



Across UP, police use protest photos to churn out ‘reward posters’ of suspects

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 25

CRACKING DOWN on people they suspect were behind the violence in Uttar Pradesh during protests against the new citizenship law, police have put out multiple reward posters in Kanpur, Firozabad and Mau. Notices warning of property attachment have been issued in Gorakhpur while in Bijnor, police have announced a reward of Rs 25,000 each for information on three wanted persons.

In Firozabad and Gorakhpur, police have circulated photographs of wanted persons on WhatsApp and Facebook, seeking information on their whereabouts. In the reward posters displayed at public places, police have appealed to the public for information on “miscreants” and promised not to disclose the identity of any person who helps police.

At least 16 people have been killed in protests across the state. According to an official at the DGP Headquarters, police have so far registered 213 cases and arrested 925 people.



Police have put out posters in Kanpur, Firozabad, Mau

In Mau, police have released a poster carrying photographs of 110 people they suspect were involved in the violence Monday during which stones were hurled and vehicles torched. Police said they made the poster after scrutinising videos and photographs of violence provided by media houses and local

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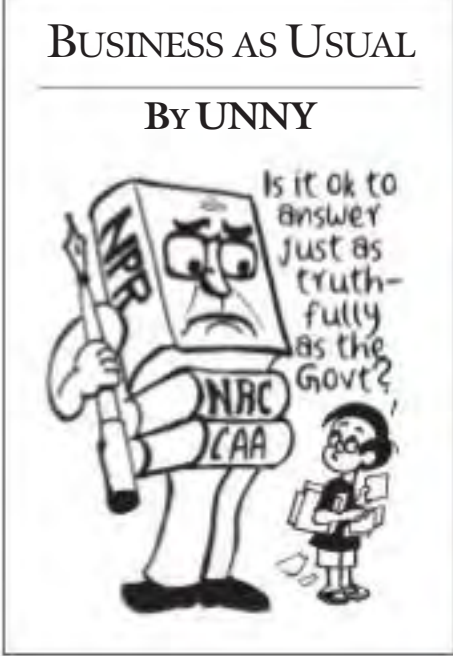
Young parents to CPM members to students of BHU: 73 held in Varanasi

AVANEESH MISHRA
VARANASI, DECEMBER 25

FOURTEEN-MONTH-OLD Champak is being taken care of by her grandmother Sheela Tiwari after the Uttar Pradesh police picked up her parents Ekta, 32, and Ravi Shekhar, 36, six days ago.

Social activists Ekta and Ravi Shekhar, who run an NGO, Climate Agenda, are among 73 people arrested so far in Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi, following protests against the newly enacted citizenship law and proposed National Register of Citizens. Besides activists, those arrested include members of Left-wing political parties, and students.

According to senior police officers, 56 people were arrested on December 19 from Beniyabagh locality that comes under the purview of Chetganj police station. They were participating in a protest organised by



CPI, CPM, and CPI(M-L), they said. Another 17 people were arrested the same day from nearby localities, including the Dashashwamedh Ghat.

More arrests were likely since many of the 100-150 more people against whom FIRs were lodged in different parts of the district were yet to be identified, the police said.

Students of Banaras Hindu

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POINTS TO VIOLENCE, DAMAGE TO PUBLIC PROPERTY

Rights vs responsibilities: PM has a message for protesters

Rights and duties go hand in hand, respect police, docs, teachers: Modi

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 25

DAYS AFTER his Ramlila Maidan address where he said there was no talk of NRC and that the Opposition was spreading “pernicious” rumours to instigate protesters against the new citizenship law, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday cited the violence and vandalism in a section of the protests to distinguish between “rights” and “responsibilities”.

Targeting those who resorted to violence and damaged public property in Uttar Pradesh during protests, Modi said they should “ask themselves if their path was right.”

Speaking in Lucknow after unveiling a bronze statue of Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Lok Bhawan and laying the foundation stone for a medical university named after the former Prime Minister, Modi said while people have the right (adhikar) to education, healthcare and secure environment, they also have duties (kartavya) and responsibilities (dayitva) towards teachers, doctors and the police force.

At least 16 people have been killed and scores injured, including policemen, during protests across the state amid a police crackdown.

EXPLAINED

Focus on arson dents campaign

AS THE Opposition tries to pin the government over the killing of protesters in Uttar Pradesh, the Prime Minister and his party are trying to draw attention to acts of vandalism during the protests. The hope is that amplifying the violence will focus on the method more than the cause and dent the anti-CAA-NRC mobilisation.

