

**POLICE KILL ALL FOUR ACCUSED IN RAPE & MURDER OF HYDERABAD VET**

# Justice Executed

Commissioner says exchange of fire after men attacked police, snatched pistols

**RAHUL V PISHARODY & ARUN JANARDHANAN**  
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 6

ALL FOUR accused in the November 27 rape and murder of a veterinarian in Hyderabad, an incident that sparked outrage across the nation and echoed the Delhi December 16, 2012 incident, were shot dead by Telangana police Friday morning. At a spot barely 500



Telangana policemen at the site of the encounter on the outskirts of Hyderabad, Friday. Arun Janardhanan FULL COVERAGE, P11

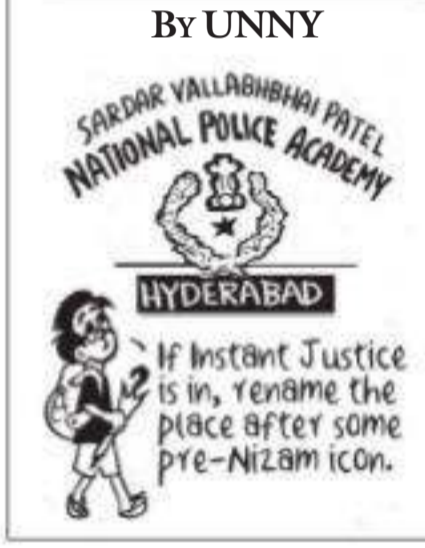
**Due process vs instant verdict: Applause for police & a few questions**

**SEEMA CHISHTI & AVISHEK G DASTIDAR**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

THE SHOWERING of petals by local residents on the Telangana Police team that shot dead all the four accused in the gangrape and murder of a veterinarian doctor in Hyderabad found an echo far beyond the scene of the crime.

From Parliament to social media, from chief ministers to actors and sports stars, several

BUSINESS AS USUAL



**Three killings, same police officer, same SOP, same explanation**

**ARUN JANARDHANAN & SREENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 6

FROM THE killing of three men accused of an acid attack on women to the gunning down of a former Naxalite to the killing of four men accused of rape and murder of a veterinarian, police followed the same standard operating procedure (SOP) and proffered the same explanation of how they were attacked

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Police impunity and courts

SEVERAL people from across the social and political spectrum have applauded a killing in custody. This may underscore public anger but how courts react will decide key questions regarding police impunity.

**On BCCI's radar: Rs 225-crore bets on a TN T20 game**

**DEVENDRA PANDEY**  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 6

THE SHADOW of betting over domestic T20 cricket leagues in India is getting darker. So much so that the Anti Corruption Unit (ACU) of the BCCI has expressed serious concern and even asked the board to consider pulling the plug on these leagues.

The *Indian Express* has learnt that the ACU has, in a confidential report submitted to the BCCI, highlighted that a Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL) match this year between Tuti Patriots and Madurai Panthers witnessed betting of around 24 million pounds (about Rs 225 crore) on the international site Betfair.

The report states that Betfair was so perturbed by the unusu-



Sleuths say pull the plug on local T20 leagues

ally high amount linked to an Indian state league that it stopped taking bets on any matches involving Tuti Patriots. The ACU report draws its findings from two research companies that monitor odds being

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**POCSO convicts should have no right to mercy petitions, says President**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 6

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind said Friday that convicts under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act should be deprived of their right to file mercy petitions.

Addressing the National Convention on Empowerment of Women for Social Transformation at the headquarters of the Brahma Kumaris in Rajasthan's Mount Abu, Kovind said: "Is prakaar ke jo convicts hote hain, unko samvid-



President Ram Nath Kovind in Mount Abu, Friday. PTI

han mein mercy petition ka adhikar diya gaya hai. Aur maine kaha hai ki is-par aap

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**RERA: REVIVAL OF REAL ESTATE**

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**Day after she was set ablaze, Unnao rape victim dies**

**ASTHA SAXENA**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

THE 23-YEAR-OLD woman from Unnao district who was set on fire by five men, including two who were accused of raping her, died Friday night in a Delhi hospital.

The woman, who died at 11.40 pm following cardiac arrest, had suffered more than 90 per cent burns, most of which were facial and inhalation injuries.

She was brought to Delhi in an air ambulance Thursday evening, after she was waylaid and set ablaze while on her way to Rae Bareilly in connection with the rape case.

The arrested accused are Shivam Trivedi and his father Ram Kishore Trivedi, Shubham Trivedi and his father Hari Shankar Trivedi, and Shubham's neighbour Umesh Vajpayee.

**GOVT & POLITICS**

**CITIZENSHIP BILL IN LOK SABHA MONDAY, WHIPS ISSUED**

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## Over 150 held in drug crackdown in Gurgaon

Gurgaon: Days after Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij launched Operation Prahaar— aimed at curbing the drug menace in the state — Gurgaon Police Friday said they have registered over 100 FIRs in this regard since the operation began and arrested over 150 people. The operation was also aimed at tackling gambling, possession of illegal weapons, and sale of illicit liquor.

Police said written directions were issued by Gurgaon Police Commissioner Mohammad Akil on November 20 to run the operation until December 4.

DCP (Crime) Rajiv Deswal said 100 FIRs were registered regarding sale, possession, and trade of illicit liquor, with 100 people being arrested for the crime. He added that 4,630 bottles of country-made liquor and 9,900 bottles of foreign liquor, as well as 14,530 bottles of illegal liquor, were seized from them.

"Under the Narcotics, Drugs, and Psychotropic Substances Act, 19 FIRs were registered and 19 people arrested, from whom 12.4 kg of ganja, 215 grams of smack, and 20 grams of sulfa were seized," said the DCP.

On illegal weapons, police said 10 cases were registered and as many people arrested, with six country-made guns, four country-made pistols and four live cartridges seized from them. **ENS**

## TOLD POLICE HE SUSPECTED THEY WERE HAVING AFFAIRS

# Kids in room, man stabs to death wife, daughter-in-law

JIGNASA SINHA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

SUSPICIOUS THAT both his wife and daughter-in-law were having extramarital affairs, a 64-year-old retired school teacher stabbed both of them to death with a kitchen knife early Friday morning at his Rohini home.

The victims were identified as Snehlata Chaudhary (62), a retired DTC officer, and Pragya Chaudhary (35), an air hostess with IndiGo Airlines. The man, Satish Chaudhary, was eventually confined in a room by his younger son till police arrested him. The women were rushed to the hospital — while Pragya died on the way, her mother-in-law succumbed during treatment.

Police said the women were sleeping in the same room as Pragya's two children, aged one and four, when the man entered the room and went on a rampage. He first stabbed his wife twice in the abdomen, but she managed to run away to wake up her son.

"Saurabh, the couple's younger son, was sleeping in another room. Before killing the women, Satish locked his son's room from outside. Snehlata



The victims, Pragya and Snehlata; the accused, Satish; outside their Rohini house. Amit Mehra

managed to unlock it and alerted her son," said a senior police officer. Saurabh, who works as a software engineer in SAP, Bengaluru, had come to Delhi a day before the incident.

Saurabh rushed to Pragya's room, and saw his father standing on the bed, stabbing his sister-in-law.

SD Mishra, DCP (Rohini), said Saurabh tried to save Pragya but Satish threatened to kill him too. The men fought and Saurabh suffered injuries on his left hand, police said. "He eventually overpowered his father and managed to take the children and the injured women out of the bedroom. He locked his father inside and made a PCR call at 5.55 am,"

Mishra said.

By this time, neighbours had woken up to screams coming out of the house. Akansha Gupta (19) looked out of her house and saw Chaudhary's main door open. "There was blood everywhere. After a few minutes, police came and took Pragya to the hospital. Saurabh *bhaiya* called my mother and handed over the children to us. Snehlata aunty was conscious and asked me to give milk to the children... now we found out that she too is no more," she said.

While the one-year-old boy didn't stop crying until Pragya's family came to receive him, his elder sister kept on asking for her "daadu", neighbours said.

According to police, during questioning, Satish said his entire family was planning to leave him and shift to Gurgaon as they were fed up of him. Satish claimed the women were having extramarital affairs, and that he had stopped talking to both of them.

"Satish said he woke up at 4 am and meditated for some time. He said he felt disturbed that the women would be living somewhere else," said a senior officer.

Pragya's husband Gaurav (36) works in Singapore as a software engineer for IBM. The couple got married six years ago, and Pragya lived with her husband abroad before moving to her in-laws' house in Rohini. Police said Gaurav is on his way to Delhi.

## Family was to shift to new home in Gurgaon today

JIGNASA SINHA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

BY FRIDAY afternoon, Pragya Chaudhary (35) would have moved from her 2BHK DDA flat in Rohini to a new home in Gurgaon. Her children, aged one and four, her 62-year-old mother-in-law and her 30-year-old brother-in-law too planned to shift — so they could live away from her father-in-law Satish Chaudhary (64), a retired teacher.

Except, Satish had other plans.

According to the family, over the years Satish had become increasingly hostile towards Pragya, incessantly questioning her about her salary, expenses and daily routine. A relative claimed he didn't eat with the family and would order his own food from outside.



The family stayed at a DDA flat in Rohini. Amit Mehra

The accused's younger son, Saurabh (30), further told police in his complaint: "Since childhood, our father suspected our mother of having illicit re-

lationships. There was always tension in the house, and when my elder brother married Pragya, he began suspecting that she was also in illicit relationships."

Outside the Chaudhary house sat Saurabh with an injury to the left hand, sustained when he tried saving Pragya from his father. "We were seeing frequent tension in the house, so we decided to move to Gurgaon," said Saurabh, who works in Bengaluru and was visiting Delhi.

Pragya's paternal uncle Balveer Singh, who raised her, confirmed that she and the others had been planning to shift to Gurgaon for a year due to Satish's behaviour.

"All the packing was done and the house was ready to be moved into on Thursday itself, but she said the children were tired and that she would move on Friday instead," he said.

## ABVP man, witness in JNU sedition case, appointed Asst Prof

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

SAURABH SHARMA, former joint secretary of the JNU Students' Union from the ABVP, has been appointed as an Assistant Professor at the School of Computer & Systems Sciences (SC&SS). While the Screening Committee of the School had not shortlisted him since he didn't meet the eligibility criteria, his name was added to the list, allegedly by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), it is learnt.

Sharma was among the 14 student witnesses named in the JNU sedition chargesheet, filed in connection with a February 9, 2016 event, held to mark the hanging of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru. He was among key ABVP members leading the charge against the accused.

There are three stages to the selection process — the Screening Committee, the IQAC and finally Selection Committee. His appointment was approved by the Selection Committee, which included three external experts, on November 25.

Questions have also been raised on the composition of the Selection Committee, with the then Dean of SC&SS DK Lobiyal alleging that names of all three external experts — Atul Gonsai from Saurashtra University, Anjana Gosain from I P University and T Chitrakha from Pondicherry University — were not part of the list of faculty provided by the School, as is the norm.

"I had objected to Gonsai's name when it was brought to the Academic Council, as it was not from the list of names we had provided. I don't recollect the other names being brought to the AC," he said. Gonsai and Gosain refused to comment, while Chitrakha could not be reached for a comment.

Sharma was among the short-listed candidates in the OBC category at the SC&SS, the interview for which took place on November 25. In May this year, the JNUSU had alleged that Sharma was awarded his PhD degree in "undue haste", with his viva being held and degree being printed in a gap of a few days — in a departure from the norm.

Sharma has done his PhD in Computational Neuroscience and M Tech in Computational and System Biology. His thesis



Sharma at a protest in 2016

was on 'Characterization and prediction of complex brain states and their switching mechanism using EEG data'.

The advertisement put out in April this year by SC&SS said the candidate "should have M Tech/M Phil/ME in Computer Science". Sharma's name had been included in the original list of short-listed candidates, but a Screening Committee member said it had been an "error" that was rectified as soon as it was brought to their notice. "His name, along with three others, was included by mistake due to an oversight. However, it was clarified by Screening Committee members that these four people do not clear the eligibility criteria and a new list was prepared which did not have Sharma's name," said a member.

However, Sharma's name featured in the final list of shortlisted candidates that was put out, along with the other three names. Only Sharma was eventually appointed. "The question is how did the IQAC introduce his name when the Screening Committee did not select him? The work of the IQAC is to check whether candidates have the required API score, etc, but the academic judgement is done by teachers who form the Screening Committee," said a member.

The Selection Committee which okayed Sharma's appointment included the Vice-Chancellor, Dean of SC&SS T V Vijay Kumar, three external experts, a visitor's nominee and an OBC observer. Asked about the allegations, IQAC Director Arun Kharat said, "I won't be able to tell you anything unless I look at the documents." Sharma and V-C M Jagadesh Kumar did not respond to calls and texts by *The Indian Express*. TV Vijay Kumar refused to comment.

A JNU official said, "The outside experts names were approved in the AC and EC. As for the Screening Committee list, it was sent to the IQAC for review after Sharma's name was rejected."

## BRIEFLY

## Winter break reduced for Delhi govt schools

**New Delhi:** The Delhi government Friday reduced the duration of the winter break for its schools, to make up for lost hours due to holidays owing to low air quality and heat wave. For classes VI to XII, the break will now begin on January 1 and continue till January 15. **PTI**

## Girl dies after falling in sewage tank

**Noida:** A nine-year-old girl died after falling into an open sewage tank in Greater Noida's Surajpur Friday afternoon. The victim, Monica, was pulled out hours later and rushed to two hospitals before succumbing to injuries. "She had fallen into an open sewage tank. There was construction activity going on in the area because of which it is possible that the tank was open," said an officer from Surajpur police station.

## Man held for murder

**New Delhi:** A businessman, who was absconding for over a year after allegedly killing another man over a property dispute, was arrested from Greater Noida.

## Eight of family held for murder of 2

**Noida:** Eight members of a family were arrested for allegedly killing two brothers from a rival family in Rabupura Friday. **ENS**

## ANTI-SMOG GUNS TO BE USED AS WELL

## Delhi needs 213 smog towers, will build 1 in CP on trial basis: Govt in SC

**PRITAMPAL SINGH**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

THE DELHI government is planning to install a smog tower at Central Park in Connaught Place, and will also issue directions to all construction agencies in the capital to use anti-smog guns.

The plan was submitted in an affidavit filed by the Delhi environment department in the Supreme Court Thursday. This comes after the SC directed authorities on November 25 to develop a roadmap on smog towers within 10 days, as Delhi is one of the country's most polluted cities.

The apex court also sought to know the steps taken by the government on the use and acquisition of anti-smog guns and the outcome of their experiment



The affidavit said anti-smog guns may also be considered on roofs of high-rise buildings. *Archive*

performed in December 2017. During the experiment on December 2, the government said there was measurable impact on the ambient air quality.

It added that use of "anti-smog guns may also be considered on roofs of high-rise buildings to

measures its effectiveness in trapping particulate matter during bad air quality days".

A smog tower is a large vertical structure designed as a large-scale air purifier to reduce air pollution. The anti-smog gun is a cannon-shaped device that sprays atom-

ised water droplets in the air. It is attached to a water tank built on a movable vehicle, which can be taken to various parts of the city.

Based on the estimation of agencies involved, the tower is expected to bring down particulate matter load by 50% in an area of 1 km in the direction of wind.

"The (Delhi government) committee is of the view these smog towers may not be useful for the whole city, but they can be useful in creating 'clean air area' zones in different parts of the city," the affidavit states.

Another expert panel, set up by the Centre's Department of Science and Technology, estimated that 213 towers may be required across Delhi. However, it said setting up multiple towers at this stage is premature and recommended a pilot project.

Both expert panels of the Centre and Delhi government observed that only one such tower is operating in China's Xi'an city and its effectiveness on the air quality is yet to be established. The tower in Delhi would use different technology than the one in China.

"It has been decided, keeping in mind recommendations of the high-level committee and expert panel, to start with one tower (not a prototype) at a central location in Delhi, Connaught Place. After substantiation of impact of the smog tower... decision on deployment of actual number of towers will be taken," the affidavit said.

It stated that on receiving the result, "directions will be given to all construction agencies engaged at large construction sites in Delhi to use anti-smog gun... so that dust... can be trapped".

## 3 of family suffer acid injuries

**New Delhi:** Three members of a family, including a three-year-old boy, suffered minor burn injuries after splashes of an acid being unloaded from a tanker fell on them Thursday night in North West Delhi's Wazirpur. The family was on a two-wheeler behind the tanker when the incident took place.

DCP (North West) Vijayanta Arya said, "An inquiry revealed that nitric acid was being unloaded from the tanker outside a factory, and it fell on the family due to negligent handling of the pipe by the tanker driver."

Police arrested the driver of the tanker, Shiv Kumar; factory employee Puran Chand; and factory owner Naresh Gupta.

Arya said, "Gupta deals in acids like nitric acids. He has MCD and DPCC licences."

A case in the matter has been registered. **ENS**

## Students in Delhi govt schools will now study Ambedkar in classes VI to VIII

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

STUDENTS OF Delhi government schools will now be taught about the life, contribution and ideas of Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar — from his experiences of casteism during his early years to his ideas on parliamentary democracy.

This was announced by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at the launch of a booklet for the purpose on the occasion of Ambedkar's 63rd death anniversary.

The booklet was prepared by the government's social welfare department with the aid of three Delhi University academics — Mani Sagar, who teaches at Shaheed Bhagat Singh (Evening) College; Shashi Rani, a teacher at the department of social work; and N Sukumar, who teaches at



Kejriwal and Sisodia at the booklet launch, Friday. *Amit Mehra*

the political science department.

Lessons from the booklet are to be taught to students of classes VI-VIII. Class VI students will learn about Ambedkar's early life and education, class VII students will learn about his ideas and contribution to social and gender justice, while those in class VIII will learn about his ideas and contri-

butions to parliamentary democracy and government.

At the launch, Kejriwal expressed hope that private schools will also include it in their curriculum.

"He was born in a village to a poor Dalit family, and faced untouchability and discrimination throughout his life. Back then, it

was very difficult for even children of rich families to complete their education. But Babasaheb Ambedkar attained two doctoral degrees, one from Columbia University and the other from London School of Economics. It would be an honour to teach our students about how he, despite many obstacles, climbed the ladder of success," he said.

Deputy CM Manish Sisodia said, "A few days ago, we expressed our desire to inculcate patriotism in our students. I believe this booklet is the first step towards our effort. Babasaheb's efforts enabled Indians from different cultures, religions, and regions to be united as one nation tied to the fundamentals of our Constitution." He said the government will refine the content taught over the next few years through feedback to develop a new curriculum in their schools.

## Low temperature, calm winds lead to 1st 'severe' air day of Dec

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

CALM WINDS and low temperature pushed the city's average air quality into the 'severe' category for the first time this month, as experts forecast the weather conditions to stay the same until Tuesday.

As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi's average air quality index (AQI) Friday was 404, up from 382 Thursday. Parts of NCR also recorded 'severe' air quality for the second day in a row. Noida's AQI Friday was 413, Ghaziabad's was 419, while Gurgaon was 'very poor' with a reading of 386.

A report by the Centre-run SAFAR said, "Under this low ventilation condition, AQI is forecast to stay at the border of 'very poor' to 'severe' category until December 7. AQI may marginally improve (on Sunday), but recovery from the 'very poor' condi-

tion is not expected."

An official from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said wind speed of around 8 km/hour was recorded in the city Friday, which was not enough to disperse pollutants. Delhi's minimum temperature was 8.4 degrees Celsius and a high cloud was recorded over the city.

These meteorological conditions, IMD officials said, have acted in reduction of the mixing layer height in the city, which is the vertical distance in the air in which pollutants are suspended.

Wind speed is expected to remain low until December 10, which would hinder dispersion of pollutants, coupled with minimum temperature of around 8-9 degrees Celsius forecast by the IMD. The IMD also forecast shallow to moderate fog in the morning hours until December 11, following which a passing Western Disturbance is expected to increase wind speed and possibly bring light rain on December 12.

## Thapar on Babri: Symbol of civilisation reduced to rubble

**TANUSHREE GHOSH**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

HISTORIAN AND professor Romila Thapar remembered Mahatma Gandhi briefly at a prayer meeting in the early 1940s as a school student in Pune, seeking his autograph — looking at her silk *salwar-kameez*, he asked her to wear *khadi*. Her interest was immediately stoked.

Speaking on "Renunciation, Dissent and Satyagraha" at the 12th V M Tarkunde Memorial Lecture, at India International Centre Friday, Thapar dedicated her talk to the late judge and civil rights activist Tarkunde and in remembrance of "the ghastly act of December 6, 1992, when the Babri Masjid was wilfully torn down, stone by stone".

"Through this act, an important symbol of our civilisation was reduced to rubble, and rubble remains as the reminder," she said. Renunciation, she said, legitimised dissent and gave people freedom to choose who they wished to worship. This freedom imbued renouncers with a degree of moral authority: "In some situations, moral authority takes precedence over the political."

Former Supreme Court judge Justice Madan B Lokur, who presided over the talk, said, it was "moral authority" that made Tarkunde a great man.

"If we survive the present as a democracy, it will be because of people like him (Tarkunde) and the values he gave to us as a society," Thapar said.

"Secularism was ingrained in Tarkunde. We need more Tarkundes in our country at this stage," said former Attorney General of India Soli J Sorabjee, also on the panel.

## NO AUTOMATIC ABSORPTION OF AD HOC TEACHERS

## HRD Ministry tries to meet ad hoc teachers midway, strike still on

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

THE MINISTRY of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Friday made further changes to Delhi University's August 28 circular in order to give relief to ad hoc teachers, after discussions with the Vice-Chancellor and other senior officials of the UGC and MHRD.

However, MHRD officials said the demand for automatic absorption of ad hoc teachers would not be met. Hundreds of ad hoc teachers had continued protesting at the V-C office last night despite the changes made to the circular due to certain contentious clauses. The Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) said the strike will continue.

In its 'record of discussions' Thursday, the MHRD had

amended the last paragraph of the August 28 letter to read, "Colleges/institutions shall fill up permanent vacancies before the start of the next academic session without fail. During the interim period, if vacancies which have to be filled for maintaining smooth academic functioning of colleges/institutions, ad hoc/temporary/contract/guest faculty can be appointed."

The part that rattled teachers, however, said, "It is expected that all ad hoc teachers worked or working in the current academic year shall continue till the beginning of the next academic session or till recruitment of permanent faculty, whichever is earlier."

Luvkush, a Hindi ad hoc teacher from Kalindi College, was among those who camped overnight at the V-C office. "The MHRD report in effect ensures our continuation only till the



Teachers had protested at the V-C office. Praveen Khanna

next session. What will happen after that? Also, our main issue is absorption. We won't move till that happens," he said.

