



## Peace along China border can lead to eventual (boundary) solution: Army chief

SUSHANT SINGH  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

A DAY after he said India reserves the right to pre-emptively strike at sources of terror in Pakistan, new Army Chief General M M Naravane expressed confidence that maintaining peace and tranquility along India's border with China will set the stage for an "eventual solution" to the boundary dispute.

Speaking to mediapersons Wednesday after receiving his first guard of honour as the Army Chief, General Naravane said operational readiness and modernisation will be among the top priorities of the Army under his leadership.

"While we have been paying attention in the past to the Western front, Northern front also requires equal attention. It is in that context we are going for capability development and enhancement of our capcitors in our Northern borders including the North-East part of the country," he said.

"The border question is yet to be settled. We have been able to maintain peace and tranquility along borders and I am sure

### EXPLAINED

**SIMPLY PUT**  
**WHAT ARE ROLE, POWERS OF CDS?**  
PAGE 14

that situation will prevail. By maintaining this, we will be able to set the stage for the eventual solution," he said.

Highlighting the priorities of the Army under him, General Naravane said: "The priorities will always remain to be ever ready to meet any challenge and to be operationally prepared at all times. This will happen as a result of modernisation. We will continue to build up capabilities especially in the North and North-Eastern region of the country. We will also lay emphasis on raising the security awareness amongst rank and file."

"India can progress (in the next decade) only if our borders are secure... then only will be able to do our work and then only will there be development in the country. I want to assure my fellow citizens that all three defence services — Army, Navy

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## THE CHIEFS & THE CDS

Newly appointed Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat (third from left) with (from left) Army chief Gen M M Naravane, Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh and IAF chief Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhaduria in New Delhi Wednesday. Prem Nath Pandey

### SAMBHAL POLICE RESPONSE TO PROTESTS

## Rioting FIR has details, timeline, gives clean chit to police; FIR on killing is just one para

Killing FIR has no accused, no witnesses, no hospital record, family yet to get post mortem report

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M  
SAMBHAL (UTTAR PRADESH),  
JANUARY 1

IT'S A tale of two FIRs — and it reveals glaring gaps in the response of the Uttar Pradesh Police to the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

One FIR against 17 persons for alleged rioting and the other related to the killing of 23-year-old Mohammed Sheroz are two telling documents on the police investigation under way in Sambhal district.

In the former, the police has



Police personnel in the area where Mohammed Sheroz was killed in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh. File RELATED REPORTS, P 9

meticulously documented details of the alleged violence, the timeline of events, and slapped seven separate charges under the IPC against 17 named individuals. However, in the latter, the document is devoid of any detail, is completely silent on the murder — and just one section under the IPC has been slapped, records accessed by *The Indian Express* reveal.

This when both the FIRs are related to events that happened within 24 hours, in the same neighbourhood of Sambhal and registered at the same Kotwali Sambhal Police Station.

The stark contrast between the two FIRs is not just confined to the nature of charges.

In the FIR against 17 persons, who have been charged with rioting, the police have admitted they fired and have given a clean chit to their personnel on the grounds that the firing was done to control the mob and in self-defence.

However, in the FIR related to Sheroz, who had bullet injuries and was declared dead on December 20 by government authorities — he was one of the two killed in the district — no accused

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### WORLD



**U.S. TROOPS FIRE TEARGAS AS PROTESTERS SWARM EMBASSY IN BAGHDAD** PAGE 15

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**REFORMS PUT RLYS ON TRACK**

BY BIBEK DEBROY  
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**THOUSANDS GATHER AT BHIMA KOREGAON, INTERNET DOWN** PAGE 11

### CITY



**BUSINESSMAN, WIFE, DAUGHTER FOUND DEAD IN VEHICLE** PAGE 6

## No to CAA: Prasad tells states to seek better legal advice, Pinarayi hits back

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

POLITICAL ACRIMONY over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act intensified Wednesday with Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad reading Constitutional provisions to state governments, saying they would have to implement the Act, while Kerala Chief Minister M Pinarayi Vijayan reminded the Centre that state assemblies have their own privileges.

A day after the Kerala House passed a resolution demanding the scrapping of the CAA, Prasad cited Constitutional clauses and asked state governments to get "better legal advises".

"It's surprising that the governments that have taken oath on the Constitution are talking anti-Constitutional that we will not implement the CAA. It's passed by Parliament... Laws passed by Parliament will be implemented throughout the country... Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, Parliament may make laws for the whole or any part of the Union of India," Prasad told reporters.

He cited Articles 245, 246 and 256 — that deal with the enactment of laws and demarcation of powers for the Union and the states — to assert that every state is obliged to implement rules made by Parliament, and said citizenship is a subject on which

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Save 5 top leaders, all detainees in J&K MLA Hostel set to walk

NAVEED IQBAL  
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 1

POLITICAL DETAINEES being held at the MLA Hostel in Srinagar barring five leaders are likely to be released by the Jammu and Kashmir administration in batches in January.

Sources told *The Indian Express* the five leaders unlikely to be released soon are Peoples' Conference chief Sajad Lone, National Conference general secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, former IAS officer and Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement president Shah Faesal, senior PDP leader Naeem Akhtar and PDP youth wing president Waheed ur Rehman Para.

"Barring these five individuals, others are likely to be re-



leased in batches slowly. At least six individuals are scheduled to be released this week subject to their signing of release bonds," a source in the administration,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Two soldiers killed in J&K operation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JANUARY 1

TWO SOLDIERS, Naik Sawant Sandip Raghunath (29) and Rifleman Arjun Thapa Magar (25), were killed in an encounter with some "infiltrators" during a cordon-and-search operation in Nowshera on Tuesday night.

A Defence Ministry spokesperson, Lt Colonel Devender Anand, said the infiltrators were intercepted in Khari Thrayat forest when they were trying to sneak into India from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### GROWTH OF 8.9% Y-O-Y

## GST mop-up tops Rs 1 lakh crore, second month in row

Collections suggest improvement in revenue growth, higher compliance

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

AFTER TWO consecutive months of contraction in September and October, Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections in December (for November sales) rose over the Rs 1-lakh crore mark, a growth of 8.9 per cent year-over-year. In November too, the GST mop-up had topped Rs 1 lakh crore, but December figures were keenly awaited since the November collections were largely attributed to higher festive sales.

In December, GST collections at Rs 1,03,184 crore were marginally lower than the previous month, but a rise for the second month in a row indicates improvement in revenue growth and a higher compliance due to enforcement of more anti-evasion measures and a cap on input tax credit.

Until December 31, as many as 81.21 lakh GSTR 3B (monthly summary returns) were filed, 4.3 per cent more than 77.83 lakh in November. Also, a cap on input tax credit at 20 per cent of the eligible credit for businesses effective October helped in higher collections. This cap, which was only for buyers whose suppliers did not upload

### EXPLAINED

**Opens space for GST 2.0**

WITH the slowdown impacting GST collections, the Centre has started to tighten enforcement measures to check revenue leakages. In December, these efforts have shown results with number of summary returns increasing 4.3 per cent compared with the previous month. Monthly GST revenues stabilising at Rs 1 lakh crore level will give the flexibility to further streamline the GST structure.

invoices, prevented fraudulent claims and revenue leakage, said tax officials.

In fact, the input tax credit has been further curtailed to 10 per cent in the GST Council meeting on December 18.

The average GST revenue for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## 4 chosen for manned mission to space, Chandrayaan-3 this year or next: ISRO

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PUNE, JANUARY 1

TO COMPLETE the unfinished job of Chandrayaan-2, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will send another moon mission, Chandrayaan-3, either this year or the next, and make a fresh attempt at landing on the lunar surface.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Wednesday, ISRO chairman K Sivan also announced that four Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots had been selected for the Gaganyaan mission, India's first attempt at a manned mission, and that they would begin their training programme from the third week of this month. ISRO intends to send the Gaganyaan mission by 2022.

Chandrayaan-2, launched in July last year, had failed to soft-land its lander and rover modules on the moon. Just a few hundred metres from the lunar surface, the spacecraft had developed problems in the last stages of its descent and was unable to reduce its speed at the required rate. It had crash-



ISRO Chairman K Sivan in Bengaluru, Wednesday. PTI

landed on the moon's surface. The Orbiter module of Chandrayaan-2, which is meant to orbit the moon and collect observational data over the next seven years, however, has been functioning normally.

Unlike Chandrayaan-2, the Chandrayaan-3 mission would not have an Orbiter module, Sivan said. It would only have a lander and rover components, and would be aimed solely at establishing ISRO's capability to land on an extra-terrestrial body, something that is essential before ISRO can undertake more missions to the moon.

Chandrayaan-3 has been necessitated by the failure of

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### PAGE 1 ANCHOR

HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

IN HIS first Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) as part of nation-building, urging Lok Sabha MPs to "make one village of his or her constituency a Model Village by 2016... after 2016, select two more villages... and after 2019... at least five model villages". He also asked Rajya Sabha MPs to "adopt one of the villages", saying "if we provide one model

village in each district of India, then the surrounding villages shall be automatically inspired to follow that model".

Five years down the line, official data shows that the progress of SAGY has been sluggish — about two-thirds of Lok Sabha MPs are yet to select gram panchayats under Phase-4 of the scheme. The total strength of both Houses is about 790 which include elected as well as nominated members.

In Phase-1 of SAGY, 703 MPs had adopted gram panchayats but that number went down to 497 in Phase-2 and 301 in Phase-3, showing a gradual decline in

subsequent phases. Since the launch of the scheme on October 11, 2014, less than two months after the Prime Minister's announcement, only 1,753 gram panchayats have been selected across four phases, way below the expected figure.

According to data available till the end of December 2019 on the website of the Ministry of Rural Development, only 252 MPs have adopted gram panchayats under Phase-4 of SAGY — 208 members of Lok Sabha and 44 members of Rajya Sabha.

The Lok Sabha has a total strength of 545 members which includes 543 elected members



and two nominated members. Similarly, Rajya Sabha has a strength of 245 members which

### GRAM PANCHAYATS SELECTED BY MPs UNDER DIFFERENT PHASE OF SAGY AS ON 31.12.2019

	Phase-1	Phase-2	Phase-3	Phase-4
MPs adopted gram panchayats	703	497	301	252
LSMPs selected gram panchayats	500	364	239	208
RSMPs selected gram panchayats	203	133	62	44

includes 12 nominated members. As on January 1, 2020, the total number of sitting members

of Rajya Sabha is 240 while five seats are vacant.

Under the SAGY, each MP





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WEB EXCLUSIVE



HABIB JALIB, HIS DASTOOR — WHY THE PEOPLE'S POET IS INSPIRING INDIA'S YOUTH

Habib Jalib's Dastoor has often featured at mushairas in India. But it is perhaps for the first time that it has become part of the popular protests here

VIDEO OF THE DAY



CITIES WELCOME NEW YEAR WITH A BANG

Here's how major cities of the world welcomed the new year

2020 TRENDS



THE TOP SMARTPHONE TRENDS FOR 2020

With 2020 here, there are certain trends vendors may follow

EXPRESS AUDIO

Understanding the role of the Chief of Defence Staff

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In today's episode of the 3 Things, we look at the role of the CDS and understand how it will interact with the Army Chief.

# 2 days after murder of Shamli singers' family, disciple held

AMIT SHARMA  
MEERUT, JANUARY 1

TWO DAYS after a singer couple and their minor daughter were found murdered at their Punjabi colony residence in Shamli, their 30-year-old disciple was arrested from Panipat in Haryana in this connection on Wednesday.

Police said that the accused, identified as Himanshu Saini, was arrested accidentally by Haryana Police while he was trying to dispose of the half-burnt body of the couple's son Bhagwat (10) who was missing since the sensational murders.

"Himanshu is a disciple of victim Ajay Pathak (42) and used to perform with him for the last two-and-a-half years. During interrogation, he told the police that he had given Rs 60,000 to Ajay who was not only returning him the money, but also used to humiliate him in front of his family members whenever he asked for the sum. On Monday night, he stayed in their house and killed

Ajay, his wife Sneha Pathak (36) and their daughter Vasundhara (14) with a sword, while he strangled Bhagwat to death," said Shamli Superintendent of Police Vineet Jaiswal.

"He wanted to take away the bodies in the couple's car, but could not carry out his plan single-handedly. So, he just bundled Bhagwat's body in the car and locked the house to give an impression that the family had left for Karnal in Haryana where Ajay was scheduled to perform at a bhajan sandhya Tuesday. He also took all the four mobile phones of the family members with himself," the SP pointed out, adding Haryana Police had handed him over to them.

He was produced in a local court in Shamli, which sent him to 14-day judicial custody on Wednesday.

The police added that Himanshu was in dire need of money as he was unable to repay a loan of Rs 5 lakh from a bank, which served him a legal notice in this connection.

# Inner Line Permit in force in Manipur

LEIVON JIMMY  
IMPHAL, JANUARY 1

MANIPUR STARTED issuing Inner Line Permits (ILP) to non-indigenous people entering the state on Wednesday.

The ILP system came into force after the guidelines were officially published in the gazette of Manipur on Tuesday.

As many as six counters have been opened and are operational at Mao, Jiribam, Jessami, Moreh, Behang and Singjowl.

Officials said as many as 62 permits were issued at the counter in Mao, which borders Nagaland. At the counter in Jiribam — bordering Assam's Cachar district — as many as 33 permits were handed out and 330 advance applications were received till 5pm.

The number of visitors may increase with both the counters situated along the National Highway, sources said.

Under the ILP norms, there are four types of permits — Regular, temporary, special category and labour.

The ILP system shall not apply to foreigners, All India Service officers belonging to Manipur, all central government officers and state government officers, employees of central firms and Government undertakings including their families.

Paramilitary forces, armed forces and their families would also be relieved from the purview of the regulation.

# Kerala plans lodging for solo women travellers

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN 1

TWO DAYS after NITI Aayog rated Kerala as the top state in meeting sustainable development goals, the state government on Wednesday announced a slew of schemes, including some aimed at making public places more women-friendly.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told the media that safe, clean and affordable lodging facilities for women travellers would be made ready in all major towns in the state. The project would be undertaken by local self-governing bodies, he said.

He said about 12,000 public toilets would be constructed across Kerala for men and women. Public toilets were found wanting in many cities and hence this would be implemented in this calendar year, he said.

Also, multi-facility wayside rest house complexes would be constructed and steps are being taken to identify land for this purpose, he said.

Vijayan also said the state government will start a youth leadership academy and added that the culture of working while studying would be brought to Kerala. "Students would be ensured opportunities to work part-time. That culture prevailing in foreign (countries) would be shaped up in Kerala too," he said.

As part of rebuilding the flood-hit state, 37 crore saplings would be planted this year, he said.

# IIT-K launches probe into 'anti-Hindu' Faiz poem recital

Kanpur: IIT-Kanpur has formed a committee to inquire into a complaint against the recitation of Faiz Ahmed Faiz's noted poem 'Hum Dekhenge' on campus by students to express solidarity with their peers at Jamia Milia Islamia, the institute's Deputy Director Manindra Agarwal said.

He said a "very peaceful protest" was held on December 17 by about 300 students of the premier institute on its premises.

An IIT-K student sang the poem by Faiz, an eminent poet, against which a complaint was

filed by Dr Vashimant Sharma, a temporary faculty member, and about 16 others, including faculty members and students.

The complaint states that the poem had some words that could hurt the sentiments of Hindus, Agarwal said.

"A committee of six members was established, headed by me, to investigate the matter. Some students have been questioned, while the others will be questioned after they return to the institution after the holidays," the Deputy Director said. **PTI**

# FROM PAGE ONE

## Army chief

and Air Force — are fully ready and will keep our country secure," he said.

"The soldiers of the Army deployed on the border are ready and alert 24x7x52. In the coming days, in the future as well, we will continue preparing to take on the future challenges. Our Army is battle-hardened and, in the future as well, is capable of repelling any danger," he said.

General Naravane took over as Chief of Army Staff Tuesday from General Bipin Rawat who became the country's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in Twitter posts, said: "I am delighted that as we begin the new year and new decade, India gets its first Chief of Defence Staff in General Bipin Rawat. I congratulate him and wish him the very best for this responsibility. He is an outstanding officer who has served India with great zeal."

"As the first CDS takes charge, I pay homage to all those who have served and laid down their lives for our nation. I recall the valiant personnel who fought in Kargil, after which many discussions on reforming our military began, leading to today's historic development."

**Prasad**  
Parliament can form rules for the entire country.

"Legislature of the state may make laws for the whole or any part of the state. Article 245 (clause 2): No law made by Parliament shall be deemed to be invalid on the ground that it would have extra-territorial operation," he said.

Reminding the states of their "Constitutional responsibility", Prasad said: "If they have taken oath on the Constitution, they should respect its provisions. Those state governments may take better legal advises."

Rejecting BJP's criticism against the Kerala assembly's resolution, Vijayan maintained that assemblies have their own privileges.

Reacting to BJP MP G V L Narasimha Rao's move write to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu to initiate breach of parliamentary privileges and contempt proceedings against him over the resolution, Vijayan said in Thiruvananthapuram: "State assemblies have own privileges. Such actions are unheard of anywhere. But we cannot rule out anything in the present circumstance as unprecedented things are happening nowadays in the country."

The assemblies, he said, have their own special protection and that should not be violated. He said Kerala has become the first state to pass a resolution against a law which has been violating the fundamental principles of the Constitution and it has great significance.

While Chief Ministers of non-BJP ruled states like Mamata Banerjee of West Bengal and Congress-ruled states have announced that they would not implement CAA, the CPM-led Left Democratic Front-ruled Kerala was the first to take the legislature route to register its opposition to the law.

# GST mop-up tops Rs 1 lakh crore

April-December, the first nine months of this financial year, now stands at Rs 1,00,928 crore, 4.3 per cent higher than average of Rs 96,782 crore in the same period in 2018-19. State-wise breakup for the monthly gross GST revenue, released for the first time, showed an average growth of 12.7 per cent for the non-special category states.

GST revenue growth in December was derived mainly from domestic transactions, which grew 16 per cent even as revenue from imports contracted. The Integrated GST (IGST) on import of goods declined 10 per cent in December, though the pace of decline improved from 13 per cent last month and 20 per cent decline in October.

Tax experts said with the exception of September and October, GST collections now seem to stabilise over the Rs 1 lakh crore mark, but may fall short of the annual targets. This would require the government to take more measures to sustain and improve GST revenues at the level of Rs 1 lakh-plus crore. Abhishek Jain, Tax Partner, EY said, "It seems that efforts of the government, like restriction on availment of unmatched credits, to plug GST evasion is bearing results."

MS Mani, Partner, Deloitte India, said, "With the trend of improving collections and the e-invoicing and new returns slated in the coming months, it is now expected that the GST collections would show a steady improvement, although

it may still fall short of the annual targets. If the trend of GST collections in excess of Rs 1 lakh crore per month continues for the next few months, it would enable a renewed focus on GST 2.0 without being overly worried on the impact on collections."

Of the total Rs 1,03,184 crore GST revenue, Central GST (CGST) is Rs 19,962 crore, State GST (SGST) is Rs 26,792 crore, Integrated GST (IGST) is 48,099 crore (including Rs 21,295 crore collected on imports) and cess is Rs 8,331 crore (including Rs 847 crore collected on imports).

The government aims to collect approximately Rs 11.89 lakh crore GST revenue on a gross basis in the current financial year, which translates into a monthly target of Rs 99,112

crore. The Centre has estimated Rs 1.09 lakh crore as compensation cess in the Budget for the current financial year, while cess collection till November was Rs 72,859 crore.

The Centre's share in GST has been behind targets, with the Central GST collection during April-November falling short of the budget estimate by nearly 40 per cent, as per data shared in Parliament. In December, the revenue department had reset the targets for both direct tax and GST for remaining part of this financial year. For four months (December-March), GST authorities were asked to collect Rs 4.55 lakh crore (Rs 1.10 lakh crore for three months each and Rs 1.25 lakh crore in one month).

# Rioting FIR has details, gives police clean chit

have been identified. Section 304 (Punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) IPC has been invoked, not Section 302 (murder).

In fact, the Sheroz FIR is just a one-paragraph document registered on the basis of the initial complaint filed by his uncle Mohammed Taslim.

"Sheroz, my nephew who drives a truck, had gone out on work. At Chandausi Chauraha, he was found injured. His body was taken to Haseena Begum Hospital which referred him to the government hospital. He was declared brought dead at the government hospital," the FIR states.

Despite the body being referred to a government hospital, the FIR makes no mention of the doctor who examined Sherzoz; the time of his death and the prima facie reason for the death — routine information in an FIR related to a killing.

The FIR also makes no mention of any public witness or deployment of any police force at Chandausi Chauraha, where

Sheroz was shot at. This despite a huge police deployment at the Chauraha after the district had witnessed a wave of protests on December 19.

Until tonight, no one in Sherzoz's family has received the post mortem report.

Officials admit that the absence of such crucial information in the FIR will only make the prosecution case weak as it would be nearly impossible to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt, the basic requisite to prove that Sherzoz was murdered. Now consider the FIR against protesters.

It mentions all the police officers being deployed at Chaudhary Sarai where the alleged violence and the firing took place.

The FIR gives a detailed account of the identity of each of the accused persons and the time-line of the incident. "At around 11:30 am, at Nagar Palika near Sambhal Maidan, Dr Shafiqur Rahman, Member of Parliament; Feroz Khan, Mushir Khan, Mauzam Khan, Sayyed

Aslam, Asad Abdullah, Dr Nazim along with their supporters were protesting against the Citizen Amendment law. Section 144 CrPc had been imposed at Nagar Palika. However, despite the restriction these people were sloganeering," the FIR reads.

"The protesters caused a (traffic) jam at Chaudhary Sarai, and at around 1:15 pm, they got aggressive, cornered the police and indulged in stone-pelting. They also targeted the government vehicles that were present and indulged in arson attack. There was panic among the civilians and commuters present at the site - and they had to run away to save their lives. The shop owners shut their shops. The Additional Superintendent of Police tried to talk to the protesters and make them understand - however, they did not listen to him; instead they got violent and launched an attack," the FIR states.

The FIR also documents the firing of weapons and number of rounds of firing - and further,

it gives a clean chit those officers, who were involved in the firing. "To control them and on the directions of the Additional Superintendent of Police, our official shot five rounds of bullets from the Anti Riot Gun; constable Praveen shot seven rounds of bullet..to protect the life and public property," the FIR states.

This FIR also gives details of the injured policemen and the damage to public property. "With huge difficulty, the police force at the situation came under control around 1:45 pm. A government bus was set on fire; three roadways buses, Ecosport, Figo...car were vandalised. Sub Inspectors Radheshyam Sharma, Mahesh Kumar, Ravi Goyal suffered injuries," the FIR states.

"The rioting FIR is written in such a way and with such detail that the police have the benefit of reasonable doubt," said an official. "The killing FIR is so vaguely worded that no one knows who the accused is."

SP, Sambhal, Yamuna Prasad, was unavailable for comment.

## EMPHASISING 'NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST' POLICY

# PM extends New Year greetings to neighbouring countries' leaders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Wednesday exchanged New Year greetings with the heads of states of Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Maldives, conveying his wishes and emphasising India's commitment to regional peace, security and 'neighbour-

hood first' policy.

Modi spoke to Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Nepalese Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli. He also spoke to his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering, Sri Lanka Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and Maldivian

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

"The Prime Minister conveyed to the leaders his New Year greetings and good wishes on behalf of the people of India and on his own behalf," the PMO said in a statement. It said Modi emphasised India's commitment to 'neighbourhood first' policy and the vision of shared peace, security, prosperity and progress for all of

India's friends and partners in the region.

In his conversation with Bangladesh PM Hasina, Modi congratulated her on being re-elected as the President of her Awami League party for the next three years. "He also stated that the upcoming birth centenary of Bangabandhu and 50 years of the liberation of Bangladesh and establishment of bilateral diplo-

matic ties provided important milestones to further progress of the close India-Bangladesh ties, which is a priority of his government," the PMO said.

Modi's telephonic conversation with the Bangladesh Prime Minister came nearly three weeks after Dhaka cancelled scheduled visits of Foreign Minister A K Abdul Momen and Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan to

India.

During his conversation with Sri Lanka President Rajapaksa, both the leaders expressed confidence that the two countries would further enhance their friendly ties in the year 2020. Speaking to PM Mahinda Rajapaksa, Modi reiterated India's commitment to further expand the close and extensive cooperation with Sri Lanka.

epaper.indianexpress.com









# INAUGURATION OF NEWLY CONSTRUCTED BUILDING

IN GOVT. GIRLS SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, SHAHBAD DAIRY, DELHI



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- 2 synthetic Basketball Court ready, 2 more being built
- 2 sports Hostel with training Facility, 1 Archery Field and 1 Synthetic Volleyball Ground being built

## INAUGURATION CEREMONY

On Thursday, 2nd January, 2020 at 9:00 am

Chief Guest

**ARVIND KEJRIWAL**  
Chief Minister, Delhi

Guest of Honour

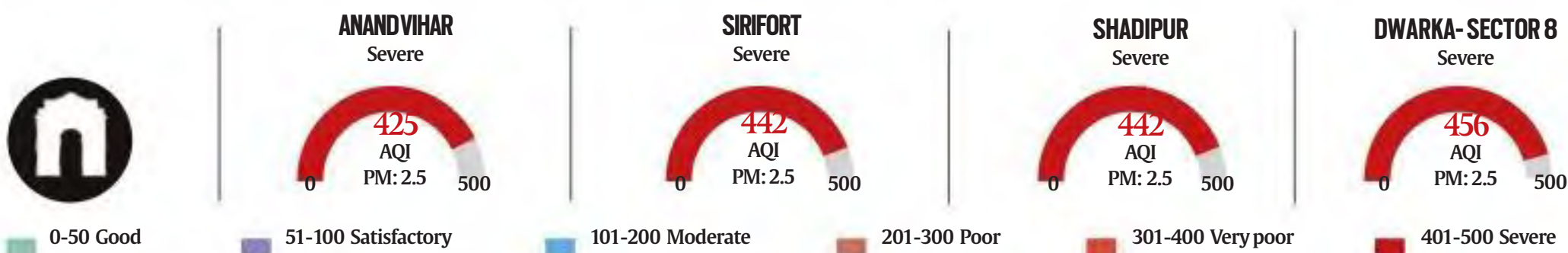
**MANISH SISODIA**  
Dy. Chief Minister, Delhi

In august presence of

**RAM CHANDER**  
MLA, Bawana A.C.







'METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS WERE IDEAL FOR DISPERSION'

# 'NY traffic may have pushed AQI to severe'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

ROAD TRAFFIC congestion in the city on New Year's Eve "most likely" pushed the city's air quality to the 'severe' category Wednesday despite favourable meteorological conditions for dispersion of pollutants.

The city's air quality index (AQI) Wednesday was 437. On Tuesday, after remaining in the 'severe' range for three consecutive days, it had improved to the 'very poor' category at 387.

