



Public outrage

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani says that the Hyderabad encounter was an outcome of public anger against the gruesome crime.

REACTIONS

Will this stop the future rapists?? And an important question Will every rapist be treated the same way...irrespective of their social standing?!

Jwala Gurta, Badminton player

We appreciate what Hyderabad Police has done. I announce reward of Rs 1 lakh to all Police personnel involved in the encounter.

Nareesh Selvar, Chairman, Raah Group Foundation

Citizens should have faith that culprits will meet an end through judicial system

Kumar Selja, Congress leader

It is also something to be worried about, the way people have lost their faith in the criminal justice system. Together all the governments will have to take action on how to strengthen criminal justice system.

Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi CM

As a common citizen I am feeling happy that this was the end we all wanted for them. But this end was supposed to be through the legal system. It should have happened through proper channels

Rekha Sharma, NCV

Now nobody will ever know if the four men killed by the police were innocent men, arrested fast to show action. And whether four of the most brutal rapists room free, to rape and kill more women

Karuna Nundy, lawyer

Great work #hyderabadpolice...we salute u??

Saina Nehwal, Badminton champion

Rape is an heinous crime. It must be dealt with strictly under the provisions of law. While I hold no brief for the alleged perpetrators of this dastardly act, "encounter killings are a blot to our system. While I understand the urge for instant justice, this is not the way

Karti Chidambaram, Congress leader

SAY NO TO TRIGGER TRACK INJUSTICE! This is absolutely unacceptable. So all that the state will do in the name of ensuring that women live as equal and free citizens is to add to its arsenal of unlimited arbitrary violence! Supreme Court of India has directed that in every encounter case - There must be an FIR registered against the police and an investigation; and an independent judicial enquiry into this encounter. No investigation, no Prosecution, these killings distract the public and save the police and state from any accountability. **NO POLICE "ENCOUNTER" IN THE NAME OF WOMEN**

Vrinda Grover, senior lawyer

I congratulate the Hyderabad Police and the leadership that allows the police to act like police. Let all know this is the country where good will always prevail over evil (Disclaimer for holier than thou...pats acted swiftly in self defence)

Rajyavardhan Rathore, BJP MP

The four rapists were taken to the same spot where they committed the crime and shot dead there. Natural justice

Shalini NC, BJP leader

If something of this sort happens, then the culprits should be hanged or killed in an encounter within seven to 15 days. I thank police for the encounter.

Lockett Chatterjee, BJP MP

All those who are criticizing the #hyderabadpolice would have savaged these very cops had those accused managed to escape. Shooting at them was the only option left to the cops, who should be commended for quick and right action. ??

Anil Dhar, author

JUSTICE SERVED! Now, Rest In Peace Disha. **Jr NTR, actor**

We do not know true facts re encounter. If fake, clearly indefensible.

Abhishek Singhvi, Congress MP

Political leaders spar as usual

Cong MP seen rolling up sleeves in front of Irani; WCD minister rakes up Malda case

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

As an emotionally surcharged discussion on the burning of Unnao rape victim turned into a political row leading to an aggressive face-off between Union minister Smriti Irani and two Congress MPs in the Lok Sabha on Friday, the adjournment of the House without doing much business.

The BJP, which had earlier sought their unconditional apology, gave a notice to Speaker Om Birla seeking the suspension of the two Opposition lawmakers.

The BJP is learnt to have complained that the two Congress members should be suspended for their alleged unruly behaviour against Irani in the Lower House.

The notice to move a motion to suspend the Congress MPs for the remaining period of the Winter Session was presented by parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi.

The motion will be pressed by the two members — T.N. Prathapan and Dean Kuriaokose — do not tender an unconditional apology to the minister in the House.

Earlier, during a heated debate in the Lok Sabha on the burning of a rape victim in Unnao, the two MPs left their seats and entered the aisle near the Well, when Irani was speaking, displaying allegedly, "threatening posturing".

Temperature rose in transect benches when Speaker, Adnan Khan, Rajan Chowdhury took a jibe at the BJP during Zero Hour, saying "Sita is being burnt everyday" — a reference to the Unnao case — while plans are afoot to build a Ram temple in UP.

Later, Irani also attacked the Trinamul who's member Swagatika Roy had spoken before

her for not referring to a similar case in Malda in West Bengal.

"Yes, setting afire a woman is condemnable, a heinous crime. Yes, the rape and killing of a woman is inhuman, but do not politicise the issue. No one has ever communalised the issue in this House," she said.

She also alleged during the "West Bengal panchayat elections... rape was used as a political weapon".

As she continued with her aggressive attack on the Opposition, T.N. Prathapan and Dean Kuriaokose of the Congress left their seats and entered the aisle near the Well. They were heard shouting as they charged towards the treasury benches. Prathapan was seen rolling up his sleeve and both members were pulled back by their colleagues.

An angry Irani told the Congress members not to shout at her. An uproar broke out in the House and Union minister Prakash Javadekar sought an adjournment of the Congress members, saying that the treasury benches condemned their behaviour.

MoS parliamentary affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal said Irani was speaking on behalf of the Opposition. T.N. Prathapan and Dean Kuriaokose of the Congress members, saying that the treasury benches condemned their behaviour.

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NHRC to probe Hyd encounter

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

Taking cognisance of the encounter killing of four accused in Hyderabad gangrape and murder case, the National Human Rights Commission on Friday ordered a senior superintendent of police is expected to submit its report at the earliest.

was a matter of concern and needed to be probed carefully. Accordingly, it asked its Director General (Investigation) to immediately send a team on a fact-finding on the spot investigation into the matter. The team headed by a senior superintendent of police is expected to submit its report at the earliest.

Kovind talks tough on mercy petitions

Mount Abu (Rajasthan), Dec. 6

Demonic attacks on women have shaken the conscience of the country. President Ram Nath Kovind said on Friday advocated that those convicted under the POCSO Act should be deprived of their right to mercy petition.

It is for the Parliament to take a decision on the matter and make necessary constitutional amendments, "but the thought of all of us is moving ahead in that direction", he said while addressing an event

in Rajasthan's Abu Road on the issue of women safety.

The president said women safety is a very serious issue and a lot of work has been done on this but much remains to be done.

"Incidents of demonic shake the conscience of the country. It is the duty of every parent, citizens, yours and mine to strengthen among boys came at a time the country witnessed several cases of brutal attacks on women.

"In this context, several things are coming up. Such convicts have been given the right of mercy petition by the Constitution. I have said that there should be reconsideration on this... In cases under POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, they are deprived of the right of mercy petition. They do not need any such right," he said.

The President's remarks came at a time the country witnessed several cases of brutal attacks on women. — PTI



Activists hold placards as they participate in a silent protest demanding the Centre to create a strong system of deterrence punishment to rapists in the country in New Delhi on Friday.

With 90% burns, Unnao victim is very critical

DC CORRESPONDENT WITH AGENCY INPUTS NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

The rape survivor from Unnao, who was airlifted to Delhi and admitted to the Safdarjung Hospital here, is extremely critical and on ventilator, doctors tried to persuade her to stay in the hospital.

"The condition of the patient is extremely critical and she is on ventilator. Even her vitals are very low," said Dr Shalab Kumar, Head of Burn and Plastic Surgery at the hospital.

"The Delhi Traffic Police on Thursday provided a "green corridor" for hindrance-free movement of the ambulance carrying her from the airport to the hospital.

