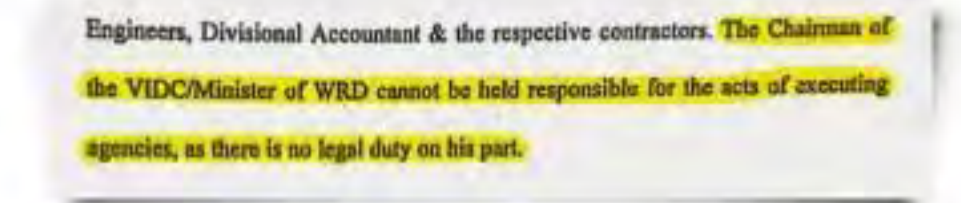


**IRRIGATION SCAM: ACB FILED AFFIDAVIT AFTER SERIES OF ENQUIRIES DURING FADNAVIS-LED BJP-SENA GOVT**

## Ajit Pawar got clean chit — day after Fadnavis resigned, day before new govt was sworn in

**VIVEK DESHPANDE**  
NAGPUR, DECEMBER 5

IN AN affidavit filed before the Bombay High Court just a day before the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress government was sworn in on November 28, Maharashtra's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) exonerated former Water Resources Development Minister Ajit Pawar of the allegations he had been facing for the multi-crore irrigation scam that rocked the state about a decade ago.



The clean chit to Ajit Pawar in the ACB affidavit; with Devendra Fadnavis and Supriya Sule (far right). File

affidavit, Rashmi Nandedkar, ACB SP, Nagpur, stated, "The Chairman of the VIDC/Minister of WRD cannot be held responsible for the acts of executing agencies, as there is no legal duty on his part."

as Chairman, Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation and the Minister of Water Resources Department during the Congress-NCP government in the state.

This assumes significance because on November 25, a day



before Fadnavis and Pawar resigned as Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, respectively, following a Supreme Court order for a floor test in the state Assembly, the ACB had closed nine "open enquiries" initiated into the alleged irrigation

scam. On November 28, the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress government under Uddhav Thackeray was sworn in.

Ajit Pawar's exoneration was a result of enquiry processes that took place during the term of



The victim was airlifted from Lucknow to Delhi. Vishal Srivastava

## Unnao again: Rape victim set on fire by accused on bail

**AVANEESH MISHRA**  
UNNAO, DECEMBER 5

A 23-YEAR-OLD woman, who was gangraped, is battling for life after she was set on fire with kerosene early Thursday morning in UP's Unnao district allegedly by five men, including two accused in the rape case of whom one was freed on bail a few days ago.

The woman's family said she was on her way to catch a train to Rae Bareilly in connection with the rape case when she was waylaid by the accused. Police said the woman, who was engulfed in flames, started running towards the nearest police station around 3 km from the spot near her house before local residents doused the fire and police rushed her to the local health centre.

She was then taken to the district hospital and referred to the Lucknow Civil Hospital. The UP government later flew her in an air ambulance to Delhi for treatment at Safdarjung Hospital where doctors said she had suffered "95 per cent burns" and was "critical". "She is in the ICU ward. The chances of her survival are dismal. We are monitoring her condition," said a senior doctor from the hospital.

Police said the accused were identified by the woman in her statement to the Sub Divisional Magistrate. Police have identified those arrested as Shivam Trivedi and his father Ram Kishore Trivedi, the village pradhan's son Shubham Trivedi and his father Hari Shankar Trivedi, and Shubham's neighbour Umesh Vajpayee.

## For contempt threat to senior lawyer, Justice Mishra sorry

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

TWO DAYS after he warned a senior lawyer that he would initiate contempt proceedings against him, Justice Arun Mishra Thursday apologised to members of the Bar, saying he was ready for even a "dandvat pranam" (lying fully prostrate on the floor), and that he has "lived and will die for the Bar".

Justice Mishra's apology came when a battery of senior advocates sat in his court before the judges assembled and sought to intervene in connection with the heated exchange between Justice Mishra and senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan during a hearing on interpretation of provisions of the 2013 Land Acquisition Act.

Responding to concerns expressed by senior lawyers — those present included Kapil Sibal, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Mukul Rohatgi, Dushyant Dave, Vikas Singh, Supreme Court Bar Association president Rakesh Khanna and Solicitor General



Justice Arun Mishra

**190 BASIS POINTS CUT IN TWO POLICY STATEMENTS**

# RBI slashes GDP growth forecast to 5% — deepest cut in a decade

As inflation concerns grow, central bank takes a pause, holds interest rates

**SANDEEP SINGH & GEORGE MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, DECEMBER 5

THE CENTRAL bank slashed the GDP growth forecast by 190 basis points to 5 per cent over the last two policy statements in a matter of two months — its sharpest revision in at least a decade indicating its inability to foresee the deepening slowdown in the economy.

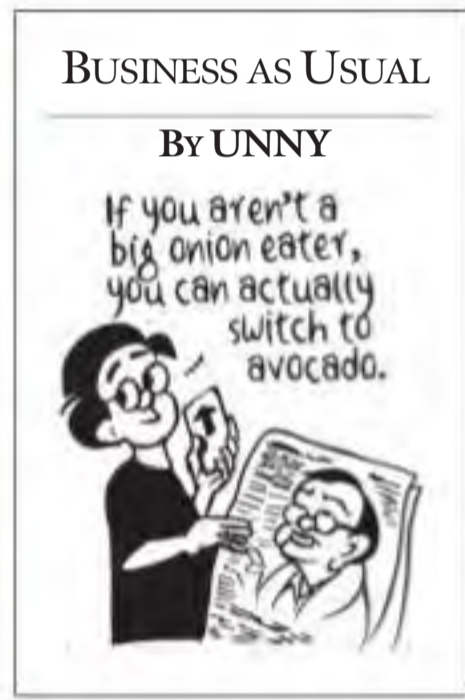
Also, as inflation concerns grew, the RBI's monetary policy committee took a pause, leaving the repo rate — the rate at which RBI lends to commercial banks — untouched at 5.15 per cent for the first time in 10 months.

While the RBI revised its GDP projection by 1.9 percentage point in a matter of two months, it has brought down its projection by 2.4 per cent for the year, in a matter of 10 months or five monetary policy reviews.

Even in the year 2008-09 — the year of the global financial



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das with his deputies in Mumbai on Thursday. Ganesh Shirsekar



RELATED REPORTS PAGES 9, 19

## Holding rates of interest: RBI cites inflation which raises questions

**PVAIDYANATHAN IYER**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

THE MONETARY Policy Committee's unanimous decision to opt for a pause in policy rate cuts does not sit comfortably either with its stated reasons for higher retail inflation or its own admission that economic activity has further weakened.

The retail inflation of 4.6 per cent in October was largely due to an increase in food prices, which is seasonal, and more transient in nature.

But fuel group prices have been in deflation for four months in a row. And core CPI inflation (excluding food and fuel groups), actually dropped in October compared with September.

On the growth front, things have only worsened. Manufacturing has seen a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Revenue down, states should look at hiking GST cess: Sushil Modi

Options: Cess on sin list could go up, list could be expanded

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

AS THE slugfest over delayed compensation payment under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime escalates, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council could look at increasing the number of items on which cess is levied.

Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said it was time states looked at measures to boost their compensation kitty, including bringing in more items into the ambit of the compensation cess under the indirect tax regime.

If an upward revision in GST levies is resorted to by the Council

to shore up revenues, it would be the first time that a hike will kick in since the indirect tax regime was introduced in July 2017.

"States should think about how to increase their compensation kitty. They should start thinking about what other items can be brought into the ambit of cess (under GST). As per the GST

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**THE EDITORIAL PAGE**

**DEC 6, WHAT MY PARENTS LEFT ME**  
BY MUKULIKA BANERJEE  
PAGE 14

**EXPLAINED**

**SIMPLY PUT DATA PROTECTION: ISSUES, DEBATE**  
PAGE 16

## Govt clueless on economy, look at numbers: Chidambaram, day after

**KRISHN KAUSHIK**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

A DAY after his release from jail, Congress leader P Chidambaram launched an aggressive attack against the Centre on the state of the economy, saying that the BJP-led government was "clueless" and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had left it to his ministers to indulge in "bluff and bluster".



'My spine, neck and head stronger'. Anil Sharma

Asked about his 106 days in prison, he said: "Sleeping on a wooden board without a pillow strengthens your neck, spine and back. My spine is stronger, my neck is stronger and my head is stronger." He refused to comment on the cases against him, saying the matter was sub-judice, but added that "my record as minister and my conscience are absolutely clear".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**WORLD**



**IMPEACHMENT CHARGES WILL BE DRAFTED AGAINST TRUMP: PELOSI**

**58 MIGRANTS DEAD AS BOAT CAPSIZES OFF MAURITANIA P 18**

# Top Indian animal safaris: Lions of Gir, tigers of Ranthambore, rhinos of Kaziranga... cows of UP?

**MAULSHREE SETH**  
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 5

THE LIONS of Gir, the tigers of Ranthambore, the rhinos of Kaziranga and, if a UP Minister has his way, the cows of UP.

This new addition to the list of famous Indian safaris is the dream of UP Dairy Development and Animal Husbandry Minister Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary. A "cow safari", he says, will have twin benefits: solve the problem of stray cattle, which has ballooned since the BJP government banned slaughter houses, and present a tourism opportunity.

farms, like in Maharajganj district, which is spread over 1,000 acres. The idea is to turn such farms, where 15,000 to 25,000 cows can be kept, into cow safaris. All facilities will be provided under one roof and arrangements made to ensure that cows can move freely," Chaudhary told The Indian Express.

"There will be arrangements for bullock carts and other such facilities for tourists, too," he said. If the safari takes off, Chaudhary is sure that "others will follow our model". "We will look at the idea of having more than one cow safari. Officers have been asked to identify farms and shelters that can be



Will solve problem of stray cattle, boost tourism: UP Minister

transformed to house about 25,000 cows," he said.

It's not the first time that a cow safari has been proposed in

the country.

In June 2018, members of a foundation that runs a cow rehabilitation centre near Jaipur had

announced plans to start a safari where visitors would learn about "indigenous breeds". It's yet to start, though, with organisers now claiming a January launch.

Chaudhary, meanwhile, is working on other plans for the welfare of his state's cattle. "Instructions have been given to have bonfires for cattle at shelters during the winter, and ensure mats and blankets," he said.

That's not all. "The government is moving in the direction of providing specified semen to ensure the birth of female calves. With the birth of more female calves and more milk generation, farmers will not abandon their cattle," the Minister said.

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**VIDEO OF THE DAY**



**EXPLAINED: WHY THE RBI REFUSED TO CUT INTEREST RATES**

RBI Monetary Policy December 2019: Even though the RBI expects economic growth to stay below 6% in the coming 12 months, inflation worries made it pause

**WHO WILL WIN FROM JAMSHEDPUR EAST?**

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**FULL COVERAGE**

**CONG HITS OUT AT SITHARAMAN**

Told LS she belongs to a family 'that has little to do with onions'

**EXPRESS AUDIO**

**Why the RBI's decision came as a shock to many**

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

On today's episode of the 3 Things podcast, we look at the RBI's latest decision in the face of the economic slowdown and discuss a problem that it might be worried about

## FROM PAGE ONE

### RBI inflation

1 per cent contraction in the second quarter after almost a flat first quarter.

This is clearly reflected in capacity utilisation of the industry that has dropped to 68.9 per cent in July-September compared with 73.6 per cent in April-June this year. The output in eight core industries — which make up 40 per cent of the index of industrial production — too contracted for the second consecutive month in October.

So, if RBI is aware that high retail inflation is only fleeting and there is no upside to growth, why would it not cut rates?

It is probably exercising caution, given the likelihood of rising inflation over the next two months and the two unknowns: the quantum of breach in fiscal deficit this year, and the expenditure stance of the government in the Budget for 2020-21 to be announced in February.

Retail inflation is expected to rise further to 5.5 per cent and then to probably 6 per cent in December, driven largely by food prices. RBI's own surveys suggest inflationary expectations over the next three months have risen 120 basis points.

How does a rate cut sound when inflation is much higher than 4 per cent, its single-point mandate as specified in its monetary policy framework agreement with the government? Besides, given the growth numbers, RBI may also expect the Budget in 2020-21 to be fiscally expansionary, and hence prepare in advance.

In doing so, however, the RBI is not looking at a longer one-year retail inflation trajectory. In another 6-12 months, CPI inflation is expected to moderate to 3.8 per cent to 4 per cent. Further, it has chosen to ignore core inflation (excluding fuel and food prices), and focus exclusively on CPI inflation.

### Chidambaram

The Supreme Court's "clear and comprehensive" order, granting him bail in the INX Media case, would "clear the many layers of dust that have unfortunately settled on our understanding of criminal law and the manner in which criminal law has been administered by our courts," he said.

Addressing a press conference, the former Finance Minister

focussed on the economy instead. "Nothing sums up the state of the economy better" than the GDP growth figures for the last six quarters — 8.7, 6.6, 5.8, 5 and 4.5, he said. "We will be lucky to end the year if growth touches 5 per cent," he said.

"Even after seven months into the fiscal year, the BJP government believes that the problems faced by the economy are cyclical," he said. Calling the government "wrong" and "clueless", Chidambaram said it was "unable to look for the obvious clues because it is stubborn and mulish in defending its catastrophic mistakes like demonetisation, flawed GST, tax terrorism, regulatory overkill, protectionism, and centralised control of decision-making in the PMO".

He said Modi "has been unusually silent on the economy", and "left it to his ministers to indulge in bluff and bluster". "The net result, as The Economist put it, is that the government has turned out to be an 'incompetent manager' of the economy," he said.

Criticising the government for calling the slowdown "cyclical", he said, "Thank God, they have not called it seasonal". "It is structural and the government has no solutions or reforms that would address the structural problems," he said, adding that he wasn't sure if the government understands "the difference between cyclical and structural".

"Rural consumption is down, according to NSSO. Rural wages are down. Producer prices are down, especially for farmers. Daily wage earners get work for no more than 15 days a month. Demand for MGNREGA is up. FMCG, both durable and non-durable, are selling less. Wholesale prices are up. CPI is going up. Onions sell at Rs 100 a kg," he said.

Earlier in the day, Chidambaram joined the Opposition protest outside Parliament against the rising onion prices. Asked to comment on Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's comment that her family doesn't eat onions, he quipped, "does she eat avocado?"

At the press conference, Chidambaram said: "I was not sarcastic, I was quoting her. They should have planned in advance, what is the point of importing (onions) now? When will they arrive? But if the Finance Minister

says I don't eat onions, that shows the mindset of this government."

"There is less demand among the people because they have less money and less appetite to consume due to uncertainty and fear," said Chidambaram. "People don't want to buy because they have less money and they have less confidence about the future," he said.

### Rahul, Maya

drafted by Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar. Hence, the BSP is not content with the Bill in its current form," she said.

Saying that the Bill was "brought in haste", she said: "Like demonetisation and GST... the Citizenship Bill is being forcefully imposed on the country... It should be sent to a parliamentary committee for discussion so that it can come in front of the nation in a constitutional form."

"Any decision by the Centre should not appear to be against a caste, religion, community or region, and should not show any malice. Such a decision will be considered a crime against the dignity of the Constitution," she said. Meanwhile, Opposition parties, including the Congress, TMC, SP, AAP, CPI, CPI(M), IUML, DMK and RJD, met in New Delhi to discuss the Bill. Resolving to make clear the government's "inherent intention" to the "masses", they are set to counter the government's stand on the CAB being crucial for national security with a counter-narrative on how it violates the Constitution.

In Kerala, Rahul also targeted the Centre on the economic slowdown. "Mr Amit Shah and Mr (Narendra) Modi live in their own imagination. They don't have contact with the outside world. They live in their own world and fantasise about things. That is why the country is in such trouble. If Narendra Modi listens to the people of the country, the people of Kerala, there would not be such problems. Modi's style of governance is to distract the attention of people from real issues. Because he lives in an imaginary world... he wants India to live in an imaginary world. Now that imagination he has created is crumbling," he said.

### Justice Mishra

Tushar Mehta — that the Bar feared to appear before him, Justice Mishra offered an apology and assured them he had no animosity against the Bar.

"If I have hurt anyone, then I apologise three times and even a hundred times... even a dandvat pranam."

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court Advocates-On-Record Association had passed a resolution expressing concern against Justice Mishra's remarks threatening Sankaranarayanan with initiation of contempt proceedings. "There is tremendous pressure on the court... we hear so many cases. I never consider anyone senior or junior," Justice Mishra said, adding that he did not intend to make the remarks against Sankaranarayanan — the senior advocate was not present in the court room Thursday.

"That (an apology) is not required, my Lord. All is well that ends well," Sibal said. He was the first among the senior advocates to speak as the judges walked in. "We have been at the Bar for 30-40 years. Most judges stay for not more than seven years. My request is that the dialogue between the Bar and Bench must be courteous. We are only here to convey that and no explanation is required."

Justice Mishra also said: "Humbleness of a judge is not his weakness. There is scope for improvement for lawyers also. The court is not being addressed properly and we are attacked."

Rohatgi said lawyers feared to appear before Justice Mishra. "I am not saying whether the fear is right or wrong but young lawyers

## RBI slashes GDP growth forecast to 5 pc

crisis — and in 2012-13, when the GDP for the fourth quarter hit 4.3 per cent, the RBI's projections were more realistic and forecast revisions more rational.

RBI data shows that this is the sharpest cut in GDP projection by the central bank, in at least a decade. In the financial year 2011-12 and 2012-13 when GDP growth rate stayed low at 5.2 per cent and 5.5 per cent respectively, the central bank followed a more reasonable and staggered downgrade path.

In fact, in 2012-13, while the central bank first projected a growth rate of 7.3 per cent in April 2012, it revised its projections downward to 6.5 per cent in July, 5.8 per cent October and then to 5.5 per cent in January 2013. It had revised its projection in 2012-13 by 1.8 percentage points from 7.3 at the beginning of the year to 5.5 per cent towards the end of the year.

While RBI has deviated from its initial forecast by a huge margin this year, despite having access to all available economic

	GDP projection for FY'20
February 2019	7.40%
April 2019	7.20%
June 2019	7.00%
August 2019	6.90%
October 2019	6.10%
December 2019	5.00%

data and variables, experts say that RBI — which has a strong research department — is struggling with GDP forecast just as everybody else.

On Thursday, RBI slashed the real GDP growth for 2019-20 downwards from 6.1 per cent in the October policy to 5 per cent, saying that it can even go down to 4.9 per cent.

In the October policy review, the central bank cut the GDP growth for 2019-20 to 6.1 per cent from 6.9 per cent forecast in

the August policy.

The lowering of growth rate by the RBI came after the government last week said the GDP growth in September 2019 quarter had plunged to 4.5 per cent, the lowest since the three months ended March 2013.

In its 5th bi-monthly policy released on Thursday, the RBI indicated more downside risks. "While improved monetary transmission and a quick resolution of global trade tensions are possible upsides to growth projections, a delay in revival of domestic demand, a further slowdown in global economic activity and geo-political tensions are downside risks," it said.

"Various high frequency indicators suggest that domestic and external demand conditions have remained weak," the RBI further said. Analysts don't rule out further downward revision in the GDP estimate if demand doesn't pick up in the economy.

The RBI's monetary policy panel said GDP growth for the second quarter of 2019-20

turned out to be significantly lower than projected. "Based on early results, the business expectations index of the Reserve Bank's industrial outlook survey indicates a marginal pickup in business sentiments in Q4," the RBI said.

Said Rajesh Narain Gupta, Managing Partner, SNG & Partners: "Although the MPC has maintained an accommodative stance leaving room for future policy rate interventions, mere policy manoeuvrability will not be enough to reverse the economic slowdown, boost GDP numbers and steer the economy on a higher growth curve. The priority will need to be on adopting a holistic and multi-dimensional approach to tackle the structural and cyclical challenges facing the Indian economy."

Analysts said the priority focus will have to be on kick-starting the consumption cycle, bolster private investment and expenditure and improve the financial health and credibility of lending institutions.

## States should look at hiking GST cess: Sushil Modi

law, compensation has to be paid to states through the cess collection, so states need to think about that," Modi, who heads a group of ministers within the Council on 'Analysis of revenue from GST', told *The Indian Express*.

At present, compensation cess ranging from 1-290 per cent is levied on seven categories of goods such as pan masala, aerated drinks, cigarettes, coal, aircraft for personal use and automobiles, all of which are in the topmost 28 per cent rate slab.

Cess rates could be increased on the existing items on which cess is levied. GST officials, however, do not rule out the levy of cess on items in the 18 per cent slab that were brought down from the 28 per cent tax slab earlier, though it would require a rejig in the classification of items as "sin" and luxury goods.

Another option could be to raise the GST rate on those items again to 28 per cent, which tax experts said could be more ben-

eficial as it would automatically improve the State GST (SGST) share for the state governments given that any GST rate has an equal share of Central GST (CGST) and SGST.

This would indirectly help in raising the states' share of revenues, thereby resulting in lower compensation payouts going ahead. Also, the Council is expected to look at items which may be out of the GST fold as of now but were earlier taxed under the pre-GST Value Added Tax (VAT) regime.

So far, the GST Council, since its rollout from July 1, 2017, has held 19 meetings in which it has undertaken around 10 rounds of rate cuts including a hike in the exemption threshold at the beginning of this year. At the beginning of GST, around 230 items were in the topmost 28 per cent slab, of which now only 37 items remain in the peak slab. The highest number of items are now in the 18 per cent tax slab at around

520. A hike in GST rates may translate into better government revenues but being an indirect tax, a hike in GST rates, especially amid slowing economic growth, could have an impact on consumption demand.

Also, any more tinkering with GST rates could imply fresh changes in technical and operating systems for the industry. "Businesses would prefer that frequent rate changes are avoided as this requires several within organisations including process and ERP changes. Increase of cess in a few products that are price inelastic may be preferred to rate changes in order to augment revenues," MS Mani, Partner, Deloitte India said.

Given the slowing revenue stream under GST over the last few months, states anticipated the compensation crisis to begin near the end of this financial year, around January-February 2020, but facing a delay as early as August in the financial year was

not expected, a state finance minister said.

States have claimed unutilised compensation cess of Rs 50,000 crore and demanded immediate payments, with some saying it's an embarrassment to keep asking for money due to them and Kerala warning it may even approach the Supreme Court. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has assured states but no specific timeline has been given for the compensation payment.

On the issue of delayed compensation payments, Modi said it seems to be a "technical/procedural issue" and should get resolved soon. "I feel the compensation payments have been delayed to states due to some technical/procedural issues and I expect those should get resolved as soon as possible," Modi said. Bihar, like other major states, is also estimated to have a pending compensation payment of around Rs 3,000-4,000 crore.

feel that they are not able to argue in your court and that affects our work," he said.

"This is not about one individual. We asked him but he told us not to mention anything on his behalf," Singhvi said of Sankaranarayanan.

Justice Mishra said Sankaranarayanan argued "beautifully" but "disrespectfully". "He started reading and made comments on judges. We requested him not to make comments on unrelated matters but he continued." He also said that Sankaranarayanan did not answer the call of the judges to return and conclude his arguments after he left the court. "Is it fair? He is showing that the judges unfairly stopped him from arguing, which is not the truth," he said.

"I have very pro-Bar judge image. I have lived and will die for the Bar. I am not egoistic," Justice Mishra said.

### Unnao rape

An FIR has been registered under IPC sections 326 (causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means), 307 (attempt to murder) and 506 (criminal intimidation) against Shivam and Shubham on a complaint from the woman's brother. However, the families of the accused have denied all allegations and demanded a CBI investigation in the case.

The incident triggered a political firestorm with Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi

Vadra accusing Union Home Minister Amit Shah and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of indulging in "false propaganda" while referring to their recent statements about the law and order situation in UP. SP leader Akhilesh Yadav demanded the resignation of the entire state cabinet.

This is the second such case from Unnao to make national headlines after a woman accused former BJP MLA Kuldeep Sengar of rape in 2017 when she was just 17.

Chief Minister Adityanath, meanwhile, directed officials to ensure strict action against the accused and allot government funds for the woman's treatment. In a statement, the Chief Minister also directed the Lucknow Divisional Commissioner and Inspector General of Police to visit the spot and submit their report by the end of the day.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) sought an action-taken report from UP Police.

According to Unnao police, two FIRs had been registered — one in Unnao and another in Rae Bareilly — on charges of rape against the two accused in March based on the woman's complaint. The FIRs, with similar content, were later merged and Rae Bareilly police started investigation in the case.

According to the FIR, Shivam tricked the woman into having a relationship with him, sexually assaulted her in Rae Bareilly and

made a video of the incident.

"Shivam kept raping the woman after blackmailing her over the video, and on pretext of marriage. When the woman pressured him for marriage, he brought her to Rae Bareilly and kept her in a rented room... In January 2018, he went to Rae Bareilly Civil Court and prepared a marriage obligation letter but dropped her back at her house a month later. Scared, she started living with her aunt in Rae Bareilly. In December, he came with his friend Shubham. He took her to a field where the two sexually assaulted her at gunpoint," read the FIR registered under IPC sections 376 D (gangrape) and 506 (criminal intimidation).

According to ADG Lucknow Satya Narain Sabat, the main accused Shivam was arrested and sent to jail, while Shubham was declared absconding. Police said Shivam was granted bail on November 25 but his family members said he came home "around four days ago".

"The incident took place around 4 am Thursday. The woman's family has claimed that she left her home alone for the railway station. Around a kilometre from her house, Shivam and Shubham allegedly caught her and set her on fire. I reached the spot and rushed her to the Community Health Centre after dousing the fire," said the Station House Officer.

The woman is a graduate while the two accused are college

students. Residents said she is the youngest of seven children. Her brother, who lodged the complaint Thursday, alleged that since the FIR on rape was registered, the families of the accused have been threatening the woman. "They threatened to burn my sister alive if we did not withdraw the case," said the brother.

Local police said another brother of the woman told them that he was supposed to accompany her but she left without waking him. Police said they were yet to ascertain why the woman wanted to go to Rae Bareilly since "there was no hearing or new development in the case".

### Ajit Pawar

Fadnavis-led BJP-Sena government. In his election campaign though, Fadnavis had raised the issue of irrigation scam and Pawar's involvement in it.

Although he was never named by the ACB, it's then chief Sanjay Barve, in an affidavit filed on November 26, 2018, had told the Nagpur Bench that Pawar had intervened in the process of award of contracts for irrigation projects.

While clearing Pawar, the affidavit put the blame for the two key alleged irregularities — approval to updated tender cost and release of Mobilization Advance (MA) to contractors — on the WRD Principal Secretary and Executive Director of VIDC.

The affidavit states, "There are two allegations against the

Chairman of the VIDC viz. (A) Regarding grant of sanction to the liability of the tender cost including that of updated cost and (B) grant of Mobilization Advance to the contractor despite there was no mention of the same in the tender booklet. Detailed enquiries/ investigations have been conducted in this regard."

"As regards grant of sanctions to the liability of the tender cost, including that of updated cost, it is revealed during the course of enquiry/ investigation that I) only note-sheets for grant of liability of the tender cost were sent to the Chairman of the Corporation by the Executive Director of the VIDC. In most of the cases, the Executive Director has accorded permission to the updated cost of the tender work, being within 5% of updated tender cost, as he is empowered to accept the tender up to 5% above the cost. The proposals for acceptance of the liability for the entire tender cost were being submitted to the Chairman with the recommendation of the Executive Director. In some cases, the recommendations were also given by the Principal Secretary of the Water Resources Department, who is ex-officio Managing Director of the Corporation. But neither the Executive Director nor the Managing Director have ever given negative remarks on note-sheets for the same. There is no evidence on record to say that the Secretary of the Department had briefed the Minister of Water Resources Department."

"Mobilization Advance is different from the tendering process. It is granted to the contractor of the VIDC under Section 19(2) (i) of the VIDC Act, 1997. The section empowers the corporation to grant advances to the contractors in the interest of work, on the request of contractors, under separate agreement, with interest, with proper security of re-payment, etc. The contractors have repaid all the amounts of Mobilization Advance with interest. As such, there is no financial loss caused to the Government."

Holding the departmental Secretary responsible for "careful observance of these rules", the affidavit stated, "when he considers that there has been any material departure from them, he shall personally bring the matter to the notice of the Minister in charge and the Chief Secretary." "Similarly, the Water Resources Department through its letters dated 10.9.2018 and 11.6.2019 had clarified that there is no loss to the Government due to grant of Mobilization Advance. It has also pointed out that since the Mobilization Advance is not connected with the tendering process, there is no mention in the tender booklet about 'Mobilization Advance' whether it will be granted or will not be granted. It is revealed during the enquiry that the Central Vigilance Commission has prohibited from mentioning about the grant of Mobilization Advance.

The Chairman of the VIDC has acted in line with the then prevailing policy of the Corporation and in accordance with the proposals put up before him by the Executive Directors or Managing Directors of the VIDC.

"Nothing adverse regarding money trail linkages had been noticed so far, neither documentary evidence nor oral evidence could be gathered during the course of enquiry so far in this regard," it stated.

The affidavit also said that none of the enquiry committees appointed by the government earlier had held the Chairman responsible for the irregularities. It mentioned the progress in investigation into 17 irrigation projects and 302 tenders from the Nagpur division and requested the court to dispose the petitions since the issues raised had been addressed.

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

**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**

Colonel Hoshnar Singh, Param Vir Chakra  
01 May 1936-06 Dec 1998



On this day, we salute and pay homage to a gallant officer who displayed exceptional courage, determination, conspicuous gallantry and motivated his men by his inspiring leadership and true devotion to duty to rise to the occasion despite being seriously wounded. For his grit, determination, raw courage and unparalleled leadership he was awarded the Nation's highest gallantry award - 'PARAM VIR CHAKRA', in the epic Battle of Basantar during the Indo-Pak War of 1971. We pray to the almighty on his 21st death anniversary to bless the departed soul with everlasting peace

CO and All Ranks of 3 GRENADIERS

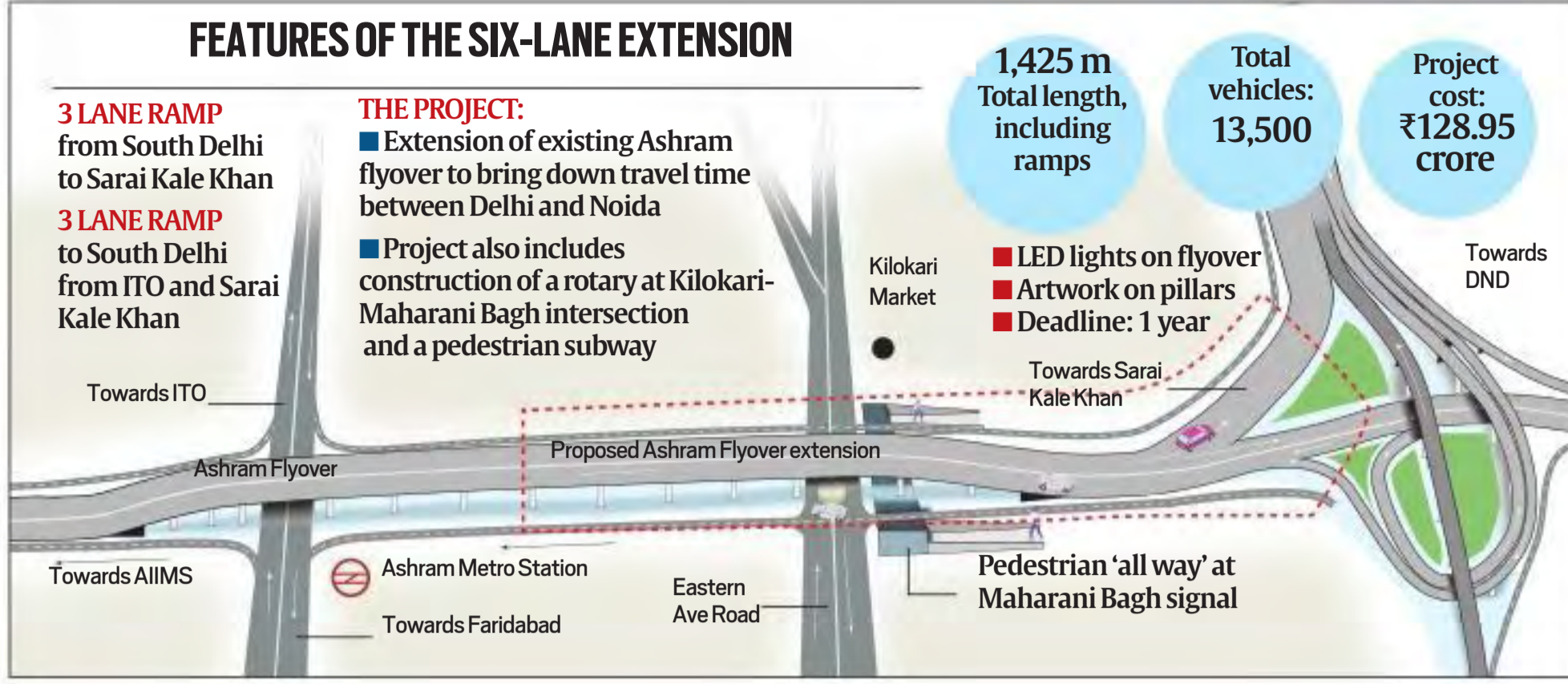
**KEJRIWAL ANNOUNCES RS 129-CRORE PROJECT**

**Ashram flyover extension gets Delhi govt nod**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

PEOPLE TAKING the Ring Road to reach Noida from Delhi can look forward to a seamless commute from December 2020, with the proposal to extend the Ashram flyover till the Delhi Noida Direct (DND) Flyway finally getting the Delhi government's approval.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Thursday announced that the Rs 129-crore project was accorded Cabinet approval Thursday — 11 months after the Expenditure Finance Committee gave its nod. "The Ashram flyover is heavily congested during peak hours and the Ashram-DND stretch is jammed. To combat this issue, a proposal has been passed by the PWD to extend the Ashram flyover up to DND Flyway. The extension project will be completed within a



year," Kejriwal said.

The extension of the flyover will have six lanes and will benefit 13,500 vehicles during peak hours, government officials said. The project also includes

construction of a traffic roundabout under the proposed extension to connect Kilokari village with Maharani Bagh. Currently, commuters travelling between these two points have to take a

longer route via the already congested Sarai Kale Khan stretch.

A subway will also be constructed alongside the roundabout for the benefit of pedestrians, Kejriwal said.

A PWD engineer said the extension will fulfill three objectives — make the choke-point between Ashram and the DND Flyway a thing of the past; decrease travel time between Noida and Ashram;

and decongest the Ashram flyover. The stretch connecting Ashram flyover with DND is less than 1.5 km long but sees regular traffic snarls as a bottleneck is created once the flyover ends. Residential areas of Siddhartha Nagar and Kilokari about the road, which also contributes to additional traffic load.

Once the new stretch is complete, PWD officials said, commuters from South Delhi can directly take the DND without having to suffer snarls at the spot.

Construction, however, will be trying as Ashram is among the busiest areas in Delhi. Construction of a subway under the existing Ashram flyover is already underway. One wing of the extended flyover will diverge towards Sarai Kale Khan and traffic coming from ITO will also head towards the flyover, the engineer said.

Work will begin as soon as the construction ban is lifted, officials said.

**Woman shot at by 2 men in Ghaziabad**

*Ghaziabad:* A 45-year-old woman waiting for an auto along with her sister was shot at and critically injured allegedly by two motorcycle-borne assailants in Loni Thursday, said police. A case of attempt to murder has been filed. **PTI**

**No equipment for OTs yet: Lok Nayak hospital to govt**

ASTHA SAXENA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

THE FIRST status report submitted to the Delhi government by Lok Nayak Hospital's surgery department over shortage of equipment in operation theatres states that no equipment has been purchased yet, even though the hospital was asked to meet the shortage by December 1. Shortage of OT essentials such as laparoscopic sets, OT tables, patient transfer trolleys, post-operative ICU beds, OT ceiling lights and C-arm were red-flagged by the department last month.

The report was filed to the Secretary (Health) on December 3, a copy of which is marked to the hospital's medical director, Dean of Maulana Azad Medical College and other members of the department.

"No new equipment has yet been ordered or procured till date. Further, the fourth OT table which has not been functioning due to lack of technicians for several years, continues to remain non-functional due to the same reasons," read the status report.

In November, the department had issued an order highlighting shortage of essential equipment and how this has affected its functioning. It had decided to shut the

four general surgery OTs from December 1. The Delhi government then intervened and the department was requested not to shut the OTs "in public interest". The hospital was instructed to start purchasing equipment at the earliest and submit a weekly status report to the health department.

"In the next few days, the election code of conduct will be implemented and authorities will not be able to make any purchases after this. If the status report continues to remain the same, the department would be constrained and left with no other option than to issue orders for closure of OTs..." the report further stated.

The department has requested the Health Secretary's urgent attention in the matter. "The hospital director has been asked to personally look into this. Procurement process has already started," Sanjeev Khirwar, Secretary (health), Delhi government told *The Indian Express*.

On an average, the OT of the general surgery department caters to around 15-20 patients daily. "The administration has started procurement. Some equipment has been ordered, some are in the tender process, the rest will be tendered soon. I am monitoring it daily," said Dr Kishore Singh, the hospital's medical director.

**Limited facilities in govt hospitals in Delhi, HC told**

PRITAM PAL SINGH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

THE DELHI High Court was Thursday told that most government hospitals in the capital do not have enough ICU beds, piped medical gas facilities, ventilators, monitors and infusion pumps.

It was also revealed that medical equipment costing crores is lying unutilised in autonomous institutions and a few tertiary care hospitals.

"These include robotic surgical system, radiotherapy simulators, radiation fee analysers, radiation dosimeter, radiotherapy treatment verification and interfacing system. All very high-end machines," it added.

The information related to maintenance of Operation Theaters (OTs) and air-conditioning in such hospitals was put before a bench of Justice G S Sistani and Justice A J Bhambhani, through an inspection report carried out by a seven-member expert committee which visited 34 such institutions.

It stated that the "OPD footfall (in Delhi government hospitals) and admissions indicate phenomenal growth of patients. However, the physical infrastructure has not kept pace with this growth".

"Even a hospital with more than 500 beds and a medical college has limited imaging fa-

ilities. Consequently, patients are referred to other hospitals," it said.

The panel was constituted after the HC was apprised by advocate Prashant Manchanda that government hospitals in the city were "reeling under dilapidated and crumbling infrastructure and other glaring infirmities, striking a bodily blow to the life and liberty of millions of citizens".

The inspection was carried out in connection with a PIL filed by a teacher from Karawal Nagar, who lost her nine-month-old foetus during delivery at GTB Hospital.

The committee said that "dispensaries, mohalla clinics and polyclinics are also ill-equipped..." Therefore, the "authorities implementing the mohalla clinic project need to be extra cautious and closely monitor patient load factor, per doctor, per clinic".

It said that in major hospitals, there are issues relating to maintenance of OTs, air-conditioning and maintenance work. "This is reflected in the non-functioning of OTs in major hospitals like GTB, G B Pant, LNJP etc. In fact, one of the OTs in GB Pant is non-functional for more than four years..." the committee report said.

"The occupancy of wards... is up to 200%. Therefore, the requirements of critical care beds and equipment are much higher than what exists today in these hospitals," it said.

**HARYANA GOVERNMENT CORRIGENDUM NOTICE**

Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	FOREST DEPARTMENT PINJORE, DISTT. PANCHKULA	2019_HRY_108650_2	COSNTRUCTION OF BRICK LINED SUNKEN BED IN PINJORE RANGE DATE EXTENDED 10-12-2019 AT 6.00 P.M.	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	dlfomorni@gmail.com
2.	KALPANA CHAWLA GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE, KARNAL	KCGMCH0009	KEY DATES EXTENDED FOR PROVIDING CANTEEN SERVICES UPTO 16.12.2019 AT 04.00 P.M.	https://kcgmc.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	kcgmckarnal13@gmail.com
3.	IRRIGATION & WR DEPARTMENT HISAR	NO. 9753/4-A/T DATED 27.11.2019	TENDERS CALLED BY THIS OFFICE OLD REFERENCE NO. FOR 21 WORKS IS HEREBY POSTPONE TILL FURTHER ORDERS DUE TO ADMINISTRATION REASON.	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662-230030 xenawdsn@gmail.com
4.	PWD B&R, REWARI	41818-42057 DATED. 20.11.2019	CONSTRUCTION OF THIRD FLOOR OVER EXISTING JUDICIAL BLOCK, REWARI IN REWARI DISTT. (RE-INVITED) CONDITION:- THE CONTRACTOR WILL ARRANGE NOC FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY AND FOR WHICH 10% AMOUNT WILL BE WITH HELD TILL NOC IS RECEIVED FROM THE CONCERNED.	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274-253703 pwd-eeep-rewari@hry.nic.in

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6 DECEMBER 2019



"I like the religion that teaches liberty, equality and fraternity." ~ **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**

Millions salutes to Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, the great architect and creator of the Constitution of India on his

**Mahaparinirvan Diwas**



Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister, Delhi

दिल्ली सरकार  
आप की सरकार

Department for the welfare of SC/ST/OBC, Government of NCT of Delhi

## Centre denied funds, will put CCTVs in buses with own money: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

THE RS 150-crore project to equip DTC and cluster buses with CCTVs and panic buttons will be entirely funded by the Delhi government, with the Centre "turning down" a proposal to use the Nirbhaya fund to carry out this work, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Thursday.

The CM said under the Nirbhaya fund, Delhi government was recently allotted Rs 65 crore to set up 'One-Stop Centres' for rape victims. One such centre has already been set up, he said, adding that the remaining ones will cover all districts in the city.

