MOVES TO SPOT 'MISCREANTS'

AZAD HELD, SENT TO JUDICIAL CUSTODY

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WORLD



RIOT POLICE ARREST HONG KONG PROTESTERS AFTER CLASHES

TRUMP SIGNS \$1.4 TRILLION PACKAGE, AVERTS SHUTDOWN

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In Odisha district, scientists team up to give farmers a new future

SAMPAD PATNAIK NABARANGPUR, DECEMBER 21

IN ONE of India's poorest districts, a team of scientists from premier central government institutes have joined hands to help farmers find new life — and hope.

"They are helping me improve farming," says Krishna Chandra Nayak, 35, standing amidst his seven acres in Saruguda village. And his calculations on a writing pad tell a story of economic revolution through

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scientific inputs in agriculture.

Nayak is one of 5,000 farmers in Odisha's Nabarangpur district, chosen and mentored under a project called 'Farm-Based S&T Interventions for Socioeconomic Development'

being jointly implemented by 12 central R&D institutes and an 18-member district-level committee of the state government.

The project is being run under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) on a budget of over Rs 6.5 crore over two years. The farmers were chosen through rigorous field visits across the district to select those who could take the risk of switching from traditional crops to high-value crops — and were willing to accept new methods.

In 2015, Nabarangpur was the focus of a year-long assign-



Krishna Nayak grows lemon grass on 2 acres. Sampad Patnaik

ment by The Indian Express to track progress and poverty, following which the state government initiated a number of welfare and governance initiatives in the district.

With top institutes involved in the farm project since August, Nayak is growing lemon grass, turmeric, palmarosa (a grass species) and tulsi. He has started a fish pond and a rose garden, while his fields are fenced by mango, sapota and litchi trees.

"This is a dry and hilly area, where the soil does not hold moisture. It makes more sense

to grow these high-value crops than paddy, which is comparatively water- and labour-intensive, and yields lower profits," he says.

The farming is being supervised by top scientists from the Lucknow-based Central Institute of Medicine and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), while the roses are being monitored by scientists from National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI).

Today, Nayak is confident of a profit of Rs 20,000 from just one crop of lemon grass in two

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VIDEO OF THE DAY



GANDHI LEGACY BILL — WHY CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS HAS SOUGHT \$150 MN

The aim of this Bill is to affirm the friendships of the governments of the US and India and to establish a bilateral partnership, "for collaboration to advance development and shared values, and for other purposes".

CAA PROTESTS LIVE:

Women sing "Manuhor Manuhe Baabe" to protest CAA in Guwahati

FULL COVERAGE



CAA PROTESTS LIVE

Violence in UP's Rampur, Kanpur; several people, including cops, injured

EXPRESS AUDIO

Technology we're looking forward to in 2020

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Will everyone own an AirPods knockoff in 2020? And will the Playstation 5 redefine the gaming experience? Reporters talk their tech forecasts for the next year.

FROM PAGE ONE

Nabarangpur

acres. The turmeric will yield profit of Rs 25,000 per acre, he hopes. The diversification of production basket, he says, over seven acres will give him upwards of Rs 3 lakh in profit.

He contrasts this with the "zero income" that much of the land used to yield because it was "unsuitable for paddy".

Former Nabarangpur MP Balabhadra Majhi, who proposed the project and brought the Centre and state together to work on it, is convinced that science and technology are of more value to the district's nearly two lakh farmers than loan waivers, money transfers, and subsidies.

"In the plateau area of Nabarangpur, people hardly eat root and green vegetables. There was no high-intensity fishery, either. At 250 kg/ha, Nabarangpur's fertiliser consumption, especially in corn cultivation, was staggering against a state average of 50kg/ha. To earn a decent income from agriculture and consume quality produce, one has to understand and apply science and technology," says Majhi.

The institutes involved are mentoring a diverse group of farmers. Bhubaneswar's Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) is training in pisciculture and poultry rearing SC/ST and OBC families. CIMAP will mentor 60 women Self Help Groups in making incense sticks out of tulsi leaves.

BJP rethinks

politically. There has been little representation in Parliament or Assemblies where the BJP has won. Then triple talaq, the insecurity over lynchings, fear about what they eat, Article 370, the Ayodhya ruling... The NRC and CAB have come as a trigger," a senior BJP leader admitted.

The BJP gambit is projecting the protest as limited to a "varg vishesh (select set)", and the vio-

lence as instigated by the Opposition. "What are these protestors espousing over which common cause can be made?" is one BJP line. The other being, "Those organising these protests have always been opposed to us."

However, a growing section in the BJP also realises that if violent images hurt the movement's popularity, counter images of police action, and any casualties, could backfire on its government. Allies like the JD(U) and IJP have expressed disquiet, while the Akali Dal reiterated Saturday that Muslim refugees should not be kept out of the CAA concessions.

The developments also come at a time when the BJP, just months into its second term, is already battling below-expectation performance in Maharashtra and Haryana elections and a deepening economic slowdown.

On the other hand, the Opposition is trying to frame the CAA debate as a rich vs poor issue, underlining that it is the latter who would have to stand in lines, like during the note ban, to prove their citizenship. While it is keeping a distance from the protests, which remain a loosely coordinated effort among sections disaffected with the ruling establishment, it hopes these will gather momentum like the Anna Hazare-led anti-corruption drive of 2010, which added fuel to the resentment against the UPA-II government.

The Opposition is also being cautious as any wrong move on its part would play into the hands of the BJP, and used by it as a polarising issue.

5 days later

January 5, and the campus is now largely deserted but for a small group of women students protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

The residential campus houses around 12,000 students. According to them, protests against the CAA had been on since

December 11, with students taking out marches and speeches by Swaraj India leader Yogendra Yadav and controversial doctor-turned-activist Kafeel Khan.

Around 6.30 pm on December 15, news trickled in of police crackdown inside Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia University earlier that day. The students' union announced a General Body Meeting at 8.30 pm.

By 8 pm, a huge crowd had gathered near the Bab-e-Syed Gate, located close to the residence of Vice-Chancellor Tariq Mansoor. Fearing a ripple effect from Jamia, police presence outside the gate was strengthened.

Soon, some stones were reportedly hurled at police, and a clash began, with police retaliating with tear gas shelling. There are multiple videos doing the rounds of the clash. The violence lasted till 10 pm.

By then, say students, the gathering had thinned out. Around this time, Registrar Abdul Hamid, who is an IPS officer, "requested police to take action to control the situation". As the forces entered the campus, the protesters ran into guesthouses, the Sir Syed Hall auditorium and nearby hostels like Morison Court.

Tazeem Khan, 20, a BA student, was among those who ran inside Guesthouse No. 3. He says he hid inside a toilet with eight others. Admitted at Jawahar Lal Nehru Medical College and Hospital (JNMC) with multiple fractures in both hands, Khan says, "We could hear police going room to room, dragging out people. We hid for about two hours, when police broke open the toilet door, dragged us out and thrashed us, hurling communal abuses," Tazeem, the son of a retired doctor from Allahabad, said.

Dr Hamza Malik, president of the JNMC Residents' Doctor Association, said Tazeem and another student, Anas, may lose a finger. Anas suffered multiple fractures in one hand due to a stun grenade explosion, Malik said.

Police entered the Morison Court Hostel around 10.30 pm. The private security deployed on the campus said they beat up the guard when he objected. Eyewitnesses say police ran down the corridors, tearing away window grilles of hostel rooms. One tear gas shell went off inside Room No. 46, which had three students. Five days later, the canister still lies on one of the beds, with the room walls burnt in patches.

Around the same time as the hostel, police entered Sir Syed Hall and dragged people out.

Mohammad Tariq, 26, pursuing PhD in chemistry, was near the Bab-e-Syed Gate when the violence broke out. "When police started chasing protesters, I ran. At some point I fell and do not know what happened next. Everything went blank," Tariq says. His right wrist had to be amputated due to a tear gas explosion. His right arm was operated upon on Thursday.

Three other students have serious injuries. While one, Nadeem Akhtar (22), has head injuries, Nasir, a BA student, is admitted to JNMC with fractures in hand. Another student, Tabrez, has been referred to Delhi's Sir Ganga Ram Hospital with stomach injuries. Dr Malik said Tabrez had been hit by two tear gas canisters. One ambulance driver telling *The Sunday Express* police had threatened him and others not to help the students. Twenty-one ambulances were pressed into service that night.

Kashmiri students Zubair and Adil, both doing PhD in chemistry, questioned the administration's decision to advance vacations, tell students to leave within 24 hours.

Said AMU PRO Omar Peerzada. "We arranged four buses, with security, for students till J&K. Trains were also specially stopped at Aligarh, with the Centre's help, for students going to Assam, Bengal and Bihar."

Protests spread across UP

Bhim Army chief Chandra Shekhar Azad, who had evaded police all through Friday, was finally arrested around 2 am on Saturday after he emerged from the Jama Masjid and surrendered. He was sent to judicial custody for 14 days.

Uttar Pradesh DGP O P Singh maintained that no death had taken place in the state due to police firing. "All the deaths have been in cross-firing and this will become clear in post-mortem... Women and children were used as shields by protestors," he told reporters in Lucknow Saturday. "If anyone died due to our firing, we will conduct a judicial inquiry and take action. But nothing happened from our side."

Violence began at Rampur's Hati Khana crossing on Saturday morning when protesters allegedly attacked a police team and fired at them. Police countered with lathicharge and tear gas. In the violence, a 27-year-old sweets shop owner, Faiz Khan, was shot in the neck and died. The situation was controlled within an hour.

Police said protesters had gathered at a Rampur Eidgah on a call by six ulemas, and heavy force had been deployed to prevent any untoward incident. They said the group was returning after handing a memorandum

to officials when a big number from among them assembled at Hati Khana, 200 metres from the Eidgah, and started raising slogans.

Calling the violence "pre-planned", "premeditated", District Magistrate, Rampur, Aunjaneya Kumar Singh said the protesters tried to break the police barricades and when police tried to stop them, started pelting stones. There was also firing, a senior officer said.

Police are looking at the role of "outsiders", and searching for local residents who gave them "shelter". "A few miscreants had their faces covered," the DM said, adding that several also had children with them so that police would not act against them. Singh denied that Khan had died in police firing, and said the condition of the five injured is stable.

Khan's brother-in-law Mohammad Shiraj said, "I was not present at the spot but people told me he was shot by police. Faiz was injured in his neck."

The Varanasi minors, police said, were inadvertently caught in a clash when protesters gathered in hundreds in the bylanes of Bajardeeh locality of Bhetupur Police Station, near where three-four of them were playing, Friday. Police said the protesters pelted stones and they hit back with lathis, resulting in the stam-

pede. Varanasi SSP Prabhakar Chaudhary said, "A part of the protestors trampled over the children, not realising what they were doing."

While Mohammad Sageer, 8, succumbed to his injuries, two-three remain in hospital. Varanasi DM Kaushal Raj Sharma said 11 people were injured, apart from eight policemen, in the clash. Sources said the district administration has asked the government to provide ex-gratia to Sageer's family.

In Amroha district, police registered an FIR against at least 55 locals, charging them with rioting and attempt to murder after two separate incidents of stonепelting. On Friday noon, rumours had spread of a scuffle between residents and police over CAA protests in the Vasavangunj area, located 2 km from Amroha's Jama Masjid.

"After this locals from different parts gathered at Court Chauraha after the Friday namaz. In order to control the crowd, police did lathicharge, and there was stonепelting by a few miscreants in response," Akhtar Ali, an Amroha resident, said.

Additional SP Ajay Pratap said they have put up screen-shots across Amroha of video footage to help identify the miscreants. While the situation is

now peaceful, prohibitory orders continue to be in place, including an Internet shutdown, while forces have been deployed around all the mosques.

In Kanpur, a mob torched a police post amid tension in the town, where bodies of two people who died in Friday's protests were brought to the Eidgah.

In Aligarh, police had to use mild force on Friday evening to disperse a large crowd of protesters at Shahjamaal under Delhi Gate Police Station. Aligarh SSP Ashok Kulhari said protests had been peaceful and that 'shahru mufti' Khalid Hamid played an important role in defusing tension.

In the western district of Kasganj, Internet services were suspended following tension, but police described the situation as under control.

Police have filed 124 FIRs in all in connection with the CAA violence in the state, arrested 705, taken into custody around 4,500, and claims to have recovered more than 400 cartridges. Besides, it has lodged 63 FIRs and arrested 102 over hate speech. The arrested include six people from Malda district in West Bengal, police said.

It put the number of its injured personnel at around 263, including 57 who got bullet injuries.

Anger and an unsteady calm in Meerut

At a spot near what is locally called Tiranga Chowk, in front of the City Hospital, the earth was ashen, a reminder of the previous day's violence. Opposite is a lane that leads to a mosque. Locals there told *The Indian Express* that this was where the police opened fire on the youth who had come to participate in a rally.

Mohammad Salim Ansari, a 57-year old local, said several people from different parts of the city had congregated in the area for the rally, which proceeded to the Gola Kuan Suit Market. It was on the way back, he claimed, that "members of the RSS started the violence". He claimed they had come from the neighbouring Hindu localities and "were wearing jeans and had pistols in their hands".

Ansari asserted that the protesters did not fire any shots, a claim that was supported by about a dozen men standing near him. The men said they want peace and accused the government of trying to create a rift between Hindus and Muslims.

Gajender, standing in the crowd, said, "Yeh Hindu-Muslim karwana chahte hain."

Others said they were against the CAA since it went against the Constitution, and were also scared that with the NRC, they would have to prove their citizenship. Ansari said, "Samvidhan ko bachalo, is desh ko bachalo (Save the Constitution, save this country)." Akhilesh Narayan Singh, SP (City), said that on Friday, while addressing the gathering, which, locals said, had a couple of thousand people, he told the crowd that they should share their points in writing which would then be taken to the relevant authorities. After his address, the crowd had started to disperse, when firing started near City Hospital and in Nisarigate. Locals, however, said there was no firing or even stone pelting at the Gola Kuan Suit Market.

The SP went on to say that "the protestors had fired" and that 18 shells of 32 bore, 37 of 315 bore and 14 of 12 bore had been recovered from the sites.

While he said that "several" police and RAF personnel have bullet injuries, SP Singh did not acknowledge that police too had fired live rounds and mentioned only tear gas and pellets.

However, IG (Meerut Range) Alok Singh said regarding the number of bullets fired by the police, "that's something we need to count". He told *The Sunday Express* that "there was some covering fire from our side because 16 of our young constables and RAF personnel were holed up in a hospital building". He said they "were almost held hostage for some time, so a covering fire was given". But yes, he added, "shots were fired".

Though the residents said that all the victims had died in police firing, claiming one was shot straight in the head, Singh said there "was an exchange of fire" between police and people in the area, and "fire was coming from all sides, from rooftops, from bylanes". He said, "it is yet to be established, whose bullet hit whom".

However, the post-mortem report was yet to be finalised,

sources in the police and the local health administration said.

Singh also said outsiders were part of the crowd that attacked the police. "There were some people who were new to the city, they were seen with their masked faces and they incited things."

He pointed out that of the five who died on Friday was a youth from Delhi. "We cannot completely rule out that it was an entirely local thing," but, he said, "certainly, there were people who were not from Meerut".

On Saturday, the city wore a near-deserted look. With Section 144 still in place, there was minimal traffic on the streets and most of the shops in the area were shuttered.

The stretch on Hapur Road, one of the sites of the violence on Friday, was barricaded on both sides. On one side were police and personnel of the Civil Defence force, on the other, police and the Rapid Action Force. The stretch in the middle was dark; even the street lights had not been switched on. An unsteady calm in the dark.

With the Vice-Chancellor's permission to police to enter campus also coming under fire, Peerzada said they were extending all help to the injured students. "We share their pain, anguish."

Denying the allegations, the Aligarh police said they had used "minimal" force. "The claims that police resorted to torture are false. With regards to tear gas shelling inside the hostel, no police personnel entered hostel premises. Shells were fired from a 100-metre distance outside since there was heavy stone-pelting from inside. It is possible that a shell bounced and went inside the room," Anil Samania, Circle Officer (Civil Lines), Aligarh, said.

Sources also claimed that some of the injuries were caused by students trying to throw back unexploded tear gas shells.

Assam

a Chandan Brahma but a Himanta Biswa Sarma cannot sell to an infiltrator, whether he has come in 1951 or 1971... not even if he has come in 1941," Sarma said.

He said the state government has asked the Centre to "suitably amend" Article 345 of the Constitution "to make Assamese state language". "Assamese will be a compulsory subject in all English, Hindi and Bengali schools (up to class 10). However, this will not be applicable in BTAD, hills districts and Barak Valley (dominated by Bengali speakers)."

Sarma added that the state government will also ask the Centre that tribal autonomous councils of Mising, Rabha, Sonowal Kachari, Thengal Kachari, Deori and Tiwa communities get "constitutional status" so that they can receive Central grants.

Clause 6 of the Assam Accord says, "Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of Assamese people."

As of now, a committee on Clause 6 is meeting stakeholders to reach a consensus on the definition of indigenous people,

amidst contesting cut-off years.

The announcement comes months after the state cabinet approved the New Land Policy, 2019, saying it paved the way for protection of land rights of "indigenous people" of Assam. Since Independence, Assam has had four land policies. Like the 2019 policy, the 1989 policy too said land may be made available to landless "indigenous" people — but didn't define the same.

Sarma also announced a new autonomous council known as "Kamtapur autonomous council". Moreover, he announced a series of schemes for the tea community and tribal communities.

Sarma said the Cabinet also resolved Saturday that the Bodo peace accord be concluded fast.

Yediyurappa

and problems," the Karnataka CM said after his meeting with the 14-year-old daughter and 10-year-old son of Abdul Jaleel, 49, a fish market worker, and the mother and brother of Noushin Kudroli, 24, a welder, killed in the firing.

"Compensation will be given as per law. I have also asked the authorities to consider building homes for the families of the persons who died," Yediyurappa said.

The families told the CM that the two victims were bystanders and had not participated in the protests.

The Karnataka CM reviewed the law and order situation in Mangalore, the circumstances surrounding the police firing, and gave a go-ahead for the gradual relaxation of curfew in the city over the next two days.

"I met the leaders of Christian and Muslim communities. The request of all has been to remove the curfew in Mangalore... Since Christmas will be celebrated next week, I have directed that there be no problems in celebrating the festival in the region," he said.

The CM has struck a conciliatory note ever since protests over the CAA began. "My request is to preserve peace. Our government does not differentiate between Hindu, Muslim and other communities. This is our aim and it is

the aim of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well," he said.

Although some reports suggested that Yediyurappa had stated that the NRC will be reconsidered in Karnataka, the CM's office said that he did not mention the NRC during any interaction in Mangalore on Saturday.

Yediyurappa, however, defended police on the firing in the Bunder area of Mangalore, calling it an act of self-defence in the face of a mob attack.

Pawar

31, 2017, had instigated the violence in Koregaon Bhima a day later, police filed an FIR against 23 people and arrested nine of them — Sudhir Dhawale, Rona Wilson, Surendra Gadling, Mahesh Raut, Shoma Sen, Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves, Sudha Bharadwaj and Varavara Rao. The chargesheet further alleged that a letter recovered from one of the accused had revealed an "assassination conspiracy" against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Police had earlier filed 58 cases against 162 people during a state-wide shutdown in January that followed the Bhima-Koregaon clashes.

On Saturday, Pawar said it was improper to make arrests on the basis of what was said at the Elgaar Parishad. In February 2019, before the Lok Sabha polls, Pawar had expressed similar views and said that if he were in power, he would have suspended the Pune Police Commissioner.

Talking about the NRC and CAA, Pawar said, "It appears this is an attempt to divert attention from more serious questions that face the country at the moment."

Mahathir

conveyed that such remarks are both ill-informed and insensitive. Malaysia was asked to take a long-term and strategic view of the bilateral relations," the source said.

On Friday, the Malaysian Prime Minister spoke out against the new citizenship law, saying "people are dying" because of it. Talking to reporters at the Kuala Lumpur Summit, he said, "I am sorry to see that India, which claims to be a secular state, is taking action to deprive Muslims of their citizenship... I see that here... there will be chaos, instability, everyone will suffer."

"Already, people are dying because of this law. Why is there a necessity to do this when, for 70 years almost, they have lived together as citizens without any problems?" he added.

Reacting to these comments, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday, "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 naturalisation 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."

"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.

On Saturday, Penang Deputy Chief Minister II Dr P Ramasamy and Bagan Dalam assembly member Satees Muniandy criticised the Malaysian PM for these comments. Both have been critical of the presence and comments by controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik, who is wanted in India by law enforcement agencies.

Earlier, Mahathir Mohamad comments on the government's move to revoke special status to Jammu and Kashmir had been perceived negatively in New Delhi.



Delhi witnessed a foggy morning Saturday. Tashi Tobgyal

## Capital set to get colder next week

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

AIR QUALITY in the capital remained in the severe category for second day in a row as wind speed remained low and a cloud cover persisted for most part of the day. The Air Quality Index was 418 on Saturday, as opposed to 432 on Friday.

According to IMD officials, the wind speed is expected to pick up Sunday and air quality will improve slightly. Temperatures in the city, meanwhile, are expected to dip next week.

On Saturday, the maximum temperature was 18 degrees Celsius, three degrees below normal, and the minimum was 9.5 degrees Celsius, a degree above normal. During the com-

ing week, the maximum temperature is expected to be between 19 and 17 degrees Celsius, while the minimum is expected to dip to 5 degrees Celsius.

Dense fog on Friday and Saturday led to over 60 flights being delayed. Visibility in Safdarjung and Palam areas was 300 metres and 350 metres at 5.30 am. It dipped to 200 metres and 100 metres by 8.30 am.

Humidity, which aids the formation of fog, was 100 per cent in Safdarjung. According to IMD officials, Sunday is expected to see dense fog.

Delhi International Airport Limited officials said over 60 flights were delayed. "Although fog was not a problem on Saturday, there was a delay because Friday's night backlog had to be cleared," said an official.

## City department stores can no longer sell liquor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE DELHI government withdrew permission to sell wine and beer from 125 department stores in Delhi Friday.

These stores were given licences to sell alcohol on the condition that they would use only upto 15% of their total shelf space to sell these products, while the remaining was to be used for groceries. According to officials, a few residents of East Delhi had complained to Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, pointing out that many such stores were flouting these norms.

Sisodia accompanied excise department officials on some raids and the team found that the

stores were violating licence conditions. "The Delhi government has decided to shut 125 liquor stores. These stores were given the L-12 licences. Several deficiencies were found in surprise checks conducted in these stores over the past few days," Sisodia said.

There were 125 department stores that were given the L-12 licences and starting December 20, all have been withdrawn.

"We found significant shortcomings in the way the stores were being run. Many were functioning like full-fledged liquor shops. The rules and fee for a department store selling beer and wine, and a liquor store are different. A department store can only sell wine and beer. Hence, we decided to withdraw authorisation," a senior excise official said.

## Delhi, Himachal govts sign water sharing pact

New Delhi: The Delhi government Saturday signed a water sharing pact with the government of Himachal Pradesh to get more water for the capital.

Calling the pact "historic", the Delhi government issued a statement saying "Himachal Pradesh will provide regular daily supply of 368 cusecs from November to February, and 268 cusecs from March to June every year. After creation of the upstream storages, the supply shall be upgraded to 421 cusecs throughout the year."

The MoU was signed by R N Batta, secretary Himachal Pradesh, and Manisha Saxena, principal secretary (Urban Development), R N Batta said, "We are also exploring opportunities of snow harvesting with Himachal for the first time."

DJB supplies over 900 MGD of water to its residents, whereas the demand is of around 1,200 MGD. With the new pact, a minimum of 170 MGD more would be made available. Delhi gets 70% of its water from the Yamuna. **ENS**

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## INAUGURATION OF MITRAON CITY FOREST

(Area: 88 acres)

on Sunday, 22nd December, 2019 at 11:00am  
Mitraon, Kair Road, Najafgarh, New Delhi

**Chief Guest:**

**Kailash Gahlot**

Environment, Forests and Wildlife Minister, Delhi



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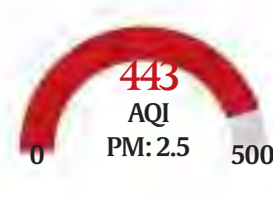
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0-50 Good

ANAND VIHAR

Severe



51-100 Satisfactory

SIRIFORT

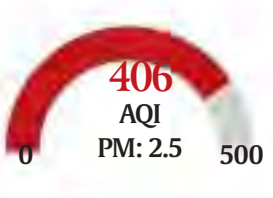
Severe



101-200 Moderate

SHADIPUR

Severe



201-300 Poor

DWARKA-SECTOR 8

Severe



301-400 Very poor

401-500 Severe

## In letter to MHRD, Jamia reiterates probe request

New Delhi: Jamia Millia Islamia's registrar has written to the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Joint Commissioner of Police (JCP) to reiterate the demand for a high-level or judicial inquiry into the events of last Sunday and for an FIR against "unlawful entry" by police into the campus. He has also written to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) seeking an investigation. Chief Proctor Waseem Ahmed Khan had filed a police complaint at Jamia Nagar police station Monday against "unprovoked and brutal action" by "unruly policemen" forcibly entering the campus Sunday and "mercilessly beating students". But no FIR has been filed so far. On Friday, registrar AP Siddiqui wrote to the JCP requesting that "immediate action" be taken on the proctor's application. Vice-Chancellor Najma Akhtar had requested a judicial enquiry during a meeting with higher education secretary Amit Khare. On Friday, Siddiqui reiterated this request in a letter to the joint secretary of higher education stating that an early action "will restore the sense of justice in the students". **ENS**

## From Jaipur to Noida to Jama Masjid: How Azad evaded cops

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

BHIM ARMY chief Chandrashekhar Azad, who was detained early Saturday morning after evading arrest for two days and giving police the slip on Friday, was planning to conduct a protest march from Jama Masjid 10 days ago, but shifted it to Friday after protests against the new citizenship law broke out all over the country, it is learnt.

According to the FIR registered at Darya Ganj police station, Azad "instigated protesters against the new citizenship law at Jama Masjid to march to Jantar Mantar". He surrendered at 3 am Saturday at gate no. 1 of Jama Masjid, minutes after addressing hundreds of protesters. "He was taken to the crime branch's office in Chanakypuri and was shifted to Rajendra Nagar police station... Later in the afternoon, he was taken to GO's mess in Darya Ganj, where DCP (Central) Mandeep Randauna questioned him for around two hours," a senior police said.

During questioning, Azad revealed that he came from Jaipur on Thursday and was staying in Noida. He had switched off his phone when he started receiving



Bhim Army chief Azad surrendered early Saturday

calls from the police. Later, police approached his advocate, who said his client had made up his mind to turn up at Jama Masjid, said police. "The special branch had been trying to track him since Thursday. On Friday, a team of special cell was roped in, and it was found that Azad's phone was switched off. They later checked his advocate's phone location, which was found active in South Delhi's Masjid Moh. By the time a team reached there, he had left for Jama Masjid," an officer said, adding that police personnel were deployed at all 10 gates of Jama Masjid, and each officer had a photo of him on their phones.

According to police, Azad said he snuck into Jama Masjid at 1.25 pm with his advocate, after putting on a skull cap and a shawl.

Delhi Police's day-long search



## DAY AFTER VIOLENCE IN OLD DELHI

# Court dismisses Azad's bail plea; 15 arrested for rioting

PRITAM PALSINGH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

A DELHI court Saturday dismissed the bail plea of Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad, who was arrested for allegedly instigating the crowd at Jama Masjid protesting against the new citizenship law, and remanded him in 14-day judicial custody. Besides Azad, 15 others — arrested under various IPC sections, including rioting — were sent to two-day judicial custody.

Among the 15 arrested are mostly carpenters, daily wage labourers and people who went to the mosque for Friday prayers. Their bail plea will be heard Monday.

Azad was produced before Duty Metropolitan Magistrate Arjinder Kaur amid tight security. His counsel Mehmood Pracha opposed the Delhi Police demand for 14-day judicial remand and urged the court to release him on bail "forthwith", claiming he is in illegal custody.

Pracha, along with advocates O P Bharti and Bhanu Pratap



Around 49 people were injured in violence at Delhi Gate on Friday. Abhinav Saha

Singh, argued that Azad only took out a march to save the "Constitution".

Additional Public Prosecutor Arvind Kumar Shukla, appearing for Delhi Police, however, opposed the bail, saying the accused may threaten witnesses.

While the hearing was going on, the court also witnessed exchange of words between media and police, when some journalists were stopped from attending the hearing. The judge, thereafter, ordered that further proceedings be held in-camera. While Azad's counsel opposed the same, the

magistrate ordered, "At this stage, this court is of the considered view that substantial grounds for granting bail to the accused (Azad) is not made out. Accused be sent to judicial custody for 14 days."

Soon after, Azad was taken out of the court premises while people chanted in his support.

Meanwhile, the 15 other accused, mostly aged 20-22, were produced before Duty Metropolitan Magistrate Kaur.

Seeking their judicial custody for 14 days, police counsel urged the court that they be kept behind bars as the probe is underway.

Senior advocate Rebecca M John, appearing for most of the accused, however sought their immediate bail on the grounds that "no individual role has been assigned... in the FIR". John further submitted that most of the arrested persons were at Delhi's Jama Masjid for Friday prayers.

The court was also told that one of the accused arrested in the case is a 15-year-old boy, but the investigating officer countered the claim, saying the accused said he was 23 years old.

The magistrate has ordered all the accused persons to be produced before the court Monday.

Family members of an accused, Mohammed Danish (22), claimed they have not opened their shop, their only source of income, for over 24 hours. Relatives of another accused, Haider Ali, a mason, said his family will also lose their income for a few days.

Meanwhile, six students from AMU, JNU and Jamia, who were protesting against the deaths of people during anti-CAA protests in UP, were detained from in front of UP Bhavan in Chanakypuri Saturday.

## Among 49 brought to Lok Nayak: Two with fractured skull, one with broken leg

ASTHA SAXENA & AMIL BHATNAGAR  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

TWO PERSONS who sustained skull bone fractures and a third with a broken leg were among 49 people who were brought to Lok Nayak hospital after a march from Jama Masjid to Delhi Gate turned violent Friday evening.

While most of them were sent away the same day after treatment, the three with serious injuries will be discharged only next week, doctors said.

According to doctors, Sadique (40) and a 16-year-old boy sustained serious injuries on their heads and are under observation at the neurosurgery ward. "There are laceration wounds on the skull, which can be due to the stones. They have also suffered a skull bone frac-



Arunashankar, a journalist, said he was hit on the head with a lathi

ture, which means something with a heavy impact has hit them hard. We had conducted a CT scan of the brain and the report is a little problematic. There are minor clots as well. As of now, both are stable." Dr P N Pandey from department of neurosurgery at Lok Nayak hos-

pital told *The Indian Express*.

On Friday, protesters marching towards Jantar Mantar from Jama Masjid were stopped by police and paramilitary personnel near Delhi Gate. As the situation escalated in the evening, a car was set on fire and stone pelting started. Police resorted to lathi-charge and used a water cannon to control the situation. Police have blamed people from outside the area for the violence.

Around 10 people suffered soft-tissue injury on the skull, which means there was some damage to the muscles. The injured were discharged after taking CT scans.

Meanwhile, two journalists have filed a complaint against Delhi Police officials for allegedly assaulting them during the protest. The two — S Arunashankar and Vaisakh Jayapalan — work for Malayalam

newspaper Mathrubhumi, and were covering protests against the new citizenship law. The duo have also alleged that police officials broke their equipment.

"We were at the barricades when the car was set ablaze. My cameraperson and I moved forward. Suddenly we were surrounded by police and one of them hit me with a lathi on the back of my head," said Arunashankar, a reporter.

According to them, police then targeted Jayapalan and beat him.

"Jayapalan was chased for 500 meters by four-five policemen and hit with lathis. One of them snatched his camera and threw it," said Arunashankar. While Arunashankar has swelling on his head, doctors have ruled out internal injuries. The cameraman also received injuries, they said.

## Behind the scenes: How lawyers got detainees out

ANAND MOHAN J & KARISHMA MEHROTRA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

OUTSIDE TWO police stations in Delhi late Friday night stood a bevy of lawyers who rushed there after news reached of men and minors being detained after violence erupted in Old Delhi's Darya Ganj and North East Delhi's Seemapuri.

At Darya Ganj police station, they met with locked gates, and so a quick visit to the local magistrates was made, but they were unavailable. Relief came when Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Arul Verma directed police to allow legal and medical aid to the detainees and called it "flagrant violation of law" to detain minors.

The *Indian Express* spoke to lawyers who worked behind the scenes till early Saturday morning, arguing in late night hearings, calling up senior police officers and law ministry officials to allow them to meet the detainees.

Among them was advocate Adit Pujari, who reached the residence of CMM Arul Verma. Pujari said, "Advocate Kriti Awasthi filed the application and I argued the matter before the CMM, who then called up the Naib court and the SHO of Darya Ganj police station and assessed the situation. He passed an order in our favor at 10.30 pm."

Meanwhile, advocate Tara Narula managed to enter the Darya Ganj police station after much persuasion and found at least 32 men detained and over



Lawyers and families of those detained outside Darya Ganj police station, Saturday. Praveen Khanna

15 minors kept inside. A law graduate from the UK, Narula said, "We wanted a list of all the detainees so as to draft applications for them. The protesters were scared and the police didn't provide us with the list. We got the parents of some minors to collect them."

Apart from the police station, lawyers found locked gates at Lok Nayak Hospital too, where at least 45 people were admitted after violence erupted in the area. Among them was advocate Anas Tanwir, who runs Indian Civil Liberties Union, a pan-India network of lawyers. Busy drafting bail applications of those detained in the Darya Ganj protest, he said, "When the state does not uphold our rights, it becomes the duty of the lawyers."

Similar scenes played outside Seemapuri police station till early Saturday morning, as seven lawyers transcribed complaints of family members of the 20 detained. Among

them was Devna Soni, partner at Kred-Jure advocates, who coordinated with families and lawyers outside the station, and also spread the word on WhatsApp. "Here are people who are unable to defend themselves. I felt compelled to stay," said Soni. Even though two lawyers made it inside the station, they were not allowed to meet the detained. On Friday evening, protesters had allegedly pelted stones at police, injuring an Additional DCP-rank officer.

Choudary Ali Zia Kabir, an advocate at Human Rights Law Network, said, "All we wanted was our statutory right. What kept us going till morning was we didn't know who was injured and how much." Till early morning, lawyers drove from Seemapuri to Pitampura and then Saket, in search of the home of Karkardooma Court's CMM.

At 4.30 am, the CMM signed the order, and the lawyers drove back to Seemapuri.

## Darya Ganj residents recall night of fear

AMIL BHATNAGAR  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

FROM RICKSHAWS carrying bleeding protesters to people screaming and running amok to escape police action — a day after violent clashes rocked Delhi Gate, leaving around 49 injured, residents of Darya Ganj recalled the bedlam that ensued.

"I was inside a lane and was going to meet a friend... I was aware of the protests, but did not know about the violence. Soon, I saw group of protesters running towards my lane... I could hear people screaming from the main road," said Iftikhar, an eyewitness.

By Friday afternoon, most shops at Sui Wali Gali leading to Jama Masjid had downed shutters. An eyewitness recalled how many climbed parapets to avoid police action. By 6.30 pm, police entered lanes to detain people.

Rashid, a shopkeeper, said, "Around 7 pm, we could see some e-rickshaws heading towards the hospital from the interiors. The vehicles were loaded with people."

As police began retreating, a crowd had gathered at Darya Ganj police station demanding release of the detained, several of whom were minors. After talks with lawyers and guardians of the minors, the area DCP facilitated their release after 11 pm. According to detained minors, most of them stopped at Jama Masjid for the evening prayers and were picked up while returning.

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### MEGA E-AUCTION

#### PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD (Through NEFT/RTGS) AND DOCUMENTS (HARD COPY & ONLINE) 18.01.2020 UPTO 4:00 PM

Sale of immovable properties mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002).

