

**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  
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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.

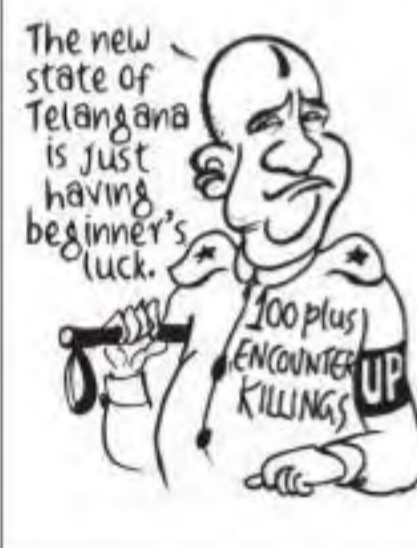
In the current calendar year so far, the rupee has depreciated by almost 2.5 per cent, even as foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have

**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**



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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EXPRESS AUDIO

Hyderabad encounter and the history of extrajudicial killings

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In today's episode of the 3 Things podcast, we look at how the Hyderabad encounter took place and how extrajudicial killings end up affecting a state's law and order

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VIDEO OF THE DAY



VIKAS KHANNA ON MASTERCHEF INDIA Chefs Vikas Khanna, Vineet Bhatia, Ranveer Brar turn judges

FULL COVERAGE



DELHI ANAJ MANDI FIRE: 43 KILLED CM Kejriwal announced ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh each for kin of victims

PM urges SAARC countries to take effective steps to defeat terrorism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

IN AN oblique reference to Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India's efforts for greater collaboration among the SAARC countries have repeatedly been challenged with threats and acts of terrorism.

In a letter to the SAARC secretariat to mark the founding day of the bloc, the Prime Minister said all countries in the region should take effective steps to defeat the scourge of terrorism and the forces which support it. Such efforts, he said, would generate greater trust and confidence to build a stronger SAARC.

"SAARC has made progress, but more needs to be done. Our efforts for greater collaboration have repeatedly been challenged with threats and acts of terrorism," Modi said. "Such an environment impedes our shared objective of realising the full potential of SAARC. It is critical that all countries in the region take effective steps to defeat the scourge of terrorism and the forces that support it."

In the last three years, India has been distancing itself from the SAARC, citing security challenge facing the region from terror networks based in Pakistan, which is also a member of the grouping.

Rahul must return as Cong chief: Baghel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

EVER SINCE Rahul Gandhi resigned as Congress chief, people are missing him as an "outsoken" leader and, therefore, he must return to lead the party forward, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said on Sunday.

Rahul quit after his party's poor show in the 2019 elections. The statement comes amidst speculation that the party's December 14 rally in Delhi is likely to pave the way for Rahul to take over as Congress chief again.

"Rahul Gandhi is the undisputed leader of the Congress party. Party workers from across the country are with him and he must return as the Congress chief soon," Baghel told PTI. "He is the only national leader who is outspoken on issues concerning the country and puts forth his views aggressively."

Answering a question, the chief minister said, "Whenever I meet him (Rahul Gandhi), I will urge him to take over the reins of the party."

FROM PAGE ONE

Desperate calls

Mehboob's relative Muhammad Hakeem said the boy was still under "training", he did not receive regular wages. "When I asked him how he ate, he said he would sometimes go to a hotel."

"Nobody wants to work in these conditions," Hakeem added, but Mehboob, who would have turned 14 on December 31, "had no choice". "His father works as a labourer... The family thought working would make him tough."

A resident near the factory contacted Hakeem, who lives in Hari Nagar, to tell him about the fire. Hakeem identified Mehboob, at Lady Hardinge Medical College, with the help of the 13-year-old's Aadhaar card photo on his phone.

Among those who remained missing till Sunday evening was 15-year-old Sehmat, who also came to Delhi a few months ago from Samastipur and worked with Mehboob. A relative rushed in from Sonapat to look for the teenager. The family in Samastipur does not have a phone. Sehmat's father Mohammad Ainul said, "There is chaos in the hospitals."

At Lok Nayak Hospital, Furkan Salim talked about how his cousin Musharraf Ali, 32, had called up his friend Shobit and asked him to take care of his family and children, gasping for breath as he lay dying. During the seven-minute conversation, Ali sobbed, "Bhaiya khatam hone wala hoon aaj main. Time kam bacha hai, bhaagne ka rasta nahin hai (Brother, I am going to die today. There is little time and no way to escape)... Take care of my home. You are all they have now. Mar bhi jaunga to wahin rahunga (Even if I die, my thoughts will remain with them)."

A native of Kanda village in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh, Ali came to Delhi around three years ago. Jameel Ahmad, 65, said his elder son Akram too called him in his final hours, around 5 am. Ahmad, who lives in Moradabad, got up after two missed calls and said when he called Akram back, the 38-year-old pleaded with him to save him.

Ahmad said he started calling relatives and friends in Delhi to rush to the factory, where his other son, Mohd Imran (35), too worked. Around 12.30 pm, Ahmad got the news that both his sons were dead. An inconsolable Noor Jehan spent the whole day looking for her father Anil Haque, 65, and brother-in-law Mohd Abbas, 35, who made caps in one of the units. Wandering around disoriented at Lok Nayak Hospital with husband Mohd Kalim, the native of Sitamarhi in Bihar said, "We are not being allowed either in the ward or mortuary."

By evening, they had got to know that both Haque and Abbas were dead. The survivors fought both the memory of the night and the pain of losing loved ones. Tears flowing freely, Shazid, 23, was being consoled by a friend at Lady Hardinge. A native of Bihar, Shazid was sleeping when the fire broke out. Among the dead was his brother Wajid, 28. Both had been working on the premises for two-three years. "They were sleeping in the same room," said the friend. Others recalled struggling to stay conscious. Asrar Alam, 19, who came to Delhi from Bihar four months ago, was asleep on a third-floor room with 18 others when he saw smoke pour in. "Many of them fell unconscious. I kept lying as it got dark due to the smoke," said Alam. "It was in the morning, I'm not sure when, that I saw a torch and raised my hand. Someone picked me up."

Alam was brought to Lady Hardinge around 7.30 am. Afzal too was among the survivors from the third floor. "I covered my face with a cloth and stood next to a hole in a window to breathe." A firefighter broke the window to rescue him around 5.30 am. A medical officer at Lady Hardinge said many victims suffered carbon monoxide poisoning. "The level in Alam's blood was around 6, where the normal level is around 1.5," he said. Some people in the area took victims to their homes and took care of them till ambulances arrived. Said Suhail, "Some men were shifted to my house via the roof. Even I had to leave my house later because of the smoke."

Another resident, Asif Ali, said he woke up to screams. "I saw a teenager boy crying. I picked him up," he said. Among the saddest cases was of Shariq Hussain, 28, who called up his wife, who is in the ninth month of her pregnancy, in Madhubani to tell her he won't make it. Elder brother Zakir Hussain said he told her, "Aakhri baar baat ho rahi hai (this is our last conversation). The building is on fire, I am caught inside, won't be able to get out."

Unnao burial burial was delayed as the family waited for the victim's elder sister to arrive from Pune, and demanded that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath meet them. They eventually went ahead with the last rites after the district administration promised an audience with Adityanath soon, and to meet their other demands.

The funeral procession included around 200 locals, and most double that number of police personnel, minister in-charge of Unnao Kamal Rani Varun, Uttar Pradesh Labour Minister Swami Prasad Maurya, and a Samajwadi Party delegation headed by party MLC Suneel Singh Sajan. The 23-year-old, who had received 90 per cent burns, had been taken for treatment to Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, where she died.

Police were deployed in the village in large numbers following a scuffle between district officials and SP and Congress supporters. Bighapur Circle Officer Anjani Kumar Rai said personnel from five districts were present. Several PAC companies and fire tenders have also been deployed in the village. On Sunday, Unnao SP Vikrant Veer suspended seven officials of Bihar Police Station, including one inspector, over "negligence" in the case and failure to check crime.

Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Mukesh Meshram said the victim's family would continue to get police security. The family has expressed concern over their safety, pointing out that they are the only blacksmiths in the surrounding five villages and most of the locals are loyal to the pradhan. Rape accused Shubham Trivedi is the son of pradhan

Dawn fire kills 43 in illegal factory

narrow exit that could be used; the second exit was blocked by raw material. This, and the fact that each floor had barely any ventilation, meant the labourers, most of whom were from Bihar and Jharkhand, had little chance of escaping.

An FIR registered by police states the factories were located illegally on residential premises. DFS director Atul Garg said the fire was possibly caused by an electrical short circuit on the second floor, and spread quickly upwards. Most of those who died were sleeping on the second and third floors of the building.

The DFS pressed 32 fire tenders and 150 firefighters into service — two firemen and two police personnel received injuries during the rescue operations.

The building occupies 500-600 square yards in a narrow, congested lane, surrounded by houses and other manufacturing units, ostensibly also illegal. Most of these units have come up where homes once stood, and their owners likely never bothered to obtain regulatory clearances.

A DFS official said it appeared prima facie that none of the buildings in the lane had applied for no-objection certificates from the department. The area had seen two other factory fires on Saturday — one in the same lane, and the other in an adjacent one — which were doused without any loss of lives.

The official claimed that the DFS had little enforcement power, which was the prerogative of the municipal corporations. The questions of jurisdiction and enforcement had been debated also at the time of the fire at Karol Bagh's Hotel Arpit Palace in February this year, in which 17 people were killed.

On Sunday too, the Centre and Delhi government pointed fingers at each other — Union

Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri suggested the DFS ought to have taken action against the building owner and that the Delhi government had been sitting on a proposal for redevelopment of the area, while the AAP government underlined that it was the responsibility of the (BJP-run) North Delhi Municipal Corporation to check building plans, and accused the Minister of trying to hide the corruption in the civic body.

At the entrance of the Anaj Mandi lane is an old arch, which made it impossible for the fire trucks to enter. "When the fire broke out, firefighters were told it was a fire inside a house. Two fire stations sent four tenders to the spot. But only one managed to get inside the lane (since it was so narrow)," Garg said. "Since the factory was near the fire station, we reached within five minutes," he said.

The leading fireman from Prasad Nagar fire station, Sunil Kumar, was the first to arrive outside the factory, where he was forced to spend several minutes clearing the lane of food carts that had been kept there at night. "We did not face any traffic, but it was still a shame that we spent our time moving the carts," a DFS official said.

It was 5.45 am, some 25 minutes after the fire service got the call, that one tender was finally able to reach outside the building. "Water was one of the biggest challenges, since most tenders couldn't enter the lane and the area doesn't have adequate water resources. Our men joined hose pipes together to form a 900-metre chain to douse the fire," Garg said.

The staircase was filled with smoke and the entrance was obstructed by heavy material, so the first team of five firemen had to cut through the metal grille on the upper-floor windows to get inside the building.

Mohammed Suhail, who lives nearby, said: "Around 4.50 am, I sensed smoke coming inside my room. I went out to check, and saw the factory was on fire. Men were screaming for help. There was only one staircase, and it had caught fire. It was difficult to go inside... I couldn't see a thing in the smoke."

By 7.20 am, firefighters had rushed five men to hospital; by 8 am, this number had risen to more than 30. "The ambulances were parked at the mouth of the lane. We picked up the injured men and carried them on our shoulders to the ambulances," a firefighter said.

The factory is owned by a man named Rehan, DCP (North) Monika Bharadwaj said. Police have arrested Rehan and registered a case of causing death by negligence (IPC section 304A) against him. The manager of the factory, Furquan, has also been arrested.

The building houses a godown. On the ground floor, plastic toys were made using moulding machines. The first floor had a diary-binding unit adjacent to a cardboard storage space. The second floor, where the fire began, had a rexine bag manufacturing unit, along with a few rooms in which the labourers stayed. The third floor had two units where garments and plastic frames for mirrors were manufactured.

On the fourth floor, there were cardboard boxes used for packing. One of the building's exits and the way to the roof were blocked by heavy materials. Fire personnel said, "We didn't see any windows in the rooms; there were hardly one or two. Some windows had grilles, which had to be broken," a DFS official said.

Garg said that by 9.30 am, most of the workers had been taken out of the building. Most

of the deaths occurred due to the inhalation of smoke, police and firemen said. Police said three-four bodies were charred.

At 9.45 am, a National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team carried out an inspection for hazardous gases using gas detectors. "Initially, four members of the CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence) team went inside to detect hazardous gases or materials. A 37-member NDRF team followed, and found a heavy concentration of carbon monoxide throughout the building, which is possibly what killed the people. The third and fourth floors still had items that were smoldering. Most workers had been sleeping in one room, which had a single inlet for air. Personnel swept through the entire building four times," NDRF deputy commandant Aditya Pratap Singh said.

The rescue operations were declared over by 11.30 am.

Assistant Divisional Officer (Old Delhi Fire Station), Rajesh Shukla, who was one of the first men on the scene, said, "Some died in their sleep, others drew their last breath in front of us. We rescued people from one corridor without realising those in the other corridor had died."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh for each of the dead from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced Rs 10 lakh each for the families.

"The fire in Delhi's Anaj Mandi on Rani Jhansi Road is extremely horrific. My thoughts are with those who lost their loved ones. Wishing the injured a quick recovery. Authorities are providing all possible assistance at the site of the tragedy," Modi posted on Twitter.

Kejriwal visited the site of the tragedy, and met the survivors at Lok Nayak Hospital.

Savitri Devi, while his father Hari Shankar Trivedi is among the five arrested.

"We rarely attend any event in the village. We could not turn to anybody when the accused and their families threatened us and we are alone now," said the victim's sister-in-law, adding that the big crowd that had come for the burial was misleading. "They already despise us and now it will be worse."

Listing the government measures, Meshram said a fast-track court had been set up to handle the case, the family had received a cheque of Rs 25 lakh and a member would soon be provided a government job, while their application for a house was being processed on priority. All police stations in the district have been told to crack down on women-related crimes and hold night patrolling.

With the Samajwadi Party Sunday saying the accused might go free as they are related to the pradhan and had links with the BJP, Minister Swami Prasad Maurya accused the Opposition of doing politics over the case. He denied that the pradhan's family was close to local MLA Hriday Narayan Dixit. About why Dixit was not present at the funeral on Sunday, Maurya said he was unwell. On the demand by the accused that the probe be handed over to the CBI, the minister said such demands could only be raised by the victim's side.

Around 500 metres from the house of the victim, the pradhan's home wore a deserted look. The family refused to talk to anyone, saying police had arrested the five under pressure of

the media and for political gains. Savitri Devi said that with the victim's family demanding a "Hyderabad-like encounter", she feared for the safety of her son and husband.

Re falls 2.5%

The government and the RBI are on the same page on this, an economist advising the government said.

"Instead of managing the excessive volatility in the currency price, the authorities seem to be working to ensure that the rupee does not appreciate despite funds flowing in," another industry analyst said, asking not to be named.

This is a subtle shift in the RBI's position of letting the rupee find its own market value, and intervening only to manage undue volatility.

The RBI has been buying dollars to keep the rupee from sharp appreciation. This is reflected in the surge in India's foreign exchange reserves by almost \$20 billion to \$448.59 billion on November 22 from \$428.60 billion on August 30.

"During 2019-20 so far, the rupee has traded in a narrow range, with modest appreciation in Q1 giving way to some depreciation in August and the first half of September. For the rupee, the IMF (estimates imply) that the currency is fairly valued and broadly in line with fundamentals," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on September 19.

The RBI has no target or band for the exchange rate, and interventions are intended to manage undue volatility, Das said. Over the last 11 months, FPIs have poured in Rs 1,31,291 crore,

and forex reserves have jumped by around \$55 billion (for the week ended November 22). The rupee, on the other hand, has weakened against the US dollar from 70.02 at the beginning of the year to 71.20 on December 3, 2019.

CAB today

business in the Lok Sabha. The Bill is expected to be taken up in the Rajya Sabha on December 11.

The Manipur CM led a team including Manipur civil society organisations and former CM and Congress leader Okram Ibobi Singh to meet Shah. "The Union Home Minister assured us that an alternative arrangement would be made to protect the indigenous communities of Manipur. We had proposed one of two courses — re-establishment of the Entry and Exit Permit System which was in place will 1950, or extension of the ILP to Manipur. The Home Minister told us that if he finds it difficult to implement the Entry and Exit System, he will extend the ILP. We have complete faith that he will decide on the appropriate course," Singh said.

Under the Entry and Exit Permit System, introduced by the erstwhile Manipur Kingdom, any non-Manipuri (even if from a part of India) had to register at a 'Foreigners' Office', acquire a special permit and pay a fee. The system continued even after Manipur had been assimilated into Assam, and was finally repealed by the Assam Commissioner in 1950.

The ILP that is currently in place in Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh requires non-locals to acquire special

permit for entry. The system was first introduced by the British Raj to protect its commercial interests in the region, particularly in oil and tea production.

An ILP activist in Manipur, Lancha Ningthouja, said, "There is a serious danger of the indigenous Manipuri population being wiped out along with their culture, history and languages. If one of the two systems is implemented by the Home Minister, it will definitely be a start... Why should we let outsiders take over our land entirely? No other country does this."

PM to officers

Sunday, the PM also urged officials to improve the image of the police to inspire confidence among all sections of society, including women and children.

Modi, who also addressed the conference, held in Pune, on Saturday, led discussions as well as made suggestions. On Sunday, he awarded President's Police Medals for distinguished service to officers of the Intelligence Bureau.

The conference, attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and IB Chief Arvind Kumar as well, was out of bounds for the media.

The Prime Minister's Office issued a press statement on what Modi had said. "The Prime Minister, while appreciating the meticulous efforts made by the country's police forces for maintaining general peace and tranquillity in the country... said that we must not forget the contribution of their families. At all times, he said, they must strive to improve the image of the police

force to inspire confidence amongst all sections of society including women and children. The Prime Minister emphasised the role of effective policing in making sure that women feel safe and secure." The PMO said.

A senior police officer, refusing to be named, said one of the issues the conference focused on was making policing more visible and pro-active. "Sensitising the staff about women's and children's issues is an ongoing process," he said.

The PMO statement said, "The Prime Minister urged the heads of police departments to carry forth the spirit of the Conference to the lowest level — the police station. After listening to presentations given by different state police forces, the Prime Minister mentioned that a comprehensive list of best practices could be prepared and adopted."

While Minister of State for Home Kishan Reddy briefed the media, he did not take any questions. He spoke about setting up police memorials across the country, and added, "Police are many times portrayed wrongly in films, TV and papers. Police officers, staffers sacrifice a lot on the personal front... The Government has decided to highlight the exemplary work and sacrifices of police. If someone commits a mistake, the entire force should not be defamed."

Govt to JNU

recommendations of the Lyngdoh Committee. The government has advised the withdrawal of police cases as it feels an atmosphere of confrontation will not help resolve the standoff. Last month, the Delhi Police had registered an FIR in connection with the "vandalism" at JNU's administration block by the students.

This is the first intervention by the government after the high-powered committee (HPC) submitted its report on November 26. The committee, which was set up to suggest ways to end the standoff over the increase in hostel fees, had suggested that the University Grants Commission (UGC) should release extra funds for JNU, and that the university should increase fees only after consulting all stakeholders.

The main reason for the students' protest is the introduction of service charges — for maintenance, mess workers, cook and sanitation — and utility charges (power and water consumption). The rent for a single room has been increased from Rs 20 per month to Rs 600 per month, and for a double-sharing room from Rs 10 per month to Rs 300 per month.

Since the fee hike was officially passed and the protests began, JNU has announced two partial rollbacks. It first announced a 50% concession in room rent, utility and service charges for students below the poverty line (BPL). However, the administration is yet to clarify who will be categorised as BPL.

As part of the second partial rollback, JNU announced a 50% reduction in service and utility charges for all students — from Rs 2,000 per month to Rs 1,000. It also announced a 75% reduction in utility and service charges for all eligible BPL students, which would now be Rs 100 instead of Rs 2,000 per month.

The students, however, have continued to demand a complete rollback, and that the university administration should consult them before implementing any such increase in the future.

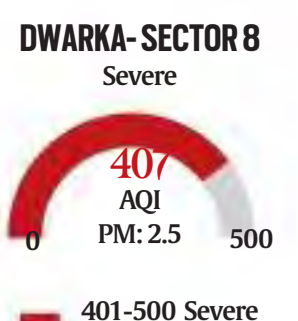
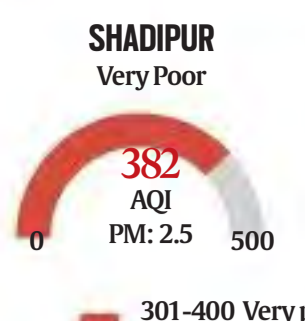
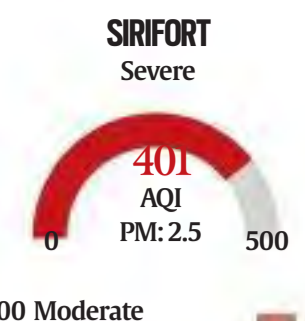
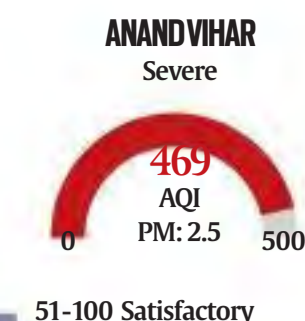
The government has proposed a compromise days before the semester-end examinations are scheduled to begin.

The students' general body had given a call to boycott the examination until the standoff was resolved.

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**BRIEFLY**

**17-year-old strangled to death, 2 held**

*New Delhi:* A 17-year-old girl was allegedly strangled to death in West Delhi by a man who wanted her to break up with her partner, police said. DCP (West) Deepak Purohit said both the accused and the girl's partner have been arrested.

**Police open Rs 10 lakh FD for rape victim**

*Noida:* Noida Police has created a fixed deposit of Rs 10 lakh to help a woman raped allegedly by five men last month.

**Fire at factory in Manesar**

*Gurgaon:* A fire broke out at a plastic factory in IMT Manesar's Sector 8 Sunday. Nobody was injured in the fire, which officials said may have been due to a short circuit. **ENS**

**AMID SOME DISSATISFACTION**

## To boost police force morale: Tea breaks and weekly offs

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

REFRESHMENTS FOR police personnel at duty points if their deployment stretches beyond eight hours, regular weekly offs, and appointment of an additional DCP-rank officer as a 'Welfare Officer' — these are some of the directions given by Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik to all DCPs to placate the police force.

The directions come nearly a month after over 2,000 cops sat outside the Delhi Police headquarters at ITO to protest "inaction" of senior officers following the violence at Tis Hazari.

After a parking row at the Tis Hazari district court on November 2 escalated into a clash between police and lawyers, Delhi Police found itself facing an unprecedented crisis — of policemen and women questioning their leadership and making their dis-



Following the police chief's directions, DCP (North West) Vijayanta Arya held an event for staff from all stations and departments in the district in a bid to reach out to them

pleasure with them known.

In a recent crime review meeting, the police chief asked all senior officers, especially Deputy Commissioners of Police, to devote time for the welfare of police personnel.

"Patnaik has asked them to provide tea and water to all police personnel on picket or patrolling duty at night. We have also been asked to arrange ba-

sic facilities like fans, heaters, drinking water and chairs in police booths," said a senior police officer.

Apart from other directions, Patnaik has also asked them to conduct workshops on soft skills, human behaviour and gender sensitisation in all districts at regular intervals.

"The DCP of specialised units and an Additional DCP-

rank officer will be designated as 'Welfare Officers' of the unit or district concerned for prompt redressal of grievances and complaints. An arrangement should be made wherein any policeman can meet the Welfare Officer and seek redressal of their grievances without any prior appointment," said an officer, adding that the top cop also issued directions to open a subsidised police canteen for police personnel.

Following the directions, DCPs have begun reaching out to personnel.

Last week, DCP (North West) Vijayanta Arya organised an event for staff from all police stations and departments in the district.

The last time Delhi Police saw unrest was in 1966, when over 6,000 personnel walked till Rashtrapati Bhavan demanding better wages and the right to unionise. It led to the formation of the Khosla Commission, under Justice G D Khosla, following which reforms were rolled out.

## Tihar Jail looks for a hangman, in talks with other states

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

**We are in informal talks with other states such as UP about it, a senior official said**

talks with other states, such as Uttar Pradesh, about it."

The Home Ministry has recommended President Ram Nath

Kovind to reject the mercy plea filed by Vinay Sharma, one of the convicts in the December 16, 2012, gangrape case. On Saturday, the convict withdrew his plea and said that "it was sent by Tihar Jail authorities without his consent".

Delhi Prisons DG Sandeep Goel said that the plea was indeed filed by Sharma, and bears his "signature and thumb impression".

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**REC LIMITED**  
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# ANOTHER BIG STEP TOWARDS HIGH QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES

## CONSTRUCTION BEGINS OF 270 BEDDED NEW BUILDING AT RAO TULA RAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

**LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE CEREMONY**

Monday, 9 December 2019 at 11am  
at Rao Tula Ram Memorial Hospital, Jafarpur Kalan, Najafgarh, New Delhi

- Chief Guest:**  
**ARVIND KEJRIWAL**  
Chief Minister, Delhi
- Guests of Honour:**  
**SATYENDAR JAIN**  
Health & PWD Minister, Delhi
- KAILASH GAHLOT**  
Transport Minister, Delhi  
& MLA, Najafgarh Constituency



Health Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

# Only question: Is my relative alive?

As the death toll mounted, relatives rushed from Bihar, Jharkhand and UP. But with a dozen bodies still unidentified, the day ended with uncertainty, anxiety



Amir Mehta



Outside Lok Nayak and Lady Hardinge hospitals. Hours after the fire at a factory in Anaj Mandi left 43 dead, families ran from hospital to hospital in search of their relatives. Gajendra Yadav

## 'Checked all wards but couldn't find him, now I'm at the mortuary'

ARANYA SHANKAR & ANANYA TIWARI  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

EARLY SUNDAY morning, panicked phone calls had started going to various people in Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. Mohd Ilyas (40) from Kori Rawana village in UP's Moradabad district had just woken up around 5.30 am when his cousin called him. "Dilli ki building me aag lag gayi hai, bhai andar the. Fauran nikalna padega (a building in Delhi has caught fire. Our brothers were inside; we will need to leave immediately)," he said.

Three hours later, Ilyas was in Delhi with

15 others from his village, not knowing that he would have to spend the next eight hours looking for his younger brother Sajjad (19), who made school bags at the factory in North Delhi's Anaj Mandi. The bodies of his cousins, Mohd Imran, Mohd Ikram and Sameer, were identified after a lot of running around, but there is no news of Sajjad anywhere.

"I went to all three hospitals and checked the wards but I couldn't find him. After losing hope, I finally came to the mortuary at Lok Nayak Hospital but he isn't here either," said Ilyas.

His helplessness and confusion was shared by many family members at the three hospitals — Lok Nayak, Lady Hardinge and Ram Manohar Lohia — where people ran pil-



Hundreds of people gathered as the lane was cordoned off. Praveen Khanna

lar to post looking for the answer to just one question: Is my relative alive or dead? A question that, for many, remained unanswered even as the day ended.

At Lok Nayak Hospital, where the bulk of victims were taken, relatives who had started gathering near the Emergency ward around 7 am had to wait till 3 pm before they were allowed inside the mortuary to identify bodies. Access to the burn ward was also restricted.

The identification process itself was marred by confusion. Hazy photos of the

body from inside the mortuary would be clicked by a relative, as several others huddled around, staring at the phone in an attempt to identify if it was indeed someone they knew.

Around 1 pm, at the Emergency ward in Lady Hardinge, only two bodies out of nine had been identified. As police tried to trace the next of kin, families kept shuffling between hospitals for clarity.

"I am looking for my minor son and have already visited Lok Nayak. We were not allowed to see the bodies and had to come here. No one is answering clearly. He is just a child and all I want to know is what happened. At this point, we don't even know if he is alive or not," said Mohammad Ainul, father of 15-year-old Sehmat, whose whereabouts could not be ascertained till evening.

Sehmat, who was from Samastipur, had arrived in the capital a few months ago to earn money and support his family. With no phone to get in touch with his family, it was through word of mouth in the village that prompted a search for Sehmat, initiated by a relative who rushed from Sonapat.

Brothers and sister-in-law of victim Mohammad Naushad, from Samastipur, Bihar, came agitated to the medical ICU at

Lady Hardinge. They had visited all three hospitals, but in vain. "We have come from the Emergency ward, and they told us there is one survivor here. I don't know if my brother is alive or dead. I don't even know where he's been admitted," said Naushad's brother.

Rukhsana Khartoum's two brothers, Mubarak (25), and Ghiyasuddin (18), were caught in the fire, and like others, she was unsure where to go. She said she got a call from her relatives in Nariyar village, Saharsa, only in the afternoon, after which she and her husband, who work as labourers and stay in Noida, rushed to the hospital.

While Khartoum knew early on that Mubarak had passed away, it was much later that she was handed a photo of her younger brother from the police, informing her that he was dead.

For many, there was no closure even as the day drew to a close. Raees (45), who was looking for his nephew Gannu (18), found no trace of him. "I will make rounds of the hospitals again tomorrow. He has to be somewhere. He cannot just disappear. At this point, all we want is some clarity. That's the most I can hope for," he said.

(WITH INPUTS FROM AMIL BHATNAGAR)

### NO LESSONS LEARNT



The Uphaar cinema fire is among the worst in the country. Archive

**UPHAAR CINEMA FIRE, 1997**  
Near Green Park  
Toll: **59 DEAD**

The fire broke out on June 13, 1997, during the screening of the movie *Border*. A stampede followed and over 100 people were injured

**LAL KUAN CHEMICAL MARKET FIRE, 1999**  
Lal Kuan, Old Delhi  
Toll: **57 DEAD**

The fire broke out in a godown in the heavily congested area of Lal Kuan in May 1999, where a chemical market has existed for decades. An enquiry report said the incident took place as a highly inflammable chemical was stored incorrectly. The fire spread rapidly. Despite orders to shift the market, it still exists, though many shops have shut or have started selling other products

**BAWANA FIRE, 2018**  
Bawana Industrial Area  
Toll: **17 DEAD**

Workers were killed in a massive blaze at an illegal firecracker packaging unit in January 2018. Investigation revealed there were several lapses in fire-safety norms and permissions. Inquiry report blamed lapses on the part of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation, DSIIDC, DFS, Labour dept and Delhi Police

**HOTEL ARPIT PALACE FIRE, 2019**  
Karol Bagh  
Toll: **17 DEAD**

Fire at the 37-room hotel broke out early in the morning, in the AC unit of a room where two people were staying. Enquiry report said the hotel was operating without any approved building plan since it opened in 1993, and its owner had "managed" licences over the years with the "connivance" of officials

### MOST LIVED ALONE, AWAY FROM FAMILIES

## Capital tragedy plays out in homes thousands of kms away

ARANYA SHANKAR, ASTHA SAXENA & AMIL BHATNAGAR  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

FROM A teenager sustaining his family to a father expecting another child, Sunday's incident brought many lives, and families, to a standstill.

**Akbar (16)**  
Like several people from his village in Bihar's Samastipur, Akbar came to the city to earn a living five months ago. "He was learning on the job and wasn't earning as of now," said his uncle Mohd Kabir. Akbar's father works as an agricultural labourer back home.

**Shaqir Hussain (28)**  
Hailing from Malhawal village in Bihar's Madhubani, Shaqir had been working in Delhi for eight years as a labourer, making caps at the building. His wife and three children stay in Bihar, and another child is on the way. "His wife is due to deliver in a few months. We haven't given her the news as of now; she'll be shattered," said his brother Zakir Hussain (33), who had come to identify the body. His father works as a rickshaw puller in Delhi, and was the last person Shaqir spoke to at 11 pm Saturday, as per his routine. His brother said Shaqir had plans to go home soon.

**Ainul Haque (65) and Mohd Abbas (35)**  
From Sitamarhi in Bihar, the duo were also staying at the building, where they made

caps for a living. Abbas is survived by his wife Angoori, Haque's daughter. The rest of the family stays near Jahangirpuri in Delhi.

**Mohammad Sadre Alam, Mohammed Sajjad and Mohammed Wajid**  
The youths, all aged 24-25, hailed from the same village in Samastipur, and were among 20 other persons from the district who had travelled to work in the factory. In the last conversation with a relative around midnight, the three discussed plans of playing cricket on their weekly off, Sunday. "Most of them planned to watch a movie on their phone till 2.30 am since the next day was an off," said their relative Nabi Raja.

**Mohammed Aizub (40) and Mohammad Jahid (35)**  
Residents of Araria in Bihar, the two brothers worked in jacket manufacturing. They were to return home on Tuesday, and their train tickets had already been booked. Aizub is survived by his wife and three children, and Jahid by his wife and two children. "This was a seasonal thing and they had come to the same factory before for six months. They would save money and take it home. In just two days, they would have been back home safe," said Sajjad, a relative.

**Faisal Khan (27), Sajeemuddin (56)**  
From Saharsa in Bihar, their relative Taj Ahmad (40) reached Lok Nayak Hospital around 9.30 am and kept waiting for the administration to provide information. "I met him on Saturday



Some grilles had to be cut at the building in Anaj Mandi, Sunday. Praveen Khanna

afternoon and he said he won't be able to come and meet me for a few days. I never knew this is what I'll hear next," said Ahmad.

**Mohd Sajid (18)**  
From Samastipur, he had been working in the factory for the last six months. The family is yet to arrive in Delhi and his body was handed over to his cousin, who was asked by his parents to reach the hospital.