A report by Centre-run SAFAR air quality and weather monitoring agency said, "An additional source of emission in all likelihood increased emissions on New Year's Eve from 8 pm onwards and peaking between midnight and 1 am. This led to sudden deterioration of AQI."

A Ministry of Earth Science official said the additional source was most likely high vehicular emissions resulting from traffic congestion in the city at several places on New Year's Eve: "Emissions are higher when vehicle engines are running but remain static at one place."

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the concentration of PM 2.5 and PM 10, fine particles suspended in the air, which was decreasing

THE WEEK AHEAD		
	Min	Max
Jan 2	6.0	19.0
Jan 3	7.0	19.0
Jan 4	7.0	18.0
Jan 5	7.0	16.0
Jan 6	7.0	16.0
Jan 7	7.0	16.0

(Temp in °C)

since December 30, suddenly spiked in Delhi-NCR after 6 pm Tuesday.

Rising in concentration since, PM 2.5 peaked at 331 µg/m3, above the emergency levels of 300, and PM 10 peaked at 447 µg/m3, just below emergency levels of 500, both at 11am Wednesday.

This deterioration to the 'severe' air quality was recorded on a day when the city recorded a rise in day time temperatures, high wind speed and more sunlight hours as compared to the last few days, all of which, experts say, help in dispersion of pollutants.

The maximum temperature in the city Wednesday was 20.5 degrees Celsius, one degree above normal, and the minimum temperature was 2.4 degrees Celsius, five degrees below normal. Easterly winds of around 10kmph were blowing

in the city, an IMD official said.

Wednesday's temperature brought some relief to the chilly conditions in the city after 18 consecutive 'cold' to 'severe' cold days. On December 30, the maximum temperature had dropped to 9.4 degrees Celsius, recording its coldest day in 119 years.

Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist at the IMD, said, "The temperatures have risen because the thick layer of cloud that had persisted over the city for several days was removed by strong winds Tuesday. The city received plenty of sunlight, which helped in increasing day time temperature."

The lowest minimum and maximum temperature recorded in Delhi Wednesday was 0.9 degrees and 16.9 degrees Celsius at Mungeshpur. Srivastava said this was an effect of the receding cloud cover, and minimum temperature in January is expected to remain between 4 and 5 degrees Celsius and the maximum about 18 degrees Celsius.

The IMD has forecast that the temperature Thursday would be around 19 degrees Celsius maximum and around 6 degrees Celsius minimum. There's also a possibility of very light rain or drizzle during the day in Delhi-NCR under the influence of a Western Disturbance, the IMD forecast said.



At India Gate, on the first day of the new year. Praveen Khanna

## New Year celebrations hit traffic, massive snarls at CP & India Gate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

MASSIVE TRAFFIC snarls were witnessed in Delhi Wednesday as a number of people headed to India Gate and Connaught Place for New Year celebrations.

To clear the roads, traffic was diverted along other routes and entry and exit gates of five Delhi Metro stations were closed to ease rush of passengers.

According to police, while there was traffic chaos in Lutyens' Delhi last New Year as well, they did not anticipate the fallout this year.

Special CP (Traffic) Taj Hasan said around 70,000 people arrived at India Gate, leading to a massive traffic snarl.

"Necessary traffic diversions were made to control the congestion. Traffic was not completely stalled, but there was slow movement of vehicles. With necessary traffic diversions, congestion was brought under control," he said.

Commuters were stuck in traffic snarls on roads leading to India Gate, Connaught Place and ITO. Around 500 traffic policemen were deployed in New Delhi district to handle the rush.

Delhi Traffic Police also updated commuters about the situation via its official Twitter handle.

To celebrate New Year, Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik had called officers for a



The India Gate area saw massive traffic snarls. Praveen Khanna

get-together at the new Police Headquarters on Jai Singh Road. Several officers were stuck in traffic jams and arrived late. Many had to park their cars elsewhere and walk to the PHQ.

Police said traffic was heavy around India Gate and C-Hexagon.

"We made arrangements by deploying police personnel but did not expect the huge number in Lutyens' Delhi," a senior police officer said.

A statement by the DMRC said: "As advised by police authorities, entry and exit at five stations — Central Secretariat, Udyog Bhawan, Mandi House, Pragati Maidan, Khan Market — have been closed temporarily from 6.05 pm onwards till further instructions. This is necessitated in view of crowd which is witnessed around these areas."

## Dip in drink driving cases this year: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

AS THE capital rung in the new year, Delhi Police recorded a dip in cases of drink driving on the night of December 31 and January 1. As per data shared by the police, 352 challans for drink driving were issued across Delhi this time.

The same time around last year, at least 509 challans for drink driving were registered by police. The number was even higher in 2018, when 765 people were challaned for the offence.

A senior police officer said that this reduction in numbers is due to the Motor Vehicles Amendment (MVA) Act, which came into force on September 1, 2019. "The increase in fine is a deterrent. Also, since there is no notification of the Act in place yet, all challans go to the court. People want to avoid that," said the officer. As per the amended Act, drink driving can attract imprisonment up to six months and/or fine up to Rs 10,000 for first offence.

Anil Mittal, Delhi Police Additional PRO, said, "Apart from the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, a lot of awareness about drink driving was imparted by

NEW YEAR FINES	
2018:	765 challans
2019:	509 challans
2020:	352 challans

the police, which seems to have had an impact on people."

At least 3,500 traffic personnel were deployed along with police personnel, and 20 extra companies of additional force and four companies of CAPF were posted across the city on December 31 to early January 1 morning.

In districts such as South and South West, where busy party hubs such as Aurobindo Marg and Hauz Khas Village fall, special arrangements were made by the Delhi Police. DCP (South) Atul Kumar Thakur said, "Apart from pickets, we had special squads for women safety. Male and female police personnel in plain clothes did the rounds of Hauz Khas Village and Aurobindo Marg to ensure all was well. Apart from this, if anyone was spotted too inebriated to return home on their own, they were safely put in autos and cabs by police personnel."

## Despite intense cold wave, December AQI better than 2018

# HOW THE YEARS STACK UP

## AVERAGE AQI IN DECEMBER

2019:	<div></div> 337.29
2018:	<div></div> 360.22
2017:	<div></div> 316.35

## PEAK AQI IN DECEMBER

2019:	<div></div> 446 (severe)
2018:	<div></div> 450 (severe)
2017:	<div></div> 469 (severe)

## A COMPARISON

Year	Severe days	Poor days	Moderate days
2019	8 <div></div>	7 <div></div>	3 <div></div>
2018	8 <div></div>	4 <div></div>	1 <div></div>
2017	1 <div></div>	9 <div></div>	2 <div></div>

SHIVAM PATEL  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

DESPITE A record dip in mercury in the past month, the city's air quality index (AQI) was comparatively better than the previous December. While there were eight 'severe' air quality days last month, same as 2018, the average AQI was 337 in 2019. This was lower than the average AQI of 360 recorded in December 2018, but higher than the 316 recorded in December 2017, which had only one 'severe' day.

Data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), analysed by *The Indian Express*, shows there were also higher number of 'moderate' and 'poor' air quality days in December 2019 compared to the December before that.

A senior CPCB official said, "We have had extreme weather in December 2019. If the air quality has improved since the previous year, it's the result of action by agencies to control pollution."

On December 30, the city recorded its second coldest December and the coldest day in 119 years. Usually, with cold temperatures and low wind speed,

the vertical height in which pollutants are suspended comes down, as a result of which their concentration increases closer to the surface. Due to this, air quality starts to deteriorate in winter.

Kuldeep Srivastava, a scientist at IMD, said even though maximum temperatures dipped to a record low this December, the minimum temperatures were more or less normal. "Wind speed too was high for the most part in December, compared to last year. Because of this, dense fog episodes were few," he said.

The average maximum temperature recorded in December 2019 was 18.76 degrees Celsius, significantly lower than 28.5 degrees Celsius recorded the previous December, and 27.9 degrees Celsius the year before that.

In December 2017, Srivastava said the impact of strong easterly winds was reflected in the air quality as it kept pushing out pollutants. The CPCB official said the main contributors in December were confined to regional emissions from waste and biomass burning, vehicular industrial emissions, and construction activities.

## Now, get free WiFi on Airport Metro line

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

STARTING THURSDAY, passengers travelling in the Airport Metro line will be able to use free WiFi services.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) will launch the service, the first on any of its trains, Thursday.

The airport line, which is around 23 kilometres long and is the fastest of all the Metro lines in Delhi, originates at New Delhi Metro station and goes up to Dwarka Sector 21 and passes through Terminal 3.

Free WiFi facility already exists at stations along the Blue Line (Dwarka Sec-21 to Noida City Centre/Vaishali) and was inaugurated on August 2017.

"The facility of providing WiFi access inside the train is perhaps the first in regular public transport in the country. We are looking at extending it to all trains eventually," a senior Metro official said.

Meanwhile, DMRC also assigned the first civil contract for the Tughlakabad-Aerocity line under Phase-IV. Under the contract, a viaduct from Sangam Vihar to Saket-G station will be built. The viaduct will be twice the normal height and will include the metro line as well as an elevated six-lane flyover from Sangam Vihar to Ambedkar Nagar.

An underpass will also come up at Saket-G. After construction of this stretch, the Mehrauli Badarpur Road will become signal-free from Sangam Vihar to Saket, a DMRC official said.

This corridor spans 20.20 km and will have 15 stations.



## SEVEN WHITE TIGERS NOW AT ZOO

# Delhi Zoo gets a new occupant from Lucknow — a 3-yr-old white tiger

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

A WHITE tiger was added to the National Zoological Park's collection Wednesday as the Delhi Zoo prepares to acquire more animals this year, including chimpanzees, giraffes and ostriches.

Vijay, a three-year-old tiger, described as "huge and aggressive", came to the zoo from Lucknow in July in exchange of a female tiger named Geeta.

Zoo director Dr Suneesh

Buxy said, "The tiger was kept in observation once it arrived as we were studying its reaction when introduced to other tigers. It is huge, around 9-ft tall, and also aggressive."

Vijay was released in the tiger enclosure Wednesday afternoon. With this addition, the Delhi Zoo has seven white tigers, three female and four male, as well as two yellow-striped male Royal Bengal tigers.

A zoo official said they were trying to acquire a female yellow-striped Royal Bengal tiger

since it would help in their conservation efforts.

Among other animals and birds the zoo is planning to acquire this year are a pair of chimpanzees, giraffes and ostriches.

The ostriches are expected to arrive from Chandigarh Zoo after the winter, an official said, adding that they are trying to get the chimpanzees this year itself.

"We have written to zoos in Malaysia, Jakarta and other places for the chimpanzees. We also wrote to international zoos, including those in Singapore and

the Netherlands, for the giraffes," a zoo official said.

The last surviving chimpanzee in the zoo, 59-year-old Rita, who was India's oldest chimpanzee, died in October 2019 due to multiple organ failure. The zoo has not been home to a giraffe since June 2015, when its last surviving giraffe, Ankita, died after suffering a heart attack

Vijay came to the zoo in July in exchange of a female tiger named Geeta. Express

and kidney failure.

To keep the animals warm this winter, zoo authorities have made arrangements such as placing paddy straws and turning on heaters inside animal enclosures. Weather-appropriate changes are also being made in their diet.

This would be a second white tiger named Vijay in the Delhi zoo. Another white tiger named Vijay, who is also still in the zoo, had mauled a 22-year-old man to death in 2014 after he had entered its enclosure.

## BRIEFLY

### Challaned, man sets his bike on fire

New Delhi: A 20-year-old man allegedly set his motorcycle on fire after he was challaned by traffic police personnel near Savitri cinema in South Delhi, late Wednesday afternoon. "He's been identified as Vikas Kumar, a resident of Sangam Vihar. He was challaned by traffic police at Savitri, and his vehicle was impounded after which he set it on fire. A case has been registered and the accused has been arrested," said DCP (South) Atul Kumar Thakur. A police officer said that Kumar wasn't wearing a helmet and didn't have the licence or insurance papers.

### Delhi Police holds event at new PHQ

New Delhi: The Delhi Police held its first event of the year at their new headquarters at Jai Singh Road, where Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik motivated his staff to follow the principles of India's first home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Patnaik lauded his ground staff for maintaining law and order and regulating traffic, which he said forms the overall image of Delhi Police. The new auditorium has been named after Sardar Patel.

### Bus conductor dead in accident

New Delhi: A Rajasthan Roadways bus overturned near Hyatt Regency hotel in South West Delhi early Wednesday. Vijay Singh (25), the conductor of the bus who hailed from Jaipur, was declared dead on arrival at AIIMS Trauma Centre. A police officer said, "The driver is absconding and a case of death due to rash driving has been registered. We presume that the driver must have dozed off while driving. We believe there were two-three passengers as well, but no one has come forward yet." The Jaipur-Delhi bus was on its way from Dhaula Kuan to Sarai Kale Khan.

### Control room at Nirman Bhawan

New Delhi: The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) director general Prabhakar Singh inaugurated the organisation's Central Command and Control Room and Media Centre at Nirman Bhawan Wednesday. "With the opening of the Central Command and Control Room, all critical operations of the department shall be monitored on real time basis on the dashboard," he said. ENS



Law varsity to probe professor’s ‘misconduct’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

THE NATIONAL Law University Delhi (NLUD) has decided to hold a disciplinary inquiry against a professor for alleged “misconduct”, including making “wild allegations against the university” on social media.

On May 14, Vice-Chancellor Ranbir Singh had written to the Chancellor about Professor JS Mann’s alleged misconduct.

“Besides the actions constituting ‘misconduct’ and ‘unbecoming of an officer of the university’... he is still using social media and making wild allegations against the authorities in the university without any substance,” he wrote, adding that a complaint against Mann had also been received from a research associate for “stalking and harassment through social media posts”.

The minutes of meeting of the Executive Council (EC) on December 18 stated: “Looking at the documentary evidences on record, an order of suspension and inquiry into the misconduct of Dr Mann was issued on May 15, 2019, by the Chancellor.”

“The EC has unanimously resolved that a departmental disciplinary inquiry, preferably by a retired HC judge under the relevant rules, should be immediately undertaken by the university,” the minutes stated.

V-C Ranbir Singh said the allegations made by Mann pertained to the NLUD registrar. “He has been writing some things about him on Facebook. We have ordered an inquiry but he hasn’t been suspended,” he said.

Mann said he was being targeted for being vocal about “corruption” and malpractices in the university.

“A PIL has been filed in the Delhi HC asking for the registrar’s removal due to nepotism and abuse of public office. He thinks I am responsible for the petition, which is why I am being targeted,” he said.

(WITH PTI INPUTS)

# ANTI-CAA PROTESTS, VIOLENCE

## BJP blames AAP and Cong, both hit back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

HOLDING BOTH the AAP and the Congress responsible for recent protests in the capital against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), some of which took a violent turn, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar Wednesday said the upcoming Assembly polls are a contest of “nationalism versus anarchy” and “truth versus falsehood”.

Hitting back at the allegations, Delhi’s Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the BJP was trying to divert people’s attention from real issues by making false statements. Delhi Congress chief spokesperson Mukesh Sharma called Javadekar’s charges “baseless” and a “drama” ahead of the polls.

Speaking at a press conference, Javadekar said: “This is the fight between falsehood and truth. The BJP stands by truth and nationalism whereas AAP stands



Polls a fight between anarchy and nationalism, says Javadekar

by falsehood and anarchism.”

Sisodia hit back: “AAP completely opposes riots and we all know which party indulges in it. The masters of riots are accusing others and trying to distract attention of people from real issues.”

Highlighting the party’s agenda for the polls, Javadekar said the BJP will focus on “complete development” of Delhi and on issues that have been neglected by AAP: “The BJP government at the Centre has provided property ownership rights to 40 lakh residents in unauthorised colonies; freehold rights to 10 lakh shopkeepers; relaxed household industry norms; and houses in slums. We will contest elections with a positive agenda.”

He also accused leaders of

both AAP and Congress of “misleading” people and “inciting” them to turn violent during protests against CAA in the city.

He alleged AAP MLAs Amanatullah Khan and Ishraq Khan and former Congress MLAs Asim Khan and Mateen Ahmad had a role to play in misleading members of the minority community in Jamia, Seelampur and Jama Masjid areas.

“They spread rumours that after the CAA, *azan* in masjids will be stopped, loudspeakers in mosques will be removed and wearing *burqas* and caps will be banned. Due to this false propaganda among minorities, violence spread in Delhi,” he alleged.

Sisodia said Javadekar was playing an old tune in view of the Assembly polls: “It is an old tape that the BJP has played earlier as well; it’s playing the same old tape through a new tape recorder. Javadekar should understand that Delhi polls would not be fought on old tapes but on real issues like education.”

# Actors to comedians, poets to students: World’s a stage at Jamia

SOMYA LAKHANI  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

On stage, there were actors Swara Bhaskar and Mohd. Zeeshan Ayyub, comedian Sanjay Rajoura and poet Gauhar Raza; and off stage, there was 35-year-old Nargis from Batla House, her sister-in-law, nieces, and neighbours. Amongst the adults sat five-year-old Aaliya, Nargis’ daughter, with a toothy smile. If anyone asked why she was in a gathering of several hundreds on a cold afternoon, she said it was for “Azaadi”.

They, along with hundreds of students and locals from Zakir Nagar, Shaheen Bagh and Batla House, had gathered at Jamia Millia Islamia’s gate number 7 on the afternoon of January 1 for the ‘Artists in Solidarity with Jamia’ protest.

Rajoura came on stage and evoked ‘Kisi ke baap ka Hindostan thodi hai’ from poet Rahat Indori’s 30-year-old ghazal. He said, “They are trying to scare away students with abuses and lathi-charge, but students are never afraid. *Inn he pata nahi hai inhone kinn se panga liya hai.*”

Bhaskar, known best for her work in Anaarkali of Aarah and Tanu Weds Manu, recited poet-lyricist Varun Grover’s viral poem ‘Hum Kaagaz Nahi Dikhayenge’, as many joined in chorus. “*Woh lathi charge cha-*



At the ‘Artists in Solidarity with Jamia’ protest, Wednesday. Amit Mehra

*layenge, hum kagaz nahi dikhayenge, woh metro band kar jaayenge, hum paidal chal ke aayenge, hum kaagaz nahi dikhayenge,*” she said.

Just a few metres away, students sat on the pavement and painted slogans on chart papers. The boundary walls on either side of the road had photos of B R Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi, and posters that read, “Say no to Islamophobia,” “Say no to Bigotry,” “Save India, Save Democracy,” among others.

As the protest ended a little before 5 pm, Nargis said, “This is a fight for the present and for the future, for me and my daughter Aaliya. I came here regularly for

a few days at first, but then got busy with household work. I wanted to be here for the right issue on the first day of the year.”

Also at the protest, with two toddlers in tow, was another woman from Shaheen Bagh. “During the day I come to Jamia with my children to protest, and at night I sit with the hundreds of women at Shaheen Bagh. It’s my way of fighting the new Citizenship law. Also, what will you do with my name? We are all saying the same thing and I represent a common citizen of India,” she said.

A night ago at the Shaheen Bagh protest, as a new year was rung in with slogans, poems,

songs and chants of Azaadi, hundreds from across the capital found their way to the spot where women have been protesting day and night for over two weeks now.

The new year was ushered in with the National Anthem, followed by chants of “Inquilab Zindabad” under the bright light of hundreds of mobile phones that waved in the chilly air.

Actor Zeeshan, who was present at the Shaheen Bagh protest till early Wednesday morning, said, “*Yeh desh aise hi bana rahe, Samvidhan hi yaha raaj kare aur hum logo ko mil jul ke rehna hai. Naya Saal مبارک.*”

# Centre increased CBSE exam fee on purpose, says Sisodia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

DEPUTY CHIEF Minister Manish Sisodia accused the BJP-led Union government of “increasing the CBSE exam fee deliberately”, after the AAP-led Delhi government announced they will foot the exam fee of every Delhi government school student.

At a press conference Wednesday, Sisodia said: “For the first time in the history of Delhi government schools, more than 1,000 students secured more than 90% in their class XII board exams. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal felicitated these students along with their parents on June 22,

2019. On that day, responding to a request by one of the students of class XII, the CM announced the Delhi government will pay full CBSE examination fee of all its class X and XII government school students. This fee was Rs 450 for general category students and Rs 125 for SC/ST students.”

“This announcement would have benefitted around 3.5–3.75 lakh students. I have been informed that after this announcement, BJP leaders realised that this would bring them major loss. The earlier fee of Rs 450 was raised to Rs 1,950 for students of general category and Rs 1,650 for SC/ST category,” he said. This would be CBSE’s first hike in five years. “While the Delhi govern-

ment is committed to bear the full fee for government school students, this move has imposed a financial burden on private school students. These families are not going to forgive BJP,” Sisodia said.

CBSE officials, meanwhile, said that the decision to hike fee had nothing to do with Delhi government’s announcement. “The Board had not increased its fee in five years and was suffering financially. That is the reason fee was increased. This was also communicated to Delhi government officials at the time the decision was made, which was in August. It is surprising that the Delhi government has brought up this issue four months after the decisions were finalised,” said an official.

# Mass pledge at India Gate: ‘Kaagaz nahi dikhayenge’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

BEGINNING THE New Year with a pledge to oppose the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC), scores of protesters took a mass pledge at India Gate Wednesday to not show any documents to prove their citizenship.

With placards in hands, rais-

ing the slogan ‘*kaagaz nahi dikhayenge*’, the crowd pledged to defend the Constitution.

After reading the Preamble to the Constitution, the protesters pledged: “We, today on 1st January 2020, reiterate our resolve to give ourselves a society free of oppressors and take oath to not show any document to prove our citizenship. We will observe and propagate complete non-cooperation with anti-constitutional and anti-India forces.”

# JNU to continue with registration boycott

New Delhi: After boycotting day one of registration for the new semester, that began Wednesday, the JNU Students’ Union has decided to boycott the process on all five days.

Registration for the winter semester has been opened from January 1 to 5. Students have said they will “lock down” offices of the Mess Manager and Cashier.

The boycott has been called due to two circulars from the

administration — one that said hiked room rent would be levied from students during registration, while remaining mum on service and utility charges, and the other that said students who haven’t completed their “academic requirements” would be given provisional registration if they give assignments by January 20.

Registrar Pramod Kumar could not be reached for a comment. **ENS**

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## Tilak Nagar gets 100-bed hospital

New Delhi: Union Minister of Health Harsh Vardhan Wednesday inaugurated the ground and first floors of 100-bed Tilak Nagar Colony Hospital. During the inauguration, he said: “We are moving towards setting up state-of-the-art health facilities with best equipment, techniques and buildings.” He said the hospital will provide better medical facilities, adding that it will cater to a population of 5 lakh around Tilak Nagar. **ENS**



दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, चित्रकूट, अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य को कराये जाने हेतु ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत जानकारी एवं नियम व शर्तें उ.प्र. शासन की आधिकारिक ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है:-

1. ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण संख्या- 58/ SE/ EDDCkt/ 2019-20: कार्य: विद्युत वितरण खण्ड, चित्रकूट के अन्तर्गत कवीं प्रथम, खोही, खोही से रिहटिया, फीडर तक 11 केवी एल.टी. लाइन के अनुरक्षण/ मरम्मत के कार्य।

2. ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण संख्या- 59/ SE/ EDDCkt/ 2019-20: कार्य: विद्युत वितरण खण्ड, चित्रकूट के अन्तर्गत परिक्रमा पथ से खोही, हजारी जोडा से खोही, भरतकूप चौराहा से गोण्डा मोड तक 11 केवी फीडरों के एच.टी./ एल.टी. लाइनों के अनुरक्षण/ मरम्मत के कार्य।

3. ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण संख्या- 60/ SE/ EDDCkt/ 2019-20: कार्य: विद्युत वितरण खण्ड, चित्रकूट के अन्तर्गत बेडी पुलिया से शिवरामपुर, बेडी पुलिया से कपसेटी, सीतापुर ग्रामीण, तक 11 केवी फीडरों के एच.टी./ एल.टी. लाइनों के अनुरक्षण/ मरम्मत के कार्य।

4. ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण संख्या- 61/ SE/ EDDCkt/ 2019-20: कार्य: विद्युत वितरण खण्ड, चित्रकूट के अन्तर्गत आर.ए.पी.डी.आर.पी. टाउन, भरतकूप मंदिर फीडर, मालिन टंकी से ऐचवारा तक 11 केवी फीडरों के एच.टी./ एल.टी. लाइनों के अनुरक्षण/ मरम्मत के कार्य।

5. ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण संख्या- 62/ SE/ EDDCkt/ 2019-20: कार्य: विद्युत वितरण खण्ड, चित्रकूट के अन्तर्गत भरतकूप मंदिर फीडर, मडफा से हरिहर एवं मुकुन्दपुर एवं खोही से नरमपुर तक 11 केवी फीडरों के एच.टी./ एल.टी. लाइनों के अनुरक्षण/ मरम्मत के कार्य।

हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल चित्रकूट, पत्रांक 1251/ वि.वि.मं.चि./ निविदा प्रकाशन/ 2019-20, दिनांक 30.12.2019



दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, चित्रकूट अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य को कराये जाने हेतु ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत जानकारी एवं नियम व शर्तें उ.प्र. शासन की आधिकारिक ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है:-

1. ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण संख्या- 53/ SE/ EDDCkt/ 2019-20: कार्य: विद्युत वितरण खण्ड चित्रकूट/ राजापुर में विद्युत आपूर्ति सुचारू रखने हेतु 11 केवी. एक्स.एल.पी. केबिल बॉक्स की आपूर्ति।

2. ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण संख्या- 54/ SE/ EDDCkt/ 2019-20: कार्य: विद्युत वितरण मण्डल चित्रकूट के अंतर्गत विभिन्न 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकरणों पर स्थापित पावर परिवर्तकों (05 एम.वी.ए./ 10 एम.वी.ए.) की स्थलीय अनुरक्षण एवं आवश्यक मरम्मत करने का कार्य।

3. ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण संख्या- 55/ SE/ EDDCkt/ 2019-20: कार्य: विद्युत वितरण मण्डल-चित्रकूट के अंतर्गत विभिन्न स्थलों पर स्थापित वितरण परिवर्तक (100/ 250/ 400/ 630 केवी.) की स्थलीय अनुरक्षण एवं आवश्यक मरम्मत का कार्य।

4. ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण संख्या- 56/ SE/ EDDCkt/ 2019-20: कार्य: विद्युत वितरण खण्ड चित्रकूट में राजस्व वसूली हेतु 01 अदद मोबाइल वैन 03 माह हेतु उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य।

हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल चित्रकूट पत्रांक- 1252/वि.वि.मं.चि./ निविदा प्रकाशन/ 2019-20 दिनांक- 30.12.2019

## 32-year-old man dead in hit-and-run in Manesar

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE GURGAON, JANUARY 1

A 32-YEAR-OLD man travelling to Delhi with his father, wife and another relative, died Wednesday morning after their vehicle was hit by a speeding truck, causing it to hit a divider and turn turtle.