In a written response in the Lok Sabha, Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani had on November 29 said that Delhi has been sanctioned Rs 390 crore under the Nirbhaya fund so far, out of which it has spent Rs 19 crore.

"We had approached the Centre for getting the project (CCTV/panic buttons) funded under the Nirbhaya corpus. But they have not released any fund

for buses. We have not received Rs 390 crore. A few days ago, we got Rs 65 crore to set up one-stop centres for rape victims. We have inaugurated one centre, and are in the process of setting up such centres in every district," the CM said.

He added that all 5,500 buses will be fitted with safety facilities in seven months. The new buses coming under the cluster scheme are already equipped with these features. Apart from CCTVs and panic buttons, the buses will also be covered by a GPS-based automatic vehicle location system. "This will enhance the safety of woman commuters and enable them to set up an app-based live bus info system," he said.

The app will help commuters track the timings of buses. Over the last three years, the project remained grounded as three tenders in this regard failed.

Under the project, there will be 10 panic buttons in every bus. "We are planning to launch these facilities on 100 buses by the end of December. It will take six-seven months to complete the entire project. The app has been almost developed," he added.

## AFTER MEETING WITH DU V-C

# MHRD tweaks circular in favour of ad hoc teachers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

A DAY after Delhi University teachers stormed the Vice-Chancellor's office demanding absorption of over 4,500 ad hoc teachers, senior UGC and MHRD officials held a meeting with V-C Yogesh Tyagi. It was decided that all ad hoc teachers shall continue working, and that shortlisting criteria for assistant professorship shall be tweaked in favour of ad hoc teachers.

It was decided that DU's August 28 circular shall be amended and "colleges/institutes shall fill up permanent vacancies before the start of the next academic session without fail. During the interim, if vacancies have to be filled..., ad-hoc/temporary/contract guest faculty can be appointed".

After around 500 teachers stayed overnight at the V-C's office, a meeting was held between the V-C and the UGC chairman and secretary, and senior officials of the UGC and MHRD.



Will continue boycott: DUTA

The unrest began when the university sent out a letter to all its constituent colleges on August 28, advising them to "fill up permanent vacancies at the earliest." It stated that "till permanent appointments are made, colleges may appoint guest faculty, against new vacancies arising first time in academic session 2019-20".

This led to confusion over what the 'new vacancies' being referred to were — only new posts created in 2019-2020, or 'vacancies' created at the time of renewal of the ad hoc teachers' 120-day contracts — which was to happen by November 20. As a result, several colleges had not extended renewal of appointments

of ad hoc teachers or released their salaries. The changes effectively put a deadline of mid 2020 for filling up permanent vacancies. It also means ad hoc teachers who had been working this year can continue till then.

For the post of assistant professor, candidates were awarded two points for each year of experience but could only be awarded a maximum of 10 marks under that head. This meant those with more than five years of experience would not be awarded for their additional years of experience.

It has been decided that maximum points under this head shall be increased to 20, while points awarded for holding a PhD shall be reduced by 10. "It is expected that with the above changes, all adhoc/temporary/contract teachers with requisite eligibility, and have taught/have been teaching in the current academic session... would be shortlisted for interview for permanent positions," said a statement by the MHRD.

DUTA said the strike and current boycott of duties for end-semester exams will continue.

## At the DU campus protest: Teacher with 16 yrs in field, mother who left MNC job

SUKRITA BARUAH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

AMONG THE thousands of protesting ad hoc teachers demanding absorption into immediate positions in Delhi University, most have been working under the "temporary" condition for well over eight years. *The Indian Express* spoke to some of them about their experiences, their academic backgrounds and what has gone wrong during their extended periods as ad hocs.

**Raman Kumar Singh (52), 16 years as ad hoc teacher of History**



Singh has worked as an ad hoc teacher in Vivekananda College for the last 10 years. Before that, he worked in the same capacity at Aurobindo College for three-and-a-half years; at Swami Shradhdhanand College for one-and-a-half years and at Dyal Singh College for a year.

He completed his PhD in 1999 from Delhi University. He also did his BA, MA and MPhil from DU. He also completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Indian Council for Historical Research in 2003.

"At Vivekananda College, interviews for permanent posts were advertised only once in 2014... they were never conducted. I think overall, across colleges, posts have been advertised four times, with only a handful of interviews actually taking place. I have spent so much time in this university that I had never really considered looking elsewhere for work," he said.

**Urmil Bharti (40), 12 years as ad hoc teacher of Computer Science**

Bharti has worked as an ad hoc teacher at Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for

Women since 2012. Before that, she had worked as an ad hoc teacher at Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies for five years. She is currently doing her PhD from DU. She joined the university with an MS from DAVV, Indore.

She said she had joined the university after quitting her corporate job of nine years at an MNC because of love for teaching: "I've never felt like leaving this university to seek a teaching job at a private university. It's a good university with good students. At our college, we teach girls from under-privileged backgrounds and I derive a lot of satisfaction from my work."

In July 2007, she gave birth to her son. "As there is no maternity leave, I did not join work after the summer vacation... I only joined in the next round of ad hoc appointments in December. I went without pay for four months but many others choose to join work four days after childbirth," she said.

**Dipak Maity (35), 7 years as ad hoc teacher of Bengali**



Maity has been the sole teacher in Kirori Mal College's Bengali department for the last five years. Before that, he had taught at Dyal Singh College for two years. He did his PhD from DU in 2016. He had done his MA from DU, and his BA from Calcutta University.

"As the only teacher in my department, I am also the teacher-in-charge and I do all the duties of a teacher-in-charge, including admission duties. I am trying to get a permanent position somewhere in West Bengal, which is where I have my home; if I get it, I will go. My first choice will always be DU but I need se-

curity. Even my wife is working as a temporary teacher at Visva Bharati in Santiniketan," he said.

**Vijay Kumar Bhatia (40), 13 years as ad hoc teacher of Political Science**



Bhatia has been working in an ad hoc capacity at Ram Lal Anand College for the last 10 years. Before that, he was at PGDAV College for one-and-a-half years, Khalsa College for a year and Shivaji College for a year. He did his BA from DU and joined JNU for his MA. He continued to study in JNU till the completion of PhD in 2008.

In his 10 years at RLA college, posts were advertised thrice but interviews were never conducted: "I've studied in DU, and I want to teach here. I am from Delhi, my family is here and I need to look after my aged mother. I have had 24 articles published in journals but still need to beg for work in the streets."

**Abhishek Kumar Singh (42), 10 years as ad hoc teacher of Mathematics**



Singh has worked as an ad hoc teacher in Kalindi College for the last 10 years. Before that, he had also worked in that capacity at Patna University for six years. He completed his PhD from Patna University in 2009.

"I don't know who we can pin responsibility on for this situation. Posts get advertised every few years and we apply but no interviews are conducted. I don't know what goes wrong. I have stuck to Delhi University all these years because of the dignity of carrying the university's name. Even if we become a mazzdoor here, outside we can bear the name," he said.

## Wrestler vs Commando, now playing near you

GAURAV BHATT  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

PROTESTS BY the country's leading wrestlers over what they felt was their "adverse depiction" in a recently released Bollywood movie, *Commando 3*, resulted in the film being taken down from North Delhi's Amba theatre Thursday. The "objectionable scene" from the film, starring actor Vidyut Jamwal and released last Friday, shows school girls being eve-teased and sexually harassed by akhada wrestlers.

Dronacharya awardee coach Maha Singh Rao led wrestlers from Guru Hanuman Akhada to a demonstration at the clock tower near the single-screen cinema

theater in Shakti Nagar. The protest, which saw Rao along with dozens of wrestlers holding placards reading '*Pehelwaano ka samman karo, Commando 3 ban karo*', culminated with the theatre manager agreeing to halt screenings of the film.

"We are horrified by such depiction of wrestlers. We filed a police complaint and are also going to approach the High Court to get a stay on the movie... I don't know how the censor board passed this movie with such scenes; we won't let it run without necessary cuts being made," Rao told *The Indian Express*.

"Pehelwaans live a pure life, from our food to our routine. Everyone knows that a wrestler



Wrestlers protested outside Amba theatre in North Delhi

follows a Brahmacharya lifestyle; pehelwaans have upheld Indian ideals and protected mothers and sisters," said Rao, who "hasn't stepped foot inside a film theatre in my life" and received the video, which was re-

leased as promotional footage, as a WhatsApp forward.

Rao's Arjuna award-winning proteges Rajiv Tomar and Anuj Choudhary have also called for a ban on the film. Tomar, four-time Commonwealth Games medalist and 2008 Olympian, believes such portrayal could harm the public image of wrestlers.

"It's taken a lot of time and effort for wrestlers to come into the mainstream... But if these filmmakers ruin our image, then everybody will run away from it," said Tomar, adding, "I understand creative freedom but shouldn't it be based on something real?"

Anuj Choudhary, a 2004 Olympian and a DSP in Lucknow, said the protests are far from

over and they will raise the issue till the filmmakers apologise.

"Films like *Sultan* and *Dangal* made wrestling appealing to youngsters. But this film shows wrestlers at an akhada, bowing to a Hanuman figure before doing such things. What message are they sending?" he added.

World Championship medallists Sushil Kumar and Bajrang Punia also criticised the film. Two-time Olympic medalist Sushil said: "The filmmakers haven't done research on how wrestlers conduct themselves. I demand the removal of the objectionable scene."

A senior police officer said no complaint has been received and no case registered in the matter.

## BRIEFLY

### Man gets life sentence for murder

**Gurgaon:** A man from Uttar Pradesh has been sentenced to life imprisonment by a Gurgaon court, two years after he allegedly murdered a resident of the city who was allegedly having an affair with his wife. Police said the incident took place in September 2017, when the body of the victim was discovered in a shanty in Banda district of UP.

### 4 men held for smuggling at IGI Airport

**New Delhi:** Four Kashmiri men were arrested from the IGI airport for allegedly trying to smuggle in Rs 40 lakh. The men were intercepted at the airport after their arrival from Jeddah Tuesday. Rs 39.14 lakh was seized from them, officials said.

### Police chief launches initiative

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik inaugurated the 'Swachh Yamuna Tatt Abhiyan' at Kalindi Kunj Ghat Thursday. The initiative is part of the 'Swachhta Pakhwada' campaign started by the Delhi Police to create awareness about cleanliness. **ENS**

## Returning from son's wedding, woman dies as car rams tree

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

RETURNING FROM her son's wedding, a 59-year-old woman died and her husband and sister-in-law sustained injuries after their car crashed into a tree on a median in South Delhi's Greater Kailash-II Tuesday evening.

Police suspect the accident took place as the woman's husband, who was behind the wheel, fell asleep while driving. The woman died during treatment at AIIMS Wednesday.

According to police, the trio left the wedding venue in Faridabad's Surajkund in their Honda City and were followed by their son in another car. A senior police officer said the victim's husband allegedly lost control of the vehicle as he was tired and allegedly fell asleep.

The victim was sleeping in the passenger seat and the hus-

### The incident took place after the woman and her family left the wedding venue in Faridabad's Surajkund

band's sister was in the rear seat when the car hit the divider and crashed into the tree. The injured were pulled out and rushed to Max Hospital by the victim's son.

Atul Kumar Thakur, DCP (South), said police received a call about the incident from the hospital. "A case has been registered under IPC sections 279 (rash driving) and 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life). On Wednesday, the woman was declared dead," he said.

Police later added IPC Section 304 A (causing death by negligence) to the case, which was registered at CR Park police station. The family lives in Dwarka.

## Search on to find Arjuna awardee's stolen car

**New Delhi:** The car of a 30-year-old Arjuna awardee was stolen from outside his relative's house in Rohini, said police.

Abhishek Verma, a resident of Model Town, currently serves as an Income Tax officer. He won a gold medal during the 2014 Asian Games at Incheon in the men's compound archery team event.

He had also won the silver medal in the men's individual compound event. Police said the incident took place on Wednesday, when Verma had gone for dinner at a restaurant in Rohini's Sector 8 and returned to a relative's house at around 10.18 pm. "On Thursday morning, when I went to look for my car, it was not there... When I checked CCTV footage, I found that my car was stolen," Verma said in his complaint.

Police said a case has been registered and CCTV footage is being scanned to identify the culprits and nab them. **ENS**

## Those who mocked BJP over Ram Mandir should now praise it: Tiwari

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

REFERRING TO the Ayodhya verdict at a rally in Outer Delhi's Najafgarh Thursday, Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari said people who used to taunt the party for never giving a definite date to build a temple should now shower accolades as preparations at the site have begun.

"The process has been

started, the whole country and the world is chanting *Jai Shri Ram*. Najafgarh should also say the same," he said.

At the rally on regularisation of unauthorised colonies, Tiwari also listed works done by the BJP government such as removal of Article 370, Triple Talaq and getting the unauthorised colonies Bill passed in both Houses.

Tiwari said with the passage of the bill, people can take loans and no longer have to live in un-

certainly about the future of their homes. He said registration will start by December 16.

He also took a dig at the AAP and said because of them, the city that was once known for Lal Qila and Parliament House, is known for pollution.

"Students are compelled to use masks to go to school. If the BJP comes to power, we will install smog towers. It costs just Rs 2 crore and around 55 are needed to clean the air," Tiwari said.

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ভারতীয় প্রকৌশল বিজ্ঞান এবং প্রযুক্তিবিদ্যা প্রতিষ্ঠান, শিবপুর  
(An Institute of National Importance under MHRD, Govt. of India)

**EMPLOYMENT NOTICE**

**ROLLING ADVERTISEMENT FOR FACULTY POSITIONS**

Advt. No. DE/RO/19/104 Date: 05.12.2019  
Ref. Advt. No. JU/RO/19/57, Date: 11.06.2019

With reference to the aforesaid advertisement an addendum has been notified in the Institute website: [www.iiests.ac.in](http://www.iiests.ac.in)

**REGISTRAR**

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, SHIBPUR  
भारतीय अभियांत्रिकी विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, शिवपुर  
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**Admission to PhD Programme: (December Cycle) 2019-2020**

Advt. No. DE/RO/19/101 Date: 05.12.2019

Applications are invited for admission to the PhD programme (December Cycle: 2019-20) of the Institute through the online portal starting from December 06, 2019 in all disciplines of Engineering & Technology, Science, Architecture, Town & Regional Planning and Humanities & Social Sciences. For eligibility, submission deadlines and other details please visit: [www.iiests.ac.in](http://www.iiests.ac.in)

**Registrar**

# Auto driver held for 'molesting' nurse, stealing her phone

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

A 45-YEAR-OLD autorickshaw driver has been arrested for allegedly molesting and robbing a 22-year-old nurse of a private hospital, in North West Delhi.

Police said initial investigation revealed that he tried to allegedly rape the woman after stopping his auto in an isolated location, but she managed to escape and reported the matter to police.

DCP (North West) Vijayanta Arya said the accused was identified as Bhanu Lal and arrested after an FIR under IPC sections 394 (robbery) and 354 (molestation) was registered against him.

Police are now providing counselling to the woman and are likely to record her statement in the coming days under CrPC Section 164 before a magistrate.

"Around 10 pm on December 2, the woman, who works at a leading hospital in the capital, had boarded the autorickshaw to head home," said

a senior police officer. The woman alleged that the accused started misbehaving with her by passing lewd comments. When she asked him to stop, he began to drive fast.

"He stopped in an isolated location from where she jumped out of the auto and managed to escape. The accused, however, stole her phone and fled," said the officer.

The woman started running and found a nearby police picket, where she informed personal about the incident.

"An FIR was immediately registered on the basis of her complaint and several teams were formed to nab the accused. They scanned CCTVs along the route taken by the accused, as per information provided by the woman, and found one camera which showed the registration number of the autorickshaw," the officer said.

Police recovered her phone from his possession and also impounded his vehicle. The accused was produced before a Delhi court, which sent him to 14-day judicial custody.

## 5 ARRESTED FOR CRIME

# After strangling businessman, accused drove body to Gurgaon to show 'proof'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

AFTER THEY abducted 64-year-old businessman Arun Sharma from South Delhi's Greater Kailash, the three kidnappers allegedly strangled him and sent a photo of his body to the father-son who had allegedly hired them. However, the two were not convinced he was dead. So the kidnappers drove with the body to Gurgaon to show them "proof", police said.

Prime accused Rishi Rajpal Chauhan (64) and his son Hitesh (29) allegedly planned to kill Sharma over a property dispute and offered Rs 25 lakh to the three men for the job.

Chauhan is an ayurveda doctor and runs a clinic and a girls' paying guest accommodation from his house in Gurgaon, which is on the disputed property.

The incident took place on November 15 around 9 am. The



The victim Arun Sharma and prime accused Rishi Rajpal Chauhan (centre) were involved in a property dispute for over 10 years; CCTV footage of the Scorpio near Sharma's house



five accused were caught 19 days after the murder.

"After the accused abducted Sharma near Kailash Colony Metro station, they strangled him with a shawl. They sent a picture of Sharma's body to Hitesh via WhatsApp but Hitesh wasn't convinced. The men then took the body to Gurgaon, where Hitesh came and saw the body. The men were then instructed to dispose the body in Uttar Pradesh," said Additional CP (Crime) B K Singh.

Sharma owned the popular TV brand Televisita in the 1980s and later opened an electronic store in South Delhi. He lived with his sister and daughter in GK-I. His wife died around two years ago.

Police said the disputed land is in Gurgaon's Sector 17 and is worth Rs 3 crore. Police said the men had been involved in the dispute for over 10 years and Sharma recently won the legal battle.

"Chauhan, who allegedly

hatched the conspiracy a month ago, called the three men — Amet Chhabra (32), Priyank Khanna (34) and Sahil (25) — to a court hearing so they could get a look at the victim. The three men also conducted a recce of Sharma's house twice. On the day of the incident, the trio waited near Sharma's house, in a white Scorpio with a fake numberplate, since 6 am.

When Sharma came out around 9 am to head to the court in Gurgaon, for the final execution

of the property, they abducted him," said a senior officer.

When Sharma resisted and shouted for help, police said, the men immediately killed him. After they showed Hitesh the body, they switched the fake number plate with the original and drove to Jhansi.

The accused told police that they first took the victim's ID and ATM cards and dumped them in Haryana's Palwal. Later, they dumped the body in a canal in Jhansi.

The accused then came back to Gurgaon on November 16 and gave the land-related documents to Hitesh.

Police said the father-son duo allegedly approached a man, who said he would need Rs 25 lakh for the job. "The man roped in Amet (his son), Priyank (his nephew) and Sahil, who works at Amet's electronic shop," said police.

Addl CP Singh said local police initially investigated the matter and the case was later

transferred to the Anti-Human Trafficking Team. Police found CCTV footage from the spot and identified the Scorpio.

In their complaint, Sharma's family told police about Chauhan and the land dispute.

"Chauhan confessed after police confronted him with call detail records that showed he was allegedly in constant touch with some of the accused, who were near the victim's house on November 15. We also found that one of the accused, Sahil, had recorded his calls to Hitesh, which served as evidence for the AHTU team. The phone and the call records have been recovered. Sahil said he wanted to keep the records as evidence of the kidnapping in case Chauhan backed out of paying them. The man who sent the three kidnappers is absconding and a team is looking for him," said the officer.

Hitesh is pursuing law from Institute of Law & Research, Jasana, Faridabad. Sharma's body is yet to be recovered.

**DIRECTORATE OF HANDLOOM & TEXTILES, U.P.**  
(U.P. BUNKER BAHOODI FUND)  
SARVODAYA NAGAR, G.T. ROAD, KANPUR-208005  
AMENDMENT OF E- SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

No. 2129/BBF/Expo/2019-20  
It is informed that the bid opening date 06.12.2019 at 12.30 p.m. was fixed in short term tender notice as issued from this Directorate by Tender notice letter No. 1944/BBF/Expo/2019-20 dt. 05.11.2019.  
The above mentioned date in tender notice letter is hereby amended as 17.12.2019 at 12.30 p.m. in place of 06.12.2019 at 12.30 p.m.

Sd/-  
(Anand Mohan)  
Joint Commissioner, Handloom  
For Commissioner & Director Handloom & Textiles,  
U.P./Secretary, U.P. Bunker Bahoodi Fund, Kanpur.

UPID:146216 DATE:4/12/2019  
www.upgovt.nic.in

**DELHI MINORITIES COMMISSION**  
Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi  
C-Block, First Floor, Vikas Bhawan, IP Estate, New Delhi-110002

## Empanelment of NGOs

Delhi Minorities Commission invites NGOs working for minorities uplift in NCT of Delhi to apply for empanelment. NGOs should be based in NCT of Delhi or should have proper offices in NCT of Delhi and should have a track-record of working for minorities in NCT of Delhi. NGOs wishing to be empanelled should apply for empanelment on their letterhead including at least last three years audit reports, copies of registration papers, activity reports of at least the last three years and photocopies of identification papers like Aadhar of their main functionaries. Original registration papers will have to be shown to DMC staff at the time of application. There is no fee for empanelment. Empa.nelled NGOs will have the right to hold awareness camps funded by DMC and take part in its other activities.

DIP/Shabdarth/1081/19-20  
**Secretary, DMC**

## HC pulls up traffic police over congestion

PRITAM PAL SINGH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

IRKED BY vehicles parked haphazardly on pavements despite previous orders, the Delhi High Court sought to know the Delhi Traffic Police's plan to reduce congestion on city roads. A bench of Justice G S Sistani and Justice A J Bhambhani also noted that the final

parking policy does not incorporate two important suggestions contained in the draft policy — "incremental registration or road tax for second and subsequent cars, and proof of parking space prior to getting a car registered in Delhi". The court asked traffic police to file an affidavit on the matter.

"In the meantime, we direct Delhi Traffic Police to ensure cars are not parked on main roads or pavements...,"

it ordered. The court's observations came on PIL by Delhi resident Amal Sharma raising the issue of parking of "cars/vehicles on public streets and footpaths..."

Additional Standing Counsel Anjum Javed, appearing for Traffic Police, submitted that 54,962 vehicles were challaned and over 18,841 parked vehicles towed away between June 15 and August 10.

## JNU students to go ahead with boycott of examinations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

THE CALL for examination boycott by the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) in protest against the hostel fee hike was formally adopted by the university's general body meeting (UGBM) held late Wednesday night. End semester exams are scheduled to begin on December 12.

As per the JNUSU constitution, the university general body is the "sovereign body of all students of the university, and ultimate decision-making body as regards affairs of the university students' union and its decision is binding on the student council."

Earlier, 14 centres and schools in their GBMs had decided to boycott exams. If students go through with the boycott, it would be a first in JNU's history.

The resolution said, "The current crisis in JNU is a creation of the JNU administration... In no way is the onus for the current crisis borne by the students... it is the responsibility of the administration to ensure conditions wherein normalcy may prevail... the only way to ensure normalcy is through complete rollback, and until the same is not ensured, the JNU V-C, Mamidala Jagadeesh Kumar, shall be held responsible for the academic losses incurred by the student community... Thus, the UGBM endorses and formally



Students have been protesting against the hostel fee hike for over a month

adopts the JNUSU's call for total non-cooperation with the JNU administration and complete academic suspension, including the boycott of all academic and evaluative activities... until demand for a complete rollback is met."

Registrar Pramod Kumar Thursday reiterated that exams would be conducted as per schedule. He also said the lockdown of buildings was affecting administrative work. "The administration is also not able to (i) clear medical bills of ailing employees, (ii) give permissions for special medical treatments for life-threatening illnesses, (iii) process fellowship forms of students and (iv) other important approvals required for academic and administrative functioning of the University," he said.

The JNUSU in a statement said: "...The JNU administration is responsible for the academic lag and must compensate for it by not dragging the matter further..."

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK

No: - Tender Online RWC: 11-2019  
e-Procurement NOTICE  
Date: 03.12.2019  
email: - serw ctct@\_yahoo.com

1. Name of the work  
2. Class of contractor  
a) Estimated cost more than Rs.3.00 Crore & upto Rs.6.00 Crores  
b) Estimated cost more than Rs. 40.00 Lakhs & Up to Rs. 3.00 Crores  
3 Time for completion  
4. Summary for key dates is provided below

a) A Class & Special Class (of Odisha PWD) relevant class of other licensing authorities  
b) B class & A Class (of Odisha PWD) relevant class of other licensing authority.  
: Noted against the work as per Annexure

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.	Tender Online RWC 11-19	07.12.2019 at 11 A.M.	27.12.2019 up to 5.00 P.M	26.12.2019 up to 2.00 P.M.	28.12.2019 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later.

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in) for Non-PMGSY works

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer  
Rural Works Circle, Cuttack

25097/11/0008/1920

**GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION  
LAAYING-YANGTE (SANGRAM).

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Dated 5th Dec '2019

EE/RWD/LY/SIDF/RE/TENDER/2019-20

The Executive Engineer, RWD, Laaying Yangte on behalf of Governor of Arunachal Pradesh invites sealed item tender in CPWD-8 from approved & eligible contractors in accordance with the Arunachal Pradesh District based Entrepreneurs and Professional (Incentives, Development and Promotional) Act-2015 for the following works:

Sl. No	NAME of Work	Estimated cost (Rs in lakhs)	Earnest money (Demand Draft) 1%	Earnest money (Demand Draft) 2%	Time of completion	Cost of Tender Paper (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	C/o approach road from PMGSY road to Upper colony Yube.	2956098.00	29,561.00	59,122.00	6 Months	1000.00
2	C/o RLR to Namdang Jariang at Hiya	7882927.00	78,829.00	157,658.00	-do-	-do-
3	Upgradation of road from Hiya to Lumtey	9853659.00	98,536.00	197,072.00	-do-	-do-
4	C/O WRSB over Panyu River between Gillang to Pate Paddy field.	3940000.00	39,400.00	78,800.00	-do-	-do-
5	C/O Community Hall at Pinchi Village under Phassand Circle.	985000.00	9850.00	19700.00	-do-	-do-

These bid documents can be obtained from the Office of the Executive Engineer Rural Works Division, Laaying Yangte Kurung Kumey District working days from 09/12/2019 upto 1300 hrs on payment of (Non- Refundable) as mentioned in column 7 being the cost of Tender documents. The bidders are requested to submit Original registration certificate along with domicile certificate and valid GST Registration to the Executive Engineer, RWD, Laaying Yangte at her time of purchase of bid documents. The last date of Bid Submission is 17/12/2019 upto 1200 hrs and date of Bid Opening is 17/12/2019 at 1300 hrs. The bidder shall furnish as a part of bid Earnest Money for the amount specified in the column no. 4&5. The Earnest Money shall be in favour of the Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Laaying Yangte Payable at SBI, Koloriang.

**NOTE :** a) Detail information of the work and conditions may be seen in the tender documents. b) All registered contractors of Class-V,IV,III&II categories and domicile within the territorial jurisdiction of assembly constituency and community block may apply. EMD for ST-1% & Non- APST-2%

Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer**  
Rural Works Division  
Laaying-Yangte

**Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.**  
An Enterprises of Govt. of NCT of Delhi  
ISBT Kashmere Gate Delhi-110006  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The Executive Engineer, DTIDC invite tenders on behalf of MD, DTIDC Ltd. for the following works through e procurement solution only.

1. **TENDER NO.** : 61/2019-20  
2. **Name of work** : 2019\_DTIDC\_184788\_1  
: Construction of Administration Building of Driving for Automated Driving Test Track at Lado Sarai (Civil Work).

**Estimated Cost** : Rs. 2,21,39,422/-  
**Earnest Money** : Rs. 4,42,788/-  
**Time Allowed** : Four Months  
**Last date of receipt of Tenders** : 19.12.2019

The tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/>

**Executive Engineer**  
DTIDC Ltd., ISBT  
Kashmere Gate, Delhi

DIP/Shabdarth/1084/19-20

**I&PH Division, Dharampur Bharari**  
**NOTICE INVITING E-PROCUREMENT TENDER**

Online bids are invited by the Executive Engineer, I&PH Division, Dharampur Bharari, Distt. Mandi (H.P.)-175026 on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system for the under mentioned work from the qualified and experienced contractors/firms.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time	Cost of form
1	Sustainability of sources of various WSS/LWSS on the left bank of river Beas at Sidhpur in Tehsil Dharampur District Mandi (HP) (SH- Construction of embankment with apron, slope pitching, toe key/wall on river side along the earthen embankment, open channel including survey investigation, designing and planning of whole project).	4,44,83,149/-	4,77,332/-	06 months	2500/-

1. KEY DATES WILL BE AS UNDER:-

a. Date of Online publication	04.12.2019 at 5:00 PM
b. Downloading of e-tender Documents	From 04.12.2019 at 5:00 P.M. to 18.12.2019 at 5:00 P.M.
c. Date of submission of e-tender	From 04.12.2019 at 5:00 P.M. to 18.12.2019 at 5:00 P.M.
d. Physical submission of earnest money deposit and cost of tender documents	Upto 11.00 A.M. on 19.12.2019
e. Date of opening of bids:	
1) Cover-1 Eligibility Criteria	On 19.12.2019 at 11.30 A.M.
2) Cover-2 Financial Bid	Shall be intimated separately
f. Site Visit	From 06.12.2019 to 07.12.2019 along with the Assistant Engineer/ concerned Junior Engineer I&PH Sub Division Dharampur.

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be downloaded from the website: [www.hptendersgov.in](http://www.hptendersgov.in) or from office above Executive Engineer upto date specified above.

**Executive Engineer**  
IPH Division Dharampur, Bharari

3358/H.P.

**MAGH MELA 2020**  
Prayagraj Mela Authority  
Triveni Bhawan, Triveni Bandh, Daraganj, Prayagraj  
+ 91 532 2500775 / +91 532 2504011, maghmelamp@gmail.com

**Short Notice Inviting E-Tender-For Empanelment of Catering Services for Prayagraj Mela Authority**

The Prayagraj Mela Authority Invites Bid of Tender No. 13/MM 2019-20 for "Empanelment of Catering Services Agencies for Prayagraj Mela Authority". The Request for Proposal Documents shall be made available on the Uttar Pradesh E-Procurement website <https://etender.up.nic.in> from 06/12/2019. Interested parties may download/upload their proposal from 1700 hrs 06/12/2019 till 1200 hrs 12/12/2019 via Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). The bids received from interested parties shall be opened in the presence of the respective bidders at 1500 Hrs on 12/12/2019. Details regarding the tender shall be made available on <https://etender.up.nic.in>

**District Magistrate, Prayagraj / Vice Chairperson, Prayagraj Mela Authority**

## Unfavourable weather pushes air to 'very poor'

New Delhi: With air pollution once again reaching severe levels in parts of Delhi-NCR Thursday after a relatively clean run, experts have emphasised on the need to control emissions.

Meteorological conditions such as low wind speed, low minimum temperature and reduced sunlight, which cause accumulation of pollutants, were recorded in Delhi-NCR Thursday. Delhi's average AQI was pushed to the 'very poor' category

Thursday at 382 for the first time this month, as per CPCB data.

A task force led by the CPCB Thursday recommended the public to minimise use of private vehicles, and has asked agencies to stay on "high alert" and intensify pollution mitigation operations at hotspots.

Meanwhile, Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist at IMD, said the minimum temperature recorded Thursday was 7.6 degrees Celsius, the lowest this season. ENS

## 8-year-old hit by SUV, dies

New Delhi: An eight-year-old girl died after she was allegedly hit by an SUV in Fatehpur Beri's Dera Mandi Road Thursday.

Police said the victim, Komal Ramdeen, was a Class III student from Jonapur district.

Police said that the accused driver, Sagar Ravinder, took the victim to AIIMS Trauma Centre where she was declared on arrival.

Police said a case has been registered against Sagar under IPC sections 279 (rash driving) and 304 A (death by negligence) and the accused has been arrested. ENS

# 9 IN PARLIAMENT WINTER SESSION

## FROM THE GALLERY

**FROM THE CHAIR**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
"This entire House condemns the incident... What is needed is not a mere arrest in one case. We must send out a signal to the entire country and society that in such incidents action should be taken promptly, swiftly, and adequately, so these things are not repeated again."

**M VENKAIAH NAIDU**, Chairman condemns the incident in which a gangrape victim was set ablaze in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao.

**LOK SABHA**  
"We should start something new from today. When I do not give permission to raise an issue during Question Hour, I will allow you to raise it during Zero Hour. But then every morning you will not stand up as soon as the proceedings begin."

**OM BIRLA**, Speaker after several members stood up and started demanding time to raise some issues as soon as the proceedings started in the morning.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
"I consider it my failure that I could not bring road accidents down by 50%."

**NITIN GADKARI**, Road Transport and Highways Minister.

### 5 QUESTIONS



**BENNY BEHANAN**, CONGRESS MP FROM CHALAKUDY, KERALA RAISED IN LOK SABHA THE ISSUE OF PRIVATE PLAYERS EXITING THE CROP INSURANCE SECTOR IN HIS STATE. HE SPOKE TO DEEPTIMAN TIWARY ON THE ISSUE.

**You raised the issue of crop insurance in Parliament today. What was it about?**  
Many private companies providing crop insurance to farmers under the Prime Minister's scheme are exiting the sector. They are saying they are withdrawing because they are into losses. They say there is 100 per cent claim due to frequent natural calamities. This is going to lead to a lot of distress to farmers.

**So loss-making companies are exiting the crop insurance sector?**  
As per the annual report of the Insurance Regulatory Authority of India, they have already collected Rs 11,905 crore as premium. And they have settled claims of only Rs 8,831 crore. That means they have made a profit of Rs 3,000 crore. On the other hand, it's the state-owned insurance companies which are running into losses.

**What is the reason for such a situation?**  
Losses are not the reason for private players to exit. We don't know the real reason. The government must find out and ensure that farmers remain protected.

**Are companies not honouring or do not want to honour claims from farmers?**  
In recent years, there have been floods and farmers have suffered huge losses. So naturally they will make a claim. You can't say there are too many claims so I am going.

**What is the solution?**  
The government must compel the insurance companies to continue. They are exploiting the farmers and making profits. Alternatively, the government can make state-owned insurance companies to meet the requirement of the farmers...



**BEYOND POLITICS**  
Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Meghwal with Congress leader of Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury after a meeting in Parliament on Thursday. *Renuka Puri*

## Poor attendance at House panel meetings, Naidu turns to leaders

**ABANTIKA GHOSH & RITIKA CHOPRA**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

OF 248 MPs from the two Houses of Parliament on eight department-related standing committees of Rajya Sabha, 100 have not attended two or more successive meetings. And in the 41 meetings held since September, attendance in 23 was below the halfway mark. Only 36 MPs attended all meetings. The department-related standing committee on Home Affairs recorded the worst average attendance — 39 per cent.

These were some of the statistics highlighted during Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu's meeting with the chairmen of the committees Thursday morning. Sharing his concern with the House later, Naidu appealed to leaders of all political parties to "ensure quantitative and qualitative functioning of these committees".

He said only 18 of 80 Rajya Sabha MPs who are members of the eight committees had attended all 41 meetings. Of the 168 Lok Sabha MPs on the committees, 18 were present at all the meetings.

He then went on to name the 18 Rajya Sabha MPs with 100 per cent attendance to "motivate" others to follow their example. The Congress led with Anand Sharma, Jairam Ramesh, Akhilesh Prasad Singh, L Hanumanthaiah and Ameer Yajnik. Three each from the BJP — Rakesh Sinha, Vinay Dinu Tendulkar and Satyanarayan Jatiya — and Samajwadi Party — Ramgopal Yadav, Vishamber Prasad Nishad and Ravi Prakash Verma — shared the second place.

The others with full attendance were Prasanna Acharya and Sasmit Patra from BJD and one each from TDP (T G Venkatesh), CPM (K Somaprasad), TRS (K Keshava Rao), YSRCP (V Vijaysai Reddy) and the DMK (P Wilson). "Each member of the department-related



**Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu conducts proceedings.** *RSTV/PTI*

standing committee represents 25 Members of Parliament while deliberating in the committee. If one member is absent, the voice of 25 members would not be heard. I hence appeal to leaders of all the political parties inside the House, outside also, to ensure quantitative and qualitative functioning of these committees in whom the Parliament has vested an important responsibility of functioning on its behalf," Naidu said.

Department-related standing committees, were conceived as an effective instrument of enabling detailed scrutiny of legislative proposals. They also examine various issues for reporting in a bipartisan manner. Each committee has 31 members — 10 from Rajya Sabha and 21 from the Lok Sabha.

According to data available with the Rajya Sabha secretariat, eight MPs (two from RS) did not attend any of the four meetings of the Commerce standing committee. Of these, one is an independent, one from TDP, one from SAD, one from DMK, one from Congress, one from Shiv Sena and two from BSP. Three from

Lok Sabha (Shiv Sena, TRS, IUML) did not attend any of the seven meetings of the Health and Family Welfare standing committee.

One Rajya Sabha member (BSP) and one Lok Sabha member (BJP) did not attend any of the six meetings of the Home Affairs committee. Two Rajya Sabha members (Congress, TMC) and two Lok Sabha members (TMC, BJD) skipped all meetings of the HRD committee. Two Lok Sabha members (NC, IJP) missed all five meetings of the Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice committee.

Eleven per cent of the 248 members did not attend any meeting of the committees. The average attendance in each of the 41 meetings was 48.54% with attendance ranging from a low of 5 in case of one meeting of the committee on Home Affairs to 25 in one meeting of the committee on HRD. The average attendance in each of the meetings of these committees ranged from 39% in case of the committee on Home Affairs to 65% in case of the committee on HRD. Member attendance has been below the halfway mark of 16 in case of 23 of the 41 meetings.

At the meeting, Naidu also expressed concern over poor attendance in the meetings of the standing committees of Rajya Sabha like the committees on Subordinate Legislation, Petitions and Papers Laid on the Table.

In a statement, the Rajya Sabha secretariat said he made nine suggestions to improve the functioning of the Parliamentary Committees which include firming up the schedule of meetings much in advance by fixing specific day of the week for the meetings, targeting attendance of 2/3rd of the members of the committees, etc.

Naidu informed the chairmen of the committees he would share the details of attendance at meetings of the eight committees of Rajya Sabha with the Speaker of Lok Sabha. A similar assessment regarding the functioning of the 16 department-related standing committees with the Lok Sabha will be undertaken.

## Acquiring defence land most difficult process: Gadkari

Recounts incident where armed forces personnel threatened contractor with guns, stalled work

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5



**Nitin Gadkari in Lok Sabha** *LSTV/PTI*

ROAD TRANSPORT and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday indicated that acquiring defence land was the most difficult process, and said that armed forces were causing maximum delays in highway construction or expansion. He also recounted an incident where armed forces personnel threatened a contractor with guns and stalled work despite all permissions being in place.

Gadkari's statement came after Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant, during Question Hour in Lok Sabha, raised a question on encroachment on the Nagpur-Kamptee highway in Maharashtra.

In response, Gadkari said, "It is a very interesting case. I feel sad to be sharing this. Now there is a compound wall of the Kamptee camp that belongs to defence. So if there is a compound wall, then that is the limit of your claim. Rest is National Highway land. But defence has stalled the entire project for one year now."

The minister said that the matter was settled after he presented photographs and a series of meetings were held in Delhi. "They said 'Okay, go ahead'. When the work started, gun-toting men from the maintenance command of the camp came and scared away the contractor. I have told (Defence Minister) Rajnath Singh everything and the matter is pending with him for the past one and a half months... I will again remind him. But I assure you all encroachment would be eventually removed and work will get done," Gadkari said.

He even seemed to suggest that there was bureaucratic lethargy in moving things fast. "He (Rajnath) tells his bureaucrats that whatever Gadkari ji is saying, do it. But sometimes,

the kettle is hotter than the tea. The officials below you sometimes do not listen," Gadkari said. Further elaborating on his frustration with matters related to defence land acquisition, Gadkari also recounted the difficulties he had faced during the construction of the Dhaula Kuan flyover in Delhi.

"Acquiring defence land... just getting this Dhaula Kuan land (for the flyover) was so difficult... I cannot tell you what all me and (former defence minister Manohar) Parrikar ji had to go through. Somewhere or the other, they put roadblocks," Gadkari said.

The minister added that such delays make project costs skyrocket. "All of you are MPs here. Please see what is stalling road projects in your respective constituencies..."

When Congress leader of the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury pointed out that Gadkari's statements indicated that there was no coordination between different government departments, the minister said he was not criticising anyone.

"I am only saying that the country needs a positive attitude and approach from everybody. Look what electricity and telephone people do. The moment you complete the road, the telephone people will dig it up. Even if there is a four-lane space on the side of the road, the electricity department will put its pole on the edge of the two-lane road. No one thinks that if there is space, put it up at the edge of it so that no shifting is required. Utility shifting costs money," Gadkari said.

## Disruption in RS on Unnao case; Venkaiah asks govt to take action

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

RAJYA SABHA on Thursday saw disruption and then discussion on the issue of a rape victim in Unnao who was set ablaze allegedly by her assaulters, prompting Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu to ask the government to take action against those responsible.

The Upper House was adjourned for half an hour amid an uproar by Opposition parties, mainly the Congress, over the incident. Opposition MPs raised the issue as soon as the House resumed in the afternoon to consider The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill. Congress leader Anand Sharma urged Deputy Chairman Harivansh to at least listen to the members who wanted to discuss the incident.

Harivansh did not heed the Opposition members and asked K K Ragesh of the CPI(M) to move a resolution to disapprove the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019. The Bill and the resolution were scheduled to be moved and discussed together.

While Opposition members kept raising the issue, Ragesh said he could not move the resolution and asked the Deputy Chairman to bring the House to order. Harivansh ad-

joined the House for half an hour. After the House met, SP's Ramgopal Yadav said that those accused should be punished in a manner that it acts as a "deterrent".