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of UCO Bank has taken possession of the following properties pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS AND AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as details and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said properties. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Web Portal given below:-

#### SCHEDULE OF SALE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower & Guarantor	Description of Property along with name of mortgagor (owner of the property)	Possession Date/ Status of possession (Physical or Symbolic)	Demand Notice Date & Amount		Reserve Price EMD	Name of Contact Person, & E-mail ID	Date and Time of Auction
				Outstanding Amount	Bid Increase Amount			
1.	<b>HISSAR</b> Borrower: 1. Subhash Thakur & Boby Thakur S/o Sh. Deep Chand	House No. 2385, constructed on Plot No. 335/1, Situated at Ward No. 12, Tiba Thanesar, Shiv Nagar Road, Hissar Haryana in the name of Sh. Subhash Thakur S/o Sh. Deep Chand vide Gift Deed No. 11299 dated 21.02.2014.	14.06.2019/Physical	30.07.2018	Rs. 116500/- with interest upto 31.05.2018	Rs. 13,00,000 Rs. 1,30,000 Rs. 20,000	Mr. Gopal Arora M. 9891443855 E-mail: hissar@ucobank.co.in	21.01.2020 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
2.	<b>HISSAR</b> Saroj Soni W/o Prahlad Soni & Prahlad Soni.	House No. 110, Ward No. 10, Gali No. 3, Back Side Jindile Park Shiv Nagar, Hissar Haryana in the name of Saroj Soni W/o Prahlad Soni vide Sale Deed No. 5690 dated 22.04.2014.	14.06.2019/Physical	30.07.2018	Rs. 1958114/- with interest upto 30.07.2018	Rs. 10,90,000/- Rs. 1,09,000/- Rs. 20,000	Mr. Gopal Arora M. 9891443855 E-mail: hissar@ucobank.co.in	21.01.2020 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
3.	<b>PALWAL</b> Borrower: Ravi Bansal S/o Hukum Bansal	Flat No. B-4, 1st Floor, Khatuashyam Apartment, Moti Colony, Palwal Haryana. In the name of Dewwati Bansal W/o Hukum Bansal.	04.09.2019/Symbolic	31.05.2017	Rs. 11,30,899/- With interest upto 31.05.2017	Rs. 19,15,500 Rs. 1,91,550 Rs. 20,000	Mr. Rahul Kumar M. 9839303466 E-mail: palwal@ucobank.co.in	21.01.2020 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
4.	<b>PANIPAT</b> M/s Chahal Dairy Farm Partners Ravinder Kumar S/o Satnarain & Satnarain S/o Badlu Ram	Residential House No. 101 Constructed on land measuring 159.25 Sq Yds Khewat No. 1082, Khatoni No. 1268, Murba No. 35, Killa No. 9, Opposite Guljar Dhaba, Panipat Road, Safidon Distt. Jind, in the name of Smt. Jagwanti W/o Sh. Ravinder Kumar.	04.10.2019/Physical	29.05.2015	Rs. 1,72,35,025/- and with interest upto 31.03.2015	Rs. 22,00,000 Rs. 2,20,000 Rs. 20,000	Mr. Akshay Kumar M. 9410034903 E-Mail: panipa@ucobank.co.in	21.01.2020 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
5.	<b>TARAORI</b> Borrower: Mr. Rakesh Kumar S/o Jagdish	Residential House in Ward No. 6 Near Shani Mandir Situated at Prem Colony, Taraori, Teh. Nilokheri, Distt. Karnal-132116. In the name of Smt. Kanta W/o Jagdish having Sale Deed No. 1943/1 dated 28.10.2013	19.09.2019/Physical	14.11.2018	Rs. 675675.65 with interest upto 14.11.2018	Rs. 16,50,000 Rs. 1,65,000 Rs. 20,000	Mr. Rahul Sinha M. 9634566144 E-mail: tarori@ucobank.co.in	21.01.2020 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM
6.	<b>KARNAL</b> Borrower: M/s Laj Pat Rai and Sons Prop. Ajay Kumar Malhotra	Land Measuring 1 Kanal 15 Marla total area 1050 Sq. Yards Comprised in Khasra No 817 Kewat No 444, Kewat No. 654, Khatoni No. 2133, Khasra No. 3938(1-6).	21.03.2012/Symbolic	02.06.2011	Rs. 2,39,46,000/- with interest upto 31.03.2011	Rs. 1,73,00,000 Rs. 17,30,000 Rs. 1,00,000	Mr. Panjaj Yadav M. 7747961196 E-mail: karnal@ucobank.co.in	21.01.2020 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM

3942(0-18) Jind Road, Assandh in the name of Mr. Vivek Malhotra having lease with BPCL upto 31.12.2037. Bounded as North: Sharma Eye Hospital, South: Shop of Sh. Anrit Singh, East: Jind Road, West: Land of Sh. Anrit Singh.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE:** The e-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".

- To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on any property. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of properties/vehicle/machinery put on auction and claims /rights /dues / affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The Property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known to the bank. The Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims /rights /dues. 2. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the assets and specification before submitting the bid. The inspections of property put on auction will be permitted to interested bidders at sites as mentioned against each property description. 3. The interested bidders shall submit their EMD through <https://ucobank.auctiontiger.net/> also on Auctiontiger mobile app (the user ID & Password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with <https://ucobank.auctiontiger.net/> also on Auctiontiger mobile app through Login ID & Password. 4. 10% of the Upset Price / Reserve Price must be remitted towards EMD through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the Bank A/c No. 03360210002100. Name of the Beneficiary: Zonal Office - Haryana, IFSC No. UCBA0000336 and the Remittance details must be clearly indicated in the bid form. EMD amount remitted by unsuccessful bidders shall be returned to them by the Bank without interest. In the event of cancellation of auction also, EMD amount shall be returned by the Bank without interest. Participating bidders are required to contact the Bank in this connection after the close of the auction. 5. After Registration (One Time) by the bidder in the Web Portal, the intending bidder/purchaser is required to get the copies of the following documents uploaded in the Web Portal before the Last Date & Time of Submission of the Bid Documents viz. (i) Copy of the NEFT /RTGS Challan or Demand Draft, (ii) Copy of PAN Card, (iii) Proof of Identification/Address Prof. (KYC) viz. self-attested copy of Voter ID Card/Driving License / Passport etc., (iv) UPLLOADING SCANNED COPY OF ANNEXURE-II & III (can be downloaded from Web Portal: <https://ucobank.auctiontiger.net/> also on Auctiontiger mobile app) AFTER DULY FILLED UP & SIGNING IS ALSO REQUIRED without which the Bid is liable to be rejected. The interested bidders who require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting Bid Documents, Training / Demonstration on Online Inter-se Bidding etc., may contact (E-Procurement Technologies Limited (Auctiontiger) Toll Free No: 1800 103 5342, Helpline No: 079-40230833/079-41072508, Name: Manoj Joshi Mob. 9081000226, 0796-1200511, email id: haryana@auctiontiger.net. for any property related query may contact Authorised Officer: Mahesh Kumar, Mobile No: 9316657829, email ID: zo.haryana@ucobank.co.in during the working hours from Monday to Saturday.
- The interested bidder has to submit their Bid Documents [EMD (not below the Reserve Price) and required documents (mentioned in Point No. 4)] on/before 18.01.2020 upto 4.00 pm and after going through the Registering Process (One Time) and generating User ID & Password of their own, shall be eligible for participating in the e-Auction Process, subject to due verification (of the documents) and/or approval of the Authorised Officer. 7. During the Online Inter-se Bidding, Bidder can improve their Bid Amount as per the "Bid Increase Amount" (mentioned above) or its multiple and in case bid is placed during the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the e-Auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes (each time till the closure of e-auction process), otherwise, it'll automatically get closed. The bidder who submits the highest bid amount (not below the Reserve Price) on the closure of the e-Auction Process shall be declared as a Successful Bidder by the Authorised Officer/Secured Creditor, after required verification. 8. The Earnest Money Deposited (EMD) of the Successful bidder shall be retained towards part sale consideration and the EMD of unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded. The Earnest Money Deposit shall not bear any interest. The Successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale price, adjusting the EMD already paid, within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the Authorised Officer and the balance 75% of the sale price on or before 15th day of sale or within such extended period as agreed upon in writing by and solely at the discretion of the Authorised Officer. In case of default in payment by the Successful bidder, the amount already deposited by the offer shall be liable to the forfeited and property shall be put to re-auction and the defaulting borrower shall have no claim/right in respect of property/amount. 9. The prospective qualified bidders may avail online training on e-Auction from M/s E-Procurement Technologies Ltd. (Auction Tiger) prior to the date of e-Auction. Neither the Bank nor authorised Officer shall be liable for any internet Network problem and the interested bidders to ensure that they are technically well equipped for participating in the e-Auction event. 10. The Purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties/additional stamp duty/transfer charges, fee etc. and also all the statutory/non-statutory dues, taxes, rates assessment charges, fees etc. owing to anybody. 11. The Authorised Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer and the Authorised Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn / postpone / cancel the e-Auction without assigning any reason thereof. 12. The bidders are advised to go through the detailed Terms & Conditions of e-Auction available on the Web Portal of M/s E-Procurement Technologies Ltd. (AuctionTiger) <https://ucobank.auctiontiger.net/> before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-Auction. 13. The publication is subject to the force majeure clause.

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**STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002**

The borrower/guarantors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date : 21.12.2019 Place :- Karnal AUTHORIZED OFFICER, UCO BANK

**VOICES AGAINST THE NEW CITIZENSHIP LAW**

# Protest still strong at Jamia, Gurgaon sees first gathering

**SUKRITA BARUAH & SAKSHI DAYAL**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

DAYS AFTER police stormed Jamia campus, protest outside the university continued unabated Saturday. What started as a small gathering grew in size towards the evening, with over 3,000 people singing songs and urging each other to maintain peace.

"I'm a Dalit and I'm here to carry forward Babasaheb Ambedkar's legacy," said a student. His words were met with eager applause.

Kasim Usmani, one of the three students from Jamia against whom an FIR was filed for Sunday's event, said, "This is a struggle between those who are trying to save the Constitution and those who are trying to burn it."

While most of the protesters were from the neighbouring lo-



At Saturday's protest outside Jamia. Tashi Tobgyal

calities of Jamia Nagar, Zakir Nagar and Okhla, many had also travelled from as far as Malviya Nagar, Sangam Vihar, New Ashok Nagar and Noida.

At around 3 pm, the protesters were joined by a group of over 100 lawyers, who conducted their own protest at the site. "The library here was attacked brutally, which is why we've chosen this

venue to register our protest. We are lawyers from different district courts, the High Court and the Supreme Court," said Tarique Siddiqui, a High Court advocate.

At India Gate, a similar gathering of hundreds of youngsters was held. Aditya Krishna (24), pursuing an MA in history from Delhi University, said, "The CAA and the NRC are against the idea

of India envisioned by our freedom struggle heroes. They were all against the idea of a 'Hindu rashtra'. For the first time, religion is being used to identify a citizen."

Meanwhile, chants of "Inquilaab Zindabad" and "Azaadi" reverberated through the air as Gurgaon saw its first gathering against the new citizenship law Saturday evening. Hundreds of people thronged the Leisure Valley Park in Sector 29.

Among the speakers was women's rights activist and former member of the Planning Commission, Syeda Hameed, who termed the fight that began from Jamia as the "groundwork for keeping the Constitution alive in this country".

"We must stay alert to ensure this government doesn't give it a communal colour. You are the intelligentsia of the country, the corporate people, a wave must come from within you," she said.

# Has anyone killed people: Kapil Mishra on shoot-the-traitors slogan

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

A DAY after a video of BJP member Kapil Mishra, wherein he can be seen leading a group of men and shouting the slogan, 'Desh ke gaddaron ko, goli maari saalon ko' (Shoot the traitors of the nation), surfaced on social media, the party's state unit distanced itself from the gathering.

When contacted, Mishra said he stood by the slogan and claimed "he did not instigate anyone to take the law into their hands". The slogans were raised during a 'tiranga march' in support of the new citizenship law in Connaught Place Friday. Mishra said: "Our slogans have not insti-



Video grab from the protest

gated anyone to indulge in violence. Has anyone killed or threatened people? Those who are questioning me don't have the courage to question those who are setting buses on fire and hitting policemen."

The Delhi BJP, which also held a rally in Connaught Place on

## SIRSA TWEETS, THEN DELETES

SAD MLA Manjinder Singh Sirsa tried to link the "Delhi violence" with Congress on Saturday by tweeting photos of a minor girl who translated Rahul Gandhi's speech in Malappuram and of Ayesha, a Jamia student who saved her friend from lathi-charge, suggesting the two were same. He deleted the post later.

Friday, said they had nothing to do with Mishra's march.

Delhi BJP leader Neelkant Bakshi claimed no slogans of the nature were raised at the party's event: "If any slogans of this kind were raised, they were not part of the event that we organised. Manoj Tiwari had invited CM Arvind Kejriwal and Delhi Congress president for clarifying provisions of the law. Since both didn't turn up, Tiwari read the Act. The event ended and we left the venue. Another event was conducted in the same park later, but we were not a part of it."

Asked about Mishra's sloganeering, DCP (New Delhi) Eish Singhal said, "So far, we have not received a complaint against the protest or the organisers."



**DELHI POLICE**  
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA



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**6<sup>TH</sup> SELF DEFENCE TECHNIQUE TRAINING WINTER CAMP-2019-20**  
(PARTICIPATION IS FREE OF COST)

Sl.	VENUE	DATE & TIME OF SELF DEFENCE TRAINING PROGRAMME (EXCEPT SUNDAY)	DATE & TIME OF NUKKAD NATAK/ STREET PLAY PROGRAMME AND HIMMAT APP WORKSHOP	DATE & TIME OF GENDER SENSITISATION PROGRAMME AND SHORT FILM KOMAL (Nirbheek)	DATE & TIME OF REGISTRATION (EXCEPT SUNDAY AND GH)
1.	Gyan Mandir Public School, E-Block, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-110028		01.01.2020 11.15 am	02.01.2020 11.30 am	
2.	DPPS, B-4, Block Safdarjung Enclave Delhi-110029	31.12.2019 to 10.01.2020	02.01.2020 11.15 am	03.01.2020 11.30 am	21.12.2019 to 30.12.2019
3.	Bal Mandir Sr. Sec. School, Defence Enclave Vikas Marg Delhi -110092	09.00 am to 11.00 am	03.01.2020 11.15 am	06.01.2020 11.30 am	10.00 am to 04.00 pm
4.	Green View Public School, Dwarka Vihar, Kakrola Road Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043		06.01.2020 11.15 am	07.01.2020 11.30 am	

The participant must bring a recent photograph & a copy of any Govt. issued photo ID (preferably Aadhaar Card/Election Card) at the time of registration at respective venue

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# MODERNIZATION WORK BEGINS OF 'BUND DRAIN'

## LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE CEREMONY

Sunday, 22 December 2019 at 4pm  
Pusta Number 3, Sonia Vihar, Delhi

Chief Guest:

**ARVIND KEJRIWAL**  
Chief Minister, Delhi

Guest of Honour:

**SATYENDAR JAIN**  
Irrigation and Flood Control Minister, Delhi

Department of Irrigation and Flood Control, Government of NCT of Delhi



# 6 GOVT & POLITICS

## BJP plans big campaign to spread 'truth' about CAA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE BJP on Saturday announced that it will run a nationwide campaign in the next 10 days to "expose" the "conspiracy" of the Congress, the TMC and the Left parties to "spread hatred and violence" in the country over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Addressing the media, BJP national general secretary Bhupinder Yadav said the party will go door-to-door as part of its nationwide campaign and connect with 3 crore families of all religious following to expose the "repeated lies" and "politics of rumours and confusion" by the opposition parties.

He said there will be more than more than 1,000 rallies, including participation of people who had come to India fleeing persecution in their countries, and 250 press conferences will be organised across the country. Earlier, addressing a meeting of BJP office-bearers, party's working president J P Nadda asked them to "expose" the "double standards" of the Congress on the issue.

He accused the Congress of doing politics of "appeasement" in the cover of protesting against the citizenship law. Nadda claimed that the language of the Congress is similar to that of Pakistan, and this similarity of thought is dangerous for the nation.

He recalled that while speaking in Parliament on December 18, 2003, Manmohan Singh had urged the then Deputy Prime Minister, I K Advani, to adopt a more liberal approach to grant citizenship to persecuted minorities from countries such as Bangladesh. Nadda said the Congress had taken the initiative to settle Hindus who came to India from Pakistan in Gujarat and Rajasthan but the same



J P Nadda held a party meet on Saturday. PTI

party is practicing the politics of "lies and confusion" after the Narendra Modi government brought the law for persecuted minorities (in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan).

As per the Nehru-Liaquat pact of 1950, Nadda said, both India and Pakistan had to secure the rights of their minorities. However, compared to 1951, the population of Hindus had come down considerably in Pakistan and Bangladesh, while in India the population of minorities had gone up significantly.

Yadav criticised West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's "unfortunate" statement seeking a UN-monitored referendum on CAA and said she "should apologise to the nation".

He also sought to take the Congress to task over protests outside Indian embassies and said, "A key opposition party holds protests at Indian embassies outside the country. Do they consider this proper?"

He said the people want peace but the Congress and other opposition parties are working against that.

Seeking to dispel fears over NRC, he said the NRC and the CAA are two things. "The NRC is an administrative issue and there should be no confusion over it..." he said. Yadav added that the Constitution itself says those who are once citizens of India will forever remain citizens.



A rally in support of the new citizenship law in Thane, near Mumbai, on Saturday. Deepak Joshi

## Priyanka: Police provoking protesters to indulge in violence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

AS PROTESTS against the new citizenship law continued in several parts of the country, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday alleged that the police was "provoking" people to indulge in violence during the protests. She also accused the BJP government of displaying a dictatorial mindset.

Vadra, who has been very vocal against the government over the citizenship law and the proposed nationwide NRC, reiterated that the NRC was against the poor. She said the government will force people to stand in queues once again like it had done during demonetisation.

"This government will make the people stand in queues in the name of NRC and the Citizenship Amendment Act... A cutoff date will be fixed and every Indian will have to prove his or her Indian Identity by producing some valid document. In this manner, most of the poor and deprived people will be tortured," she said in a statement.

She hit out at the government over its handling of the protests, saying it is applying a dictatorial

mindset to suppress the voice of the people. She said the "illegal" detention of students, intellectuals, social workers, lawyers and journalists is condemnable.

"The NRC and the Citizenship Amendment Act are against the fundamental spirit of the Constitution of India... The public is fighting on the streets to protect the Constitution, but the government is bent upon barbaric repression and violence," she said. Arguing that students, intellectuals, social workers, lawyers and journalists are being detained in "all parts of the country", Vadra said, "No one knows where the police is taking the people after picking them... It is a dark day for democracy..."

She added, "In Uttar Pradesh, the government has shut down communication and Internet services... Police is provoking people to indulge in violence during the protests and marches everywhere. There have been reports of 15 people killed in police violence in Uttar Pradesh," she said.

On Monday, top leaders of the Congress will stage a protest dharna at Raj Ghat. Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former president Rahul Gandhi are expected to take part in the protest.

## How the protests played out

The Sunday Express recounts the demonstrations over CAA, violence and crackdown in various states

### DELHI

Jamia Millia Islamia was the site of clashes between police and students over the new citizenship law on December 15. Buses and private vehicles were set ablaze, while police resorted to lathi charge and tear gas shelling, and barged into the Jamia campus where they allegedly beat up students in the library and mosque.

Two days later, thousands gathered at Seelampur area, where there were reports of stone-pelting and arson.

On December 19, police clamped down on two protests, and CrPC Section 144 was imposed. Several Metro stations were shut across the city, and mobile Internet restrictions put in place. The next day, a protest turned violent near Jama Masjid, with one car being set ablaze and stones thrown. Police used lathicharge and water cannon. Since the protests began, at least 2,000 people have been detained and several arrested for violence.

### MAHARASHTRA

Several protests were held in Mumbai, and all were peaceful. Similar protests — some big, some small — were held in Thane, Nagpur, Chandrapur, Wardha, Amravati, Yavatmal, Nashik, Malegaon, Kolhapur, Ahmednagar, Jalgaon, Bhusawal, and Dhule and Solapur.

In Aurangabad, anti- and pro-CAA rallies were held on December 18, leading to a tense situation. On December 19, Beed, Parbhani and Hingoli saw violence, with police using tear gas in Hingoli and Beed.

### KERALA

Peaceful protests were held in Thiruvananthapuram and other 13 district headquarters by the ruling CPI(M) and opposition Congress. On December 17, when Muslim bodies called for a 12-hour hartal, 360 persons were taken into preventive custody.

### TAMIL NADU

The protests were mostly held in Chennai, with smaller rallies in Puducherry, Vellore, Sholingnallur, Tirunelveli, Thirupathur and Coimbatore. The demonstrations were largely peaceful, and though police detained protesters from time to time, all were released later.

### RAJASTHAN

Protests were held in Jaipur, Ajmer and Jodhpur. There were no notable incidents of police action, except in Jodhpur on



Thousands of women protest in Assam on Saturday, singing songs and shouting slogans against the new citizenship law, following a call for a statewide women's protest by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU). Dasarath Deka

### UTTAR PRADESH DEATHS: 15

Protests — both big and small — were organised in almost all the districts, with Lucknow, Meerut, Sambhal, Kanpur, Firozabad, Bijnor, and Mau the most affected.

One person was killed on December 19, while 14 people were killed across the state over the subsequent days.

Public and private vehicles were burned during various protests, while several policemen were injured. In at least two districts, police stations were attacked. Around 4,000 people have been taken into preventive custody, and at least 300 people have been held, with more arrests in process. Mobile Internet restrictions are in place in several districts.



In Kolkata

December 20, there were incidents of stone pelting. Pro-CAA rallies were also held in Jaipur.

### ODISHA

Bhubaneswar saw two rallies — one against the CAA on December 17, and one in favour of the law on December 20. In



In Bengaluru Friday PTI

### KARNATAKA DEATHS: 2

A protest in Mangaluru on December 19 turned violent, with police opening fire, resulting in two deaths. Mobile Internet services were suspended till Saturday, and curfew was clamped till Sunday midnight. In Bengaluru, CrPC Section 144 was imposed from Thursday. However, massive protests were held. In Kalaburagi, Hubballi and Mysuru, protesters defied prohibitory orders.

### WEST BENGAL DAMAGE: RS 87 CRORE

Protesters mostly targeted railway properties, with Murshidabad, Malda and Howrah districts bearing the biggest brunt. Violent protests erupted in

### ASSAM DEATHS: 5

Almost all important districts of Assam — except the three districts of Bengali-majority Barak Valley — witnessed intense protests since December 10. On December 10, 11 and 12, the protests turned violent at many places, with the epicentres being in Guwahati and Dibrugarh district.

Clashes with security personnel were reported from Guwahati and Dibrugarh.

Tear gas, bullets and water canons were used — four persons injured in alleged firing in Guwahati on December 12 died, while the driver of a fuel tanker lost his life after a suspected mob set his truck on fire in Sonitpur district on December 13.

Murshidabad, Howrah, North 24 Parganas, Birbhum, Cooch Behar, Malda, East and West Midnapore.

### TELANGANA

Protests were mostly peaceful. A few protesters were detained by police and released later.

### GUJARAT

Clashes between police and protesters took place in Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Chhapi taluka (Banaskantha

district). At all these places, police stepped in and arrested protesters. In Vadodara, they opened fire in the air.

### TRIPURA

Protests were held against the new law across the state even before the Bill was passed by Parliament. The largest protests were in West Tripura, Sipahijala district, Dhalai district, and North Tripura. Large contingents of Tripura Police, Tripura State Rifles, Assam Rifles and BSF were deployed in all these locations. Security personnel resorted to lathicharge and firing blanks in North Tripura and Dhalai districts.

### UTTARAKHAND

Protests in Haldwani town and Dehradun were peaceful. CrPC Section 144 was imposed in Haridwar over intelligence inputs that Bhim Army may stage a demonstration on Sunday.

### CHHATTISGARH

Protests were held in Bilaspur, Raipur and Ambikapur.

### MADHYA PRADESH

CrPC Section 144 was imposed in 43 of the 52 districts in the state. Protests were held in Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Betul, Shajapur, Khargone, Damoh and Sagar. On December 19, stones were pelted in Khadwa, while four police station areas in Jabalpur were under curfew on December 20 after protests turned violent.

### MANIPUR

The All Manipur Student's Union imposed a 15-hour total shutdown in the state on December 10 to oppose the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. Four members of AMSU and eight members of the Manipur University Student's Union were arrested for enforcing the bandh. On December 14, the Naga Student's Federation (NSF) imposed 6-hour bandh in Naga-dominated areas to oppose now-passed Act. On December 19, CPI, CPI(M), RSP and AIFB imposed a 12-hour general strike in the state.

### HIMACHAL PRADESH

Peaceful protests held in Shimla, Dharamshala, Chamba and Karsong.

## Meanwhile

### MUZAFFARNAGAR CALM: POLICE

A day after violence broke out in Muzaffarnagar amid protests against the new citizenship law, police said the situation was calm and there are no law-and-order problems. "The situation is completely under control in Muzaffarnagar... There is no truth to the rumours that people have died during protests [here] and there are merely injuries," said SSP Abhishek Yadav.

### 32 HELD IN GUJARAT

Police arrested 15 more people from Ahmedabad's Shah e Alam area, a day after 49 were arrested following clashes between the police and protesters in the area during a demonstration against the new citizenship law. In Vadodara, police arrested eight persons in connection with Friday's rioting, while in Banaskantha, nine were arrested.

### JAIPUR: INTERNET TO BE SUSPENDED

Mobile Internet services are to be suspended in Jaipur from 6am to 8pm on Sunday. Police have also deployed extra force in the city to maintain the law and order situation during the protests. A 'peace march' by the Congress is scheduled in Jaipur, with participation by senior party leaders, including CM Ashok Gehlot.



A pro-CAA rally in Pune. Pavan Khengre

### TMC DELEGATION TO VISIT UP

A four-member TMC delegation will travel to Uttar Pradesh to visit the families of those allegedly killed in police firing — nearly 15 have died in the state so far during protests over the new citizenship law and the proposed nationwide NRC. Led by senior party leader Dinesh Trivedi, the TMC delegation will include MPs Pratima Mondal, Mohammad Nadimul Haque and Abir Biswas. The delegation is expected to reach Lucknow today.

### MORE PROTESTS IN CHENNAI

Protests against the new citizenship law and proposed NRC continued in Chennai, with scores of people led by different organisations organising the gatherings. CPI(M)-affiliated activists of youth wing DYFI and women's wing AIDWA tried to block trains near Central railway station. As the protesters tried to move ahead to block trains beyond barricades, the police used force to prevent them and dozens of cadres were evacuated from the station premises.

### MNS CHIEF: INDIA NOT A DHARMSHALA

MNS chief Raj Thackeray on Saturday accused Home Minister Amit Shah of "playing a game of diversionary tactics" to divert the attention of people from the "economic crisis". Thackeray also said that illegal migrants who come from Bangladesh and Pakistan should not be given refuge in India as the country was not a "dharma-shala" (shelter home). ENS

## Centre can bypass DMs over citizenship, says minister

New Delhi: Even as chief ministers of non-BJP-rules states have spoken out against the new citizenship law and proposed nationwide NRC, Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on Saturday that the Centre may bypass district collectors to implement the CAA. In a series of tweets, Shekhawat said, "The Government of India has the right to grant citizenship and has authorised the collectors through a notification. If the states do not allow collectors to do this work, then we will authorise income tax officers or customs officers to grant the citizenship." ENS

## NCM sets up helpdesk

New Delhi: The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) is set to start a helpdesk from Monday to allay fears about the new citizenship law and NRC.

NCM chairman Ghayurul Hasan Rizvi said: "The helpdesk will become operational from Monday."

The helpline number is 180011008, and Rizvi's mail is \_ncm@nic.in. ENS

## UP govt moves to identify 'miscreants', analyse photos, videos

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 21

TWO DAYS after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that property of all those involved in violence amid protests over the new citizenship law would be confiscated and used to recover compensation for public property that was damaged, the state government began the process to identify miscreants and formed teams to evaluate the losses incurred.

To identify the assailants, the police have started scrutinising photographs, video clips and CCTV footage collected so far. The police collected video clips and photographs from local residents and media houses, while CCTV footage was collected from homes and shops located near the areas where violence took place.

On Saturday, Gorakhpur police released photographs of people suspected to be involved in Friday's violence in which five people were injured and four vehicles damaged. The photographs of suspects have been released to the media and on social media, requesting people to provide information about them,

## EXPLAINED Process to assess, recover losses

THE UP government has started the process to evaluate loss of public and government properties and recover the damages. The district administration will subsequently send recovery notices to those found involved in violence. Lucknow District Magistrate Abhishek Prakash has formed a four-member team comprising Additional DM-rank officers to evaluate the loss incurred.

the police said. They said names of those giving information on the suspects would be not be disclosed.

Sitapur police have so far released photographs of nearly 20 suspects allegedly broke the law during the protest on Friday. Lucknow police on Saturday released photographs of people arrested so far in Thursday's violence.

ing a "nation of and for everyone". Another protest on Saturday saw mostly Assam migrants.

### GOA

A protest was held at Panaji's Azad Maidan on December 18. Speakers included activist Claude Alvares, who spoke on the "idea of Hind. Idea of India" be-

## IIT-K panel to probe 'communal statements' by protesting students

AVANEESH MISHRA  
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 21

FOLLOWING A complaint that students of Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K) made allegedly communal statements during an event held in solidarity with Jamia Millia Islamia, the IIT-K administration on Saturday formed a high-level committee to look into the allegation. The complaint was filed by Dr Vashi Mant Sharma, a professor at IIT-K.

The students were on Tuesday participating in a march on the campus and condemned the police action on Jamia students. Responding to a tweet with a video of the event, IIT-K director Abhay Karandikar said the institute will not tolerate any indiscipline. In the video, students can be purportedly heard reciting a Faiz Ahmad Faiz poem, which translates to "When all idols will be removed, only Allah's name will remain". The poem (nazm), titled *Hum Dekhenge*, was written in 1979.

"We have received a complaint by our INSPIRE faculty Dr Vashi Mant Sharma regarding a video, and the director has formed a committee to investigate it. When we look into it in

detail, we will know what exactly happened. The video is of Tuesday, of a march by students to show solidarity with students of Jamia. During the march, students were making statements which can be called communal," said Manindra Agarwal, IIT-K deputy director. He said that INSPIRE faculty members have a five-year tenure and are high-performing post-doctorals who can teach at any institute in India.

Based on the report of the committee, action will be taken, said Agarwal. He added that the students involved are either undergraduates or pursuing PhD. In his tweet, Karandikar said, "The institute never permitted any such protest/ march etc. DD & Dean advised students against such activity... IIT-K system does not tolerate any indiscipline."

While the video's sound is of poor quality, the English subtitle reads, "When from Allah's place, all idols will be removed, when crowns will be tossed and thrones will vanish, only Allah's name will remain." One student is seen reading the lines, while around 100 are cheering.

Voxpopuli, the student media body of IIT-Kanpur, in an article said the matter of a peaceful gathering is being communalised.

# 7 EXPRESS NETWORK

## NEW CITIZENSHIP LAW

### Several injured, police station vandalised as Bihar bandh turns violent

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PATNA, DECEMBER 21

AROUND TWO dozen people were injured, 1,550 people detained and 13 arrested across Bihar during a bandh called by the RJD and its alliance partners to protest against the new citizenship law and proposed nationwide NRC.

Six people were injured in firing, while another six including two policemen were injured in brickbating in Patna, police said.

There were reports of violence in Vaishali, Bhagalpur and Bhojpur and Gopalganj as well. The police used teargas and mild lathicharge at these places.

Road and train services were disrupted across the state, with at least a dozen trains running behind schedule.

Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, who led the Opposition's protest march in Patna, said they had asked their workers to protest peace-

fully and alleged that the state police were responsible for provoking violence at some places.

RLSP chief Upendra Kushwaha, who also joined the protest, said the central government had forced "unnecessary law and order problems" by amending the citizenship law.

Around two dozen people including an assistant sub-inspector were injured in Patna, Nawada and Aurangabad during the protests. More than 50 people vandalised a police station in Nawada. An assistant sub-inspector of police was injured in Aurangabad when a group of protesters allegedly threw stones at a police team, prompting them to use teargas.

Police said they were studying video footage to identify the miscreants.

Six persons were admitted to AIIMS, Patna. At least three media persons suffered minor injuries during protests at Dak Bhugalow Chowk and Phulwarisharif in Patna.



At Tiranga Chowk in Meerut, where four deaths have been reported. Abhinav Saha

### In Kanpur, a police outpost damaged, cop critical; 2 victims' kin await bodies

ASAD REHMAN  
KANPUR, DECEMBER 21

PROTESTERS ON Saturday tried to burn down a police outpost at Yateemkhana area of Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, as agitation against the new citizenship law and NRC went on for the second successive day, a day after two protesters died of bullet injuries.

Ashish Kumar Awasthi, the guard at the police outpost, said a crowd of hundreds tried to overpower him and two other police officials posted there. "They tried to burn down the outpost, but we stood strong. They were throwing big stones and bricks at us; then more police officials came to the rescue," he said.

At 8.30 pm on Saturday, when *The Sunday Express* went there, the police outpost stood damaged, its windows and doors broken. Several vehicles parked outside were completely burnt.

The road leading to the outpost was strewn with glass shards, bricks and stones. There was heavy police deployment. "One constable has received



Relatives and neighbours of Mohammad Saif on Saturday. Express

bullet injury on his shoulder and is critical. He is being treated," SP (Rural), Kanpur, Pradyumn Singh, who was patrolling the area on Saturday night, said.

Asked about the sequence of events, Singh said, "Protesters had gathered in large numbers. They indulged in arson and burnt down around 20 vehicles. No protester has received any major injury; only teargas and rubber bullets were used to disperse the crowd."

An officer who did want to be identified said, "The protest was initially peaceful. Then they wanted to take the march to

Babupurwa area, where two people died on Friday during the protests. District officials, senior police officers and clerics tried to convince them to call it off, but they did not listen. Then, it turned violent... Some protesters threw petrol bombs at the outpost."

ADG, Kanpur zone, Prem Prakash, who was present near the site, said the situation is under control. "Yesterday, there were two deaths in Babupurwa. Their bodies were handed over to family members. Today, people tried to gather and take a march to Babupurwa."

Prakash said 40 people were arrested on Friday, and seven on Saturday. Among the arrested are an MLA and a former MLA, he said.

Earlier in the day, around 3.30 pm, locals in Babupurwa area awaited the bodies of Mohammad Aftab (22) and Mohammad Saif (25), who died of bullet injuries on Friday during the violence near Eidgah mosque in Nayi Basti.

Their family members said the two were not part of the protests, and they do not know who fired on them. Mohammad Raees (49), an

uncle of Aftab, said the 22-year-old had gone to receive payment from his contractor for work done through the week as a daily wager.

Aftab's father had died five years ago due to illness and the youth is survived by mother Nagma (51) and six siblings.

The victim's brother, Mohammad Shadab (18), said Aftab was shot in the chest and the bullet left from the other side. "We don't know who shot him. His body is supposed to come home; it will then go to the graveyard," the teen said.

In Munshipurwa, under Babupurwa police station and around 1 km from Aftab's home, a crowd had gathered at second victim Saif's home. The area seemed tense, with heavy police deployment.

Saif's father Mohammad Taqi, 54, a house painter, said "We have been told that he received two bullets — one in the hand and another on stomach. I saw the body yesterday."

His mother Qamar Jahaan, 50, told mourning relatives, "He had gone for Friday prayers and was returning when he was shot."

### Maharashtra govt announces farm loan waiver up to Rs 2 lakh

VISHWAS WAGHMODE  
NAGPUR, DECEMBER 21

MAHARASHTRA CHIEF Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday announced an unconditional crop loan waiver of up to Rs 2 lakh on outstanding loans taken from 2015 to September 30, 2019. The scheme, to be called Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Farmer Loan Waiver Scheme, was announced by Uddhav in the Assembly on the concluding day of its winter session.

"The government will waive farmers' loans of up to Rs 2 lakh, pending till September 30. I am announcing the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Farmer Loan Waiver Scheme today in the House. The scheme will start from March next year as the government will require two months for its rollout," Uddhav said in the Assembly. Besides, a special scheme would be offered for farmers who repay their loans on time, he said.

