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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

The woman, who died at 11.40 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 Bareli 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 PAGE 10

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

TOP EDIT

CRIME AS PUNISHMENT

PAGE 14

m from a wall of the underpass at Chattanpally village on the Hyderabad-Bengaluru highway where stains from the charred remains of the woman were still visible.

The four men were gunned down in an exchange of fire with a 10-member armed police group, after two of the accused snatched pistols from the police party who had brought them to the scene of crime for collection of further evidence and reconstruction of scene, said Cyberabad Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Telangana policemen at the site of the encounter on the outskirts of Hyderabad, Friday. *Arun Janardhanan*

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL
NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY

If Instant Justice is in, rename the

place after some

pre-Nizam icon.

Due process vs instant verdict: Applause for police & a few questions SOP, same explanation

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 veterinary 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Three killings, same police officer, same

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 proferred the same explanation of how they were attacked **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



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

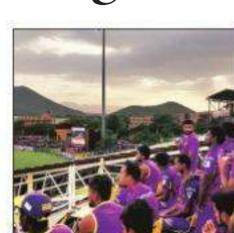
DEVENDRA PANDEY MUMBAI, DECEMBER 6

plug on these leagues.

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

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 **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

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-

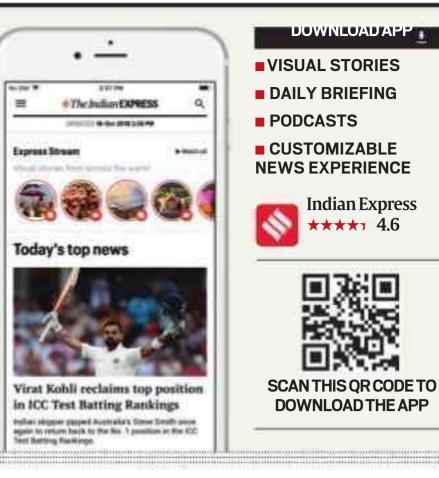


President Ram Nath Kovind in Mount Abu, Friday. PTI

han mein mercy petition ka adhikar diya gaya hai. Aur maine kaha hai ki is-par aap **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

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CHILD RAPISTS SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO FILE MERCY PLEA: PRESIDENT

President Ram Nath Kovind Friday said that rape convicts under the POCSO (Protection of Children from

Sexual Offences) Act should not be allowed to file mercy petition

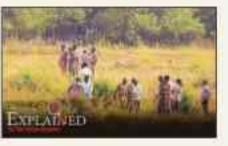
VIDEO OF THE DAY



JAMSHEDPUR EAST | **JHARKHAND ELECTION**

Real battle is between Saryu Roy and **Raghubar Das**

FULL COVERAGE



WHAT NHRC, SC HAVE **SAID ON ENCOUNTER**

Extra-judicial killings have been a contested and divisive procedure

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Do you know the significance of 99.94? To find out, listen to the latest episode of the Express Sports podcast, where we introduce a new series entirely dedicated to cricket

RS discusses Bill to change RP Act on expenditure cap

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

RAJYA SABHA discussed a private member's Bill on Friday that proposed to amend the Representation of the People Act to remove the limit on expenditure by candidates during an election.

The Bill was opposed by the BJP MPs, who said the proposed change would only work to the advantage of wealthy candidates. The Representation of the

People (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was introduced by Congress MP Rajeev Gowda on the ground that the ceiling on election expenses ends up being counterproductive and encourages candidates to under-report their expenditure.

A candidate contesting Lok Sabha polls can spend up to Rs 70 lakh and up to Rs 28 lakh in an assembly election depending on the state in which they are contesting

"For a developing country like India, the limit of Rs70 lakh is adequate... where can an ordinary person bring Rs 70 lakh from?" BJP MP Ashok Bajpai asked. His party colleague GVL

Narasimha Rao said that the ceiling currently prescribed by the Election Commission is meant for legitimate expenditure. "A lot of money (in elections) is being spent for illegitimate purposes. Even if you increase the expenditure limit, people will continue illegitimate expenditure."

Samajwadi Party's Vishamber Prasad Nishad supported the Bill and reiterated his party's demand to revert to voting by ballot paper. Congress's P L Punia said that he doesn't support the scrapping of expenditure ceiling, but wanted a more "practical" limit to be set. "However, that (practical) ceiling

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE GOVERNMENT on Friday

cancelled rape-accused self-

styled godman Nithyananda's

passport even as the Ecuadorian

government denied that it has

official spokesperson Raveesh

Kumar said at a press confer-

ence, "We have sensitised all our

missions and posts and told

them to inform local govern-

India for multiple cases, includ-

ing alleged rape and abduction.

Nithyananda is wanted in

Kumar said Nithyananda's

Ministry of External Affairs

granted asylum to him.

ments about him."

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

Nithyananda's passport cancelled,

Ecuador says not given him asylum

should not be such that it only benefits the wealthy candidates,' he said. Punia also demanded voting by ballot paper in elections.

Law Minister Ravish Shankar Prasad's reply to the Bill was deferred till next Friday. This was followed by nominated member Narendra Jadhav moving a Bill that seeks to scrutinise foreign investments in financial services, critical infrastructure and technology sectors that have a bearing on national security.

Earlier, BJP MP Prabhat Jha withdrew his private member's Bill seeking to make cleanliness a fundamental duty under Article 51A of the Constitution. Jha said he was satisfied with the government's intention and the steps taken on encouraging cleanliness. Replying to Jha's Bill, Union

minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the government had set the target of building 66 lakh toilets in urban areas covering five crore people.

"We have almost met the physical targets but the real success of these schemes would be mapped through behavioural changes," he said adding that the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan had now turned into a "Jan Andolan (public movement)".

Puri said in the House that except one state the entire country was Open Defecation Free (ODF) "Rural area is now ODF and as far as urban India is concerned, I am hoping that early in the new year we would be able to declare, the entire country ODF based on a third party verification," he said.

Rajya Sabha saw the introduction of over 30 new private member's Bills Friday. These included one by Samajwadi Party MPJavec Ali Khan which seeks a seven-year jail term for those who insult Mahatma Gandhi and eulogise his killers.

passport was cancelled before its

validity was to expire in 2018

and that his application for a

new one was also rejected be-

cause of the cases pending

Nithyananda had declared on his

website that he founded his own

country called 'Kailassa', Kumai

said, "Setting up a website is dif-

ferent from setting up a nation.'

embassy of Ecuador, in a state-

ment, categorically denied that

the Nithyananda was given asy-

lum by it or has been helped by

its government in purchasing

any land or island in South

America near or far from

In a related development, the

Asked about reports that

against him.

Ecuador.

FROM PAGE ONE

No mercy plea

punarvichar karein. Ye mercy petition ke adhikar ko yadi aise cases mein... jo POCSO Act ke tehet jo ghatnayein hoti hai unko mercy petition ke adhikar se vanchit kar diya jaye. Unhein is prakar kisi bhi adhikar ki zarurat nahi hai (Such convicts have the right to a mercy petition in the Constitution. And I have said that you should reconsider this. The right of mercy petition should be deprived in cases under the POCSO Act. They don't need any such rights)."

The President said this decision depends on Parliament because "a Constitutional amendment needs to be done". "But now all our thoughts are going forward towards this direction,' he said.

The President also said that women's safety is a very serious issue and incidents of "demonic attacks on daughters" shake the conscience of the country. He said it is the responsibility of every parent to instil the feeling of respect for women among boys.

On empowering women, Kovind said: "When you educate a boy, it benefits one family but when you educate a girl, the benefit goes to two families... the children of an educated woman do not remain uneducated.'

The President's remarks came on the day Telangana Police said it had shot dead all the four accused in the gangrape and murder of a veterinary doctor on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

Flower petals

invoked the "delay" in the judicial system to justify the killings. The shrill clamour was amplified through Friday, forcing much of the political establishment to mirror it rather than reflect on its implications.

Nothing illustrates this better

than a statement in the morning from the BJP's Telangana unit: "India is not a banana republic and is bound by legal and constitutional framework. Politics over crime cannot set a right precedence." By evening, the tone had changed. Asked to explain this, a senior BJP leader told The Indian Express: "We began by being critical of the Government since we are in the opposition but then realised we had to respond to public sentiment.

Consider some of the reactions — in words and tweets:

Former Union Minister and BJP MP Rajyavardhan Rathore: "I congratulate the Hyderabad police and the leadership that allows the police to act like police. Let all know this is the country where good will always prevail over evil (Disclaimer for holier than thou police acted swiftly in self defence)...Speak up for our daughters: Rapes, sexual assaults, will not be tolerated, Don't ever look at any women & feel you own her even for a moment. Pseudo liberals standing with the 4 rapists your utopian world will shatter if you think of Hyderabad doctor as your own daughter"

Badminton star Saina Nehwal: "Great work #hyderabadpolice ..we salute u."

Actor Anupam Kher: "Congratulations and #JaiHo to #TelenganaPolice for shooting down the four rapists...in an "EN-COUNTER"... (All those who raised their voice against such a heinous crime and wanted a most dangerous punishment for the perpetrators, say Jai Hind

Justice executed: Police kill all 4 accused tim's belongings. Sub inspectors I Venkatesh and

The Telangana High Court, taking cognizance of a plea seeking judicial intervention in the matter, has ordered that the bodies of all four accused be preserved until December 9 when it will hear the plea.

The four men were arrested on November 29 for allegedly raping and killing the doctor by smothering her and later burning her body. They were in police custody.

The bodies of the four, Mohammed Arif (26), Chennakeshavulu, Jollu Shiva and Jollu Navin (all 20 years), were found within a radius of 50 m. The prime accused, a 26year-old lorry driver, wearing a yellow T-shirt, had a 9-mm Glock and a bullet-exit wound near his chest suggesting he was shot in the back. The other lorry driver, a 20-year-old, also had a pistol in his hand. However, his bullet injuries were not clearly visible. All four were found dead in a vacant plot with hardly anywhere to hide or shield themselves from firing.

There were questions regarding the exchange of fire. Denying knowledge of how many rounds were fired, the Commissioner maintained that only a detailed postmortem could establish that. Significantly, none of the four was handcuffed — the police explained it saying they were told to look for the vicSajjanar said that the ex-

change of fire in the dark lasted about 10 minutes. He said that the accused tried to "confuse" the police party regarding where they had buried the woman's phone, power bank and wrist watch, which constitute "crucial" evidence. They are said to have also pelted stones, sticks and other material at the police, he said. "Suddenly, Mohammed Arif,

main accused, started pelting stones at the police officers. Chennakeshavulu also joined him and then the remaining two picked up sticks and stones and threw at the police escort. Two of our policemen were injured. Arif Chennakeshavulu also snatched two pistols in the melee and

fired at the policemen. We gave them a chance to surrender but they fired and police retaliated. After the firing stopped we found that all four accused were dead," Sajjanar said. Asked how the accused got hold of the pistols, Sajjanar said

police personnel were unlocked because the "accused were considered dangerous and that is why they could open fire" at po-

that the weapons carried by the

Asked about injuries to police officials, Sajjanar said: "None of the policemen were injured. Arvind Goud were injured in the head in stone-throwing by the accused." He said the policemen were

not videotaping the reconstruction of the crime scene. The family of the woman

thanked the police and the government. "My daughter's soul must be at peace now," said her father. The woman's mother said the law should be capable to execute rapists immediately. Her sister said that she wished that this encounter will scare potential criminals and prevent such crimes in the future. Earlier, as day broke and the

news spread, curious crowds started reaching the spot. By 9 am, a large number of vehicles were parked on either side of the highway. Police teams prevented the swelling crowd from stepping into the adjacent field where the bodies lav. The crowd applauded the

police department and the government for "quick delivery of justice". From atop the bridge, they showered flower petals on the police vehicles. Men burst crackers, women distributed sweets waving the Tricolour. They shouted slogans of "Police zindabad," and "Nyayam jargindi," (justice is done).

Some policemen on crowdcontrol duty were carried on shoulders by men as part of the

Naxal operations unit — shot

were offered by visitors at the spot the victim was found burnt. "We are very happy that justice has been delivered to the victim's family without wasting much time. The four rapists have received what they deserved and police have done the right thing," said Sreenivasulu, 24.

celebration. Flowers and prayers

"It is the duty of the police and state government to ensure that such crimes do not happen again in our society. Today's incident will set a right precedent in that regard," said Sumathi, a college student. Sajjanar said that police is

collecting information about unsolved cases of missing women, burnt unidentified bodies of women recovered and suspected rape and murder cases from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and other parts of Telangana.."We suspect that these four were habitual offenders and could have committed similar crimes in other states," he said.

"Law has done its duty and that's what I can say," he said responding to criticism on the handling of the situation by the police. Asked why the four men were taken to the crime scene in the early hours, the Commissioner said the accused were facing lot of threat from an angry public and hence brought at that time of the day.

with the arrest and surrender

of several top Naxalites and en-

porters that the four accused

of the rape and murder of the

veterinary doctor were taken

to the spot outside Hyderabad

in the early hours to retrieve

her mobile phone, wristwatch

and power bank. He said they

team and snatched their

weapons, forcing them to

On Friday, Sajjanar told re-

counters with them.

In Raipur, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said "justice has been done".

which he got the chance..."

by NCP's Supriya Sule.

cused Thursday.

There were also attempts to

compare the Telangana case with

the Unnao incident when a 23-

year-old woman, who was gan-

graped, was set on fire by the ac-

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan

Chowdhury said: "The accused

tried to run away and the Hyderabad police shot them

dead... the UP police let the ac-

cused go free on bail because of

Speaking in the Lok Sabha,

Betting sleuths placed for any team during any

T20 league across the world. ACU chief Ajit Singh was un-

available for comment despite repeated attempts by The Indian Express. Last week, BCCI president

Sourav Ganguly declared that two TNPL franchises were suspended. Later, however, an official of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) said that no franchise was suspended. Two co-owners of Tuti Patriots had been expelled on advice from the TNCA's internal inquiry committee, the official said.

In September, *The Indian* Express had reported that an India player, an IPL regular and a Ranji Trophy coach were among those who figured in an internal investigation by the BCCI's ACU, which found rampant corruption in the

Sources involved with the probe had said that bookies and match-fixers, after taking control of a franchise through an illegal deal with the team owner, were running "the team in such a way that they make windfall gain in

betting". Ganguly had also said that at least one player involved in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy was approached by bookies during the latest edition of the premier national T20 tournament. The former Indian captain also said that the Karnataka Premier League

(KPL) was on hold. Corruption in various T20 leagues has kept the ACU busy over the last year. It is also probing a case where a Mumbai player red-flagged an approach from a team owner to indulge in spotfixing in the T20 Mumbai league.