"We have set up a dedicated ICU room for the patient. A team of doctors are consistently monitoring her health condition. Dr Sunil Gupta, medical superintendent, said at Safdarjung Hospital, said.

■ **Aflame, the victim ran for a while before people saw her and informed the police, who sent her to a community health centre, from where she was sent to the district hospital, before being referred to Lucknow.**

The five men, who have been arrested for the alleged assault on her life, are Harishankar Trivedi, Ram Kishore Trivedi, Umesh Bajpai, Shivam and Shubham Trivedi. Of the five, Shivam and Shubham Trivedi are accused in the rape case. One of them was arrested and subsequently released on bail.

Meanwhile, a five-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted by the Divisional Commissioner, Lucknow to probe the Unnao incident.

"I visited the spot in Unnao on Thursday evening and constituted a five-member SIT led by Unnao ASP Vinod Pandey. The team will probe all aspects of the case and submit a report to me," Divisional Commissioner Mukesh Mishra said on Friday.

He, however, did not disclose the time given to the SIT to submit its report. — PTI

Nirbhaya's parents welcome encounter

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

Supporting the police encounter of the four accused in the Hyderabad gang rape and murder case in the early hours on Friday, the family of Nirbhaya said that had the police not acted promptly and shot the accused, they would have fled.

"The family of the Hyderabad doctor will not have to wait for seven years for justice like us. We can understand the pain of her parents. At least they got justice early," he said.

"It is good that the police showed prompt response and acted, otherwise the accused would have fled and it would have been difficult to catch them. The escape would also have raised questions on the efficiency of the police," he said.

His father said that the family has been awaiting justice for seven years now.

Only Vinay had filed mercy plea

From Page 1

The incident that shocked the nation took place in Delhi on December 16, 2012, when a 23-year-old paramedic student was brutally raped and severely injured by a group of men inside a moving bus. She later succumbed to her injuries.

It triggered nationwide protests leading to changes in the criminal laws dealing with rape and other sexual offences against women.

A Nirbhaya fund was also constituted for the States to deal with such cases. "Anag Sharma and two others, Mukesh and Akshay Kumar Singh, were sentenced to death. There was no question of Vinay Sharma who filed the mercy petition.



A youth holds a placard commending the Hyderabad Police for its action against the accused in the gang rape and murder of a veterinarian in Jammu. — PTI

Internet polluting minds of youths, says CM

Nitish seeks ban on porn

NAYAGER AZAD | DC PATNA, DEC. 6

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday said that his government would seek the Centre to impose a total ban on porn sites in order to stop rising cases of sexual assault against women across the country.

He was addressing people during his 'Jal Jangal Hariyali' tour in Gopalganj. Kumar said, "Internet and social media have had both positive and negative impact on the society. Easy access to porn sites

after four accused in the gangrape and murder of Hyderabad veterinarian doctor were killed in a police encounter on Friday.

Earlier this week, charred bodies of two young women were recovered by the police from Buxar and Samastipur districts.

"Disturbing incidents of crime against women are being reported from Hyderabad, Bihar and other places. This is a very bad trend and we must understand why such things are happening in our country," Kumar said.

Meanwhile, Opposition leaders Rabi Devi, Upendra Kushwaha and Pappu Yadav used the occasion to blame the state government for the crime-rate and welcomed the police encounter in Hyderabad. Former Chief Minister Rabi Devi said that "Hyderabad encounter will act as a deterrent against criminals. In Bihar too, there has been an alarming rise in crimes against women. The government has done nothing to control it."

Never thought of killing accused: Nirbhaya cop

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

Former Delhi Police commissioner Neera Kumar, who handled the Nirbhaya gangrape-and-murder case, on Friday said the thought of killing the accused never crossed his mind. Kumar recalled that it was a "tough time" when the Nirbhaya case was reported in December 2012 since the policemen were treated as rapists".

Nirbhaya was gangraped on December 16, 2012. She later succumbed to injuries. The brutality of the incident had rocked the nation. "There was a lot of pressure at that time, but the thought of killing them never came. We were getting messages, asking us to throw the accused in front of hungry lions. Someone said 'castrate them in public, someone said lynch them, but we just stuck to our guns. There was no question of doing anything illegal,' Kumar told a news agency. Kumar said encounters

took place during his tenure as well and the one at Ansal Plaza, in which two suspected LeT militants were gunned down inside the crowded mall, faced questions. "After every encounter, there are always questions and this (Hyderabad) was not an encounter with terrorists. It was in a case which was under public scrutiny. We have to wait for the inquiry findings to know whether the encounter was justified or not," he said.

Big honour
Prof. Padala Prasad gets ICSSR Senior Fellowship for his work on innovation for the welfare of senior citizens in TS



To reduce mortality in dengue cases, a model unit will be established

— Prof. Dr. Balram Bhargava
 Director General, ICSSR

WEATHER
 Max: 26.6°C
 Min: 17.6°C
 RH: 57%
 Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy. Mist or haze likely. Max temp about 28°C

ASTROGUIDE

Vikar: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Margasira Sudha Ekadasi all day long
Star: Revati till 1.25 am (early hours of Sunday)
Varjyam: 12:10 pm to 1:56 pm
Durmuhurtam: 6:37 am to 8:02 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10:30 am
HUIRI CALENDAR
Rabi-ul-Akher 9,1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajr: 5:30 am
Zohar: 12:17 pm
Asar: 4:05 pm
Maghrib: 5:47 pm
Isha: 7 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5:41 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5:43 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 2:25 PM
MOONSET SUNDAY 2:08 AM

COUNTER POINT



We would be happy if you had given 1.5 kg onion free, instead!

IN BRIEF

HEARING IN NAIDU ASSETS CASE PUT OFF
VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA I DC
 HYDERABAD, DEC 6

The ACB court here adjourned the hearing of the disproportionate assets case filed against TD president Nara Chandrababu Naidu to December 20. The case had been filed in 2005 by the NTR-TD leader Chandamuri Lakshmi Parvathi. Ms Parvathi on Friday requested the ACB court to allow her time to seek counsel could put forward the arguments on her behalf. Allowing the plea, the court adjourned the case. After Ms Parvathi had approached the ACB court, Mr Naidu had secured a stay from the High Court. The stay was vacated after the Supreme Court ruled that stay orders issued by courts cannot be automatically vacated after six months. On this ground, the Hyderabad bench of the special court had decided to reopen the case.

10 am to 5 pm: Sabja Colony, Ko-E-Sar Colony, Home Avenue, Brundavan Colony, Aravindnagar, Samatha Colony, Azibagh, Bahal Colony, Rainbow Apartments, Adityanagar, Suryanagar, Shaikpet Nala. **10 am to 3 pm:** Konda Colony, Intofech IT services. **10 am to 2 pm:** Jubilee Hills Roads No. 12, 86, MLA Colony, Huda Heights, area behind Rajendra Prasad's house, area opposite Masjid, N. Rangaveer Reddy house, area opposite Hampi Restaurant, Lotus Circle, Ravi Narayana Reddy Auditorium area, Press Colony, area opposite Omega Hotel, Jana Reddy house, area opposite Kalinga Function Hall, Renuka Chowdary's house, Sriramnagar, My Home Apartments, MS Garden Function Hall area, Pizza Hut building area, MCL Krishna Apartments, Silicon Valley, Kiran Towers, area opposite Cyber City, area opposite Image Garden, Ravindra Society, Kavuri Hills Phase-1, Sarojini Naidu Colony, Sainagar, police station, Guttala Begumpet, Mega Hills, Harijan Basti near COD Office. **10 am to 4 pm:** Paramount Colony, Paper Board, Hakimpet, Hanuman Temple, Bowli PT, Amb-edkar Community Hall, Baba Hotel, Kabrasthan 1&2 area, Hakoempet, All Hasnath Colony, Tekdi, Miraj Colony, Military area, Mandar Restaurant,