Uddhav said it would be a transparent scheme and the money would be directly transferred to the bank accounts of farmers. "Farmers will not have to meet any conditions. Our intention is to make as many farmers debt-free as possible. The loan taken for the current season, which will be pending next June, will be restructured. A separate incentive scheme will be announced in the next 15 days for farmers who are paying crop loans regularly," he added.

Jayant Patil, Minister for Finance and senior NCP leader, said the number of beneficiaries and total loan amount to be waived will be announced soon. "Loans of farmers, which have remained outstanding since 2015, would be waived. The total amount to be spent will be more than Rs 20,000 crore, as claimed to have been disbursed by the previous BJP-led government... no



CM Uddhav Thackeray

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** No clarity on financial burden

FARM LOAN waiver was one of the main components of the Common Minimum Programme of the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress government. The new scheme comes two years after the Rs 34,000-crore loan waiver announced by then BJP-Sena government in 2017. There was no word on the exact burden the new scheme would put on the state treasury.

forms would be needed, no one will have to stand in queue and no online form submission would be needed, which was required for the previous government's loan waiver scheme," he added.

Leader of Opposition Venendra Fadnis alleged that the government had not fulfilled its original promise of full loan waiver. Staging a walkout from the Assembly, he alleged that the government has "backstabbed" farmers. He also questioned the government's failure to give assistance of Rs 25,000 per hectare to farmers who suffered losses due to unseasonal rain, a demand which Uddhav himself had made before he became CM.



A demonstration against the CAA and NRC in Patna. PTI

### Threat to Pak from India increasing due to anti-CAA protest: Imran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD, DECEMBER 21

PAKISTAN PRIME Minister Imran Khan on Saturday expressed apprehension that India could carry out a "false flag operation" against it to divert attention from its domestic situation and warned that it will give a befitting response to any such action.

In a series of tweets, Khan said that under the Modi government, India has been moving towards "Hindu Rashtra" with its "fascist ideology".

"...Now with the Citizens Amendment Act, all those Indians who want a pluralist India are beginning to protest & it is becoming a mass movement," Khan said.

As the protests in India are increasing, "threat to Pakistan from India is also increasing" and the Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat's remarks on the situation along the Line of Control adds to Pakistan's "concerns of a false flag operation", he said.

"I have been warning the int community of this for some time & am reiterating again: if India does such an operation to divert attention from its domestic



Imran Khan

chaos plus whip up war hysteria to mobilise Hindu nationalism, Pak will have no option but to give a befitting response," he tweeted.

Earlier, Pakistan Army spokesperson Maj Gen Asif Ghafoor had described Gen Rawat's remarks as a tactic to take global attention away from domestic issues.

Khan had criticised the new citizenship law and said it "violates all norms of international human rights law and bilateral agreements with Pakistan" and that "it is part of the RSS Hindu Rashtra design of expansionism".

India slammed Khan, saying such "unwarranted" criticism cannot absolve Pakistan of the "blatant persecution" of religious minorities.

### Mangaluru cop says didn't talk of bodies, BSY defends firing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MANGALURU, DECEMBER 21

A POLICE officer who has been linked to a voice heard in a video clip where policemen were being asked why no bodies had not dropped in the firing in Mangaluru on Thursday has denied any knowledge or link to the clip.

The video clip, which has been widely shared online, was also provided to the media by Congress leader Siddaramaiah during a press briefing in Bengaluru on Friday.

An inspector from Kadri police station in Mangaluru, Shantharam, was linked to the video, which had an officer (who was not seen) telling policemen why no bodies had dropped in police firing. The video has been linked to the police firing incidents in Mangaluru during protests against the citizenship law.

"I don't know anything about this," said the police officer, who was on duty during Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's meetings with officials in the



BS Yediyurappa meets the family members of those killed in the firing. PTI

coastal city on Saturday.

"The participants in the protests were rogues and were bent on disrupting law and order. If firing had not occurred then an Uttar Pradesh-like situation would have prevailed (here). We had few choices. We get hauled up whether we do something, or (even) when we do not," the inspector said.

Referring to the video clip shared by Siddaramaiah, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister C N Ashwathnarayan said, "We all know such videos can be created."

Mangaluru police have faced criticism for their action against

protesters on Thursday, including firing and an 'attack' on a hospital with teargas.

Yediyurappa, who met families of the victims on Saturday, defended the police's version - that the police opened fire on protesters in self-defence. He said, "The incidents are unfortunate. The police had no options when they felt that firearms at Bunder police station would be targeted in the protest. We do not know what catastrophe would have occurred had the police station been attacked and the firearms taken away by the protesters."

But local residents of Bunder area claimed protesters had no plan to attack the police station.

Referring to the police firing teargas shells in Highland Hospital, where victims of the firing in Bunder were taken on Thursday evening, and the police barging into the hospital to look for protesters, Yediyurappa said, "An inquiry will reveal the truth... They (police) have shown me all video clips. I have had two rounds of discussions with the police authorities... I have told everyone to maintain peace."

### Vandals will be shot: Bengal BJP president

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 21

WEST BENGAL BJP state president Dilip Ghosh has said that those destroying government properties will be shot. "Dosh hok ba aksho hok, desher sompotti noshto korte guli khete hobe. Tash Assam e hok, ba Uttar Pradesh e hok (Be it 10 or 100, those destroying our nation's properties will get bullets, whether in Assam or Uttar Pradesh or anywhere else)," Ghosh said when asked about the deaths in Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country during the anti-CAA protests.

Ghosh was speaking to the media on the sidelines of a pro-Citizenship Amendment Act rally in Bankura.

The Trinamool Congress has reacted strongly to Ghosh's statement, accusing the Midnapore MP of trying to provoke people. "His statements are meant to provoke people and disturb peace. We do not expect anything better from him or his party colleagues," said TMC leader Tapas Roy.

### Modi holds meet with ministers, reviews key sectors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday held a marathon meeting with the Council of Ministers, reviewed the performance of key sectors and held deliberations on a vision for the next four and a half years.

The meeting, which started 10.30 am and concluded after 6 pm, was attended by all the ministers in the Modi government. According to sources, discussions were held on two key sectors: rural agriculture and allied sectors, and infrastructure.

The government had set a target of doubling farmers' income by 2022 and has launched some schemes such as PM-Kisan. Sources said that the implementation of such flagship schemes was reviewed in the meeting.

It was also learnt that suggestions regarding the Union Budget 2020-21, which will be



PM Narendra Modi

presented on February 1 next year, were discussed.

This was the second meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Modi government that took oath on May 30 this year. The first meeting took place in June.

It was not clear whether the protests over the new citizenship law came up for discussion during the meeting. The issue may figure in a meeting of the Union Cabinet scheduled for Tuesday, as it is expected to approve a proposal of conducting the 2021 Census and updation of National Population Register (NPR).

### Sonia's anti-CAA post retweeted from Oli's handle, later deleted

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE  
KATHMANDU, DECEMBER 21

A RETWEET of Congress president Sonia Gandhi's video message criticising the Narendra Modi government from Nepal Prime Minister K P Oli's official Twitter handle was removed after severe criticism on social media, with a top aide of the Nepal PM stating that the account may have been temporarily compromised.

Sonia's 2.37-minute video message, criticising the Modi government over attempts to allegedly suppress protests



against the new citizenship law with "brute force" and tweeted from the Congress party's official handle, was retweeted a few minutes later from Oli's Twitter handle on Friday.

As it was greeted with hostile messages, some calling it an act of immature diplomacy that may affect Nepal's relationship with

India, the tweet was removed. Oli's press adviser Surya Thapa said, "Someone may have abused the Prime Minister's password (and misused the Twitter account)."

Thapa said the matter is being investigated, without giving more details.

Traditionally, Oli and his erstwhile Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist Leninist and the Sonia Gandhi-led Indian National Congress have been on good terms, while Oli's relationship with PM Modi soured after the 134-day-long economic blockade by India beginning September 2015.

### Over 1,000 intellectuals, academics, scholars back new citizenship law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

MORE THAN 1,000 academics, intellectuals and scholars on Saturday came out in support of the new citizenship law, saying that it "fulfills the long-standing demand of providing refuge and citizenship to persecuted religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan".

The list includes Anand Ranganathan of JNU, Prof Prakash Singh of Delhi University, senior journalist Kanchan Gupta, Abhijit Iyer-Mitra, Senior Fellow, Institute

of Peace and Conflict Studies, Advocate J Sai Deepak, Guru Prakash of the Department of Law, Patna University, Professor Ainul Hasan, Dean of School of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, Meenakshi Jain, Senior Fellow, ICSSR, Debashish Bhattacharya, Visva Bharti, Shantiniketan, Jiten Jain, Honorary Professor at Amity University, Professor AP Pandey, Vice-chancellor, Manipur University, Geeta Bhatt, Bhaskaracharya College, Delhi University, Professor Chandan Chaube, Delhi University, Professor Ajay Dubey and Pranav Kumar of JNU,

Suvrajyoti Gupta, Assistant Professor, OP Jindal Global University, Advocate Shubhendu Anand who is a Chevening Scholar, and Anil Kumar, Sri Ram College of Commerce.

In a statement issued in their "personal capacity", the 1,100 signatories said that "ever since the failure of the Liaquat-Nehru pact of 1950, various leaders and political parties like the Congress, CPI (M) etc cutting across the ideological spectrum have demanded the grant of refuge and citizenship to religious minorities from Pakistan and Bangladesh who mostly belong to the Dalit castes".

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY  
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# Classifieds

## PERSONAL

**I, have** change my name from Mukesh Kumar to Mukesh Kumar Varshney for all future purposes. Mukesh Kumar Varshney S/o Subhash Chandra Varshney R/o H-139, Sector Gamma-2, Greater Noida, U.P. 0040525120-5

**I, Suresh** Chand S/o Shri Musaddi Lal R/o Sarainain Singh, Jewar, Distt.-G.B.Nagar, have changed my name, from Suresh Chand Garg to Suresh Chand for all future purposes. 0040525120-6

**I, Nawab** Jaan (DOB: 01-01-1953) S/o Abdul Majid R/O-B-7, Shram Vihar, Abdul Fazal Enclave, Part-3, Jamia Nagar New Delhi-110025, have changed my name, from Nawab Jan to Nawab Jaan (DOB: 01-01-1953), for all future purposes. 0040525120-4

**I, Jyoti** Tondon W/O-Rajinder Kumar R/O-E-131/1, Om Vihar, Phase-5, Uttam Nagar New Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Jyoti. 0040525100-1

**I, Jai Deep Singh** R/O Flat No. 99, 1st Floor, Seemant Vihar Society, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad - 201010, have changed my name to Jai Deep Singh Bisht. 0070689419-1

**I, Honey/Honey Garg** S/o Mukesh Kumar R/O A-1/179, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063, have changed my name to HONEY KUMAR GARG. 0040525037-1

**I, Honey Kumar Garg** R/O A-1/179, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063, have changed my minor daughter's name from Aradhya to AARADHYA. Correct names of parents of Aradhya are HONEY KUMAR GARG and GINNY RANI. 0040525037-2

**I, Monika** Khanna W/O. Sh. Arvind Khanna R/O-B-151, New Ashok Nagar, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-110096, have declare that Monika Khanna and Mannu Khanna both name is one and, the same person. In future I will be known as Monika Khanna for all purposes. 0040525120-3

**I, Sharif** Ahmad S/o Mohammad Rafik R/O-C-164, Gali-1, Mohalla-Dilshad Masjid, Mustafabad, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Sharif, for all purposes. 0040525109-1

**I, Hitroter** Known As Vijaypal Singh Chauhan Alias Vijay Pal Singh, S/O Bani Singh R/O-C-287, Block-C, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi-110096, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Vijay Pal Singh. 0040525090-7

**I, Hema Bisht**, D/o Shri Chandan Singh, W/o Shri Bharat Singh R/O E-365/A, Gali No. 8, East Vinod Nagar, Delhi-110091, has changed her name to Hema Karkoti. 0040525081-1

**I, Harpreet** S/o Shri Jeet Singh R/O G-2/19, Upper Ground Floor, Budh Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110086, have changed my name from Harpreet to HARPREET SINGH for all future purposes. 0040525064-1

**I, Shabana** Azami D/o Mohammad Umar R/O-Kidwai Nagar, Gursahaiganj, Kannauj-U.P., have changed my name to Shabana Begum for all purposes. 0040525100-3

**I, Seema** W/o Ashutosh Mangla R/O-97 2nd-Floor Block-K.P. Maurya-Enclave Pitampura Delhi-110034. Changed my name to Seema Mangla. 0040525135-2

**I, Harjinder** Singh S/O Amrik Singh R/O-Qtr No-2, Gurdwara Mata Sundri, Delhi-110002, have changed my name to Harjinder Singh Aulakh. 0040525135-1

**I, Harish** Kumar S/o Lakshmi Chand, A-1/118, Top floor, Sector-17, Rohini Delhi-85, Have Changed My Name To Harish Kumar Ramchandani Permanently. 0040525100-6

**I, Gurvinder** Kaur Gill W/o Paramjit Singh R/O C-11c, Janta-Flats, Raghubir-Nagar, New Delhi, have changed my name to Gurvinder Kaur. 0040525100-8

**I, Satish** Kumar Upadhyay S/O Krishna Kumar R/O-B-11 Anand-Utsav Ashram Haripur Kalan, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-249205. Changed My Name To Satish Kumar. 0040525090-2

**I, Satish** Kumar S/o Sh. Ram Shri R/O-B-218, gali no-20, Madanpur khadar Extn, New Delhi-110076 have changed my name to Satish saini for all future purposes. 0070689422-1

**I, Gurmit** Kaur Spouse Of Mr. Sant Ram Presently R/O-Halwara, Raikot, Ludhiana, Punjab-141107, Have Changed My Name From Gurmit Kaur To Gurmeet Kaur. Vide-Affidavit Date-21-12-19. 0040525109-4

**I, Davinder** Kumar Mourya S/O Ganshyam Dass R/O B-37, G/F Tagore-Garden Extn., New Delhi, have changed my name to Davinder Kumar. 0040525100-9

**I, Ranjit** Kaur W/O Parvinder Singh R/O C-15, Ground Floor, Raja Garden, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Ranjeet Kaur for all purposes. 0040525045-1

**I, Pushpa** Devi W/O Attar Singh Grewal R/O A-24, Aman Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name from Pushpa Devi to PUSHPA GREWAL. 0040525054-1

**I, Daljeet** Singh Bhatti S/O Partap Singh Bhatti R/O-C-219, Pul-Prehladpur, N.D-110044, my father Partap Singh Bhatti, Partap Singh and Pratap Singh all name are same person. 0040525100-10

**I, Bibek** Kumar Ojha S/O Prabhash Narayan Ojha R/O-C-33, Lalpat Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Vivek Kumar Ojha. 0040525100-4

**I, Praver** Bhatnagar S/o Sh. Dinesh Swaroop Bhatnagar R/O-B-55 second-floor south-city-2, rosewood-city sector-49, Gurgaon Haryana. Have changed my name from Praver Bhatnagar to Praver Bhatnagar, for all purposes. 0040525135-3

**I, Pardeep** Dahiya S/O Dhanambir Singh R/O R-4, Lampur Road, Swatantra-Nagar, Narela, Delhi-110040, Have Changed My Name To Pardeep. 0040525090-9

**I, Yogesh** Verma S/O Late Sh. Sham Dass Verma R/O C-159, Ashok Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-110052 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Vidisha to Vidisha Verma for all purposes. 0040525034-4

**I, Yogesh** Kumar S/O Late Sh. Sham Dass Verma R/O C-159, Ashok Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-110052 have changed my name to Yogesh Verma for all purposes. 0040525034-1

**I, Pardeep** Dahiya S/O Dhanambir Singh R/O R-4, Lampur Road, Swatantra-Nagar, Narela, Delhi-110040, Have Changed My Name To Pardeep. 0040525090-9

**I, Niti** Gupta W/O Salil Gupta R/O-F-168d (GF), Rajouri Garden, New Delhi, Have Changed My Name To Niti Aggarwal. 0040525100-5

**I, Mohammad** Muqees S/O Ali Hasan, H.No-E-338, E-Block Part-2, Qutab Vihar Delhi-110071. Changed My Name To Mohammad Muqees. 0040525090-1

**I, Tanisha** D/o Sh. Yogesh Verma R/O C-159, Ashok Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-110052 have changed my name to Tanisha Verma for all purposes. 0040525034-2

**I, Sanjida** Saifi W/O Mohd Sayeed R/O C-82, Radhey Shyam Park Extension Krishan Nagar Delhi-110051 Have Changed My Name To Sanjeeda Begum. 0040525090-5

**I, Naina** Bhatia W/O Anil Sehgal R/O-B-24, Sai Apartment, Opp. DD Club, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Naina. 0040525100-2

**I, Mayank** S/O Sanjay Kumar R/O Cb/108-C, DDA Flats, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064. Has Changed My Name To Mayank Arora. 0040525090-3

**I, Brijesh** Kumar S/O Sh. Raghuveer Singh R/O B-318/9-10, M.B.Road, Chungi No.2, Lal Kuan, Village Jaitpur, New Delhi-110044 have changed my name to Brijesh Ujainwal for all purposes. 0040525034-6

**I, Afsana** Javed R/O Haroon Nagar sec-2 Phulwari Patna is changing my name from Afsana Javed to Afshan Javed. 0070689420-1

**I, Kulwant** Son Of Mr. Sant Ram Presently R/O-Halwara, Raikot, Ludhiana, Punjab-141107, Have Changed My Name From Kulwant To Kulwant Singh. Vide-Affidavit Date-21-12-19. 0040525109-5

**I, Km. Usha** W/O Vijay Pal Singh R/O-C-287, Block-C, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi-110096, Have Changed My Name To Usha Chouhan. 0040525090-6

**I, Aakil** alias Mohd. Aakil S/O Sharif Ahmed R/O H.No.K-12/A, Street No.1, Near Khajwadi Wali Masjid, Gautam Vihar, Ghonda, North East, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Mohd. Aakil for all purposes. 0040525034-8

**I, Rekha** Sautya D/o Goshta Behari Samanta R/O House No. 252, First Floor Back Side, Near SLF Mall, Indraprastha Colony, 30-33, Amarnagar, Faridabad, Haryana 121003 Have Changed My Name From Rekha Sautya to Rina Sautya. 0070687326-3

**I, Saroj** Kumari W/o Sunil Verma R/O-483AF ShaktiKhand-3 Indrapuram Ghaziabad UP have changed my name to Saroj Verma. 0040525109-2

**I, Sangeeta** D/o Sh. Shambhu Nath Arora W/O Sh. Yogesh Verma R/O C-159, Ashok Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-110052 have changed my name to Sangeeta Verma for all purposes. 0040525034-3

**I, Ratan** Pal Barua S/O Late Sh. Prafulla Kumar Barua R/O-K-2125, CR.Park, New Delhi-19 have changed my name to Ratan Barua (DOB:15-2-1955). 0040525090-10

**I, Prem** Lata D/o Sh. Ram Surat R/O WZ-57-A, 1st Floor, Gali No.7, Sanatan Dharam Mandir, Ram Ghar Colony, Basai Dara Pur, Near Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015 have changed my name to Preet Lata for all purposes. 0040525034-7

**I, Navdeep** Ashok Garg S/O Ashok Hazari Lal Garg R/O-R.562, New Rajinder Nagar New Delhi-110060 Have Changed Name Of My Minor Son Darsh Navdeep Garg To Darsh Garg. 0040525090-8

**I, Mohd** Saeed S/O Mohd Abdul Gopphur R/O-C-82, Radhey Shyam-Park Extension-Krishan Nagar Delhi-110051 Have Changed My Name To Mohd Sayeed. 0040525090-4

**I, Dipti** D/o Sh. Rohtash W/o Sh. Pankaj Sharma R/O C-46, Swami Dayanand Colony, Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Deepthi Sharma for all purposes. 0040525034-5

**I, Shiv** Kumar S/O Bisheshar Dayal R/O B/J-128, Shalimar Bagh West Delhi-88 have changed my name to Shiv Kumar Gupta 0040525109-9

**I, Harpreet** S/o Shri Jeet Singh R/O G-2/19, Upper Ground Floor, Budh Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110086, have changed my name from Harpreet to HARPREET SINGH for all future purposes. 0040525064-1

**I, Harjinder** Singh S/O Amrik Singh R/O-Qtr No-2, Gurdwara Mata Sundri, Delhi-110002, have changed my name to Harjinder Singh Aulakh. 0040525135-1

**I, Shiv** Kumar S/O Bisheshar Dayal R/O B/J-128, Shalimar Bagh West Delhi-88 have changed my name to Shiv Kumar Gupta 0040525109-9

**I, Hema** Bisht, D/o Shri Chandan Singh, W/o Shri Bharat Singh R/O E-365/A, Gali No. 8, East Vinod Nagar, Delhi-110091, has changed her name to Hema Karkoti. 0040525081-1

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My client ANANDHWAR SINGH JAI SINGH GAHLAWAT AND JAI SINGH GAHLAWAT BOTH RESIDENT OF 148, HAMIDPUR VILLAGE, KHAMRUPUR, DISTT-110006, SEVERE ALL RELATIONS AND DISOWNED DEBARRED HER SON AMARJEET SINGH GAHLAWAT AND DAUGHTER IN LAW AND GRAND CHILDREN FROM ALL MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTY AND ASSETS DUE TO THEIR MISBEHAVIOUR AND HOSTILE ATTITUDE, ANYBODY DEALING WITH THEM, SHALL DO AT HIS/HER OWN RISK.  
SD/- (SURENDER NANDAL) ADVOCATE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I, SHEESH RAM S/O JASOUNDI, residing at PLOT No. A-6, FLAT NO. 60-C-2, GROUND FLOOR, BLOCK-A, BRIJ VIHAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201011, declare that the name of my father has been wrongly written as JASAUINDI SINGH in my AADHAAR CARD. The actual name of my father is JASOUNDI which may be amended accordingly.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General public is hereby informed that my client namely Mahavir S/O Dhruva Ram R/o L-1/A/832, Gali No. 13, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi has severed all his relations with his son namely Mohi, he is not in my client's control. Mohavir has disown his son namely Mohi from all his movable and immovable properties with immediate effect. In case any kind of misconduct, fighting, legal activity and transaction done by them my client shall not be responsible for their any acts indeed.  
Pankaj Srivastav, Advocate  
Ch. 465, Lawyers Block, Saket Court, ND

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This My Client KULDEEP KAUR W/O SHRI HARKIRAT SINGH R/O H.No.1, T.F. D-BLOCK, VIKASPUR, DELHI-110018, has lost/misplaced her original GPA & WILL regd. on Dt. 18.02.2000, in respect of FLAT No.13-B, F.F., BLOCK-AP, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034. And to publish the misplacement of said regd. GPA & WILL in News Papers on her behalf.  
DINESH DUA (Advocate)  
A-169, Sector-16, Rohini Delhi-89

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My clients Sh. Vijay Pal Yadav, S/o Sh. Ram Prasad Yadav and his wife Shakuntika, R/o H.No. 455-A, Gali No. 1, Bhagat Vihar, Karwal Nagar, Delhi do hereby disown/debar their daughter namely Mrs. Kajal Yadav from their all movable and immovable properties and sever all relations from her, anybody dealing with her will do at his own costs and risks.  
SD/- ANMOL KUMAR (Advocate)  
En No. D/820/2010

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This Notice is hereby given to general public that Mrs. Vinny Malik & Mr. Deepak Malik, who claimed to be owner and in possession of the Second Floor without roof rights, "said floor", part of Property Bearing No. B-125A, land measuring 1282 sq. ft. in the layout plan of The Derasimil Khan Co-Operative House Building Society Ltd., presently known as Derawala Nagar, Delhi and same was purchased from Mrs. Anita Vinayak & Mrs. Aditi Narayan Sarda vide Sale Deed dated 26/07/2019. And Mrs. Vinny Malik & Mr. Deepak Malik has/have approached to IDBI Bank Ltd. for financial assistance. Therefore shall be mortgaged with the said Bank. All person's having any claim regarding in respect of the said property or any part are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which claim, if any, of such persons will be consider to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of Mortgage in respect thereof.  
Sunil Parsad (Advocate)  
Juris NextGen Law Offices  
E-56, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-1 New Delhi-110048

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I Ajay Kumar S/O Rattan Lal Swaroop R/O 712, Sec 16A/ HIG, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad (U.P.) - 201012, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as AJAY KUMAR SWAROOP in my passport no.-634285, the actual name of mine is AJAY KUMAR respectively which may be amended accordingly.  
Sd/- GAUR & ASSOCIATES, ADVOCATES GOPAL DASH KATHURIA (ADV) MOB. NO. 981820776

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to bring to notice of public at large that my client Smt. Krishna Devi w/o Laxman Das R/O F-229, Street no. 10 B Block-2, Pul Pehladpur, New Delhi-110044, has disowned/delivered her son Sh. Yogesh Kumar from her all movable and immovable properties; due to his misbehaving and disobeying with his client, her relatives; and her other family members; and my client also severed all relations with him, henceforth any person dealing with him would do so at his/her own risk and consequences and my client shall not be liable for any of his acts/deeds.  
B. P BHARTI (Advocate)  
Ch. No. 319 Saket Courts, New Delhi-17

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**HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION**  
BAYS NO. 67-70, SECTOR-2, PANCHKULA-134151  
(www.hssc.gov.in)

**Notice for Scrutiny of Documents to Absentee Candidates for the posts of Junior Engineer (Civil), Junior Engineer (Electrical), Junior Engineer (Mechanical) and Junior Engineer (Horticulture) against Advt. No. 10/2019**

In continuation of Notice dated 21.09.2019 to the Candidates for Scrutiny of Documents for the posts of posts of Junior Engineer (Civil), Junior Engineer (Electrical), Junior Engineer (Mechanical) and Junior Engineer (Horticulture) against Advt. No. 10/2019 against Advt. No. 10/2019, the Commission has decided to give last opportunity to absentee candidates for scrutiny of documents on 24.12.2019 who remained absent from 11.11.2019 to 22.11.2019 and on 26.11.2019 for Scrutiny of Documents.

2. Any candidate with directions of Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court may also come for scrutiny of Documents on 24.12.2019 for the above said posts.

3. The absentee Candidates are also directed to bring all original documents, downloaded application form, along with one set of self attested copies of all documents mentioned in their application form and One ID proof. The Notice is also available on the website www.hssc.gov.in of the Commission.

Note: Other terms and conditions are same as mentioned in Notice dated 21.09.2019.

Sd/- Secretary  
Haryana Staff Selection Commission  
Panchkula

Dated: Panchkula the 20th Dec., 2019

**HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED**  
"A State Government Undertaking"  
"Press Tender Notice"  
CORRIGENDUM

ONLINE TENDERS are invited on turnkey basis (two part bid) vide No. CEO/MM/Tender/No.09/Chait-S-Str/2019-20-12948-56 Dated: 29.11.2019 by the undersigned for & on behalf of Managing Director, HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4, for the following work may be noted as under:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Estimate Money	Cost of Tender documents	Completion period	Sale of Tender documents	Last date of Receipt of Tender	Opening of Technical Bid
	CEO/MM/Tender/No.09/Chait-S-Str/2019-20	Survey, Design, Erection, Testing and Commissioning including Supply of Material for construction of 33x11 KV, 2x3 15 MVA Un-manned Sub-Station at Chail (i) civil works, complete in all respect on partial turnkey basis under Electrical Division, HPSEB, Solan, Operation Circle, Solan.	Rs. 297 Lacs	Rs. 743 Lacs	Rs. 5800.00	18 Months	From 26.12.2019 to 15.01.2020 (U		

Across THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

# THE UNMAKING OF A BUDGET

BUDGET DAY is more important to a finance minister than her/his birthday. Making a budget for the country is a memorable and monumental task. In course of time, some proposals in the budget will be modified; on occasion, one or two proposals may be withdrawn in response to criticism. Some outlandish proposals will be allowed to perish without action, mercifully.

## MAKING, UNMAKING

However, Budget 2019-20 is unique. I know of no budget in recent memory where, after making the Budget, the Finance Minister consciously *unmade* the Budget. I made a list of proposals — highlighted in the Budget speech and whose virtues were proclaimed in the post-Budget interactions. Each one of them was reversed. Between February 1 and September 23, the Budget for 2019-20 was reduced to a pedestrian statement of dubious accounts.

Proposals in the July 2019 Budget, that were later reversed:

- 1. SURCHARGE** on long- and short-term capital gains for foreign portfolio investors as well as domestic portfolio investors. **Status:** Withdrawn on August 23. Nirmala Sitharaman said at a press conference, "In order to encourage investment in the capital market, it has been decided to withdraw the enhanced surcharge levied by Finance (no. 2) Act, 2019 on long- and short-term capital gains arising from transfer of equity

shares/units referred in Section 111A and 112A respectively."

**2. ISSUE** of overseas sovereign bonds. Para 103 in the Budget speech said, "The government would start raising a part of its gross borrowing programme in external markets in external currencies. This will also have a beneficial impact on demand situation for government securities in the domestic market."

**Status:** Undecided, but most likely abandoned. Secretary, Economic Affairs, Atanu Chakraborty said on September 23: "(We) need very careful calibrations and deliberations... Work is presently going on to work out a proper structure, looking at various pros and cons. It is a process which is long and will continue. For this year, all the borrowings presently are in rupee-denominated bonds."

**3. CORPORATE** tax cut. Para 110 in the Budget speech said, "So far as corporate tax is concerned, we continue with phased reduction in rates. Currently, the lower rate of 25% is only applicable to companies having annual turnover up to Rs 250 crore. I propose to widen this to include all companies having annual turnover up to Rs 400 crore. This will cover 99.3% of the companies. Now only 0.7% of companies will remain outside this rate."

**Status:** Changed via ordinance on September 23, saying, "All domestic companies to be allowed to pay corporation tax at the rate of 22% (effective rate 25.17% including cess and surcharge). This would

be subject to the condition that these companies do not avail of any tax incentives or exemptions. Moreover, no Minimum Alternative Tax (MAT) would be imposed on these companies. Any new domestic manufacturing company, incorporated on or after October 1, 2019, will be allowed to pay corporation tax at the rate of 15% (effective rate 17.01%)."

**4. ANGEL TAX.** **Status:** Withdrawn on August 23. Said Sitharaman at the press conference, "Section 56(2)(viib) of the Income Tax Act shall not apply to startups registered with the Commerce Ministry."

**5. CRIMINALISATION** of CSR violations by companies (by amendment to Companies Act, 2013, July 31).

**Status:** Withdrawn on August 23. Said Sitharaman at the press conference, "Every doubt that was prevailing outside, I would like to dispel it today. There is no intention of the government to (take) the prosecution route. Corporate social responsibility will only be treated as a civil matter and not at all as a criminal matter."

**6. INCREASE** in registration charges for new internal combustion engine (ICE) cars to Rs 5,000 from Rs 600 at present. Renewal of registration of ICE cars is proposed at Rs 15,000 (proposed on July 26).

**Status:** Withdrawn on August 23. Sitharaman said at the press conference that the fee for registering new vehicles was deferred to 2020.

## THE CUP OF WOES

Unfortunately, the woes of the Finance Minister were not over with the reversal of her prized announcements in the Budget. The mostly structural — and some cyclical — problems that plague the economy wrought havoc, the economy tanked, the numbers went horribly awry, brave words didn't bring in more revenue or contain the expenditure, and the results showed up in the monthly accounts released by the Controller General of Accounts.

The last available accounts for October 2019 show that the net revenue receipts are a mere 41.4 per cent of budget estimate; total receipts are 44.9 per cent; fiscal deficit is 102.4 per cent; and revenue deficit is 112.5 per cent. The Finance Minister has no scope to spend more or borrow more.

## INFUSION OR CONFUSION

Yet, since July 5, the Finance Minister has announced huge sums that will be infused in sectors such as public sector banks (Rs 70,000 crore); real estate (Rs 25,000 crore); NBFCs and HFCs (Rs 20,000 crore); IDBI Bank ((Rs 4,557 crore); and Punjab National Bank (Rs 16,000 crore).

Even as Dr Arvind Subramanian and Mr Josh Felman observed that "the economy seems headed for the intensive care unit", the Finance Minister is looking at an abyss and seeing a green valley!

Website: pchidambaram.in  
@Pchidambaram\_JN

## Fifth COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter @tavleen\_singh



# Gandhiji would have been at the barricades

ON THE day that protesters against the new citizenship law poured into the streets of cities across India, Home Minister Amit Shah posted a tweet that made me unsure whether to laugh or cry. The tweet had pictures that showed the Home Minister at a high table beside the President, the Prime Minister and the Vice-President at a meeting of the National Committee for Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Amit Shah clearly missed the irony of his tweet. The Mahatma must be a very new hero in his political journey or he would have known that if Gandhiji were alive, he would have been outside at the barricades and not in this splendid hall with its gilded ceiling and bright lights. As a man who was killed for trying to make Hindus and Muslims live in peace he would have certainly not approved of a law that specifically excludes Muslims.

Even I who believe that radical Islam is the Nazi ideology of our time find it impossible to support a law that singles out Muslims. As someone who has openly supported Modi I was appalled to hear him make that comment about how he could tell clearly from the clothes of the protesters who they were. He seems to be locked in an echo chamber in which the only voices he hears are those that tell him that the people opposing his ugly amendment to the citizenship law are Lutyns liberals, pseudo-secularists, urban Naxals, anti-nationals and hated 'intellectuals'. If he steps out of this echo chamber he will see that they are mostly young people. It was students who began the protests, and if political leaders, leftists and sundry activists have jumped into the fray, it is because the images of policemen throwing teargas canisters into the library of Jamia Millia and frog-marching students out of the university were very disturbing.

By last week students in Muslim universities across India had joined the protests. And, huge numbers of ordinary Muslims joined the protesters once the protests spilled out of campuses into the streets of major cities. This is no accident. In speeches that the Prime Minister and Home Minister have made, Muslims have been repeatedly targeted. Muslims who dared protest on social media have had the dreaded label 'Pakistani' pinned on them. A process of demoralisation and 'othering' of our Muslim citizens has begun that is dangerous and truly anti-national. It is also against everything India has always stood for.

Ordinary Indian Muslims have got the message. They know that they are being singled out for special treatment with the purpose of showing them their place as India's lesser citizens. As someone who has been quite close to many people in the RSS since the days when I was a junior reporter in Delhi, I have been privy to several conversations in which somehow every discussion has ended in the articulation of the fear that Muslims 'breed so fast' that they will one day reduce Hindus to a minority. When I first heard conversations of this kind it was from Punjabi refugees in the Seventies, when memories of Partition were fresh and painful. What is worrying is that these conversations continue to this day in RSS circles, and Muslims continue to be seen as not fully Indian.

The alma mater of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah is the RSS. So they would have spent their lives believing this. After entering politics at a provincial level in Gujarat it may have been acceptable to continue hating Muslims. It is not acceptable when you become the two most important leaders in India. It is not just unacceptable within India but in the world as well, so Modi's international image as the man who would finally take India into the 21st century has been shattered. The cracks began to show in his first term when Muslims were lynched and he seemed not to care enough to condemn the mobs who did the lynching. But, since his second term began, he and his Home Minister have pushed more aggressively than before an agenda that seeks to show them as Hindu (not Indian) leaders. Last week, the Prime Minister made an election speech that made the front page of this newspaper in which he implied that the Congress party would like to give every Pakistani Indian citizenship. He then taunted this damaged, diminished political party by asking if it would dare reverse the changed status of Kashmir or the law that bans triple talaq.

If he had stopped for a minute before making this speech and thought about the man whose 150th birth anniversary his government seeks to celebrate with pomp and pageantry, he may not have made the speech. Gandhiji would have disapproved totally. As he would have of both the new citizenship law and the proposed register of citizens.

## inside TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR



## UNEASY SWITCH

THE IDEOLOGICAL differences between the Shiv Sena and its alliance partner in Maharashtra are already showing. Rahul Gandhi, infuriated with the Sena's position on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Parliament, deliberately raked up V D Savarkar's apology to the British government. (He was responding to the BJP's demand that he apologise for his alleged rape-in-India remark.) *Saamana* editor Sanjay Raut had to caution the Congress not to take potshots at Sena heroes.