Singh, the ACU chief, has in the past stated that the authorities need to introduce a law to

curb match-fixing. Ganguly has said that the ACU will have to be strengthened if corruption across leagues con-

tinue and had added that the current set-up will be evaluated next "We are dealing with it, we

system right. We have to get the best anti-corruption people and make it stronger. We will assess it, next year if it (corruption) doesn't stop, if it doesn't work then we will think of something else," Ganguly said.

part of an ongoing investigation.

Three encounter killings, same SOP, same officer

by the accused and had to fire in self-defence. And the officer who headed these three police teams was the same: V C Sajjanar.

A 1996 batch IPS officer, Sajjanar was Warangal Superintendent of Police in December 2008 when three youths on a motorcycle hurled acid on two women, both engineering students, while they were heading home on a twowheeler. The incident led to an uproar with people taking to the streets, demanding justice.

A day after they were arrested, the three suspects were dead, shot by police at night in the Mamunur forest, 30 km

Not to be left behind, the UP

Police boasted about "103 crimi-

nals killed and 1859 injured in

5178 police engagements in the

last two years. 17745 criminal

surrendered or cancelled their

own bail to go to jail." They were

responding to former UP Chief

Minister Mayawati who asked

police to "learn" from their

Justice Madan Lokur said that

such cheerleading is reflective of

a serious problem. "The 'celebra-

tions' by eminent persons is a

clear indication that they believe

that the justice delivery system

has collapsed and that speedy

justice is not possible, however

grave the offence. The views ex-

pressed in Parliament of lynch-

ing in public were perhaps the

trigger for that expression. The

time to introspect and improve

justice delivery is perhaps over —

Former Supreme Court Judge

Telangana counterparts.

loudly with me)."

from Warangal. Police said they had taken the trio to the forest area to retrieve evidences — acid stocks and the motorcycle used in the attack on the women.

One of the three, Sajjanar told reporters later, had whipped out a country-made weapon and tried to open fire. Acid was also thrown on the policemen, forcing them to fire in self-defence. The accused had not been handcuffed and no explanation was given on how one of them managed to get hold of a firearm.

In August 2016, a Greyhounds team under Sajjanar — it's the elite anti-

tragically," Lokur said.

As for the clamour on social

media, Raman Cheema of the

Internet Freedom Foundation

said: "It is not about the Internet

and social media alone, this has

been happening for some time, a

world view that there must be a

swift end to the lives of those sus-

pected of crimes, especially in

such crimes or terror-related

crimes. Of course, social media

and the Internet allow people to

respond swiftly. What is worry-

ing is that to put people on trial,

give them a chance to make their

case is essential to prove and

demonstrate that we are a

democracy. When people lost

sight of that too, it is disturbing."

University in the UK, described

the killings as "disheartening". "It

places bloodlust above the due

process of law. What we should

expect from the police is first pre-

Dr Surabhi Ranganathan, Lecturer of Law at Cambridge

former Naxalite Mohammed Naveemuddin on the outskirts of Hyderabad. Police said he tried to attack them and flee when they went to arrest him.

The operation to detect Nayeemuddin's presence in Shadnagar was led by then intelligence chief B Shivdhar Reddy. Nayeemuddin, police said, had used an AK-47 to fire at the police team from inside his Jeep. Before being posted as

Cyberabad police commissioner, Sajjanar was IG, Special Intelligence Branch. During his stint there, he was credited

were not handcuffed "as they were asked to search for the belongings of the veterinary doctor which they claimed they had hidden there". He said they attacked the police

open fire.

vention and then, if a crime does

happen, proper investigation. The

random act of violence that was

chosen instead should not fill

anyone with confidence. Are

celebrities cheering this so sure

that they are safe from similar po-

lice action and killings?" she said.

Professor of History in Delhi

University, who writes about so-

ciety and urban history, is "dis-

mayed by the celebrations".

"There seems to be an unwilling-

ness to reflect on what the abdi-

cation of law means for us all."

the result of "the intersection of

many things — a lack of belief in

the legal system, the inability to

think about the lives of those con-

sidered to be inconsequential,

ting across party lines, was loud

in Parliament where BJP's

Praise for "swift justice", cut-

and a frenzied social media".

Balachandran says it might be

Dr Aparna Balachandran,

Meenakshi Lekhi said the police are not given "weapons for show" and that it is a case of "reaping what one sows". "Better late than never," said Jaya Bachchan, SP's Rajya Sabha MP.

PDP's Rajya Sabha MP Mir Mohammed Fayaz said this "is how justice should be delivered". "Look how swiftly justice is delivered in Saudi Arabia. Does anyone wait there?" he said. Congratulating the police,

BJP's Diya Kumari tweeted: "At times, Karma has its own way of delivering justice. Congratulations #HyderabadPolice for vigilantly

doing their duty". TMC's Saugata Roy said he was "not a supporter of encoun-

ters" but "saw on Facebook that many people have praised this... people have this feeling in their hearts". Roy also wanted death penalty for rapists to be "served swiftly" — the call was endorsed

are getting the anti-corruption

The Bengaluru crime branch, meanwhile, has made a number of arrests related to alleged corruption and spot-fixing in the KPL, with the most high-profile arrest being that of former Karnataka captain C M Gautam. The owner of Belagavi Panthers Asfak Ali Thara, was also arrested as were bookies, other players, and support staff members as

The NGO has claimed that

Draft policy on education recommends extending ambit of RTE Act: Govt to Delhi HC

PRITAM PALSINGH NEW DELHI. DECEMBER 6

THE CENTRE on Friday informed the Delhi High Court that the draft policy on education has recommended extending the ambit of The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, to

"include early childhood education and secondary school education".

erage of the Act to all children between the ages of 3-18," the affidavit in the High Court by the Ministry of Human Resource

"This would extend the cov-Development said.

enroll and participate in quality school education. It said that the ministry is in

the process of finalising the National Education Policy (NEP) based on suggestions and inputs received from various stakeholders on the issue.

Presently, the RTE Act mandates free and compulsory education to children in the age

group of 6-14. The Centre was responding

she said.

to Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking free education for Economically Weaker Students (EWS) in unaided schools up to Class XII. Following which, the HC had asked the government to respond to the proposed

dents from these categories were being harassed by schools across the country to pay fees.

schools up to class VIII.

called Social Jurist, through its counsel Ashok Agarwal, has students across the country admitted under the RTE are facing claimed that, as per the Act, free education is provided to the threat of removal after pass-Disadvantaged Groups (DG) and ing Class VIII and the very objective of the Act — to help children EWS students in unaided gain access to education irre-The PIL has claimed that stuspective of their financial background — would be defeated if EWS students were not allowed to study till Class XII.

It further said, it will ensure that by 2030, all students will

amendment in the RTE Act. The plea, filed by an NGO

New Delhi

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 inlaws' 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-yearold 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

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 rela-

tionships." 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

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.

Bengaluru and was visiting Delhi.

"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 INU 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 D K Lobiyal alleging that names of all three external experts — Atul Gonsai from Saurashtra University, Anjana Gosain from I P University and T Chitralekha 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 Chitralekha could not be reached for a comment.

Sharma was among the shortlisted 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 shortlisted 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 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. T V 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

PRITAM PALSINGH 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

3 of family

suffer acid

New Delhi: Three members of a

family, including a three-year-

old boy, suffered minor burn in-

juries 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

Arya said, "An inquiry revealed

that nitric acid was being un-

loaded from the tanker outside

a factory, and it fell on the family

due to negligent handling of the

the tanker, Shiv Kumar; factory

employee Puran Chand; and fac-

acids like nitric acids. He has MCD

Police arrested the driver of

Arya said, "Gupta deals in

A case in the matter has been

pipe by the tanker driver."

tory owner Naresh Gupta.

and DPCC licences."

registered. **ENS**

DCP (North West) Vijayanta

the incident took place.

injuries



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 cannonshaped device that sprays atomised 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 vet 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".

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 AOI 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' condition 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.

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 contributions 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.

Thapar on Babri: Symbol of civilisation reduced to rubble

TANUSHREE GHOSH NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

HISTORIAN AND professor Romila Thapar remembered meeting 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 Satvagraha" 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

tant symbol of our civilisation was

reduced to rubble, and rubble remains as the reminder," she said Renunciation, she said, legit-

down, stone by stone".

"Through this act, an impor-

imised 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 SERVICENEW 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 continued

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 onetime 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

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".

BJP Purvanchal wing spars with AAP's Sanjay Singh New Delhi: BJP's Purvanchal lowing which his mother filed a "irresponsible statements on the

New Delhi: BJP's Purvanchal lowing which complaint with demonstration near AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh's North Avenue residence Friday over his lowing which complaint with complaint with said head against Singh factories.

comments on the NRC issue, fol-

lowing which his mother filed a complaint with police.

complaint with police.

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

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

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 "farcical 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 misrule 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 farcical 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 in-

formed 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, classwise curriculum for classes VI to XII, to be conducted by all Educational Vocational Guidance Counsellors," a bench of Chief Justice DNPatel 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 provide 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 Baijal 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.

10 GOVT & POLITICS



CANTEEN MATTERS

AT THE meeting which decided to do away with the subsidy for Parliament canteen, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury pointed out that the move may suit lawmakers but not the hundreds of employees and media personnel who come to Parliament in the morning and stay till late during the session. It would be unfair to expect them to pay high charges, he said, suggesting that the decision to withdraw subsidy should only affect the parliamentarians for whom it may not make much difference. Some members from the ruling side agreed with Chowdhury. So, sources said, the Speaker may consider the suggestion.

MISSING MINISTERS

THE RAJYA Sabha was adjourned for 10 minutes during the postlunch sitting Friday as Congress MP Jairam Ramesh and TMC's Derek O'Brien pointed out that not a single Cabinet minister was present in the House during the introduction of the private member's Bills. The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs informed the Chair that Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had taken a quick break to go to the washroom and would be back soon. However, the Opposition insisted that the House be adjourned for five minutes. When Prasad returned, he indulged in light banter with Ramesh, asking if one Cabinet minister was enough for him or he wanted more present.

LANGUAGE LANDMARK

RAJYA SABHA member Sarojini Hembram on Friday became the first member in 67 years since the inception of the Upper House to speak in Santhali. Her Zero Hour submission was simultaneously interpreted by Priti Priya Marandi, a PhD scholar in Hindi literature from JNU. Speaking in Santhali, one of the 22 scheduled languages, has become possible with the facilitation of simultaneous interpretation in all the 22 languages last year by Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu. Marandi was empanelled as Santhali interpreter after written and skill tests. Hembram succeeded in speaking in Santhali after two failed efforts earlier on account of adjournment and shortened discussion. She finally spoke, seeking Bharat Ratna for Raghunath Murmu.

Citizenship to those facing persecution will assure them of better lives: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

INDIAN CITIZENSHIP to those facingpersecution in their home countries will ensure that they get a better tomorrow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, in his first remarks after the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was cleared by the Union Cabinet.

The Bill, which seeks to grant citizenship to non-Muslims facing religious persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, will be introduced in Parliament on Monday.

Speaking at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit, Modi said, "Hundreds of people from the neighbouring countries, who are facing persecution in these countries, those who have faith in Mother India, with the road open for Indian citizenship, their better future will be ensured," Modi said, without naming the proposed law. Speaking on the issue of the

Ayodhya verdict, he said although a lot of apprehensions were expressed ahead of the Supreme Court's verdict, after it was pronounced, the people proved apprehensions wrong.

would be allowed to work without any fear, Modi said their "genuine" business decisions will not be questioned. "Earlier, when banks were nationalised, it was celebrated with fanfare... Our government showed the courage to merge banks and helped in recapitalisation. Before any action is taken, a scrutiny by a serving finance or banking expert will be conducted. A guideline will be issued shortly. There is pressure on the banking sector and we will work to improve it," Modi said.

Citizenship Bill to enter Lok Sabha Monday, whips issued

2019 CAB has new clause: Pending proceedings abate if person is eligible

ABANTIKA GHOSH

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

THE CITIZENSHIP (Amendment) Bill, 2019, which seeks to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslims who entered the country from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan until December 31, 2014, will be introduced in Lok Sabha Monday.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has permitted tabling of amendments to the Bill by members up to Monday morning since the Bill is also listed for consideration and passage the same day. Both BJP and Congress have issued whips, directing members to be present in the House.

The 2019 Bill has a provision which was not there in its 2016 avatar. The new provision states that proceedings pending against any person for his or her inability to meet the citizenship criteria earlier, if eligible for citizenship under provisions of the new Bill, will be granted citizenship and the proceedings will abate.

With an India entry cut-off Assuring bankers that they date of December 31, 2014 for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, Jains and Parsis — it leaves out Muslims — from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh, the Bill reduces the 11-year clause for such people to five years to prove their residency in India. The Bill itself does not mention religious persecution but it figures in the statement of purposes.

Cleared Wednesday by the Union Cabinet, the proposed law will not apply to a large part of the Northeast region — Arunachal



A protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Guwahati on Friday. Dasarath Deka

Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram (they have Inner Line Permit regime) and Sixth Schedule areas of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura (Mizoram too has Sixth Schedule areas). The Bill effectively leaves out just Manipur of all the North East states from complete or partial exemption from the ambit of the law.

The National Register of Citizens exercise in Assam, which has since been rejected by the state government, left out an estimated 19 lakh people, many of them Hindus. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said that the CAB will be passed before an NRC exercise is conducted across the country.

As the Bill heads to Parliament for passage, non-BIP parties stand divided. Parties like the JD(U) have given up opposition to the Bill and are ready to

back its passage. Trinamool chief national spokesman Derek O'Brien said: "This is the government's attempt to do NRC damage control. That is why it has been our position that NRC and CAB cannot be de-hyphenated and that is also why West bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said she will not allow NRC in the state. We call upon other states to resist it."

The statement of objects and reasons with the CAB details the history of Partition and the trans-border migration to India from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. "The constitutions of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh provide for a specific state religion. As a result, many persons belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities have faced persecution on grounds of

religion in those countries. Some of them also have fears about such persecution in their day-today life where right to practice. process and propagate their religion has been obstructed and restricted. Many such persons have fled to India to seek shelter and continue to stay in India even if their travel documents have expired or they have incomplete or no documents."

Such migrants can invite legal action under provisions of the Passport (Entry in India) Act, 1920 and the Foreigners Act ,1946. The government, however, exempted some migrants from prosecution through notifications issued in 2015 and 2016 and also made them eligible for long-term visa to stay in India through orders issued in 2016. The current Bill will make them eligible for Indian citizenship.