CM drops his plan to create jobs for aides

Decree does not mention parliamentary secretaries

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU I DC
 HYDERABAD, DEC. 6

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had dropped the idea of appointing MLAs as parliamentary secretaries. Non-inclusion of these posts from office of profit in the ordinance issued by the government indicates this. After the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) came to power in 2014, Mr Rao appointed six parliamentary secretaries and issued the Government Order (GO) in December 2014. He had

CHIEF MINISTER K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO had sent officials to study the pattern in other states to appoint parliamentary secretaries but decided against it. He appointed MLAs D. Vinaya Bhaskar, Jalagam Venkat Rao, V. Srinivas Goud, G. Sashire Kumar, V. Satish Kumar and Kova Laxmi as parliamentary secretaries with cabinet rank and salaries on a par with cabinet ministers. MLC Gutta Sukhender Reddy, who was then in the Congress as

Nalgonda MP and the then Telugu Desam MLA A. Revanthi Reddy, now a Congress MP, approached the court against the appointments saying it was unconstitutional. In 2015, the High Court struck down the GO appointing the parliamentary secretaries. Later, the Chief Minister decided to avoid the legal hurdles to exempt these posts from office of profit. He decided to appoint 17 TRS MLAs as parliamentary secretaries. The idea is that the parliamentary secretaries will be given the portfolios to

assist the concerned ministers. Chhattisgarh and some other states have also appointed parliamentary secretaries. Mr Rao has decided to send some officials to study the system adopted by those state governments in appointing parliamentary secretaries. To appoint MLAs as chairpersons of public undertakings (corporations) the state government issued an ordinance three days ago exempting 29 posts from office of profit. But the post of parliamentary secretary is not included in the list.

Old City stays shut



Shops in the lanes leading to Charminar stayed shut on Friday to mark the 27th anniversary of the demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. Additional contingents of police and the Rapid Action Force were deployed in the Old City as a precaution. Shops were also closed at Nampally and Tolichowki. Additional commissioner, crimes, Shikha Gole and senior officers went around Macca Masjid and Charminar.

— P. SURENDRA

Asad doesn't back encounter, says it shows popular anger

MIM says treat Muslims on par with SCs and STs

ATHER MOIN I DC
 HYDERABAD, DEC. 6

MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi said he is against extra-judicial or 'encounter' killings. He wants to know the circumstances in which the police was forced to take such extreme action in the case of the Disha rape and murder accused early on Friday. "I am against these encounters. I believe in the due process of law. I am of the opinion that when Ajmal Kasab was allowed to follow all due process of law, these accused should have been given the opportunity. We as a country have shown the whole world that a barbaric terrorist like Ajmal Kasab, who had killed innocent Indians on the streets of Mumbai, was given an opportunity to avail the due process of law. This encounter happened in

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, DEC. 6

The MIM has sought that Muslim aspirants be treated on par with SC and ST candidates during the special recruitment drive for filling up vacancies of teaching posts in government schools and colleges. The request was made when the MIM legislators, led by Assembly floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi, called on education minister Sabitha Indra Reddy on Friday. Mr Owaisi said this was a promise made by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. He demanded that the vacant posts be filled up

THE LEGISLATORS said there was no list of unrecognised schools, and their students suffer at the time of exams and in getting certificates. immediately on a contract basis. He pointed out that there were 205 government schools that were running without electricity supply, while water connections had been disconnected in case of several government schools. The delegation brought up the issue of non-availability of second language textbooks for Urdu medium students, and said they must be made

available on a war footing. Mr Owaisi asked the minister to ensure immediate construction of buildings in Chanchalguda and Falaknuga campuses, as the government had sanctioned ₹5 crore each for them. Likewise, construction of buildings must also be taken up for establishing junior colleges for boys and girls in Zoo Park, Karwan and Hakoempet areas. The legislators raised the serious issue of many private unrecognised schools running in the Old City, as no list has been published listing the recognised schools in the area.

law, investigation and criminal judicial system. We as politicians and the ruling party wherever they are should ensure that the investigation process is strengthened. It should be more scientific and modernised. The criminal justice system will look into it. More CCTV cameras should be installed. These are also loopholes. We must eradicate all these lapses."

POWER SHUTDOWN

10 am to 11 am: Gowri Shankar Colony, Jubilee Hills Roads No. 8, 10, 11, cargo office area, Gaffur Colony, Devender Goud PT area. **11 am to 12 noon:** Area behind D. Srinivas house, Nirdoshi Lane, Hanuman Temple, Film Chamber, Speaker Suresh Reddy's house area. **12 noon to 1 pm:** Jagga Reddy residence area, N. Baba temple area, Water Works area, D. Rama Naidu Chamber, Apollo Hospital area, Murali Mohan PT, Satyam Computers area, N-TV Decatur, Chronic managing director house area, Amrutha Value Apartments; ; BSNL Office,

Babu Jagjivan Ram Colony, Padmalaya slum area, Pullela Gopichand house area, Sania Mirza house area, Bharani Layout, Teacher Training Centre area, Indian Khabdi team captain Nihita Nethu house area, Nyaya Vilas. **2 pm to 5 pm:** Sriramnagar, area beside Renuka Chowdary house, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) area, Road No. 12 signals, Care Hospital area, IAS officer N. Shankaran area, SBH staff building, Sai Pension Office, Konda Vishveshwar Rao house area, Bondalagadda area, Decatur chronic managing director house area, Amrutha Value Apartments; ; BSNL Office,

Meraj Colony, IAS Colony, Chaitanyanagar, Bakht-haravada, Janakanagar, Paramount Colony, MCH Colony, Al-Hasnath Colony, Yousuf Tokli, Nizam Colony, Toli Chowki, Dilux Colony, Dowlet Gulshan Colony, Bade Janakanagar, KFC. **2 pm to 2.45 pm:** Peddammagudi, Jubilee Hills Roads No. 18, 19, Jubilee Hills Club, Chatterji house area, police station, Nadendra Bhaskar house area. **3 pm to 4 pm:** Kavuri Hills Phase-II, Amar Cooperative, Kalyannagar, Anjaninagar, Jubilee Hills Road No. 44. **4 pm to 5 pm:** Patrikoppet, Karry area, Doctors Colony, Durgam Cheruvu, Kavuri Hills Phase-II, AP State Gallery



Residents of Ahmedguda blocked trucks carrying garbage from the city to the Jawaharnagar dump yard to protest the delay in the government shifting the facility on Friday.

Angry residents stop trash trucks going to dump yard

T.S.S. SIDHARTH I DC
 HYDERABAD, DEC. 6

Residents of Ahmedguda and Haridaspally on Friday barred trucks carrying garbage from across the city to the Jawaharnagar dump yard, protesting against inaction by state government over shifting the facility to another area. Movement of close to 70-old trucks was stopped, with no let-up from residents till 3 pm on Friday. They complained that the trucks were leaving garbage

strewn along the roads with scant regard for hygiene and health of residents in the area. "As Haridaspally is a low-traffic area, trucks whizz by spilling garbage on to the roads. There is a school nearby and children are facing a harrowing time trying to study because of the stench emanating from the garbage," said Mr Venkata Subba Rao, a resident. Another resident, Mr Anji Reddy, pointed out that the trucks carry more than the permissible amount of

waste. "They fill the trucks to the brim and then cover it up with a tarpaulin, hoping the garbage will not fall off. But, the quantum of waste is so much that garbage does land on the roads," he remarked. Following the uproar by resident officials of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation along with police reached the spot and issued orders demanding that the state government was searching for a new location, where the waste could be safely disposed of.