**Musharraf Ali (32)**  
Around 5.15 am, Musharraf called his friend Shobit alias Monu and said that the factory

was on fire and this was his last call. The family lives in Kanda village in Bijnor. He is survived by his wife, children and mother. He had been working in Delhi for the last four years.

**Mohd Imran (35) and Mohd Ikram (38)**  
From Moradabad in UP, the brothers had been working in cloth factories for the last six years. They were handling the unit that made handbags.

**Mohd Afsad (28)**  
A resident of Saharsa, he came to Delhi three

months ago to work in the paper factory. He has two children — a girl and a boy; his daughter was born three months ago. His body was identified by a close relative who lives in Karol Bagh.

**Babloo (24)**  
The youth hailed from Muzaffarpur in Bihar and had been working in the factory for five years. He was involved in printing T-shirts.

**Mehboob (13)**  
He hailed from Samastipur and was involved in manufacturing handbags for the past six months. He would have turned 14 on January 1, 2020.

**Mohd Atabul (17)**  
From Bihar, he worked on the third floor and was employed a few months ago.

**Raju**  
From Muzaffarpur. His brother Mohd Dulare came to identify the body at Lok Nayak.

**Naveen Kumar**  
From Begusarai in Bihar. His relative Mohd Sitare came to identify the body.

**Mohd Gulab and Mohd Sanaullah**  
From Sitamarhi in Bihar. Their cousin Aslam identified the bodies after the blaze.

**Jojo**  
A resident of Samastipur, he was identified by one of his relatives, Mohd Ishak.

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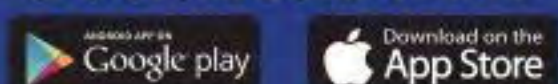
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# 6 ANAJ MANDI BLAZE 43 DEAD



Rescue personnel with breathing apparatus rush to the building at Anaj Mandi Sunday. Since there were obstructions at the main entrance, they had to cut through windows on upper floors. Praveen Khanna

## 'SEVERAL LAPSES IN CONSTRUCTION' 'MCD officials checked unit last week, was locked'

ABHINAV RAJPUT, MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL & SOMYA LAKHANI  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

8273, ANAJ Mandi — the five-storey building where an early morning blaze killed 43 labourers Sunday — was to be given a show-cause notice in a few days by the North MCD, after it was identified as one of 2,800 units illegally operating within residential complexes in North Delhi. Several lapses in construction of the building and a total absence of any kind of fire safety, including a no-objection certificate, have also been pointed out by officials.

North MCD commissioner Varsha Joshi said: "Our officials surveyed the building last week but part of it was found to be locked. A show-cause notice is to be issued to every unit in the building. If the reply shows that the unit is permissible as a household unit, as per provisions of the Master Plan, it would be considered for granting permission; if not, it would be shut."

A North MCD leader said while "2,800" is an official figure as per their records, the actual number "surpasses 10,000 units in the area". He said at least 4,500 illegal units were identified in North Delhi and show-cause notices issued to 3,500 units this year: "Of those, 1,300 units were vacated and 400 left voluntarily. This left 2,800 units, including the building where the fire took place."

North MCD standing committee head Jai Prakash said, "This building was found violating rules in our survey; we were going to send them a show-cause notice. The corporation had set December 2019 as the deadline to close around 4,500 such industries

found in the survey... they will be shut by December 31." A senior official said many traders who have been given alternate plots in industrial areas continue to operate from residential areas.

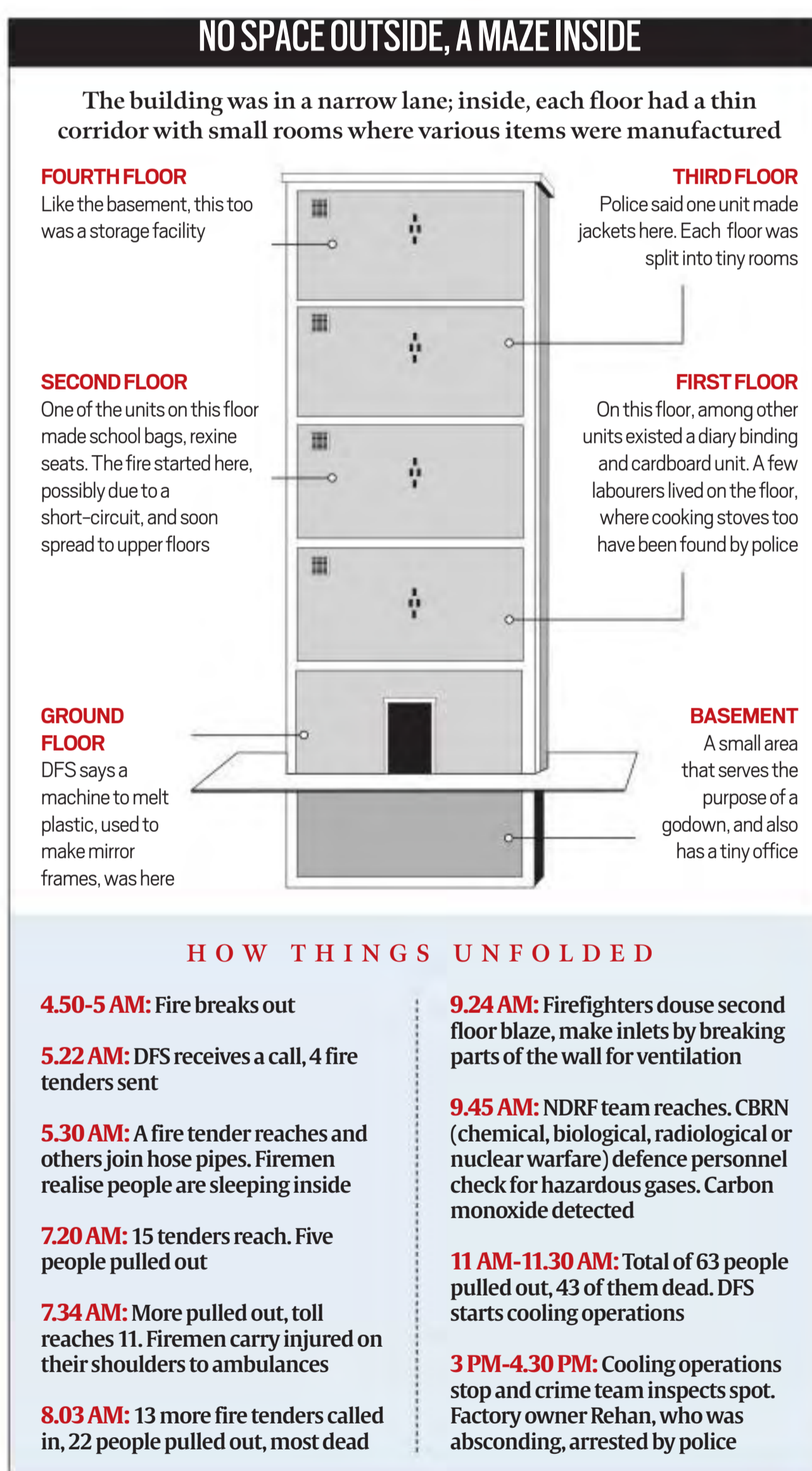
A special investigation unit (SIU) team of the Crime Branch, which had earlier investigated the fire at Karol Bagh's Hotel Arpit Palace that claimed 17 lives this February, Sunday inspected the Anaj Mandi building and found "several lapses in construction". A senior officer said, "the owner illegally constructed the top two floors without planter".

The officer said that during inspection, local police personnel "asked the team of SIU not to stand in one area together as it is an unsteady floor".

Meanwhile, Delhi Fire Services (DFS) director Atul Garg said the building did not have a fire NOC and that records show an application was never filed for it either. "Had the building owner applied for an NOC, we would have rejected it as a commercial unit cannot exist in a residential area. It did not follow a single rule under the 'Delhi Building Bye Law related to fire', which mentions the kind of exits, connectivity to main road, doorways. The major problems in the building were over-storage, flammable material, no escape route and no ventilation," he said.

A senior DFS official said in the recent past, most such fire incidents have taken place in "unplanned areas, where residential complexes are being used for commercial purposes. There is an urgent need to shift these illegal units to industrial areas".

Another DFS official alleged "connivance of various building agencies with owners of buildings... we do not have the manpower to conduct regular inspections".



## First inside: 5 firemen with oxygen cylinders, meant to be refilled every 20 mins

SOMYA LAKHANI & ANAND MOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

WHEN THE Delhi Fire Services (DFS) received a call at 5.22 am Sunday, a team from a fire station less than 100 metres away from the spot rushed to house number 8273, Anaj Mandi, in North Delhi. Four fire tenders were deployed and since the address was of a residential area, firefighters were under the impression that it was a blaze at a house.

"We immediately received a call from a firefighter about the need for more tenders and men as it was a factory, with several people trapped inside. In all, 32 fire tenders and over 150 firefighters were dispatched," said DFS director Atul Garg.

A total of 43 people, including at least five minors, who were working inside several tiny units that existed in the five-storey building, died. "It was a medium-category fire and dousing it was not a challenge; it was the rescue that was a task. Our priority was to rescue as many people as we could first... so a team of five firefighters entered the building with their breathing apparatus sets even though the fire was raging inside," Garg said.

Visibility was low as smoke engulfed the factory; the boots of firefighters brushed against unconscious men on the upper floors; and the firemen encountered an obstructed exit. Even as the firefighters did the four-hour rescue operation, their breathing apparatus sets ran out every 20 minutes and had to be refilled regularly. In all, DFS pulled out 63 people from the building, of whom 43 died.

An operator from Rani Jhansi Road fire station managed to speak to some workers outside the building who were in contact with trapped workers over the phone.

The rescue operation began with DFS officers accessing the building from the windows in the rear. "Entering the building from the front was tricky as the staircase was filled with smoke and reaching the top floors would have taken more time. We accessed



The shuttered entrance to the five-storey building. Express

the building from the rear by cutting iron grilles of windows... most people were rescued from there. We also used the front entrance later but most of the rescue was done from the rear end," said Garg.

On each floor, firefighters came across 15-20 people, most unconscious. The narrow, cramped lane made it impossible for fire tenders to enter, so a mini water tender was sent.

As the smoke cleared, three charred bodies were found huddled together in a room by Assistant Divisional Officer (Old Delhi fire station) Rajesh Shukla. Thirty unconscious workers were found in a single room. The first and second floors were cleared, and Shukla managed to get 12 workers out when his breathing apparatus set ran out. "It has a maximum capacity of 30 minutes but was not enough for such a big rescue operation," Shukla said.

The firefighters dragged the unconscious men found on the upper floors as the uneven surface was a risk for the firefighters. "We also had to save up on our strength and could not lift all of them. Many of us started suffocating as well. There was only one ambulance which could make it to the main entrance at that time," a fire operator said. At least two firefighters were admitted to the hospital — one complained of breathing problems, the other of a leg injury.

## Who is to blame? Union Minister says three Delhi departments, AAP govt says MCD

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

SUNDAY'S FIRE prompted a fresh round of blame game between the Centre and the Delhi government. Union Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri laid the blame on the Delhi Fire Services, the Labour department and the state Urban Development department, saying it was their responsibility to take action against the illegally operating unit.

"The building flouted safety and fire norms. Delhi Fire Services has sections... that stipulate that a building of this height and occupancy level needs fire safety and fire prevention measures. But no known action was taken by DFS," Puri said in a statement.

DFS rules state that residential buildings over 15 metres tall or with ground plus four upper storeys, including a mezzanine floor, are liable for action. DFS director Atul Garg,



Chief Minister Kejriwal, Health Minister Satyendar Jain visit the injured. PTI

however, said: "The plans of any building had to be presented to the DFS by relevant agencies, which in this case is the municipal corporation. The purpose of the building and its height are told to us by these agencies."

The Delhi government, meanwhile, blamed North Delhi Municipal Corporation.

Calling Puri's statement "shocking and false", an official statement by the government said its agencies come into the picture only when the premises are legal.

"Why is the union ministry defending an illegal factory being run in violation of all rules and has taken so many innocent lives?... It is MCD's duty to check building plans, whether buildings have been lawfully constructed and what activities are going on," it said.

The leader of opposition in the North municipal body, AAP's Surjeet Pawar, called for the resignation of commissioner Varsha Joshi. Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari, meanwhile, criticised Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for attending a political event later in the day. But AAP hit out at BJP for indulging in politics over the incident. "It is the BJP which is responsible for issuing licences to manufacturing units in residential areas. The party is playing politics over dead bodies," said AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh.

## As face of grain market changed from 1990s, many exploited lax rules for residences

SUKRITA BARUAH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

WORKSHOPS CUM living spaces on different floors of different buildings, occupied largely by migrants from Bihar and Jharkhand — the lane in which Sunday's fire took place was a hub of small-scale manufacturing work, with each structure resembling the one next to it.

"Only 2-3% of the rooms here are occupied by local families. The rest have 'factories' — some do diary binding, some make school-bags, caps, tiffin boxes, leather jackets, and so on," said Krishan Kumar Goyal, president of the Anaj Mandi Residents' Welfare Society.

However, none of the other buildings and manufacturing units in the lane are as large as the one in which Sunday's fire took place. While that building was five-storeys high and had an area of 500-600 square yards, Goyal said most of the others are between 25-50 gaj

in area and a storey shorter. Locals estimate there are 100-140 workshops in this lane alone.

Most buildings which house these workshops have different manufacturing units operating on different floors, and usually employ people who come from Bihar or Jharkhand and live without their families in the capital.

Muhammad Tabrez (30), from Pothia village in Bihar's Katihar district, works in one such workshop which produces caps. "I have been working and living here for over 10 years. The 'factory' is run by someone known to my family in Bihar. He offered me work in Delhi, so I followed him here. There are 40-50 men from my village itself who are working in this lane in different 'factories'," he said.

The workshop Tabrez works in operates out of the first floor of a three-storey building in the lane. Nineteen other men work with him in that space, and they get paid Rs 9,000 per month. The workshop operates from 10 am to 11 pm, with each man working a nine-

hour shift. Once work for the day is done, the men lay down a mat on the floor and pull up a blanket provided to them by their employer.

According to residents of areas surrounding the lane, it has not always been a manufacturing hub. The area got its name because of a pre-Independence grain market, along with a dozen flour mills and a pulses mill. During the 1990s, the mills started fading and gave way to factories. Now, no mills remain.

"This very lane used to be a residential area occupied by the families of landowners. They were mostly merchants and businessmen, and the houses were one or two storeys high. However, they began either selling their houses or renting out property. In the meantime, the new entrants began vertical growth of these buildings. Since Sadar Bazar is located nearby, the workshop owners see what is in demand there, get that made here and sell it," said Mohammad Ammar, who has been living in a nearby lane for the last five decades.

# Oppn comes together against CAB, CPM to move amendments

ABANTIKA GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

WITH THE contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill set to be introduced in the Lok Sabha on Monday, the opposition to it seems to be building. The CPM is set to move two amendments seeking removal of names of the religions whose followers will be eligible for Indian citizenship under it, while the Trinamool Congress, sources said, is set to submit a notice opposing the Bill's introduction, led by veteran parliamentarian Saugata Roy.

Opposition parties, including the Congress, Samajwadi Party, Aam Aadmi Party, CPI, IUML, DMK and RJD, apart from the CPM and Trinamool, have also put together an eight-point strategy to take on CAB both inside and outside Parliament.

Sources said the CPM amendments would call for replacement of the words "Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian community from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan" regarding illegal refugees seeking citizenship, with "from neighbouring countries". Along with this change in section 2, line 3 of CAB, the CPM will seek a similar replacement in section 6, line 3, to make the



A rally against the Bill in Guwahati on Sunday. *Dasarath Deka*

Bill "religion neutral" and more "in keeping with Constitutional ethos".

The Trinamool has issued a whip to all its MPs in both Houses of Parliament to remain present on the next four days in anticipation of the legislation reaching the Upper House too sometime this week — the last of the current session.

"We will oppose the introduction of the Bill in both Houses because it is against Constitutional morality. Trinamool members will get a chance to speak about the Bill before it is introduced," said a party leader.

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, a leftover agenda of the previous NDA government, seeks to ease the

Indian citizenship process for those fleeing religious persecution from neighbouring countries, leaving out only Muslims from its ambit. It also provides for relief to non-Muslims left out of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise by not only making them eligible for citizenship under the more liberal rules but also calling for abatement of the legal proceedings currently on against them.

The Opposition has held that granting citizenship on the basis of religion is contrary to the right to equality guaranteed by the Constitution. They have also maintained that the Bill and the NRC cannot be de-hyphenated because new sections have been inserted into the current draft of

the legislation to paper over the NRC glitches.

Tabled in Parliament earlier this year, under the first Modi government, the Bill had been sent to a Joint Parliamentary Committee, in which several parties, including the Trinamool, BJD, Congress and CPM, had given dissent notes. It had eventually failed to clear the Rajya Sabha and lapsed with the end of term of the last Parliament.

While the NDA still doesn't have the brute majority of the Lok Sabha in the Upper House, the Opposition had seemed cautious in its reaction after the government cleared CAB last week for introduction in the House.

In an indication that they may have dropped that reticence, the opposition parties' agenda will now contend that CAB is essentially an effort by the government to divert attention from the state of the economy, and is against Constitutional morality, provides for different standards for citizenship, is anti-tribal, is unjust to one lakh Gorkhas left out of the NRC in Assam, and is a damage-control exercise post the latter exercise in the Northeastern state.

They will also ask why, even though the government claims religious persecution as the biggest ground for the Bill, CAB's text itself does not mention this.

## Shia outfit demands inclusion in CAB cover

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 8

THE ALL-INDIA Shia Personal Law Board on Sunday decided that it would request the Centre to enlarge the scope of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill and include Shias in the list of communities entitled to citizenship on account of persecution in the neighbouring countries. The board also requested the Centre to review its stand on conducting an exercise to

prepare a countrywide National Register of Citizens (NRC).

"We are a minority within the minorities in India... If you are taking Buddhists, Jains, Christians under the ambit of Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, then you must include Shias as well," said the board's spokesperson Maulana Yasooob Abbas.

Abbas said the board's representatives would meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this regard.

## SAD backs legislation, but wants Muslims covered

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 8

BJP ALLY Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Sunday hailed the Centre's decision to introduce the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Parliament, saying that a long-pending demand of the party had been accepted. However, it said the Bill must cover all persecuted people, irrespective of religion.

It said that keeping in view the country's socialistic, secular and

democratic credentials and humanitarian principles, Muslims should not be excluded from the Bill.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the party's core committee which was presided over by SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal. Sukhbir said the party had been raising the issue of more than 75,000 Sikhs who fled Afghanistan more than 30 years ago. "The Citizenship Amendment Bill not only franchises them but also protects their life and liberty as per the Constitution."

The Indian EXPRESS  
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

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गरिमा की जीवंत मिसाल एवं विपरीत परिस्थितियों में भी  
सशक्तता की एक पथ-प्रदर्शक

## आदरणीय श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी जी

को जन्म दिवस पर  
**हार्दिक बधाई**  
एवं  
**शुभकामनाएँ**

**कमल नाथ**  
अध्यक्ष, म.प्र. कांग्रेस कमेटी एवं प्रदेश के सभी कांग्रेस जनों की ओर से

मध्यप्रदेश कांग्रेस कमेटी द्वारा जारी

### TELLING NUMBERS

## Year on year, drop in malaria, dengue and chikungunya cases

IN 2018, the country recorded 4,29,928 cases of malaria, 1,01,192 cases of dengue, and 57,813 clinically suspected cases of chikungunya. For each of these diseases, the number of cases was less than in 2017, when there were 8,44,558 cases of malaria, 1,88,401 of dengue and 67,769 of chikungunya. These figures, tabled in Parliament, were part of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's reply to a question.

The highest number of malaria cases in 2018 was recorded in Uttar Pradesh, at 86,486, followed by Chhattisgarh (78,717), Odisha (66,311), Jharkhand (57,095) and West Bengal (26,440). Except Uttar Pradesh, all these states registered a lower number of cases than in 2017. In Uttar Pradesh, the number of cases rose from 32,345 in 2017.

For dengue, Punjab recorded the highest number of cases in 2018, at 14,890, down from 15,398 cases in 2017. It was followed by Maharashtra (11,011), Rajasthan (9,587), Gujarat (7,579) and Delhi (7,136). While the number of cases decreased in Punjab and Delhi between 2017 and 2018, it rose in each of the other three states.

For clinically suspected cases of chikungunya, the highest count was 20,411 in Karnataka, down from 32,831 cases in 2017. Karnataka is followed by Gujarat (10,601), Maharashtra (9,884), Jharkhand (3,405) and Madhya Pradesh (3,211).

In its reply, the Health Ministry noted that dengue and chikungunya are outbreak-prone diseases, and therefore their numbers vary from state to state and from time to time.

### MALARIA CASES

State	2018	2017
Uttar Pradesh	86,486	32,345
Chhattisgarh	78,717	140,727
Odisha	66,311	347,860
Jharkhand	57,095	94,114
West Bengal	26,440	31,265
All India	4,29,928	8,44,558

### DENGUE CASES

State	2018	2017
Punjab	14,890	15,398
Maharashtra	11,011	7,829
Rajasthan	9,587	8,427
Gujarat	7,579	4,753
Delhi	7,136	9,271
All India	1,01,192	1,88,401

### CLINICALLY SUSPECTED CHIKUNGUNYA CASES

State	2018	2017
Karnataka	20,411	32,831
Gujarat	10,601	7,953
Maharashtra	9,884	8,110
Jharkhand	3,405	269
Madhya Pradesh	3,211	2,477
All India	57,813	67,769

Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Therefore, a year-on-year increase in the number of cases for a particular state depends on when an outbreak happens, it said.

### THIS WORD MEANS

## FROGPHONE

### How to dial frog habitats and collect research data

RESEARCHERS HAVE developed a device that will allow scientists to monitor frogs in the wild. Described as the world's first solar-powered remote survey device that can be installed at any frog pond and which receives a 3G or 4G cellular network, it has been named "FrogPhone". It has been developed by a team from various Australian institutions, including the University of New South Wales and the University of Canberra. A field trial conducted between August 2017 and March 2018 in Canberra proved successful, the British Ecological Society said in a statement.

With FrogPhone, researchers can simply "call" a frog habitat. After a call is made to one of the FrogPhones already on a site, the device will take three seconds to receive it. During these few seconds, the device's temperature sensors will get acti-

vated, and environmental data such as air temperature, water temperature and battery voltage will be sent to the caller's phone via a text message.

Because frogs are most active during night, researchers are usually required to make nightly observations in order to monitor them on site. The FrogPhone will allow researchers to dial these devices remotely, and analyse the data later. It will reduce costs and risks, including the negative impact of human presence on the field site, the researchers say. These devices also allow for monitoring of local frog populations more frequently than before, which is important because these populations are recognised as indicators of environmental health. The researchers have described the new device in last week's edition of the journal *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*.



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### ABHISHEK SAHA GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 8

ON MONDAY, the government is set to introduce the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB), 2019, which proposes to make it easier for certain categories of migrants to become eligible for Indian citizenship. In the revised version of CAB, the Centre has exempted certain areas in the Northeast, where the Bill has been facing protests. In effect, it exempts the whole of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram, almost the whole of Meghalaya, and parts of Assam and Tripura, but keeps all of Manipur under its ambit. (To address Manipur's concerns, the government is expected to announce special provisions)

### Why are three states totally exempted?

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) states: "Nothing in this section shall apply to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram or Tripura as included in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution and the area covered under 'The Inter Line' notified under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873." The Inner Line Permit (ILP) system prevails in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram. In Nagaland, Dimapur town is not under ILP as of now.

### How does the ILP system work?

ILP is a special permit that citizens from other parts of India require to enter the three states. It can be obtained after applying online or physically, and specifies dates of travel and areas which the ILP holder can travel to.

When the regime was introduced under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act of 1873, the objective was to protect the Crown's own commercial interests by preventing "British subjects" (Indians) from trading within these regions. In 1950, the Indian government replaced "British subjects" with "Citizen of India", to address local concerns about protecting their interests.

### What does this exemption mean for beneficiaries under CAB?

In ILP states, there are already a large number of migrants from other Indian states. They live and work there equipped with long-term ILPs, and renew these. The question now being asked, therefore, is whether a person who becomes an Indian citizen through CAB can, or cannot, apply for an ILP and work in such states, just like any other Indian citizen.

Also, multiple restrictions and regulations exist on entry and stay of "outsiders" (Indian citizens from outside that state/area) in areas under the Inner Line system or the Sixth Schedule. These existing rules are expected to put the same restrictions on someone who has acquired citizenship through CAB.

The exemptions appears to imply, however, that no immigrant non-citizen living in these areas can be regularised as an Indian citizen through CAB. "The exemption means that no... Bangladeshi will be allowed to settle in Mizoram and other ILP states under CAB. That is what our demand was — that even if CAB is passed, a state like Mizoram should be exempted," said Vanlaruata, president of the central committee of the influential Young Mizo Association.

### What is the Sixth Schedule, and which areas are exempted from CAB?

The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, described in Articles 244(2) and 275(1), relates to special provisions in administration of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram and provides special powers for Autonomous

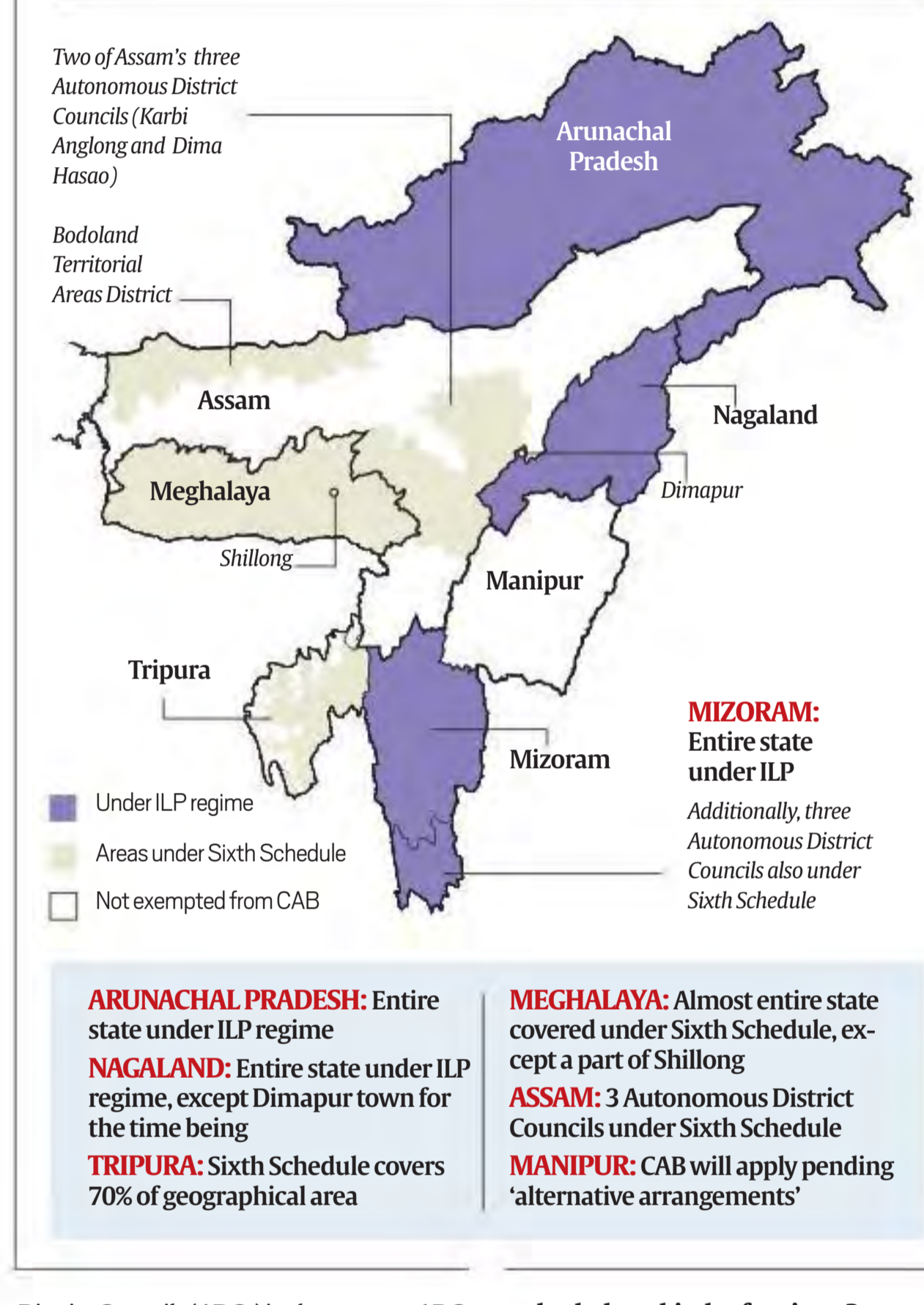
### SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

# Where CAB does not apply

Citizenship Amendment Bill, set to be introduced today, seeks to address concerns in Northeast by exempting all or part of various states. What are these areas, and what makes Manipur's case different?



A protest against Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Guwahati, on Sunday, PTI



District Councils (ADCs) in these states. ADCs have powers to enact laws in areas under their jurisdiction on a variety of subjects, with the objective of ensuring development of tribal areas and boosting self-governance by tribal communities.

Mizoram is covered under the ILP regime in any case. Among the other three states that have areas protected under the Sixth Schedule, tribal-majority Meghalaya has three ADCs that cover practically the entire state, except for a small part of Shillong city. Assam has three ADCs and Tripura one, all with Sixth Schedule powers.

### So, why has Manipur been an exception

to both these kinds of regimes? Manipur, like Tripura, was a princely state. When they joined the Indian Union (both in 1949; they became full-fledged states in 1972), they were out of the scheme of the Sixth Schedule, said L Lam Khan Piang, assistant professor at the School of Social Sciences in JNU.

"Only from 1985, the Sixth Schedule was implemented in Tripura's tribal areas. When Tripura was given, the Centre had said that even in Manipur it would be extended shortly — but it never turned out to be a reality. However, in Manipur the state government had recommended three times for the Sixth Schedule... they recommended three times

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but they did not pursue it properly," Piang said.

### What about Manipur's tribal areas?

Manipur has two geographically distinct areas. The valley, which includes Imphal, constitutes roughly 10% of the geographical area but holds around 60% of the state's population. These belong mostly to the dominant Meitei community. The remaining 90% is hill areas, home to the other 40% that include a wide range of tribes, including Nagas and Kukis.

Piang said the Centre, while granting statehood, was aware that certain problems could come up for tribals and hence introduced Article 371C.

### But what is Article 371C?

It mentions special provisions for Manipur: "... The President may, by order made with respect to the State of Manipur, provide for the constitution and functions of a committee of the Legislative Assembly of the State consisting of members of that Assembly elected from the Hill Areas of that State, for the modifications to be made in the rules of business of the Government and in the rules of procedure of the Legislative Assembly of the State and for any special responsibility of the Governor in order to secure the proper functioning of such committee."

It adds, "The Governor shall annually, or whenever so required by the President, make a report to the President regarding the administration of the Hill Areas in the State of Manipur and the executive power of the Union shall extend to the giving of directions to the State as to the administration of the said areas."

Piang said powers granted through this provision protect the tribals of Manipur in the Assembly, primarily through the Hill Areas Committee of the Manipur State Legislative Assembly — which comprises MLAs from the hill areas of the state.

### Are there any other provisions for Manipur?

The Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act, 1971, passed by Parliament, paved the way for establishment of six Autonomous District Councils in Manipur in 1972. Piang notes, however, that without the Sixth Schedule in place, these Councils have much lower powers in comparison to ADCs under the Sixth Schedule.

Last year, the Manipur People Bill, 2018 was passed by the Assembly. Said to be awaiting presidential assent, it proposes to several regulations on "outsiders" or "non-Manipuri people" in the state. The Bill had undergone series of negotiations on defining the "Manipuri" people, after which a consensus was reached on 1951 as the cut-off year.

### What about other states in the Northeast?

In November this year, the Meghalaya Cabinet approved amendments to the Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Act 2016, which will lead to laws that require non-resident visitors to register themselves. The move came in the backdrop of demands for an ILP-like regime and concerns expressed by civil society and political leaders, including Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, that people excluded from the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam might try to enter Meghalaya.

In Assam too, there have been demands by certain sections for the introduction of an ILP regime. Groups such as the Asom Jatiyatadabi Yuba Chatra Parishad, a youth organisation, have been organising demonstrations seeking ILP throughout the state.

# Creamy layer principle in SC, ST quota for promotion: judgments, appeals

### ANANTHAKRISHNAN G NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

LAST WEEK, the Centre urged the Supreme Court to refer to a larger Bench its decision last year that had applied the creamy layer principle to promotions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in government jobs.

### What was the case about?

In *Jarnail Singh vs Lachmi Narain Gupta* (2018), the court dealt with a batch of appeals relating to two reference orders, first by a two-judge Bench and then by a three-judge Bench, on the correctness of the Supreme Court's judgment in *M Nagaraj & Others vs Union of India* (2006). The Nagaraj case, in turn, had arisen out of a challenge to the validity of four Constitution amendments, which the court eventually upheld.

### What were these amendments?

**77th Amendment:** It introduced Clause 4A to the Constitution, empowering the state to make provisions for reservation in matters of promotion to SC/ST employees if the state feels they are not adequately represented.

**81st Amendment:** It introduced Clause 4B, which says unfilled SC/ST quota of a

particular year, when carried forward to the next year, will be treated separately and not clubbed with the regular vacancies of that year to find out whether the total quota has breached the 50% limit set by the Supreme Court.