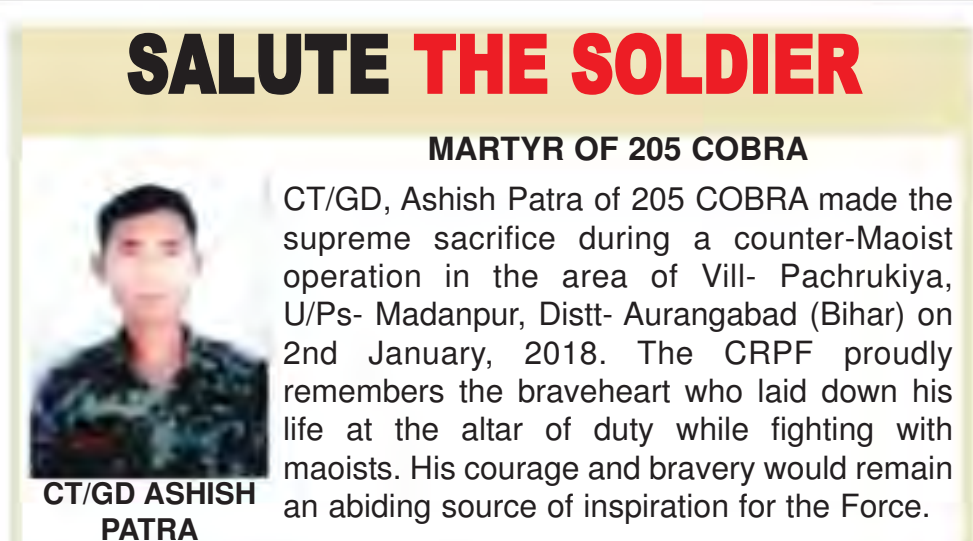
The driver of the truck managed to flee the spot in his vehicle and is on the run.

According to police, the incident took place around 4.30 am near the Manesar bus stand. The victim has been identified as Saleem, a businessman from Jaipur. He was travelling to Delhi with his family for some work.

“The complaint in the case has been submitted by his father, who said a speeding truck hit them from the side, causing their vehi-

cle to hit a divider and turn turtle, coming to a stop in the middle of the Delhi-Jaipur road. The complainant was driving the vehicle, while his son and daughter-in-law were seated behind. The other relative was sitting next to him,” said Subhash Boken, PRO of Gurgaon Police.

Saleem, police said, died on the spot, while the others escaped with minor injuries. A passerby alerted police about the accident. An FIR regarding the matter has been registered under IPC sections 279 (rash driving) and 304A (death by negligence) at the Manesar police station. “Nobody at the spot was able to take down the number of the truck. We have registered a case and are conducting investigations to identify and nab the driver,” said Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Manoj, the Investigating Officer of the case.



**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**

**MARTYR OF 205 COBRA**

CT/GD, Ashish Patra of 205 COBRA made the supreme sacrifice during a counter-Maoist operation in the area of Vill- Pachrukiya, U/Ps- Madanpur, Distt- Aurangabad (Bihar) on 2nd January, 2018. The CRPF proudly remembers the braveheart who laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with Maoists. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the Force.

**IG & All Ranks of COBRA**

In fond memory of Martyr Corporal Gursevek Singh Shaurya Chakra (Posthumous) who made the supreme sacrifice while fighting terrorists in Air Force Station Pathankot, Punjab on 02 Jan 2016 in the highest traditions of Indian Air Force. You stand as an epitome of the indomitable GARUD spirit which will constantly guide the generations to come.

**PUNJAB HERITAGE AND TOURISM PROMOTION BOARD**

**PLOT No. 3 SECTOR-38A, CHANDIGARH +91. 172-5042951, 5042969, phtpbengg@gmail.com**

**Expression of Interest**

PHTPB intends to develop a Convention Centre & associated Infrastructure on the land available at ‘Pincassia Tourist Complex, Ropar’ site under Ministry of tourism, Govt. of India Scheme for assistance to Central Agencies for tourism Infrastructure Development through a Central Public Sector Undertaking.

Interested Central Public Sector Undertakings may submit their proposal by post or through email containing detailed terms and conditions by 15.01.2020.

**Sd/- Chief Executive Officer**

D-8134/Pb



**NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E&M)-NDMC**

**LUCKNOW ROAD, TIMARPUR, DELHI-110054**

**DUAL BID NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**NIT No. 21/MW(E&M)/2019-20/TC Dated : 31.12.2019**

Pre-Bid Meeting : 03.01.2020, 16:00

Issue of Tender Document From : 31.12.2019, 17:00

Issue of Tender Document To : 09.01.2020, 15:00

Tender Closing of Bid : 09.01.2020, 15:01

Technical Bid opening : 09.01.2020, 15:15

Financial Bid opening (Tentative) : 10.01.2020, 11:00

Online Item rate e-Tenders in dual bid open category invitation. Tender document can only be downloaded online from [www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER](http://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER) and not available manually. The interested agencies/firms which are not registered in online tendering with North DMC shall have to register itself first and then only they can participate in the bids. The registration procedure, terms & conditions and other details is available at <http://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER> or [http://mcdonline.gov.in/tri/ndmc\\_mcdportal](http://mcdonline.gov.in/tri/ndmc_mcdportal) For more details please contact IT Department, 24th Floor, Dr. S.P.M. Marg Civic Centre, Corrigendum/addendum, if any would be hosted only on website.

**Name of Work:** Request for proposal for Empanelment of agencies for hiring of Heavy Earth Moving Machines (HEM) under North DMC.; **Earnest Money:** ₹10,000/-, **Tender Cost:** ₹1,000/-, **Time of Completion:** 02 years, **Rates holds good for:** 06 Months, **Online Tender No.:** 21.1

The pre-bid meeting shall be held in the office of Chief Engineer (E&M)/NDMC, 8th Floor, Dr. S.P.M. Civic Centre, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, New Delhi-110002 as per schedule mentioned above.

**R.O. No. 205/DPI/North/2019-20 Ex. Engineer (E&M)**



**पश्चिमांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि०, विकटोरिया पार्क, मेरठ**

**अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना**

निम्नलिखित निविदाओं के द्वारा निम्नवर्णित कार्य को बाह्य एजेंसी के माध्यम से कराने हेतु अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा/ निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:-

**अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सं०-05/वि०कार्यशाला ख०/मेरठ/कार्य/2019-20** {निविदा मूल्य-रु० 1180.00 (18% जी.एस.टी. सहित (अप्रतिदेय)}। अनुमानित लागत-रु० 1.85 लाख, धरोहर राशि रु० 2,000.00}। विद्युत कार्यशाला खण्ड, मेरठ के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न विद्युत कार्यशालाओं पर उपलब्ध खाली फायर फाइटिंग सिलेण्डरों में गैस रिफिलिंग एवं पेंटिंग इत्यादि का कार्य।

**अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सं०-06/वि०कार्यशाला ख०/मेरठ/कार्य/2019-20** {निविदा मूल्य-रु० 1180.00 (18% जी.एस.टी. सहित (अप्रतिदेय)}। अनुमानित लागत-रु० 4.88 लाख, धरोहर राशि रु० 5000.00}। Providing & Fixing of fire Fighting Equipment at CTR Baraut & Mawana Adda Meerut under EWD Meerut.

ई-निविदा खुलने की दिनांक :-16.01.2020

प्रतिभागी फर्मों द्वारा अपने चालू बैंक खाते से ई-निविदा हेतु वांछित धरोहर राशि एवं ई-निविदा शुल्क (18% जी.एस.टी. सहित) (अप्रतिदेय), आर.टी.जी. एस./एन.ई.एफ.टी. के माध्यम से अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत कार्यशाला खण्ड, मेरठ के नाम से सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ इण्डिया की जेल यूनि, मेरठ स्थित बैंक शाखा में संचालित चालू बैंक खाता सं० 1403900519 (IFSC Code CBIN0282337) में जमा कराया जायेगा। आई.एम.पी.एस द्वारा जमा कराई निविदा शुल्क व धरोहर राशि मान्य नही होगी तथा यह धनराशि जब कर ली जायेगी। निविदा भाग-1 (निविदा राशि एवं धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र), निविदा भाग-2 (ग्राइजबिड) निविदा खुलने की तिथि को 14:00 बजे तक ई-टेंडरिंग वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर अपलोड की जायेगी। ई-निविदा भाग-प्रथम, उसी दिनांक में 16:30 बजे के बाद ऑनलाईन खोला जायेगा। कृपया वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर विस्तार में सभी जानकारी, विवरण/डाउनलोड तथा अन्य किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन/विस्तार के लिये निविदा खुलने से पहले तक लॉग इन करें। निविदा प्रपत्र खोलने वाले दिवस को अवकाश होता है तो उक्त कार्य के लिए अगला कार्य दिवस माना जायेगा। अधोहस्ताक्षरी किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकार/अस्वीकार या समस्त निविदाओं को या उसके किसी भाग को और अपूर्ण निविदाओं को निरस्त करने का अधिकार बिना कारण बताये सुरक्षित रखते हैं। विद्युत सम्बन्धी शिकायतों की सूचना “1912” पर दें। Remark: [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in)

**पत्रांक 04 दिनांक 01.01.2020**

**राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये**

अधिशासी अभियन्ता विद्युत कार्यशाला खण्ड, पं०नि०वि०नि०लि० मेरठ

## MATHURA: SON FOUND ALIVE; COPS SUSPECT MURDER-SUICIDE

# Businessman, wife, daughter found dead inside SUV with bullet wounds

AMIL BHATNAGAR MATHURA, JANUARY 1

A BUSINESSMAN, his wife and daughter were found dead in an SUV early Wednesday morning in Mathura. According to police, Neeraj Agarwal (40) allegedly shot his wife Neha Agarwal (36) and two children, a girl aged six and a boy aged 10, before shooting himself. No suicide note has been recovered, said police.

While the couple and their daughter were declared dead on arrival at the hospital, their son has been referred to Delhi's Apollo Hospital for further treatment and is under observation. Their families, however, have alleged foul play and filed an FIR under IPC Section 302 (murder) at the Janna Paar police station in Mathura.

Ashok Kumar Meena, SP City Mathura, said: “We received information from a patrol vehicle about four bodies being found in a white SUV, close to the Vrindavan turning near the Yamuna Expressway. They broke open a window and found that the boy was still alive. The others in the car, including a minor, had died due to bullet wounds. Prima facie it appeared that



Neeraj, his wife Neha; the SUV they were found dead in



Neeraj shot his family members before killing himself. But we have received an FIR for possible murder, which will be investigated.”

Neeraj hailed from Jagannath Puri in Mathura and ran a bullion trading company in the city. According to his family, Neeraj, along with his wife and children, had been living in Delhi's Mayur Vihar for the last six months. Police said Neeraj shifted to capital because of work pressure, and was looking after his business from here.

He and his family visited his in-laws in Mathura on Tuesday evening. Around 10 pm, Neeraj said they had to

leave for Delhi as there was a function at his daughter's school. They stopped for dinner at a restaurant close to Expressway, said a family member. Six hours later, their bodies were found in the car which was parked in a service lane close to Expressway.

Initially, police could not spot the bodies as the windows were fogged. When a policeman peered through a crack, he found three people covered in blood while the boy was still breathing. Police suspect the bullet went through him. “There is something odd about the whole scenario; the way they have been shot looks professional. It merits an in-

vestigation. Everything was normal when Neeraj left. Even if it is a suicide, we need to find out the truth,” said Tarun Agarwal, Neeraj's relative.

According to police sources, Neeraj's company was under the scanner for alleged fraudulent transactions following demonetisation. But family members claimed that a professional rival had planted fake complaints to harass Neeraj. Several notices were issued and the matter is pending in court, he said. Neeraj would even keep a licensed gun with two loaded magazines with him for protection, said the family member.

## 22-year-old dead after truck rams two-wheeler

New Delhi: A 22-year-old woman died after a dumper truck rammed into her two-wheeler at 11 am Wednesday in Central Delhi.

Archana Soni and her husband, residents of Kirari, were on their way to Bangla Sahib gurdwara, when the incident took place on Patel Road in Central Delhi.

“Soni was declared dead on arrival at the hospital while her husband is undergoing treatment. The driver of the dumper truck has not been arrested so far. Efforts are on to nab him,” said a police officer. **ENS**

## HC refuses to quash FIR against man for duping person with ‘rice puller’ deal

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

THE DELHI High Court has refused to quash an FIR against a man who allegedly forged Ministry of Defence documents to dupe an individual of Rs 94 lakh on the pretext of dealing with a precious stone.

“Documents of DRDO, Ministry of Defence, have been forged and used in the present case by the petitioners. The offence committed by the petitioners is, therefore, serious in nature and in fact, is not only an offence between two private parties but... against the society as well,” Justice Brijesh Sethi said.

The court said that the “petition for quashing... such kind of an FIR in which documents of DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation), Ministry of Defence, are forged and used cannot be entertained.”

The court's order came on a plea by accused Parminder Singh and others, who sought quashing of the FIR and criminal proceedings initiated against them in connection with the cheating case registered in June 2018, as “they had settled the matter among themselves and have also paid the alleged amount”.

Complainant Bupender Kumar Kaushik had in 2018 alleged he was duped of Rs 94 lakh on the pretext of dealing with the precious stone. But the certificates establishing the authenticity of the precious stone “Rice Puller”, on being verified from the DRDO, Balasore, Odisha, found them to be forged.

The rice puller scam involves people marketing a device allegedly made of copper/iridium, which they claim possesses properties to attract rice grains.

The accused were arrested after an FIR was registered by the Delhi Police's Crime Branch in the case. However, they were given bail in July 2019 after they settled the matter and paid the alleged cheated amount. The complainant had made a statement saying that he has received the entire payment and has no objection if accused persons were given regular bail.

However, the court concluded that, “in view of the law laid down by the Supreme Court, settlement in cases where nature of offence is serious in nature cannot be quashed even if these are settled by the accused and the victim”.




**Appeal For Identification**

General public is hereby informed that this person **Name** : Unknown, **S/o** : Unknown, **R/o** : Unknown **Age** : 45 Years, **Sex** : Male, **Height** : 5 Ft. 7 Inch, **Complexion** : Shallow, **Wearing** : Black Colour Shirt and Black Pant, has been admitted in Hindu Rao Hospital From Tanga Stand Qutub Road Parking Sadar Bazar, During the Treatment

Doctors Declared Him Dead. In this regard a DD No. 36-A Dated 17.12.2019 has been lodged at PS. Sadar Bazar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

**DP/814/N/2020** **SHO PS. Sadar Bazar, Delhi Ph.: 011-23512411, 23512412**



**THE ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED**

OMC House, Bhubaneswar - 751001, Odisha  
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, [www.omcltd.in](http://www.omcltd.in)

No. 45/OMC Date 01.01.2020

**NOTIFICATION**


With reference to the Advertisement No. 31/OMC dtd. 31.07.2019 regarding recruitment of 21 Executive Posts of different Cadres in Dy. Manager Level (E-2 grade ) in OMC Ltd., this is for information of all the candidates who appeared for Computer Based Test (CBT) held on 25.10.2019, that basing on the qualifying marks secured by the candidates in descending order of merit, the eligible short-listed candidates shall be called for document verification & Personal Interview soon.

However, it is for the notice of all concerned that, the document verification in respect of the shortlisted candidates (as mentioned against SI No-II of Stage Two Section (Document Verification & Personal Interview) w.r.t. the terms & conditions of the Advertisement No 31/31.07.2019) shall be taken up simultaneously on the date of Personal Interview.

For further updates / information, the candidates are advised to visit OMC website <http://omcltd.in>.

**Sd/- Director (Personnel)**

30005/11/0114/1920



**CCS HARYANA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HISAR (ESTABLISHED BY PARLIAMENT ACT 16 OF 1970)**

**Tender Notice**

CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar is inviting Tender for following Equipments/ Items:-

- Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Rain Gun Irrigation System, Repair of Existing Rain Gun System and Provision of Piped Water Conveyance from RDS minor to proposed site on Turnkey Basis at RDS Seed Farm of CCSHAU, Hisar.
- Purchase of Aspirated Psychrometer by Assmann- One No. for the Department of Agricultural Meteorology, COA, CCSHAU, Hisar.

For detail information and e-Tendering schedule, please visit the website: <http://tenders.hry.nic.in> and University website: <http://hau.ac.in>.

Date of Start of Bid Preparation and Submission 03.01.2020 (09.00 hours) and Closing on 21.01.2020 upto 17.00 hours. Opening of Technical Bid on 22.01.2020 at 10.00 A.M. & Financial Bid on 24.01.2020 at 10.00 A.M.

**Note: 1. All Updates, Amendments, Corrigenda etc. (if any) will be posted only on the CCS HAU Website/ Tender website. There will not be any publication of the same through Newspapers or any other Media.**

**2. Interested Bidders are advised to Deposit Bid Security/ EMD on or before 48.00 hrs. of Expiring Date and Time of Bid Online so as to get the payment verified.**

**Sd/- Director (Store & Purchase) CCSHAU, Hisar.**



**NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

Office of The Executive Engineer (Project) K.P. Zone

Near Railway Under Bridge, Sawan Park, Delhi-110052

No. : EEP/TC/KPZ/2019-20/06 Dated : 01.01.2020

**SHORT NOTICE TENDER**

Seq. No.	North Delhi Municipal Corporation Stage	Start Date	Expiry Time
1.	Request of Tender Document From	02.01.2020	17.30 Hrs.
2.	Issue of Tender Document From	02.01.2020	17.31 Hrs.
3.	Request of Tender Document To	09.01.2020	17.00 Hrs.
4.	Issue of Tender Document To	09.01.2020	17.30 Hrs.
5.	Tender Closing Date and Time	10.01.2020	14.00 Hrs.
6.	Cost Open Date and Time	10.01.2020	14.15 Hrs.

The Executive Engineer (PR)/KPZ on behalf of the Commissioner, North DMC invites sealed Item Rate Tenders from the approved and eligible Contractors registered with (General Wing) for execution of following works only at the website <https://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER>. The desirous contractors are requested to provide their firm name in price bid positively, if the name not mentioned in price bid, the same shall be rejected.

**S. No. : 1. Name of Work : 1. Imp./Stg. of by providing Dense carpeting**

(i) Road from Police Station to Post Office in Central Market in Ashok Vihar Phase-I, (ii) Road from Parmeshwar Dham Mandir Marg to Sindhi Mandir in B-4 Block, Keshavpuram, (iii) Road between C-4/C-6 and C-7 Block Keshavpuram, (iv) Road between A-1 & A-2 Block in Keshavpuram, Ashok Vihar in C-75(N)/KPZ. 2. Improvement/Strengthening of Roads by providing Dense Carpeting from A-54 to A-84, Ravidass Mandir to R.P. Singh House, S. Yadav to A-90, C-12 to C-15, K-29 to B-20, C-5 to C-12, Shiv Mandir to B-43, C-30 to B-43, C-18A to C-30, K-24 to C-18A at Sawan Park in Ward No. 73 N/KPZ. **FTC No. 19/68/XL-VIII-S (d)/PC-066, H/A : XL-VIII-S (d), Tender Amount : @ Item Rate, Earnest Money : Rs. 2,68,250/-.**

**Tender Cost is Rs. 1,000/- and time of completion is 09 months. Rate holds good is six months.**


**R.O. No. 209/DPI/North/2019-20 Executive Engineer (Pr.) KPZ**



**CORRIGENDUM**

Corrigendum No.1 for Tender No. **BR-HQ-KGP-2019-20-06**, Closing date/time 15.01.2020 11.30 hrs., published earlier by Dy. Chief Engineer/Br. Line, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach. The revised Tender No. should be read as **BR-HQ-SER-2019-20-06** instead of **BR-HQ-KGP-2019-20-06**. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. **PR-1197/C**

**South Eastern Railway**



**E - TENDERING PRESS NOTICE.**

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No.V, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Near Paryavaran Complex, Saidulajab New Delhi 110030 invites on behalf of President of India, on line percentage rate tender from approved and eligible contractors registered with Irrigation and Flood Control Department up to **3:00 P.M on dates mentioned as below.**

1. NIT 198/2019-20/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_186659\_1 (Percentage rate) H.O.A:- MLALAD.

N.O.W:- Construction of retaining wall and boundary wall of cremation ground of village Munirka near Moti Lal Nehru camp in Mehrauli Assembly Constituency (AC-45).

E.C. Rs. 30,49,119/- Earnest Money Rs 60,982/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 04.01.2020).

2. NIT 199/2019-20/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2019\_IFC\_166729\_1 (Percentage rate) H.O.A:- 4225 (SC/ST).

N.O.W:- Demolishing and reconstruction of double storey chaupal Khasra no. 55412 near temple Maidan Garhi in Mehrauli Block (AC-46). E.C.Rs. 1,77,01,044/- Earnest Money Rs 3,54,021/- Period of Completion 330 Days. (Date of opening 04.01.2020).

**Note:- 1).** The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case the last date of opening of tender is extended the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.

2) Earnest Money in physical form i.e. deposited at FDR/ Banker cheque /Demand Draft of schedule bank issued in favour of EE CD V & I&FC Deptt. should be deposited in the office of EE CD V & I&FC Deptt. Govt. of NCT of Delhi Saidulajab near Paryavaran complex New Delhi 30. On or before the last date and time.

3). Details of above mentioned work can be seen and downloaded from website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

4). Tender submitted through e-procurement portal shall be accepted only.

5) Corrigendum, if any will be published on e-procurement web side only.

**Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CD.V, DIP/Shabdarth/1220/1920**



**उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा सूचना**

इस कार्यालय के द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य/ सामग्री की आपूर्ति सम्पादन हेतु अनुभवी, दक्ष एवं जी.एस.टी. में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा वर्ष 2019-20 में आमंत्रित की जाती है जिसका विस्तृत विवरण ई-टेंडर वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) site पर उपलब्ध है। ईटी-180/ 2019-20 विद्युत प्रेषण मण्डल प्रथम कानपुर के अन्तर्गत 400 के.वी. उन्नाव-आगरा लाइन की पेट्रोलिंग एवं अनुरक्षण सम्बन्धी कार्य। ई-निविदा संख्या- ईटी-181/ विद्युत 220 के.वी. पनकी के अन्तर्गत 1x660 मेगावाट पनकी तापीय परियोजना की ऊर्जा निमासी हेतु 2 नं. 400 के.वी. बे का निर्माण कार्य। ई-निविदा संख्या- ईटी-180 एवं 181 दिनांक 28.01.2020 को खोली जायेगी

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, प्रथम पनकी, कानपुर “राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये” उपभोक्ता सेवा हेतु सम्पर्क करें- [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in), पत्रांक- 01/ वि.प्रे.स.प. (का.)/ टी.-1 दिनांक 01.01.2020



EXPANSION OF STATE-OF-THE-ART  
**FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY DELHI**  
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IN SILVER JUBILEE YEAR OF **FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY, DELHI**  
LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE OF “ANNEXE BUILDING”

Thursday, 02 Jan 2020 at 11:00 a.m.  
Forensic Science Laboratory, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi

Chief Guest: **SATYENDAR JAIN** Home Minister, Delhi



दिल्ली सरकार  
आप की सरकार

Home Department, Government of NCT of Delhi



# 8 Govt & Politics



DELHI **CONFIDENTIAL**



## Solo For Net Gain?

HAVING ALLIED with the Congress in 2017 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls and the BSP for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, former UP chief minister and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav appears to be crafting strategy for a solo game for the next Assembly polls, scheduled for 2022. Meanwhile, he has picked up another solo game: tennis. Akhilesh is believed to have taken to the game after leaving the CM's residence in 2017. In the last two years, the SP leader has gained enough confidence and is learnt to regularly invite opponents for a game of tennis.

## Load Of Less Entry

IIM-JAMMU, set up by the incumbent government, has approached the HRD Ministry for more money. While the demand isn't unusual, the reason is. The funds crunch is on account of fewer admissions this year than what the institute had planned. IIM-Jammu increased its intake this year from 60 seats to 155 and, for this, the institute spent money to create the necessary infrastructure. In its letter to the ministry, institute chairman and entrepreneur Milin Kamble has attributed the loss in admission to "recent developments in J&K" and requested that the government bear the revenue loss of Rs 11 crore due to low admissions.

## On Ad Blitz

ON THE New Year's Day, the BJP released a three-minute video to showcase the government's achievements in the year gone by. "From the Balakot airstrikes to Citizenship Amendment Act and more, it has been an eventful year," the party says. On the economy front, though, the video has only one issue to point out: that India did not join the RCEP to "uphold benefits of farmers and MSMEs". The video, which talks about the government's efforts at "fostering India's integrity and strengthening foreign ties", highlights the Balakot strike, passage of law criminalising triple talaq, abrogation of Article 370, 40 lakh people living in unauthorised colonies in Delhi having been given ownership, and the amended citizenship law. It also features the 'Howdy Modi' event in the US and the fresh developments in India-China ties.

# Bangladesh restores mobile networks along India border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DHAKA, JANUARY 1

BANGLADESH HAS reversed its decision of shutting down mobile networks along the country's over 4,000-km border with India, two days after asking telecom operators to block the services citing "security" reasons, according to media reports on Wednesday.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Sunday directed the shut down of around 2,000 base transceiver stations, affecting around 1 crore users in 32 districts that share a border with India and Myanmar. The directive came days after Parliament passed the new citizenship law, causing concern in Dhaka that it could lead to an influx of migrants.

The reports did not give any reason for reversing the decision on Sunday.

The BTRC had, in its order to telecommunications service providers, said network coverage within a one km band along bor-

der areas with India should be suspended until further notice "for the sake of the country's security in the current circumstances".

Jahurul Haque, BTRC chairman, confirmed the latest decision to reverse the restrictions, *bdt-news24.com* reported.

According to *The Daily Star*, authorities sent an email to mobile operators early on Wednesday, asking them to restore networks.

"Please reinstate operations of the BTSs (Base Trans-Receiver Stations) near the Bangladesh-India boarder sites immediately," the email, by Md Sohel Rana, deputy director of BTRC's spectrum management division, said. Mobile operators confirmed that they have started to up their networks but it will take about a day to fully reinstate connections as some towers are in remote areas, the report said.

Earlier, Bangladesh's Post and Telecommunication Minister Mustafa Jabbar told *The Daily Star* that networks were blocked as security of the state is the government's first priority.

# Citing Nobel numbers, Goa Governor raises low spending on education

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PANAJI, JANUARY 1

GOA GOVERNOR Satya Pal Malik on Wednesday said India actually has five Nobel laureates, stating that six out of the 12 Indians who have won the award are "foreigners" and one was Mother Teresa.