KIN OF 10 RTC STAFF WHO DIED DURING STIR GET JOBS

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, DEC 6

Fulfilling the assurance of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, the RTC manager on Friday issued orders appointing a family member of each of the 10 RTC employees in the Greater Hyderabad region who had died during the strike. The RTC has appointed out of four of them as junior assistants, five as constables and one as a conductor. Meanwhile, RTC employ-

ees Joint Action Committee convener E. Ashwathama Reddy went on long leave. He reported for duty on Thursday morning at the Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station and immediately applied for leave for a period of six months. Other RTC JAC leaders like Mr Raji Reddy, Mr Thomas Reddy and Ms Sudha, who played a key role, have already joined duty. Ashwathama Reddy said that he had decided to quit the job.

HC takes note of sex tests
DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, DEC. 6

The High Court has taken up a *suo motu* PIL on illegal activities of scanning centers, which are openly determining the gender of the foetus. The court came across news reports that some private clinics and scanning centres, which do not have valid licences, were carrying out prenatal sex determination tests illegally, with the active connivance of the officials.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
 3rd Floor, Jeevan Deep Building
 Parliament Street, New Delhi

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR FILLING THE POST OF CHAIRMAN, NABARD

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is a national level Development Financial Institution for promotion and development of agriculture, and other allied economic activities in rural areas. Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the post of Chairman, NABARD.

The detailed terms and conditions for filling the vacancy is available on the Department's Website at <http://financialservices.gov.in>.
 Last date for receipt of applications is 06.01.2020 (Monday).

Sd/- (AK Das)
 Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

davp 15415/11/0013/1920

Attention to Nurses working in Telangana

All the Nurses including P.B.B.Sc. (N) & M.Sc. (N) students working in Telangana who have not yet enrolled themselves on Nurses Registration & Tracking System (NRTS) with their Registration Certificate and Aadhar Card, please ensure to get themselves enrolled by personally visiting the following Centres from 09.12.2019 to 31.12.2019 from 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

S.No.	Name of Institute
1	Telangana State Nurses and Midwives Council, Sultan Bazar, Hyderabad.
2	Govt. College of Nursing, Gandhi Hospital, Musheerabad, beside Bhoiguda Police Station, Secunderabad
3	Matamtha College of Nursing, Rotary Nagar, Girisrapad Nagar, Khammam
4	SVS College of Nursing, Yenugonda, Mahabubnagar
5	Deepthi College of Nursing Vaishnavi Buildings, Near Collectorate, Miryalaguda Road, Nalgonda.
6	MNR College of Nursing, Narsapur Road, Fasalwadi Sangareddy
7	Tirumala College of Nursing, Tirumala Nagar Bardipur, Dichpalay, Nizamabad
8	Santosh College of Nursing, Vidyanagar, Karimnagar
9	Jaya College of Nursing C/o Jaya Hospital, Padmakshamma Temple, Meerpet, Hanamkonda
10	Prabha School of Nursing, Mancherla to Laxmipet Road, Opp. Cotton Mill, 4th KMS, Mancherla

Along with their original academic certificates, Registration certificates, (RN & RM, RN, RANM, RLHV) and Aadhar Card.

Also, all those Nurses / ANMs / LHVs registered with **Telangana State Nurses Midwives Auxiliary Nurse Midwives & Health Visitors Council**, who have already enrolled themselves in Nurses Registration & Tracking System with the **Registration Certificate and Aadhar Card** at various nursing institutes through **Fino-Paytech Pvt. Ltd.**, please ensure to check the latest status of their **NUID** card by visiting <https://nrtts.indiannursingcouncil.gov.in/login.nrtts> and get rectified the errors (if any) in their registration before **31st December, 2019**.

It may be noted that rectification of any type of the errors in the registration will be done only till the said date. In the event of failure to get rectified the errors within the stipulated time, the name of such registered nurses will be put in abeyance from the Nurses Registration & Tracking System, and the responsibility of the same will be of the concerned nurses only. **Enrolment is free of cost for all the registered Nurses.**

davp 17111/11/0031/1920



Poll plea

Former finance minister P. Chidambaram has appealed to the voters in Jharkhand to defeat BJP in the state Assembly elections

3

Abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir is a tribute to B R Ambedkar

— Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

SHORT TAKES

MAHA ACB EXONERATES AJIT PAWAR

Nagpur, Dec. 6: Maharashtra's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has given a clean chit to NCP leader and former union chief minister Ajit Pawar in the multi-crore Vidarbha irrigation scam.

The ACB, in its affidavit submitted in the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court, has ruled out Pawar's involvement in cases of alleged irregularities in approval and commissioning of irrigation projects in the state.

The affidavit was submitted on November 27, a day before the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government of the state. NCP-Congress was sworn in the state on November 28. The court had asked the ACB to clarify its stand on the role of Pawar, a former water resources development minister, in these cases.

Pawar, the NCP MLA from Baramati in Pune district, was water resources development minister during his post in time. I am sure this is not the way to treat a senior Member of the Parliament and leader of a political party. We are not criminals," Abdullah wrote in his reply which has been shared by Tharoor on his Twitter handle.

Tharoor said Parliamentarians should be allowed to attend "the session as a member of parliamentarian privilege". "Otherwise the tool of arrest can be used to muzzle opposition voices. Participation in Parliament is essential for democracy and popular sovereignty," he added.

—PTI

FAROOQ ABDULLAH, who is under detention since August 5, and subsequently booked under Public Safety Act is currently at his residence at Gupkar, which has been declared a sub-jail.

ARMY CAMP ATTACKED IN PACHMARHI

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, DEC. 6

Two unidentified men, armed in black tracksuits, early on Friday intruded into an Army camp at Pachmarhi in Madhya Pradesh's Hosangabad district and decamped with two automatic weapons, police said.

"We do not rule out involvement of terrorists in the incident," sources in Intelligence wing of MP police told this newspaper.

According to Hosangabad district superintendent of police M.L. Chari, preliminary investigations suggested that two men landed in Piparia railway station by a train in the morning of Thursday and headed to Pachmarhi Army camp in a taxi.

They approached the sentries posted at the check post near the Army camp, identifying them as military personnel and took away two rifles and some live cartridges after diverting their attention.

They then returned to the Piparia railway station in the same taxi and might have caught a train.

Sources said police identified the taxi driver and detained him for interrogation. The taxi driver gave descriptions of the two accused. "The duo had carried something in two huge bags when they returned from the Army camp to proceed to Piparia railway station," the taxi driver was quoted as saying by the police, who added, "We got some vital clues that may lead us to arrest the two accused," sources added.

WE ARE NOT CRIMINALS, SAYS FAROOQ

New Delhi, Dec. 6: "We are not criminals," says Lok Sabha member and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, in a letter to Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on his personal letterhead which mentions his residence as "sub-jail".

Abdullah, under detention since August 5 and subsequently booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) on September 17, is at present at his residence in Gupkar which has been declared as a sub-jail.