The wordy skirmish arose after the Sena initially assured the Congress it would vote against CAB and then backtracked. After Amit Shah mocked the Sena in his Lok Sabha speech for voting on the same side as the Muslim Majlis, the hitherto Hindutva torchbearers were uncomfortable. Just before voting in the Lok Sabha, Sena MPs walked distractedly in and out of the House conferring frantically with Mumbai for instructions. Eventually, to the shock of the Congress, the Sena voted in support of the Bill. Rahul, who was against the Maharashtra alliance in the first place, threatened the Sena that the Congress would pull out of it in Maharashtra if the Sena did not change its position in the Rajya Sabha. Till the eleventh hour there was no unanimity in the party, however, and Raut delivered a roundabout speech in the Rajya Sabha which left everyone still guessing as to which way his party would vote. Finally, the Sena MPs simply abstained.

The BJP is now seeking to embarrass the Sena further. It is planning to demand that Bombay University be named after Savarkar. The Sena will find it embarrassing not to support the suggestion.

## JUNIOR'S CANNY CUTS

The IPL will not have its opening ceremony extravaganza this year. BCCI secretary Jay Amit Shah, who proposed this, pointed out that Rs 25 to Rs 30 crore could be saved by dispensing with the glitz and glamour. The junior Shah has come up with several cost-cutting measures. He showed a way in which the BCCI could save the Rs 40 lakh annually spent on executives' hotel suite bills. He suggested that hotels should be told to rent the suites at regular room rates. Given the substantial revenue and goodwill the BCCI generates when the team stays at a hotel, the hotels will fall in line, he pointed out. The post of BCCI secretary is actually

the most powerful in the national cricket body, since he handles its day-to-day running, while the president is the public face who oversees occasionally. Jay Shah is taking his job seriously, and visits Mumbai regularly for scrutinising files.

## MENON'S DARK SIDE

Jairam Ramesh's biography of V K Krishna Menon sheds new light on the complicated personality of one of Jawaharlal Nehru's closest friends, described as the former prime minister's 'soul mate' by the author. The engrossing biography, based on fresh archival material, reveals that Nehru entrusted Menon with responsibilities such as the post of high commissioner to the UK and defence minister, although Nehru had himself diagnosed Menon as suffering from depression and dark mood swings, as early as 1938. When asked to leave as high commissioner, Menon in a letter acknowledged to Nehru that he took sedatives and hypnotics, but insisted that the barbiturates were not habit-forming. The mercurial Menon, who had strong likes and dislikes, usually created divisions wherever he worked. As defence minister Menon played havoc. He encouraged army chief General PN Thapar to humiliate and chargesheet two of the most outstanding officers in the Indian Army, General KS Thimayya and General S P P Thorat, who were later exonerated. He instigated his favourite, General BM Kaul, to hold a court of inquiry against Lt General Sam Manekshaw, who was to be later appointed India's first field marshal.

## IMAGE MAKEOVER

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was working on an image makeover even before Prashant Kishor was formally inducted to help in his Assembly election campaign. Kejriwal is now focused on also wooing middle-class voters and not just the poor. He no longer projects himself as a rebel fighting the establishment. Despite Delhi's terrible pollution, he has lost his cough, his trademark muffer and appears more mellow, measured and mature.

## DISAPPEARING ACT

Narayan Lal Panchariya is officially the BJP's whip in the Rajya Sabha, but backroom boys Bhupender Yadav and C R Ramesh were actually responsible for the impeccable floor coordination during the vote on CAB. Before the vote, Yadav predicted that at least 124 MPs would support the Bill. (Eventually 125 did.) Ramesh, who switched from the TDP to BJP, is friendly with MPs across party lines. Thanks to his persuasive powers, a dozen MPs from the Opposition disappeared before the vote, including from the Congress, NCP, BSP, Samajwadi Party, TRS and JD(S).

## She SAID

SHALINI LANGER

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WHEN YOUNG, I always fancied a mouthful of sky. One reason was that a TV series by that name was the first such Indian series in English, back in the times of staid Doordarshan; the second was that it featured Milind Soman. However, a large part of it had to do with the image those four words conjured — of a whole wide world that could be just mine, yours, anyone's.

Then, one grew up, to see the sky recede — and not just due to the haze.

What was its colour that day in September when a girl in Rajasthan ran down nearly a kilometre terrified and naked, having been separated from her friends and reportedly gang raped by three? Was the sun harsh or were there clouds over it? If she ran barefeet, did the road burn her soles? In that terror, how many did she pass by? In cars, on foot, till someone came to her help? And yet, she ran, not daring to stop. Was that road lined with scraggly bushes or, after the monsoon that still lingered, new life? Did the fragrance of rare desert flowers fill the air? Will she ever forget, any of it? Will she get onto a scooter again for an impromptu trip with friends? Was it the first ever such outing she had had? How many stretches like those will she avoid? What time of day? All hours of night?

Because, let me tell you, we don't forget. The day we made the mistake of not wearing the right bra, the day we forgot to cross our arms over our chest as a group of boys passed by, the day we stood too close to a road as a car lurked near, the day we let our guard drop just for that second in a crowded bus, the day we took a lift and a presentable young man who was suspiciously sweaty dropped one off with that haunting warning to "not try this next time".

But the Rajasthan girl is forgotten already, just a mere statistic in our rape record, with only those now lingering in our memory whose details are more horrific than the others. As ordained by the courts, she is cloaked in silence — stripped off any detail of her existence, but for that act and the 'victim' tag. It is for her good, sure, but it also helps us sleep more peacefully, without any guilt triggered by the hint of an association. A reminder of a similar place, similar incident, a narrow escape perhaps?

The Rajasthan girl is forgotten, a mere statistic in our rape record, with only those now registering whose details are more horrific than the others. As told by the courts, she is cloaked in silence — stripped off all details of life, but for that act

# Somewhere up above temples touching sky



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

Like the others since 'Nirbhaya' (rendered 'fearless' in renaming because it sounded so good to our ears), like the Hyderabad woman who was set afire and prompted Andhra Pradesh's 'Disha Act'

(giving rape cases a 'direction?'), the Rajasthan girl is being systematically erased.

If she picked up a newspaper these days, she would know the world has moved on parallel to hers (there is no greater distance than that which separates parallel lines, someone once hauntingly wrote). She would learn that the mighty Indian State is promising to secure not just "our Kashmir" but

another one across the border, that its concern runs to those fleeing "persecution" in three different countries (if they tick the right boxes), and that while she remains unacknowledged, 'justice' was served in the form of four killings in cold blood in her name.

She would also learn that the govern-

ment is onto another project: building a temple to Ram in Ayodhya which will "touch the skies". As that kilometre-long road stretches before her, the irony won't escape her. Surely, a government giving God a helping hand to Heaven could restore a 12-year-old's mouthful of sky?

But, am I seeing all this the wrong side up? It may not be god or government, standing on each other's shoulders, that is probably giving her sustenance right now. It may be the fact that, down here, the ground is irretrievably shifting, even if most days we can't see it. At home, my sky seems puny in comparison to what my 14-year-old, clear about what she wants, unapologetic in her demands, uninhibited about seeking them, considers within her reach. Outside home, I see others like her, dusting off minor and major battles, defying every doomsday prediction that has them beaten.

God can keep the grand temple, these two girls would tell me — pointing out the women across the country who last week left idols quaking on feet of clay.

National Editor Shalini Langer curates the fortnightly 'She Said' column

## Out of MY MIND

MEGHNAD DESAI



BORIS JOHNSON won the British general election with a huge majority. The central issue, which led to the demand for Brexit, was the European Union rule that citizens of the EU were free to live and work in any country in the EU. The British public turned against immigrants from Romania and Bulgaria. This may have been a reaction to the shock of 2008 but there was no doubt that the British wanted the freedom to make their own laws on immigration.

This is not necessarily a sign of British racism as, at the same time, the highest number of ethnic minority candidates have

# Govt must clarify, or face chaos

been elected to Parliament. There are three ministers with Indian-origin parents and one of Pakistani-origin parents, more Muslims than ever before.

Brexit was caused not so much by racism as by xenophobia. The British want to choose their immigrants.

In the Citizenship Amendment Act debate, two different issues are confused together. The Act discriminates among refugees from neighbouring Muslim-majority countries by the criterion that these refugees are a minority there by virtue of their religion — Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist. This is where it gets tricky. Indian Muslims are a minority in India. Would the government conflate their religion with their being on a

par with Muslim refugees from Bangladesh? Are they likely to be cast as infiltrators because they are Muslims? How would you distinguish between a Bangladeshi Muslim refugee and a Bengali-speaking Indian Muslim? There are of course Muslims facing persecution in Pakistan — Shia, Ahmadiyya. India will not welcome them.

The government says Indian Muslims should not worry. But there is a complication here. The Assamese have been unhappy about 'outsiders' immigrating to their state for years. By outsiders, they mean Bengalis and Biharis, be they Hindu, Muslim or Buddhist. In signing the Assam Accord, Rajiv Gandhi implicitly agreed to

the idea of a cultural Assamese nation. This was tested in the NRC and 19 lakh residents of Assam failed to make the grade, many of them Hindus. There is promise of a review but the insecurity concerning the CAA is due to the NRC. Hindus would go through either because they are Indians or thanks to CAA, if they are persecuted minority from Bangladesh or Pakistan. But will the rejected Muslims?

Assam is not an exception in this. West Bengal itself is the classic cultural nation. After all, it was the 1905 Partition of Bengal that changed the character of the Indian nationalist movement. In 1971 again, it was the importance of Bengali as the mark of a separate identity which led to the

movement to secede from Pakistan, the Muslim nation Jinnah had fought for. This is why Mamata Banerjee is playing the cultural nationalism card in refusing to implement the NRC or CAA. In her case, there is a state election round the corner which she would hate to lose.

For a certain generation of politicians, the Partition is still unfinished business. The young are bewildered. The two-nation theory means nothing to them. They want clarity not about the status of refugees but their own future. Is CAA just the first step to 'othering' all Indian Muslims? If that is not the government's intention, it should clarify immediately and effectively. Or there will be chaos.



Construction on to build the country's largest ever data centre in Panvel, Navi Mumbai. The Rs 1,000-crore, 12-storey NM1 tower will hold 7,200 'data racks'. Pradip Das

**P**ATALGANGA, A Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation area in Panvel near Mumbai, is home to a Reliance petrochemical plant and textile processor, a Hyundai Mobis engineering facility, and a Cipla pharmaceuticals factory. Just off it, lie rice fields.

Now, this industrial belt is entering the Information Age. In April, the Hiranandani Group began gutting the inside of one of its 8.2 lakh sq ft commercial towers to build the country's largest ever data centre. The Rs 1,000-crore tower called NM1 (Navi Mumbai 1) is part of the Mumbai-based real-estate developer's Rs 15,000 crore investment plans, to raise five such buildings. The 12-storey NM1 tower will hold 7,200 'data racks' — shaped like tall computer servers — with plans to go live on the last day of this year. Altogether, the five buildings will have 30,000 data racks covering 30 lakh sq ft.

Compared to some of the world's data centres, including the 63 lakh sq ft facility in China that is right at the top, NM1 is minuscule. But for the sunrise data economy in India — which now holds more than 10% of the world's Internet users, but only 1.8% of its data centre infrastructure — it marks a milestone.

Apart from growing Net usage, the major factor driving the surge are clear signals by the Modi government that global giants would be mandated to store more of Indian citizens' data within the country. The Personal Data Protection Bill, introduced in the Parliament session that just ended, gives the government the power to decide if sensitive personal data can be transferred to outside countries.



At almost 10 GB per month, Indians now use the most data in the world per smartphone, according to Nokia and Ericsson — a figure that will go up as the number of Internet devices continue to mount. The country is estimated to have 500 million Web users, behind just China (850 million users), and far ahead of the US (300 million).

When it comes to data centre storage though, India lags behind not just the developed world but even Asia-Pacific. With roughly 40 million less Internet users, Europe has more than 12 times its capacity to store data — 8,600 MW, compared to India's 700 MW. And while India comprises 25% of Asia-Pacific's Internet users, in 2017, it accounted for only 8.6% of its data centre growth, as per a 2018 research of the Data Center Advisory Group.

The government runs only 30 government data centres, through the National Informatics Centre. Even as it is expanding them, in July, the Information & Technology Ministry held confidential consultations with stakeholders to assess prospects for a "cloud economic zone" — or government-supported areas devoted to data storage. However, there has not been much movement on that.

If the data centre growth doesn't keep up, the gap is set to widen. The new surge in India is in over-the-top content, sending data numbers for the country skyrocketing. The streaming market now includes Hotstar, MX Player, JioTV, and Amazon Prime Video. By 2024, streaming videos will account for three-quarters of all mobile traffic in India, according to Ericsson.

Tapping into this, Netflix recently announced an India-only Rs 199 per month mobile plan. At the event, Ajay Arora, Director of Product Innovation at Netflix, said, "Our members in India watch more on their mobiles than members anywhere else in the world, and they love to download our shows and films."

Says a Microsoft spokesperson, "We have crossed the tipping point. It's no longer about whether to move to the cloud, but when and how."

Amidst this comes the government push for data localisation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been talking about "data sovereignty", saying storage in India means more control over data. China, for example, steadfastly demands localisation, while the US remains sector-specific when it comes to data.

# Here lies your data

At 10 GB per month per phone, Indians use the most data in the world. As that graph shoots up and govt introduces a Bill supporting its push for localisation, KARISHMA MEHROTRA takes stock of the country's data centre market that is scrambling to catch up

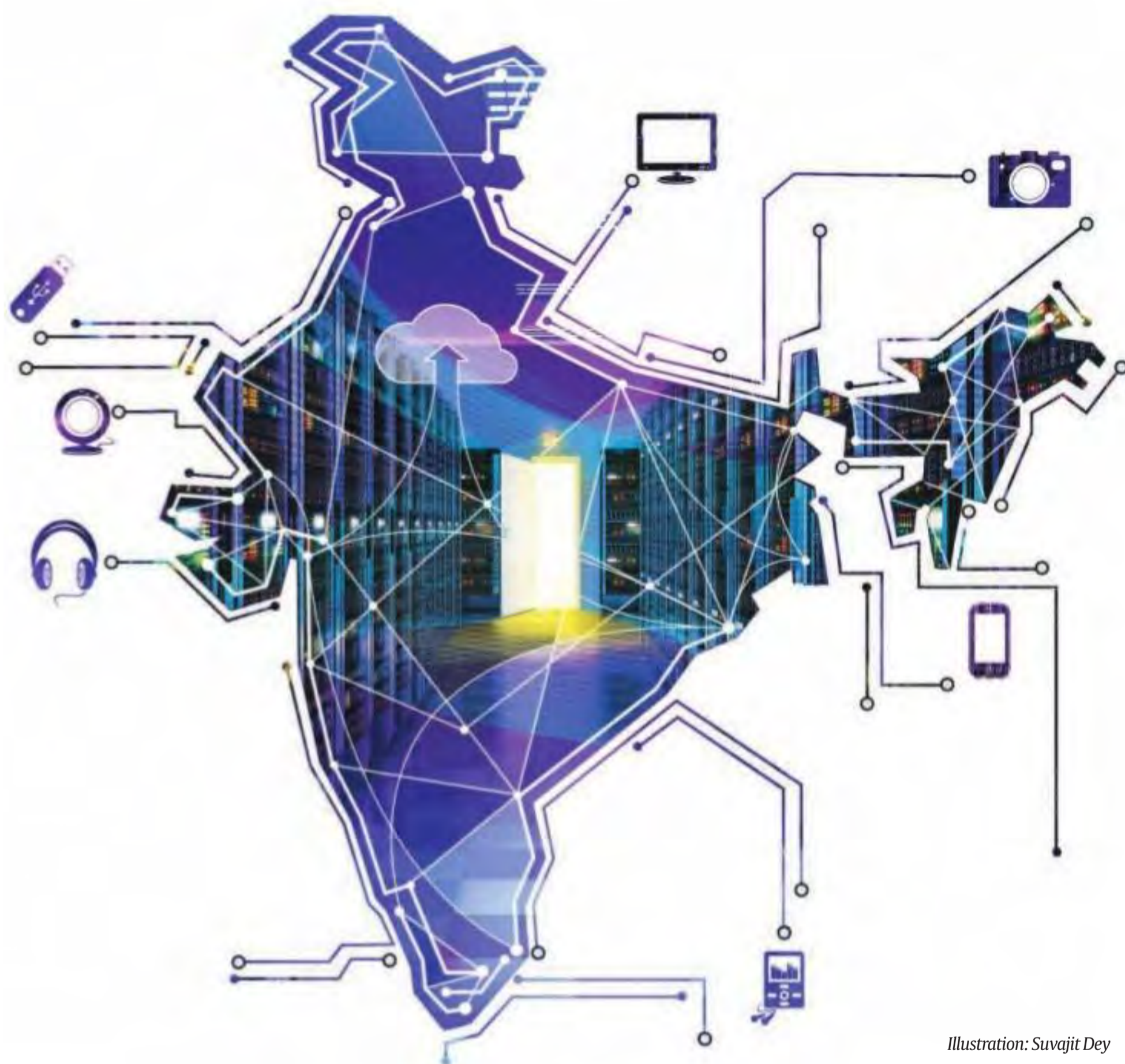


Illustration: Suvajit Dey

Speaking at the World Economic Forum in January 2018, Modi said, "Today, data is real wealth and whoever acquires and controls data will have hegemony in the future." He has also positioned data revolution as India's chance to play "catch up", noting that "India lost its chance during the Industrial Revolution".

Calling the Indian market "under-served", Rajesh Tapadia, CEO of Airtel's cloud subsidiary Nxta Data, says, "Capacities are getting sold before they are built now. The market is booming."



The Hiranandani Group is building data centres under the brand name Yotta, led by CEO Sunil Gupta, who in an earlier stint with Reliance Communications earned himself the moniker "India's data centre man". Sitting in his office in Powai, the 47-year-old says, "The day you have the government saying you have to store in India, that is humongous... The government is helping create the demand."

Among "anchor customers" that Yotta claims are already on board are Google, Netflix, Facebook, Microsoft, Amazon Web Services, Chinese behemoth Tencent, and Apple, as well as major banks, retail lines and media companies. Remarkable at the rapid changes, Gupta says, "We don't even remember that the Internet just came into our lives 20 years ago."

It was around the same time that the country saw its first conversations on data

**EXPLAINED**  
**E.**  
**Localisation: Growth vs ethics**

THE DATA Protection Bill, making its way through a Joint Select Committee in Parliament, signals a clear mandate to store sensitive data within the country. But the data localisation signals have been long in the making, spurring exponential growth in the country's sunrise data centre economy. However, as the market forces grow, there are still many roadblocks and ethical arguments against localisation.

centres, with telecom providers like VSNL (Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited), now Tata Communications, creating own verticals for "co-location" — in which multiple companies keep their hardware together on the premises of a third party. While medium-sized customers spent Rs 10-15 lakh per year

is building four more. Space can be rented at its existing centres in Tier II and III cities by parties seeking to store data as close to the end user as possible to save costs.

Projections from investment consultants and industry associations are grand and wide-ranging. A 2019 NASSCOM report says cloud spending amounted to \$2.5 billion, or 6% of all IT spending in India, last year, compared to the global average of 7.9%. It puts India's cloud spending at \$7.2 billion by 2022.

Yotta's Gupta expects the cloud services market to be \$4 billion by 2020, while the Data Center Advisory Group projected a \$7 billion market by then. A report by Research and Markets is more modest, expecting the overall data centre market to reach \$4 billion by 2024.

Says NASSCOM Senior Vice-President Sangeeta Gupta, "It makes perfect sense for players that have deep pockets and real estate and can reach economies of scale to capture the market."



However, there are other factors that can't be ignored, says Manoj Paul, CEO of US-based cloud company GPX. Since 2012, GPX has had a 30,000 sq ft centre in India that stores data of not only companies like Facebook and Netflix but also connects them to Internet service providers at the facility. They are building another 60,000 sq ft centre now.

Paul, who as Airtel CEO between 2002 and 2013 saw India's mobile boom, gives the example of social media giant Facebook, which is building a data centre in Singapore. "The company is setting up a data centre of 150 MW with \$1.4 billion, in a country of 5 million people (Singapore), to cater to the Indian market. Naturally, Facebook should have set up in India. The power charges here are cheaper, the land is cheaper. So what could have been the reason?... It's just not easy to set up a data centre in India. Acquiring land, infrastructure issues, bottlenecks, ease of doing business, connectivity to other markets..."

One of the biggest constraints is power supply. Data centres are gigantic electricity guzzlers, forcing their construction in India to be limited to areas around metropolises like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru, where power connections are more reliable.

With immense heat generation, the centres additionally require high investment in cooling systems. In many European countries, where power-cooling efficiency is higher, Yotta's Gupta says, "you can turn off your chillers for much of the year and just open the windows".

Indian-made data centres are hence not able to attract foreign clients, says Paul.

Rahul Dhar, who has had two decades of working on centres for Microsoft, Tata Communications and COLT Technology Services, too strikes a word of caution. "Whatever (infrastructure) was available till a few years ago has been consumed by three major hyperscale cloud providers (Microsoft, Amazon and Google)," he says. "Since this technology domain is deeply connected to real estate, high-volume initial capital investment is needed, which allows only a few new players to enter."

That is why, says Yotta CEO Sunil Gupta, Hiranandani is the right fit for the market, with its land bank and its supply of power, oil, and gas through Hiranandani Energy. He says he knew he had a "gold mine" the moment he saw the Panvel buildings. "At a data centre, you need two main things: one is power, the other is fibre. If these two things become possible in bulk, your data centre is a hit," he says. While Hiranandani's TUCO energy distributor owns a power sub-station nearby, two fibre optic cables of all the major telecom operators run in close proximity.

Since a data centre must have loading capacity four times a commercial building due to the weight of the data racks, the NM1 tower has been reinforced using extra concrete while steel is being attached to every column and every floor. Back-up power will be provided by 32 diesel generator sets of 2 MW each, while a pit is being created to hold a fuel steel tank of 6 lakh litres capacity. That is equivalent to 30 petrol pumps. There will be seven layers of security, with 400 cameras and biometrics, to guard the facility.

With cyber leaks, such as at eBay, J P Morgan Chase, Yahoo and the US Office of Personnel Management, exposing critical information like addresses, credit card num-

## THE NUMBERS

**481 million**

Internet users in India (second in world after China; US has 300 million)  
Internet and Mobile Association of India's 2018 report

**10 GB**

Data use per smartphone per month (highest in world)  
Nokia-Ericsson study

**970 million**

Smartphone subscribers in India by 2023  
COAI

**700 MW**

Data capacity in India  
Data Center Advisory Group

## PERSONAL DATA BILL, 2019: KEY POINTS

Personal data can go abroad, with individual consent

Sensitive personal data has to be stored in India, can be processed abroad with government approval

Critical personal data (defined by government) has to be stored and processed in India

Entire exemptions can be made by the State for specified reasons

bers, and passwords, Gupta says he is also factoring in contingencies like flood or fire. A data centre can't "go down" at any cost, he points out. "These are national assets and as critical as military installations. If you bring down a centre, you can bring the economy of the country down."

Under the Opposition's objections, the Data Protection Bill was sent to a Joint Select Committee on December 12, even as IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad underlined the government's intentions to make India "a big centre of data processing".

Most of the objections rest on uneasiness over the government's push for data localisation, especially given the Modi government's strident nationalist narrative. Many civil society and industry groups fear it will lead to increased State surveillance, unconvinced by arguments such as encryption keys making hacking difficult.

At an *Indian Express* event, Facebook's Vice-President for Global Affairs and Communications Nick Clegg had also cautioned against "this very overused analogy about data being oil", saying using it to justify "segmenting, fragmenting and hoarding data in different jurisdictions" did not make sense for India. "Globally, if we were to follow that model, China today, India tomorrow, then Vietnam, then Brazil, then the United States, everybody will start erecting data barriers and before you know it, the extraordinary ingenuity and innovation of a borderless Internet would have given way to a highly fragmented Internet."

However, as NASSCOM Senior Vice-President Sangeeta Gupta points out, for customers, where their data is stored is not likely to be an issue. "For them, as long as I get something affordable and my safety and security are not compromised," says Gupta, "it's not a storage question."



Hostel students leaving the campus on Monday; (left) students protesting outside Gate No. 7. Tashi Tobgyal

## JAMIA SQUARE

Last week's police crackdown on Jamia Millia Islamia has set off domino protests across the country over the new citizenship law and a proposed nationwide NRC. UMA VISHNU & ABAN USMANI spend time on the campus — its cafes, corridors and classrooms — to see why a century-old university with no student union and no known history of protests has ended up as the focal point of the current unrest



At the Zakir Hussain library, where police lobbed tear gas shells on December 15. Tashi Tobgyal

### THE UNIVERSITY

200 acres

22,000

students, including in the senior and middle schools run by university

250

courses

4,000

students in hostels

9

university faculties

800

teachers

### JAMIA RANKING

In the HRD Ministry's 2019 National Institutional Ranking Framework, which ranks universities on teaching, research and outreach, among other parameters, Jamia stood 19th, one rung higher than the University of Delhi and one lower than AMU. It has been placed 12 among universities, 6 in law, 8 in architecture, 27 in engineering, and 34 in management

The university is now among the top 601-800 universities in the Times Higher Education World University rankings, 2020, improving its position from 801-1,000 last year

INSIDE THE reading room are echoes of a noise from a week ago, much louder than the kind libraries typically abhor, one that had forced the students to flee in panic, leaving behind their bags, a book shut with a pen still within the folds of its pages, a stole on the desk as its owner ran into the winter chill outside, geography notes on the Satpura Range with a map of India squeezed into the margin. On the floor at the far end of the hall, among upturned blue chairs and wooden benches, lies an exploded tear gas shell. "This is where it landed," says a staff, pointing to deep scars on the floor. In the corridors outside are darkened, dried drops of blood and shards of glass. It is nearly a week since the December 15 police crackdown on Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia, when forces had entered the university, clashed with students, and lobbed tear gas shells in the library and elsewhere on campus, leaving many of the students injured. The shock at the police action has since blown up into domino protests across the country against the new Citizenship Amendment Act and a proposed nationwide National Register of Citizens (NRC).

At Jamia, though, the protests had been simmering for a while, fuelled by deep anxieties as the citizenship Bill — which leaves out Muslims as it seeks to ease citizenship to illegal migrants from three neighbouring countries — course through Parliament with little resistance. With the Central university now shuf for an early winter break and the protesters forced to confine themselves to the main road outside Gate No. 7, Jamia's emergence as the focal point for the current protests as it enters its 100th year of existence is somewhat of a surprise. This, after all, is a university with no student union and no known history of leading defining student agitations, unlike its younger and arguably more vocal counterpart, Jawaharlal Nehru University.



"Many forget that this is a university that was born in the throes of the freedom movement with the active patronage of Mahatma Gandhi. In any way, when these stu-

dents fight for their Constitutional rights, they are upholding that legacy," says Manisha Sethi, Associate Professor at Jamia's Centre for Jawaharlal Nehru Studies. The 1920s were times of deep tumult. It was around this time that the anti-colonial Islamic activism of the Khilafat movement and the pro-Independence aspiration of the Muslim intelligentsia came together on a common platform of the Congress's non-cooperation movement. Responding to Mahatma Gandhi's call for a boycott of educational institutions sponsored by the British, a group of nationalist teachers and students quit Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) — which then, along with Banaras Hindu University, enjoyed British State patronage and was thus seen as pro-British — to set up the nationalist Jamia Millia Islamia (Arabic for National Muslim University) as a small campus outside AMU in 1920. In a

curious turn of events and politics since then, a hundred years later, Jamia and AMU now find themselves on the same side of the citizenship debate and the protests over it. In its subsequent years, as a fledgling Jamia struggled to survive — moving from Aligarh to Delhi's Karol Bagh and subsequently to its present location in what would become Jamia Nagar or 'university town' — it was kept afloat by donors such as Hakim Ajmal Khan, one of Jamia's founders and its first chancellor, and well-wishers, among them Zakir Hussain, who had then just finished his PhD from the University of Berlin and who went on to become the third vice-chancellor of the university and later President of India. At one point, when Jamia's survival seemed precarious, Gandhi is said to have famously said, "Jamia has to run. If you are worried about its finances, I will go with a begging bowl."

It was thus that the university — with its buildings such as the Ibn Sina block named after the Persian polymath, the Premchand Archives and Literary Centre, the Neom Chomsky Complex near the Jamia Metro station, and the RK Narayan Centre for Dalit & Minority Studies — took shape. Among its many illustrious teachers was Devdas Gandhi, Jamia's "first Hindi teacher". Its cafes, among them Dastarkhwan, run by women from the Jamia Nagar area, the Central Canteen and Maggi Point, were spaces where ideas met, clashed and sometimes found new direction. But it was Jamia's Castro cafe, named after the Cuban Communist and anti-imperialist and until recently run by someone from, where else, Kerala, where liberal ideas co-existed with conservatives ones, where nothing jarred, not the jeans and T-shirts or the burqas and topis. This shift of Friday evening, the 'semi-open'

canteen, designed by Delhi-based Khosla Design Studio, is deserted, save for a mutt that is curled up on its cold Kota stone floor. The 200-acre campus and its 39 departments are spread across either side of the public Okhla road that cleaves through the campus. Above this road is the latest addition to the Jamia skyline — the Magenta Line of the Delhi Metro that streaks through the sky every few minutes. Amidst cramped colonies within Jamia Nagar that saw waves of new occupants in the aftermath of the Babri Masjid demolition and the 2002 Gujarat riots, Jamia stood tall — an oasis of green in an area that has few public parks. The university, which became a Central university in 1988, has 22,000 students, including those in its middle and senior secondary schools. Jamia also runs a day-care centre and a nursery school as part of a unique integrated approach to education.

But it's the AJK Mass Communication Research Centre or MCRC that's among the university's best known centres. When it was set up in 1982 by former V-C Anwar Jamal Kidwai, in collaboration with Jim and Margaret Beveridge of York University, it was the first such media school to offer a Masters in Mass Communication, with its students exposed to video, TV and radio journalism, with an emphasis on documentary films. The centre would go on to shape a generation of media practitioners, with its alumni list including names such as television host Roshan Abbas, journalist Barkha Dutt, director Kabir Khan and, its most famous dropout, Shah Rukh Khan, "who was not allowed to complete his course due to lack of attendance". "Shohini (Ghosh, director of the Centre) and I were part of the second batch of MCRC and later, came back to teach here," says Sabena Gadidhoke, Professor of Mass Communication at the Centre. As students of MCRC, Ghosh, Gadidhoke, and four others had formed Mediastorm, a documentary collective whose all-women crew made defining films such as the 1991 *Whose Country is It Anyway?*, which was an attempt to counter the fundamentalist narrative prevailing then.



Now, with the hostels emptied out and entry strictly regulated, the campus is largely deserted. Outside Gate No. 7, the slo-

pes get sharper and shriller. Rizwan Qaiser, professor of Modern Indian History, admits that unlike his alma mater JNU, Jamia hasn't seen too many protests, at least none of this magnitude since the 1992 protests against then pro-vice-chancellor Mushirul Hasan. Hasan, who had spoken out against the then Narasimha Rao government's decision to ban Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*, was assaulted and hounded out of campus allegedly by the conservatives among both faculty and students. Hasan came back for a successful stint as V-C from 2004-09, during which he was credited with rebuilding the university, and more importantly, steering it through the tough times that followed the Barla House encounter of 2008, in which a Jamia student was killed and two of them were arrested. As identities sharpened and political parties pointed fingers at each other, senior BJP leader V K Malhotra called the area around Jamia a "den of terrorists". Teachers and former students speak fondly of how Hasan led them from the front, winning over students by addressing them on the steps of M A Ansari Auditorium, and saying, "I, as your teacher and on behalf of the other teachers of Jamia, will support you in every hour of crisis. You are like my children. And a father can't abandon his children in this hour of crisis."

In 2005, Hasan even briefly lifted the ban on the Jamia students' union, but it was again banned the following year. While

there have been demands from student organisations on campus — among them the Students' Federation of India (SFI), the CPM's student body, AAP's Chhatra Yuva Sangharsh Samiti, Congress's NSUI and SIO or the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind's Students' Islamic Organisation — to revive the union, the matter is still pending in the Delhi High Court. "Which is what makes the current student protests, held in the absence of an organised student grouping, even more remarkable, says Qaiser, sitting in his Room No. 6 at the Mohibbul Hasan House that houses the History Department and which is named after Mushirul Hasan's father and the historian who started the department at Jamia. "This looks like the May Fourth Movement of China (an uprising led by students who objected to the China government's weak response to the Treaty of Versailles, signed after World War I). It's heartening to see such an articulate response to divisive politics. This time, it's an existential question," says Qaiser, while emphasising that Jamia is not the focus of these protests. "The focus is on the CAA and NRC, which are clearly not in the interest of the country."

On the possibility of Muslim Right on campus hijacking the protests, he says, "What's noteworthy is that so many students have galvanised themselves seeking their Constitutional rights; they have not been demanding religious rights. Of course, like everywhere else, there is the presence of

## How students, community rallied for protests

### ABAN USMANI

DESPITE THE absence of a union on campus, the students of Jamia Millia Islamia have been rallying, helped by the local community, to hold what have been unprecedented protests that have gone on now for over a week. It began with the Lok Sabha approving the new citizenship law on December 9. "The anger was palpable. There were four protests called by different student organisations on the campus over two days. And then a general body meeting (GBM) was called on Wednesday (December 11), when the Rajya Sabha too approved the Bill," says Arjun Ramachandran, a first-year student of MA (Mass Communication) and a member of the Dayare Shaug Students' Charter (DISC), a student body on the campus. All students and campus organisations, including the AAP's CVSS, Jamaat-e-Islami

Hind's Student Islamic Organisation (SIO), DISC, the Muslim Students Federation affiliated to the All India Muslim League, and the Congress's NSUI, were then invited to the library laws for the GBM — through posters circulated on social media and word of mouth. The organisations could not reach a consensus during their meeting but agreed to a joint call for a Parliament march the next day, December 12. "We thought the Parliament march should happen at any cost because the Winter Session was concluding on December 13 (Friday)," says Shaheen Abdulla, a final-year student of MA of Convergent Journalism and a member of the SIO. But that march took a violent turn when slippers were hurled at police and barricades brought down, triggering a lathi-charge and tear gas shelling on the campus — a few shells allegedly landed near exam halls. "It was horrible. The Jamia Teachers' Association also approached us. Students who were supposed to write

exams were injured. And we decided to call for a boycott of exams in view of the police violence and the citizenship law," says Chanda Yadav, 20, a final-year student of BA (Hindi) and a member of ASA. The university administration then decided to postpone exams and announced holidays till January 5. A joint coordination committee, with representatives from each of the student bodies, besides those without affiliations and the alumni association, was formed next on December 14 — it is this body that has managed protests since then — and another meeting was held "on popular demand" on Sunday morning, December 15, for better management and coordination. "We then decided to go around the Jamia Nagar locality and rally support for a march," says Arjun. The crowd swelled, with locals and outsiders joining the march to where the campus road ends. The crackdown on the campus, that followed the arson a kilometre away, sparked a national debate.

the Right on campus, but the students haven't let them steer the protests in that direction," says Qaiser, laughing. "In fact, one of my students wrote on Facebook: *Shahi paneer* has better value than Shahi Imam (Bukhari, the grand Imam of Jama Masjid)." Opposite Qaiser's room, across the courtyard in front, is the Department of Sanskrit. It was started in 2017, making it among Jamia's youngest disciplines. "But few know that Jamia had a course in Sanskrit as far back as in 1924," Qaiser says. "So where does Jamia go from here? It's important for an institution like Jamia to exist. People keep calling for the mainstreaming of Muslims. What better way of doing that than by giving them a modern, academic institution, where they meet non-Muslims, where they are uplifted emotionally, culturally, politically? Its name is 'Jamia Millia Islamia' but it's important for people to know this is any other modern, liberal institution," says Qaiser.



Shaheen Abdulla believes there are many such myths that need to be debunked, many positions that need to be taken. Sipping tea at one of the stalls within the campus, the 24-year-old, a final-year student of the Convergent Journalism course at Jamia, says, "Let's start being specific. That this crisis — of the CAA, NRC — is a Muslim problem. For instance, when it's a law against the LGBT community, we have to say it is a law against the LGBT community and that, as a non-LGBT member, will stand by the community. We can't pretend it is otherwise and couch this with broad generalisations, call it an assault on the Constitution, etc. You may call me communal, but I believe my communalism is more secular than Indian secularism."