At the end of the brief discussion, Naidu said he had spoken to the UP chief secretary and asked that action be taken against those responsible. He also informed the House that the UP chief secretary had told him that the accused have been arrested.

In the first half of the day, Zero Hour was adjourned as Chairman Naidu did not allow Opposition members to flag the Unnao case. The issue was first raised by SP's Yadav just as Naidu called CPI(M)'s Jharna Das Baidya to speak on the issue she had listed for Zero Hour. As Yadav started speaking, Naidu objected and told him that he would not allow anything that has not been admitted by him.

Congress' Sharma stood up to support Yadav and urged Naidu to listen to the SP MP. "No I will not listen to him. I will only permit those members who have met me or have conveyed their issues through a letter and I have admitted them," Naidu told Sharma and Yadav.

TMC's Derek O'Brien and NCP's Vandana Chavan also tried reasoning with Naidu, but he adjourned the House till noon.

### RS NOD TO TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

## After Chidambaram dig, Nirmala says onion remark out of context

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

HOURS AFTER she was criticised by her predecessor and Congress leader P Chidambaram on her remarks that her family "has little to do with onions", Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said she was called "elitist" and criticised for her remark without taking its context into consideration.

Sitharaman said she "spoke extensively for 20 minutes" on the measures the government is taking to tackle rising onion prices but was criticised for a remark taken out of context.

Reacting to Sitharaman's remark on onions, Chidambaram said on Thursday, "Finance Minister said yesterday that she doesn't eat onions. So what does she eat? Does she eat avocado?" His reaction came a day after Sitharaman told the Lok Sabha that she belongs to a family "that has little to do with onions".

Sitharaman, who was speaking in Rajya Sabha in the evening after discussion on the legislation regarding corporate tax reduction, hit back: "What was the statement given by one of the finance ministers when in 2012 price rise was high? 'When the urban middle class can buy a bottle of water for Rs 15, why do they make so much noise about price rise?'"

She said the government's decision to lower corporate tax was not just "good PR or good for headlines" but signified the government's commitment to good reforms.

The Rajya Sabha approved the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019, replacing an ordinance used to slash corporate tax rate. She also said that "rollbacks are not wrong per se", and the decision was taken considering the



**Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Rajya Sabha.** *RSTV/PTI*

"developing situation". The decision, she said, was taken in view of the US-China trade war, and so that India remains competitive.

Replying to a debate on the Bill, she said the amendment carries a negative list of industries that will not qualify for lower tax rate meant for manufacturing companies set up on or after October 1, 2019, but that begin production before 2023. The negative list includes computer software development, mining and printing of books as they are not manufacturing per se, the minister added.

Sitharaman had on September 20 announced lowering of the base corporate tax rate to 22 per cent from 30 per cent for companies that do not seek exemptions, and reduced the rate for some new manufacturing companies to 15 per cent from 25 per cent. Including surcharges and cesses, the effective

### Choubey under fire for onion remark

**New Delhi:** Members of the opposition have criticised Union minister Ashwini Choubey after he said that he would not know of the rising cost of onions as he has not tasted them.

"I am a vegetarian. I have never tasted an onion. So how will a person like me know about the situation (market prices) of onions?" he said outside the House.

On Wednesday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told Lok Sabha that the government has taken several steps to check rising prices of onion. She added, "I belong to a family which does not eat onion and garlic." **ENS**

corporate tax rate will drop by nearly 10 percentage points to 25.2 per cent.

The objective of providing a lower 15 per cent corporate tax rate for new manufacturing units was to draw new investment, Sitharaman said. New manufacturing companies have been given the option to move to the higher 22 per cent tax bracket if they fail to satisfy conditions meant for availing of lower rates, she said.

Sitharaman also promised to continue rollout of reforms to boost the economy. She said that while tax authorities should not harass citizens, no wrongdoer can be let off.

The discussion saw Congress' Jairam Ramesh slamming the government for reducing the corporate tax days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Howdy Modi event.

## BJP MP: If there was low demand for vehicles, there would be no traffic jams

**LIZ MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5



**Ballia MP Virendra Singh 'Mast' is also the head of BJP's Kisan Morcha**

ON A day when the RBI cut its GDP forecast to a further low, a senior BJP MP in Lok Sabha on Thursday claimed that the talk of gloom in the automobile sector is an attempt to "malign" the nation, adding that if there was a low demand for vehicles, there would be no traffic jams in the country.

Ballia MP Virendra Singh 'Mast', who is also the head of BJP's Kisan Morcha, made his statement while participating in a debate on crop losses and its impact on farmers.

He said, "In order to defame the country and malign this government, they say there is a fall in the purchase of automobiles. If there is a fall, why would there be traffic jams on the road... You cannot decide what should be the link between production and consumption."

He also rejected the opposition's charges that the price of onions has shot up, claiming he could produce a truck-full of the vegetable for Rs 25 per kg from his constituency.

Responding to remarks by Shiv Sena's Vinayak Raut on the high price of onions, Singh said: "How long will you do politics on onion prices? Onion is available in my area at Rs 25 (per kg). You come there, I will get you a truck full of onions at Rs 25 per kg."

Congress's Kodikkunil Suresh, who initiated the debate, alleged that the notice given by him wanted to discuss 'Agrarian crisis and farmers' distress', but the government chose to change the topic. "The other topic would have exposed the failure of the BJP government to the public..." he said.

TMC's Kalyan Banerjee said that there was "a misdirection of government subsidies and funds". He said, "As per reports by the Central government and NCRB, the government farming subsidies from 1993 to 2018 went to the dealers to produce seeds and fertilisers, not to the farmers."

MPs from all parties participated in the debate. Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar is expected to reply to the debate Friday.

During Zero Hour, TMC MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay said the price of onions had reached an extreme height and claimed that hoarding was the cause, saying the Enforcement Directorate should check on hoarding of onions.

# 10 GOVT & POLITICS

## As onion prices keep up heat, Shah holds meet to take stock

## Chidambaram has violated bail terms, says Javadekar



### A THANK YOU NOTE

GIVING AWAY the national Florence Nightingale Awards to 36 nurses at a ceremony in Vigyan Bhawan, President Ram Nath Kovind was bothered by cough in the middle of his speech. After a pause and a sip of water, Kovind said in a lighter vein, addressing nurses in the audience, "I need your services." The remark sent the audience into raptures. The award to late Lini Sajeesh from Kozhikode in Kerala, who died treating a Nipah patient, was conferred posthumously and received by her husband Sajeesh. In a first, a short video on the awardee preceded each award.

### HOUSE IN ORDER

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Mission seems to have hit Parliament building. Of late, there are visible efforts to keep the main building and the library building clean and in order. Given the special duty to supervise the cleanliness drive, Lok Sabha Secretariat director K Srinivasan takes two rounds of both buildings, including basement offices, corridors, the footpath around the buildings, and the surrounding lawns, to see whether everything is in order. Recently, an old elevator, used to carry big vessels to the Parliament canteen and lying damaged for almost eight months, was repaired to use it exclusively for carrying cooked food to the canteen.

### WINNING OVER

AHEAD OF Friday's election for the lone slot from Rajya Sabha in the composition of AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, Ashwini Vaishnav, the BJP member from Odisha, withdrew from the contest. Vaishnav is learnt to have written to House Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and informed him of the decision. This leaves Amar Patnaik of BJD as the only candidate for the slot. With the contentious Citizenship Amendment Bill coming up, it seems the government can do with all the support it can get.

## Anglo-Indians left out as Bill to extend quota in legislature gets nod

ON WEDNESDAY, when the Union Cabinet approved extension of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Parliament and state Assemblies for 10 more years, it did away with the reservation for Anglo-Indians in legislative bodies. The reservation for SC/ST communities and the Anglo-Indian community was to expire in January 2020, but the new Bill will extend the reservation for SC and ST communities by 10 years, till January 25, 2030. To ensure representation of the communities in elected legislative bodies, similar to reservation for SCs and STs, Anglo-Indians were provided two nominated seats in the Lok Sabha and nominated seats in certain state Assemblies. Article 331 of the Constitution states: "Representation of the

Anglo Indian community in the House of the People Notwithstanding anything in Article 81, the President may, if he is of opinion that the Anglo Indian community is not adequately represented in the House of the people, nominate not more than two members of that community..." For the state Assemblies, Article 333 provided for the Governor to nominate the members. Article 334(b) extended it for 40 years. Subsequent amendments ensured the reservation was extended till January 2020. In 2009, the 95th Amendment extended it till 2020. But, according to the new Bill, it will cease to exist in January. The nominated Anglo-Indian members of the legislative bodies enjoy voting privileges similar to other members, except when it comes to the election for President, as only elected members of both houses of Parliament, state Assemblies and Legislative Councils are allowed to vote as the electoral college.

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA & PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS**  
NEW DELHI, PUNE, DEC 5

ON A day onion traded at Rs 7,500 per quintal, up from Wednesday's Rs 5,025 per quintal, at Lasalgaon in Maharashtra's Nashik district, the country's largest onion wholesale market, and price of the vegetable in retail market touched Rs 200 per kg in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday held a meeting with ministers and top officials to discuss and review the situation.

According to sources, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar attended the meeting.

While Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister Ram Vilas Paswan could not attend due to ill-health, top officials from the ministry are learnt to have made a presentation at the meeting.

The issue of augmenting supply through imports and crackdown on hoarders came up during discussion, sources said.

On Thursday, retail prices of onion was Rs 160 per kg in Chennai, Rs 150 per kg in Pune, Rs 140 per kg in Mumbai, and Rs 100 per kg in Delhi, according to data on the National Horticulture Board portal.



Onion retails at Rs 150-160 per kg at the Mahatma Phule Mandi in Pune on Thursday. Pavan Khengre

On Wednesday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had told Lok Sabha that there was a drastic fall in onion production in towards the end of kharif season this year.

"In 2017-18, (onion production) was 44.08 lakh metric tonnes; in 2018-19, it was 50.64 lakh metric tonnes. This year, the first estimate and the advanced estimate is 38.87 lakh metric tonnes," she said while replying debate on supplementary demands for grant in the House.

She had also said, "Price Stabilisation Fund has been used and a buffer stock of about 57,302.90 MT (metric tonnes) of onions was built, and this was based on the Rabi harvest of April and May 2019, out of which around 26,842 MTs - about 46.78 per cent of procurement -

was supplied to various governments."

She said that NAFED, the apex organisation of marketing cooperatives for agricultural produce, has been directed to procure surplus onions from Rajasthan and other distribution centres and send it to other states. MMTC, the state-owned trading firm, is importing onions from Egypt and Turkey, she added.

Sitharaman also received some flak from the Opposition over her comments on the vegetable. When TMC member Sougata Ray asked whether she eats onions, Sitharaman replied, "Mai lahsun, pyaz nahin khati hun. Me aise pariwar se ati hon jahan lahsun, pyaz se matlab nahin rakhte hain (I do not eat garlic and onion. I come from a

### EXPLAINED Why prices are high

PRICE RISE of onions is a direct result of lower production, as unseasonal heavy rain had destroyed large swathes of the almost-ready kharif crop and sowing of late kharif crop. While the Centre is taking steps to import more onions, the imported variety has failed to find too many takers. Traders and farmers say prices will continue to remain high until arrival of the new crop, likely after February.

family that has nothing to do with garlic and onion.)"

Meanwhile, two days after the Union government introduced new stock limits to control skyrocketing prices of onion, only 3,200 quintals of the bulb arrived for auction at Lasalgaon on Thursday. Earlier this week, the Centre set new stock limits for both wholesale and retail onion traders.

Wholesale traders, earlier allowed to stock 500 quintals of onion, are now allowed to hold only 250 quintals.

The stock limit of retail traders has been reduced from 100 quintals to 50 quintals.

## 66% voting in Karnataka bypolls; Bengaluru pulls down numbers

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 5

THE ASSEMBLY by-election to 15 seats in Karnataka on Thursday saw an estimated 66.25 per cent polling, with seats in Bengaluru city registering low voting. Constituencies in rural regions, especially in north Karnataka, saw over 75 per cent voting.

At 37.5 per cent, K R Pura in east Bengaluru recorded the lowest polling. Shivajinagar, Yeshwanthapura and Mahalaxmi Layout seats in the city registered 41.13, 48.34 and 50.14 per cent polling, respectively.

Two constituencies in districts bordering Bengaluru — Hoskote and Chikaballapur — registered highest polling at 90.44 per cent and 86.4 per cent, respectively.

The BJP is looking to win at least eight seats to establish a clear majority, or six seats in the presently truncated House of 222 members.

The bypolls were by and large peaceful, barring stray incidents of arguments between workers of political parties and police personnel at some places, officials said.

An exit poll conducted by C-Voter has forecast a clear victory for the BJP. The survey, quoted by several local news channels in Bengaluru, has forecast nine to 12 seats for BJP, three to six seats Congress, and one seat for JD(S). **-WITH PTI INPUTS**



Rahul Gandhi with Safa Odala, who translated his speech into Malayalam, in Malappuram, Kerala on Thursday. PTI

## 16-yr-old impresses Rahul with translation

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEC 5

A CLASS XII student of a government school in Malappuram on Thursday won appreciation for translating the speech of Congress leader and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi, which he made in English, while addressing the school.

Gandhi was addressing students during the inauguration of a Science Laboratory at the Government Vocational Higher Secondary School in Karuvarkundu village. Before he began his speech, he asked for a volunteer to translate it into Malayalam. Safa Odala, 16, then stepped in and promptly fulfilled the task without stumbling.

Before starting his speech, Gandhi said, "I wanted to speak in English. But I want someone

to translate it in Malayalam. Is there any student who can translate what I am saying?..."

As leaders on the dais and students off the dais looked on, Safa stepped up. Gandhi began his speech after thanking her in advance. Safa, the daughter of a madrasa teacher, promptly translated the speech without a hitch. Gandhi left the stage after congratulating the girl and giving her sweets.

Safa, who emerged the day's star on social media, "I had never expected that I would get such a chance to translate Rahul Gandhi's speech. When the MP wanted someone to translate his speech, my classmates who were sitting near me, prodded me to take up the challenge. I waited for a moment. When I found no student was ready to take up the challenge, I decided to don the mantle of translator."

## Inspection report on NRC exercise flags 'irregularities'

**ABHISHEK SAHA**  
GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 5

AN INSPECTION report related to a partial audit of the NRC exercise from 2013 to 2017 by the office of the Accountant General (Audit) had raised questions regarding instances of alleged "financial irregularities and impropriety" in the exercise, including its transactions with an IT major and expenditure on human resources.

These queries were sent to the office of the NRC State Coordinator and a copy was sent to the state government's finance department. The audit pertains to the period 1/4/2014 to 31/12/2017 and was sent with a request to the then state coordinator Prateek Hajela for a reply within a month. A document containing key observations of the inspection report was leaked to the media by government sources on Thursday.

"It was an interim audit report," a top official of the finance department told *The Indian Express*.

However, a source familiar with the developments said, "Each objection raised in the inspection was countered (by Hajela's office). There is a due procedure for an AG audit. It's a long process, with to-and-fro communication and explanation in any audit. But someone is



Prateek Hajela

trying to short-circuit the process by leaking this report and scoring political points. This process has not been completed yet. Also, if the state received this in 2018, why wait to leak it now?"

Hajela was transferred to Madhya Pradesh by a Supreme Court order. On his last day in office on November 11, he had told *The Indian Express*, "All expenditures and sanctions are as per due process. Audit has already happened for 70% of the work."

Several officials who *The Indian Express* spoke to, both in the NRC directorate and state government, said that in every audit exercise, such exchanges are routine practice. The final audit is awaited from the AG.

The report follows Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's comment to the media on November 28 that there was a report regarding financial irregularities in NRC functioning

and the government would make it public soon. Sarma had said that the state government had not acted upon it when the NRC was going on.

A major part of the questions raised in the AG's report relates to financial transactions with an IT giant that worked in the NRC process as its 'system integrator'. Hundreds of data entry operators were employed contractually by the company. In September, the office of the Labour Commissioner in Assam lodged a case against the company in Guwahati based on a two-year-old complaint by a group of eight data-entry operators working on contract for the NRC through the company.

The source quoted above said that it was not only Hajela's office that was involved in the contract with the company.

"There is a state government 'coordination committee' that oversees the NRC process and it includes representatives from Home, Finance, Revenue, Personnel, IT and the RGI's office. The state coordinator is part of the committee. The contract with the IT company and its extension was not directly through the state coordinator's office but approved by the committee," the source said.

Hajela's transfer followed his deteriorating relationship with the Assam government, and criticism of him by the state BJP.

## BJP faces hurdle of job losses in auto hub

**ABHISHEK ANGAD**  
JAMSHEDPUR, DECEMBER 5

THE ECONOMIC slowdown, especially in the automobile sector, may give the ruling BJP a fight in several constituencies surrounding Jamshedpur out of 20 seats that go to the polls in the second phase of Jharkhand Assembly elections on Saturday.

As hundreds were left unemployed over the last few months after auto ancillary companies in the city known informally as Tata town reduced production amid sliding demand, unskilled labourers have been hit the worst.

According to industry insiders, nearly 800 auto ancillary units were heavily dependent on Tata Motors and Tata Steel, both contributing significantly to the economic activity in the region.

In its July-September quarter results, Tata Motors said its profitability was "impacted by adverse mix from steep decline in



JHARKHAND

While there is palpable angst against the BJP government of Raghubar Das, the local MLA from Jamshedpur East, it is not clear from those looking for work whether that anger will reflect in the polls.

"Pet mein kuch rehaga tab na vote denge (we will not vote on empty stomach)," reasoned Purushottam Lohar, who comes to Jamshedpur from Kharsawan looking for work, spending Rs 20 every day, quite a sum for him now. He was rendered jobless four months ago.

Like Lohar, hundreds of men and women from areas such as Sini, Potka, Saraikela come to Imli Chowk in Adityapur, neighbouring Jamshedpur, early each morning to look for a day's work,

which many waiting there agreed has become scarce of late.

Imli Chowk, incidentally, is less than 3 km from the venue where Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed an election rally in Jamshedpur on December 2. Modi sought votes for a stable BJP government in the state and stated his intent for industrialisation.

Industry-watchers, however, feel the slowdown, and the consequent layoffs and jobs losses, will leave an impact in the polls.

TMF Private Limited, which manufactures axle spindles and supplies to Tata Motors, has seen business slide 80 per cent over the last five months. The company's owner, Rupesh Katriar, who is also the state vice-president of Laghu Udyog Bharati, an association of small and medium-scale units seen as being close to the RSS, said lack of demand has impacted output. "Then there is the liquidity

crunch faced by businesses - despite assurances, loans are turned non-performing (NPA) or stressed assets. We have fixed costs which needs immediate attention, so many people are not able to pay loans immediately," Katriar said, adding that this issue may affect BJP electorally.

According to Ashok Bhalotia, president of Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), which represents about 600 micro, small and medium-scale enterprises and 1,200 traders, loans of "at least 20-25" member-companies have become NPAs.

Bhalotia said, "How does any midsize business repay loans amid such slowdown? More than 10,000 labourers have been laid off."

He also said multiple meetings with the government has had little result. "The trader community is unhappy; this will reflect on the election," he said.

## In town where Tabrez tied up, beaten, parties avoid his family

**ABHISHEK ANGAD**  
KHARSAWAN, DECEMBER 5

IN JUNE, Kharsawan, a non-descript Jharkhand town about 60 km west of Jamshedpur, hit the national headlines, and notoriety, when a man named Tabrez Ansari was reportedly tied to a pole, beaten and forced to say Jai Shri Ram. Ansari, caught for an alleged act of theft, succumbed to head injuries four days later.

The incident sparked widespread criticism of the state government's lapses, with many political leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, condemning the incident.

Six months on, as Kharsawan constituency gets ready to vote on Saturday, there is no mention of Ansari by any candidate, including incumbent Dasrath Ghagrai of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and his main opponent, BJP's

Jawahar Lal Banra. The BJP is seeking votes on the promise of double-engine growth — with governments in the state and at the Centre — and the JMM's plank is the ruling party's "anti-tribal decisions and five years of misrule".

After Ansari's death, his wife Sahista Parween, 19, moved to her mother's home on the outskirts of Kharsawan. As campaigning ended on Saturday, Sahista told *The Indian Express*, "Many political leaders come to the end of the colony, seeking votes; no one comes to us. They probably fear they would lose votes."

After the crime, JMM leader Hemant Soren had said that the incident signified a "complete breakdown of law and order" in the state and demanded compensation for Ansari's family. The JMM, or its candidate, does not mention the incident any longer.

Sahista's mother Shehnaz Begum said, "Many people said

they would help us. We received money from some people, which is being used for Sahista's treatment. But she needs a job..."

AAP leader Amanatullah Khan had met the family to give Sahista a cheque and offer her a job at Delhi Waqf Board, but Sahista said she cannot move to Delhi.

Less than 10 km away in Dhatkidih village, where Ansari was assaulted, there is palpable anger against police and media.

A shopkeeper (name withheld on request) said two of his family members are in jail as accused in the case. "The lower court rejected bail. We will move the High Court," he said. On his voting preference, he said, "Various organisations supporting the BJP helped us with ration..." While *The Indian Express* was speaking with the shop owner, angry villagers refused to let him speak.

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

## Court declares Nirav Modi fugitive economic offender

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 5

A SPECIAL court Thursday declared diamondaire Nirav Modi a "fugitive economic offender" under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 — enacted against those fleeing the country to evade the process of law. The court will now hear submissions for confiscation of his property.

When Modi left India on January 1 last year, he was aware about payments that were due on the Punjab National Bank on the Letters of Undertaking issued to his firms, and therefore he left the country in "suspicious circumstances", the court said.

The special court, designated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, said the Enforcement Directorate had filed a plea to declare Modi a fugitive economic offender last year.

The ED had submitted Modi left the country due to his involvement in an alleged bank fraud to the tune of Rs 6,498.70 crore in connivance with the bank staff though the diamondaire claimed it was a business-related trip. The court accepted the contention that Modi left the country to avoid criminal prosecution.

"The material on record leads to draw inference that Modi left the country under the circumstances rendering suspicious his behaviour in order to dodge the forthcoming penal consequences of the acts he has done or committed while in India till 2017," Special Judge V C Barde said.

Modi was arrested in the United Kingdom and is currently facing extradition proceedings.

## MADHYA PRADESH HONEY TRAP CASE

# Bungalow, 3 properties of accused editor razed

MILIND GHATWAI  
INDORE, DECEMBER 5

THE INDORE administration on Thursday demolished a bungalow of Jeetu Soni, editor and owner of the newspaper *Sanjha Lokswami* and accused in the alleged "honey trap case", and partly demolished three other properties he owns in different localities, including a plush hotel.

The move came immediately on expiry of the 48-hour deadline given to Soni to explain why the properties should not be demolished for violating building permissions.

'Jag Villa', built on a plot of more than 24,000 sq feet, had parts built in violation of the building permission razed, officials said.

Demolition squads began the crackdown early on Thursday simultaneously at the bungalow on Kanadia Road, Best Western Plus O2 hotel in South Tukoganj, My Home at Geeta Bhavan Square, and O2 Café in Palasia area of the city.

Soni's newspaper had published reports on BJP leader and former state minister Laxmikant Sharma, a principal secretary to former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Harbhajan Singh, a superintendent engineer with Indore Municipal Corporation, and husbands of two of five women named in the honey trap case as accused.

He had promised to make more such revelations.

On Saturday night, the district administration carried out searches at all four premises, as well as the evening's office in Press Complex.



Indore Municipal Corporation officials demolish a building owned by absconding businessman-editor Jeetu Soni. PTI

Soni was first booked for violating Information Technology Act on a complaint from Harbhajan Singh. He, his family members and associates were subsequently booked for human trafficking, extortion, blackmailing, loot and forgery, among other offences. While Soni is at large, his son Amit was arrested on Sunday, and the manager of My Home arrested two days later.

Late on Wednesday, guests at Best Western were asked to vacate the hotel; My Home was already vacant. Within a few hours, the Indore administration, accompanied by heavy police force, demolished fully or in parts all his properties.

The operation to demolish illegal portions of Best Western Plus O2 was stopped later on Thursday after the High Court granted stay and gave seven days to the hotel management to reply to the showcause notice.

Advocate Vishal Baheti told *The Indian Express* that the man-

agement had challenged the December 2 notice in High Court because only 48 hours were given for the management to reply. The hotel was built in 2009-10 following building rules, the counsel said.

Indore Collector Lokesh Jatav said the demolition was not artificially fast-tracked. "Everyone was given a reasonable time and due course of action was followed. In the past, the municipal corporation had given just 24 hours (to those accused of illegal constructions)," he said.

Jatav said the administration will abide by the court's direction in the case of Best Western.

Another advocate, Manohar Dalal, said, "In response to the notice asking why the house should not be demolished within 48 hours, we replied that it was a compoundable offence and we are ready to pay the amount for extra construction."

He said the house had already been demolished by the time the court granted a stay.

## IIT-M student's suicide: Shah assured us of CBI probe, says father

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

THE FATHER of a 19-year-old woman, who allegedly committed suicide at IIT-Madras, said he met Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday and was told that the CBI will be asked to investigate the case.

The Tamil Nadu Police's Crime Branch is probing the November 9 suicide of Fathima Latheef, a resident of Kerala. Abdul Latheef and his wife Sajitha met Shah on the Parliament's premises on Thursday along with a delegation of MPs from Kerala.

Speaking to reporters, Abdul Latheef said Shah told him that the investigation would be conducted by a woman CBI officer of the inspector general level.

Kerala MP N K Premachandran, who led the delegation, claimed Shah also conveyed that the probe would look into the issue of mental harassment and pressure on students by IITs and other similar educational institutions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Shah have assured the MPs that the CBI will investigate the suicide case, he said.

The woman's parents thanked Modi and Shah for assuring them of a CBI probe.

## SABARIMALA

# SC has not delivered final word yet: CJI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday made clear that the "final word" was yet to be spoken on the question of age restrictions on entry of women to the Sabarimala temple in Kerala and that the matter had been ordered to be referred to a larger Constitution bench.

Chief Justice of India S A Bobde conveyed this to Senior Advocate Indira Jaising when she brought up the case of activist Bindu Ammini who is seeking security to enter the shrine.

Jaising told the bench, also comprising Justices B R Gavaai and Surya Kant, that Ammini had visited the shrine last year after a five-judge SC bench, in a 4:1 judgment on September 28, 2018, lifted the age restrictions. Though she wanted to travel to the temple this year too, the police was not cooperating, the counsel added.

Jaising contended that the five-judge Constitution bench which heard the review petitions against the 2018 judgment and delivered its verdict on November 15 this year had not stayed the earlier decision.

At this point, the CJI observed that the 2018 judgment was not

the "final word" and that there was an order for a larger bench to look into the issue.

The bench said it will hear the matter after the upcoming vacation. Jaising, however, pointed out that the bench had agreed to hear a similar plea by another woman next week.

The CJI then said Ammini's plea will also be heard with the other application.

The SC, in its November 14 decision, had by a 3:2 majority held that the Sabarimala judgment may impinge on the affairs of other religions too and required a more detailed examination. It decided to keep the review petitions pending till a larger bench took a call.

Those in favour of opening the shrine to women of all age groups had referred to the absence of a stay order in the November 14 judgment and said that it meant that the 2018 judgment was still in force and should be implemented.

Those defending the temple customs however, said the very fact that the SC had decided to examine the matter in detail before taking a final view on the review petitions meant that the court had doubts about the validity of the 2018 judgment and it would be improper to enforce it.

## Catholic priest booked in Kerala for raping woman: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DECEMBER 5

A CATHOLIC priest in Kerala was booked on Wednesday for allegedly raping a woman in Kozhikode in June 2017, police said. The accused, Fr Manoj alias Jacob Plakootathil, belongs to the Diocese of Thamarassery.

After the incident, the victim had initially lodged a complaint with Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil. According to the complaint, the priest had gone to the woman's house when she was alone and sexually assaulted her. Subsequently, he also threatened her, it said.

Diocese spokesman Fr Mathew Kollamparambil said, "We had removed the priest from the complainant's parish... Three months ago, the diocese realised about the seriousness of the issue. Now, he has been divested of all duties and the diocese would cooperate with the police probe."

When no action was taken against the accused priest, the victim on Wednesday lodged a complaint with the police, which registered a case of rape.

The investigating officer said a probe has been initiated and they have not been able to trace the location of the priest so far.

## In Kerala, Press Club secy held for barging into woman's home, 'moral policing'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOCHI, DECEMBER 5

POLICE ON Thursday arrested the secretary of Thiruvananthapuram Press Club after his female colleague accused him of barging into her house last week and enforcing moral policing.

Police said M Radhakrishnan was taken for a medical examination and will be produced before a magistrate Friday.

The complainant said on November 30, Radhakrishnan gathered a few men and barged into her house, enquiring about a man who had visited her. Though the woman explained that he was a family friend, Radhakrishnan allegedly accused her of indulging in "immoral activity".

Then, the complainant said, Radhakrishnan's men dragged the victim's friend to the house and assaulted him. The complainant's young children were present at the time of the incident. Her husband, also a journalist, was working late.

The Kerala Union of Working Journalists has suspended him pending an inquiry. The newspaper where the accused works has also begun an internal investigation.

## WEST BENGAL

# Dhankhar finds Assembly gate shut, says democracy humiliated

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 5

WEST BENGAL Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said he was insulted after he had to wait outside a closed gate at the Assembly, and the Speaker and the staff were absent.

The development is the latest in a series of tussles between the state government and the Governor, and comes a day after Dhankhar visited Calcutta University only to find senior officials absent and the Vice-Chancellor's office locked.

On a visit to the Assembly on Thursday, Dhankhar was surprised to find Gate Number 3 locked, and said that the incident had put the country's democratic history to shame.

Speaking to the media outside the House, Dhankhar said, "Despite my prior intimation, why is Gate Number 3 closed? The Assembly being adjourned does not mean it is closed. The Governor's gate being locked has put our democratic history to shame. This is not an insult to me, but an insult to the people of the state and the Constitution."

According to Assembly norms, Gate Number 3 is designated for the Governor's entry and exit. "Democracy is being



Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar at the Assembly. Express

humiliated, not me. It reflects we are trying to cage democracy," Dhankhar said. He later entered the Assembly premises through Gate Number 2, meant for media and officials.

The Speaker was not available for comments.

Slamming Dhankhar, State Parliamentary Affairs Minister and TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee said, "The Governor is trying to create an anarchic situation in Bengal. He is aspiring to become the administrative head of the state. He should be satisfied with his constitutional limits. Before questioning us, he should reply why the expenses of Governor House has risen to Rs 7 crore. If he wants

to visit any part of the state, he should not waste public money."

The TMC also slammed the Governor for allegedly not signing Bills. "Why is he not signing the Bills and allowing the House to function?" asked party leader Chandrima Bhattacharya.

On Tuesday, the Speaker adjourned the House for two days, saying that Bills slated to be placed in the Assembly were yet to get the Governor's approval.

This was denied by Raj Bhavan, which termed the situation "factually untenable". The Governor said his queries regarding the Bills were not addressed by the state government and he does not act like a "rubber stamp".

**CENTRAL GOODS AND SERVICES TAX DIVISION - SAHARANPUR**

CENTRAL GOODS AND SERVICES TAX DIVISION, SAHARANPUR IS ORGANIZING AN OUTREACH PROGRAMME ON "STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK DIVAS ON NEW GST RETURN" AT CENTRAL GST DIVISION, AVAS VIKAS COLONY, NEAR HARI MANDIR, DELHI ROAD, SAHARANPUR ON SATURDAY, 07.12.2019 AT 10.00A.M. ALL THE CONCERNED ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE PROGRAMME.

**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER**

**BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI**  
PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.

In the matter of  
**OA NO. 124/2019/DRT-III**  
**STATE BANK OF INDIA**

Applicant  
Versus  
DEFENDANTS  
**PARAS VERMA & ORS.**

To,  
D-2 M/s Amrapali Dream Valley Pvt. Ltd., 307, 3rd Floor, Nipun Towers, Plot No.15 Community Centre, Karkardooma, Delhi-110092. Also at: C-56/40, Sector-62 Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. Also at: Plot No. GH-09, Sector Techzone-IV, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 10.02.2020 at 10.30 A.M.

Take Notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 3rd day of Dec., 2019.

By Order of the Tribunal,  
Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

**नौएडा नवीन औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण**  
प्रशासनिक भवन, सेक्टर-6, नौएडा-201301 (सोरो)  
वेबसाइट:- www.noidaauthorityonline.com

**सार्वजनिक सूचना**

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि निम्नलिखित भूमि नौएडा प्राधिकरण द्वारा आपसी समझौते के आधार पर क्रय किया जाना प्रस्तावित है:-

क्र.सं	ग्राम का नाम	खाता संख्या	क्षेत्रफल (हे.मै)	क्षेत्रफल (व.प्र.मै)	कार्य करने का उद्देश्य
1	सौरावा जाहिदाबाद	717	0.4170 हे.मै	1.1/8 भाग	नौएडा के सुनिश्चित विकास हेतु
2			0.0521 हे.मै		

उपरोक्त भूमि क्रय किये जाने में यदि किसी जन साधारण को सम्बन्धित भूमि के सम्बन्ध में कोई दावा/आपत्ति देनी हो, तो सार्वजनिक प्रकाशन के 15 दिन के अन्दर तहसीलदार, नौएडा के कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।

तहसीलदार  
नौएडा

**स्वच्छ, हरित, सकुशल, सुरक्षित नौएडा**

**IDFC FIRST Bank Limited**  
(Formerly known as Capital First Home Finance Limited)

CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792  
Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600031. TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | FAX: +91 44 4564 4022.  
Authorized Officer - Mr. Rohit Dudeja | Contact Number - 7838324723

**APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 6 (B)]**  
**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (B) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of erstwhile Capital First Home Finance Limited now IDFC FIRST Bank Limited, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 24.12.2019, for recovery of INR 35,48,690.19/- as on 28-Jan-19 due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Home Finance Limited) from Naval Kishore Gupta, SHWETA VARSHNEY

The Reserve Price will be INR 42,00,000/- and the Earnest Money Deposit will be INR 4,20,000/-

**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

All the piece and parcel of the property consisting Plot No 17 Kharsa No- 217/1/1044/822/1 Min Village Chandrawali/Aliahs Shahdara Block No.-28, Vishwas Nagar, Delhi 110032

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in IDFC FIRST Bank website i.e. www.idfcfirstbank.com.

Disclaimer: Please note that the said notice is issued for sale of immovable property only and IDFC FIRST Bank Limited has no right to sale the movable assets, if any, present at the immovable property.

Date : 04.12.2019  
Sd/-  
Authorised Officer  
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited  
(Formerly known as Capital First Home Finance Limited)

**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN**  
Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Financial Services  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Paras Tower, Mazra, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun, UK-248171

**BEFORE THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II, DRT, DEHRADUN**

**NOTICE OF DEMAND & APPEARANCE**  
(NOTICE UNDER RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT 1961 READ WITH SECTION 25 TO 29 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993)

T.R.C. No. 550/2018 (Old DRC No. 62/2017 of DRT, Lucknow)  
Dy No. 504 Date: 15.11.2019  
Punjab National Bank V/s M/s Ganpati Industries & Anr.  
Nari Shilp National, Dehradun

To,  
CD.1: M/s Ganpati Industries, Through its Proprietor Shri Ranjeet Kumar, 1035-B-2, Handiwad Road, Kuanwala, Dehradun.  
Innd Address: CH-235 Handiwad Road, Kuanwala, Dehradun.  
Innd Address: 895, Chhiddarwala, Dehradun.  
Vnd Address: C/o Shri Shivram Agarwal, 174/2, old Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun.

CD.2: Shri Ranjeet Kumar, S/o Shri Ashok Kumar, Proprietor of M/s Ganpati Industries, R/o 895 Chhiddarwala, Dehradun.

**Certificate Debtors**

Take notice that in view of Recovery Certificate issued O A No. 220/2015 passed by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Lucknow, an amount of Rs. 77,94,670/- (Rupees Seventy Seven Lacs Ninety Four Thousand Six Hundred Seventy only) along with pending arrear and future interest @ 12% per annum from the date of filing of the original application i.e. 23.03.2015 till the loan is fully liquidated and costs succeeded as is hereby allowed ex parte against defendant Nos. 1 to 2 jointly and severally. The above RC has been transferred to DRT, Dehradun and renumbered as TRC No. 550/2018.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules. In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay:

a) Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.  
b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

You are directed to appear before the undersigned, DRT, Dehradun on 18.12.2019 at 11:00 a.m. for further proceedings in the matter. In case of non appearance the proceeding will be heard and decided Ex. Parte.

Given under my hand and seal on this 15th of December, 2019.  
Recovery Officer-II, DRT, Dehradun

## 18 Indians abducted by pirates off Nigerian coast

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

EIGHTEEN INDIANS onboard a Hong Kong-flagged vessel were kidnapped by pirates near the Nigerian coast, a global agency tracking maritime developments in the region said on Thursday.

Sources said following reports of kidnapping, the Indian mission in Nigeria has approached the African nation's authorities for help to ascertain details and rescue the abducted Indians.

ARX Maritime, which tracks the movement of ships, said on its website that the ship was taken over by pirates on Monday and 19 people on board the vessel were kidnapped, out of which 18 were Indians.

The Hong Kong-flagged 'VLCR, NAVE CONSTELLATION' was attacked during the evening hours of December 3 while transiting through Nigeria, it said.

**Prakriti International Documentary Film Festival**

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अथवा मेल करें / or mail us on: [prakritifest18@gmail.com](mailto:prakritifest18@gmail.com)

आयोजक / Organiser  
शैक्षिक संचार संकाय | Consortium for Educational Communication  
(इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया पर विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग का एक अंतर-विश्वविद्यालय केंद्र)  
(An Inter-University Centre of University Grants Commission on Electronic Media)  
अहमदाबाद/ Ahmedabad, अरुणा अस्फ जेजी मार्ग, सेंट्रल-110067 (भारत)  
JIAC Campus, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi-110067 (India) / Ph: 011-24126418/19

**THE ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED**  
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha  
CIN : U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcldt.in

**OMC** **ODISHA**  
NEW OPPORTUNITIES

No.41/OMC Date: 04.12.2019  
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**1.VACANCY :-**

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Scale of Pay (in Rs.)	Initial Basic Pay (in Rs.)	No. of Posts Reserved for			Total posts
				SC	ST	UR	
1	Dy. General Manager (Min.), E-5 grade	Rs.78,800/- to 2,09,200/-	Rs.1,05,900/- (Cell-11 & Level-14 of Pay Matrix)	-	-	2	2
2	Sr. Manager (Min.), E-4 grade	Rs.67,700/- to 2,08,700/-	Rs.91,100/- (Cell-11 & Level-13 of Pay Matrix)	1	-	3	4
3	Manager (Min.), E-3 grade	Rs.67,700/- to 2,08,700/-	Rs.78,500/- (Cell-6 & Level-13 of Pay Matrix)	2	4	-	6
<b>Total</b>				<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>

Interested eligible candidates are requested to download the application format from OMC website <https://omcldt.in> and submit the same duly filled in & signed along with attested copies of Certificates / Testimonials, experience certificate in support of their eligibility by Speed Post / Courier in a cover superscribed "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF \_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST ADVERTISEMENT NO. 41 DTD. 04.12.2019" so as to reach the General Manager (P&A), The Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd., OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001 by 26.12.2019 positively. Applications submitted after the last date shall not be entertained.

The OMC Management reserves the right to cancel, amend or alter the above advertisement without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-  
Director (Personnel)



# Aspects of data Bill differ from report of IT Ministry panel

KARISHMA MEHROTRA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

A REPORT from the IT Ministry's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Committee tasked with recommending policy frameworks on "cyber security, safety, legal and ethical issues", released the day the Cabinet approved the ministry's Personal Data Protection Bill, contradicts foundational aspects of the Bill.

The report states that India should maintain free flow of data, that sectoral entities are more appropriate regulators than an overarching authority, and that focus should be placed on implementation and enforcement instead of over-regulation.

The IT Ministry constituted four committees in February 2018 to research and propose AI frameworks, which were released on the ministry website on Wednesday.

Answering a question in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the government had received the draft reports from the four committees and published them.

The above mentioned report states: "India has been one of the biggest beneficiaries of the global data flows being the world's largest sourcing destination for the IT-BPM (Business Process Management) services... Limitations on the free and open flow of data can seriously hinder the ability of an economy to remain competitive in the modern globalised world. Therefore, in order to preserve the development taking place on AI technologies in

India, it is vital the free flow of data and information be maintained in India."

The Bill cleared by the Cabinet restricts sensitive personal data (such as financial and health data) and critical personal data (that the government defines from time to time) from being stored abroad. Sensitive personal data can only be processed (analysed) abroad with government approval, while critical data cannot be taken abroad at all.

While the report states that "oversight would be best provided via existing sector-specific entities" rather than "appointing an overarching entity", the Bill calls for creation of a Data Protection Authority tasked with audits, assessments and oversight.

The report also states that "over-regulating data collection... could negatively impact the development of AI in the space". It says: "Legislation alone is not enough unless supported by an adequate implementation ecosystem including an effective grievance redressal system and user awareness. Instead of a prescriptive approach which is weakly enforced, the framework should aim for a light touch outlook which is strongly enforced..."

The Bill placed before the Cabinet differs from a draft Bill by the Justice BN Srikrishna committee in that the panel had called for a copy or mirror of all personal data to be stored in the country. Personal data is any data from which an individual can be identified. Now, the Bill retains the localisation mandates for personal data that is also sensitive and critical data, not for all personal data.