CAB, NRC two sides of same coin: Mamata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, DECEMBER 6

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) are two sides of the same coin, adding that she will fight against both.

Banerjee, while speaking at the Sanhati Dibas programme commemorating the death anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar said, "The Centre has pushed the economy towards bankruptcy. To divert attention, it has taken out NRC and CAB from its bag. CAB says only Hindus refugees will get (citizenship) and Muslims will not get. People who have come from Sri Lanka to Tamil Nadu are asking whether they will get it. They will not implement NRC in Tripura because the chief minister will have to go... NRC and CAB are two sides of the same coin. They will bring in CAB first and then implement NRC. They will say drive away infiltrators after bringing in CAB. Then they will go for NRC. We will not allow this to happen.'

She added, "... How many have died in Assam? Since Independence, people have come here, they are voters here, they have jobs here, they were born here. Now after so many years, you are asking us who is a citizen and who is not?"

Calling NRC and CAB unconstitutional, Banerjee said "Citizenship is a constitutional right. If one snatches citizenship, there will be another independence struggle... Please hold meetings at every booth, market, street corners and warn people. This is a struggle for our rights. Let us take this pledge. We will protest democratically. We will not allow NRC or CAB in our state. Whoever will protest, we will give support."

In identical affidavit, Amravati ACB too gives clean chit to Ajit Pawar

Row in LS over Cong MPs' conduct after Irani takes on Oppn

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

LOK SABHA was adjourned within half an hour in the afternoon after two Congress MPs, who allegedly moved towards Union minister Smriti Irani in a threatening manner, failed to appear in the House. Chairing the session, Meenakshi Lekhi did not allow the Congress Leader of the House to speak, mentioning that he had failed to get the MPs to the House, and adjourned the House till Monday.

In the morning, Dean Kuriakose and TN Prathapan – Congress MPs from Kerala — got into a shouting match with Irani when she rose to speak on the Hyderabad rape-murder and encounter in Zero Hour. She said Ranjan Congress' Adhir Chowdhury had communalised and politicised the issue.

Earlier, Chowdhury had, in reference to the Unnao case, said that in Uttar Pradesh, while a Ram temple was being built at the site of the demolished Babri mosque, "Sita was being set on fire". UP has become "adham pradesh" (inferior state), he had alleged.

Irani also pointed to TMC's Saugata Roy for not mentioning a similar incident in West Bengal's Malda. She launched a counter attack on the Opposition, saying the Unnao matter was being "communalised and politicised". "Yes, setting afire a woman is condemnable, a heinous crime. Yes, the rape and killing of a woman is inhuman, but do not politicise the issue. No one has ever communalised the issue in this House," the Amethi MP said.

She alleged that during "West Bengal panchayat election, rape was used as political weapon", and that the Unnao incident was "inhuman" and a "brutal crime" whose perpetrators should be

awarded death penalty. As she continued her attack, Prathapan and Kuriakose left their seats and entered the aisle near the Well. They were heard shouting as

they charged towards the treasury benches. Prathapan was seen rolling up his sleeve and both members were pulled back by their colleagues. An aggressive Irani was heard shouting at them: "What will you do?" She told Congress members not to shout at her. After the incident, as proceed-

ings began at 2.30 pm, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi said, "...we had made a specific request, through you, that their behaviour was highly condemnable; and they should apologise. I feel that deliberately they have not reached the House." He said that women mem-

bers were highly agitated. "I appeal to you that either they should be summoned and they should be directed to tender their apology, or else, they should be suspended from the House. This is my firm demand."

Lekhi then allowed MPs to speak on the issue. When Chowdhury arrived in the House about 20 minutes into the proceedings, he sought permission to speak but BIP members protested. Lekhi said: "Adhir ji, I had given you an hour's time but those MPs have not been produced." Chowdhury insisted that he be allowed to explain, but Lekhi cut him short and adjourned the House for the day. Irani sat quietly through the proceedings.

Members who spoke during a brief discussion on the incident included BJD MP Anubhav Mohanty, BJP MP SS Ahluwalia and BJP MP Rama Devi.

Mohanty said that not only women but even men in the House had been outraged by the behaviour of Congress MPs. Ahluwalia said it was an unfortunate incident when the House was discussing the very important issue of women safety. Rama Devi, who had earlier protested against the behaviour of SP MP Azam Khan forcing him to apologise, said mere apologies would not be enough this time and the MPs must be punished.

VIVEK DESHPANDE & MOHAMED THAVER NAGPUR, MUMBAI, DEC 6

MAHARASHTRA'S ANTI-CORRUPTION Bureau (ACB) office in Amravati too has filed an affidavit before the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court, exonerating former state Deputy Chief Minister and Water Resources Minister Ajit Pawar of any wrongdoing in the irrigation projects under its jurisdiction.

Like its Nagpur counterpart, which filed an affidavit before the High Court on November 27 − a day before the new Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress dispensation took office in the state — giving a clean chit to NCP leader Ajit Pawar, ACB SP, Amravati, Shrikant Dhivre too filed an affidavit before the High Court the same day, stating that the ACB hadn't found anything to put blame of the alleged multicrore irrigation scam on Pawar. The wording of the affidavit is exactly the same as the one submitted by Nagpur ACB SP Rashmi Nandedkar.

Three letters

The ACB has said it relied primarily on three letters from the Water Resources Department of the then BJP-led government which were received in the past



CM Devendra Fadnavis, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari. The PM will be attending a conference of police chiefs in the city. Express

six months. The clean chit came a day before the Sena-NCP-Congress combine Maha Vikas Aghadi government was sworn in. Also, the latest affidavit appears to differ with the affidavit filed by the ACB last November that had said that Pawar had intervened in the process of award of contracts for irrigation projects.

ACB chief Param Bir Singh refused to comment on why the two affidavits filed within a a year appeared to differ. He said, "All the reasons behind our findings are

EXPLAINE

mentioned in the affidavit." Mumbai Police commissioner and the then ACB chief Sanjay Barve, who filed the earlier affidavit on November 26, 2018 apprising the court of investigations in the case till that point, did not respond to calls or messages.

On filing of the affidavit on November 28, a day before the Maha Vikas Aghadi government was sworn in, an ACB officer said they had been told to file an affidavit about the progress of investigation before November 28 by

the Nagpur bench of the High Court.

"The fact that the political developments happened around the same time has nothing to do with the affidavit. It was based on letters we received over the past six months," the officer said.

On the different findings of the two affidavits, the officer said the latest affidavit was based on three letters received during the current year. **FULL REPORT ON**

www.indianexpress.com

clean chit to Ajit Pawar in irrigation scam

Fadnavis questions

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE MUMBAI, DECEMBER 6

FORMER CHIEF Minister and Opposition leader Devendra Fadnavis on Friday questioned the clean chit given to former Deputy Chief Minister and Water Resources Minister Ajit Pawar by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in the multi-crore irrigation scam that rocked the state about a decade ago.

He said that the ACB findings that led to the agency exonerating Pawar of the allegations he had been facing would not stand legal scrutiny. Speaking to The Indian Express, Fadnavis said, "I don't agree with the findings of the affidavit. How can one affidavit of the ACB contradict its own affidavit filed in the same case earlier. I won't say that it's a clean chit because not even 50 per cent of the tenders under question have been probed. I don't think that the court will accept these findings as they are too summary."

On November 27, in an affidavit filed before the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court, the ACB gave a clean chit to Pawar. The affidavit was filed a day before the Congress-NCP-Shiv Sena government took oath at Shivaji Park on November 28.

As reported by *The Indian*

Express, in the 16-page, November 27 affidavit, Rashmi Nandedkar, ACB SP, Nagpur stated, "The Chairman of the Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation (VIDC)/Minister of Water Resources Department (WRD) cannot be held responsible for the acts of executing agencies, as there is no legal duty on his part."

Nandedkar was referring to Pawar's tenure as Chairman, of VIDC and the Minister of Water Resources Department during the Congress-NCP government in the state.

Asked if his government played a role in facilitating the clean chit to Pawar, Fadnavis said, "It is a baseless presumption. I took oath of office as CM on November 23. On November 26, 1 had resigned."

"Ajit Pawar, who took oath as Deputy Chief Minister on November 23, had tendered his resignation in the early hours on November 26," he added.

"The affidavit was filed on November 27. Where is the question of my government intervening in the matter. Secondly, the investigations in the irrigation scam are ongoing. Thirdly, and most importantly, such matters don't come to the CM or government. The investigating agencies pursue them as per process," he said.

Murder accused, alleged conspirator, victim's son in fray here

ABHISHEK ANGAD

TAMAR. DECEMBER 6

TAMAR CONSTITUENCY is poised for an electoral face-off between a murder accused, the alleged conspirator in the case and the murder victim's son.

The contest for Tamar — a seat reserved for tribals and which goes to polls on December 7 — is between Vikas Munda (IMM), the son of slain MLA Ramesh Munda; Kundan Pahan (Jharkhand Party), murder accused and a surrendered Maoist; and alleged conspirator Gopal Krishna Patar alias Raja Peter, who is fighting on an

NCP ticket. Vikas is the only one campaigning in person. The other two candidates are in jail, and their families are helping them campaign. Ramesh was shot in 2008, when he was a JD (U) MLA from Phase 2 today, CM in the fray

TWENTY CONSTITUENCIES of Jharkhand vote on Saturday. Sixteen of them are reserved for STs and one for SCs. A tough electoral fight is expected in Jamshedpur East constituency, where CM Raghubar Das will take on rebel BJP MLA and former minister Saryu Roy, who is an independent candidate. Congress's Gourav Vallabh is also in the fray. A significant fight is also expected in Khunti, which saw the Pathalgadi movement. In the last election, the JMM had won eight seats, BJP seven, AJSU three, and two were won by other parties.

this constituency. Kundan, including other Maoists, allegedly carried out the killing. Police had said that Kundan was wanted in 128 criminal cases for the murder of several policemen and looting a van carrying crores in cash. He surrended in May 2017.

Barrigada village of Tamar constituency is Pahan's home. The village lacks basic facilities such as roads, and toilets have reached few houses. Kundan's elder brother Hari said, "Kundan joined CPI (Maoist) because our land was forcibly taken away from us... Now





Election officials with EVM machines at Tamar constituency in Jharkhand on Friday. PTI

New Delhi

that he has surrendered, he wants to fight the election and we

helped him campaign..." Based on Kundan's confession, the NIA, which was investigating the case, said that Peter was the "mastermind and originator of the conspiracy" to kill MLA Ramesh. The NIA had said, "It was revealed that Raja Peter had political ambitions and in order to achieve this, he criminally conspired with the Maoists, gave them huge cash and a weapon to carry out the given task. He also took the support of Maoists in winning the by-election after the death of the sitting MLA and subsequently became a minister in

the Jharkhand government." While campaigning, Peter's wife Arti said the allegations were

"baseless and people know it". Budhram Suansi, a resident of Tamar, said that Peter's wife was seeking votes on sympathy grounds. "He helped a lot of people and has a support base. His wife is capitalising on it. There will

be a tough contest," said Suansi. After Ramesh's death, Peter contested the by-election and defeated then Chief Minister and JMM chief Shibu Soren. He was again elected in 2009 Assembly polls and went on to become a minister. However, in 2014, Vikas won from this constituency on an AJSU ticket. He later joined the JMM. Many residents said a lot of issues in the constituency need redressal, and people support Vikas. Mohammad Igbal, a voter, said: "Many don't like the candidate, but they will vote for JMM.

Also in the fray is AJSU Durlabh Singh Munda and BJP's Reeta Devi. Iqbal said that AJSU has a support base of OBC community and the contest could be "triangular". Tamar is a Maoist-affected constituency with 2 lakh electors.

II KILLED IN CUSTODY TELANGANA

VOICES IN SUPPORT



"There was palpable anger among the people of the country and result of that has come out as an

VIJAY RUPANI, GUJARAT CM



"This (encounter) will instill terror of the police among criminals. And civilised people of the society will be happy with this."

TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT, UTTARAKHAND CM



"They (the accused) tried to attack and escape when they were taken to spot (where the crime

occurred), so the encounter was inevitable to save their (police) lives."

BSYEDIYURAPPA, KARNATAKA CM



"Hyderabad gangrape accused killed. Whatever happened, howsoever it happened, but the right thing happened."

ANIL VIJ, HARYANA HOME MINISTER



"Those running away from law...how far could they run from justice. I am happy that someone has got

justice but real happiness will come when there will be effective preventive security arrangements and social atmosphere that such heinous crimes never happen with any sister or daughter."

AKHILESH YADAV. **SP CHIEF**



"Police should not treat people accused of such crimes like government guests. Instead, like the

Hyderabad Police has done, they should face strict legal action and this will lead to considerable control of such crimes."

MAYAWATI,

BSP CHIEF



"The action of the Hyderabad /Cyberabad police was correct and timely. If the accused had escaped, police

would have been under pressure. The incident has happened during inquiry and it needs to be defended."

BHASKAR RAO

BENGALURU POLICE COMMISSIONER



"This morning I woke up to the news and **JUSTICE HAS BEEN** SERVED!!#Encounter"

AKKINENI NAGARJUNA. TOLLYWOOD STAR



"The (encounter) file should be treated as closed. There is no need to probe how and why it took place...

Now the victim's soul can rest in peace... Not only her but also all women who have suffered from sexual crimes."

PRANITI SHINDE,

CONGRESS MLA AND FORMER UNION MINISTER SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE'S DAUGHTER



"Great work #hyderabadpolice ..we salute u"





"Justice has been served!" PVSINDHU, BADMINTON STAR



"Justice has been done." BHUPESH BAGHEL, CHHATTISGARH CM



People pay floral tributes to the Hyderabad rape-murder victim on Friday. Her body was found at the site on November 27. AP

Amid celebration, voices of caution: Let law prevail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

AMID A chorus of voices in both Houses of Parliament endorsing the encounter killing by Telangana Police of the four accused in the gangrape and murder of a veterinary doctor in Hyderabad, there were a few voices of caution and dissent that cut across party lines.

Condemning the incident, BJP MP Maneka Gandhi told reporters outside Parliament: "Whatever happened was terrible for the country. You cannot kill people because you want to. You cannot take the law in your hands. They (accused) would have been hanged anyway."

"We are not savages," said Naresh Gujral, Raiva Sabha MP of Shiromani Akali Dal.

"Though I feel very strongly for women's security because I have two daughters, the due process of law is to be followed. The problem is the process of law has become very slow. But still, there has to be process of law. This way, we are walking towards anarchy. We are not savages. There were four accused and a full investigation did not take place and we do not know whether all four were involved or not. This is dangerous," he said.

Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, said: "Justice has to be delivered by the judiciary, there should be a process followed. It should not be a debate in favour or against anyone here. This has happened while the security forces were carrying out their duty, there could have been an error, no wrong messages should go out."

RJD MP Manoj Iha said the encounter was an affirmation for a "Taliban style of government".

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

ready been ordered in the matter.

THE CONGRESS on Friday said that it would

not be right to comment on the encounter

killing of the Hyderabad gangrape-murder

accused when a magisterial inquiry has al-

Amee Yajnik and S Jothimani and party

spokesperson Ragini Nayak, Yajnik said "we

should wait, because definitely if this kind of

incidents take place post heinous crime and

during an investigation, we need to hear

what the police version is and what the po-

lice have to say because all encounters can-

not be bracketed into the same kind of gen-

At a press conference conducted by MPs

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

eral terminology".



Maneka Gandhi at Parliament House PTI

"Even that girl would not have been happy. She would have wanted that these people are subjected to due process of law. The end had to be death. They would have been hanged," he said. "But we must realise that if we celebrate these kind of things, it tells a lot about what kind of nation we are getting converted into. I believe it's an affirmation for a Taliban style of governance. I did not agree when MPs were making demands for instant justice in Parliament... We are sick."

Trinamool Congress Leader in the Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien said the problem needs a solution without politics. "West Bengal has 48 fast track courts of which 46 are for dealing with cases of violence against women. I strongly believe it's a social evil. We need to solve this without politics. Quick justice is the need of the hour, but we need the rule of law. This is a very emotional issue, a sensitive issue," he said.

Meanwhile, Delhi RSS leader Rajiv Tuli tweeted, "No place for sane voices.. @Manekagandhibjp has spoken against #Encounter which seems perfect and sane voice. Where are we headed as a society??"

She added that "the fact remains that

when people are looking at these kind of is-

sues, they are looking at what the justice sys-

tem is doing" and that lakhs of such cases

magisterial inquiry, what can the Congress

say about the police version?" Nayak said

that while it was legitimate to ask questions

about the Hyderabad case, there should also

be questions about why the accused in the

Development Minister Smriti Irani of "politi-

cising rape" during a discussion on women's

safety. Jothimani said, "We didn't politicise this

issue, but when she stood up she aggressively

politicised the issue." She added that the gov-

ernment shifted the discussion from rape.

The Congress accused Women and Child

Unnao rape case got bail so easily.

Nayak added, "When there is an ongoing

were "waiting for justice".

CALL FOR INQUIRY

NOT EVERYONE is buying the police

claim on the sequence of events.

Many questions are being asked:

Why were the accused taken there

at dawn, why were they not hand-

cuffed, why were police pistols not



locked.

"I have given police stating instructions to immediately arrest culprits in such case and file chargesheet in

Several

remain

questions

fast-track courts in a few days. The culprits should be punished through strict laws. It is not right to take law into one's own hands. Law should take its course."

MAMATA BANERJEE, WEST BENGAL CM



"There must be a thorough inquiry to know if it (is a) genuine encounter or whether it is anything else. As a

responsible person, I will ask for a thorough inquiry."

P CHIDAMBARAM, **CONGRESS MP**



"Fake encounters give people false satisfaction of justice and frees us from our responsibility of

making our Criminal Justice System speedy and effective that is capable of creating real fear of law. We need to strike for speedy justice in each case."

HASMUKH PATEL ADDITIONAL DGP, GUJARAT POLICE



"It is something to be worried about, the way people have lost their faith in the criminal justice system...'

ARVIND KEJRIWAL, **DELHICM**

SHASHI THAROOR, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM CONGRESS MP

Cong treads cautiously,

says matter under probe

'Asking for blood not function of Parliament'

ON A day when a large section of parliamentarians expressed appreciation for the encounter killing of the four accused in the gangrape and murder of a Hyderabad veterinarian by police on Friday, Congress MP **SHASHI THAROOR** tells **LIZ MATHEW** that asking for blood is not the function of Parliament.



Our role to be a society is based on the rule of law. Everyone has been clamouring for justice for the victim of the horrible, heinous crime, but at the same time, justice should come through a judicial process. We don't know the full details. If it turns out that the police really was facing a risk of violence from the suspected criminals, naturally pre-emptive action on their part may be justified. But as a gen-

eral principle, it should remain that the guilty

must be punished through due process of law,

because the law of the jungle cannot prevail in

our law enforcement practice.



This is the second instance in Telangana of an instant justice system delivery. Do you think it is a trend now?

We already have toughest rape laws

after Nirbhaya (the December 16, 2012 rape case). Sadly, not even that could prevent the incidents. What we also need is a comprehensive policy of prevention, we need to see that our police is strengthened... We need a serious level of gender sensitisation, starting from Class 1. Our boys must understand, not only mothers and goddesses are to be respected, but the girls also. What we needed is a complete prevention approach.

Are you going to raise this in Lok Sabha? The problem is that everyone who was taking the floor on behalf of their party, in-

cluding my party, spoke about punitive ac-

tion. I don't believe that's the whole answer.

Do you think lawmakers and enforcement agencies are reacting to mob demands? I have been very concerned. Even on the

Nirbhaya Act, I was unhappy with the amendment to the Juvenile Justice Bill to try people under the age of 18 as adults... I believe that if we look at exceptional cases, we make bad laws...

An argument in favour of such quick action is the undue delay in delivering justice.

Many people feel that our justice system is slow, non-efficient and weighed down by procedural delay and very often at the end, not enough punishment is meted out... There's always a cry for blood when a tragedy such as Unnao, Hyderabad and Kathua (rape cases)... Asking for blood, I don't think, is rightly the function of Parliament...

FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

'Could have been in jail, given dog food... Did you have to kill them?'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD. DECEMBER 6

"TAKE ME to to the spot where my husband was killed and shoot me. We were married for only a year, now I do not want to live without him," cried Renuka, the pregnant wife of Chennakeshavulu (20), one of the four accused who were killed in an encounter at Chatanpally near Hyderabad early Friday.

His mother said: "They should have given us some time. We were told we would be able to meet him after 14 days of arrest. This was only the eighth day. Had someone told us they would be killed, they could have informed us, we could have met him before he died. You could have kept them in jail, fed them dog food, did you have to kill them?" The family members of the four accused

in the gangrape-murder of a veterinary doctor in Hyderabad were shocked by the news of the encounter. The mother of prime accused \Mohammed Arif (26), Molanbi, was inconsolable. "I have lost my son. What do you want me to say?" she asked when the media approached her. "Our son is lost. What will people of the

village say? We are very poor. We do daily

wage labour. We leave our son's fate to god. I curse the friends he found for himself." she

"Why was only my son and three others killed like this?" Yellappa, the father of another accused\ Jollu Navin (20), wondered. Rajappa, the father of another accused Jollu Shiva (20), asked why he was not allowed to meet his son.

Later in the afternoon, the family members left for Mahabubnagar district hospital to receive the bodies after postmortem examination.

The father of the veterinary doctor responded that true justice was impossible as they had lost their daughter. "But today's incident has given us some relief and lessened the pain a bit. We still have to move on. We did not get much time to think about has happened to our family in the past week," he

The victim's sister said they did not expect this turn of events.

"We thought there would a trial and the accused would be sentenced to death in a couple of months, but now that it has happened this way, it will be a deterrent to such crimes in future. We welcome it and thank everyone who supported us," she told the media.

MHA asks states to use modern tools, training to ensure safety of women

NHRC sends team to Hyderabad to probe encounter

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

IN THE wake of Hyderabad gangrape and murder case and the Unnao incident, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has sent an advisory to all states and Union Territories, asking them to ensure the safety of women and use all modern tools and training put at their disposal by the ministry.

The MHA advisory, signed by Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla and sent to all state Chief Secretaries on Thursday, reminds them of the various advisories the ministry has sent to them on women's safety in the past and seeks personal intervention of the chief Secretary to ensure safety of women.

"I am writing in connection with the unfortunate incidents of heinous sexual offences against women and girls reported recently. Safety of women and girls is a high priority for the Government. While Government has taken steps to strengthen legislative provisions to deal with such offences in a stringent manner, for effective deterrence, it is imperative that the police is easily accessible and is able to deal with any complaint on crime against women in a timely and pro-active manner," Bhalla has said in the advisory.

The advisory has asked states to ensure strict compliance with the provision in law to file Zero FIRs in event of a cognizable offence, including sexual assault on women.

"It had also been re-iterated (in a May 2016 advisory) that failure in this regard by any police official is a punishable offence. States/UTs were also requested to undertake refresher courses for police personnel on this essential aspect. As you may appreciate. it is necessary to ensure that police personnel are much more responsive and sensitive in han-

dling complaints on crimes against women and girls," Bhalla has said.

The advisory has asked state police forces to increasingly use the Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO) portal ITSSO enables every state/UT to monitor the completion of investigation in serious sexual offences in the prescribed two-month time period. ITSSO is based on Crime and **Criminal Tracking and Networks System** (CCTNS), which MHA has said should be updated regularly.

Meanwhile, taking cognizance of the death of the four accused in the Hyderabad case in an encounter by Telangana Police on Friday, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday decided to send a probe team to Hyderabad.

"The Commission is of the opinion that this matter is required to be probed very carefully. Accordingly, it has asked its Director General (Investigation) to immediately send a team for a fact finding on the spot investigation into the matter," an NHRC statement said. Acknowledging that such encounters send

a wrong message, the NHRC has said, "The incident which has taken place now clearly indicates that the police personnel were not properly alert and prepared for any untoward activity by the accused on the spot, which resulted into death of all four. The deceased had been arrested by the police during investigation and a judgment in the matter by the competent court was yet to be pronounced.

"If the arrested persons were actually guilty, they were to be punished as per law pursuant to the directions of the competent court. Death of four persons in alleged encounter with the police personnel when they were in their custody, is a matter of concern for the Commission," the statement said. **FULL REPORT ON**

www.indianexpress.com

NCW chief says legal system must be followed

ESHAROY NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

NATIONAL COMMISSION for Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma, speaking on the encounter killing of the four accused of the gangrape and murder of a Hyderabad veterinarian, said Friday that while justice had been served, it should have been meted out through the due process of law.

"We all wanted capital punishment for the accused in this heinous crime, but through due judicial process through the judicial system. We have a legal system in place, and this must be followed. I cannot comment on the encounter and the role of the police before an inquiry is conducted. But prima facie from what we are hearing, if the suspects were truly trying to escape, then the decision of the police was correct. However, we do not know yet that this was the case, in the absence of a proper inquiry," Sharma said.

"As far as punishment is concerned, it is the court's job, after trial, to decide, even if these four accused were actually the one's involved in the crime - that was for the court to determine," she said.

The NCW on November 29 sent its team to conduct their own inquiry in the rape and murder. The team had met with the victim's family as well as with the Telangana police.

The NCW was expected to submit its report to the Union and State governments Friday.

Preliminary observations made by the

team said that police officials had "delayed taking action in this case". "The victim's family was shunted between two police stations citing jurisdiction

of the location where the victim was last seen... Police came into action only the next day, though the victim's family had reached out to them immediately after the victim's cell phone was switched off," the report says. The inquiry committee, headed by NCW member Shyamlal Kunder, further says that

victim's family has still not been given any pro-

tection, that there was no woman investigat-

ing officer in the team investigating the case, and that there was no police patrol in the area "Police officials claim that the CCTV footage from the toll plaza is not clear, which is strange. The lorry driver and cleaner parked their vehicle on the roadside and they consumed alcohol in the vicinity of the tol plaza, but the police didn't bother inquiring

the reason for either," says the report. "...Had they come in to action immediately the mishap could have been avoided. don't see the seriousness yet, they still haven't been able to recover the mobile phone of the victim which could have answers to so many questions in the case,' Sharma says in the report.

New Delhi

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 @PHNSYIMF. 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 Konoon in New Delhi 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

DEEPTIMANTIWARY 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 I M 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 August 25, Quddusi and BPYadav 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 met Justice Shukla at his residence in Lucknow and "delivered the illegal gratification".

FULL REPORT ON 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".

Abench 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 it's 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.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

WORDLY WISE

THE STRUGGLE OF MAN AGAINST POWER IS THE STRUGGLE OF MEMORY AGAINST FORGETTING

— MILAN KUNDERA

The Indian EXPRESS

∽ FOUNDED BY ∽ RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

CRIME AS PUNISHMENT

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

HEN 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

HE 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 must 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 had 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

HE 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.

Strangers in their own land



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

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 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 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.

and pluralistic values that

guided our freedom struggle

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 religionbased 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**



Ambedkar Without Caste

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

Badri Narayan

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

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

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.

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 maybe 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.

New Delhi

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 num-

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".

ber of the engineers arrested is about 300,

the association claims that 1,350 engineers

are in jail.

5 THE IDEAS PAGE

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



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 "yatri" 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



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leadership in Islamabad. 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 longterm 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

Three, in General Bajwa, we have a

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



ulio 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 middleclass, 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-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 fallout 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 mur der 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

silent 'hammer-blows', which the leaders could not ignore. IT'S A RECESSION Unlike in Germany, they do

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.

Jagruti 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

New Delhi

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 the blood of inno-

LETTER OF THE WEEK

THIS REFERS TO the the article.

DATA VOID

'Between lines of a survey' (IE, December 4). It is premised on the fact that there is a "deliberate respondent bias" in government surveys and data collectors and enumerators are "poorly trained". This is either an erroneous argument or suggest that the programmes are targeted at the wrong beneficiary. The authors say that correcting this state-of-affairs will take time. It is disconcerting to the ordinary citizen that the country will be living in a data void for an unspecified period

Varin Dhir, Ahmedabad

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

of time.

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

The Left's last gasp

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



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 INU 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

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

come to Lahore on his landmark "bus vatra".

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

tens of thousands of ordinary citizens, desir-

ing the reunification of the two Germanys,

dealt hammer-blows on it. Something simi-

lar, though not identical, has happened be-

tween 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-uni-

fication of our two countries, but reconcilia-

tion between two parts of a common civilisa-

Modi and leaders of Pakistan's military-civil-

ian 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, for

talks to New Delhi. Alternatively, he should

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 "tri-

umph" for India and "loss" for Pakistan — the

military establishment in Rawalpindi can de-

liver better results than the wobbly civilian

Why should Modi meet both Imran Khan

go to Islamabad and meet them.

Once this fundamental truth is realised,

tional community.

In Germany, the Berlin Wall fell because

and Pakistan has been pierced.

We cannot sidestep the role of these "JNU fieftains", 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, INUTA, 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 fieftains" 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 protestors 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 fieftain" 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.