Speaking at a function organised by the National Institute of Oceanography in Panaji, Malik said inadequate government spending on education and research could be the reason behind the low number of Nobel winners from the country.

"There are only 12 Nobel laureates in this country, out of whom six are foreigners. One is Mother Teresa, so...we have five. In America and England, one univer-



Goa Governor Satya Pal Malik

sity has around 150 Nobel laureates. They have quality education and they spend a lot of money on education. It does not happen here. Here, not more than six per cent of the central budget is spent on education. How will we have quality education?" he said.

He also pointed at the need to put more capital in improving the state of agriculture. "A time will come when the strength of the country will be determined by the quantum of grain or produce and not by the size of its armed forces," Malik said.



Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat arrives to inspect the Guard of Honour, at South Block on Wednesday. Prem Nath Pandey

**GEN RAWAT TAKES CHARGE AS CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF**

# We stay far away from politics, follow govt directives: Gen Rawat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

NEWLY APPOINTED Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat Wednesday said the armed forces stay far away from politics and work as per directives of the government in power, remarks that come amid allegations that the forces were being politicised.

He also said his focus as CDS will be to integrate efforts of the three services and work as a team. "I want to assure you that the Army, the Navy and the Air Force will work as a team. The CDS will keep control over them, but action will be taken through teamwork," Gen Rawat said after receiving a Guard of Honour by the three services.

Asked about allegations that the Army was being politicised and questions being raised by the Congress over creation of the CDS post, he said, "We stay away; we stay far away from politics. We work on the directives of the gov-

## Creation of Deptt of Military Affairs momentous: PM

*New Delhi:* The creation of the Department of Military Affairs and institutionalisation of the CDS post are momentous reforms, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday. Congratulating General Rawat for his appointment as the country's first CDS, Modi said he is an outstanding officer who has served India with great zeal. "As the first CDS takes charge, I pay homage to all those who have served and laid down their lives for our nation," he tweeted. **PTI**

emment in power."

The Congress on Tuesday had raised several questions over the appointment of Gen Rawat as the CDS, saying the government has started on a "wrong foot". Some Opposition politicians have ac-

cused Gen Rawat of having political leanings.

Gen Rawat, who took charge as CDS on Wednesday, said his focus will be to ensure best and optimal use of resources allocated to the three services. "The task cut out for the Chief of Defence Staff is to integrate the three services and enhance their capability. We will continue working towards that," he said. "The CDS will not try to run a force by his directions. Integration is needed. We have to ensure that 1+1+1 combine of the three services adds up to 5 or 7 and not 3. You have to achieve more through synergy and integration, that is the aim of the CDS."

Gen Rawat also said that he would remain neutral to the three services as the CDS. "My head is feeling lighter because I have had to take off that angled Gurkha hat that I have been working with for 41 years. I have come back to this peak cap that I am wearing, which is to say that we are now neutral. (I) will be neutral to all the three services."

# To cement ties before Bihar polls, BJP may get JD(U) to join govt

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

AT A time when its key ally JD(U) is giving mixed signals about its ties with the BJP on controversial issues, the BJP is keen to see that the regional party joins the Narendra Modi government at the Centre. According to sources in the party, the JD (U), which is the BJP's partner in the ruling coalition in Bihar, has decided to join the Union Cabinet.

Sources said two senior JD(U) MPs, Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan) Singh and Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, could be inducted into the Union government whenever Prime Minister Modi expands his Council of Ministers.

BJP leaders said the JD (U) becoming the part of the central government would "cement" the ties further ahead of the Bihar elections due later this year. BJP president and Home Minister Amit Shah has already announced that Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar would be the NDA's CM candidate in the state polls. Party leaders had pointed out that the BJP wanted to avoid a triangular contest in Bihar, which they said could leave scope for the

EXPLAINED

Reaching out to ally at critical time

THE BJP, which had been not-so-keen on JD(U) joining the central government, has started pushing the ally to join the government after Shiv Sena, its oldest ally, quit NDA. Recent public statements from JD(U) leader Kishore over NRC has made BJP step up attempts to bring its ally closer.

RJD to return as a formidable force.

But the recent developments after the BJP leadership's push for NRC have left political observers confused and have even given fresh hopes to the Opposition for a political realignment in the state.

The JD(U) had voted in favour of the Citizenship Amendment Bill despite its initial objections to it in both Houses of Parliament last month.

JD(U) vice-president Prashant Kishor, who has critical of the BJP over NRC, recently said the JD (U)

should be contesting more seats in Bihar.

The BJP leadership, it seems, now wants to lay the doubts to rest. "If the JD (U) joins the government, all these remarks would not have any meaning," said a party leader from Bihar. BJP leaders pointed out that Kishor's statements have created differences among the JD (U) as a section see them as an attempt to "sabotage ministerial aspirations" of senior party leaders.

Party sources said the JD (U) had, after the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, suggested names of Lalan Singh and Ram Charan Prasad Singh for ministerial berths. However, with the BJP already deciding on Giriraj Singh, a Bhumihar leader from Bihar, the party leadership was not keen on taking Lalan Singh, from the same community.

Currently for the BJP, strengthening ties with the JD (U) is crucial against the backdrop of growing dissent over the citizenship law as well as on the economic situation. Many NDA allies have publicly expressed criticism over these issues and unemployment. "For perception too, the party has to be seen as being more comfortable with its allies," said a BJP functionary.

# Rly unions, officers' body backed creation of single service in 2015

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

IN 2015, as an official response to the Bibek Debroy committee report on administrative reform, railway unions and the officers' federation had jointly supported the creation of a single unified service, documents show.

The five federations representing 13 lakh employees in a joint statement on June 26, 2015, categorised their unanimous response to the report's recommendations between "Positive Recommendations" and "Outrightly Rejectable Recommendations", documents reviewed by *The Indian Express* show.

Under the subhead of

"Positive Recommendations", it wrote "A Single Group 'A' Railway Service (One of the option given in para 4.30 and 4.31/Chapter 4)".

The civil servants of Railways have been on a protest against the government's recent decision to merge all the eight technical and non-technical services into one Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) with implications that include merger of the existing serving officers into a common seniority list and opening up all posts to all departments. The unions have also joined them in the protest. The government cited the Debroy committee report as one of the justifications for the move.

The five federations that signed the document include the two railway unions — All Indian

Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF), National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR), the Group A officers' association called the Federation of Railway Officers' Association (FROA), the RPF Association and the Promotee Officers' Association.

Asked why they supported the move then and are opposing it now, Shiv Gopal Mishra, secretary general of the AIRF, said that the union had rejected the Debroy committee recommendations in totality. "We agreed that there needs to be professionalism and expertise in Railways, but I remember rejecting the report's recommendations in totality. We had a formal response from our union submitted in writing," he said.

The FROA has been conspicu-

## Cong distances itself after two leaders questioned CDS appointment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

THE CONGRESS on Wednesday distanced itself from remarks made by senior leaders Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Manish Tewari on the appointment of General Bipin Rawat as Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and said the party does not oppose any step taken by the government to strengthen the security of the country.

Last week, the party had refrained from commenting on Gen Rawat's criticism of people leading violent protests over the new citizenship law. But both Chowdhury and Tewari had criticised Gen Rawat then as well. Asked about the leaders' remarks and the BJP's attack on the Congress, party spokesperson Sushmita Dev told reporters that she will not comment on remarks by party leaders.

"But I would surely like to say that the decision of appointing chief of (defence) staff is that of the government. We only hope the chief of defence staff will fulfill his responsibilities towards the country. The Congress does not oppose if the government takes any step which will strengthen the security of the country," she said.

Dev said, "He has just been appointed...I think actions speak louder than words... Soon, we, the entire country and every party will be able to see how the chief of defence staff will work... I believe it will not be right to make any comments before that."

Raising questions over Gen Rawat's appointment, Tewari tweeted on Tuesday, "With great regret and fullest of responsibility may I say that the government has started on a very wrong foot with regard to CDS. Time alone unfortunately will reveal the implications of this decision."

Chowdhury had tweeted, "Let Mr Bipin Rawat, ji's ideological predilection should not affect the apolitical institution of India, our 'ARMY.'"

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD, JANUARY 1

FARMERS OF 29 villages between Guntur and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh, who gave land for the proposed Amaravati capital region, courted arrest and blocked main roads on Wednesday in protest against the state government's proposal to make Visakhapatnam the executive capital.

TDP chief and former CM N Chandrababu Naidu, whose government had started the Amaravati capital project, participated in the protests.

The YSRCP government has proposed to make Visakhapatnam the executive capital where the Secretariat and the Chief Minister's Office will be located. Amaravati has been proposed as the legislative capital and Kumool as the judicial capital.

Speaking at the protest venue, Naidu called upon TDP leaders and cadres to abstain from New Year Celebrations and donate the money they would have spent on celebrations to the Amaravati Parirakshana Samiti, which represents the protesting farmers.

"These are devastating times for Andhra Pradesh. Instead of

**MAHARASHTRA**

# No consensus on portfolio allocation yet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 1

ALLOCATION OF portfolios to ministers in the newly formed Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress government in Maharashtra got delayed again Wednesday, and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's statement to the media at the end of an unsuccessful marathon meeting indicated that some discontent is still brewing over portfolios.

Asked whether the three parties were satisfied, the NCP leader said, "All of us can raise demands. But one should not stretch an argument until it snaps."

On allocation of portfolio, he said, "All three parties have placed their demands, and now the decision rests with the CM."

Pressing for allotment of an additional portfolio — from among Agriculture, Rural Development and Cooperatives — Maharashtra Congress chief Vijay (Balasaheb) Thorat and former CM Ashok Chavan, both of whom are ministers, held back-to-back meetings with Thackeray over the issue.

While both NCP and Shiv Sena were not in favour of Congress's latest demand, the proposal to swap the Agriculture portfolio — currently with the Sena — with Animal Husbandry, which lies with Congress, was discussed during the meeting, sources said.

Following the meeting, ministers from the Congress held a separate meeting. Pawar maintained that portfolios have almost been finalised. "It will be announced by Thursday evening," he said.

### Discontent in the air

*Pune:* Uddhav Thackeray's ministry expansion is said to have left some senior leaders from all three allies disgruntled.



TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu in Amaravati. PTI

solving existing problems, the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy government is creating new ones, compounding the misery of people. The three capitals announcement has thrust the state into chaos. Thousands of farmers, women and children from all sections are protesting. With hope in their hearts, they gave away land towards construction of Amaravati. Their futures must not be jeopardised," Naidu said in a statement.

Police took several farmers into custody Wednesday. On Tuesday, the farmers had sent a petition to President Ram Nath Kovind, requesting permission for "mercy killing". The letter, sent on



Deputy CM Ajit Pawar at Koregaon Bhima. PTI

Although the leaders have not yet openly voiced their resentment, their supporters have expressed discontent.

Supporters of Congress MLA from Bhor, Sangram Thopte, allegedly went on a rampage at the party headquarters in Pune on Tuesday. Supporters of Congress MLA from Solapur Praniti Shinde, daughter of former CM Sushilkumar Shinde, have decided to write a letter to party president Sonia Gandhi using blood, seeking "justice" for their leader. Both Thopte and Shinde said they had no role to play.

State Congress chief Thorat said he and other senior leaders will "pacify" the agitated MLAs.

Senior Sena leaders such as Ramdas Kadam, who was Environment minister in the Fadnavis government, Diwakar Raote and Deepak Kesarkar, are also said to be disgruntled, while party MP from Yavatmal-Washim, Bhavana Gawali, openly voiced her resentment, saying she was expecting induction of MLAs Sanjay Raimulkar or Gopikishan Bajoria from western Vidarbha region.

In NCP, Majalgaon MLA Prakash Solanke, who had threatened to quit, was pacified by senior party leaders such as Pawar and Dhananjay Munde.

behalf of the Samiti, stated that the Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy government is pursuing a "policy of revenge" against farmers who gave their land. "Police is also harassing us. We request you to give us permission to kill ourselves. Death is the final form of protest," the letter said.

The letter stated that during his election campaign, Jagan had promised to continue the development of Amaravati as the capital. "The YSRCP ministers are mocking us by calling Amaravati a graveyard and issuing useless statements. They are also bringing in caste and other issues into this and harassing us," it stated.

to be rather difficult," it says.

After citing the National Transport Development Policy Committee report, the paragraphs make a case for two services instead of one, merged "on a rational basis, in terms of workable parameters" and based on "logical competency groupings". It says that the competency groupings of engineers and civil servants are different.

The paragraph also notes that FROA had suggested a formula for making a common seniority of merged cadres. "We believe one service option can work only if all recruitment takes place from amongst persons with homogeneous qualifications, which is not the case at present when recruitment is through two different examinations," it says.



# 9 EXPRESS NETWORK

## PROTEST WATCH

ASSAM

### Agitation continues, protesters pay tribute



AASU chief adviser Samujjal Kumar Bhattacharya and other leaders light diyas to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in protests, in Guwahati. *Dasarath Deka*

*Guwahati:* Protests continued across Assam on Wednesday against the new citizenship law, including by organisations such as the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and Asom Sahitya Sabha. In several towns and cities, including Guwahati, protesters lit up diyas to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in the agitation against

the law so far. Protest marches, cultural demonstrations and sit-in demonstrations against the CAA have continued across the state since the law was passed by Parliament amid opposition from several influential groups. Student leaders, activists, artistes, and eminent citizens have addressed large protest gatherings. **ENS**

TAMIL NADU

### Will probe 'Pak links' of 'kolam' protester: police

*Chennai:* A woman anti-CAA protester here has come under the scanner of the police after her social media profile allegedly mentioned her role as a researcher with a human rights organisation in Pakistan. A probe would be carried out to ascertain whether the woman, Gayatri Khandhadai, has links to Pakistan-based Bytes for All, Chennai Police Commissioner A K Viswanathan told reporters. Police sources claimed that the woman protester has been a part of a slew of agitations against the CAA and NRC and was also associated with the 'kolam' demonstrations. She was present at the Madras University premises when the students protested against the citizenship law

last month, they said. Viswanathan said Khandhadai has the support of local outfits in Tamil Nadu, including an NGO. "If you look at her Facebook profile, she says that she is a researcher at Bytes for All, Pakistan," the senior police officer said, adding this body seemed to be linked to the Association of All Pakistan Citizen Journalists. The extent and nature of the protester's "Pakistani connection" will be probed, he said. On Sunday, police had said eight people, including five women, were picked up for allegedly holding the protest without permission but were later let off. DMK president MK Stalin has hit out at the AIADMK government for the police action. **PTI**

PUNJAB

### 'Won't show any papers'

*Chandigarh:* Members of a few Left-aligned unions on Wednesday held a demonstration here to register their protest against the CAA and NRC. Protesters carrying banners with slogans like "kagaz nahin dikhayenge (will not show papers)" and "citizens against divide" assembled at Sector 17 here. Lashing out at the central government, the agitators declared that they would not show any papers to prove their citizenship. **PTI**

UTTAR PRADESH

### AMU extends winter break

*Lucknow:* Aligarh Muslim University has further extended the winter break keeping in view the continuing protests against the CAA and NRC. The university was to reopen on January 6. According to an AMU notice, the decision to extend the vacations again was taken after a meeting chaired by Vice-Chancellor Tariq Mansoor on Wednesday. A detailed schedule for the reopening of the university "in a phased manner" will be notified. **PTI**

KERALA

### 'Born in India... will die in India': Thousands at rally



A protest against CAA, NRC and NPR in Kochi. *PTI*

*Kochi:* Holding national flags and placards which read: "Born in India, lived in India, will die in India", thousands of people hit the streets in this port city on the first day of the New Year, against the controversial CAA, NRC and NPR. The people participating in the massive rally, which began from the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium and culminated at the sprawling Marine Drive five kilometers away, raised slogans against the Central govern-

ment's decision to implement CAA and carried photos of Mahatma Gandhi, B R Ambedkar and Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad. The rally was organised jointly by a coordination of Muslim organisations, including Samastha Kerala Jamiyathul Ulama, Kerala Muslim Jamaat, Dakshina Kerala Jamiiyathul Ulama, Kerala Nadvathul Mujahideen, Jamaat-e-Islam and Muslim League. **PTI**

#### POLICE ACTION IN GORAKHPUR

## Shaken and scared, residents recount day police 'barged in'

ASAD REHMAN

GORAKHPUR, JANUARY 1

RESIDENTS OF Muslim-dominated areas in Gorakhpur city have similar stories to tell about Friday, December 20, when policemen allegedly entered their homes, hurled abuses and beat up whoever was around.

Nasir, 24, who lives in Ismailpur under Kotwali police station is standing outside his house with a plaster on his right hand and injury marks on legs. "I am uneducated. I don't know about the citizenship issue. I was standing outside my house when police came. They asked me what I was doing outside, I didn't reply out of fear. They then beat me up with lathis," alleges Nasir, an electrician.

A few houses away, a 32-year-old woman, whose husband was arrested for allegedly violating Section 144, says he has not been able to go to work since he was released on bail. "He is not talking to anyone. He says he was beaten up by 7-8 policemen. He can't work because of the injuries," says the woman.

Her husband is a daily-wage labourer who refused to talk, citing "trauma". "He won't be able to talk," the woman says, requesting anonymity out of "fear of the police".

The woman points at bricks that are holding their broken door in place. "They (police) broke the door. If you go around,



The office of an NGO allegedly vandalised in Gorakhpur. *Express*

you will see those who have money got them fixed, but those who can't afford it have put bricks behind the door to shield themselves from the cold."

Residents in nearby Askarganj allege that policemen climbed onto the terraces to look for the men and when they could not find them, they hurled abuses at women.

A 50-year-old woman shows how her legs have turned blue, allegedly due to lathicharge by police. "They were beating up boys outside my house. I thought if I intervene, they will stop, but they did not. At least five policemen beat me up," she alleges.

Refusing to tell her name, she says, "We can't take on the police. We are very poor."

About 500 m from her house is Kotwali police station, facing a

centre run by an NGO to provide employment to local women. Neighbours allege that policemen threw stones at the house the centre runs from.

"The protest did not reach the police station. Then who threw stones at my house?" says Heena Siddiqui, who runs the NGO Mahila Samridhi.

"They have booked my son under 21 IPC sections, including attempt to murder and rioting charges. There were 75 women in the centre that day, most of them Hindu. They are willing to testify that my son was at the centre. He is educated and is preparing for competitive exams. Why will he indulge in rioting," asks Heena.

"We thought we were safe because we lived in front of the police station. Who knew police

can be so unfair," she adds. Her son Saif, who has been named in the FIR along with 36 named and 700-800 unidentified people, is absconding.

Circle Officer Virendra Pratap Singh said all the accused have been booked after looking at CCTV footage.

A 48-year-old man who lives in neighbouring Khoonipur alleges that police beat him up when he was going to the mosque. "They pulled my beard and hurled communal abuses."

A 32-year-old resident of Askarganj, who works in the IT sector, says he was sent to jail for violating Section 144. He alleges police treated them like hard-core criminals. "They beat me up brutally," says the man, who has not been booked. He claims he was at office when the protest in the area took place.

Circle Officer Singh said a march was held from Jama Masjid to Nakhas Chowk. "The protest was initially not very big. But it grew and thousands started vandalism and misbehaved with policemen. They were stopped using force. Sixteen policemen were injured in stone-pelting."

Gorakhpur SSP Sunil Gupta said alleged excesses will be probed if police receives a complaint. "We have not received any complaint till now...The innocent should not be scared. It is my job to rectify mistakes, if any, made by my junior officers," Gupta told *The Indian Express*.

## Akhilesh should stay in Pak for a month: UP BJP chief

MAULSHREE SETH

LUCKNOW, JANUARY 1

DAYS AFTER former chief minister and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said that he would not fill out the National Population Register (NPR) forms, Uttar Pradesh state BJP president Swatantra Dev Singh on Wednesday asked him to go to Pakistan and stay there for a month to understand the plight



BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh

of Hindus.

Singh alleged that misperceptions are being created about the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the proposed National Register of

Citizens (NRC) and NPR.

"You should go to Pakistan, Akhilesh-ji, and stay there for a month and perform puja, then you will understand what happens there," Singh said at an event in Mathura on Wednesday. He said Akhilesh must study the NPR, CAA and NRC properly before voicing his opposition to the government's decision.

Singh also accused Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra of

"misguiding the people on the law", "Priyanka's visit to the victims of riots, with the sole purpose of misguiding them and creating a ruckus, is objectionable since people are misguided about the CAA."

"Public should not be misled. Now even Muslims have studied the Act and understood that it is not against them, but just to respect those who had taken shelter in the country from outside," Singh said.



A midnight candlelight demonstration against the CAA, NRC and NPR in Chennai. *PTI*

## No one can be denied citizenship on basis of religion, says Paswan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

DEFENDING THE government over the CAA, Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan on Wednesday said that no person can be denied citizenship on the basis of religion.

Paswan, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, said confusion is being created in a planned manner on CAA and emphasised that this law has nothing to do with citizen-

ship of any Indian citizen.

Paswan said: "Muslim brothers in our country are ours. Till we are there, the government is there, the Constitution is there, no one can point a finger on anyone. We want to assure people that we are in government and we have had discussions with the Home Minister and the Prime Minister."

On NRC, he said there has been no discussion on the issue yet. "When the PM himself has categorically said that there is no question of NRC, then people should believe his word," he added.

#### The court has asked authorities to ensure Mian Abdul Qayoom is "provided adequate medical treatment".

has been shifted to Tihar Jail, New Delhi vide order dated 28 December 2019. It is not denied that the Tihar Jail has adequate facility for providing medical as-

sistance and attention to the inmates which would include the petitioner as well," the court stated in an order dated December 31.

"The respondents would also ensure that the petitioner is provided adequate medical treatment and attention keeping in view the ailments that the petitioner is suffering from as has been done in the past," the order issued by Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur stated.

FIROZABAD

## No link to protests, unable to pay, say recipients of recovery notices

SHYAMLAL YADAV

FIROZABAD, JANUARY 1

THE FIROZABAD district administration is yet to make a final estimate of the damage to property during anti-CAA protests, but it has sent showcause notices to 26 people accusing them of damaging public and private property and sought a response within a week.

The families of some of those who were served notices told *The Indian Express* that they are daily wagers and labourers who got caught in the ruckus while on their routine jobs. Most of the recipients of the notices are in jail.

One of the recipients, Adil, a 20-year-old, is the second of six children of Sayeed Khan. He is a carpenter and works with his father. "On his way back after namaz, he was talking to me when the mobile phone call got disconnected. Later we heard he is in jail. He told me the police beat him badly. I have received a notice for damage to property, but my son was doing his job and had no role in damaging property," Sayeed said.

All the notices issued by the Firozabad ADM have similar language: "...from the FIR I am convinced that you are prima facie responsible for (damage of public and private property). Appear before this court within a week and clarify why an order should not be issued to you for the recovery of this damage."

None of the notices mentions any specific damage. It only says that on December 20, "properties of PWD, municipal corporation, police and other government departments and properties of other private persons were damaged".

Similar is the case of 20-year-old Amir. The fourth of six siblings, he works as a mason in workshops and earns Rs 150-200 a day, according to his family. His brother Asif said, "He was returning after delivering goods



Nadeem's father Rayees

and got caught in the crowd. He entered a shop, where youths of another community beat him and snatched his mobile, Rs 2,670 that he was carrying, and the receipt of goods he had delivered. Those youths handed him to the police. He has nothing to do with the protests."

Then there is Nadeem (27). The father of three earns Rs 200 a day as a daily wage worker. His father Rayees said, "I met him in jail. He said he had gone to take his wages, and got stuck in the crowd while returning. Police arrested and beat him. He had no role, and is unable to pay the amount in the notice."

From Nadeem's locality, 23-year-old Hafiz was also arrested. The eldest of four siblings, he is a tutor and a cleric at a mosque. His mother Reshma said, "In the peace committee meeting, when officials were told that Hafiz is a maulana, they said he would be released soon. That is yet to happen."

While those who have received notices are preparing their responses with limited resources and knowledge of law, Additional District Magistrate Aditya Prakash Sriwastav said, "We have an estimate that public and private property of Rs 20-25 lakh was damaged. Final figures will be calculated by a technical committee. We have sent notices based on FIRs."

SSP Shachindra Patel said, "We have taken views of all concerned departments to arrive at the final cost. We are not victimising anybody."

## Interests of indigenous people in Assam will be protected: Sonowal

ABHISHEK SAHA

GUWAHATI, JANUARY 1

ASSAM CHIEF Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Wednesday said that his government is dedicated to the protection of interests of the indigenous people of Assam and the development of the state. His remarks came amid demonstrations across the state against the amended citizenship law by student organisations, artistes, academics and eminent citizens.

Sonowal said the state government has sent its suggestions to the Central government on the rules of implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in the state. He said that he has informed the Prime Minister and Home Minister of the sentiments and aspirations of the Assamese people in the matter.

"People should have no doubt or confusion in their mind regarding this law. We have many plans regarding protection of their interests and on this first day of the new year, I want to assure all 'khillonjiya bhumiputras' (sons of the soil) that they are completely secure and there is no power that can endanger their existence," Sonowal said.



Sonowal in Guwahati. *PTI*

"Our community will always be totally protected. No force in this world can endanger our existence... The Clause of the Assam Accord which was neglected by previous governments for the last 35 years, that Clause will be implemented by this government," Sonowal said, referring to Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.

A high-level committee is preparing a report to recommend suggestions for the implementation of Clause 6 and the state government has said it will take up the report as soon as it is submitted.

Later in the day, Sonowal visited Nalbari district where, according to footage played on local television channels, protesters tried to show him black flags before they were confronted by the police and whisked away.

"Mr Dar, Senior AAG in his response has taken a stand that the detainee was being provided treatment and medication as per the advice of specialised doctors of the S N Medical College Agra. It was also stated that as per the report submitted through the Medical Officer, Central Jail, Agra on 11 December 2019, the general health condition of the detainee was satisfactory," the court said.



# PERSONAL











The IndianEXPRESS

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## A TALL PLAN

Government's infrastructure push is welcome. More clarity over financing is needed

ON TUESDAY, FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled an ambitious infrastructure agenda, announcing projects worth Rs 102 lakh crore, to be implemented by 2024-25. As infrastructure investments (as a proportion of GDP) have fallen sharply over the twelfth five year plan period (2013-17), attempts to revive the investment cycle are welcome. However, considering that infrastructure investment over the past six years adds up to Rs 51.2 lakh crore, doubling this over the next six years is a tall order. These are not normal times. The economy has slowed down considerably.