Now one of the faces of a vivid that went viral during the December 15 flare-up, Shaheen, who also works with Maktoob Multimedia, a Delhi-based news website, as Associate Creative Editor, says he was "covering the protests" when things got ugly and a lathi-charge broke out. "At that point, I had to help my friends, and we took shelter in the garage of a bungalow in New Friends Colony," he says. The video shows Shaheen being dragged out of this house and thrashed by police, before his friends throw a protective cord around him. The image of Ayesha Renna, Shaheen's junior from Farook College in Kozhikode and a student of history at Jamia, waggling a finger at an assaulting policeman has become a symbol of the Jamia students' pushback. On the bridge of Shaheen's nose and brow are scars from the injuries he sustained in that assault. "We have been telling students to go ahead and protest if they must, but in a democratic manner. Yes, we have been handling all sorts of rumours — I got a call one day saying there is a corpse at the Castro canteen. I got someone to check and there was no such body. On the role of police, it's only fair to say that while there were some who rained lathis, there were others who handled the situation well — they asked the students to leave the campus with their hands raised."

Much of this resolve finds an expression

### INTERVIEW

WASEEM AHMAD KHAN, CHIEF PROCTOR, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA

'Students can protest if they must, but in a democratic manner'

It has almost been a week since the December 15 incident, but the university has still not filed an FIR against the police.

We did submit the FIR at the Jamia Nagar thana, both a physical copy and through mail, but they did not receive it. We have the option of registering it online, and then it will automatically be received. We have also submitted a report to the HRD Ministry and have sought a judicial inquiry. We have also claimed damages. But the psychological damage that these students suffered will stay with them for ever.

The students have been asking for the CCTV footage of that evening to be released.

Some of our CCTV cameras were damaged by police, so we don't have all the footage. We have sought a judicial inquiry and will submit the footage at the right time.

Though V-C Najma Akhtar did address a press conference, students say she should have reached out to them directly.

We were all there, throughout, as representatives of the administration. The V-C was there at the Safdarjung Trauma Centre with the injured students. She also called a meeting of the heads and deans and asked for teams of three to be formed who would then meet every student on campus. It was our team that got the detained children released from the Kalkaji Police Station that night. (On Friday, V-C Akhtar issued a letter to students, assuring them that the university is with them and would provide "full financial and emotional support".)

What has the administration been doing to deal with rumours?

We have been telling students to go ahead and protest if they must, but in a democratic manner. Yes, we have been handling all sorts of rumours — I got a call one day saying there is a corpse at the Castro canteen. I got someone to check and there was no such body. On the role of police, it's only fair to say that while there were some who rained lathis, there were others who handled the situation well — they asked the students to leave the campus with their hands raised.

on the walls of the campus, in the posters, banners and graffiti that have come up all across. Manav Sharma, 21, a PG Diploma student in Acting who is among the "graffiti artists", says, "We did all this on the night of December 13, running away every time the guards caught us."

As he rolls up a hand-written poster, Manav says he has never felt discriminated against in a campus that is seen as a "Muslim university". As a minority institution, Jamia reserves 50 per cent of its seats for Muslims — 10% of this is set aside for Muslim girls and 10% for Muslim OBCs. (However, with the Centre opposing Jamia's minority status, which was granted by the previous UPA government in 2011, the matter is now pending in the High Court.) "Waise bhi, mere kapde se leya pata chala *haki mein Hindu hoon ya Muslim* (Anyway, you can tell from my clothes if I am Hindu or Muslim)?" asks Manav, a cheeky refer to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "troublemakers can be identified by their clothes" remark over the CAA protests.

At a press meeting organised by the Jamia Teachers' Association inside a packed M A Ansari Auditorium, teachers speak out in support of the students and against the "atrocity of police", and how no student was involved in the violence. There are also demands from the students that the administration release the CCTV footage of the incident and questions about the status of the university's FIR against the police action.

As the session winds up with a rendition of the national anthem and amidst chants of "Jai Hind", two young assistant professors, who don't want their identities revealed, say it may not be right for the university to distance itself from the area around it and blame it all on "outsiders".

You can't dissociate the university from all these localities around it — Gafar Nagar, Abu Fazal, Zakir Nagar. Unlike JNU, this university can't accommodate everyone inside. So a lot of them live outside, and that makes the outside community an extension of the campus. Amidst this ghettoisation of a community, they see this university as precious to their lives, something they can call their own because they have somebody of their own studying or working here," says one of them. Arzo says she couldn't agree more. On December 19, with the protests finding an echo in different parts of the country and with the administration cracking down by imposing Section 144 in parts of Delhi, Arzo is headed for Jamia's Gate No. 7, which is now brimming with protesters. "As people pose with the Tricolour and the organisers ensure the traffic isn't held up by forming a corridor for vehicles, it's hard to tell the students from the "outsiders".

"We are all insiders," says Arzo, in her mid-40s, who has come here with her 85-year-old mother, her sister-in-law and two of her nephews. "We got done with all our cooking in the morning and set off for here. Jamia is like our home, our family. I did my MSc from here, my brother did his BEd here. Both my daughters and my son studied here. It's thanks to this university that our daughters study, and there's nothing that's more important than that," says Arzo. "Bachhe padhenge toh bolenge ki (If children get an education, they will speak out), her mother adds, before they join the protest.



At Jamia's Premchand Archives, a painting that depicts the founders of Jamia leaving Aligarh University in defiance of the British

The events of December 15 further galvanised protests outside the university the next day, with increasing local support. Imran, 47, a resident of Barla House and a businessman who is now distributing biyani to the protesters. "There is no better way to make the protest stronger than biyani," he says — waiting for another cauldron of the dish to arrive. "These youngsters are fighting for a noble cause, I

am ready to pay for their food for as long as this movement continues," he adds. Mohammad Mukarram, 27, a resident of Zakir Nagar and a dairy owner, has been distributing water bottles every day among the protesters. "It is the least I can do. I can't be here a day but I can come here twice or thrice with my share of help," he says. Students have been joined by local

residents in managing traffic and controlling crowds on the road outside the university. "People should not be inconvenienced. We can't force our protest on anyone," says Faisal Alam, 22, who has just returned from his office in Nehru Place. He and a few others now help an autorickshaw pass through the crowded road.

The protests come with their share of litter — disposable utensils and half-finished eatables strewn on the road and pavements. A spontaneous act by a group of five on the night of December 16 set a moral code for the agitators. "We saw the road was dirty in the evening when the protest got over. Three students were walking around with brooms, and my friend and I decided to join them. Within minutes, cars passing by stopped and their occupants joined the effort. It took us two hours to clean the whole stretch," says Shiraz Babu, a research associate at Jamia. A video of the clean-up was widely circulated on social media networks in the locality. "After that, everyone pitched in and the road got cleaned up every night. Even at the other end of Jamia Nagar, near Kalindi Kunj, where protest are being held during day time, the agitators have been cleaning up before they leave," says Shiraz.



The Kottapattu camp near Trichy. Among the 400 Lankan refugee families here, over 100 have Indian links, like Rajeshwari, S Rangasamy (below). Arun Janardhanan

## ‘They did not see us’

Left out by citizenship Act, Lankan Tamil refugees hold on to personal, parents' papers at a camp in TN

ARUN JANARDHANAN

**T**ILL THE last moment”, they hoped — that the Citizenship Amendment Act would include them too, that their three-decade wait would end, that their life in a camp would be finally over. But the Act passed by Parliament on December 11 covered refugees from only Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

“They did not see us... We were shattered,” says Saroja Devi, 61, who fled Nuwara Eliya in Central Sri Lanka during the anti-Tamil riots in 1983, and still lives in the Kottapattu refugee camp on the outskirts of Trichy in Tamil Nadu, like 400-odd Sri Lankan families.

Married for just four years, Saroja Devi escaped with her husband in July 1983 after a Sinhalese mob torched their home, forcing them first into a hideout on a hilltop and then to take a one-way flight to Thiruvananthapuram on an ‘emergency passport’. From Thiruvananthapuram, they rode 500 km on a bus to Trichy. “The same day, we were allotted a single-room house. We continue to live in that house in the hope of an Indian citizenship.”

Saroja’s husband S Rangasamy, once a tea estate supervisor near Kandy in Lanka, is now 71, their son now 39. What fuelled their hopes was that their Lankan birth certificates recognise the couple as ‘Indian Origin’ — as their grandparents had moved from India to Lanka a century ago to work in the tea plantations. But Lanka never recognised them and, post-CAA, they have fresh fears about their status.

In her one-room house, Saroja preserves carefully the land records and pictures of the ancestral property in Sholingapuram in Vellore that her grandparents left behind. Rangasamy’s grandparents were also from Tamil Nadu, specifically Thanjavur. “We took courage from the fact that an ‘Indian Tamil’ tag meant we were going back to our own country,” she says.

Among the 400 Lankan refugee families at the Kottapattu camp, over 100 have Indian links. Tamil Nadu has 107 camps for Lankan Tamil refugees, housing about



19,000 families or 60,000 inmates, of whom at least 20 per cent are Indian-origin. Almost all the refugees arrived between the early 1980s and 1990s. About 10,000 are children below the age of eight.

Of the 4.6 lakh believed to have left Lanka since 1983 driven by ethnic violence, many made their way to Europe. Some managed citizenship, some got married to Indians, and at least 30,000 continue to live outside camps and must report periodically to the nearest police station.

Camp inmates are not allowed to visit other states, and prior permission is required even if they go out of the district. Apart from free living space, they get 57 paise per kilo rice from the camp, and 12 kg per month. Besides this, a family head gets an allowance of Rs 1,000 per month, spouses Rs 750, and children below the age of 12, Rs 400.

While the Madras High Court had granted Saroja and Rangasamy the go-ahead to file for citizenship in June last year, along with 33 others, they are not very hopeful.

Says M Subramaniam, also an ‘Indian origin’ refugee, “With the court order, we



went to the Collector. He asked us to apply online. As the online system had no such options, we returned to the Collector again. He directed us to the Tamil Nadu Q-branch police, where we submitted petitions seeking citizenship. I haven’t heard anything from them in the past four months.”

Back in Lanka, Subramaniam owned a house and a textile shop near Colombo, and lived a comfortable life with his wife and three children. Among the eldest at the camp, well-regarded by the others, the 76-year-old breaks down, saying, “Life has been so cruel. No one could have gone through this much suffering.”

Another inmate, Rajeshwari, who fled Kandy with husband and son at the peak of the ethnic clashes in 1985, says her ancestors were from Pudukottai. “After reaching here, we went to our native village. But we decided to move to the camp as our relatives are poor and couldn’t support us.”

She claims that because she was wearing jewellery, the officials at first refused to allow her into the Kottapattu camp. “Finally my husband managed to get to Chennai in a lorry at night and visited the passport of-

rice, where a good officer sent him to meet then chief minister M G Ramachandran. MGR was unwell by then, unable to speak, but he hugged him, and directed officials in the Trichy camp to admit us.”

A woman refugee at the Trichy camp, who also requested anonymity, says officials are often clueless about different categories of refugees. “They do not understand the difference between Indian-origin inmates and Lankan-origin Tamils, they tag all of us together,” says the refugee, who is in her 40s, and whose father was of Indian origin and mother a Lankan from Jaffna. They died a decade ago and since then, she lives alone. “People used to have sympathy for us. Things changed after the Rajiv Gandhi assassination,” she says.

While all parties in Tamil Nadu have tried to gain mileage by speaking for the Lankan cause, most refugees in Trichy say politicians have been of no use. “The DMK did nothing for us even when they had so much power in Delhi (during UPA time), though Kalaingar (the late M Karunanidhi) gave us TVs. Vaiko (MDMK leader) and Seeman (leader of Naam Tamilar Katchi) heard us, but only that. We were taken to meet BJP leaders, but they didn’t even consider us when passing this Act. The late J Jayalalitha though always thought of us in her policies,” says a Lankan at the camp.

S C Chandrasekaran’s Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation is perhaps the only recognised NGO allowed to work for the refugees at these camps. The son of S J V Chelvanayakam, a prominent Sri Lankan Tamil leader, Chandrasekaran says that technically all those who are in camps in India are supposed to return. However, they are afraid.

Adding that India doesn’t see them as Sri Lankan refugees but as ‘people in distress’, Chandrasekaran adds, “There is no such process in India to give citizenship, these camps were an arrangement to accommodate people in distress, to make them feel safe, before they went back to Sri Lanka once normalcy was restored. The European style of giving asylum and citizenship to refugees is individual-based. That is impossible in India as there are thousands of Tamil refugees.”

## A 13-year-old reasons why

A boy his age was among the 43 dead in the Dec 8 Delhi factory fire, 9 from his Bihar village. Mohd Raja says it’s inevitable he would end up in one such factory; it’s only a question of long he can put it off



Raja hopes to rejoin school, finish Class 10, before joining brothers in Chennai. Express

SANTOSH SINGH

**ONE** AFTER the other, his seven brothers left. All to become tailors in Chennai, like other youngsters of his village Haripur in Samastipur, Bihar, headed out to distant cities for work. Then, nine came back — dead.

Mohammed Raja knows all about the deaths, and the fire at Anaj Mandi, Delhi, that killed them. He also knows that among the youngest casualties, from Nariyur village in Sahara, that lost eight people in all, was 13. The same age as him.

The conditions in which the 43 who died in the factory fire on December 8, working in illegal units, packed across five floors, don’t surprise Raja. But, having stayed back to take responsibility of his mother Ameena and oversee the construction of their house as “the eldest male of the family” — father Mohammed Ayub died some years ago — the 13-year-old is apprehensive about joining his brothers now.

“I might join school again. My brothers are asking me to. Maybe I will pass Class 10 before I too leave,” says Raja, standing amidst customers at a grocery shop.

Raja dropped out of school after Class 5, like most other children of his age in Haripur. The upper primary school is 3 km away and, struggling to make ends meet, parents don’t put up much resistance. Samastipur’s literacy rate hovers around the 64% mark.

Raja hopes catching up on studies won’t be that difficult given that he has been out of school for just a year.

However, for most families among the 800-odd houses in the village, who make a living doing daily labour, working as small vendors or ploughing small farms, sparing a working hand is not a choice.

Among the dead in the Delhi fire were daily wager Mohammed Ulfat’s sons Wazir (20) and Sajid (17). Last month, the two sent Rs 5,000 home, an amount Ulfat struggles to earn in 30 days. His younger sons, both be-

low 12, will soon be headed out, Ulfat admits. “There is no work in Bihar. Delhi fire may have terrified us, but we can’t afford to let our children stay back. Since they cannot excel in studies, they have to leave Bihar to support us.”

Even as she sobs talking about grandson Mohammed Akbar, 19, whom she raised and who died in the fire, Jaitun Khatoon agrees. “If our boys die like this, how can we send them? But we have to with a heavy heart,” she says.

Akbar’s mother Zulekha listens as she prepares the *chulha* — the family says it doesn’t have money to refill the LPG cylinder allotted under Ujjwala. The 19-year-old had joined his brother Ashfaq at the stitching unit in Delhi, she says. “Akbar wanted to help sister Quresha (18) get married. Last month, he sent Rs 3,000,” Zulekha adds.

Mohammed Mujibul, a member of the Phulwara panchayat samiti, says every Muslim house here has at least one person working in some other state. He worked as a plumber in Guwahati from 1985 to 2013, and his son Mohammed Mufti, 21, now works as a plumber in Chennai. “I returned home to ensure my children concentrated on their studies. I wanted all of them to finish at least Class 10,” Mujibul says.

However, while Mufti dropped out after Class 9, Mujibul’s daughter Zulekha last year became one of the 10-odd girl matriculates in the village. He has three other sons and three more daughters, who are in middle and high schools.

Mohammed Gaffar says the fear triggered by the Delhi fire will soon make way for other concerns. “Maybe our children will look for jobs with better working conditions... but either way they will reconcile, leave to find work.”

If Gaffar is angry, it’s at the Bihar Chief Minister. “Nitish Kumar talks of good governance but it has not translated into anything for us. He should have created jobs for our children in the last 14 years of his rule.”

**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ONE OF ASIA'S LARGEST WHOLESALE READYMADE GARMENTS MARKETS, GANDHI NAGAR, EAST DELHI**

## Jeans editing

Driving in tight denims over 235 km recently put a life in danger. But at this market, serving customers from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, that look is to die for

KOEL BANERJEE

**AT** ONE of Asia’s largest wholesale readymade garments’ markets, in East Delhi’s Gandhi Nagar, there is little surprise over a medical emergency caused by a piece of clothing. Last month, a man driving from Delhi to Rishikesh, a distance of over 235 km, wearing tight jeans had to be hospitalised following a pulmonary embolism (a clot in the lungs) suspected to have been caused by his sartorial choice.

“People buy tight-fitting jeans from us, and further narrow them down using their local tailors,” says a wholesale shop employee who does not want to be named.

Attending to customers at a shop owned by his father Rakesh Aggarwal, Shubham, 21, puts “narrow fit”, “faded” and “distressed” jeans as one of their highest-selling items.

Chips in Aggarwal. “We offer products to shopkeepers at all kinds of budgets. The limit is sky-high.”

Praveen Gupta, who has a shop on Subhash Road, and is vice-president of the Association of Subhash Road & Bara Bazar Wholesale Readymade Garments Market,

says they supply garments to every part of the country, “from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Rajasthan to Arunachal Pradesh”, as well as countries such as Nepal and UAE. “Imported clothes from Bangladesh, China and Thailand also come here and are sold to retail vendors.”

Ahsan Ali, 64, has been running his business since 1980, when the garment market came up, making him “one of the oldest traders here”. “I supply clothes to a Delhi exporter, who then sends them to Dubai.”

Gupta says that when the Gandhi Nagar market first opened, it had only 12 shops. Now the number is over 5,000, with residences slowly yielding space to shopkeepers. Apart from the shops, the market holds just a temple, located at its centre. Priest Mohan Shyam Sharma says, “Earlier, no one came. But the day the phenomenon of Ganeshi drinking milk happened in 1995, people turned up in hordes. There has been no dearth of devotees since.”

Recalling the exact date he landed up at the market, Gupta says, “It was May 7, 1984. I came from Panipat after my board exams, with my father Hukum Gupta, who is now the president of the traders’ organisation.”

The first link in the chain are agents who



“Narrow fit”, “faded” and “distressed” jeans are the highest-selling items. Koel Banerjee

buy fabric from mills across the country, especially Ahmedabad and Bhilwara in Rajasthan, and send it to factories in Delhi for cutting. Embroidery, if needed, is done next, followed by stitching and dyeing. The garments are then ironed, packed and sent to the wholesale market. After the retail vendors select the goods, these are packed for delivery.

The dealers don’t sell item-wise, but by packets. One wholesaler may sell six pieces per packet, another 20, in all sizes. One whole-

saler, who does not wish to be named, lists their prices at Rs 100 each for good quality shirts, and Rs 25 for children’s clothes.

Near the temple, Nissar Ahmad is checking out sweaters. A shopkeeper from Gangapur in Rajasthan, he is here with around Rs 15,000 to pick up some woollens for the winter.

According to a wholesaler, with a budget of Rs 15,000, a buyer can get nearly 120-125 pieces of sweaters.

It was Shubham who convinced the fam-

ily to get out of its 35-year-old sanitary appliances business, and get into clothes. The Aggarwals opened their wholesale store in Gandhi Nagar nearly six years ago.

Shubham, who talks about their “fashionable” range, is assisted by Ravi Suryavanshi, 28, in handling customers. “Summer is the busiest season. Sale is low during winters and monsoons,” says Suryavanshi, who puts their daily footfall at 20-30 customers on best days. The average monthly income of a wholesaler is over Rs 10,000, and “can go up to lakhs”.

Soon, it’s lunch time and Aggarwal and son sit down to have food cooked from home.

Towards evening, Sharad Gurjar, 23, who has bought denim pants, plain trousers and T-shirts, is monitoring their packing. He arrived on a Monday, to realise that was the day the market remains shut. He spent the night at a hotel nearby, and is today headed home to his village in Madhya Pradesh. He says he will open his own shop with the goods.

Two shops away, two men are admiring a jacket hanging in a shop. Taj Khan, 33, a resident of Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh, is in Delhi to visit his sister. He came to the market in the hope of picking up a jacket, if the dealers agreed to selling a single piece. “I have been to this market multiple times earlier,” he says.

Nearby, Pinky Garg from Ghaziabad has just been turned away. She wanted to buy six caps, but the dealer said he would not sell less than 12 pieces, for Rs 10-12 each. “I have a small shop. My budget is less,” Garg says.

Anjali Rashtogi, 45, the rare woman at the market along with Garg, is the owner of a housekeeping agency in Noida. She hopes to purchase 150 grey sweaters for her staff.

# 15 IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

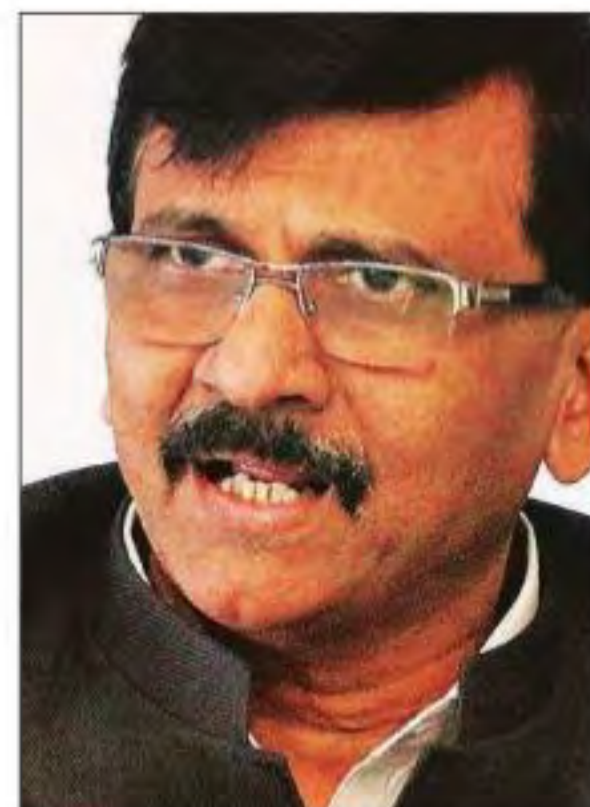
After Maharashtra, leaders are saying this can be done in their states as well. Uddhav has become the face of it (the change) and he will play a role at the national level... Definitely Sharad Pawar will support him"



## WHY SANJAY RAUT

Last month, at the peak of the Maharashtra power scramble, Sanjay Raut emerged as one of the driving forces behind Uddhav Thackeray's decision to walk out of the NDA — ending the Sena's 25-year-old alliance with the BJP — and form a coalition government with the Congress and the NCP in the state. He was also

instrumental in convincing Thackeray, largely an organisation man, to stake claim to the Chief Minister's post. Known to have the Thackeray family's ear, he is the party's face in Delhi and one of the only people allowed to speak for the Shiv Sena. Raut is also editor of the party's Marathi newspaper, *Saamana*



"Yes (Ajit Pawar should be Dy CM). His experience will benefit Uddhav... If we want to work for next five years, we have to keep Ajit Pawar within the govt and in a leadership role

**VISHWAS WAGHMODE:** On the first day of the Assembly session, to protest against Rahul Gandhi's remarks on V D Savarkar, BJP MLAs entered the House wearing caps with the message 'Mi Pan Savarkar (I am also Savarkar)'. How do you see that?

We are also Savarkar. When did we say we are not? I have always believed that Vinayak Damodar Savarkar should not be made a political issue. There can be a difference in opinion but his role in the freedom struggle cannot be ignored... Two months ago, one of their (the BJP's) MLAs spoke ill about Savarkar. Despite that he was given a ticket to contest... If the BJP respects him (Savarkar) so much, why didn't they give him the Bharat Ratna?

**VISHWAS WAGHMODE:** The Shiv Sena and Congress have been fighting against each other for years. How long will the coalition government last?

The Maharashtra government has been formed with a common minimum programme. It revolves around food, shelter, clothing, health, social justice. The government will function over these issues.

**VISHWAS WAGHMODE:** Hindutva was kept out of the common minimum programme...

Hindutva is not a subject in the Constitution. The Constitution talks about secularism. The state will run as per the Constitution, not religion. Balasaheb Thackeray said religion should be removed from our minds and government documents. This (the Constitution) is our ideology, our founder's ideology.

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN:** What is your view on the Citizenship Amendment Act? Is it secular?

When Amit Shah was not Home Minister, in his speeches he would say, 'Ek ek ghushpaith ko main chun chun kar bahar nikaloonga (I will remove each and every illegal immigrant)'. We thought this is good. We wanted Bangladeshis to be removed. But in last six months, how many of them have been removed? Nobody has a count.

On the other hand, we also believe that the minorities in Pakistan and Bangladesh are facing discrimination on communal basis. In Afghanistan, injustice is done to Sikhs. So if they come to our country it becomes our duty to accept them. In Parliament, we asked the government how many such people it intends to give shelter to... Amit Shah had said he had given a ray of hope to lakhs and crores of people. So if you bring lakhs and crores of people into the country, and no one knows where they will be settled... The economy is in such a precarious state, our people are going hungry, they do not have employment... The government should fix a number... Today a fire has swept the whole country against the Citizenship Amendment Act. It will burn down the country. So I think the government will have to take back its decision. Amit Shah has said that some changes will need to be made in the law. That means mistakes have been made.

**KAVITHA IYER:** If the Shiv Sena was opposed to the Citizenship Amendment Bill, why did you not vote against it in Parliament?

We did not vote against it but we also did not support it. We made our stand clear.

**SHUBHANGI KHAPRE:** What led the Shiv Sena to break the alliance with the BJP? What was the turning point?

We were national allies for 25 years, until 2014. I had a feeling since 2014 that the alliance wasn't working well. We did not break it, the BJP broke it in 2014. After the success the BJP achieved in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, it felt it could go alone and that it did not need regional parties.

**SHUBHANGI KHAPRE:** So what made you agree to an alliance with the BJP before the polls?

Personally, I was not interested in it. I was constantly thinking that we will get cheated after the elections, that the situation had become insulting after 2014.

**SHUBHANGI KHAPRE:** How was the decision to join the Congress and NCP made? Did NCP chief Sharad Pawar initiate the talks?

The talks had been on for three-four months because I had a feeling that the BJP will not stick to its promise. The BJP had committed that the CM will be from the Shiv Sena, though now they are denying it.

**SHUBHANGI KHAPRE:** The BJP says that you betrayed them, and that you had already decided to go the other way?

Why? Is Sharad Pawar not a politician from India? Is he a Pakistani politician? He is a national leader, and Narendra Modi

## 'A fire has swept country against citizenship Act... will burn it down... Govt will have to take back decision'

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut says Maharashtra govt's work will be based on issues, not Hindutva, asserts Sharad Pawar won't remote-control govt, claims Sena has moved beyond street protests, and says partymen want Aaditya Thackeray to join the government



Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut (right) with Principal Correspondent Vishwas Waghmode in *The Indian Express* newsroom in Mumbai. Ganesh Shirsekare

himself has accepted that Pawar is his guru. So we were only talking to his guru. Pawarji is the country's best leader.

**MAYURA JANWALKAR:** Balasaheb was considered the 'Hindu holiday samrat'. With the formation of the new government, how will the Shiv Sena's Hindutva journey proceed?

No government functions on Hindutva; organisations do. The government will run on the common minimum programme. Hindutva or any other ideology will not feed the hungry. It only gives you mental strength, nothing else.

**KHUSHBOO NARAYAN:** The state has a record fiscal deficit. Where will you get the money for development?

Once the Nagpur Session is over, the entire Cabinet will be formed, and responsibilities will be allocated. First of all, Uddhav Thackeray is the CM, and there are experienced people in his Cabinet. Secondly, a leader like Sharad Pawar is with him, who has run the state and the nation.

**KAVITHA IYER:** For years, the Sena has been a party of protests. Even as part of government, from 2014 till now, the party has protested. Now, will you introduce some changes within the party, perhaps at the *shakha* level?

Changes don't happen like this. The *shakha's* work will continue. The *shakha* is the party's actual strength. The network that Balasaheb Thackeray created, ensuring that each ward has a Shiv Sena office/*shakha*, made sure that we reached to this level. So no change is required there.

However, the generation has changed. The kind of work we used to do 50 years ago, this new generation will not do it. They are all influenced by the corporate style of working, the thinking has changed. When we started the party, we were not in a position of power. We were street fighters. Now, it is not required. When the government is ours... the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is with us, local bodies are with us, if police are listening to us, there is no need (for protest). If at all we need to, we will protest. That is the Shiv Sena's character.

**MOHAMED THAYER:** What was your reaction to the two-day government formed by the BJP in the state? Initially, there were rumours that Sharad Pawar had made a fool of the Sena.

(Laughs) Show me one instance where Pawar *saheb* has backstabbed anyone in politics? Now what could he have done if his nephew (Ajit Pawar) went to the BJP? Uddhavji called me at 8 am and asked if I was watching the television. I checked, and

saw the swearing-in ceremony. I thought it must be an old clip. Then I saw Ajit Pawar as well. I said he (Ajit Pawar) will be back by evening. I had faith.

Secondly, whatever happened that day, Sharad Pawar had nothing to do with it. I always felt that the BJP will resort to some tactics, some last-minute game. But they got stuck in their own game.

**VISHWAS WAGHMODE:** Uddhav Thackeray was reluctant to become CM. How did you convince him?

I was saying from the first day that Uddhav Thackeray will be CM. That he had to become CM. There was no one else who could run this government for five years. I had faith he would agree because it was our commitment to Balasaheb Thackeray.

**KAVITHA IYER:** Why was Uddhav Thackeray reluctant?

He never wanted to occupy a power centre. He is an organisation man.

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN:** Some say that despite Uddhav Thackeray being CM, the remote control of this government is with Sharad Pawar.

No. Those who know Sharad Pawar, his politics, his style of controlling the administration, know he never does such a thing. He never interferes. If there is some good work to be done in the interest of the state, the nation, or even if the farmers have some issue, he gets it done. But he does not govern with a remote control.

**SRINATH RAO:** Would you want Ajit Pawar to become the Deputy CM?

Yes. He is a very experienced politician. What has happened has happened. One should forget it. Ajit Pawar's experience will benefit Uddhav Thackeray and the government. I have watched Ajit Pawar closely for many years. It is in his nature to react very

easily on some issues... If we want the government to work for the next five years, and for it to be stable, we have to keep Ajit Pawar within the government and in a leadership role. I trust Ajit Pawar, as does Pawar *saheb*.

**DEVENDRA PANDEY:** We did not hear about Hindutva even once in Aaditya Thackeray's speeches. Is the new generation of the Shiv Sena different?

It's the party's ideology. The party which was formed by Balasaheb Thackeray about 50 years ago spoke about the people's hungry stomachs. Our ideology will remain. Our nation, soil and *dharma* are on one side but people want food, clothes, housing and employment. It is important to provide this for all.

**KHUSHBOO NARAYAN:** What's your position on the Babri Masjid?

It's an old topic. Ram *mandir* was supposed to be made there, it's being made.

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN:** When will Uddhav Thackeray go to Ayodhya? He was supposed to go last month...

He will go. Rahul Gandhi went to Somnath Temple in Gujarat... It's not a crime. Why shouldn't we go? We should go and we will go. We don't go to temples only during the elections. During the elections, Rahulji went to all temples in Gujarat. Uddhavji will go to Ayodhya too.

**IRAM SIDDIQUE:** Since forming the government, you have put many major infrastructural projects — the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train, the Mumbai-Pune Hyperloop — under review. Before this, while you were in a coalition with the BJP, did the Sena ever raise these issues?

We raised these issues for the Metro car-shed in Aarey. The Metro is not

being reviewed. The decision will be taken soon. We have been against the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train from day one. The farmers are not willing to give up their land in Palghar, Dahanu, where the line in Maharashtra starts from.

**VISHWAS WAGHMODE:** Will Aaditya Thackeray join the government?

I can't take that decision, only the CM can. As party members, we want it. But now it's a government of three parties, so all decisions will be taken by them.

**RESHMA SHIVADEKAR:** Are you going to make a film?

Work on a film based on George Fernandes's life is going on. People should know who George Fernandes was, and his struggle together with Indira Gandhi. Indira Gandhi was scared of Fernandes.

**ALAKA SAHANI:** Do you think with films such as *Tashkent Files*, *Accidental Prime Minister*, cinema is being used for propaganda?

I didn't like the fact that the movie attacked Manmohan Singh's image. Manmohan Singh has helped rebuild the country's economy.

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN:** Will you be implementing the NRC (National Register of Citizens) in the state?

The CM has stated his opinion on the subject. The topic has not come up for discussion in the state Cabinet. There are many states that have refused to accept the NRC. We have said from the beginning that before bringing in the NRC, expunge the two crore Bangladeshis from the country. That was the Home Minister's commitment. The CM will decide whether the NRC is needed in Maharashtra.

**TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA:** Aren't your statements on secularism and Hindutva contradictory in spirit?

No. Where have we brought up Hindutva in speeches? We have not asked for votes on the basis of religion and we will not do it in the future either.

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN:** Do you think there is insecurity among Indian Muslims over the Ram temple verdict and Citizenship Act?

Muslims are the most secure in the country. Muslims in India are more safe than Muslims in Islamic countries. We all protect them. Indian Muslims, including big leaders like (AIMIM chief Asaduddin) Owaisi, (lyricist) Javed Akhtar can speak their mind. We also appreciate them sometimes for saying good things.

**KAVITHA IYER:** But we are seeing students being beaten up in Muslim institutions...

Now, Amit Shah has said that some changes will be made (to the CAA). There is pressure from people who have come out on the streets. The government will have to take a decision. If something wrong has happened, then the government will make changes.

**SADAF MODAIK:** Will your government accept the Srikrishna Commission report on the Mumbai riots? It was rejected by the Sena.

The government needs to be asked about this. Let the Chief Minister take some decisions. I am not a part of the government.

**MAYURA JANWALKAR:** Do you think that at the national level, the Opposition is weak?

The Opposition is not in existence and is engaged in different issues. While there are protests against the CAA everywhere, some leaders raised the issue of Savarkar unnecessarily (Rahul Gandhi said surname is not Savarkar, it's Gandhi). It diverted attention from the CAA. The Opposition needs a direction. The Opposition doesn't have a leader... a leader who can bring in a new government. In the coming days, Uddhav Thackeray will have to play this role at the national level.

**SHUBHANGI KHAPRE:** And Sharad Pawar will support Thackeray...

Definitely. We will all support him. After the government formation in Maharashtra... many leaders from other states are saying that this can be done in their states as well. Uddhav Thackeray has become the face of it and he will have to play a role at the national level in the coming days.

**KAVITHA IYER:** What is Uddhav Thackeray's administrative style like?

It's not dominating. He listens to everyone. The BMC is kind of like a state and Uddhav has been handling it for 30 years. He listens to everyone and then takes a decision.

**VISHWAS WAGHMODE:** Do you see the BJP and the Sena coming together in the future?

The time has gone; the alliance is over for ever. We have now chosen a path. If we keep changing roads, we will be directionless. We will see what to do after five years. Till then, we will run this government.



"The time has gone; the alliance (with BJP) is over for ever. We have now chosen a path. If we keep changing roads, we will be directionless. We will see what to do after five years. Till then, we will run this govt

# 'The elite's grip over cultural production is gone'

Amitabha Bagchi, winner of the 2019 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature, on how great art bonds communities, why narratives can be constraining and the role of the middle class in a democracy

PRATIK KANJILAL

Your novel *Half the Night is Gone* is built around father-son relations...

That's where it started, after my father passed away, but then many other things came in, as the structure proliferated. But it's basically about fathers and sons.

This is the first time you have attempted a long timeline. Was that planned?

I did have the idea of a long timeline, but in short spans of five or 10 years. I started in the Forties, because essentially, the idea was to recover the time when my father was young. But I found that I could not go forward without going much further back, and the timeline proliferated. And then there's a framing narrative of the Hindi writer Vishwanath, writing in 2008 and looking back on his life.