# Manmohan: Anti-Sikh riots could have been avoided had Rao listened to Gujral

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, HYDERABAD,  
DECEMBER 5

THE 1984 anti-Sikh riots could have been avoided had the then home minister P V Narasimha Rao heeded IK Gujral's advice to call in the Army at the earliest to contain the violence after Indira Gandhi was assassinated, according to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

His comments at an event on Wednesday to pay tribute to former Prime Minister IK Gujral drew sharp reactions from several quarters with Rao's grandson saying that Singh should know such decisions are taken by the Cabinet. Gujral's son and Akali Dal MP Naresh Gujral complimented Singh for being "truthful", even as his party's president Sukhbir Singh Badal, said he was "deeply pained and disappointed" with the former PM's comments.



Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

"When the sad event of 1984 took place, Gujral-ji on that very sad evening, went to the then Home Minister PV Narasimha Rao and said to him that the situation is so grave that it is necessary for the government to call in the Army at the earliest. If that advice had been heeded, perhaps the massacre that took place in 1984 could have been avoided," Singh said at the event. Several parts of Delhi witnessed anti-Sikh riots after

Indira Gandhi was assassinated on October 31, 1984. Nearly 3,000 Sikhs were killed.

Taking a swipe at Singh, the BJP asked if Rao was so "bad", why he chose to become the finance minister in his government in 1991.

The Congress refused to react to Singh's comments.

Union minister Prakash Javadekar blamed Rajiv Gandhi, who succeeded Indira Gandhi as the prime minister that very night, for the riots, saying the PM has the right to order Army deployment in such a situation. "In a way, Rajiv Gandhi supported the massacre with his subsequent comments that the earth shakes when a big tree falls," Javadekar told reporters.

Gujral's son and Akali Dal MP Naresh Gujral complimented Singh for being "truthful". "I admire and compliment Manmohan Singh for being truthful and calling a spade a spade," he told PTI.

However, Sukhbir Badal, said he was "deeply pained and disappointed" with Manmohan Singh's comments and alleged that it was "a shocking attempt to shift blame" from Rajiv Gandhi. "Relevant government records clearly show that the decision against Army deployment was taken at a meeting held at the residence of Rajiv Gandhi," he said, adding Singh's claim is "neither true nor appropriate".

"It is shocking because it comes from Manmohan Singh whom we have always genuinely respected. It is inappropriate and indecorous as it involves two former prime ministers—PV Narasimha Rao and IK Gujral—neither of whom is alive to respond to this claim. It is intriguing why Singh kept quiet all those years when Rao and Gujral were around to confirm or deny this claim," he said.

His wife and Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal said: "The 1984 massacre of Sikhs is a blot

in the history of mother India and for this Rajiv Gandhi was responsible. He held back the Army. And for this, the Gandhi family should apologise".

Meanwhile, Rao's grandson N V Subhash, who is also a BJP leader, in a statement in Hyderabad, said: "Dr Manmohan Singh should know that Home Minister alone cannot take a decision. It is combined Cabinet decision to be taken to bring the Army into picture".

The former PM should also know that Rao, as the then Home Minister, was asked not to give independent instructions as the PMO was completely seized of the matter, Subhash claimed.

Under those circumstances, the only thing Rao could do was to apprise the PMO and appeal for appropriate action, which his grandfather did, he said. "How can the Home Minister call the Army independently when PMO itself was seized of the matter," asked Subhash, a BJP spokesperson.

# Most victims of Sudan fire tragedy from TN, UP, Bihar: Indian embassy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KHARTOUM, DECEMBER 5

MOST OF the Indians hospitalised or reported missing after the LPG tanker blast at a ceramic factory in Sudan belong to Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and authorities are trying to ascertain their identities, officials said on Thursday.

The Indian embassy has issued a detailed list of the Indians who were reported missing, hospitalised, or survived the blast at the Seela Ceramic Factory in Bahri area in Khartoum on Tuesday that killed at least 23 people.

Eighteen Indians were among the dead. No information is currently available on their identities.

"The bodies have burnt beyond recognition. We are trying to establish their identity," an Indian official told PTI over the phone.

The official said one more person died on Thursday and identified the victim as Niraj Kumar Singh from Bihar.

More than 130 people were injured in the blast.

Seven Indians have been hospitalised, with four in critical condition and 16 were still missing.

Out of those reported missing Ramakrishnan, Raja Sekhar and Venkatachalem are from Tamil Nadu, Ram Kumar, Amit Tiwari and Nishish Mishra are from Bihar, Jitish Khan, Mohit Kumar, Hari Nath and Pradeep Verma are from Uttar Pradesh, and Pawan and Pradeep from Haryana.

Intezar Khan from Delhi, Bahadurhai Somabhai Pagi from Gujarat and Rajasthan's Jaideep were also reported missing.

"Some of the missing may be in the list of dead, which we are still to receive as identification is not possible because of the bodies being burnt," the official said.

He said that after the identification of the bodies they would be sent home for last rites.

Expressing grief at the incident, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said 60 Indians were employed in the factory and 53 of them were understood to be present at the factory and residential area at the time of the accident.

He said the Indian Embassy in Khartoum is in constant touch with the factory management and the embassy staff has been stationed at the site as well.

"We are working with the Sudanese authorities to facilitate the identification of the deceased at the earliest," he said.

## IRREGULARITIES IN DRONE PURCHASES

# Army starts court martial of 2 retd Major Generals

MAN AMAN SINGH  
CHHINA  
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 5

A JOINT court martial of two retired Major Generals in Army's Eastern Command, over irregularities in purchase of quadcopters (drones) under the Army Commanders Special Financial Powers Fund in 2016, began on Thursday.

Maj Gen B Chakravarty (retd) and Maj Gen Anup Kumar (retd) are facing General Court Martial in Kachrapara military station near Kolkata. Both were serving in Eastern Command Headquarters in Kolkata when the deal for drones was signed.

Maj Gen Chakravarty faces five charges under Section 63 of Army Act (violation of good order and military discipline), three charges under Section 52 (f) (intent to defraud) and two charges under Section 57 (falsifying official documents).

Maj Gen Kumar faces four charges under Section 52 (f) and alternate four charges under Section 63. Both officers have denied any wrongdoing in the affair. Presiding officer of the court

martial is Lt Gen Tumul Verma, General Officer Commanding 101 Area. Five Major Generals are members of the court martial.

Seven more officers — two Brigadiers, three Colonels and two Lt-Colonels — have also been issued showcause notice related to various lapses concerning this deal. *The Indian Express* had reported in September 2018 that the Army was investigating irregularities in procurement of drones in the Eastern Command. Documents had revealed that the investigation pertained to purchase of 67 quadcopters at a cost of approximately Rs 6 crore under the Army Commanders Special Financial Powers Fund in 2016.

The Army cancelled the supply order after finding the equipment defective during acceptance test procedure. A Court of Inquiry had earlier been held at HQs 17 Corps to inquire into the procurement process in Ranchi.

An officer said, "Since there is no provision of taking any administrative action against retired officers, hence the court martial has been ordered. There is no financial bungling which has come to light in the inquiry but there have

been procedural irregularities. Also, the purchase of drones finally did not take place."

In April 2016, the Eastern Command had floated a Request For Proposal (RFP), inviting bids for procurement of 67 quadcopters (day/night) medium-range equipment out of the Army Commanders Special Financial Power Fund for 2015-16. After being successful in the techno-commercial bidding process, a Mumbai-based private firm — Sure Safety Private Ltd — was selected to fulfil the order by the then Major General (Artillery) on behalf of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, in December 2016.

In March 2018, Eastern Command HQs cancelled the order on the grounds that the suppliers had committed a breach of supply order by failing to supply the entire quantity of quadcopters in time, and that the quadcopters supplied had failed to meet the qualitative requirements. The Army alleged that prima facie, the firm had misrepresented capabilities of the quadcopters to project the firm as technically qualified when it did not meet threshold eligibility.

# Teacher shot dead outside private school in Punjab

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MOHALI, DECEMBER 5

A PRIVATE school teacher was shot dead outside the school she worked in at Kharar town of Mohali district on Thursday morning, police said.

According to police, the victim, identified as 35-year-old Sarbjeet Kaur, had parked her two-wheeler and was going inside the school premises with her 5-year-old daughter around 7.30 am, when she was shot. Her daughter however, was unharmed.

Police did not rule out the possibility of contract killing. It is the third murder in Kharar area in the last three days.

The police said Kaur had been teaching Punjabi at the school for the past eight months. Mohali Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kuldeep Singh Chahal said, "Our teams are working on it. We shall soon get leads and arrest the culprits. We booked unidentified persons and would soon crack the case. At this stage her husband is a suspect."

SSP Chahal said Sarbjeet had been living separately from her husband and her parents. She had lived in France for around six years and her daughter too was



Sarbjeet Kaur

born there. According to sources, Sarbjeet returned to India with her husband around a year ago and the couple had a dispute over the custody of their daughter.

Sarbjeet's younger brother, Dilpreet Singh, said his sister went to France with her husband, Harvinder Singh Sandhu, a resident of Alkare village in Barnala district, in 2012 on study visa but the couple used to have fights. The couple had married against the wishes of Sarbjeet's family. Dilpreet said that his sister had lodged a complaint for domestic violence against her husband with the Mohali SSP around four months ago. The police registered a murder case against an unidentified person at the Kharar (sadr) police station on the complaint of Sarbjeet's father Raj Kumar.

# HC quashes J&K cancer patient's detention under Public Safety Act

ADIL AKHZER  
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 5

THE JAMMU and Kashmir High Court in Srinagar has quashed Public Safety Act (PSA) invoked against a cancer patient from south Kashmir after his family challenged the detention order on health conditions and contended that the order was passed on the basis of his "previous activities".

The court directed the authorities to release Parvaiz Ahmad Pala from preventive custody.

"Detention order no. 37/DMK/PSA/19 dated 07.08.2019 is quashed, and detenu [detainee] is directed to be released from preventive custody forthwith. The matter stands accordingly disposed of, however there is no order as to costs," Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey said in his order on December 3.

In October, the High Court had asked the Commissioner Secretary of J&K's Home department to have Pala "medically examined".

Pala was lodged in a jail in UP. As per medical records, he is on "follow-up for management of (the) disease" and "needs daily medication and investigations for adequate control of disease". In its dossier, J&K police termed Pala a "threat to safety and security of general public and sovereignty of the nation".

In its order, the court noted, "The detention...is vitiated, the detenu having been also prevented from making an effective and purposeful representation...therefore, on this count also the detention order is liable to be quashed".

# 8 held for bid to 'blackmail' BJP MLA with sex tape

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 5

AN INVESTIGATION into a complaint of extortion and criminal intimidation filed in Bengaluru by a BJP MLA has led to the arrest of eight members of a gang allegedly involved in trapping and filming intimate moments of the legislator with a woman sent to the MLA by the gang.

Investigations carried out by the Crime Branch of Bengaluru police on the basis of the complaint filed by the MLA — who has obtained a restraining order from the Karnataka High Court and a civil court against being identified in the media — has also revealed that the gang targeted at least 12 other prominent persons including politicians and officials.

The police are now investigating whether the MLA and others were targeted in a political conspiracy, police sources said. "There seems to be a political angle but we have been focusing on probing the criminal aspects," the sources said.

"One person mustered the courage to file a complaint, so one case is registered. There are 12 others who have not come forward," police sources said. The alleged entrapment involved legislators across the political spectrum, including some who have switched to the BJP recently, sources said.

Based on the complaint filed on November 23, the police arrested a youth identified as Raghavendra alias Rocky (35),

who allegedly ran the blackmail racket using an associate identified as Pushpa, a beautician, and six others.

Police sources said the MLA was trapped and secretly filmed in 2017 — as per the time stamp on the video recording — but the recording was used only recently by the gang in an attempt to extort Rs 10 crore from the legislator.

The modus operandi of the gang involved going in a group as students needing assistance in finding accommodation in Bengaluru and meeting the legislator at his home and letting the MLA develop intimacy over a period of time — through late night phone calls, social media chats — with one of the women, before setting the stage for trapping the legislator in sexual encounters in hotel rooms, police sources said. The recordings were done with spy cameras installed in the handbags and sunglasses of the women and later transferred to Raghavendra.

The MLA alleged that extortion demands were made on November 18 by the gang. On November 28, the police trapped Raghavendra after finding one of his alleged associates, Rakesh Kumar. Raghavendra was lured into a trap by convincing him that the MLA was willing to meet his demands if he came in person to collect the extortion amount.

Following the arrest of Raghavendra, the police found digital records in the form of memory cards and pen drives with videos of private moments of nearly a dozen people.



AIADMK workers led by Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K Palaniswami in a silent march on the third death anniversary of former chief minister Jayalalithaa, in Chennai on Thursday. PTI

# DMK inducts top BJP leader, buzz on deal with Kishor's IPAC

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, DECEMBER 5

THE DMK seems to be gearing up for the Tamil Nadu Assembly polls scheduled for 2021, with the party poaching a top BJP leader on Thursday and reportedly finalising a deal with political strategist Prashant Kishor's Indian Political Action Committee (IPAC) to chart out its campaigns in the coming months.

BJP state vice-president B T Arasakumar, who had kicked up a controversy last week for his remarks praising DMK chief M K Stalin, joined the party on Thursday, calling it a "homecoming". Arasakumar had last week faced his own party's wrath when he compared Stalin to former chief minister M G Ramachandran, popularly known as MGR.

Iked by his statement, the BJP state leadership sent a report to the national leadership and directed him to stay away from the

## EXPLAINED DMK wary of third front splitting anti-govt votes

DMK IS wary of a scenario similar to that of the 2016 polls, when a third front comprising Left and Dalit parties split the anti-AIADMK votes, resulting in the DMK losing out, despite a strong anti-incumbency wave sweeping the state. This time, the DMK has allied with the Left and Dalit parties, but may be confronted by yet another third front — that of the soon-to-be launched party of Rajinikanth, Kamal Haasan's MNM and others.

party's meetings and media interactions. However, a senior DMK leader said Arasakumar's joining the party has no major significance. "We were accepting him, not poaching him. He is not a mass leader like Senthil Balaji," the leader said, referring to the popular AIADMK leader and minister who joined DMK and led the party to victory in Karur in recent Lok Sabha elections and bypolls.

Meanwhile, DMK sources said Stalin and Kishor have fi-

nalised a deal to ensure the party's victory in the 2021 Assembly polls.

A senior DMK leader told *The Indian Express*, "They (IPAC) may be working for DMK with a team of 150 members..."

ADMK MP said the 2021 polls will be crucial. "...When we already have a powerful alliance in the state with the Left, Dalit and minority parties, Kishor may be primarily focusing on social media and innovative campaign techniques," he said.

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Executive Director (Procurement & Contracts), MAHA-METRO  
Maha Metro, Greenest Metro

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General Public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Tarun** S/o Suresh Kumar R/o H.No. 32-A, Gali No. 10, Village-Libaspur, Delhi Age-22 years, Height-5'6", Complexion-Fair, Face-Round, Build- Normal Wearing- Blue Colour T-Shirt & Jeans and Hawai Chappal in his feet has been missing/kidnapped since dated 27.09.2019 from the area of P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi. In this regard a DD No.38-A dated 04.10.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this boy but please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in SHO  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi  
Fax : 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-27854757, 27854799  
DP/720/ON/19 7065036326

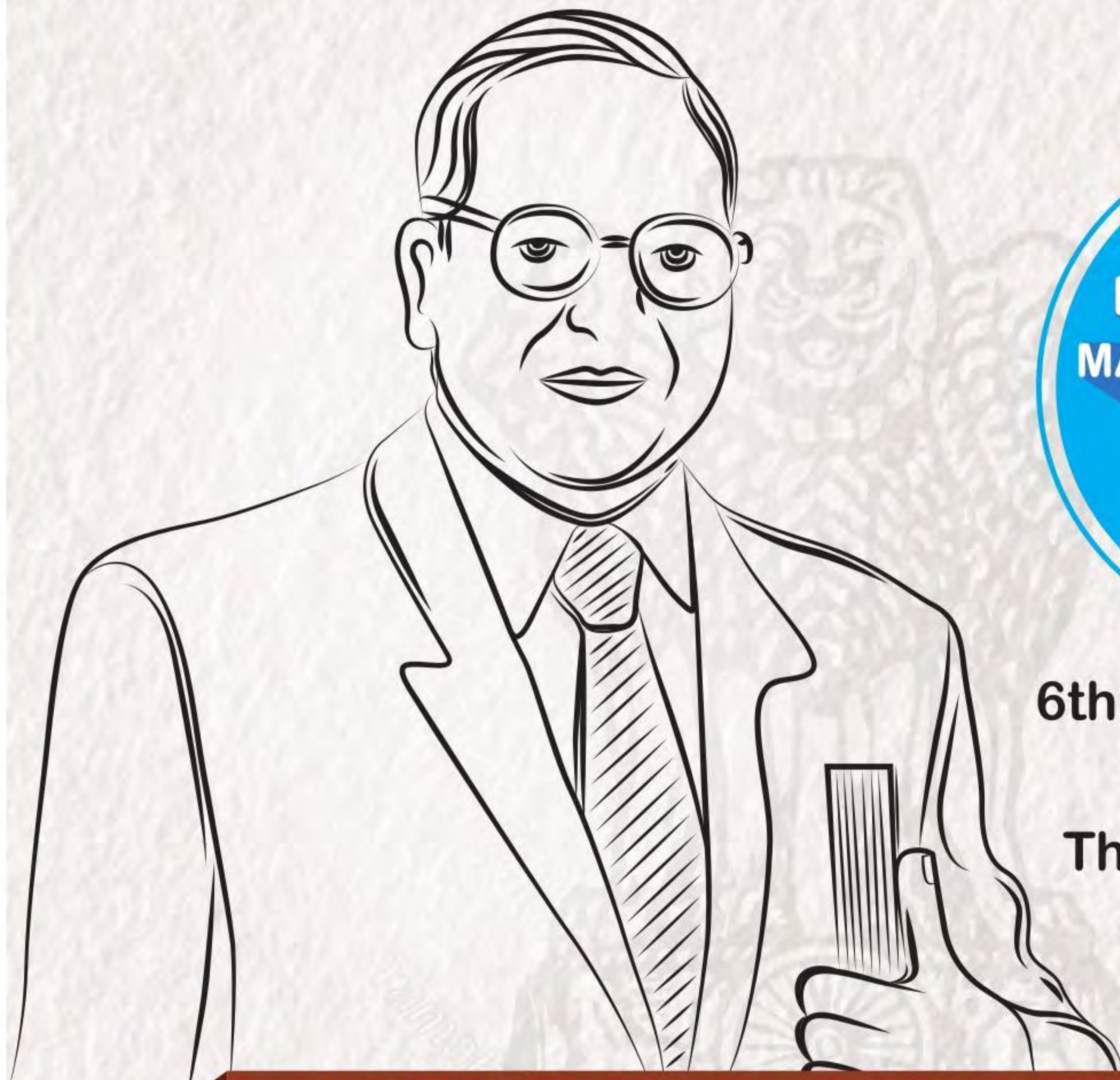
**SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL**

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Sunita**, D/o Shri Mangu Nath, R/o H.No. 307, Gali No. 10, Station Block, Prem Nagar, Rohini, Delhi, Age 13 years & 10 months, Height 5'1", Complexion Shallow, Round Face, Wearing Pink colour suit & salwar and white colour jutti in feet has been missing / kidnapped from the area of PS Prem Nagar, Delhi since 28.10.19. In this regard a case FIR No. 598/19 dated 30.10.19 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at PS Prem Nagar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail ID:cic@cbi.gov.in SHO  
Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS: Prem Nagar, Delhi  
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 25489080  
DP/3457/RO/19

# INSPIRING CHILDREN'S LIVES WITH DR. BHIMRAO AMBEDKAR'S PRINCIPLES



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I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO LIVE IN A NICE COUNTRY RATHER THAN A POWERFUL ONE.  
— KURT VONNEGUT

## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY  
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# Babri to New India

My parents bequeathed to me a lived liberalism. From December 6, 1992, that virtue, that country, is besieged



MUKULIKA BANERJEE

I HAD A dream on the night of December 6, 1992, the day the Babri Masjid was destroyed. It went like this:

*My parents and I are travelling in an open top safari-style jeep. We are looking over the sides, scanning the trees on either side of the rough road, searching for something. And then one of us shouts to indicate they had spotted something and we come to a halt and scramble out. Pulling the thick undergrowth aside, we find what we are looking for — large white human bones, that resemble the rounded form of Henry Moore's sculptures. My father says, "there he is, there is Gandhi. We can take him back with us now". As we lift the pieces carefully, we realise that in our frantic search we had unknowingly crossed a line, a border of some sort, across which "Gandhi" lay. Realising we would not be allowed to bring him back from across the border, we lower the pieces we had so eagerly picked up and drive back the way we came, looking over our shoulders and thinking how close we had come to the treasure we could not claim.*

I have only once in my life had a dream like this, but it has stayed with me forever. I remember narrating it to my doctoral supervisor in his Oxford office. Even though its vividness felt real, it had come across as embarrassingly heavy with meaning and symbolism in the telling and so I rarely spoke of it again.

But the dream has never gone away and this year especially, it gives expression to inchoate emotions that have dominated the last few months. This will be the first December of my life without my parents. My mother died exactly two years ago, on my parents' 56th wedding anniversary and my father at the end of May this year, a week after the new Indian government took office. With them, they also seemed to have taken an India that they had given my generation and me. An India that had a sense of common purpose even if labelled "under-developed", confident if poor, an India that treasured the memories of hard-won independence and the thrill of the Indian flag hoisted on flagpoles for the first time, an India that stood tall but did not look down on others. My parents were the sort of Indians that made India a knowledgeable, modest, hard-

working, understated, respected and likeable country. That India has now been replaced by a "new India", we are told.

We were an ordinary professional family with few luxuries as the bulk of the household budget was spent on school fees and hosting relatives, for whom our government bungalow near New Delhi railway station was a god-sent waiting room as they "broke" long train journeys, went to job interviews or waited to rent their own homes. Our paternal grandmother was a more permanent (and more welcome) member of the household, who gently carried on her iron Brahmanical discipline of early morning baths, fasting and puja, regulating her life by the five azaans from the mosque behind our house.

Eid was a time of feasting as grateful patients of my father's, drawn from the ragged underclass of mechanics and tailors of old Delhi, arrived at our home with delectable offerings of meat and biryani. My strictly vegetarian grandmother did not taste these of course but she delighted with us in the sudden luxury and happily tasted the *sevai* from the kitchen of Dr Ahmed, the principal of Zakir Hussain College who lived next door. Christmas was always spent with Stella Aunty, my mother's best friend and colleague from the elite school where my mother taught physics.

My parents were not, however, members of the elite of Lutyens Delhi. They had never travelled abroad, they spoke English only when they had to, and always felt slightly out of place in snobbish Delhi where your address, accent and precise provenance of the handloom you were draped in were critical markers of social distinction. They lived there because that is where they had found work, because they were devotees of Delhi's wonderful classical music concerts and most of all because they knew the city offered untold treasures for their daughters' growing interests in everything from fantastic universities, world cinema festivals and ballet lessons. They delighted in our rapidly growing horizons, fluency in English and our social ease in the big city for they knew that it would open doors of opportunity and do justice to the unconventional upbringing they had given us.

Dinner time was marked by each of us sharing stories from our day, of people, food,

places and ideas we had encountered and we learnt of their lives in the small towns they had grown up in, how they had to learn to adjust to other kinds of Indians when they had started their working lives and during my father's years in the Army, and how much richer life had got the more they embraced new influences. Their commentary on the anecdotes also showed that not everything in our country was good and that it was important to stand up to patriarchy, religious dogma and the inhumanity of caste, for each of which they had zero tolerance.

These were never presented as ideological statements, although my mother occasionally cited characters and writings from Bengali literature to illustrate her thoughts, we learnt mostly from what they did and how they led their lives. For instance, we noticed that my mother patronised an old woman vendor even though her vegetables looked sad, we heard that my father had thought nothing of first cleaning the filthy foot of a fishmonger, when during a shopping trip "Doctor saab" was requested to examine a wound, and we saw how the domestic staff they employed over the years left better educated and more confident than when they arrived. What my parents imparted to us, in imperceptible ways, were some basic virtues of civility and warmth, to be fearless in acting against injustice wherever one encountered it, to shun bigotry and to be quiet in pride.

It was perhaps those virtues that I had gone in search of in the dream. My imagination had given them the physical form of Henry Moore limbs and the name "Gandhi". But in essence, I realise now, the dream had communicated a message: That if young men armed with just axes, hammers and uncontrollable rage could reduce a 16th-century mosque to rubble as they had done that day, the bare bones of the virtues required to challenge them might lie beyond the boundary of time.

In my dream, my parents had been with me, but now their legacy of a liberalism of practice is my only companion as I seek to reclaim those virtues.

Banerjee is director, LSE South Asia Centre and author of Why India Votes?

## NO CUT IN TIME

MPC opts for status quo, citing inflation concerns. But with growth slowing sharply, it should have continued to ease

IN AN UNEXPECTED move, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) voted unanimously in favour of leaving the policy rate unchanged. Considering that the economic slowdown has been more severe than expected, and that till the last policy, the overriding concern was to arrest it, this decision is not only surprising, but also suggests a certain incoherence of approach. Though the MPC has noted that the policy space exists for future action, with growth unlikely to pick up meaningfully in the near term, and considering the lags in transmission, rather than adopt a wait and watch approach, it should have stayed with its earlier stance of reducing policy rates further.

Several reasons have been flagged to justify maintaining status quo. The explicit concern was the recent spurt in inflation and inflation expectations. But, the current rise in inflation, led primarily by high food prices, is likely to be transitory. In fact, according to the RBI's own projections, it is expected to decline to 3.8-4 per cent in the first half of 2020-21. Even the rise in inflation expectations is driven by food inflation and is likely to abate once it moderates. And while there is also concern over a rise in core inflation, owing to higher telecom tariffs, this is also likely to be a one-off event. In arguing that the pause is due to concerns over inflation, the MPC has indicated that it is interpreting its inflation targeting mandate too narrowly. Rather than using the flexibility provided by the 4 plus/minus 2 per cent band, it has chosen to target a fixed rate.

The other, perhaps more pressing, concern before the MPC is the Centre's fiscal position. The worry that higher government spending, financed by borrowings, could push up inflation and lead to a hardening of rates could have played a major part in this decision. It is probable that the MPC wants to utilise the policy space available to it once more clarity over the government's borrowing programme emerges. Though the governor has repeatedly said that the MPC is waiting for the full impact of the previous rate cuts to play out, and that the timing of cuts is important, given the delays in transmission, a more prudent approach would have been to front load the rate cuts.

## EXIT OF THE GOOSE

With natural pace and deep reservoirs of determination and unflappability, Bob Willis forged a terrific if unsung career

IN HIS OWN assessment, Bob Willis was a "born pessimist". Before every Test match, he would run his blue eyes over the newspapers, looking for pieces that criticised him. Two days before his greatest feat in Test cricket — an 8/43 demolition of Australia — he devoured the criticism of his bowling. He had gone wicketless on a helpful surface and was reading stinging critiques the next day in the newspapers. "I thought this would be the last time I would play for England," he later revealed.

If Botham emerged from the most miraculous Ashes triumphs as a new hero for England, Willis blended into the backdrop as he always had. He shied away from the limelight, rarely partied, barely hogged the headlines for feats beside his exploits with the ball, turned down lucrative offers to join the Kerry Packer series and a rebel tour to South Africa. Apart from the occasional bust-ups with reporters, he was a quiet man, hooked to Bob Dylan songs and poems when he was not playing. So obsessed was he with the American folk-rock artiste that he inserted a D into his surname and grew his hair long.

He didn't have a repertoire of tricks, had what the great Freddie Trueman observed to be "an ugly action" akin to the flapping of a goose (hence the nickname Goose), a meandering run-up, a frail body, wonky ankles, and long limbs. But what he had was the natural pace and deep reservoirs of determination and unflappability, which forged a terrific if unsung career, as the haul of 325 wickets at an average of 25.20 in 90 Tests would testify. He could never purchase a 10-for, but several of his 16 five-fors have come in trying circumstances and unforgiving conditions. None was as memorable as his effort in Bangalore, when he ripped through a strong Indian middle-order and returned with 6/53.



D RAJA

ON DECEMBER 6, 1956, B R Ambedkar attained immortality. Jawaharlal Nehru said that, "B R Ambedkar deserves to be remembered always by us because of his fight against social injustice. The great service that he had rendered in framing the constitution of India".

On December 6, 1992, the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya was demolished. The demolition was a clear break from what our national liberation movement and Constitution stood for. Hindus and Muslims fought shoulder-to-shoulder against imperialists. The seeds of distrust and disharmony were sown in those days resulted in Partition. Even after that horrific event, India, its leaders, its Constitution and above all the common people chose tolerance, plurality and secularism as the binders of society. The demolition was yet another vulgar attempt to paint Muslims as the "outside enemy". It was the execution of the plan of the legatees of M S Golwalkar and K B Hedgewar — to cast India in the mould of a Hindu theocratic state. On December 6, it was not just a historical structure that was mutilated. History itself was mutilated, the wounds of which are still raw in the collective conscience of the oppressed of this country. It was an attempt to obliterate the legacy of Ambedkar, Periyar, Phule and Birsu Munda, who fought for justice and equality.

Since their inception, the RSS and other Hindutva forces have maintained a commit-

## ANOTHER DECEMBER 6

On Ambedkar's death anniversary, his legacy can help counter Hindutva forces

Observing December 6, to remember Ambedkar's vision, is particularly important in these times. The deeply problematic decision of the Supreme Court on the Ayodhya title dispute has emboldened Hindutva forces. Despite the posturing done by the RSS and its ilk to try and recast Ambedkar as one among them, it is absolutely clear that the only interest the right-wing forces have is to polarise the society and draw political-electoral gains. To achieve this, co-optation is their preferred methodology.

ment to the hierarchical division of society on the lines of religion and caste, informed by Manu's sense of purity and pollution. It was no accident that the day they chose for the demolition was associated with one of the tallest crusaders against the caste system and hierarchy. December 6 marks the Mahaparinirvan of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar. Even as the students of Babasaheb, the oppressed of this country are marching to ensure justice and equality, Hindutva forces are pushing the nation onto the path of exclusion and hierarchy. At the symbolic level, the right-wing forces attempted to invisibilise Ambedkar's legacy by remembering December 6 as "Shaurya Diwas" to mark the violence and violation by Kar Sevaks.

The Sangh stands in opposition to the modern, secular ideas upheld by Ambedkar. Having experienced the barbarity of Hinduism, Ambedkar was firm in his resolve that though he might have been born a Hindu he will never die as one. As the ultimate rebellion against brahmanical violence, Ambedkar rejected Hinduism and embraced Buddhism. For him, the function of religion was the moral upliftment of an individual. For the Sangh, it has always been political mobilisation against the "other".

Observing December 6, to remember Ambedkar's vision, is particularly important in these times. The deeply problematic decision

of the Supreme Court in the Ayodhya title dispute has emboldened Hindutva forces. Despite the posturing by the RSS and its ilk to recast Ambedkar as one of them, it is clear that the only interest the right-wing forces have is to polarise the society and draw political-electoral gains. Co-optation is their preferred methodology. But the mere garlanding of Babasaheb's statues is not fooling anyone. Each time portions about Ambedkar are deleted from the school textbooks, the true face of the brahmanical forces is exposed.

Ambedkar's increasing relevance in India gives hope to everyone who dreams of a society free of hierarchies, a society based on equality and dignity. His legacy and relevance is also an undying challenge to the reactionary and divisive forces that seek to perpetrate hierarchy and humiliation. It is time we recognise the power structures of caste, patriarchy, religious majoritarianism and thwart their attempts at distorting Ambedkar's legacy.

The demolition of Babri masjid is a dark blot on the social and constitutional history of India. The champions of that act are now at the helm, threatening everything Ambedkar stood for. As citizens of a secular republic, it is imperative that we understand the enormity of December 6 and draw hope for the collective fight to ensure equality and dignity for all.

The writer is general secretary, CPI



## DECEMBER 6, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

**CONG-LOK DAL SPLIT**  
THE UNEASY ALLIANCE between the Congress and the Lok Dal virtually came apart following breakdown of negotiations over seat adjustments in Uttar Pradesh. The Congress is now going to the polls on its own manifesto and has set up candidates against the Lok Dal in UP, and, possibly in some other states. Despite this serious development in the strained relations between the two parties, the caretaker coalition government would not be disturbed.

**PREZ RULE IN ASSAM**  
PRESIDENT'S RULE IN Assam appears imminent in view of the state government's failure

to persuade the agitating youth to call off their satyagraha movement for postponement of forthcoming elections on the one hand, and to provide adequate protection to intending candidates to file their nomination papers for the third day on the other hand. The desirability of bringing Assam under President's rule was considered at a high-level conference between the governor of north-eastern states, L P Singh, and the officer on special duty in the Union Home Ministry, K M L Chabra. Chabra is understood to have informed the governor about the failure of efforts by the state government to persuade the agitating youth in Assam to call off their satyagraha movement.

**PAK N-POLICY**  
MUNIR AHMED KHAN, chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, said in Delhi that his country would not acquire or produce nuclear weapons. He was speaking at the afternoon session of the 23rd IAEA general conference. He called upon India to enter into an agreement to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone. He said in view of India's repeated assurances to pursue a peaceful nuclear policy, even though it has exploded a nuclear device, such an agreement would be a logical choice for both countries. The Pakistani delegate said his country has expressed the need for such an agreement at the UN general assembly and other forums.

"Enduring the hardships to revive is a lesson that Chinese already learned thousands of years ago. China's prosperity in the future will be the best response to US provocation."

— GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

## Our first line of defence

Love and empathy are essential tools to combat radicalisation and extremism



ANANT GOENKA

ADITYA SHARMA TURNED 13 when he lost a parent in the Mumbai attacks. He held a specific community responsible for his father's death, only to realise years later that "hate isn't worth it".

Today he is working towards opening an orphanage for children from that very community. Because of his intellectual journey, he's a hero for us today, so when he says "the world is all about love", let's attempt an interpretation.

What is love? Is it another word for empathy? Is it the opposite of indifference? Is it the absence of fear? Is love the enemy of hate? And, whatever it is, can love be as powerful a motivator as anger?

Events such as 26/11 make us angry because when innocents die, it seems that hate is defeating love.

For four years now, we have been inviting you to the Gateway of India, on every anniversary of the attacks, to evaluate your view on the power of love and the power of hate. And to provoke a dialogue between the humanist and the extremist inside each one of us.

In any attack — whether foreign, like 26/11, or homegrown, like the ones we saw in Colombo and Christchurch this year — the root cause is a twisted mind radicalised with extremist thought. Today, on the 11th anniversary of 26/11 and on the 150th year of Gandhi, let's pause and reflect just how geared our environment is to promote extremism.

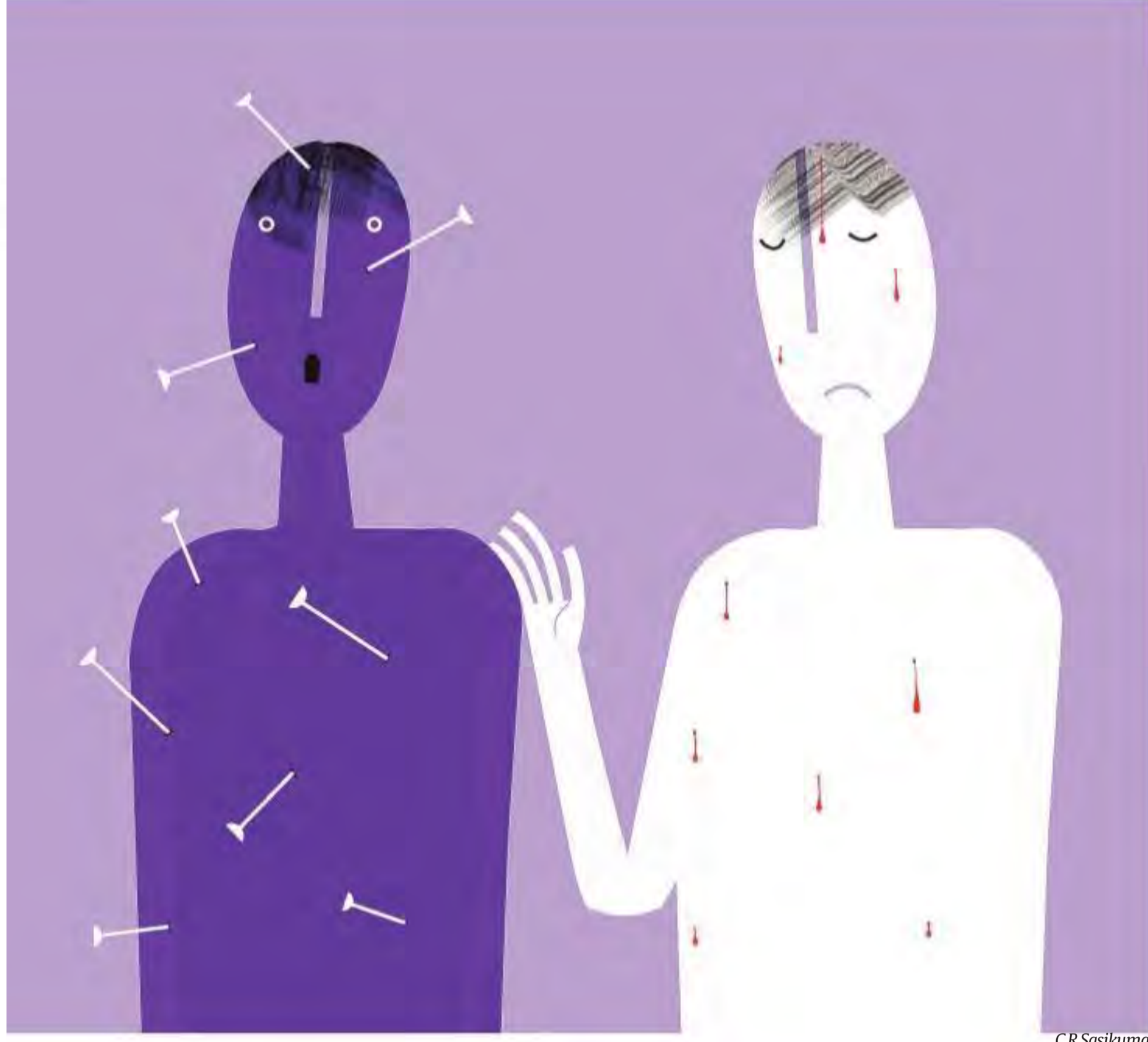
Our media has moved from broadcasting to narrowcasting, where channels are dedicated to audiences based on ideologies rather than demographics. Digital media creates filter bubbles of content and virtual communities of like-minded opinions.

Which is why every time I watch the stories of these 100 survivors that we have interviewed, I am amazed at how these individuals — who have suffered such unimaginable loss — have channelled the hatred and destruction, choosing to build something of value to society.

In our world, increasingly divided between, as Jonathan Sacks says, a right wing that reminisces about a penultimate past that never was and a left wing that dreams of a utopia that never will be, these are individuals who, in spite of their irreversible loss, choose not to hate. Who, when confronted with the choice between revenge and letting go, choose — instead — to look ahead. In the face of despair and destruction, they don't search for someone to blame but take charge, pick up the pieces, and choose to rebuild.

These are powerful markers of humanity in any place, any culture, but I'd like us to reflect: To what degree does being Indian define how these incredible individuals dealt with adversity?

A Harvard case study done on the behaviour of Taj employees (on 26/11) concluded that one reason they behaved so unpredictably selflessly was that Indian Hotels' HR policy was to hire people who are likely to be from joint families and who display respect for elders because they imbibe the Indian value of putting others before themselves. Of the 600 employees of the Taj hotel, not one left his or her post. In fact, many staffers escorted guests to safety and then went back in to help others. They had no reason to do that, many of them even lost their



CR Sasikumar

lives. It's been famously — and accurately — said that whatever you can rightfully say about India, the opposite is also true. But one thing we do know is that we as a country have always been deeply spiritual and devout. But an increasing cohort of young Indians look at events such as 26/11 and feel disenfranchised by religion, given that terror attacks are often connected with religion.

It'll be a shame if the Indian millennial turns a blind eye to religion because then it leaves the battleground of religion to those who weaponise it — that is, the extremists.

Which is why today, more than ever, we should not view religion with apathy or disdain. Instead, it's up to each one of us to find meaning in ancient texts and philosophy, rather than judge religion based on the most twisted interpretations that some have adopted.

For, each one of us, at some point, has to make that deeply intimate choice. A personal and yet universal one as to which path should we take between the faith of the extremist, the religion of the moderate, and, yes, even the belief of the non-believer.

We would consider our endeavour successful if, upon listening to these stories, you are encouraged to think of what Indianness is, and how integral we would like love to be in our identity.

I am not for a moment suggesting there's no need for a deterrent. Even our gods are depicted with their respective weapons of choice. And especially given our neighbourhood, our armed forces must continuously be growing smarter and stealthier. However, we mustn't let the ability to attack prevent love from being our first line of defence. Because history has shown that one without the other is unlikely to be successful.

I am not for a moment suggesting there's no need for a deterrent. Even our gods are depicted with their respective weapons of choice. And especially given our neighbourhood, our armed forces must continuously be growing smarter and stealthier. However, we mustn't let the ability to attack prevent love from being our first line of defence. Because history has shown that one without the other is unlikely to be successful.