What comes out clearly from the protests is the time-tested methodology of alluding to a higher cause to divert attention. If it was "struggle against imperialism" from the Seventies till the late Nineties, it is now the illusory "machinations of the RSS" that are set

to "destroy the ethos of the varsity". Reams of newsprint have been devoted to this newfound justification for the protest

without realising that facts prove otherwise. The RSS, through its many social activities, has been instrumental in providing education all over the country and thousands of its volunteers, many of whom are INU alumni, have devoted their entire lives for this noble cause. Having been at the forefront of student activism in JNU, I can proudly claim that right-wing student activism in INU was always independent and self-motivated and in the worldview of the RSS, this campus was and still is like any other institution of higher learning.

Let's look at the facts. The UGC and HRD ministry have rolled back the fee hike and the powerful committee set up by the MHRD has asked the authorities to take decisions only after consulting the stakeholders, including students. Why are these students still agitating?

Being an erstwhile student leader myself, I am not against student activism or justified agitations. But one must also move ahead with classes once demands are met.

> Mahapatra is an advocate, and former president, JNUSU

ress.com

In Kashmir, CAPF deployment three times the normal

NAVEEDIQBAL

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 Amarnath Yatra.

Post-August 5, the CAPF deployment increased to 653 companies. Of these, about 20 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 with-

out 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.

> **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

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-

SARKEGUDA KILLINGS

DIPANKAR GHOSE

RAIPUR. DECEMBER 6

FIVE DAYS after it emerged that the

Justice V K Agarwal judicial commis-

sion had indicted security forces

The encounter in question oc-

people were killed and 10 were in-

jured after security forces claimed

they were attacked by a Maoist

meeting and opened retaliatory fire

Villagers, activists

demand fresh FIR

against Raman, cops

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 wagf 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 police on Friday produced Sudhir and Phool Singh in

the dancers stops dancing.



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.

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.

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.

at his Gandhi Nagar residence.

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**

Sources said Singh and

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. curred in June 2012, in which 17

Soon after their release, Mankotia left for his home, but Singh was asked to stay indoors

While Singh has claimed that 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 onemember 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 the meeting had Maoists, 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 CRPF S 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 (intel-

ligence) 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.

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.

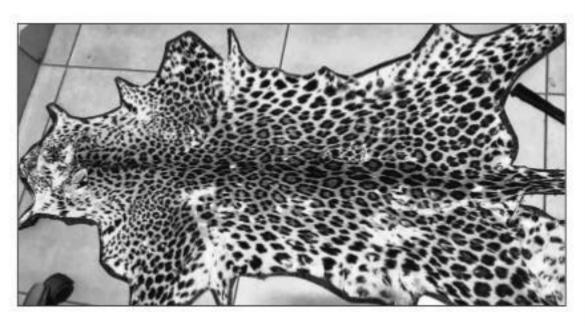
However, Anumita Roy Choudhury of the Centre for Science and Environment, speaking to The Indian Express, pointed to a 2017 study which was a joint initiative of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Public Health Foundation of India, the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)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

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to 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

WILDLIFECRIMEIN2018

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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%
Total	388	100%
Iotal	200	100%

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.

SIMPLY PUT

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?



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.



THIS WORD MEANS: VIRTUAL AUTOPSY

How to inspect bodies without cutting them up

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.

Developed 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.

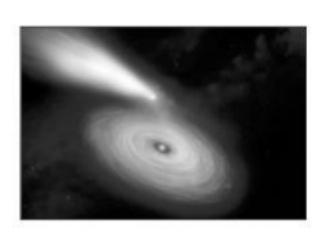
FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

WHY PLANET ORBITING WHITE DWARF STARIS A BREAKTHROUGH DISCOVERY

SOME 4.5 billion years from today, our Sun will run 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 Valparaíso 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.

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

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.

South and Southeast Asia to carry out these

"virtual autopsies", the Minister said.

A 2013 paper titled 'Virtopsy (virtual autopsy): A new phase in forensic investigation' said: "An autopsy (postmortem examination, autopsia 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 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 ses-

sion 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 of 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 vicechancellor, 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, adhoc/temporary/contract guest 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 1500 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 in 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-

New Delhi

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 120day 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".

19 ECONOMY





\$63.92

SENSEX: 40,445.15 ▼ 334.44 NIFTY: 11,921.50 ▼ 96.90 NIKKEI: 23,354.40 ▲ 54.31 HANG SENG: 26,498.37 ▲ 281.33 FTSE: 7,202.34 ▲ 64.49 DAX: 13,089.12 ▲ 34.32

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

'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

■ Birla's comments come nearly a fortnight after global CEO of Vodafone Nick Read made similar comments

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.

■ 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

to survive

Birla, who also serves as chairman of the Aditya Birla

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.

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.

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 combined entity of

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.

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

₹71.20

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

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 ecommerce, 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 notifica-

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

IN ONE of the biggest vehicle re-

calls in the country, Maruti

Suzuki India (MSI) on Friday an-

nounced a recall of more than

60,000 units of the petrol ver-

sion of the smart hybrid (SHVS)

variants of the Ciaz, Ertiga and

XL6 vehicle models for rectify-

manufacturer said, "The com-

pany will inspect 63,493 vehi-

cles of petrol SHVS of Ciaz,

Ertiga and XL6 for a possible is-

sue with the Motor Generator

tween January 1, 2019 and

November 21, 2019 are the ones

occurred in the MGU during

ternate mobility arrangements,

if required. From Friday, owners

of the suspected vehicles under

this recall campaign will be

contacted by MSI dealers for in-

being recalled, MSI said.

placement free of cost.

Models manufactured be-

A possible defect may have

In a statement, the auto

ing faulty MGU.

Unit (MGU).'

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

NOTIFICATION ON NEW FEMA RULES

■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

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

Maruti recalls 63,493 units of Ciaz,

Ertiga, XL6 to fix faulty component

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 Walmartbacked Flipkart with offline retail-

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

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.

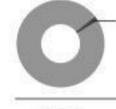
Yes Bank was the biggest laggard in the Sensex pack on Friday, falling 9.82 per cent after Moody's downgraded the lender's ratings.

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



witnessed by auto component **industry in 2013-14**

2%: Fall in turnover.



50%: Current capacity utilisation of auto components industry, falling from peak of around 80 per cent

Value of exports during April-September, registering growth of 2.7 per cent

₹51,397 CRORE:

₹35,096 CRORE: Value of automotive aftermarket segment

during April-September, registering

growth of 4 per cent ₹57,574 CRORE:

Value of imports during April-September, registering decline of 6.7 per cent



FACTORS ADVERSELY AFFECTING EXPANSION PLANS OF INDUSTRY:

- Subdued vehicle demand
- Recent investments made for
- transition to BS-VI from BS-IV
- Liquidity crunch

■ Lack of clarity on policy for electrification of vehicles

₹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

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

"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

STEVEN MNUCHIN US TREASURY SECRETARY

economy"

of India had, in April last year, asked payment firms to ensure their data were stored exclusively on local servers, setting a tight six-month deadline for compliance.

US firms like Google,

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 Frank Kustoff. PTI

after he was forced to bail out of-

fice-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

Son last month said he mis-

public offering (IPO).

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 guestion from Congressman David

tion of the emerging field of arti-

ficial intelligence (AI), announc-

stitute with Tokyo University.

guts in the world on doing invest-

conference. "Too much guts,

sometimes I lose a lot of money,'

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."

Ma, who stepped back from run-

ning Alibaba to focus on philan-

That approach contrasts with

With the highly leveraged

Son responded.

Son "probably has the biggest

spection and replacement of Saudi Arabia, Russia push



of Energy Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud and Russia Energy Minister Alexander Novak in Vienna on December 6. Reuters

New Delhi

REUTERS

VIENNA, DECEMBER 6

SAUDI ARABIA and Russia spearheaded a deal on Friday in which OPEC and its allies committed to ment," Ma told attendees to the 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

than 40 per cent of the world's oil. Under the new deal, OPEC will shoulder 372,000 bpd in fresh cuts and non-OPEC producers an extra 131,000 bpd, a source told Reuters.

the first three months of 2020, shorter than the six- or 12month scenarios some OPEC members wanted.

The cuts offset expected increases from countries that are not part of OPEC+, including top producer the US. Eleven of OPEC's 14 member states are participating while Iran, Libya and Venezuela are exempt. OPEC+ adds Russia and nine others — Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, South Sudan

MGU fault may impact mechanism of hybrid cars IN THE so-called 'mild hybrid' car models, a belt drive is used to start the internal combustion engine through its

motor generator unit or MGU, which, once started, drives the engine motor-generator to charge the batteries. A problem with the MGU could impact the working of the smart hybrid mechanism of the cars under question.

the faulty parts.

EXPLAINE

"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 ve-

hicles can visit the company manufacturing by an overseas website and fill in the chassis global part supplier, the company said, adding that vehicles number to check if their vehicle requiring replacement of faulty needs attention. part will be retained for part re-The chassis number is em-

bossed on the vehicle ID plate It said dealers may make aland 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

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.

Society of Indian Automobile

through deeper oil cuts

Venezuela Oil Minister Manuel Quevedo, Saudi Arabia Minister hopes to drive commercializa-

ing on Friday it will spend 20 billion yen (\$184 million) over 10 years funding an AI research in-

on cutting more than its quota. OPEC and allied producers, the so-called OPEC+, pump more OPEC+ will deepen cuts for

and Sudan.

Aramco shares to start trading from Dec 11: Saudi exchange

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 mi-

nus 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

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 deci-

sion to invest in Alibaba was

epaper.indianex

driven by a gut feeling. Other entrepreneurs Son met at that long-time ally Ma. time "did not have true belief in Ma said Son initially tried to invest \$50 million in the e-comtheir heart. I can feel," Son said. "We are the same animal. We merce firm, but that he declined are both a little crazy," he said of saying it was too large a sum -



part of a pattern of offering big cheques to company founders that continued with WeWork cofounder Adam Neumann. Son's comments come weeks

iudged 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

thropy. **REUTERS**

BRIEFLY

24x7NEFT

transactions

from Dec 16

Mumbai: In a bid to promote

digital transactions, the RBI on Friday said round-the-

clock transactions will be al-

lowed under the National

Electronic Funds Transfer

(NEFT) system from

GC Chaturvedi

NSE Chairman

New Delhi: The NSE on

Friday said it has appointed

Public Interest Director

Girish Chandra Chaturvedi

its new chairman. The ap-

pointment comes following

submits report

for FY21 to FM

New Delhi: The Finance

Commission on Friday sub-

mitted its report for the fi-

nancial year 2020-21 to

Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman.

ONGC lists

India INX

listing platform.

MTN issue on

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

BPSLassets:

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

Kolkata: Coal India Limited

(CIL) on Friday said it has re-

laxed norms for supplying

the fuel to its customers of

non-regulated sector by ex-

tending "letter of credit" to

them and allowing an inde-

pendent power producer

coal supply

the approval of Sebi.

FinComm

named new

December 16.

Irdai asks insurance companies to write off exposure to DHFL

PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA 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

DHFL Pramerica Life, launched in 2008, is a joint venture between DHFL Investments — a whollyowned 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.

PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

THE CIVIL Aviation Ministry on

Friday said bids have been sought

for six underserved and 24 un-

served 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,

under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka

Aam Nagrik) or regional air con-

nectivity scheme commenced on

December 3. UDAN seeks to con-

nect unserved and underserved

airports as well as make flying

more affordable. "With focus on

connectivity of North eastern re-

gion, UDAN 4.0 scheme under the

Ministry of Civil Aviation has in-

vited bids for six underserved and

24 unserved airports/airstrips in

The fourth round of bidding

Assam is also included.

30 airports, airstrips up

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**

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

■ 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

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

Bank of India

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.

In the absence of clear regulations governing foreign entities' participation in the market, such entities have often used ARCs to buy distressed assets. In December last year, Bank of America bought a stake in debtridden Jayaswal Neco through Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise (ACRE), while also reaching out to the RBI seeking easier norms for takeover of stressed assets by foreign banks.

Earlier this year, a task force on the development of a secondary market for corporate loans recommended to the RBI that foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) should be allowed to directly buy stressed loans from Indian banks within certain annual prudential limits.

Analysts say that the regulator has, in recent years, tried to make ARCs more accountable for their participation in the market.

In a recent note, rating agency Crisil said, "Regulatory changes in recent years have been aimed at increasing ARCs' skin in the game and diversifying the potential investor base for stressed assets."

In August 2014, the minimum investment requirement by ARCs for assets acquired was increased from 5 per cent to 15 per cent. Norms for investment in ARCs as well as SRs, including for foreign investors, were eased subse-

Crisil said that assets under management (AUM) of ARCs, as measured by security receipts (SRs) outstanding, crossed the Rs 1 lakh-crore mark as on March 31, 2019, up 7 per cent from the previous year. **FE**

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

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,

Daparizo, 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.

ENS ECONOMIC 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

CII suggestion

Secy: Focus on

consumption,

New Delhi: In a pre-Budget consul-

along the pillars of creating fiscal

space for investment in infrastruc-

ture, enhancing rural demand,

boosting private investment, aug-

menting government revenue and improving business sentiment, the

industry group said in a statement.

to Revenue

investment

investment.

crore. **ENS**

"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.

about Rs 3 crore-4 crore per episode or lower. Hastings said the company is investing to become "more Indian in the content offering". Having launched its India op-

erations 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**

'GST compensation cess fund impacted by auto sector slowdown'

PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA

tation 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 CII pre-Budget Memorandum recommendations are mainly

Sushil Modi, who heads the

CII recommended adoption of an expansionary fiscal policy to alregime. low 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

GST Stakeholder Feedback Diwas

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.

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.

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

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."

to be observed

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

(IPP) to transfer coal from one plant to another. **RBLBank** 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**

China to waive tariffs on some US soybeans, pork SBI, BoB to

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**

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

PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA 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.

Average shows likely cost

21 THE WORLD

'PEOPLE ARE DYING'

THUNBERG URGES ACTION IN MADRID

Activist Greta Thunberg Friday urged world leaders gathered in Madrid for a UN climate conference to take urgent action to fight climate change, warning 'we can't afford' delays because 'people are dying'. "We have been striking now for over a year and still nothing has happened. The climate crisis is still being ignored by those in power," said Thunberg



Benjamin Netanyahu

'Israel has full right to annex Jordan Valley'

Lisbon: Israeli Prime Benjamin Minister 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 socalled "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 lavad 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 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 dif-

ficulties and all the differences".

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

LALITKJHA

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 protestors 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

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

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 ridehailing platform. The number of incidents rep-

resented 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



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/DETLING, 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."