The framing narrative derives from my reading of Shrilal Shukla over the years. (Shukla's *Raag Darbari* became known to millions because of a popular Doordarshan serial). There were certain things that I wanted to transact with Shukla. I had never met him, but I admired his work hugely. Then Tulsidas's *Ramcharitmanas* entered the picture, and I was terrified. As an English-speaking person, I had no claim to it, but a year or two before I started writing this book, I had read Amritlal Nagar's *Amrit aur Vish* (1966), which has a framing narrative in which an author is writing about his neighbourhood in Lucknow. I decided to use the device since Vishwanath, being a Hindi writer, could claim the *Ramcharitmanas*. You have writers like Bhagwati Charan Verma and Phanishwar Nath Renu (in *Maila Aanchal*, 1954) who used Tulsis. For them, it was just day-to-day business. So, hiding behind Vishwanath, I could pretend that it was my day-to-day business also. When that frame appeared, along with the Shukla element, then the timeline went forward into 2008 and looked backward from there, to a son who had died, and the grief of Vishwanath, which makes him re-evaluate many things.

Questions of authenticity run through the book, as they do in contemporary politics. You seem to be saying that the old politics has failed partly or largely because of a language barrier.

That's what Vishwanath feels, but it's a misunderstanding on his part. Power doesn't work through making sensible decisions about who should be included and who should not be included. Power works by attempting to exclude everyone except those who hold power. The progressives and democrats of independent India didn't include Hindi speakers like Vishwanath. He feels that if the *angrezidas* who wanted to run the country had included Hindi secular intellectuals like him, things would have been different.

There are other threads. I read Doodhnath Singh's *Aakhri Kalam* (2006), about the Babri Masjid demolition. *Aakhri Kalam* is also the title of one of Malik Muhammad Jayasi's works. Jayasi was from Faizabad, and so there's a Jayasi link to Tulsis, Avadhi and *Ramcharitmanas*, and our Hindi secular intellectuals — I don't even like that phrase — would understand them. If we are all to get along under the rubric of a nation state, you have to understand how these links work. History has never been hunky-dory between different groups, but you have to understand how culture works to be able to make the cultural argument. That was Vishwanath's beef with the way the English-speaking political class worked. Maybe it comes from a sense of dispossession — a lower division clerk, as opposed to a Class 1 officer who would have taken his exams in English. The fact that Hindi speakers were given that second class status



Amitabha Bagchi reading from his novel *Half The Night is Gone* at the prize distribution ceremony in Nepal

may have affected the way the discourse of the modern secular republic developed.

**Do you think the Ram Jannabhoomi movement was helped by the refusal of elites to take it seriously?**

In *Aakhri Kalam*, a professor, a friend of (Jawaharlal) Nehru, says, 'Tum sab Tulsidas ke ghatokap me ho (you've been fooled by Tulsis).' I don't agree with that. I feel that the *Ramcharitmanas* is multivalent, that certain strands were taken out of it for political reasons. I've not thought hard enough about what the English elite has or has not done over the last 70 years. It doesn't interest me much.

I read Hindi literature over the last 20 years. My gateway drug was *Raag Darbari* (1968), and I never looked back. I was in the US then, we had friends from Pakistan who read Urdu poetry. The internet was new and people would post audio clips of *mushairas* held in the Gulf in the '80s and '90s. Take a poet like Basheer Badr: I was browsing a bookstore in Delhi and I was picking out the usual — Mir, Ghalib, Dagh. The shopkeeper pointed me to Basheer Badr, saying, 'Yeh *Hindustan ke azeem shair hain*.' If he'd gone for tea, I would have never discovered the extraordinary Basheer. In the midst of a tweet storm a couple of weeks ago, Sanjay Raut (Rajya Sabha MP and executive editor, *Saamana*) was quoting Basheer, but most people don't know where it's from.

**This book reflects wide reading in Urdu. Do you read the original?**

I taught myself *nastaliq* and Bangla was the next project, but that hasn't happened yet — the conjoined consonants defeat me. But my most recent completed work is a translation of Munir Niyazi's ghazals, which should be out next year. My reading speed in *nastaliq* is good enough for that.

**Present-day politics is completely about authenticity and identity — it's about having papers and lineage. This is not how things were in the period in which your book is set. If you identified with a state, you belonged. How does the mind come to accept exactly the opposite?**

I think it's easy to convince people to other. It's equally easy to convince them that they are bonded to those others. I think that great literature, poetry and music do that. You have to squeeze the poetry out of national life to convince people to hate. You have to make

them fear. There are very few literary works whose aim is to create fear. But fear is a powerful emotion, so people like me try to create that other sensation, through language, where you begin to appreciate that someone understands your pain. I felt that Ghalib, Jayasi, Munir Niyazi, Parveen Shakir actually understood me. For me, one of the most phenomenal works of Indian English literature, which has never been given its due, is Khushwant Singh's *Delhi* (1990). I wept like a baby when I finished it. There have been times in history when politics has had a certain kind of poetry. But not in our times.

**You've often said that writers suffer from the deficit of having to narrativise everything. Why do you feel strongly about it?**

It's a very human feeling. We feel that if we impose a narrative on the world, then somehow we control it. It makes it easier to live. But the narrative is also a constraint — you wish that you could be at peace with the random nature of the world, without having to create a story or a theory around it.

**Why doesn't your work in computer science infiltrate your writing? I would have expected a little science fiction.**

It's not my thing. There's a story about Bedil, who was one of the great *ustads* of a generation or two before Mir and had a *shagird* — a *hakim* who wrote poetry. Once, he made the



HALF THE NIGHT IS GONE  
AMITABHA BAGCHI  
Juggernaut  
320 pages  
₹ 399

mistake of trying to correct the master. Bedil was enraged. He said, 'Listen, doctor, in the company of doctors, you may be a poet, but in the company of poets, you're a doctor. When neither are there, you may be both, but when both are there, you are neither: I love computer science and if a bridge with fiction appears, then it will appear.'

**There's a lot of frustration about literature in your book. You find literature to be powerless to influence history. What is its purpose, then?**

I read Shukla's books in sequence and as his career wore on, I encountered increasing frustration and anger. I felt bad for him. I wanted to say, if you stop at anger, that's a moral failing. But my character Vishwanath says, 'We kept writing but nothing happened.' I feel that Shukla also felt that. I don't know if I personally share it; if I did, I would have to stop writing.

**Or write for yourself?**

I've never understood what that means, though all the books I've written are books that I wanted to read but which had not been written. In that sense, I write for myself. But the frustration with literature and realities isn't really justified. There's a lot of literary production going on, and it is influential.

**This book is also about a change in power equations. Many believe that the deepening of the middle class changed the nature of politics. And, yet, as the class widens, more people are reading...**

Right now, who's going to put money on the future of democracy? But there is evolution. The elite's grip over cultural production is gone, and hence, its nature has changed. I was born a democrat, so I have to remain one. I can't live in a situation where I feel that there is no hope in democracy or that the outcome of universal suffrage can sometimes be very bad. In a teleological sense, I can't read the end as good or bad. I think time is cyclic. The growth of the middle class has brought good and bad things. I know that if democracy is to be rescued, it is this relatively new middle class which will do it. But if democracy is to be destroyed, it's probably them who will do that, too. I'm hedging my bets.

The interviewer was a guest of the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature

## CHAPTER 1, LINE 1

A SQUAT grey building of only thirty-four stories. Over the main entrance the words, CENTRAL LONDON HATCHERY AND CONDITIONING CENTRE, and, in a shield, the World State's motto, COMMUNITY, IDENTITY, STABILITY.  
— *Brave New World* (1932), Aldous Huxley

## Die Another Day

On a murder investigation, two detectives find themselves fighting populism in a polarising world



Writer Abir Mukherjee

SAMHITA CHAKRABORTY

ABIR MUKHERJEE'S *Wyndham and Banerjee* series is set in the British Raj, in 1920s Kolkata, featuring a slightly broken English policeman, Detective Sam Wyndham, and his sidekick, Sergeant Surendranath Banerjee. Or "Surrender-not", as the British folks tend to mutilate his name to.

Except, Banerjee is no ordinary sidekick, no mere chronicler of the quick wits of a maverick sleuth. He's no Dr. Watson to Holmes or Topsy to Satyajit Ray's Feluda. Banerjee is his own man, more than an Ajit to Wyndham's Byomkesh, more like a Robin to Wyndham's Cormoran Strike, JK Rowling's detective created under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith.

It's in the verbal jousting of Wyndham and Banerjee that Abir Mukherjee's books really come alive, injecting not just boy banter but also adding context. If Wyndham is the good Englishman holding up the unfair colonial system, Banerjee is the modern Indian torn between his duty to his uniform and the tug of the *swadeshi* call.

While reading *Death in the East*, Mukherjee's fourth book in the series, let down by the absence of Banerjee and bogged down by a long description of Wyndham's opium rehab, I tweeted my disappointment to the writer.

"Patience! He'll turn up!" Mukherjee tweeted right back.

Turn up he does, three-quarters into the book. "Bloody hell, you're a sight for sore eyes!" exclaims Wyndham upon seeing Banerjee, echoing the reader's sentiment accurately.

Things liven up as soon as Banerjee arrives at Jatinga Club, an all-British club in Assam, where one half of this book is set. The other half harks back to 1905, when Wyndham was a rookie Detective Constable investigating a death in east London. Both feature a classic English murder scene — the locked-room mystery. A body is found in a room locked from the inside, with no other escape route. Who killed them and how did they get out?

In 1905, a young English woman is found dead in her own bed in Whitechapel in London's East End, and the suspicion falls on a Jewish immigrant, with everyone from the police to the press to the public more than keen to blame it all on the "foreigners" — the newly arrived Jews fleeing

persecution in Europe — who are altering the fabric of English society.

In 1922, an Englishman is found dead in his own bed in Assam with electrical burns on his chest in a place with no electricity for miles around. Both rooms are locked from the inside. And there's a connection between the two deaths that keeps eluding Wyndham till the very end. The part where Banerjee and not Wyndham leads the Assam investigation is all kinds of fun, especially the pomposity of the outraged British suspects who call him everything from "coolie" to "darkie" to "Mahatma".

In *Death in the East*, Mukherjee has tried something new, this juxtaposition of two deaths in two very different "Easts", set 17 years apart. At the end, an Author's Note explains how this wasn't the novel he had set out to write, but "circumstances" left him with "little choice".

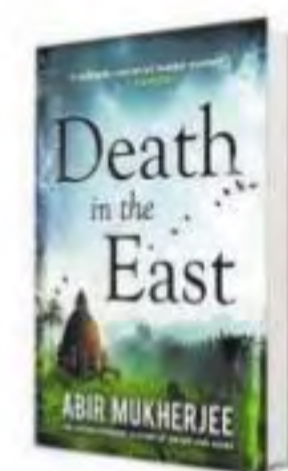
"Like many people, I've been saddened by the condition in which Britain and much of the world, finds itself. From the United States to Europe and Asia, the rise of populism has seen the growth of anger, extremism, fear of the other, and the erosion of tolerance and decency," says the Scottish-Bengali writer, who is based out of London.

Thus, it was important for him to remind his fellow Britishers, writes Mukherjee, that every time intolerance has raised its head in their country, "the good, decent majority of this country has taken a stand against it."

And, so, the story has to travel back in time for Sam Wyndham to travel out of India, all the way to east London. This clever use of detective fiction to make a social, political or cultural argument is a very Scottish literary tradition — as seen in the works of Scottish crime writers like William McIlvanney, Ian Rankin or Val McDermid. Seen in that light, *Death in the East* becomes an important book of our times.

As an independent crime novel, it holds its own, though one does miss the pace and edginess of the other titles in the series, especially book three, *Smoke and Ashes*, which left me rather breathless as Wyndham and Banerjee dashed across Kolkata trying to stop a terror attack. This is a crime series to watch out for, and one can't wait for the next volume to appear.

Samhita Chakraborty is a Kolkata-based reviewer



DEATH IN THE EAST  
ABIR MUKHERJEE  
Harvill Secker  
432 pages  
₹ 399

## EXPRESS EDITORS RECOMMEND

**MAY MADE ME: AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE 1968 UPRISING IN FRANCE.**

by Mitchell Abidor (AK Press): On May 6, 1968, thousands of protesting students poured onto the streets of Paris and clashed with the police, kicking off weeks of civil unrest. Abidor stitches together accounts of the protesters, who were angered by growing inequities, a repressive social order and police brutality.

## LOOKOUT NOTICE

**A WARNING**, by Anonymous (Little, Brown): With Donald Trump being impeached by the House of Representatives for abuse of power and obstruction of the Congress, read the behind-the-scenes account of the bizarre saga. Written by an anonymous senior Trump administration official, the book provides insights into the chaos and instability that has marked the US presidency for the last two years.

## Crouching Tigers, Hidden Dragons

An analytical inquiry into the development experience of some of Asia's major economies and why there might be ground for optimism

SANJAYA BARU

IN 1968, the Swedish Nobel Prize-winning economist Gunnar Myrdal published a three-volume survey of Asian economies, *Asian Drama: An Inquiry into the Poverty of Nations*, taking a rather dim view of Asia's growth prospects. In India's case, Myrdal identified corruption in public life as a major cause of its poor economic performance, inviting Indira Gandhi's famous put-down, "Corruption is a global phenomenon." Most critics were astounded that Myrdal paid little attention to the impact and legacy of European colonialism in Asia. Thirty years after Myrdal's ahistorical study of Asian backwardness, the Cambridge economic historian Angus Maddison published his now famous statistical analysis of global development, demonstrating how China and India had been the world's largest economies till the 17th Century, how two centuries of European colonialism had altered their fortunes and how by the turn of the century

Asia was once again resurgent.

On the 50th anniversary of Myrdal's book, economist Deepak Nayyar asked the question as to what happened in the interregnum that proved Myrdal wrong and explained Maddison's findings. Nayyar's *Resurgent Asia* is an analytical enquiry into the development experience of Asia's 14 major economies. Nayyar has chosen for his study China, South Korea and Taiwan from East Asia; Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam from Southeast Asia; Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka from South Asia; and Turkey from West Asia. Taken together, Nayyar's 'Asian-14' account for nine-tenths of Asia's population and four-fifths of the continent's income.

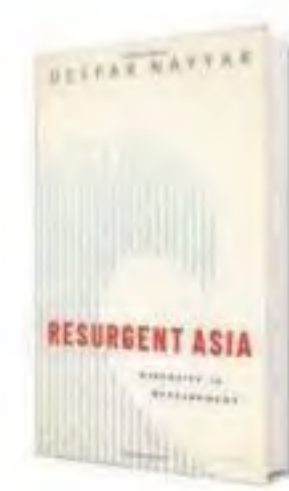
The big picture is easy to paint. Led by the so-called 'Asian tigers' — Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan — and followed by South Korea, Malaysia and Indonesia the Asia to India's East rose on the back of export-led industrialisation aided not just by the support of the United States, as part of its Cold War strategy of arresting the spread of com-

munist in Asia, but also thanks to the investment these economies made in human capital formation, efficient infrastructure and agricultural modernisation. China followed their example and the 'Asian miracle' was achieved. Ataturk's Turkey had a similar model of modernisation. South Asia is the laggard, but India began to rise, economically, after the 1980s with Bangladesh following suit. Sri Lanka was once viewed as a potential 'Singapore of South Asia' but the majoritarian politics of Sinhala extremists and their mishandling of minority Tamil grievances put paid to that prospect. Pakistan also began on a good note in the 1950s and 1960s, performing better than India, but after 1991, India took off and Pakistan was left behind.

Nayyar's painstaking statistical compilation demonstrates clearly as to what policies worked and what could not. The Asian growth story remains essentially an East Asian growth story with China adding left to it. High rates of saving and investment, especially public investment, a strategic industrial policy that created globally competitive

firms and rising levels of land and labour productivity were the key drivers. Not surprisingly, Nayyar identifies investment in education and the performance of that sector as an 'important driver of growth on the supply side'. Both supportive macroeconomic policy, that was not obsessed with low fiscal deficit and low inflation, and structural changes facilitated growth, while growth itself facilitated structural change.

While East Asian economies did well on the export front, they were also open to imports which meant that net export was not as important a driver of growth as is commonly imagined. Trade openness made these economies globally competitive but not excessively dependent on the global market. Nayyar makes the important point that none of the East Asian economies have yet become 'engines of global growth' because of which 'Asia could not drive world economic recovery in the aftermath of the global financial crisis despite the resilience of its economies.' Linear growth projections show Asia re-



RESURGENT ASIA: DIVERSITY IN DEVELOPMENT  
DEEPAK NAYYAR  
Oxford University Press  
295 pages  
₹ 895

example of a country whose economic performance over the past two decades gives us reason to be optimistic about the future, but whose political management makes one less so. In most of East, Southeast and West Asia also, it is the political risk that begs the question about the economic prospect.

The writer is distinguished fellow, Institute for Defence Studies & Analysis, New Delhi

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Kim Jong Un

## NORTH KOREA

## 'US could pay dearly for rights criticism'

Seoul: North Korea on Saturday warned the US would only aggravate tensions and "pay dearly" for criticising Pyongyang over human rights, with nuclear negotiations between the two deadlocked. The international community has condemned North Korea for political repression, and for decades of prioritising its military and its nuclear weapons programme over providing for its people. Criticising Pyongyang's human rights record would only aggravate the "already tense situation... like pouring oil over burning fire", a North Korean foreign ministry spokesperson said.

## MALI

## Over 30 jihadists neutralised, says Macron

Abidjan: President Emmanuel Macron said French forces had "neutralised" several dozen jihadists in Mali on Saturday, as he visited West Africa with a pledge to give new force to the battle against Islamist militants in the region. The operation in the flashpoint city of Mopti in central Mali came just weeks after 13 French soldiers were killed in a helicopter crash as they were hunting down jihadists in the troubled country. Macron said in a speech to the French community in Ivory Coast that 33 "terrorists" had been "neutralised".

## AFGHANISTAN

## Official: Dozens of IS members detained

Kabul: The Afghan government said Saturday it has arrested or surrounded up to 700 IS group fighters and family members over the past six months. The Afghan intelligence service, the National Directorate of Security, said at least 75 women and 159 children, most of them from foreign countries, are in custody. There was no way to independently confirm that the prisoners the government presented to reporters are affiliated with the Islamic State group. As many as 277 foreigners are among the arrested militants, he said.

## SEVENTH MONTH OF DEMONSTRATIONS

## Riot police arrest protesters after clashes in Hong Kong

ALUN JOHN & DONNY KWOK  
HONG KONG, DECEMBER 21

HONG KONG riot police swept into several shopping malls on Saturday, chasing off and arresting some anti-government Hong Kong demonstrators who had gathered to press their demands in the peak shopping weekend before Christmas.

In a mall in Yuen Long, close to the China border, hundreds of black-clad protesters marked the five-month anniversary of an attack in a train station by an armed mob wearing white T-shirts which beat up bystanders and protesters with pipes and poles.

Police have been criticised for not responding quickly enough to calls for help, and for not arresting any alleged culprits at the scene. They later made several arrests and said the assailants had links to organised criminal gangs, or triads. The protesters demanded justice for the attack, shouting "Fight for Freedom" and "Stand With Hong Kong".

"The government didn't do anything so far after 5 months... I deserve an answer, an explanation," said a 30-year-old clerk surmamed Law.



SUPPORT FROM TAIWAN: Protesters hold signs and flags in support of Hong Kong's pro-democracy protests, during a rally in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, on Saturday. Reuters

"Yuen Long is no longer a safe place... and we all live in white terror when we worry if we will be beaten up when dressed in black."

As dozens of riot police stormed into the mall to chase protesters off, a sushi restaurant had its window smashed and shops were forced to close.

On Friday night, police arrested a man who fired a single

shot with a pistol at plain clothes officers in the northern Tai Po district. No one was injured.

In Tsim Sha Tsui on Saturday, groups of protesters also converged on a mall popular with mainland Chinese luxury shoppers. "We can't celebrate Christmas when our city is taken over by the police. When you see the police outside the mall, do you feel like shopping for presents?" said Bob, 17, a protester. REUTERS

EXPLAINED  
Anger over 'brutality'

OUTRAGE OVER police brutality — and a perceived failure by the administration to hold them accountable — continues to be a sore spot for protesters despite relative calm in recent weeks. Since the protests began, the police have faced allegations ranging from excess force to sexual violence. Despite condemnation by citizens, medical workers and international organisations, calls for an independent probe into these accusations have not been answered. The call for action has continued to be a major demand in protests such as Saturday's.

## 11,000 GARFIELD COMIC STRIPS TO FACE AUCTION

Cartoonist Jim Davis is offering up more than 11,000 'Garfield' comic strips hand-drawn on paper in an auction that will stretch into years, with at least a couple of strips available weekly. "There are just so many, and it was such a daunting task to figure what to do with them so that they could be out there where people enjoy them too," said Davis, creator of the comic strip

## Trump signs \$1.4 trillion in spending, averts shutdown

Administration threatened to veto financial package if Ukraine aid directive was not removed from legislation

AGENCIES  
DECEMBER 21

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump signed off Friday on nearly \$1.4 trillion in spending that will keep the government funded through Sept. 30, dodging the possibility of a shutdown ahead of what's expected to be a contentious election season.

White House deputy press secretary Judd Deere said Trump signed the legislation aboard Air Force One as he traveled to his Mar-a-Lago resort, where he will be celebrating Christmas and New Year's. The spending measures, which will add roughly \$400 billion to the deficit over 10 years, include money for the president's US-Mexico border fence, pay raises for military and civilian federal workers, and federal funding for election security grants.

The massive spending measures were made public earlier this week and headed off a repeat of last year's end-of-the-year impasse that led to a 35-day partial government shutdown. That showdown stemmed from Trump's demand that Congress sign off on nearly \$6 billion in funding for the border wall.

President Trump's advisers



Donald Trump

rejected a bid to force his administration to quickly release military assistance for Ukraine early next year, threatening in recent weeks that he would veto the spending legislation.

Three officials familiar with the discussions said Democrats ultimately agreed to drop the language, which would have forced the administration to release \$250 million in defense aid to Ukraine within 45 days of enactment of the spending package, in order to avoid a government shutdown.

Two administration officials said that the veto threat was not a direct issue regarding Ukraine, but part of a broader effort to defend the president's authority to spend money at any time and in any manner that he determines appropriate.

## TWITTER, FB BLOCK STATE-LINKED ACCOUNTS, SOME FAVOURING TRUMP

FACEBOOK, TWITTER said they had blocked multiple state-backed manipulation efforts, several of which favoured Donald Trump

88,000 ACCOUNTS linked to Saudi state-backed "information operations" were among those blocked, Twitter said on Friday

FACEBOOK SAID on Friday it had blocked a network in Vietnam and the US which posted pro-Trump messages aimed at US citizens

A RECENT report by the Oxford Internet Institute found such efforts have doubled over the past two years and are being used in 56 countries

## Syrian oil refinery hit by rockets in 'major terror attack'

REUTERS & AP  
BEIRUT, DECEMBER 21

ROCKETS WERE fired overnight at Syria's main Homs refinery and two gas units causing minor damage and disrupting production, oil officials said on Saturday, calling it a "terrorist attack".

Fires were extinguished after several hours and maintenance engineers had begun repair work, the refinery head, Haitham Musawkar, was quoted as saying on state media.

The refinery, located west of Homs, is one of two main refineries covering most domestic demand for diesel, heating fuel, gasoline and other products, industry experts say.

No one claimed responsibility for the attacks so far.

Syria has suffered fuel shortages since earlier this year amid Western sanctions blocking imports, and because most of the country's oil fields are controlled by Kurdish-led fighters in the country's east.

State TV said it believes the attacks were carried out by drones and happened at the



A fire at the Homs oil refinery on Saturday. AP

## AID VETOED

Russia and China used their vetoes Friday to block a UN Security Council resolution that would have extended for a year cross-border humanitarian aid to four million Syrians.

Russia is a close ally and major supporter of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and has used its veto 14 times on Syrian issues since the start of the civil war there in 2011.

The resolution failed just as tens of thousands of civilians flee the northwestern Idlib region due to heavy bombardments

same time. It said a fire at the Homs oil refinery was soon put under control. The report said the Rayan gas facility and a third installation, also in Homs province, were hit.



## AUSTRALIA FIRES AT 'CATASTROPHIC' LEVEL

Catastrophic conditions fuelled massive bushfires across Australia's New South Wales state on Saturday, with two blazes around Sydney burning at emergency level, while in South Australia one person was found dead in a fire zone. Reuters

## Pakistan court sentences Muslim professor to death for 'blasphemy'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD, DECEMBER 21

A MUSLIM professor was sentenced to death on Saturday by a Pakistani court for a blasphemous Facebook post, according to a media report.

Junaid Hafeez, who was a visiting lecturer at the Department of English Literature of the Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) in Multan city of Punjab Province, was booked on blasphemy charges and was arrested by police on March 13, 2013.

The trial of the case started in 2014 and Hafeez has been



Pakistani police stand guard outside Multan jail after the court's decision. AP

lodged in a high-security ward of New Central Jail in Multan.

Additional Sessions Judge Kashif Qayyum sentenced

Hafeez to death and imposed a fine of Rs 0.5 million under Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), the Dawn News reported.

Hafeez's lawyer, Rashid Rehman, was shot dead in May 2014 in his office.

His parents had earlier this year appealed to former chief justice Asif Saeed Khosa to look into their son's case. They sought justice for their son, fearing for his mental and physical health, the daily said.

They had said their son had been languishing in solitary confinement in a cell of the Central Jail, Multan, for the last six years on the false charge of

blasphemy.

"Due to transfer of many judges, delaying tactics of prosecution witnesses, and difficulties finding adequate legal counsel for the defence because of the sensitive nature of the case, our son continues to await justice in a fabricated case," Junaid's parents had said in a written appeal to the chief justice.

Blasphemy is a hugely sensitive issue in Pakistan, with even unproven allegations often prompting mob violence. Anyone convicted, or even just accused, of insulting Islam, risks a violent and bloody death at the hands of vigilantes.

## China says US defence act blatantly interfered in its affairs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BEIJING, DECEMBER 21

Beijing Saturday slammed a new US defence act, which includes measures to strengthen Washington's ties with Taiwan and support for Hong Kong's pro-democracy protesters, saying it "blatantly interfered" in China's internal affairs.

Beijing and Washington have agreed to a temporary truce in their bruising trade war, with a phase-one deal that has rolled back tariffs on billions of dollars worth of goods. But China has come under strong criticism in Congress, including from Trump's Republican party, over its attempt to clamp down on pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong.

There is also growing concern in Washington, among both Democrats and Republicans, over the mass repression of ethnic Uighurs, a mostly Muslim minority in northwest China's Xinjiang region.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) calls for a report on the treatment of minorities in Xinjiang and to improve military ties with Taiwan, which Beijing regards as a renegade province awaiting reunification, by force if necessary.

You Wenzhe, a spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), told state-run Xinhua news agency, that the bill "blatantly interfered" in China's internal affairs. The parts relating to Taiwan undermined peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, he said.

## INDIAN, CHINESE NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS CONNECTED IN CONTEXT OF TRANSNATIONAL CIRCULATION OF IDEAS: STUDY

## 'Russian bomb-making tech linked India, China revolutionaries in early 1900s'

SOWMIYA ASHOK  
BEIJING, DECEMBER 21

ON FEBRUARY 24, 1910, tipped off by residents who were spooked by suspicious materials under a bridge near Shichahai in central Beijing, police constables came to investigate an iron box with several rolls of wires. The discovery, so close to Qing Dynasty regent Prince Chun's residence, prompted constables to report the matter to their officers, who in turn alerted the Ministry of Civil Affairs. A technician later uncovered the box to reveal a bomb made of dynamite, picric acid,

detonators and wires. The bomb was big enough to destroy structures in a one sq km radius, Tsinghua University Department of History Associate Professor Cao Yin wrote in a paper.

Over two years later, on December 23, 1912, the British marked the formal completion of shifting India's capital from Calcutta to Delhi, with a huge procession. In attendance that day was Lord Hardinge, the viceroy of British India, who rode an elephant towards the Red Fort with his wife for the formal handover. A bomb was suddenly flung from the Viceroy's left side, hitting the back of a Jamadar who was hold-

ing an umbrella over him. The Jamadar was killed instantly and Lord Hardinge suffered nonfatal wounds on his back and neck.

Cao Yin, the author of 'Bombs in Beijing and Delhi: The Global Spread of Bomb-Making Technology and the Revolutionary Terrorism in Modern China and India', said he was surprised to see that Indian and Chinese revolutionaries appeared to have knowledge of producing similar bombs.

Cao's paper, published in the December 2019 issue of the Journal of World History, argues that the "two seemingly separated political developments in China and India were closely re-



Biographies of Chinese revolutionaries. Cao Yin

lated through a series of events in Russia, India, China, France, and Japan." He examines the spread of bomb-making technology from Russia to India and China in the first decade of the 20th century to argue that "Indian and Chinese nationalist movements were implicitly connected in the context of transnational circulation of ideas, personnel, and technologies".

Cao tells the story in three strands: following the course of Indian and Chinese revolutionaries and the diaspora of the Russian anarchists and their bomb-making expertise. "...bombs had rarely been used

by assassins until the late 19th century," Cao writes. "Studying this bomb-making technology made me focus on the Russians, who were the first to use dynamites as a weapon for assassinations... they had the most sophisticated knowledge of building portable dynamite," Cao told *The Sunday Express*.

Cao traces the journey of Hemchandra Das, the "forefather of the bomb-making enterprise" in the Bengali nationalist struggle, "who learned the knowledge of designing, manufacturing and assembling small explosive from Russian revolutionaries in Paris in 1907". With

the British having restricted circulation of arms in India after the 1857 sepoy mutiny, many secret societies of the late 19th and early 20th century instructed their members in different martial arts forms. "Hemchandra Das believed that the Indian revolution would be much accelerated if the technology of bombmaking could be imported from Europe to India," writes Cao.

In China, he writes, a young man, Huang Fusheng, arrived in Japan in the autumn of 1904 with thousands of other Chinese students to learn modern knowledge, and joined an anti-Qing revolutionary group soon after.

"Chinese revolutionaries were impressed by the political assassinations conducted by their Russian counterparts and by the explosives the Russians used in their assassination attempts in particular," the paper states.

Cao says such accounts show their activities were connected through Russians and through their French and Japanese experiences. "If we are going to discuss India and China in the modern times, maybe we can only find limited sources between the two, but if you have a global view, they are parallels and are closely related to each other," he said.



## 18 ECONOMY

**'MERGER OF 12% AND 18% SLABS CANNOT HAPPEN IMMEDIATELY'****No GST rate hike in near future, rate tweaks only once a year: Bihar FM**ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THERE WOULD be no hike in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates or any merger of tax slabs in the near future amid the ongoing economic slowdown, Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said Saturday. The GST Council in its last meeting has decided to tweak rates only once a year, he said, adding that more measures to boost compliance such as new returns system, Aadhaar authentication of GST registrants would be undertaken in the coming days.

Modi further said that at a time when the country's economic growth is slowing, states need to consider having a lower rate than the current 14 per cent guaranteed growth rate for compensation payouts.

"I want to assure you that not a single state including the Union Government is ready to raise the tax rates. In times of economic

**'MORE MEASURES TO BOOST COMPLIANCE'**

■ The GST Council in its last meeting has decided to tweak rates only once a year, said Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, adding that more measures to boost compliance such as new returns system having invoice matching, Aadhaar authentication of GST registrants would be undertaken in the coming days

■ Modi further said that at a time when the country's economic growth is slowing, states need to consider having a lower rate than the current 14 per cent guaranteed growth rate for compensation payouts

■ He said compared to the pre-GST period, 99 per cent of the goods and services have less taxes levied on them post-GST

slowdown, you cut tax rates, you do not increase tax rates. To give stimulus, to increase consumption, taxes and duties are cut, not increased... in the near future, no rate increase or decrease will happen till revenue stabilises," Modi said while speaking at FICCI's 92nd Annual Convention titled 'India: Roadmap to a \$5 Trillion Economy'.

won't be protected," Modi said, adding that ultimately though the Council will have to consider a less than five rate GST structure, but not in this fiscal year or even immediate future.

On compensation, he said, "India's growth is going to be 5-6 per cent, inflation at 4-5 per cent, don't think any Union government can provide compensation at 14 per cent annualised rate. The average growth rate for taxes subsumed under GST for states in the three years preceding GST was 8.9 per cent," he said.

Modi said compared to the pre-GST period, 99 per cent of the goods and services have less taxes levied on them post-GST, adding that the Council has cut rates for 422 goods and 80 services so far.

However, he said that fake invoices has become a major issue and the government is looking for ways to check the menace. Since the GST's roll-out in July 2017, fake invoicing scams worth Rs 44,466 crore have been detected, he said.

The tax authorities will now authenticate registration with Aadhaar for both existing as well as new registrants under GST. Modi said steps are being taken to verify the registrations, some of which have resulted in cancellation of about 18 lakh registrations last week. "Around 18 lakh registrations were cancelled, some were fake, some were not filing returns. In the coming days, Aadhaar will be used to authenticate registration not only for new registrants but also for existing registrants. Also, physical verification would be carried out," he said.

As of now, there are 1.2 crore taxpayers under GST, of which nearly 50 per cent of the registrants made the transition from pre-GST period, while more than 60 lakh taxpayers have taken new registration.

He also highlighted that the new returns system, proposed to be rolled out from April 1, will help in boosting revenues through the system's in-built input tax credit matching feature.

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 21

ON DECEMBER 19, the Reserve Bank of India decided to conduct its version of 'Operation Twist' through simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under Open Market Operations (OMOs) for Rs 10,000 crore each on December 23. Operation Twist is the name given to a US Federal Reserve monetary policy operation, which involves the purchase and sale of government securities to boost the economy by bringing down long-term interest rates.

**Why Operation Twist now?**

The RBI slashed key interest rate — repo rate — by 135 points to 5.15 per cent this year but banks passed on only part of it. The one-year median marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) has declined only 49 basis points (bps). Operation Twist normally leads to lower longer-term yields, which will help boost the economy by making loans less expensive for those looking to buy homes, cars and finance projects, while saving becomes less desirable because it doesn't pay as much interest. The RBI says the decision follows "a review of the current liquidity and market situation and an assessment of the evolving financial conditions". The central bank is keen that long-term rates are brought down to kickstart investment and revive the economy. The idea is that business investment and housing demand were primarily determined by longer-term interest rates.

**What the RBI plans on**

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PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NOIDA, DECEMBER 21

THE YAMUNA Expressway Authority on Saturday cancelled the allotment of 1,000 hectares of land to Jaypee group, on which India's only Formula One motor racing circuit is built in Greater Noida, over non-payment of dues, officials said. The decision was taken by the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) during its 66th Board meeting.

"A thousand hectare land was allotted to Jaypee Sports Limited, an affiliate of Jaypee group, in YEIDA's special economic zone. Jaypee Sports Limited has been defaulting on payments to YEIDA and not completing projects promised to buyers," YEIDA CEO Arunvir Singh said. The embattled business group defaulted on payments of over ₹500 crore, he added.

The Jaypee group had sub-leased plots to 11 builders on the allocated land and separately had taken around ₹2,000 crore from homebuyers in 10 projects but not delivered it, he said.

"So, in light of the violation of lease deeds, it was decided during the board meeting that the land allotment be cancelled," Singh said.

However, the authority said modalities are being worked out to safeguard the interests of third parties and homebuyers who had invested in projects on this land parcel.

**December 23?**

The central bank 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. When the RBI purchases 6.45 per cent bond on December 23, demand is expected to rise, leading to lower long-term yield. On the other hand, sale of short-term securities will push up the short-term rate. However, bankers say 'Operation Twist' is likely to put an end to the interest rate cut expectations. "It's a signal of the RBI displeasure on Treasury Bill yield curve trending below the repo rate and its willingness to absorb the government's supply at a time when the investors' appetite is low in long duration," said a banker.