**82nd Amendment:** It inserted a proviso at the end of Article 335 to enable the state to make any provision for SC/STs "for relaxation in qualifying marks in any examination or lowering the standards of evaluation, for reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of services or posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State". Article 335 of the Constitution relates to claims of SCs and STs to services and posts. It reads: "The claims of the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes shall be taken into consideration, consistently with the maintenance of efficiency of administration, in the making of appointments to services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of a State."

**85th Amendment:** It said reservation in promotion can be applied with consequential seniority for the SC/ST employee.

### How did the Nagaraj case proceed?

The petitioners claimed that these amendments were brought to reverse the

effect of the decision in the *Indra Sawhney* case of 1992 (Mandal Commission case), in which the Supreme Court had excluded the creamy layer of OBCs from reservation benefits. In the *Nagaraj* judgment, a five-judge Bench of then Chief Justice of India Y K Sabharwal and Justices K G Balakrishnan, S H Kapadia, C K Thakker and P K Balasubramanyan upheld the constitutional validity of the amendments.

The court said reservation should be applied in a limited sense, otherwise it will perpetuate casteism in the country. It upheld the constitutional amendments by which Articles 16(4A) and 16(4B) were inserted, saying they flow from Article 16(4) and do not alter the structure of Article 16(4).

The SC ruled that "the State is not bound to make reservation for SC/ST in matter of promotions. However if they wish to exercise their discretion and make such provision, the State has to collect quantifiable data showing backwardness of the class and inadequacy of representation of that class in public employment in addition to compliance of Article 335. It is made clear that even if the State has compelling reasons, as stated above, the State will have to see that its reservation provision does not lead to excessiveness so as to breach the ceiling-limit of 50% or obliterate the creamy layer or ex-

tend the reservation indefinitely". In other words, the court extended the creamy layer principle to SCs and STs too.

### What happened in the subsequent Jarnail Singh case?

The Centre argued that the *Nagaraj* judgment needed to be revisited for two reasons. Firstly, asking states "to collect quantifiable data showing backwardness is contrary to the nine-judge Bench in *Indra Sawhney v Union of India* where it was held that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are the most backward among backward classes and it is, therefore, presumed that once they are contained in the Presidential List under Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution of India, there is no question of showing backwardness of the SCs and STs all over again".

Secondly, the creamy layer concept has not been applied in the *Indra Sawhney* case to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes; the *Nagaraj* judgment, according to the government, "has misread" the *Indra Sawhney* judgment to apply the concept to the SCs and STs.

Attorney General K K Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, contended that "once the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have been set out in the Presidential List,

they shall be deemed to be Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and the said List cannot be altered by anybody except Parliament under Articles 341 and 342". (These two Articles define who will be considered SCs or STs in any state or Union Territory)

The AG also wanted the court to lay down "the test of proportion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to the population in India at all stages of promotion..."

### How did the court rule?

Last year, a five-judge Constitution Bench comprising then Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and Justices Kurian Joseph, R F Nariman, S K Kaul and Indu Malhotra referred to the *Nagaraj* verdict to a larger bench. However, it held as "invalid" the requirement laid down by the *Nagaraj* verdict that states should collect quantifiable data on the backwardness of SCs and STs in granting quota in promotions, but said they will have to back it with data to show their inadequate representation in the cadre. It said that the creamy layer principle — of excluding the affluent among these communities from availing the benefit — will apply.

"The whole object of reservation is to see that backward classes of citizens move forward so that they may march hand in hand with other citizens of India on an equal basis.

This will not be possible if only the creamy layer within that class bag all the coveted jobs in the public sector and perpetuate themselves, leaving the rest of the class as backward as they always were," the Bench said.

"This being the case, it is clear that when a Court applies the creamy layer principle to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it does not in any manner tinker with the Presidential List under Articles 341 or 342... It is only those persons within that group or sub-group, who have come out of untouchability or backwardness by virtue of belonging to the creamy layer, who are excluded from the benefit of reservation," the Bench ruled.

On the prayer that it should lay down the test for determining adequacy of representation in service, the court said "according to us, *Nagaraj*... has wisely left the test for determining adequacy of representation in promotional posts to the States..."

### What happens now?

The Centre, while praying that the 2018 judgment be referred to a larger Bench, has referred once again to the 1992 *Indra Sawhney* judgment, submitting that the Supreme Court then did not apply the creamy layer concept to SCs and STs. The Bench has said it will hear the matter after two weeks.



# 9 EXPRESS NETWORK

## Lynchings just a footnote in Cong's state-centric strategy

MANOJ CG  
HAZARIBAGH, DECEMBER 8

DRAWING LESSONS from Assembly elections in other states, the Congress is trying hard to keep its campaign in Jharkhand state-centric, but its leaders are treading cautiously on issues that could lead to polarisation. So while its manifesto promises a stringent law to deal with cases of lynching, there is tactical silence on the ground.

While Jharkhand has seen many incidents of mob violence in the past few years, party leaders say it is prudent to avoid such topics.

Take the case of Ramgarh, where one Alimuddin Ansari was lynched by a mob in June 2017 on the suspicion that he was carrying beef. At the main market in Ramgarh, people remember the incident but believe it is not an election issue.

Mamta Devi, the Congress candidate, told *The Indian Express*, "We are not raising this issue now. Because my opponent... *Ek jaati vishesh pe yeh log thoda se brahmit kar dete hain antim charan main jis se vote convert ho jate hain turant* (They try to mislead people towards the end of the campaign and votes convert instantly). So we are not raising the issue now."

Ramgarh falls in Hazaribagh Lok Sabha constituency and local MP Jayant Sinha had triggered a controversy when he garlanded eight men convicted in connection with Ansari's lynching. Although a fast track court sentenced 11 people to life imprisonment, eight of them secured bail from Jharkhand High Court.

"We will raise the issue towards the end, *moment dekh karke is mudde ko uthayenge. Yeh log Hindu-Muslim kar dete hain... Bas yahi vajah se... sahi time pe uthayenge.*" Devi said.

In Jamtara, about 60 km from Dhanbad, Congress candidate and sitting MLA Irfan Ansari, too, is careful. Ansari has in the past been critical of the BJP government over incidents of lynching. He was in news some time ago when a BJP minister was caught on camera asking him to chant *Jai Shri Ram*



Chief Minister Raghubar Das campaigns in Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand on Sunday. PTI



outside the Assembly.

Ansari told *The Indian Express* that he had been trying to give a voice to the marginalised — whether they are tribals, minorities or scheduled castes. Asked about lynchings, he says, "Yeh mudda nahin hain hamare kshetra main...mudda aaj Jharkhand bachane ka hain. Log samajh rahe hain ki hum awaaz uthake bhi kya kar lenge, meri awaaz kaun sunega... Our government will be formed. Then we will take action."

But the entry of AIMM is worrying the Congress in seats with a substantial Muslim population. In Barkagaon near Hazaribagh, some Congress workers have joined AJSU. "The Congress is not raising the lynching issue. This is the problem. If they raise it as an election issue... *Hindu Muslim ho jayega,*" said Arif Raja, who joined AJSU earlier in the day. Raja then enthusiastically says Owaisi will soon address meetings in Hazaribagh. "I will go to listen to him," he says. His friend mischievously adds, "In an AJSU vehicle."

The silence of the Congress and other parties on issues like lynching is disconcerting for the Muslim

community but some of them say they understand electoral compulsions. In Hazaribagh, Md Jainul says he has no complaints with sitting BJP MLA and the party candidate Manish Jaiswal. "There is no hesitation in lauding someone if he does some good work," he says.

Asked about lynching, he says, "Hum nahin bhule hain. Zehin main toh hain...aur dekhiye kya hota hain (We have not forgotten. Let's see what happens)."

At the neighbouring tea shop, Abdul Bazar, who owns a motor winding shop, says, "Muslim votes will not go to one party... *Sub log thoda thoda le jayega.*...Drinking water is an issue. Power cuts are also very frequent...the bill has also gone up."

The Congress, meanwhile, is keeping its campaign state-specific. "Even Rahul Gandhi devoted 80 per cent of his speech to local issues," a senior party leader said. Press conferences by national spokespersons, a regular affair in other states, are fewer in Jharkhand. So far, only four senior leaders, including P Chidambaram and Manish Tewari, have addressed press conferences. "You people will ask national questions to them. You will ask about Modi...state issues will get buried," a state Congress leader said.

Ramgarh, Barkagaon and Hazaribagh are among 17 seats that go to polls in the third phase of Assembly polls on December 12.

## Man killed during polling died of trauma: Post-mortem

ABHISHEK ANGAD  
RANCHI, DECEMBER 8

A DAY after the Election Commission said a person had died due to bullet injuries in violence that ensued during polling in the Sisai Assembly constituency, a three-member board which conducted the post-mortem mentioned the cause of death as "shock and hemorrhage" due to trauma inflicted by a "sharp cutting weapon".

The incident occurred at 9.30 am in Baghni village of Sisai on Saturday when a few villagers tried to overpower a RPF jawan and "snatch" his weapon, resulting in stone pelting.

The EC, in its release, had said that the jawan then opened fire and one Jilani Ansari was shot dead. Explaining the change, police said villagers had alleged Ansari died because of the firing. DGP K N Choubey said: "... in the post-mortem... a wound inflicted by a sharp cutting weapon was found... Who caused the injury and for what reason will be known through further investigation."

## Odisha to bank on PM-Kisan to fund 60% annual aid to farmers

SAMPAD PATNAIK  
BHUBANESWAR, DECEMBER 8

ALMOST A year after launching its agriculture livelihood assistance scheme KALIA with great fanfare, the Odisha government has decided to bank on the money under the Centre's PM-Kisan to fund 60 per cent of the annual Rs 10,000 assistance to farmers promised under KALIA.

The cut in its support component, to be put into effect by the next financial year, could save the state government hundreds of crores in a year. Currently, the government is distributing KALIA assistance for the Rabi season.

In December last year, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced his cabinet's approval to Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme under which Rs 10,180 crore will be spent over three years for providing financial assistance to cultivators and landless agricultural labourers in the state.

Under KALIA, financial assistance of Rs 25,000 is to be provided over five crop seasons to small and marginal farmers to buy seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and for labour and other investments. This means each beneficiary is supposed to receive Rs 10,000 per year.

This assistance is meant for farmers owning less than two hectares of agricultural land. Over 36 lakh farmers had received Rs 5,000 each under KALIA in the first crop season after its announcement.

The state government on Friday confirmed that the amount of assistance per year will fall to Rs 4,000 per year. Specifically asked if KALIA assistance for farmer will be cut by 60 per cent, Agriculture Department Principal Secretary Saurav Garg said, "The farmer continues to get Rs 10,000. The only difference is now he is getting Rs 4,000 under KALIA and Rs 6,000 under PM Kisan."

"The state government had earlier promised that an eligible farmer will receive Rs 10,000 per

## EXPLAINED Move may lead to blowback

CONSIDERED A "gamechanger" ahead of the simultaneous general elections to Lok Sabha and Odisha Assembly, KALIA had managed to placate agrarian unrest in Odisha. KALIA helped the BJP secure a fifth continuous mandate in the state despite a major campaign by BJP that had also questioned whether the state could afford the scheme. BJP leaders expressed apprehension that the cuts to KALIA could result in blowback from farmers who expect Rs 16,000 per annum — a combined sum of PM-Kisan and KALIA assistance — but will now receive Rs 10,000.

That remains unchanged," he said. A government note said, "Keeping parity of both the schemes (KALIA and PM Kisan), the small and marginal farmers may be given Rs 4,000 per year from 2020-21, so that they will get Rs 10,000 annually i.e Rs 6,000 from PM Kisan."

On Thursday, state Agriculture Minister Arun Sahoo had told journalists, "KALIA and PM Kisan will have a convergence. KALIA will continue."

Asked if a farmer will receive payment from KALIA and PM Kisan simultaneously, Garg said, "They are separate but parallel."

He said all other components of financial assistance under KALIA will remain "unchanged as they are not offered under PM Kisan". KALIA also provides financial assistance of Rs 12,500 to each landless agricultural household for activities allied to agriculture, such as goat-rearing units, mini-layer unit, duck units, fishery kits for fisherman, mushroom cultivation and beekeeping.

## SPOTLIGHT AGAIN

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah appears all set to once again take centre stage in Parliament on yet another pet legislation of the NDA government, the Citizenship Amendment Bill, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to be in Jharkhand for an election campaign when the Bill is tabled in Lok Sabha on Monday. In the previous session of Parliament, too, Shah had almost single-handedly pushed the law scrapping special status given to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 as the Prime Minister had left it to him to lead the charge.

## HOUSE MATTERS

THE TRINAMOL Congress has given notices in both Houses of Parliament, opposing introduction of the 126th Constitutional Amendment Bill that seeks to do away with the nomination of Anglo-Indian MPs in the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies. The community is also planning to write to the government opposing the move, contending the ground that the smaller a community, more the protection it needs.

## TRACKING TRIPS

A PRIVATE member's Bill has been tabled in Rajya Sabha to seek details of MPs' travels abroad. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, tabled by BJP MP G V L Rao, seeks an MP to furnish, within 90 days from taking oath, details of valid travel document held, names of countries visited in the previous year and nature of visit, duration, expenses incurred, source of expenditure and any hospitality or monetary help received from foreign government, foreign agency or organisation, foreign national among others. While sources said the Bill drew inspiration from party chief Amit Shah's remark that "if you enter into public life, you will have to follow the rules" — he said this in his reply during the debate on SPG Bill — critics accused the BJP of trying to track visits made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, a charge Rao has denied. According to Rao, transparency in MPs' functioning is very important.

## 2010 LABHPUR TRIPLE MURDER CASE

## New chargesheet names Mukul Roy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 8



BNP leader Mukul Roy

THE INVESTIGATION into the 2010 Labhpur triple murder case took a new turn on Saturday with the police naming BNP leader Mukul Roy and MLA Manirul Islam, who recently quit the Trinamool Congress to join BJP, in its supplementary chargesheet.

While Roy has been named for the first time, Islam was arrested soon after the murder. However, his name was dropped in the earlier chargesheet that was filed by the police in 2014. Both Roy and Islam have been charged under IPC section 302 (murder).

Following the fresh chargesheet against 23 people, including eight new names, a court in Bolpur issued an arrest warrant against Roy, Islam and other accused, police said on Sunday.

The supplementary chargesheet was filed after the Calcutta High Court, on September 4, directed the district police to probe the murder case afresh and submit its report within three months. "As per the direction of the honourable High

Court, we have investigated the matter afresh and submitted the report before the court," SP SShyam Singh said on Sunday.

The case dates back to June 4, 2010, when siblings Dhanu Sheikh, Kotan Sheikh and Turak Sheikh were murdered in Labhpur over an alleged dispute over sand mining and switching political loyalties.

While Islam was not available for comments, Mukul Roy called the police action "politically motivated".

"Before 2011, all the incidents took place under the leadership of Mamata Banerjee. Now, they are in power. So, this is a politically motivated action..." Roy said.

Meanwhile, a police officer involved in the investigation said "nothing is politically motivated". "We have evidence against those who have been named," he said.

-WITHPTINPPTS

## Kashmir trade leader booked under PSA 'temporarily released' from Agra jail

ADIL AKHZER  
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 8

KASHMIR'S PROMINENT trade leader Mubeen Shah, who was among several businessmen booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in August, has been "temporarily released" from a jail in Agra. This comes ahead of a crucial hearing in his case before the Supreme Court on Monday.

Shah, who was seriously unwell at the time of arrest, told *The Indian Express*, "I am waiting for what happens on Monday (in SC) and then I will go to the hospital. I am very unwell."

After his arrest, Shah was sent to a jail in Agra. After his family sought visitation rights, J&K Home department issued a letter to Director General of Prisons, UP government, on August 28, requesting to him to allow the family members to meet Shah "in terms of the provisions of the jail

manual". Shah's family was finally allowed to see him in jail only in September.

"He was released on Saturday afternoon from Agra jail and is now in Delhi. He had been suffering from nephrological and cardiological problems and in jail, he has lost weight," Shah's son-in-law Shuaib Shahdad said. "The doctors have advised some medical investigations which we are going to carry out tomorrow."

Shahdad said the order issued by the authorities says Shah has been temporarily released till March 7, 2020.

The family had approached the Supreme Court, challenging Shah's detention. Shahdad said during the last hearing in the apex court, the government had assured the court that they are in the process to release him.

"He is not involved in any criminal activity, nor is he a stone pelted. His lawyer is fighting the case in the Supreme Court and the

focus will remain that the PSA charges are quashed," said Shahdad.

Shah is a doctor by qualification and belongs to one of Kashmir's oldest business families. He is the chief executive of the Alson Group and the Kohimaran Group. The family's interests range from automobiles and cement to marble and matches. It also has business interests abroad, including handicraft showrooms and restaurants in Dubai and Malaysia.

Shah, a former Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries chairman, was arrested from his Srinagar residence on August 4. Besides Shah, Yaseen Khan, president of Kashmir Economic Alliance, and Shakeel Qalander, former president of the Federation of Chamber of Industries, Kashmir, were booked under PSA ahead of August 5, when the Centre scrapped the special status of Jammu and

Kashmir and bifurcated it into two Union Territories. Qalander and Khan continue to remain in detention. Shah's case had come up during hearings on the Kashmir situation in US recently. In October, Indian American lawmaker Pramila Jayapal had raised Shah's detention with the State department representative Assistant Secretary Alice Wells, who had said the US government has "explicitly raised" Shah's case with India.

Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries has demanded the release of other detainees as well.

"It is a welcome gesture because his [Shah's] health conditions were very bad and he had lost a lot of weight. Now the government should set a trend of releasing all the Kashmiris, be it civil society, businessmen, eminent lawyers and others," KCCI president Sheikh Aashiq said.

-WITHENS, DELHI

## CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu at an event at Symbiosis International University in Pune on Sunday. Ashish Kale

## New laws not the only solution: Venkaiah

RUCHIKA GOSWAMY  
PUNE, DECEMBER 8

VICE PRESIDENT M Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday said bringing new laws to bring down the number of rapes and sexual assaults in the country was not a solution. "What is required is not a Bill, but the political will and administrative skill to kill the social evils of the society. Change in the mindset of the people is the need of the hour... we should go back to our roots and culture," Naidu said.

He added: "Though I am not against bringing any new law, but I think they are no solution to the problem. We brought a bill after Nirbhaya. What happened? Was

the problem solved?" Naidu asked.

Stating that one needs to stop looking from the prism of gender, regional, religious or political prisms, he said, "Today, values are going down in every field... there is a certain erosion that has taken place... We must arrest it and must go back to our values... What has happened in the recent days is really shameful and a challenge to all of us."

Naidu, who was addressing the 16th convocation ceremony of Symbiosis International University, Pune, said: "I am always happy to be among youngsters because they are the future of the country. I feel more assured about the country's future."

## Rape, POCSO case probes should be completed in 2 months: Prasad

Patna: Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Sunday said he would write to Chief Ministers and High Court Chief Justices of all the states to complete investigation into cases of rape and those registered under the POCSO Act in two months.

Trials of such cases should also be completed within six months, the Minister said.

"I am going to write letters to all the Chief Ministers urging

them to complete the investigation within two months in rape and POCSO cases," Prasad said.

"I will also write to the chief justices of all the High Courts to dispose off expeditiously cases relating to rape and POCSO pending in the fast track courts," he said.

Prasad's comment came in the backdrop of nation-wide outrage over the alleged rape and murder cases in Hyderabad and Unnao.

## FOUNDER OF FIRST ENGLISH-MEDIUM SCHOOL IN GOA

## Late educationist's statue still teaches communal harmony

SMITANAI  
PANAJI, DECEMBER 8

IN Aldonha village of Goa, an annual memorial on December 9 marks the birth anniversary of a late educationist "who loved English Grammar" — the village celebrates it as a "text book case for communal reconciliation".

On the village square, atop a terrena (triangle), stands the gunmetal statue of Edward J Soares, a "strict and stern looking disciplinarian", who with his "medium stature or rather slight build", rebelled against the Portuguese regime to introduce an English Medium School in Goa.

While his legend begins with the St Thomas High School, which he started in 1923 at the age of 25,

his statue, installed in 2006, was born out of an "unfortunate episode of communal violence" on the night of March 7, 1983.

"Where else have you heard that a night of communal violence and years of communal rift ended with a statue of a principal?" asks Cecile Pinto, a social commentator and Aldonha native, as he recalls the night of violence.

"When we heard the verdict of Ayodhya, we could not forget our history," he adds.

"...thousands of young boys and girls, Christians and Hindus from Aldonha, and the surrounding villages, have received their education thanks to St Thomas High School," wrote Soares's student Evarist Pinto, who went on to become the Archbishop of Karachi, in a memorial tribute.



Soares's statue was installed in 2006. Courtesy: Savio Figueiredo

On March 7, 1983, about two decades after Soares's death in 1955, a resident crossing the village terrena saw construction work inside church land. On in-

quiry, he found that a temple was being constructed at the spot. He scrambled to reach the Goncoi Chapel in the village and rang the bells "to wake the village".

"It was late and most men were in their shorts and vests. We just rushed in the middle of dinner... how does one dress for a riot anyway?" says Cecile.

Faced with a crowd, the angry mob of Catholics saw that the "others had stones and sticks ready". A stone was flung, and within minutes, a riot broke out.

"In the 1980s, it meant the fight ended with fractured skulls," says St Thomas High School alumni Savio Figueiredo, who went on to become the secretary of the Principal Edward J Soares Memorial Committee.

The "others" in the riot, Figueiredo says, were "instigated by three Hindu families, and didn't have the support of all Hindus."

"It took years of healing. Placing our school principal's

statue in the disputed spot helped. He is one man all of us are grateful to and revere," Cecile said.

Then law minister and MLA Dayanand Narvekar, says "those who instigated were Hindus and influential... When I reached the spot at 1 am, they kept insisting that a temple existed in the same spot hundreds of years before the Portuguese invaded... I told them these are heavy statements and need due diligence."

By 6 am, the Hindus were promised another piece of land for their temple. For over two decades after that, the spot was protected from encroachers, till residents — Christians and Hindus — unanimously decided to build Soares's statue.

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

ICSSR chairman B B Kumar dies

New Delhi: Indian Council Of Social Science Research chairman B B Kumar died on Sunday at the age of 79. He was suffering from cancer, ICSSR's administrative officer Ashish Deolia said. Kumar, appointed in 2017, was to complete his term next year. ENS



PM Narendra Modi meets former Union minister Arun Shourie, in Pune on Sunday. Express

PM meets Shourie in hospital

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS PUNE, DECEMBER 8

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Sunday evening met former Union Minister and veteran journalist Arun Shourie at the Ruby Hall Clinic in Pune. Seventy-eight-year-old Shourie was hospitalised on December 1 after he suffered a head injury while out on a walk near his home in Lavasa. According to doctors, he suffered a blunt trauma to the brain and a mild bleed. He is in the ICU.



With the doctors at the Ruby Hall Clinic in Pune. Express

"It was an extremely jovial visit," Shourie told The Indian Express about the Prime Minister's visit, during which the two spoke privately for 12-15 minutes. "The Prime Minister's visit was a jovial one and we did have some time alone and I gave some suggestions," he added. Modi was in Pune to attend the national conference of Director Generals and Inspector Generals of Police that concluded on Sunday. On Sunday afternoon, Shourie's family and Ruby Hall Clinic authorities were informed that the Prime Minister would pay a visit to inquire about his health.

The Prime Minister and Shourie exchanged old memories, doctors at the hospital said. "It was a very pleasant visit," Dr Purvez Grant, chief managing trustee of Ruby Hall Clinic said. According to neurosurgeon Dr Sachin Gandhi, who is treating Shourie, there were several light moments during the Prime Minister's visit. "PM Modi told Shourieji that his doctor was a Gujarati to which the senior journalist quipped, 'yes, mera dost (the PM) is also a Gujarati,'" Dr Gandhi said. Dr Prachee Sathie, chief of the ICU, and Dr Gandhi said Shourie is recovering well. "A series of investigations and CT scans have

shown a satisfactory improvement and we will be able to shift him out of the ICU soon," Dr Grant added. In a statement issued later, Dr Grant said the Prime Minister also enquired about an old case of Vaishali Jadhav. Vaishali, a nine-year-old girl from an underprivileged family, suffered from a hole in her heart. When she was six, she had written to the Prime Minister, seeking financial help for her treatment. The PMO had thereafter taken up the matter. According to the statement, Dr Grant informed the Prime Minister that the girl was operated free of cost and is doing well.

Honeytrap case halts the sweet run, sticky record of MP tabloid's editor-owner

MILIND GHATAWAI INDORE, DECEMBER 8

WHENEVER THEY felt a story was risky, and that was often, a senior editorial member of Indore-based evening Sanjha Lokswami would try convey to owner-editor Jeetu Soni that the newspaper could get into trouble.

Jitendra alias Jeetu Soni, says a staff member, would be unruffled, telling them, "Don't worry, nothing will happen, I know how to handle it. It's my byline and print line." The staff member admits they were impressed at the clout and contacts Soni seemed to have.

It all unravelled last week when, in the wake of a series of reports carried by Sanjha Lokswami on the honeytrap case that originated in Indore and is now believed to have links across Madhya Pradesh, police raided and demolished most of the premises owned by Soni, and arrested his son Amit. And of Rs 1 lakh has been recommended for the capture of Soni, who is on the run, while Sanjha Lokswami's registration has been cancelled and its office sealed. So far, more than 30 FIRs have been lodged against Soni and his associates.

The honeytrap case came to light with the arrest of five women and their driver in September, following a complaint by an Indore Municipal Corporation superintendent engineer, Harbhajan Singh, that he was being blackmailed by them with video clips showing him in a compromising position. There have been no other arrests in the case and no new complainant, though several video and audio

clips were reportedly recovered from the accused.

Sanjha Lokswami had carried reports with lurid details naming a former BJP minister, a principal secretary to former chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and the honeytrap case complainant Harbhajan Singh, now suspended, along with husbands of two of the five women accused in the case. There was promise of more, when the raids happened.

To many, including those not at the receiving end of Soni's evening, the action was long overdue. They accuse Soni, who is his 60s, of being a "blackmailer" who built his empire wielding his eight-page tabloid as a weapon, his journalism resting on sting operations and salacious details mainstream newspapers would shy away from. After an attempt on his life, he was allotted two armed police guards, which have now been withdrawn.

Soni's journalism career began in 1993, when he bought the morning daily Lokswami from senior Congress leader Mahesh Joshi. The latter had launched the newspaper with the help of around 34,000 subscribers, who contributed Re 1 each as seed money. Just weeks before his assassination in May 1991, former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi had inaugurated it. Joshi was forced to sell the paper due to lack of funds.

The acquisition of the daily by Soni was a surprise given his background in the construction business. But he learnt fast, turning the daily into an evening, renaming it Sanjha Lokswami, and going after politicians, including Joshi, as well as those considered his adversaries, with his evening car-

rying the tagline 'Likhit and sachcha dastavez (written and true document)'.

One of Soni's biggest "news-breaks" was exposing an Indore-based network of alleged SIMI operatives. He also wrote regularly on drug rackets and land deals. Unlike news publications that survive on advertisements, Sanjha Lokswami rarely got any, and Soni said he didn't need them.

Still, the evening — among nearly a dozen in Indore — seems to have earned Soni enough profits to build an empire including a plush hotel, a hotel-cum-dance bar, a cafe and a house located on a 21,000 sq ft plus plot, with Soni's joint family of 18 buying land adjacent to it. The editor-businessman was often seen in the company of senior police officials and flirted with politics via the Shiv Sena.

While his luck appears to have run out, his "contacts" may have come in handy one last time, helping Soni escape just before the crackdown.

Amit's wife, who refused to be named, said her husband was innocent and had nothing to do with either the evening or the family-owned restaurant-bar My Home, from where police recovered 67 women who allegedly entertained patrons for money.

A relative lamented that police "ransacked everything" and brought down the family's bungalow Jag Villa, named after Soni's father Jagjivan, who owned a small jewellery shop. "Police came as if they were looking for a terrorist," the relative said. "Papaji (Soni) just wanted to expose the truth. What wrong did he commit? He only published what was there."

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) File No- C-IM-IFB-06/2019 No. 51080 Dtd. 04.12.2019 1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-17/2019-20 dtd. 27.11.2019.

GOVT. OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, DRAINAGE CIRCLE, GANDARPUR, CUTTACK-753003 E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE No.-SEDC-CTC-03/2019-20 email Id:- sedrainagecirclectc@gmail.com

इलाहाबाद बैंक ALLAHABAD BANK विश्वास की परंपरा A tradition of trust Head Office: 2, Netaji Subhash Road, Kolkata-700001 POSSESSION NOTICE FOR (IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Office of the Director Directorate of Technical Education, Vocational and Industrial Training Sunder Nagar, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh Invitation for Bids No.: 015/2019 Date: 06/12/2019

Contract Package No. and Title: HPSDP-DOTE/04; Supply of Mechanical and related equipment's for Industrial Training Institutes to enhance Technical and Vocational Skills among the youth of Himachal Pradesh (Package-04), comprising of following lots: Lot-2: Tool & Die and PPO related machinery

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Name of the Account & Branch, Name of the Borrower/Guarantor, Description of the charged/mortgaged property, Date of Demand Notice, Amount outstanding as on the date of demand notice.

Opposed to her marriage, kin of Kerala woman admit her to mental health facility

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DECEMBER 8

A 27-YEAR-OLD woman from Malappuram in Kerala has alleged that her family members admitted her to a mental health facility

to prevent her from marrying a man she was in a relationship with. Sadikka, who was lodged at two mental health facilities over the past one month, has been released following a High Court order in a habeas corpus petition by Gafoor E K, whom she wants to marry. The court has said she is free to marry Gafoor and also directed that a case be registered against her family members and the two mental health facilities.

Sadikka is pursuing a BDS course and Gafoor is a trader at Thrissur. Her family was reportedly against the marriage owing to the gap in the families' social status. The woman alleged that three men took her from her home after administering her medicine on

November 3 in the presence of her family members. "When I regained senses, I found myself tied to a hospital bed. I was shocked to see I was among mental patients. Seeing the emblem on the bed sheet, I realised that I was at S H Hospital, Pankulam (in Idukki)." Gafoor said after Sadikka's family learnt about the habeas corpus plea, they shifted her out of S H Hospital and admitted her to another hospital in Ernakulam district. "She was taken into custody from this hospital on December 5," he said.

Sister Jossy Augustine, administrator of S H Hospital, said, "She was brought here by her father and brother. We were told she was showing suicidal tendencies."

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Sandeep Chaudhry, son of Subhash Chaudhary, resident of Delhi Cantt have changed my name from Sandeep Chaudhry to Sandeep Chaudhry vide Affidavit No. IN-DL06417513956463R dated 19/06/2019 at New Delhi. 0040523343-1

I, Syed Qamar Abbas R/o RZ F-15, 3rd Floor, Street No-4, Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi-110045, have changed my minor son's name from Syed Noman Mahdi to Syed Hamza Mahdi for all purposes. 0040523343-1

I, Amit Jain S/o Sh. S. C. Jain R/o Flat No.-7, Supertech Avant Garde, Plot No.-1, Sector-5, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010 have changed my son's name from Veer Jain to Yajas Jain for all future purposes. 0040523400-2

I, Pallavi Seth W/o Sumit Seth R/o 51, Maitri Apartments, Mayur Vihar, Phase 1, Delhi-110091, have changed my name to Pallavi Kapur for all purposes. 0040523343-1

I, Reena Jain W/o Mr. Amit Jain R/o Flat No.-7, Supertech Avant Garde, Plot No.-1, Sector-5, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010. Have changed my son's name from Veer Jain to Yajas Jain for all future purposes. 0040523400-1

NMDC Limited (A Government of India Enterprise) NOTICE INVITING TENDER Tender No. GM (ENV)/EN/DEP-11/2019 09/12/2019

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (Power Wing) E-TENDER NOTICE NIT No.: 2890/BBMB Dated: 04.12.2019

GUJARAT MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of Gujarat Undertaking) Regd. Office : Block No. 14/1, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Sector-10, Gandhinagar.

# Audit flags big differences in expenditure, inventory of Nirav firms with those of 'peers'

RITU SARIN  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

A REVEALING section of the forensic report on the Nirav Modi Group is the comparative analysis of "peer group" companies done by the Belgian auditor, BDO, for Punjab National Bank (PNB). As part of the exercise, which resulted in an exhaustive 329-page draft report, a comparative study of financials of Gitanjali Gems, PC Jewellers, and Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri has been done. The analysis reveals that while the three Nirav Modi partnership firms have shown negligible expenditure, the other market players have shown over 90 per cent of their revenues as expenditure.

The analysis also shows that while three major Nirav Modi partnership firms (Solar Exports, Stellar Diamonds and Diamonds R Us) recorded "nil" inventory and "nil" fixed assets, the inventory of the other three firms was valued between Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 4,000 crore.

The auditors concluded: "It was noted that personnel and total expenses incurred by the 3

partnership firms are not in proportion with the industry standards. Further, it (the comparative analysis) also indicates that the number of employees is not in proportion to the industry standards."

This was because the Nirav Modi firms, according to the report, employed just 100 people each, while available figures for one of their competing firms showed it had 2,572 employees.

The forensic report was submitted to the PNB in August 2018. It was given by a whistleblower to the Investigative Consortium of Journalists (ICJ) which has partnered with *The Indian Express* on its findings.