On Friday, MHRD replaced "the colleges/institutions shall fill up permanent vacancies before the start of the next academic session without fail" with "colleges/institutions shall fill up permanent vacancies in a time-bound manner".

It also removed ambiguity

over ad hoc teachers continuing "till the beginning of next academic session" or "till recruitment of permanent faculty", by removing the former condition.

DUTA welcomed the letter but said the "primary demand of the UGC Regulation for the one-time absorption of ad hoc and temporary teachers on the basis of 200-point DOPT roster still remains unfulfilled".

"Therefore, we have resolved to recommend to the DUTA general body meeting (which is to meet Saturday) for the continuance of the indefinite strike along with action programmes to clinch the same," said DUTA president Rajib Ray.

As part of the protest, teachers have boycotted examination and evaluation duties.

An MHRD official, however, said, "We want to clarify that regularisation of ad hoc ap-

pointments is simply not possible not only because it is not borne out of any rule/regulation/legal pronouncement, but because it would wreck recruitment process across all universities. So, we chose the second best option of ensuring protection of their posts, and also providing just opportunity to become regular faculty through interview process."

Meanwhile, the DU Registrar in a statement said "senior academicians of the University, including the Deans of some faculties," had "unanimously and unequivocally condemned the violence and damage to the University property" when ad hoc teachers stormed the V-C's office earlier this week.

He said an appeal was made for "immediate withdrawal of the agitation", which was started by "some teachers" who were "carried away by rumours".

## Student exam boycott gets JNUTA support



Teachers have hit out at the JNU administration over the hike in hostel fee. Archive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

AFTER THE Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) decided to go ahead with boycott of examinations to protest hostel fee hike, the JNU Teachers' Association (JNUTA) Friday lent them support saying they could not participate in the "mockery" made by the administration's attempt at "farical completion" of the semester.

The JNU administration, meanwhile, issued its fifth warning letter to students, saying they would be failed or get "very poor grades".

In Friday's general body meeting (GBM), the JNUTA noted, "The struggle of students is an integral part of the larger national struggle in defence of a public education accessible to all, and of the struggle to challenge and end the misuse of Professor M Jagadesh Kumar... Advancing both these struggles is as much the concern of teachers as it is of students."

They "condemned the concerted and illegal attempt of the

JNU administration to manufacture and notify a schedule for end-semester examinations across all centres and schools, and to browbeat teachers".

"...The administration, under leadership of the V-C, is seeking to achieve a farical completion of the semester with the sole intent of intimidating and penalising thousands of students. This is unacceptable to teachers; they cannot participate in this mockery," the GBM decided.

Meanwhile, JNU Registrar Pramod Kumar Friday said, "Since schools and centres will make every effort to conduct end-semester exams, students are advised not to fall prey to the misleading boycott calls given by some agitating students".

"It should be noted that those who do not write the end-semester exams will get very poor grades or fail in the course. Such students are also not eligible to be considered for 'zero semester' unless they fulfil relevant eligibility criteria. Moreover, students who do not write the end-semester exam may find the academic duration of their program much longer," he added.

## Schools to impart education on menstrual hygiene: Govt to HC

PRITAM PAL SINGH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

THE DELHI government informed the Delhi High Court Friday that it has issued guidelines to its schools to impart education and awareness on menstrual hygiene, so as to enable girls to continue their education.

"The Directorate of Education has prepared a common, class-wise curriculum for classes VI to XII, to be conducted by all Educational Vocational Guidance Counsellors," a bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice CHari Shankar was told.

The bench then asked the Delhi government and MCDs to

continue providing sanitary napkins for free and continue with their awareness programmes and schemes.

Additional Standing Counsel Sanjoy Ghose, appearing for the government, added that sanitary napkins are being provided free of cost to girls in government-run schools and all EVGCs must adhere to the common curriculum.

He added that the guidelines on the curriculum were issued to 790 of out 1,026 government schools, which are either co-education or only for girls.

The court was also told that government-run schools have 5,682 toilets for girls. The Delhi government was responding to a PIL seeking directions to pro-

vide access and education about menstrual hygiene to adolescent girls and free sanitary pads.

The plea also sought an explanation from MCDs on measures taken to create awareness about menstrual hygiene among students. The civic bodies said they have a plan to distribute free sanitary napkins to girls already in the menstrual age, studying in its primary schools.

The Delhi government's health department also submitted that under the 'Menstrual Hygiene Scheme' UDAAN, rolled out in April, a pack of six sanitary napkins is made available to non-school going adolescent girls, at cost of Rs 6. The bench then disposed the PIL.

## Dec 16 gangrape: MHA recommends President reject convict's mercy plea

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

THE UNION Home Ministry has sent to President Ram Nath Kovind the Delhi government's recommendation rejecting the mercy plea of one of the four convicts in the December 16, 2012 gangrape case, officials said.

The move came two days after the file rejecting the mercy plea was sent by Delhi L-G Anil Bajjal to the Home Ministry. The file has been forwarded to the President for consideration and final decision.

The Ministry has also com-

mented in the file recommending rejection of the mercy plea, said an official.

Meanwhile, the mother of the 23-year-old paramedic student, who died days after the incident, Friday requested the President to reject the plea.

In her letter to the President sent through her counsel, she said the mercy plea filed by the convict, Vinay Sharma, "is deliberately trying to avoid execution of death sentence and hamper dissemination of justice".

"The trauma, pain and agony suffered by the applicant is unbearable and the wait is getting longer and longer," it said.

Recently, a Delhi court directed Tihar Jail authorities to produce the four convicts on December 13, so they can inform it about the status of their petitions, if any, filed before higher courts.

## BJP Purvanchal wing spars with AAP's Sanjay Singh

New Delhi: BJP's Purvanchal Morcha activists staged a demonstration near AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh's North Avenue residence Friday over his comments on the NRC issue, fol-

lowing which his mother filed a complaint with police.

BJP morcha president Manish Singh said he filed a complaint against Singh for creating a "law and order" situation by issuing

"irresponsible statements on the NRC issue. Reacting to the protest, Singh said BJP must stop the "drama" and explain why it was trying to target people from UP and Bihar. ENS





## IAF chief at Pearl Harbor base when gunman opened fired on Dec 4, unhurt

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

CHIEF OF the Indian Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria, was at the same airbase in Hawaii, US, where a gunman opened fire on December 4 but he was not in the vicinity of the attack site and was safe, officials said on Friday. ACM Bhadauria was partici-

pating in the Pacific Air Chiefs' Symposium, 2019 (PACS 2019) at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii. The symposium brings together Air Force chiefs from across the Indo-Pacific region.

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam confirmed the shooting and casualties on Twitter. It said, "Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam security forces responded to a reported shooting at a dry dock

at @PHNSYIME. Initial reports indicate the shooter & two shipyard civilian employees are deceased, & one shipyard civilian is in stable condition at a local hospital."

It also identified the shooter in another tweet, saying: "The shooter has been identified as a male U.S. Navy Sailor assigned to the USS Columbia (SSN 771). The incident took place at approximately 2:30 p.m. in the vicinity of the shipyard's Dry Docks 2 and 3. The base is no longer in lockdown."

The base was put under a lockdown immediately after the incident, which was lifted after about two hours.

## Abe to visit on Dec 15, bilateral likely in Assam

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

JAPAN'S PRIME Minister Shinzo Abe will be in India from December 15-17, the government said on Friday.

The *Indian Express* has learnt that he is likely to go to Assam as the bilateral meeting will take place in Guwahati. The two leaders are likely to go to Kaziranga National Park and also visit Imphal.

The focus of the visit will be projects in the Northeast, in tune with India's Act East policy. Delhi and Tokyo have made "significant progress" in the negotiations of Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) since the announcement to commence the negotiations in October 2018.

Last year, the two sides agreed to begin formal negotiations over the ACSA, which would allow the Indian military and the Japan Self Defense Force (JSDF) to use each other's bases for logistical support.

The ACSA would permit the Indian Navy access to a Japanese base in Djibouti, while the Japan



**Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe may head to Guwahati for the bilateral meet with PM Narendra Modi.**

Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) would be permitted to use India's military installations on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands located in the Indian Ocean, which lie near the Malacca Straits, next to other naval facilities.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Defence Minister Taro Kono on November 30 for the first India-Japan 2+2 foreign and defence ministerial meeting. The meeting laid the ground-

work for the summit meeting between Abe and Modi.

During the meeting between the visiting Japanese ministers and the Prime Minister on November 30, Modi had said that both he and Abe attach great importance to strengthening the bilateral partnership between the two countries.

He had conveyed that he looked forward to welcoming Abe to India for the India-Japan Annual Summit next month, the statement said.

"Prime Minister added that India's relationship with Japan was a key component of our vision for Indo-Pacific for peace, stability and prosperity of the region, as well as a cornerstone of India's Act East Policy," the statement had said.

It had added that the Prime Minister stressed the importance of all-round development in India-Japan relations for the benefit of the two peoples, as well as the region and the world. The PM mentioned that regular high-level exchanges between the two countries are testimony to the depth and strength of the relationship.

**CORRUPTION CASE**

## CBI carries out search at premises of HC judge

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday searched the residence of Justice Sri Narayan Shukla, a judge of the Allahabad High Court, in a case of alleged corruption.

The CBI has accused Justice Shukla of accepting bribes to give a favourable order to a private medical college barred by the government from taking admissions.

While Justice Shukla has been arraigned as an accused along with six others in an FIR registered on December 4, the matter is related to a 2017 case where the agency had arrested retired High Court judge IM Quddusi.

Following the 2017 case, then CJI Dipak Misra had asked Justice Shukla to resign or seek voluntary retirement, but the latter refused.

According to the CBI, searches were conducted at the "residential premises of the accused at Lucknow, Delhi and Meerut which led to the recovery of certain incriminating documents including investments and financial transactions etc".

Other accused charged with corruption and criminal conspiracy in the December 4 FIR include Quddusi, his associate Bhawana Pandey, Lucknow-based medical college Prasad Education Trust (PET), its owners B P Yadav and Prasad Yadav and one Sudhir Giri.

According to the CBI FIR, the PET-run Prasad Institute of Medical Sciences was among 46 colleges barred by the government from admitting students for two years due to lack of facilities in 2017. The order was challenged in the Supreme Court. The court directed the government on August

1, 2017, to consider the material on record afresh, the FIR said. In compliance with the order, the government barred the college from taking admissions for two sessions — 2017-18 and 2018-19. It also authorised the MCI to encash the college's bank guarantee of Rs 2 crore.

The promoters again approached the apex court with a petition. At the same time, they got in touch with Justice Quddusi and Pandey, who promised to get the matter settled, the FIR said.

According to the FIR, a conspiracy was hatched in New Delhi between B P Yadav, Quddusi, Pandey and Giri (who owns Venkatesh-wara Medical College in Meerut) "in order to obtain a favourable order from Justice Shri Narayan Shukla of High Court of Allahabad at Lucknow Bench by corrupt and illegal means. In furtherance of the said conspiracy, Quddusi engaged Shukla for managing the matter."

Accordingly, the FIR alleged, the promoters withdrew the apex court petition and filed a petition in the Allahabad High Court on August 25. In an interim relief, the High Court ordered that the "petitioner college shall not be delisted... till the next date of listing i.e. August 31, 2017", the FIR stated. It also stayed encashment of the bank guarantee of Rs 2 crore by the MCI till the next date of hearing. The High Court, the CBI said, also "clarified that on the basis of the order, the petitioners shall have no right to claim any admission of the students".

According to the CBI, on August 25, Quddusi and B P Yadav met Justice Shukla at his residence in Lucknow and "delivered the illegal gratification".

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

## NALSA chairperson Justice Ramana outlines plans with 'Vision 2020' document

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

THE NATIONAL Legal Services Authority (NALSA)'s new executive chairperson Justice N V Ramana on Friday released a 'Vision 2020' document with its theme, "Mission Access Justice to All".

Justice Ramana, who is also the second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, was nominated to the post of NALSA executive chairperson on November 27. The plans he has lined out include a novel 'Legal Aid Defence Counsel System' which will engage lawyers on full-time basis; an online portal for centralising information about prisoners; providing legal assistance to the needy at pre-arrest, arrest and remand stages; and convening of legal services clinic in jails.

For the future, there was a need to establish a "target-oriented mechanism", wherein resources can be invested after identifying specific problem areas, says the document.

The idea of the 'Legal Aid Defence Counsel System' was adopted at the NALSA All India Meet in Nagpur, it says.

Explaining the need for it, Justice Ramana said one of the biggest problems hindering the success of legal aid was the lack of continuity, focus and accountability. The new system is aimed at increasing the same, by assigning the cases from the beginning to advocates whose sole attention will be on legal aid cases, and whose performance will therefore be more effectively reviewed. The project will be implemented in sixteen districts across the country on a pilot basis for two years. The online portal project is intended at creating a unified platform to integrate data about legal services provided to prisoners at all levels.

There are also plans for establishing a specialised wing to provide fast action to persons affected by cyber offences as well as a "victim assistance mechanism" to protect the victim in cases where the police are "negligent, non-responsive and partisan" in taking action on the grievances of a complainant.

Justice Ramana said that besides these areas, it is also imperative to constantly review and evaluate the quality of lawyers and the paralegal volunteers appointed by NALSA.

## TAJ TRAPEZIUM ZONE SC allows UP to issue clearances for basic facilities

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

THE SUPREME Court on Friday lifted the "status quo" ordered by it last year in the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) and said that "there shall be no impediment for the authorities to consider pending environmental clearances which are necessary to secure essential amenities within the Zone".

A bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant concluded that the "the interim order dated 22nd March, 2018, directing maintenance of status quo, was passed to ensure timely submission of the 'Vision Plan' by the State of UP" and the same had already been complied with. The directions came on an application by the government seeking clarification on the March 22 order. In its application, the state said that the first draft of the Vision Plan had already been filed.

The plea urged the court to permit the state and other statutory authorities to grant environmental clearances necessary for essential public facilities.

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FOUNDED BY  
**RAMNATH GOENKA**

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# Strangers in their own land

Proposed citizenship law is immoral, will unleash a legally-sanctioned regime of discrimination



GAUTAM BHATIA

ON DECEMBER 4, the Union cabinet cleared the Citizenship Amendment Bill (2019), paving the way for its introduction in Parliament. Ostensibly, the CAB is a legislation designed to protect persecuted minorities. It stipulates that "Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians" from "Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan" shall not be treated as illegal immigrants. Individuals belonging to these categories are also granted a fast track to citizenship by naturalisation (after a period of six years).

The CAB's stated objective — to give shelter and protection to persecuted minorities — is laudable. The text of the Bill, however, not only undermines that objective, but also rends the plural fabric of the Indian Constitution. In its careful listing of protected communities, it explicitly — and intentionally — leaves out Muslims. The message it sends, thus, is one of discrimination, exclusion and second-class citizenship based on religion.

What justifications may be advanced for the CAB in its present form? The first is that Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are Muslim-majority countries where Muslims, by definition, cannot be persecuted. This is false. The Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan has been subjected to sustained discrimination and violence. Religious communities — and nations — are not monoliths, and frequently persecute those who are ostensibly their own. And so, if the CAB is motivated by considerations of protecting the vulnerable, then what matters is not the religion of those who are persecuted but their humanity.

Furthermore, there is no explanation for why the CAB has picked out Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan — and only those countries. If the criterion is undivided, pre-Partition India (as the CAB's Statement of Objects and Reasons mentions), then Afghanistan ought not to have been a part of the list. If, on the other hand, the criterion is neighbouring nations, then there are a host of countries surrounding India that have visited terrible violence upon minorities. The Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar have been subjected to ethnic cleansing and genocide. Sri Lankan Tamils have suffered systematic discrimination and state-sponsored persecution. It is suggested in the CAB's Statement

of Objects and Reasons that Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh have an official state religion (Islam). But so does Sri Lanka (Buddhism).

When viewed objectively, therefore, it is abundantly clear that the CAB has been designed in a manner that specifically excludes Muslim refugees from the possibility of amnesty and citizenship, for no reason other than their religion. To start with, this is morally indefensible, and a betrayal of the egalitarian and pluralistic values that guided our freedom struggle and the founding of our Republic. It is also unconstitutional. Article 14 of the Indian Constitution guarantees to all persons equality before the law, and the equal protection of laws. As the Indian courts have often held, Article 14 prohibits the state from engaging in irrational classification of persons, from arbitrary action, and from treating people unequally for no legitimate reason. The CAB manages to violate each of these three principles. Its exclusion of Muslims from the list of protected communities in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh — in the teeth of the documented persecution of the Ahmadiyyas — is an irrational classification if the goal is to protect persecuted minorities. The restriction of the CAB to just these three countries is entirely arbitrary, as there is no underlying principle that connects them. And the design of the CAB — that first selects Muslim-majority countries and then offers amnesty only to religious minorities within those countries — creates religion-based distinction between those entitled to protection, and those excluded from it. This is an affront to the secular foundations of the Indian Republic, and therefore, an illegitimate legislative purpose.

There are two further factors that exacerbate the immorality of the situation. In response to widespread protests from the North-eastern states the last time the Bill was introduced, the CAB's new iteration now exempts the amendment from applying to the "tribal area of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram or Tripura as included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution." This is an entirely unprincipled manoeuvre. The purpose of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution was — and is — to protect the distinct culture and way of life of India's indigenous populations. It has nothing to do with separate citizenship regimes. In order to secure smooth passage, therefore, the Union cabinet appears to have tacked on a purely political exemption to an already unconstitutional legal regime. This is the very definition of arbitrary state action.

Secondly, the CAB cannot be viewed in isolation from the proposed National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC). The home minister has repeatedly vowed that the NRIC will be implemented shortly, in order to identify and remove "infiltrators" from the country. This follows upon the heels of the hugely expensive and disastrously-managed NRC process in Assam, that ended with the exclusion of 19 lakh individuals who now face the prospect of statelessness. The NRC process saw widespread panic, fear, and suffering — especially among the poor and marginalised — as it imposed onerous documentary requirements upon people. The NRIC will replicate this suffering on a national scale, but when it is combined with the CAB, it becomes clear that that suffering will be specifically visited upon India's Muslims, who will be facing the brunt of the NRIC without the prospective shield of the CAB (a shield that will be available to all other communities).

Together, the NRIC and the CAB constitute a pincer movement against India's Muslims. Their combined effect is to deny to Muslims equal moral membership in the polity. In the history of the 20th century, such legally-sanctioned regimes of discrimination have been seen before: In fascist states, the epitomes of morally and ethically bankrupt regimes.

The CAB, therefore, must be strongly opposed. It must be opposed by all those who continue to believe in a plural, egalitarian, and democratic India, where religion is not a brand that can condemn individuals to perpetual second-class citizenship. And it must be opposed in the courts, as a flagrant violation of equality and the rule of law. It is only principled opposition that can reclaim from naked power politics the fundamental values that animated India's freedom struggle, and that lie at the heart of the Indian project of secular and democratic republicanism.

Bhatia is a lawyer and author of *Offend, Shock or Disturb: Free Speech Under the Indian Constitution*

## CRIME AS PUNISHMENT

Killing of Hyderabad rape accused by police, voices of support for it, point to a brutalisation that must worry all

WHEN A CALL for summary execution goes out from Parliament, a democracy is pushed to the brink of lawlessness. That's where India stands, after the Telangana police shot down four men accused of raping and murdering a woman in Hyderabad. The brazen choreography of events — the four men, unarmed and in police custody, are taken at midnight to the spot where the veterinarian had been violated and shot dead when they allegedly grabbed the policemen's firearms — reflects an idea of medieval mob justice that was heard, over and over again, in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, as legislators called for, among other things, the "lynching" of rapists. It was an abdication of their role and responsibility as lawmakers sworn to the Constitution.

More politicians have come out in praise of the police action. BJP MP and former minister Rajyavardhan Rathore called it the "victory of good over evil". BJP leader Shaina NC termed it "natural justice". BSP chief Mayawati exhorted other state police departments to take inspiration from the Telangana cops. Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan, who had called for a lynching, said "better late than never". Congress leader and Chhattisgarh chief minister, Bhupesh Baghel, said "I can say that justice has been done (in the case)". Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan tweeted that "demons of Hyderabad have been punished for their sins... the wicked should be treated in this manner". Images of people cheering the Hyderabad police or showering them with rose petals might explain the narrow political logic of such statements. But it only underlines that India's political class is choosing to whip up a toxic primal anger that never lies too far beneath this grossly unequal society. They are choosing to not just cheer, but lead the bloodthirsty mob.

In the name of the people, the call is going out to junk due process and the established norms by which a civilised society decides to affix guilt and punishment, the checks and balances that stand up to the excesses of power. The many lynching incidents in the last few years have already warned how a corrosive search for the "enemy" is leading to brutal violence, whether against "child-lifters" or "cow smugglers". Moreover, in an iniquitous society, public outrage is easily gamed when those in the dock are the "others" — the poor and the working class. The same political class that cheers vigilantism is noticeably muted when the powerful are the accused. In Hyderabad, now, the question to ask is not just "what if the four men were innocent?" But also, "what if they were not?" Their guilt ought to have been established in the court of law and punished. If the impatience with a long-drawn out legal process is being used to justify police lawlessness, the judiciary must urgently step in to stanch this anti-democratic spiral.

## TAKING IT PERSONALLY

While Personal Data Protection Bill strikes a balance between privacy and security, one provision does disservice to its objective

THE PERSONAL DATA Protection Bill is designed to fall between the laissez faire approach of US law and the much stricter regimen of the General Data Protection Regulation in force in the European Union, striking a balance between the imperatives of privacy and security. It includes features which have entered the legal lexicon only recently, like the right to be forgotten, and is a much-needed stepping stone towards a mature digital economy and society. But there is concern because a provision appears to compromise the security of personal data, instead of securing it.

This is the proposal of voluntary verification, which is designed to make social media companies more responsible, and make fake news easier to deal with, by marking apart unverified accounts for closer scrutiny. However, the efficacy of this strategy is questionable. Twitter already has such a verification service, with vetted accounts visibly ticked blue. But it seems to have had limited impact on fake news, since verified accounts also spread it, and the trolls just carry on regardless. For marginal gain, therefore, users would be handing over their personal details to social media companies, the biggest of which, Facebook, has not been a trustworthy fiduciary of public data internationally. It may also be recalled that one of the legitimate objections to Aadhaar was the handling of personal data by private contractors, who collected it outside the government silo. Besides, out of ignorance or callousness, the maintainers of government websites repeatedly exposed Aadhaar data to the internet. Now, if verification is made a feature of social media in India, the possibility of companies leaking data may again cause concern. Besides, there is no guarantee that companies would not use the data internally to profile users more accurately than they do already. Just adding an address and a phone number to the dataset of an individual's movements on a city map would bring in a new depth of meaning. In which case the bill, intended to secure privacy, would achieve precisely the opposite.