The financial system remains choked. And a broad-based pick up in growth is unlikely in the near term. Reviving the investment cycle requires more than just ambitious targets. What is needed is a carefully thought through road-map. It is envisaged that the central and state governments will account for 39 per cent each of the projected investment, with the private sector expected to make up the balance. While this does indicate that the investment cycle will continue to be driven by the public sector, there is little clarity over how both the public and private sector will finance this massive push. A slowing economy has put government finances under pressure. It is now increasingly likely that both the Centre and the states will miss their fiscal deficit targets this year. A sustained fiscal push, as this plan envisions, therefore, seems unlikely. Add to that an overleveraged corporate sector that is in no mood to invest, and achieving these targets looks increasingly difficult. There are also questions over the nature of projects. Roughly a fourth of investments are estimated in the power sector. However, as existing plants are operating well below their peak capacity, whether the corporate sector will invest in new plants whose financial viability is unclear is debatable. Then, of the total projects, 31 per cent are still at the conceptual stage, while another 8 per cent are unclassified, suggesting little clarity over almost 40 per cent of the pipeline.

Given the state of government (Centre and state) finances, creating the necessary fiscal space for this kind of investment push requires rationalising subsidies such as food and fertiliser, as well as an aggressive push towards asset monetisation. The latter would entail selling off assets such as toll-generating highways to long-term investors such as global pension funds. And with bank lending slowing down considerably, banks will be wary of such long gestation projects which will expose them to risks of asset liability mismatches, the need for long-term financing options such as development finance institutions and a well-functioning bond market has never been greater. These need to be supplemented with measures to address the weaknesses in the current public private partnership models to encourage private sector participation.

## HEED THE PUSHBACK

Centre must respond to the Kerala assembly resolution on CAA with sensitivity and care

THE NEAR UNANIMOUS resolution passed by the Kerala legislative assembly against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is a sign of the unease and tension that has crept into the federal arrangement between states and the Centre. The Narendra Modi government had brushed aside the reservations that a cross-section of the Opposition and civil society expressed over the new citizenship law. At least seven states, including NDA-ruled Bihar, have since announced that they will not implement the CAA. The Kerala assembly resolution, which describes the CAA as being against "the basic values and principles" of the Constitution, indicates that the Union government continues to ignore the opposition of state governments at its own peril. The Centre needs to engage with the dissenting states and listen to their legitimate concerns about the Act and the proposed National Register of Citizens. Its attempt to read the opposition to the Act in a legalistic manner misses the big picture.

The emergence of the BJP as the main pole of the polity since 2014 has accentuated the tension that always existed between the Centre and the states. Under Modi and Amit Shah, the BJP has pushed the agenda of subsuming India's several diversities — religious, ethnic, linguistic, dietary, among others — under the rubric of One India. It evidently believes that the electoral endorsement it has received nationally also indicates public acceptance of its ideological project. The pushback from the states is, however, a reflection of the discomfort that significant sections of the population have about the party's aggressive push towards all-round homogenisation. The BJP has been losing assembly elections, and even allies, as it privileges its unitary impulses and ignores regional concerns. Regionalism, like subnationalism, is a persistent presence in Indian politics, which the Centre needs to engage with — it resonates in regions as diverse as Kashmir, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Attempts to impose the Centre's will at the cost of regional sentiments have provoked extreme anxieties in the past.

The onus is on the Centre to ensure that its relations with the states are not frayed. The CAA-NRC debate has threatened to reopen communal faultlines, and the states seem acutely conscious of this. Instead of reading the letter of the Constitution to states to emphasise the supremacy of Parliament in legislation, the Union government needs to also abide by the Constitution's spirit, and respond sensitively to the federal pushback.

## THE KOHLI ERA

Unpredictable and self-aware, Virat continues to push the envelope

THERE IS NO doubt that Indian cricket is in the Kohli era. His batting is praised by Viv Richards, and he has won a historic Test series in Australia, something no Indian captain has done before. His fitness is aped by newcomers, he is respected by peers and old-timers. He has been named in the Wisden T20 team of the decade. And Virat Kohli is a star even on the social media scene.

The English conditions, and in particular James Anderson, were supposed to be his Achilles heel, but he overcame it not with bossiness but with a calculated caution. Not a shot was played in anger against an ageing Anderson even after he was well settled. Barring the mindboggling swat-flick, with which he drags balls to the midwicket boundary, his shots are steeped in cricketing tradition. He takes risks to cut out risks — he would show the daring and the skill needed to take risks before facing a ball, but would turn into a conservative once the ball is delivered. He stands way outside the crease on bouncy tracks in Australia, shuffles to the off-stump guard in England and South Africa — out-of-the-box thinking that batsmen talk about but seldom have the confidence to try out in the middle.

He is the aggressive face of the opposition on field but at times his reactions are unexpected. Like when Kagiso Rabada needled him before the 50-over World Cup, his response was respectful. When an Indian crowd booed Steve Smith because of the controversy over ball tampering, he urged them to applaud the Australian. He supported Glenn Maxwell for putting his health before the game. He won't comment on whether the pink ball or four-day Tests are the game's future but offers his take on demonetisation. Unpredictable he may be, but he is extremely self-aware — a player who knows what he is capable of and is intent on pushing the envelope.



BIBEK DEBROY

ONE CAN QUIBBLE about Arthur Cotton and the Red Hill Railroad, built in 1836 but officially, the advent of the railways is dated to April 16, 1853, when a train left Bori Bunder for Thane (then Tannah), with three steam locomotives (Sindh, Sultan and Sahib) pulling it. "The railway-system will therefore become, in India, truly the forerunner of modern industry." This is something Karl Marx wrote and most people are familiar with this quote. They may not remember where Marx wrote this and when.

The piece was titled "The Future Results of British Rule in India". He wrote it on July 22, 1853, though it was first published on August 8, 1853. In other words, Marx was probably aware of Bori Bunder to Thane. One can quibble about the way Indian Railways (IR) defines consequential accidents and related deaths. But with that as a constant, 2019-20 is the first time in 166 years (counting from 1853) that there have been zero passenger deaths (so far). This is a vivid example of the modernisation IR is going through. The IR set up a committee to examine restructuring. This is often known as the Debroy Committee. It submitted an interim report in March 2015 and a final report in June 2015. These two reports listed more than 20 committees that preceded the Debroy Committee and took stock of their recommendations.

There was a terminal goal we visualised, as did others. There must be competition and choice. With IRTs (IR trains, for want of a better word) as a public service provider of railway transport services, there must be private sector entry, with a regulator (say, a development authority). However, because of the way IR has historically evolved, one can't simply unbundle existing IR the way railways have been unbundled in other countries (sometimes unsuccessfully). Instead, one divides existing IR into a Railway Infrastructure Corporation (RIC) and the new IRTs. The RIC's common infrastructure is shared by both IRTs and private sector providers. The regulator's role is not

Indian Railways needs restructuring and modernisation. Efforts since 2014 are bearing fruit

Have you wondered about the use of hot-cases on trains? Why not microwave ovens? When it was proposed many years ago, there was departmental wrangling between those who looked after electrical and those who looked after utensils, those who looked after procurement and those who looked after catering contracts. Silos, not talking to each other, are common to many organisations. But this is compounded by separate services with separate lines of accountability and encadred posts for vertical mobility.

merely to set tariffs, but also ensure fair competition (such as access to track) between IRTs and private operators. The Railway Ministry sets broad policy, the regulator implements the principles of competition determined by that policy and the present Railway Board becomes a corporate board for the IRT. Skipping the finer details, this was the terminal goal. As a committee, we decided to focus more on the process, especially human resources and finance. Out of 20-odd committees, other than ours, it was the 1994 Prakash Tandon Committee that explored HR in detail.

The key ingredients of our reform template were the following: (1) allow private entry, including in running of private trains; (2) change the composition of the Railway Board; (3) decentralise decision-making to zones/divisions and even further below; (4) separate the core functions of running trains from non-core functions like schools and medical services; (5) set up a regulator; (6) unify various railway services; (7) transit to commercial accounting and (8), unite the Railway Budget with the Union Budget.

If one ticks the boxes, for an organisation that is so old and somewhat resistant to change, it is remarkable that so many reforms have been introduced since 2014. Reform (1) has been done and other than royal tourist trains, the Tejas Express is the first private passenger train, running on a pilot basis. Reform (2) has been recently announced, with the Board functionally pruned. Item (3) has been done and (4) is being implemented at the zonal level. Reform (7) has been completed at zonal level and (8) has been done. A clear computation of social costs is a function of (7) and is being carried out throughout the IR system. This leaves the regulator and unification of services. Recently, eight Group A services have been unified into the Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS). While details are awaited, this will presumably first be done prospectively, for new entrants.

Retrospective application will always face more challenges.

As users of IR services, we often don't appreciate the silos that exist in the IR. Think of a station. Who takes care of station amenities? Platforms, drinking water, toilets, waiting rooms and over-bridges are the responsibility of civil engineering. Lights, lifts, escalators, fans and water-coolers are looked after by electrical. Public address systems, departure boards and train indicator boards are the responsibility of telecom. Reservation and ticketing is with commercial (with IT thrown in). Everything on-board (including sockets, fans and lights) is with mechanical. I did say drinking water is the responsibility of civil engineering. But do remember water-coolers are the responsibility of electrical. Within a station, there are tracks, platforms, places where passengers wait, toilets and perhaps even trains that come in. These need to be cleaned. In one station I visited, I counted 17 different cleaning contracts. Have you wondered about the use of hot-cases on trains? Why not microwave ovens? When it was proposed many years ago, there was departmental wrangling between those who looked after electrical and those who looked after utensils, those who looked after procurement and those who looked after catering contracts. Silos, not talking to each other, are common to many organisations. But this is compounded by separate services with separate lines of accountability and encadred posts for vertical mobility. In plain language, there are quotas, with posts reserved for specific services.

Departmentalism is worse than it was in the 1950s. And much worse than it was in 1905, when the Railway Board was formed. However, the Railway Board went through a major change in 1951. It was time for another change in 2019 and HR reform feeds into that.

The writer is chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the PM. Views are personal



ARABINDA MITRA

## ART OF SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

Strategic S&T ties between countries are the only way to address climate change

SOME OF the most pressing issues and developmental challenges facing nations in contemporary times have a scientific and technological dimension. Science and Technology (S&T)-led innovation offers an opportunity to address these multifaceted challenges, which are now global in nature.

For a diverse country such as India, S&T is expected to empower the common citizen, making his/her life easier. S&T interventions have to be able to address both national needs and aspirations — by being inclusive — and, at the same time, they have to meet the international obligations of a responsible country. Science diplomacy, thus, is a crucial policy dimension.

The importance of S&T innovations in achieving the 2030 Agenda for UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) — to which most nations, including India, are committed — points towards a new opportunities for cross-border collaboration in scientific research and development.

The Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA) was launched by India a few years ago and has provided an enabling platform for frontline techno-economic alliances. Enterprises from India are tying up with their counterparts from partner countries including Canada, Finland, Italy, Sweden, Spain, and the UK. This industry-led collaboration, with the government as an equal partner, is aimed at supporting the last phase of technology-based high-end, affordable product development — which can connect to both global and domestic markets.

It is evident that international collaborations in S&T innovation is not merely cosmetic. Today, it is a necessity. No nation alone has the capacity, infrastructure and human resources to address the massive challenges that the earth and mankind faces, threatening our very existence.

opment — which can connect to both global and domestic markets.

The India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA), with more than 79 sunshine countries as signatories and nearly 121 prospective countries as partners, is another excellent example of modern-day science diplomacy. The vision and mission of the ISA is to provide a dedicated platform for cooperation among solar resource-rich countries. Such a platform can make a positive contribution towards achieving the common goals of increasing the use of solar energy in meeting the energy needs of member countries in a safe, affordable, equitable and sustainable manner.

The global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) was recently announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York. The CDRI is yet another example of international partnership piloted by India in consultation with 35 countries that will support developed and developing nations in their efforts to build climate and disaster-resilient infrastructure, required to face the vagaries of climate change.

The CDRI will provide member countries technical support and capacity development, research and knowledge management, and advocacy and partnerships. It is aimed at risk identification and assessment, urban risk and planning, and disaster risk management. Within two-three years, the coalition aims to have a positive three-fold

impact — in the member countries' policy frameworks, future infrastructure investments and endeavours towards a reduction of economic losses from climate-related events and natural disasters across sectors. Through this international coalition, we can mitigate the fallout of earthquakes, tsunamis, floods and storm by ensuring that affordable housing, schools, health facilities and public utilities are built in line with the robust standards required to survive natural or man-made hazards.

It is evident that international collaborations in S&T innovation is not merely cosmetic. Today, it is a necessity. No nation alone has the capacity, infrastructure and human resources to address the massive challenges that the earth and mankind faces, threatening our very existence. It is inevitable, therefore, that science, technology and innovation should increasingly become an intrinsic diplomatic tool for India.

This will require proactive engagement of the scientific and technological community with stakeholders — including the polity, the diplomatic corps and the knowledge enterprises — in order to design and develop effective tools for international engagement through S&T. After all, these will be required to meet the national aspirations and global challenges that we face in a connected and yet shrinking world.

The writer is principal scientific adviser to the Government of India



## JANUARY 2, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

### LOK SABHA RESULTS

THE CONGRESS (I) looks to be emerging as the single-largest party but nowhere near attaining an absolute majority in the next Lok Sabha which, without Assam and some other seats, will have 524 members. The Janata may be second and the Lok Dal a poor third — the latter is relatively strong in Bihar only. The left front will have an overwhelming majority in West Bengal and Kerala. Mrs Gandhi may attain majority in UP, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab. According to our correspondents, the Janata has gained in certain states since the nomination by the Congress-I of Sanjay Gandhi and some familiar Emergency faces for the forthcoming elections.

### UN ACTION SOUGHT

THE UNITED STATES and its five major allies (Britain, West Germany, France, Italy and Canada) agreed in London to seek UN action as soon as possible on the Soviet Union's "naked aggression" against Afghanistan. According to the *Washington Post*, the six allies also agreed to review their whole range of relations with the Soviet Union and Afghanistan to find other ways to apply diplomatic pressure. They will also look for ways to aid other countries near Afghanistan, particularly Pakistan, "to ensure they maintain their independence". The *Post* said diplomatic sources would not reveal whether any of the other allies would join the US in try-

ing to provide emergency military aid to Pakistan nor would they say whether the allies discussed the possibility of Afghan rebels, "many of whom are based just across the border in Pakistan".

### ARMS TO PAK

HAVING APPROVED \$150 million worth of military sales to Pakistan ordered earlier, US President Jimmy Carter has called for a review of recent requests from Pakistan for the purchase of US military equipment "with an eye towards stepping up arms sales to the Government of Zia-ul-Haq". According to sources, the Pakistani arms list includes modernisation of Pakistan's air force.





# The ABCDEF of implementation

Swachh Bharat Mission has thrown up six guiding principles, which can be applied to any large transformation scheme



PARAMESWARAN IYER

THE PROVERB “THE proof of the pudding is in the eating” perfectly summarises this government’s delivery first approach to governance — the policy of implementation. Governments have always focused on designing the right policies and development schemes. However, over the years, many such well-designed schemes failed to make a significant dent on the lack of access to basic services that a large proportion of our population faced. While the focus on design and policy architecture may have been well meaning, there may not have been a strong enough focus on ensuring that these policies translate to effective implementation on the ground.

A prime minister in the 1980s had famously said that of every rupee spent by the government, only 15 paise reached the intended beneficiaries. This statement symbolised the skew in emphasis on “policy” in favour of “implementation”.

This government has attempted to change things. There has been a relentless emphasis on taking all schemes to fruition on the ground, with the final delivery being the only metric of success. In the past five years, rural India has seen a massive transformation in access to basic services like electricity, cooking fuel, toilets, houses and bank accounts. These transformations have been at unprecedented scale and speed. The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), in particular, has achieved what no one gave it a chance of achieving when it was audaciously announced by the prime minister during his first Independence Day address from the Red Fort. The journey has thrown up six important guiding principles which can be applied to any large transformation scheme — the ABCDEF of implementation.

**A — Align:** Different people at different positions may have competing priorities. A goal congruence has to be achieved across the administrative ecosystem. After the PM announced the SBM, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation had to ensure that the same message percolated down to the chief ministers, 700 district collectors and 2,50,000 sarpanches. This was achieved through a continuous engagement with the states. Team SBM–Grameen visited each state multiple times and also engaged directly with district collectors through learning workshops, informal gatherings and WhatsApp groups, ensuring that sanitation remained on top of everyone’s agenda. The three layers of the PM-CM-DM model working in cohesion is the first and most important step towards policy translating into real delivery.

**B — Believe:** Often when faced with a seemingly unsurmountable goal, teams that don’t genuinely believe that the goal can be achieved find themselves not motivated enough, and hence not trying hard enough and not achieving results — a self-fulfilling prophecy. The next important step was building a team of people who believed that the goal is achievable. Younger people with fresh perspective and lesser administrative baggage believe more easily and focus on finding creative solutions. The SBM brought in a unique blend of young professionals and experienced but driven bureaucrats, at the centre and in the states, and each person quickly



C R Sasikumar

became a believer.

**C — Communicate:** At its core, the SBM is a behaviour change programme. Communication at all levels, above and below the line, mass and inter-personal, was fundamental to the SBM. An army of trained grassroots volunteers called Swachagrahis were created, who went from door to door to communicate the message of swachhata. And then the SBM attempted to make sanitation glamorous by engaging extensively with the media, leveraging popular culture, and associating Bollywood stars, sportspersons and other influencers to promote the message of sanitation. And lastly, the Mission kept the buzz alive throughout its life-cycle through regular, large-scale events with the PM at important milestones, helping sanitation stay on top of public recall. A recent study by Dalberg estimated that each rural Indian was reached by SBM messaging about 3,000 times over the past five years. Such was the effectiveness of SBM’s communication. Of course, we had a big advantage — the PM was our Communicator-in-Chief!

**D — Democratise:** As the prime minister has said on many occasions, the SBM became a Jan Andolan. It nudged people to realise that sanitation is not an individual good, but a community good, as its full benefits accrue only when it is universal. Over the years, everyone became a stakeholder and sanitation became everyone’s business. People constructed their own toilets and motivated others, communities planned activities and monitored progress, villages declared themselves open defecation free (ODF). Even corporates, NGOs, civil society organisations and other government ministries and departments played a role in mainstreaming sanitation.

**E — Evaluate:** The SBM was operating at a massive scale in a largely decentralised manner. As progress started surpassing expectations, many people questioned the veracity of official administrative progress figures. And

The Mission kept the buzz alive throughout its life-cycle through regular, large-scale events with the PM at important milestones, helping sanitation stay on top of public recall. A recent study by Dalberg estimated that each rural Indian was reached by SBM messaging about 3,000 times over the past five years. Such was the effectiveness of SBM’s communication. Of course, we had a big advantage — the PM was our Communicator-in-Chief!

hence, it became even more important to encourage third-party monitoring of progress and evaluate outputs, outcomes and impacts to reinforce the credibility and keep the implementers motivated. At the same time, pockets of excellence emerged which deserved to be studied and shared with others to replicate. Organisations such as the World Bank, UNICEF, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and WHO conducted various assessments of sanitation coverage and usage, successes and areas of improvement, as well as the health, economic and social impacts of the SBM. India became the global laboratory for sanitation. Lessons from these studies were incorporated into the programme in real-time.

**F — Follow-through:** The PM said on October 2 while commemorating the ODF declaration by all states that this is but a milestone and not the finish line. There is a strong focus on not declaring “mission accomplished”, and continuing to work towards sustaining the ODF behaviour and ensuring that no one is left behind. We recently released a forward-looking 10-year sanitation strategy, articulating the goal of moving from ODF to ODF Plus. This post-delivery follow through is a critical to ensure that the change becomes the norm and that things don’t reset to what they used to be in the past. Only then will the delivery be truly complete.

Learning from these guiding principles, the government is continuing in its quest to deliver basic services to the people of India. In his first Independence Day speech of his second term, the prime minister announced an even more ambitious goal — of providing piped water supply to all households by 2024. And aligning with this goal, the Jal Jeevan Mission is being designed to deliver, based on the ABCDEF of implementation.

The writer is secretary, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. Views are personal

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“The internet is still unpredictable; companies rise and fall, and if Facebook, Twitter and YouTube do not offer their users the freedom they seek, they will go elsewhere.” — **DAWN**

# Azaadi is a dangerous word

Our language is tainted and crippled by being pressed into the service of inhumanity



ALOK RAI

IT IS not an edifying spectacle, seeing the great and the good floundering like this, falling over themselves, then over each other, lying desperately to try and salvage something from the train wreck of the Citizenship Amendment Act–National Register of Citizens.

In a sense, the RSS has been perfecting its techniques of lie and rumour, innuendo and doublespeak, for a whole century. So, Mohan Bhagwat now assures us, all 130 crore of us, including the lynched and the lynchable, are Hindus, provided we match Mr Bhagwat’s standard of being “true sons of India” — thanks, I say, but no thanks! And, for all one knows, underlying the dogged and insidious pursuit of “Hindu Rashtra”, there is the millennia-old Brahminical tradition of the Hindu-savarna maintaining their social tyranny through a combination of violence and lies and, crucially, hypocrisy.

It is appropriate, therefore, that though there have been protests and demonstrations across the country, the greatest amount of police brutality and violence has been concentrated in UP — not only because the head of the state government is a saffron-clad “yogi”, but also because it is here that there is the highest concentration of the Hindu upper-castes. It is here that one can expect them to make their last stand. All the institutions of the state stand infiltrated, and the India imagined in the Constitution — of equality and social justice, of rights and the rule of law — might as well be on another planet.

We have all seen the heartbreaking visuals of the police brutality from Jamia and Aligarh, from Muzaffarnagar and Kanpur and Meerut, 20 dead and still counting. (More killed, incidentally, than in the entire Hong Kong agitation.) But tragic as this is, it is not surprising. It is a direct consequence of the fact that now, finally, even in the eyes of young who might once have been deluded by the dreams of development, the common stand exposed. The young now realise that far from waking into some shining “New India”, they are being led into a guaranteed disaster, comparable to that which was brought upon Germany by the Nazi pursuit of an exclusivist “Aryan” nationalism. After all, it is the young who will inherit that poisoned and devastated country, and not ageing “urban Naxals”. But I see no reason to dawdle here, amid helmeted policemen armed with sticks and guns, beating helpless people, amid the haunting sound of mothers and fathers grieving over the broken bodies of their children. Except, en passant, to ask: Where, and how, do they produce such monsters? I suggest that the daily inoculation with lies and violence has, over a period of years, produced a race of android “New Indians” who are immunised against empathy and imagination.

But beyond this matter of lies and vio-

lence, I wish to explore the connection between violence and language. The horrors of the 20th century prompted much reflection on this matter. The classic text is George Steiner’s exploration of what the violence of the Nazi experience had meant for the German language — Language and Silence: “Everything forgets. But not language. When it has been injected with falsehood, only the most drastic truth can cleanse it...Words that are saturated with lies or atrocity do not easily resume life.” One last quotation must suffice before I turn to our own experience of atrocity and language: “Languages have great reserves of life. They can absorb masses of hysteria, illiteracy and cheapness... But there comes a breaking point. Use a language to conceive, organise and justify Belsen, use it to dehumanise man... Something will happen to it. Something of the lies and the sadism will settle in the marrow of the language. Imperceptibly at first, like the poisons of radiation sifting silently into the bone. But the cancer will begin, and the deep-set destruction...” The lynch mobs forced Tabrez Ansari to utter “Jai Shri Ram” even as they were beating him to death. Ironically, now and forever, “Jai Shri Ram” will remain linked with the battered corpse of what was once a man. Our language is tainted and crippled by being pressed into the service of inhumanity.

Confronted with the vapid chatter around the pain and suffering that is on offer nightly, the garrulous inadequacy of TV panelists in the presence of everyday horror, one is tempted to repeat Wittgenstein’s stern aphorism: Whereof we cannot speak, thereof we must be silent. But there is another thought that arises in the current context of the explosion of protest, the nationwide affirmation by the young that they will not accept the bitter and divided nation that is the outcome of the CAA-NRC process. Rejecting Wittgenstein’s philosophical modesty, in the face of that about which we are commanded not to speak, we must shout and sing, we must mock and ridicule, lavish the authors of the violence and the repression with contempt.

And it is truly a miracle that in response to official brutality, there has been an explosion of wit and poetry, of humour and creativity, all the way from posters to YouTube videos. Pitted against louts chanting “goli maaro saalon ko”, they are making jokes — “Hindu–Muslim raazi, to kya karega Naazi”.

They are singing songs, mocking pomposity with poetry, flooding the internet with sass and style that is beyond the reach of semi-literate Sanghis. Kumar Sundaram’s mocking “Naxal” poem — “aage Naxal, peechhe Naxal” — could have put an end to the fatuous label “urban Naxal”, provided they were fully literate. Hussain Hydar’s bitter poem, with the refrain “bus mat jalaiye” holds a mocking mirror to P.M. 2.0 — “more dangerous than P.M. 2.5”, one poster jokes, alluding to a relatively benign form of pollution. Another proclaims that his papers got burnt in Gujarat in 2002.

Perhaps it’s time for another “free and frank” interview with Akshay Kumar?

The writer taught at the department of English, Delhi University

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SAVE THE ‘WE’

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Let’s learn to listen’ (IE, January 1). The writer has correctly sought to bring in focus the need to discover the concept of “We”. We may do well to remember Bhakti saints like Kabir or several Sufi saints who transcended the narrow divisions of the day. Their teachings have to be incorporated into classroom discussions, and their discourses — which give us more reason to unite than divide — must be given prominence. It’s time we reflect on our pluralist legacy, and the promise “We” made to ourselves with the birth of our Constitution. **Sarthak Sonwalkar**, via email

### AN IMAGE DENTED

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Challenge lies within’ (IE, December 31). India’s phenomenal endurance in the face of the 2009 financial crises, and thereafter its astounding growth story in the last decade, generated much enthusiasm — to a point that India was considered one of the undisputed emerging superpowers of the world. The diplomatic effort to further rebrand India’s global image as a land of possibilities for investors has also drawn a lot of global attention. Now, the domestic developments in India are being observed by a world audience, and hence, this recent series of protests across the country is sure to impact its international profile.

**Sudip Kumar Dey**, Kolkata

### 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.

### IIM QUOTAS

THIS REFERS TO the report, “Exempt us from faculty quotas, IIMs tell govt” (IE, January 1). The IIMs are absolutely right in their request to the government to not force them into recruiting for faculty positions as per the quota system. These institutions are world-class and there should not be any compulsion on the IIMs to have reservations in their recruitment process: They cannot compromise on the quality of the education offered. Whether it’s a candidate from the general category or SC/ST, it should be a call purely on the basis of skills, and nothing else.

**Bal Govind**, Noida



KEKI DARUWALLA

LISTENING TO a lecture on Gandhi a week back, I thought we were much better off than the youngsters today. Philosophies were fighting it out in the open, it was doctrine versus doctrine. In India, even Gandhi’s ideas, on the economic front, were hotly debated and often opposed. People accused him of being naïve, and his-rural centric ideas as unfit for a country wanting to industrialise. Nehru balanced Gandhi’s doctrines, the youngsters in coffee houses, declaimed. The others said that the state was a force and the imperial state, a greater and more vicious force. Gandhi pitched soul-force against the imperial state as a counter force, and the state had quit. One was reminded of the symbols Gandhi held aloft, the salt of Dandi and the home-spun khadi. Apart from his sainthood, could there have been a more savvy politician?