China hopes to 'strengthen cooperation' with Hong Kong police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BEIJING, DECEMBER 6

CHINA'S HEAD of public security called for stronger cooperation with Hong Kong's police on Friday, according to state media, as pro-democracy protesters vowed to hold another massive rally over the weekend.

In a meeting with Hong Kong police chief Tang Ping-keung Chinese public security minister Zhao Kezhi said he hoped to "strengthen cooperation" and "jointly safeguard national security and the social stability of Hong Kong." "The central government and public security ministry will always be a strong backup force for the Hong Kong police force," he told Tang in Beijing, according to a readout by the official news site of China's public security ministry.

The protests are also backlit by fears Beijing may send in troops to squash the movement

At Friday's meeting, Tang thanked China's public security bureau for its "vigorous support and help" and told Zhao that the city's police force would "throw all of its energy" into stopping violence and unrest in Hong Kong.

The force's reputation has suffered during the protests, with many accusing officers of brutality. A new poll released on Friday by the Hong Kong Public Opinion Programme showed new record disapproval for the force with 40 percent of respondents now giving it the lowest mark of zero.

'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



cleared of a gang rape of a teenager in Madrid. Reuters/File

anyone what happened. The entire episode — her be-

ing confronted with the video of the assault, her horrified re-

with a staff member, 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

sponse to it and her exchange

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 relationship with the woman after meeting her on the show, offered her support, even as the camera tracked her pacing and crying. The production company re-

ported 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

New Delhi

Brother" in Spain, issued an apolthe man, José María López, who ogy 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

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

dampen public outrage, which

has driven dozens of corporate

interview with El Confidencial, the publication that first obtained the leaked video.

The production staff allowed

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**

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019 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, *aamla*, 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 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 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

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 con-

sumption 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.

Want to feel 25 again? Exercise regularly

The study finds

men's muscles

resemble, at a

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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 littleunderstood 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 mus-

cle 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 sep-

> arate 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

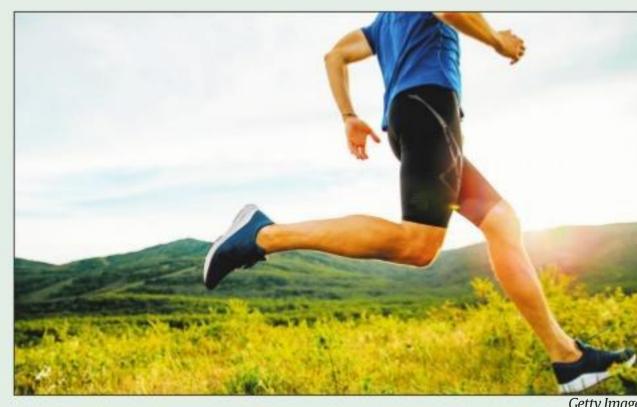
spindliest.

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



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-

New Delhi

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

25 REVIEWS CINEMA & MUSIC



DVD & BLU-RAY ANT-MAN **** ₹355/-

PANIPAT ★★

Director: Ashutosh Gowariker

Cast: Arjun Kapoor, Kriti Sanon, Sanjay Dutt, Mohnish Bahl, Kunal Kapoor, Padmini Kolhapure

Battle Royale

The representatives of

Awadh and Doab

black-hearted

Rohillas, show up as

betrayers, their eye on

the throne of Delhi

SHUBHRA GUPTA

EVERY SCHOOL child with a well-thumbed history text knows about the third battle of Panipat in 1761, in which the Marathas and marauding Afghans clashed, and thousands of soldiers perished. The outcome was a turning point: it halted the advance of the Marathas, and the in-

ternecine war between the rival principalities paved the way for the British dominion. regions, as well as the

Gowariker's film has a very clear stance: to topline the valour and battle skills of the Marathas, as they fought off the Afghan invaders, in order to save 'Hindustan'. That there really was no notion of the nation state at the time is of little concern to

the film: it wants us to be filled with nationalistic fervour and rally behind the rousing cry of har har mahadev.

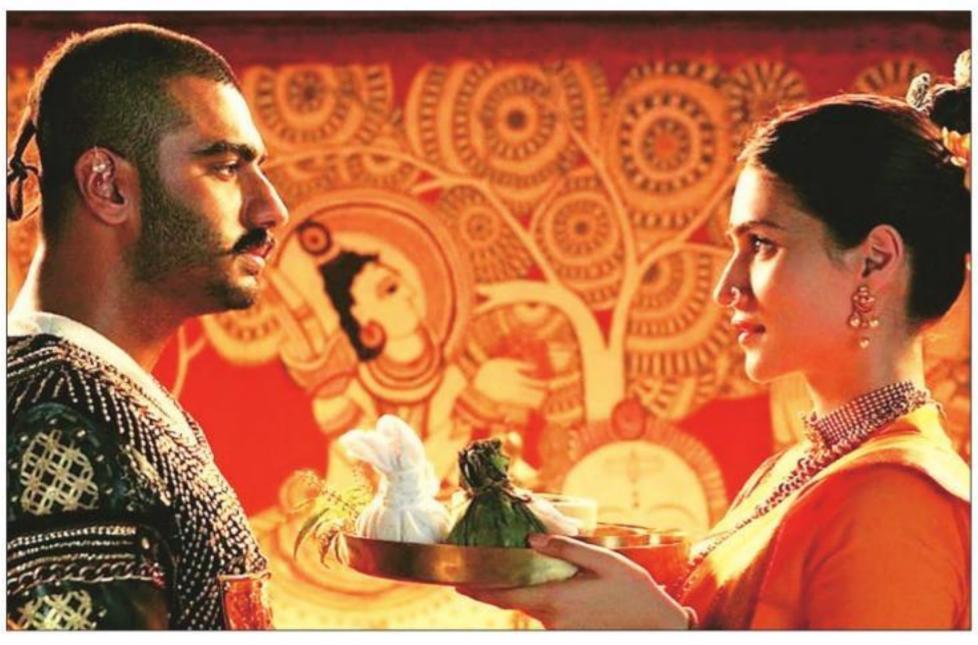
The filmmaker has the right to creative license, and he has chosen the line which bends both fact and credulity. But did

Panipat, which clocks in nearly three hours run time, need to be quite such a drudge? Gowariker has had practice with periodicals. Lagaan was nearly four hours long, but the time flew by because everything about the film came together beautifully. Like Gowariker's effective Jodhaa Akbar, Panipat is a costume drama and you would have thought that he would recover his mojo

> with this, after the dreadful Mohenjo Daro. Whatever happened to the sparkle?

You can see that research has gone into the making of the film: the representatives of Awadh and Doab regions, as well as the Rohillas, show up as black-hearted betrayers, their eye on the throne of Delhi somehow more

problematic than the Marathas' ambition. A veritable parade of costumes is on the screen: Arjun Kapoor as the heroic Maratha Sadashiv Rao Bhau, Sanjay Dutt as the Afghan leader Ahmad Shah Abdali, Kriti Sanon as Sadashiv's beloved, Parvati Bai, Mohnish Behl as the Peshwa, and a



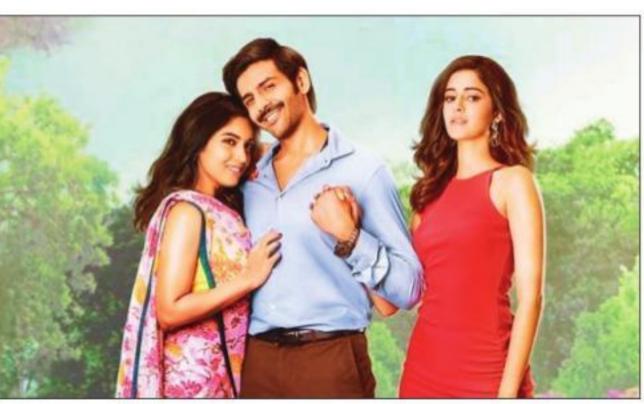
host of others.

But neither the scattered, stretched plot nor the performances are impactful. Kapoor never really leaps off the screen even though he works hard both on and off the battle field, Dutt swings his black robes and strides about, reminding you of Ranveer Singh in *Bajirao*, but is far from being a charismatic

villain. Sanon is a bright, smiling presence but nothing about her body language suggests that she is a woman of her time. I wish Kolhapure had been given more to do than just making faces and being a jealous Peshwa wife; though Kunal Kapoor as the gravelly-voiced Shuja-ud-Daula is quite a surprise.

When you revisit history and recant it in positions palatable to current appetites, and you want it to go down smooth, you need large doses of visual flair and imagination, not sad tracts of CGI. Where is Sanjay Leela Bhansali when you need him?

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Three of Life

PATI PATNI AUR WOH

Director: Mudassar Aziz Cast: Kartik Aaryan, Bhumi Pednekar, Aparshakti Khurana, Ananya Panday, K K Raina, Manu Rishi, Navni Parihar, Geeta Agarwal, Neeraj Sood, Shubham Kumar, Sunny Singh

KANPUR RESIDENTS Abhinav Tyagi and Vedika Tripathi come together in holy matrimony, and have a good time of it, till boredom strikes. Single, strikingly attractive Tapasya hoves into view. Pati (Aaryan) slips and slides, patni (Pednekar) is left holding the can, with woh (Panday) caught in the middle.

The remake of B R Chopra's 1978 hit has a ready-made template, not that marital infidelity or of any other kind, needs one. This version manages to pull off the same 'mofussil' feel, tracking between Kanpur and Lucknow (currently hot Bollywood flavours), but overall it has the same flavor of boyswill-be-boys, and men will stray, poor fellows, what else can they do.

Sanjeev Kumar's two-timing *pati*'s demeanour through the film was one of conquer-em-all smugness. Kartik Aaryan's 2019 husband mixes a bit of bewilderment and shame-after-the-fact in it. What's also different, up until a point, is *patni* Vedika's pleasing upfrontness in matters carnal (humein sex bahut pasand hai', she says, and her would-be spouse's jaw drops), and other thorny issues: how, for example, do you deal with a younger man's advances? Why, with a mixture of tap-on-the-wrist and shy-sly

pleasure. Nicely played. If only this new triangle had made more of Vedika's spunk, and Tapasya's spirit, it would have been a much more interesting take on contemporary marriages and mores. But oh no, it's more interested in Abhinav's whiny lines about an ex-girl friend whom he still pines for, and his awkward passes at the new entrant in his life, even if the film never really is able to explain why he is such a magnet for both the women, who could clearly do better.

But much more problematic is the film's slipping into casual misogyny and patriarchy: the choice of attire, Western for the bad woman and Indian for the pati-vrata, is a mouldy thing. The wife's making eyes at a former lover is a matter of concern, but it's perfectly okay for the husband to be handed a forgive-me-because-you-are-my-true-love arc.

Also, while it is great that Aparshakti Khurana (the best thing about the film) plays a regular working-joe modern day Muslim character, it's worth noting that a couple of cops hold out threats of 'encounters', with an actual line like 'Rizvi, you be extra careful'. Yes, this exists, and yes, it's quite appropriate that the action is taking place in Uttar Pradesh, jahaan sab cheez ka uttar milta hai.

Khurana, who is getting rapidly type-cast as the hero's sidekick but is still managing to pull off a perky act, is also made to spout the worst line of the film, involving a woman and 'lena' and 'dena'. It is also worth noting that this line, and the sequence, which is played fully for laughs, is the one which garnered the maximum laughter in the theatre. Clearly, dialogue writers have no cringe-meters.

Our *pati* may have redeemed himself, and the *patni* and *woh* may have lifted the film somewhat, but to wish for good taste in a comedy dealing with straying husbands and wives-and-other-women-in-holding patterns is no laughing matter. SG

A Separation

MARRIAGE STORY (NETFLIX) ****

Director: Noah Baumbach Cast: Scarlett Johansson, Adam Driver, Azhy Robertson, Laura Dern, Ray Liotta, Alan Alda, Merritt Wever, Julie Hagerty

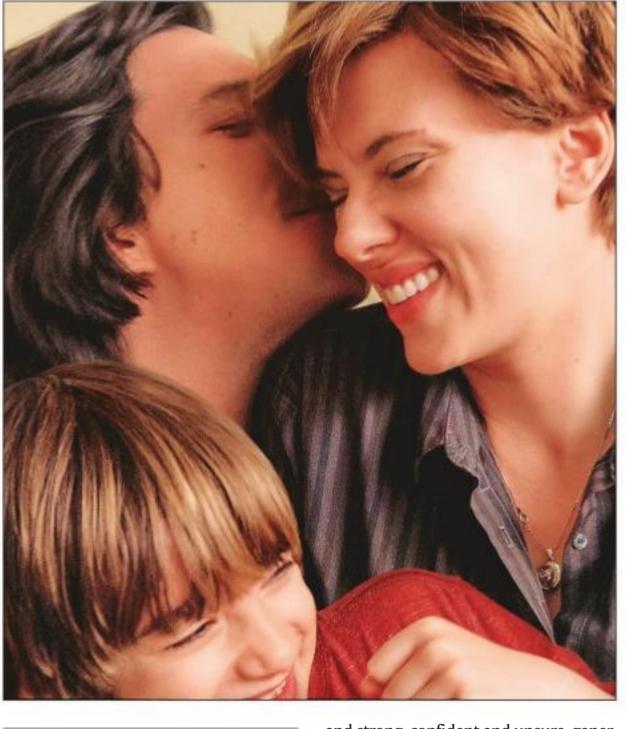
SHALINI LANGER

IF MARRIAGES are made in heaven, most days paradise seems a long, long road, paved with thankless good intentions. But, on good days, you can still tell the sun from the clouds. Marriage Story catches a couple when the spark is just starting to dim but — and herein lies its strength — no one is exactly sure why.

Natalie (Johansson) and Charlie (Driver) are a great couple, great artistes, great friends, and great parents. Baumbach opens with the two reading out what got them attracted to one another in the first place, and both Natalie and Charlie's accounts drip with warmth and genuine affection. Suddenly though we cut to the two of them with a marriage counsellor, where a distressed Natalie refuses to read what she has written. It is the first sign that this won't be the elegant, neat divorce that Gwyneth Paltrow ambitiously termed 'conscious uncoupling'.

However, over an unhurried two-hour plus, the Barbers do uncouple, tugging away at each link in the chain. In this suspected autobiographical retelling, Baumbach, who was once married to Janet Jason Leigh, suggests not just the hurt that each tug causes but also the strength of that chain. When neither Natalie nor Charlie is guilty of anything worse than growing up and apart, whose side do you take? When she allows him a good bawling digging his head into her stomach, how can you not love her? When he explains that his biggest fear is his son Henry would think his father "didn't fight for him enough", how can your heart not break for him? In most marriages where the big things are made of millions of small things, who can lay claim to the longer column of things done right?