The need felt by the government, and by citizens who have suffered harm from misinformation or malicious communications on social media, was that traffic across platforms must not be so anonymous as to be untraceable. It is only specific posts which cross the line and cause public harm that need to be traced home. All bona fide users should not have to disclose their personal details to make that possible.

## CITIZEN KUNDERA

Milan Kundera did not need his Czech citizenship restored. It was an act of contrition for an era of exclusion

THE JUSTIFICATION FOR Milan Kundera's first expulsion from the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia was at least partially accurate, even honest. Kundera did indeed possess "individualistic tendencies", though whether he was "hostile" to the Party in 1950 remains an open question. At any rate, the Party and State were certainly hostile to him, and in 1979 stripped Kundera of citizenship after the publication of *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting*. Last week, the Czech Republic restored his citizenship.

Kundera, now 90 and among the most celebrated novelists of the 20th century, has little to gain from his restored citizenship. In fact, the memory of Prague, and the fact of Paris, where he has lived since his exile, have defined his work. The restoration of citizenship, then, is an act of contrition. It is an apology for a time when the state saw the citizen not as a bearer of rights, as an individual who, through criticism, can enrich the whole but instead, a thing to fit an ideological end. Kundera's exile — he did not denounce socialism — stemmed from the insecurity of a state that thinks it is strong, but lacks the magnanimity to tolerate even the slightest dissent and difference.

Kundera's early work was critical of totalitarianism, but his later novels are more philosophical than ideological. He wrote of love, memory, forgetting and a nostalgia that freezes places and times — human themes, in a place where people are not human. The state, then and now, too often wants the citizen to be dutiful, to be a good fill-in-the-blank, to exclude those who do not fit perfectly into its scheme. For many governments at the helm today, there is a lesson in the restoration of Kundera's citizenship. Forty years later, narrow-minded registers of inclusion and exclusion could well require acts of contrition.



BADRI NARAYAN

## AMBEDKAR WITHOUT CASTE

Babasaheb's legacy is being re-engineered to suit the Hindutva agenda

B R AMBEDKAR once said, "I was born a Hindu... but I will not die as a Hindu". Hence, before his death, he chose Buddhism. Inspired by him, a section of Dalits also converted to Buddhism. So soon after his Mahaparinirvan Divas, December 6, we need to ask: What is the relationship between the ideals and lived reality of Dalit life in the context of growing Hindutva?

There is a trend among members of a section of newly-educated Dalits in north India of adopting Buddhism. But during field work in the villages of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, we observed that their conversion, in terms of religious memories from Hinduism to Buddhism, is not yet complete: Some, for instance, are unable to stop themselves from celebrating Hindu festivals and worshipping Hindu deities, alongside worshipping Buddha and Ambedkar.

In UP, one may find Ambedkar statues in and around the Dalit *bastis* of many villages. Ambedkar is a symbolic inspiration for Dalits and the marginalised. This kind of symbolism provides them social confidence. In some of these *bastis*, the youth offer their prayers to Ambedkar statues after achieving any success in life or on special occasions. They find a kind of divinity in the symbol of Ambedkar. The Hindu Dalits, Dalit followers of Kabir and Ravidas, worship Ambedkar alongside their *panthic* deities and gurus: As we know, most

Dalits in North India are followers of Hinduism, the Kabir panth and Ravidas panth. Despite criticism of the caste system, these sects comfortably interact and work within various Hindu religious public spheres.

Ambedkar remained strongly critical of the Hindu caste system. However, the Hindutva movement is trying to reconfigure Ambedkar as a symbol that is respectable for everyone by downplaying his criticism of the caste system. They want to extricate the criticism of the Hindu caste system from the version of Ambedkar they are trying to propagate. If all Hindus across castes start respecting Ambedkar, then his criticism of Hinduism may be sidelined from the memory of Dalits and subaltern communities.

Ambedkar is also projected as the brand ambassador of the *samrasta* campaign run by the Hindutva parivar. One may find Ambedkar calendars and portraits at many RSS offices and public programmes. The BJP has taken various steps to showcase its concern, and respect, for Ambedkar's memories and memorials: More than what the Congress did when it held office.

Although Kabir *panthis* and Ravidasis presented an alternative religious space and identity, they have a close relationship with Hindu religious memories due to their roots in the Bhakti movement. The aspiration to assert themselves as Hindu is growing among

a section of subaltern communities. In villages near Allahabad, Sonbhadra and Mirzapur, smaller Dalit castes like Nats and Mangata — who had liminal religious identity till a few years ago — are now worshipping Hindu deities. These communities aspire for social dignity by appropriating mainstream religious identities. Hindutva forces understand these growing aspirations, and try to project themselves as a social-cultural group working for the welfare of all Hindus. They also assert themselves as political-cultural groups following the ideals of Ambedkar. It is not easy for the Hindutva parivar to appropriate the symbol of Ambedkar, but they are consistently producing narratives — visual, cultural and political — to create a selective remembrance, and forgetting of, the original image of Ambedkar.

The social memories created by the Hindu religion, and the Hindutva version of Ambedkar's symbol, are creating a situation where the Hindutva parivar is easily accessible to a section of the larger Dalit community. It is interesting to observe that an emphasis on Hindu religion and values — once a major criticism of the RSS by Dalits and subalterns — is now providing fertile ground to the Hindutva parivar.

The writer is professor, Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad



## DECEMBER 7, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

### NAGPUR VIOLENCE

AN 18-YEAR-OLD BOY was killed and eight others injured in police firing in Sitaburdi and Gaddigodam areas of Nagpur when a mob agitating for the renaming of Marathwada University after B R Ambedkar turned violent. More than 500 persons were arrested for violating prohibitory orders. The deputy inspector-general of police, Rangaraju, said the police had to fire 12 rounds and burst more than 200 teargas shells, and resorted to repeated cane-charge as the agitators went on a rampage.

### MULLING QUOTA

IN A DESPERATE pre-election move, Charan

Singh is again toying with the idea of reservation of jobs for backward classes in government services. According to informed sources, though the "idea" was not put on the agenda for the cabinet meeting, the prime minister is expected to bring it up before his colleagues. Singh had earlier thought of bringing an ordinance or issuing an executive order to give this concession to the backward classes. Singh had dropped the idea because of reported disapproval by the President, on the ground that it would be contrary to his advice that the caretaker government should not take policy decisions or give concessions to any section of society for electoral gains.

### ENGINEERS' STRIKE

THOUGH THE UP power engineers called off their strike last night, they did not turn up for duty. Enquiries showed that they were awaiting the release of their arrested comrades. While, according to official sources, the number of the engineers arrested is about 300, the association claims that 1,350 engineers are in jail.

### FERNANDES EXIT

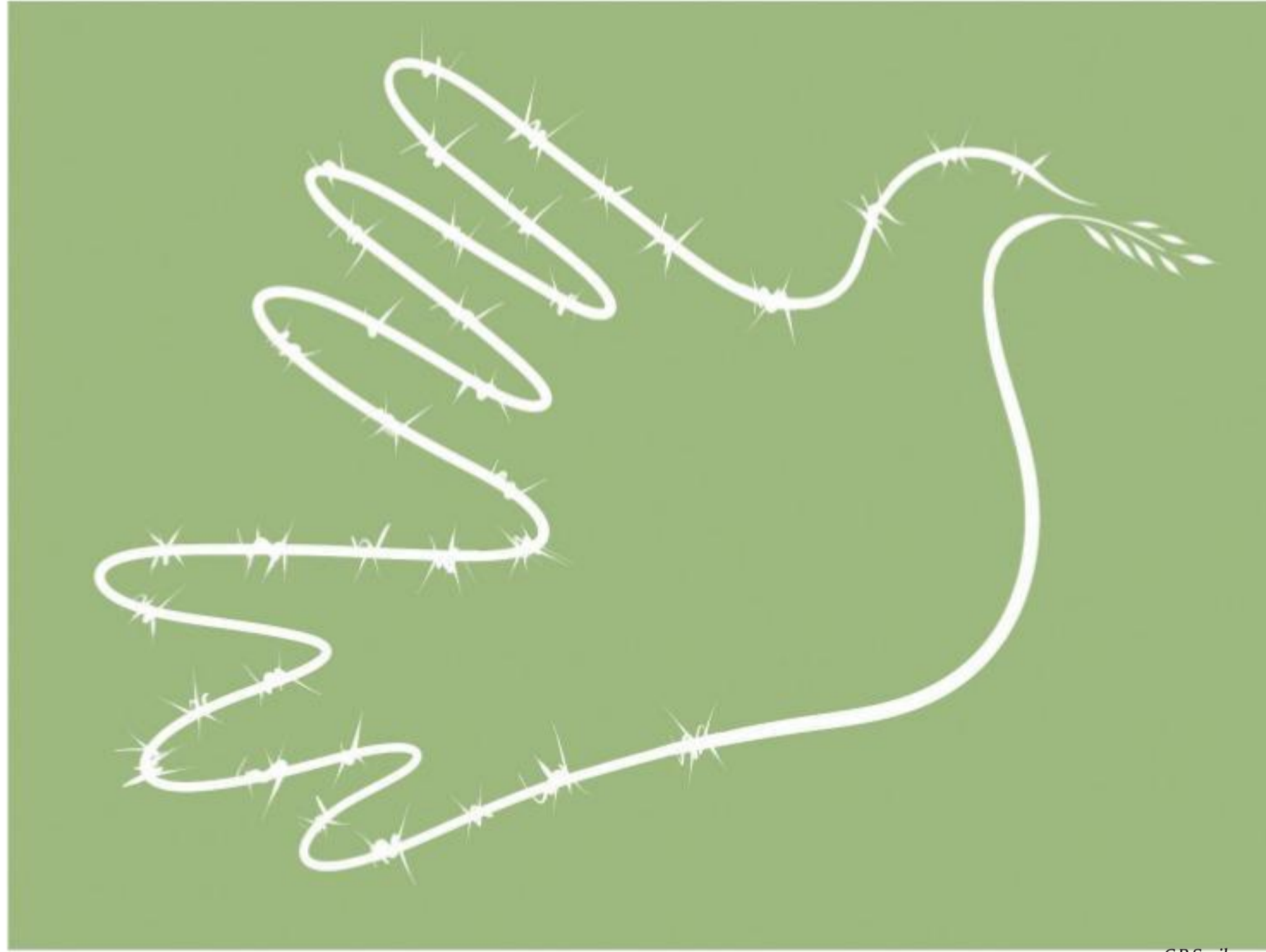
GEORGE FERNANDES DENIED reports that he was likely to join the Janata Party. He described a Calcutta report attributed to Jagjivan Ram as "Just so much unadulterated nonsense".

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“(Hong Kong) Citizens voted overwhelmingly for pro-democracy candidates. It was a clear signal to Beijing that the protests are not a foreign plot.”  
— THE NEW YORK TIMES

# Fall of Indo-Pak Berlin Wall

Kartarpur Corridor shows the way for reconciliation between two parts of a common civilisational community



C R Sasikumar

come to Lahore on his landmark ‘bus yatra’. I was privileged to have travelled with him on that ‘peace bus’. Even though it took two decades for the idea to fructify, the irrefutable fact is that the ‘Berlin Wall’ between India and Pakistan has been pierced.

In Germany, the Berlin Wall fell because tens of thousands of ordinary citizens, desiring the reunification of the two Germanys, dealt hammer-blows on it. Something similar, though not identical, has happened between India and Pakistan. The Kartarpur Sahib Corridor has opened mainly because of the intense desire of the people, mostly Sikhs. Their prayers acted as silent ‘hammer-blows’, which the leaders could not ignore. Unlike in Germany, they do not want re-unification of our two countries, but reconciliation between two parts of a common civilisational community.

Once this fundamental truth is realised, Modi and leaders of Pakistan’s military-civilian establishment can think of opening many more corridors of peace and reconciliation, including some linking the two sides of Kashmir, without either side feeling insecure or threatened. But this requires bold and out-of-the-box thinking in both New Delhi and Islamabad. Here is a suggestion. Modi should invite Imran Khan and Pakistan’s Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, to talk to New Delhi. Alternatively, he should go to Islamabad and meet them.

Why should Modi meet both Imran Khan and General Bajwa? For three reasons. One, both are responsible for opening the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor and have demonstrated their commitment to a breakthrough in India-Pakistan ties. Two, there is an entrenched view in India that Pakistan’s military does not want good relations with our country. This is only partly true. If India treats its smaller neighbour on the basis of sovereign equality leading to an ‘honourable peace’ — rather than ‘triumph’ for India and ‘loss’ for Pakistan — the military establishment in Rawalpindi can deliver better results than the wobbly civilian

In Germany, the Berlin Wall fell because tens of thousands of ordinary citizens, desiring reunification of the two Germanys, dealt hammer-blows on it. Something similar, though not identical, has happened between India and Pakistan. The Kartarpur Sahib Corridor has opened mainly because of the intense desire of the people, mostly Sikhs. Their prayers acted as silent ‘hammer-blows’, which the leaders could not ignore. Unlike in Germany, they do not want re-unification of our two countries, but reconciliation between two parts of a common civilisational community.

leadership in Islamabad.

Three, in General Bajwa, we have a Pakistani military chief who genuinely wants peace with India. I am saying this on the basis of my discussions with numerous Pakistanis who are well-informed about the power equations in their country. The messy controversy over his extension in office will soon end. We can count on him to back a valiant peace process with India.

There is a precedent for Pakistan’s PM and army chief (along with the ISI chief Lt General Faiz Hameed) visiting a foreign capital together and holding talks with the leadership of that country. In October, they went to Beijing, just two days before Chinese President Xi Jinping came to India for the second informal summit with Modi at Mahabalipuram. General Bajwa had also met Xi Jinping in Beijing in September 2018.

Critics and cynics will ask: ‘China has a special clout with Pakistan, which India lacks. Will Pakistan’s army chief talk to an Indian PM? Never.’ The belief that China matters more to Pakistan than India is flawed. Although China is important for Islamabad, all farsighted Pakistanis, including those in the military and civilian establishments, know that their country’s long-term security, stability and progress is impossible without normalisation of relations with India. Furthermore, the untapped social, cultural, spiritual and historical ties between India and Pakistan are far deeper and stronger than anything that exists between Pakistan and China. For proof, come to Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara.

Does Modi have it in him to break the Indo-Pak ‘Berlin Wall’, in coordination with General Bajwa and Imran Khan? Or will they allow inevitable provocations to interrupt the peace process, as has so often, and so sadly, happened in the past?

The writer is founder of the Forum for a New South Asia - Powered by India-Pakistan-China Cooperation

# Criminals in uniform

Encounters should not be encouraged by the political leadership. Until judicial process is put back on the rails, these short-cuts will continue



JULIO RIBEIRO

WHEN I WAS a young student of law, those accused of heinous crimes like murder or rape were tried swiftly and punished or set free, as the evidence on record dictated, within a year. The average time taken was eight or nine months, during which time the accused were in the custody of jailors.

The hearings were held daily, and no adjournments were asked for or given. The public prosecutor and the lawyer of the accused were invariably present in court to rise in their seats when the presiding judge entered at the appointed hour of the morning. The witnesses were kept ready outside the court and would be ushered inside the courtroom when his or her name was called by the judge’s clerk.

There was great precision and solemnity to this whole process. Sadly, this has disappeared now with advocates for the prosecution or the defence seeking adjournments, often on flimsy grounds. Sadder still, they are able to obtain it without any difficulty. The entire atmosphere has been transformed into one witnessed routinely in the courts of the lower judiciary.

Delays in the disposal of trials of those accused who are charged with murder and rape, or other heinous crimes, has warped the judicial system. If those who dare to commit such crimes feel that there is laxity within the system, where the chances available to suborn witnesses are enhanced, then the threat of law catching up with offenders retreats. An atmosphere of lawlessness creeps in.

It is exactly this atmosphere of lawlessness that presently prevails. The middle-class, who form the bulk of the opinion makers in any country, put pressure — subtle or overt — on the governments of the day to preserve their sense of security in any way possible. Since the judicial system does not operate as smoothly as it used to in the past, popularly elected governments, in turn, put pressure on the police forces to use other methods to solve the problem.

I remember Gopinath Munde, deputy chief minister and home minister in the first Shiv Sena-BJP coalition government in Maharashtra, standing up to critics in the legislative assembly and countering them by proclaiming openly that he had ordered his police chief to dispose off criminals by shooting them at sight. He was not con-

cerned by the legality of what he said he had ordered the police to do, and, surprisingly, the Opposition also seemed to have concurred.

Third-degree methods adopted by the police and the fake encounters which have become a part of the police and public lexicon, are short-cuts that have become accepted, and almost formalised, because of public support. A beleaguered society that knows not what ails the system, openly supports short-cuts adopted by the police to circumvent the failures of the judicial process. The public is unaware of the fall-out of this new practice of fake encounters: A whole new breed of criminals is born. They are known as ‘encounter specialists’.

These ‘specialists’ are hero-worshipped by this puzzled society. Even films and biopics are made on their patently illegal deeds. In the process, they turn into criminals in uniform, willing to take on private requests for a price. That they are in uniform gives them an immunity that is doubly dangerous. Many of them have become filthy rich. If they contest elections after retirement, they declare assets that are clearly beyond the capacity of police inspectors to accumulate.

The Telangana police unit which shot dead the four suspects in the veterinary lady doctor’s rape-cum-murder offence were likely carrying out a mandate entrusted to it by their own leaders who, in turn, will have received instructions from political superiors. The public baying for blood is a symptom of a puzzled and ill-informed society.

Until the system of judicial process is put back on the rails, these short-cuts will continue. How does the government — with the judiciary, the Bar and the police, all components of the judicial process — correct all these flaws in the system? For starters, the courts must hold daily hearings in such cases without any interruption. No adjournments should ever be given. If lawyers are busy with other cases, they must take steps to send their juniors to attend those other cases instead.

All stakeholders in the judicial process must sit across the table and take a decision to speed up the trials of rape and murder cases, at least. No encounters should be encouraged by the political leadership. In fact, there will not be any such demand from the public if the offenders are charged and punished swiftly. After all, the public, specifically the middle classes, who have a vested interest in law and order, want the legal system to work. They will not ask for illegal methods to be adopted if they enjoy a feeling of security.

The writer, a retired IPS officer, was Mumbai police commissioner, DGP Gujarat and DGP Punjab

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### IT’S A RECESSION

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘No cut in time’ (IE, December 6). While the government describes the economic situation as a slowdown, all indicators suggest it is, in fact, a recession — manifested through unemployment, depression, frustration and mass suicides. Don’t show the GDP growth rate. It could be artificially pushed up by government borrowing and spending, allowing lenders to buy up shares and assets. The need is to increase ‘production’ and ‘productivity’!

Varin Dhir, Ahmedabad

### OUTRAGE, NOT SHAME

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Only shame’ (IE, December 6). The writer points out that a minimum qualification for a constable is Class 10 and to expect him to respond with sensitivity and professionalism is wishful thinking. That is terrible thinking. Constables should be trained and that is the responsibility of the police department. You do need to feel shame if you have not done anything about it.

Jagruiti Desai, Mumbai

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Only shame’ (IE, December 6). In the long run, we need to address the structural bias against women in our various political, administrative and social institutions. Liberal education at the elementary level can act as a catalyst for this.

Anaiza Goel, Panchkula

### RESTORE CALM

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘An Ayodhya story, from 1857’ (IE, December 4). In 1992, a BJP held office in the state and in 2019, it is the same party that holds office at the Centre. Politics is always a game for more power, but it shouldn’t mean shedding the blood of innocents.

Mahapatra is an advocate, and former president, JNUSU

# The Left’s last gasp

At JNU, protest to further Left agenda hurts students from deprived backgrounds

have considered JNU their fief and anointed themselves the sole arbiter of what is good for the varsity.

We cannot sidestep the role of these ‘JNU fiefdoms’, both inside and outside the campus, in causing the current perception deficit about the institution.

Protest and agitation by students in JNU has been a common feature. But a certain unwritten decorum has always been followed, even during a highly-charged atmosphere. Students always refrained from taking teachers, who are invariably manning administrative positions, as hostages to further their cause.

The fee hike protests saw this understanding breached. The right to protest turned ugly and some examples prove this beyond doubt: A woman teacher was unable to leave for 30 hours and videos have surfaced seemingly showing her being pushed and shoved by female students, a hostel warden was woken up in the dead of night and surrounded by hundreds of students professing the ideology of the Left. Such incidents bring a bad name to JNU, and many may even agree, rightly so.

What is even more worrisome is that the teachers body, JNUTA, otherwise a highly vocal union, chose to remain a mute spectator.

So, the issue that needs to be examined is whether these so-called students of the ‘left persuasion’ are being prodded to take this inhuman approach by the ‘JNU fiefdoms’ who cannot think beyond the motivation of their writ running large in the campus. The country’s premier university has been shut and academic activities have come to a halt with these ‘protesters’ locking the schools/departments with brute force. This has put a question mark on conducting the end semester examinations, supposed to be just days away.

Whether these protesters are helping the cause of the students, largely from the deprived section of the society for whom a degree from JNU could well be a ticket to come out of such deprivation, is something no ‘JNU fiefdom’ seems to be bothered about. It seems that all the ‘protesters’ and that their handlers are interested in is to further their cause, clearly at cross purposes with the issue of a fee hike being detrimental to the deprived students. And it is this Gordian knot that needs to be unravelled soon.



SUDHEENDRA KULKARNI

KARTARPUR SAHIB: EVEN when the dark night seems endless, hope for a hint of light never dies. That’s how it is with India-Pakistan relations. Just when everything looked bleak, the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor opened. Showing welcome grace, Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked his Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan for making it happen.

In a more significant comment, he likened the inauguration of the corridor to the ‘Fall of the Berlin Wall’, since that day, November 9, marked the 30th anniversary of the event that accelerated the end of the Cold War. ‘Two different streams had come together and taken the pledge to make a new beginning. Today, the Kartarpur Corridor has started with the coordinated efforts of India and Pakistan.’

If Modi genuinely wants the ‘Berlin Wall’ of hostility between India and Pakistan to fall, he must now walk the talk. But, how? The answer lies in the words he himself spoke — ‘coordinated efforts’ of the two countries to ‘make a new beginning’.

Desirable outcomes call for determined actions. Boldness alone breaks deadlocks. Mao and Nixon demolished the ‘Bamboo Wall’ and normalised relations between China and the USA. Gorbachev showed immense audacity and foresight to bring the Cold War to a bloodless end by initiating ‘coordinated efforts’ with Ronald Reagan and mature European leaders of the time. The leaders of India and Pakistan must now show the same courage, commitment and innovativeness.