“Uttam shiksha hamara haq hai, lekin shiksha ke sansthan ki suraksha, shikshakon ka samman yeh hamara dayitva bhi hai... Chikitsa suvidha hamara haq hai, lekin doctoron ka sahyog aur samman karna hamara dayitva bhi hai... Surakshit mahaul milna hamara haq hai, lekin suraksha ke liye zimmedar police tantra ke kaam ko samman dena yeh hamara dayitva hai,” he said.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveils former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s 25-ft statue in Lucknow on Wednesday. Vishal Srivastav

RELATED REPORT, PAGE 8

EXPRESS NETWORK



EX-GRATIA FOR FAMILIES OF 2 KILLED IN KARNATAKA FIRING PUT ON HOLD

NIRMA UNIVERSITY MAKES STUDENTS SIGN UNDERTAKING AGAINST PROTESTS

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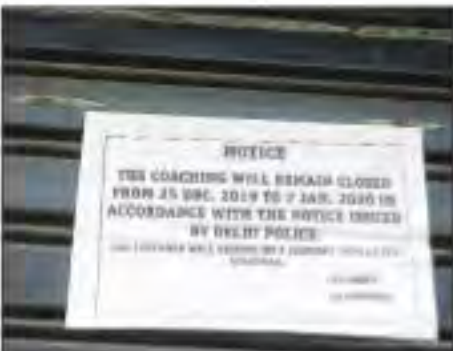
POLICE SAY NO SUCH NOTICE OR ANNOUNCEMENT

Near DU, PGs and tutorials shut doors after cops come knocking

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 25

SHUTTERS WERE down at coaching centres and reading rooms in Mukherjee Nagar — one of Delhi’s largest coaching hubs — on Wednesday after a notice directing them to do so, purportedly issued by the police, and a purported video of a police officer telling students to leave began doing the rounds.

While police claim the notice is fake and the video has been doctored, three coaching centres and a paying guest (PG) accommodation owner *The Indian Express* spoke to confirmed that they had been told by Delhi



(Left) A notice outside a coaching centre; received by a student from his coaching centre. Amit Mehra



RELATED REPORT, PAGE 4

Police personnel to shut shop until January 2.

The purported notice, circulated online on Tuesday night, bears the name of SHO, Mukherjee Nagar, and directs all coaching centres and PG owners

to keep their facilities shut from December 24 to January 1. It also threatens them with a fine of up to Rs 50,000 or with sealing if they don’t comply.

A video circulated on social

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EXPLAINED



POST-POLL SURVEY JHARKHAND RESULT FITS INTO A PATTERN

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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

HOW TO REVIVE CONSUMPTION

BY SOUMYA KANTI GHOSH

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Badminton doubles coach blames ‘bad attitude’ of Indian players for early exit of foreign coaches

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 25

INDIAN BADMINTON’S specialist doubles coach Flandy Limpele, from Indonesia, has flagged “bad attitude of some players” in the country’s elite camp, and warned that it is not conducive to the growth of the doubles discipline. He also said it was one reason why “three previous foreign coaches left before their contracts ended.”



Some players only care about self: Flandy Limpele, coach from Indonesia

“I could probably feel what the previous coaches felt, because this attitude thing is so unique in India. Plus it looks like foreign coaches ending their contracts faster is a common tradition, so it will be nothing new to me,” he said.

In an interview to Indonesian website *indosport.com*, Limpele had hinted that he may suffer the same fate as his compatriot, Mulyo Handoyo, and Korean, Kim Ji Hyun, the former singles coaches of top Indian shuttlers

who quit before their contracts expired. “It could be that I will also experience things like coach Kim and Mulyo, there are already signs. It’s tradition, so no one wants up to 4-5 years,” he had said.

Handoyo has been credited with the success of K Srikanth, Sai Praneeth and H S Prannoy, while Kim was at the courtside when P V Sindhu won her first World Championship final earlier this year.

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WORLD



IRAN STARTS NET SHUTDOWN AHEAD OF POSSIBLE PROTESTS

TALIBAN ABDUCT 27 PEACE ACTIVISTS IN AFGHANISTAN

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PAGE 1 ANCHOR

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
SAMBHAR (RAJASTHAN),
DECEMBER 25

MORE THAN 20,000 migratory birds died since they began congregating at Rajasthan’s famed Sambhar lake late October, their carcass samples testing negative for avian flu and poisoning. The Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) attributed the deaths to avian botulism, a lethal paralytic disease caused by a bacterial neurotoxin produced in rotting organic matter. What led to the outbreak remains unclear.