Robert Grenier, the CIA's former station chief in Pakistan, said that the United States's drone programme created more terrorists than it eliminated. Perhaps Maharashtra's ATS understood this, when as *The Indian Express* reported six months ago, it started its counter-radicalisation initiative, a concentrated effort aimed at transforming extremist youth through patient counselling and training. The programme today boasts of 120 youths successfully deradicalised without firing a single bullet.

If, on the other hand, our society turns more extreme — and if we keep finding it harder to be friends with the people we disagree with, then I think we are disrespecting the sacrifice of all those brave men and women who put their lives at stake to keep our country safe.

My most heartfelt gratitude is to those of you who picked up the pieces of your hearts that shattered 11 years ago and let us in. We understand the enormous responsibility we have when we point a camera at you and ask you to share your lives' most vulnerable moments. We ask because it's important — and because only you can put into reality what Martin Luther King Jr. once said: "Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars/Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that./Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Your stories prove that even though there are a few misguided foolish individuals who think they can decide how we should die, they must know that they cannot decide how we will live.

Goenka is executive director, *The Indian Express Group*. This is an edited transcript of his speech at the "26/11: Stories of Strength" in Mumbai

## Only shame

As a father, I cannot tell my daughter India is a safe place for women. As a cop, I cannot face those whose daughters have been brutalised



ABHINAV KUMAR

OF ALL the events in my life that give me some sense of satisfaction and achievement, the birth of our daughter, ranks right up there. Against advice, I was present in the delivery room in a Cairo hospital, nervously assisting the doctor, because I wanted to be the first person to hold her. Today, she is an accomplished 18-year-old in college who dreams of making a difference. How I wish I could tell her that the India of today is a lot safer for women than the India she first came to as a four-month-old. Seeing the brutal rape and murder of a veterinary doctor in Hyderabad last week, and similar incidents being reported from different parts of the country, in all honesty I can't. It makes me angry as a citizen, scared as a parent, and deeply ashamed as a police officer.

It has been seven years since the December 2012 Delhi rape case shocked the conscience of our nation. But barring some changes in the law, it seems that little has changed on the ground. Five years after the Delhi HC confirmed the death sentence against the accused, the appeals process is yet to be exhausted. Meanwhile, women continue to live with the fear of facing the full spectrum of misogyny, from leering looks to brutal violence, both at home and in public spaces.

What is doubly outrageous is the misplaced idealism, and simply stupid and perverse logic, that are offered to us for the persistence of such violent crimes. On one end of the political spectrum, structural misogyny and gender bias, embedded in our cultural norms and social practices, are frequently offered as an omnibus explanation for these brutal acts. While it contains important insights, this diagnosis is unhelpful in offering urgent practical solutions. Rape is a universal phenomenon. The fight for gender equality is a worthy goal in itself. But to think that violent rapes would go away if only all men could be equally conditioned to view women with respect and equality, is a lofty ideal. We need to be prepared for the possibility that despite the adoption of most progressive social norms and beliefs, some men at some times will continue to behave as beasts. Enlightened social values will not suffice in dealing with them. An effective criminal justice system is required.

On the other end of the spectrum, we see all kinds of bizarre explanations that blame these heinous crimes on what women wear, where they work, how they entertain themselves, and when and where they travel. Others blame their incidence on what men eat and drink, and what they watch on film and TV, and what they access on the internet. It points to our collective sense of numbness and shock, that we barely react when such absurdities are spouted as explanations.

We need to start asking hard questions and go beyond outrage, the clamour for

harsher laws, and for outrageous solutions such as lynchings and public executions. Tough laws are merely the first step. We need to create well resourced and accountable systems that enforce these laws. Severity of punishment is only one aspect of an effective criminal justice system. Certainty of punishment is equally important — probably more so. If the investigating agencies and the trial courts can be made accountable for time-bound investigation and fast-track trials, the higher judiciary must also introspect about ensuring a time-bound disposal of appeals in such cases. Similar considerations must apply to the disposal of all mercy petitions.

There are critical gaps in our institutional capacity to fight crimes against women. First, we need to recruit more women at all ranks in our police. And also as prosecutors and judges. In many cases, including the Hyderabad doctor's case, we have heard complaints about the poor quality of police response. This is both a resource issue and a culture issue. We will always be assessing the urgency and genuineness of a call and prioritising our resources accordingly. The quality of our response then becomes a culture issue. Even today, a class 10th certificate remains the minimum qualification for recruitment as a constable in many police forces. The constabulary constitutes 95 per cent of our police force. To expect someone with such rudimentary education and basic training to act as a first responder in cases of rape and violence against women, with an innate sense of sensitivity and professionalism, is wishful thinking. We need to change our recruitment and training standards to better incorporate their role in dealing with crimes against women.

On a contrarian note, despite popular perception of a country hit by an epidemic of brutal rapes, the data suggests that our incidence of rape per 1,00,000 population is quite low compared to other societies. Even if we double or triple the figures on account of under reporting, we have no reason to believe that rape in India is more pervasive than other countries. However gruesome, incidents do shock our collective conscience — as they must. But venting of outrage on social media and public protests will not solve the problem.

On many occasions, independent India has demonstrated its capability to tackle national challenges with resolve and purpose. How about a National Naari Suraksha Mission where the GoI tackles the problem in mission mode in close partnership with the state governments? It would give states grants and other incentives for improving their institutional capacity for tackling crimes against women.

If I ever ran into the parents of the December 12 victim or the Hyderabad vet, I don't think I would be able to face them without a sense of shame and failure. We simply couldn't do enough to prevent their daughters from becoming victims. At best, we can hope that their perpetrators will finally face justice. But I do want to be able to look my daughter in the eye and tell her that we will do everything it takes, to ensure a safer India for all our daughters.

The writer is a serving IPS officer. Views are personal

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WHOSE HOMELAND?

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Government brings law making religion key to citizenship for illegals' (IE, December 5). The intention behind the Citizenship Bill to help the persecuted minorities is justified but is it right to slot persecuted people on the basis of religion? By making religion a marker of identity, we are going against constitutional values.

Divya Singla, Patiala

### PAWAR, THE LEADER

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Great Pawar, greater responsibilities' (IE, December 5). Sharad Pawar has emerged as the strongest Opposition leader in the country today. He was instrumental in stitching the unlikely Shiv Sena Sena-NCP-Congress alliance to keep the BJP away from power. Pawar has been a defence minister, opposition leader in the Lok Sabha and a three-time Maharashtra chief minister in a political career spanning more than 50 years. Pawar is the best choice to forge unity amongst Opposition parties.

Vandana, Chandigarh

### GOALPOST SHIFTS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Sena on test' (IE, December 5). It is unbecoming of the newly-appointed CM of Maharashtra to think shelving developmental projects started by his predecessor, rather than hitting the ground running. This is the fundamental rea-

### LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

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

son why domestic and foreign investors shy away from investment in India. The Shiva Sena ought not to change goal posts.

Deepak Singhal, Chennai

### TIME TO ACT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Slowdown pain' (IE, December 5). The central government should avoid the prospect of being embarrassed by some states going to the Supreme court over GST compensation issue. Better sense will prevail among all stake holders only if Centre releases funds from the pool that lies unutilised. States and the Centre should waste no time in taking long-time measures to push GST revenues.

Deepak Sharma, Panchkula

## A time to remember

B R Ambedkar was instrumental in shaping legal rights of women in India



RAJENDRA PAL GAUTAM

"I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved" — Babasaheb Ambedkar.

WHAT A powerful statement to make. To have such a worldview in the early 20th century, when the country was going through grave political turmoil, speaks volumes about the vision of Ambedkar. He envisioned an India where rights were universal, and inclusive, of women.

But how often do we remember Ambedkar when it comes to issues pertaining to women's empowerment? What remains lesser known about him was how he single-handedly ensured that a progressive vision for the emancipation of women made its way into the Constitution. To this end, he framed numerous pieces of legislations to protect and safeguard the interests of women.

As a student in London and New York, young Ambedkar was highly influenced by the civil liberties and women's emancipation movements in the West. As the first law minister of independent India and chairman of the Constitution drafting committee, Ambedkar held critical positions which influenced the legislative framework of the country. Even before Independence, Ambedkar was an active elected member of the imperial government on the issue of

women's rights.

The Hindu Code Bill, introduced by Ambedkar as law minister of independent India, reveals his views on gender equality, and his strong stance against a caste-based society.

As early as the British Raj, laws to govern Hindu communities had appeared to help closed communities regulate themselves, and, till as late as the Rau Committee in 1948, there was still no consensus on several key issues of a Universal Hindu Code.

Despite the presence of women in the Constituent Assembly, questions of gender did not crop up in the Hindu Code Bill until they went to Ambedkar for his comments. After over two decades of meaningless debates, the Hindu Code for the first time included the right of women to divorce, the right of inheritance to daughters, and the right of widows to equal property rights. Simultaneously, the regressive language around caste-specific rules was also deleted.

This Bill, later, turned into a series of Acts, including the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, and forms the legislative bedrock of women's claims to shared property even today.

As part of the Constituent Assembly debates, Ambedkar also ensured that universal adult franchise was an integral part of the republic, enabling voting rights (which was earlier reserved only for the privileged) for

women and other minority groups.

Ambedkar wanted women to have higher participation in all walks of life, especially, in the political arena. Even as a legislator under the colonial regime, Ambedkar was one of the first activists to root for the rights of working women.

He argued that "it is in the interest of the nation that the mother ought to get a certain amount of rest during the pre-natal period" and it was the responsibility of the government to bear some of the burden of her maternity as the people's interest is the primary responsibility of the government. As a direct result, basic rights for mine and factory workers, as well as protections for women, children and working mothers were passed as early as 1938.

Thus, at each step, Ambedkar challenged the deep-rooted patriarchal foundations of Indian society and helped in drafting a Constitution which has stood the test of time.

I would like to emphasise that in keeping with the spirit of Ambedkar's vision, the Delhi government recently launched the free bus rides for women initiative to enhance their participation in the city's workforce. Preliminary data suggests that there has been an increase in daily ridership of women from 32 per cent to 42 per cent within a month.

The Delhi government, over the past five years, has rolled out many steps to ensure

the safety of women in the city such as the installation of CCTV cameras, deployment of bus marshals, running an exclusive helpline number for women through the Delhi Commission for Women, etc. The government's initiative to install 1.4 lakh CCTVs in the city, is one of the largest mass deployment of CCTVs by any government in the world.

To further the safety of women in the city, the government is also in the advanced stages of installing street lights under the Mukhyamantri Street Light Scheme: This will help to light up all the dark spots of the city, on the basis of recommendations of the citizens themselves. However, the lack of control over police services, which comes directly under the Union home ministry, holds back the Delhi government in keeping check of the rising incidents of crimes against women.

In these testing times, when the entire nation is gripped with incidents of women being raped, assaulted and murdered, I would like to remind everyone that the Constitution of India drafted by B R Ambedkar will bring the offenders to court and justice will be served.

The writer, a senior leader of the Aam Aadmi Party, is minister of social welfare and SC/ST in the Delhi government

**TELLING NUMBERS**

**3,800 denied boarding in June, 48k affected by cancellations in July**

BETWEEN MAY and October this year, over 1,000 passengers were denied boarding by various airlines each month, peaking at 3,834 passengers in June. During the same period, flight cancellations affected between 15,000 and 48,000 passengers each month, while flight delays of two hours or more affected between 1.2 lakh and 2.5 lakh fliers each month. These data were presented by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in response to two separate questions in Parliament.

According to the Civil Aviation Requirements detailed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, when a passenger denied boarding against their will is not given the option of an alternative flight within one hour, the airline is liable to pay between Rs 10,000 and Rs 20,000 to the passenger depending on the circumstance. In September and October, when over 2,100 passengers were denied boarding across flights, Air India accounted for 1,400 of them. The maximum number of passengers affected by flight cancellations during

AIRLINE	PASSENGERS	
	SEPT '19	OCT '19
Air India	3,050	6,485
Pawan Hans	9	9
Spicejet	4,723	6,885
Go Air	345	106
IndiGo	11,366	9,526
Air Asia	345	1,176
Vistara	488	465
Star Air	187	57
Trujet	2826	980
Air Deccan	2	10
Air Heritage	—	77
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,341</b>	<b>25,776</b>

these six months was 48,272 in July, which also accounted for the highest number of passengers affected by delays of two hours or more, at 2.5 lakh. In September and October, a combined 49,000 were affected by cancellations; over 20,000 of them were IndiGo passengers.

**DENIED BOARDING, AIRLINE BY AIRLINE**

AIRLINE	SEPTEMBER 2019		OCTOBER 2019	
	Passengers	Facilities & compensation (₹ lakh)	Passengers	Facilities & compensation (₹ lakh)
Air India	582	26.14	822	37.51
Spicejet	347	10.06	226	6.50
IndiGo	17	1.40	35	2.68
Air Asia	12	0.43	14	0.33
Vistara	2	0.03	5	0.30
Trujet	17	1.05	—	—
Air Heritage	33	0.18	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>39.29</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>47.32</b>

Source: Ministry of Civil Aviation

**THIS WORD MEANS**

**BLUE WATER FORCE**

The world's most powerful navies — those that can operate in deep, faraway oceans

ON DECEMBER 4, Navy Day, the office of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh posted on Twitter: "Indian Navy is the Formidable Blue Water Force. Navy Day Greetings to all Men and Women in White." In a video presentation about its capabilities, the Navy too, called itself a "formidable blue water force".

**BLUE WATER NAVY:** A Blue Water Navy is one that has the capacity to project itself over a much bigger maritime area than its maritime borders. Simply put, it is a Navy that can go into the vast, deep oceans of the world. However, while most navies have the capacity to send ships into the deep oceans, a Blue Water Force is able to carry out operations far from its borders, without being required to return to its home port to refuel or re-stock.

While it is evident that Blue Water navies belong to the most powerful nations, there is no one internationally agreed upon definition. Owing one or more aircraft carriers is sometimes seen as a marker. **ACCORDING TO** the Indian Maritime

Doctrine, 2015, "The ability to undertake distant operations distinguishes a blue-water navy from a brown-water force. It requires strong integral capacity, including logistics, surveillance, networked operations, etc., and enabling capability, including equipment design, training, doctrine and organisation." It states "distant operations rely upon the attributes of access, mobility, sustenance and reach in order to show presence, project power and/or accomplish other national objectives in the area of interest".

As the Indian Navy has the capacity to carry distant operations "at or from the sea, up to considerable distance from national shore bases", it qualifies as a Blue Water Force.

**NAVIES ARE CLASSIFIED** in terms of colours. A navy whose operations are restricted close to the shore, where the water is muddy, is called a Brown Water Force. A navy that can go farther out is called a Green Water Force. And then there is a Blue Water Force.

**KRISHN KAUSHIK**



Navy Day on Wednesday. PTI

**SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER**

**Data protection: issues, debate**

Cleared by the Cabinet, the Personal Data Protection Bill is due to be placed in Parliament. How does it propose to protect personal data, how is it different from previous draft, and why is it a subject of debate?

**KARISHMA MEHROTRA**  
 NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS today revolve around debates about the transfer of data. India's first attempt to domestically legislate on the topic, the Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill, 2019, has been approved by the Cabinet and is slated to be placed in Parliament this winter session. The Bill has three key aspects that were not previously included in a draft version, prepared by a committee headed by retired Justice B N Srikrishna.

**Why does data matter?**

Data is any collection of information that is stored in a way so computers can easily read them (think 011010101010 format). Data usually refers to information about your messages, social media posts, online transactions, and browser searches.

The individual whose data is being stored and processed is called the data principal in the PDP Bill. This large collection of information about you and your online habits has become an important source of profits, but also a potential avenue for invasion of privacy because it can reveal extremely personal aspects. Companies, governments, and political parties find it valuable because they can use it to find the most convincing ways to advertise to you online. It is now clear that much of the future's economy and law enforcement will be predicated on the regulation of data, introducing issues of national sovereignty.

**Who handles my data, and how?**

Data is stored in a physical space similar to a file cabinet of documents, and transported across country borders in underwater cables that run as deep as Mount Everest and as long as four times the Indian Ocean. To be considered useful, data has to be processed, which means analysed by computers.

Data is collected and handled by entities called data fiduciaries. While the fiduciary controls how and why data is processed, the processing itself may be by a third party, the data processor. This distinction is important to delineate responsibility as data moves from entity to entity. For example, in the US, Facebook (the data controller) fell into controversy for the actions of the data processor — Cambridge Analytica.

The physical attributes of data — where data is stored, where it is sent, where it is turned into something useful — are called data flows. Data localisation arguments are premised on the idea that data flows determine who has access to the data, who profits off it, who taxes and who "owns" it. However, many contend that the physical location of the data is not relevant in the cyber world.

**How does the PDP Bill propose to regulate data transfer?**

To legislate on the topic, the Bill trifurcates



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

personal data. The umbrella group is all personal data — data from which an individual can be identified. Some types of personal data are considered sensitive personal data (SPD), which the Bill defines as financial, health, sexual orientation, biometric, genetic, transgender status, caste, religious belief, and more. Another subset is critical personal data. The government at any time can deem something critical, and has given examples as military or national security data.

In the Bill approved by the Cabinet, there are three significant changes from the version drafted by a committee headed by the Justice B N Srikrishna Committee.

**1** The draft had said all fiduciaries must store a copy of all personal data in India — a provision that was criticised by foreign technology companies that store most of Indians' data abroad and even some domestic startups that were worried about a foreign backlash. The approved Bill removes this stipulation, only requiring individual consent for data transfer abroad. Similar to the draft, however, the Bill still requires sensitive personal data to be stored only in India. It can be processed abroad only under certain conditions including approval of a Data Protection Agency (DPA). The final category of critical personal data must be stored and processed in India.

**2** The Bill mandates fiduciaries to give the government any non-personal data when demanded. Non-personal data refers to anonymised data, such as traffic patterns or demographic data. The previous draft did not apply to this type of data, which many companies use to fund their business model.

**3** The Bill also requires social media companies, which are deemed significant data

fiduciaries based on factors such as volume and sensitivity of data as well as their turnover, to develop their own user verification mechanism. While the process can be voluntary for users and can be completely designed by the company, it will decrease the anonymity of users and "prevent trolling", said official sources.

**What are its other key features?**

The Bill includes exemptions for processing data without an individual's consent for "reasonable purposes", including security of the state, detection of any unlawful activity or fraud, whistleblowing, medical emergencies, credit scoring, operation of search engines and processing of publicly available data, official sources said.

The Bill calls for the creation of an independent regulator DPA, which will oversee assessments and audits and definition making. Each company will have a Data Protection Officer (DPO) who will liaison with the DPA for auditing, grievance redressal, recording maintenance and more. The committee's draft had required the DPO to be based in India.

The committee's draft had several other significant keywords that are expected to be in the Bill. "Purpose limitation" and "collection limitation" limit the collection of data to what is needed for "clear, specific, and lawful" purposes or for reasons that the data principal would "reasonably expect". It also grants individuals the right to data portability, and the ability to access and transfer one's own data. Finally, it legislates on the right to be forgotten. With historical roots in European Union law, this right allows an individual to remove consent for data collection and disclosure. After the Cabinet approval of the bill, an official source said this

**Sealed cover: what Chidambaram bail Bench rejected**

**APURVA VISHWANATH**  
 NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

IN ITS order granting bail to P Chidambaram on Wednesday, a Supreme Court Bench of Justices R Banumathi, A S Bopanna, and Hrishikesh Roy censured the Delhi High Court for relying on material submitted by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a sealed cover to deny bail to the former Union Minister.

"It would be against the concept of fair trial if in every case the prosecution presents documents in sealed cover and the findings on the same are recorded as if the offence is committed and the same is treated as having a bearing for denial or grant of bail," the Bench said.

The observations of the Bench have put the spotlight back on the Supreme Court's controversial practice of seeking and accepting information from government agencies in sealed envelopes that can only be perused by

the judges.

**When can the court ask for information in a sealed envelope?**

The court asks for information in sealed covers in two circumstances: when information is connected to an ongoing investigation, and when it involves personal or confidential information. Disclosure of information linked to an ongoing investigation could impede the investigation, and the disclosure of personal or confidential information could violate an individual's privacy or result in breach of trust.

**What is the problem with the court relying on information in sealed covers?**

It prevents parties from having a full overview of the charges against them, and it is not compatible with the idea of an open court and a transparent justice system. Courts are bound to set out reasons for their

decisions, and legal experts argue that not disclosing them leaves scope for arbitrariness in judicial decisions. It also takes away the opportunity to analyse judicial decisions, and to appreciate the rationale behind them.

**In which cases has the court relied on sealed covers?**

The practice of seeking information in sealed covers is not limited to the higher judiciary. The Supreme Court had relied on sealed covers in the 2G case, in which it cancelled telecom licences. In Chidambaram's case, while trying to persuade the court to refer to information in the sealed cover, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta referred to a 1997 case of anticipatory bail involving P V Prabhakar Rao, son of former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao.

Over the past year, the Supreme Court has relied on information in sealed covers in several significant cases. In the cases related to

concept is still "evolving" and has not been "concretised" yet.

Government sources said they were open to the "widest debate on this Bill".

**What are the two sides of the debate?**

**FOR DATA LOCALISATION**

A common argument from government officials has been that data localisation will help law-enforcement access data for investigations and enforcement. As of now, much of cross-border data transfer is governed by individual bilateral "mutual legal assistance treaties" — a process that almost all stakeholders agree is cumbersome. In addition, proponents highlight security against foreign attacks and surveillance, harkening notions of data sovereignty.

The government doubled down on this argument after news broke that 121 Indian citizens' WhatsApp accounts were hacked by an Israeli software called Pegasus. Even before that, the argument was used prominently against WhatsApp when a spate of lynchings across the country linked to rumours that spread on the platform in the summer of 2018. WhatsApp's firm stance on encrypted content have frustrated government officials around the world.

Many domestic-born technology companies, which store most of their data exclusively in India, support localisation. PayTM has consistently supported localisation (without mirroring), and Reliance Jio has strongly argued that data regulation for privacy and security will have little teeth without localisation, calling upon models in China and Russia. Many economy stakeholders say localisation will also increase the ability of the Indian government to tax Internet giants.

**AGAINST THE BILL**

Civil society groups have criticised the open-ended exceptions given to the government in the Bill, allowing for surveillance. Moreover, some lawyers contend that security and government access are not achieved by localisation. Even if the data is stored in the country, the encryption keys may still be out of reach of national agencies.

Technology giants like Facebook and Google and their industry bodies, especially those with significant ties to the US, have slung heavy backlash. Many are concerned with a fractured Internet (or a "splinternet"), where the domino effect of protectionist policy will lead to other countries following suit. Much of this sentiment harkens to the values of a globalised, competitive internet marketplace, where costs and speeds determine information flows rather than nationalistic borders. Opponents say protectionism may backfire on India's own young startups that are attempting global growth, or on larger firms that process foreign data in India, such as Tata Consulting Services and Wipro.

the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, the court asked the then state coordinator Prateek Hajela to submit periodic reports in sealed covers, which were not disclosed even to the government. Sealed covers also had roles in the BCCI reforms case, the Rafale case, and the case seeking the quashing of FIRs in the Bhima Koregaon case.

**What did the court say in Chidambaram's case?**

While maintaining that the court can seek information in sealed covers and pursue them "to satisfy its conscience that the investigation is proceeding in the right lines and for the purpose of consideration of grant of bail/anticipatory bail etc.," it cannot rely on such information to make its decision, the court said.

It noted that in deciding on bail, it had "consciously refrained from opening the sealed cover and perusing the documents".

**Citizenship lost and regained: the importance of being Milan Kundera**

**SEEMACHISHTI**  
 NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

CARRYING A copy of Milan Kundera's classic *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* was an affectation of many young students the world over in the 1980s. Published in 1984, the book attained near-cult status and also became an acclaimed film four years later.

Last week, the 90-year-old author was in the news again. The Czech Republic's ambassador to France, Petr Dulak, went to Kundera's flat in Paris to give him a citizenship certificate. Dulak later told Czech Radio of Kundera's "profound" Czechness. "He stayed by his convictions and identity, a profound Czech, I would say. He is really someone who is very linked to this country and he is very interested in what is going on in

Czech Republic."

**What had happened**

In 1979, Kundera was stripped of his citizenship of undivided Czechoslovakia. He had published a book in France called *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting*, whose best known line is: "The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting". The book is said to have alluded to the then Czechoslovak President Gustav Husak as "the president of forgetting". The government did not forget. His citizenship was snatched away, Kundera, who along with his wife was in Rennes on a teaching assignment since 1975, made Paris his home. He became a French citizen in 1981.

Kundera is identified as a socialist and was a member of the Communist party too, and was expelled twice. He first joined the party

in 1948, was expelled after two years for "hostile thinking and individualistic tendencies", and rejoined the party in 1956. It was after Prague Spring, or the Soviet suppression of the reform attempted in Czechoslovakia, that things got bad for him. He was expelled from the Academy of Writers and, in 1970, from the party again. His books and plays became invisible in his home country.

**His idea of 'home'**

In an interview to *The New York Times* in 1984, Kundera said, "You have to ask: What is home? What does it mean to be 'at home'? It's a complicated question. I can



Kundera, 1967. CTK via AP

honestly say that I feel much better here in Paris than I did in Prague, but then can I also say that I lost my home, leaving Prague? All I know is that before I left I was terrified of 'losing home' and that after I left I realised — it was with a certain astonishment — that I did not feel loss, I did not feel deprived."

When Czech President Andrej Babiš visited Paris last year, he held a three-hour meeting with Kundera and his wife Vera, then posted on Facebook: "The conversation was driven by Mrs Kundera, an incredibly energetic lady... I think they deserve the Czech citizenship they lost after emigrating."

Kundera has not spoken after his citizenship was restored. It is unclear if he had ever asked for it. He is reported to have just been concerned if there would be "too much paperwork".

In 1984, in an interview to *Die Zeit*, he had said: "There is no such dream of a return... I took my Prague; the smell, the taste, the language, the landscape, the culture."

**What it means to the Czech**

Many of Kundera's later books were published in France, in French, and did not always reach Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic after 1981. He won the Czech national literature prize in 2008, but did not travel to the ceremony. He is known to have travelled back after the Velvet Revolution, but "incognito".

The Czechs have had an intimate relationship with writers; theirs is one of the few

countries to have had a playwright/writer as President in Vaclav Havel, for many years. Kundera and Havel held public debates on the meaning of protest and its utility. It started with Kundera publishing 'The Czech Lot', in the magazine *Listy* in December 1968; he wrote about the perils of being a small state. Havel responded in 1969, with 'The Czech Lot?' in the journal *Tvar*.

In 1984, Kundera spoke of regimes being threatened by critics. "Before, we had been thrown in prison, but now the Government was saying, in effect, that we were less dangerous to it in exile — writing and making speeches and even organising against it — than we were silenced in our own country. It was an acknowledgement that even in prison we added to the undercurrent of dissent in Czechoslovakia, that the country would always know we were there."

Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I, P.P. Toor S/o Mohinder Singh Toor R/O 469, Sector-37, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301, declare that name of mine wife has been wrongly written Sukhdarshan Kaur Toor in my P.P.O No. 13120184732. The actual name of my wife is Sukhi Singh respectively which may be amended accordingly. If is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. 0040523098-2

I, Yudhbir Singh Declared That My Name In The Service-Document Is Yodhbir Singh Which Is Wrong. My Correct-Name Is Yudhbir Singh S/O- Alaram Singh R/O-V/ Po-Dharasu, Dist-Pauri Garhwal-Uttarakhand Should Be Known As Yudhbir Singh, For Future. 0040523116-8

I, Vishal Kumar Agarwal S/o Damodar Prasad Agarwal, R/O C-4, Pocket-1, Kendriya Vihar-2, Sector-82, Noida-201304, Gautam Buddha Nagar, (U.P.), have changed my name from Vishal Agarwal to Vishal Kumar Agarwal for all future purposes. 0040523098-1

I, Soma Sundaram Vijayan and Soma Vijayan Chettiar S/O Late.Sundaram R/O-20/14, IIIrd Floor, West-PatelNagar, NewDelhi-110008 have changed my name to Soma Vijayan. 0040523145-1

I, Santosh Singh S/o Pyara Singh R/O-H.No.50, Gali No-2, Om Nagar, Sahibabad Ghaziabad, UP have changed my name to Santokh Singh for all purpose. 0040523127-2

I, Sakshi Bakshi W/o Aman Bakshi R/O-B-371, Gali.No-4, Majlis-Park Adarsh Nagar, North-West Delhi-33, that my name has been Wrongly Written as Deepa Bablani in my Passport, and my Educational-Documents Deepthi Bablani, the Actual Name of mine is Sakshi Bakshi 0040523083-1

I, Pradeep Singh alias Pradeep Tyagi alias P.K.Tyagi R/O-G-1/260, Shalimar Garden Extension-1, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201005, have changed my name, to Pradeep Kumar Tyagi Permanently. 0040523127-3

I, Pavitra Soni, D/o Sanjay Singh R/O 1002 Tower-7 Unitech Horizon Sector P-II Greater Noida U.P do hereby Solemnly affirm & declare that my name in the Passport has been mentioned as Soni Pavitra Sanjay where as it should have been Pavitra Soni I Shall be known as Pavitra Soni for all purposes. 0040523113-1

I, Om Parkash Aggarwal S/O-Sunder Lal Aggarwal R/O-BM-4, BM-Block, East Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi-110088, Have Changed My Name To Om Parkash For All, Future Purposes. 0040523115-7

I, Naseeb s/o Ramesh Kumar R/O VPO Madhogarh Distt. Mahendergarh, HR, present ly at Delhi, have changed my name to Aditya Lamba for all purpose. 0040523127-1

I, Deepanshi Rastogi W/o Monidh Singh R/O WZ-315/1, Second Floor, G-Block, Hari Nagar Extn., Jai Road, New Delhi, have changed my name after marriage as Deanshi Arora for future purposes. 0040523089-1

I, hitherto known as Manpreet Sandhu, D/o Balwant Rai residing at 4/149, Gali.No-3, Lalita-Park, Laxmi-Nagar, Delhi-110092. Have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Savita Rai. 0040523116-9

I, Vasudha D/O-Mr. Ashok G Wadekar, R/O-Flat.No.2148, Sector-B-2, Vasantkunj, Newdelhi-110070, Have Change My Name To Vasudha Wadekar, For All Purposes. 0040523115-1

I, Vasudev Arjun Naresh S/O Naresh Vasudev H.No.5316, Ward No16 Mohalla-Nalinanda Rewari Pincode-123401. Changed My Name To Arjun Vasudev. 0040523116-1

I, Tirok Singh Rawat S/O-Rup Singh Rawat H.No.1587, Sector-16 Faridabad, Haryana-121002. Changed my name to Trilok Singh Rawat. 40523116-5

I, Sumit Kumar Panchal S/o Jagroshan Lal R/O Flat No. 11001, 10th/F, Plot No. 3A, The Naval Technical Officers CGHS LtD, Phase-1, Sector-22, Dwarka, Bagdola, Raj Nagar-2, Delhi Cantonment, South West Delhi, Delhi-110077 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sumit Kumar Dangli. 0070686813-1

I, Sumer Saini S/O Bharat Singh R/O-H.No.6, Garhshah Jahanpur, Sonipat-131001. Have Changed My Name To Sumer Singh. 0040523145-6

I, Subhash Chander S/o-Madan Lal Chanana R/O-M-458, 2nd-floor Guru-Nar-Kishan-Nagar, Paschim-Vihar Sunder-Vihar, Delhi-87. informs that Subhash Chander and Subhash Chanana one and same person. 0040523116-10

I, Sooryakant Jogi S/O Komal Singh Jogi R/O 249, Ward No-08, Punjabi Para, Bemetara, Chhattisgarh-491335 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jashwinder Singh. 70686763-1

I, Shreya, D/o Sh.Virender Kumar Bansal R/O-Flat.No.17/17, Type-5, Rajpur-Road, Civil-Lines, Delhi-110054, have changed my name, from Shreya to Shreya Bansal, for all purposes in future. 0040523115-9

I, Sharda W/o Shri. Nitin Kumar R/O D-231, Nawada Housing Complex, Dwarka More, New Delhi informs that Sharda & KM Sharda Kumari are one and same person for all future purposes. 0040523093-1

I, Savitri Mishra D/o Late Sh.Kishor Kumar Mishra R/O-House.No-18, Shani Market, Boudh Vihar, Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, UP, have changed my name to Savi Mishra, for all future purpose. 0040523115-6

I, Saurabh Soni S/o Raj Kumar Soni R/O House No.373, Sector-7, Plot no-5, Kamal Vihar, New Delhi-110075 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Saurabh Soni. 0070686810-1

I, Saurabh Rathi S/o Sh. Raj Kumar Rathi R/O H.No. 26-A, Sadhna Enclave, Malviya Nagar, Delhi-110017 have changed the name of my minor daughter Tavisha S Rathi aged about 06 Years and she shall hereafter be known as Tavisha Rathi. 29/12/2013 0070686826-1

I, SAURABH SINGH alias SAURABH SINGHANIA S/O-CHANDRAPAL SINGHANIA R/O-113, New Arya-Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201001, changed my name From SAURABH SINGH alias SAURABH SINGHANIA TO SAURABH SINGHANIA. 0040523136-4

I, Rekha Rathore D/o Ram Singh W/o Rituraj Chander R/O Hanwant A, Plot No. 205, Gali No.3, BJS Colony, Jodhpur-342006 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Suman Khiriyia. 70686822-1

I, Tanya Agnihotri w/o Himanshu Agnihotri R/O F-32, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Vandna Agnihotri. 40523111-1

I, Praveen Nischal S/o-Vinod Nischal R/O-H.No-202, block-4, First Floor Subhash Nagar New-Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Praveen Nischal. 0040523145-3

I, Pooja Gupta, W/o-Vishal Gupta, R/O-F-300, F-Block, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018. In my Aadhar card my husband name wrongly written as Vishal, but correct and full name is Vishal Gupta. 0040523116-3

I, Neeru Bala W/o Sh. Om Prakash R/O Flat No-36, PKT-E-1, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110089 have changed my name from Neeru Bala to Neeru Nagpal for all future purposes. 0040523091-1

I, Naveen Kumar Bindra S/O, Lt. Sh. M.L. Bindra R/O B-1684, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052, have changed my name to Naveen Bindra for all purposes. 0040523143-1

I, Nadeem Ahmad S/O Ameen Ahmad R/O-H.No-510, Main-Road Jafraabad Delhi-110053. Have Changed My Name To Nadeem Ahmed. 40523136-10

I, Manju Saini W/O Sumer Singh R/O-H.No.6, Garhshah, Jahanpur, Sonipat-131001. Have Changed My Name To Manju Devi. 0040523145-7

I, Laxmi Kumari, D/o-Krishna Kant Singh R/O-F-7, Shalimar-Apartment, Masjid Moth, South-Extension Part-II, New-Delhi-110049, have changed my name to Laxmi Rajput for all future purposes. 0040523115-10

I, Lalit kumar S/o Hira Lal R/O E-140, 2nd Floor, Tagore Garden Extension, Tagore Garden, Delhi-110027, do hereby declare that name of my mother name has been wrongly written as Vidhya in my 10th and 12th class marksheet and certificate. The actual name of my mother is Vidya Vati, which may be amended accordingly. 0070686756-1

I, Kalpna Sharma W/O Mohit Kashyap R/O-H-373, HanakPura MotiBagh-2 New-Delhi-110021. Changed My Name To Kalpana Sharma. 0040523145-8

I, KM Mamata Pandey W/O Om Prakash Ojha R/O-FlatNo. F-402, Amrapali-Princely Estate, Sector-76, Gautambuddha-Nagar, Noida-201301. Have changed my name to Mamta Ojha. 0040523136-2

I, Inderjeet Kaur W/o Rajinder Pal Singh R/O L-2/56, New Mahavir Nagar, New Delhi, have changed my name to Inderjeet Kaur for all purposes. 0040523099-1

I, Harshit Mandotiya S/o Mohan Lal R/O-399, TF, Pkt-3, Paschim Puri, Delhi-63, have changed my name to Harshit Mandotiya. 0040523116-2

I, Easwara Ghanapathi S/O Narayana Ghanapathi R/O-B-801, Krishankunj-Apartment-Nasirpur Dwarka Sector-1A New-Delhi-110045. Changed My Name To Easwara Ghanapati. 0040523145-9

I, Devandar Singh S/o Shri Sita Ram R/O-H.No-79, Rasulpur Delhi-110081, have changed my name to Devender. 0040523136-6

I, Diwakar Kumar S/o Sohan Lal R/O-36/77, Block-36, Trilokpuri, Delhi-110091, have changed my name to Diwakar Singh permanently. 0040523136-1

I, Naveen Kumar Bindra S/O, Lt. Sh. M.L. Bindra R/O B-1684, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052, have changed my name to Naveen Bindra for all purposes. 0040523154-1

I, Chaman Yadav S/o Parmanand Yadav R/O H. No. 784, Near Jaina Market, Chaakarpur (74), Chakkarpur, Guergaon, Haryana-122002 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Chayan Yadav 0070686814-1

I, Bisham Chawla alias Bisham Chander Chawla S/o sh. Jagdish Chander R/O H-68, Gali No.5, H-Block, Shakarpur, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bisham Chander. 70686757-1

I, Anita Sharma W/O Harish Chander R/O-11/190, West-Azad Nagar Gali No-17 Delhi 110051. Changed My Name To Rachna. 0040523136-9

I, Anish S/O Vikramjeet R/O-A/12, Vishnu-Garden, baghara-Road, Guergaon, Haryana have changed my name to Anish Kataria. 0040523116-6

I, Anil Dutt alias Anil Dutt Bhargava S/o Sh. Sis Ram R/O Old Rangpuri Road, H.No. 419, Rangpuri Village, South West Delhi, Delhi-110037 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anil Dutt Bhargava. 0070686817-1

I, Ananya@ Ananya Sachdeva, D/o Sh. Anil Verma, R/O-C-57, Milan Apartment, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Ananya for all purposes. 0040523145-4

I, Ajay Kumar S/o-Sri Hare Ram R/O-B-41, Trilokpuri, New-Delhi-110037, have changed my name to Ananya for all purposes. 0040523116-7

I, ADARSH KAUR GUJRAL alias ADARSH KAUR KAMRA alias ADARSH KAUR W/O-KANWAL NAIN SINGH D/O-INDERJEET SINGH R/O-H.No.C-1/43, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058, changed my name to ADARSH KAUR. 0040523136-3

I have changed my name from Rocky Kumar to Rocky Kumar for all future purposes. Rocky Kumar S/o Ravinder Singh R/o Village Lalpur Distt. Hapur 245201 0040523109-1

I, Vikramaditya Anand S/O DAVINDER KUMAR Anand R/O C-46, Sector 39 Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301, have changed my name to Vikramaditya Anand. 0070686760-1

I, Vikas B Singh S/O Shri Babban Singh R/O B-07 Ashoka Enclave-2 Sector-37 Faridabad-121003 Haryana presently at New Delhi have changed my name to Vikas Babban Singh for all purposes. 0040523115-5

I, Satender S/O Banwari Lal R/O-8/123, Mehrang Nagar Delhi Cantt Delhi-110037. Have Changed My Name To Satender Kumar. 40523115-4

I, Ram Bhargose S/O Late Sh. Prabhathi Lal R/O D-6, 2nd Floor, MCD Officers Flats, R-Block, G.K.-1, R-Block Red Light, Greater Kailash, South Delhi, Delhi-110048 have changed my name to Ram Bhargose Malavalia for all purposes. 0040523087-1

I, Praveen kumar Aggarwal, parveen aggarwal S/O-Tara Chander Aggarwal R/O-B-46. First-floor C.C.Colony Delhi-110007. Have Changed My Name to PRAVEEN AGGARWAL. 0040523145-5

I, Manish Kumar, Resident of-RZ-243/5B RajNagar-II Palam-Colony, New-Delhi-110077, have changed my minor daughters name, from Shambhavi to Shambhavi Thakur and Sakshi to Sakshi Thakur vide-Affidavit no. IN-DL90070497062963R dated-30-Nov-19. 0040523145-2

I, Hemlata W/o Kanhaiya Lal R/O B-63, Surat Vihar, Mubarak Pur Dabas, Delhi-110081, have changed my name to Lata. 0070686800-1

I, Beer Wati Devi W/O Satender Kumar R/O-8/123, Mehrang Nagar Delhi-Cantt Delhi-110037. Have Changed My Name To Birmati. 040523115-3

I, Deepthi Prakash D/O-Dharam Prakash, W/O-Mohit Saxena, R/O-Hig-Flat-113 Sector-A5 Pocket-13 Shanti-Apartment Narela Delhi-40, Have Changed My Name, From Deepthi/Deepthi Prakash Saxena To Deepthi Prakash For All Future References. I Shall Be Known As Deepthi Prakash In Future. 0040523115-8

I, Anisha W/o Rajesh Aggarwal R/O-E-88A Vishnu-Garden New Delhi have changed my name to Deepika. 0040523128-1

(ARMY No. 6487643K), Rank Hav/Clk(SD)Mokkaddesh Ali Presently/Posted With HQ 22 Inf Div,c/o-56,AP0/Residing at Raja Bhawan, H.No.2,F,V,will and-post Mahipalpur, Opp-SBI, New-Delhi-110037, declare that I, have changed my wife Rexona Begum D.O.B wrongly-written as-19-01-1978 in my Service-Record The correct and actual D.O.B as-09-01-1978 in all purposes. 0040523115-2

It is for general information that I, P.P. Toor S/o Mohinder Singh Toor R/O 469, Sector-37, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301, declare that name of mine wife has been wrongly written Sukhdarshan Kaur Toor in my P.P.O No. 13120184732. The actual name of my wife is Sukhi Singh respectively which may be amended accordingly. If is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

LOST & FOUND

It is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate and marksheet of main Senior secondary Examination of Year 2019 and Roll No.9179357 issued by C.B.S.E has been lost. Name of the candidate Angelina Kurayakose R/O H-29, Type-1, Police Station HauzKhas ND-16. 40523102-1

It is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Main Senior Secondary Examination of Year 2016 and Roll No. 5890882 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name- Pujia, Address- E-495, first floor, Street No. 10, Hardev Puri, Shahdara, Delhi(110093)/ Mobile No. 9205711457. 0040523114-1

PUBLIC NOTICE: Lost original conveyance deed Vasika No. 7838 Dated 22.01.1992 of House No. 204, Sector-17A, Gurugram. If found please contact Vivek Sahgal 9810128940 50159417-1

I, Anil Dutt alias Anil Dutt Bhargava S/o Sh. Sis Ram R/O Old Rangpuri Road, H.No. 419, Rangpuri Village, South West Delhi, Delhi-110037 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anil Dutt Bhargava. 0070686817-1

I, Ananya@ Ananya Sachdeva, D/o Sh. Anil Verma, R/O-C-57, Milan Apartment, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Ananya for all purposes. 0040523145-4

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I have changed my name from Rocky Kumar to Rocky Kumar for all future purposes. Rocky Kumar S/o Ravinder Singh R/o Village Lalpur Distt. Hapur 245201 0040523109-1

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I, Satender S/O Banwari Lal R/O-8/123, Mehrang Nagar Delhi Cantt Delhi-110037. Have Changed My Name To Satender Kumar. 40523115-4

I, Ram Bhargose S/O Late Sh. Prabhathi Lal R/O D-6, 2nd Floor, MCD Officers Flats, R-Block, G.K.-1, R-Block Red Light, Greater Kailash, South Delhi, Delhi-110048 have changed my name to Ram Bhargose Malavalia for all purposes. 0040523087-1

I, Praveen kumar Aggarwal, parveen aggarwal S/O-Tara Chander Aggarwal R/O-B-46. First-floor C.C.Colony Delhi-110007. Have Changed My Name to PRAVEEN AGGARWAL. 0040523145-5

I, Manish Kumar, Resident of-RZ-243/5B RajNagar-II Palam-Colony, New-Delhi-110077, have changed my minor daughters name, from Shambhavi to Shambhavi Thakur and Sakshi to Sakshi Thakur vide-Affidavit no. IN-DL90070497062963R dated-30-Nov-19. 0040523145-2

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I, Beer Wati Devi W/O Satender Kumar R/O-8/123, Mehrang Nagar Delhi-Cantt Delhi-110037. Have Changed My Name To Birmati. 040523115-3

I, Deepthi Prakash D/O-Dharam Prakash, W/O-Mohit Saxena, R/O-Hig-Flat-113 Sector-A5 Pocket-13 Shanti-Apartment Narela Delhi-40, Have Changed My Name, From Deepthi/Deepthi Prakash Saxena To Deepthi Prakash For All Future References. I Shall Be Known As Deepthi Prakash In Future. 0040523115-8

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(ARMY No. 6487643K), Rank Hav/Clk(SD)Mokkaddesh Ali Presently/Posted With HQ 22 Inf Div,c/o-56,AP0/Residing at Raja Bhawan, H.No.2,F,V,will and-post Mahipalpur, Opp-SBI, New-Delhi-110037, declare that I, have changed my wife Rexona Begum D.O.B wrongly-written as-19-01-1978 in my Service-Record The correct and actual D.O.B as-09-01-1978 in all purposes. 0040523115-2

PUBLIC NOTICE: NOTICE (relating to the... Public Notice... Kind Attention -> CGST Tax Payers... CGST Delhi Zone... Stakeholder Feedback Divas on New GST Return... For filing New GST Return... At Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi... On Saturday 7th December 2019 | 11:00 am - 05:00 pm

PUBLIC NOTICE: This is to inform the general public that... Public Notice... PUBLIC NOTICE: At large hereby informed that my clients Mr. Ranjivan Prasad Barwal and his wife Mrs. Vidya Devi both R/O B-35, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110017, have severed all relations & discovered their son Sanjay Barwal and his daughter Neena Barwal W/o Abhinav Prasad from their all movable, immovable properties as their behavior is dishonest and disrespectful. They are barred to interfere or create any legal hindrance in personal or collective decisions of my clients. Sd/- Vikas Singh (Advocate) Chamber No. 479, IV Floor, Lawyers Block, Saket, New Delhi-110017

PUBLIC NOTICE: Objections if any, against transfer of... Public Notice... PUBLIC NOTICE: Objections if any, against transfer of... Public Notice... PUBLIC NOTICE: Objections if any, against transfer of... Public Notice...