A significant testimony of that innovativeness is the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor itself. Earlier this month, I went on a pilgrimage to the gurdwara that marks the place of his departure from his mortal existence in 1539. I travelled not through the corridor, but from Lahore. The sight of the unending caravan of cars and buses bringing yatris to the gurdwara was unbelievable. Almost all of them were Pakistanis, unlike those who come through the corridor, who are mostly Indians. Ramesh Singh Arora, a former member of the Pakistan national assembly, told me, ‘There were nearly 20,000 yatris today, of which only around 1,800 came from India through the corridor. Muslims far outnumbered Pakistani Sikhs, because they are proud that Nanak Baba, who was born and passed away here, is part of Pakistan’s heritage.’

‘This looks like a silent social-spiritual revolution.’ I said to Arora, who is a member of the gurdwara’s management committee. His response, ‘This is just the beginning. The Indian media is painting a wrong image of Pakistan, as a place where Muslims hate non-Muslims. People in India should know that not a single political party in Pakistan opposed when our government built the world’s largest and finest gurdwara complex here. There was no opposition in our media either.’

The word ‘yatris’ has a profound meaning in the context of the opening of Kartarpur Sahib. The idea of opening a road to bring mainly Sikh pilgrims from India to Kartarpur, located just 3 km from the India-Pakistan border, was first mooted in the talks between prime ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Nawaz Sharif in 1999, when the former had



SANDEEP MAHAPATRA

BINOY VISWAM, RAJYA Sabha MP from the Communist Party of India, in the context of the ongoing protest at Jawaharlal Nehru University, has made references to the RSS in unsavoury terms without any basis (‘Bastion of humanism’, IE, November 29). The propensity to link the RSS with anything and everything happening in educational institutions has become the hallmark of the reasoning of left-leaning politicians and academics.

Post the February 2016 ‘tukde tukde’ episode, the reasons for JNU being in the news has worried an alumnus like me. In the age of social media and 24x7 news media, all kinds of labels have been heaped on the varsity. JNU has been vulnerable to criticism ranging from being called a ‘den of anti-nationals’ to the university being accused of being a ‘waste of public money’. The negative campaign has gone to the extent of demanding the ‘shutting down’ of JNU by some.

The impression created by the ‘tukde tukde’ has coloured the perception of the protest over the fee hike as well. The counter to such a reaction has various facets, from extolling the virtues of JNU to bringing in the argument of its contribution to our national life, which are justified and need to be articulated at all available platforms. At the same time, we must also analyse the role of those who

cents. We need aware citizens, a strong Opposition, unbiased judiciary and rational authorities to ensure that law and order is respected.

Zainab Gausiya, Chandigarh

### BIASED BILL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Two-nation citizen’ (IE, December 6). The proposed Citizenship (Amendment) Bill will make the process of acquiring citizenship by way of naturalisation more lenient for listed communities from selected countries. People like Taslima Nasrin and Asia Bibi will be left to the mercy of Western countries. India needs a refugee policy consistent with its long tradition of accepting and assimilating asylum seekers.

Sanjay Vijayan, Greater Noida

# In Kashmir, CAPF deployment three times the normal

**NAVEED IQBAL**  
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 6

IN THE days leading up to August 5 and the scrapping of special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir state, the Valley witnessed the highest deployment of security forces yet. By August 5, nearly 430 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) were deployed in the state, including personnel from the CRPF, BSF, ITBP, SSB and CISF.

The normal deployment in the Valley is about 200 CAPF companies in addition to Indian Army and J&K Police. Each company has about 100 personnel.

The deployment of almost 230 companies was done in the months leading up to August 2019 to provide security for the panchayat and urban local body elections held in September 2018, followed by preparations for Lok Sabha elections in May 2019 and then the Amamath Yatra.

Post-August 5, the CAPF deployment increased to 653 companies. Of these, about 200 companies have left in recent weeks, and been redeployed elsewhere.

While forces were deployed only during the day prior to the clampdown in Kashmir, "there is, since August 5, a stringent day and night deployment throughout Kashmir", a senior official in the security establishment, who did not wish to be identified, said.

Top security officials told *The Indian Express* that this year's security presence — as on date — "surpasses deployment in

Kashmir in the 1990s". Separating numbers for each force — CRPF, BSF, ITBP, SSB and CISF — was not always possible since "most of the deployment is being done without written orders".

This is attributed to the increase in law and order incidents alongside anti-militancy operations, said an official familiar with the movement of troops over the last few years in the state. Additionally, "the strength in terms of sheer number of forces has also increased over the last 15 years and that helps augment security presence in the valley", a source told *The Indian Express*.

"Up until 2008, anti-militancy activity was just operations, but post-2008, the law and order aspect to militancy increased significantly with people's involvement at encounter sites. The law and order aspect in J&K has become much more serious than the actual militancy," the official said.

However, previous episodes such as 1991, Lok Sabha elections in 1996, and the Kargil war of 1999, Operation Parakram and the post-Parliament attack scenario in 2001 also saw heightened security presence across the state.

CRPF personnel posted at various locations in the Valley have told *The Indian Express* that in the initial phase of deployment post-August 5, "leave applications for home visits were not being approved. Only recently we have been allowed to proceed on leave," an official said.

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# 5 pleas seek review of SC Ayodhya judgment

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

FIVE MORE review petitions "supported" by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board were filed in the Supreme Court Friday seeking review of its December 9 judgment giving the contentious site in Ayodhya to the Hindu parties to the dispute, stating that it "condones serious illegalities of destruction, criminal trespass and violation of rule of law including damaging the mosque and eventually destroying it".

The petitions were filed by Mufti Hasbullah, Moulana Mahfoozur Rahman, Misbahuddin, Mohammad Umar and Haji Nahboob and said that "the de jure, indeed de facto, effect of the direction in the judgment is to destroy the (Babri) mosque if it still existed" and that the review "is part of a quest for justice".

They said that the "purpose of this review petition is not to disturb the peace of this great Nation but in the spirit that any peace must be conducive to justice. In respect of this case Muslims has always maintained the peace but Muslims and their properties have been victim of violence and unfairness treat-

ment... The judgment under Review erred in privileging peace over justice while not appreciating that there could be no peace without justice."

The petitioners claimed "giving antecedent title to the Hindus, means that the site belonged to them in 1992" and that the "judgment thus takes advantage of the destruction of the mosque in effectively holding that had the mosque not been destroyed in 1992, this judgment would have ordered it to be destroyed".

"Although the judgment claims that title had to be based on secular grounds and values... the emphasis on prayer and belief in the judgment shows that it was entirely based on Hindu faith and belief..."

The Muslim parties said that title could not have been given to Hindu parties on the basis of exclusive possession of the entire site which never existed at any point in time with the Hindus since it is admitted that Muslims entered and prayed at the site till December 1949 and were subsequently "prevented from doing so because of the attachment while unfairly permitting Hindu worship following criminal trespass".

It said the court had "erred in

accepting the juristic personality of the idol entitled it to the 3 domed structure and the courtyard while holding that the idol was illegally and forcibly put there. An idol as deity cannot be simultaneously illegally placed and legally valid to claim the title".

The court, they said, had not considered that there was a dedication of the mosque which was self-evident from the inscriptions and erred in holding that the waqf was not established by use though continuous possession and prayer by Muslims were shown at all times.

The petitioners said that Muslims had never asked for the five acres of land and that "...awarding the entire disputed land to the Hindus, shows that exercise under Article 142 did not meet the test of complete justice".

The review petitions reiterated that Muslims were in possession of the Babri Mosque and were offering namaz regularly since 1528, after its construction, till December 22, 1949, when idols were placed inside, and added that "therefore the finding... that Muslims failed to prove their possession and use of Mosque from date of construction till 1857 is not based on evidence and is manifestly erroneous".

## 32 railway officers given premature retirement

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

IN A rare move, the Indian 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 four officers were prematurely retired.

Railways said the move was aimed at improving efficiency and strengthening administrative machinery at all levels. "Recommendations of the review committee were submitted to the respective competent authorities who approved the same. 1,780 officers were considered for review and out of which 32 were recommended for retirement," it said. Twenty-two among them were directors and above level officers, officials said.

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.

# UP wedding: Dancer shot at, 2 arrested

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 6

TWO MEN were arrested on Friday after a dancer was shot at in the face when she stopped dancing at a wedding ceremony at Titra village in Uttar Pradesh's Chitrakoot district on December 1. Two others also suffered pellet injuries in the firing.

The dancer, identified as Heena of Hameerpur district, suffered a gunshot injury in her jaw and is undergoing treatment at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute in Lucknow, where doctors stated that she was out of danger, police said.

The arrested persons were identified as Titra village head Sudhir Patel (45) and his distant relative Phool Singh (52), the father of the alleged assailant Ajeet Singh (30) who is absconding.

Police officials claimed the incident occurred when two persons entered a heated argument at the wedding ceremony. However, a video of the incident recorded by an eyewitness, which was circulated on social media, shows the assailant threatening that shots would be fired if the dancing stopped, and there is firing soon after one of the dancers stops dancing.

The police on Friday produced Sudhir and Phool Singh in



A videograb of the incident

a local court of Chitrakoot, which sent them to jail, said Chitrakoot SP Ankit Mittal. Police are conducting raids to trace Ajeet.

Mittal said the incident took place at the wedding ceremony of Sudhir's daughter, where a group of dancers was called to perform. The video shows the victim, who was part of the dancers' group, performing with another dancer on the stage. As the women stopped dancing to take a break, a drunk man was heard saying that the dance should not stop. "Goli chal jayegi (shots will be fired)," he is heard saying after the victim stopped dancing. That is when gunshots are heard in the background. The same male voice identifies the person who is firing as Sudhir. The video then shows another bullet being fired and hitting Heena's jaw.

## SARKEGUDA KILLINGS

# Villagers, activists demand fresh FIR against Raman, cops

**DIPANKAR GHOSE**  
RAIPUR, DECEMBER 6

FIVE DAYS after it emerged that the Justice VK Agarwal judicial commission had indicted security forces over an encounter at Sarkeguda in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur, villagers and activists have submitted a complaint to the local police station, demanding the registration of a fresh FIR.

The encounter in question occurred in June 2012, in which 17 people were killed and 10 were injured after security forces claimed they were attacked by a Maoist meeting and opened retaliatory fire in Sarkeguda village.

However, the villagers maintained that they had only gathered to discuss modalities for Beej Pandum, a local tribal festival, and said there were no Maoists or arms at the spot. Under pressure from the Congress, the then BJP government led by Raman Singh ordered a one-member judicial commission to look into the matter. As first reported by *The Indian Express*, the Justice Agarwal commission submitted its report to the state government last month, finding that there was no evidence that there was no firing from the meeting, that there was no firing from the meeting, that the security forces may have opened fire in panic, that people were both assaulted and shot, and that one person was killed the next morning, hours after the original encounter.

Earlier this week, the Congress tabled the report in the Vidhan

Sabha after a hasty cabinet meeting last Saturday and has sent the report to the Law Department, with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel promising that nobody guilty would go free.

On Friday, villagers along with activists Himanshu Kumar and Soni Sori went to the Basaguda Police Station to file a complaint and demanded the registration of an FIR. Sori told *The Indian Express*, "Now that even a judicial commission has found that the villagers killed were innocent, a fresh FIR should be registered and those guilty put in jail."

They have demanded that an FIR be filed against then CM Raman Singh, DIG CRPFS Elango, and other senior state police officials such as Prashant Agarwal, T R Longkumer and Mukesh Gupta who were the Bijapur SP, IG (Bastar) and IG (intelligence) respectively in 2012.

Sori, however, alleged that while the complaint had been received, the police were refusing to register an FIR.

P Sundar Raj, IG (Bastar) said, "Villagers along with Soni Sori and Himanshu Kumar came to Basaguda to register a complaint which has been received. We told them that an FIR is already in place and there cannot be two FIRs. We are aware of the judicial commission report but there is a procedure. The report was tabled to cabinet and then the Vidhan Sabha and has been sent to the Law Department. Based on the report when the government gives us directions, we can then act on it. Otherwise any other step would be illegal."

## MP: 2 intruders steal INSAS rifles from Army cantonment

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BHOPAL, DECEMBER 6

THE MADHYA Pradesh police has sounded a high alert after two men entered into Pachmarhi Army Cantonment area and escaped with two INSAS rifles and 20 cartridges after making the sentries believe that they were Army officers.

According to preliminary findings, the two got down at Pipariya railway station around midnight and went to the hill station, a little more than 50 km away, in a hired vehicle. The two got food packed from a dhaba at Matkuli before reaching the cantonment. They returned to Pipariya around 3.30 am. The police are yet to know if they boarded a train from Pipariya or used some other means of transport. The Delhi-Jabalpur Shridham Express reaches Pipariya early in the morning.

The police detained the driver and questioned him.

A senior Intelligence officer told *The Indian Express* that the police have accessed footage from the dhaba in Matkuli. The officer said no footage is available to throw light on how exactly the weapons were taken away or whether they were snatched.

## JKNPP leader says made to remain at home by cops

**ARUN SHARMA**  
JAMMU, DECEMBER 6

TWO MONTHS after he was allowed to move out of his house following the lifting of restrictions on opposition leaders, Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP) chairman Harsh Dev Singh on Friday evening was once again made to stay indoors at his Gandhi Nagar residence by J&K police.

The move came after Singh and other party leaders, including former MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia, were distributing pamphlets appealing people to observe a bandh on December 7 to protest the continued suspension of mobile Internet, the establishment of a toll plaza on the

Jammu-Kathua national highway at Sarore, escalating prices, and the transfer of power of registration of documents from judicial to revenue officials.

Sources said Singh and Mankotia were first detained at the Pacca Danga Police Station, leading to demonstration by some party leaders. Later in the evening, they were let off.

Soon after their release, Mankotia left for his home, but Singh was asked to stay indoors at his Gandhi Nagar residence.

While Singh has claimed that he has been put under house arrest, Jammu SSP Tejinder Singh denied it. The SSP, however, admitted that the JKNPP leader has been asked to stay indoors so as to prevent him from disturbing public order.

## SUDAN FACTORY BLAST

# 6 Indians killed, 8 injured, 11 unidentified or missing: MEA

*New Delhi:* Six Indians were killed in Tuesday's LPG tanker blast in a ceramic factory in Sudan while eight were undergoing treatment in hospitals and 11 others were either unidentified or missing, the Ministry of External Affairs said Friday.

On Wednesday, the Indian Embassy in Sudan suggested

that 18 Indians were among the 23 people killed in the blast.

At a press conference, MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said the government is in touch with the families of the deceased. A statement issued by Sudanese government three days ago said the blast in a gas tanker triggered the fire in an industrial area. **ENS**

# No Indian study shows that pollution shortens life, says Javadekar in House

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

RESPONDING TO a number of queries about air pollution in the Lok Sabha on Friday, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar said there have been no Indian studies to show that there is a direct impact of pollution on lifespan.

"No Indian study has shown pollution shortens life. Let us not create fear psychosis among people," said Javadekar. Referring to studies that indicate a link between pollution and reducing life expectancy, he said such studies "might not be based on first generation data".

The minister further said that the Centre has launched the National Clean Air Programme to tackle air pollution across the country. "Under NCAP, 102 non-attainment cities have been identified based on ambient air quality data for the period between 2011-2015 and WHO report 2014/18," he said.

However, Anumita Roy Choudhury of the Centre for Science and Environment, speaking to *The Indian Express*, pointed to a 2017 study which was a joint initiative of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Public Health Foundation of India, the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) and the Health Ministry.

"Globally and also in India, there is plenty of evidence now that shows that air pollution has a direct impact of premature deaths... There is a lot of evidence from scientists as well as doctors that shows the biological ramifications of air pollution... If this is not a concern, then the government itself would not have an Air Act..."



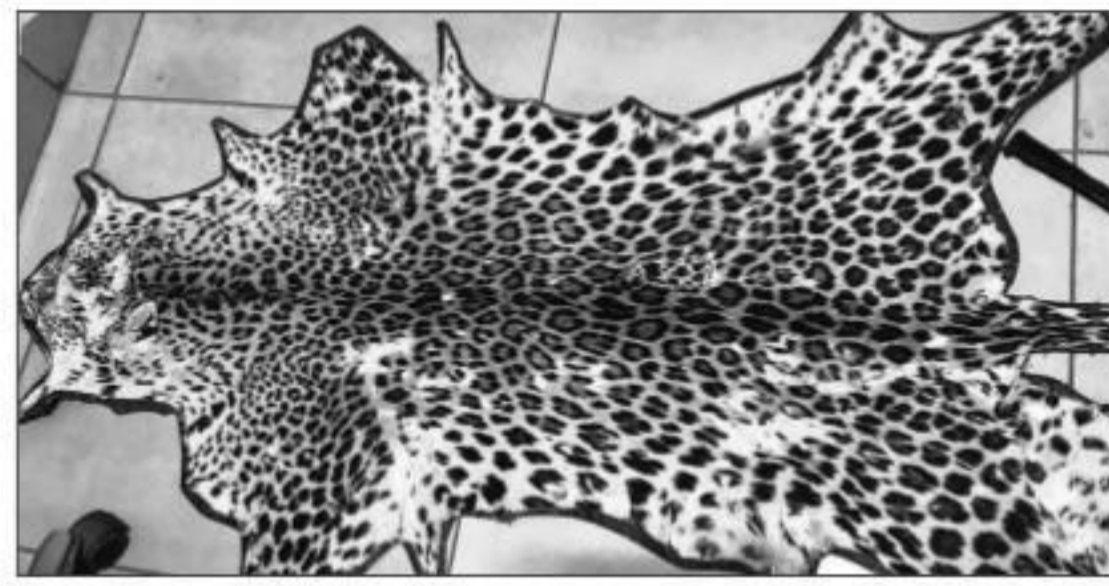
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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## TELLING NUMBERS

## 388 wildlife crime cases last year, over 20% were about leopards



A leopard skin seized in Ballabhgarh (Haryana) in 2018. *Express Archive*

IN 2018, 388 cases of wildlife-related crimes were registered under the Wildlife Protection Act, according to a reply tabled in Parliament by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

In nearly one in every three cases — 123 of the 388 — the species involved was leopards or tigers. Leopards alone accounted for over one in five cases, at 81, while 42 cases involved tigers. In between the two big cat species were scheduled birds, which accounted for 61 cases, or a little over than one in seven.

Just five species accounted for two in every three cases — 259 of 388 — with leopards (21%), scheduled birds (16%) and tigers (11%) being followed by star tortoises or turtles (10%) and deer (9%). Ten species accounted for over 90% of the cases, the other five being elephants (7%), snakes (5%), rhinos (4%), mongooses (4%) and pangolins (a little under 4%). The remaining 10% were cases that involved 10 other species, including Tockay geckos and monkeys.

Overall, the number of cases of wildlife crime has come down since 2016, when 565 were registered, and risen slightly since 2017, when 342 were registered.

The ministry said a Wildlife Crime

## WILDLIFE CRIME IN 2018

SPECIES	CASES	SHARE
Leopard	81	20.9%
Scheduled birds	61	15.7%
Tiger	42	10.8%
Star tortoise /turtle	39	10.1%
Deer	36	9.3%
Elephant	27	7.0%
Snake	19	4.9%
Rhino	16	4.1%
Mongoose	15	3.9%
Pangolin	14	3.6%
Others	38	9.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful activity in wildlife trade in wild animals and animal articles. Under centrally sponsored schemes such as "Development of Wildlife Habitats," "Project Tiger" and "Project Elephant", funds are provided to the governments of states and Union Territories, it said.

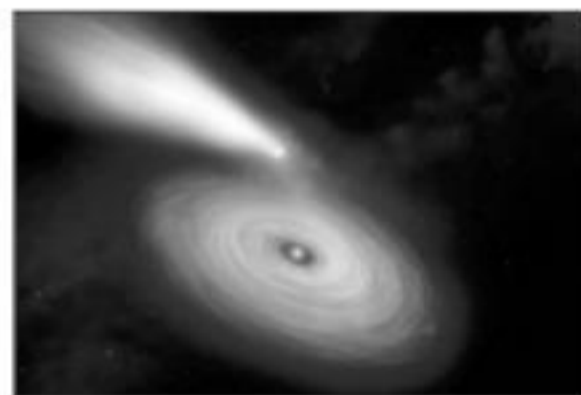
## FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

## WHY PLANET ORBITING WHITE DWARF STAR IS A BREAKTHROUGH DISCOVERY

SOME 4.5 billion years from today, our Sun will run out of fuel and shed its outer layers. In the process, it will destroy Mercury, Venus and probably Earth, and is expected to radiate enough high energy photons to evaporate Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

What will remain of the Sun is called a "white dwarf". Can any planet orbiting a star survive such an event? New evidence suggests it can. Astronomers from the University of Warwick and the University of Valparaiso have reported the first indirect evidence of a giant planet orbiting a white dwarf star (WDJ0914+1914). It is the first time any such planet has been found. The study, in the journal *Nature*, suggests there could be many more planets around such white dwarf stars waiting to be discovered.

The Neptune-like planet orbits the white dwarf every ten days, and cannot be seen directly. The evidence is in the form of a disc of gas (hydrogen, oxygen and sulphur) formed from its evaporating atmos-



Artist's impression of the discovery. *University of Warwick/Mark Garlick*

phere. Spikes of gas were detected by the Very Large Telescope of the European Southern Observatory in Chile. The discovery is significant, because while there was growing evidence accumulated in the past two decades that planetary systems can survive into white dwarf stars, only smaller objects such as asteroids had been detected so far. This is the first evidence of an actual planet in such a system.

# Why 'carbon market' is debated

It is a major contentious issue at Madrid climate talks, dividing the developed and developing world. What is the concept, why was it felt necessary, and what are the major points of disagreement?



EXPRESS IN MADRID

AMITABH SINHA  
DECEMBER 6

ALMOST HALFWAY through the climate conference in Madrid, one big thing it had to resolve — disagreements over setting up a new carbon market — remains contentious as ever. Carbon markets, which allow for buying and selling of carbon emissions with the objective of reducing global emissions, is an unfinished agenda from last year's meeting in Katowice, Poland.

## The market mechanism

Under the Paris Agreement, every country has to take action to fight climate change. These actions need not necessarily be in the form of reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, which can constrain economic growth. India, for example, has said it would reduce its emissions per unit of GDP. Only the developed countries have included absolute emission cuts in their action plans. Yet, there is scope for absolute emissions reductions in developing countries too. For example, a brick kiln in India can upgrade its technology and reduce emissions. But because India does not need to make absolute reductions, there is no incentive to make this investment.

It is to deal with situations like these that the carbon market mechanism is conceived. Markets can potentially deliver emissions reductions over and above what countries are doing on their own. For example, if a developed country is unable to meet its reduction target, it can provide money or technology to the brick kiln in India, and then claim the reduction of emission as its own.