That said, writer-director Baumbach appears to have a softer corner for Charlie, who picks "serious" theatre over "frivolous" TV, "edgy" New York over "summery" Los Angeles and, who despite an extra-marital fling, gets just a rap in the knuckles while it's Natalie who forces the separation for reasons she confesses to be



But, on good days, you can still tell the sun from the clouds. Marriage Story catches a couple when the spark is just starting to dim but — and herein lies its strength — no one is exactly sure why

only partially clear about. However, how small things can mount up is lucidly conveyed by Natalie in an honest unravelling before her flinty lawyer, played with tubedress, stilletto precision by Dern. Liotta as Charlie's lawyer gets far lesser to do, while Alda is delightful as the avuncular lawyer who tries bumblingly to not let divorce get as dirty as it invariably does.

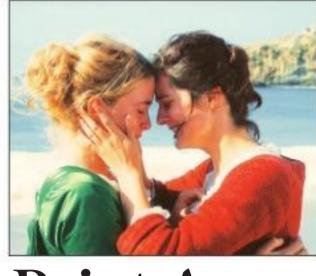
Moving on to Johansson, and what an iridescent performance this is from an actor who is going from strength to strength in her vast array of roles. She is vulnerable

and strong, confident and unsure, generous and stern, all at the same time, as giving to tears as spontaneous action, her unforgettable lips a picture of masterful quiver. Driver, with his unusual, angly face, is slower to catch up, but by the end, is as much a victim of uncomprehending sorrow as love drips away.

Holding them together, at all times, is their son Henry, played with pitch-perfect insouciance by Azhy Robertson. This sixyear-old doesn't come wrapped in cotton wool, can survive a curse word and two, and more reassuringly, suggests in his stoicism that what is happening is not the end of the world.

Still, he also keeps alive the possibility that it may not be the end of the road for the Barbers either. Natalie and Charlie seem at all times — and once, heartstoppingly, at either side of a sliding gate — just an arm's length away. The question is, who will extend a hand?

shalini.langer@expressindia.com



Paint Away

PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE

Director: Céline Sciamma Cast: Noémie Merlant, Adèle Haenel, Luàna Bajrami, Valeria Golino, Christel Baras

AOSCOTT

Portrait of a Lady on Fire is also the portrait of an artist. Her name is Marianne and we first encounter her at sea, being conveyed in a rowboat over choppy waters toward a mysterious destination. When a crate containing two blank, stretched canvases is washed overboard, she dives in after it. Her self-sufficiency and resilience are confirmed as she arrives in a grand austere chateau and starts to settle in. She sets the canvases to dry in front of the fire, smokes a pipe and makes her way down to the kitchen, where she helps herself to bread and cheese.

It's the late 18th century, sometime before the French Revolution, and Marianne (Noémie Merlant), a professional portraitist, has accepted a semi-clandestine commission. Her subject is Héloïse (Adèle Haenel), and the finished painting will be sent to Héloïse's future husband, a Milanese nobleman, as a kind of promissory note. The two have never met, and the picture will arrive in Milan before she does.

This arrangement has been made by Héloïse's mother (Valeria Golino), who warns Marianne of certain complications. Héloïse's sister, who had been betrothed to the same man, may have taken her own life to avoid the marriage. Héloïse has stubbornly defied her mother's wishes and refuses to sit for a portrait. Marianne is instructed to present herself as a friendly companion, discreetly observing the other woman's features and expressions and committing them to canvas in secret.

What follows is a subtle and thrilling love story, at once unsentimental in its realistic assessment of women's circumstances and almost utopian in its celebration of the freedom that is nonetheless available to them.

Apart from brief sequences at the beginning and end that frame the main narrative – most of what we see is, in effect, a flashback from Marianne's point of view — the film never leaves the house and its surroundings. Once the boatman has dropped Marianne off on the beach, men disappear altogether. Male power is still a presence, but no one is around to enforce the rules of patriarchy. When Héloïse's mother goes on a trip, Héloïse, Marianne and Sophie quietly remake the house into a place of solidarity rather than hierarchy.

The full significance of that myth — an archetypal tale of devotion and loss — becomes clear later on. It's the story of an artist, and also about the dangerous, irresistible power of looking. Except, of course, that the possessive logic of the male gaze has been dismantled. Héloïse, the artist's model and the object of Marianne's attention, at first occupies a familiar position. Haenel, radiantly blonde with an enigmatic, neo-Classical face, fuses movie-star charisma with aristocratic poise. But Héloïse, when she finally submits to Marianne's painterly scrutiny, hardly surrenders her own powers of observation. She is looking too, and the power of their mutual attraction refracts like light passing through a prism.

Painting isn't the only art form Sciamma mines for ideas and analogies. There is literature and also music — not an added score, but a few moments of listening. The most powerful comes at a local village festival, where women gathered at a bonfire weave intricate harmonies around a simple Latin lyric. The words they sing — "fugere non possum" — translate as "we cannot escape," expressing both fatalism and faith. They resonate through this smart and sensuous film in complicated ways. Héloïse and Marianne can't escape from their feelings for each other, or from their socially dictated roles. But at the same time it's impossible to see them as anything other than free.

BREAKING DOWN NEWS

In an Onion Soup

As GDP lowers and prices shoot up, signals from space and the market tell it's time for caution in speech and deed



BY PRATIK KANJILAL

ABOUT A century ago, Harry Houdini toured America with one of his most dramatic acts, the Chinese Water Torture Cell. Every night, he was put in stocks and sealed into a glass cabinet full of water, and covered with velvet drapes. The orchestra struck up Lamb and Petrie's composition Asleep in the Deep.

An attendant paced nervously beside the cabinet with an axe held aloft, ready to break the glass if the escape artist failed. But just as nerves were about to crack, Houdini emerged to amazed applause.

The release of PChidambaram on bail has been almost as dramatic. Not for the circumstances, because the INX Media case, based on the testimony of the compromised, is hardly as watertight as Houdini's Water Torture Cell. And the former minister was not asleep in the deep while behind bars. Just days ago, he had reacted to BJPMP Nishikant Dubey's premature dismissal of GDP metrics in Parliament: "GDP numbers are irrelevant, personal tax will be cut, import duties will be increased... God save India's economy." But the confidence with which he took

the national stage less than 24 hours after his release on bail was surprising. More than 100 days in custody usually takes a toll on body and spirit, but Chidambaram responded to the press on a range of issues on which his party colleagues have failed to speak forcefully. In fact, the press conference could be read as a tacit bid for a prime ministerial candidacy in the future.

No less dramatic was the discovery of the debris of Isro's Vikram, which had hard-

landed on the moon, by an IT professional in Chennai. Nasa's validation of the findings of Shanmuga Subramanian were followed by a clarification from Isro chairman K Sivan, to the effect that the Indian space agency had identified the crash site much earlier. Indeed, Isro's discovery was widely covered in the media on September 9. Predictably, this week, an attempt to drum up a controversy was visible on several news sites and TV channels. It had to be drummed up because it did not exist. There was no contradiction between the two findings, which followed separate pathways.

Isro relied upon a thermal image picked up by the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter, and announced that the site of the landing had been found, but contact with the lander could not be established, and therefore the

More than 100 days in custody usually takes a toll on body and spirit, but Chidambaram responded to the press on a range of issues on which his party colleagues have failed to speak forcefully

extent of damage was unknown. Nasa had images from the optical camera of its Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, and it released before-and-after snapshots of the region for the public to pore over. These images are fundamentally different. Thermal images are heat maps, and cannot show debris that have cooled. Optical images show shadows cast by debris and the crash crater, providing a more detailed picture. Also, Isro relied on in-house expertise, while Nasa followed the US tradition of involving the scientifically interested public.

It is a tradition worth emulating, and its most interesting use is in the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence. The SETI project taps into the idle processing power of the home and office computers of volunteers to trawl the electromagnetic spectrum in its search of meaningful signals from deep space. Someday, maybe it'll pick up Zion dub from the direction of Antares, and we'll know we aren't alone. And the signal could have been processed by the computer of a

volunteer space enthusiast in Zimbabwe. Poor and unfair signal processing is un-

New Delhi

derstood to have put finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in onion soup. In the course of a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the spiralling prices of onions, a snap question about her personal dietary preferences elicited a quick reply, to the effect that she was not from an onion-friendly family. Was this out of context, as government-friendly channels and digital media have projected? Of course, because the rest of the debate was about alleviating local scarcities and importing from Egypt, Turkey and Afghanistan (not too little, but definitely too late). But then, the majority has not respected context in politics for years. Besides, food habits immediately signal community, caste and family background, areas in which a minister must tread with caution. The economic and derivative political questions facing the government are unprecedented – including the threat to the federal contract between the Centre and states if a GST crisis looms — and in general, it is time for caution in speech and deed.

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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 Shahnamed in PakU-19WCsquad

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 Wagar insisting that it was a decision based on workload man-**AGENCIES** agement.

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 inconceivable 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 T20I 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 studded 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 T20I at home — the previous instances being against Sri Lanka in 2009 and Australia in 2013.

If Rahul set the tone, Kohli's sensational 50ball 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 secondtier — 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 stonefaced, 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"

Hetmeyer comes to the party

Ever since he burst onto the international scene in January 2017, Shimron Hetmeyer 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, Hetmeyer 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, Hetmeyer finally found his verve. 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 clubbed 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. Hetmeyer 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 secondhighest 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

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WEST INDIES

207/5 **LSimmons** c Sharma b Chahar **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

(41b, 2x4, 4x6)

11 (7b, 1x4)

3-0-**34-1**

4-0-**56-1**

4-0-**36-0**

4-0-**30-1**

4-0-**36-2**

18(9b, 2x6)

4(6b)

4-0-**24-1** 4-0-**46-0**

4-0-**44-2**

2-0-**19-0**

1-0-**10-1**

3.4-0-**60-0**

K Pollard b Chahal **37** (19b, 1x4, 4x6) **Holder** not out **24** (9b, 1x4, 2x6) **D Ramdin** not out **Extras:** (lb 2, w 4)

Bowling:

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)

Washington Sundar D Chahar **B Kumar** R Jadeja **Y Chahal S Dube**

1-0-13-0 209/4 in 18.4 ov INDIA

R Sharma c Hetmyer b Pierre **8** (10b, 1x4) KL Rahul c Pollard b Pierre (40b, 5x4, 4x6)**94** (50b, 6x4, 6x6)

V Kohli not out **R Pant** c Holder b Cottrell Siyer c & b Pollard **S Dube** not out

0(0b)**Extras:** (b 4, lb 2, nb 3, w 14)

Fall of wickets: 1-30 (Rohit Sharma, 3.2 ov) 2-130 (KL Rahul, 13.3 ov), 3-178 (Rishabl Pant, 16.2 ov), 4-193 (Shreyas Iyer, 17.6 ov)

Bowling: S Cottrell J Holder K Pierre H Walsh K Williams K Pollard

■ India won by 6 wickets

Shimron Hetmyer made 56. PTI

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

PRESS 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.

MENTAL HEALTH & CRICKET

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

"...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 'cricket.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.

New Delhi

India's NBA trailblazer Satnam fails dope test, provisionally suspended

MIHIR VASAVDA

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

SATNAM SINGH Bhamara, who became the first Indian-born player to be drafted into the NBA in 2015, has been provisionally suspended by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) for failing a dope test last month.Bhamara's urine sample was collected during the preparatory camp in Bangalore for the South Asian Games, which began in Kathmandu on December 1. After the test returned positive, the 23-year-old was provisionally suspended on November 19.

The banned substance that has been detected in his sample could not be confirmed.The 7-foot-2-inch centre from Balloke, Punjab, has represented India in major tournaments like Asian Championships, 2018 Commonwealth Games, and 2019

BRIEFLY -

Sports Code: Delhi

HC stays operation

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has

stayed the operation of a review com-

mittee appointed by the sports min-

istry to re-draft the National Sports

Code. Hearing a petition filed by ad-

vocate Rahul Mehra, who objected to the formation of the committee, ar-

gued the 'exercise was being under-

taken by vested interest groups.' A bench comprising Justice S

Muralidhar and Justice Najmi Wazri

hasdirected sports secretary Radhey

Shyam Julaniya to file an affidavit on

the status of the 2011 version of the

code. The matter has been listed for

further hearing on December 20. ENS

Kisekka strike helps

Kerala FC bt Arrows

New Delhi: Ugandan forward Henry

Kisekka's clinical finish helped title

contenders Gokulam Kerala FC beat

Indian Arrows side by a solitary goal in

an I-League match at the Tilak Maidan

in Vasco. After the breather, and

against the run of play, Gokulam took

the lead within five minutes of re-

sumption. A long ball found Kisekka on

the top of the Arrows box on the right.

The Ugandan got away from his markers in a flash and neatly placed the ball

at the left-hand corner of the Arrows

net. In the 76th minute, a wonderful

Gokulam move resulted in a Joseph

header deflecting off an Arrows de-

fender and going in, but Samik brought

Joshua, Ruiz to fight

Riyadh: Lean-looking British chal-

lenger Anthony Joshua weighed in

more than three stones lighter than

world heavyweight champion Andy

Ruiz Jr ahead of their title rematch in

Saudi Arabia on Saturday. Joshua hit

the scales at 16 stones and 13 pounds

(107.5kg), the former champion's

lightest ever weight for a world title

fight, at the Diriyah venue near the

capital Riyadh on Friday. Mexican-

American Ruiz, wearing a sombrero

and stepping up after Joshua, was 20

stones and three pounds (128.3kg) -

heavier than he was in the first

showdown between the two at New

York's Madison Square Garden in

June. The pair then shared a hand-

shake in their final face to face meet-

ing before the fight. Ruiz clambered

into the ring at 19 stone and two

pounds last time, when he came in at

short notice and dethroned the pre-

viously undefeated Joshua with a

seventh round stoppage in one of

boxing's biggest upsets. **REUTERS**

off a brilliant save. **PTI**

for world title

World Cup Qualifiers. He was originally a part of the squad but has not travelled for the regional event. India's South Asian Games campaign got underway on Friday with a 138-63 thumping of Bhutan without him.

A team official said they were not aware of the failed dope test.

"He told us there was some family problem and hence had to stay back," the official told The Indian Express from Kathmandu after the match. Basketball Federation of India secretary Chander Mukhi Sharma, too, said he was unaware of the development as he is out of town.

"These decisions aren't sent to us via email. NADA sends a physical copy in sealed cover. Since I am not in office, I am not aware if any such communication has been sent and hence can't comment on the issue," Sharma said.