COURT NOTICE: (to General public at large) in re: MOHAN LAL & ORS. VS MS. PANCHI DEVI & ORS Execution No. 62316/19 Next Date: 07.12.2019 It is hereby informed to the general public at large and to all whom it may concern that the above stated case has already been decided by the court on merit and execution is pending before the court of undersigned, i.e., Sh. Ajay Nagar, CCJ-Cum-ARC, West, Room no 255, Tis Hazari Courts Complex, Delhi in respect of suit/procedure bearing no. 17/136-B, Than Singh Nagar, Anand Parbat New Delhi and the next date of hearing in the aforementioned execution is 07.12.2019. If any person has any objections or has any right to aver or has any objections in the execution part, he/she may file the appropriate application before the Court of undersigned at the earliest but not beyond the period of 30 days from the date of affixation/publication of the notice failing which no further objections/defence/applications in the present execution shall be entertained regarding the same from any person, any and the execution shall proceed as per law. Sd/- Ajay Nagar SEAL CCJ-ARC-WEST, THC 03.12.2019

PRESS NOTICE INVITING PERCENTAGE RATE e-TENDER Executive Engineer (C), Postal Civil Division, New Delhi, invites on behalf of The President of India, online percentage rate (CPWD-7) e-tenders for the following: N.I.T. No.: NIT/EPCND/2019-20/98 Name of Work: Repair and maintenance of Krishna Nagar Head Post Office Building Estimated Cost: ₹ 25,74,712/- Earnest Money: ₹ 51,494/-, Period of completion: 3 (Three) months. Last time and date of submission of bid: 16.12.19 upto 15:00 hrs. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.dopcivil.uniwizarde.com

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Public Notice... Kind Attention -> CGST Tax Payers... CGST Delhi Zone... Stakeholder Feedback Divas on New GST Return... For filing New GST Return... At Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi... On Saturday 7th December 2019 | 11:00 am - 05:00 pm

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) 1. The Executive Engineer HP.PWD Rohru, Distt. Shimla H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rates, in electronic tendering system, in 2 cover system for the under mentioned work from the Eligible and Approved Contractors/firms registered with HP.PWD Department. Sr. No. Name of Work Estimated Cost Starting Date for Downloading BID E-Money Deadline for Submission of Bid 1. C/O T-1 Building at Chirgaon Tehsil Chirgaon (SH-C/O Building Portion i/c W.S. & S.I and Rain Harvesting Tank Septic Tank, Site Development & Approach Road etc.) Rs. 2,97,97,577/- 16-12-2019-1030 Hrs. Rs.-2,20,000/- 26-12-2019-1800 Hrs. 2. C/O Heli Institution T-1 Building at Sheethgar, Tehsil Rohru (SH- C/O Building Portion i/c W.S. & S.I, Rain Harvesting Tank Septic Tank, Site Development) Rs. 67,42,096/- 16-12-2019-1030 Hrs. Rs.1,00,000/- 26-12-2019-1800 Hrs. The bidders are advised to note other details/ tenders from the department website: www.hp.tenders.gov.in. And any Corrigendum uploaded in website. Executive Engineer B&R Divn HP.PWD, Rohru. 3333/HP

CFM ASSET RECONSTRUCTION PVT. LTD. Regd. Office: A/3, 5th floor, Safal Profitaire, Near Prahalad Nagar Garden, Ahmedabad -363610 AUCTION SALE NOTICE Notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the Authorized Officer in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) proposes to realize the secured creditors' dues of Rs. 38,81,035,000/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakhs Eighty One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Five only) as on 12.12.2017 plus further interest @ 12.25% p.a. from 05.12.2017 by sale of the secured assets on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" under the provisions of the said Act and the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) and subject to such terms and conditions as may be stipulated by the Authorized Officer in this regard. Sealed tenders from the public are invited for the purchase of the secured assets mentioned herein below. Last Date & Time for submitting EMD and Bids: 16 Jan 2020 till 11.00 a.m. Date, Time & Venue of Public Auction: 15 Jan 2020 at 11:30 am at CFM Asset Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd, 101-104, Moha building, 4, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066. Details of Borrowers 1. CBT India LLP 2. Mr. Arun Pareek 3. Ms. Rajni Pareek Description of secured assets All flat pieces and parcel of commercial property bearing Office No. 3, Second Floor, Shalimar Complex, Church Road, MI Road, Jaipur 302001 (Rajasthan) measuring area of 46'1.68 Sq Ft owned by Mr. Arun Pareek Reserve Price Rs. 48,69,000.00/- (Rupees Forty Six Lacs) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Rs. 4,65,000.00/- (Rupees Four Lacs Sixty Six Thousand Only) TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1. Tender Document comprising detailed terms and conditions of the Sale and Bid Form can be collected by the Intending Bidders from CFM Asset Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd. 101-104, Moha building, 4, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi. For enquiries, the Intending Bidders may contact the undersigned/Authorized Officer on 98182-33169 or before 14 Dec 2019. 2. The Earnest Money Deposit will be 10% (Ten Percent) of the Reserve Price and shall be deposited by the intending Bidders through DD/RTGS/NEFT to the credit of "CFM ARC Trust-III, INDUSIND BANK, Account No. 20109254242, IFSC Code INDB0000001, Branch Address: IndusInd Bank Opera House, Mumbai, duly supported with documents as required and indicated in Tender Document. 3. Offers below the Reserve Price/w/without EMD/Qualified/Conditional Shall be disqualified. 4. Those interested parties may inspect the property on 03-Jan-2020 between 10.00 am to 2.00 pm by contacting the authorized officer Mr. Subhash Sakhuja at 98182-33169. 5. The Authorized Officer of the secured creditor is having physical possession of the secured asset and no encumbrances are known to him/secure creditor. However, the Intending Bidders should make their own independent evaluation on encumbrances, title of secured assets and claims/ rights/ dues affecting the secured assets. The Public Auction advertisement will not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the secured creditor. The Authorized Officer and/or the secured creditor shall not in any manner be held responsible for any encumbrances, charge, government dues, third party claims etc., if any, on the said secured assets and the same shall be sold responsibility of the respective purchaser. 6. Offers so received will be considered by opening bids by the undersigned on 16 Jan 2020 at 11.30 am at the office of CFM Asset Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd. at 101-104, Moha building, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi, when the offers may remain present and increase their offer, if they so desire by enter bidding if there are more than one offer. 7. The bid price to be submitted shall be above the reserve price and bidders shall improve their further offers in multiples of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only). 8. The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the purchase amount (including Earnest Money already paid), immediately on closure of auction sale proceedings through the mode of payment mentioned in Clause (2). The balance amount of the purchase money shall have to be deposited within 15 days of acceptance/confirmation of sale conveyed to them or such extended period as agreed upon in writing by the Authorized Officer. 9. In default of payment within the said period, the sale will automatically stand revoked and the entire deposit made by the successful bidder together with the earnest money shall be forfeited. The successful

# 18 THE WORLD

## AUSTRALIA FIRES SURROUND SYDNEY, CHOKING CITY

Firefighters were battling several blazes ringing Sydney on Thursday, leaving Australia's most populous city blanketed by smoke that is expected to linger for days. Authorities are fighting nearly 140 fires across New South Wales, with strong winds stoking several blazes out of control.

### TOP OF THE WORLD



Joe Biden and Kamala Harris during a debate. Reuters

#### USA

## Biden says will consider Harris for V-P role

Washington: A day after US Senator Kamala Harris ended her 2020 presidential bid, former Vice President Joe Biden, a leading contender for the Democratic nomination, said on Wednesday he would consider her as a potential running mate. Biden, with whom Harris clashed during a Democratic debate earlier this year, praised her after a campaign event in Ames, Iowa. "Senator Harris has the capacity to be anything she wants to be," Biden told reporters. "I talked to her yesterday. She's solid. She can be the president one day herself. She can be the vice president. She can go on to be a Supreme Court justice."

#### NEPAL

## Oli discharged from hospital

Kathmandu: After spending ten days in the intensive care unit of a hospital, Nepal Prime Minister KP Oli has been discharged. He had been admitted to the Manmohan Cardiothoracic Vascular and Transplant Center on November 26 following acute pain in the abdomen caused by an infection. Oli, 68, had been exploring possibility of a kidney retransplant, 12 years after he received it from a donor related to him in Delhi's Apollo hospital. "We wanted him to remain in hospital for some more days but he insisted on going back and starting his duties," a doctor said.

#### PAKISTAN

## Musharraf treason case verdict to come on Dec 17: court

Islamabad: The verdict in the high treason case against former Pakistan dictator General (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf will be pronounced on December 17, a special court announced on Thursday. Last week, the special court ordered 76-year-old Musharraf to record statement by December 5 in the treason case after the Islamabad High Court, after hearing the petitions filed by Dubai-based Musharraf and the Pakistan government, stopped the special court from issuing the verdict on November 28.

# Impeachment charges will be drafted against Trump: Pelosi

Democrats to push ahead with rapid timetable, to vote on charges this month

NICHOLAS FANDOS & SHERYL GAY STOLBERG  
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 5

SPEAKER NANCY Pelosi announced on Thursday that the US House of Representatives would begin drafting impeachment articles against President Donald Trump, pushing ahead with a rapid timetable that could set the stage for a vote before Christmas to charge him with high crimes and misdemeanors.

Wrapping her announcement in the words of the Constitution and the nation's founders, Pelosi said it had become clear over the course of two months of investigation that Trump had violated his oath of office by pressing a foreign power for help in the 2020 election. Allowing Trump to continue in office without remedy, she said, would come at "the peril of our republic."

"His wrongdoing strikes at the very heart of our Constitution," Pelosi said in the Capitol. "Our democracy is what is at stake. The President leaves us no choice but to act because he is trying to corrupt, once again, the election for his own benefit."



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi speaks at Capitol Hill. NYT

Pelosi's hastily arranged announcement came a day after the House Judiciary Committee began formal impeachment proceedings against Trump, convening a hearing where three constitutional scholars invited by Democrats said Trump had engaged in conduct that clearly met the definition of impeachable offenses under the Constitution.

The decision follows a two-month-long inquiry by Democrats on the House Intelligence Committee that concluded that Trump abused his power by pressuring President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine to announce investigations into former Vice President Joe Biden and other Democrats, while withholding a White House meeting and \$391 million in vital military assistance.

"The facts are uncontested," Pelosi said. "The President abused his power for his own personal political benefit, at the expense of our national security."

She added: "Sadly, but with confidence and humility, with allegiance to our founders and a heart full of love for America, today I am asking our chairmen to proceed with articles of impeachment."



**"If you are going to impeach me, do it now, fast, so we can have a fair trial in the Senate, and so that our country can get back to business."**

— DONALD TRUMP  
US PRESIDENT

## Scholar slammed for bringing up Trump's son at House hearing

Washington: During the impeachment hearing against US President Donald Trump, a professor of law from Stanford University mentioned the name of his minor son, Barron, during her testimony before a Congressional panel, drawing angry reactions.

Pamela S Karlan made the remarks while explaining the President's rights under the Constitution. "...I'll just give you one example that shows you the difference between him [Trump] and a king, which is the Constitution says there can be no titles of nobility, so while the President can name his son Barron, he can't make him a baron," Karlan said, using the name of the 13-year-old son of the President for an analogy.

First Lady Melania slammed Karlan. "A minor child deserves privacy and should be kept out of politics. Pamela Karlan, you should be ashamed of your very angry and obviously biased public pandering, and using a child to do it," she said in a tweet. Karlan later apologised for her remarks. PTI

# 58 migrants dead after boat capsizes off Mauritania

AHMED MOHAMED SALEM, CARLEY PETESCH & SAMY MAGDY  
NOUAKCHOTT, DECEMBER 5

SCORES OF migrants who swam through rough Atlantic Ocean waters to safety from a capsized boat while 58 others drowned were receiving care Thursday in Mauritania after one of the deadliest disasters this year among people making the perilous journey to Europe.

The boat that left Gambia a week ago had been carrying at least 150 people, including women and children. It was headed toward Spain's Canary Islands when it tried to approach the Mauritanian coast to get fuel and food, Laura Lungarotti, chief of mission in the West African nation with the UN migration agency, told The Associated Press. "Many drowned. The ones who survived swam up to the Mauritanian coast close to the city of Nouadhibou," she said. "The Mauritanian authorities are very efficiently coordinating the response with the agencies currently present" in the northern city.

At least 83 people swam to shore, the agency said, while Mauritanian authorities said security forces found 85 survivors. Interior Minister Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug said 10



The boat, which set out from Gambia with at least 150 people, capsized close to Nouadhibou city in the African nation of Mauritania

people were taken to a hospital for "urgent" treatment.

Local authorities continued to search for an unknown number of missing people.

The survivors were receiving care in accordance with "human solidarity, fraternity and African hospitality," the minister's statement said. It said the boat held as many as 180 people, most of them aged 20 to 30.

Mauritania will open an investigation into those responsible for "this drama" including possible trafficking networks, the statement said.

In recent months, authorities have detained boats mostly carrying hundreds of migrants from Senegal, the statement added. AP

# US Navy sailor kills 2, then shoots himself, at Pearl Harbor base

CALEB JONES, JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER & AUDREY MCAVOY  
PEARL HARBOR, DECEMBER 5

AN ACTIVE duty US sailor whose submarine was docked at Pearl Harbor opened fire on three civilian employees Wednesday, killing two and then taking his own life just days before dignitaries and veterans descend on the base for the 78th anniversary of the Japanese attack.

The commander of Navy Region Hawaii, Rear Adm. Robert Chadwick, said he didn't know the motive behind the shooting at the Hawaii base's naval shipyard that left the third civilian Department of Defence employee hospitalised.

It also wasn't known if the sailor and the three male civilians had any type of relationship, or what the motive was for the shooting, Chadwick said.

"We have no indication yet whether they were targeted or if it was a random shooting," Chadwick said.

The sailor was assigned to the fast attack submarine USS Columbia, which is at Joint Base

## The motive behind the crime remains unclear, said a Navy commander

Pearl Harbor-Hickam for maintenance. Details about the sailor were not immediately released.

It wasn't immediately known what type of weapon was used or how many shots were fired. Chadwick said that was part of the investigation. Personal weapons are not allowed on base.

Names of the victims won't be released until next of kin have been notified.

"Our thoughts are with the families of the victims and everyone involved. I can say that we are mobilising support services for naval shipyard personnel as well as everyone else who may be affected by this tragic event," Chadwick said.

The base went into lockdown around 2.30 pm when the first active shooter reports were received. The base reopened a few hours later. Witnesses were still being interviewed hours after the shooting. AP



US Navy Rear Adm. Robb Chadwick speaks to the media at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, in Hawaii. AP

# France shuts down: Nationwide strike hits trains, Eiffel Tower, triggers clashes

ANGELA CHARLTON & CLAIRE PARKER  
PARIS, DECEMBER 5

THE EIFFEL Tower shut down, France's high-speed trains stood still and tens of thousands of people marched through Paris and other cities Thursday in a massive and sometimes chaotic outpouring of anger at the government's plan to overhaul the retirement system.

Small groups of masked activists smashed store windows, set fires and hurled flares on the sidelines of the otherwise peaceful Paris march, prompting volleys of teargas from police.

Unions launched the open-ended, nationwide strikes Thursday over President Emmanuel Macron's centrepiece reform in the biggest challenge to the centrist leader since the yellow vest movement against economic inequality erupted a year ago.

Opponents fear the changes to how and when workers can retire will threaten the hard-fought French way of life. Macron himself



Protesters in Marseille on Thursday. Reuters

remained "calm and determined" to push it through, according to a top presidential official.

The Louvre Museum warned of strike disruptions, and subway stations across Paris shut their gates. Many visitors — including the US energy secretary — cancelled plans to travel to France.

Tourists discovered historic train stations standing empty, with about nine out of 10 of high-speed TGV trains canceled. Signs at Paris' Orly Airport

showed "cancelled" notices, with authorities saying 20% of flights were grounded.

Some travellers showed support for the striking workers. Others complained about being embroiled in someone else's fight.

Beneath the closed Eiffel Tower, tourists from Thailand, Canada and Spain echoed those sentiments.

Paris authorities barricaded the presidential palace and deployed 6,000 police officers. AP

## EXPLAINED Why unions oppose Macron's reforms

THE FRENCH pension system involves 42 different schemes for both public and private sector workers. Under the current system, pension is calculated based on payment received by a public sector employee in the last 6 months before retirement. For the private sector, it is based on a worker's 25 highest-paid years. This system will soon result in a deficit of \$19 billion, a report says. Macron intends to merge all the 42 schemes into one, and base pensions on the number of days employees have worked. The French President calls this a fairer system, but workers fear they will have to work more years to earn as much in pensions as they are eligible to currently.

# Samoa shuts down in unprecedented battle against measles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WELLINGTON, DECEMBER 5

SAMOA ENTERED a two-day lockdown Thursday to carry out an unprecedented mass vaccination drive aimed at containing a devastating measles epidemic that has killed dozens of children in the Pacific island nation.

As the death toll climbed to 62, officials ordered all businesses and non-essential government services to close, shut down inter-island ferries and told people to keep their cars off the roads.



At a health emergency operation centre in Apia, Samoa, on Thursday. 62 people have died in the measles outbreak. AP

Residents were advised to obey a dawn-to-dusk curfew, staying in their homes and displaying a red flag if any occupants were not yet immunised.

Hundreds of vaccination teams, including public servants drafted in for the operation, fanned out across the nation of 200,000 in the early hours of the morning.

They plan to go door-to-door in villages and towns to administer mandatory vaccinations in red-flagged houses.

The markets on Apia's waterfront, usually packed with tourists buying handicrafts, were silent as stalls stood empty, while there was hardly any traffic in the city centre.

"It's very, very quiet out here. I can just hear a few barking dogs. The streets are empty. There are no cars," UNICEF's Pacific islands chief Sheldon Yett said.

"People are staying at home waiting for the vaccination cam-

paign. The teams are getting their supplies together and getting ready to go out."

The operation, carried out under emergency powers invoked as the epidemic took hold last month, is a desperate bid to halt measles infection rates that have been inexorably rising since mid-October, with most of the victims young children.

"I've seen mass mobilisation campaigns before, but not over an entire country like this," Yett said. "That's what we're doing right now. This entire country is being vaccinated."

# Let's assess failure of developed countries in acting on climate, says India



EXPRESS IN MADRID  
AMITABH SINHA  
DECEMBER 5

AMIDST GROWING urgency over the need for enhanced actions on climate change, India, China, Brazil and some other developing countries have sought an assessment of the failures of developed coun-

tries to fulfil their climate obligations in the pre-2020 period.

At the Madrid climate change meeting, these countries argued on Thursday that the main reason why the world seemed headed towards a climate disaster was that the developed countries never met their obligations under the Kyoto Protocol, the 1997 climate agreement that expires next year and is set to be replaced by the Paris Agreement.

India and the other countries said that the developed countries must be given another two years, until 2022, to fulfil their earlier commitments. "Study after study has shown

that we are not on track to meet the Paris Agreement goal of keeping rise in temperatures within 2 degree Celsius from pre-industrial times. There is a significant gap in what is being done and what requires to be done. But this gap has not arisen all of a sudden. This is a result of the failure of developed countries to deliver on their climate commitments in the pre-2020 period," said India's lead negotiator Ravishankar Prasad.

"Now, 2020 will be out in another year. And it seems all is being forgotten, and now everyone is being asked to enhance their post-2020 action plans because



Protesters at the venue of the UN climate change conference in Madrid. Reuters

of an impending crisis. But this crisis is because the gap was allowed to expand by the developed countries. They did not deliver on their emission reduction

targets, they did not deliver on their commitments to transfer finance and technology to developing countries. And they are not on track to meet their targets even in the post-2020 Paris framework," he said.

"We are saying, let them take another two years, but they should be asked to meet their pre-2020 targets. That will help in closing some of the gaps. And besides, let's have an assessment of what happened in the last few years, the reason that this gap has widened so much, so that we have more robust mechanisms in future to ensure that all targets are implemented," he said.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, only about 40 rich and industrial countries, who are responsible for most of the historical emissions of greenhouse gases, were required to make emission cuts, according to targets prescribed for each one of them. The Paris Agreement, on the other hand, requires every country to take climate action, but lets them decide for themselves what they can do.

Most of the countries that were mandated to make emission cuts under the Kyoto Protocol are not meeting their targets. Many of them have even walked out of the agreement, including Japan which had hosted

the 1997 climate meeting where the Kyoto Agreement had been finalised. Only the European Union has promised to meet its pre-2020 targets.

"Asking every country to enhance its action plan, or to commit itself to a net-zero emission level by 2050 is meaningless if we let a group of countries get away with not fulfilling their commitments. Such demands are also against the basic principle of equity and differentiated responsibilities enshrined in the climate negotiations. It is very well understood that the developed countries have to do more. By asking everyone to commit to

net-zero emissions by 2050, for example, undermines that basic principle," Prasad said.

He said India and the other countries were consulting with the rest of the developing world to move a formal proposal in this regard.

"We want the final decisions of this meeting to reflect our concerns and demands. Let us open up a separate track to assess our performance in the pre-2020 period, what happened and why the gap was created. Then, let us ask the developed countries to meet their pre-2020 targets in another two years," Prasad said.

## FIFTH BI-MONTHLY MONETARY POLICY

# Rising inflation, need for clarity on fiscal policy prompt RBI to keep rates steady

**GEORGE MATHEW**  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 5

THE RBI'S Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Thursday unanimously decided to keep the key policy rate unchanged for the first time in 2019, as it worried about the rising inflation and felt that more time was needed for the impact of past rate cuts and more clarity on the fiscal policy and price fronts.

Unveiling the fifth bi-monthly monetary policy, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) policy panel also sharply slashed its gross domestic product (GDP) growth estimates for the fiscal 2019-20 to 5 per cent from 6.1 per cent earlier, citing a weak domestic demand, further slowdown in global economic activity and geo-political tensions. The government had last week said the GDP growth in September 2019 quarter had plunged to 4.5 per cent, the lowest since the three months ended March 2013.

While the decision to keep the repo rate at 5.15 per cent was unexpected, the MPC said it will "continue with the accommodative stance as long as it is necessary to revive growth, while en-



Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das in Mumbai on Thursday. Ganesh Shirsekar

sure that inflation remains within the target". An accommodative stance typically means that the MPC will cut rates whenever it finds the space available to do so.

However, the RBI indicated there is monetary policy space for future action after considering the fiscal measures in the Budget and more clarity on inflation. "Given the evolving growth-inflation dynamics, the MPC felt it appropriate to take a pause at this juncture. We would like to have better clarity about counter cyclical fiscal meas-

ures. You should allow the measures taken by the RBI and the government to play out," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said.

"Timing is important rather than mechanically going about cutting rates," he said, adding that inflation targeting is the MPC's "primary mandate". While the RBI had cut repo rates by 135 basis points (bps) in five policy reviews in 2019, the one-year median marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) has declined by only 49 bps. The weighted av-

erage lending rate (WALR) on fresh rupee loans sanctioned by banks declined by only 44 bps. Das pointed to rising inflation expectations of households and said inflation "will be high". The MPC raised its inflation projection for the second half of the current financial year to 4.17-5.1 per cent from 3.5-3.7 per cent earlier. Under the RBI's inflation targeting mandate, the MPC is supposed to keep headline inflation within a 2-6 per cent range, but it has typically targeted the midpoint of 4 per cent.

The MPC's decision to pause surprised the markets and bankers, as they had expected a 25 bps cut thanks to GDP growth plunging to 4.5 per cent in September quarter. Other high frequency indicators such as core sector output for October, which contracted 5.8 per cent, and November auto sales point to sluggish demand.

In October, consumer price inflation rose to a 16-month high of 4.62 per cent. While most economists expected the MPC to look through this rise as transient, the MPC said that "the upsurge in prices of vegetables is likely to continue in immediate months." It also pointed to "incipient price

pressures seen in other food items such as milk, pulses, and sugar are likely to be sustained, with implications for the trajectory of food inflation."

The RBI panel also indicated that various high frequency indicators suggest that domestic and external demand conditions have remained weak. "Based on the early results, the business expectations index of the Reserve Bank's industrial outlook survey indicates a marginal pickup in business sentiments in Q4 (January-March)," the MPC statement said.

The RBI Governor said the monetary policy easing since February 2019 and the government measures "are expected to revive sentiment and spur domestic demand."

The RBI expects growth to pick up in the first half of fiscal 2020-21 at 5.9-6.3 per cent. The MPC also said it was waiting for more insights from the forthcoming Union Budget.

Addressing a press conference, Das said the forthcoming union budget will provide better insight into further measures to be undertaken by the Government and their impact on growth. The RBI said most banks had linked their lending rates to the policy repo rate of the Reserve Bank.

## SPREAD BETWEEN RBI POLICY & BANKS' LENDING RATE AT 7-YR HIGH

# Despite RBI's temporary pause, borrowing cost may still fall as spread narrows

**SUNNY VERMA**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

THE RESERVE Bank of India's decision to not lower its repo rate, against the consensus forecast of a 25-bps cut, can be seen in the backdrop of significant scope for banks to pass on the past reductions in policy rates to customers.

While interest rate transmission has been sharp in short-term money and wholesale loan markets, retail borrowers are yet to experience reduction in commercial lending rates of banks that is commensurate with the rate actions of the RBI. In fact, the weighted average lending rate (WALR) of scheduled commercial banks between December 2018 and October 2019 actually increased by 5 basis points (bps) against a cumulative policy rate cut to the tune of 135 bps, as per the latest available data with the RBI.

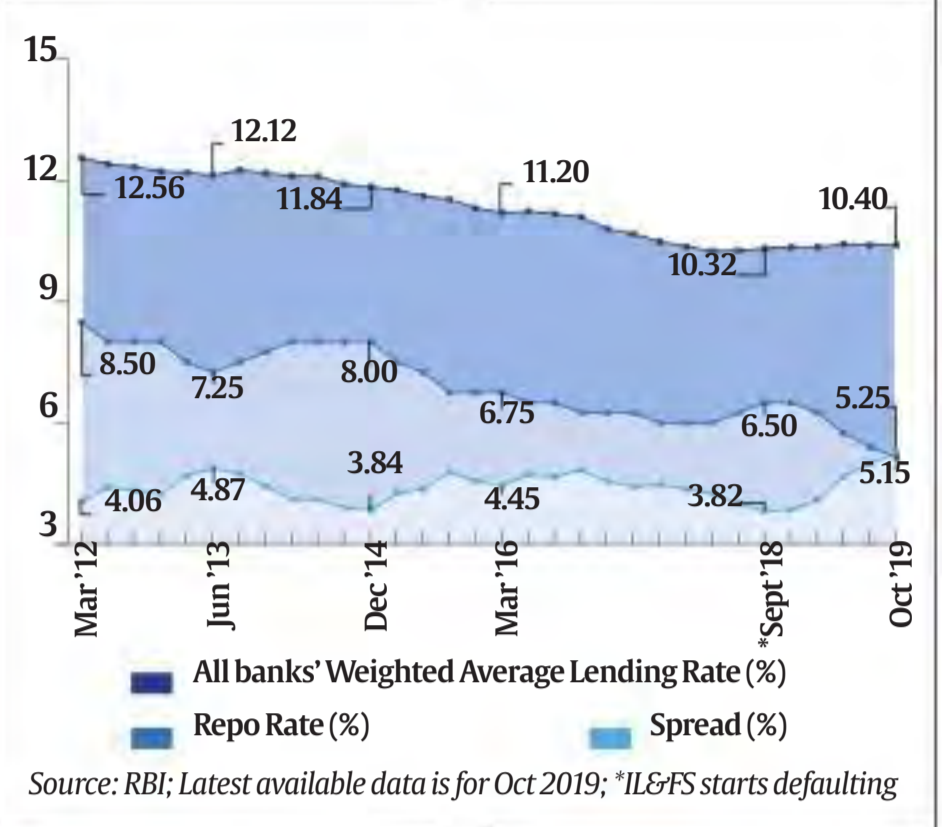
The spread between the repo rate and WALR of banks is at its peak since the RBI data is available from March 2012. As on October 2019, spread — or mark up of WALR over repo rate — was as high as 5.25 percentage points.

The spread was lowest in September 2018 at 3.82 per cent. In September 2018, which is also the month when IL&FS started defaulting on loans resulting in a spiral effect in the credit markets, the WALR of banks was 10.32 per cent while the repo rate was 6.50.

In contrast, in October 2019, the WALR is 10.40 per cent even though repo rate has fallen to 5.15 per cent.

As uncertainties surround the financial system — especially in the backdrop of failure of large institutions like IL&FS, DHFL, PMC Bank and some smaller NBFCs — banks are yet to fully pass on the rate reductions to customers.

Analysts note that the pause in rate reductions is be-



cause RBI is hoping that transmission of rates will improve going forward.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the pause was temporary and the central bank wanted to assess the effect of its policy after rate reduction in five policies this year. He said "there is space available for further monetary policy action" and there is also a need to "maximise the impact of rate reductions". In its monetary policy statement, RBI said the transmission has been fastest in money markets and WALR on fresh rupee loans declined in recent months.

During February-October 2019, when RBI cut its repo rate by 135 bps, transmission to various money and corporate debt market segments ranged from 137 bps (overnight call money market) to 218 bps (three-month

## UNANTICIPATED, SAY BANKERS

The RBI decision for a status quo though an unanticipated policy surprise is the most appropriate as monetary policy works with a lag. The lowering of the GDP growth for FY20 and FY21 reflects continued growth conundrums and a slow recovery

**RAJNISH KUMAR**  
CHAIRMAN, SBI

The RBI's unchanged rate announcement signifies a wait and watch stance to understand the market and governments reaction to the rapidly unfolding market data

**MRUTYUNJAY MAHAPATRA**  
MD & CEO, SYNDICATE BANK

This is contrary to what Ficci was expecting given the weakening growth scenario ... We note with concern that the transmission of the earlier policy rate cuts has not happened adequately, and are disappointed with the decision to not cut the repo rate ...

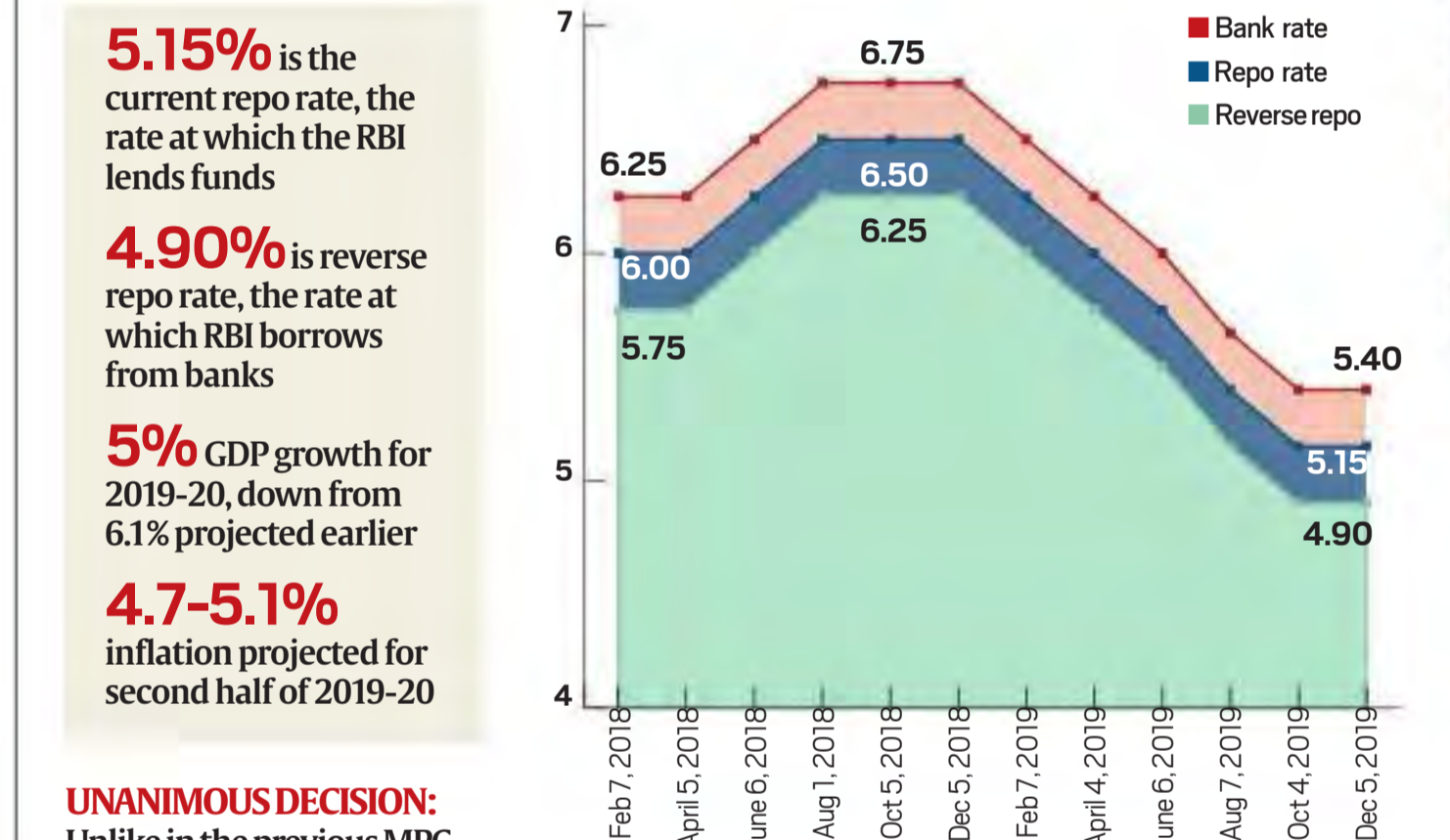
**SANDIP SOMANY**  
PRESIDENT, FICCI

A temporary pause by the RBI to the policy interest rate reduction cycle while keeping its stance accommodative is understandable as long as it keeps nudging the banks to significantly pass the benefits of earlier rate combined repo rate cuts...

**B K GOENKA**  
PRESIDENT, ASSOCHAM

## RBI to continue with accommodative stance

After slashing the repo rate five times in 2019, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee, headed by Governor Shaktikanta Das, decided to keep the interest rate steady at 5.15 per cent and continue with the accommodative stance "as long as it is necessary to revive growth, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target"



**UNANIMOUS DECISION:** Unlike in the previous MPC meetings, all members of the MPC — Chetan Ghate, Pami Dua, Ravindra H Dholakia, Michael Debabrata Patra, Bibhu Prasad Kanungo and Shaktikanta Das — voted in favour of the decision

**INFLATION OUTLOOK:** Inflation is rising in the near-term, but it is likely to moderate below target by Q2 of 2020-21. It is prudent to carefully monitor incoming data to gain clarity on the inflation outlook

**ECONOMIC OUTLOOK:** The MPC noted that economic activity has weakened

further and the output gap remains negative. Several measures initiated by the government and the monetary easing by the RBI since February 2019 are gradually expected to further feed into the real economy

**RATE TRANSMISSION:** While the repo rate was cut by 135 bps, the 1-year median marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) has declined by 49 bps. The weighted average lending rate (WALR) on fresh rupee loans sanctioned by banks declined by 44 bps

## Final norms for on-tap small finance banks unveiled

Capital requirement set at ₹200 crore; ₹100 cr for urban co-operative banks initially

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 5

THE RBI on Thursday opened the on-tap licensing window for small finance banks (SFBs), stating that the minimum paid-up voting equity capital/net worth requirement will be Rs 200 crore.

However, for primary urban co-operative banks (UCBs) desirous of voluntarily transitioning into SFBs, the initial requirement of net worth will be at Rs 100 crore, which will have to be increased to Rs 200 crore within five years from the date of commencement of business, the RBI said while issuing the final guidelines for SFBs.

Incidentally, the net-worth of all SFBs currently in operation is in excess of Rs 200 crore. "SFBs will be given scheduled bank status immediately upon commencement of operations. SFBs will have general permission to open banking outlets from the date of commencement of operations," the RBI said. Payments banks can apply for conversion into SFB after five years of operations, if they are otherwise eligible as per these guidelines, the central bank said.

The promoters should hold a minimum of 40 per cent of the paid-up voting equity of the bank at all times during the first five years from the date of commencement of business of the

bank. "If the initial shareholding by promoters in the bank is in excess of 40 per cent of paid-up voting equity capital, it should be brought down to 40 per cent within a period of five years. Whether a promoter ceases to be a promoter or could exit from the bank, after completing the lock-in period of five years, would depend on the RBI's regulatory and supervisory comfort and discomfort and SEBI regulations," the RBI said.

Further, the promoters' stake should be brought down to a maximum of 30 per cent within a period of 10 years, and to a maximum of 15 per cent within 15 years from the date of commencement of business of the

bank, the banking regulator said. Resident individuals and professionals (Indian citizens), singly or jointly, each having at least 10 years of experience in banking and finance at a senior level and companies and societies in the private sector, that are owned and controlled by residents and having successful track record of running their businesses for at least a period of five years, will be eligible as promoters to set up SFBs.