A protest against carbon markets at the Madrid talks venue. *Reuters*

Alternatively, the kiln can make the investment, and then offer on sale the emission reduction, called carbon credits. Another party, struggling to meet its own targets, can buy these credits and show these as their own.

Carbon markets also existed under the Kyoto Protocol, which is being replaced by the Paris Agreement next year. The market mechanisms being proposed under the Paris Agreement are conceptually not very different, but are supposed to have more effective checks and balances, and monitoring and verification processes.

## How to set up a market

The provisions relating to setting up a new carbon market are described in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. These are enabling provisions that allow for two different approaches of carbon trading, more or less on the lines described earlier.

Article 6.2 enables bilateral arrangements for transfer of emissions reductions, while ensuring that they do not double-count the reductions. Article 6.4 talks about a wider

carbon market in which reductions can be bought and sold by anyone.

Article 6.8 provides for making 'non-market approaches' available to countries to achieve targets. It is not yet very clear what these approaches would constitute, but they could include any cooperative action, like collaboration on climate policy or common taxation, that are not market-based.

## What is contentious

The main tussle is over two or three broad issues — what happens to carbon credits earned in the Kyoto regime but not yet sold, what constitutes double-counting, and transparency mechanisms to be put in place.

Developing countries have several million unsold CERs (certified emission reductions), each referring to one tonne of carbon dioxide-equivalent emission reduced, from the Kyoto regime. Under the Kyoto Protocol, only developed countries had the obligation to reduce emissions. In the initial phase, some of these were interested in buying CERs from projects in India or China, which were

not obliged to make reductions.

In the last few years, several countries walked out of the Kyoto Protocol, and those that remained did not feel compelled to fulfil their targets. The second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (2012-20) never came into force. As the demand for CERs crashed, countries like India were left with projects generating CERs with no one to buy them.

India has about 750 million unsold CERs and, along with other similarly placed countries, wants these credits to be valid in the new mechanism too. Developed countries are opposing it on the ground that the rules and verification procedures under the Kyoto Protocol were not very robust; they want the new mechanism to start with a clean slate.

The second issue is that of double counting, or corresponding adjustment. The new mechanism envisages carbon credits as commodities that can be traded multiple times among countries or private parties. It is important to ensure that in this process, credits are not counted at more than one place; whoever sells carbon credits should not simultaneously count these as emissions it has reduced.

The developing countries argue that the country that reduced emissions should be able to show it even after selling the credits, and that adjustments should be made only for subsequent transfers, if any.

## Is it a good idea?

Carbon markets are not essential to the implementation of Paris Agreement. But with the world doing far less than what is required to prevent catastrophic impacts of climate change, the markets can be an important tool to close the action gap.

Developing countries and many civil society organisations say they would rather have no deal on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement than have a bad or compromised deal that would allow transition of Kyoto regime CERs or any kind of double counting. Some developing countries, on the other hand, prefer to have an agreement finalised in Madrid.

## THIS WORD MEANS: VIRTUAL AUTOPSY

## How to inspect bodies without cutting them up

ABANTIKA GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

IT IS likely to be possible soon to carry out autopsies without dissecting the body, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan told Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. India will be the first country in South and Southeast Asia to carry out these "virtual autopsies", the Minister said.

## So what is a virtual autopsy?

In a virtual autopsy, doctors use radiation to examine the innards to reach a conclusion about the cause of death. A CT or an MRI machine could be used, in the same way that they are used to scan a living human's body.

A 2013 paper titled "Virtopsy (virtual autopsy): A new phase in forensic investigation" said: "An autopsy (postmortem examination, autopsy cadaverum, or obduction) is a highly specialized surgical procedure that consists of a thorough examination of a corpse to determine the cause and manner of death and to evaluate any disease or injury that may be present. Virtopsy is a word combining 'virtual' and 'autopsy'... for the purpose of autopsy and to find the cause of the

death. Virtopsy can be employed as an alternative to standard autopsies for broad and systemic examination of the whole body as it is less time consuming, aids better diagnosis, and renders respect to religious sentiments." (*Journal of Forensic Dental Sciences*; K B Tejaswi and E Aarte Hari Periya)

## When is this service likely to start?

In his reply to a starred question from Rewati Raman Singh of the Samajwadi Party, Dr Harsh Vardhan said: "The All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), New Delhi and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) are working together on a technique for postmortem without incising/dissecting the body. This technique is likely to become functional in the next six months."

## But what is the need?

As the Minister acknowledged, the traditional postmortem often makes members of the dead person's family uncomfortable. That, in fact, is the primary reason for the increasing use of virtual autopsies internationally. Dr Harsh Vardhan said ICMR and AIIMS have studied global practices, and taken up this project for "dignified management of dead body".

According to a paper in *The Lancet*, the advent of virtual autopsy owes to the "longstanding public objection to dissection of cadavers (that) re-emerged in the UK as a major issue after organ retention scandals in the late 1990s. Some groups — notably Jewish and Muslim communities — have religious objections to autopsy, and demand for a minimally-invasive alternative has increased." ("Post-mortem imaging as an alternative to autopsy in the diagnosis of adult deaths: a validation study"; 2012, Ian S D Roberts *et al*)

A virtual autopsy is also faster than a traditional one — 30 minutes against 2½ hours, Dr Harsh Vardhan said — and more cost-effective.

## Is this currently practised anywhere?

According to a 2016 article titled "The Rise of Virtual Autopsy" in the *Journal of Forensic Pathology*, virtual autopsy began in Sweden, but is now a "standard technique" in major centres in Japan, the US, Australia, and many European countries.

In the 1990s, a "post-mortem" MRI service for "selected non-suspicious deaths" was introduced in Manchester, UK. This followed demands from the Jewish community for a non-invasive autopsy. Later, the Muslim

community in the northwest of England too, joined in the demands.

The Royal College of Pathologists UK has issued guidelines for virtual autopsies.

## How accurate is a virtual autopsy?

According to the 2012 paper by Ian S D Roberts and others in *The Lancet*, "Radiologists provide a cause of death that is accepted by the Coroner with no autopsy in 90% of cases". In 2018, in an article in the *Journal of Pathology Informatics*, Russian and Italian scientists compared the results of virtual autopsy and traditional postmortem.

"Out of 23 cases for which the traditional post mortem examination found a cause of death, 15 (65%) were diagnosed correctly using virtual autopsy, these cases were considered as true positives. For one case for which the cause of death was unascertained, the same result was also obtained during the virtual autopsy. This case was considered as true negative. Overall, in 16/25 (64%) cases, virtual autopsy results matched that of the traditional autopsy," they concluded. ("Virtual Autopsy as a Screening Test Before Traditional Autopsy: The Verona Experience on 25 Cases", Vito Cirielli, *et al*)

# What ad hoc teachers' protest tells us about Delhi University recruitment

SUKRITA BARUAH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

AROUND 4,500 *ad hoc* teachers of Delhi University, who comprise around 40% of the university's teaching force, have been agitating since August over a circular by the university, which they saw as an attempt to hire them as guest teachers instead. After a call for a strike and boycott of examination duties by the university teachers' association, thousands of teachers stormed the vice-chancellor's office on Wednesday. On Thursday, the Ministry of Human Resource Development called for a meeting with the vice-chancellor in which it was decided to take certain steps to address teachers' concerns.

## What triggered the unrest?

It began when the university sent out a letter to all constituent colleges and departments on August 28, advising them to "fill up the permanent [teaching] vacancies at the earliest and till permanent appointments are made, Colleges may appoint guest faculty, if required, against new vacancies arising first time in academic session 2019-20".

This resulted in confusion over what ex-

actly these "new vacancies" were: new posts created in 2019-2020, or vacancies created with the expiry of *ad hoc* teachers' 120-day contracts last month, which were to be renewed by November 20. As a result, several colleges had not extended renewal of appointment of *ad hoc* teachers or released their salaries, and teachers have seen this as a move to do away with the *ad hoc* system and to move towards the less stable guest teacher system.

## How far have the issues been addressed?

In Thursday's meeting between senior UGC and ministry officials with the vice-chancellor, it was decided that the circular shall be amended to "The colleges/institutes shall fill up the permanent vacancies before the start of the next academic session without fail. During the interim period, if vacancies which have to be filled for maintaining smooth academic functioning of the colleges/institutions, *ad hoc*/temporary/contract faculty can be appointed." What this effectively does is put a cap of July 2020 to fill all permanent posts. It also means all *ad hoc* teachers who had served during the current academic year can continue until then.

In the meeting, it was also decided to tweak norms for shortlisting candidates for



Teachers protest outside the VC's office on Wednesday. *Praveen Khanna*

interviews for assistant professor appointments to favour *ad hoc* teachers, by giving greater weightage to their work experience.

The teachers' association, meanwhile, has said the strike and current boycott of duties for end-semester exams will continue.

**Why are there so many *ad hoc* teachers in Delhi University?**

A decade ago, the number of *ad hoc*

teachers in Delhi University was estimated at just around 500, which has multiplied to the current 4,500, or 40% of the university's strength. Several factors have led to this.

According to Rudrashish Chakraborty, teacher at Kirori Mal College and former Academic Council member, one reason was that between 2008 and 2013, almost 1,500 teachers retired, creating vacancies. Second, in 2006, central universities were given additional teaching posts to adjust for the larger student intake on account of OBC reservation. Delhi University was given around 2,600 posts, of which around 1,300 were released in 2007. While the number of vacancies ballooned, the recruitment process for permanent teachers stalled, and university departments and colleges began to resort to *ad hoc* recruitment. Many teachers have been working in an *ad hoc* capacity for years, some for over eight years.

**But why was recruitment of permanent teachers stalled?**

The recruitment system has changed several times, which has led to agitation, litigation and court stays. This happened in 2010 against the introduction of the Academic Performance Indication score system to screen candidates before inter-

views, and in 2013 against the introduction of a 200-point roster. Even when posts have been advertised, interviews have not been conducted. This has been due to a centralised, elaborate process, which has often got stuck because the university simply did not send panels of experts to colleges to interview the shortlisted candidates.

How is *ad hoc* hiring done?

According to the university's guidelines, an *ad hoc* appointment may be made "In case there is a sudden, unexpected and short vacancy, arising out of sudden sickness or death, on medical grounds (including maternity leave), abrupt leave or any other situation that may disrupt the normal process of teaching learning..."

Every year in June and November, the university draws up an *ad hoc* panel of applicants, to be forwarded to colleges looking to recruit. The interviews in the colleges are held by a selection committee. An *ad hoc* teacher is paid on the same scale as a starting-level permanent teacher, coming to around Rs 80,000 per month in hand. However, this amount is not subject to annual increment. Those working for many years in an *ad hoc* capacity have only got dearness allowance hikes. They are ap-

pointed for a period of 120 days at a time, with rules and conditions specified for leave and vacation with salary, and possible placement and promotion. While most colleges have decided to renew appointments at the end of the 120-day period, some like Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women hold interviews once a year, and some even after every 120-day period.

## What is different for guest teachers?

The qualifications required are the same for *ad hoc* and guest teaching. However, while *ad hoc* teachers are appointed for 120-day periods and paid a monthly salary on the same scale as an entry-level professor, guest teachers are hired and paid per lecture. According to UGC guidelines, guest teachers are to be paid Rs 1,500 per lecture, and cannot be paid more than Rs 50,000. Moreover, teaching in the university effectively only happens for eight months a year, so guest teachers can only be employed and paid for those months. They are not entitled to leave and vacation with salary. The guidelines also state that "Guest faculty will not be treated like regular teachers for the purpose of voting rights for becoming the members of various statutory bodies of the university".

GOVT STAND UNCHANGED: MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS SOURCES

# Birla urges Centre for AGR relief, else 'Vodafone Idea will have to shut shop'

Telecom company's shares close trade on NSE nearly 6 per cent lower than previous day's close

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

VODAFONE IDEA chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla on Friday said that Vodafone Idea "will have to shut shop" if the government does not provide relief from payment of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) following the Supreme Court's judgment. "I think that we can expect much more stimulus from the government because it's required for the sector to survive. If we were not getting anything then I think it is the end of story for Vodafone Idea," said Birla, speaking at the HT Leadership Summit 2019 here.

Though there was no official response, sources in the Ministry of Communications said that the government's stand on the issue remains unchanged, and that there was nothing it could do since it was a judgment from the apex court.

Union Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had last week told Parliament that the government had no plans to waive dues of telecom companies, following the AGR judgment.

Birla, who also serves as chairman of the Aditya Birla

**'EXPECT MUCH MORE STIMULUS FROM GOVT'**

■ **Kumar Mangalam Birla said the telecom industry can expect much more stimulus from the government because it is required for the sector to survive**

■ **However, Read sent a letter to Union Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad saying his comments had been taken out of context by the media**

■ **Prasad had last week told the Parliament that the government had no plans to waive dues of telecom companies, following the SC judgment on AGR**

Aditya Birla Group's Idea Cellular had joined hands with rival telecommunications firm Vodafone last year to compete with the onslaught of cheap data and call being offered by rival Reliance Jio Infocomm.

The combined entity of Vodafone Idea, in which Aditya Birla Group has 26 per cent stake, owes the government closed to Rs 53,000 crore in AGR dues, which it has to pay by January.

The telco had recently posted a record loss of Rs 50,921 crore in the second quarter of the fiscal, citing the provisioning it had made for payment of AGR dues.

Birla's comments come nearly a fortnight after the global chief executive officer of Vodafone Nick Read made similar comments. Read had, on November 12, said that Vodafone's future in India was doubtful and the company could be headed for liquidation if there was no relief from the payment of AGR dues.

He had also said that the global telecom firm would not commit any more equity for India as the country "effectively contributed zero value to the company's share price". A day later, however, Read sent a letter to Prasad and said that his comments had been taken out of context by the media.

"I apologise for the impression that this coverage conveys. However, I wish to put on record that this does not reflect our version. You have my words that Vodafone wishes to continue its long history in India, given the right conditions, and we strongly believe in the potential of the country—its telecom sector and transformative potential for its citizens. We are closely aligned with the 'Digital India' vision" Read had written in his letter, adding that the company was in talks with the government on the issue.

Group, added that "it does not make sense to put good money after bad".

Shares of the Vodafone Idea slipped as much as 9 per cent intra-day on the National Stock Exchange, following Birla's comments and closed the day's trade nearly 6 per cent lower than the previous day's end at Rs 6.90.

# Govt asks e-comm firms to file FDI compliance report annually

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

## NOTIFICATION ON NEW FEMA RULES

E-COMMERCE COMPANIES with foreign investments, such as Amazon and Flipkart, will have to submit a report prepared by statutory auditors, confirming their compliance of FDI policies by September 30 every year, the government has said.

Although the gazette notification on new FEMA rules on e-commerce, issued on Thursday, is largely based on the foreign direct investment (FDI) norms announced by the Department for the Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in December last year, it doesn't explicitly name the authority with which e-tailers have to submit these compliance reports.

The December 2018 notification on FDI rules had suggested that the reports be filed with the Reserve Bank of India.

"...e-commerce marketplace entity with FDI shall have to obtain and maintain a report of statutory auditor by 30th of September every year for the preceding financial year confirming compliance of the e-commerce guidelines," the gazette notification said.

The latest notification on FEMA comes amid fresh sets of complaints by brick-and-mortar stores against the alleged violation of FDI rules by e-tailers. The DPIIT had issued a notification in December 2018, which barred online marketplaces with foreign investments from selling products of companies where they held stakes or controlled inventory, and also banned exclusive marketing

■ **E-commerce firms with foreign investments will have to submit a report by statutory auditors, confirming their compliance of FDI policies by September 30 every year**

■ **The notification doesn't explicitly name the authority with which e-tailers have to submit these compliance reports**

arrangements, among others. The government, however, stated that the notification was only a reiteration of existing rules and it was forced to clarify as it had received complaints that the e-commerce players were giving discounts on products sold on their platforms, thus, violating the FDI rules.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has already warned e-commerce companies of strict action if they do not stop predatory pricing on their platforms.

But the December 2018 notification had upset players like Amazon and Flipkart, who had sought more time to implement the rules, although the February 1, 2019 deadline to comply with the rules was not extended. In October, US commerce secretary Wilbur Ross asked India to balance the interest of large e-tailers like Amazon and Walmart-backed Flipkart with offline retailers in its e-commerce policy.

Goyal, however, had asserted that there was no change in India's FDI policy for e-commerce. "E-commerce is an agnostic platform for trading, and not meant for predatory pricing. We don't change rules midway. We provide stable regulatory framework," he had stressed. **FE**

tion said.

The latest notification on FEMA comes amid fresh sets of complaints by brick-and-mortar stores against the alleged violation of FDI rules by e-tailers. The DPIIT had issued a notification in December 2018, which barred online marketplaces with foreign investments from selling products of companies where they held stakes or controlled inventory, and also banned exclusive marketing

# Markets slide as slower growth forecast by RBI dampens sentiment

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** MUMBAI, DECEMBER 6

BENCHMARK INDICES buckled under selling pressure for a second straight day on Friday as slowing growth and lack of buying triggers dampened investor sentiment.

The market mood was risk-averse a day after the RBI disappointed on the rate cut front and projected slower growth for this fiscal, traders said. Concerns over fiscal deficit and a weakening rupee weighed on bourses, they added.

After opening on a positive note, the SENSEX saw a continuous slide and went on to hit an intraday low of 40,337.53. The index finally settled at 40,445.15, down 334.44 points, or 0.82 per cent.

The Nifty shed 96.90 points, or 0.81 per cent, to settle at 11,921.50. On a weekly basis, the SENSEX dropped 348.66 points, or 0.85 per cent, while Nifty lost 134.55 points, or 1.11 per cent.

Yes Bank was the biggest laggard in the SENSEX pack on Friday, falling 9.82 per cent after Moody's downgraded the lender's ratings.

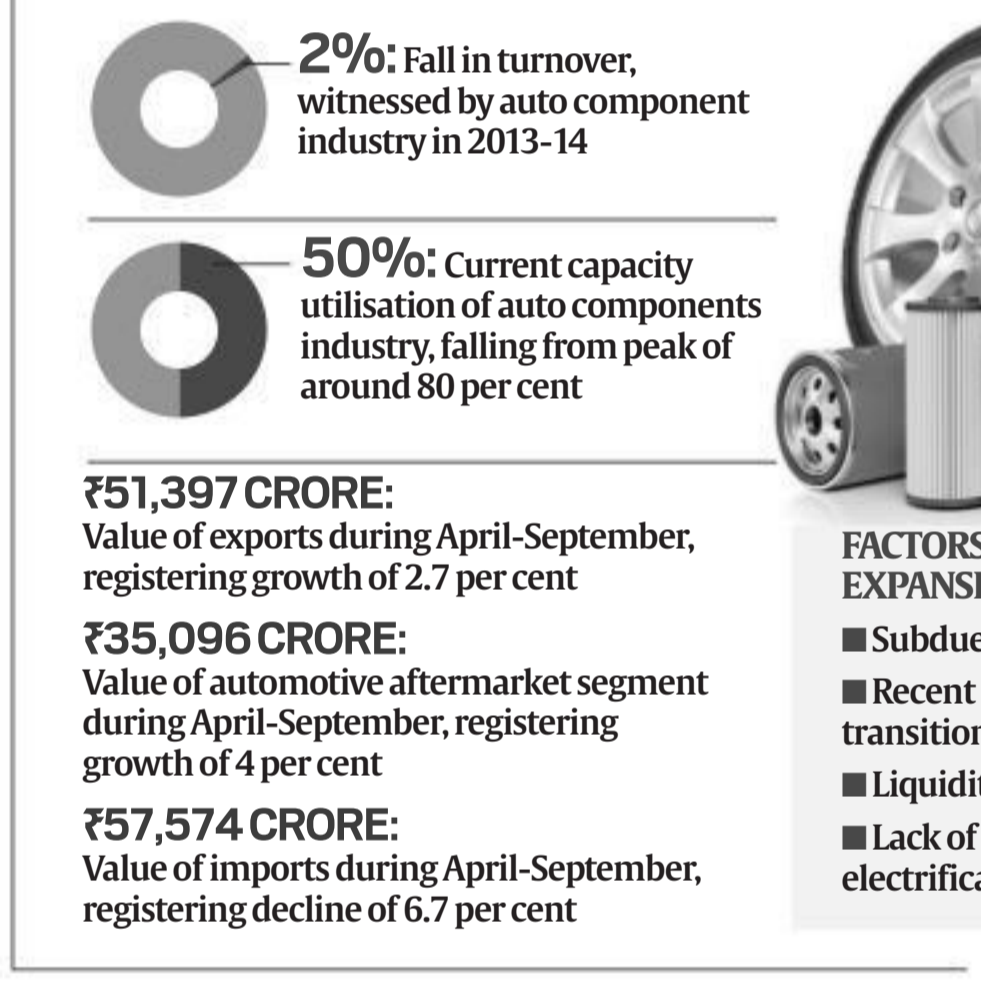
Other top losers were SBI, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, Mahindra and Mahindra and HDFC, tumbling up to 4.89 per cent. Kotak Bank, Tata Steel, RIL, Asian Paints, TCS, Infosys and HDFC Bank closed with gains.

Meanwhile, the rupee appreciated 9 paise to close at 71.20 against the US dollar on Friday.

"Clouds over economic growth outlook and premium valuation influenced investors to stay away from rate-sensitive stocks," said Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services. **WITHPTI**

# 'Auto parts industry turnover falls 10% in Apr-Sept'

Auto component industry's turnover saw its worst ever decline in the first half of this fiscal leading to a job loss of around 1 lakh temporary workers till July, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) said



**₹1.79 LAKH CRORE:** Turnover of auto component industry in the April-September period, down 10.1 per cent from Rs 1.99 lakh crore in the year-ago period

**\$2 BILLION:** Investment loss in industry during period under review on account of slowdown

■ **Impact of cut in vehicle production: As the auto components industry grows on the back of vehicle industry, a current 15-20 per cent cut in vehicle production has adversely impacted the component segment**

Source: PTI

# India's data localisation plan shouldn't stymie growth in transactions, says US Treasury Secy

**LALIT K JHA** WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 6

**"We have no issues with if countries want to have local data for regulatory purposes they do that. It's the issue of then eliminating data outside it, and I think, as you know, we're in a global economy"**

Mastercard, Visa and Amazon have lobbied against data localisation rules around the world including India, stressing that it would make their operations more complicated and costly. The issue is one of the sticking points between India and the US in their trade negotiations.

Mnuchin, who was recently in India, said that this had been an issue of discussion between the two countries.

The US has been in conversation with India on the issue of data localisation, Mnuchin told members of the House Financial Services Committee during a Congressional hearing Thursday.