Significant among them is fact that while Nirav Modi and his Group are recognised as diamond traders, a large volume (61.44%) of their imported goods — for which the Letters of Undertaking (LoUs) were issued — comprised pearls. The remaining roughly 37% of the imports comprised cut and polished diamonds/rough diamonds.

This also links to what is listed as the modus operandi of obtaining the fraudulent LoUs. The re-



Nirav Modi

**While Nirav Modi and his Group are recognised as diamond traders, a large volume (61.44%) of their imported goods — for which the Letters of Undertaking were issued — comprised pearls**

port notes, "Once the LoU funds were obtained, pearl purchases were recorded from the Nirav Modi controlled entity and jewellery was sold to the same entity during the years 2016-2018." There is also a pattern of the

imported pearls being "recycled" by the partnership firms. One of the companies, Auragems, for instance, "separated pearls in the necklaces received and sent the same pearls again as raw materials for making fresh necklaces", the report notes. "And that all the purchase and sale of pearls (80% of total) were made with entities from which LoUs had been taken with PNB."

To establish the pattern of at least 10 exporter entities being actually controlled by the Nirav Modi Group during the review period, the auditors have listed a large number of KMPs (key managerial personnel) employed with them, but who were receiving salaries from companies in the Group. All the exporter entities have been beneficiaries of the LoUs declared to be fraudulent, and the "common conflicting period" has been listed for each such employee.

The total payouts for persons who enjoyed such "dual employment" was Rs 4,847 crore, while the payout for past employees who were working with the exporter entities was Rs 16,339 crore. Several internal emails and phone chats have been cited to

prove that Nirav Modi himself controlled large exporter entities.

A physical verification of several addresses linked to the exporters found that the details were either fake or, according to the auditors, the standard of establishments/residences was "not in proportion to the business done". Photographs of these establishments have been annexed with the report.

Also revealed is the fact that just a year before PNB complained about the fraudulent LoUs, Income-Tax authorities had conducted search and seizure operations on the Nirav Modi Group, but no notices were issued to the company. The raids were conducted in January 2017, and several invoices and bills were seized — however, "as of date, the company has not received any notice in this respect", the auditors have noted.

The report also has details of a previous action taken by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). A show cause notice was issued to the Group for overvaluation of goods, but appeals were still being heard in the Tribunal when the current fraud was detected.

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**All are Welcome**

# Jats seek ban on 'Panipat', allege wrong portrayal of Maharaja Suraj Mal

DEEP MUKHERJEE  
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 8

MEMBERS of the Jat community in Rajasthan have opposed the release of the movie *Panipat* in Rajasthan, accusing its makers of wrongly portraying the 18th century ruler of Bharatpur, Maharaja Suraj Mal.



Jats protest in Bharatpur against *Panipat*. Express

The movie, featuring Arjun Kapoor and Kriti Sanon, portrays Suraj Mal in unseemly manner, a Congress leader said.

In Bharatpur district, protesters burnt effigies of the film's director Ashutosh Gowariker and threatened to vandalise theatres where the film is being screened.

The protesters have got support from several senior politicians from across political parties, including BJP leader and former chief minister Vasundhara Raje, who condemned the portrayal of Suraj Mal. Senior Congress leader and cabinet minister Vishvendra Singh on Sunday said that the film

should be banned "to avoid a law and order situation".

"We will submit a memorandum to the district collector on Monday and if the film is not banned, will go on protest," said Jat leader Nem Singh Foujdar.

"I have not seen the film. This is the job of the government. If any such incident has been depicted in the movie, then the department will examine it," said Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. State BJP president Satish Poonia too condemned the portrayal of Suraj Mal in the film. The movie released on Friday (December 6).

**Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**

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**Hema Singh**

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Contact: 011 2208 8400 / 7016 / 2923  
Website: [www.nsd.gov.in](http://www.nsd.gov.in)

**DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, JAMMU**  
Phone No.: 0191-2561578 E-mail: [sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in](mailto:sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in)  
Fax. No.: 0191-2547807

**LOOK OUT NOTICE**

As reported by I/C PP Bathindi, Jammu applicant namely Sarista Sharma W/O Subash Chander R/O Nawabad, Bathindi has lodged written report at PP Bathindi that her niece namely Arti Sharma D/O Tarsem Lal, age 22 yrs has been missing since 20.11.2019. Accordingly, missing report entered at PP Bathindi vide DDR No. 10/19 dated 22.11.2019. Despite thorough search her whereabouts are still unknown.

As such photograph of missing Arti Sharma D/O Tarsem Lal R/O Bishnah, Tehsil Bishnah, District Jammu is being published with consent of her legal heirs for the information of Police establishments/public in general and if anybody having any clue related to her whereabouts / present location, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned Contact/Telephone numbers.

**Description Roll:-**

<p>Name: Arti Sharma D/O: Tarsem Lal Permanent Address: R/O Bishnah, Tehsil Bishnah, District Jammu Age: 22 years Height: 5 feet 2 inch Colour: Whitish Dress: Blue Colour Pant &amp; Black Colour Shirt</p>	
--	--

**Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-**

- DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
- SSP Jammu Mail I.D. : [sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in](mailto:sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in)
- PCR Jammu : 0191-2542000
- SP City South : 0191-2430002
- SDPO City East : 01912474700
- Landline of P/S Bahu Fort : 0191-2475133
- Contact of Legal Heirs : 7051349806

Sr. Superintendent of Police  
Jammu

DIPJ-10263/19



## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# Milestone Maharashtra

Political power is bringing about an ideological re-orientation in the players which may or may not endure



ASHUTOSH VARSHNEY

## DON'T CRY FOR ONIONS

Avoid knee-jerk reactions to temporary shortage-induced price spikes. Government must focus on deeper problems

ONIONS CONTINUE TO burn consumer pockets, notwithstanding several firefighting measures deployed by the Narendra Modi government. Since September-end, exports (annually worth almost \$500 million) have been banned, stock limits imposed on the trade (wholesalers cannot keep more than 25 tonnes and retailers 5 tonnes), the state-owned MMTC Ltd ordered to import one lakh tonnes (lt) and the requirement of fumigation against pest and disease at the country of exports relaxed. If all these actions — the income tax department is even conducting nationwide raids on traders to probe any holding of unaccounted stocks — haven't stopped retail onion prices from doubling to Rs 100-per-kg levels in the last two months, the primary culprit is clearly not "hoarding", but production. Kharif onion sowings were, this time, affected by deficient monsoon rainfall till late-July. Even the crop that was planted suffered damage from excess rains, especially after September and extending to November. As a result, the total kharif and late-kharif onion output is officially down nearly 18 lt or 26 per cent; the actual decline could be more.

But it isn't just onions. This year's unusual combination of early-season drought and prolonged unseasonal rains around the time of harvesting has taken a toll on most kharif crops. Pulses, soyabean and maize, among others, are trading significantly higher than last year. Dairies, too, are procuring less, even as the cost of milk has gone up. While some of that is due to a slow start to the "flush" season — animals generally produce more after October, which again has been disrupted by an extended monsoon — there might be structural reasons as well. Low milk realisations of the past 3-4 years have forced many farmers to reduce herd sizes and underfeed their cattle, particularly calves and pregnant/non-lactating females. Its effects are showing now, with skimmed milk powder rates crossing Rs 300 per kg, from Rs 140-150 a year ago. Simply put, the period of low consumer food inflation — an average of 1.38 per cent year-on-year from September 2016 to August 2019, unprecedented in India — is over.

That, however, isn't necessarily bad news. Ultra-low inflation isn't sustainable or even in consumer interest, if it disincentivises producers. The current price increases, after discounting for weather aberrations or factors specific to onion, are more of a correction. Price recovery, combined with the best monsoon rains in 25 years that have filled up all major reservoirs and substantially recharged groundwater tables, will spur ongoing rabi plantings. That would, in all likelihood, yield a bumper harvest and more than compensate for any kharif shortfalls. There can be nothing better for the economy today than rural incomes bouncing back. And there can be nothing worse than knee-jerk policy reactions to temporary shortage-induced price spikes. The Modi government should focus on problems that shall not pass as easily as onions.

## SMALL AND INCLUSIVE

New approach to granting licences to small finance and payment banks is welcome, will make sector more competitive

INDIA'S CENTRAL BANK has often been criticised for being too conservative when it comes to lifting the entry barriers for new players in the banking sector. Three years after the RBI approved licences to 10 small finance banks, the regulator has now issued the final guidelines for licensing such banks throughout the year or on tap, encouraged presumably by the performance of some of these entities. The bar has been raised for new entrants in terms of higher capital requirements — Rs 200 crore now from Rs 100 crore earlier — besides stiffer prudential norms on a continuing basis and a mandatory requirement to list after three years when the net worth tops Rs 500 crore. The new approach to granting differentiated licences to small finance banks and payment banks is welcome, especially given the current context where the established full service large banks are scaling back their franchises to reduce expenditure and in light of the collateral impact of the planned mergers of some of the state-owned banks.

Small finance banks have the potential to provide an alternative to some of the existing institutions with their mandated focus on small and medium businesses, the informal sector, small and marginal farmers and thus on increasing financial inclusion and serving a variety of unserved clients in the hinterland and tier three and four cities and towns. The RBI itself has said that a review of the performance of small finance banks shows that they have achieved their priority sector targets and attained the mandate for furthering financial inclusion, building a strong case for the entry of more players. Early reports, too, indicate that though these banks account for less than 0.5 per cent of total deposits and less than a per cent of total advances, many of them have been growing their loan book at a good clip. But where these new institutions — quite a few of which are former MFIs — are going to be tested is not just in building a brand franchise but also in ensuring relatively low-cost operations by diversifying their loan portfolios and lowering the old legacy loan stock and wholesale deposits, which can be costly and putting in place robust technology platforms and modern risk management systems.

The experience of the last two decades has shown that a competitive banking system can help foster a more inclusive financial sector. Small finance banks could well occupy the space being gradually vacated by some of the bigger banks and complement them too in segments such as micro and small businesses and the informal sector. Their success will, however, be contingent on asset quality, the trust they are able to build progressively, the level and standards of governance and regulatory oversight.

## FREEZE FRAME

E P UNNY



THE RECENT political events in Maharashtra have received extensive commentary. The degree of attention reflects two different dimensions, which need to be highlighted.

The first is the towering significance of the state. After the break-up of Bihar into two units in 2000, Maharashtra has not only become the second most populous state of the country, but its capital, the city of Mumbai, continues to be the greatest contributor to political finance. We cannot prove the latter with statistical exactitude, but no observer of Indian politics can deny it.

Compared to their past, Delhi and Bangalore have become many times richer over the last three decades, but they still can't match the wealth of Mumbai. So long as politics and business remain deeply intertwined, as they do in India, to rule Maharashtra is to have an enormous hold over Mumbai's financial clout. The BJP's unseemly midnight power grab reflected this reality. New York city, to which Mumbai is compared in many quarters, does not play the same role in the US, though it to some extent did during America's Gilded Age (1865-1900), a period associated with the nation's enormous economic rise.

It is the second dimension of the Maharashtra developments, which calls for greater reflection. Just what does the break-up of the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance, lasting for three decades, and the emergence of a Shiv Sena-Congress alliance, signify? Note that I have left out the NCP from a fuller consideration. The NCP could have gone either way. It represents a regionalist sentiment. Beyond that, it has no great ideological core. It can justify any alliance on the argument that Maharashtra's interests require such a move.

In contrast, the Shiv Sena is strongly ideological, associated with an anti-Muslim stance since the late 1980s, and the Congress, though not as ideologically resolute as in the past, is irreducibly multi-religious. The Congress has, of late, gravitated towards a greater show of Hindu religiosity, but it finds it hard to, or cannot, break its reliance on Muslims. In the 2019 parliamentary elections, it received 38 per cent of the Muslim vote, larger than its share of any other social category. The alliance of an anti-Muslim Shiv Sena and a pro-Muslim

Congress simply could not have been predicted. Why have they come together?

Let us start historically. The Shiv Sena, in its early days, was ideologically multidimensional. In their published works, Dipankar Gupta, Ram Joshi, Mary Katzenstein and Usha Thakkar have demonstrated that the Shiv Sena's original ideological framework, constructed by Bal Thackeray in the late 1960s, comprised at least three planks: Jobs for Maharashtrians in Mumbai, anti-Communism and opposition to Muslims. It rose to prominence in Mumbai on the basis of the first two, and the anti-Muslim plank was a distinct third. The Shiv Sena's original targets were the South Indians, who had captured jobs due to their superior skills, and the Marxist labour unions, which dominated Bombay's industrial landscape.

By the mid-1980s, the party needed an ideological rebalancing. Leftist labour unions had declined and South Indians were only significant in Bombay, whereas the Shiv Sena wanted power at the state level, not simply in the Bombay Municipal Corporation. As the Sena hitched its fortunes with the BJP-led Ayodhya movement in the late 1980s, what was distinctly third became primary, bringing it eventually to power at the state level in an alliance with the BJP.

It is this second phase of the party's evolution that appears to have come to an end. In every state election between 1990 and 2004, the Sena won more seats than the BJP; in 2009, both were roughly equal; but after Modi's rise, the BJP has completely dwarfed the Sena. In 2014 and 2019, the BJP won 122 and 105 seats respectively, as against Sena's 63 and 56. The basic political message is clear. The alliance has been a bigger boon to the BJP than to the Sena, and it is impossible to match Modi's Hindutva credentials. For the sake of future growth and political power, the Sena needs another re-incarnation.

In the Sena's ideological arsenal, regionalism was already present. It used to be said that Mumbai was in Maharashtra, but Maharashtra was not in Mumbai, reflecting the paradox between Mumbai's regional location and its all-India migrant labour force. The Sena can now say that Maharashtra is also not in Maharashtra, for the employment cri-

sis of the Modi era is bound to hurt Maharashtrians more, given the customary educational lead of the migrants over the locals. The idea of 80 per cent jobs for Maharashtrians is a statewide reinvention of the Sena's 1960s' battle cry. The demand, then, was for 80 per cent of Bombay jobs.

A second ideological platform also needs invigoration. The Sena can't grow if it only remains, or is viewed as, an urban party. It needs an agrarian programme, which the NCP can easily add to its pool, and for which the ongoing agrarian crisis provides an opening.

In short, the disintegration of the BJP-Sena alliance is driven by two characteristics of the Modi era. First, having two champions of the anti-Muslim platform has run into decreasing returns for the Sena, while hugely benefiting the BJP. Second, the economic crisis, which the Modi government continues to deny, is beginning to provide anti-BJP opportunities, at least at the state level.

The challenge for the Congress was, of course, more existential. Its two awful and successive national defeats have had a hugely demoralising effect, creating a profound organisational crisis. But the logic of Modi's politics has also provided an unexpected opening in a hugely important state, which it would be foolish to let go. It is unclear at this point that the Sena will fully abandon Hindutva. Normally, it takes time to reorient politics. The Republican Party was a party of African Americans for decades after the American Civil War. It is now a predominantly White party. The transformation took very long.

The key question is: How badly does the Sena want power? If it wishes to remain in power for the foreseeable future, it can't return to full-blooded Hindutva, or it will be a junior partner in a BJP-based alliance. Political power has a way of bringing about ideological reorientation. This proposition will now be tested in Maharashtra.

The writer is director, Center for Contemporary South Asia, Sol Goldman Professor of International Studies and Social Sciences, professor of political science, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University

## MILLENNIAL ANGST

We are in an existential crisis. We are also reclaiming a sense of purpose



SONAL GUPTA

"NOBODY EXISTS ON purpose. Nobody belongs anywhere. We're all going to die. Come watch TV," says a dejected Morty to his sister, in the animated series, *Rick and Morty*, on Netflix. The popularity of the show, currently in its fourth season, has much to do with its protagonists who travel through the multiverse looking for adventures. Rick Sanchez is an alcoholic misanthrope whose unswerving faith in science and staunch denial of a higher being reminds you of Nietzsche's often-quoted phrase — "God is dead."

Existentialists realise that though individuals recognise the insignificance of existence, they still search for meaning in their life. Albert Camus would call this the "absurd" — comparing humanity's quest for "purpose" to the myth of Sisyphus, who is cursed to roll a boulder up the mountain, only to have it roll back down, unto infinity.

This philosophy spread after the end of the world wars. As young men turned into murdering soldiers and the atomic bomb destroyed cities, people were left questioning the sanctity of human life, which could be so easily annihilated. The individual in advanced industrial, urban societies felt a deep sense of alienation. While the horrors of mass murder could explain the descent of humanity into an "existential crisis", the recent rise of existentialism in millennial culture — through shows or memes, points to a contemporary "tragedy of our times". Perhaps, the tragedy lies in what Aru-

ndhati Roy calls "public despair" in *The God of Small Things*. It concerns itself with the "ridiculous, insane, unfeasible, public turmoil".

The world we inhabit is dying. The polar ice caps are melting, global debt is at its highest and countries are beset with violence. Right-wing exponents, the preservers of "convention", are gaining popularity. Homophobia, religious extremism and territorial conflicts fill the newspapers. No wonder, "Ok boomer" became the millennial turn of phrase, popularised recently by a 25-year-old New Zealand politician, Chloe Swarbrick. An older gentleman heckled her while she was delivering a parliament speech about the urgency to combat climate change. For this, the heckler was met with the now-viral rebuttal: "Ok boomer". Swarbrick went on to call it our generation's "collective exhaustion" with the older generation's refusal to acknowledge the need for change.

Another popular animated series on Netflix that explores existential themes with its eponymous character is *Bojack Horseman*. In one of the episodes, Bojack, a washed-up sitcom star, muses, "I'm responsible for my own happiness? I can't even be responsible for my own breakfast!"

Millennials and Generation Z find comfort in Netflix shows and endless scrolls of social media feeds because it offers a sense of belonging, albeit, to a virtual community. Because reality does not seem to be offering

any succour, for the moment at least. A dysfunctional economic system makes it hard to find jobs that do not exploit or undermine our skills. Long working hours and disproportionately low wages keep pushing us towards a start-up culture, the stability of which remains debatable. Instability in life leads to disruptions in relationships. More so for non-heteronormatives, who must fight for their identities as well. Stress, anxiety and depression have entered our daily vocabulary.

Our generation is often, and if I might add, unfairly, construed as entitled and lazy. However, university students and young adults around the world are out on the streets fighting for what they believe in, their endeavours accelerated by social media. Hong Kong is witnessing a siege against the Chinese "occupation" and university students have been active participants. In Chile, students led the strike against an increase in subway fares, and, closer to home, we are fighting the fee hike in JNU for affordable education in public universities.

Perhaps the recent protests, pride-walks and climate change demonstrations signify the millennials' reclamation of "purpose" in life after all, as they seek to upset, if not overturn, the conventional order of things.

The writer, 22, is pursuing a Masters in journalism at the Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication. She was an intern at The Indian Express



The world we inhabit is dying. The polar ice caps are melting, global debt is at its highest and countries are beset with violence. Right-wing exponents, the preservers of 'convention', are gaining popularity. No wonder, 'Ok boomer' became the millennial turn of phrase.

## DECEMBER 9, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

### SANJAY FACTOR

DESPITE REPEATED ASSERTIONS by Indira Gandhi about her son's non-interference in the affairs of her party, the "Sanjay factor" is reportedly influencing the selection of Congress (I) candidates significantly. Three of the remaining four party candidates from Delhi, whose names were announced on December 8, are understood to be nominees of Mrs Gandhi's son. Jagdish Tytler, who has been selected for a Sadar seat and Sajjan Kumar, who has been named for Outer Delhi were among the Youth Congress volunteers in the forefront for implementation of Sanjay's five-point programme during the Emergency. Dharm Das Shastri, who has

been selected for the Karol Bagh reserved seat is also a staunch supporter and was also active during the Emergency.

### PRESIDENT'S RULE

ASSAM IS LIKELY to be brought under President's Rule. The governor for Northeastern states, LP Singh, is understood to have informed New Delhi of the ministerial crisis created by the decision of the 22-member Congress Legislative Party and the six-member CPI parliamentary group to withdraw support to the Assam Janata Dal ministry, which has reduced it to a minority government. The governor has viewed with concern the virtual collapse of the state ad-

ministrative machinery as a result of the series of bandhs and the picketing by satyagrahis to press for postponement of elections till the names of "foreign nationals" are deleted from the electoral rolls.

### CARTER CAUTIOUS

PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER told families of American hostages held in Iran that "I am not going to take any military action that would cause bloodshed or rouse the unstable captors of our hostages to attack them or to punish them. It is going to be very moderate, very cautious. Our purpose is to get the hostages home and get them safe. That is our total commitment".

# 13 THE IDEAS PAGE

## First Pawar test

Maharashtra's farmers need a new deal. A task force must be set up under the NCP chief



FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH  
BY ASHOK GULATI AND SHYMA JOSE

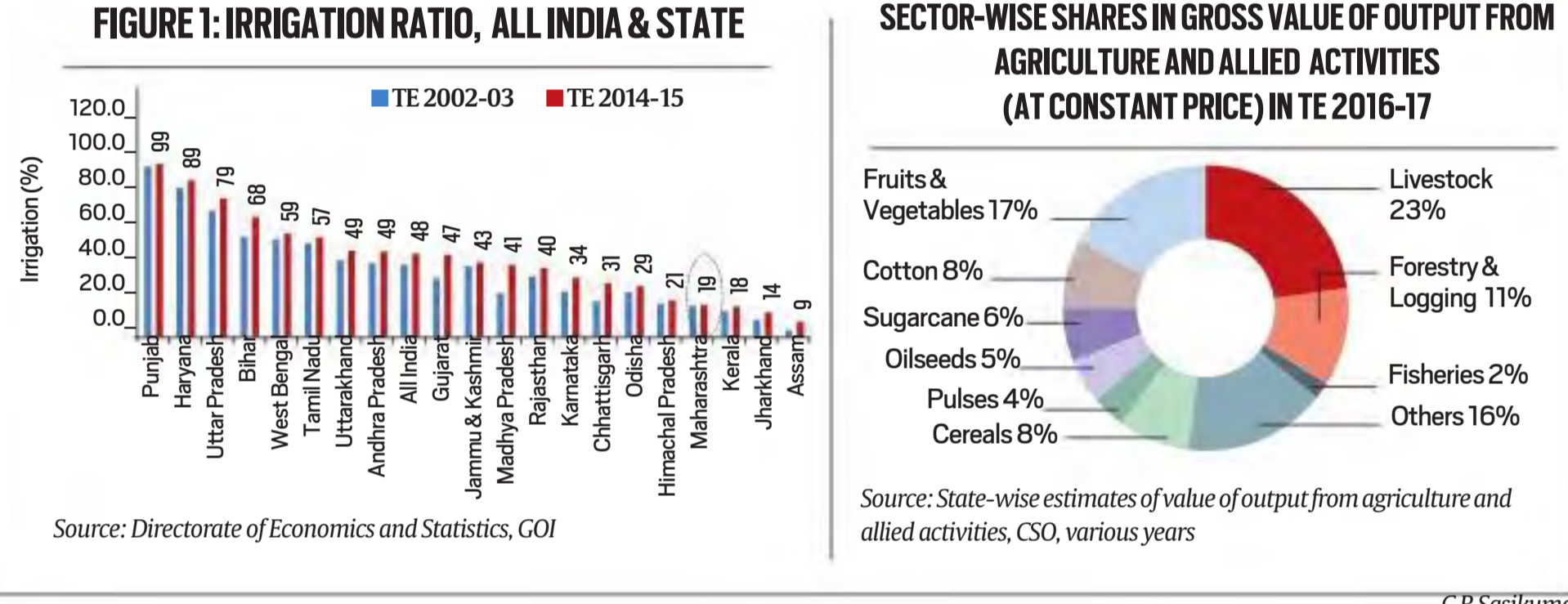
FROM THE TUMULTUOUS developments that took place in Maharashtra's politics over the past three weeks, one thing came out clearly: Everyone swears they want to help farmers first. Devendra Fadnis's 80-hour government sanctioned Rs 5,830 crore from the Maharashtra Contingency Fund to give relief to farmers affected by unseasonal rains. One wonders what happened to the crop insurance scheme if the money had to finally come from the state exchequer. The Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress coalition has declared that it wants to announce something bigger for farmers very soon. But before doing that, it wants to first map and assess the various schemes linked to farmers. That's a wise decision. And given that Sharad Pawar is the senior-most leader of the ruling alliance, it is a golden chance for Maharashtra to frame an agricultural policy that can serve as a lighthouse for many other states.

Maharashtra's peasants have been in the news quite often for the wrong reasons: The high incidence of farmers' suicides. While a little less than 10 per cent of India's population resides in Maharashtra, it accounted for 41 per cent of farmers' suicides in the country as per the latest 2016 data. Although suicides are a complex sociological phenomenon, yet it perhaps reflects the high levels of stress in agriculture. Early action is needed on two fronts. First, on the issues of irrigation and water use management, and second, building globally competitive value chains for major agricultural commodities of the state, from farm to fork.

One of the key problems in Maharashtra's agriculture is the low irrigation ratio. It stood at just 19 per cent for the triennium average ending (TE) 2014-15, as compared to 48 per cent at the all-India level (Figure 1). Ironically, during TE 2002-03 to TE 2014-15, the irrigation ratio increased only by one percentage point.

As of June 2017, the irrigation potential created (IPC) by Maharashtra's Water Resource Department (WRD) stood at 50.4 lakh hectares, while the irrigation potential utilised (IPU) was only 39.5 lakh hectares, or 78.4 per cent (Economic Survey of Maharashtra, 2018-19). Massive public investments are needed to decrease the IPC-IPU gap, but that seems like a distant goal given the high leakages in the irrigation projects. The NABARD-ICRIER study on "Getting More from Less" by Gulati and others (2019) has estimated that the capital cost of major and medium irrigation (MMI) schemes in Maharashtra was the highest in the country at Rs 13.5 lakh/hectare of IPC compared to the all-India average cost of Rs 4.5 lakh/hectare. The cost per hectare of IPU is even higher at Rs 20.4 lakh/hectare. Given the alarmingly high capital cost in public irrigation, it is important to ensure transparency and accountability before any more money is put in public irrigation, else that money will also disappear as water disappears in sand.

Ensuring better use of irrigation water is perhaps even more important than investing more in MMI schemes. Water guzzling crops like sugarcane (remember one kg of sugar needs 2,300 litres of water), which occupy less than 4 per cent of cropped area, are entirely irrigated and take away 65 per cent of the irrigation water of the state. On the other



Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, GOI

hand, cotton which occupies roughly 18 per cent of the cropped area, is just 2.7 per cent irrigated. No wonder most farmers' suicides take place in the cotton belt. The policy direction is quite clear: Contain the area under sugarcane and bring it under drip irrigation — saving almost 50 per cent of irrigation water — and channel that to other crops, especially cotton, fruits and vegetables, where the value generated per drop of water can be very high.

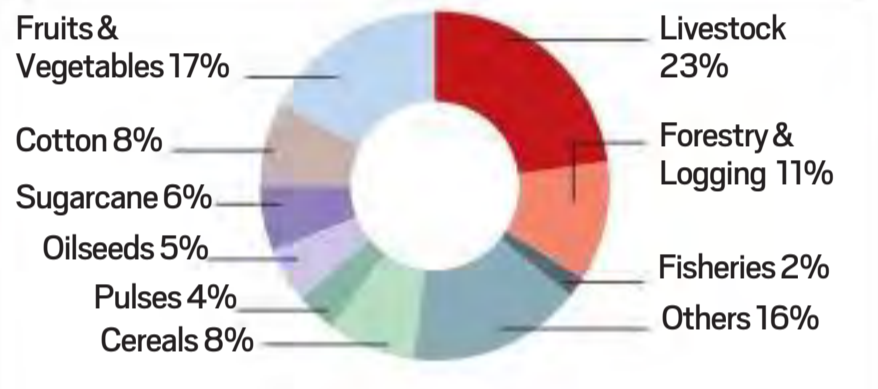
Maharashtra's cotton yield stood at 339 kg/hectare, much lower than the all India average (457 kg/hectare) and that of Gujarat (620 kg/hectare) in TE 2017-18. Gujarat's cotton area is about 60 per cent irrigated compared to less than 3 per cent in Maharashtra, and that makes the Gujarati cotton farmer much more globally competitive than the Maharashtra farmer. Also, HTBT needs to be immediately declared legal, it is already being grown on 15-20 per cent of Maharashtra's cotton area "illegally", without any formal approval.

The second key issue is leveraging cropping patterns in line with emerging demand towards high-value agriculture. In Maharashtra, agriculture is quite diversified with cereals accounting for 34 per cent of the cropped area, followed by oilseeds (18.5 per cent), cotton (17.6 per cent), pulses (16.3 per cent), fruits and vegetables (6.1 per cent) and sugarcane (3.8 per cent). In terms of gross value of output, crops like cotton, fruits and vegetables account for 8 per cent and 17 per cent respectively (Figure 2).

Horticulture holds a good promise in Maharashtra with some very successful stories like that of grape and pomegranate exports achieved by linking farmers producer organisations (FPOs) to export markets.

Ensuring better use of irrigation water is perhaps even more important than investing more in MMI schemes. Water guzzling crops like sugarcane (remember one kilogram of sugar needs 2,300 litres of water), which occupy less than 4 per cent of cropped area, are entirely irrigated and take away 65 per cent of the irrigation water of the state. On the other hand, cotton which occupies roughly 18 per cent of the cropped area, is just 2.7 per cent irrigated.

### SECTOR-WISE SHARES IN GROSS VALUE OF OUTPUT FROM AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED ACTIVITIES (AT CONSTANT PRICE) IN TE 2016-17



Source: State-wise estimates of value of output from agriculture and allied activities, CSO, various years

C R Sasikumar

Onion, which is on the boil today, also deserves investment in modern storage and processing de-hydrated flakes, which can reduce wastage. Maharashtra is the largest producer of onions, with a third of India's production.

Maharashtra has already opened up private mandis to ensure competition and fair trade, but more needs to be done for building efficient commodity-specific value-chains that connect FPOs to best markets — be it organised retailers, food processors or exporters. The state needs to embark on a special drive to promote contract farming, and the opening up of land-leasing markets.

The livestock sector also deserves more processing plants for value added products that will help farmers realise better prices for their produce. Value addition in more organised value-chains could be the mantra for the agricultural transformation of the state.

The common minimum programme worked out between the Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress has lifted hopes that the farming community in the state may get a better deal. But, to realise these hopes, one needs a good strategy that recognises constraints on the supply side (especially water) but also taps into the potential on the demand side through FPOs run specific commodity value-chains. Maybe setting up a high-level special task force under Sharad Pawar's direction could see this potential actually realised for peasants.

Gulati is Infosys chair professor for agriculture and Jose is research associate at ICRIER

### WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Without common interests, NATO is destined to fail. It would be a serious blunder to regard the China topic as a ventilator for NATO to survive."

— GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

## What JNU represents

It is a one-of-a-kind post-graduate university. That is also why it is being targeted



SUBHASHIS BANERJEE

RECENTLY, THE EXTENT of subsidies in publicly funded universities has received quite a bit of attention. Not only did JNU propose to roughly double the fees for its PhD and masters students, but even the IIT Council, while doing away with the stipend scheme, has tentatively decided to increase the MTech fees by nearly 10 times. While, the IIT step is ostensibly motivated towards deterring unviable legacy masters programmes of little interest to the industry and move towards more attractive industry sponsored programmes, understanding the provocations at JNU has not been easy.

It is well understood that the burden of high loans limits the choices of graduating students, and narrows the spaces for their intellectual explorations. This, in turn, hurts the society. Post-graduate research is usually fully supported everywhere in the world. Boarding and lodging charges are either directly subsidised, or are factored into the stipend or assistantship. At a stipend of Rs 8,000 per month, which most of the post-graduate scholars at JNU receive, the proposed increases are bound to pinch.

Post-graduate research, especially PhD research, cannot be self-financed anywhere because that will necessitate subsequent remuneration with high salaries, forcing research to be entirely market driven and killing the spirit of free enquiry. Parents supporting post-graduate studies is also a bad idea. One needs independence at that age for any kind of free thinking to be possible. Post-graduate research must be supported by research grants, whenever feasible, either from public or private sources, as is common in the sciences, engineering, economics or finance.

However, it is hard to envisage industry funding research in areas not directly of interest to them, for example, in philosophy, particle physics, topology or geometry or even in climate change, pollution, poverty mapping, history, gender studies or socio-economic understanding of public health, except as philanthropy in a limited way. Developing understanding in topics such as these is crucial for society and humanity, and it is therefore essential to internally support them to the extent possible by publicly funded universities.

This is where JNU plays a crucial role, especially in the areas of social and political sciences. It is a one-of-a-kind post-graduate university in the country that has promoted inter-disciplinary research and a vibrant culture of free enquiry, where learning outside the classroom has been as important as inside, and where it has been possible to challenge every doctrine and discuss it democratically. Moreover, JNU has set exemplary standards for an inclusive admission policy that extends beyond the mandatory reservations to affirmative action for gender and other marginalised categories, including for backward regions. The resulting diversity is enriching and must be celebrated rather than attacked.

Students from JNU have not only moved

to conventional careers in the civil services, armed forces, academics and in journalism, but some have also opted for active politics and other forms of activism. JNU can boast of producing a significant number of educated politicians, and there are at least two even in the current central cabinet of ministers. There can be no doubt that there is scope for improvement, including in research, but the same can be said about most other things. It certainly is not the case that JNU is the most broken thing in the country that requires urgent and violent fixing.