**The US experience.**

In 1961, the John F Kennedy administration proposed a solution to revive the weak economy through lower longer-term interest rates while keeping short-term interest rates unchanged — an initiative now known as 'Operation Twist' in homage to the Chubby Checker song and the dance then sweeping the nation. The US Fed employed the policy. The Fed then implemented the 'Operation Twist' programme in late 2011 and 2012 to stimulate the economy hit by the global fi-

nanial crisis. The first programme was from September 2011 through June 2012 and involved the redeployment of \$400 billion in Fed assets. The second ran from July 2012 through December 2012 and encompassed a total of \$267 billion in response to continued sluggish growth in the US economy. In December 2012, the Fed ended the programme and replaced it with another policy of "quantitative easing", which seeks to lower long-term rates by making open-market purchases of longer-dated Treasuries and mortgage-backed securities.

**What are Open Market Operations?**

The RBI manages and controls the liquidity, rupee strength and monetary management through purchase and sale of government securities (G-Secs) in a monetary tool called Open Market Operations. OMOs are the market operations conducted by the RBI by way of sale and purchase of G-Secs to and from the market with an objective to adjust the rupee liquidity conditions in the market on a durable basis. When the RBI feels that there is excess liquidity in the market, it resorts to sale of securities thereby sucking out the rupee liquidity. Similarly, when the liquidity conditions are tight, the RBI may buy securities from the market, thereby releasing liquidity into the market. On Friday, the yield on 10-year benchmark bonds fell by 13 bps to 6.60 per cent, following the RBI announcement.

**BRIEFLY****'Religion not required for KYC, bank accounts'**

New Delhi: Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar Saturday denied the "baseless rumours" that Indian citizens need to declare their religion for opening of bank accounts and KYC purpose. The clarification comes after a news report suggested that Indian banks may ask depositors and customers to list their religion. "There is no requirement for #Indian citizens to declare their religion for opening/ existing #Bank account or for #KYC. Do not fall for baseless rumours about any such move by banks," Kumar tweeted.

**Govt taking steps to address issues: SAIL chairman**

New Delhi: The domestic steel sector is facing challenges in form of high input costs and unavailability of coking coal in the country, SAIL chairman A K Chaudhary said Saturday, and conveyed the Centre is aware of the issues and taking appropriate measures to resolve them. PTI

**US won't levy tariffs on Brazil steel: Trump**

Sao Paulo: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said on Friday that US President Donald Trump told him in a telephone conversation that his administration will not levy new tariffs on Brazilian steel and aluminum as threatened earlier this month. REUTERS

**Banking industry's NPA situation to improve by fiscal-end: SBI chairman**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

SBI CHAIRMAN Rajnish Kumar on Saturday nudged the industry to enrich their borrowing capacity so as to boost investment in the economy, asserting there is no dearth of funds and most of the banks will be in a better position by March-end as far as stressed assets and non-performing loans were concerned.

He also said State Bank of India (SBI) is underutilising its loan sanction limits as there is not enough credit demand from the industry.

"If India has to achieve its goal of \$5 trillion economy then it cannot happen unless there is investment in the economy. Today the outstanding banking credit is Rs 96 lakh crore. So for a \$5 trillion economy, we would at least need

to double it," Kumar said at the 92nd Annual Convention of industry body FICCI here.

He added there is an adequate availability of funds with the banking system. He also said the industry keeps complaining that banks are not lending and lenders are saying that "we are ready with funds, you are not borrowing".

Talking about reforms such as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Kumar said in the current scenario there is ample liquidity available and the recent judgment by the Supreme Court on Essar Steel will matter a lot.

"Many large ticket stressed assets are getting resolved and by March 31, we are going to be in a very good position as far as most of the banks are concerned where at least the NPA ratio and stressed assets hopefully will come down," he said.

**India Inc leaders come together to discuss road map for \$5-tn economy**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

From policy stability to emphasis on exports of local goods, key industry players Saturday discussed and suggested measures for making India a \$5-trillion economy.

SAIL Chairman Anil Kumar Chaudhary, ITC Chairman and Managing Director Sanjiv Puri, Cadila Healthcare Chairman Pankaj R Patel, Bharti Enterprises Vice Chairman Rajan Mittal and JK Paper Vice Chairman and Managing Director Harsh Pati Singhania took part in the discussion during a session on 'India: Roadmap to a \$5 Trillion Economy' organised by FICCI.

The executives stressed on the need for Indian manufacturing to become globally competitive and join global value chain as the key

ingredients for becoming a \$5 trillion economy.

"If we have to reach the level of \$5 trillion economy by the next five years, we have to be globally competitive. India also needs to increase its exports of steel and other manufactured items," SAIL Chairman Chaudhary said.

Bharti Enterprises' Rajan Mittal suggested that the government should focus on strengthening the digital backbone of the country. Industry has been disrupted, he said, adding that government's intervention is needed. ITC CMD Puri said that "farming is a large employer. Lots of jobs were created in the post-harvest management".

"Even the food processing segment has the largest employment to capital ratio. We need to plug into the global value chains in value-added agricultural products," he added.

**Fiat Chrysler, Peugeot tie-up: How does it work?**

Fiat Chrysler and Peugeot maker PSA are pushing ahead with a planned merger worth about \$50 billion aimed at creating the world's No. 4 carmaker. Following are key details of the deal:

**TIMELINE:** Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) and PSA aim to complete the deal in 12-15 months after signing a binding deal Wednesday

**8.7 million:** The combined automaker would have annual sales of 8.7 million vehicles, employ about 4,00,000 people, and generate recurring operating profit of more than 11 billion euros, based on aggregated 2018 results

**TOP MANAGEMENT:** PSA CEO Carlos Tavares will be group CEO with a five-year term. FCA Chairman John Elkann will be chairman

**11 board members** in the merged entity



**3.7 billion euros:** The merger, once completed, is expected to generate 3.7 billion euros in annual synergies

**HOW WILL THE DEAL WORK?**  
■ Prior to completion of the deal, FCA would pay its

shareholders a 5.5 billion euro special dividend while Peugeot would distribute to its shareholders its 46% stake, worth about 3.2 billion euros, in auto parts maker Faurecia

■ China's Dongfeng Motor will reduce its 12.2% stake in PSA by selling 30.7 million

shares to the French firm. It will have 4.5% of the group

■ Major shareholders Exor, French state bank Bpifrance Participations and the Peugeot family would be subject to a three-year lock-up period

■ A seven-year standstill period following completion of the merger, when extraordinary operations affecting governance cannot be carried out, would apply to Exor, Bpifrance Participations, DFG and the Peugeot family

■ Exor, the holding company of the Agnelli family which controls FCA with a 29.2% stake, will become the new automaker's single largest investor, with a 14.5% stake

Source: Reuters

**EU-UK trade deal cannot allow 'race to the bottom': EU chief Brexit negotiator**REUTERS  
BRUSSELS, DECEMBER 21

THE EUROPEAN Union's central interest in forging a free trade agreement with Britain is to agree common social and environmental standards and avoid a "race to the bottom", the EU chief Brexit negotiator wrote in an opinion piece.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Friday there would be no alignment with EU rules under the terms of a trade deal he wants to strike with the bloc next year.

The EU's negotiator Michel Barnier wrote in a piece on the

Project Syndicate website dated December 20 that the European Union would seek to make the most of the short time available.

"But like the UK, we will keep our strategic interests in mind," Barnier wrote.

"We know that competing on social and environmental standards — rather than on skills, innovation, and quality — leads only to a race to the bottom that puts workers, consumers, and the planet on the losing side."

Any free trade agreement with Britain would then have to ensure a level playing field on standards, state aid and tax matters, as per Barnier.

**US TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY SAYS WHITE HOUSE HASN'T PRESSURED FAA TO SPEED UP ITS REVIEW****'Economic issues not a factor in 737 MAX's safety review'**REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 21

THE ECONOMIC impact of Boeing Co's planned halt of 737 MAX production will not be considered by US regulators in their ongoing review of when to end the grounding of a plane involved in two major fatal crashes, US Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao said on Friday.

In an interview with Reuters, Chao said the White House has not pressured the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to speed up its review. Chao also said the White House Council of Economic Advisers had con-



Grounded Boeing 737 MAX aircraft at Boeing Field, Seattle. The 737 MAX has been grounded worldwide since March after two crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia. Reuters file photo

ducted a study of the economic impact of the grounding, which

forced Boeing — a critical American manufacturing com-

pany — to halt deliveries in March, and assessed that it would cause around a 0.4 per cent reduction in US gross domestic product.

"Regardless as to what the impact on GDP is, our responsibility is to ensure that the 737 MAX must be safe before it is ungrounded," Chao said, adding that "my job is protect" FAA from any pressure the agency might face.

The 737 MAX has been grounded worldwide since March after two crashes involving Boeing's fastest-selling jet in Indonesia and Ethiopia killed 346 people within five months, costing the plane manufacturer more than \$9 billion so far.

On Friday, United Airlines said

it is extending cancellations of Boeing 737 MAX flights from early March until June. United's announcement is the longest that any US carrier has scheduled for the grounded aircraft, after American Airlines and Southwest Airlines Co cancelled flights into early April.

Chao said her directive to FAA Administrator Steve Dickson is clear: "ensure that he finds out what happened, correct the problem and do not unground until FAA feels that it is safe."

President Donald Trump, who has touted the strength of the US economy as he seeks re-election in 2020, called Boeing Chief Executive Dennis Muilenburg on

arbitral award in its favour.

The Centre in its application, moved through central government standing counsel Anurag Ahluwalia, has alleged that RIL is under a huge group debt and it was in the process of selling or transferring or alienating its assets and creating third-party interest in the movable and immovable properties to cover its liabilities.

It has said in the application that if RIL liquidates its assets and properties, there would be nothing left for the government to execute the arbitral award.

**THE CASE IN DETAIL**

■ The government has sought to restrain the two companies from disposing of their assets as they have allegedly failed to pay it \$3,856,734,582 as per an arbitral award in favour of the Centre in relation to the Panna-Mukta and Tapti (PMT) production-sharing contracts

■ Justice J R Midha has directed the two companies to file an affidavit of their assets in accordance with the new format of form 16A under the Civil Procedure Code that the high court has drafted in a recent judgment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

THE DELHI High Court has asked Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and British Gas (BG) to disclose their assets on the central government's plea for directions to both companies not to dispose of their assets.

The government has sought to restrain the two companies from disposing of their assets as they have allegedly failed to pay it \$3,856,734,582 as per an arbitral award in favour of the Centre in relation to the Panna-Mukta and Tapti (PMT) production-sharing contracts.

Justice J R Midha has directed the two companies to file an affidavit of their assets in accordance with the new format of form 16A under the Civil Procedure Code (CPC) that the high court has drafted in a recent judgment.

Earlier, on November 22, the high court directed the two companies to file their affidavits of assets in form 16A of CPC and had listed the matter for compliance on December 20.

On December 20, the court directed the companies to file the affidavits according to the new format of form 16A.

The direction had come on the government's application to restrain the two companies from disposing of their assets.

The application was filed in a petition moved by the government for execution of the

### BRIDGE

One size doesn't fit all when it comes to bridge. The right play in one situation may be quite wrong in another.  
Dr: South Vul/E/W

<b>NORTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
♠ J85	1C	Pass	1H	
♥ A74	2S	2H	Pass	4H
♦ 96	Pass	Pass	Pass	
♣ AKQ72				
<b>SOUTH</b>				
♠ 106				
♥ KQ1052				
♦ AQ2				
♣ 964				

West fines out the S-AKQ while East follows suit. You trump the third round and ponder your next move. Assume you are playing Teams, so your priority is to make your contract.

There is no problem if you can draw trumps and play on clubs. If clubs break badly you can always try the diamond finesse. So South set about drawing trumps. In isolation, the correct play in hearts is to play HK and a heart to the ace, so that if West shows out you can finesse against East's jack.

The West Hand: S-AKQ73 H-J983 D-K7C-103  
The East Hand: S-942 H-6 D-J108543 C-J85

South played this way at the table but on a heart to the ace, East showed out and he was in trouble. He tried to run the clubs but West trumped the third round and exited with his last trump, leaving declarer stuck in hand. He was lucky to get out for one down when the DK came down doubleton.

At Pairs that line would be reasonable, as it gives you a good chance of making an overtrick. At Teams, the overtrick is less important and there is a better line that will ensure that you make your contract, even when West has four hearts. Declarer needs to keep entries to that fine club suit and he can afford a heart loser. Therefore, he should reject the normal play in hearts and play the king-queen first. When East shows out on the second round declarer reverts to clubs. West can trump the third round like before, but now the HA remains as an entry to the last two winning clubs.

If West shows out of hearts, not East, declarer loses a heart trick that could have been avoided, but he still makes his contract and that's what counts.

You are South, declarer in 3NT

<b>NORTH</b>	<b>SOUTH (YOU)</b>
♠ J	♠ AK9
♥ 1064	♥ AJ52
♦ KQ1053	♦ J987
♣ AJ107	♣ Q4

<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>
1NT	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			
Pass			

West leads the S3 to the board's jack and East's queen. Assuming the S3 is fourth-highest, West is marked with a four or five card suit. Are there any high spades still missing? Plan the play

## SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2248

### QUICK CLUES

#### ACROSS

- Makes journeys (7)
- Our country (5)
- Poker stake (4)
- Without a job (10)
- Fairy-tale midget? (3,5)
- Historic caves — and Ellora (6)
- Bodybuilder's bane (4)
- Do —; last ditch effort (2,3)
- Lower part of wall (4)
- Least polite (6)
- A reputation, or achievement (8)
- Covered with a network (10)
- Bamboo stalk (4)
- Pesters possible customers with requests for orders? (5)
- Endeavour (7)

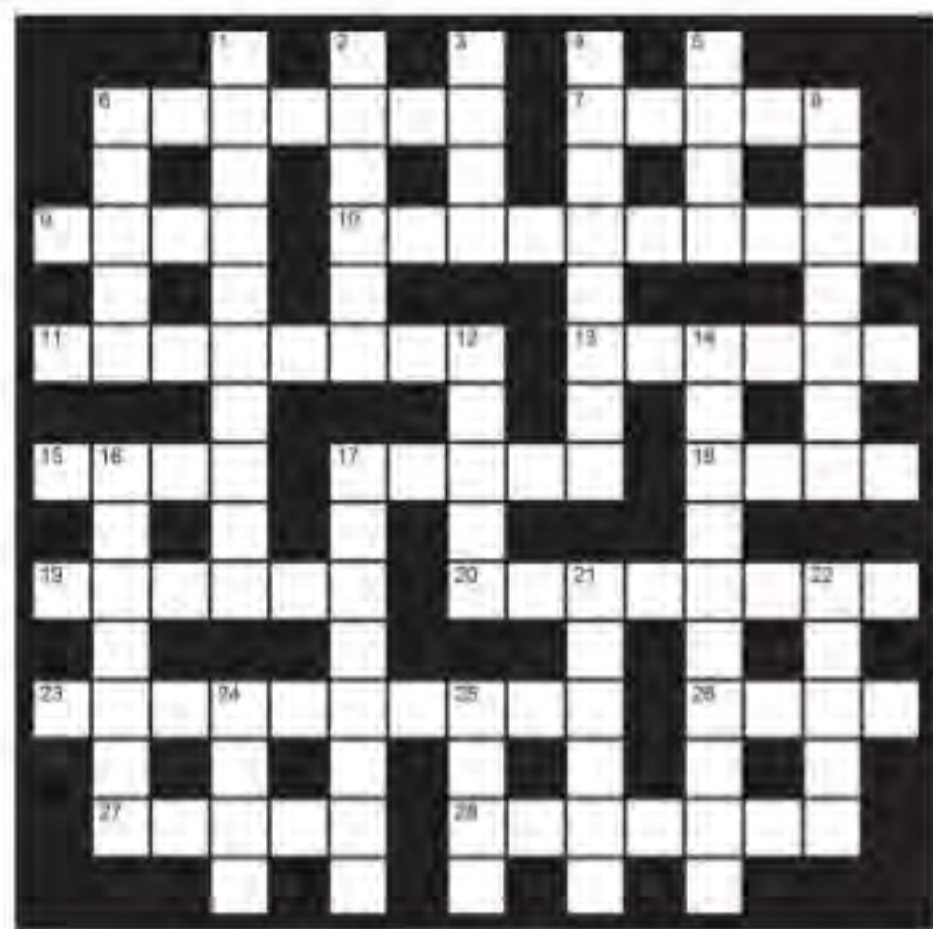
#### DOWN

- Deplorable (10)
- Use it to communicate in Hyderabad? (6)
- Labourer of yore (4)
- Flying machine (8)
- Taro root (4)
- Lone Ranger's sidekick (5)
- Kept off or turned aside (7)
- Waits (5)
- Chief attendant to a military brass-hat? (4-2-4)
- Noisiest (7)
- Eruption (8)
- Puts on guard (6)
- Group of nine (5)
- The game —; you are exposed (2,2)
- Far partner (4)

### CRYPTIC CLUES

#### ACROSS

- Bags of marsupials! (7)
- This is an ape, but none called for it to be so (5)
- Hastened, like some of London's pedestrians (4)
- This famous romance could only have one ending.1 (5,5)
- Adam provided cut of meat (5,3)
- Place something near something else performing physical exercises with soap! (6)
- I say dump NBA star O'Neal (4)
- Reportedly a claim of proprietorship in old region of Asia Minor (5)
- Dog returned as a drunk (4)
- Is that what the plane can do? Shoot about a thousand? (6)
- Having got too big for indoor cultivation? (8)
- New police clad in blue (10)



- Said differently when belonging to the girl? (4)
- Endlessly protecting a species of juniper (5)
- Garment paid for on receipt in Massachusetts (4,3)
- Actors playing "Our Pet" (6)
- A peer loses heart after a weekend in the country (5)
- Fellow in the bay (4)
- How do cats beat other? (4)

### Solutions to 2247

- Money you don't get for nothing? (4,3,3)
- It keeps Moby Dick's pursuers afloat (6)
- In America, the heartless teacher used to be behind the iron curtain (4)
- A business at Canada is transferred to the coast of East India (8)
- Not a makeshift defence organisation (4)
- Go at university and make it more lively (3,2)
- GIs seen making a beginning (7)
- The way to prohibit Josephine from having strings attached (5)
- Old actor to caress Her Maj with a five dollar bill before church (5,5)
- Thelma's abandoned small towns (7)
- Undercover but popular form of punishment (2,6)

QUICK CLUES Across: 6 Molotov, 7 Amitabh, 9 Rarer, 10 Ransacked, 11 Agonize, 13 Micron, 15 Serendipitous, 19 Antics, 20 Overdue, 23 Barracuda, 24 Patch, 26 Newsmen, 27 Tactful. Down: 1 Star, 2 Turbo, 3 Overheads, 4 Finalist, 5 Background, 6 Murray, 7 Anno, 8 Hiding, 12 Overthrows, 14 Iso facts, 16 Exclaims, 17 Carbon, 18 Lethal, 21 Expect, 22 Burn, 25 Tuff. CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 6 Rag-fair, 7 Diagram, 9 Punch, 10 Dead ducks, 11 Seismic, 13 Chaffer, 15 Robert Walpole, 19 Unworn, 20 Bug eyed, 23 Nostalgic, 24 Bantu, 26 Princes, 27 Trisect. Down: 1 Ogen, 2 Mayhem, 3 Predicate, 4 Hardship, 5 Gracefully, 6 Repose, 7 Dial, 8 Misers, 12 Isoseismic, 14 Tabby-cats, 16 Elegance, 17 Turnip, 18 Adjust, 21 Goblin, 22 Ages, 25 Noel.

## If it's your Birthday

### Sunday December 22

There are some nice romantic alignments, and some passionate ones. You could be walking an emotional tightrope, but if you stick to the straight and narrow, you could have the best of both worlds.

### Monday December 23

There could be a lot of goodwill, and it will come from people who have strong, romantic feelings. You've to keep your feet firmly on the ground and generate as much sweetness and light as you can.

### Tuesday December 24

Lunar alignments reveal that you have one final, extremely important chance to have a final attempt at moving one step closer to achieving a life-long goal. Don't waste it. Friends and family should now back you.

### Wednesday December 25

You'll be busy, and a little more emotional. You'll also be putting your ideas forward with confidence, and that means you'll be persuading partners that you're in the right.

### Thursday December 26

You're about to have a second chance to take a major long-term decision, and a couple of weeks before you need make up your mind.

### Friday December 27

If you're truly sensitive, you'll be aware of the subtle changes taking place in the recesses of your psyche. The symptoms will include a shift in the clothes, music, food.

### Saturday December 28

You'll spend next year investigating adventurous options. While you're looking at life's spiritual realities, you'll be much more involved in business.

## YOUR WEEK AHEAD

### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Keep your head held high and remember that this week's wonderful lunar alignments give you a marvellous chance for a fresh beginning. It's time to forgive, forget, and put the past behind you. Also, you will have to take advice from partners. Believe it or not, some people really do know more than you.

### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The Sun is in a very friendly region, celestially speaking. The planetary formations are looking mixed, but you have a talent for drawing the best out of good situations and minimising the bad in difficult situations. Money matters are looking positive, so you can turn a loss into a profit.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Your best bet is to continue to conserve your energies and not try to force the pace. Your stars are so favourable that you should be carried along by celestial energies without any additional effort. A romantic adventure may now be taken to a new level of excitement. And be sure to give other people their due.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Although social or community involvements will become permanent fixtures, you're finally moving out of a recent, powerful, social phase. Looking ahead, for the next month, you will revert to the secretive Scorpio we know and love. You have kept a secret for long enough – but now may not be the best time to come clean.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

As one day gives way to another, so your desires shift from one stage to the next. The Moon winds the week up in a supportive region of your chart, which should mean that all aspects of your life, personal and professional, will end on a thoroughly favourable note.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

Family matters are entering a more settled phase. Plus, at long last, you have mastered certain tricky professional matters, and offered due support and assistance to a partner. Now you can appreciate the benefit of an increasingly lively social existence. Hopefully you have the cash in your pocket to subsidise your tastes.

### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

It's the personal life which matters most at the moment. Please give friends a sympathetic hearing and allow loved ones as much time and space as they need. Although public affairs seem to be more important at the beginning of the week, personal ambitions are the strongest. Later may be best for shrewd financial decisions.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

It's time to lift your sights from mundane matters. The next few weeks offer you a crucial chance to complete all important plans and arrangements which have educational implications, legal ramifications or overseas connections. Travel stars remain bright, but you must remember to check all details yourself. Leave nothing to chance.

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Current planetary aspects and influences are exciting all that is liveliest in your nature. Now that finances are on a happier footing, you'll be able to pay your own way. Romantically speaking, your plans couldn't be better, but you still seem to be held back by the past. Please realize that the present is important.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Start by focusing on personal matters, and see to it that family members are happy with your plans. Although short-term money matters, including shopping, spending and saving, should be wrapped up by the weekend, long-term issues remain vitally important until after next month. Long-distance journeys are a fine idea.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

There seem to be some changes afoot at home, so please give domestic matters your full attention. All sectors of your horoscope ruling money are growing in importance, with the result that there will be times when you will be able to think of little else over the coming four weeks.

### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Both commonsense and your natural instincts should be telling you to close the book on one particular personal episode. You're now in line for a great deal of generosity from others. Professional matters are improving, you may fix up an important meeting.

## JUMBLED WORDS

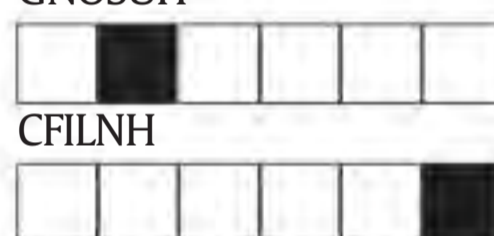
Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

The first wealth is — RW Emerson (6)

UVEAL



GNOSUH



Answer: The first wealth is health - RW Emerson

## SUDOKU 4067

### 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.

### Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



## SOLUTION SUDOKU 4066



**OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION, JAL O PARIMAL BHAWAN, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001, ODISHA**  
Tel: 0674-2395734, FAX: 0674-2394946, e-mail: cerwssodisha@gmail.com  
No. 10788 /Dated 20.12.2019  
Tender(P)-05/19  
**CANCELLATION OF BID IDENTIFICATION NO. 10745 EIC/RWSS/74/2018-19 DATED 19.12.2019**  
The Tender Call Notice No. 10745 EIC/RWSS/74/2018-19 Dated 19.12.2019 for the work, "Implementation of LED Street lighting system in one village of each Grampanchayat district wise in 16 districts of Odisha on turn-key basis including AMC for 5 years after one year guarantee period and 2 years extended warranty period throughout the state" is hereby Cancelled.  
Sd/- 20.12.2019  
Engineer-in-Chief, RWSS  
25040/11/0016/1920

**HSSC (INDIA) LIMITED**  
(A Subsidiary of NBCC (India) Limited)  
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)  
E-6A, Sector-01, Noida-201301  
**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER** Dated: 20.12.2019  
HSSC (India) Limited invites open e-tender on behalf of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India from eligible applicants who fulfill qualification criteria as stipulated in Vol-I (NIT/PC) document for the following works and their Maintenance during Defect Liability Period on Comprehensive Design, Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis: (1) Tender No. HSSC/AIIMS/Rajkot/Hosp/2019 - "Construction of Hospital and Allied Buildings for AIIMS Rajkot" Estimated project cost: Rs.447.71 Crore. Completion period: 20 Months. (2) Tender No. HSSC/AIIMS/Rajkot/Resi Acad/2019 - "Construction of Medical College, Residential Campus and Allied Buildings for AIIMS Rajkot" Estimated project cost: Rs.305.74 Crore. Completion period: 16 Months. Further details are available in detailed NIT and Tender Documents available online from 27.12.2019 on HSSC website www.hsscld.co.in, e-tender portal www.tenderwizard.com/HSSC and CPP portal. Last Date of submission of Bids is 10.01.2020. Corrigendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on said websites and not be published. DGM (C)

**I.C.A.R. - INDIAN VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
Bengaluru Campus, Hebbal Post Office, Bengaluru (Karnataka) - 560 024, Phone No: 080-23417895 / 23412835, Fax: No: 080-23412509; E-Mail: aaovivibng@gmail.com  
**F.No.5-253/HighSpeedRefrigeratedCentrifuge/CRP/19-20 / Dated: 21.12.2019**  
**E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
For and On behalf of ICAR, the Joint Director, ICAR- Indian Veterinary Research Institute, H.A.Farm Post, Hebbal, Bengaluru invites Online Bids under Two bid system (Technical bid/Financial bid) from reputed manufacturers/dealers in the line for supply and installation of Scientific equipments as per details given below:-  

Sl.No	Name of the equipment	E-Tender ID	EMD/Bid security
1	High Speed Refrigerated Centrifuge-1No	2019_DARE_529340_1	Rs.80,000

  
The complete tender document with detailed notice, due dates, terms & conditions and formats may also be downloaded from e-procurement website of CPPP: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and Institute's website www.ivri.nic.in  
The Joint Director, ICAR-IVRI, Bengaluru reserves the right to accept or reject the tender without assigning any reason thereof.  
Sd/-  
Assistant Administrative Officer

**राजस्थान सरकार**  
**निदेशालय, समेकित बाल विकास सेवाएं**  
**(महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग)**  
**राजस्थान जयपुर**  
क्रमांक: F26(4)(14)PSKIEC/ICDS/2019/PT-II/205820 जयपुर दिनांक: 20.12.19  
श्री स्कूल शिक्षण सामग्री के प्रदर्शन (Demonstration) हेतु सूचना विभाग द्वारा 6:20:20 आंगनवाड़ी केन्द्रों के लिए अनुमानित लागत 6.20 करोड़ के प्री स्कूल शिक्षा संबंधी सामग्री क्रय की जाती है। उक्त सामग्री में शामिल किये जाने वाले आईटम्स के चयन के लिए इससे संबंधित विवरणों/निर्माताओं से आईटम्स के प्रदर्शन (Demonstration Presentation) हेतु प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। भारत सरकार की गाइडलाइन, 2017 में से विभागीय क्रय समिति द्वारा चयनित प्री स्कूल शिक्षण सामग्री में सम्मिलित की जाने वाली सुझावात्मक सामग्री/आईटम्स निम्नानुसार है-  
"Doctor Set, Kitchen Set, Pyramid (Big Size), Ball (3 Sizes), Xylophone, Fruit Set (Big Size), Building, Cutouts (Cut), Building Blocks, Wooden (Shapes), Beads (Different Colour), Dhafli, Wooden - Our Community, Wooden- Domestic Animals, Wooden- Means of Transport, Wooden-Clock"  
उपरोक्त आईटम्स के अतिरिक्त अन्य उपयोगी सामग्री को भी प्रदर्शन में शामिल किया जा सकता है। प्रदर्शन की जाने वाली सामग्री 3 से 6 वर्ष के आयु वर्ग के बच्चों के लिए शारीरिक, मानसिक एवं बौद्धिक विकास के संबंध में होनी चाहिए तथा उस सामग्री का बच्चों पर कोई दुष्प्रभाव नहीं पड़ना चाहिए एवं आईटम्स के स्पेसिफिकेशन (स्वादायक, उच्चार्थ वजन) एवं खिलाई की गुणवत्ता खिलाई में प्रयुक्त रंग (Non toxic), च बच्चों के लिए सुरक्षित हो।  
इच्छुक विक्रेता/ निर्माता दिनांक 31.12.2019 को प्रात 11.30 बजे तक अपनी सामग्री मय स्पेसिफिकेशन लेकर कार्यालय परिसर में उपस्थित होंगे। प्रदर्शन के दौरान विभागीय क्रय समिति द्वारा सामग्री, उनके स्पेसिफिकेशन एवं उनकी उपयोगिता के संबंध में संबंधित फर्मों/ निर्माताओं से विचार किया जायेगा। सूचना का अवलोकन विभागीय वेब साइट [wcd.rajasthan.gov.in](http://wcd.rajasthan.gov.in) पर भी किया जा सकता है। इस संबंध में दी गई सामग्री/सामग्री किराया/वाला व्यव विभाग द्वारा वहन नहीं किया जायेगा।  
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**Save Energy for Self and Nation**  
**HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD.**  
(A State Government Undertaking)  
**Press Tender Notice CORRIGENDUM**  
Online Tenders as invited on turnkey basis (two part bid) vide **CEO/MM/T.No.10/Re-Cond. Tie Line /2019-20-13005-15 dated 02.02.2019** by the undersigned for & on behalf of Managing Director, HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4, for the following work may be read as under :  
**Tender No. : CEO/MM/T.No.10/Re-Cond. Tie Line/2019**  
**Name of Work :** Re-conductoring of existing Conductor 22kV Tie line from Kumarsain to Nogli with ACSR Conductor (DOG) 6/1/4.72 mm<sup>2</sup> in Electrical Sub Division HPSEBL Taklech under Electrical Division Rampur Bushahr.  

Estimated Cost	₹ 245 Lacs
Earnest Money	₹ 6.12 Lacs
Cost of Tender Documents	₹ 5900.00
Completion period	8 (Eight) Months
Sale of Tender documents	From 27.12.2019 to 20.01.2020 (Upto 05.00 PM)
Last date of Receipt of Tender	21.01.2020 (Upto 05.00 PM)
Opening of Techno Commercial Bid	22.01.2020 (at 11.30 AM)

  
The detailed tender notification can be viewed/downloaded free of cost from the website: <https://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSEB> and tender documents can be had after making prescribed payment. Any clarification/ amendment shall be uploaded on the above website. For further details on e-tendering, please contact on Phone- 0177-2801745.  
All the other terms and condition shall remain unchanged.  
Sd/- (Er. Sanjeev Maria) Chief Engineer (OP) South, HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4

**BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED**  
**'A Mini Ratna Company'**  
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)  
**Admission Notice**  
**School of Para-Medical Technology, Central Hospital, Dhanbad, BCCL**  
Applications are invited from eligible candidates between age group 18 to 23 years (as on & before 30th September, 2019) [No age limit for CIL employees] who have passed 10 + 2 / Intermediate/Equivalent level with Science (preferably Biology) with 45% marks & above (general category candidates) and 40% marks & above [SC/ST/OBC/Physically handicapped (more than 40% disability candidates)] for admission in different streams in para-medical technology of 2 years duration as below :-  
1. Diploma in Lab. Technician. 2. Diploma in O.T. Assistant. 3. Diploma in Medical Radiographer (X-Ray Technician). 4. Diploma in Optometrist. 5. Diploma in E.C.G. Technician. 6. Diploma in Hearing language & speech therapy. in the session 2019-21.  
Prospectus and application forms can be purchased from the principal office, school of para-medical technology, central hospital, Jagjiwan Nagar, Dhanbad - 826003, Jharkhand by sending a request letter along with Bank draft from any branch of State Bank of India for Rs.90/- (Rs.Ninety only) or, by depositing Rs.50/- (Rs. fifty only) as bank draft from any branch of State Bank of India at the counter of School of paramedical technology, central hospital, Jagjiwan Nagar, Dhanbad - 826003 during working hours. SC/ST/BPL/Girl Candidates are exempted from depositing the prospectus fee. Sale of prospectus from 23-12-2019 to 07-01-2020.  
Bank draft should be in favour of BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED or BCCL; payable at DHANBAD. Candidate must write his/her name on the bank of D.D. Last date for Submission of completely filled up forms will be 20-01-2020. **Reservation of Seats are as follows :-** 1. 20% Seats for Jharkhand State paramedical Council, Ranchi (Bound) 2. 30% Seats for Project Affected People (PAP) of BCCL coverage area & their wards 3. 30 % Seats for Below Poverty Line (BPL) candidates (only for Jharkhand state). 4. 20% Seats of CIL Employees.  
**Schedule :-** a. Sale of prospectus : From 23-12-2019 to 07-01-2020. b. Last date for Submission of filled up forms : 20-01-2020 c. Date of Scrutiny of certificates: 24-01-2020 to 25-01-2020 d. Date of Medical Examination : 27-01-2020 e. Date of Admission : 28th & 29th Jan. 2020 f. Date of Commencement of classes : 03rd Feb. 2020.  
[Only concerned candidates for points no 2, 3 & 4 should apply]. The date of sale of prospectus has been fixed from 23-12-2019. **No fee (including tuition fee) will be charged from BPL and PAP candidates.** SC/ST/BPL/Girl candidates should submit proper proof of their category for getting free prospectus & Application form. For getting it by post, send photo copy of proper proof and for getting by hand, show Original proof.  
**Note :-** CIL employees are advised to submit proper permission. No objection certificate (NOC) and release letter, issued by competent authority.  
Principal,  
School of Para-medical Technology, Central Hospital, BCCL  
Post - Jagjiwan Nagar, Dist. - Dhanbad, Pin No. 826003 (Jharkhand)

**GUJARAT MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Government of Gujarat Undertaking)  
**Regd. Office :** Block No. 14/1, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Sector-10, Gandhinagar (079-23250767, 23250766, 23257696)  
**E-TENDER NOTICE: 12/2019-20**  
Tenders are invited online for following items On BI-ANNUAL RATE CONTRACT BASIS (through internet) from reputed manufacturers. For imported materials Authorized representative/ dealer appointed either by parent manufacture or its subsidiary company should submit their offer. Interested bidders are requested to submit the tender through e-tender process. All tender documents can be downloaded free from web site: <http://gmscl.nprocure.com> between 21/12/2019 to 20/01/2020 up to 15.55 Hrs. Detail Tender Notice is available on website: <https://gmscl.nprocure.com> / <http://gmscl.gujarat.gov.in> and this office notice board.  
Only one authorized person from each company would be allowed to attend Pre-bid meeting subject to the production of authorization letter, Valid photo ID Card and product literature of the company conforming that company manufactures the product for which pre-bid is being held.  

Sr. No	Name of item	Pre-Bid Meeting
1	Specular Microscope	
2	Advanced Corneal Topography	
3	B-Scan with UBM	
4	Streak Retinoscope	
5	BIPAP(Blevel Positive Air Pressure Equipment)	
6	Laproscope Set with Insufflator, Monitor, Light Source, Telescope and Hand Instrument	24/12/2019, 10:30 hrs to 14:00 hrs
7	Esophagoscope	
8	Embedding Station	
9	Coagulometer Semi - Automatic	
10	Blood Collection Tube (Non Vacuumized) - Sodium Fluoride tube	
11	Newborn Resuscitation Mannequin	

  
Duration of Downloading Tender (online): 21/12/2019 to 20/01/2020 upto 15.55 hrs.  
Last date for Submission (online): 2

# 20 SPORTSLINE



## AKANE YAMAGUCHI “Won Indonesia & Japan, BUT trailed by 4 first-round exits”

THE CRAZY ball with the eye-popping overhead retrieves and bubbling energy was lukewarm in 2019 after her stunning eight tour titles in 2018. A pale shadow with the merry glee gone out of her usually dancing pretty eyes, she was heavily criticised in Japan post the 81-minute loss to Chen Yufei as it cost Japan the Sudirman Cup final against China. Her Asian title getting past two Chinese was not balm enough. And then the hip injury happened.