"In my recent trip, we've had

very specific conversations. We've been dealing with them over the last year on this issue. We want to make sure, one, that US companies are treated fairly and can compete," he said. "We have no issues with if countries want to have local data for regulatory purposes they do that. It's the issue of then eliminating data outside it, and I think, as you know, we're in a global economy," Mnuchin said.

"So this is a complicated issue that we continue to work on to make sure that our financial services companies are treated fairly," said the Treasury Secretary in response to a question from Congressman David Frank Kustoff. **PTI**

THE US wants India to ensure that its data localisation plan does not "stymie growth" and American financial transaction companies are treated "fairly", Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has said.

Mnuchin also insisted that America has no problem if countries want to have local data for regulatory purposes as long as they do not eliminate it outside the country.

Data localisation is the practice of physically storing data on servers located within a country's territory. The Reserve Bank

# Maruti recalls 63,493 units of Ciaz, Ertiga, XL6 to fix faulty component

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

## EXPLAINED MGU fault may impact mechanism of hybrid cars

IN ONE of the biggest vehicle recalls in the country, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Friday announced a recall of more than 60,000 units of the petrol version of the smart hybrid (SHVS) variants of the Ciaz, Ertiga and XL6 vehicle models for rectifying faulty MGU.

In a statement, the auto manufacturer said, "The company will inspect 63,493 vehicles of petrol SHVS of Ciaz, Ertiga and XL6 for a possible issue with the Motor Generator Unit (MGU)."

Models manufactured between January 1, 2019 and November 21, 2019 are the ones being recalled, MSI said.

A possible defect may have occurred in the MGU during manufacturing by an overseas global part supplier, the company said, adding that vehicles requiring replacement of faulty part will be retained for part replacement free of cost.

It said dealers may make alternate mobility arrangements, if required. From Friday, owners of the suspected vehicles under this recall campaign will be contacted by MSI dealers for inspection and replacement of

the faulty parts.

"In the interest of its customers, the company has decided to proactively recall the vehicles for inspection and those found ok will be released immediately," the company added.

Customers of suspected vehicles can visit the company website and fill in the chassis number to check if their vehicle needs attention.

The chassis number is embossed on the vehicle ID plate and is also in the vehicle invoice/registration documents.

Recall campaigns are undertaken globally to rectify faults that may be potential safety defects. Earlier, in August, MSI had announced a voluntary recall of

40,618 units of the WagonR (1 litre variant) manufactured between November 15, 2018 and August 12, 2019.

Globally, a recall makes it mandatory for the manufacturer to inform the customer and rectify the issue. India does not have an official recall policy and automakers typically follow the voluntary code on vehicle recall set by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

SIAM's code of 2012 states that "if in the opinion of the manufacturer some vehicles have issues which pose a safety defect", such vehicles are "voluntarily inspected and rectified" by the manufacturer or importer.

# Saudi Arabia, Russia push through deeper oil cuts



Venezuela Oil Minister Manuel Quevedo, Saudi Arabia Minister of Energy Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud and Russia Energy Minister Alexander Novak in Vienna on December 6. Reuters

**REUTERS** VIENNA, DECEMBER 6

## Aramco shares to start trading from Dec 11: Saudi exchange

SAUDI ARABIA and Russia spearheaded a deal on Friday in which OPEC and its allies committed to some of the deepest oil output cuts this decade aiming to avert oversupply and support prices.

The group of more than 20 producers agreed to an extra 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) in cuts for the first quarter of 2020, taking the total to 1.7 million bpd, or 1.7 per cent of global demand.

Brent oil rose 2 per cent to more than \$64 a barrel after Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said effective cuts could be as much as 2.1 million bpd as Saudi would carry on cutting more than its quota.

OPEC and allied producers, the

**REUTERS** DUBAI, DECEMBER 6

SAUDI ARAMCO shares will start trading on December 11, the Saudi securities exchange Tadawul said in a statement on Friday.

Saudi Arabia's state oil giant priced its initial public offering at 32 riyals (\$8.53) per share on Thursday, raising \$25.6 billion and beating Alibaba Group Holding Ltd's record \$25 billion listing in 2014.

The Aramco IPO was launched to raise funds to help diversify the kingdom away from reliance on oil and create jobs for a growing population. Aramco shares will trade using the symbol 2222 and will have a daily 10 per cent plus or minus fluctuation limit, Tadawul said.

"On the first day of trading only, the opening auction for the Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco) will be extended for 30 minutes," it added.

Aramco's IPO beat Alibaba Group Holding Ltd's record \$25 billion listing in 2014. At that level, Aramco has a market valuation of \$1.7 trillion, comfortably overtaking Apple Inc as the world's most valuable listed firm. But the listing, expected later this month on the Riyadh stock exchange, is a far cry from the blockbuster debut originally envisaged by the Crown Prince.

# DURING DISCUSSION WITH ALIBABA CO-FOUNDER JACK MA AT TOKYO FORUM 2019 SoftBank CEO reiterates 'instinct-led' investing style

**SAM NUSSEY** TOKYO, DECEMBER 6



SoftBank Group CEO Masayoshi Son and Alibaba founder and former Chairman Jack Ma at the Tokyo Forum 2019 in Tokyo, Japan, on Friday. Reuters

WEEKS AFTER his billion-dollar bailout of WeWork, SoftBank Group Corp's founder and CEO Masayoshi Son reiterated his belief in an instinct-led investing style, in a discussion with Alibaba Group Holding Inc's co-founder Jack Ma. SoftBank owns 26 per cent of China's Alibaba, with its origin in a \$20 million investment in 2000, and the stake is now worth more than the Japanese firm's market capitalization.

Son on Friday said the decision to invest in Alibaba was driven by a gut feeling. Other entrepreneurs Son met at that time "did not have true belief in their heart. I can feel," Son said. "We are the same animal. We are both a little crazy," he said of

long-time ally Ma.

Ma said Son initially tried to invest \$50 million in the e-commerce firm, but that he declined saying it was too large a sum -

part of a pattern of offering big cheques to company founders that continued with WeWork co-founder Adam Neumann.

Son's comments come weeks

after he was forced to bail out office-sharing startup WeWork when Neumann's level of control over his firm and hard-partying ways chilled investor appetite and crashed plans for an initial public offering (IPO).

Son last month said he misjudged Neumann's character, after WeWork - formally The We Company - and other sputtering bets saw his \$100 billion Vision Fund report an \$8.9 billion second-quarter operating loss.

The conversation at Tokyo University between two of Asia's most prominent tech entrepreneurs comes at a point of divergence in their careers, with 55-year-old Ma retiring as Alibaba's executive chairman in September and Son pledging to spend his sixth decade at the helm of his investment juggernaut.

Domestically, SoftBank

hopes to drive commercialization of the emerging field of artificial intelligence (AI), announcing on Friday it will spend 20 billion yen (\$184 million) over 10 years funding an AI research institute with Tokyo University.

Son "probably has the biggest guts in the world on doing investment," Ma told attendees to the conference. "Too much guts, sometimes I lose a lot of money," Son responded.

With the highly leveraged SoftBank trying to raise funds for a second mega fund in which it is currently the only investor, its stake in Alibaba is one possible source of funds. "In my view I have not achieved anything yet," Son said. "I'm still a challenger and everyday I'm still fighting."

That approach contrasts with Ma, who stepped back from running Alibaba to focus on philanthropy. **REUTERS**

## Irdai asks insurance companies to write off exposure to DHFL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 6

THE TWO insurance subsidiaries of crippled financier Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL) are unlikely to be impacted by the ongoing bankruptcy proceedings of their parent as they continue to have adequate solvency ratios, Irdai chairman SC Khuntia said Friday. He also asked insurance companies to write off their exposure to DHFL as they did in case of IL&FS.

DHFL, admitted for bankruptcy proceedings on December 3, has two insurance joint ventures — DHFL Pramerica Life Insurance and DHFL General Insurance.

DHFL Pramerica Life, launched in 2008, is a joint venture between DHFL Investments — a wholly-owned arm of DHFL — and Prudential International Insurance Holdings of the US, and has Rs 4,675 crore assets under management and employs 3,100.

DHFL General Insurance, on the other hand, is a fully-owned subsidiary of Wadhawan Global Capital, the holding company of the HDFL Group, and manages \$18.6 billion assets through its lending, investment and insurance platforms.

"Right now, their solvency ratios are up to mark and so there is no issue," Khuntia told reporters on the sidelines of an Assocham event. As of September, DHFL Pramerica Life's solvency ratio stood at 388 per cent and that of DHFL General Insurance at 230 per cent, according to the public

### Proposal to hike banks' stake in insurance firms

**New Delhi:** Irdai is looking to allow banks to remain promoters of insurance companies. Under consideration is a proposal to allow banks to hold more than 10 per cent in one or more insurance companies if they give up management control. Irdai chairman SC Khuntia, said, "... for banks we may allow them to hold more than 10 per cent stake if they give up management control." **FE**

disclosures made by them.

However, Khuntia asked insurers to write off their exposures to the housing finance company in the similar manner as they followed in the case of the now bankrupt IL&FS.

In a separate development, postmen and grameen dak sevaks might soon be able to sell insurance policies, with Irdai issuing guidelines wherein such people have to be sponsored by the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB). The IPPB, which is a corporate agent, can seek permission from Irdai for sponsoring postmen and grameen dak sevaks of Department of Posts (DoP) to act as Point of Salesperson (PoS), Irdai said.

In case the authority grants permission, IPPB shall be responsible for all acts of omission and commission of the persons appointed as PoS, it added.

## ARCs MAY TAKE PART IN AUCTIONS OF SUCH FINANCIAL ASSETS

# RBI bars ARCs from bilaterally buying assets from entities sponsoring them

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 6

ASSET RECONSTRUCTION companies (ARCs) will no longer be allowed to bilaterally buy assets from banks or financial institutions (FIs) that they count among their sponsors, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday. ARCs will also be barred from directly buying assets from institutions that have lent to them, subscribed to the fund or are part of the same group as the ARC.

"However, they may participate in auctions of the financial assets provided such auctions are conducted in a transparent manner, on arm's length basis and the prices are determined by market forces," RBI said in a notification.

### ARCIL TO BE AMONG MOST AFFECTED

■ The company that is most likely to be affected by the banking regulator's Friday directive is Asset Reconstruction Company (India), or Arcil, which is sponsored by State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Punjab National Bank and IDBI Bank

■ Asset reconstruction companies will also be barred from directly buying assets from institutions that have lent to them, subscribed to the fund or are part of the same group as the ARC, as per the latest notification by the Reserve Bank of India

The firm most likely to be affected by the central bank directive is Asset Reconstruction Company (India), or Arcil, which is sponsored by State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Punjab National Bank and IDBI Bank. Other ARCs sponsored by prominent FIs are

Edelweiss ARC, JM Financial ARC and Phoenix ARC, which is promoted by the Kotak group.

Sector watchers have long called for an expansion of the market for stressed assets in India to attract more long-term investors, such as pension funds.

## 30 airports, airstrips up for bidding in Northeast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

THE CIVIL Aviation Ministry on Friday said bids have been sought for six underserved and 24 unserved airports and airstrips in the Northeast region under the latest round of regional air connectivity scheme. A water aerodrome in the region at Umrangso Reservoir, Assam is also included.

The fourth round of bidding under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) or regional air connectivity scheme commenced on December 3. UDAN seeks to connect unserved and underserved airports as well as make flying more affordable. "With focus on connectivity of North eastern region, UDAN 4.0 scheme under the Ministry of Civil Aviation has invited bids for six underserved and 24 unserved airports/airstrips in

the North East states of India," an official release said.

The underserved airports and airstrips in the list are at Passighat and Tezu (Arunachal Pradesh), Jorhat, Rupsi and Tezpur (Assam), and Shillong (Meghalaya). As per the release, there are 24 underserved aerodromes in the region spread across Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura.

These are Alinya, Along, Aparizo, Mechuka, Tuting, Vijaynagar, Walong, Yinghiong and Ziro (Arunachal Pradesh) while Chabua, Darrang, Dinjan, Ledo, Misa Mari, Nazira, Sadiya, Sorbhog, Sukerating (Dum Duma) are in Assam. Others are Dwara, Shella and Tura in Meghalaya, and Kailashahar, Kamalpur and Khowai (Tripura).

The ministry aims to operationalise 1,000 routes and more than 100 airports in the next five years, as per the release.

## Netflix to ramp up Indian content, with ₹3,000 cr investment in 2019-20

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

NETFLIX FOUNDER and CEO Reed Hastings on Friday said the company has placed great emphasis on creating original Indian content for its audiences in the country and has invested Rs 3,000 crore towards that in 2019-20. He said that the streamer is committed to ramping up its original Indian content, something that will be visible to the audiences in the coming months.

"We are developing our Hindi and local content here (India)... so you will start to see a lot of stuff hit the screen, big investment," Hastings said at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit. "Delhi Crime and Sacred Games have been two of our biggest successes here," the

"We are developing our Hindi and local content here (India) ... so you will start to see a lot of stuff hit the screen, big investment"

REED HASTINGS  
CEO, NETFLIX

CEO added.

Netflix has been building on its India library — currently comprising over 10 regional languages (including Hindi) — while also ramping up its slate of originals. Sacred Games, the firm's biggest Indian property, is estimated to have cost over Rs 10 crore per episode, an analyst said.

Average shows likely cost about Rs 3 crore-4 crore per episode or lower. Hastings said the company is investing to be-

come "more Indian in the content offering".

Having launched its India operations in 2016, the platform has notched about a million subscribers in the country, according to research firm Media Partners Asia.

Local rival Hotstar, that boasts of rich sports content alongside the famed Game of Thrones franchise, is estimated to be the top app in terms of downloads and monthly active users (MAU). It had 300 million MAU in June, as per a RedSeer Consulting report.

Nonetheless, Netflix has made decent profits — the Los Gatos-based company posted net profits of Rs 5.1 crore in the year to March 2019, while revenues grew by over 700 per cent to more than Rs 450 crore. The firm's net profits stood at about Rs 20 lakh in FY18. **FE WITH PTI**

## CII suggestion to Revenue Secy: Focus on consumption, investment

**New Delhi:** In a pre-Budget consultation meeting with Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) shared its pre-Budget Memorandum recommendations, focusing on providing impetus to consumption and investment.

CII pre-Budget Memorandum recommendations are mainly along the pillars of creating fiscal space for investment in infrastructure, enhancing rural demand, boosting private investment, augmenting government revenue and improving business sentiment, the industry group said in a statement.

CII recommended adoption of an expansionary fiscal policy to allow fiscal deficit to increase by around 0.5 per cent to 0.75 per cent of GDP, which will give government additional fiscal space of Rs 1.1 lakh crore to Rs 1.6 lakh crore. **ENS**

## 'GST compensation cess fund impacted by auto sector slowdown'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 6

BIHAR DEPUTY Chief Minister Sushil Modi Friday said the slowdown in the automobile sector has adversely impacted the GST compensation cess fund as sufficient money is not coming into the kitty. The fund is used to compensate the states for revenue shortfall suffered due to roll out of the new indirect tax.

Sushil Modi, who heads the Group of Ministers (GoM) on GST revenue shortfall, said that the economic slowdown, particularly the muted sales in the automobile sector, is leading to lower collections in the new indirect tax regime.

Speaking at the 'India Today Conclave East' here, he said the automobile sector is a major contributor to the GST compensation pool. "Sufficient money is not coming from this sector."

### GST Stakeholder Feedback Diwas to be observed

**New Delhi:** Central and state authorities will organise a nationwide GST Stakeholder Feedback Diwas on Saturday to gather feedback on the new system for filing returns. The system will be introduced from April 1, 2020. **PTI**

The issue on raising the size of the kitty will be discussed in the next GST Council meeting, scheduled to be held on December 18. The meeting of all-powerful GST Council is going to be held in the backdrop of lower-than-expected GST collections. There is money in the GST compensation kitty, but there are some "accounting problems" for which funds cannot be released to the states, he added.

## China to waive tariffs on some US soybeans, pork

REUTERS  
BEIJING, DECEMBER 6

CHINA FRIDAY confirmed it will waive import tariffs for some soybeans and pork shipments from the US, as the two sides try to thrash out a broader agreement to defuse their protracted trade war. The tariff waivers were based on applications by individual companies, the Finance Ministry said in a statement, citing a decision by the country's Cabinet without specifying the quantities involved.

Several industry sources in the US and China interpreted the announcement as official confirmation of duty exemptions on up to 10 million tonnes of soybeans and an unknown volume of pork sources said were offered to importers earlier this year.

China had imposed levies in response to tariffs launched by Washington over allegations that China steals and forces the transfer of American intellectual property to Chinese firms. Tariffs on US soy imports are currently 33 per cent while levies on pork are up to 72 per cent. **REUTERS**

### US non-farm payrolls up by 266,000 in Nov

**Washington:** US job growth increased by the most in 10 months in November as former striking workers returned to General Motors' payrolls and the healthcare industry stepped up hiring, confirming that the economy remained on a moderate expansion path despite a prolonged manufacturing slump.

The Labor Department's closely watched monthly employment report on Friday showed steady wage gains and the unemployment rate falling back to 3.5 per cent. Nonfarm payrolls increased by 266,000 jobs last month, with manufacturing recouping all the 43,000 positions lost in October, the government's survey of establishments showed. **REUTERS**

## BRIEFLY

### 24x7 NEFT transactions from Dec 16

**Mumbai:** In a bid to promote digital transactions, the RBI on Friday said round-the-clock transactions will be allowed under the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) system from December 16.

### GC Chaturvedi named new NSE Chairman

**New Delhi:** The NSE on Friday said it has appointed Public Interest Director Girish Chandra Chaturvedi its new chairman. The appointment comes following the approval of Sebi.

### FinComm submits report for FY21 to FM

**New Delhi:** The Finance Commission on Friday submitted its report for the financial year 2020-21 to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

### ONGC lists MTN issue on India INX

**New Delhi:** BSE-owned India International Exchange (India INX) Friday said it has listed state-owned ONGC's \$300 million medium-term note (MTN) issue on its debt listing platform.

### BPSL assets: ED told to file final affidavit

**New Delhi:** The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal on Friday asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to file a final affidavit containing developments related to attachment of Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd (BPSL) assets.

### CIL eases guidelines for coal supply

**Kolkata:** Coal India Limited (CIL) on Friday said it has relaxed norms for supplying the fuel to its customers of non-regulated sector by extending "letter of credit" to them and allowing an independent power producer (IPP) to transfer coal from one plant to another.

### RBL Bank raises funds over ₹2,000 cr

**Mumbai:** RBL Bank has raised Rs 2,025 crore from 40 investors, including Bajaj Finance, to bolster its capital base. The fund was raised through institutional placement at Rs 351 a share, the bank said on Friday. **PTI**

## Sebi tells LIC, SBI, BoB to bring stake in UTI AMC to below 10%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

SEBI FRIDAY told three public sector financial institutions — LIC, SBI and Bank of Baroda — to dilute their stakes to below 10 per cent in UTI Asset Management Company (AMC) by December 2020.

In the case of non-compliance with directions, the shareholding and voting rights of these entities in UTI AMC and UTI Trustee in excess of 9.99 per cent and corporate benefits will be frozen till the time they comply with the orders.

UTI AMC is promoted by four public sector financial institutions as sponsors — State Bank of India (SBI), Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) — with each of them presently holding 18.24 per cent stake in the fund house, while private equity firm T Rowe Price International holds 26 per cent stake in UTI AMC.

# 21 THE WORLD

### TOP OF THE WORLD



Benjamin Netanyahu

#### 'Israel has full right to annex Jordan Valley'

**Libson:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday that Israel has the "full right" to annex the Jordan Valley if it chose to, even as the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court warned the country against taking the step. Netanyahu said his proposal was discussed during a late-night meeting with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. He said they also agreed to move forward with plans for a joint defense treaty. The Israeli leader, beleaguered by a corruption indictment and political instability at home, is promoting the two initiatives as a justification for staying in office.

#### DR CONGO Militia fighters behead 16 in new massacre

**Beni:** Suspected militia fighters have decapitated 16 people in a new village massacre near Beni in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, civil society sources said on Friday. Three more civilians were wounded in Beni town by an explosive device on Thursday night, an official source said. The killings on Thursday in the Mbau region north of Beni have been blamed on the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a militia group responsible for a string of massacres since the start of November. The massacre targeted the small village of Mantumbi.

#### GREECE Libyan envoy expelled over maritime deal

**Athens:** Greece's foreign ministry on Friday said it was expelling the Libyan ambassador for failing to disclose the contents of a disputed maritime jurisdiction deal with Turkey that has raised hackles in the region. "I regret to announce that the Libyan ambassador was summoned to the ministry this morning and was informed of his expulsion," Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias told reporters, adding that the envoy had been given 72 hours to leave Greece. Dendias insisted the move does not constitute a break of relations with Libya.

## Iran nuclear deal parties meet in Vienna as accord nears collapse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA VIENNA, DECEMBER 6

THE SIGNATORIES to the Iran nuclear deal remain committed to the faltering accord, China and Russia said Friday, following crunch talks as Tehran has vowed to continue to breach limits on its nuclear programme.

Envoys from Britain, France, Germany, China, Russia and Iran took part in the three-hour-long meeting in Vienna, which is the first time the six parties have gathered in this format since July.

Since May, Iran has taken a series of measures, including stepping up uranium enrichment, in breach of the 2015 deal, with another such move likely in early January.

Iran insists that under the agreement it has the right to take these measures in retaliation for the US's withdrawal from the deal in 2018 and reimposition of crippling sanctions. Since last month, European members have in turn begun raising the possibility of triggering the so-called "dispute resolution mechanism" foreseen in the accord, which could lead to the resumption of UN sanctions on Iran.

On the eve of what was already likely to be a strained meeting, Britain, France and Germany accused Iran of developing nuclear-capable ballistic missiles, in a letter to the UN on Thursday.



At the summit, Friday. Reuters

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif dismissed the allegation as "desperate falsehood".

Chinese delegation head Cong Fu told reporters after the talks that all parties remained committed to the deal and the dispute resolution mechanism — which China is against activating — was not evoked.

"All countries need to refrain from taking actions that may further complicate the situation," the senior diplomat said. "Bringing this issue to the (UN) Security Council is not in anybody's interest except the US maybe."

Other envoys did not talk as they left the EU delegation, which hosted the meeting.

Russia's representative, ambassador Mikhail Ulyanov, said on Twitter that meeting participants remained "fully united in their support and commitment" to the accord despite "all the difficulties and all the differences".

## Iranian regime may have killed over 1,000 amid protests: US

LALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 6

IRANIAN SECURITY forces may have killed more than 1,000 people since protests over a steep hike in petrol prices erupted last month, the US has claimed, urging the international community to stand united with America against the regime's "abhorrent and unacceptable" treatment of its people.