Abdullah is among a host of political leaders who have been detained on August 5 after the Centre withdrew special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and merged the state into union territories.

Tharoor, a Lok Sabha member from Kerala, had written a letter to Abdullah on October 21 which was delivered to him on December 2. The contents of the letter were not available.

In his paragraph reply Abdullah, a three-time former Chief Minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, thanked Tharoor for his letter.

He said the October 21 letter was delivered to him on December 2 by the magistrate who looks after him in the sub-jail.

"It is most unfortunate that I am not able to do justice to my post in time. I am sure this is not the way to treat a senior Member of the Parliament and leader of a political party. We are not criminals," Abdullah wrote in his reply which has been shared by Tharoor on his Twitter handle.

Tharoor said Parliamentarians should be allowed to attend "the session as a member of parliamentarian privilege". "Otherwise the tool of arrest can be used to muzzle opposition voices. Participation in Parliament is essential for democracy and popular sovereignty," he added.

—PTI



Polling officials carry EVM machines and other polling materials on the eve of the second phase of Jharkhand Assembly election, at Tamar constituency under Bundu sub-division near Ranchi on Friday.

Second phase of polls in Jharkhand today

CM Das faces old colleague Roy from Jamshedpur (East)

Ranchi, Dec. 6: Voting for the second of the five-phase Assembly election in 20 seats in Jharkhand will be held on Saturday. The Election Commission has deployed polling and security personnel for free, fair and peaceful polling.

Polling will be held between 7 am and 5 pm in Jamshedpur (East) and Jamshedpur (West) constituencies, while the vote in the rest 18 can exercise their franchise between 7 am and 3 pm, an EC release said.

Sixteen of the 20 constituencies going for polls in the Scheduled Caste, it said. According to police, more than 42,000 security personnel, including Central forces, have been deployed in the 20 seats spread across seven districts.

All preparations are in place to hold peaceful, impartial and transparent polling, Jharkhand Chief Electoral Officer Vinay Kumar Choubey said at a press conference.

He said a total 6,066 polling stations have been set up in the constituencies going for polls in the second phase. Webcasting facilities will be provided in 1,662 polling stations. Of all the polling stations, 337 are model ones and 94 will be exclusively conducted by women, Choubey said.

A total 48,25,033 voters, including 23,93,437 female and 90,37,600 male voters, will decide the fate of 260 candidates.

A total 29 women nominees and 73 independents are in the fray on Saturday, the EC sources said.

The assembly seats where polls will be held on Saturday are Baharagora, Natagundi (ST), Potka (ST), Jugsalai (SC), Majhaon (East),

—PTI

BJP pleads fall on deaf ears

From Page 1

Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das and the BJP tried to clarify on occasion that the "misconception" created against the two amendments was a Congress and JMM attempt "to keep development away from tribal areas" and misuse tribal votes for political gains.

I have raised these issues at many meetings and election meetings and they can tell me even one incident where my government or I have misled the two Acts, but no one has pointed out anything," he said.

The CM's clarification fell on deaf ears as far as the villagers were concerned.

As for the saffron promises, things have not

changed, BJP president Amit Shah visited the villages in 2017 to mark 'Seva Diwas', Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday. Birsa Munda's ancestral home was turned into a memorial a few years back. But villagers are still awaiting the completion of around 140 houses as announced for this 'Shaheed Gram'.

There's a health centre nearby, but the doctor visits weekly.

The constituency contest has another interesting angle. The three candidates are connected to a 2008 murder case of the then sitting MLA Ramesh Munda. The sitting MLA and Grand Alliance candidate Vikas Munda is his son, while murder suspect Kundan Pahan is an independent candidate.

—PTI

Variation

AGP talks of CAB safeguards

MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, DEC. 6

Bogged down by excessive criticism, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) on Friday said that they have written a letter to the Union home minister Amit Shah demanding that the Centre should ensure constitutional safeguards for the indigenous people of the state before bringing in the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

This stand on CAB has created division within the rank and file of the party as senior leaders Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, Brindaban Goswami and Ramendra Narayan Kalita were absent from its emergency meeting.

Three AGP legislators, Atul Bora, Keshab Mahanta and Phani Bhushan Choudhury, ministers in the BJP-led state government, have been accused of maintaining a "dubious" stand on the Bill while party seniors are opposing it.

Bora, who is also the party president, called an emergency meeting of party leaders and decided to send the letter to Shah.

After the meeting, Legislator and Assam water resources minister Keshab Mahanta said that their letter sought Constitutional safeguards for the indigenous people before bringing in CAB, including 100 per cent reservation for them in government jobs, Assembly and MP seats from the state, inner-permit (ILP) system and Scheduled Tribe status for six communities — Sootia, Muttok, Moran, Koch Rajbongshi, Tai Ahom and tea tribes. The regional party's demands also include reserving 100 out of 126 Assembly seats for representatives belonging to the indigenous communities. Party insiders, however, feel that the move has come very late.

"The party leaders, especially those in the government, should have taken concrete steps to stop the bill. But they kept silent. Now, they are merely trying to avert criticism," one of them alleged. They demanded a change of guard in party leadership.

LS likely to take up CAB on Monday

New Delhi, Dec. 6: Non-Muslim refugees, who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan after facing religious persecution, will not be treated as illegal immigrants and will be given Indian citizenship when the proposed amendments to the six-decade-old Citizenship Act come into effect.

According to the Bill, 2019, which was distributed among the MPs, the new law, however, will not be applicable in the Inner Line Permit (ILP) regions and those tribal areas which are governed under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (CAA), which has generated widespread protests in the North-Eastern states, is expected to be tabled in the Lok Sabha on Monday for consideration and passage.

According to the Bill,

■ **ASOM GANA PARISHAD** writes to Union home minister Amit Shah demanding constitutional safeguards.

■ **AGPS stand on Citizenship Amendment Bill** has created a division in the party, as senior leaders were not present for the emergency meeting.

■ **AGP legislators**, Atul Bora, Keshab Mahanta and Phani Bhushan Choudhury, ministers in the BJP-led state government, have been accused of maintaining a "dubious" stand on the Bill while party seniors are opposing it.

■ **Party president**, called an emergency meeting of party leaders and decided to send the letter to Shah.

■ **After the meeting**, Legislator and Assam water resources minister Keshab Mahanta said that their letter sought Constitutional safeguards for the indigenous people before bringing in CAB, including 100 per cent reservation for them in government jobs, Assembly and MP seats from the state, inner-permit (ILP) system and Scheduled Tribe status for six communities — Sootia, Muttok, Moran, Koch Rajbongshi, Tai Ahom and tea tribes. The regional party's demands also include reserving 100 out of 126 Assembly seats for representatives belonging to the indigenous communities. Party insiders, however, feel that the move has come very late.

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■ **According to the Bill**,

Odisha thieves loot onions from vegetable vendor

AKSHAYA KUMAR | BHUBANESWAR, DEC. 6

As prices of onions hover around ₹150 in many parts of the state, the quintessential vegetable seems to have become a requisite for thieves these days.

A vegetable vendor of Bargaon market under Cuttack district on Friday lodged a complaint alleging that onions weighing

around 10kg were stolen from his shop on Thursday night.

According to the complaint lodged at Salipur police station, miscreants broke open the shop of one Karunakar Barik late in the night and stole 10kg onions keeping other commodities intact.

"I went back to my house after closing the shop last night. When I reached here on Friday morning, I found the shop's door broken. Surprisingly, only

onions were missing from the place, while other vegetables were kept intact," said Barik.

