



## CENTRE AND DELHI GOVT CONDOLE DEATHS, BLAME EACH OTHER

# Dawn fire kills 43 in illegal factory

Tenders struggled to enter narrow lane, most victims suffocated to death

JIGNASA SINHA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

AN EARLY morning fire in a five-storey residential building, which had several illegal manufacturing units running out of it, claimed the lives of 43 labourers, including at least five minors, in North Delhi's Anaj Mandi on Rani Jhansi Road Sunday.

The Delhi Fire Service (DFS), which received a call at 5.20 am, spent the next five hours pulling out more than 60 people, most of whom were asleep at the time the fire broke out.

The building had just one CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Noor Jehan and her husband Mohammed Kalim at Lok Nayak Hospital in Delhi on Sunday afternoon. Noor Jehan's father Ainul Haq and brother-in-law Mohammed Abbas were killed in the factory fire. *Gajendra Yadav* FULL COVERAGE, [PAGES 4, 6](#)

'I am going to die... there is no escape': Final, desperate calls

ASTHA SAXENA,  
ANANYA TIWARI  
& AMIL BHATNAGAR  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

OF THE 43 who were killed in Delhi's Anaj Mandi fire on Sunday, at least five were minors, including Mehboob. Authorities expect the number to rise.

The 13-year-old, hailing from a village in Bihar's Samastipur, arrived in Delhi six months ago and made bags on the second floor of the residential building housing illegal manufacturing units, for around Rs 500 a month. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## CAB in House today, Shah may announce relief for Manipur

LIZ MATHEW & ESHA ROY  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

AHEAD OF the tabling of the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Lok Sabha on Monday, the government is said to have worked out "alternative arrangements" to accommodate Manipur's concerns. While these steps may not be a part of the Bill itself, these are likely to be announced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah as he introduces the legislation.

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, who led a delegation to meet Shah on December 3, told *The Indian Express* that the measures could either be an entry and exit permit system, or a provision for Inner Line Permit (ILP).

Cleared by the Cabinet last week, CAB, which eases the citizenship process for non-Muslim illegal immigrants, provides exemptions in case of the entire Northeast except Manipur. Shah

### INSIDE

OPPN PLANS JOINT AGENDA; SAD SAYS INCLUDE MUSLIMS [PAGE 7](#)

WHERE CAB DOES NOT APPLY [PAGE 8](#)

had earlier held consultations with representatives of all states in the region to address their concerns that the Bill would lead to an influx of refugees and demographic changes. The Northeast states share international borders with Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan and China.

CAB, which seeks to make citizenship easier for refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan escaping religious persecution (leaving out only Muslims), is listed for Monday's CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### THE EDITORIAL PAGE

EXPERIMENT IN MAHARASHTRA  
BY ASHUTOSH VARSHNEY  
[PAGE 12](#)

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## In compromise, govt advises JNU to notify students' union, withdraw cases

RITIKA CHOPRA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

THE HUMAN Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has advised the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) administration to notify the students' union and withdraw the police complaint against students as the first step to end the standoff at the university.

The government is learned to have proposed a compromise formula to the university over the weekend. The ministry is now waiting to hear back from JNU.

The notification of JNUSU and withdrawal of police complaints are part of the compromise formula. If the university agrees, the government expects the students to call off the agitation, to not "gherao" JNU officials, and to commit to a "dialogue" with the university.

According to government sources, the notification of the students' union should not be a problem since the Delhi High Court has already permitted the election committee of JNUSU to declare the results of the union elections, which implies it had found no violation of the CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### WORLD



TRUMP IMPEACHMENT: ABUSE OF POWER, CORRUPTION IN HOUSE REPORT

US BASE GUNMAN SHOWED SHOOTING VIDEOS AT PARTY [PAGE 15](#)

## As RBI buys dollars, Re falls 2.5% in 2019 despite huge foreign funds flow

SUNNY VERMA & SANDEEP SINGH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

IN AN apparent change in stance away from managing excess volatility in the rupee, the Reserve Bank of India seems to be containing any sharp appreciation in the currency. Despite the recent gush of foreign fund flows into the equity and debt markets, the rupee has remained relatively weak against the United States dollar.

A weak currency aids exports, and helps a country be competitive in international trade. Many countries including China and Brazil are alleged to have kept their currencies weak, provoking the US to either impose or threaten tariffs on their products.

In the current calendar year so far, the rupee has depreciated by almost 2.5 per cent, even as foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have

EXPLAINED  
**E** To shore up floundering exports

AN APPRECIATION of the currency would have hurt exports in general, and manufacturing exports in particular. At a time when growth has dropped below 5%, RBI's dollar buying in the face of rising FPI inflows helps manufacturing, which is already contracting. But for this, exports, which have remained flat, might have actually contracted.

pumped in a net Rs 1.31 lakh crore. "At a time when the economy is slowing, rupee appreciation would have further hurt manufacturing exports and jobs. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



### THE GOVERNANCE PAGE



GOA FINDS A WAY TO MAKE BEACHES SAFER

PAGE 14

## Her village in Unnao swarming with police, rape victim set afire is buried

AVANEESH MISHRA  
UNNAO, DECEMBER 8

MORE THAN 48 hours after she died from burns sustained in an attack by five men including her alleged assaulters, the Unnao rape victim was buried in a farm owned by her family on Sunday afternoon, next to where her grandparents lie buried.

While the 23-year-old's body reached her village in Unnao on Saturday night from Delhi, the CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Unnao victim being buried on Sunday. *Avaneesh Mishra*

## Make women feel safe: PM to police officers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PUNE, DECEMBER 8

ADDRESSING TOP police officers of states and Union Territories here on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for effective policing to ensure that "women feel safe and secure".

Addressing the three-day All India Conference of Directors General and Inspectors General of Police that concluded on CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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