Violent protests broke out in Iran on November 15 after the government hiked fuel prices by as much as 200 per cent.

The Iranian authorities have dismissed the high death tolls reported by foreign sources as "utter lies", but have acknowledged that five people, four security personnel and one civilian, were killed in the unrest.

"As the truth is trickling out of Iran, it appears the regime could have murdered over 1,000 Iranian citizens since the protests began," State Department Special Representative for Iran Brian Hook said Thursday.

The US has received more than 32,000 videos of protesters through a secure site and they reveal the brutality of the

### IRANIAN FORCES WERE SHOOTING TO KILL: UN

- Iranian forces were 'shooting to kill' in their crackdown, as per video footage, the UN human rights chief said Friday
- Bachelet said footage appears to show people were shot while fleeing, or 'directly in the face and vital organs'
- She urged Iran to allow independent probes into the violations, and release protesters who were unfairly stripped of liberty

regime, Hook said, adding that the State Department was looking at each one of them.

Iran has given no official death toll but Amnesty International said on Monday that it had documented the deaths of at least 208 protesters, making the unrest the bloodiest since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Tehran's clerical rulers have blamed "thugs" linked to its opponents in exile and the country's main foreign foes — the US, Israel and Saudi Arabia — for the protests.

Referring to some of the videos, Hook said that in Mahshahr, a city in southwest



Reuters/File

independent probes into the violations, and release protesters who were unfairly stripped of liberty

Iran, a number of Iranian demonstrators blocked a road when the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) opened fire without warning, killing several people.

"Many of the protesters fled to nearby marshlands to escape. The IRGC tracked them down and surrounded them with machine guns mounted on trucks. They then sprayed the protesters with bullets. Between the rounds of machine-gun fire, the screams of the victims can be heard," he said.

In this one incident, the regime murdered as many as 100 Iranians and possibly more, he said. PTI

## Three shot dead in US naval base, gunman killed

PATRICIA MAZZEI & CHRISTINE HAUSER DECEMBER 6

THREE PEOPLE were shot dead by a gunman who opened fire early on Friday at Naval Air Station Pensacola, the authorities said.

Sheriff David Morgan of Escambia County said one of his deputies killed the gunman at the base, which employs more than 16,000 military personnel and 7,400 civilians. Two deputies were shot, in the arm and the knee, but are expected to recover, the sheriff said.

Capt Timothy F Kinsella Jr, the base's commanding officer, declined to identify the gunman or say whether he was a serviceman. The shooting took place in a classroom building on the base, where training is routinely conducted, he said. Captain Kinsella declined to "speculate" on whether the shooting was being investigated as an act of terrorism.

Kathy Bowers, a spokeswoman for Baptist Hospital in Pensacola, said that the hospital had received eight patients. One of the victims transported to Baptist later died, according to Chief Deputy Chip Simmons of Escambia County. Two other victims died on the base, he said.

The identities of the victims have not been released.

"They're part of the Navy



At the site of the shooting

family," Captain Kinsella said. "They're part of us, and our heart goes out to those of you who may be affected by this tragedy."

Officials began receiving calls about the shooting about 6:50 am, and the base was put on lockdown. "Walking through the crime scene was like being on the set of a movie," Sheriff Morgan said. He added that the authorities were not looking for any additional gunmen.

President Trump has been briefed about the shooting and was monitoring the situation, the White House said. Vice President Mike Pence said in a message on Twitter that he was "saddened" to hear about the "horrible" shooting.

In an earlier incident this week, a sailor had opened fire at a dry dock at the base, the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, fatally shooting two shipyard workers and injuring another before killing himself, officials said. NYT

## 3,045 sexual assaults reported in US rides last year, says Uber

KATE CONGER SAN FRANCISCO, DECEMBER 6

UBER SAID on Thursday that it had reports of 3,045 sexual assaults during its rides in the United States in 2018, with nine people murdered and 58 killed in crashes, in its first study detailing unsafe incidents on the ride-hailing platform.

The number of incidents represented a fraction — just 0.0002 percent — of Uber's 1.3 billion rides in the United States last year, the company said.

There are few comparable figures to judge Uber's safety record against. The New York Police Department, which keeps a register of sex crimes and rapes that occur on transit systems, counted 533 in 2018. But even one of Uber's top executives said the company's findings were difficult to stomach.

"The numbers are jarring and hard to digest," Tony West, Uber's chief legal officer, said in an interview. "What it says is that Uber is a reflection of the society it serves."

The report did not give a comprehensive picture of safety across Uber's operations. It provided no information on the 65 countries outside the United States where Uber offers its services. In Brazil, India and elsewhere, murders and assaults stemming from ride-hailing services have been widely reported. Still, Uber's study establishes a benchmark for safety in an industry where such data has been scarce. NYT



This was Uber's first study detailing unsafe incidents

**EXPLAINED**

### Under pressure

SAFETY HAS always been an issue for companies such as Uber, as they rely on a large volume of "contractors" to operate. Initially, they purportedly flouted norms by allowing almost anyone with a car to join the platform. Under pressure, they began to implement safety measures in recent years. Uber has an automated system which checks its drivers' records and criminal history, based on which it said it has disqualified 40,000 drivers since 2018. Uber's study was ordered amidst this pressure.



## BUSHFIRES NEAR SYDNEY WORSEN

Fire trucks during a blaze in Werombi. Bushfires fanned by winds combined into a single giant blaze north of Sydney late on Friday, blanketing it in hazardous smoke, prompting calls for outdoor workers to stay home. Reuters

## Corbyn claims leaked paper exposes Brexit fraud, Boris dismisses allegation

REUTERS LONDON/DETTLING, DECEMBER 6

PRIME MINISTER Boris Johnson's deal to leave the European Union will be "highly disruptive" to Northern Ireland's economy and threaten its exporters, according to a confidential government document published by the opposition Labour Party on Friday.

Johnson has repeatedly said there would be no customs



Boris Johnson

checks on goods moving between Northern Ireland and

mainland Britain under the divorce deal which he agreed with the European Union.

But the document, marked "official, sensitive", says exporters would have to make customs declarations when moving goods between Northern Ireland and Britain and these new barriers will be "highly disruptive" to Northern Ireland's economy.

The leaked analysis warns that 98 per cent of Northern Irish exporters to Britain are

small to medium sized businesses, which will "likely to struggle to bear" the cost of new border checks.

"This is the cold, hard evidence that categorically shows the impact Johnson's damaging Brexit deal will have on large parts of our country," Corbyn said in a speech in London.

Responding when asked about the document, Johnson said: "I haven't seen the document you're referring to, but that's complete nonsense."

## 'THEY ALLOWED HIM TO STAY BY MY SIDE FOR MANY HOURS' Spain's 'Big Brother' accused of filming sexual assault, making victim watch

RAPHAEL MINDER MADRID, DECEMBER 6

A CONTESTANT on a Spanish reality television show says she was sexually assaulted by another contestant while she was unconscious — an attack that was recorded. The show's producers then forced her to watch and filmed her reaction.

Two years later, it has all burst into the open, with the recent leak of a video in which the woman, then 24, can be seen sobbing after the show's staff made her watch images of her own assault. The video of her pained reac-

tion has spread widely on social media, prompting a national backlash against the show, "Gran Hermano" — the Spanish version of "Big Brother" — and against what campaigners against sex crimes and harassment say is a culture that still does not take the problems seriously enough.

The leaked video, shown in Spanish media and posted online, shows the woman watching the recording, then weeping, pacing and burying her face in her hands. She begs to go talk to "her friends out there," but an offscreen member of the show's staff tells her that she cannot see her friends and should not tell



A demonstration against the release on bail of five men cleared of a gang rape of a teenager in Madrid. Reuters/File

anyone what happened. The entire episode — her being confronted with the video of the assault, her horrified re-

sponse to it and her exchange with the woman, who tells her to "relax" — all happened with the cameras rolling. The crew recorded the scene as if it were another part of the action, one of the interviews they conduct with contestants after key moments on the show.

The leak coincided with news that an investigating judge had decided to pursue a criminal case, though so far no one has been indicted. Video of the alleged assault itself has not been seen publicly. But the unseen staff member in the leaked video said the male contestant, who had struck up a romantic rela-

tionship with the woman after meeting her on the show, offered her support, even as the camera tracked her pacing and crying.

The production company reported the man to the police hours later, and expelled him from the show. The broadcaster released a statement explaining that he had been ousted for "intolerable" behavior, but gave no details.

The production staff has been broadly condemned for the failure to intervene, and for treating the young woman in a way that she and critics of the show say traumatized her.

Last week, Zeppelin TV, the company that produces "Big

Brother" in Spain, issued an apology to the woman and said it would put in place rules to avoid anything similar happening, notably by banning alcohol from the set. But the statement did not dampen public outrage, which has driven dozens of corporate sponsors to drop the show.

"They allowed him to stay by my side many hours when they had sufficient proof to get him out immediately and then decide what to do with him," the young woman, Carlota Prado, said in an interview with *El Confidencial*, the publication that first obtained the leaked video.

The production staff allowed

the man, José María López, who was also 24 at the time, "to laugh at my face by telling me that he looked after me," she said.

In the interview, she said she had resisted López's advances in the presence of other contestants, and again in a bedroom before losing consciousness. "I cannot understand how the program allowed this," she said.

Before showing her the video of assault, she said, the production team gave no hint of what she was about to see, magnifying the shock. Given a choice, she said, she would not have viewed it. A representative of López could not be reached for comment. NYT

# 22 BODY & MIND

## DIET DIARY

### How safe is detox, the new age mantra?



BY ISHI KHOSLA

DRINKING COPIOUS amounts of water, juices, gorging on salads and laxatives, undergoing enemas, colonic irrigation and fasts to detox, these are the new age mantras to get you in shape. The word detox is being heard far more than ever before. Mushrooming spas and fitness centres offer special detox diets and programmes. Detox promises include instant sanitation or cleansing of the system, weight loss and even magical cures to several ailments.

Do detox diets and techniques really deliver what they promise and are they warranted and safe?

Detoxification refers to treatment protocols designed to help the body, rid itself of waste and toxic materials. The body excretes toxins through various systems including lungs, kidney, skin and colon. The liver is a key factor in detoxification. Its protective enzymes can oxidize and inactivate toxic compounds so that they can be excreted more readily.

Techniques like enemas and colonic irrigation have considerable potential for harm. The process can be very uncomfortable, since the presence of the tube can induce severe cramps and pain. If the equipment is not adequately sterilized between treatments, germs from one person's large intestines can be transmitted to others. Several outbreaks of serious infections, including amoebiasis, bowel perforation, heart failure (from excessive fluid absorption into the blood stream) and electrolyte imbalances have been reported.

Fasting to detoxify or lose weight is questionable. While it is prudent to balance out excesses and indulgences on routine days, fasting as a means to detoxify does not really help, especially when fasting is followed by feasting.

What really works is adoption of healthy eating and lifestyle practices on a regular basis rather than intermittent fasting and special detox diets practiced for a few days.

A good diet should emphasise whole, minimally-processed foods with fruits and vegetables and supply adequate antioxidants including vitamin C, E, copper, manganese, selenium, and zinc needed by the body's detoxification enzymes to function optimally.

Foods like oats, amla, aloe vera, alfa-alfa sprouts, yogurt, garlic, mushrooms, along with essential fatty acids may be good choices.

Reduction to toxic exposure also helps. While a lot remains to be achieved on this front with pollution levels and chemical exposure increasing by the day, some small steps can be taken individually. The pesticide burden can be reduced by eating organic produce and thoroughly washing and peeling fruits and vegetables.

Exposure to toxic chemicals, including drugs, should be minimised. Since many organic solvents are easily absorbed through the skin, direct contact with paints and solvents should be avoided.

The recommended approach entails a life-long commitment to healthy diet habits and regular physical exercise regimens including yoga.

Author is a clinical nutritionist and founder of [www.theweightmonitor.com](http://www.theweightmonitor.com) and Whole Foods India



Paola Saliby/NYT

## Start practising New Year's resolutions now

It doesn't matter if you mess up or miss a day, you haven't committed to anything yet

### HARRY GUINNESS

NEW YEAR'S resolutions seem like a great way to take stock of the last year and set goals for the next one. Unfortunately, by February, around 80 per cent of people have failed to stick to theirs. Life-changing commitments are just hard to, well, commit to. If most people can't stay at it for six weeks, something must be wrong with the whole process.

It starts with the resolutions themselves. Both the wishy-washy promises, like "lose some weight" or "write a book," and over-the-top commitments, like "drop 20 pounds by the start of March" or "become a New York Times best seller," are bad kinds of New Year's resolutions. They are either too vague to be useful or too hard to get done, so they don't motivate you at all. Instead, resolutions work best when they are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound.

And while making good resolutions is important, you still have to stick to them — which is hard. One way, however, to give yourself a leg up come January 1 is to stop waiting around and start practicing your New Year's resolutions right now. Here's why.

**\*\* Why people fail to stick to New Year's resolutions**

There's no single reason that most people fail to stick to their New Year's resolutions. It's a combination of factors and life just getting in the way.

A big part of it is that many people take on too much, too fast. By resolving to eat nothing but salads, run five miles to work every day and get three gym sessions in a



**There's no single reason that most people fail to stick to their New Year's resolutions. It's a combination of factors and life just getting in the way. And while making good resolutions is important, you still have to stick to them — which is hard**

week — plus write that novel they always wanted to — in January, the month right after the holidays, they are setting themselves up to fail dramatically, burn out and finish the month binge-watching Netflix and binge-eating Twinkies.

Another reason is that, at least at the start, sticking to resolutions tends to stink. One 2016 study from the University of Chicago found that the biggest predictor that people would keep to their long-term goals was whether they received an immediate reward. Delayed gratification just

wasn't much of a motivator. Everyone swears they're going to the gym for the health of their future self, but if they're not enjoying it in the moment or seeing quick results, they tend to drop out.

Those first few weeks of doing something new are almost always the worst. You're unfit, unpracticed and just unable to cope. Combine that with the often-miserable January weather, post-holiday blues and work stress, and almost nobody is having any fun.

A lot of people also approach New Year's resolutions with an all-or-nothing attitude. They go straight from zero to 100 with no warm-up or consultation with reality. If someone hasn't run in years, resolving to run five days a week is a ludicrous goal — it's practically unattainable. And when they (entirely predictably) don't meet it, instead of reassessing their goal, they chalk it up as a failure. There's always next year, right?

It's a quirk of human nature that we're so obsessed with these hard start lines. Every exercise programme begins on a Monday or the first of next month — or on January 1. It's understandable: The New Year is a good time to reflect and set goals. But it also makes things harder. When we mess up, we tend not to get back up and continue where we failed; we reset at the next hard start line.

If you have found yourself falling into any of these binds, you're not alone. But let's consider a solution.

**\*\* Why you should start now**

No marathon runner ever steps up to the start line in a big race without putting in the training miles. He or she has been practicing for months, if not years. You

should do the same with your New Year's resolutions. It will make it much easier to stick to them.

Decide that, after finishing this article, you're going to start practicing your New Year's resolutions now. Use the remaining weeks of the year as a trial period. It doesn't matter if you mess up or miss a day, you haven't committed to anything yet — you literally can't fail.

By starting now, you will get a much deeper understanding of what you're resolving to do. It's better to find out in December that a five-mile run is a bit optimistic for your current fitness level, so you can dial it back and start with two-mile runs in January. And to make sticking to your New Year's resolution even easier, with a few weeks of occasional warm-up jogs, you won't be starting from scratch on January 1. You'll already have gotten over the worst of the starting period. You might even be beginning to see results.

Whatever your resolutions, there is a lot to be said for using the next few weeks before the holidays as a practice period. If you're planning to eat healthily in January, use the time to find meals that you love and that are easy to cook. If you want to write a journal or take a photo every day, start now, and sticking to your resolution will already be part of your daily routine. If you want to write the next Great American Novel or Hollywood hit, get the plot worked out and the outline written; in the New Year, you'll be ready to go.

And, if you miss a few days or binge over the holiday period, what does it matter? You are just practicing. The big event doesn't start until January 1. And by then, you will be ready. **NYT**

## SHORT COURSE

[10-20 YEARS]

### One in four young people 'addicted' to smartphones: Study



ALMOST A quarter of young people are so dependent on their smartphones that they feel panicky or upset when the phone is unavailable, according to a global study. By analysing literature published since 2011 when smartphones first became widespread, the range of studies showed that 10-30 per cent of children and young people used their smartphones in a dysfunctional way. This means an average of 23 per cent of them were showing problematic smartphone usage (PSU), according to the researchers from King's College London. PSU was defined as any behaviour linked to smartphones that has the features of an addiction, such as feeling panicky or upset when the phone is unavailable, they said. The behaviour is also characterised by people finding it difficult to control the amount of time spent on the phone, and using the phone to the detriment of other enjoyable activities. **PTI**

[20-50 YEARS]

### Drinking milk does not appear to impact longevity, says study



PEOPLE WHO consume lots of milk, cheese and yogurt may not necessarily live any longer than those who don't, a recent study suggests.

Researchers examined data on total dairy consumption for more than 168,000 women and more than 49,000 men. During about three decades of follow-up, 51,438 people died. Compared to people with the lowest total dairy consumption — an average of 0.8 servings a day — those who consumed the most dairy — an average of 4.2 servings daily — were 7 per cent more likely to die during the study period. People who fell somewhere in between — with about one to three servings daily — had survival odds similar to individuals who consumed the least amount of dairy. "Total dairy intake was not associated with lower risk of total mortality," said a researcher. High dairy consumption has also been linked with an increased risk of some cancers in some previous studies. **REUTERS**

[50+]

### Brushing teeth linked to reduced heart failure risk: Study



BRUSHING TEETH three or more times a day may be associated with a lower risk of irregular heartbeat and heart failure, according to a study carried out in South

Korea. Previous studies suggest that poor oral hygiene leads to bacteria in the blood, causing inflammation in the body, the researchers said. Inflammation increases the risks of atrial fibrillation or irregular heartbeat, and heart failure — a condition where the heart's ability to pump blood or relax, and fill with blood is impaired, they said. The latest study, published in the *European Journal of Preventive Cardiology*, examined the connection between oral hygiene and occurrence of these two conditions. Tooth brushing three or more times a day was associated with a 10 per cent lower risk of atrial fibrillation and a 12 per cent reduced risk of heart failure during the same time, the study found. **PTI**

## Want to feel 25 again? Exercise regularly

### GRETCHEN REYNOLDS

REGULAR EXERCISE throughout adulthood may protect our muscles against age-related loss and damage later, according to an interesting new study of lifelong athletes and their thighs. The study finds that active older men's muscles resemble, at a cellular level, those of 25-year-olds and weather inflammatory damage much better than the muscles of sedentary older people. The study also raises some cautionary questions about whether waiting until middle age or later to start exercising might prove to be challenging for the lifelong health of our muscles.

Physical aging is a complicated and enigmatic process, as any of us who are living and experiencing it know. Precipitated by little-understood changes in the workings of our cells and physiological systems, it proceeds in stuttering fits and starts, affecting some people and body parts earlier or more noticeably than others.

Muscles are among the body parts most vulnerable to time. Almost all of us begin losing some muscle mass and strength by early middle age, with the process accelerating as the decades pass. While the full causes for this

decline remain unknown, most ageing researchers agree that a subtle, age-related rise in inflammation throughout our bodies plays a role. "A lot of studies, probably thousands, show that higher circulating inflammatory

factors in people are associated with greater loss of muscle mass," says Todd Trappe, a professor of exercise science at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, who oversaw the new study with his brother Scott Trappe and other researchers.

Trappe and his collaborators, who have been studying the physiology of older athletes, also knew that physically fit people tend to have lower levels of inflammation in their bodies than inactive people. So, the researchers wondered, would active, older people also have more and healthier muscle mass than other older people? And if so, what might that tell us about how human muscles can optimally age?

To find out, the scientists turned to a unique group of volunteers. Local men and women in their 70s or 80s who had been

training continuously since the running boom of the 1970s. Now, the researchers wanted to look deep inside the older athletes' blood and muscles. So, they gathered 21 of the elderly athletic men (results from a separate study of women will be published soon, Trappe says), along with 10 runners and cyclists in their 20s, and another 10 healthy but sedentary elderly men. They measured all of the men's thighs, as a marker of muscle mass, and took blood and muscle-tissue samples.

They noted immediately that the men's thigh circumference reflected their ages and lifestyles, with the young athletes sporting the burliest legs, the elderly athletes slightly smaller ones, and the inactive elderly men the spindliest.

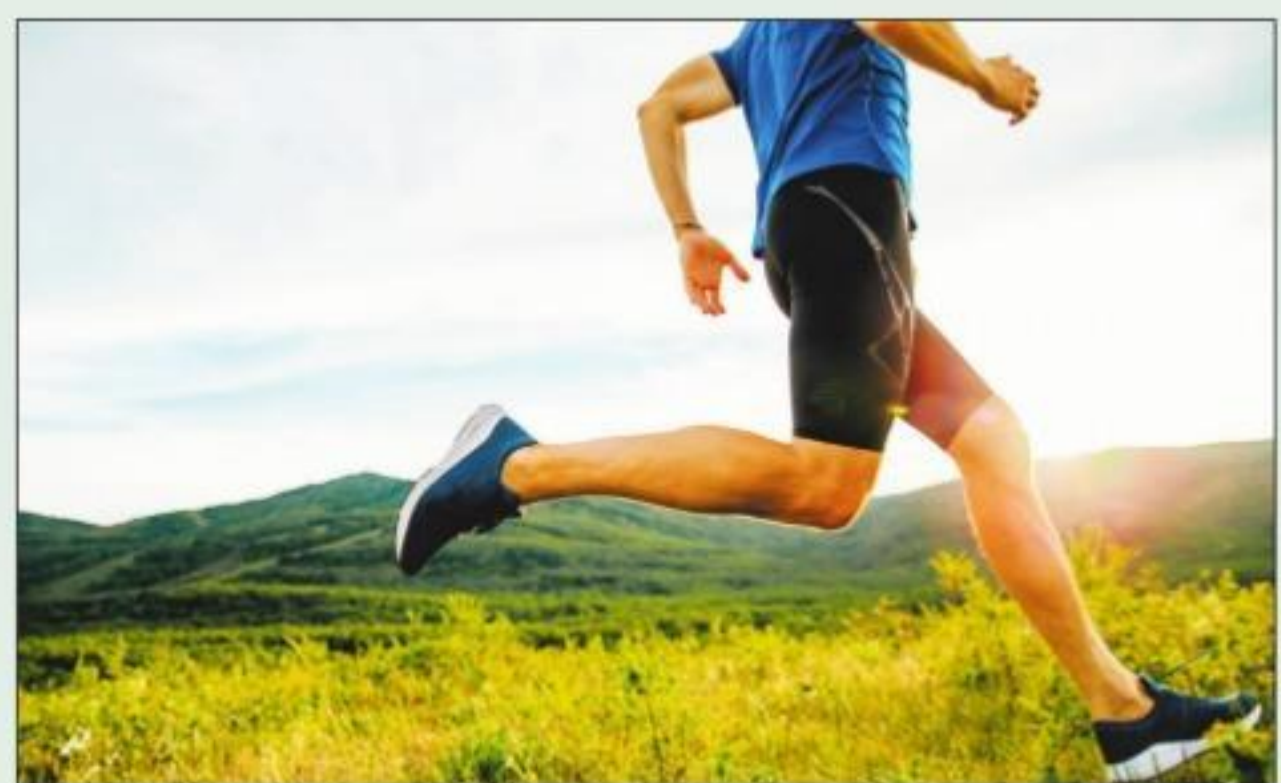
The researchers next had the men complete a single session of brief, but strenuous, lower-body weight training, using a knee-extension machine. Since none of the men lifted weights, this exercise was expected to stress

their muscles in an unfamiliar way. A few hours later, the researchers again drew blood and biopsied the men's muscles.