Fees and stipends require periodic adjustments in any university. But the sudden raising of fees without adequate consultations, and the continual unduly combative posture of the administration is more indicative of waging a war on what JNU represents, rather than nurturing and shaping it with sagacious insight. The unusual belligerence may have something to do with the unfortunate tax-payers' perception of JNU as a den of "useless sociologists", "leftists" and even "anti-nationals". Such simplistic and illogical calumny is all the more reason for supporting more such publicly funded centres of liberal education and research.

In contrast, the IITs have turned to seek their relevance from university rankings rather than from original impactful contributions in engineering, sciences, public policy and education. Projecting wonderfully multidimensional entities like universities onto straight lines to enforce linear ordering is conceptually flawed, and is a fundamentally mistaken way of seeking excellence that leads to faulty reward models and bio-data engineering.

The IIT system has produced some top-class academics, researchers and students, and they have indeed made sporadic outstanding contributions of both fundamental and applied nature. However, sustained high quality response, either to fundamental questions, or to societal imperatives such as climate change, public health, clean water, pollution, digitisation and society, have, at best, been muted. This is mainly because of faulty metrics and failure to define collective priorities and action groups.

While industry-sponsored research in public universities is crucial, not all research and higher education can be market driven. Publicly-funded universities also have the responsibility to train people to ask fundamental questions not of immediate interest to the industry, but to identify and conduct independent enquiry of societal problems, provide directions, and, if required, raise voices of dissent if policies go awry. Public funding of higher education is thus crucial for any society. And, ultimately, education needs to be free and equitable for all, even if not subsidised.

Of course, the requirements of higher education need to be balanced against the even more fundamental demands of primary and general college education for all. This is where prioritisation and policy making becomes crucial, and the strategic response and guidance from our academic leadership — both in our universities, and in our policy making bodies — need to become more thoughtful. And the education budget, still amongst the lowest in the world (as a percentage of the GDP) needs to go up significantly.

The writer is associated with the computer science and engineering department and the school of public policy, IIT Delhi

### VIEW FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



A weekly look at the public conversations shaping ideas beyond borders — in the Subcontinent. Curated by Aakash Joshi

### THE PALESTINE EXAMPLE

WHILE LAST MONTH, the focus in the Pakistan press was the proposed extension of Army Chief General Qamar Bajwa's tenure and its supreme court's ruling on the matter along with other domestic issues such as corruption, the spotlight seems to have shifted back to Kashmir to some extent.

In its December 8 editorial — "Relentless Tyranny" — Dawn marks four months since the communication blockade was imposed in Jammu and Kashmir. Much of the editorial is a repetition of the line espoused by the newspaper over the last four months: "...the people of the forsaken Valley suffocate under India's stifling restrictions"; "thousands remain incarcerated under flimsy pretences"; "Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti — all former chief ministers of the held region — remain in detention along with other lawmakers, demonstrating that the BJP clique in New Delhi doesn't even trust those that never tired of siding with India".

What is interesting is a direct analogy between the suffering inflicted by Israel on Palestinians over the years, which too shows no sign of relenting, and the situation in the Valley: "It would not be wrong

to compare the situation in occupied Kashmir to the miserable plight of the Palestinian enclave of Gaza, where similar restrictions on fundamental rights are enforced by the Israeli military machine. Perhaps this is not coincidental, as an Indian diplomat in the US was recently quoted as saying that his country should follow the 'Israeli model' in Kashmir; it is evident that quite a few of Tel Aviv's brutal tactics are being replicated by the Hindu-tva-infused government in New Delhi."

The statement by India's consul-general to the US, Sandeep Chakravorty, ("why don't we follow the Israel model") also provides fodder to the argument made by Moonis Ahmar in *The Express Tribune* on December 6. "For the first time a senior Indian diplomat has called for establishing Hindu enclaves," writes Ahmar, "similar to the illegal Jewish settlements in the Israel-occupied West Bank". Ahmar, an international and strategic affairs scholar, does provide something of a caveat: "Although his statement was heavily criticised in India and by the Pakistani Prime Minister, it reflects the prevailing mindset in the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) about the demographic transformation in the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley."

Ahmar then describes the modalities and immoralities of Israel's occupation and points out that many Kashmiri pandits too are against the "demographic change" that permitting all Indians to buy land in Kashmir would allow. He ends by pointing out that despite its efforts, Pakistan has been unable to change New Delhi's position on Kashmir, or have the latter face any serious consequences in international fora: "Pakistan is unable to effectively challenge New Delhi because of its fragile economy, political polarisation and gaps in policy and action. Pakistan should have hit when the iron was hot. Does it mean Pakistan has lost Kashmir for good?"

### ONION WOES

THE ONLY COUNTRY suffering as much, if not more, than India from the soaring prices of onions is Nepal. In its December 7 editorial, *The Kathmandu Post* flags the tremendous shortage of onions, and analyses its causes and effects.

First, the cause: "When India faced an erratic and late monsoon, much like Nepal did, farmers lost a bulk of their onion crop. As prices for shallots, onions and other varieties rose, the Indian government put a

ban on the export of the vegetable on September 29 and has extended it to February 2020 at least. The current price hike and shortage Nepal feels is a direct effect of Delhi's export ban."

One reason for the onion becoming ubiquitous in Nepali cuisine — it was not always so — is changing food habits, new ways of cooking meat, etc. While in the short term, the country is trying to offset the shortage through imports from China, these varieties have few takers as Indian onions are largely preferred.

The editorial proposes a long-term solution to such crises as well: "The government must support the promotion of multiple import-export channels: the 2015 blockade, the sporadic Nepali ginger barriers and the current onion crisis show that New Delhi will not put its neighbour's need before its own. What it also shows is how Nepal is a hostage to a single trade partner. In the long run, Nepal must promote a diverse agriculture basket at home to sustain its food needs. Moreover, the diversity of local cuisine and the variety of regional ingredients must be celebrated. Not everyone needs to have rice as a staple, and neither does every Nepali require onions in their chicken."

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### SENA'S CHALLENGE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Sena on test' (IE, December 5). Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's announcement to review several big ticket infrastructure projects is wholly unwarranted. It is the prerogative of every government to review all schemes pursued by its predecessor government in pursuance of public interest. But no such reasoning have been given by the Maharashtra CM. The Sena was party to such decisions as an ally of BJP in the previous government.

Ravi Mathur Ghaziabad

#### LINKED HISTORIES

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A Mughal prince and the pandits of Benares' (IE, December 5). It was heartening to read the story of Dara Shukoh who stands as a testimony to tolerance and pluralism in our increasingly polarised society. His stellar work *Sir-i-akbar* helped many Hindus access their own sacred texts and is a reminder that the histories of Hindus and Muslims are inextricably entwined.

Sangeeta Kampani, Delhi

#### GST WOES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Slowdown pain' (IE, December 5). With

#### LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to [editpage@expressindia.com](mailto:editpage@expressindia.com) or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

private expenditure and fresh capex investment coming to a halt, public expenditure is the saviour for the day. States are within their rights to seek compensation and one of them, Kerala has even threatened to go to the Supreme Court if the Centre does not pay up. Reducing the number of tax slabs and bringing down many items from highest slab will go a long way in fine tuning the GST process and may lead to an increase in GST collection as well. The GST council should streamline the filing process.

Bal Govind, Noida

# 14 THE GOVERNANCE PAGE

## BETTER SAFETY FOR TOURISTS

# Goa steps up vigilance, finds a way to make its beaches safer in tourist season

A pilot project involving Indian Reserve Battalion personnel and a private firm's wardens does the trick

SMITANAI  
PANAJI, DECEMBER 8

IN THE past, peak tourist seasons in Goa were often marred by incidents of people drowning close to the beaches. These deaths happened primarily because tourists were unclear about the dangers and often went further into the sea than what was advisable. The fact that some of the tourists were too drunk to be careful did not help matters. However, thanks to an experiment — undertaken by the Goa government — during October and November, there is now a blueprint available on how to make Goa's beaches safer.

Essentially, the experiment, which was conducted on a pilot basis, involved the use of wardens as well as the use of Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) along the beaches to ensure that the movement of all tourists is well monitored and urgent rescues can be provided when needed.

"The end result was to ensure we increase focus on the lives and make sure drunkards and tourists who are not aware of swimming or rules of the sea do not venture in. This also helped in bringing some sense of order in an otherwise chaotic beach situation due to heavy footfall," said Manohar Azgaonkar, Deputy Chief Minister and the state's Tourism Minister. He says the government has received positive reports about the IRB personnel and beach wardens keeping a good watch.

Buoyed by the result, the government has now asked Drishti Marine, the private beach management agency which provided the wardens, to put together findings in a report for the government to mull over. The government is looking to expand this project to several other locations along the coastal state's western front regularly every year between October and February.

While beaches in Goa are otherwise manned by trained lifeguards who are equipped to pull a victim from drowning, these beach wardens are no lifeguards and do not cross the High Tide Line. But they are trained to keep watch on errant or drunk tourists on the beach, and specifically watch out for those who could breach instructions and tread into the sea in an inebriated state.

Over the last few months, Goa has had a difficult time at its beaches especially because of two cyclones and other adverse weather conditions occurring at a time when the domestic tourist crowd increases over



Drishti Marine is the government-designated agency for beach safety *Drishti Marine*

### CYCLONES HAVE MADE MATTERS WORSE IN GOA

■ Since January 2019, there have been a total of 363 rescues and 8 deaths by drowning

■ Of these, 245 rescues took place between August and October

■ Five of the 8 deaths happened in September and October

■ Of the 245 rescued during peak tourist season, 141 were Indians

the weekends. Matters took a delicate turn with the Chief Minister Pramod Sawant himself warning tourists to behave while in Goa. On November 9, a Saturday and a high footfall day in the tourism calendar, lifeguards saw themselves busy with 16 major rescues across beachfront in Goa; these included two deaths in Ashwem (see box). Six drunk men, all from Karnataka, were pulled in by rip currents. Only four made it back alive; police reports confirm the six were warned twice, and still ventured intoxicated.

"It's then we felt the situation is better ad-

dressed if we engage a second layer of intervention and not just rely on lifeguards in the sea. Increasingly we have been pushing our resources, including our rescue apparatus in the water. This is traditionally done to reduce the time of response," says Ravi Shankar, CEO, Drishti Marine, the agency designated by the government to manage the beaches.

With the police not having the mandate for beach safety, Drishti deployed wardens to go around and man the beaches.

According to statistics shared with the government, compared to the average of the last five year's data, this tourist season alone has seen a 70 per cent increase in the number of rescues across beachfront. The "spurt" is being seen as a "by-product of adverse weather and public indifference to their own safety".

"The wardens and the guards worked together and zones were identified which have better swimming surfaces and suffer fewer rip currents," said Shankar explaining how the whole effort was to get people to swim within the safe zones.

## EXPLAINED Why lifeguards are not enough

ADVERSE WEATHER and two cyclones during the peak tourist season earlier in the year resulted in several people drowning in the sea. This provided a trigger for a rethink on relying just on lifeguards. Over the years, the government has been questioned over the safety of Goa's beaches. Beach wardens and IRB personnel now provide a crucial second layer of safety and it has resulted in more rescues.

Azgaonkar says that there is a larger message that he wants to share. "Tourists need to also educate themselves that walking drunk into the sea is an obvious danger situation. We want them to come in good numbers and come often to Goa. It is known for its beauty but also its culture. The wardens and IRB will monitor the beaches but the larger responsibility lies with the tourist to follow rules".

According to Azgaonkar, the IRB and wardens have now been asked to send tourists and locals found flouting rules to the police station closest to the beachfront. "Tourism management is an evolving subject and one can only keep improving according to changing demographics and footfalls," he said.

According to the Inspector General of Police Jaspal Singh, while beach safety cannot be a police responsibility as it doesn't fall in the mandate, the efforts of the wardens and the IRB personnel have shown good results. "One (IRB personnel) even rescued a tourist who was drowning as at that moment he was the closest to the situation. This gives us hope that solutions can work".

# 'Rewards created awareness, technology curbed corruption'

THE CHAIRMAN of the Bihar State Cooperative Marketing Union (BISCOMAUN), the apex cooperative society of the state, Sunil Kumar Singh spoke to SANTOSH SINGH on how BISCOMAUN is using technology to curb corruption.



THE POLICY INTERVIEW  
S K SINGH  
Chairman, BISCOMAUN

### What were the complaints the cooperative society received when it started the retail sale of subsidised fertilisers and how did you deal with it?

The most common complaints from farmers were about retailers overcharging against our fixed price of Rs 262 per sack (of 45 kg). We came up with the idea of putting the fixed price in black and white on a sign-board at every shop. (We said) if anyone charges even Rs 1, call at one of these five mobile numbers and get a reward of Rs 2,000.

The first number (in that list) was mine. We did not put our designations against our contact numbers.

This worked wonders. I was the one who would start receiving maximum complaint calls with callers not knowing they are talking to the BISCOMAUN chief. Rather than complaints moving from lower officials to the top level, it has been other way round.

Ever since we introduced the system in 2017 at our 167 retail shops across the state, complaints about overcharging have reduced to almost zero. It was not just the urge to complain but also the reward money that helped clean up our system. We terminated dozens of our staffers and rewarded many people. In one instance, a shopkeeper had tampered with a digit of my mobile number. He was terminated. It may amount to bragging but I challenge anyone to tell us now that a retailer is overcharging even a rupee more.

### There has been a general complaint against a subsidised shop about selling some of its stock to open market at higher rates. What else did you do to ensure it does not happen with BISCOMAUN shops?

We have made the system completely online. In a phased manner since 2017, we have provided laptops and android phones to all retailers now. We have full updates on sale, existing stock and payment. Our fertiliser officer or any other official can see from Patna office which shop sold how much fertilisers.

In 2018-19, we had sold fertilisers worth Rs 380 crore. We also ensure that we have enough stock and there is no law and order problem.

So it was the use of technology that

### almost eliminated corruption?

Absolutely. It is the strong will and technology that can check corruption. We have tried to present a model of 'zero tolerance against corruption', which other cooperative society can replicate.

We had introduced points of sale system in 2017 itself. The Central government made it mandatory for every retail cooperative in 2018. The system tells us exactly the number of fertiliser sacks sold at a shop. It has to match the amount collected at the end of the day. While reward notice created awareness among farmers and terrified retailers, technology has made the system almost corruption-free.

### What are other steps BISCOMAUN taking to further ensure retailers stay honest?

We are now planning to put every retail shop under CCTVs to further improve transparency. Our idea is not just to erase corruption from our system but also force the market to regulate its price and put an end to black marketing. Once our shops run short of fertilisers, market dealers start charging Rs 100 more per sack. We want a system in which we are able to meet 100 per cent fertiliser demand of farmers.

### But how is the cooperative body still making a profit despite selling urea at Rs 1.5 less per sack than the government price?

We also sell mixed fertilisers and nutrients from plants to make up our losses and also make some profit. But the regulation of price is our main motto.

## FROM STATES REFORMS TRACKER

### UTTAR PRADESH

#### Policy to adopt a govt primary school

THE BHARATIYA Janata Party government in the state has come up with a novel policy that allows anyone to adopt a government primary school. The idea is for private individuals to pitch in and help the infrastructure and facilities in such schools. It is noteworthy that in the recent past, the state's public schools, especially in rural areas, have come in for a great amount of criticism after reports of inadequately functioning mid-day meals scheme. However, the new policy makes it clear that such adoption cannot in any way undermine the basic right to education, nor can any commercial activity be conducted in it.

### RAJASTHAN

#### Launch of a health awareness campaign

A STATE-level campaign to make people aware of health issues will be launched by the Rajasthan government from December 17. It will be called "Nirogi Rajasthan". The state government will also introduce a new health policy soon. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot reviewed the preparations of the campaign and gave necessary directions to the officials. He asked them to ensure that the campaign benefits people of the state in large number. A new website will be launched for the campaign which will have details of various health problems.

### KARNATAKA

#### Better work conditions for gig economy

THE STATE government is reportedly working on ensuring that those involved in the gig economy in Karnataka get better work conditions. The government is working on devising policies accordingly. The state's capital city, Bengaluru, is a big hub for gig economy workers.

# Integrated pest management conquers a dreaded pest, saves farmers from bankruptcy

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS  
PUNE, DECEMBER 8

EARLY IN April 2019, farmers in the cotton-growing district of Akola saw state's agriculture officers, Akola Zilla Parishad as well as representatives of agriculture universities and seed companies descending to their villages to talk about the pink bollworm (PBW). Ganesh Nanote, a cotton grower from the village of Nimbhara in Akola's Barshitakli taluka, was present for one such programme where officers talked about how cotton growers should tweak their practices to the save their crop from PBW infestation.

"They spoke about the need for integrated pest management. The main component of which was to change our normal sowing time from the third week of May to the second week of June -- that is, only after the monsoon rains pick up," said this farmer who grows cotton over 20 acres of his holding.

Muralidhar Ingle, the agriculture devel-



Ganesh Nanote is one of the beneficiaries of the new system *Express*

opment officer of Akola Zilla Parishad, pointed out that their office, in collaboration with the other departments and universities, also raised awareness about usage of pheromone traps, lures (contraption with female pheromones to trap male moths) etc. In 2017-18, PBW infestation had led to

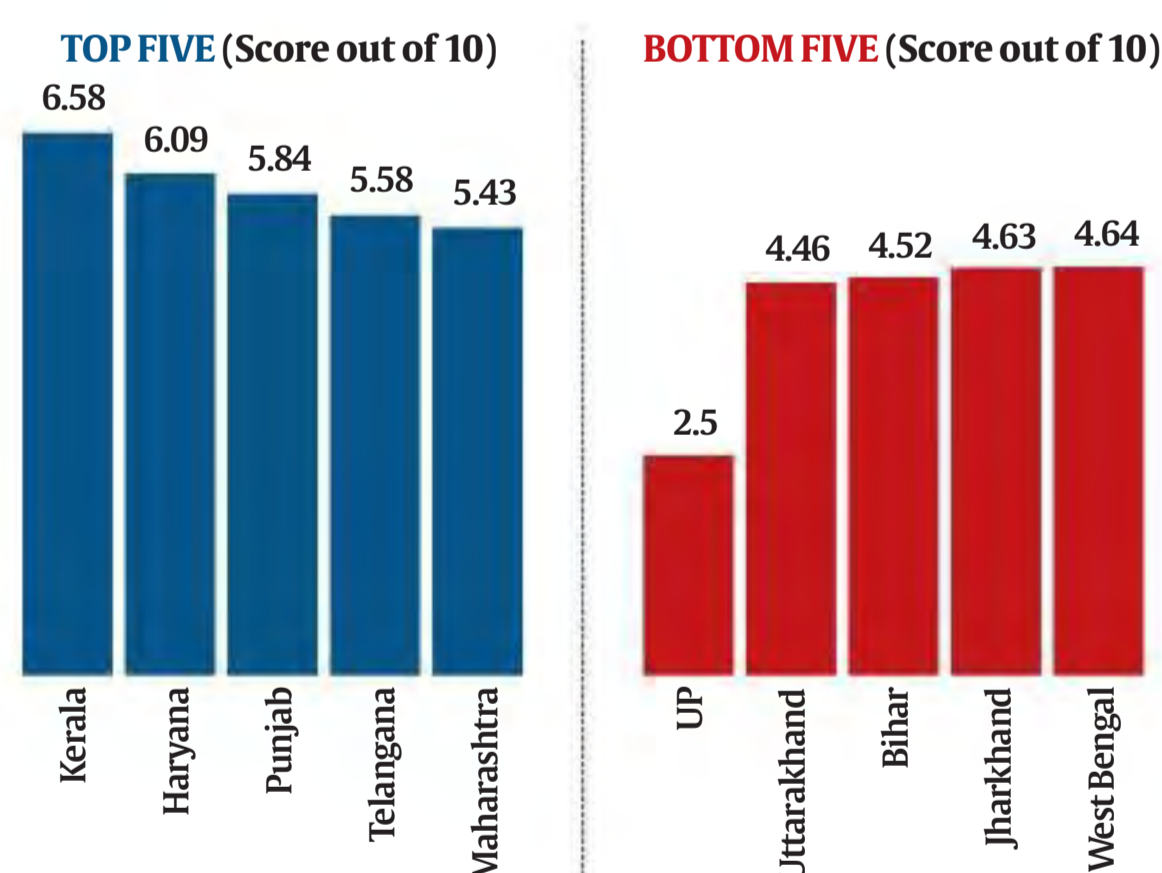
high losses for farmers. "Since then we have virtually waged a war against this pest, arming our farmers with the necessary information to control this pest," said Ingle. The results have been "satisfying" — there have been hardly any significant episode of infestation.

Narayan Shisode, Director of Agriculture (extension and training) in Maharashtra, said that between 2017 and 2019, of the 3,924 villages under observation, 1,957 villages had reported infestation above the economic threshold limit (a measure of pest population per acre beyond which active pest control measures need to be taken to prevent economic losses). However, till November this year, just 100 villages have reported infestation above the economic threshold limit.

Shisode mentioned that their outreach saw the department undertaking a major awareness drive with information chariots, posters, pamphlets etc being distributed at the villages to educate the farmers. The literature made a strong case in favour of integrated pest management.

## IN NUMBERS

### THE BEST AND WORST PERFORMING STATES WHEN IT COMES TO PROVIDING LEGAL AID



Source: India Justice Report, 2019 by Tata Trusts

## PUNJAB/ IMPROVING EASE OF LIVING

# Tandurust Punjab mission reduces air pollution by a third

KANCHAN VASDEV  
CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 8

FROM BEING a critically polluted city till last year to a 100-point improvement in the Air Quality Index (AQI) this year, Mandi Gobindgarh, the steel city of Punjab, is undergoing a transformation that has lessons for many other cities.

Till last year, the city, which is home to rolling mills and induction furnaces, had an annual average AQI score ranging from 300 to 325. This placed the city in the worst AQI category of "hazardous" air quality. But according to Kahan Singh Pannu, Mission Director, Tandurust Punjab Mission (Tandurust means healthy), the city has recorded an annual average of 200-225 on the AQI this year. Though the AQI score is still in the "unhealthy" category yet the decline by one-third in such a short span of time is a remarkable achievement.

The transformation started in 2017 when the Punjab Pollution Control Board started working on getting the furnaces to switch



No longer business as usual in Mandi Gobindgarh. *Harmeet Sodhi*

over to side hood suction system with bag filter house, an air pollution control device. The residue ash of the furnace that was earlier making way into the environment, was collected in the side hood.

"The industrialists, who would come to their unit wearing a white shirt, would go back home with it covered in soot. This was the comparison that came handy for the industrialists to make them understand," said Pannu.

Mohinder Gupta of Cyan TMT and president of Mandi Gobindgarh Induction Furnace Association said "Switching over to this system has actually helped. You come to our city and see yourself. The air is cleaner". The city, located on GT Road, was earlier a polluted patch with smog engulfing it all through the year. The change is now visible to anyone on the roads, he added.

Besides switching over from the furnace to a modern system to check air pollution, the state government is trying to convince rolling mills, which mostly use coal and furnace oil as fuels, to shift to using CNG. Both coal and furnace oil are known for causing pollution and increasing the Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) in the air.

"We are working on Sumeet and Madhav Industries as a pilot project under which CNG would be used as fuel in these two rolling mills. IRM Energy Private Limited is providing them with the fuel. By December-end, these two industries would be fully on CNG," said Pannu. The pollution board has now directed all the rolling mills to switch over to CNG by March

2020, failing which they would have to be shut down, he informs. There are 250 rolling mills and 100 furnace units in the city as of now.

He added that they have already set up five CNG filling stations in the city. To further check SPM, the government is ensuring that the kutcha compounds of the industries are converted into pucca patches. The government has set up a plantation committee under the District Forest Officer to identify the spots where plantation is being done. "We have already planted 20,000 trees. We have done the topography survey to check what kind of trees would survive".

"Once we achieve this, this would be the first industrial city in India to be on gas. The government has reduced the VAT on CNG from 14.3 per cent to 3 per cent, a long-pending demand of the industrialists. This is all for making the city clean," he added.

The government has also made it mandatory for all the new autorickshaws to be run on CNG. Further, all dust spots in front of petrol pumps and weighing machines have also been covered with concrete.

# 15 THE WORLD



**FRANCE**  
**4TH DAY OF TRANSPORT CHAOS AMID STRIKE**  
 Public transport in France was crippled for a fourth day Sunday as anger over pension reforms brought thousands onto the streets as workers embarked on open-ended protest. The President, Prime Minister and senior ministers are scheduled to meet late Sunday to discuss the reforms which labour unions claim will force many to work longer for a smaller pension.

**TOP OF THE WORLD**



**Kim Jong Un has taken a tougher stance ever since talks with the US have stalled**

**KOREAN PENINSULA**  
**N Korea carries out test at a site it once said would be shut down**

Seoul: North Korea has carried out a "very important" test at its Sohae satellite launch site, state media KCNA reported on Sunday, a rocket testing ground that US officials once said Pyongyang had promised to close. The reported test comes as a year-end deadline North Korea has imposed nears, warning it could take a "new path" amid stalled denuclearisation talks with the United States. The KCNA report called it a "successful test of great significance" on Saturday but did not specify what was tested.



**HONG KONG SEES BIGGEST MARCH SINCE POLLS**

People attend a Human Rights Day march in Hong Kong on Sunday. Reuters

- Vast crowds of black-clad demonstrators thronged Hong Kong on Sunday in the largest anti-government protests since local elections last month that boosted the pro-democracy movement.
- It was the first time since August that the Civil Human Rights Front — organiser of million-strong marches earlier in the year — had received authorities' permission for a rally. It estimated turnout of 800,000.
- Chants of "Fight for freedom! Stand with Hong Kong!" echoed as demonstrators, from students to professionals and the elderly, marched from Victoria Park in the bustling shopping district towards the financial area.

**DEMOCRATS HUDDLE TO DRAFT CHARGES**

## House impeachment report looks at abuse of power, corruption

LISA MASCARO & MARY CLARE JALONICK  
 WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 8

PREVIEWING POTENTIAL articles of impeachment, the House Democrats on Saturday issued a lengthy report drawing on history and the Founding Fathers to lay out the legal argument over the case against US President Donald Trump's actions toward Ukraine. The findings from the House Judiciary Committee do not spell out the formal charges against the President, which are being drafted ahead of votes. Instead, the report refutes Trump's criticism of the impeachment proceedings, arguing that the Constitution created impeachment as a "safety valve" so Americans would not have to wait for the next election to remove a President. It refers to the writings of George Washington and others to link Trump's actions in his July phone call with Ukraine's President seeking political investigations of his rivals to the kind of behaviour that would "horrify" the framers.

**EXPLAINED**  
**E**  
**Bringing focus back on Russia**

WITH SATURDAY'S report, Democrats are trying to lay down why the American public should care about the Trump-Ukraine affair. To that end, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said: "All roads lead to Putin." She's making the argument that by withholding military aid to Ukraine, Trump was actually helping Russia. Democrats are also looking at bringing obstruction charges against Trump based on the Mueller report into Russian election meddling. Trump's opponents hope that linking impeachment with Russia will help get the issue greater traction among the public.

**DoJ watchdog expected to find Russia probe valid**

ERIC TUCKER  
 WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 8

THE INTERNAL watchdog of the US Department of Justice (DoJ) will release a highly anticipated report Monday that is expected to reject President Donald Trump's claims that the Russia investigation was illegitimate and tainted by political bias from FBI leaders. But it is also expected to document errors during the investigation. The report, as described by people familiar with its findings, is expected to conclude there was an adequate basis for opening one of the most politically sensitive investigations in FBI history and one that Trump has denounced as a witch hunt. It began in secret during Trump's 2016 presidential run and was ultimately taken over by special counsel Robert Mueller. A separate internal investigation continues, overseen by Trump's attorney general, William Barr. That investigation is criminal in nature, and Republicans may look to it to uncover wrongdoing that the DoJ watchdog was not examining. AP

**CHINA**

**Beijing releases Xinjiang documentary**

Beijing: China has released a rare documentary showing for the first time some of the deadly attacks conducted by the separatist militant outfit East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) in Xinjiang, justifying the massive crackdown and detention of thousands of Uyghur Muslims in the restive province, amid mounting international criticism. The resource-rich Xinjiang province is home to over 10 million Turkic-speaking Uyghur Muslims. The documentary, titled *The Black Hand — ETIM and Terrorism in Xinjiang*, telecast by the state-run CGTN blamed the ETIM for the terrorist attacks in Xinjiang.

BRENDAN FARRINGTON  
 PENSACOLA, DECEMBER 8

THE SAUDI student who fatally shot three sailors at a US naval base in Florida hosted a dinner party earlier in the week where he and three others watched videos of mass shootings, a US official told *The Associated Press* on Saturday. Officials investigating the deadly attack were working Saturday to determine whether it was motivated by terrorism, while US President Donald Trump indicated he would review policies governing foreign military training in the United States. Investigators believe the gunman visited New York City days before the shooting and are working to determine the purpose of the trip, a US official said Sunday. The Navy on Saturday identified the three victims and hailed them as heroes for trying to stop the shooter and flagging down first responders after being shot.



The FBI identified the shooter as Mohammed Alshamrani

"The Sailors that lost their lives in the line of duty and showed exceptional heroism and bravery in the face of evil," Capt. Tim Kinsella, the commanding officer of Naval Air Station Pensacola, said. The shooter opened fire inside a classroom at the naval base on Friday, killing three people and wounding two sheriff's deputies, one in the arm and one

in the knee, before one of the deputies killed him. Eight others were also hurt. Both deputies were expected to survive. An official said one of the three students who attended the dinner party hosted by the attacker recorded video outside the classroom building while the shooting was taking place. Two other Saudi students watched from a car, the official said. Ten Saudi students were being held on the base Saturday while several others were unaccounted for, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity after being briefed by federal authorities.

The FBI identified the shooter in a statement Saturday night as Mohammed Alshamrani, 21. Investigators said he was a 2nd Lt. in the Royal Saudi Air Force and was a student naval flight officer of Naval Aviation Schools Command. A US official had said the FBI was examining social media posts and investigating whether he acted alone. AP

**Suu Kyi departs for genocide hearings amid fanfare at home**

Yangon: Myanmar leader and Nobel peace prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi departed on Sunday for the UN's top court in The Hague to defend the country against charges of genocide of its Rohingya Muslim minority. Suu Kyi was pictured smiling as she walked through the airport in Naypyitaw, a day after thousands rallied in the city to support her and a prayer ceremony was held in her name.

Demonstrations are planned throughout the coming week, with hearings set for December 10 to 12, and several dozen supporters are also bound for The Hague to cheer Suu Kyi on. "Believe in Mother Suu and love her," said Tin Aung Thein, the organiser of a group tour, said. Gambia filed a lawsuit in November accusing Myanmar of genocide, the most serious international crime, against the Rohingya Muslims. REUTERS

Democrats are working through the weekend as articles are being drafted and committee members are preparing for a hearing Monday. The report examines treason, bribery, serious abuse of power,

betrayal of the national interest through foreign entanglements and corruption. Democrats have been focused on an overall abuse of power article, with the possibility of breaking out a separate, related article on bribery. AP



UK PM Boris Johnson and Chancellor of the Exchequer Sajid Javid at a Conservative campaign call centre in London. AP

## UK PM visits temple, vows to work with Modi for 'new India'

ADITI KHANNA  
 LONDON, DECEMBER 8

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson said he would partner with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his mission to build a new India, as he and his girlfriend Carrie Symonds visited a famous Hindu temple here to woo Indian diaspora votes ahead of Thursday's general election. Dressed in a bright pink silk sari, 31-year-old conservationist Symonds made her first official campaign tour on Saturday with 55-year-old Johnson at one of the UK's most famous temples — Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden, north-west London. Johnson vowed to partner with his Indian counterpart Modi on his mission to build a new India. "I know Prime Minister Modi

is building a new India. And, we in the UK government will support him fully in his endeavour," said Johnson. In an indirect reference to opposition Labour Party's perceived anti-India stance over the issue of Kashmir, he noted: "There can be no place for racism or anti-India sentiment of any kind in this country." "British Indians have played a vital role in helping the Conservatives win elections in the past. When I told Narendra Modi [Modi] this, he just laughed and said Indians are always on the winning side," said a tilak and garland sporting Johnson. The event, also attended by UK home secretary Priti Patel, marked celebrations for what would have been the 98th birthday of guru Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the president of the Swaminarayan Sanstha. PTI

## Saudi Arabia cancels gender-segregated entrances at restaurants in latest reform

STEPHEN KALIN  
 RIYADH, DECEMBER 8

RESTAURANTS IN Saudi Arabia will no longer need to maintain entrances segregated by sex, the authorities said on Sunday, further eroding some of the world's strictest social rules as sweeping reforms take hold. Previously, Saudi Arabia required all restaurants to have one entrance for families and women, and another for men on their own. The ministry of municipalities and rural affairs announced on Twitter this would no longer be mandatory. Unrelated men and women have for decades been barred from



A woman leaves a ladies-only service area at a restaurant in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on Sunday. AP

mixing in public places under strict social rules once enforced by hard-line clerics and the religious police. But Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has brought the religious establish-

ment to heel — partly by arresting critics — and eased other restrictions, including bans on women driving and public entertainment. Segregation has quietly eased over the past year or so, as eateries, cafes, conference centres and concert halls stopped strictly enforcing it. There was no announcement of changes to other public establishments, such as schools and hospitals. Social openness has been accompanied by a crackdown on dissent that has seen the arrests of dozens of clerics, intellectuals and activists, including women who had campaigned for some of the freedoms that have lately been granted. REUTERS

**UAE**  
**Indian girl dies after falling from Sharjah building**

Dubai: A 15-year-old Indian girl in the UAE has died after falling from the 10th floor of a building in Sharjah, according to a media report. The girl, a student at an Indian school in Sharjah, was seriously injured after falling from the building on Friday and was shifted to a hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival, police said on Saturday. The police are investigating if the incident was a case of suicide, an official was quoted as saying by the Gulf News.