In Europe the ideological war was not so non-violent. The KGB were inveigling intelligence officers from the other side — remember Kim Philby, Guy Burgess and Maclean? The West had never witnessed such a battle since Protestants and Catholics went for each others’ blood, and Martin Luther nailed his 98 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, and since Bloody Mary had burnt on the stake Archbishop Thomas

Cranmer and Nicholas Ridley on St Giles Road in Oxford, where I lived for a year. Of course, there were no holds barred. Capitalism, with its bloated money power, and the CIA (both as backbone and instigator) were fighting against communism. Fidel and Che were heroes to the young while the Cuban crisis had the world wetting its pants. How did Fidel Castro fiddle with the imagination of the leftists for decades?

As youngsters in the early Fifties, we looked at propaganda suspiciously. Were the Soviets so bad? Did Stalin really get Borodin and Bukharin and the whole lot shot, after fake confessions? Did he get Trotsky, hiding in Mexico, clobbered to death with an ice axe? Then Stalin himself died, to be followed by Beria, the head of the dreaded KGB. There were wild rumours about what exactly happened. Things will improve, we thought. Nothing doing. Stalin’s murders were replaced by the murders of countries, there is no name for this kind of “national homicide”. We had seen nationalities done away with — Armenians by the Turks and Zoroastrians by the Arabs. But then we saw Hungary (1956) and Czechoslovakia (1958) crushed by Russian tanks.

The scaffoldings of ideologies, all

spawned by and in the west, had not fallen as yet. The propaganda skirmishes were fought on pavements in Connaught Place and Chandni Chowk. where you could get a book by Turgenev or Tolstoy for about 10 bucks, though the Russians would still not touch Dostoevsky, a bit of a mystery.

Stalin was a part of the disease, not just a vicious isolated virus. (Did he inherit the DNA from Lenin? After all Lenin could also be ruthless — he was privy to the massacre of the Czar Nicholas and his innocent family.) The Russian invasion of Hungary in 1956 and the eventual assassination/execution of the brave prime minister, Imre Nagy, jolted us in 1956. Then followed the terrible happenings in Prague two years later. Yet we, suspicious as ever, were convinced that the CIA was a part of the propaganda — poor communists, lovers of egalitarianism being painted black with a tar brush. In the end, the wretched capitalists, spawn of Wall Street and Langley, were proved right. They always said that communism would crumble and the east Europe regimes did, and how. Romania was a worst-case scenario, with Ceausescu and his wife being shot by a firing squad.

What is going on these days seems tawdry in comparison. Will the Brexit debate be re-

membered 10 years hence when people discuss democracy? Or the impeachment of President Trump? And what about our own numerous enumerations, our inclusions and exclusions, national registers and citizenship bills, desi and immigrant? Father’s name, mother’s name, grandmother’s maiden name. What about campaigns chalked out in the evening against Muslim immigrants from Bangladesh, only to find at dawn next day that more Hindus had come in? Can all this make one cry? Where will all these documents be stored? Why not build another tower in Delhi and ask Mr Patel, who did the work in Varanasi, to build it? He is getting all the goodies, isn’t it? CAA, NPR, NCR — we should call our current phase “The Republic of Records”. But if you focus on the numerous election-time speeches by the PM, and the Mann ki Baat thrown in, we could call our age the “Republic of Sound”. But what about the quiet that followed the killings of Pehlu Khan and Mohammad Akhlaq, and his silence on so many things — police excesses in Jammia and the hiding they administered in the library? Then do we call it the Republic of Silence?

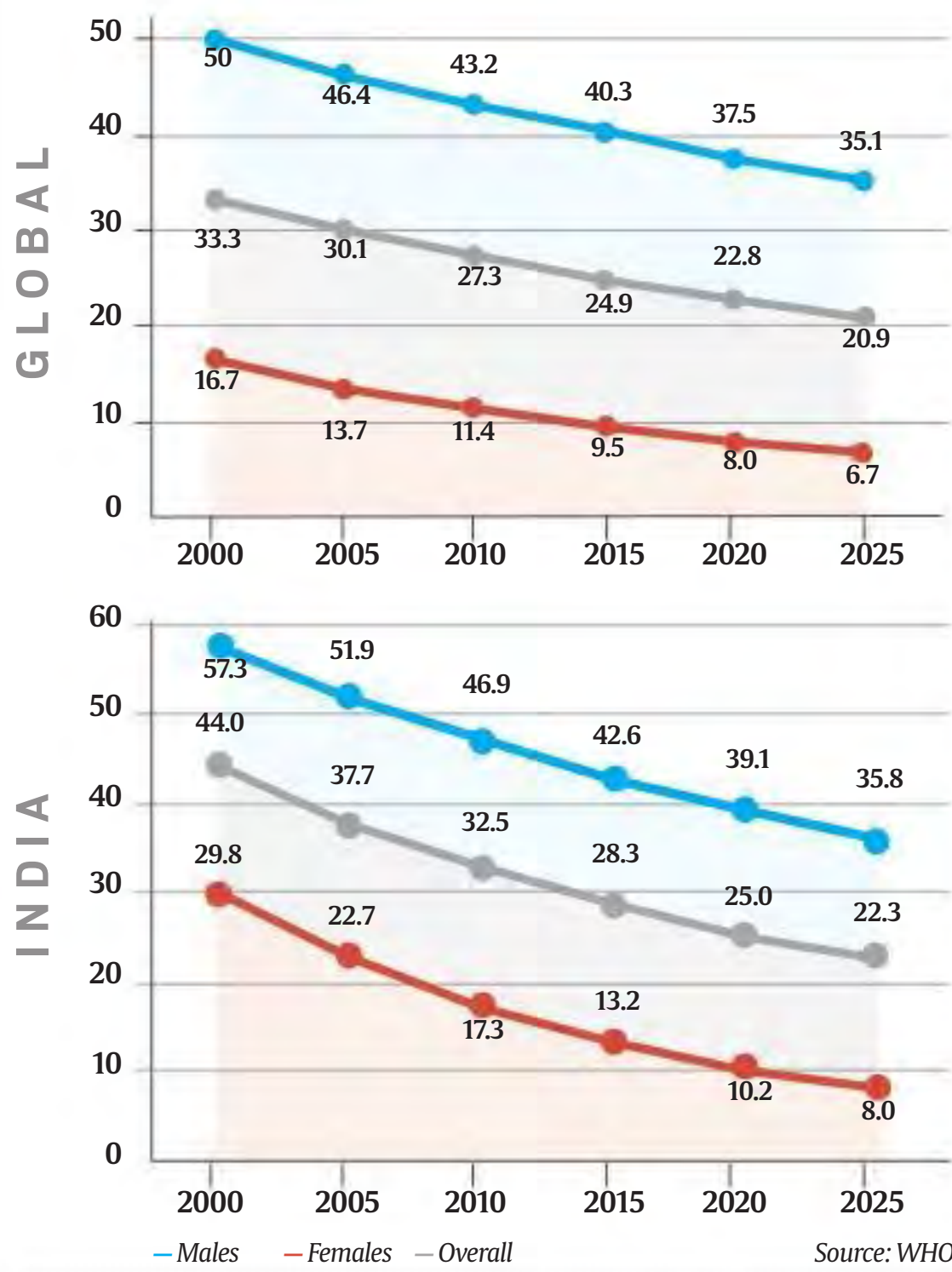
Daruwalla, a poet and short story writer, was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1984



## TELLING NUMBERS

### Projected drop in male tobacco use underlines shifting trends

#### TOBACCO USE PREVALENCE (%)



A RECENT report released by the World Health Organization projected what it calls “a powerful shift in the global tobacco epidemic”. While male tobacco use rose by around 40 million, from 1.050 billion in 2000 to 1.093 billion in 2018, the report projected a decline in the number of males using tobacco. The number has stopped growing and is projected to decline by more than 1 million male users come 2020 (or 1.091 billion) compared to 2018 levels, and 5 million less by 2025 (1.087 billion).

Overall global tobacco use fell from 1.397 billion in 2000 to 1.337 billion in 2018 (around 60 million people). The fall was largely driven by reductions in the number of females using tobacco products — with their numbers shrinking from 346 million in 2000 to 244 million in 2018, or more than 100 million users.

“By 2020, WHO projects there will be 10 million fewer tobacco users, male and female, compared to 2018, and another 27 million less by 2025, amounting to 1.299 billion. Some 60 per cent of countries have been experiencing a decline in tobacco use since 2010,” the WHO said.

In India, which had a 44% prevalence of tobacco use (male and female combined) in 2000, this is expected to reduce almost by half to 22.3% by 2025. Globally, the prevalence was at 33.3% in 2000, and is projected to reach 20.9% in 2025.

#### 2018 PREVALENCE TOBACCO USE (%)

	Overall	Male	Female
Global	23.6	38.6	8.5
India	27.0	42.0	12.1

#### TOBACCO SMOKING (%)

	Overall	Male	Female
Global	18.9	32.4	5.5
India	11.8	22.2	1.4

Current tobacco use rates in India in 2018 for people aged 15 years and older were higher than global rates among both males and females. However, the rates of tobacco smoking were lower than global rates.

Among other key findings, the report found that approximately 43 million children (aged 13-15) over the world used tobacco in 2018 (14 million girls and 29 million boys). “... More and more countries are implementing effective tobacco control measures, which are having the desired effect of reducing tobacco use. Tobacco taxes not only help reduce tobacco consumption and health-care costs, but also represent a revenue stream for financing for development in many countries,” WHO said.

## SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

# What are role, powers of CDS?

With General Bipin Rawat taking over as India’s first Chief of Defence Staff, a look at the structure of the Defence Ministry, and the relationship the CDS will have with the ministry and the armed forces

SUSHANT SINGH

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

WITH GENERAL Bipin Rawat taking over as the first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) on New Year’s Day, a new structure is being created in the Defence Ministry. What will be the nature of the relationship between the new four-star general and the ministry?

**It is said that the CDS is a ‘dual-hatted role’. What does that mean?**

The dual-hatted role refers to the two hats the CDS wears: one of the permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee which has the three service chiefs as members, and the other of the head of the newly created Department of Military Affairs (DMA) in the ministry. The former is a military role while the latter is a role in the government; it is as the head of DMA that his major responsibilities within the ministry will be discharged.

**How many other departments does the Defence Ministry have, and who so far was looking after what will now be the charter of DMA?**

The ministry already had four departments: Department of Defence; Department of Defence Production; Department of Defence Research and Development; and Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare. Each of them is headed by a Secretary, with the Department of Defence being the nerve centre of the ministry, looking after all issues pertaining to the armed forces, defence policy and procurement.

The charter of duties of the DMA was so far looked after by the Department of Defence, which is headed by the Defence Secretary who is also the secretary in-charge of the Defence Ministry. Work exclusively pertaining to military matters will fall within the purview of the DMA while the Department of Defence will deal with larger issues pertaining to defence of the country. To give an illustrative example, this means that while tri-service military training institutions will fall under the DMA, organisations like IDSA and NDC whose remit is broader than military matters will fall under the Department of Defence.

**Are the armed forces — the Army, the Navy and the Air Force — not departments of the ministry?**

No, the service headquarters, and thereby the armed forces, are attached offices in the



Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat in New Delhi Wednesday. Prem Nath Pandey

### MINISTRY OF DEFENCE: WHO, WHAT

**Department of Defence**  
Headed by Defence Secretary

**Department of Military Affairs**  
Headed by the CDS

**Department of Defence Production**  
Headed by Secretary Defence Production

**Department of Defence Research and Development**  
Headed by DRDO chief

**Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare**  
Headed by Secretary ESW

#### DUAL-HATTED ROLE OF CDS

- Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee
- Head of Department of Military Affairs in Defence Ministry

ministry. They used to come under the Department of Defence so far, but will now fall under the ambit of DMA, and will have an appropriate mix of civilian and military

officers at every level.

Attached offices are generally responsible for providing executive direction required in implementation of policies laid down by the department to which they are attached, in this case now the DMA. They also serve as a repository of technical information and advise the department on technical aspects of questions they deal with. In essence, they are executive agencies carrying out directions of the Defence Ministry whose task is to draft them, obtain approval from the government and communicate them for implementation to the defence services.

**But won’t the CDS command the three service chiefs, and be the single-point military adviser to the government?**

No, neither. He will act as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister only on tri-services matters. In fact, the three service chiefs will continue to advise the Defence Minister, as done so far, on matters exclusively concerning their respective services. The government has also made it explicitly clear that the CDS will not exercise any military command, including over the three service chiefs. But the service chiefs will be members of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, which will be headed by the CDS. And the DMA, headed by the CDS, will also have the armed forces under its ambit — if promotions, postings and disciplinary matters of three services fall under the DMA, it will give

the CDS extensive influence over the three service chiefs.

**Have the service chiefs lost any of their major powers or tasks to the CDS?**

Not really. None of the powers of the service chiefs, including of advising the government, has been curtailed and transferred to the CDS. The only thing is the role of Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, which used to be headed by the senior-most chief by rotation. That has been shelved with the CDS being the permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, where he will be supported by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff.

However, the CDS has been given a time-bound task, to be done within three years, to bring about jointness in operations, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, and repairs and maintenance of the three services, which will eventually lead to shedding of responsibilities by the service headquarters. As the head of the DMA, the CDS has to also facilitate restructuring of military commands for optimal utilisation of resources by bringing about jointness in operations, including through establishment of joint/ theatre commands. This is again a far-reaching move, which will potentially impinge on the remit of the service chiefs.

**The CDS has the status of a Cabinet Secretary, but functionally will head a department headed by a Secretary. Also, he will be under a ministry where the Defence Secretary is in charge of the ministry. Isn’t this a bit complicated?**

Yes, it is. But that is the nature of government functioning and his dual-hatted role will decide the different kind of powers, access and relationships that will be forged by the CDS. Norms of functioning and political guidance, more than hard-coded bureaucratic rules, will determine the functional efficiency and effectiveness of the CDS and it will be upon General Rawat to establish this as the first incumbent of the new office.

**Finally, will the CDS be responsible for the defence of the country?**

No, as per the gazette notification issued by the government on December 30, the Department of Defence — headed by the Defence Secretary — will be responsible for the “defence of India and every part thereof, including defence policy and preparation for defence and all such acts as may be conducive in times of war to its prosecution and after its termination to effective demobilisation”.

# What were the 2 holidays scrapped in J&K?

BASHAARAT MASOOD

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 1

THE GOVERNMENT in Jammu and Kashmir has cancelled two existing public holidays and introduced a new one. The Muslim majority in Jammu and Kashmir see this as a reflection of the Centre’s assertion, and as a move against their own assertion of their Muslim identity.

#### The three holidays

The government order has cancelled public holidays on December 5 and July 13. December 5 is commemorated as the birth anniversary of Sheikh Mohd Abdullah, National Conference founder, former J&K Prime Minister, and former Chief Minister.

July 13 is observed as Martyrs’ Day in Jammu and Kashmir. On that date in 1931, 22 Kashmiris were killed outside the Srinagar

Central Jail, where they had assembled to protest against autocratic Dogra rulers.

The new holiday is on October 26, the date in 1947 when the former state of Jammu and Kashmir acceded to the Dominion of India. A day later, Indian troops reached Srinagar to drive out tribal raiders. October 27 is observed as a Black Day in Kashmir, marked with a shutdown.

#### History & significance

In 1846, under the Treaty of Amritsar, the British sold Jammu and Kashmir state to the Dogra king Maharaja Gulab Singh. The Dogras hailed from Jammu and their rule lasted for over a century. In 1931, Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir rose against the autocracy of Dogra rule. The uprising, which led to the killing of 22 Muslims, is seen as the first assertion of Muslim identity in Jammu and Kashmir.

Since the BJP formed a coalition govern-

ment with the PDP, its leaders and ministers had started to demand a holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh, the Dogra king who ruled Kashmir when the 1931 killings took place. The BJP leaders, most of whom hailed from Jammu, also stayed away from government functions organised to commemorate those killed in 1931.

December 5, meanwhile, is significant because of the efforts of Sheikh Mohd Abdullah to integrate Jammu and Kashmir with India. It was Abdullah, a close friend and political ally of Jawaharlal Nehru, who converted the Muslim Conference into the secular National Conference in 1939. Unlike the Muslim Conference, the NC advocated a future with secular India rather than with Pakistan. Once the tallest leader of Kashmir, Abdullah saw his popularity dwindle over the years, but his party continued to advocate Kashmir’s future with India.

#### The signals

The move is seen as a departure from the politics of Jammu and Kashmir since 1939. Many people see this as an effort to erase the role of Sheikh Abdullah, and J&K’s Muslim assertion. They see it also as a refusal to recognise Kashmir’s popular Muslim leaders who sided with India in 1947, and leaders who continue to identify with India.

It also raises a question mark over the revival of a political process in Jammu and Kashmir. After the abrogation of Jammu & Kashmir’s special status and division of the state into two Union Territories, the government has cracked down even on mainstream political parties, jailed their leaders and workers including three former Chief Ministers, and stayed away from any political engagement. The move comes when normalcy is yet to return even five months after the abrogation.

# In Baghdad US embassy storming, echoes of a seige in Tehran 40 yrs ago

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

ON TUESDAY evening (India time), as several dozen protesters stormed the United States embassy compound in Baghdad, smashing windows and lighting fires, and a crowd of thousands thronged the streets outside chanting “Death to America”, John R Bolton, who was the US National Security Adviser until September 2019, posted on Twitter: “The attack on the US embassy in Baghdad is straight from Iran’s playbook in 1979...”

Several hours later, President Donald Trump tweeted that “The US Embassy in Iraq is, & has been for hours, SAFE!”, with “great Warfighters, together with the most lethal military equipment in the world”, present at the site. He threatened the regime in Tehran directly: “Iran will be held fully responsible for lives lost, or damage incurred, at any of our facilities. They will pay a very BIG PRICE! This is not a Warning, it is a Threat.”

The US believes the attack on the em-

bassy compound was directed from Tehran, and led by the Kata’ib Hezbollah militia, which is different from Hezbollah in Lebanon but, like the latter, is closely aligned with the Quds Force, the overseas operations wing of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC). The Hezbollah, Kata’ib Hezbollah, and Revolutionary Guards have been designated international terrorist organisations by the US.

What happened in 1979, and why does the US blame Iran for Tuesday’s attack on its embassy compound in Iraq?

#### Tehran embassy seige

On November 4, 1979, youth followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini calling themselves Muslim Students Following the Imam’s Line smashed through the gates of the US embassy in Tehran and seized the compound and the 63 American citizens present on the premises. (Another three American diplomats were seized at the Foreign Ministry.) The crisis lasted a full 444 days — until January 20, 1981, when the last batch of the 52 Americans who were taken hostage were released.

The incident — the most consequential of its kind in recent decades (along with the 2012 assault on the US embassy in Benghazi, Libya, in which the American ambassador and a foreign service officer was killed) — put the relationship between the US and Iran in a fundamentally hostile cast, the echoes of which continue to reverberate more than 40 years on. The embassy seige, a seminal event of the Islamic Revolution, cemented the perception of the ayatollahs’ regime as being intractably fundamentalist and anti-West, and has ever since been at the heart of the US narrative of Iran as a rogue outlier that has no respect for internationally accepted principles law, morality, or human rights.

#### The context in Iran

The last Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who had been installed and kept in power by Western powers led by the US and the UK, had been a close American ally for decades. Under him, Iran was the West’s bulwark against the Soviet Union, and the autocratic Shah energetically pursued Western style modernisation in the country,



Hostage takers burn American flag at the embassy in Tehran in 1979.

including the suppression of religious groups. As public anger against the Shah peaked, the sprawling US embassy compound became, from the last months of 1978 onward, the scene of large protests by

Iranians who perceived the US as his primary benefactor.

On January 16, 1979, the Shah fled Iran for Egypt, and on February 1, Khomeini made a triumphant return to his country after 15 years in exile. On October 22, the deposed Shah arrived in the US for medical treatment, triggering an eruption of anger on the Iranian street, which ultimately resulted in the storming of the embassy on November 4.

#### The unfolding crisis

Initial negotiations by representatives of President Jimmy Carter and diplomats of other countries in Iran made no headway. The country’s mood was virulently anti-American, and the fate of the hostages was also caught in a tussle between rival revolutionary factions. Mehdi Bazargan, who had been appointed Prime Minister by Khomeini, resigned on November 6. The US refused to accept the hostage takers’ key demand for the return of the Shah — and instead stopped buying Iranian oil, froze Iranian assets in America, lobbied with other countries and in the United Nations,

and took Iran to the International Court of Justice (where it ultimately won).

Meanwhile, on November 17, 13 women and African American hostages were released. On July 11, 1980, another hostage who had fallen very ill, was let go. Separately, on January 28, 1980, six American diplomats who had escaped being taken hostage and had been sheltered by the senior Canadian diplomat John Sheardown, made a dramatic escape along with two CIA operatives on board a Swissair flight to Zurich. (Their story was fictionalised in *Escape from Iran: The Canadian Caper* (1981) and the Oscar-winning *Argo* (2012).

On April 24, 1980, a dangerous military attempt to fly the hostages out of Tehran failed tragically after three of the eight helicopters on the mission malfunctioned, and a fourth was involved in an accident as the US forces sought to withdraw hastily. Eight American soldiers were killed, and Iran showed their bodies on TV, to the Carter administration’s humiliation. Thereafter all diplomatic efforts ceased, and Iran tightened security around the hostages.



TOPOF THE WORLD



Marc Veyrat

FRANCE  
**Chef loses court case over lost Michelin star**

*Paris:* A French chef who said he had contemplated suicide after the prestigious Michelin guide removed one of his restaurant's stars on Tuesday lost a legal attempt to force the guide's inspectors to justify their decision. Marc Veyrat, 69, took the Michelin Guide to court in September demanding that it explain why it had stripped him of one of his three stars a year after awarding it. He had said the only explanation he had been given was that he had used English cheddar in a soufflé, instead of traditional French cheese — an accusation he said was false. But a court in Nanterre, on the outskirts of Paris, rejected his request.

AFGHANISTAN  
**Taliban target security forces, killing 26**

*Kabul:* The Taliban unleashed a new wave of attacks in northern Afghanistan, targeting members of the country's security forces and killing at least 26, local officials said Wednesday. The insurgents quickly claimed responsibility for all the attack. The Taliban today hold sway over practically half of Afghanistan, staging near-daily attacks that target soldiers, security forces and government officials but also kill scores of civilians. In northern Kunduz province, at least 10 Afghan forces were killed in an attack on a police checkpoint in the district of Dashti Archi.

MEXICO  
**At least 16 dead in prison riot**

*Mexico City:* At least 16 inmates in a central Mexico prison were killed and five more were wounded in a riot that closed out a violent 2019 for the country, authorities said. Zacatecas state security secretary Ismael Camberos Hernández told local press that authorities confiscated four guns that they believe were introduced to the Cieneguillas state prison during prison visits Tuesday. He said the prison was searched for weapons Saturday and Sunday and no guns were found. The melee broke out around 2.30 pm Tuesday and the prison was brought under control by 5 pm.

# US troops fire teargas as protesters swarm embassy in Baghdad again

Most protesters disperse after militia leaders call on them to leave; US, Iran sharpen rhetoric

**FALIH HASSAN & ALISSA J RUBIN**  
 BAGHDAD, JANUARY 1

FOR A second day, demonstrators swarmed outside the United States Embassy in Iraq on Wednesday and troops fired teargas in an attempt to disperse them, but after a few hours the militia leaders who had organised the demonstration called on the crowd to leave. Unlike on Tuesday, protesters did not get inside the compound. By midafternoon all but about 200 had dispersed, taking their tent poles with them. US President Trump said on Tuesday that Iran was responsible for events at the embassy compound in Baghdad, and tweeted, "They will pay a very BIG PRICE! This is not a Warning, it is a Threat."

That drew a taunting response on Wednesday from Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader. "You can't do anything," he said in a speech in Tehran, according to his website,

## T S Eliot's letters to muse to be unveiled after 60 years

**CHRISTINA PACIOLLA**  
 JANUARY 1

AFTER MORE than 60 years spent sealed up in a library storage facility, about 1,000 letters written by poet T S Eliot to confidante Emily Hale will be unveiled this week, and scholars hope they will reveal the extent of a relationship that's been speculated about for decades. Many consider Hale to not only be his close friend, but also his muse, and they hope their correspondence will offer insight into the more intimate details about Eliot's life and work. Students, researchers and scholars can read the letters at Princeton University Library starting Thursday.

"I think it's perhaps the literary event of the decade," says Anthony Cuda, an Eliot scholar and director of the T S Eliot International Summer School. "I don't know of anything more awaited or significant. It's momentous to have these letters coming out."

Lifelong friends, Hale and Eliot exchanged letters for about 25 years beginning in 1930. The two met in 1912 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, but did not rekindle their friendship until 1927. Eliot was already living in England and Hale taught drama at US universities, including Scripps College in California. In 1956, Hale donated the letters under an agreement they wouldn't be opened until 50 years after either her or Eliot's death, whichever came second. Eliot died in 1965. Hale died four years later. Biographers say Eliot ordered Hale's letters to him to be burned. Their relationship "must have been incredibly important and their correspondence must have been remarkably intimate for him to be so concerned about the publication," Cuda said. **AP**



The reception room of the US embassy in Baghdad was torched by protesters on Tuesday. *AP*

adding: "If the Islamic Republic decides to challenge and fight, it will do so unequivocally."

The US blamed an Iranian-backed militia for a rocket attack on Friday on an Iraqi military base, which killed an American contractor and wounded several other people. American forces responded on Sunday with strikes on five sites controlled by the militia, in Syria and Iraq, that killed at least two dozen people

and injured twice as many; Iran has put the death toll at 31.

On Tuesday, thousands of Iraqis, many of them militia fighters, marched on the US embassy compound in Baghdad to protest the American strikes; some of them forced their way through the outer wall, set fires and threw rocks. They did not attempt to breach the embassy itself, and there were no reports of serious injuries, but the clash

WAR OF WORDS

**"They will pay a very BIG PRICE! This is not a Warning, it is a Threat."**

**DONALD TRUMP,**  
TWEETED AFTER BLAMING IRAN FOR THE EMBASSY PROTESTS

**"You can't do anything... If the Islamic Republic decides to challenge and fight, it will do so..."**

**AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI,**  
HITTING BACK AT THE U.S. THREAT

evoked memories of the takeover of the American embassy in Tehran during the Iranian Revolution in 1979.