Then they checked the tissues for a broad slate of inflammatory cells and gene markers. Bogglingly complex, inflammation involves multiple genes and cells that talk to other genes and cells and dynamically ramp up, or tamp down, the process. Immediately after any bodily injury or strain, which includes strenuous exercise, inflammation helps tissues to heal and strengthen. But if inflammation lingers, it can become harmful and, in muscles, block them from growing larger and stronger after exercise.

The researchers found that inflammatory responses differed in the men. The young athletes displayed the least amount of inflammation in their blood and muscles at the start of the study and continued to do so after the workout. While their muscles flared briefly after exercise with inflammatory cells and related gene activity, the microscopic examination found that countervailing anti-inflammatory signals were also increasing and should soon cool the inflammation.

A similar response occurred inside the muscles of the elderly athletes, although their inflammatory markers were slightly higher



Getty Images

and their anti-inflammatory reactions a bit lower. But in the untrained elderly men, inflammation was much more of a bushfire, spiking higher than among the other men and showing fewer cellular signs of resolving any time soon.

Taken as a whole, these results suggest that long-term exercise may help ageing muscles remain healthy in part by readying them to dissipate inflammation, Trappe says. But on the flip side, sedentary living seems to set up muscles to overreact to strain and remain inflamed, potentially leading to fewer muscular gains when someone does exer-

cise. This study was small, though, and examined the men's muscles only once, soon after exercise. It did not look into whether and how their muscles actually changed over time with training.

More important, the findings should not discourage middle-aged or older people who have been inactive from starting to visit the gym, Trappe says. "Even if inflammation gets in the way a bit at first, your muscles will respond and grow," he says, and eventually should start to resemble those of people who have been exercising lifelong. **NYT**





I'm not someone who wants to entertain by hitting in the air. The aim is not to play slam-bang cricket. Basic funda is that I don't want to change my game too much for T20is. I'm an all-format player. I just want to score runs every game."

VIRAT KOHLI

## BRIEFLY

## NZ head to Australia eyeing repeat of Hadlee's triumph

Wellington: Richard Hadlee says New Zealand did something special in 1985 by winning their first test series in Australia and there is no doubt current skipper Kane Williamson would view victory in the upcoming series across the Tasman Sea as a career highlight. Australia has been a difficult place to come for New Zealand, who have lost six and drawn three of their nine test series there since that triumph more than 30 years ago.

But Williamson's team head to Australia on Saturday for the first match, a day-night encounter starting on Dec. 12 in Perth, full of confidence after clinching their fifth successive series victory at home earlier this week against England. They also received a welcome boost on Friday when pace spearhead Trent Boult and all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme were cleared to travel with the team. Boult (ribs) and de Grandhomme (abdominal muscle) missed the second test against England but came through a fitness test on Friday in Mt. Maunganui. "Trent Boult and Colin de Grandhomme are both making good progress with their injuries and successfully trained today at Bay Oval," NZC said on their Twitter page. "The pair will travel with the team to Perth tomorrow." New Zealand's recent away form, which includes a victory over Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates and a draw with Sri Lanka, means they head into the three-test series as the second ranked side in the world.

## Series loss in Australia has hurt pride: Azhar

Lahore: Pakistan captain Azhar Ali on Friday said the Test series loss in Australia is unacceptable and it has hurt the pride of Pakistan cricket. Pakistan had a forgettable tour of Australia as they lost the T20 series 0-2 before suffering embarrassing innings defeats in the two Tests, which were part of World Test Championship. "It is very disappointing how we lost the two Tests. The defeats in Australia have hurt our cricket pride and it is hard to accept," Azhar told reporters in Lahore. "We had gone there with all the right preparations and with a positive mindset. So the two innings defeat is not acceptable and I will offer no excuses for this." Azhar insisted his team had prepared well for the series but it failed to properly execute the plans. "We didn't get wickets with the new ball, we didn't forge big partnerships, we didn't build on good starts and our plans against David Warner also didn't work as he countered them well," he said.

## Naseem Shah named in Pak U-19 WC squad

Karachi: Teen pace sensation Naseem Shah was on Friday named in the Pakistan's under-19 World Cup squad after his impressive senior Test debut in Australia. The Pakistan junior selectors picked the squad for the tournament to be held in South Africa from January 17 to February 9. The head coach of the Pakistan juniors Ejaz Ahmed had requested the chief selector and national bowling coach Waqar Younis to release Naseem from the senior outfit for the youth World Cup. "Despite a Test series coming up against Sri Lanka this month, Misbah (ul-Haq) and Waqar decided to accept Ejaz Ahmed's request as Pakistan has not won the ICC Youth World Cup in a while," a reliable source in the Board said. The 16-year-old Naseem made his debut in the first Test at Brisbane and impressed with his pace. He was not named for the second day/night Test in Adelaide with Waqar insisting that it was a decision based on workload management.

AGENCIES

# Batting in parallel universe

At Friday's power-hitting bacchanalia in Hyderabad, Kohli makes an easy-on-the-eye 50-ball 94\* as India beat WI by 6 wickets



Virat Kohli plays a shot during his knock against the West Indies in Hyderabad on Friday. India chased down 208 with eight balls to spare. PTI

## VISHAL MENON

DECEMBER 6

IRRESPECTIVE OF the format and the match situation, Virat Kohli likes to take his time to get his eye in. The beauty of his batsmanship, however, is that once he is set, no score looks conceivable and no target unachievable. In that sense, the Indian captain is quite an antithesis to the burly big-hitting marauders from the Caribbean, who like to seize the initiative by taking on opposition bowlers from the outset. On Friday night, Kohli provided yet another masterclass in chasing down daunting T20 targets. It was not a saunter by any stretch. He struggled with his timing early on and tried to force the pace by playing one shot too many. It helped that he had a buoyant KL Rahul at the other end, whose sublime stroke-play gave India the early momentum. The Indian opener scored an impressive 40-ball 62 that was studied with five boundaries and four sixes, and the second-wicket partnership with his captain yielded 100 runs that came in a shade under 10 overs. This set the stage as they gunned down 208 with eight deliveries to spare. This was only the third instance when India had successfully chased after conceding 200+ scores in a T20 at home — the previous instances being against Sri Lanka in 2009 and Australia in 2013.

If Rahul set the tone, Kohli's sensational 50-ball unbeaten 94 saw to it that there were no hiccups along the way. The seamless manner in which he shifted gears tonight was almost mind-boggling. Just to illustrate this point further, he had trudged along to a run-a-ball 20 and then taken his personal tally to 39 from his first 30 deliveries. At that point, it was scarcely conceivable that he would tee off like a man

possessed. It was a checked lofted shot against Jason Holder in the 15th over — sailed over long-off boundary and settled into the second tier — that kick-started his blitzkrieg. Clearly rattled by the sudden shift in tempo, the West Indies bowlers, Kesrick Williams in particular, tried to sledge him. If anything, this only riled Kohli further, who unfurled arguably the shot of the evening against Williams — a sumptuous flick shot that sailed over the long-on boundary for a six. Kohli then stood stone-faced, glared at the bowler and used his bat as a notebook to 'tick' off Williams' name.

At the post-match presentation, when he was asked about this gesture, Kohli said he had remembered Williams had given him a similar send-off after dismissing him in a T20 match in Jamaica in 2017. Kohli continued in a similar vein for the rest of the evening. In the end, he more than made up for his sedate start, and shifted gears at the opportune moment, ransacking 74 runs from his last 30 deliveries, to propel India to a resounding win in the series opener. After his match-winning exploits, came Kohli's tacit admission: "To all the young batsmen watching, don't follow the first half of my innings. I was batting poorly and didn't want to put KL (Rahul) under pressure as I couldn't get going. Luckily, I got that one over from Holder, and then I began to analyse why I'm going wrong. Realised I'm not a slogger but a timer instead, and then changed my playing style"

## Hetmyer comes to the party

Ever since he burst onto the international scene in January 2017, Shimron Hetmyer was earmarked for the future. His coaches back home in Cumberland, Berbice hailed him as the finest stroke-player to emerge from the islands since the heady and intoxicating days of

## PROGRESS REPORT

VIRAT KOHLI'S was an innings of two halves. He struggled early on, making 20 runs in the first 20 balls. Then he broke the shackles and plundered 74 off the next 30. Here's his run progression:

**1-20 BALLS - 7 runs**  
**11-20 BALLS - 13 runs**  
**21-30 BALLS - 19 runs**  
**31-40 BALLS - 28 runs**  
**41-50 BALLS - 27 runs**

Brian Lara. 'Hetty', as he is endearingly called by friends and team-mates, lived up to the initial hype by slamming three centuries in the first 13 ODIs. Soon, a plum IPL contract with the Royal Challengers Bangalore followed. It all looked pretty rosy for the Guyanese, before things began to spiral downhill. A raft of indecisive and rash stroke-play proved to be his undoing. Indifferent starts and poor conversion rates looked like nipping another promising career from blossoming. During RCB's ill-fated IPL sojourn earlier this year, Hetmyer could eke out just 90 runs from five matches that led to the Bangalore franchise releasing him ahead of the big-ticket IPL auction.

All this was ample fodder for critics to take swipe at. But in the midst of his barren run, he found unequivocal support from Viv Richards, who urged fans and critics to give the youngster time to settle down. "Hetmyer we keep speaking about, he's a young talent I believe when he settles down, his numbers could be much better for West Indies in the future, but at present, he's a little if and but at times, but

when he works that out and gets to believe he can accomplish that, he'll be okay. His talent is enormous, it's just for him to know how to get that done," Richards had told ESPNcricinfo.

If anything, Richards' words seemed to have given him the motivation to stem the tumultuous slide. He put in the hard yards in the gym and worked hard to banish those shots of indiscretion, which was proving to be his nemesis. In India, Hetmyer finally found his nerve. The beauty of his batsmanship was the seamless manner in which he kept the scoring rate up at the 10rpo mark without trying to clear every ball beyond the boundary. He dubbed six sixes and a brace of boundaries in his 41-ball 56, but on every occasion that he did clear the ropes, he made sure that he followed it up with a single. By doing so, he kept the scoreboard ticking along. The Indian bowlers, especially Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar were guilty of bowling too short to the southpaw.

He capitalised on such insipid bowling by orchestrating the impressive slog-sweep shot to damning effect. Hetmyer was not the only West Indian batsman who impressed. Opener Evin Lewis set the tone by unfurling a series of breathtaking strokes upfront that numbed Indian bowlers, especially the usually rampant Deepak Chahar. His 17-ball 40 gave the visitors the desired impetus, but the final flourish came from the seasoned hands of their newly-appointed captain Kieron Pollard (37) and Jason Holder 24", who ensured they finished with an extremely competitive score of 207/5 after taking first strike — incidentally the second-highest score made by any team in a T20I against India in India. That they drilled 15 sixes on a fairly huge ground in Hyderabad was a testimony to their uninhibited belligerence.

## SCORECARD >>

### India vs West Indies

1st T20I | India | Toss: Hyderabad

WEST INDIES 207/5

**L Simmons** c Sharma b Chahal 2 (4b)  
**E Lewis** lbw b Sundar 40 (17b, 3x4, 4x6)  
**B King** st Pant b Jadeja 31 (23b, 3x4, 1x6)  
**S Hetmyer** c Sharma b Chahal 56 (41b, 2x4, 4x6)  
**K Pollard** b Chahal 37 (19b, 1x4, 4x6)  
**J Holder** not out 24 (9b, 1x4, 2x6)  
**D Ramdin** not out 11 (7b, 1x4)

■ Extras: (lb 2, w 4) 6  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-13 (Lendl Simmons, 1.2 ov), 2-64 (Evin Lewis, 5.4 ov), 3-101 (Brandon King, 10.1 ov), 4-172 (Shimron Hetmyer, 17.1 ov), 5-173 (Kieron Pollard, 17.3 ov)

■ Bowling: Washington Sundar 3-0-34-1  
D Chahal 4-0-56-1  
B Kumar 4-0-36-0  
R Jadeja 4-0-30-1  
Y Chahal 4-0-36-2  
S Dube 1-0-13-0

INDIA 209/4 IN 18.4 OV

**R Sharma** c Hetmyer b Pierre 8 (10b, 1x4)  
**KL Rahul** c Pollard b Pierre 62 (40b, 5x4, 4x6)  
**V Kohli** not out 94 (50b, 6x4, 6x6)  
**R Pant** c Holder b Cottrell 18 (9b, 2x6)  
**S Iyer** c & b Pollard 4 (6b)  
**S Dube** not out 0 (0b)

■ Extras: (b 4, lb 2, nb 3, w 14) 23  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-30 (Rohit Sharma, 3.2 ov), 2-130 (KL Rahul, 13.3 ov), 3-178 (Rishabh Pant, 16.2 ov), 4-193 (Shreyas Iyer, 17.6 ov)

■ Bowling: S Cottrell 4-0-24-1  
J Holder 4-0-46-0  
K Pierre 4-0-44-2  
H Walsh 2-0-19-0  
K Williams 3.4-0-60-0  
K Pollard 1-0-10-1

■ India won by 6 wickets



Shimron Hetmyer made 56. PTI

## MENTAL HEALTH & CRICKET

# Lara battled with 'feeling of despair' due to pressure of records

PRESE TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 6

ASSERTING THAT mental health issues are real in international cricket, West Indian batting legend Brian Lara on Friday recollected having a "feeling of despair" even at the peak of his career.

Lara holds the record for the highest individual scores in both first-class (501\*) and Test cricket (400\*). He is the only cricketer to have claimed the Test record score twice.

"...from the beginning of my international career in 1989 to about 1995, it was on an upward spiral. I don't think a lot of people will appreciate (but) from 1995-98, it was on a downward spiral. I felt the pressures of being a double world record holder, (it) played its part and the West Indies team was on its decline," Lara told reporters here.

The 50-year-old was in the city to inaugurate the second edition of the Habitat for

India humanity chapter golf tournament, a charity event in Mahalaxmi here.

"I remember on occasions where I lay in my room feeling the despair. It (mental health issue) is real, it is part of all sport and it is coming to the fore now with a lot more aggression. Players are at least standing up and saying 'I need to just remove myself, fight myself and comeback again'," said Lara.

Recently, some Australian cricketers, including star all-rounder Glenn Maxwell took a break from the game to battle mental health issues. Lara said every player's cry for help in a taxing schedule should be paid attention to.

"...the kind of pressures the players are in now, may be before in the 1970s and 80s, you played for the love of the game, you played for your country, you loved Test cricket.

"...with all franchise cricket going on around in the world, the intensity of the game, sometimes is a burden. Guys are



Lara holds the record for the highest individual scores in both first-class (501\*) and Test cricket (400\*).

playing for England and not playing county cricket, guys are playing for Australia and not playing Sheffield cricket (and) that just tells you how mentally draining it is. Something that we should stand up and

'I remember on occasions where I lay in my room feeling the despair. It (mental health issue) is real, it is part of all sport and it is coming to the fore now with a lot more aggression.'

pay attention to," added Lara.

## Maxwell closer to return

PTI adds from Melbourne: Australia's Glenn Maxwell seems to be moving closer to a comeback from his mental health break after the all-rounder was seen training with his state side Victoria here. Maxwell, who stepped away from cricket to deal with his unspecified problems during Australia's Twenty20 series against Sri Lanka in October, returned to club cricket recently. He has played three Victorian Premier

Cricket matches with club side Fitzroy Doncaster since and has taken part in some aspects of Victoria's Shield program.

On Thursday, the 31-year-old, who bowls off-spin, participated in Victoria's training session at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). "I think he is doing everything he needs to do... when he is ready to come back (he will)," teammate Marcus Harris was quoted as saying by 'cricnet.com.au'. "I'm not sure if it is this week or Big Bash, but he's not far away I think," he added.

Victoria will take on Western Australia at the MCG starting on Saturday, but Maxwell has not been named in the squad. Harris said it will be left to Maxwell to decide the right time to return to the game on a full-time basis.

"I think those sort of guys need some space. I think they've got everyone hounding them about what's going on and what they're doing," Harris said. "They are adults. Maxi has been really good and all the guys dealing with stuff have been very good and we just put our arm around them and support them," he added.



# Manchester giants eye derby delight Arsenal no show ends in defeat to Brighton

Desperate to steady title defence, City host United who are pumped up after Spurs win

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
LONDON, DECEMBER 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 on 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.

"He was strong, direct, taking people on, inside and outside with no fear," said Solskjaer. "That's what we want -- we want to see boys enjoying themselves." 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 kick-off at the Etihad 14 points behind the leaders, should Jurgen Klopp's men continue their scintillating form at Bournemouth earlier on Saturday. "For the distance we are behind Liverpool it would be crazy to think about the title, we have to think about the derby," said Guardiola.

## Strength in depth

Klopp could even afford the luxury of leaving Roberto



In Manchester City's 4-1 win at Burnley, Gabriel Jesus stepped up in the absence of the injured Sergio Aguero to score twice. Reuters

## United got a badly needed win for manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer on Wednesday, inflicting a first defeat as Tottenham manager on Jose Mourinho.

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 on Tuesday needing to avoid defeat if their defence of the title is not to embarrassingly end in the group stages.

Divock Origi scored twice against Everton and Xherdan Shaqiri struck on his first start of

the season to prove Klopp does have the strength in depth to successfully shuffle his pack.

"It's easy for me to tell them often, very often, how good they are but if they then don't play it's not too easy for them to always understand what I say," said Klopp.

"But if they play and deliver like they did, it's a very, very important sign for the whole squad."

## Hungry Foxes

Leicester remain Liverpool's closest challengers, eight points back in second, thanks to a run of eight straight wins in all competitions. "The team is developing

and are proving they have a winning mentality and mindset," said Leicester boss Brendan Rodgers, who has dismissed speculation linking him with the vacant managerial role at Arsenal.

Next up for the in-form Foxes is a trip to Aston Villa on Sunday.

Villa are one of a host of teams hauled back into the battle to avoid relegation by Southampton's resurgence with Dean Smith's men just one point above the drop zone.

**FIXTURES - Saturday:** Everton v Chelsea, Bournemouth v Liverpool, Tottenham v Burnley, Watford v Crystal Palace, Manchester City v Manchester United **Sunday:** Newcastle v Southampton, Norwich v Sheffield United, Aston Villa v Leicester, Brighton v Wolves **Monday:** West Ham v Arsenal.

## Wozniacki to retire after OZ Open

FORMER WORLD number one Caroline Wozniacki said on Friday she will retire from tennis after January's Australian Open — the venue of her sole Grand Slam win.

The 29-year-old, who triumphed in Melbourne last year, said her retirement had nothing to do with her health and that she wanted to accomplish more in life off the court with her husband David Lee, a professional basketball player.

The Dane had opened up about her battle with rheumatoid arthritis in October last year, saying there were days when she found it hard to get out of bed, but finished the 2018 season as the world number three.

"I've accomplished everything I could ever dream of on the court," Wozniacki wrote on Instagram. "I've always told myself, when the time comes, that there are things away from tennis that I want to do more, then it's time to be done."

"In recent months, I've realized that there is a lot more in life that I'd like to accomplish off the court."

"Getting married to David was one of those goals and starting a family with him while continuing to travel the world and helping raise awareness about rheumatoid arthritis (project upcoming) are all passions of mine moving forward."

REUTERS



Caroline Wozniacki said she wants to focus on things 'away from tennis'.

## Italian daily calls backlash over 'racist' headline 'lynching'

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
MILAN, DECEMBER 6

ITALIAN SPORTS daily Corriere dello Sport has described the backlash over its controversial "Black Friday" headline as a "lynching". The front-page headline accompanied an article about the first Serie A meeting between former Manchester United teammates Romelu Lukaku and Chris Smalling.

"Who are you calling racist? Lynching of a newspaper that for a century has defended liberty and equality," read the headline of Friday's newspaper. Inter Milan striker Lukaku and Roma defender Smalling face off at the San Siro on Friday as the northern side look to maintain top spot in Serie A.

Both players have condemned the headline which caused uproar in a country where a number of players have recently been targeted with racist abuse.

Roma's Smalling said the front page was "wrong and highly insensitive" while Lukaku accused the paper of "fuelling negativity and racism". On Friday, Corriere dedicated its first three pages to the affair, with photos of their past headlines treating the subject of racism.

The newspaper said they were "the enemies of racism" and consider that their headline had been "perverted by the superficiality and bad faith of social networks and websites, quick to disguise the message".

The Italian daily praised Lukaku and Smalling, "two extraordinary professionals".

"For them, we are sincerely sorry, our intention was not to hurt them, but rather to showcase them, and we will continue to fight racism and ignorance," writes Corriere.

## 'Dumbest headline'

"Instead of focusing on a battle between two teams... Corriere



Lukaku and Smalling slammed the headline on the social media.

dello Sport comes with the dumbest of headlines I have ever seen in my career," Lukaku said in a message on Twitter.

"You guys keep fuelling the negativity and the racism issue," Lukaku and Smalling have both taken Serie A by storm since arriving in the close season, with the Belgian striker bagging 10 goals in 14 appearances for title hopefuls Inter and England international Smalling becoming an instant fan favourite in the capital.

"It is important that I acknowledge that what occurred this morning was wrong and highly insensitive," wrote Smalling on Twitter. "I hope the editors involved in running this headline take responsibility and understand the power they possess through words, and the impact those words have." Both Roma and AC Milan said that they would be banning the Corriere dello Sport until the end of 2019 over the headline.

"Our players will not carry out any media activities with the newspaper during this period," the two clubs said in a joint statement.

They added that the ban was short because "the actual newspaper article associated with the 'Black Friday' headline did portray an anti-racist message".