**Man eats a \$120,000 piece of art — banana taped to a wall**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
 MIAMI, DECEMBER 8

A PERFORMANCE artist shook up the crowd at the Art Basel show in Miami Beach on Saturday when he grabbed a banana that had been duct-taped to a gallery wall and ate it. The banana was, in fact, a work of art by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan titled "Comedian" and sold to a French collector for \$120,000. In a video posted on his Instagram account, David Datuna, who describes himself as an artist, walks up to the banana and pulls it off the wall with the duct tape attached. "Art performance ... hungry artist," he said, as he peeled the fruit and took a bite. "Thank you, very good." However, Lucien Teras, director of museum relations for Galerie Perrotin, said: "He did not destroy the art work. The banana is the idea." The value of the work is in the certificate of authenticity, a newspaper reported. The banana is meant to be replaced.



The gallery owner with the piece of art titled "Comedian" at Art Basel in Miami. AP

**HE SUSPECTED SHE WAS THE REASON HE MADE IT OUT OF THE CAMP ALIVE, 72 YEARS LATER SHE SAYS SHE SAVED HIM FIVE TIMES**

## When lovers in Auschwitz reunited 72 yrs later, he had to ask her a question

KEREN BLANKFELD  
 DECEMBER 8

THE FIRST time he spoke to her, in 1943, by the Auschwitz crematory, David Wisnia realised that Helen Spitzer was no regular inmate. Zippi, as she was known, was clean, always neat. She wore a jacket and smelled good. They were introduced by a fellow inmate, at her request. Her presence was unusual in itself: a woman outside the women's quarters, speaking with a male prisoner. Before Wisnia knew it, they were alone, all the prisoners around them

gone. This wasn't a coincidence, he later realised. They made a plan to meet again in a week. On their set date, Wisnia went as planned to meet at the barracks between crematories 4 and 5. He climbed on top of a makeshift ladder made up of packages of prisoners' clothing. Spitzer had arranged it, a space amid hundreds of piles, just large enough to fit the two of them. Wisnia was 17 years old; she was 25. They were both Jewish inmates in Auschwitz. Wisnia was chosen to entertain his Nazi captors when they found out he was a talented singer. Spitzer was the camp's graphic

designer. They became lovers, meeting in their nook at a prescribed time about once a month. After the initial fears of knowing they were putting their lives in danger, they began to look forward to their dates. Wisnia felt special. "She chose me," he recalled. For a few months, they managed to be each other's escape, but they knew these visits wouldn't last. Around them, death was everywhere. Still, the lovers planned a life together, a future outside of Auschwitz. They knew they would be separated, but they had a plan, after the fighting was done, to reunite. It took them 72 years.



A photograph of David Wisnia's reunion with Helen Spitzer, at his home in Levittown, Pennsylvania. NYT

Spitzer was among the first Jewish women to arrive in Auschwitz in March of 1942. Through her ability to speak German, graphic design skills and sheer luck, Spitzer secured an office job. As Spitzer's responsibilities grew, she was free to move around within parts of the camp and sometimes was allowed excursions. Yet Spitzer was never a Nazi collaborator or a kapo, a Jew assigned to oversee other prisoners. Instead, she used her position

to help inmates and allies. Wisnia was assigned to the "corpse unit" when he arrived. But within months word got around that Wisnia was a gifted singer. He started singing regularly to Nazi guards and was assigned a new job at a building the SS called the Sauna. He disinfected the clothing of new arrivals with the same Zyklon B pellets used to murder prisoners in the gas chamber. Spitzer, who had noticed Wisnia at the Sauna, began making special visits. Their relationship lasted several months. One afternoon in 1944 they realised it would probably be their final climb up to their nook. The Nazis

were transporting the last of the camp prisoners on death marches. It had been 72 years since he'd last seen his former girlfriend. He suspected she'd helped to keep him alive and wanted to know if this was true. When Wisnia and his grandchildren arrived at her apartment in Manhattan, they saw Helen Tichauer — she had married Erwin Tichauer after leaving Auschwitz — lying in a hospital bed. She had been alone since her husband died in 1996. At first, she didn't recognise him. Then Wisnia leaned in close. "Her eyes went wide, almost like life came back to her,"

said Wisnia's grandson Avi. The reunion lasted about two hours. He finally had to ask: Did she have something to do with the fact that he'd managed to survive in Auschwitz all that time? She held up her hand to display five fingers. Her voice was loud, her Slovakian accent deep. "I saved you five times from bad shipment," she said. There was more. "I was waiting for you," Tichauer said. Wisnia was taken aback. After she escaped the death march, she had waited for him in Warsaw. She'd followed the plan. But he never came. She had loved him, she told him quietly. He had loved her, too, he said. NYT

# 16 ECONOMY

MARKET WATCH

FPIs NET SELLERS IN DEC SO FAR

New Delhi: Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) turned net sellers in December so far, with depositories data showing they pulled out a net sum of Rs 1,668.8 crore from equities, but invested Rs 1,424.6 crore on a net basis in debt, resulting in total net outflow of Rs 244.2 crore. **PTI**

ARGL OWES NEARLY ₹360 CRORE TO SBI, ₹900 CRORE TO OTHER LENDERS

## With NCLT go-ahead, Amtek Group firm set to undergo insolvency process again

AASHISH ARYAN  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

SETTING THE ball re-rolling on corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) of Amtek Group, the Principal Bench of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved a resolution plan for Amtek Auto subsidiary ARGL (Amtek Ring Gears Limited).

The bid, submitted by Investment Opportunities IV Private, was approved by the lenders to the company on June 4 this year.

ARGL was dragged to NCLT by the State Bank of India (SBI) in 2017 for defaulting on loans worth nearly Rs 360 crore. Apart from SBI, the company owes nearly Rs 900 crore to other lenders as well.

In March 2018, the Principal Bench of NCLT agreed that a default had indeed occurred and admitted the company for resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

UK-based Liberty House was then chosen as the highest bidder for the company by the lenders on August 30, 2018. It

### EXPLAINED Liberty House could face action for backing out

THE APPROVAL of a fresh resolution plan for ARGL could set a precedent for companies which don't get financially viable plans in the first round of bidding.

With Liberty House out of bidding for both Amtek Auto and ARGL, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India is likely to move swiftly to initiate action against it for not pursuing its resolution plan after approval by the lenders and NCLT.

was subsequently invited by the resolution professional (RP) to start the process of taking over the company.

Liberty House, however, refused to submit a bank guarantee and expressed its inability to submit the said amount, citing differences in the data about ARGL given to them and the ground realities.

Following this, the RP had moved the adjudicating authority asking it to cancel Liberty House's bid. The same was al-

lowed by NCLT, with an observation that "the somersault taken by Liberty House had put the whole resolution process and the machinery to quandary".

Later, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) too censured Liberty House for failing to go through with the resolution plan.

Hearing an application moved by Liberty House against the remarks made by NCLT, a two-member Bench led by Chairperson Justice SJ

Mukhopadhyaya that the company was a "failure party" with a "bad reputation".

"You are a failure party ... dragging your feet. You are in bad reputation. We will not allow you to take advantage of the appellate tribunal," the appellate tribunal had then said.

Apart from ARGL, Liberty House Group had also bid for the flagship Amtek Auto. However, the Sanjeev Gupta-led group also withdrew this bid after an approval by the Committee of Creditors (CoC), citing reasons similar to the ARGL case.

The CIRP process of Amtek Auto was initiated on July 24, 2017. A full year later, on July 25, 2018, the lenders to the company approved a Rs 4,025-crore resolution plan submitted by Liberty House.

The plan had envisioned an upfront payment of Rs 3,225 crore and a fresh infusion of Rs 500 crore for stabilising and improving operations.

When the CoC and the RP of Amtek Auto moved applications for initiation of implementation of the plan, Liberty House had again backtracked citing "blatant

discrepancies in the condition of machineries, valuations, and representations made in the information memorandum and valuation reports".

Due to lack of any other viable bids, the NCLAT had in August this year cleared the way for liquidation of the company and had asked the Chandigarh Bench of the NCLT to proceed in accordance with law.

Though the liquidation order was initially halted by the Supreme Court, it had recalled its order allowing the RP to call for fresh bids, on December 2, after it was informed that there were not three, but only one resolution plan.

"We cannot modify our order. It will have to be a total recall. Someone want to get backdoor entry is not right. This is something we never expected" the SC had then said.

Amtek Auto has a debt of Rs 12,603 crore and was among the first list of 12 companies that the Reserve Bank of India had asked banks to take action against. The liquidation value of its assets was determined at Rs 4,119 crore.

INTERVIEW WITH MD & CEO OF BAJAJ ALLIANZ GENERAL INSURANCE

## 'After Ayushman Bharat, govt should think of parametric solutions for loss from floods'

WITH THE frequency of floods across the country increasing over the last few years, there is a need to create awareness around it and cover the losses. TAPAN SINGHEL, MD & CEO of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, told SANDEEP SINGH that while "we as a country is not realising how big a social issue it can become, we need to think of parametric solutions". He added that India as a country needs to become more obsessive about environment, law and order, health-care and public transport to create a happy society. Excerpts:



"I feel that if we focus more on health and happiness of people, and get these parameters right, then as a society and nation, we will be happier"

TAPAN SINGHEL

Does the economic growth concern you?

Economic growth is critical as it results in upliftment. But to link economic parameters with external factors is not right. We have to see how to increase domestic consumption, how do we focus on societal aspect and get a more inclusive growth. I feel that if we focus more on health and happiness of people, and get these parameters right, then as a society and nation, we will be happier.

So you are worried that economic growth is not leading to a better society?

If you see, even though the consumption has risen and people have more disposable income, they are getting more meals, but the overall happiness seems to be missing. I believe that the measurement and indexing of economic growth are wrong. So, if you are not getting happier with more money coming to you, then you should not worry about what the GDP growth is, but we need to introspect as to whether we are on the right path. The economy, for me, is something that is self-fulfilling. I am not saying that we should get cut-off from the world. No, we should be open, but we have to set our benchmarks right and we must see what kind of economic growth we want.

So where should the priority lie?

Look at the pollution levels and its effects. If Singapore can control the number of vehicles on roads, why can't we decide on the number of vehicles that should ply on the road? Why can't we make public transport much better and conducive? Why can't we make law and order better so that people can live freely without any

fear and at the same time do things that improve the economy? I think the obsession and priority about these factors should be much higher.

Do you think the Ayushman Bharat scheme is helping on inclusiveness?

Because of Ayushman Bharat, now a common man has a sum insured of Rs 5 lakh and many hospital chains are saying that they will open 200-300 more hospitals. Earlier, they were not doing so because they did not know how they will get their revenue. The scheme makes that viable now and will help improve the healthcare across the country.

Hospital chains will open, there would be better healthcare available and more healthcare spend. So everyone benefits. In fact, those who can't afford are better placed today as they are covered under the government scheme. On the other hand, the penetration of health insurance among people who can afford is only 15 per cent.

After universal health, where do you think the government should focus?

Now we see that floods are going very frequently and I don't think we are realising how big a social issue it can become. If the home of an average man in the age of 50-60 years gets destroyed

by flood, he loses everything and at that age there is no way he can get it back.

However, if you add Rs 200-300 in the house tax and provide a cover, then all individuals impacted by flood can get money into their Jan Dhan account against the loss. There should be no survey etc. It is called parametric solution. If the loss by flood comes to around Rs 20,000 crore and insurance covers losses of around Rs 3,000 crore and government gives around Rs 1,000-Rs 2,000 crore, the total uncovered loss is around Rs 15,000 crore. Who has lost it? Its the poor and the kind of societal pressure that will come on that person is too big and there is no way to address that. If a parametric solution is provided, it will benefit millions of people and the nation as a whole.

How do you see growth for the industry in the absence of green shoots and lack of fresh investments in the economy?

General insurance is asset-backed insurance and there is a direct correlation. However, while new business is slow, the old ones continue to be there and several areas are hugely under-penetrated and that will bring growth for the industry. I feel that the industry will continue to grow in double digits. If, somehow, the slowdown sustains for the next four-five years, then you will have a crunch in general insurance, because then the old vehicle numbers will also go down.

What role can the government play?

We have to look at government intervention. If you look at crop insurance, the claim outgo is 90-120 per cent. It is a very effective mechanism of distribution of government subsidy as the entire amount is going to the end user. My belief is that in a societal issue such as flood, government should take steps to create that kind of insurance programme which leads to massive awareness. It will not only lead to money flowing into the system but also solve these societal issues. In US, it is mandatory to have a cover for flood and cyclone and so penetration of home insurance in US is 95 per cent, here we have 1 per cent. Insurance and government have to work together to provide solutions that benefit the society.

BRIEFLY

### 'IBBI will ensure regulations are grounded'

New Delhi: Emphasising that the insolvency law provides a new lifeline to save a company from premature closure, IBBI Chairperson M S Sahoo said the board will continue with efforts to develop best practices and ensure that regulations are "grounded on realities". More than three years after implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which has brought in "significant behavioural changes among the stakeholders," he said there are early evidences of the Code delivering better outcomes than the erstwhile similar frameworks.

### FY20: 'Real GDP growth to be below 5%'

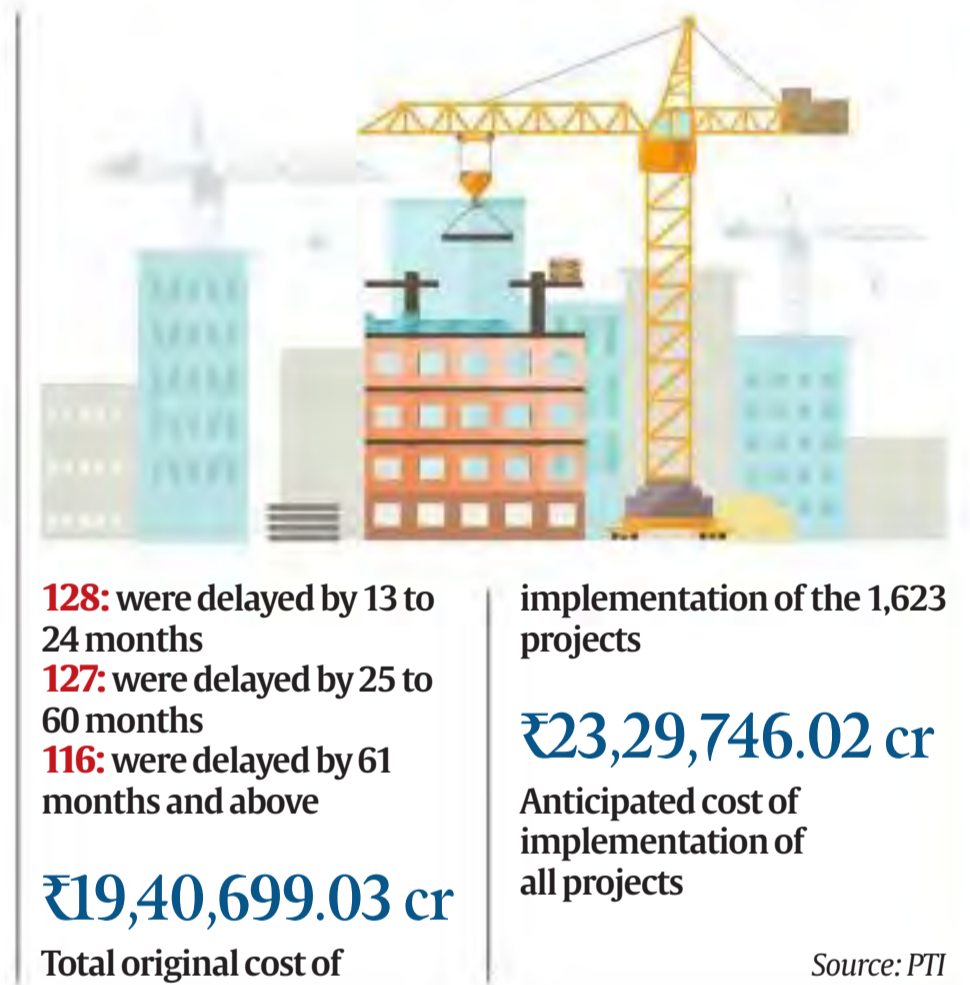
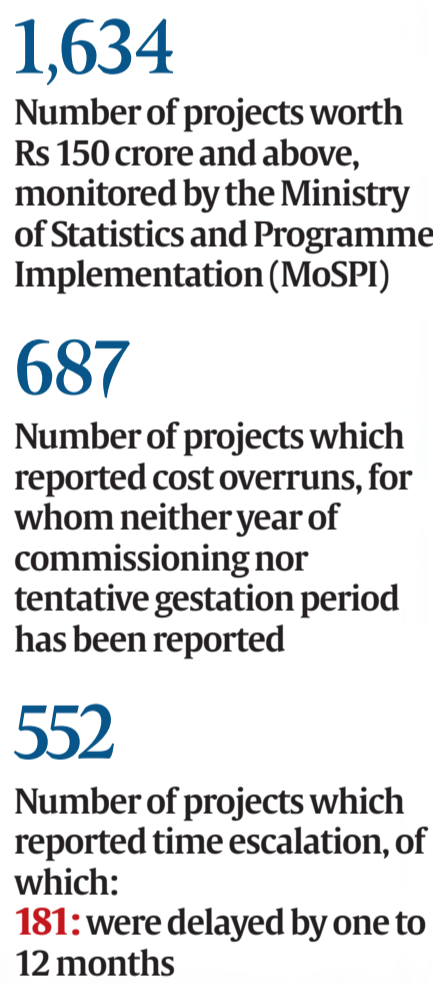
New Delhi: India's real GDP growth in 2019-20 fiscal is expected to be slightly below 5 per cent as the impact of stimulus measures will take time to filter through to the economy, IHS Markit has said. "Financial sector fragilities continue to weigh on India's economic growth momentum," IHS said in a report. **PTI**

### 'Ready to take Trump's tariff threat to WTO'

Paris: France is ready to go to the World Trade Organization to challenge US President Donald Trump's threat to put tariffs on champagne and other French goods in a row over a French tax on internet companies, its Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said Sunday. **REUTERS**

## Cost overruns of ₹3.89 lakh cr in 373 infra projects

As many as 373 infrastructure projects, each worth ₹150 crore or more, are hit by cost overruns of more than ₹3.89 lakh crore owing to delays and other reasons, according to the MoSPI's report for August 2019



## After 9 months of output cuts, Maruti raises production by over 4%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

MARUTI SUZUKI India (MSI) increased its production in November by 4.33 per cent, after having reduced output for nine straight months due to lower demand. The company produced a total of 1,41,834 units in November as against 1,35,946 units in the year-ago month, MSI said in a regulatory filing. Passenger vehicles' production last month stood at 1,39,084 units as against 1,34,149 units in November 2018, an increase of 3.67 per cent, it added.

Production of mini and compact segment cars, including Alto, new WagonR, Celerio, Ignis, Swift, Baleno and Dzire stood at 1,02,185 units as against 95,883 units in November last year, up 6.5 per

cent. However, production of mini segment cars, such as Alto and S-Presso, fell to 24,052 last month, compared with 30,129 in the year-ago month.

Production of utility vehicles such as Vitara Brezza, Ertiga and S-Cross, however, increased by 18 per cent to 27,187 units as compared to 23,038 units a year ago.

Mid-sized sedan Ciaz saw its output rise to 1,830 units in November from 1,460 units in the same month last year.

Light commercial vehicle Super Carry's production increased to 2,750 units last month from 1,797 units in November 2018, the filing said. In October, the automaker had cut its production by 20.7 per cent to 1,19,337 units.

Similarly, in September the automaker reduced its production by 17.48 per cent to 1,32,199 units.

## 'DoT to move proposal for cut in licence fee for telecom operators'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

THE DEPARTMENT of Telecommunications (DoT) has brought the issue of cutting licence fee for the telecom operators back on the table, despite the committee of secretaries not approving it.

Sources said that DoT would shortly move a proposal before the Digital Communications Commission (DCC) to reduce the universal service obligation fund (USOF) levy by 2 percentage points to 3 per cent.

If this happens, the licence fee which operators currently pay at 8 per cent of their adjusted gross revenue (AGR), would come down to 6 per cent. If the proposal is passed, it would provide a relief of around Rs 3,000 crore annually to the operators.

However, DoT has not taken

## Sources said that DoT would shortly move a proposal before the Digital Communications Commission to reduce universal service obligation fund levy by 2 percentage points to 3 per cent

any decision so far on any reduction in the rate of spectrum usage charge. There has also been no decision so far on providing any relief on the Rs 1.47 lakh crore of AGR dues resulting from the Supreme Court's October 24 order.

Sources said since DCC is an inter-ministerial body, (apart from DoT), it has representatives from the Finance Ministry, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, IT Ministry, and NITI Aayog, approval from it will be similar to approval from a body like a committee of secretaries.

Since the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has al-

ready recommended that the USOF levy be reduced by 2 percentage points, all that DoT has to do is to process it.

Trai had said since the general exchequer gets 3 per cent from the licence fee — the 5 per cent USO goes into the USOF fund for improving rural tele-density — government revenues won't be hit by any such reduction.

While giving its recommendations in 2015 for a cut in USOF levy, Trai had questioned the utilisation of the fund. It had noted that even after passage of more than 10 years, utilisation was well below 50 per cent. **FE**

## 'Bharti Telecom seeks nod for ₹4,900 cr FDI'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

BHARTI TELECOM, a promoter of Bharti Airtel, has sought government nod for the infusion of Rs 4,900 crore investment from Singapore-based Singtel and other foreign entities, a move that would make the country's oldest private telecom operator a foreign entity.

The fund infusion will enhance foreign stakeholding in Bharti Telecom to over 50 per cent that will make it a foreign-owned entity, an official source aware of the development told PTI. Sunil Bharti Mittal and his family own around 52 per cent stake in Bharti Telecom, at present.

Bharti Telecom holds around 41 per cent stake in Bharti Airtel while foreign promoter entities hold 21.46 per cent stake in the telecom firm. Public shareholders

have around 37 per cent stake in the company.

"Bharti Telecom has applied for infusion of Rs 4,900 crore in the company which includes investments from Singtel and some other foreign investors. With this Bharti Telecom will become a foreign entity as majority stake will be held by overseas investors. DoT is expected to approve this investment this month," the source said.

The Department of Telecom had earlier this year returned Bharti Airtel's FDI application as the company had not provided clarity on the foreign investor.

Total foreign shareholding is 43 per cent in Bharti Airtel, at present. With promoter firm Bharti Telecom becoming a foreign entity, foreign shareholding in the company will cross 84 per cent, the source said.

Bharti Airtel has already been in discussion with Singtel and other entities for fund infusion.

TRADE SURPLUS FOR NOVEMBER AT \$38.73 BILLION, AS 17-MONTH LONG TRADE DISPUTE WITH THE US HEIGHTENS RISKS OF GLOBAL RECESSION

## China Nov exports fall, but import growth hints at recovering demand

GABRIEL CROSSLEY & SEYOUNG LEE  
BEIJING, DECEMBER 8

CHINA'S EXPORTS in November shrank for the fourth consecutive month, underscoring persistent pressures on manufacturers from the Sino-US war but growth in imports may be a sign that Beijing's stimulus steps are helping to stoke demand.

The 17-month long trade dispute has heightened the risks of a global recession and fuelled speculation that China's policymakers

could unleash more stimulus as growth in the world's second-largest economy cooled to nearly 30-year lows.

Overseas shipments fell 1.1 per cent from a year earlier last month, customs data showed on Sunday, compared with a 1.0 per cent expansion tipped by a Reuters poll of analysts and a 0.9 per cent drop in October.

Imports unexpectedly rose 0.3 per cent from a year earlier, marking the first year-on-year growth since April and compared with a 1.8 per cent decline forecast by economists.

The better-than-expected import data may point to firming domestic demand after factory activity showed surprising signs of improvement recently, although analysts have noted the recovery could be difficult to sustain amid trade risks.

China's trade surplus for November stood at \$38.73 billion, compared with an expected \$46.30 billion surplus in the poll and a \$42.81 billion surplus recorded in October.

Beijing and Washington are negotiating a first phase trade deal aimed at de-escalating a trade dis-

### OVERSEAS SHIPMENTS DOWN 1.1%

■ Overseas shipments fell 1.1 per cent from a year earlier last month, customs data showed Sunday, as against a 1.0 per cent expansion tipped by analysts and a 0.9 per cent drop in October

■ China's trade surplus for November stood at \$38.73 billion, compared with an expected \$46.30 billion surplus in a poll of analysts and a \$42.81 billion surplus recorded in the preceding month

pute but they continue to wrangle over key details.

A US House bill targeting China's camps for ethnic Muslim

minorities in Xinjiang and other bills supporting anti-government protesters in Hong Kong have also angered Beijing, further

clouding prospects for a deal.

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday trade talks with China are "moving right along," striking an upbeat tone even as Chinese officials held fast to their line that existing tariffs must come off as part of an interim deal.

Earlier in the week, though, Trump rattled global markets when he said a deal might have to wait until after the 2020 election.

Top White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said on Friday that a December 15 deadline is still in place to impose a new round of US tariffs on some \$156

billion of China's remaining exports to the United States, but the president likes where trade talks with China are going, he added.

One Chinese official told Reuters that China will implement its own tariffs as a countermeasure if the December 15 tariffs go into place, which may dash any chance of a near-term trade deal.

Trump has demanded that China commit to specific minimum purchases of US agricultural products, among other concessions on intellectual property rights, currency and access to China's financial services markets.

China's trade surplus with the United States for November was recorded at \$24.60 billion, according to Reuters calculations based on customs data, easing from the previous month's surplus of \$26.45 billion.

China confirmed on Friday that it will waive import tariffs for some soybeans and pork shipments from the United States. Imports of copper rose 12.1 per cent on the previous month as an improvement in the manufacturing sector stoked higher demand for the red metal, customs data showed on Sunday. **REUTERS**



## CLIMATE CHANGE

# The necessity of pulling carbon dioxide out of the air

But it is difficult to do at the scale you need



Smoke and steam billow from Belchatow Power Station, Europe's largest coal-fired power plant operated by PGE Group, near Belchatow, Poland in December 2018. Reuters

OF THE wisdom taught in kindergartens, few commandments combine moral balance and practical propriety better than the instruction to clear up your own mess. As with messy toddlers, so with planet-spanning civilisations. The industrial nations which are adding alarming amounts of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere—43.1bn tonnes this year, according to a report released this week—will at some point need to go beyond today's insufficient efforts to stop. They will need to put the world machine into reverse, and start taking carbon dioxide out. They are nowhere near ready to meet this challenge.

Once such efforts might have been unnecessary. In 1992, at the Rio Earth summit, countries committed themselves to avoiding harmful climate change by reducing greenhouse-gas emissions, with rich countries helping poorer ones develop without exacerbating the problem. Yet almost every year since Rio has seen higher carbon-dioxide emissions than the year before. A staggering 50% of all the carbon dioxide humankind has put into the atmosphere since the Industrial Revolution was added after

1990. And it is this total stock of carbon that matters. The more there is in the atmosphere, the more the climate will shift—though climate lags behind the carbon-dioxide level, just as water in a pan takes time to warm up when you put it on a fire.

The Paris agreement of 2015 commits its signatories to limiting the rise to 2°C. But as António Guterres, the UN secretary-general, told the nearly 200 countries that attended a meeting in Madrid to hammer out further details of the Paris agreement this week, "our efforts to reach these targets have been utterly inadequate."

The world is now 1°C (1.8°F) hotter than it was before the Industrial Revolution. Heatwaves once considered freakish are becoming commonplace. Arctic weather has gone haywire. Sea levels are rising as glaciers melt and ice-sheets thin. Coastlines are subjected to more violent storms and to higher storm surges. The chemistry of the oceans is changing. Barring radical attempts to reduce the amount of incoming sunshine through solar geoengineering, a very vexed subject, the world will not begin to cool off until car-

bon-dioxide levels start to fall.

Considering that the world has yet to get a handle on cutting emissions, focusing on moving to negative emissions—the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere—might seem premature. But it is already included in many national plans. Some countries, including Britain, have made commitments to move to "net zero" emissions by 2050; this does not mean stopping all emissions for all activities, such as flying and making cement, but taking out as much greenhouse gas as you let loose.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that meeting the 1.5°C goal will mean capturing and storing hundreds of billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2100, with a median estimate of 730bn tonnes—roughly 17 times this year's carbon-dioxide emissions. In terms of designing, planning and building really large amounts of infrastructure, 2050 is not that far away. That is why methods of providing negative emissions need to be developed right now.

That raises two problems, one technological,

the other psychological. The technological one is that sucking tens of billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere every year is an enormous undertaking for which the world is not prepared. In principle it is simple to remove carbon dioxide by incorporating it in trees and plants or by capturing it from the flue gas of industrial plants and sequestering it underground. Ingenious new techniques may also be waiting to be discovered. But planting trees on a scale even remotely adequate to the task requires something close to a small continent. And developing the engineering systems to capture large amounts of carbon has been a hard slog, not so much because of scientific difficulties as the lack of incentives.

The psychological problem is that, even while the capacity to ensure negative emissions languishes underdeveloped, the mere idea that they will one day be possible eats away at the perceived urgency of cutting emissions today. When the 2°C limit was first proposed in the 1990s, it was plausible to imagine that it might be met by emissions cuts alone. The fact that it can still be

talked about today is almost entirely thanks to how the models with which climate prognosticators work have been revised to add in the gains from negative emissions. It is a trick that comes perilously close to magical thinking.

This puts policymakers in a bind. It would be reckless not to try to develop the technology for negative emissions. But strict limits need to be kept on the tendency to demand more and more of that technology in future scenarios. As at kindergarten, some discipline is necessary.

The first discipline is to keep in mind whose mess this is. One of the easiest routes to negative emissions is to grow plants. And the world's cheap land tends to be in poor places. Some of these places would welcome investment in reforestation and afforestation, but they would also need to be able to integrate such endeavours into development plans which reflect their people's needs.

The second discipline is for those who talk blithely of "net zero". When they do so, they should be bound to say what level of emissions they envisage, and thus how

much negative emitting their pledge commits them to. The stricter they are about its use, the less they are in reality accommodating today's polluters.

## Government capture

The third discipline is that governments need to take steps to make negative emissions practicable at scale. In particular, research and incentives are needed to develop and deploy carbon-capture systems for industries, such as cement, that cannot help but produce carbon dioxide. A price on carbon is an essential step if such systems are to be efficient. The trouble is that a price high enough to make capture profitable at this stage in its development would be unfeasibly high. For the time being, therefore, other sticks and carrots will be needed. Governments tend to plead that radical action today is just too hard. And yet those very same governments enthusiastically turn to negative emissions as an easy way to make their climate pledges add up.

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## THE FIGHT FOR IRAQ'S FUTURE

# Elites backed by Iran are clinging to power in Iraq

But the protesters are not giving in

THE TOMB of a dead Shia cleric might seem an odd target for Iraqi protesters angry about corruption, poor governance and a lack of jobs. Muhammad Baqr al-Hakim resisted Saddam Hussein, Iraq's old dictator, and helped to create the modern state. But he also had close ties to Iran, which has assisted the Iraqi government in trying to subdue the protesters. Such meddling enrages Iraqis, who threw petrol bombs at Hakim's shrine—and the Iranian-backed militiamen guarding it—earlier this month in Najaf. They also torched the nearby Iranian consulate.

Iraq has been rocked by protests since October. Hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets in Baghdad and the Shia south. Officials have promised reforms. The security forces have fired on the demonstrators, killing more than 400. Neither concessions nor repression have worked. Things came to a head on November 29th, when the senior Shia cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, called for a change of government. In response, Adel Abdul-Mahdi, Iraq's prime minister, said he would step down.

But the protesters and the ruling elite know that Mr Abdul-Mahdi's departure is

not the endgame. Rather, it is likely to mark the start of a new, potentially more violent struggle over what comes next for the government. It will probably lead to even greater involvement by Iran.

## Street sweepers

For now Mr Abdul-Mahdi remains in his job. The Shia warlords-cum-politicians who are Iraq's real power-brokers will choose his successor, with input from Iran. Many of them want the next prime minister to be more ruthless. Hadi al-Amari and Qais Khazali claim to head the largest bloc in parliament and control powerful militias. They work with Qassem Suleimani, the commander of the Quds Force, the foreign legion of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. All want to spread Shia influence across the region, and view the protests as a threat. Some of their allies favour clearing the streets by force.

Sunni and Kurdish parties, like their Shia counterparts, plunder the state and are thus loth to speak up for the protesters and upset the status quo. The constitution suggests that President Barham Salih, a Sunni Kurd, should have assumed the prime minister's respon-

sibilities following Mr Abdul-Mahdi's resignation. But he has said little since calling for the prosecution of those who killed protesters, and is facing threats himself. Muqtada al-Sadr, a rabble-rousing Shia cleric who heads a large bloc in parliament, also seems muzzled. He has spent long stints in Iran—under a form of house arrest, say some.

Iraq's other institutions have fallen into line. Judges sentence protesters under anti-terrorism laws. The communications ministry shuts down the internet to make it harder for them to organise. The security forces have so far limited their use of violence—but only, it seems, to avoid a more forceful response from the West (or the clerics). That does not appear to be coming. A resolution condemning the government's brutality would be unlikely to pass in the UN Security Council. America has told the Iraqi government to listen to the protesters and make reforms. But it too is reluctant to get more involved.