The miscreants have also looted seven other shops, including an electrical appliance repairing store, a sweets shop and a stationery outlet in the market last night.

All the eight vendors of the locality are complaining to the Salipur police have begun an inquiry in this connection.

RARE MOVE Officers retired on grounds of inefficiency, doubtful integrity

Premature retirement for 32 Rly officers

New Delhi, Dec. 6: In a rare move, the railways has prematurely retired 32 of its officers above the age of 50 years in "public interest" on grounds of inefficiency, doubtful integrity and conduct unbecoming of a public servant as part of a periodic review according to a statement.

The only time in recent history when the railways undertook such a move was in 2016-17 when 32 officers were prematurely retired.

Railways said the move was aimed at improving efficiency and strengthening administrative machinery at all levels.

Periodic review of those attaining a certain age is part of the service rules of government employees, but rarely are they prematurely retired, according to officials.

In Railway Board, the last exercise from Group A officers was undertaken in 2016-2017, when services of 1,224 officers were reviewed and out of the same, four officers were prematurely retired. It was also found that a number of officers due for review were not reviewed," the Railways

said. The process is still underway in zonal railways for JAG and non-gazetted staff, the Railways said.

On Thursday, in a reply to a query in the Rajya Sabha, minister of state for persons with disabilities Singh said over 220 crore government employees, including 96 senior officials, had been given premature retirement in the last five years.

During the period from July 2014 — October 2019, provisions of Fundamental Rules or FR 56(j) have



College students protest after the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was cleared by the Union Cabinet recently in Guwahati on Friday.

been invoked against a total number of 96 Group 'A' officers and 126 Group 'B' officers of different ministries and departments. Singh had said in a written reply.

The FR 56(j) gives absolute right to the government to retire government officials prematurely, on the grounds of lack of integrity and ineffectiveness, in public interest.

"The provisions under FR 56(j) also to ensure improving efficiency in government," he said.





In the Opposition

Sajith Premadasa, who lost to Gotabaya Rajapaksa in the presidential election, was named as the Leader of the Opposition in the Sri Lankan Parliament



Brexit deal will be disastrous for businesses and jobs all across the UK — Jeremy Corbyn Labour party leader

IN BRIEF

Iran protest toll touches 1,000: US

Washington, Dec. 6: The US said that Iranian authorities may have killed more than 1,000 people in a crackdown on demonstrations, which it cast as the clerical regime's worst-ever internal challenge. The damning account came as the US put new pressure in the region on its arch-enemy, with an official saying the Pentagon was considering sending 5,000 to 7,000 more troops. "It appears the regime could have murdered over 1,000 Iranian citizens since the protests," Brian Hook, the US pointman on Iran, said. He acknowledged that information was difficult to verify in Iran, which has severely curtailed the internet.

US navy base gunman dead

Miami, Dec. 6: A shooter was killed on Friday after opening fire at a US navy base in Florida and killing at least two people. Escambia county sheriff's office said in a message on Twitter it could "confirm there is no longer an active shooter on NAS Pensacola. The shooter is confirmed dead." Naval Air Station Pensacola was put on lockdown, with the US Navy on Twitter reporting "one additional fatality." In a later tweet, it said "a second victim was dead."

Senator triggers impeachment motion

The good thing is that the Republicans have never been more united. We will win, says US President

Washington, Dec. 6: House Democrats moved aggressively to draw up formal articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump on Friday, with Speaker Nancy Pelosi saying she "leaves us no choice" but to act swiftly because he's likely to corrupt the system again unless removed before next year's election. A strictly partisan effort at this point, derided immediately by Trump and other leading Republicans as a sham and a politically risky undertaking. Democrats say it is their duty, in the aftermath of the Ukraine probe, while Republicans say it will drive Pelosi's majority from office.

IF YOU ARE GOING to impeach me, do it now, fast, so we can have a trial in the Senate, and so that our Country can get back to business

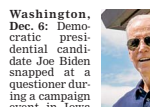


DONALD TRUMP, US President; NANCY PELOSI, US Speaker

THE DEMOCRACY is what is at stake. The President's actions have seriously violated the Constitution. He is trying to corrupt

NEVER been more united. We will win! Trump tweeted. The White House is now publicly embracing a strategy it has privately signaled for weeks: It will accept the reality that President Donald Trump will likely be impeached by the House and focus instead on a made-for-TV trial on friendly turf in the Republican-controlled Senate.

YOU'RE A DAMN LIAR: JOE BIDEN LASHES OUT AT VOTER DURING RALLY



Joe Biden

Washington, Dec. 6: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden snapped at a questioner during a campaign event in Iowa after the man asked about his son's business dealings in Ukraine. "You're a damn liar, man," the former vice-president said in a rare flash of anger at the town hall in New Hampton, Iowa. After first saying that Trump was "messing around in Ukraine," Biden told Biden "you, on

the other hand, sent your son over there to get him a job and work for a gas company." "He had no experience," the man said. "You're selling access to the president."

"That's not true and no one has ever said that," Biden said after calling the man a liar. Biden's son Hunter served on the board of Ukrainian gas company Burisma from 2014 to 2019 and was reportedly paid USD 50,000 a month. —AFP

pelosi said. "The democracy is what is at stake." "The president's actions have seriously violated the Constitution," she said in a somber address at the Capitol. "He is trying to corrupt, once again, the election for his own benefit. The president has engaged in abuse of power, undermining our national security and jeopardizing the integrity of our elections."

"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," Pelosi said. A defiant President Donald Trump predicted he "will win," after the Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives gave the greenlight for impeachment.

"The good thing is that the Republicans have impeachment," Pelosi said. A defiant President Donald Trump predicted he "will win," after the Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives gave the greenlight for impeachment.

Uber logs 6,000 sexual assaults

San Francisco, Dec. 6: Nearly 6,000 instances of sexual assault, including more than 450 cases of rape, were reported to Uber in the United States in 2017 and 2018, the ride-sharing company said in a report on safety released on Thursday. It is the first time that Uber has released the figures — which also revealed 19 fatal assaults related to the company over the two-year period — as it and rival Lyft face increasing pressure to cope with the growing number of complaints of abuse. The company received 464 reports of non-consensual sexual penetration and 587 of attempted non-consensual sexual penetration in 2017 and 2018. The other assaults fell

into categories such as non-consensual kissing or touching. While the number of reports went up from 2017 to 2018 in three of the five categories, including non-consensual sexual penetration and non-consensual touching of a sexual body part, the ride-sharing service hailed across-the-board declines in the "incident rate" based on a larger number of overall trips occurring in the latter year. "From 2017 to 2018, Uber saw approximately a 16 per cent decrease in the average incident rate over the two-year period," the report said. —AFP

Macron's pension reform paralyzes France



People attended a demonstration in Paris. The Eiffel Tower shut down, France's vaunted high-speed trains stood still and thousand protesters marched through Paris as unions launched open-ended, nationwide strikes over the government's plan to overhaul the retirement system. —AP

LIVE RICH FINANCIAL Chronicle

Kia set to shake up SUV market

Countries eye tariffs on internet economy

quick BITES

INDICATORS % Sensex 40445.15 -0.82 Nifty 50 11921.50 -0.81 S&P 500 3,147.47 +0.96 Dollar (\$) 71.21 -0.15 Pound Sterling (£) 93.73 -0.17 Euro (€) 78.76 -0.08 Gold (10gm) (₹) 37,707.378 -0.99 Brent crude (\$/bbl) \$84.05 +0.66 IN 10-Yr bond yield +6.661 +0.052 US 10-Yr Tbill yield +1.862 +0.067

₹36,000 crore disbursed under PM-Kisan

The Centre has so far disbursed around Rs 36,000 crore to beneficiaries under PM-KISAN programme that aims to boost farmers' income. Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said in the Rajya Sabha. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme, the Centre is providing Rs 6,000 annually in three equal instalments to 14 crore farmers.