Existing NBFCs, micro finance institutions and local area banks in private sector, controlled by residents and having successful track record of running businesses for at least a period of five years, can also opt for conversion into SFBs.

## Rate-sensitive stocks fall

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 5

RATE-SENSITIVE BANK and auto shares declined on Thursday after the Reserve Bank surprised with its decision to hold key policy rates. Among bank stocks, IndusInd Bank fell 2.21 per cent, RBL Bank 1.95 per cent, SBI 1.65 per cent, Yes Bank 1.51 per cent, Axis Bank 1.39 per cent, Federal Bank 1.25 per cent, HDFC Bank 0.50 per cent, Kotak Mahindra Bank 0.46 per cent and ICICI Bank 0.27 per cent on the BSE.

The BSE Bank index closed at 36,147.31, down 0.76 per cent. Among auto companies, Tata

## Exposure norms of urban co-operative banks to be tightened

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 5

The RBI has decided to tighten exposure norms for single and group/interconnected borrowers of primary urban co-operative banks (UCBs), in order to reduce concentration risk in exposures and strengthen the role of UCBs in promoting financial inclusion.

"These measures are expected to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of UCBs and protect the interest of depositors," the RBI said Thursday. The move follows the surfacing of the PMC Bank scam, where almost 70 per cent of

## Self-regulatory body for corporate loans

**MUMBAI:** The Reserve Bank will facilitate the setting up of a self-regulatory body as a first step towards the development of the secondary market for corporate loans.

"The SRB will be responsible for standardising documents, covenants and practices related to secondary market transactions in corporate loans," it said.

the bank's funds were lent to the HDIL Group of the Wadhawans. "An appropriate timeframe

## NBFC-peer to peer lending cap hiked

**MUMBAI:** The RBI has increased the aggregate exposure cap of non-banking financial company-peer to peer lending platform (NBFC-P2P) to all borrowers at any point of time, across all P2P platforms, to Rs 50 lakh.

At present, the aggregate limit for both borrowers and lenders across all P2P platforms stand at Rs 10 lakh.

will be provided for compliance with the revised norms. A draft circular proposing the above

## New prepaid payment modes

**MUMBAI:** The RBI has proposed to introduce a new type of prepaid payment instruments which can be used only for purchase of goods and services up to Rs 10,000.

The loading/reloading of such PPI will be only from a bank account and used for making only digital payments such as bill payments, merchant payments, etc. ENS

changes for eliciting stakeholder comments will be issued shortly," the central bank said. It has also

## Das: Steps to monetise Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank assets

**Mumbai:** RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the forensic audit report on the scam-hit Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank is expected by the month-end, and efforts are also on to assess the realisable value of assets held by the co-operative bank that can be monetised.

He said the RBI has also given its suggestions on changes in regulations that are required for regulating the co-operative bank sector better.

to access funds at a pre-IL&FS rate. He said the RBI will intervene as and when required and refer troubled NBFCs for resolution. Das, however, did not comment on the TARP-like initiative for NBFCs. Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) was a group of schemes conceptualised and run by the US Treasury Department to stabilise the country's financial system and counter foreclosures in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

With payment defaults and liquidity crunch hitting the financial sector, sanctions by NBFCs fell by Rs 98,752 crore, or 34 per cent, to Rs 195,205 crore during the September quarter of 2019-20 from Rs 293,957 crore in the same period of last year, according to the Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC).

On November 29, the RBI filed the insolvency process against Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL) at the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). DHFL is the first company from the financial sector to be referred to the NCLT.

## EXPLAINED

CPs of non-banking finance companies). Transmission to the government securities market, however, has been partial at 113 bps (five-year government securities) and 89 bps (10-year government securities), the RBI said. The one-year median marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) has declined by 49 bps.

However, it is the WALR which remains sticky, indicating that rate reductions have been muted for bulk of retail borrowers. "The WALR on fresh rupee loans sanctioned by banks declined by 44 basis points, while the WALR on outstanding rupee loans increased by 2 basis points during this period," the RBI said.

"However, transmission is expected to improve going forward as (i) the share of base rate loans, interest rates on which have remained sticky, declines; and (ii) MCLR-based floating rate loans, which typically have annual resets, become due for renewal," it said. The median term deposit rates of banks have also declined by 47 bps during February-November 2019, which augurs well for transmission to lending rates, going forward.

## We're making a deep-dive into books of top 50 NBFCs: RBI Guv

**KHUSHBOONARAYAN**  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 5

RBI GOVERNOR Shaktikanta Das Thursday said the central bank is "regularly monitoring" the top 50 non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and it "won't hesitate" to prevent the collapse of any NBFC.

Sanctions by NBFCs had fallen 34 per cent in the September quarter as the sector is yet overcome liquidity problems. "The top 50 NBFCs in India are being regularly monitored. We are making a deep-dive into the books of NBFCs wherever required and know where the vulnerabilities lie," Das said after the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting.

He said these 50 NBFCs represent about 75 per cent of the asset size of NBFC. "The management/promoters of vulnerable NBFCs are asked to come to the RBI on periodic intervals, discussions are held. We clearly tell them our expectations of measures that they should undertake to strengthen and get over the problems," Das said. He added that liquidity requirements of NBFCs for the next three months are being monitored and assured that the RBI "will not hesitate to act."

On credit flow to NBFCs, Das said it is slowly reviving and better performing NBFCs are being able

"There is a forensic audit underway. We will get the report by the end of this month. Assessment of the realisable value of the assets of the bank is also on," Das said.

He said a coordination mechanism has been put in place consisting of the RBI-appointed administrator and the law enforcement authorities such as the Economic Offences Wing of the Mumbai Police, the Enforcement Directorate and RBI officials for asset valuation. ENS

decided to bring UCBs with assets of Rs 500 crore and above under the Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) reporting framework.

The RBI has also decided to prescribe a comprehensive cyber security framework for UCBs, as a graded approach, based on their digital depth and interconnectedness with the payment systems landscape, digital products offered by them and assessment of cyber security risk. The framework would mandate implementation of progressively stronger security measures based on the nature, variety and scale of digital product offerings of banks.

"Such measures would, among others, include implementation of bank specific email domain; periodic security assessment of public facing websites/applications; strengthening the cyber security incident reporting mechanism; strengthening of governance framework; and setting up of Security Operations Center (SOC)," the RBI said. This would bolster cyber security preparedness and ensure that the UCBs offering a range of payment services and higher information technology penetration are brought at par with commercial banks in addressing cyber security threats, the RBI said.



# Govt challenges NCLT order on making Ministry of Corporate Affairs party in insolvency cases

AASHISH ARYAN  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

THE CENTRAL government on Thursday moved the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) against a National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) order which directed that the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), through its secretary, and Union of India be made a respondent party in all the insolvency and company law cases filed across the country. The appellate tribunal has agreed to hear the case on Friday.

The Principal Bench of NCLT had, on November 22, directed that the MCA as well as the central government be made a respondent party in all cases of insolvency as well as Companies Act filed across the country.

The adjudicating authority had then observed that the same was needed so that authentic records of companies undergoing insolvency are

**The Principal Bench of NCLT had, on November 22, directed that the MCA as well as the Central government be made a respondent party in all cases of insolvency as well as Companies Act filed across the country**

made available by the officers. It had also asked the MCA to update the master list containing the data of companies undergoing insolvency or liquidation, so as to keep the "public at large" informed about the status of the company.

Following the NCLT directive, the MCA had, on November 29, told *The Indian Express* that it had initiated the process of updating the master data of companies undergoing corporate insolvency or facing liquidation under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

The Ministry had also started working on a framework that would enable the in-

terim resolution professional (IRP) or the resolution professional (RP) to upload necessary regulatory filings for compliance with the Companies Act.

Though the NCLT order was likely to increase the workload for its officials, the Ministry had till then also not made up its mind on whether it would challenge the directive, sources close to the development had then said.

At present, the master data of companies does not have updated data of new directors or other details of firms which are either undergoing corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) or have undergone liquidation under the IBC.

# SFIO INVESTIGATION YET TO BE CONCLUDED NCLAT questions calls for second probe into former IL&FS auditors

Plea moved by Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP and BSR Associates LLP

AASHISH ARYAN  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

THE NATIONAL Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Thursday questioned the government's call for a second parallel probe into the role of former auditors of beleaguered Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS), while one by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) was already on and had not been concluded.

Hearing a plea moved by auditors Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP and B S R Associates LLP, a two-member Bench led by Chairperson Justice SJ Mukhopadhyaya observed that only if the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) came to a definite conclusion that there was a fraud, it could recommend initiation of inspector rank-led probe into the auditors' role in IL&FS.

## PLEA FILED AFTER ORDER FROM NCLT MUMBAI

■ The auditors had approached NCLAT after an order of the NCLT Mumbai Bench, which had allowed the Centre to implead the auditors as respondents in an ongoing case of oppression and mismanagement at IL&FS

■ An NCLAT Bench led by Justice SJ Mukhopadhyaya observed that only if the NCLT came to a definite conclusion that there was a fraud, it could recommend initiation of inspector rank-led probe into the auditors' role in IL&FS

The two-member Bench also observed that there would be confusion if the inspector rank personnel-led probe led to a different conclusion than the SFIO.

The auditors had approached NCLAT following an order of the NCLT Mumbai Bench, which had allowed the Centre to implead the auditors as respondents in an ongoing case of oppression and mismanagement at IL&FS. In July this year, the Mumbai

Bench of NCLT had allowed the central government to implead the auditors as accused to probe their alleged role in the downfall of IL&FS.

The auditors have, however, maintained that all the audits at IL&FS and its subsidiaries had been done in accordance with the government set standards and thus there was no negligence of their part. The government wants to

# 15th FinComm submits report for 2020-21 to President

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

THE FINANCE Commission submitted its report for the financial year 2020-21 to President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday. The Commission headed by N K Singh apprised the President of the recommendations contained therein, an official statement said.

The 15th Finance Commission was constituted by the President of India under Article 280 of the Constitution on November 27, 2017, to make recommendations for a period of five years from April 2020 to March 2025, it said.

The Commission had a wide ranging terms of reference contained in the Presidential Notification, it said.

# 'Banks to write off more bad loans, particularly state-owned ones'

Indian banks are likely to take significantly more loan write-offs to reduce bad loans against a backdrop of rising provisions and weak recovery prospects, Fitch Ratings said in a report

**\$30 billion:** Amount of bad loans cumulatively written off by state-owned banks in past three years

**90%:** Share of impaired loan stock accounted for by public sector banks



**WEAK LOAN GROWTH, SLOW RESOLUTION:** Indian banks' performance for the first half of fiscal ending March 2020 (H1 FY20) was characterised by overall weaker loan growth, as against FY19, and slow resolution of legacy impaired loans

**PROFITABILITY TURNS POSITIVE:** The banking sector's overall profitability turned positive for the first time since FY18 due to downward-trending credit costs, while state-owned banks reported losses, albeit smaller than previously

**HIGHER WRITE-OFFS BY STATE-OWNED BANKS:** Resolution delays coupled with rising provision cover on large legacy bad loans (nearing 90 per cent) could mean that loan write-offs will continue to be high for Indian banks, particularly state-owned banks

**OVERALL LOAN GROWTH TO STAY MUTED:** Overall loan growth to remain muted, with banks maintaining cautionary stance against a backdrop of continued liquidity stress for real estate and NBFC sectors and a slowing economy

**ROOM FOR RESTRUCTURING OF REAL-ESTATE LOANS:** The government could allow a one-off restructuring of real-estate loans — given the sector's severe challenges and the rising risk of defaults

(Source: PTI)

# Allcargo to acquire 44% stake in Gati for ₹416 cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 5

ALLCARGO LOGISTICS, the largest integrated logistics solutions provider in the private sector, Thursday said it will acquire around 44 per cent stake in Gati for nearly Rs 416 crore, foraying into the express logistics market.

Under a three-phased deal, Allcargo will first buy over 1.03 crore shares and subscribe to a preferential issue of over 1.33 crore shares (collectively 18 per cent shares) held by promoters and promoter group of Gati, including Mahendra Kumar Agarwal, Mahendra Investment Advisors and TCI Finance and also Gati, at Rs 75 a share.

In the second leg of the transaction, Allcargo will make an open offer to buy another 3.17 crore more shares, representing 26 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital (post-pref-

erential issue and vesting of stock options) from the retail shareholders of Gati at Rs 75 a share, taking the total deal value to around Rs 416 crore, chairman Shashi Kiran Shetty said.

"Through this strategic transaction, we have added another service to our portfolio by entering a segment that is growing exponentially."

"With this acquisition, we will also be able to achieve a significant share in the express logistics space," he said.

According to a recent Deloitte report, the domestic express logistics industry is expected to reach Rs 48,000 crore by 2023.

With Gati under its fold, Allcargo can offer a range of logistics services, including multimodal transport, container freight stations/inland container depots, projects and engineering solutions, warehousing, distribution, contract logistics and logistics parks.

# India needs to step up reforms to raise quality jobs, incomes: OECD

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

INDIA is set for a modest recovery after a loss of momentum as reforms to simplify taxation lighten business regulations and upgrade infrastructure start to bear fruit, as per a new OECD report. "Further reforms to modernise the economy are now needed to drive the creation of high-quality jobs, as well as measures to improve public services and welfare," the OECD Economic Survey of India said.

It noted that while India has greatly expanded its global trade participation in recent years, private investment remains weak, employment rate has fallen, rural incomes are stagnating, and per-capita income varies considerably.

# Citing free healthcare and education, govt says consumption hasn't fallen

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

DISMISSING REPORTS of falling consumption expenditure as a "misconception", Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation Rao Inderjit Singh told the Rajya Sabha that consumption has increased.

Asked about the Centre scrapping the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES) report for 2017-18, he attributed the decision to "divergence" between the survey findings and "other administrative data sources" such as actual production of goods and services. "Concerns were also raised about the ability and the sensitivity of the survey instrument to capture consumption of social services by households, especially on health, education, etc.," Singh added.

"Ten crore households get Rs 5 lakh of medical aid freely per year. Apart from this, there is a right to free education, which has now been taken up by the government"

RAO INDERJIT SINGH  
MINISTER, MOSPI

Elaborating on his point, the Minister cited the example of schemes like Ayushman Bharat.

"Ten crore households get Rs 5 lakh of medical aid freely per year. Apart from this, there is a right to free education, which has now been taken up by the government. So, people don't spend on health, as they used to... they don't spend on education because now, it is free... I stand by my statement, as I said earlier, that the consump-

tion has not decreased." Responding to a separate question by TMC MP Santanu Sen, Singh told the Upper House that the decision to change the base year for calculating GDP was taken because of changes in the socio-economic environment. "Even the United Nation's System of National Accounts says the base year should be periodically changed so as to get full rainbow colours of the economy into mapping, so that you get the proper estimate as to what is going on in the country's GDP," he said.

Singh added that changing of the base year for calculating GDP had happened on six earlier occasions. "Over the past 70 years in India, base year has been changed seven times, namely, in 1967, 1978, 1988, 1999, 2006, 2010, and thereafter, in 2015, when 2011-12 was computed as the base year."

# Reserve Bank: Consumer confidence fell further in Nov

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

THE RESERVE Bank of India's (RBI) consumer confidence survey (CCS) released on Thursday reported a further drop in consumer confidence in November as households remained pessimistic about jobs and the general economic situation. The current situation index (CSI) fell to 85.7 last month from 89.4 in September.

The future expectations index (FEI) also fell to 114.5, down from 118 in September. RBI's CCS was conducted in 13 major Indian cities, including Mumbai and Delhi. It obtained data from 5,334 households across these cities. FE

# M&M buys 36.63% stake in Meru for ₹44.7 crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 5

MAHINDRA & Mahindra (M&M) on Thursday acquired 36.63 per cent stake in cab-operator Meru in an all-cash deal for Rs 44.71 crore, in its bid to tap the growing shared mobility space.

The utility vehicle makers plans to acquire 55 per cent stake in multiple tranches and the investment gives it the right to appoint majority of directors on Meru's board. On August 31, M&M had said it would buy up to 55 per cent stake in tranches.

With this first tranche of investment, Meru and its allied companies have become subsidiaries of M&M. M&M had said in August that it would invest an amount not exceeding Rs 201 crore in Meru. The company will

spend Rs 103 crore in acquiring 55 per cent stake, while the balance amount of Rs 98 crore will be used to acquire additional stake from other investors.

The Meru acquisition is the latest in a string of investments made by M&M in the shared mobility and ride-hailing operators. The corporate shared mobility space is an area of strategic interest to the company, M&M said.

M&M has made investments in self-drive car rental company Zoomcar, in addition to running its own e-mobility company Mahindra Gylid with e-Verito cars. With the Meru acquisition, M&M is now competing with Ola and Uber, but it has earlier helped both the cab-aggregators run a fleet of electric cars.

Meru started operations in December 2006 much before the arrival of Ola and Uber. FE

## BRIEFLY

### E-comm: 'Soft advisory' likely

New Delhi: Competition Commission of India (CCI) said it might issue a "soft advisory" to e-commerce platforms to self-regulate certain aspects of their practices to foster trust and a predictable relationship with business users so that e-commerce's full competitive potential can be harnessed. PTI

### 'India impacting energy transition'

New Delhi: Union Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, at the test drive of a hydrogen fuel cell-based car made by Toyota Kirloskar, said India is undergoing energy transition and impacting global energy transition in a big way. ENS

### Moody's cuts Yes Bank outlook

Mumbai: Moody's downgraded ratings on Yes Bank with a negative outlook on asset quality concerns and falling capital buffers. PTI

### Draft on pay for fund managers

New Delhi: The Central Board of Direct Taxes has come out with a draft notification regarding remuneration of India-based fund managers who manage funds of overseas investors. PTI

### CBIC withdraws ITeSGST circular

New Delhi: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs withdrew a circular which created confusion on whether IT service providers can be qualified as intermediaries based on self-assessment under GST. PTI

### Shadowfax raises ₹430 cr in funding

New Delhi: Logistics firm Shadowfax has raised around Rs 430 crore in a funding round led by e-commerce major Flipkart. Eight Roads Ventures, NPG Capital, Qualcomm Ventures, Mirae Asset Naver Fund and the World Bank-backed IFC also participated in the funding round, a statement by Shadowfax and Flipkart said. PTI

### \$150 million funding for NIIF

Mumbai: The National Infrastructure Investment Fund (NIIF) has secured a \$150-million funding commitment from the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board for its master fund. PTI

### Nod to allocation of 5 coal blocks

New Delhi: The Centre approved the allocation of five coal blocks, including two to Birla Corporation and one to Vedanta, and said the mines will generate revenue of Rs 17,136 crore. PTI

# We stand to support Kia Motors all through: Andhra Pradesh CM

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 5

ANDHRA PRADESH Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Thursday assured Korean auto manufacturer Kia Motors that his government would strongly support the company.

"I assure the Kia management team which is functioning from this plant that we would stand to support Kia Motors all through. You will have a very pro-active government... you can just reach out to us and we would extend every possible help whatsoever is required to make this plant successful. I wish you all the very best and thank you for giving us this wonderful plant in Andhra Pradesh," he said, speaking after inaugurating the fully functional facility at Penukonda and Erramanchi villages in Anantapur district.

Top executives of Kia Motors, including president & CEO Han Wu Park and managing director

Kookhyun Shim, as well as South Korean Ambassador Shin Bongkil were in attendance at Thursday's event. Reddy said the plant was truly a world-class one, adding, "I am happy to inaugurate this fully functional facility and I foresee great hope not only for Andhra Pradesh but also like-minded companies from all over the globe to set up shop in India, especially in Andhra Pradesh."

He further said that Kia did a wonderful job in Andhra and once the plant is fully commissioned, it would be capable of generating 11,000 direct jobs and 7,000 jobs in ancillary industries.

An official said that Reddy told the Kia management that he hoped that the company would expand its business and set up more plants to achieve full-fledged production capacity of three lakh cars.

Meanwhile, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders, including N Lokesh, took a dig at Reddy for "inaugurating" the plant that has been rolling out cars already.

# OPEC, allies agree to deepen oil output cuts

Oil glut looms on booming output in US, Brazil; Russia says cuts to last until Q1

REUTERS  
VIENNA/LONDON, DEC 5

OPEC AND allies led by Russia on Thursday agreed one of the deepest output cuts this decade to prevent oversupply in a deal that will apply for an unexpectedly short period of the first three months of 2020. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) began a meeting to discuss policy in Vienna at 1630 GMT. On Friday, OPEC will meet with Russia and other producers, a group known as OPEC+.

Existing supply curbs of 1.2 million barrels per day, aimed at supporting oil prices and preventing a global glut, are set to expire in March. Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said a panel of energy ministers including Saudi Arabia and Russia had recommended OPEC+ deepen the cuts by 500,000 bpd. A cut of 1.7 million bpd would amount to 1.7 per cent of global supply.

"We really do see some risks of oversupply in the first quarter due to lower seasonal demand



The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries headquarters in Vienna. Reuters

for refined products and for crude oil," Novak said. He said cuts would last through the first quarter of 2020, a shorter timeframe than suggested by some OPEC ministers, who have called for extending cuts until June or December 2020 amid fears of a slowing global economy.

OPEC+ has agreed voluntary supply cuts since 2017 to counter booming output from the shale fields of the United States, which

has become the world's biggest producer.

Washington has forced an even steeper reduction in supply through sanctions on OPEC members Iran and Venezuela aimed at choking both countries' oil export revenue. Producers face another year of rising output from the United States along with other non-OPEC producers Brazil and Norway. "With a weaker US dollar, im-

# 'Aramco IPO to be biggest ever in history'

Dubai/Riyadh: State-owned oil giant Saudi Aramco's IPO will be the biggest in history, as per sources, but will still fall significantly short of the towering \$2 trillion valuation long sought by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Aramco priced its IPO at 32 riyals (\$8.53) per share raising \$25.6 billion, three sources said. REUTERS

proving economic data and OPEC aggressively managing supply, this should ensure a \$60-\$65 Brent oil price in the seasonally weak period of next year," said Gary Ross, founder of Black Gold Investors.

OPEC's actions have supported oil prices at around \$50-\$75 per barrel over the past year. Brent crude futures on Thursday extended this week's gains to trade above \$63 per barrel.

# US must cut tariffs for phase one deal: China

Beijing: Tariffs must be cut if China and the United States are to reach an interim agreement on trade, the Chinese commerce ministry said on Thursday, sticking to its stance that some US tariffs must be rolled back for a phase one deal.

"The Chinese side believes that if the two sides reach a phase one deal, tariffs should be lowered accordingly," ministry spokesman Gao Feng told reporters, adding that both sides were maintaining close communication. Completion of a phase one deal between

the world's two biggest economies had been initially expected in November, ahead of a new round of US tariffs set to kick in on December 15, covering about \$156 billion of Chinese imports.

Delegations on both sides remained locked in discussions over "core issues of concern," with rising bilateral tensions over non-trade issues such as the protests in Hong Kong and Beijing's treatment of Uighur Muslims clouding prospects for a near-term deal to end a trade war. REUTERS

# US Oct trade deficit falls to lowest in 18 months

Washington: The US trade deficit dropped to its lowest level in nearly one and a half years in October, suggesting trade could contribute to economic growth in the fourth quarter, though a broad decline in imports hinted at a slowdown in domestic demand.

Still, consumer spending is likely to remain supported by a strong labor market. Other data

on Thursday showed the number of Americans filing claims for unemployment benefits unexpectedly fell last week, hitting their lowest level in seven months.

The Commerce Department said the trade deficit tumbled 7.6 per cent to \$47.2 billion, the smallest since May 2018, as both imports and exports of goods declined. REUTERS

## CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS

## Brassed off

Donald Trump falls out with the military establishment he once wooed

THE 45TH PRESIDENT began his term by packing his administration with military officers. Since then he has broken with the men he once called "my generals". On November 15th Donald Trump pardoned two soldiers accused of war crimes and reversed the demotion of Eddie Gallagher, a Navy seal convicted in a military court of posing with a dead captive. When the navy sought to remove Mr Gallagher's Trident pin, which marks out seals, Mr Trump ordered that he be allowed to keep it. Richard Spencer, the secretary of the navy, balked at this micromanagement of military justice and was soon fired (he was also accused of trying to cut a deal with the White House behind the back of his boss, Mark Esper). All this adds to the cocktail of civil-military dysfunction that has swirled since Mr Trump took office.

Mr Trump's initial reliance on retired and serving officers to fill senior posts reflected a paucity of qualified civilians willing to serve him. But it was also an effort to cast a coveted military halo over his political agenda. Since Lyndon Johnson every administration has had at least one active or retired flag-rank officer (ie, a general or admiral) at cabinet or senior level, says Peter White of Auburn University. At his martial peak, Mr Trump had three—no more than Barack Obama. But that does not tell the whole story, says Mr White, because Mr Trump's officers took roles almost always held by civilians.

His first defence secretary, James Mattis, was the first retired general to hold the post in nearly seven decades and required a congressional waiver to take the job. Mr Mattis was flaunted at Mr Trump's side in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes when the president signed the so-called Muslim ban in January 2017. Michael Flynn, a retired general, and H.R. McMaster, an active one, also served as Mr Trump's first two national security advisers, lending a veneer of normalcy to his anarchic foreign policy. And John Kelly, another retired general, cheered on Mr Trump's border wall as secretary of homeland security, later becoming the president's chief of staff.

Mr Trump's enchantment with generals eventually soured. Mr Flynn left in disgrace in February 2017 and Mr McMaster departed in April 2018. Mr Mattis and Mr Kelly both resigned. In October this year Mr Trump belittled Mr Mattis as "the world's most overrated general". But his use of military top brass for political ends went beyond his enlistment of senior officers.

"Populism laps at the edges of military professionalism," notes Eliot Cohen of Johns Hopkins University. And so it has proved, with the president's involvement in Mr Gallagher's case being merely the latest example. Mr Trump's request for a grand military parade in Washington was widely viewed as a political stunt. In December 2018 he delivered a brazenly partisan speech to American troops in Iraq. "You're fighting for borders in other countries," he told the gathered soldiers, "and they don't want to fight, the Democrats, for the border of our country."

During Mr Trump's visit to Iraq, several soldiers brought their own "Make America Great Again" caps, which the president duly signed. A few months later, before a presidential trip to Japan, the White House demanded that the USS John McCain—a warship named after the late senator, whom Mr Trump had attacked in life and death—be kept "out of sight". A tarpaulin was thrown over the ship's name. Mr Trump later praised the "well meaning" officials who had anticipated his wishes.

Mr Trump's assault on civil-military norms has also provoked a backlash that may compound the problem. On October 17th William McRaven, a retired admiral who oversaw the raid against Osama bin Laden in 2011, wrote an op-ed that contrasted military virtues with



The highly educated officer corps dislikes Donald Trump, while 47% of the enlisted ranks, largely without college degrees, back him. Reuters

Mr Trump's fecklessness, and urged Democrats and Republicans to replace the president. He quoted a retired four-star general as telling him: "I don't like the Democrats, but Trump is destroying the Republic!"

Mr McRaven's willingness to do what Mr Mattis and Mr McMaster would not—mount an attack on the moral fitness of the president using the authority of their former uniforms—was cheered by the president's critics. But it reflects a trend that many experts in civil-military relations find troubling: an increasing role for senior retired officers in electoral politics.

Military endorsements of presidential candidates were rare before the 1980s. But in 1988 P.X. Kelley, a former head of the marine corps, endorsed President George H.W. Bush. In 1992 William Crowe, a former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, endorsed Bill Clinton. There followed an arms race of military endorsements that reached its grubby pinnacle in 2016, when Mr Flynn sided with Mr Trump, urging crowds to "lock up" Hillary Clinton, and John Allen, a general who headed the fight against Islamic State, backed Mrs Clinton.

Retired flag officers like Mr McRaven are largely free to do as they please, although they

technically keep their commissions and remain subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which restricts criticism of the president, notes Alice Hunt Friend of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a think-tank. But recent surveys conducted by Jim Golby, an active-duty army officer, and Peter Feaver, a professor at Duke University, suggest that the public cannot usually distinguish between serving and retired officers, so interventions by the latter colour perceptions of the former.

"It's been rare in US history that politicisation of veterans and retired military hasn't been quickly followed by the politicisation of serving officers," says Mr Golby. "It's really hard to hold the line. We've seen this at the founding, the Civil War era and during the Gilded Age." Infighting among veterans over the share of battlefield commands

during a war with Mexico in 1846-48 culminated in Winfield Scott, an active-duty general, running for the presidency in 1852, for instance. Such politicisation is worrying. Not only does it undermine trust between political leaders and their military advisers, resulting in poorer decision-making, but the very perception of military disgruntlement or resistance is likely to erode confidence in the supremacy of elected civilian leaders.

What connects these threads is the unique popularity of the American armed forces. A Pew survey published in July showed that they were one of the most trusted groups in the country, second only to scientists: 83% of people expressed confidence in the armed forces, above public schools (80%), police officers (78%) or dastardly journalists (55%). But a forthcoming paper by Mr Golby and Mr Feaver

shows that, if Republican and Democratic respondents are told that the military establishment favours the rival party, their confidence in it plummets.

In truth, the armed forces reflect broader attitudes: the highly educated officer corps dislikes Mr Trump, while 47% of the enlisted ranks, largely without college degrees, back him. But as the military services draw from an ever-narrower demographic pool—southern recruitment has soared over the past 40 years, while that from the north-east has plummeted—its attitudes could grow more unrepresentative. On top of that, Mr Trump's enthusiasm for pardoning convicted war criminals and the broader weaponisation of veterans by the president and his opponents risks bringing about a loss of confidence.

Since the end of the draft, public understanding of how the armed forces work has declined, with men in uniform sitting increasingly apart from society. The risk of politicising them has become poorly understood, says Kori Schake, a former Pentagon official who, together with Mr Mattis, wrote a well-regarded book on civil-military relations. A small consolation is that the republic has weathered

worse. Leonard Wood, a serving army general, ran for president in uniform in 1920. Bill Clinton was openly jeered on his first visit to an aircraft carrier because of his perceived draft-dodging and effort to allow gays to serve openly. In 2007 left-wing groups ran ads attacking David Petraeus, a general who oversaw a successful surge of forces into Iraq, as "General Betray Us".

And whereas no-one doubted that Mr Trump could sack Messrs Flynn, Mattis, McMaster and Kelly at will, or that he has a right to make ill-advised decisions like the reinstatement of Mr Gallagher, this has not always been so clear. When Harry Truman decided to sack Douglas MacArthur, the top general in Korea, for insubordination in 1951, he worried about his ability to pull it off. Mr Truman would later convey a sentiment shared by many presidents: "I fired him because he wouldn't respect the authority of the president. I didn't fire him because he was a dumb son of a bitch, although he was, but that's not against the law for generals. If it was, half to three-quarters of them would be in jail."

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## TIGER FARMS IN LAOS

## Law of the jungle

Laos still winks at tiger farms

LIU CHUNG shakes her head: there are no more tiger zoos here, she insists. This is strange. The area around the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone (SEZ), a swathe of north-western Laos where Ms Liu, a taxi driver, plies her trade, is famous for its tigers. Not wild ones, which have nearly all been killed in Laos, but captive animals, illegally trafficked and bred for their parts, which sell for thousands of dollars. Your correspondent points on her map to a place near the SEZ where a tiger farm is rumoured to operate. Now Ms Liu remembers. She starts up the engine.

A century ago, around 100,000 tigers roamed the world's jungles. Because of habitat loss and poaching, there are fewer than 4,000 wild ones today. More than twice as many are being held in at least 200 farms across East and South-East Asia, says Leigh Henry of the World Wildlife Fund. These range from small backyard operations to enclosures breeding hundreds in "battery-farm style", says the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), an international NGO focusing on wildlife crime.

**A century ago, 100,000 tigers roamed the world's jungles. Because of habitat loss and poaching, there are fewer than 4,000 wild ones today. More than twice as many are being held in 200 farms across East and South-East Asia, says WWF**

Breeding tigers and trading them and their parts is banned by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, but this treaty is widely flouted in Asia because of poor law-enforcement and high demand for tigers. Belief in their medicinal properties has deep roots, especially in China. Tiger-bone wine, skins and jewellery featuring claws and teeth are status symbols. In Laos, carcasses can sell for as much as \$30,000, officials reckon.

Some criminals choose to operate in Laos because "there's no real rule of law" there, says Debbie Banks of the EIA. Indeed,

the government of Laos is allegedly complicit. America's State Department recently reported that Laos was one of three countries that had recently "actively engaged in or knowingly profited from the trafficking of endangered or threatened species". In 2016 an investigation by Britain's *Guardian* newspaper found the Lao government had licensed two tiger farms and cut lucrative deals with wildlife traffickers smuggling millions of dollars' worth of endangered animals—including tigers—through Laos.

The government has a 20% stake in Golden Triangle SEZ, a resort complex run by Zhao Wei, a Chinese businessman whom America's Treasury last year accused of engaging in illegal trade in wildlife, as well as trafficking drugs and people (he denies the allegations). With its flashy casino and hotels, the SEZ is designed to attract Chinese tourists (gambling is illegal in China). In 2014 and 2015, EIA investigators found that restaurants in the SEZ were advertising "sauté tiger meat" and tiger-bone wine; shops were selling tiger skins and ivory tusks. Near the casino, 26 tigers stalked the length of their enclosure, destined for the



In Laos, tiger carcasses can sell for as much as \$30,000, officials reckon. Reuters/representative photo

slaughterhouse. Their bones were to infuse rice wine. Since the EIA's report, these establishments have closed.

Laos promised in 2016 to phase out the tiger farms. But the EIA reckons their num-

ber has increased. After a ten-minute drive towards the mountains, Ms Liu, the taxi driver, turns down a dirt road towards a compound where fencing is being put up. The guard at the gate forbids entry. But a lo-

cal with inside knowledge says the facility houses ten to 20 tigers and a few elephants. The tigers are there to be bred.

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# 22 STORIES OF STRENGTH



The Maharashtra Police Pipe Band kicked off the memorial event with a spirited performance



Rekha Bhardwaj presented a special song for the memorial event



Harshdeep Kaur sang *Luka chuppi* from the film *Rang De Basanti*



Mahesh Kale gave a special rendition of *Abhang Des raag*

## A Night to Remember

At twilight on 26/11, Mumbai came alive with stories and songs of love and courage, at a memorial event organised by The Indian Express Group



Sanjay Barve, Commissioner of Police, Mumbai



Hemendra Kothari, veteran investment banker and Founder, DSP Group



Col Nitesh Kumar, Group Commander, 26 Special Composite Group, National Security Guard, with wife Priyanka Singh



Shaina NC, BJP National Spokesperson



Niraj Bajaj, Promoter-Director, Bajaj Group



The Navy band in the foreground as the Gateway of India presents the backdrop for the memorial night, with a helicopter flypast

### EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

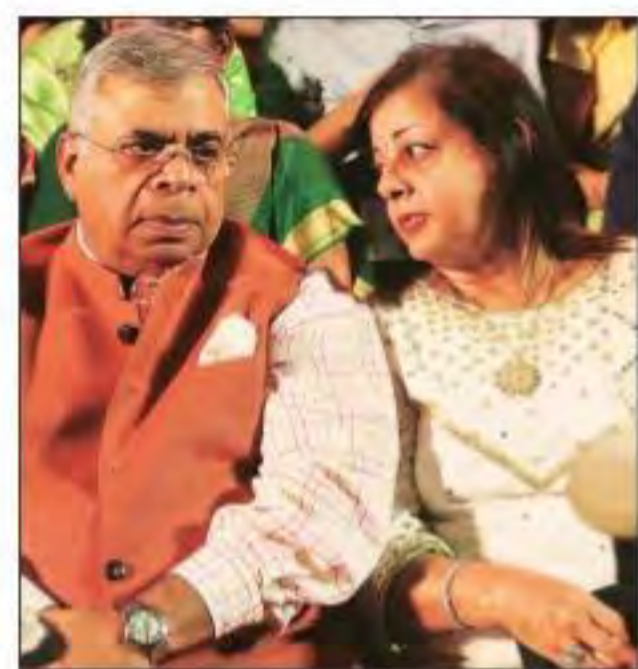
WE HAVE, for four years now, been inviting you to the Gateway of India, to evaluate your view on the power of love and hate, and to provoke a dialogue between the humanist and the extremist inside each one of us," said Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, at "26/11: Stories of Strength", an event organised by the Express Group to pay tribute to the heroes and families affected by the attacks.

The evening began with a performance by the Maharashtra Police Pipe band, followed by the Navy Band; their set featured a two-helicopter flypast. They first unfurled the Indian flag, while commandos dangled from the second rotorcraft, holding coloured torches that made a tri-colour over the monument. Bollywood playback singers Divya Kumar, Harshdeep Kaur and Shilpa Rao set the tone for the evening with their rendition of popular film songs of patriotism, bravery and endurance. Actors Anushka Sharma, Vicky Kaushal and Radhika Apte appeared in the video segments of the show. The musical acts continued with classical vocalist Mahesh Kale's

stunning performance of *Abhang Des raag* and *Vande Mataram*; Rekha Bhardwaj's Sufi-inspired ode to peace and love; and a full-family performance by violin virtuoso, Dr L Subramaniam and his wife, Kavita Krishnamurthy, with their children Bindu and Ambi Subramaniam.

The most rousing applause of the evening was reserved for Amitabh Bachchan. Combining poetry and choreography, the 77-year-old actor joined dancers from the Shaimak Davar Dance Company, in a performance that explored the reasons India was *saare jahaan se acchha*.

The event was directed by Anand Tiwari and hosted by film and TV actor, Samir Kochhar. Several dignitaries were in attendance: Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Rajnath Singh, Field Officer Commanding-in-chief, Western Naval Command, Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P, actors Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, writer and columnist Shobhaa De, BJP spokesperson Shaina NC, BJP legislator Ashish Shelar, former legislator Raj Purohit, Municipal Commissioner Praveen Pardeshi, Mumbai Port Trust Chairman Sanjay Bhatia, Colonel Nitesh Kumar of the National Security Guard, and Group Captain A Sreedhar of the Indian Air Force.