An investigation by *The Indian Express* has revealed that a vast network of live wires running thousands of bore wells could have created a submerged electric trap and the carcass of electrocuted birds could have served as the biomass for the toxic bacteria to thrive.

When the birds arrived in October at Sambhar, India’s largest saltwater lake, they were greeted, thanks to heavy rain, by water levels at the two-decade high. Under the surface was a messy network of cables that came alive every night to power thousands of illegal bore wells that keep Sambhar’s innumerable



Due to record rain, a vast network of live wires running thousands of bore wells remained under lake water well into the migration season. Jay Mazoomdaar

able private salt pans in business. There is no official count of these but an estimated 5000 to 20,000 illegal bore wells extract saline groundwater across a 25-

45 km stretch along the north-western shores of Sambhar lake. From this assembly of submersible pumps, electric wires and water pipelines stretch 2-5

km between the lake and the surrounding villages where thousands of salt pans draw brine.

Away from tourists’ gaze, this throbbing illegal network has

been expanding in and around Sambhar. The pumps are run mostly in the night so that the leaking current does not endanger labourers who work through

Slowdown puts a question mark on 14% GST compensation

Challenge for states as inflation 4-5%, tough for Centre to pay at that rate

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 25

AS THE Centre grapples with lower GST collections, a fresh tension now engulfs the Union Finance Minister-chaired GST Council with a certain section questioning the assumption of a 14 per cent “high” revenue growth rate covered by a compensation mechanism mentioned in the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act.

“With inflation hovering around 4-5 per cent and India’s growth expected to be 5-6 per cent, it will be difficult for the Union government to provide compensation to states at 14 per cent annualised rate,” a Finance Minister of a BJP-ruled state told *The Indian Express*.

With an increase in GST rate ruled out for now, the focus has shifted to the actual growth rate of taxes collected by states, but subsumed under GST since July 2017. In the three years preceding 2015-16, the growth rate in taxes for non-special category states was just 8.9 per cent. This is significantly lower than the 14 per cent growth rate assumed over the 2015-16 base year while committing compensation.

Including the special category states, the all-India average tax growth had worked out to 10.6 per cent in the three years preceding 2015-16.

According to data available with the GST Council, the average revenue to be protected for states in 2018-19 stood at about Rs 49,020 crore a month. The average monthly collection for states was lower at Rs 43,166 crore. This meant, the Centre made good the gap of almost Rs 6,000 crore a month, or Rs 72,000 crore a year.

However, in 2019-20, this gap has increased to almost Rs 13,000 crore a month, or Rs 1,56,000 crore for the year. This is more than double the previous year’s compensation, leaving the Centre hard-pressed to find resources. States have already expressed displeasure over delayed payment of GST compensation.

The Centre has estimated Rs 1.09 lakh crore as compensation cess in the Budget for the current financial year. Cess collection till November was Rs 64,528 crore. Extrapolated for the full financial year, it is expected to yield Rs 96,792 crore, which will still leave a shortfall of Rs 59,208 crore.

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14% PROMISE AND REALITY

States likely to be hit most based on growth record

Average revenue growth (2013-14 to 2015-16)

Andhra Pradesh	3.5%
Chhattisgarh	8.7%
Gujarat	3.6%
Odisha	6.7%
Punjab	5.9%
Tamil Nadu	6.2%
West Bengal	7.7%

Source: GST Council

Panel works on how to split assets between J&K and Ladakh UTs

SUSHANT SINGH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 25

ALTHOUGH THE committee for division of assets between the newly formed Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh submitted its preliminary assessment two months ago, many contentious issues remain. These pertain to division of immovable assets owned by the erstwhile state in Delhi, Amritsar, Chandigarh and Mumbai, besides allocation of government officials of various state departments to the two UTs.

The three-member committee for division of assets between the two UTs, headed by former Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra, submitted an interim assessment report in October where it recommended certain guidelines for division of assets. The final report of the Committee is expected by the end of the current financial year.

The committee, sources said, created an index which measured the backwardness, area, remoteness along with the historical deprivation suffered by Ladakh.

As part of a restitution process towards Ladakh, the committee proposed a formula of 80:20 for dividing the divisible resources — essentially liquid assets — for J&K and Ladakh. But J&K government officials contend that that the ratio of population between the two UTs is 97:3, which makes the proposed formula unfair on J&K.

They also argue that even a few years ago, a report by the state finance commission, had recommended only 13.5% of resource allocation to Ladakh division from the erstwhile J&K state. But that report was never accepted by the state government, which has historically allocated around 2% of plan and

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