Breather for public sector banks post-amalgamation PSBs may get nod to hold over 10% stake in two insurers

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, DEC. 6: Public sector banks that are merger candidates may be allowed to hold more than 10 per cent stake in two insurance companies after their merger comes into effect provided they give up management control in one of them. The relaxation would allow them to acquire a stake in another insurer after the amalgamation comes into effect. An entity holding over 10 per cent in an insurance company is categorised as a promoter while one holding below that limit is termed as an investor. Under existing rules, one bank cannot be a promoter in multiple insurance companies of the same segment. However, they can sell products of three life, non-life and standalone health insurance. Speaking to reporters at the Association 12th Global Insurance Summit, Khuntia, Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and

Write off DHFL exposure

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, DEC. 6: The exposure of insurance companies to the debt-laden DHFL will have to be written off using due process, said Irdai Chairman Subhash Chandra Khuntia. Speaking on the sidelines of an event here, Khuntia said, "Like in IL&FS, a similar procedure will have to be followed. There is a procedure on how it has to be written off after how Development Authority of India (Irdai) said that the regulator is considering several proposals and one of them could be a relaxation of the existing rules on promoter holding. "If banks after the merger are able to reduce their stake below 10 per cent, then they will no longer be an investor (but an investor) and they can continue. But we are thinking that they (banks) be allowed to hold higher

than 10 per cent provided they don't get involved in the management of the other insurance company. So suppose, if they give up the directorship in the board, don't take part in the decision making of the insurer, give up management control, then they could hold stake in the insurance company because many times they may feel that it is a valuable share and they should not give it up as later they may stand to gain. "So we are looking at this angle too. We will take care of the conflict of interest by ensuring that they do not participate in decision making. This is an option that is being considered," said Khuntia. "We will give them time for smooth transition and would not disrupt anything and it will not affect the policyholders," he said. A senior official of Union Bank of India had told FC that the bank would continue to be the promoter of Star Union Daiichi Life Insurance and hold below 10 per cent in IndiaFirst to comply with the existing regulations. Union Bank, which will take over Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank and is required to reduce stake in one of the two insurance companies as a result of the amalgamation, Union Bank holds around 46 per cent stake in Star Union Daiichi Life Insurance while Andhra Bank is a promoter in IndiaFirst Life Insurance. Remaining an investor will help banks to earn a fee on distributing products of insurance companies.

OPEC+ agrees to 500,000 bpd production cut

Vienna, Dec. 6: The Opec group of oil producing countries and their allies — including Russia — agreed on Friday to a production cut of 500,000 barrels per day in addition to their current agreement. Ministers gathered at Opec headquarters in Vienna "decided for an additional adjustment of 500 (thousand barrels per day)", effective as of 1 January 2020, according to a statement issued after the meeting. "This would bring production 1.7 million barrels per day below October 2018 levels. However, the group said that in addition, several participating countries, mainly Saudi Arabia, will continue their additional voluntary contributions, meaning the overall production cut would be 2.1 million barrels per day. The statement said Opec and its partners in the so-called Opec+ grouping would convene for a special meeting on 6 March. Opec members had been aiming for a cut in order to stem pressure on prices from abundant reserves and weak global economic growth. —AFP

Voda Idea to shut down if no relief comes: Birla

MADHUSUDAN SHAOH NEW DELHI, DEC. 6: Anticipating a 'balloon option' from the government to save the company from closures, Vodafone Idea Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said on Friday there is no sense that good money should follow bad money. Birla said the company would face a shutdown, rather a 'forced closure,' if the government doesn't provide relief to the telecom services providers. He said the Aditya Birla Group will not invest money in the company in the absence of relief from the government. "If we are not getting anything then I think it is entry of the story for Vodafone Idea, which will shut down if the government does not provide relief on the liability it faces in past statutory dues following a Supreme Court order," Birla said at an event here. Vodafone Idea Ltd, India's second largest mobile service provider by subscriber base, is facing pressure from the government on payment dues of a staggering Rs 33,000 crore. Birla has called for a dialogue between government officials and the judiciary to agree to a settlement for the troubled operators, but he warned that "if these came to naught, I think it is the end of the story for Vodafone. Because the telecom sector is key to India's digital goals, more relief from the government should be forthcoming." On the massive dues to the government over adjusted gross revenues (AGR), Birla said, "The big elephant in the room is AGR. Which is actually, I think, something which lies in the court of judiciary. I believe government can have a dialogue. This was a suit filed by the government against telecom service providers." Vodafone Idea shares fell over 5 per cent on Friday, specked by Birla's comments. The stock slumped 5.34 per cent at Rs 6.92. The Supreme Court had upheld the government position that telecom revenues have to be included in the AGR for calculating dues. "Since the government has won, it gives them headroom to talk to judiciary and try to find some of solutions. I don't know which form or shape it takes," he added.

Imported onions to arrive by Jan. 20

New Delhi, Dec. 6: Showing no signs of cooling down, retail onion prices have continued their spiral march, with rates as high as Rs 165/kg on Friday

even as the government grapples to boost the supplies through imports. The government informed Parliament that imported onions will arrive by January 20. In most cities, onion was quoting above Rs 100/kg in the retail markets, while at Nashik in Maharashtra, the key producing centre—the rates were ruling at Rs 75/kg on Friday, as per the data maintained by the Consumer Affairs

Ministry. Retail onion prices were ruling high at Rs 165/kg in Panaji (Goa), Rs 160/kg in Mayabunder (Andaman) and Rs 150/kg in Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Thrissur and Wayanad in Kerala on Friday. Onion was sold at Rs 140/kg in Kolkata, Chennai and some places in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Rs 130/kg in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack

(Odisha), Rs 120/kg in Gurgaon (Haryana) and Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), and Rs 100/kg in most cities tracked by the ministry. "There is no doubt onion prices are rising. The main reason for rise in price was damage to the onion crop due to rains. Much of onion has been damaged in Maharashtra, the key growing state. However, the government has supplied buffer stock and asked MTTC to

import onions and it should arrive by January 20," Minister of State for Consumer Affairs Devendra Rosal told during Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha. The government has approved import of up to 1.2 lakh tonnes of onions to check the ongoing price rise. —PTI



Time to go

Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki announces on Friday that she will retire from tennis after next month's Australian Open

Time for derby drama

City, United eye success at home after bad season

London, Dec. 6: Both sides of the Manchester divide will be hoping some derby delight can add impetus to disappointing seasons when City host United on Saturday, while Liverpool travel to Bournemouth aiming to surge further clear at the top of the Premier League.

Manchester United got a badly needed win for manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer on Wednesday, inflicting a first defeat as Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho as the Portuguese returned to Old Trafford.

The Red Devils were again reliant on Marcus Rashford goals as the England forward struck twice to take his tally to 12 in 13 games for club and country.