On Wednesday afternoon, the umbrella group for the militias, the Popular Mobilisation Forces, ordered everyone to leave the embassy area. **NYT**

**US deploys more troops**  
**AP**adds: After the storming of the US embassy in Baghdad,

## JAKARTA HIT BY NEW YEAR FLOODING, 9 DEAD



A rescue team evacuates residents from their flooded house at Jatibening on the outskirts of Jakarta Wednesday. *AP*

## Australian authorities scramble to reach victims as fire toll rises

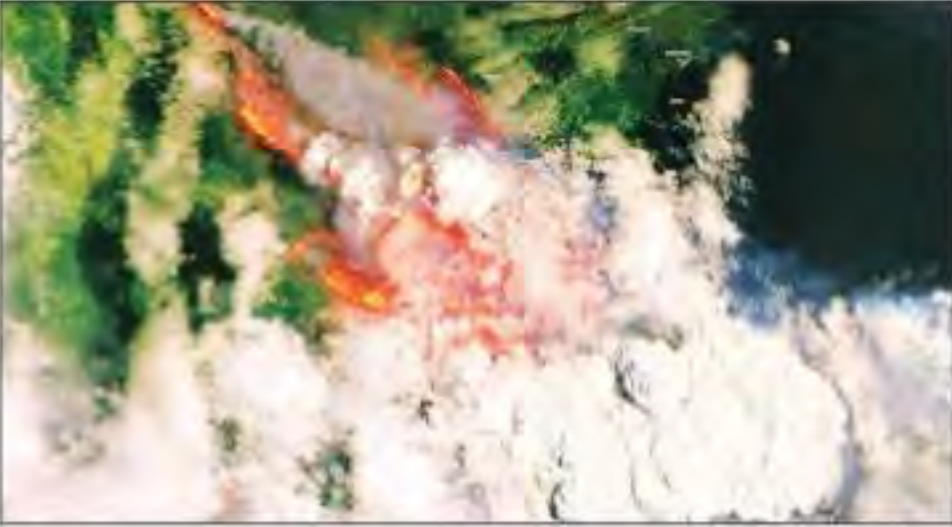
**COLIN PACKHAM**  
 SYDNEY, JANUARY 1

A THIRD person was confirmed dead on Wednesday in devastating bushfires that engulfed Australia's southeast coast this week and a fourth was missing and feared dead, as navy ships rushed to provide supplies and assist with evacuations.

At least 15 people are now believed to have died, while scores of people remain missing after weeks of fires that have ripped through Australia's east coast, much of which is tinder-dry after three years of drought.

Fanned by soaring temperatures, columns of fire and smoke blackened entire towns on Monday and Tuesday, forcing thousands of residents and holidaymakers to seek shelter on beaches. Many stood in shallow water to escape the flames.

Bushfires have destroyed more than 4 million hectares (10



A satellite image of the Batemans Bay shows smoke and fire from wild bushfires in Australia. *Reuters*

million acres) and new blazes are sparked almost daily by extremely hot and windy conditions and, most recently, dry lightning strikes created by the fires themselves.

Cooler conditions on Wednesday gave the country a moment to count the cost of the fires, although there were still more than 100 blazes in New

South Wales state alone and thousands of firefighters on the ground.

The body of a man was found in a burnt car early on Wednesday on the south coast of New South Wales after emergency workers began reaching the most damaged areas, and police said the death toll will rise. **REUTERS**



A view of Magadan, a town in Russia's far east. *NYT*

ily as the "golden heart of Russia," a reference to vast re-

serves of gold buried in nearby mountains.



## MEANWHILE POPE APOLOGISES FOR 'BAD EXAMPLE'

Pope Francis apologised on Wednesday for having angrily slapped a woman's arm when she had grabbed hold of his hand and yanked him towards her, saying he had lost his patience and set a "bad example". His apology came after he used his first homily of the new year to denounce violence against women, which he compared to profaning God.

## N Korea ends test moratorium, warns of new weapon

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
 SEOUL, JANUARY 1

NORTH KOREAN leader Kim Jong Un has declared an end to moratoriums on nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests and threatened a demonstration of a "new strategic weapon" soon. Analysts said the announcement, reported by state media on Wednesday, amounted to Kim putting a missile "to Donald Trump's head" — but warned that escalation by Pyongyang would probably backfire.

Washington was swift to respond, with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urging Kim to "take a different course" and stressing that the US wanted "peace not confrontation" with the North, while Trump played down the development.

Pyongyang has previously fired missiles capable of reaching the entire US mainland, and has carried out six nuclear tests, the last of them 16 times more powerful than the Hiroshima blast, according to the highest estimates.

A self-imposed ban on such tests — Kim declared they were no longer needed — has been a centrepiece of the nuclear diplomacy between Pyongyang and Washington over the past two years, which has seen three meetings between Kim and US President Donald Trump, but little tangible progress.

Any actual test is likely to infuriate Trump, who has repeatedly referred to Kim's "promise" to him not to carry them out, and has downplayed launches of shorter-range weapons.

Negotiations between the two sides have been largely deadlocked since the breakup of their Hanoi summit in February, and the North set the US an end-of-year deadline for it to offer fresh concessions on sanctions relief, or it would adopt a "new way".

"There is no ground for us to get unilaterally bound to the



"There is no ground for us to get unilaterally bound to the commitment any longer," Kim Jong Un said.

## EXPLAINED Warning US while keeping options for talks open

BY SAYING that North Korea no longer needs to abide by the moratorium on nuclear and ICBM tests, Kim has sent a warning to the US and Trump that the goodwill from the summits no longer exists and that the actions that have long troubled Washington is set to resume. By adding the threat of developing a new weapon, Kim is also sending a message to the people of North Korea that his regime remains strong and capable. However, he is also aware of the severe damage that economic sanctions have wreaked on his country. He has shown his willingness to enter into talks to remove those sanctions by adding that his efforts to increase the country's nuclear arsenal will be contingent on the US's "future attitude". This leaves open the possibility he could curb his nuclear ambitions if conducive talks take place.

commitment any longer," the official KCNA news agency cited Kim as telling top ruling party officials.

## Pakistan govt approves Army Act amendment

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
 ISLAMABAD, JANUARY 1

THE PAKISTAN government in an emergency meeting on Wednesday approved amendments to the Army Act, nearly four weeks after it assured the Supreme Court of passing a legislation on the extension and reappointment of an Army chief within six months.

Prime Minister Imran Khan had extended Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa's tenure through a notification on August 19. However, on November 26, the Supreme Court suspended the government order, citing irregularities in the manner the Army chief, a close confidant of the Prime Minister, was granted an extension.

On November 28, Bajwa got a six-month conditional extension from the apex court, ending an unprecedented legal wrangle that shook the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government and pitted the powerful military against the judiciary.

Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khosa, who headed a three-member bench, announced the verdict after getting an assurance

**In Wednesday's meeting, presided over by Imran Khan, the amendments made to the clauses related to the Army chief's tenure and extension were passed unanimously, Dawn reported**

from the government that Parliament will pass a legislation on the extension/reappointment of an Army chief within six months.

In Wednesday's meeting, which was presided over by the Prime Minister, the amendments made to the clauses related to the Army chief's tenure and extension were passed unanimously, the *Dawn* News reported. The amended Bill will now be presented before the Parliament in order to come into effect. Though the details regarding the amendments are not yet clear, Defence Minister Pervez Khattak said it include a proposal to extend the tenure of all the three services chief.

## THE RUSSIAN OUTPOST OF MAGADAN STRUGGLES TO KEEP ITS RESIDENTS FROM FLEEING

# It's 50 below, the past is a horror show and you'd dream of escaping too

**ANDREW HIGGINS**  
 MAGADAN, JANUARY 1

LIKE MANY young people in Magadan, a frigid northern Russian city more than 3,600 miles from Moscow, Dinat Yur is fed up with living in a place where winters drag on for six months and the average annual temperature is below freezing. "I really dream of leaving this place," said Yur, a 29-year-old cook. "I can't wait."

Born and raised in a city proud of its resilience against climatic and all other odds, Yur has

for the moment found his calling in a defiantly contrarian occupation for a place so cold: He makes ice cream.

As the temperature in Magadan dipped the other week to well below freezing — on its way to minus 50 Celsius once winter really sets in — he was hard at work mixing milk, sugar and a raspberry mush imported from Italy to produce a summery swirl of frozen gelato.

Eating his confections outside during winter, Yur conceded, is not a good idea — they quickly turn to teeth-cracking chunks of ice — but "everyone

here likes to sit at home in front of the TV with some ice cream."

Russia's curious love affair with ice cream has long been a subject of theorising about how a country plagued by such terrible weather and other miserable conditions manages to keep going, prevailing over seemingly unsurmountable hurdles.

Burdened by its Stalin-era beginnings as the gateway to a string of brutal labour camps in nearby Kolyma — where tens of thousands were executed and more than 100,000 died from disease and hunger — the city is trying to rebrand itself cheer-



ly as the "golden heart of Russia," a reference to vast re-

Built on an icy bay overlooking the Sea of Okhotsk, north of Japan, Magadan is Russia's version of Dawson City, the Canadian town created by the Klondike Gold Rush at the end of the 19th century. Only Russians never rushed to Magadan; they were dragged there.

The only recent rush has been to the exit.

Young people particularly are making a run for it, a stampede that the city's mayor, Yuri Grishin, has worked to slow. He points to a new sports complex now under construction, a rash of restaurant openings and

fresh licks of paint for buildings in the center of town as possible encouragement for people to stay put.

After years of dramatic decline that slashed the population by more than 40%, the mayor said the number of residents has now "more or less stabilised" at around 91,000.

But among those who have moved away are the mayor's own three grown children. One now lives in Moscow.

The mayor does not understand. Why would anyone trade Magadan for the capital, where "they will live in a tiny apartment

and spend three hours a day in traffic jams," he asked.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Magadan had 155,000 people. But for many in Magadan, the end of the Soviet Union meant economic ruin. The slashing of Soviet-era subsidies sent Magadan salaries tumbling.

But in an effort to keep the city going, the federal government now subsidises daily flights to and from Moscow and is funding new roads, the new sports complex and high-speed internet lines. Subsidies also help keep the interest on mortgages in town much lower than elsewhere. **NYT**



THE SOLAR SYSTEM

# How the planets got their spots

The story of how the planets ended up where they are is part detective tale, part violent family history

IT IS HARDLY surprising that in the 17th and 18th centuries scientists likened the movements of the solar system to the ticking of well regulated machinery. The clockwork of orreries, mechanical models of the solar system, neatly encapsulated the apparently clockwork nature of the heavens, each planet following its designated course just as it always had, world without end.

The beginning, though, was much less orderly. Wind the clock back far enough and the clockwork goes awry. When the solar system was in its infancy, it now seems, planets changed their orbits with feckless abandon, swinging in towards the sun and out again, sometimes swapping places, possibly leaving the solar system altogether. These peregrinations seem to explain long-standing mysteries about why the solar system is the way it is.

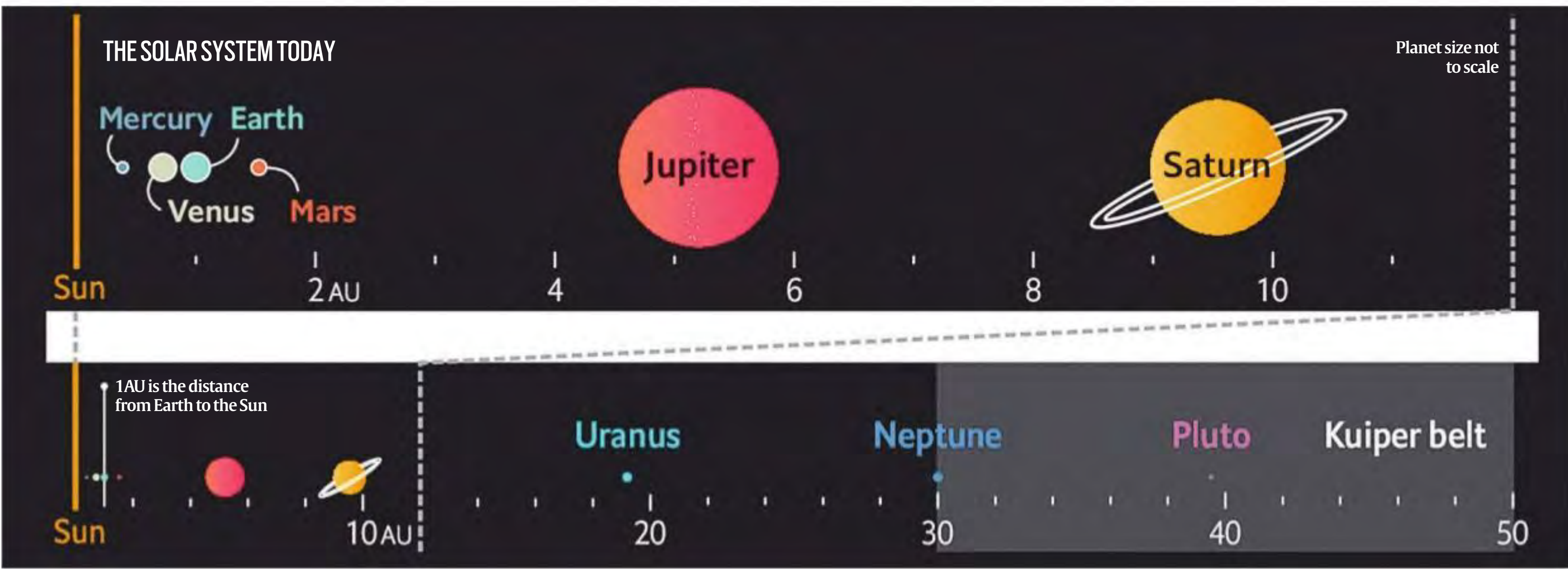
The solar system formed from a cloud of gas and dust which collapsed into the Sun and a disc of dust and gas from which the planets grew through accretion and collision, with smaller things merging into bigger ones until there were no mergers left to be had. The end result was a neat arrangement of four inner planets—Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars—and four outer ones—Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune—all in nearly circular but in fact elliptical orbits that kept them strictly separated. The inner ones were made mostly of rock and relatively small: the Earth is the largest. The outer ones were bigger and made mostly of gas. Disc material that did not get swept up into planets formed a belt of asteroids between the inner and outer quartets and a belt of small, icy bodies beyond them.

In the absence of other planetary systems to study, this orderly arrangement was considered likely to be typical. Its division was taken to be the result of a “snowline” in the original disk. Sunwards of this snowline it was too hot for volatile compounds like water, methane, carbon dioxide and ammonia to condense, and so the planets were mostly bare rock and iron, with some atmosphere added later on. Beyond the snowline, these volatiles condensed into giant gas-balls.

In the mid-1990s, though, astronomers started to discover planets around other stars—and they were arranged very differently. The most easily detected were “hot Jupiters”, gas giants circling their stars in orbits much tighter than that of Mercury, the nearest planet to the Sun, and thus far inside any conceivable snowline. Other systems featured giant planets in curious, elongated orbits inexplicable in terms of a coagulating disk. Either that model of how the planets formed was particular to the solar system—unlikely—or planets could change their orbits.

The idea that planets might migrate was not entirely new. In 1984 Julio Fernández and Wing-Huen Ip, then working at the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research in Germany, used a computer to study the interactions between the outer planets and smaller leftover bodies, known as planetesimals, which took place in the solar system’s early days. When a planetesimal passes close to a planet it gets flung into a new orbit. On average the three outer giants flung planetesimals inwards, towards the sun. Jupiter, though, threw its prey outwards. These encounters changed the orbits of the planets, too—infinitesimally, case by case, but cumulatively quite a lot. As Jupiter flung things out, it moved in towards the sun. As the others flung things in, they moved out.

In 1993 Renu Malhotra, now at the

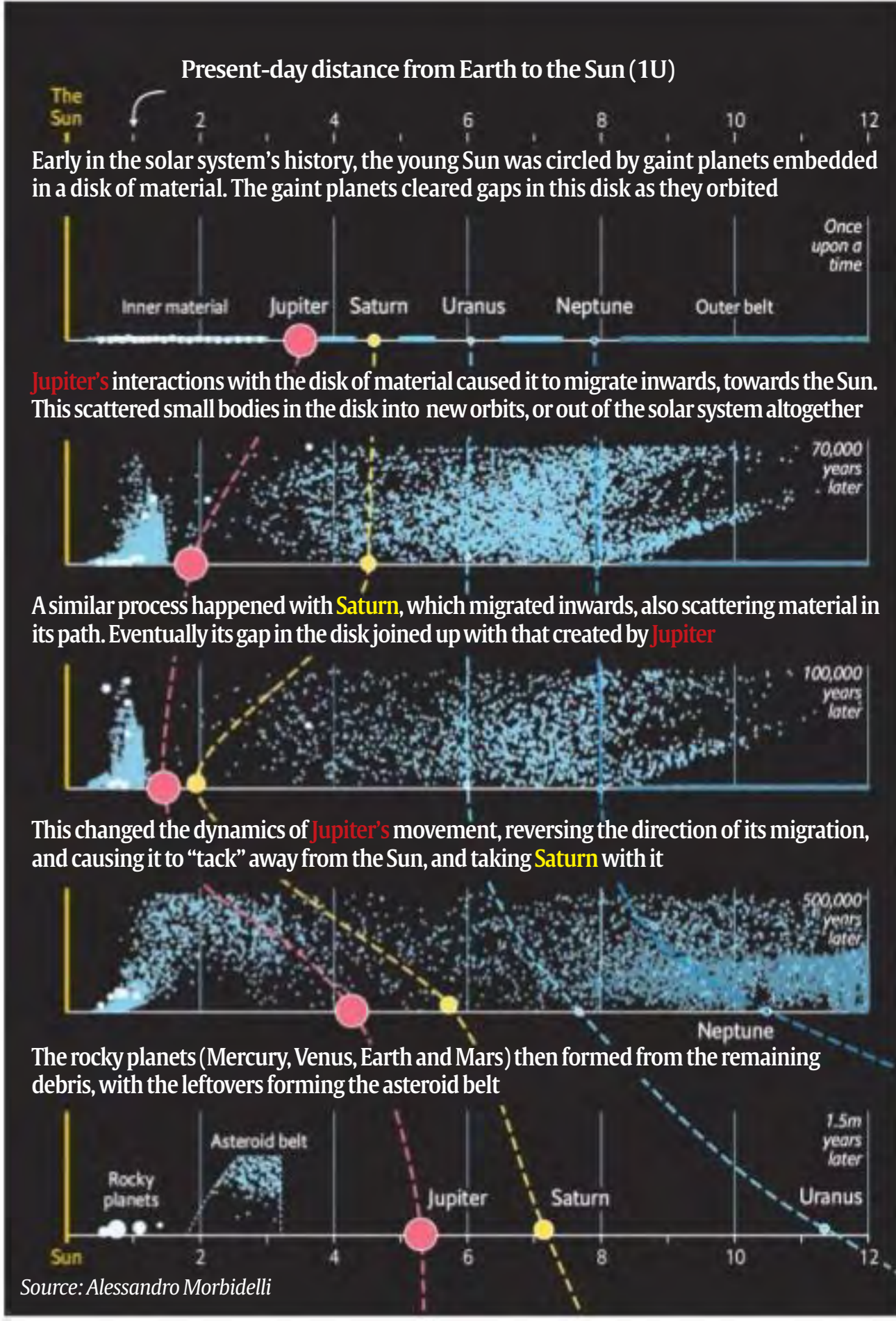


University of Arizona, suggested that this idea might explain the orbit of Pluto, a dwarf planet. Pluto has a high eccentricity (it is considerably farther from the sun at some times than at others) and a high inclination (the plane of its orbit sits at a marked angle to the disk in which the other planets travel). On top of that, Pluto makes exactly two orbits of the Sun for every three orbits made by Neptune, an arrangement called a resonance; such resonances make it easy for momentum to move from one body to another, giving bigger planets a lot of influence over the orbits of smaller ones. Dr Malhotra proposed that Neptune had pushed Pluto into its odd orbit as it migrated outwards from the Sun, and speculated that it might have done the same to other bodies it came across as it migrated. Within a few years a number of other “trans-Neptunian objects” (TNOs) in 2:3 resonant orbits obligingly got themselves discovered.

But it was the weird exoplanets that started people thinking that the solar system might not be what it used to be. “Something big had happened in those systems, and that made it easier to think about the possibility that something like that might happen in our system,” says Bill Bottke of the Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) in Boulder, Colorado.

To observe these possible pasts needed something beyond telescopes: computer simulations. In the late 1990s Dr Bottke’s colleague Hal Levison wrote a program called SWIFT which could follow the orbits of bodies interacting with each other over billions of years. Together with his colleagues Kleomenis Tsiganis, Rodney Gomes and Alessandro Morbidelli at the University of Côte d’Azur in Nice, Dr Levison used this software to model the evolution of the planets’ early orbits.

Their results, published in 2005, dramatically illustrated a point made by Dr Malhotra: interactions between the migrating planets might matter a lot. As Jupiter moved inwards and Saturn was pushed out, they passed through a 1:2 orbital resonance which kicked off all manner of mayhem. Uranus and Neptune were suddenly flung outwards into far more distant orbits like baubles in a storm; in about 50% of the program’s runs they swapped places, too.



The Nice model, as it became known, explained the outer planets’ final distances from the sun, the eccentricities of their orbits and their inclinations. The effects of the migrating giants on the planetesimals in the disk at the time also explained why TNOs have the orbits they do, and why the orbits

of the Trojan asteroids associated with Jupiter are highly inclined. “The Trojans, I think, were the smoking gun,” says Dr Bottke. Before, no-one had an account of why they were as they were; after the Nice model, they did.

Nice as it was, the Nice model left some-

**In 2011 Kevin Walsh of SwRI, with Dr Morbidelli and others, proposed that giant-planet migration was again to blame. They suggested that very early on in the history of the solar system, before the orbital ballet of the Nice models, interactions between Jupiter and the Sun-centred disk in which it was embedded drove the giant planet towards the Sun.**

thing to be desired. The starting position of the planets was highly specified, and did not look like the arrangements seen in planetary systems observed in the act of formation around other stars. “So we decided to redo everything,” says Dr Morbidelli. Nice II was published in 2011, and was yet more dramatic. It showed Jupiter throwing one of the other giant planets out of the solar system entirely, which seemed like a problem. But David Nesvorný, one of the authors, suggested that it might not be.

Dr Nesvorný found that a five-planet version of Nice II reproduced various characteristics of the modern solar system ten times more often than a four-planet version of the model did. And the idea that Jupiter might have thrown a smaller sibling into outer darkness was not unprecedented; models of the more dramatic migrations needed to produce hot Jupiters showed exoplanets being flung from their stars with reckless abandon. The galaxy may contain more such nomads than it does stars.

Some wondered, though, if the prodigal had stuck around, like a banished dog that stays in sight of the campfire. In 2016 Michael Brown and Konstantin Batygin, at the California Institute of Technology, proposed that the orbits of some very oddly behaved TNOs might be explained by a ninth planet a bit smaller than Neptune that had been flung between 10 and 40 times farther from the sun. Dr Morbidelli is having none of it. But if Dr Brown is right and such a planet does exist, it will have to have come

from somewhere.

There is another problem that the migrants might explain. Venus is 90% as big as Earth; Mars only 10%. But models of the way that rocky planets form from a disk of dust which successfully produce a couple the size of Earth and Venus have a strong tendency to produce a third big planet farther out, rather than a runt.

One possibility is that, beyond the Earth, there was a dearth of raw material. In 2011 Kevin Walsh of SwRI, with Dr Morbidelli and others, proposed that giant-planet migration was again to blame. They suggested that very early on in the history of the solar system, before the orbital ballet of the Nice models, interactions between Jupiter and the Sun-centred disk in which it was embedded drove the giant planet towards the Sun. This is the same process thought to be responsible for pushing the hot Jupiters in other systems so close to their stars.

In this system, though, around the time when Jupiter got to where Mars orbits today, it changed its mind and headed back out—a manoeuvre the scientists dubbed the “Grand Tack”. They think it came about because Saturn was following Jupiter inwards. Inward-moving planets create gaps in the disk of dust through which they travel. When the gap created by Saturn reached Jupiter, it changed the way the planet interacted with the disk, leading Jupiter to swing back outwards—and take Saturn with it.

This was a lucky escape for the inner solar system; had Jupiter plunged through it, Earth and Venus might never have formed. But by getting as close as it did, Jupiter cleared out the disk around the orbit of Mars—thus stunting its development. Had it never strayed sunwards, the inner solar system might boast another planet as large as the Earth—one which might have done a better job of holding on to an atmosphere and even an ocean than cold little Mars did. The Grand Tack may have spared the Earth; but it may also have cost it a habitable, perhaps even inhabited, neighbour.

Fanciful, perhaps. But as Dr Morbidelli says, “It’s clear that the history of planetary systems is very dynamic.” And where there is dynamism, there is luck and chance. Before there was a celestial clockwork, there was, it seems, a celestial roulette wheel.

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## KANGAROOS

# Roo pall

An Australian drought is killing millions of kangaroos

WELL BEFORE the current spate of bushfires started ravaging eastern Australia, they were already dying in droves. Lachlan Gall has seen “several thousand” kangaroo corpses played under trees or bogged in the mud of dried-out reservoirs on his 54,000 hectares (134,000 acres) in outback New South Wales. “It’s distressing for the animals,” he says. “And it’s distressing for us to see.” Across Australia’s most populous state, at least 5m kangaroos are thought to have died gruesome deaths since one of the country’s worst droughts began nearly four years ago. The crisis has prompted calls for changes to how Australia manages a national emblem.

“Roos” once shared the landscape only with Aboriginals, who hunted them for food and revered them in rock art. The arrival of white settlers, and their sheep and cattle, sparked a competition for space and resources that remains unresolved. Aerial surveys indicate Australia has more than 40m kangaroos, nearly twice the number of humans. That marks a decline of about 16m in recent years, largely due to drought. Rangelands in eastern Australia, home to

**Aerial surveys indicate Australia has more than 40m kangaroos, nearly twice the number of humans. That marks a decline of about 16m in recent years, largely due to drought.**

millions of kangaroos, have just had their driest three-year period on record. On a recent drive Geoff Wise, a veterinarian from Dubbo, says he spotted a kangaroo dead of hunger or thirst or killed by a passing vehicle roughly every 200 metres.

Mr Wise chairs a body that recently convened a symposium about managing the kangaroo population better. State governments allow “commercial harvesting” of four kangaroo species for meat and hides. The kangaroo industry contributes about A\$250m (\$170m) a year to Australia’s economy. George Wilson of the Australian National University reckons it could be

more if farmers could see kangaroos as livestock, not as competitors for the grass and water consumed by cattle and sheep. Expanding the industry this way would bring better controls over roos’ welfare, and help the environment. Kangaroos can survive on about 1.5 litres of water a day, a fraction of what cattle and sheep consume. They emit far less methane, a greenhouse gas, than cattle and sheep do. And their meat has less fat and more protein than beef or lamb.