The protesters are calling for an entirely new government, a fairer electoral law and early elections. They want to put politicians on trial for corruption and the recent violence. They want Iran and the militias it backs



Demonstrators hold Iraqi flags as they take part in a protest in Baghdad, on October 27. Reuters

to go away, too. Most of the public is behind them. But they need the support of influential people like Mr Sistani, who is 89. "It is for the people", not the clerics, "to decide what they perceive is most fitting," read his sermon on November 29th. That was seen as a boost to the protesters, a shot at Iran and its clerical rule, and perhaps a signal that he wishes to withdraw from the political fray.

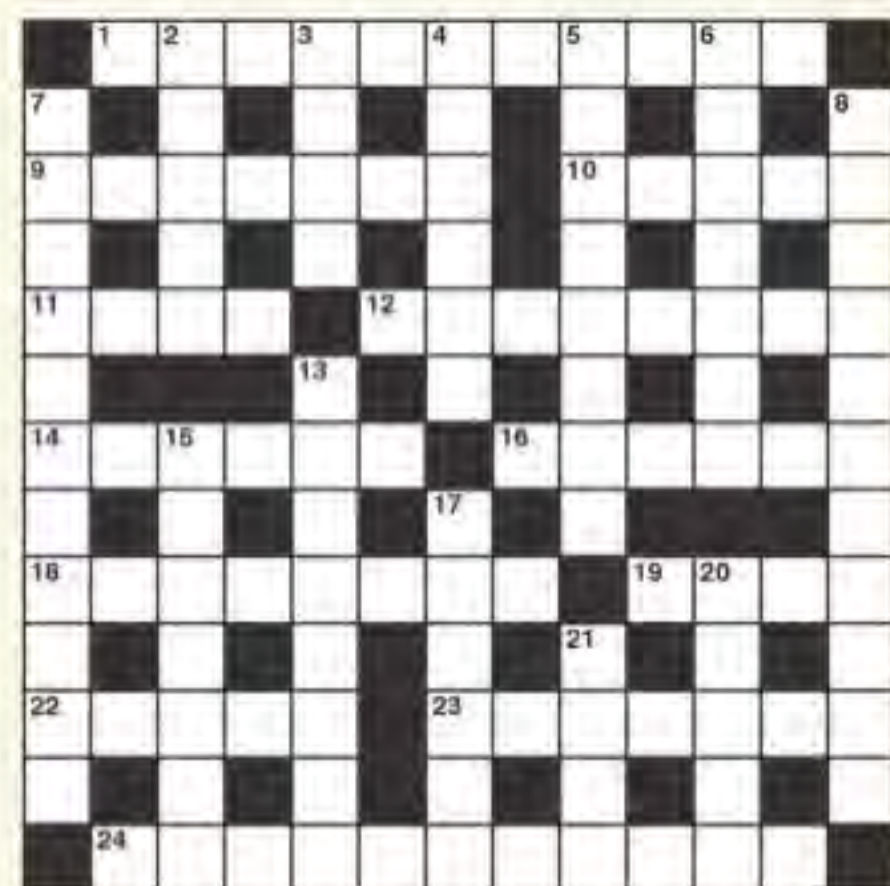
Some of Iraq's clerics fear provoking Iran, or losing credibility if the government ignores their advice.

In spite of the killings, the protesters' morale remains high. The demonstrations have a carnival atmosphere in some cities. But in others, such as Hilla, officials have been chased out. The subtle messages in Mr Sistani's sermons do not satisfy everyone.

The ranks of the protesters are dominated by young jobless men, some of whom prefer throwing petrol bombs to peaceful marching. "They run towards bullets," says an observer. Lately, armed tribesmen have pursued vendettas against the security forces. Things could get much worse.

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## CROSSWORD 3983



- ACROSS**
- Fail to catch all Edward says, being less than keen (4-7)
  - People in court can catch it! (3,4)
  - She's a match for anyone (5)
  - They may be pierced or just pricked (4)
  - Slash the price of flimsy material (8)
  - Think what people who count will do (6)
  - Run out on the sand (6)
  - Back at sea (2,6)
  - Issue a period return (4)
  - Captured and shot (5)
  - Very little money for items of food? (7)
  - Distinctive character - someone going to Italy perhaps (11)
- DOWN**
- He won't like people taking his part (5)
  - It's bad form not to (4)
  - Win, possibly earned (6)
  - Gave notice (8)
  - Take a liberty? (7)
  - Question wrongly put to trainer, for example (11)
  - Told off for being driven to work (5,2,4)
  - Large sums made out of composing songs? (8)
  - Sound expert the French follow (7)
  - Saw the head for an examination? (6)
  - Height of a horse? (5)
  - End of story, we hear (4)

**Solutions Crossword 3982:** Across: 1 Hamlet, 4 Battered, 9 Lariat, 10 Proceeds, 12 Tows, 13 Purse, 14 Tito, 17 Well on the way, 20 Postage stamp, 23 Rout, 24 Relay, 25 Blur, 28 Algernon, 29 Height, 30 Harassed, 31 Portia. Down: 1 Hill town, 2 Mark well, 3 Elan, 5 Arrester gear, 6 Tack, 7 Re-edit, 8 Despot, 11 Put to the vote, 15 Colon, 16 Cause, 18 Fanlight, 19 Operetta, 21 Breach, 22 Luggage, 26 Arts, 27 Veto.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

Men seek but one thing in life - W. Somerset Maugham (5,8)

**PVEEE**                      **IMULST**

**FAIRR**                      **UNSHIP**

Answer: Men seek but one thing in life - their pleasure - W. Somerset Maugham

**Difficulty Level 2s**  
**Instructions**  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

**Difficulty Level**  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

**SUDOKU 4054**

4	9	8			5	2	3
		1		4			
		4		5			
5		6	9			7	
6			1				5
1		2	7				6
			8	3			
		5			1		
8	6	4			3	7	9

**SOLUTION SUDOKU 4053**

4	2	5	8	9	1	7	3	6
7	8	3	4	6	5	1	9	2
9	6	1	7	2	3	4	8	5
8	4	7	6	1	9	2	5	3
3	1	6	2	5	8	9	4	7
5	9	2	3	7	4	8	6	1
6	7	8	9	3	2	5	1	4
1	3	4	5	8	7	6	2	9
2	5	9	1	4	6	3	7	8

## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
Another week, another Monday, and what this means for you is a sensible, efficient and organised beginning. Underneath it all, the Moon is in a supportive mood, so everything needs to be taken one step at a time. Yet you can count on getting your own way at home.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
Something secret could be bothering you today. Just what this could be is far from clear, but it could be connected with regret for affairs which didn't work out. Stop being such a perfectionist and realise that you can't relive the past - at least, not now.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
Six out of a possible ten planets are in directly supportive positions, backing your interests. That's not a bad tally. You should be able to take life at your own pace today, so anyone who tries to pressurise you could be out of luck. Make the most of any passing good fortune.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
Social influences are looking very pronounced today, if a little serious. What you need from friends now seems to be a sense that they're going to look after you, or provide emotional security. I know this may be asking too much - but I'm sure you can cope.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
Home and domestic matters are bound to take up a fair bit of your time and, even if you're at work, the best way to get on with colleagues will be to imagine you're all part of one big family. Not a perfectly happy one necessarily, but a family nonetheless.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
Career and professional affairs now require their fair share of attention, all the more so if you are laying your own ideas on the line. With just a little shove in the right direction it looks as if your past efforts could be about to bring the desired rewards.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
Make serious plans and take practical decisions. It has never been more important to look only at the significant details and put all your hopes, wishes and fantasies to one side. Don't be perturbed by delays. But do keep a very close watch on every detail concerning cash.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
After last week's energetic stars, this week's point to a shift of gear. You may therefore feel that you have a right to sit down and put your feet up, but any spare time is likely to be disrupted by the need to swing straight back into action.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
Although you may be preoccupied with the trivia of material survival, dwelling over questions such as how to save the odd bit of cash here and there, this is in fact a somewhat optimistic and adventurous time. All that is asked of you is that you take the right decisions.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
At the moment, you still seem to imagine nobody else understands you. The key is to listen very carefully to what your imagination is trying to tell you rather than always trying to ignore it. There's just no time to stick your head in the sand so don't.

**VIROGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
The Moon is well situated, strong, supportive and sympathetic. This is a welcome symbolic indication that you can have it all your own way at home, but only if you face up to hidden problems and deep undercurrents. People who think differently should soon be made to apologise for their errors.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
It is obvious that you always find criticism difficult, for you allow it to undermine your confidence. However, you must keep in mind that nothing would do you more good at the present time than a little friendly advice. Romantically, by the way, you could soon be on a total winner.

**Directorate of Mines Steel & Mines Department Government of Odisha**  
Email: [directormines@orissaminerals.gov.in](mailto:directormines@orissaminerals.gov.in)  
Date: December 06, 2019

**Notice Inviting Tender "Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for Iron Ore and Manganese Minerals"**

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10 (B) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 as amended from time to time notified thereunder, the Government of Odisha has identified 20 (twenty) Minerals Blocks as under for electronic auction and hereby invites tenders for the purposes of grant of Mining Lease:

- 12 (twelve) mineral blocks of Iron Ore
- 2 (Two) mineral blocks of Manganese
- 6 (six) mineral blocks of Iron Ore and Manganese

Accordingly, financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format from eligible bidders.

Eligibility conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Detailed Tender Documents along with timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process for the mineral blocks are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Limited: (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlel/index.jsp>).

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above website. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost on the website of MSTC Limited: (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlel/index.jsp>).

Last date for purchase of Tender Document after payment of a tender fee on website of e-auction platform provider is Monday, December 30 2019 and the last date for submission of the bid is Friday, January 03, 2020 on or before 12:00 noon (Indian Standard Time).

The Price of Tender Document for each mineral block is Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh). In the event a prospective Bidder/ Bidder has purchased the Tender Document for a particular mineral block in response to the Notice Inviting Tenders dated October 04, 2019 and/or October 14, 2019 such Bidders can avail the afore-mentioned Tender Document of such mineral block without paying the above mentioned Tender Fee.

**List of Mineral Blocks for Auction**

S. No.	Block Name	Mineral	Concession
1	Gorumahisani Iron Ore Block	Iron Ore	Mining Lease
2	Badampahar Iron Ore Block	Iron Ore	Mining Lease
3	Jajang Iron Ore Block	Iron Ore	Mining Lease
4	Nadidih Iron Ore Block (BICO)	Iron Ore	Mining Lease
5	Balda Iron Ore Block	Iron Ore	Mining Lease
6	Nuagaon Iron Ore Block	Iron Ore	Mining Lease
7	Thakurani Iron Ore Block	Iron Ore	Mining Lease
8	Jilling - Langalota Iron Ore Block	Iron Ore	Mining Lease
9	Jaribahal Iron Ore Block	Iron Ore	Mining Lease
10	Roida II Iron Ore Block	Iron Ore	Mining Lease
11	Jururi Iron Ore Block	Iron Ore	Mining Lease
12	Ganua Iron Ore Block	Iron Ore	Mining Lease
13	Katasahi Manganese Block	Manganese	Mining Lease
14	Kanther-Koira Manganese Block	Manganese	Mining Lease
15	Nadidih Iron Ore and Manganese Block (FEEGRADE)	Iron Ore & Manganese	Mining Lease
16	Tehrai Iron Ore and Manganese Block	Iron Ore & Manganese	Mining Lease
17	Kolmong Iron Ore and Manganese Block	Iron Ore & Manganese	Mining Lease
18	Siljora - Kalimati Iron Ore & Manganese Block	Iron Ore & Manganese	Mining Lease
19	Narayanposhi Iron Ore & Manganese Block	Iron Ore & Manganese	Mining Lease
20	Mahulsukha Iron Ore & Manganese Block	Iron Ore & Manganese	Mining Lease

The Government of Odisha reserves the following mineral blocks for Specified End Use for the production/ manufacture of sponge iron and/or pig iron and/or steel and/or pellets:

1. Thakurani Iron Ore Block
2. Jaribahal Iron Ore Block
3. Roida II Iron Ore Block
4. Ganua Iron Ore Block
5. Narayanposhi Iron Ore & Manganese Block

Sd/-  
Director of Mines, Odisha  
30004/11/0010/1920

**SBI**  
Networking & Communication Dept., State Bank Global IT Centre, Main Building, Sector 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

State Bank of India has issued RFP for Procurement, Installation, Commissioning, Maintenance and Warranty of Immersive Video Conferencing facility in State Bank of India. Please refer 'Procurement News' at Bank's website, <https://bank.sbi>

Place: Navi Mumbai Date: 09/12/2019

Sd/-  
Deputy General Manager (Networking & Communication Dept.)

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**SBI**  
Networking & Communication Dept., State Bank Global IT Centre, Main Building, Sector 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614.

**CORRIGENDUM**

With reference to the RFI dated 20.11.2019 for Network Performance Monitoring and Diagnostic Tool for State Bank Group, the Bank has issued Corrigendum dated 06.12.2019. For details, please refer 'Procurement News' at Banks website, <https://bank.sbi>

Place: Navi Mumbai Date: 09/12/2019

Sd/-  
Deputy General Manager (Networking & Communication Dept.)

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**MOTHER DAIRY**  
G.K.V.K Post, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560 065  
(A Unit of: Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producer's Federation Ltd.)  
Tel: 080-22179004 Fax: 080-28452652 e-mail: [purchase@motherdairykmf.in](mailto:purchase@motherdairykmf.in)

**SHORT TERM TECHNICAL CUM COMMERCIAL TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF VARIOUS PACKING MATERIALS THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT**

IFT.NO./MD/PUR/E-Proc T-157/2019-20 Date: 06.12.2019

Mother Dairy, a unit of KMF Bangalore is inviting E-Tenders for Supply of following items to Mother Dairy, Bangalore

1. Supply on One Time Basis: 1 Nandini 50ml Orange Candy Film roll - 500 Kgs. 2. Nandini 60ml Ice Cream Film roll for Zoo -700 Kgs. II. Supply on Rate contract Basis (6months requirement) 1. Different Sizes of Metalized Aluminium Foil for SMP & DW - 26,150 Kgs.

The manufacturers, dealers or interested eligible tenderers are requested to participate on-line only. For further details, Tender documents can be downloaded from the website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 09.12.2019, and submitted on or before 18.12.2019, upto 17.00 hrs.

Per bid Meeting on : 11.12.2019 at 11.00 AM.

Sd/- DIRECTOR, MOTHER DAIRY

**NLC India Limited**  
"Navratna" Government of India Enterprise  
Regd. Office: First Floor, No. 8, Mayor Saitiyamurthy Road, FSO, Egmore Complex of Food Corporation of India, Chennai - 600 031.  
Corp. Office: Block-1, New No. 697 601, Custodia District, Tamil Nadu.  
CIN No.: L93990TN1956G00093597, Website: [www.nlcindia.com](http://www.nlcindia.com)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR SUPPLIES (e-Tender Notices Sl.No. 1 to 5)**

Sl.No.	Tender Ref./Scope of Supplies & Qty. Reqd.
1.	UNIT:M.M.COMPLEX:ENQ/19-20/002800/MM25(01) dt.02.12.2019: High temperature low sag conductor. Qty.: 4000 Metres. Due date of opening: 27.12.2019
2.	PTE.ENQ / 19-20 / 002808 / MM02 (02) dt. 02.12.2019: 1250 dia x 2700 long return pulley shell for 2400 mm tripper discharge boom. Due date of opening: 31.12.2019
3.	ENQ/19-20/002762/MM25(01) dt.29.11.2019: 1 No. of 3 phase generator transformer. Due date of opening: 30.12.2019
4.	GTE No.ENQ/19-20/002823/MM01(01) dt.04.12.2019: Ball race for main slewing. Drawing No.: SME-4438. Due date of opening: 07.01.2020
5.	19-20/002835/MM10(01) dt.05.12.2019: (i) Mild steel spirally welded pipe of size: 1219 mm OD x 8 mm wall thickness with edges bevelled to an angle 30 deg. and in length of 5 metres to 6 metres conforming to IS: 3589/2001, Fe 410 Gr. Qty.: 48 Metres. (ii) Mild steel submerged arc spirally welded pipe of size: 1067 mm OD x 8 mm wall thickness with plain edges and in length of 5.5 metres to 6.0 metres conforming to IS: 3589/2001, Fe 410 Gr. All pipes shall bear ISI mark. Qty.: 400 Metres. Due date of opening: 03.01.2020

FOR e-TENDER DOCUMENTS/DETAILS/CORRIGENDUM VISIT: [www.nlcindia.com](http://www.nlcindia.com)  
PUBLIC SECTOR IS YOURS: HELP IT TO HELP YOU

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR ARCHIVE ARCHEOLOGY AND MUSEUMS, JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
E-mail: [jk.dama.gov@gmail.com](mailto:jk.dama.gov@gmail.com)

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
Bid Identification No.: 2019. CC. 87316.1  
Re-tender to e-NIT NO. DAMA-03/2019-20  
Fresh e-NIT No.: DAMA-05/2019-20  
Phone/Fax No. 0191-2578834

**Deadline for submission of Bids: 14.12.2019 upto 1800 hours**

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir State, Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums Culture Department, Jammu & Kashmir Invites e-Tenders comprising of Two Covers A&B from eligible Consultants who are registered as Company/ Firms for below mentioned work.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Security	Cost of Bid Document	Time of Completion for Work
1.(a)	Preparation of Nomination Dossier for listing of Mughal Gardens on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.	25,000/-	1,000/-	5 Months

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website: [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).

**Note:-**

1. There is no need for submission of hard copies again for the bidders who have already uploaded/submitted their bids in response to this office e-NIT No. DAMA-03/2019-20 for the above mentioned job. However, they are required to upload/submit a fresh bid in response to this NIT.
2. The cost of tender document already paid by the bidders in response to this office e-NIT No. DAMA-03/2019-20 through RTGS & other means shall remain stand.

Sd/- DIRECTOR, Archive, Archaeology and Museums J&K DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE  
No. DAMA-1161/AMA-272/UNESCO Dated: 03.12.2019 DIP/J-10254/19

**Tender Document Anti Riot Contool Equipment Set for M.P. Police**

**POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL**  
NIT No. PHQ 15/ Arms/F.No-428(Riot Drill/4447-3/2019 Bhopal, Dated 30/11 /2019

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-tender are invited by Assistant Inspector General of Police (Provisioning) Police Head Quarter, Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for the following item on website <http://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>:-

Name of Item(s)	Qty.	Tender Fees (Rs.)	EMD Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in
1. Helmet	16,000/-	15000/-	3,70,000/-

1. Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.
2. must submit the tender fees and EMD online for each item as mentioned above.
3. Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police ([www.mppolice.gov.in](http://www.mppolice.gov.in))
4. Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

**Schedule:**

No.	Tender Activity	Tentative Date & Time
1	Published Date	02.12.2019 के 16.00 बजे
2	Bid Document Download Start Date	03.12.2019 के 11.30 बजे
3	Pre Bid Meeting	09.12.2019 के 12.30 बजे
4	Bid Submission Start Date	16.12.2019 के 11.30 बजे
5	Bid Submission End Date	23.12.2019 के 14.30 बजे
6	Bid Opening Date	24.12.2019 के 16.30 बजे

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum / addendum/ amendment
6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated latter.

Sd/-  
D.S.P. (Provisioning)  
For: Director General of Police, M.P. Bhopal  
G-20084/2019

# 19 TALK

ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD



## AWARD OF A LIFETIME

Veteran actor Robert De Niro, 76, will be bestowed with the SAG Life Achievement Award by Leonardo DiCaprio on January 19. The Oscar winner, whose latest outing has been in filmmaker Martin Scorsese's *The Irishman*, will be honoured at the 26th annual award ceremony next month.

### WEEK AHEAD



#### Past Forward

THE ANNUAL Azamgarh Festival, presented by the Indian Trust for Rural Heritage and Development, has brought handloom weavers from the Mubarakpur village to display their 400-year-old tradition in the form of silk saris, dupattas and accessories. Craftsmen from Barmer in Rajasthan are also making their presence felt with their embroidered and patchwork textiles and clay jewellery. At Alliance Francaise, 72, Lodhi Estate, till December 11. Entry is free.



#### World on a Platter

THE SMILE International Film Festival for Children and Youth will showcase award-winning films such as *Binti* by Frederike Migom, *Musk* by Vinod Kamble, *Phantom Owl Forest* by Anu Aun, *Fight Girl* by Johan Timmers, *Inventing Tomorrow* by Laura Nix, *Underdog* by Seong-Yun OH and *Chun-Baek Lee*, and *Here My Village* by Abas Aram, among others. From December 9 to 15, 9 am to 9 pm, at Siri Fort Auditorium. Entry is free.

#### Open to Interpretation

THE EXHIBITION 'Out of Line—Tracing Abstraction Within Contemporary Art in Cambodia' presents abstraction through the lens of 10 significant artists born in Cambodia between 1933-1990. These include Chan Dany, Leang Seckon and Nov Cheanick among others. At Akar Prakar, First Floor, D-43, Defence Colony, till December 20, 11 am to 7 pm.

## 'I was hell-bent on being taken seriously'

Actor Sobhita Dhulipala on her next release, *The Body*, and being a late bloomer



### EKTAA MALIK

THE ONE thing that is clear after meeting Sobhita Dhulipala, is that she is a certified Potterhead. Her phone cover has a Ravenclaw logo, and of the 20 movies she had seen until three years ago, eight were Harry Potter films. "When I had taken the Pottermore quiz, I was given Gryffindor as my house. But I made a fake ID and took the quiz again. I was then in Ravenclaw. My heart goes out to them, as Gryffindors are really popular, everyone wants to be one, but I support Ravenclaw, as they are too much of a minority," says a feisty Dhulipala at Viacom Studios in Mumbai. Dressed in a pair of black vintage trousers and a white boyfriend shirt, she amped up the style quotient with multiple silver chains and necklaces and a Jimmy Choo sling bag. The end result is that of a glammed up diva, dressing down.

Dhulipala is busy promoting her upcoming release, *The Body*, the remake of a 2012 Spanish thriller *El Cuerpo*, in which she plays Maya Verma, a business tycoon. Emraan Hashmi plays her husband. "I had seen this film when it came out. It was very tart, cleverly made and I enjoyed watching it. It's a heightened experience when you play a character which is not a conventional, 'nice' one," says Dhulipala, whose last big outing was *Bard Of Blood* with Hashmi. She played the role of intelligence analyst Isha Khanna.

But the key word is nice, which keeps popping up where Dhulipala's filmography is concerned. In her breakout role as Tara Khanna in the web series, *Made in Heaven*, 'nice' was an inherent character trait. But in *The Body*, there are visible shades of grey. "We need to understand that anyone who's behaving in a bad way — through the whole gamut of emotions, screaming, crying, or generally being mean to someone, it all stems from fear. Often, the way negative characters are showcased in mainstream narratives, we only focus on the outward, negative display, the symptoms, but we completely dismiss the source of it all. We don't think 'why', as in why is someone feeling so vulnerable and small that they have to be so mean to anyone. I want to display that range in its entirety," adds the 27-year-old actor.

Growing up in Vishakhapatnam, Dhulipala confesses to being far removed from anything even remotely re-

lated to pop culture and cinema. She was, in her own words, "geeky", a label she still accepts as her own, and even in college in Mumbai, she spent a lot of time in the library. Modelling happened by sheer chance. "I was bullied as a child in school. I was gawky and shy. I was the school captain, a front bench, and was not conventionally pretty. So I turned to books; I knew that what I gained from them, no one could take that away from me," says Dhulipala, who graduated from HR College, Mumbai, in 2012.

"Modelling was just me experimenting and discovering things. It was just like, 'oh I cleared one round, lets do the other'. There was no plan. I am a late bloomer. College for me was the first chance to thread my eyebrows, wear lipstick, own my first dress and wear heels. I initially enjoyed the attention, but I knew it was not my cup of tea. I was lost. The minute I auditioned for *Raman Raghav*, I knew this is what I wanted to do," says Dhulipala, who was Miss India Earth 2013.

Maybe it's that desire to breakout from the 'pretty' mould that reflects in Dhulipala's filmography. She made her dream debut in Anurag Kashyap's *Raman Raghav 2.0*, a film that was showcased at the 'The Directors' Fortnight' at the Cannes Film Festival, where Dhulipala was nominated for best supporting performance

by the critics. What followed were appearances in films like *Kaalakandi*, *Chef* and *Goodachari*, a Telugu film. "*Raman Raghav 2.0* emboldened me. When I was auditioning I didn't know that it was Anurag's film. The other films are also conscious choices. These films gave me the encouragement. You can do things you like and yet be relevant. I realise that my work choices have been experimental, because I was hell-bent on being taken seriously. I wanted to be accepted if not appreciated for the right reasons and I didn't want to bank on my looks alone," says Dhulipala, who will also be seen in Anurag Kashyap's Netflix series, *Ghost Stories*.

We circle back to *Made in Heaven*, which has given her much recognition. She signed it when the digital boom hadn't happened. "All I knew was that this was an urban story, trying to address a lot of urban angst, and it was being told by amazing filmmakers. It was forward and honest. Well decorated, sure. And I was at the centre of it all, no one knew me. I am glad that it worked," she says.



Sobhita Dhulipala (left) Prashant Nadkar; with Arjun Mathur in *Made in Heaven*

## Same Difference

Artist Nilanjana Nandy's performance art project, 'Cover Uncover', questions the way we view the library



Nilanjana Nandy (left); from the library at Max Mueller Bhavan Photo: Annette Jacob

### PALLAVICHATTOPADHYAY

THE LIBRARY at Max Mueller Bhavan in Delhi wears a rather distinct look. All the books, DVDs and CDs lie covered in newspapers, their titles hidden and invisible under daily news, lending no clue to its contents. Visitors and readers are met with shock and surprise as they display their unique tendencies depending on the personality they have. As they browse through the contents of the books, painstakingly, in the absence of their covers, some give up, some patiently snail through their section of interest in literature, travel or philosophy, taking out each book at a time, and browsing through its contents.

After covering the books at Pepper House library at Fort Kochi in the same manner as she did as an artist-in-residence at a residency organised by Kochi Biennale Foundation last year, Nandy, a faculty member at Delhi's College of Art, has covered nearly 13,000 items of the entire media in the library here. Nandy, who completed her masters in painting from Faculty of Fine Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda, questions the way we enter a library and access its diverse collection of books with her performative exercise, 'Cover Uncover', a part of Goethe Institut's year-long art project 'Five Million Incidents'.

The Gurgaon-based artist says, "What happens if one fine day, that diversity is slaughtered and it all becomes homogeneous. Now we have everything on one scale. All the titles are concealed. What happens when everything becomes uniform. We come with a set notion that we need these books. But if that space is transformed then what do we do?"

Over the last two months, a group of four to five art students have been assisting Nandy in her endeavour to cover thousands of books at the library. Speaking about the monotony of the task at hand, she says, "I am exploring the repetitive nature of this, like how some of us do the same thing every single day, and that is also how life is spent. It's like a job."

The inspiration for the project that concludes on December 9 came to Nandy when she went about visiting the reading rooms in and around Kochi. "The reading rooms are primarily male-dominated, where hardly any woman goes, except during meetings. But in the evening it turns into a small club with carom boards. As a performative exercise, I would visit different reading rooms every morning, and sit and read my newspaper there. Since hardly any woman went there, I was occupying the space there," she says. Depending on which parties founded the reading rooms, the newspapers and books there echo that lineage. She says, "I was also looking at how we look at the newspapers as a window to the world but then there the newspaper was also a kind of indoctrination."

The reaction of the library visitors is a revelation in itself. One sees a lady walk in, and when unable to find a book of her interest, the body language makes it evident that she refuses to enter a space like this, which is not useful to her. She points out to the librarian where she thinks the book could be, and steps back. Another child, full of patience, browses through all the titles in the children's section. "This is intriguing to me because of the kind of patience she has at her age," says Nandy, pointing out to yet another member, who, when unable to find a particular title, quickly ripped off one of the newspaper covers to peep at the title.

One of the viewers of this project came up to Nandy and divulged how the artist was almost undoing the Amazon and Google feed. Nandy is quick to point out, "How our way of reading, be it an article, a book or the music we listen to, the moment I look for something on the web, there is a feed that instantly comes to me, which is not my choice but that of Amazon or Google. It's almost like the old radios, where one keeps moving the knob in search for a particular channel, and in the process there is some noise, and suddenly there's something. We think it is not that bad and that we can hear it for some more time."

## ON THE LOOSE

### Party Poopers

Say no to the junk



#### LEHER KALA

FOR PARENTS, who have great memories of innocently playing passing the parcel or musical chairs at a birthday party, the production of their own kids' parties in the 21st century always comes as a bit of a shock. Young hosts these days feel compelled to provide tunnels for their little guests to scramble through, or a zorb-ing ball they can tumble in. There may be a magician for entertainment, or a game of dancing statues organised by one screeching parent. This want of excess of activity, though ridiculous, is not limited to a small circle of privileged parents. Budget bash or not, political correctness in a tender age group requires everyone in the class to be invited, leaving most parents with no choice but to endure what inevitably becomes the most strenuous day of the year.

We philosophically take it in our stride, this feverish merry making on a young one's birthday. But it's time some brave parent revolted against the tyranny of the return gift, at least. May he rot in hell, whoever it was who came up with the bright idea that a child must be given something to take home, at the end of the party. It requires just one parent to buck the trend and face the wrath of the kids, and all the other parents will gladly follow suit. This year I managed to stick to my guns and absolutely refused that other ghastly party tradition of the Khoi bag — the piñata — which has a variety of whistles, toffees and erasers in it, and when burst, sends the kids lunging about in a frenzy. It also took some arguing to convince my daughter to ditch balloons. I succeeded with the question: where do you think the remnants of the balloons end up? In

some poor, unsuspecting, whale's stomach. However, I quiver with fear at the thought of facing little guests with the shattering news that there's no take home gift — but I will applaud and support any parent up for this challenge.

I still remember the look of enraged disgust on a child's face last year when he discovered that the take-home was a mere book wrapped in old newspaper. Since kids have no filters, you know you've cracked it with the return gift if a child demands a second one, allegedly, for a sibling. Dismayed with the book, most left theirs behind. Over the years I have seen some incredible return gifts: a mini golf set, personalised lunch boxes, night suits with names embossed on them, even a goldfish, which I thought was a bit presumptuous. Who needs one more live thing to take care of? Children's birthday parties may be filled with good intentions but for the times we live in, they desperately need an update. For example, the cheap Chinese toys and accessories that find their way into piñatas and return gifts are a sharp contrast to what children are being taught about being ecologically conscious.

Those small plastic toys are thoughtless clutter and parents as much as children should cringe when they look at the variety of rubbish that accumulates — as their appalling contribution to landfills and the trash in the sea. There's really no point in supporting odd-even, or worrying about poor air quality if we're not willing to make the smallest changes in our own lifestyles. Currently, however, children think it's their birthright to receive a present at the end of a party. To tone down expectations around this awful custom will be a task. Of course, my kids accuse me of being cheap and conveniently quoting global warming to worm out of spending. I'm all for the ritual of the party, and the cake, and games. The sooner the better to teach kids, there's more to a milestone than collecting stuff.

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## Confessions of a Creative Mind

Iconic artist Upendra Maharathi's life and work is being celebrated in a retrospective in the Capital

### DIVYAA

BORN IN Orissa in 1908, Upendra Maharathi spent his lifetime seeking various ways and mediums to contribute to the creative arena, thus becoming one of India's most prolific artists. Till he passed away in 1981, the artist straddled almost every genre and medium — sketching, carving, sculpting, painting, weaving, even architecture. Since Maharathi didn't believe in exhibiting his work, it took almost four decades after his death to put together the first-ever retrospective of his works in the heart of India's Capital. An exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), aptly titled 'Shashwat | Maharathi- The Eternal Seeker', comprises an assortment of artwork from his personal collection, from NGMA's collection, and from the vaults of Patna Museum. The exhibition seeks to offer a panoramic view of his complete oeuvre. Here are the highlights:

#### Artist's Studio

The artist's studio has been recreated for the occasion in one big room of the renovated Jaipur House wing of the NGMA. It comprises Maharathi's furniture, brushes, paints, pigments, reading glasses, a medical prescription, a woven red-and-white tribal rug and a half-finished painting of Mahatma Gandhi



On display are the art and contributions by Upendra Maharathi

resting on the easel. Maharathi used his studio as a laboratory for his ideas: to create, meditate, spin on his *charkha*, read, write and practise yoga.

#### Mauryan Furniture

On view is furniture designed by the artist:

artisanal wooden chairs with Mauryan arches and quirky human-shaped backrests, put together without nails. More than 20 Mauryan chairs that are on display were designed by Maharathi and created by the expert carpenters of the Upendra Maharathi Institute of Industrial Designs at Patna. These chairs are fashioned after the Mauryan architectural designs. The honeycomb *jaali* of the backrest arch is another motif borrowed from Mauryan architecture.

#### Bamboo Craft

Ever since the dawn of Southeast Asian civilisation, bamboo has been used as a building material and in craft form. The Ramgarh Congress of 1940 was Maharathi's first foray into experimenting with bamboo craft as a medium to decorate the entire *pandal* complex. While bamboo was prevalent as a building material at the time, its aesthetic potential was not as prominently explored. Around 15 bamboo craft samples on display show the diverse ways in which Maharathi used bamboo — sculpting on its roots and turning it into utility articles among others.