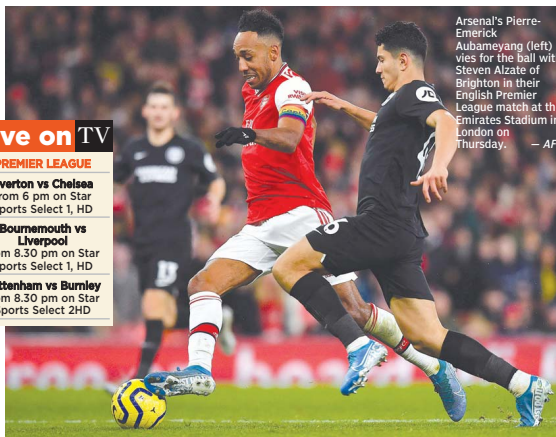
There has been precious little for United fans to enjoy this season, but just a fifth Premier League victory in 15 games was enough to lift them up to sixth.

That is still 11 points adrift of third-placed City despite their own struggles at times.

Pep Guardiola's men looked more like their old selves in thrashing Burnley 4-1 on Tuesday with Gabriel Jesus stepping up in the absence of the injured Sergio Aguero to score twice.

City have lost just one of six league meetings with United since Guardiola took charge three years ago and cannot afford to slip up if they are to maintain any aspirations of catching Liverpool in the title race.

The English champions could



Live on TV

- PREMIER LEAGUE**
- Everton vs Chelsea** from 6 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD
- Bournemouth vs Liverpool** from 6.30 pm on Star Sports Select 1, HD
- Tottenham vs Burnley** from 8.30 pm on Star Sports Select 2HD

kick-off at the Etihad 14 points behind the leaders, should Jürgen Klopp's men continue their scintillating form at Bournemouth earlier on Saturday.

Klopp could even afford the luxury of leaving Roberto Firmino

and Mohamed Salah on the bench for a 5-2 thrashing of Everton in the Merseyside derby in midweek.

Both are expected to return for the visit to the south coast, but Klopp may rest some of his stars who did start against Everton

ahead of a huge week for the European champions.

Liverpool travel to Salzburg in the Champions League needing to avoid defeat if their defence of the title is not to embarrassingly end in the group stages.

Brighton 2 good for the Gunners

London, Dec. 6: Caretaker manager Freddie Ljungberg said Arsenal "did not show up" for the first 45 minutes as the Gunners' winless streak reached nine games in a 2-1 home defeat to Brighton on Thursday.

Neal Maupay headed in a deserved winner for the Seagulls 10 minutes from time after Alexandre Lacazette had cancelled out Adam Webster's opener for Brighton.

Defeat leaves Arsenal in 10th place and 10 points adrift of fourth-placed Chelsea in the hunt for Champions League qualification next season.

On this evidence there is little chance of Ljungberg landing the job on a permanent basis as another sparse crowd at the Emirates greeted the final whistle with a chorus of boos.

After a 2-2 draw at Norwich on Sunday in the first match since Unai Emery was sacked, there was again no sign of a new manager — bounce for Ljungberg's home how as Brighton dominated the first 45 minutes and could have gone in at the break more than one goal to the good.

"You cannot give away a whole half against any team in the Premier League," said Ljungberg. "We did not show up in the first half, we were passive, we didn't move. We

had chat at half-time, made a tactical change and all of a sudden we looked like the team we wanted to be for 20 minutes."

'VAR DIFFICULT FOR EVERYONE'
David Luiz thought he had put Arsenal in front as he turned home from Mesut Ozil's free-kick only for 20 minutes.

Ljungberg believes Arsenal need a win by any means to regain some confidence before they can start to look at gaining ground on the top four. Victory for Brighton takes them to within a point of Arsenal and four clear of the relegation zone.

Elsewhere, Newcastle taught Sheffield United a lesson in taking their chances as the Magpies won 2-1.

Allan Saint-Maximin headed the visitors in front with his first goal for the club and Jonjo Shelvey secured the three points when he played on as the Magpies' home how as Brighton dominated the first 45 minutes and could have gone in at the break more than one goal to the good.

A VAR review showed Carroll was onside as he flicked the ball into Shelvey's path. "VAR is becoming too difficult for everyone. I don't think anyone knows where they are with it," said Sheffield boss Chris Wilder.



VAR is becoming too difficult for everyone. I don't think anyone knows where they are with it.

SHORT TAKES

Manpreet in line for FIH award

Lausanne: Indian men's hockey captain Manpreet Singh was on Friday nominated for the Player of the Year award by the International Hockey Federation after he led the country to a Tokyo Olympics berth. Two other Indian players, Vivek Prasad and Lalramliam, were also nominated for the men's and women's FIH Rising Star of the Year Award. The 27-year-old Manpreet, a veteran of 242 international caps, is the mid-field pivot of the Indian team. Under his captaincy, India beat Russia 1-3 on aggregate in Bhubaneswar last month to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.

The 19-year-old Prasad, a mid-fielder, led the Indian team in the Youth Olympics last year where the country won a silver medal. He was also named the best young player at the FIH Series Finals this year. —PTI

Sonia, Meena enter Nationals semis

Kannur, Kerala: Last year's World Championships silver medalist Sonia Chahal (57kg) and Cologne World Cup gold medalist Meenakumari Devi (54kg) confirmed medals as they stormed into the semi-finals of 4th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships here on Friday. Chahal had to fight hard against Himachal Pradesh's Vinakshi on her way to a gritty 3-2 win. All India Police's Meenakumari Devi got closer to the defence of her 54kg title with a 5-0 win over Jharkhand's Sabiha Khanam. —PTI

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Good start for Indian boxers

Kathmandu, Dec. 6: World Championships bronze medalist Manish Kaushik (64kg) got India's medal quest off to a glorious start as Vikas Krishan (68kg) made a winning comeback to enter the semi-finals on the first day of boxing action at the 13th South Asian Games here on Friday. While Ankit Khatana (75kg) was the third Indian to progress into the last four.

In the women's category, Sonia Lather (57 kg) had an easy outing against Bangladesh's Shamima Akter as she won via RSC in the 3rd

Siril and Ashmita bag golds at SAG

Kathmandu/Pokhara, Dec. 6: Shuttlers led India's yet another stupendous show as the country widened the gap at the top by clinching 41 medals, including 19 gold, on Day 5 of the 13th South Asian Games here on Friday. India grabbed another 18 silver and 4 bronze to take the total tally to 165 medals (81 gold, 59 silver, 25 bronze) and leave second-placed Nepal (41 gold, 27 silver, 48 bronze), who won 116 medals in aggregate, behind.

Chelsea set to look for new signings in Jan.

Lausanne, Dec. 6: Chelsea are free to sign new players in the January transfer window after a FIFA-imposed ban was reduced on appeal by the Court of Arbitration for Sport on Friday. The ban, imposed following violations in the recruitment of minors, was reduced from two transfer windows to one. A fine was also reduced from 600,000 Swiss francs to half that amount by the Lausanne-based court. The initial ban was announced by football's world governing body in February, but Chelsea had always denied wrongdoing. —AFP

Indian badminton team pose with their medals at the 13th South Asian Games on Friday.

four gold and two silver in the day. Former world junior championships silver medalist Siril Verma lived up to his top seeding as he rallied from a game down to outwit compatriot fellow Indian Gayatri Aryaman Tandon 17-21, 23-21, 21-13 in an all-Indian men's singles final. In the women's singles final, Ashmita Chahalia overcame a late surge from fellow Indian Gayatri Gopichand to finish off with a 21-18, 25-23 win. In doubles, there was double delight for Dhruv who emerged victorious in both men's and mixed doubles. —AFP

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