Yamaguchi is the best example how top players negotiated the peace between turning up at a fixed number of BWF tournaments while still nursing injuries. Following the hip strain which clearly cut down her attacking options to half, Yamaguchi went to four tournaments and settled for first-round exits. This slump was soon after winning in Indonesia and Japan, pointing to just how bruising the schedule can be on the form of players.

At Guangzhou, the World No 4 would go down 4-12 to Chen, come up to 15-all, but not risk getting drawn into the attrition, getting blitzed by the speed of Tai Tzu and Chen. Surprisingly, Yamaguchi has not lost to Sindhu this year and also tends to bother Marin in big events. Japan's wonderful player even leads Chen 10-8 in career wins, but twice went down to her with the searing spotlight turned on full watt and also had losses to Korean upstart An Se Young and China's dimming star Li Xuerui in a difficult 44-16 year.

## TAI TZU YING “Beaten Chen Yufei 14 times and lost only twice, BUT in the big finals—All England & World Tour”

THE TAIPESE shuttler's wizardry is so mesmerising and untameable that she racks up some lopsided head-to-head figures against rivals. Like a staggering 14-2 win-loss against China's No 1 Chen Yufei. Except those 2 losses were the World Tour Finals championship clash and the All England final. While she's often seemed unbeatable for the unwieldy game that an off-colour Sindhu can put up, the Indian has now knocked Tai out of one World Tour Final, a World Championship and an Olympics — three big-stage losses out of five, even as Sindhu has lost 11 other times in circuit events.

Tai Tzu's magic is layers and layers of deception, but some of her shortcomings are glaringly obvious. She has four quarter-final defeats at World Championships (to go with the Round of 16 loss at Rio to Sindhu) pointing to a massive big tournament jinx and a wobble even before she reaches a final. Tai Tzu is clearly shaky early on, but like Chen Yufei proved can be brought down in a final.

As many as six of her 10 losses this year have come in the third set, which means opponents can fancy their chances once she's dragged to a decider. Moreover, an overwhelming eight of the 10 times she's lost has been the day after she eked out a win from a three-setter, which shows tiredness and inadequate recovery, important when stringing together a week of wins.

Tai Tzu's inconsistency is micro intra-game, and not macro - spread over up and down tournaments. Playing Okuhara at Guangzhou last week, she flourished one with her typical fluctuating flourish—she waltzed through the opening set and was 10-5 up, when like a power outage, inexplicably, Tai Tzu then slumped into a pool of half-a-dozen errors, took the lead at 18-17 and again flattened. In the decider, she suddenly had a 7-point mid-set flurry and immediately and whimsically, lost the plot again failing to close out, just like World Championship meltdown, incited by Sindhu. Tai Tzu's banana skins are Marin's frenetic pace and deceptive-than-thou Ratchanok, but she heads into the Olympic leap on the back of losses to eight different opponents this year, while the sucker punch tends to be delivered by Sindhu in big tournaments. Much like Lee Chong Wei, Tai Tzu can dominate entire seasons, but even as injuries have impeded the free-flowing game, the biggest inconsistency for her seems to be the big stage where her music goes deafeningly quiet.



## GLORIOUS

Form and fortunes have bizarrely fluctuated for the top-six women's badminton players in the world. SHIVANI NAIK decodes the zig-zagging patterns of the golden generation, where the metric fundamentally is silverware and not ranking, preluding to an intriguing Olympics tussle next year

## UNCERTAINTIES

PV SINDHU BECAME the first Indian, able-bodied badminton world champion in 2019 and promptly followed that with a mere six wins for the rest of the season in seven tournaments, raising alarms of inconsistency. However, a closer scrutiny of performances of five other big names in women's singles reveals that none of them can boast of a pre-Olympic season that would pitch them as an automatic favourite for Tokyo. Each of the six women has shown glimpses of dominance and more than their

share of vulnerabilities in a long season where shuttlers balance playing in the mandatory 15 tournaments with winning titles. Nursing niggles on the go, spacing out tournaments, targeting and refraining from hitting top gear week after punishing week while risking injury aggravation, this golden generation of women's singles players who will all be in their prime at the Tokyo Olympics next year, have held back as much as they have let on in 2019. Consistency counts for almost nothing at the Olympics, which means any of them could be on the podium next year.

### PV SINDHU

## “Became world champion BUT won little else rest of the year”

Every other top player has been felled by injury and managed to step out the spotlight, taking the mental breather to go with mending tendons and bones. Sindhu's way of negotiating the minimum required tournaments and picking the big prizes, is by rationing her energies and not bothering when murmurs about her losses start. Talk ranges from departure of her Korean coach to her own low levels of motivation and enthusiasm. But if there's anyone who knows how to stay hungry for an imminent feast, it is the Indian. She's even kept her World No 1 ambitions at bay (she's No 6 now), as she balanced reaching the summit at Worlds and her schizophrenic circuit results.

Do on either side of Basel are matches where it was evident she wasn't pushing the fourth gear, leave alone the fifth she

persed over the season, and even to rank outsiders in the draw.

However, Sindhu's most important match of 2019 was the quarter finals against Tai Tzu Ying whom she loses to quite frequently on the circuit but manages to bully in the big global events. Playing a masterly three-setter, bouncing back from the brink of exiting Basel, Sindhu played a third set drawing on that most elusive factor: consistency even as the Taipeese stumbled. In the one match where she could've fallen to inconsistency and errors, Sindhu held her own.

Then it was back to sleepwalking through China, Korea, Denmark before stirring awake against Tai Tzu at French. This typically sees Sindhu playing three setters with things looking even till 15-all in the third, after which the energy sapping and injury prone fifth gear is not employed. Sindhu'll know back of her mind that Marin wasn't at Basel and the form-player Yamaguchi had her hip issues and went out early. She's yet to beat Marin in a big final, though 2019 was a far better year than 2015 when too she would get into scraps that went to the wire in the third, and she quietly lost tournaments. Then she made all that experience count at Rio. You don't know Sindhu well enough as a player if you apply the consistency metric on her.

### CHEN YUFEI

## “Won 7 titles, BUT had no answers to Sindhu's attack in World Championship semifinals”

YOU ONLY need to look at the 21-scarring-7 second-set scoreline handed out to the Chinese in the semifinals of the World Championship at Basel as Sindhu romped into the finals, to understand what a barrage of steep shots can do to the newly-crowned World No 1 from China. It was an all-out attack that left Chen rattled and looking quite helpless, adding weight to the allegations that she can be mentally quite brittle.

On either side of the 21-7 carnage by Sindhu, Chen made seven circuit finals and won them all to go 60 wins - 9 losses in 2019. Starting with All England and wrapping up the year with World Tour Finals leading up



head to heads with almost all the aggressive players (Yamaguchi 8-10; Sindhu 4-6; Marin 1-3 as well as 2-14 against Tai Tzu). So this year, either Chen's made her poise and precision count or others have paused to catch their breath.

### CAROLINA MARIN

## “Won China Open after ACL surgery BUT spent most of last two seasons with injuries”

YOU CAN'T be a serious Indian and put Carolina Marin out of contention; not after she denied Sindhu the gold so stompingly at Rio and then like a cold-blooded clinical assassin at the 2018 World Championships.

Marin, now ranked 11 and No 26 on 2019's Tour performers, had a painful knee injury when she landed awkwardly in the finals at Indonesia in January. That tearful episode and the ensuing break was bookended by two dominant shows which could be happening in an alternate universe. She had beaten Sindhu, Chen Yufei and led Saina Nehwal 10-4 before she dived awkwardly chasing a drop at Indonesia. After her various ankle and back troubles, she was on a high winning her record-breaking third World title in 2018.

Returning from the painful leg-twist in September, Marin was quick to seamlessly start arrogating in her wins - claiming China Open beating Okuhara, Tai Tzu and He



Bingjiao. She then worked up a good run at French Open beating Okuhara, Ratchanok and Tai Tzu before losing to the dazzling young An Se Young. She'd continue collecting points at Syed Modi and Italian Open to end the year at No 11 and not get pulled in the year-end final stir-fry of tired limbs at Guangzhou. But come Olympics, and you ignore the whistling Marin at your own peril: the gusting train looking to wreck past, is never far behind.

### NOZOMI OKUHARA

## “Made 6 finals including World Championships BUT lost all 6”

TWO YEARS on, the complexion of a face-off can flip so drastically that Nozomi Okuhara and PV Sindhu who were part of a memorable marathon long final at Glasgow World Championships, met again in Basel and played arguably the shortest of World's finals. A Tora Tora rollercoaster if there ever was one in badminton.

Okuhara had that kind of puzzling year - she could play masterfully at the year-end World Tour Finals and induce such clever errors out of Tai Tzu in her first group game to win with geometric finesse and go on to lose the semis three days later tamely to the same opponent. She had an almighty finals nightmare in 2019; losing all the six she made this year, including the scalding 21-7, 21-7 demolition by Sindhu at Basel.

Okuhara has tasted defeat against everyone of the Top 10 at least once in fact besides her finals slip ups. “Doesn't leave any shuttle” used to be Sindhu's constant gasp against Okuhara, which doesn't square up with uncharacteristic set scores like 21-7 and 21-3 by which the Japanese Rio bronze medallist has lost two of her finals. Her usually dogged game was as if purging the cloak of relentless fighter in a 2019 where the count reads 46-17. She was the low-key medallist in Rio and though a typical Japanese in her retrieving, forever-running game, when she won Worlds in 2017, Okuhara's game had added an attacking dimension earlier missing glaringly from her arsenal.

The Japanese method is punishing on the body especially since both Okuhara and Yamaguchi aren't tall by any measure and need to push their bodies twice over. But Okuhara has added to her aerial deception including a delectable reverse flick, though she's using them sparingly to keep the suspense going till Tokyo.

What is undiminished is her ability to work up a disciplined frenzy rationed through the week to at least get herself into the final consistently. Six played, six lost doesn't sound flattering, but it'll give her confidence heading into Tokyo that even in a rough year returning from a knee injury, she can give herself the best chance to get into the Championship finals - after that, things could go north like in Glasgow or south as in Basel.



None of the (previous weeks' results) matter. How you feel that particular week is all that matters. You can have a great run, which actually helps your opponent prepare better against you. But then you have the pressure of winning. So winning, winning, winning under pressure is alright. But if you're going up (upward curve), when there is pressure and the opponent is leading, then that lead up is a negative thing.”

### P. GOPICHAND

NATIONAL COACH, ON CONSISTENCY

## LAYER BENEATH THE CREAM

**RATCHANOK INTANON:** Hoarded points with finals at Malaysia, India, Thailand, Hong Kong, German, Korea to go upto No 2 in the 2019 tour rankings, besides winning a surprise bronze medal at the World Championship. Both titles came in the first three months of the season, then struggled to win a final next four times. Lost to top players more times than she beat them.

**SAINA NEHWAL:** Beat He Bingjiao and Nozomi Okuhara at the start of the season and won Indonesia Masters as Marin withdrew from injury. Has had a torrid season since then, going 18 wins, 15 losses with losses to all the top tier players. Lost the Round of 16 of World Championship from match point. The painful wrist bothers her.

**AN SE YOUNG:** The 17-year-old has been a storm this season scoring wins over Tai Tzu Ying, Michelle Li, Sindhu, Marin, Yamaguchi, Sung Hi Hyun and Saina to go up to World No 9 after winning Korea Masters. She can scythe through reputations. Lack of experience at big stage could be the only speed breaker.

**HE BINGJIAO:** China's No 2 has the game to beat every top name. She won in Korea, was runners-up in India and at the Asian Championship. She made quarters minimum of every tournament - that's lower tier consistency and is effective against PV Sindhu.

# Consistency vs unpredictability in series finale

In the decider at Barabati, ruthless India take on West Indies, who haven't won an ODI series on these shores in over 13 years

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
CUTTACK, DECEMBER 21

THE LAST time West Indies defeated India in a bilateral ODI series was in May 2006. The next nine ODI series have gone in India's favour, but at Barabati on Sunday, the Caribbeans will aim to break the sequence.

Thirteen years ago, West Indies were still a force to reckon with in world cricket. Many upheavals later — administration versus players fight, decreasing revenue, ouster of the controversial board president Dave Cameron etc. — they are now on recovery path. Yes, they won the 2016 World T20, but winning an ODI series against India in their lair could arguably be a bigger boost for them. With the three-match series tied at 1-1, this is probably their best chance.

It's easier said than done, however. Nine months ago, in a similar situation — the ODI series going into a decider — Australia had trumped India. West Indies, for all their recent improvements, are no Australia. Their batting-heavy squad suffers from imbalance. If the hosts get a good start, they would be untouchable, for the tourists don't have the bowling wherewithal to change the direction of the game in the middle-overs.

For any team that plays against India, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are the prize scalps. The India captain got out for four and a golden duck in the first two ODIs. But with regards to Kohli, the two single-digit scores were not even minor blips. In fact, West Indies should be wary of a response.

Kohli, as is his wont, is training hard. Even during India's optional practice session here on Saturday, the intensity the skipper showed was an object lesson to any youngster willing to make a career in this game. During the nets, one shot, a flick off the toes stood out. Navdeep Saini bowled top pace, in excess of 140kph. Kohli just stood, cocked and uncocked his wrists and walloped the fast bowler. From West Indies' perspective, a lot will depend on whether they can dismiss India's best batsman early.

Before that though, they have to get past Rohit. The second ODI at Vizag served as the latest example to how India's vice-captain in this format could take the game away from the opponents. India usually struggle to recover when Rohit and Kohli get out early. Over the past six months, in five completed ODIs, twice India had to face situations where both Rohit and Kohli were dismissed cheaply in a match — the World Cup semifinal against New Zealand at Old Trafford and the first game of the ongoing series at Chepauk. India lost on both occasions.

KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer are the men in form. Rishabh Pant can be devastating at the death, as the Vizag game would attest. But the common template for defeating India in white-ball cricket remains the early dismissals of the big two.

## Batting-friendly conditions

The Barabati Stadium pitch is expected to be batting-friendly. So maybe, West Indies need to shore up their bowling if they want to pull off an upset. In the first ODI, where they had managed to remove Rahul, Rohit and Kohli inside 19 overs, they restricted India to a below-par 287/8. Sheldon Cottrell made early inroads. At Vizag, however, where the left-arm fast bowler was neutralised, the Caribbeans conceded 387 runs in 50 overs. Cottrell needs support.

Talking about Cottrell, he has been very impressive in the ongoing limited-overs series. His performance has helped him become a millionaire, with Kings XI Punjab forking out a whopping Rs 8.5 crore for the 30-year-old at the IPL auction.

"It's definitely life-changing, because he is getting a million dollars to play cricket," West Indies head coach Phil Simmons said at the pre-match press conference.

An India tour can change lives. Cottrell and Shimron Hetmyer — Delhi Capitals

## Aryaman takes break due to mental health issues

New Delhi: Aryaman Birla, who was part of Rajasthan Royals till the last IPL season, has said that he is taking an indefinite break from cricket owing "to severe anxiety related to the sport". The 22-year-old, who plays for Madhya Pradesh in the domestic circuit, took to social media to announce his decision on Friday night.

"It's been a journey of hard work, perseverance, dedication and immense courage to get to this point in my cricket career. However, I've been coping with severe anxiety related to the sport for a while now," Aryaman wrote in his statement.

The opening batsman, son of industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla, added that he persevered to keep playing till now but the time has come to put his mental health above everything else.

"I've felt trapped. I've pushed myself through all the distress so far, but now I feel the need to put my mental health and well-being above all else."

"And so, I've decided to take an undefined sabbatical from cricket. This lovely sport is an integral part of my life and I hope to be back on the field when the time is right."

Aryaman has played age-group cricket for Madhya Pradesh before making it to the senior Ranji side in 2017. He has played nine first-class games and four List A matches.

Last year, he topped the CK Nayudu (Under-23) Trophy run charts with 602 at an average of 75.25, scoring three hundreds in nine innings.



## SHOWSTOPPER

Fans watch as Virat Kohli attends a practice session in Cuttack on Saturday. India take on the West Indies in the ODI series decider here on Sunday. PTI



Navdeep Saini has been drafted in as Deepak Chahar's replacement.

bought him for Rs 7.75 crore — are now super-rich. Similarly, in the context of Caribbean cricket, a series win in India could be epoch-making. Theoretically at least, talented kids back home drifting to the NBA and athletics might have their cricketing interest rekindled.

But winning in India is a massive challenge and Simmons pragmatically kept expectations at arm's length. He spoke about the process instead.

"The thing is that we are trying to build something and the game tomorrow doesn't influence the direction in which we are going. So I think all the guys know we want to play our best tomorrow and even though we play our best, we might not win. But we are trying to build something and we will continue to be in direction we are going."

## India's bowling combination

Deepak Chahar's injury, a flat pitch and the dew factor will influence India's bowling combination. Saini is Chahar's replacement and it needs to be seen whether the team management includes him in playing XI alongside Mohammed Shami and Shardul Thakur. Playing three spinners, by bringing in Yuzvendra Chahal along with Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja, is an option as well. But in heavy dew, which is expected in the evening, going with three spinners could be fraught with risk if the hosts bowl second.

**INDIA VS WINDIES, 3RD ODI: LIVE ON STARS SPORTS 1 & 3 — 1:30 PM**

## To counter dew, India use to wet balls at practice

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
CUTTACK, DECEMBER 21

DEW COULD play havoc in the ODI series decider at Cuttack on Sunday. To counter the challenge, for the first time in the series, India's net session at Barabati Stadium today had wet-ball catching practice.

According to a Barabati ground-staff, dew is making its presence felt after sundown. "We are experiencing heavy dew from 6pm. The way it's happening, dew could be a factor for one full innings. We are spraying chemicals as an antidote but if the sky remains clear, dew would be heavy," he told *The Sunday Express*.

**According to a Barabati ground-staff, dew is making its presence felt after sundown. "We are experiencing heavy dew from 6pm. The way it's happening, dew could be a factor for one full innings."**

So batting second might offer a distinct advantage, when the ball would be slippery. India have dropped far too many catches in the ongoing limited-overs series, so much so that even after the resounding 107-run win at Vizag, Virat Kohli had said: "We need to field better, we can't afford to drop catches like we have."

Evening dew will present a stiffer challenge to the fielders at Barabati. Little wonder then that India's fielding coach R Sridhar soaked the cricket ball in water today and conducted the catching drills. And Shreyas Iyer described it as good preparation. "The dew factor plays a massive role. And we have played here before as well. Against Sri Lanka and in the evening, there was dew in the outfield, it's really too much and we also practiced today. So the fielding coach literally made it (ball) wet and we were taking catches. So we are actually prepared and you know, whatever the circumstances would be, we are ready for it."

According to a team source, this wet-ball catching practice was conducted for the first time during the ongoing series. At Chennai and Vizag it wasn't required because "there wasn't much dew".

## Abid adds to his 'legend', punishes SL

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
KARACHI, DECEMBER 21

ABID ALI and Shan Masood became only the third opening pair for Pakistan to hit centuries in the same innings as Pakistan turned the tables on Sri Lanka in the second and final Test in Karachi on Saturday.

Abid, nicknamed "legend" in Pakistan's dressing room, hit 174 for his second hundred in as many Tests — becoming the first Pakistani and ninth batsman overall to score two centuries in his first two Tests.

When the third day's play ended Pakistan were in a strong position with 395-2, having an overall lead of 315 after conceding an 80-run lead in the first innings. Skipper Azhar Ali was unbeaten on 57 — his first fifty in 14 innings — and Babar Azam on 22 not out.

It was a day of batsmen's dominance as Pakistan added 338 runs after resuming at 57-0 on a National stadium pitch which dried up to help batting.

Masood blasted 135 for his second century in 19th Test as the duo put on 278 for the opening wicket, just 20 short of equalling the highest opening stand for Pakistan of 298. Amir Sohail and Ijaz Ahmed had set that record against the West Indies at the same venue in 1997. Masood batted for nearly five hours for his 135, which included three sixes and seven fours. Abid struck 21 boundaries and a six in his 398-minute batting.

Abid, 32, completed his century with a sweep off-spinner Lasith Embuldeniya for two to follow his 109 in the drawn first Test in Rawalpindi — his debut. The Rawalpindi century made Abid the first batsman ever to score hundreds in both Test and one-day debuts.

He had scored 112 in his first ODI, against



Abid Ali celebrates after bringing up his ton on Day Three of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Karachi. Ali made 174, while Shan Masood also hit a hundred (135). AP

Australia in Dubai earlier this year.

It was pacer Lahiru Kumara (2-88) who broke the opening stand when he had Masood caught hooking just five minutes from tea before he trapped Abid with the second new ball.

Abid's successive hundred has put him in an elite company. India's Mohammad Azharuddin scored three hundreds in his first three Test after making his debut against England at home in December 1984. William Ponsford, Doug Walters and Greg Blewett of Australia, Sourav Ganguly and Rohit Sharma of India, Alvin Kallicharran of the West Indies

and Jimmy Neesham of New Zealand are the others who hit two consecutive centuries in their first two Tests.

Before lunch, Abid survived a confident leg-before shout off paceman Kumara on 61 but the tourists lost the referral with the replays showing the ball would have missed the stumps.

Masood, playing his 19th Test, completed 1,000 Test runs when he reached 46. **BRIEF SCORES (STUMPS, DAY 3):** Pakistan 191 & 395 for two (Abid Ali 174, Shan Masood 135; Kumara 2/88) lead Sri Lanka 271 by 315 runs.

## BRIEFLY CRICKET

### David Jr scores double century

Bengaluru: Former India captain Rahul David's son Samit has scored a brilliant double century in an Under-14 Karnataka state inter zonal cricket match. The Vice-President's XI skipper scored a 250-ball 201 in the first innings against Dharwad Zone this week. His innings was laced with 22 boundaries. Samit, who is elder son of batting great David, put up an impressive all-round performance. The 14-year-old followed his double ton with an unbeaten 94 in the second innings while also taking three wickets for 26 runs. The match ended in a draw. A right-handed batsman, Samit has been grabbing eyeballs for quite some time now in various competitions in school cricket. Samit made headlines in 2015 at the U-12 level cricket in Bengaluru by slamming three half-centuries while playing for his school Mallya Aditi International. All his three fifties came in match-winning causes.

### Big Bash tie called off due to smoke

Melbourne: Smoke from bushfires raging across eastern Australia prompted match officials to abandon Saturday's Big Bash League cricket match in Canberra over what they called "dangerous and unreasonable playing conditions". Chasing 162 for victory against Adelaide Strikers, Sydney Thunder were 40-1 in the fifth over when the contest was halted because of lack of visibility and poor air quality caused by smoke. "After a delay, officials deemed conditions were unsuitable for play to resume..." BBL said in a statement. Sydney captain Callum Ferguson was upset at being stranded four balls away from victory with his side already past the five-over target. Umpire Paul Wilson said there was no way they could have gone ahead with the contest. "I understand that the Thunder have four balls to go. We can't take that into consideration," Wilson told Fox Cricket after play was halted. "It's about air quality. We would not have started (the match) like this."

### Watling expects more 'bumpers'

Melbourne: New Zealand wicket-keeper BJ Watling expects his team to continue their short-pitched barrage at the Melbourne Cricket Ground against Australia if the wicket proves conducive during the Boxing Day test. New Zealand lost the series-opener in Perth by 296 runs but rattled Australia's batsmen with short and angled bowling in their second innings, prompting the home side's batting coach Graeme Hick to query the legality of the tactics. Watling noted seamer Neil Wagner had proved particularly tricky for the Australian batsmen, taking five of his seven wickets with the short ball and softening up Matthew Wade with a number of bouncers that hit the body. "(Wagner) has done it for a very long period of time, he's very skilled at it, he's very accurate at it. And he used it well in Perth and put them under some pressure," he told reporters on Saturday. "But again, we're going to have see actually what that wicket does. It might not be conducive to that type of bowling so we have to be adjustable."

PTI/REUTERS

## Mary, Nikhat, two others selected for 51 kg trials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 21

NIKHAT ZAREEN was on Saturday named among the Indian women boxers who will participate in the two-day trials scheduled for the Olympic qualifiers to be held at the Indira Gandhi Stadium from December 27.

After the selection committee meeting here, Nikhat from Telangana was handed the fourth spot in the 51 kg category which already has the six-time World Champion MC Mary Kom, RSPB's Jyoti Gulia and Haryana's Ritu Grewal as other contenders.

Mary Kom has been ranked one, Nikhat was given a second ranking, while Jyoti and Ritu have been ranked third and fourth respectively. According to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), boxers ranked 1 and 4 will fight and boxers ranked 2 and 3 will play against each other.

"The winners of each bout will make it to the final trial match and the winners here in each of the 5 categories will then be selected to be part of the Indian Team to participate in the Olympic Qualifiers — Asia & Oceania in Wuhan from February 3-14, 2020," BFI said in a release.

Given the criteria, Nikhat will take on Jyoti, while Mary Kom will face Ritu with the winner of the two bouts set to face-off in a final trial match which will decide who makes it to the Indian team for the Olympic qualifiers.

Nikhat has been demanding a trial with Mary Kom for long and was set to face the Manipuri boxer in the Big Bout League. But

citing a back injury, Mary Kom had pulled out of the bout in the eleventh hour.

A frustrated Nikhat then demanded a fair Olympic selection trials and asked the national federation to telecast the fight live.

In other weight categories, Sonia (RSPB) will lock horns with former World championship silver medallist Sonia Lather (RSPB), while Sakshi (Haryana) clashes with Manisha (Haryana) in 57kg.

In 60kg, former World champion LSarita Devi (AIP) has been pitted against Shashi Chopra (Haryana) and Simranjit Kaur (Punjab) is set to fight Pavitra (RSPB). In 69kg, two-time world championship bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain (Assam) will face Anjali (Delhi), while Lalita (Rajasthan) takes on Meena Rani (RSPB).

Among men boxers, Vikash Krishan, who returned to amateur fold after a stint in professional boxing by winning a gold at South Asian Games, will also appear in the trials. The 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medallist will face Ashish.

In 57 kg, Kavinder Singh Bisht, a silver medallist at the 2019 Asian Amateur Boxing Championships, will meet 2018 CWG gold medallist Gaurav Solanki.

### Sumit named despite failed test

In 81kg, Rajasthan's Brijesh Yadav, Sachin Kumar of SSCB were named along with Sumit Sangwan, who will get a shot in the trials if he is cleared by NADA of doping charges. The 2017 Asian Championship silver medallist Sumit had failed a dope test early this month.

# Barca end season with a blitz

Head into winter break atop the table after a 4-1 victory against Alaves

REUTERS  
BARCELONA, DECEMBER 21

BARCELONA'S LIONEL Messi, Luis Suarez and Antoine Griezmann were all on target in a convincing 4-1 home win over Alaves on Saturday to reach a combined 30 goals this season and ensure the champions will finish 2019 top of La Liga.

Griezmann put Barca ahead in the 14th minute with a wonderful first-time strike into the bottom corner from a Suarez cut-back and Arturo Vidal also knocked home a pass from the Uruguayan to round off a dominant first-half display.

Alaves midfielder Pere Pons pulled a goal back in the 56th minute with a diving header which briefly caused panic in the home side who were fortunate not to concede an equaliser.

But Messi eased their nerves with a magnificent curling strike from outside the box to restore Barca's two-goal cushion in the 69th and Suarez finally got on the scoresheet by converting from the penalty spot in the 75th.

Barca lead the standings on 39 points from 18 games, three clear of second-placed Real Madrid who host Athletic Bilbao on Sunday.

Sevilla are third on 34 after winning 2-0 at Real Mallorca.

After being unquestionably the second best team in Wednesday's goalless draw with Real Madrid, Barca were under pressure to not only beat Alaves but also to produce an exciting display of attacking football.

They looked intent on doing exactly that, as Vidal fired their first warning shot with a bicycle kick which Fernando Pacheco had to tip away and Messi put the ball in the net but was narrowly ruled offside.

Coach Ernesto Valverde brought Sergio Busquets back into the team after he had



Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Antoine Griezmann scored a goal apiece on Saturday. Reuters

missed the game with Real due to illness and he also brought in academy product Carles Alena, benching Ivan Rakitic and Frenkie de Jong.

The changes helped Barca boss possession as their opponents focused on sitting deep and trying to defend, a plan which fell apart once Griezmann scored.

Alaves showed more ambition after the interval and after Pons had pulled them back into contention, Barca looked vulnerable, with keeper Marc-Andre Stegen losing the ball outside his box and scrambling to block a shot from Aleix Vidal.

Messi soon lifted the Catalans out of trouble, though, with his 50th goal of the year for club and country, while Suarez's penalty brought up 30 league goals this season for Barca's front three, who have now scored more times between them than 18 La Liga sides.

# With one lift Jeremy smashes 27 records

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DOHA, DECEMBER 21

YOUTH OLYMPIC gold medallist weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga went on a record-breaking spree, claiming three world marks in a remarkable performance, on the way to a silver in the men's 67kg category at the 6th Qatar International Cup here.

In a power-packed performance, the 17-year-old smashed his own Youth World and Asian record in snatch, clean and jerk and total lift with an effort of 306kg (140kg+166kg) to win the silver medal Friday night.

Jeremy broke 27 records in total all under his name, combining national and international marks. He smashed 12 international records — three youth world, three youth Asian and six Commonwealth records — and 15 national records — five youth national, five junior national and five senior national.

The teenager from Mizoram started the year by winning a silver medal in the EGAT Cup, lifting 131kg in snatch and 157kg in clean and jerk.

At the Asian Championships, he smashed the Youth World and Asian records with an effort of 297kg (134kg+163kg).



Jeremy won silver in the men's 67kg category at the 6th Qatar International Cup.

# Zidane says Guardiola 'best coach in the world'

ZINEDINE ZIDANE insisted Saturday his key aim this season was to win La Liga with Real Madrid, but admitted they faced a thrilling challenge trying to outwit Pep Guardiola and Manchester City, who they meet in the last 16 of the Champions League.

Zidane, who has won three Champions Leagues as a coach compared to Guardiola's two, described the Catalan as "the best coach in the world".

The two sides meet in Madrid on February 26 before heading to Manchester for the second leg on March 17.

"It'll be fabulous to play against him (Guardiola)," said Zidane, speaking ahead of Real's game against Athletic Bilbao on Sunday, their final Liga match ahead of the winter break.

"I respected him as a player and now as a coach. He's the top coach in the world and has proved it throughout his career."

Guardiola coached Barcelona to the 2009 and 2011 Champions League titles. He went on to win plaudits at Bayern Munich and City with domestic championships but has failed to land a third Champions League title.

"So it'll be a pleasure for me and a pleasure for all of us to come up against him and his team," said Zidane.

Real are currently level with Barcelona on 36 points on top of La Liga after their 0-0 draw on Wednesday. Athletic Bilbao are seventh, nine points behind.

"Bilbao is another rival and a different proposition. We will play them with all our energy, it's the last game of the year." AFP

# Real Kashmir, TRAU eye first win I-League victory

REAL KASHMIR and debutants TRAU FC will continue their quest for first win when they clash in an I-league fixture on Sunday. Real Kashmir, who had finished third in their maiden season last year, had a couple of their games in Srinagar postponed due to inclement weather conditions. The visitors had drawn against mighty

Quest East Bengal in a tight opener and they will be yearning for a win here. Hosts Tiddim Road Athletic Union FC have had the proverbial baptism by fire in their debut season, coming up against defending champions Chennai and the two Kolkata giants in their first three games — all of which resulted in defeats. However, they would take

heart from the fact that all three were away games and they improved considerably against the Red & Golds in the last encounter. "We are excited and ready to go. We are disappointed not to have played more but my team is hungry and ready to get playing again," Kashmir's gaffer David Robertson said. PTI

**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN, U. P. LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
Near Veterinary Hospital Badshah Bagh, Gokaran Nath Road, Lucknow-226007

L.No.1207 (4) /UPLDB/AES/CEO/ADVT/2019-20. Date: 19 December, 2019

**NOTICE**

Applications are invited for the post of **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER** in U.P.L.D.B. with its head office at Gokaran Nath Road, Badshah Bagh (Animal Husbandry Directorate Campus), Lucknow in the pay scale of Rs. 37400-67000 and Grade Pay Rs.10000 or equivalent level of pay in pay matrix applicable under 7<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission with admissible allowances under State Govt. rules from the persons employed or have been in the Central/State Semi-Government Office, autonomous organization of State/Govt and other reputed private institutions. The appointment will be made purely on contract basis only. However, admissible pay may not be less than the last pay drawn by the applicant in his or her parent department prior to joining the post of CEO UPLDB (here pay means substantive pay as per FHB Vol. II Part-2 to 4).

**NUMBER OF POST- 1(One); AGE:** Candidate should not be more than 60 years of age as on date of advertisement

**QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE:**

**JOB REQUIREMENT**  
Overall management of Livestock Development Board and its financial planning and implementation aspects in order to streamline the schemes of Govt/State govt. Job requires the liaison with departments of Govt, ICAR institutes and interactions with state veterinary officials, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India/Govt. of Uttar Pradesh as well.

**ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS**

- B.V.Sc. & A.H. with M.V.Sc. in Animal Genetics and Breeding /Animal Reproduction (Gynecology and Obstetrics) / Livestock Production & Management / Animal Physiology / Animal Nutrition from Veterinary Colleges / organization / institutes recognized by Veterinary Council of India. For the said post preference may be given in following order: 1. M.V.Sc. in Animal Genetics and Breeding 2. M.V.Sc. in Animal Reproduction / Gynecology and Obstetrics 3. M.V.Sc. in LPM 4. M.V.Sc. in Animal Physiology 5. M.V.Sc. in Animal Nutrition.
- 12 years experience (09 years in field of veterinary practice / research / teaching and 03 years in managerial capacity). Experience in the required field will be necessary.
- Applicant from Govt./ Semi Govt. organization must be in pay scale of Rs. 37400-67000 and Grade Pay Rs. 10000 or 8900 or equivalent level of pay in pay matrix applicable as per 7<sup>th</sup> pay commission.
- Candidate must have proven record of handling breeding programme of Central / State Govt.

**DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS**

- Experience of working in accredited deep frozen semen production and implementation of A.I./Breeding programme in the field / institution / university or similar organization.
- Managerial experience of any accredited Deep Frozen Semen Centre / State Livestock Development Board / ICAR institution / university or other similar organization.

However, the government reserves the right to relax the age/essential/preferential qualification/ experience as a special case.

**PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT**  
Initial appointment will be for 2 years which may be extended further depending on the officer's performance. Annual appraisal of performance of the concerned officer will be done by the Chairman/Board of Directors of UPLDB yearly and if performance is not found satisfactory contract may be terminated with a notice of 30 days.

Candidates fulfilling the above qualifications may submit their typed application duly signed, having complete bio-data on a plain paper to the **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, U. P. Livestock Development Board, Gokaran Nath Road, Badshah Bagh (Near Veterinary Hospital Badshah Bagh), Lucknow-226007 (Cont. No. (0522) 2741899, 4009753, E-mail upldb@rediffmail.com)** with attested testimonials / certificates of requisite documents. Those candidates working in govt. undertakings / Semi Government Organizations may send their bio-data through **PROPER CHANNEL** NOC from parent Dept. / Institution will have to be presented at the time of interview without which candidate will not be allowed to attend interview. The envelope containing application must prominently superscribe **"APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, U.P.L.D.B."** Only candidate fulfilling the essential & desirable qualifications will be called for interview and no correspondence in this regard will be entertained. LDB reserves the right to invite applicants for interview. The final decision to approve the selection of the candidate will be as per the rule and procedure of the State Government.

**The complete application must reach the head office of UPLDB by 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2020 upto 6:00 P.M.** **CHAIRMAN, U.P.L.D.B., Lucknow**

# Soar to the sky as Indian Air Force advances to a flight of success

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