"Satnam told us at the last minute that

The 7-foot-2-inch centre from Balloke, Punjab, has represented India in major tournaments... He was originally a part of the South Asian Games squad but has not travelled for the regional event.

there was some family problem and would not be able to take part in the South Asian Games. We are not aware of a positive dope test."

Bhamara, in 2015, created history when he was picked in the NBA draft by Dallas Mavericks. He went on to play the next two years in the Development League with Texas Legends, an affiliate of Dallas Mavericks. After returning to India for a

year to focus on the national team, Bhamara once again created history in September 2018 by becoming the first India-born cager to play in the National Basketball League of Canada after signing a deal with St John's Edge.

Earlier this year, a streaming service announced a digital movie on Bhamara's life; second such thing after Netflix released a documentary based his journey to the 2015 NBA Draft.While Bhamara could not be reached for comment, his manager said: "I shall try and get you a statement tomorrow."

Bhamara joins a growing list of dope cases this year. Earlier this week, a NADA list accessed by this paper revealed that 156 Indian athletes had tested positive for consuming performance-enhancing drugs up to November 30. The number so far this year is more than double compared to 2018, when 70 athletes were caught for doping.



Satnam Singh Bhamara created history in 2015 when he was picked in the NBA draft by Dallas Mavericks. He was provisionally suspended on November 19. File

A plot against the palace

Real Madrid chief Perez working towards year-long tournament of top clubs away from domestic leagues

TARIQ PANJA DECEMBER 6

REAL MADRID'S president, Florentino Pérez, recently held talks with officials from some of Europe's leading soccer clubs, as well as the FIFA president, Gianni Infantino, to outline his vision for the sport. What he is proposing, according to people familiar with the conversations, is nothing less than a groundbreaking power shift in the club game.

One elite competition comprising the world's richest clubs, untethered from their domestic leagues for a new full-season competition. Domestic leagues stripped of their biggest and most historic brands. And thousands of top-division games rendered far less valuable to everyone from sponsors to broadcasters to, perhaps most important, fans.

With financing in the works and the clout of Real Madrid backing the venture, and with the game's officials beginning to sketch the framework of the new global soccer calendar that will take effect after 2024, the outlines of a European super league could be closer than before. At the heart of Pérez's plan is his long-held desire for Europe's biggest teams, like his, to break away from their domestic leagues and form an elite European competition that would be played across an entire season, according to people familiar with the discussions.

The current iteration of the plan would see two 20-team divisions, composed almost exclusively of clubs from Europe's five biggest leagues: England, Spain, France, Germany and Italy. Some clubs have been told that, according to projections, they could expect to double their revenues by leaving their domestic leagues to join. The concept of promotion and relegation — a fixture of world soccer that rewards success and punishes failure — would be retained, but only between the two divisions.

The proposal most likely would meet fierce resistance. At a stroke any such competition would decimate the value of domestic league matches, but by taking the best teams they also could destroy the value of the Champions League, the world's richest club championship and the financial engine of European soccer's governing body, UEFA.

On Friday, UEFA's president, Aleksander Ceferin, called Pérez's plan "insane," and said it would "ruin" the sport. "I have read about this insane plan," Ceferin said. "If reports are to be believed, it comes from a single club president, not the owner, and a lone football administrator. It would be hard to think of a more selfish and egotistical scheme. It would clearly ruin football around the world: for the players, for the fans and for everyone connected with the game — all for the benefit of

a tiny number of people." Ceferin's reaction may lead to a rekindling of tension between the UEFA leader and Infantino. The two men, who were both expected to attend celebrations to mark the



Real Madrid president Florentino Perez has proposed a two 20-team division format. File

The proposal most likely would meet fierce resistance. At a stroke any such competition would decimate the value of domestic league matches, but by taking the best teams they also could destroy the value of the Champions League, the world's richest club championship and the financial engine of **European soccer's governing** body, UEFA.

100th anniversary of the Polish soccer federation on Friday, did not speak for a year after Infantino first unveiled his plans for his expanded Club World Cup in March 2018.

Pérez, who as Real Madrid's president became a founding member of a new global association for international clubs when it was begun last month at FIFA's headquarters in Zurich, declined, through the club, to comment on his proposals. During his visit to Zurich, though, he discussed his ideas with Infantino, who has spent much of the past year pushing his own idea about how to re-

make club soccer. Infantino's vision for club soccer has largely been focused on the creation of a new 24-team Club World Cup that will begin play in 2021, but he also has a broader vision for FIFA, the game's global governing body, to have a stronger hand in club soccer.

Only last week, for example, he pushed the idea of investing hundreds of millions of dollars in a new pan-African league, as a means to increase quality there and also slow the global talent drain to Europe. The FIFA president has also had talks with national associations in Asia about the possibility of creating regional or subregional leagues there, and conversations with President Trump about the quality of soccer in the top United States league. "One of the FIFA president's duties is to listen to stakeholders' perspectives about relevant topics for football," FIFA said in a statement in response to questions about Infantino's discussions with Pérez and others about changes to the club game.

"FIFA believes that an open and constructive dialogue between different members of the football community is essential to find the right balance and the best solutions for the future of the game. FIFA (including the president) has met with football clubs from around the world in order to discuss how to make the new FIFA Club World Cup an outstanding success, in particular, from a sport-

ing point of view." Without Infantino's patronage, Pérez's plans would not get very far. The FIFA leader told reporters in November 2018 – when details of a previous attempt at a breakaway league backed by Pérez leaked — that any players who participated in any breakaway competition that had not been sanctioned by FIFA would be barred from their national

teams and unable to play in the World Cup. A group representing elite clubs from across Europe met in Milan on Nov. 15 to try to formulate a new format after a furious reaction from top domestic leagues, including

England's Premier League and Spain's La Liga, to a plan promoted by the Juventus president, Andrea Agnelli, to create a largely closed European competition in which most of the competitors would retain their spot season after season whatever their performance in domestic league play.

Money is the driving force behind all the restructuring plans, with the biggest clubs believing they could generate more viewership and more sponsor interest, and thus much more revenue, through more frequent elite-level games. But the support of Infantino and FIFA, should they grant it, could shift control of club soccer away from its usual power base in continental federations like UEFA. Under Infantino, who assumed the FIFA presidency in 2016, FIFA has increasingly looked for ways to increase its influence on (and profit from) club soccer. The current annual version of the Club World Cup — featuring one team from soccer's six regional bodies and one from the host nation — generates little interest in much of the world. The latest edition kicks off next week in Qatar. Infantino's reasoning appears to be that by increasing the standard of club soccer in Africa, Asia and elsewhere, FIFA would create conditions for investors — who have long poured their billions of dollars into European soccer — to see value in doing so around the world. **NYT**

The blueprints

In the last couple of years, multiple plans have been proposed to restructure club football. After FIFA's Club World Cup and Juventus president's Super League proposals, Real Madrid chief Florentino Perez has proposed a format of his own...

PEREZ'S PROPOSAL

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez has proposed a two 20-team division format. According to Financial Times, eight of the 40 teams include the founding clubs behind the World Football Club Association, a newly-created body of which Perez was named president last month. Those clubs are Real Madrid, AC Milan, Auckland City, Boca Juniors, River Plate, Club America, Guangzhou Evergrande and Congo's Mazembe. Perez has reportedly approached CVC, one of the world's largest private equity groups with \$82.5bn of assets under management.

FIFA'S CLUB WORLD CUP

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has proposed the creation of a 24-team Club World Cup that will begin in 2021. China will host the first expanded tournament in mid-2021.CVC is in talks with FIFA to fund the competition. Last week, Infantino reportedly pushed the idea of investing hundreds of millions of dollars in a new pan-African league to increase the quality there and slow the talent drain to Europe. He has also held talks with national associations in India about the possibility of creating regional or subregional leagues there, and conversations with Donald Trump about the quality of USA's MLS.

EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE

Last November, a new league independent of UEFA was proposed by Juventus president Andrea Agnelli. His plan was to create a 'Super League' on the lines of Champions League but it would be a closed affair, meaning the clubs would retain their spot season after season irrespective of their performances in the domestic leagues. The 'breakaway' league would consist 11 founding members and five additional guest teams, with the founder clubs guaranteed spots in the league for 20 years. That plan drew a furious reaction from top European leagues, including EPL and La Liga, who said it would 'kill' domestic football.

Cricket South Africa CEO suspended, to lose main sponsor; player strike a possibility

REUTERS JOHANNESBURG, DECEMBER 6

CRICKET SOUTH Africa chief executive Thabang Moroe has been suspended following allegations of misconduct, the CSA said on Friday, just hours after the organisation's major sponsor said they would not renew their contract.

The CSA, which placed Moroe on what it termed a "precautionary suspension", has been grappling with operational shortcomings and a possible players' strike ahead of a home series against England.

The decision follows reports received by the Social and Ethics Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee of the Board "related to possible failure of controls in the organisation," it said in a statement.

The Board mandated the CSA chairman to look for an acting CEO for the duration of Moroe's suspension. It will approach former ICC chief executive Dave Richardson to fill the role on a temporary basis, it said.

Reuters was unable to reach Moroe for comment on Friday. He had been under fire after he revoked the accreditation of five journalists last weekend, saying he was unhappy with the way they were reporting on

issues within the organisation. That caused a public outcry leading to

their reinstatement, and a rebuke from two board members, Shirley Zinn and Igbal Khan, who both resigned in a move that suggested they had lost faith in his leadership.

Khan was chief of the finance committee and among a list of grievances, said there had been "widespread credit card abuse" in the

CSA offices. In a further blow, the CSA's major sponsor Standard Bank announced it would not re-



Cricket South Africa CEO Thabang Moroe has been suspended.

new its financial support of the organisation when their current agreement ends in April 2020, citing governance concerns that have damaged the bank's reputation.

"Cricket is a national asset valued by millions of South Africans, many of them our clients, and is an integral part of the bank's heritage," its chief media officer Thulani Sibeko said in a statement.

"Standard Bank is committed to uphold-

The Board mandated the CSA chairman to look for an acting CEO for the duration of Moroe's suspension. It will approach former ICC chief executive Dave Richardson to fill the role on a temporary basis, it said.

ing the highest levels of leadership, integrity and governance. In light of recent developments at CSA, which are a culmination of long-standing problems which have damaged Standard Bank's reputation, it has decided not to renew its partnership with CSA."

The South African Cricketers Association (SACA) also called for the resignation of the entire CSA board on Friday following a meeting of their executive and management. SACA also said it would not rule out a player strike that could have an impact on England's four-Test tour that is due to start on Dec. 26 in Pretoria, though chief executive Tony Irish told Reuters on Wednesday they would be mindful of disruptions to international cricket. "We will be responsible around the international tours, because we know that those affect teams from outside of South Africa," he said.

SAG: Kaushik, Krishan storm into boxing semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KATHMANDU, DECEMBER 6

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS bronze medallist Manish Kaushik (64kg) and Commonwealth Games champion Vikas Krishan (69kg) made it to the semifinals on the first day of boxing event at the 13th South Asian Games here on Friday. National Champion Ankit Khatana (75kg) was the third Indian to progress to the last four as he knocked out local boy Deepak Shrestha in the first round of his bout. Manish thoroughly dominated his quarter-final bout against Pakistan's Suleman Baloch to register a commanding 5-0 victory.

In the 69 kg quarter-final, Vikas marked his return to amateur circuit after a gap of 15 months with a superb performance against Bhutan's Dorji Tshering in a unanimous verdict. In the women's category, Sonia Lather (57 kg) had an easy outing against Bangladesh's Shamima Akter as she won via RSC in the 3rd round.

India clinch 41 medals on Day 5

Shuttlers, meanwhile, led yet another stupendous show as India widened the gap at the top by clinching 41 medals, including 19 gold, on Day 5. India grabbed another 18 silver and 4 bronze to take the total tally to 165 medals (81 gold, 59 silver, 25 bronze) and leave second-placed Nepal (41 gold, 27 silver, 48

New Delhi

India grabbed 19 gold, 18 silver and 4 bronze to take the total tally to 165 medals (81 gold, 59 silver, 25 bronze) and leave second-placed Nepal, who won 116 medals in aggregate, behind. Sri Lanka are third...

bronze), who won 116 medals in aggregate, behind. Sri Lanka are third with a total of 134 medals (23 gold, 42 silver, 69 bronze).

The shuttlers won the maximum gold medals -- four -- for India on Friday. They completely dominated the discipline by winning four gold and two silver in the day. Former world junior championships silver medallist Siril Verma lived up to his top seeding as he rallied from a game down to outwit compatriot Aryaman Tandon 17-21 23-21 21-13 in an all-Indian men's singles final

Track and field athletes, who were leading the Indian charge in the past few days, fetched the maximum 12 medals but just two of them were gold. The two gold were won in men's and women's shot put events.

In men's shot put, Asian champion Tejinder Pal Singh Toor broke the SAG record with a creditable throw of 20.03m to win the gold.

Manchester giants eye derby delight

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.

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 Mancheter 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 City have lost just one of six **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.

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 ioint 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".

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'.

Arsenal no show ends in defeat to Brighton

REUTERS LONDON, DECEMBER 5

ARSENAL LOST to Brighton & Hove Albion at home for the first time ever on Thursday night as goals by Adam Webster and Neal

Maupay lifted the visitors to a 2-

1 victory in the Premier League.

Arsenal, who fired Unai Emery as manager last week and appointed former player Freddie Ljungberg as caretaker boss, now sit 10th in the table on 19 points, with Brighton a single point be-

hind and three places below them. "Of course, it's disappointing but we've got to keep on going," Ljungberg told reporters. "The players are low on confidence, I think you can see that.

"We're in a difficult situa-

tion. We started the game flat with no energy. It's my job to get them to be aggressive and play with energy." Brighton had an early chance when Arsenal defender Hector

Bellerin brought down Aaron

Connolly on the edge of the area,

but Pascal Gross blasted his free

kick straight into the Arsenal wall.

The visitors poured forward, with Maupay whipping in a shot from a tight angle that raced narrowly past keeper Bernd Leno's far post. Their pressure finally paid off in the 36th minute when centre back Webster pounced on the ball as it broke loose after a corner, poking home past Leno

to give the visitors the lead. Alexandre Arsenal's Lacazette equalised five minutes into the second half with a high looping header from a Mesut Ozil corner which bounced in off

the far post.

The home side briefly thought they had taken the lead when David Luiz shanked the ball home from a free kick, only for the Brazilian to be found clearly offside by VAR.

Instead, Brighton's Maupay headed a cross from Aaron Mooy into the far corner past Leno in the 80th minute to give Potter's side a historic win in north London.

"It's fantastic to get the three points here tonight," Potter told reporters.