Ashok Hinduja, Chairman, Hinduja Group (India), with wife Harsha



(Left) Sanjay Bhatia, Chairman, Mumbai Port Trust, with Pravin Pardeshi, Municipal Commissioner, Greater Mumbai Municipal Corporation



Puneet Dalmia, Managing Director, Dalmia Bharat Group



Bakul Jain, Managing Director, DCW Ltd



K Unnikrishnan and Dhanalakshmi Unnikrishnan, parents of late Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan



Pranav Adani, Managing Director, Agro, Oil and Gas, Adani Group, with wife Namrata



(Left) Niranjan Hiranandani, Founder and Managing Director, Hiranandani Group of Companies, with Vallabh Bhansali, Co-Founder of ENAM group



Abraham Thomas, Chief Executive Officer, Big FM



Ashishkumar Chauhan, Managing Director & CEO, Bombay Stock Exchange



L. Subramaniam on the violin with wife and vocalist Kavita Krishnamurthy and their children, Bindu and Ambi Subramaniam



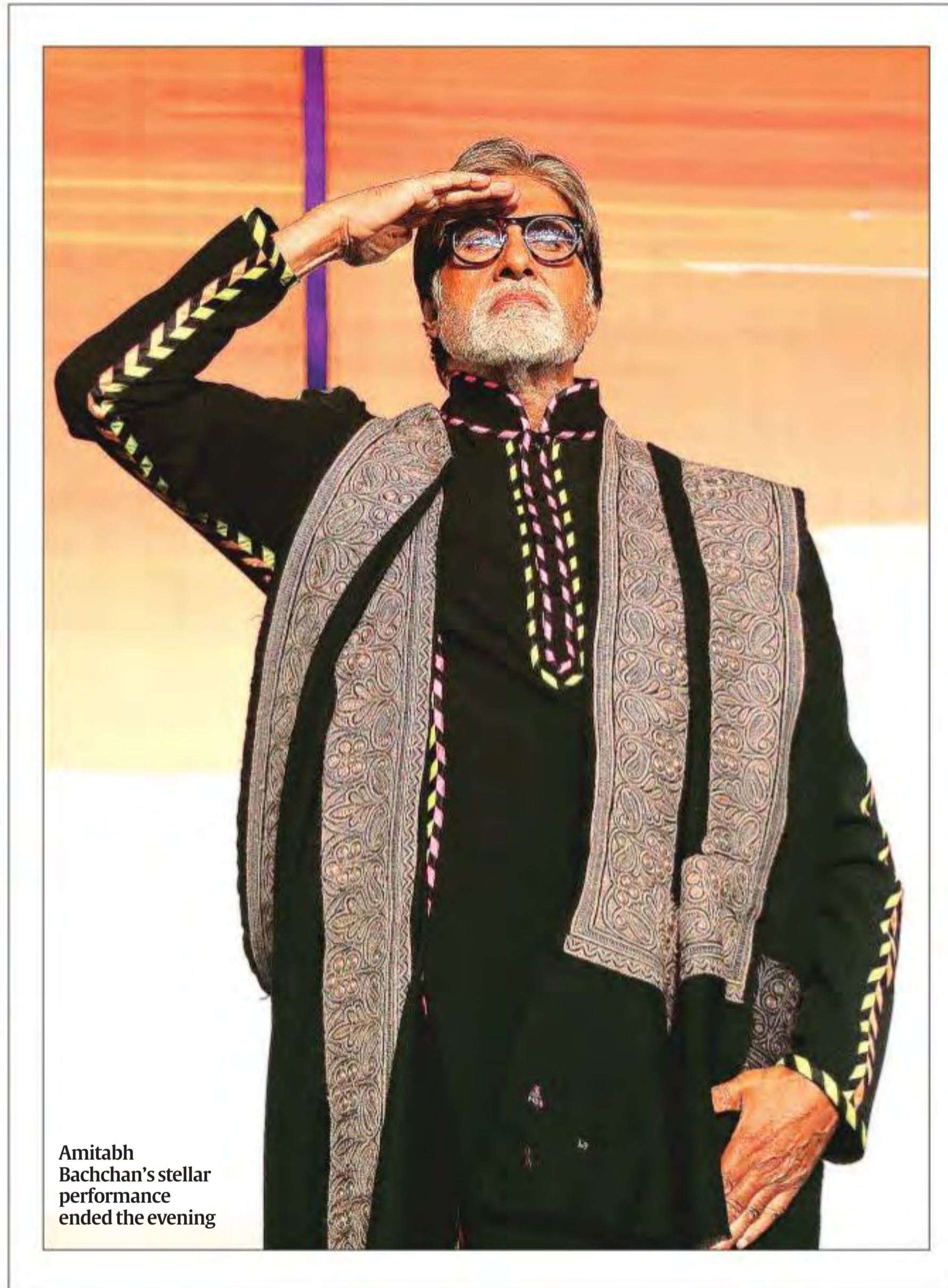
Nitin Gadkari looks on as Rajnath Singh blesses Jui Karkare Navare, as they receive her book, Hemant Karkare: A Daughter's Memoir



Madhur Bajaj, Trustee, Jammalal Bajaj Foundation, with wife Kumud



An audience of nearly 2,200 people joined Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, and Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, in a standing ovation for Amitabh Bachchan's performance



Amitabh Bachchan's stellar performance ended the evening



Nandini Dias, Chief Executive Officer, Lodestar UM



Author Shobhaa De



Anant Goenka, Managing Director, Ceat Ltd



Divya Salaskar, daughter of late Mumbai Police officer Vijay Salaskar



Shweta Bachchan



Jui Karkare Navare, daughter of late Hemant Karkare, former chief of the anti-terrorism squad



(Left) Vice Admiral Girish Luthra (Retd) with wife Preeti, and Vice-Admiral Ajit Kumar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command



Abhishek Bachchan with Aishwarya Rai Bachchan



Samir Kochhar, actor and television presenter, hosted the event



In video presentations shown at the event, actor Anushka Sharma recited a poem by Naveen Chourey that spoke of the valour and courage of the Indian Armed Forces; Radhika Apte interviewed Cama hospital nurse Anjali Kulthe along with wardboy Dondhu Raghunath Parab who helped Viju Chauhan deliver her baby while shots were being fired at the hospital; Vicky Kaushal met with the daughter of NSG Commando Havildar Gajendra Singh Bisht, at Nariman House



Shekhar Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director, Bajaj Electricals Limited



Minal Bajaj, Honorary Director, Jammalal Bajaj Foundation, with Manish Kumar Kejriwal, Managing Partner/Co-Founder, Kedaara Capital Investment Managers



Yaakov Finkelstein, Israel Consul-General in Mumbai



Jaspal Singh Bindra, Executive Chairman, Centrum Group



Gaurav Banerjee, President & Head, Hindi Entertainment, Star India



Krishna Prakash, IG, Administration, Maharashtra



Yogesh Lakhani, Chief Managing Director, Bright Outdoor

Event produced by: WIZCRAFT

Hospitality partner: THE TAJ MAHAL PALACE MUMBAI

Associate partners: TATA, LIC, IIFL WEALTH, Hiranandani, SANGHVI

Supported by: BSE, SOI

Telecom partner: Vodafone

Radio partner: 92.7 BIG FM

Youth partner: Quipaa

Production partner: PRIME FOCUS

Outdoor partner: BRIGHT OUTDOOR MEDIA PVT. LTD.



Rabbi Yisroel Kozlovsky of Chabad House

## ARTHUR BECOMES SL COACH

Mickey Arthur has been appointed as Sri Lanka's head coach on a two-year contract. The 51-year-old has formerly been a head coach of South Africa, Australia and Pakistan.

# Getting back into swing of things

Fit-again Bhuvneshwar is back in the India team, but is some way away from regaining his position as one of India's premier all-format bowlers

**VISHAL MENON**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

ON THE eve of the India-Bangladesh Test in Indore last month, Bhuvneshwar Kumar was seen participating in a 'skill session' with fielding coach R. Sridhar. It involved drills, followed by a brief stint at the nets. A hamstring injury after the West Indies tour in August-September had virtually left Bhuvneshwar marooned at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru for close to three months. Hence, his sudden reappearance with the Indian team was bound to pique curiosity levels. "Since his return from the Caribbean, Bhuv has been undergoing a lengthy rehabilitation programme with the NCA. He has joined the team in Indore to get into the groove," was the official statement from the team management.

Allowing Bhuvneshwar time to "get into the groove" following a lengthy injury lay-off only illustrates the unflinching faith captain Virat Kohli has in the pacer. And now, the Meerut pacer finds himself back in the national reckoning, having earned a spot for the T20s and ODIs against West Indies. Ahead of the first T20, Kohli asserted that Bhuvneshwar's wealth of experience in the shorter formats made him an automatic pick when fully fit. "It's not that big an issue for us. I think Bhuv (Bhuvneshwar) and (Jaspri) Bumrah are experienced bowlers. They have been very consistent in T20 cricket," the Indian captain said, adding that there is only one gap left to be filled in the team's pace attack as it prepares for next year's T20 World Cup in Australia. It indicated that in the skipper's mind Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar and Mohammed Shami are almost certain to make the cut. "The fight obviously is for one spot and I think more or less three guys have made a place for themselves. It's going to be a healthy competition and it will be interesting to see how it pans out," Kohli explained.

Despite the captain's confidence, Bhuvneshwar will know that making a comeback in international cricket is never easy. He looked insipid in the two Syed Mushtaq Trophy matches he played, where he could account for a solitary scalp. One could discount that considering these games were his first competitive outings since the injury lay-off. But even before that, Bhuvneshwar didn't fare much better, having gone wicket-less in

**Despite the captain's confidence, Bhuvneshwar will know that making a comeback in international cricket is never easy. He looked insipid in the two Syed Mushtaq Trophy matches he played, where he could account for a solitary scalp.**



Bhuvneshwar Kumar attends a practice session in Hyderabad on Thursday. PTI

three of his last six international outings since the 2019 World Cup.

That Bhuvneshwar is a prodigious swing bowler is not in doubt. Hard work in the gym has helped him increase his pace by several notches, thereby breaching the 140kmph barrier. The zip, backed by his natural swing, transformed him into India's all-format and all-surface bowler. However, in recent times, Deepak Chahar has shown a propensity to outdo Bhuvneshwar, by marrying swing with pace. The younger Chahar's sensational rise in recent times as a white-ball bowler will keep the 29-year-old Bhuvneshwar on his heels.

### Down the pecking order

Going by Kohli's assertion, the Meerut pacer may have the requisite skill and gumption to be a certainty in the shorter formats. However, he's quite some way down in the pecking order when it comes to Tests. It remains to be seen whether Bhuvneshwar's performances in the upcoming series against West Indies could potentially translate into a return in whites.

Since making his debut in the longest format in March 2013 against Australia, Bhuvneshwar has featured in just 21 Tests. It's not that he has suffered drastic dips in form, and neither has he been sidelined due to career-threatening injuries. It's just that the surfeit of quality fast bowlers at Kohli's disposal — Bumrah, Shami, a vastly improved Ishant Sharma and the resurgence of Umesh Yadav — meant that opportunities were few and far between. Such a wealth of options meant that the team management could not only rotate the pace attack, but also unleash them depending on the nature of the pitch and conditions. So, if the track had pace and zip, they would prefer Bumrah, while on occasions when there was reverse swing, Umesh would be their go-to man.

Just to put things in perspective, Bhuvneshwar's last outing in whites came in the third India-South Africa Test match at Johannesburg in January 2018. Even an impressive performance in that game — with both bat and ball — did little to cement his spot for the subsequent tours, which was indicative of how low he had fallen in queue.

India is scheduled to play two Test matches in New Zealand early next year, and the team management will find it hard to look beyond their current pace quartet — comprising Bumrah, Ishant, Shami and Umesh — who blew away the hapless Proteas and out-of-depth Bangladesh. The only way Bhuvneshwar can make it in whites to New Zealand is if Bumrah doesn't recover fully from his injury, which looks extremely unlikely. In such a scenario, the Uttar Pradesh bowler has no other option but to return to Ranji Trophy and hope that truckloads of wickets will help him reclaim his India spot for long-form cricket. For the time being, he will look to "get back into the groove" against West Indies. **FIRST T20: LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & 3 — 7 PM ONWARDS**



## No. 1 IS BACK

Virat Kohli, who was rested during the limited-overs series against Bangladesh last month, resumes white-ball captaincy duties when the Indian team faces the Windies in the first T20i in Hyderabad on Friday. PTI

# Pant can't be isolated to such an extent that he gets nervous on the field: Kohli on boos directed at 'keeper

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 5

A DAY before the T20-leg of the limited-over series against the West Indies, kicking off in Hyderabad, India skipper Virat Kohli defended under-fire wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, besides admitting India's flaws in this format in a media interaction on Thursday. Excerpts.

### On Rishabh Pant

"If he misses a chance or something, people can't shout. It's not respectful because no player would like that to happen. You are playing in your own country and you should get support rather than always thinking what mistake is this guy going to make. No one wants to be in that position. He can't be isolated to such an extent that he gets nervous on the field. If you want him to do well and win matches for India all of us collectively should make him feel like he belongs and we are here to do things for him rather than against him. As Rohit (Sharma) said recently, he needs to be left alone, he is a match-winner. Once he comes good, you will see a very different version of him, which we have seen in the IPL already because he is free and relaxed there. He feels that there is a lot more respect when it comes to his abilities and what he can achieve for the team. I think he needs to feel that a bit more."

### On Pant opening

"Not really. In IPL you have eight teams



Pant was booed by spectators during the India-Bangladesh T20 series.

and a lot more players who can play at a lot more positions. You have to figure out who are the best guys to do the job at a particular position."

### On India's flaws in T20

"I don't think we have been very good while batting first in T20 cricket and defending low totals as well. So those are two things we really need to focus on. Having said that T20 is a format where you experiment a lot more things than ODI and Test cricket. I think from that point of view you take a lot more risk in terms of what you want. As a team you give a lot of chances to

youngsters. So you can't really pinpoint where we stand. Ranking is actually the reflection of the strongest eleven but we haven't really played the strongest eleven together for many games."

### On rankings (India is ranked 5th)

"For us it's about figuring out who are the players that can make a transition into international cricket and this a good format to see them. Now heading into the World Cup rankings are going to be irrelevant because in T20 anyone can win on the day. We will probably be playing as close to the eleven that we want in the World Cup for the remainder of

the T20 games we have leading upto the World Cup."

### On challenges

"It's always good to have challenges as a team and to win a global tournament you need to have all bases covered. T20 is all about being flexible. There won't be a set pattern. We have to be unpredictable."

### On Kuldeep and Chahal

"Having two wrist spinners is big advantage when you are playing in Australia in big fields. There might be some games where both might play together. But in T20 cricket, it's all about balance and predominantly we see one guy playing with Jadeja and Washy (Sundar) because it gives us all kinds of variety in the bowling attack. You need to have six bowling options in T20 cricket. That's the basic rule. You can't go with five expecting everyone to bowl four good overs. I think that is the balance we need to create."

### On Ravindra Jadeja

"He is probably in the best batting form of his life. This is really his best phase as an all-rounder and we want to maximise that."

### On Shami's comeback (in T20s)

"He is coming back and he is bowling really well. If he gets into a rhythm and specifically works on what's required in T20 cricket then he will be very, very useful in places like Australia, especially with his ability to pick wickets with the new ball. He has enough pace to execute yorkers."

## TV ump to call front-foot no-ball in Ind-WI series

Dubai: Front-foot no-balls in the upcoming T20 and One-Day International series between India and the West Indies will be decided by the third umpire and not the on-field officials, the International Cricket Council announced on Thursday. The series, comprising three T20 Internationals and an equal number of ODIs, starts on Friday in Hyderabad and technology to call front foot no balls will be put to trial in it. "Throughout the trial, the Third Umpire will be responsible for monitoring every ball bowled and identifying whether there has been any front foot infringement," the ICC said in a statement. "If there has been an infringement on the front foot, the Third Umpire will communicate this to the On-Field Umpire who will subsequently call a no ball. As a result, the On-Field Umpire will not call a front foot no ball without the advice of the Third Umpire," it added.

The ICC said the benefit of doubt in close calls will be with the bowler. "...and if a late no ball call is communicated, then the On-Field Umpire will rescind a dismissal (if applicable) and call no ball," the ICC said.

— PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

# West Indies needs to protect young talent from vultures of the game, says Pollard

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 5

WEST INDIES T20 captain Kieron Pollard on Thursday said young cricketers in his country need to be protected from "vultures of the game" when they are initiated into international cricket. West Indies have opted for some young players in their 15-member team for the limited overs series against India beginning with the first T20 International here on Friday, and Pollard said they need to be given enough opportunity to showcase their talent.

"They (Brandon King and Keesrick Williams) have been pretty good. It's good that we have young guys coming in from the CPL. They are excited to represent West Indies. But the problem is, we as individuals try to judge people too quickly," Pollard said at the pre-match press conference. "We need to have patience. At the end of the day we need results but sometimes you have to be honest with yourself. We look forward to these talents showing the world what they



Kieron Pollard addresses a press conference in Hyderabad. AP

can do. Sometime you need to have umbrella over them and protect them from the vultures out there to pull them down," he added.

Youngsters like Brandon King, Khary Pierre, Sherfane Rutherford, Keesrick Williams and Hayden Walsh Jr were preferred for the India tour to experienced players like Carlos Brathwaite, Andre Russell and Dwayne Bravo. "They (young players) need experience

and we need to back these guys and see how far they can go because we have seen their talent, their attitude. It's just a matter of trying to teach them and ease them into the world of international cricket which we know is a very tough place."

Talking about the upcoming series, Pollard said his team will look to use the experience of playing in India to challenge the hosts.

"We play a lot of cricket in India. It's just a matter of using our experience and hopefully that experience can be a good step for us. At the end of the day we are here to play some good cricket. We have prepared well and from tomorrow we will hit the ground and start running," said Pollard. "For us it's just a matter of getting acclimatised and we are here for a while now since November and now it's about putting the pieces of puzzle together. There are instances we knew we faltered in the last series. We have spoken about it and hopefully in this series we put these things right."

Pollard said his side need to improve their collective game as a team to give India a tough fight in the series.

# SA crisis deepens, Bacher calls for chief executive's resignation

**AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE**  
JOHANNESBURG, DECEMBER 5

THE CRISIS in South African cricket deepened on Thursday as former chief executive Ali Bacher called on incumbent Thabang Moroe to quit, while a second independent director resigned from the board of Cricket South Africa. Bacher, a former Test captain, said Moroe was out of his depth, while independent board member Iqbal Khan, the chairman of CSA's finance committee, said he could no longer be party to an organisation that was "ruining the game".

Khan blamed Moroe for the majority of issues besetting CSA, including failing to adhere to the terms of an agreement with the SA Cricketers' Association, the banning of five journalists last weekend and "widespread credit card abuse".

In his letter to CSA president Chris Nenzani, Khan wrote: "Unfortunately, all fingers point at the CEO. "But, having said that, I cannot believe that you are not aware of the many issues that have caused this

malaise and to that extent you are also complicit and perhaps even the entire board."

Khan's resignation came a day after that of Shirley Zinn, leaving CSA with only three of their five independent directors. CSA will be holding an emergency board meeting in Johannesburg on Saturday at which it said "important decisions will be made".

### 'Joke of world cricket'

Bacher said in an interview with the ESPNcricinfo website that he had mediated talks between Moroe and former Test captain Graeme Smith on August 28, which could have led to Smith becoming CSA director of cricket. Smith announced on November 15 that he had withdrawn his interest in taking the job — although he confirmed on Monday that new talks were under way.

In an interview with an Afrikaans-language website, Bacher said, "We're currently the joke of world cricket. I don't want us to end up like the West Indies, who were once a mighty cricket nation but have just disappeared over the last decade or two."

# India breach 100-mark to consolidate top spot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KATHMANDU, DECEMBER 5

LED BY strong performances by wushu players and swimmers, India breached the 100-medal mark by winning a whopping 56 medals on the fourth day of competitions to consolidate its top position in the South Asian Games here on Thursday.

India secured its best medal haul on a single day so far in the Games to lead the medal tally with 62 gold, 41 silver and 21 bronze for a total of 124 medals to leave hosts Nepal far behind in the second spot. Nepal has 36 gold, 27 silver and 38 bronze for a total of 101 medals, followed by Sri Lanka at third position with 107 medals (17 gold, 35 silver, 55 bronze). India added 30 gold, 18 silver and 8 bronze on Thursday.

The bulk of India's medals came from swimming, wushu, weightlifting and athletics. India's gold rush was triggered by wushu with as many as seven yellow metals coming from it. Suraj Singh fetched the first wushu gold of the day in men's gunshu all-round event before Y Sanathoi Devi (women's sansou 52kg), Punam (women's 75kg), Deepika (women's 70kg), Sushila (women's 65kg), Roshibina Devi (women's 60kg) and Sunil Singh (men's 52kg) also clinched top spots in their respective events. O Bidyapati Chanu bagged a bronze in women's sansou 56kg category.

Swimming accounted for the most medals for India with 11, of which four were gold, six silver and one bronze. Likhit Selvaraj Prema clocked 2 minute 14.67 seconds to win the men's 200m breaststroke (short course) gold while compatriot Danush Suresh won the silver in 2:19.27. India's second gold from swimming came from Apeksha Delyla Fernandes who won the men's 200m breaststroke (short course) with a time of 2:38.05. Divya Satija clinched a gold in women's 100m butterfly (short course), clocking 1:02.78, before the women's 400m freestyle relay team finished on top of the podium with a time of 3:55.17.

Indians bagged four gold medals on the first day of weightlifting competitions. Jhilli Dalabehera, who had fetched a silver in the Asian Weightlifting Championship earlier this year, lifted a total of 151 kg (66kg in snatch and 85kg in clean & jerk) to win the yellow metal in women's under 45 kg category. In the women's under 49kg event, Sneha Soren bagged the top honours. The 18-year-old lifted 68kg in the snatch and followed it up by an 89kg effort in the clean and jerk category for a total of 157kg.

In the women's 55kg event, Commonwealth Championship gold medalist Sorokhaibam Bindyaran Devi emerged victorious. The Manipuri lifted a total of 181kg to grab the top spot on the podium. India's fourth weightlifting gold of the day came from Siddhant Gogoi in the men's 61 kg category for his effort of 264 kg.

Taekwondo players' impressive show also continued as they gave India six medals — 3 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze. India's participation in the taekwondo discipline in the SAG was allowed at the eleventh hour after intervention from the International Olympic Committee. Purva Dattary Dixit (women's 49kg), Ruchika Bhawe (women's 67kg) and Margaret Maria (women's 73kg) bagged the gold for India while Niraj Choudhary (men's 58kg) and Akshay Hooda (men's 87kg) clinched a silver each.

SAG: HOW THEY STAND				
Nation	G	S	B	Total
India	63	41	21	125
Nepal	36	27	38	101
Sri Lanka	17	35	55	107
Pakistan	16	23	26	65
Bangladesh	4	11	45	60

# An 'accidental admission'?

In official document, FIFA may have inadvertently supported claims of corruption against 2022 World Cup

TARIQ PANJA  
DECEMBER 5

CONFIRMATION OF one of the worst scandals in soccer history appears to be sitting in plain sight, published last week on the website of FIFA, the sport's global governing body.

The admission exists in a couple of lines referencing three notorious former soccer officials, dropped casually into a long decision justifying the lifetime ban of one of them. FIFA cautions that people should not read too much into it.

But it's there, for the first time, posted publicly in an official FIFA document.

Question: Which officials were to receive money for their votes in connection with the Qatar selection?

Answer: Ricardo Teixeira, Nicolás Leoz and Julio Grondona.

As secrets go, it was not a well-kept one. Many journalists have published the accusation that bribery helped deliver the 2022 World Cup to Qatar. Investigations have probed it. The United States Department of Justice built indictments based on it.

But the one organization that would never bring itself to admit that bribes had been paid was FIFA itself. That was why it was jarring this week to see the mention of payments to three former top soccer officials — Brazil's Teixeira, Paraguay's Leoz and Argentina's Grondona — as supporting evidence in a FIFA disciplinary report posted online.

The exchange, a snippet of testimony by a South American media executive in an American courtroom, is part of a 28-page document justifying the lifetime suspension of Teixeira, the former head of Brazil's soccer federation. But by releasing that report through a new database that FIFA has hailed as its latest step toward "greater transparency," world soccer's governing body appears to have — inadvertently — gone further than ever before to confirm there was a scheme to bribe voters in the 2022 World Cup vote.

FIFA denied having done anything of the sort. "The reference to the FIFA World Cup 2022 was made by a third party," it said in a statement, noting that Teixeira was barred for corrupt acts related to three unrelated tournaments. "Consequently," FIFA added, "this is not an implicit confirmation that Mr. Teixeira received bribes for his vote in connection to the appointment of the FIFA World Cup 2022 host."

The accusation of a rigged vote is not without substantial circumstantial evidence: More than half of the 22 men who cast ballots in the vote for Qatar in late 2010 were later accused of, or charged with, corruption, including Teixeira, Leoz and Grondona. The entire bidding process remains under investigation by Swiss authorities.

Qatar, the tiny but hugely wealthy Gulf state that beat the United States and others to win the hosting vote, continues to strongly deny any misconduct by any member of its victorious bidding team. "We maintain that we conducted our bid ethically and with integrity, strictly adhering to all rules and reg-



Qatar were controversially elected as the hosts of the 2022 World Cup. Reuters

## EXPLAINED How FIFA's 'transparency' drive may have become admission of guilt

LAST WEEK, FIFA published a disciplinary report against its officials on its website. Among other things, the report mentions payments to three former top football officials — Brazil's Ricardo Teixeira, Paraguay's Nicolás Leoz and Argentina's Julio Grondona — as evidence to support the sanctions imposed on them. And to justify it, a snippet of the testimony by a South American media executive in an American court has been included. It has been alleged that Teixeira and others agreed to vote for Qatar in exchange for \$1 million. FIFA says they have published the document as part of their transparency drive. However, many see this as a sign that world football's governing body has, inadvertently, confirmed there was a scheme to bribe voters during the 2022 World Cup vote.

ulations for the 2018/2022 FIFA World Cup bidding process." Qatar's World Cup organizing committee said in a statement. It has spent years trying to overcome suspicions over how it achieved its stunning victory. FIFA has spent almost as long trying to avoid discussing them.

In outlining its case against Teixeira — one of the more than 40 individuals and companies named in a sweeping 2015 United States indictment that described corruption at soccer's highest levels — FIFA detailed his participation in a number of corruption schemes. Included in that, though not directly a part of FIFA's reasoning for issuing its life ban, was witness testimony from a 2018

trial in New York against three former South American soccer executives. In that case, an Argentine media executive, Alejandro Burzaco, provided evidence against the officials as part of his plea agreement.

### Questioned by American prosecutors

While not identifying Burzaco by name, the FIFA document describes his questioning by American prosecutors. In it, he said Teixeira, along with two other South American officials who have since died, Argentina's Grondona and Paraguay's Leoz — agreed to vote for Qatar in exchange for \$1 million.

When the legal team for Teixeira, who

cited ill health for not attending a hearing with FIFA ethics officials, questioned the validity of the testimony because the Brazilian had yet to be successfully prosecuted in court, FIFA pushed back, painstakingly defending the quality of its evidence and the witness as "credible."

FIFA, in its statement, said Teixeira was barred for bribery connected to a number of South American and Brazilian soccer tournaments, and not for any actions related to the vote for the 2022 World Cup. It said it had extensively commented on an investigation by Michael Garcia, a former United States attorney, that had looked into the corruption surrounding the vote. That investigation, however, was hampered by a lack of subpoena power and no power to compel witnesses outside the soccer world to cooperate.

As part of its continuing effort to promote greater transparency, FIFA in October announced the creation of its new legal portal, in which documentation underlying decisions like the one barring Teixeira would be made public for the first time. In doing so, it pulled back the veil on a judicial process that for decades — and to the consternation of those inside FIFA and out — had been cloaked in secrecy.

By detailing the allegations against Teixeira, however, FIFA, even if it did so accidentally, has once again raised new questions about how Qatar secured soccer's biggest prize. **NYT**

# IOC head Bach says Russian doping sanctions are 'mandatory'

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LAUSANNE, DECEMBER 5

ANY SANCTIONS imposed on Russia in the latest fallout of a years-long doping scandal must be observed by the IOC, the Olympic body president Thomas Bach said on Thursday.

World Anti-Doping Agency leaders have been advised to ban Russia from hosting major sports events for four years, and remove the Russian flag and anthem from those championships, when they meet on Monday in the Olympic capital city of Lausanne.

A WADA expert panel concluded Russian authorities manipulated a Moscow laboratory database — removing details of positive tests and planting fake evidence — before handing it over to investigators in January. When the WADA panel delivered its report and recommendations last week, the IOC called the "flagrant manipulation . an insult to the sporting movement."

Asked on Thursday if the IOC must accept the WADA executive committee's sanction decisions, Bach confirmed: "They are mandatory. IOC has in the Olympic Charter accepted the World Anti-Doping Code and if there is a decision being issued . it is mandatory."

However, Bach refused to speculate on what WADA might decide or which sports events could be affected. Russia's hosting in St. Petersburg of soccer games at the 2020 European Championship and the 2021 Champions League final have been declared out of reach by WADA because European soccer body UEFA is a continental organization. World soccer body FIFA has signed up to the code but not UEFA.

### Loophole in sanctions

A major annual meeting of Olympic stakeholders, known as SportAccord, could also be beyond the reach of WADA's executive board. One loophole of the WADA recommended sanctions is exemptions allowing Russia to host when "it is legally or practically impossible" to strip hosting rights.

On Saturday — after the WADA recommendations were published, and nine days before the pending sanctions decision — Lausanne-based SportAccord said the May 2021 edition of its week-long convention would be in Ekaterinburg, Russia.

The four-man SportAccord executive committee includes a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, businessman Arkady Rotenberg, and former IOC member Francesco Ricci Bitti, who is an Olympic delegate to the WADA ruling panel which decides Russia's fate on Monday.

Bach said any potential conflict of interest for Ricci Bitti would need to be addressed by WADA rules. In the latest defense of Russian interests on Thursday, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said the government ordered its sports officials "to fight for our interests" in the WADA process.

# Dope-tainted Neeraj dropped from Olympics funding programme



Boxer Neeraj has been provisionally suspended by the anti-doping agency.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

DOPE-TAINTED woman boxer Neeraj Phogat was on Thursday dropped from the Sports Ministry's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) while archer Deepika Kumari was included after playing a crucial role in India securing a Tokyo 2020 Games quota place.

Shooter Chinki Yadav, who secured an Olympic quota in the 25m pistol event earlier this year, was added to the TOPS list along with veteran Tejaswini Sawant, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Mairaj Ahmed Khan.

Three archers have been included in the scheme, including former world number

### NEW ENTRANTS IN TOPS

**Shooting:** Aishwarya Tomar, Mairaj Khan, Tejaswini Sawant, Chinki Yadav  
**Archery:** Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, Bombayla Devi.  
**Hockey:** Men's and women's teams.  
**Para-Archery:** Vivek Chikara, Harvinder Singh, Rakesh Kumar and Shyam Sundar  
**Para-Athletics:** Nishad Kumar, Ajeet Singh, Y Kathuniya, T Mariyappan  
**Para-Badminton:** Nagar Krishna.

one Deepika Kumari and Ankita Bhakat, both of whom combined to secure an individual Olympic quota for India in women's

recurve event. Veteran L Bombayla Devi is the other archer to make the cut.

The men's and women's teams have also been included after qualifying for the Tokyo Games. "Boxer Neeraj Phogat has also been excluded from the TOPS scheme due to her provisional suspension by NADA," the Sports Authority of India said in a statement.

Phogat tested positive for performance enhancing drug Ligandrol, which helps muscle building. "The committee has also taken the decision to exclude shooters Ravi Kumar and Om Prakash Mitharwal from the Target Olympic Podium Scheme due to their dipping performance graph," the release stated.

In addition to the above players, who were included in the core group, the com-

mittee has also included Indian men's javelin throwers Shivpal Singh and Rohit Yadav in the developmental group. The criteria for selection of the athletes were feedback from the National Sports Federations, National Observers, High Performance Managers, Project Officers and Coaches.

Besides the inclusion of athletes, financial proposals of more than Rs 40 lakh were approved for athletes from shooting, table tennis, wrestling and para-athletics. The Badminton Association of India also presented its long-term plan for the 2020, 2024 and 2028 Olympics.

The points discussed, in the presence of national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand, included, "creating a larger pool of coaches for the emerging players with a greater focus on Indian coaches."

## [SPORTS BAR]



### First woman match referee for men's ODI

Former India cricketer GS Lakshmi is set to become the first woman match referee to oversee a men's ODI when she officiates the opening match of the third series of the World Cup League 2 in the United Arab Emirates on Sunday. Lakshmi will supervise the game between the UAE and USA at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium. The competition aims to provide development opportunities for officials. This is the second significant achievement for Lakshmi this year, following her appointment as the first woman on the ICC International Panel of Match Referees in May. The 51-year-old has overseen three women's ODI matches, 16 men's T20 Internationals and seven women's T20 Internationals.

### Mumbai City, Kerala Blasters in a stalemate

Mumbai City FC and Kerala Blasters continued their winless streaks as they managed a 1-1 draw in an Indian Super League encounter at the Mumbai Football Arena on Thursday. After a goalless first period, Raphael Messi Bouli (75th minute) put Kerala in the lead but Mumbai hit back with an Amine Chermiti strike (77th) to share the spoils. Mumbai and Kerala are without a win in six matches each and find themselves at sixth and eighth spots on the table, with just one point separating them.



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) in action on Wednesday. AP

### Antetokounmpo stars as Bucks thrash Pistons

Greek Giannis Antetokounmpo poured in 35 points and grabbed nine rebounds in 28 minutes, and the visiting Milwaukee Bucks extended their winning streak to 13 games by rolling past the Detroit Pistons 127-103 on Wednesday. Khris Middleton had 17 points, eight rebounds and five assists while Eric Bledsoe contributed 13 points, six rebounds and six assists. Robin Lopez and Ersan Ilyasova each had 10 points off the bench for the Bucks. Andre Drummond led the Pistons with 23 points, 14 rebounds and five assists. Langston Galloway scored 20 points, and Blake Griffin had 16 points and 10 rebounds but shot just 4-for-17 from the field. Derrick Rose added 14 points. The Bucks won their 10th consecutive match-up against their Central Division opponent. Milwaukee swept the four-game regular season series and a first-round playoff series against Detroit last season, and the Bucks have won the first two games of this season's four-game series.

### Cardiff appeals to CAS after FIFA's Sala order

Cardiff has formally filed an appeal to sport's highest court seeking to overturn a FIFA order it must pay Nantes a 6 million euros (\$6.7 million) first payment for Emiliano Sala. An appeal hearing is likely to be held around April, and a verdict "is not expected before June," the Court of Arbitration for Sport said on Thursday. FIFA ruled in favour of Nantes and warned Cardiff it faces a transfer ban of three trading windows if it refuses to pay when the case is settled. Cardiff agreed in January to pay a club record fee for Argentine forward Sala, who died in a plane crash before playing for his new team. Sala was killed when the single-engine aircraft carrying him from Nantes to Cardiff crashed near the Channel Island of Guernsey on January 21. Hours earlier, FIFA received an online document from the Welsh football federation to complete transferring the player's registration from France.



### Infantino may become IOC member in January

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has been proposed for International Olympic Committee membership, but World Athletics head Sebastian Coe will have to wait due to a conflict of interest, IOC President Thomas Bach said on Thursday. FIFA and World Athletics, have been without membership ever since the departure from the IOC of their respective former presidents Sepp Blatter and Lamine Diack in 2015. Bach said Infantino had been proposed for election at their next session in January. Coe, however, had not been proposed due to a conflict of interest. Apart for his role at World Athletics, Coe is also Group Chairman of consultancy firm CSM which also works with the IOC. Bach said Coe had informed them that he could not immediately resolve this situation but was working on it.

# The Humbled One

Mourinho's return to Old Trafford ends like his departure last year—in defeat

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
LONDON, DECEMBER 5

JOSE MOURINHO endured an unhappy return to Manchester United as Marcus Rashford struck twice in a 2-1 defeat for Tottenham while Liverpool maintained their eight-point lead at the top of the Premier League, putting five goals past Everton.

Second-placed Leicester equalled their top-flight league record of seven consecutive wins with a 2-0 victory against bottom side Watford while Chelsea bounced back from two consecutive league defeats to beat Aston Villa 2-1. Mourinho's first loss since taking charge of Spurs eases the pressure on Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as United moved above Tottenham, up to sixth in the table. Rashford smashed United into an early lead with the help of some poor goalkeeping by Paulo Gazzaniga, the England international's powerful shot creeping in at the near post and he had chances to extend the lead. Yet for all United's dominance in the first 45 minutes, one moment of brilliance from Dele Alli pulled Mourinho's men level before the break.

Alli plucked the ball out of the air and skipped beyond two United defenders with one touch before slotting home his fourth goal in as many games since Mourinho took charge. United were handed the chance to retake the lead when Rashford went down under Moussa Sissoko's challenge in the penalty area early in the second half and he put his recent spot-kick woes behind him to send Gazzaniga the wrong way. "The three points are massive for us," said Solskjaer. "We've had too many draws this season and given too many points away from winning positions. It's a great lesson the last two games (Sheffield United and Aston Villa) and we came back in a great manner."

Mourinho, sacked by United last December, described his reception at Old Trafford as "nice and polite". "It's a step back against a team that is playing with the same objective as us, trying to get up the table and reach the top six," he said. "We need to keep going. We made mistakes but it's not good to be crying about them now."

## Origami double

Liverpool emphatically restated their title credentials by thrashing their city rivals 5-2, surging eight points clear of Leicester after their 14th win in 15 games. Manchester City, in third



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's United delivered their most exhilarating football of the season yet to consign Jose Mourinho (background) to the first defeat of his Spurs tenure. AP

place, are 11 behind the leaders. All but one of the goals came in a frantic first half at Anfield as Divock Origi and Xherdan Shaqiri, who replaced the rested Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah, put Liverpool 2-0 up inside 17 minutes.

Michael Keane pulled a goal back for Everton before Origi got his second and Sadio Mane finished off a blistering counter-attack to make it 4-1. The scoring did not stop there as Richarlison cut the deficit once more, but Georginio Wijnaldum hammered the final nail in the Everton coffin as an eighth defeat in 11 league games sees the Toffees slip into the bottom three. "All the goals were incredible, outstanding," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp. "Wonderful goals, sensational passes, super pieces of football. I loved it a lot."

"We needed fresh legs and I had to show my respect to the boys in the squad, that's all. They proved it. It is much more fun making changes, all of the boys are ready to deliver per-

formances like this." Leicester moved back above City as Liverpool's closest challengers. Brendan Rodgers' side were awarded a penalty after the break when Jonny Evans went down clutching his face inside the area and Jamie Vardy made no mistake, scoring for the seventh straight game.

James Maddison sealed the points deep into stoppage time. Chelsea forward Tammy Abraham, who was prolific during a loan spell at Aston Villa last season, proved the difference against Villa, heading in Reece James's cross to open the scoring. Trezeguet bundled home to bring the visitors level before the break, but Abraham then turned provider by chipping down for Mason Mount to brilliant volley high past Tom Heaton.

Wolves, in fifth place, remain unbeaten in the league since September and goals from Leander Dendoncker and Patrick Cutrone either side of half time gave them a 2-0 win against a disappointing West Ham.

## IRRESISTIBLE RASHFORD

**11** Marcus Rashford has been involved in 11 goals in his last 10 games, netting nine goals and assisting two

**35** Tottenham Hotspur have lost more Premier League matches against Manchester United than against any other team.

**18** Liverpool are unbeaten in their past 18 EPL games against Everton (W8, D10). It's their longest unbeaten run against a particular opponent in the competition.

## HEAVYWEIGHT BOUT

# Grudge bout: Joshua and Ruiz ready for 'Clash on the Dunes'

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
DECEMBER 5

THE THICK, sparkling ring on his right hand and the diamond-studded watch around his left wrist were indications of just how much life has changed for Andy Ruiz Jr since he became world heavyweight champion. It was another part of his attire that really stood out, however, when the portly Mexican came face to face with Anthony Joshua for one of the last times before their title rematch in Saudi Arabia on Saturday.

For the final news conference ahead of the fight, Ruiz chose to wear a New York Knicks jersey - yet another reminder to Joshua of that fateful night at Madison Square Garden in June when he lost his three heavyweight belts in one of boxing's biggest shocks in years. "That's where I got the first victory on June 1 and that's why I brought it," Ruiz said, referring to his jersey. "I wore it to remind myself, 'I'm the champ.'"

And Ruiz has really made the most of his new status over the last five months. One of his first acts was to buy a car for his mother, Felicitas, and he also showed off his lavish new home in California, replete with its fountain and pool, on his social media accounts. He had an audience with Mexico's president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, and threw the ceremonial first pitch at a Los Angeles Dodgers game. Basically doing things he could never have imagined when he used to mix cement for his father, Andres, as a youngster and, as recently as 2017, went a whole year without even fighting following a loss to Joseph Parker in his only previous world title bout. He was disregarded as a potential champion then, mocked for his flabby frame even though his fast hands and skills pointed to a boxer with talent.

Ruiz is at pains to point out, though, that he is simply enjoying his life and not taking his eye off the ball - something Joshua says he did before the first fight.

"There's no way I'm going to let these belts go," Ruiz said, looking at the WBO, WBA and IBF straps in front of him. "I'm going to die trying. It's been a roller coaster but now I've finally made it all this way, there's no way I'm going to let them go." Ruiz knows he will be up against



Ruiz has really made the most of his new status over the last five months.

a different Joshua this time around. A more focused and determined Joshua, who knows he is suddenly fighting to rescue his career after being knocked down four times before the seventh-round stoppage in New York.

## Controversial setting

The first ever heavyweight title fight in the Middle East, somewhat controversially arranged amid concerns over Saudi Arabia's human rights record, has been called the "Clash on the Dunes." As for Joshua, he's labelling it "Back to 16" - a reference to his 16th professional fight when he became world champion for the first time.

He says he is likely to weigh in on Friday at about 238 pounds (108 kilograms), which would be the lightest he has fought since 2014, and has been concentrating on sparring and the "sweet science of the sport" instead of bulking up and doing weights. He has even grown his hair into an Afro, as if he was boxing "in the '70s." "I'm punching like a horse kicking back right now. Loose and heavy, rhythm and flow," said Joshua, adding that he "didn't lose heart or any fire in my belly" after getting beaten by Ruiz for the first loss of his professional career.



**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

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# International Gita Mahotsav

November 23 - December 10, 2019  
Kurukshetra, Haryana

**MAIN ATTRACTIONS**

- Art & Crafts Fair (November 23 - December 10, Bahadur Sarovar, Kurukshetra)
- Gita Maha Aarti (November 23 - December 10, Panchsheel Park, Bahadur Sarovar)
- Water Laser Show (November 23 - December 10, Bahadur Sarovar & Jyotir)
- Sant Sammelan (December 7, Cultural Festival, Mohi Ghosla, Bahadur Sarovar)
- Cultural Programme (December 7-8, Cultural Festival, Mohi Ghosla, Bahadur Sarovar)
- Global Chanting of Bhagavad Gita (December 9, Theme Park, Kurukshetra)

**CHIEF GUESTS OF GITA JAYANTI PROGRAMMES AT DISTRICT LEVEL**

<b>Panchkula</b> Gian Chand Gupta Speaker, Haryana Legislative Assembly	<b>Hisar</b> Ranbir Gangwa Deputy Speaker	<b>Sirsa</b> Dushyant Chautala Deputy Chief Minister	<b>Ambala</b> Anil Vij Home Minister
<b>Yamunanagar</b> Kanwar Pal Education Minister	<b>Faridabad</b> Mool Chand Sharma Transport Minister	<b>Fatehabad</b> Ranjit Singh Power Minister	<b>Rohtak</b> Jai Parkash Dalal Agriculture Minister
<b>Rewari</b> Dr. Banwari Lal Co-operation Minister	<b>Mahendragarh</b> Om Prakash Yadav Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment	<b>Kaithal</b> Kamlesh Dhanda Minister of State for Women & Child Development	<b>Jhajjar</b> Anoop Dhanak Minister of State for Labour
<b>Kurukshetra (Pehowa)</b> Sandeep Singh Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs	<b>Karnal</b> Sanjay Bhatia MP, Karnal	<b>Jind</b> Dr. Krishna Middha MLA	<b>Sonapat</b> Mahipal Dhanda MLA
<b>Palwal</b> Deepak Mangla MLA	<b>Panipat</b> Parmod Vij MLA	<b>Bhiwani</b> Ghanshyam Saraf MLA	<b>Charkhi Dadri</b> Sombir Sangwan MLA
<b>Nuh (Mewat)</b> Sanjay MLA	<b>Gurugram</b> Sudhir Singla MLA		

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