#### Textile Installation

For centuries, the handloom weavers of Biharsharif in Nalanda district of Bihar have been known for weaving intricate patterns and motifs inspired by Buddhist iconography. This tradition, known as 'Baanvanbuti Tradition', found its name from the 52 motifs on six yards of a sari. But the advent of technology and mill-made yarn sounded the death knell for the tradition. In such a dismal scenario in the early '40s, Maharathi worked with the weavers to weave the Baanvanbuti motifs on thick fabric, which could be used as curtain and furnishing material. A textile installation called *Tana Bana* has colourful long yarns stretching across the length and breadth of the space, a symbolic representation of the centuries-old journey of this tradition and the salvaging efforts of its saviour.

#### Buddha Panels

Maharathi was deeply moved by Buddhism and this inspired his architectural interest. *Sambodhi*, a 22-part panel on Buddha's life, from birth to enlightenment, drawn by Maharathi, formed the basis of the 250-feet-long stone panel at Mahabodhi Temple at Bodhi Gaya, a World Heritage Site. The panels at the temple are considered an architectural wonder, so are the peace pagodas in Rajgir and Japan, at the Patna College of Art and Nalanda railway station.

The exhibition is on till January 31

# 20 SPORT

## RANJI TROPHY

God has given me a talent to play cricket. So when I come out, I come out with a will to win. And now as the captain, the will is stronger."

KIERON POLLARD

# Winter days of sunny dreams

As a fresh Ranji season unfolds, there's hope and aspiration, heroes and comeback heroes, and narratives waiting to be woven

## Star-packed Mumbai determined to regain their stripes

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
VADODARA, DECEMBER 8

SURYA KUMAR Yadav remembers that day last year when Mumbai selectors recalled him in Ranji Trophy squad for the last league game against Chattisgarh. Yadav had been dropped for three games when he was picked again in a must-win game. Mumbai had never look so vulnerable before. This year Yadav is the captain of the team and will have big names for company: Ajinkya Rahane, Shardul Thakur, and Prithvi Shaw. And Shreyas Iyer and Shivam Dube too would be available.

Last season the team was without any star power and Mumbai mopped at the bottom of the table. However, lot has changed in past twelve months in Mumbai cricket. Yadav is back in its supreme form and has been handed over captaincy. Mumbai will be taking on Baroda in their first league encounter of the Ranji Trophy at the Reliance Stadium in Vadodara. Indian Test team's vice captain Rahane will be playing the first three games and Shaw will look for new beginning post the doping violation. Yadav looks pleased with side he has got. He gets back the services of the bowlers Shardul Thakur and Tushar Deshpande though the spin department is pretty inexperienced.

"It feels very nice to see stability in the line-up, be it in the bowling or batting. We will like to carry our performance of Syed Mushtaq Ali and Vijay Hazare Trophy. What happened in the past, is past, I am hopeful this winter will be good. Rahane hasn't told us how many games he will be here but having him in the team is good thing," Yadav said. The Mumbai team has decided to release Sarfaraz Khan, who has been asked to play under-23 matches for Mumbai.

### Winter pangs

With Ranji Trophy starting in December, the winter will throw some new challenges. The early morning wind and early sunset will leave its impact in the final session of the day. For Yadav, though, all that is in the periphery, his focus is to continue to mature and enjoy the challenges of captaincy.

"Of course, captaincy has changed me, I have become calmer. I feel before I was little bit excited and used to take decisions without thinking about it much. But things have changed now, maturity has helped me to think better," he explains as few fans wait for selfies. Rahane is the first one to take catching at slips after he finished his batting nets.

Meanwhile, Shaw calls for white spray-paint to change the colour of his blue pads that he had used in the Syed Mushtaq Ali tournament. He will hope that his white ball form continues in red-ball cricket. He has far too much at stake: his reputation that was hit after the ban and the growing murmurs about his attitude.

In the recent past, he has spoken how he really wants this domestic season to be his turnaround season. At Vadodara, Mumbai is not only the one who have some white-ball heroes of IPL. Baroda will be led by Krunal Pandya and as ever, much will ride on form of Yusuf Pathan, who had stood tall for Baroda over the years.



TABLE TOPPER: A physio attending to India vice-captain and Mumbai batsman Ajinkya Rahane at the nets in Vadodara. Bhupender Rana

## Railways, steaming to get back on track

VISHAL MENON  
MEERUT, DECEMBER 8

A NEW Ranji season ushers in, but JP Yadav is nursing an old wound. It goes back to the time when he took charge as the Railways coach three years ago. "We did not have a settled squad and some of the changes I made did not work...so all these factors went against us," he explains. Taking blame for his inability to help the team progress beyond the group stage — they have failed to enter the knock-outs since 2012-13 — which prompted Yadav to resign the following year.

Looking back, he reckons it was the inherent lack of unity in the dressing room and the dearth of exciting talent that left him disillusioned. It's ironic considering these were the two tenets that had driven Railways to the intoxicating highs in the mid-aughts, when they won a brace of Ranji and Irani Trophy titles (2002 and 2005), and finished as the runners-up to Baroda in 2001.

Central to the team's rise was Yadav, along with Murali Karthik, Sanjay Bangar and Yere Goud. "My stint as a first-class player coincided with the Railways' rise. During those days, we had a pool of talented players, who knew their roles and they played for each other. There were hardly any changes in the team during that decade — from 2000-2010 — when we used to qualify on a regular basis. The reason was everyone had a well-defined role. In the current scenario, there's constant chopping and changing," Yadav notes.

A more worrying aspect for Yadav was that there weren't enough talented players who were coming through the ranks. "I can understand that after 2011, when the core group of players like Bangar, Karthik, Gowd and me having retired, there was bound to be a phase when they would struggle to find immediate



Railways coach JP Yadav is hopeful of an upswing in fortunes. File

replacements. But after five years, when you are still struggling with team combinations, it shows that there's a serious issue," he says.

Railways Section Officer and games-in-charge, Sanjay Kumar, believes this was because youngsters no longer consider joining the Indian Railways as a lucrative employment option. Not surprisingly, the number of job applications for vacancies have also fallen drastically over the years. "Twenty years ago, there would be atleast 3,000 applicants for 600 vacancies. That number has now come down to around 300," Kumar says.

The Railways Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) also resorted to trials and talent scouting, though it hasn't yielded in anything substantial. "We used to conduct trials regularly and the players who got selected would be drafted into our pool. Even here, most of them opted out saying they preferred to play with

their state association," Kumar elaborates.

The RSPB then sent scouts to select stand-out performers from the junior circuit and hand them scholarships. "When we selected a player, he told us: 'Sir, mujhe cricketer banana hain, Railways ki naukri nahi chahiye.' So, we have lost out on some potential players who could not have represented us," Kumar elaborates. It's not such a cut-and-dry scenario though. Harsh Tyagi, left-arm spinner based in Noida and T. Pradeep, fast bowler from Bangalore, are two players from the current Ranji Trophy squad to have risen through the ranks after securing jobs through sports quota

### Influx from Bengal

They are not alone. As many as five players from Bengal, who have been performing admirably for their state team at the U-19 and U-23 levels, have also switched their allegiances last season. They are Abhijit Singh, captain of the Railways U-23 squad, Kanishk Seth, Saurabh Singh, Akash Pandey and Ananta Saha, who topped the list of wicket-takers during last season's CK Nayudu Trophy. They had harboured hopes of representing Bengal in Ranji Trophy at some point. But repeated snubs prompted them to take up this offer. "Bengal is a big Railways hub. We have three units: Eastern Railways, South-Eastern Railways and the Metro. All these players joined our U-23 squad last year since they were employed in one of these units," Kumar opines.

### Inauspicious start

While the emergence of these players offers hope, this team is still far away from being the cohesive and mean winning machine that Yadav had played in. Ahead of their season-opener against Uttar Pradesh in Meerut, two senior players — wicket-keeper and former captain Mahesh Rawat was dropped on

grounds of 'gross indiscipline, while medium-pacer Anureet Singh got the axe owing to poor form. Kumar admits the decision to ignore Rawat was taken in the best interests of the team. "He has been a bad example to youngsters. It's time to look beyond him now." To Rawat's credit, the 34-year-old veteran of 113 first-class matches was the team's top-scorer last season, with 478 runs and two centuries to his credit. People close to him admit his wealth of experience would have been invaluable for the team in the season ahead. But Kumar and the selectors disagree. They term him a 'divisive figure' in the dressing room. Seasoned leg-spinner Karn Sharma takes over the reins in such tumultuous times.

With regard to Anureet, selector Kulamani Parida asserts the pacer was in the scheme of things, despite his ouster from the shorter formats earlier in the season. "We have no issues with him. He is a senior bowler and has played with us for more than eight years. We dropped him from Syed Mushtaq Trophy and Vijay Hazare owing to his poor form. He would still have been considered, but he applied for NOC and moved out," he says. The 31-year-old pacer, however, counters these claims. "It's this feeling of insecurity that was my motivation to move out."

"It's unfortunate that the season had to begin in this manner. But the good news is that we have a good team with a blend of experience and youth. It's not like we have made wholesale changes from last year. We have seniors like Arindam Ghosh, Avinash Yadav, Pratham Singh, Nitin Bhille and captain Karn Sharma, who form the core group," Kumar concludes. A passage to the knock-outs could just be the antidote to quell the all-pervading negativity lingering in the Railways dressing room.

## Get, set, go....

The men and matches of the first round of Ranji Trophy

A DERBY AGAIN  
TAMIL NADU VS KARNATAKA,  
DINDIGUL

The third time they're bundled together this season, Tamil Nadu will be keen to set the record straight after the twin defeats by the neighbours in the Vijay Hazare and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy finals. But this time around, both sides are close to full strength, with a galaxy of contemporary and recently-discarded India players. Tamil Nadu have Ravi Ashwin, Murali Vijay, Abhinav Mukund, Vijay Shankar and Dinesh Karthik while Karnataka boast Mayank Agarwal and Karun Nair. Amidst them is a bunch of youngsters such as exciting opening batsman Devdutt Padikkal (of Karnataka) and N Sai Kishore (Tamil Nadu), looking to make a mark.

NEW TEAM, OLD HANDS

CHANDIGARH VS ARUNACHAL

PRADESH, CHANDIGARH

First-timers they might be, but they have considerably experienced domestic players. Like skipper Manan Vohra, a regular with Punjab until last year, all-rounder Bipul Sharma, wicket-keeper Uday Kaul and left-seamer Barinder Sran.

MILESTONE

AWAITS PUJARA

HIMACHAL

PRADESH VS

SAURASHTRA,

DHARAMSHALA

Cheteshwar

Pujara wouldn't

have hoped for a

more ideal venue than

Dharamshala to begin his

preparation for the New Zealand

series in February. While Himachal

Praदेश's seam bowlers might not

be as destructible as the Black Caps

retinue, the chilly, breezy conditions

of Dharamshala would pose a few

questions. Moreover, he's one shy of

his 50th first-class century.

JAFFER'S PURSUIT OF 20K PEAK

ANDHRA VS VIDARBHA,

VIJAYAWADA

Much of his contemporaries, even

younger ones have slipped into the

horizon, either faded away or

retired. But 41-year-old Wasim

Jaffer's appetite for runs hasn't

diminished. Last season, he hoarded

1037 runs at 69.13, the year before he

tallied 881 at 73.41. This year, he has

the added motivation of completing

20,000 first-class runs, to which he's

only 853 runs away, besides steering

Vidarbha to their third successive

Ranji title, which has narrowly

eluded (twice) in Mumbai days.

NO ISHANT, BUT THERE'S SAINI

KERALA VS DELHI, THUMBAA

Exhausted after a long season and

to keep him fresh for the new

season, Ishant Sharma would miss

the opening rounds of the Ranji

Trophy. But Delhi, losing finalists

last year, have Navdeep Saini, who

has featured in a handful of T20Is.

But his dream is to play Test

matches, which a bountiful Ranji

season will take him closer to

accomplishing.

## NOSTALGIA

# 'If Chandigarh had a team in the 80s, we would have won five titles in a row'

YOGRAJ SINGH



LAST MONTH, Yuvraj and I watched Chandigarh play in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy at the Sector 16 Stadium. It was an emotional moment for both of us, watching the team play and Chandigarh had Manan Vohra captaining them. Yuvraj later hosted a dinner for Chandigarh and Punjab teams at his house, and he too appreciates the kind of talent the city produces and can produce. As Chandigarh is set to make its first-class debut against Arunachal Pradesh, I will be there to cheer the team.

Before I start talking about Chandigarh cricket, I want to tell you one thing. I did not want to be a cricketer as I was good in athletics and football at the St John's School, my alma mater. Besides, my coach Philip and father wanted me to be an athlete and the school offered the best of training and facilities. That has been the strength of Chandigarh, where institutions like DAV College and Panjab University,

apart from the various government stadiums, offers kids a chance to train within a radius of 20kms. It's not found in many cities in India.

It was only after coach DP Azad visited my school that he asked my coach and father to get me enrolled in cricket. He was conducting a talent hunt to spot kids and train at the Sector 16 Stadium. I still remember Kapil Dev, Chandar Vijay, Arun Chaudhary, Manjit Singh and I were selected.

As we started our cricket training, we would often see our seniors like Om Prakash, Sarkar Talwar and Ravinder Chadha playing for Haryana. We would watch them practice at Sector 16 Stadium and later there came a time when nine Chandigarh boys were in the playing eleven of Haryana.

Apart from Rajinder Goel and one other player, the rest of us were from Chandigarh. It was almost a separate Chandigarh Ranji Trophy team and if we were affiliated at that time, Chandigarh would have won the Ranji Trophy at least five times in a row. And it would have done wonders to the upcoming talent and youngsters in the city.

With coaches like DP Azad and good facilities in DAV College, Panjab University and Sector 16 Stadium, Chandigarh was a conveyor

belt for Punjab, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. It was sad that the infighting between the different district associations of Chandigarh made Chandigarh cricketers suffer.

With no parent state body, the associations affiliated with Haryana and Punjab selected players without merit. Many players had to suffer and shifted base to other states. Even during our time, the Haryana players and officials would treat us like outsiders but it was only due to the Haryana cricket association president that they did not raise any objection to us playing for them.

But now that the wait is over, the city is back on the Indian cricket map. Now we need to consolidate like structuring the U-14, U-16 and U-19 programmes. Being the capital city, Chandigarh sees a lot of diversity with people from five to six states settling here. This is one of the reasons we get diverse players.

I recently joined the DAV College, as coach, and I can see the kind of talent the city has. The trainees include a cricketer, whose father repairs punctures and the institutions are supporting such players. The grounds are

With no parent state body, the associations affiliated with Haryana and Punjab selected players without merit. Many players had to suffer and shifted base to other states. Even during our time, the Haryana players and officials would treat us like outsiders.

government-owned and the administration too provides the support at the grassroots. What UTCA needs to do is to have a chairman of selectors apart from talking with senior players like Kapil Dev and making them involved in the process.

I also believe the Sector 16 Stadium should be named after Kapil Dev and with Chandigarh team playing Ranji trophy at the stadium now, players will get motivated seeing Kapil's name. (Yograj Singh, father of Yuvraj, has played one Test and six ODIs for India)

AS TOLD TO NITIN SHARMA



Kapil Dev and Yograj Singh, both from Chandigarh, were part of a strong Haryana side in the late 70s and through much of the 80s. File

**BRIEFLY**

**SAG: India pulls ahead with more gold**

**Kathmandu:** Swimmers and wrestlers continued their complete domination in their respective disciplines as India continued its commanding performance on yet another medal-laden day to leave rival countries far behind in the South Asian Games here on Sunday. The swimmers picked up as many as 7 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze while the wrestlers clinched all the four yellow metals on offer on Sunday to help India add 38 medals on Day 7. India's total medal count stood at 252 (132 gold, 79 silver, 41 bronze), leaving behind hosts Nepal and Sri Lanka behind.

**FC Goa back to winning ways**

**Hyderabad:** Manvir Singh came off the bench to score the match-winner as FC Goa beat Hyderabad FC 1-0 in an Indian Super League clash here on Sunday. FC Goa dominated the proceedings for most part of the match but both teams struggled to create clear-cut chances before second-half substitute Manvir (68th) headed in the decisive goal. With the crucial three points away from home, Sergio Lobera's side climbed back into the top four after securing their first win in three games. They are now third with 12 points from seven matches. Hyderabad remain winless in four matches and are at the bottom of the table with four points.

**Churchill beat Bagan 4-2 in I-League**

**Kalyani:** Trinidadian hitman Willis Plaza stamped his class yet again as he struck a brace to help Churchill Brothers FC beat Mohun Bagan 4-2 in an I-League match here on Sunday. Plaza (2nd, 38th) and Robert Primus (29th) did the damage in the first-half before Radanfah Abu Bakr (76th) put the match beyond the reach of Mohun Bagan. For the Mariners, Fran Gonzalez (34th) converted from the penalty spot and Subha Ghosh (90th) found the target. With six points from two games, Churchill Brothers now sit on top of the I-League points table followed by Gokulam Kerala, separated by goal difference.

**Sonia, Kachari lead Rlys to 6 gold medals**

**Kannur:** World Championships silver medallist Sonia Chahal (57kg) and India Open Gold medallist Bhagyabati Kachari (81kg) won the top prizes as Railways continued their dominance by clinching six gold medals at the Women's National Boxing Championships here on Sunday. 2016 national champion Sonia showed some stunning resilience to edge Haryana's youth world champion Sakshi 3-2 in a hard-fought final to add a second Nationals gold. A year after settling for the silver, Bhagyabati Kachari beat Shaily Singh in the 81kg final 5-0 win to get the gold.

**India win 3-Nations hockey tournament**

**Canberra:** The Indian junior women's team tasted its first loss of the competition on Sunday, going down 1-2 to hosts Australia in the fourth match but still won the 3-Nations hockey tournament after finishing top of the points table. India had seven points from four matches, ahead of hosts Australia on goal difference, with New Zealand finishing third with only three points from their four matches.

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

# Round two goes to Williams, Windies

Pacer dismisses Kohli cheaply; West Indies, led by Simmons & Pooran's whirlwind unbeaten knocks, overhaul India's total with ease



West Indies' Keshrick Williams gestures after dismissing Virat Kohli during the second T20I in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. AP



## SCORECARD >> India vs West Indies

2nd T20I | Trivandrum | Toss: WI

INDIA	170/7
R Sharma b Holder	15 (18b, 2x4)
KL Rahul c Hetmyer b Pierre	11 (11b, 1x4)
S Dube c Hetmyer b Walsh	54 (30b, 3x4, 4x6)
V Kohli c Simmons b Williams	19 (17b, 2x4)
R Pant not out	33 (22b, 3x4, 1x6)
S Iyer c King b Walsh	10 (11b, 1x4)
R Jadeja b Williams	9 (11b)
Washington Sundar c & b Cottrell	0 (1b)
D Chahar not out	1 (1b)

**Extras:** (lb 3, nb 2, w 13) **18**  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-24 (KL Rahul, 3.1 ov), 2-56 (Rohit Sharma, 7.4 ov), 3-97 (Shivam Dube, 10.3 ov), 4-120 (Virat Kohli, 13.2 ov), 5-144 (Shreyas Iyer, 16.2 ov), 6-164 (Ravindra Jadeja, 18.6 ov), 7-167 (Washington Sundar, 19.4 ov)

Bowling:	
S Cottrell	4-0-27-1
K Pierre	2-0-11-1
J Holder	4-0-42-1
K Williams	4-0-30-2
K Pollard	2-0-29-0
H Walsh	4-0-28-2

WEST INDIES **173/2 IN 18.3 OV**

L Simmons not out	67 (45b, 4x4, 4x6)
E Lewis st Pant b Sundar	40 (35b, 3x4, 3x6)
S Hetmyer c Kohli b Jadeja	23 (14b, 3x6)
N Pooran not out	38 (18b, 4x4, 2x6)

**Extras:** (nb 1, w 4) **5**  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-73 (Evin Lewis, 9.5 ov), 2-112 (Shimron Hetmyer, 13.4 ov)

Bowling:	
D Chahar	3.3-0-35-0
B Kumar	4-0-36-0
Washington Sundar	4-0-26-1
Y Chahal	3-0-36-0
S Dube	2-0-18-0
R Jadeja	2-0-22-1

West Indies won by 8 wickets



Batting at No.3, Shivam Dube made 54 off 30 balls. PTI

**TUSHAR BHADURI**  
DECEMBER 8

THE INDIAN team prides itself on its fielding — but the two T20Is against West Indies are matches they would like to forget — apart from one superhuman grab by Virat Kohli. Eight drops in two games and a ball going through the legs of a fielder on the 30-yard circle to the boundary — what made it worse that it was Ravindra Jadeja at fault — is a serious reality check.

The West Indians took full toll and overhauled the target of 171 at a canter, with nine balls to spare. Lendl Simmons, who Indians fans will remember as one of the architects of India's ouster from their own party at the 2016 ICC World T20, was the glue with a 45-ball unbeaten 67 while the three left-handers around him — Evin Lewis, Shimron Hetmyer and Nicholas Pooran — were more aggressive in fashioning an eight-wicket victory. Simmons will also have happy memories of the venue for the series decider — Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium.

The Windies hit 12 sixes in 18.3 overs while India managed just five, which makes a huge difference in itself. The visitors six-hitting prowess is second to none, while the Indian big boys are not ones to get going from Ball One. Sunday was when Kohli, Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul departed without making a big impact.

Kohli played an innings for the ages on Friday, but the skipper — the heaviest run-getter in the format now — is somehow off his peak when setting the pace instead of chasing, explaining to a large extent India's poor T20 record batting first. When Keshrick Williams got his silent retribution with the big wicket on a much better evening for him with the ball, India's major hope for a total in the 190 territory went bust.

A little earlier, Shivam Dube got to his first 50 for India in double quick time, but he should send a thank you note to Kieron Pollard and Jason Holder. The left-hander, surprisingly sent in at No.3 ahead of the skipper, was struggling to put bat to ball effectively with 12 runs scored off his first 14 balls. The crowd was getting on his back as Dube was reduced to swinging wildly like a rusty gate. One of those swings, aimed at somewhere over midwicket, went over slip for a boundary.

Dube looked anything but a No. 3 and all he seemed to be achieving was keeping Kohli away from the crease. But the two West Indian veterans helped him out, testing the middle of the pitch at their pedestrian pace, allowing the big hitter to use his power to find the square boundaries. When they tried to bowl full on a sluggish wicket, they overcompensated into full tosses. The 10th over, bowled by Pollard, went for 26 including three sixes, injecting momentum in a somewhat subdued innings. A half-century off 27 balls was a decent effort, but

if it's not to be a one-off experiment, Dube needs to get better against spin and everything that isn't in his arc.

However, his innings had put the team on course for a total that would have made them favourites on a sluggish pitch. Even after the skipper's departure, the team was well placed at 144/4 with four overs to go, a run rate of nine an over. But the last 24 balls went for a mere 26 as Hayden Walsh Jr, Sheldon Cottrell and Williams conceded just a solitary boundary for the gain of three wickets. After an inauspicious start — the first over of the innings went for 12 as Cottrell couldn't find his line and repeatedly gave leg-side wides and freebies — and Dube's assault in the middle, the final four overs would have provided the required bounce in the Windies dressing room.

**No hell-for-leather approach**

The Windies chase didn't get into fifth gear from the start. Deepak Chahar and Bhuvneshwar Kumar kept a lid on proceedings in the first couple of overs. When Lewis and Simmons did miscue, in the same over from Bhuvneshwar, first Washington Sundar and then Rishabh Pant dropped the catches. Simmons's reprieve proved the costlier one in the final analysis.

When spin was brought in, the two openers didn't target the stands off every ball, but waited for deliveries in their arc. One of Sundar's overs went for 15, but his return of one wicket for 26 off four overs

**I think we were good for 16 overs while batting. But then last four overs we got only thirty. We need to focus on that... (But) if we field so poorly, no amount of runs will be enough. We were poor with the field in the last two games. We dropped two catches in one over. Imagine if they had lost two in the same over. Everyone saw we need to be more brave in fielding. Do or die game coming up in Mumbai.**

**VIRAT KOHLI**  
ON WHERE INDIA LACKED ON SUNDAY

was quite respectable as Lewis especially was kept in check till he left his crease for a big hit and was stumped. It was Hetmyer who took to Jadeja in his brief innings, using the ball coming in to him for targeting the leg-side boundary, till Kohli's sensational grab ended his fun.

But that proved to be the last reason to celebrate for the hosts. Pooran came in and doused any hope the Indians may have had of making it a tight finish. Windies have often been described as a bunch of individuals rather than a team. If Sunday's performance is anything to go by, the defending T20 world champions will not be ranked 10th much longer as they gear up for a title defence in 10 months' time.

**RESTORING THE STATUS QUO**

# Joshua 2.0: British boxing star plots new path to dominance with win over Ruiz



Anthony Joshua became the fourth man in history to regain the world heavyweight title in a direct rematch after Muhammad Ali, Lennox Lewis and Floyd Patterson. AP

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
RIYADH, DECEMBER 8

IT'S NOT all about the devastating knockout for Anthony Joshua anymore.

He's not going to go desperately chasing Deontay Wilder for the elusive belt in his heavyweight collection, either. This is Joshua 2.0. After what he describes as a "roller coaster" year, the British boxing star is back as the multiple world heavyweight champion after beating Andy Ruiz Jr. in a unanimous points decision in their rematch in Saudi Arabia early Sunday.

Listening to Joshua after the fight, there's a sense he is about to embark on a new path to domination of the marquee division. The drastic change to his fighting style and mind-set is an indication of that. Against Ruiz, Joshua overhauled his approach — "I took it back to the old school, '70s style," he said — and used dancing feet instead of his traditional power-punching to break down his opponent.

"Boxing's a sweet science," Joshua said with a grin. "Hit and don't get hit. That's the name of the game."

For a heavyweight who made his name as a knockout merchant, Joshua has only won one of his last five fights by knocking his opponent to the canvas, in a period

stretching back 2 years. He is becoming more cautious, more of a student of boxing.

Expect that to continue in his second reign as champ after regaining the WBA, WBO and IBF belts.

Joshua said he has learned his lesson after not preparing properly for his first fight against Ruiz in June, which went badly wrong when he was knocked down four times before being stopped in the seventh round at Madison Square Garden.

When asked if his fans might have expected more from Joshua in the controversial rematch in the Middle East, where avoiding Ruiz played as big a part in the game plan as punching him, the Briton said: "If I box for the crowd and people's opinion, I might not have been victorious. I trusted my own process and now I am the champion. I'm going to follow my own instincts while I'm boxing."

The more mature side of Joshua might also come through in his seemingly never-ending pursuit of Wilder, the WBC champion who owns the belt Joshua needs to become the first unified champion since Lennox Lewis early this century. "I would love to unite the belts," Joshua said. "But when you are chasing... it's the same as when you're in the fight. Sometimes if I'm chasing the right hand, I'm chasing the left

**EXPLAINED**  
**Joshua's win and what it means for the heavyweight division**

TAKING A page out of a boxing great he has previously knocked out, Anthony Joshua *Klitschkoed* his way to a win against Andy Ruiz, choosing distance and safety over power. Instead of going blow-for-blow with Ruiz like their first fight (he knocked the Mexican down before being knocked out in June), Joshua chose to go the "sweet science" route.

According to analytics website Compubox, 65 of Joshua's 107 landed punches were jabs while 93% of the fight was spent at distance. The ring in Riyadh was also bigger, which made cornering Joshua that much more difficult for Ruiz.

More importantly, Ruiz was in worse shape than he was for the first fight, coming in 15 pounds heavier. "I don't think I prepared as good as I should have. The three months of partying affected me... I gained too much weight and I wasn't able to throw my combinations," said Ruiz.

For now, the status quo has been restored. Ruiz had his moment in the sun and a third fight looks needless for now. Joshua has regained the WBA, IBF, WBO and IBO heavyweight titles. WBC title-holder Deontay Wilder is still the unbeaten 'One Punch Man' while lineal champion Fury too has kept himself busy. While Wilder-Fury rematch is already a lock for February, Joshua will deal with his mandatory challengers for the time being. The Brit should then take on the winner to have unify the titles and leave the world with one undisputed heavyweight champion.

hook, it may come crashing down on me. "I realize chasing that fight wasn't playing to my benefits. So I'm just going to let the path take its course. When the opportunity presents itself to become undisputed heavy-

weight champion of the world, I'll definitely step up and take the challenge."

So, for the time being, Joshua appears likely to fight mandatory challengers, probably starting with Kubrat Pulev of Bulgaria

in the spring to keep the IBF belt. Then, Oleksandr Usyk — the unified cruiser-weight champion who recently stepped up to heavyweight — in the summer to retain the WBO strap.

Only then could he realistically fight "the other guy," as Joshua often refers to Wilder.

So, apparently, there is no real rush to meet the American. Not like a couple of years ago when that unification fight clearly dominated the thoughts of Joshua and his ambitious promoter, Eddie Hearn.

The loss to Ruiz in New York could, then, be the making of Joshua. It was a shock to the system, making him realize it will not be a straightforward ride to global domination, that he cannot switch off in any fight and expect to pull through.

"It's nice to KO and there were times when I looked in Andy's eyes and I wanted to put my fist through his head," Joshua said. "But then I thought to myself, 'This is boxing. I need to win for myself, show people that there is a sweet science to the sport as well.' It's not like a script, it's not wrestling, this is real life and it's dangerous."

"These guys are highly skilled athletes. I just love preparing for a good challenge. This is all I have, all I got. I have disciplined myself for it."

**BRIEFLY**

**Lazio hand Juventus season's first defeat**

Rome: Lazio came from behind to beat Juventus 3-1 and hand the Turin side their first defeat of the season on Saturday, scoring the two decisive goals in the final 20 minutes after their opponents had Juan Cuadrado controversially sent off. Juventus stayed second, two points behind Inter Milan, with 36 points from 15 games while Lazio, who are third, closed the gap on their opponents to three points after their seventh successive league win. **REUTERS**

**Hat-trick for Messi in Barca's 5-2 win**

Barcelona: Lionel Messi scored a hat-trick as Barcelona moved back top of La Liga with an emphatic 5-2 victory over Real Mallorca on Saturday. Real Madrid had climbed three points clear after beating Espanyol, but Ernesto Valverde's side were at their vibrant best as they dispatched visitors Mallorca at the Camp Nou. Antoine Griezmann dinked home the opening goal after being played through by Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen, six-times Ballon d'Or winner Messi twice curled home from outside the area and Luis Suarez netted a brilliant backheel. Messi, in turn, broke another record as this was his 35th La Liga hat-trick, overtaking Cristiano Ronaldo's record of 34. **REUTERS**

**WADA to decide Russia's fate today**

Lausanne: Russia will discover Monday whether they will be banished from sporting competitions, including the Olympic Games, for four years when the World Anti-Doping Agency hold a crunch meeting in Lausanne. WADA's executive committee is expected to approve a recommendation by its Compliance Review Committee that Russia be handed a four-year suspension after accusing Moscow of falsifying laboratory doping data handed over to investigators earlier this year. Such a heavy sanction would see Russia ruled out of next year's Tokyo Olympics and the Winter Games in Beijing in 2022. **AFP**

**Like good Ole days**

Man United manager delivers perfect reply to detractors after his team's 2-1 win over City



Wins over Tottenham and Man City mean United are now fifth in the table. Reuters

**REUTERS**  
MANCHESTER, DECEMBER 7

MANCHESTER UNITED manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer went into a crucial week of fixtures with critics questioning whether he was the right man for the job of restoring the club's fortunes. But those sniping at the Norwegian will surely be a little quieter now after, in the space of four days, he masterminded victories over two of the most respected managers in the game, Jose Mourinho and Pep Guardiola.

After beating Champions League runners-up Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford, Solskjaer's young side enjoyed a memorable 2-1 triumph over back-to-back champions and domestic treble winners Manchester City on their own patch on Saturday. The United fans, who celebrated the victory at the end of the game with the manager and players, have not been the source of criticism of Solskjaer - indeed the Norwegian has enjoyed strong backing from supporters who attend games at Old Trafford and those who travel away.

The noise tends to come from social media, talk-radio and pundits who are quick to judge from short-term results, which is a particularly inappropriate approach given the task Solskjaer has been given of creating a new, more youthful team, out of the mess he inherited from Mourinho almost a year ago.

Marcus Rashford, whose three goals and all-round performances in both this week's wins, showed he has the talent and attitude to become a real long-term favourite at the club, summed up the situation well.

**Man arrested for racist behaviour**

Manchester: Greater Manchester Police have arrested a man in connection with alleged racial gestures and chants in Saturday's Premier League match between Manchester City and United at the Etihad Stadium, British media reported on Sunday. Television images circulating on social media showed a City fan making a gesture in front of United's Brazilian midfielder Fred during the game, which the visitors won 2-1. Fans also threw objects on to the field when Fred was taking a corner in front of them and he was struck at least once. **REUTERS**

**Leicester win, set club record**

Leicester City set a club record of eight successive top flight wins after two goals from Jamie Vardy helped them to an impressive 4-1 Premier League victory at Aston Villa on Sunday. Kelechi Iheanacho and Jonny Evans were also on target for Leicester, who served up a performance akin to those which produced a memorable title run in 2015-16 as they missed several chances to win by a bigger margin.

The result left the Foxes second in the standings on 38 points from 16 games, eight adrift of runaway leaders Liverpool and six ahead of third-placed champions Manchester City, while Villa slipped to 17th on 15 points.

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