The states typically permit licensed professionals to kill up to 15% of the total kangaroo population. Last year, for instance, the limit across the four states with the biggest number of roos was set at 7m. But for some time, the kangaroo cullers have used only a fraction of their quotas, sometimes killing just 3.5% of the population. That is because demand for kangaroo meat and hides has been falling. A campaign by animal-rights activists prompted California, once a big market, to halt imports three years ago. Mr Wilson says this has made skins “worthless”, without bringing any improvement in kangaroo welfare.

Sussan Ley, the federal environment minister, attended Mr Wise’s symposium and tut-tutted about the problem. Farmers complain that the federal government and the states are shirking responsibility for animal welfare. As Mr Gall notes, there is “inherent animal cruelty in allowing drought to be the main population management tool for kangaroos”.

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A kangaroo rushing past a burning house in Lake Conjola in New South Wales. Matthew Abbott/NYT



DOMESTIC NUMBERS OF MANY MANUFACTURERS FALLS BETWEEN 7% AND 45%

# Dec sales: Maruti, M&M post marginal rise, other automakers witness slide

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

DECEMBER CONTINUED to be a bad month for a majority of auto manufacturers. While market leader MSI (2.5 per cent) and M&M (1 per cent) announced a rise in their year-on-year (y-o-y) domestic sales in December 2019, other major manufacturers including Hyundai Motor India (HMLI), Honda Cars India and Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) announced fall in domestic sales between 7 per cent and 45 per cent.

Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) announced its domestic passenger sales at 1,24,375 units for December 2019, as against 1,21,479 units in the year-ago month, registering a growth of 2.4 per cent. For calendar year 2019, MSI posted a 13.7 per cent decline in domestic sales (15.11 lakh units) over that in 2018 (17.51 lakh units).

On the other hand, HMLI announced a 9.8 per cent decline in sales in December 2019 and

## EXPLAINED Auto firms to focus on clearance of BS-IV inventory

THE CONTINUED slowdown in consumer sentiment impacted sales of several car manufacturers in December 2019, as several of them posted decline in year-on-year sales numbers. As the deadline for shifting to BS-VI is just three months away, many manufacturers are now focussing on liquidating BS-IV stocks and maintaining a lean inventory.

It remains to be seen as to how automobile manufacturers deal with the BS-IV inventory and whether they will offer big discounts between January and March.

Honda Cars announced a 36 per cent decline in domestic sales at 8,412 units. TKM also announced a sharp decline of 45 per cent in its sales for December, which fell from 11,836 units in December 2018 to 6,544 units last month.

Hyundai and Toyota ended 2019 with an aggregate decline in sales of 7.2 per cent and 16.4 per

cent, respectively, over 2018.

Maruti saw rise in sales in the compact and utility vehicle segments. While the company witnessed a 27.9 per cent jump in sales in the compact segment (New WagonR, Swift, Celerio, Ignis, Baleno, Dzire), the utility vehicle segment (Ertiga, XL6, S-Cross and Vitara Brezza) saw a 17.7 per

cent jump. It, however, witnessed a 13.6 per cent decline in the mini segment and 62 per cent decline in sales in mid-size segment.

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) saw a 1 per cent rise in domestic sales at 37,081 units in December, as against 36,690 units in December 2018. "Our performance in December is as per year-end sales outlook and currently we are also comfortable with our overall stock levels," said Veejay Ram Nakra, chief of sales and marketing, automotive division, M&M.

Tarung Garg, director—sales, marketing and service, HMLI, said 2019 has been a challenging year for the Indian automotive industry. Stating that the decline in sales have been on expected lines, several firms said they are now working towards a smooth transition to rollout of BS-VI vehicles over the next three months.

Rajesh Goel, senior VP and director—sales and marketing, Honda Cars India, said, "Our volumes in December 2019 have been on expected lines. In order

to avoid any leftover BS-IV stocks, we channelised our resources more towards liquidating them."

TKM also said that it has been gradually liquidating BS-IV stocks across India to maintain a lean inventory and not put any excess burden on dealerships before the shift to BS-VI in April 2020.

Even as TKM saw its sales decline 45 per cent in December, the company said that it has witnessed positive sales momentum. Stating that the company is consciously lowering the volumes sold to dealers to ensure a smooth transition to BS-VI by April and ensure that there is no pending BS-IV inventory at dealerships by March 30, which will be unsaleable post the transition, Naveen Soni, senior VP—sales and service, TKM, said, "We are happy that there has been a continued positive retail sales momentum despite the overall slowdown in the industry."

On the other hand, new entrant MG Motor India announced a sale of 3,021 units in December last year.

## Restructuring: BSNL to raise ₹15K cr via sovereign-backed bonds by Feb

AASHISHARYAN  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

STATE-OWNED BHARAT Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) will raise Rs 15,000 crore through sovereign-backed bonds this year to fund its restructuring and revival between January and February this year, senior DoT officials said.

"We have already written to the Ministry of Finance. They have some issues of guarantee space and all that. As soon as they give us the clearance, we will do it in January or February if we get the nod. Probably BSNL with either do it alone, or do it for both BSNL and MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited)," the officials said.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has left it to both the companies to decide how to raise the monies, and take a final call in consultation with experts, one of the officials quoted above said.

Apart from the bond, BSNL is

also looking to raise nearly 300-400 crore by selling or leasing out land-parcels to organisations like Central Board of Secondary Education, Immigration Department, among others.

MTNL, on the other hand, is in talks with the Income Tax to lease out its land, the officials said.

"They have already identified certain assets, which they have sent to DIPAM (Department of Investment and Public Asset Management). A meeting has been held. We are progressing on that," one official said.

To turn the EBITDA (earnings before interest taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) of the combined entity of MTNL-BSNL positive, both entities have also been undertaking cost-cutting measures. A final call on the fate of over 92,000 employees of MTNL and BSNL, who have opted for the voluntary retirement scheme (VRS), will be taken by the end of January, another senior government official said.

"BSNL wage bill will reduce by

about 50 per cent. MTNL, it will reduce by about 75 per cent. Their annual expenditure, which was coming to about Rs 1,300 crore every month, will come down to about Rs 600 crore or Rs 650 crore, which is a substantive reduction. Their revenues are looking up slightly. We should be able to climb back to positive EBITDA," the official said.

The Centre had last October approved a Rs 69,000-crore restructuring and revival plan for BSNL-MTNL, which included merging the two, selling their assets, and allowing all employees to opt for VRS. A major chunk of the package was kept aside for salaries and the final payout to employees of both organisations who opted for VRS.

The aim of the restructuring plan is to turn the combined entity profitable in the next two years. Other than the land parcel sale for this fiscal, both BSNL and MTNL plan to monetise other assets worth nearly Rs 38,000 crore over the next two years.

## Steady decline in Ujjwala refills triggers fresh concerns

Refill consumption falls to 3.08 cylinders in 12 months to Sept '19; down from 3.21 refills till Dec '18, 3.66 till Mar '18

ANILSASI  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

THE INITIAL success of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme notwithstanding, the usage pattern of LPG cylinders by beneficiaries shows a steadily declining trend — with the annual average refill consumption dropping to 3.08 cylinders in the 12 months to September 2019, down from 3.21 refills till December 2018 and 3.66 refills till March 2018.

Over a dozen states are below half the national average consumption of LPG refill cylinders of 6.25 cylinders (14.2 kg) during fiscal 2018-19. The latest Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas study that shows usage dropping to 3.08 cylinders tracked the annual refill consumption for the 12-month period spanning October 2018 to September 2019 of PMUY beneficiaries who had enrolled in the initial two years of the scheme — between May 2016 and May 2018.

Earlier this month, a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India report, too, estimated that the annual average refill consumption of 1.93 crore PMUY consumers (who had completed more than one year as on March 31, 2018) stood at 3.66 refills. Similar analysis for 3.18 crore PMUY beneficiaries as on December 31, 2018 showed refill consumption was at 3.21 refills per annum.

The scheme, launched on May 1, 2016, provides free cooking gas connections to female members of below poverty line families. The declining consumption, while running counter to the

PMUY REFILL CONSUMPTION STATUS		
State	Average Annual Refill Consumptions	
ANDHRA PRADESH	3.34	
ASSAM	2.82	
BIHAR	3.31	
GOA	3.94	
GUJARAT	3.96	
JAMMU & KASHMIR	2.37	
KERALA	3.49	
MADHYA PRADESH	2.35	
TAMILNADU	3.33	
MAHARASHTRA	3.03	
KARNATAKA	3.53	
ODISHA	2.65	
PUNJAB	4.22	
RAJASTHAN	2.98	
UTTAR PRADESH	3.28	
WEST BENGAL	3.01	
HARYANA	5.22	
DELHI	8.36	
TELANGANA	2.85	
(Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas)		
Note: Consumers enrolled in PMUY during May 2016 to May 2018 and Refill Consumed by them from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019		

government's stated objective to eliminate the use of biomass fuels such as firewood for cooking purposes, also has a financial impact for the oil marketing companies (OMCs) as low consumption of refills negatively impacts the recovery of outstanding loan of

## RBI launches app to help visually impaired identify notes

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 1

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday launched the Mobile Aided Note Identifier (MANI), a mobile application for aiding visually impaired persons to identify the denomination of Indian banknotes.

As per the RBI, Indian banknotes contain several features which enable the visually impaired (colour blind, partially sighted and blind people) to identify them, including intaglio printing and tactile mark, variable banknote size, large numerals, variable colour, monochromatic hues and patterns. "Technological progress has opened up new opportunities for making Indian banknotes more accessible for the visually impaired, thereby facilitating their day to day transactions," RBI said.

As announced in the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies of June 6, 2018, the bank has developed a mobile application, MANI, with features like capability of identifying the denominations of Mahatma Gandhi series and Mahatma Gandhi (new) series banknote by checking front or reverse side/part of the note including half-folded notes at various holding angles and broad range of light conditions, it said.

## Gross domestic GST mop-up grows 16%

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

GROSS DOMESTIC Goods and Services tax (GST) collections (including revenue for states and Centre) grew 16 per cent year-on-year in December, even as the overall gross collections grew 8.9 per cent, dragged down by a 10 per cent contraction in revenue from imports. The non-special category states showed an average growth of 12.7 per cent, with the highest growth in gross GST revenue collections for Maharashtra (22 per cent), followed by Tamil Nadu (19 per cent) and Gujarat (18 per cent). Special category states recorded GST revenue growth rates varying from 43 per cent (Sikkim) to 124 per cent (Arunachal Pradesh).

Barring four states/Union Territories, rest 33 states/UTs have posted a double-digit growth in gross GST revenue collections from domestic sales, significant at a time when the overall slowdown has affected the tax revenue growth for both direct and indirect taxes. Jharkhand (-3 per cent) and Lakshadweep (-78 per cent) were the only two regions that showed a contraction in gross GST mop-up.

This revenue growth for states, however, is different from the revenue earned through States GST (SGST) and Integrated GST (IGST), which is used as the basis for compensation payment under GST. Gross domestic GST revenues would also include Centre's revenue share from Central GST and IGST. As per the GST (Compensation to States) Act, states have been guaranteed compensation at annual compounded rate of 14 per cent over the 2015-16 base year.

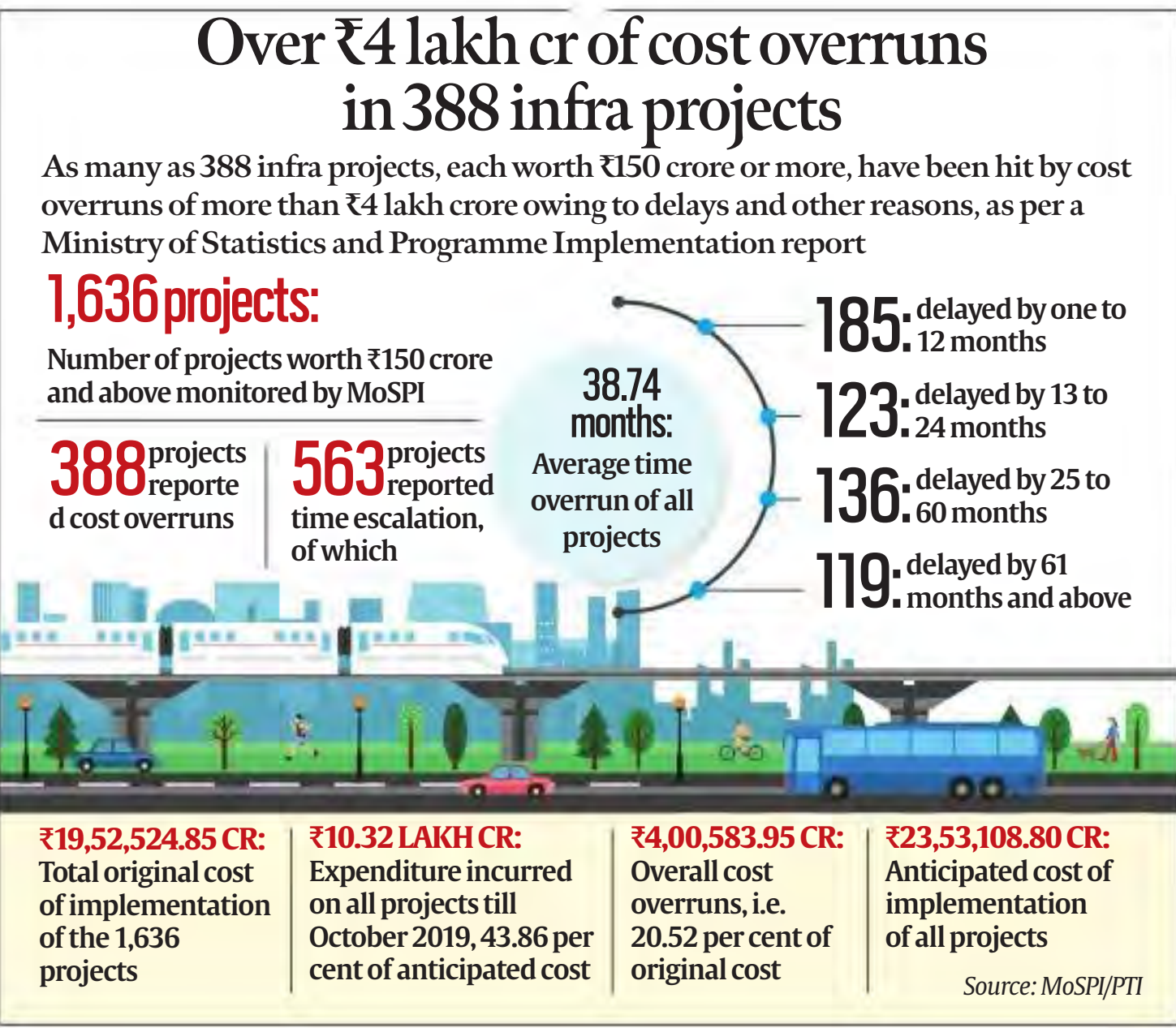
IGST on import of goods declined 10 per cent in December, though the pace of decline improved from 13 per cent last month and 20 per cent in October.

STATE-WISE GROSS DOMESTIC GST COLLECTION		
State	Y-o-y growth (%)	
Maharashtra	22	
Tamil Nadu	19	
Himachal Pradesh	18	
Gujarat	18	
Kerala	17	
West Bengal	16	
Madhya Pradesh	16	
Uttarakhand	15	
Haryana	15	
Chhattisgarh	15	
Bihar	12	
Punjab	11	
Uttar Pradesh	11	
Karnataka	11	
Andhra Pradesh	11	
Rajasthan	10	
Goa	6	
Odisha	2	
Jharkhand	-3	
Total	16	
*Total is for 37 states/UTs (Dec)		

sation to States) Act, states have been guaranteed compensation at annual compounded rate of 14 per cent over the 2015-16 base year.

IGST on import of goods declined 10 per cent in December, though the pace of decline improved from 13 per cent last month and 20 per cent in October.

In the meantime, the RBI has launched open market operations (OMO) programme of purchasing longer term (10-year) government securities and selling those of shorter tenor (one-year) paper. This programme, also called 'Operation Twist', is aimed at "flattening" the yield curve by reducing the interest rates on long term bonds vis-à-vis short term. But two rounds of such auctions on December 23 and 30 have not had the desired impact yet.



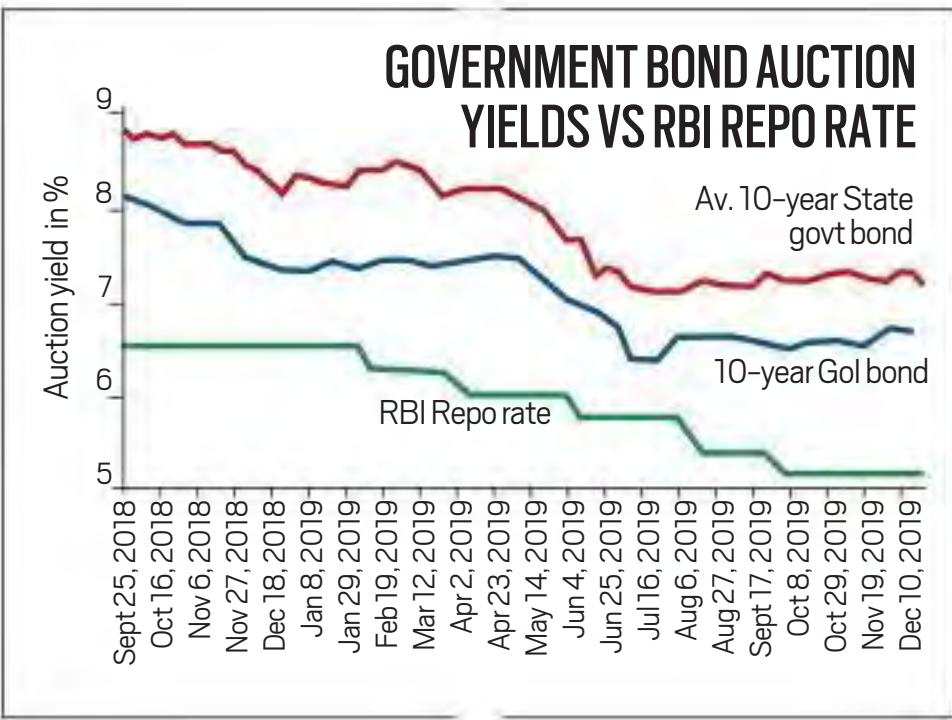
## Centre, state govts borrowing more funds at lower costs

NUSHAIBA IQBAL  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

LARGE FISCAL slippages notwithstanding, both the central and state governments have seen a sustained fall in their cost of borrowings in the past one year.

On Tuesday, the last day of 2019, four states — Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Goa — raised a total of Rs 4,881 crore by issuing 10-year bonds at a weighted average interest rate of 7.17 per cent. This was lower than the 8.08 per cent yield for the same tenor of state development loans floated a year ago.

When compared to the 8.76 per cent rate as on September 25, 2018, the cumulative fall in the



borrowing cost of 10-year loans of states works out to nearly 159 basis points (bps), which is more

than the 135-bp decline in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) benchmark repo or overnight



# Govt's infra push helps Sensex kick off 2020 on positive note

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 1

STOCK MARKETS started the New Year on a positive note with benchmark index Sensex gaining 52.28 points or 0.13 per cent to close at 41,306.02 on Wednesday as financials, IT, FMCG and power stocks advanced.

The broader NSE Nifty closed 14.05 points, or 0.12 per cent, higher at 12,182.50 with 23 of its constituents ending in the green.

"Indian markets started the New Year on a positive note without much cues on global front as markets remained closed. Sentiments remained positive on report that India's current account deficit (CAD) narrowed to 0.9 per cent of GDP, or \$6.3 billion, in the September quarter, on account of lower trade deficit," said Narendra Solanki, head of fundamental research (Investment Services)—AVP Equity Research, Anand Rathi Shares & Stock Brokers.

PowerGrid was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 2.76 per cent, followed by NTPC, M&M, L&T, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC,

## Rupee settles 14 paise higher at 71.22 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee kick started 2020 on a positive note with gains of 14 paise against the US currency on the first trading day of the New Year on Wednesday. The domestic currency settled at 71.22 against the previous close of

71.36 as positive macro data and optimism over the US-China trade deal boosted the investor sentiment.

Traders said the rupee gained support amid positive developments on the US-China trade deal front. **PTI**

and Infosys. On the other hand, Titan fell the most by 2.76 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank (1.72 per cent), and Bajaj Auto (1.21 per cent).

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday unveiled Rs 102 lakh crore of infrastructure projects of which around one-fourth would be related to the energy sector. Other sectors in which the projects have been identified are railways, urban irrigation, mobility, education and health. Analysts said the infrastructure spending can be a trigger for boosting sagging growth.

On sectoral front, BSE Power rose the most by 1.78 per cent, followed by BSE Utilities by 1.41 per

cent. BSE IT index and FMCG rose up to 0.6 per cent.

Auto, Metals, and Consumer Durables indices remained weak with losses of up to 1.40 per cent. In the broader market, BSE mid-cap and smallcap indices outperformed benchmarks, rallying up to 0.64 per cent.

"Market traded positive in the first leg of trade based on government's plan for major investment in infrastructure expenditure. But given concerns over fiscal prudence and plans to use funds from centre, state and private limited the gains due to lack of liquidity," Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services, commented.

# Surveillance in a leafy enclave, Ghosn's Tokyo life was under strict monitoring

REUTERS  
TOKYO, JANUARY 1

THE IMPOSING home where Carlos Ghosn lived for the last seven months and probably launched a daring escape to avoid Japanese prosecutors is nestled in a leafy enclave of Tokyo where most people pay little attention to Westerners or luxury cars. Yet neighbors say it was impossible not to notice one of the world's most famous executives, or the black car that seemed to idle nearby whenever he was around — a stark reminder of the surveillance on the ousted Nissan Motor Co chairman while out on bail for financial misconduct charges.

Ghosn on Tuesday said he had fled to Lebanon to escape a "rigged" justice system in Japan, an astonishing revelation that raises questions about how one of the world's most-recognized businessmen slipped past authorities, especially after he had surrendered his passports under the terms of his bail.

Hana Takeda, who lives in an



The house where it is believed that former Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn lived before he fled to Lebanon, in Tokyo on Wednesday. **Reuters**

apartment close to the house where Ghosn has lived since May, said she would sometimes see him out walking with one of his three daughters.

"He wasn't very secretive. I would see him hanging around with his daughter," Takeda, 28,

told Reuters.

The large, multi-level house is not far from the central Roppongi district in an area popular with diplomats and western executives.

There is a police presence because of the proximity of at least one embassy and houses for diplomats. Many homes had western luxury cars parked outside, including BMWs, Land Rovers and Bentleys.

Three wireless security cameras peered out from the balcony above the brick porch. Under the terms of his bail, Ghosn had to have cameras installed at the house's entrance.

No one came to the door when a Reuters reporter rang the doorbell. A double garage was shut and net curtains were drawn across the windows. Upper floor windows were covered by blinds.

A policeman on a bicycle made regular rounds through the small neighborhood.

Another neighbor, 62-year-old American Whitney Rich, said he had sometimes noticed a black car near the house.

## SEVEN ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS HELD TILL NOW

# ComMin: Free trade agreement with Mauritius near finalisation

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

INDIA IS close to finalising a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) with Mauritius, with several rounds of negotiations to improve market access between the two countries having been completed, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said on Wednesday.

The proposed India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) seeks to mutually benefit both countries in the areas of trade in goods and services.

"Seven rounds of India-Mauritius CECPA negotiations have been held till now," said the Ministry. During these rounds, negotiations focussed on various aspects including trade in goods, trade in services, rules of origin, technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary

### CECPA SEEKS TO BENEFIT BOTH NATIONS

■ The proposed India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) seeks to mutually benefit both countries in the areas of trade in goods and services

(SPS) measures, trade remedies and dispute settlement.

"India-Mauritius CECPA negotiations for trade in goods and trade in services, have been completed. The agreement is near finalisation," the Ministry said.

Countries enter into FTAs to make it easier to exchange goods and services between them. This is usually done by reducing or eliminating trade barriers like tariffs and quotas that these countries would have imposed on these goods and services.

■ India had a trade surplus of around \$1.09 billion with Mauritius in 2018-19; Mauritius was the second top source of FDI into India in 2018-19. India received \$8 billion (about ₹56,000 crore) foreign inflows from the country

India had a trade surplus of around \$1.09 billion with Mauritius in 2018-19, which means that it had exported more goods to the island nation than it imported from it.

Mauritius was the second top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in 2018-19. India received \$8 billion (about Rs 56,000 crore) foreign inflows from the country.

India exports petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, cereals, cotton and electrical ma-

chinery, apparel and clothing accessories to Mauritius.

The island nation's exports to New Delhi include iron and steel, pearls, precious/semi-precious stones and optical, photographic and precision instruments.

The government plans to promote India-Africa trade and economic relations through regular reviews of trade ties through institutional mechanisms like Joint Commission Meetings, Joint Trade Committees and Joint Working Groups, the Ministry's release added.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal in May 2019 had held digital video conferences with Indian business communities in African regions like Madagascar, Tanzania, Mauritius, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Zambia, Mozambique, Ghana, Botswana, Nigeria, Morocco, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Egypt in order to promote India's exports to the region.

## ₹30,520 cr equity infusion into Air India since FY12

Air India has received an equity infusion of ₹30,520.21 crore from financial year 2011-12 till date, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session

**TAP/FRP TO REVIVE AIR INDIA:** In April 2012, the then central government had approved a Turnaround Plan (TAP)/ Financial Restructuring Plan (FRP) for reviving Air India, which has been in the red since merger of Indian Airlines in 2007-08

**CENTRE TO IMPLEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN:** To prepare for the disinvestment, the government is implementing a strategic plan, which includes a financial package and focus on increasing operational efficiencies

### MAJOR COMPONENTS OF FINANCIAL PACKAGE FOR 2018-19:

**₹3,975 crore** cash support, inclusive of ₹ 1,630 crore already infused in FY19

**₹7,600 crore** government guarantee, inclusive of ₹3,000 crore already provided in FY19

**₹8,556.35 crore:** Air India's provisionally estimated net loss in 2018-19

**PIM FOR BIDS BEING PREPARED:** Preparation of the Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) for inviting expression of interest (Eoi) for Air India disinvestment is in process

**APPROVAL FROM AISAM:** The Air India Specific Alternative Mechanism (AISAM) has approved re-initiation of process for the government's 100 per cent stake in Air India along with Air India Express and the carrier's stake in joint venture AISATS

**₹30,520.21 crore:** Equity infusion into debt-laden Air India till date from FY2011-12, including financial support as per TAP/FRP and cash support in FY2018-19

## FDI rises 15% in Apr-Sept to \$26 billion

New Delhi: Foreign direct investment (FDI) into India grew 15 per cent to \$26 billion in the first half of the current fiscal, according to government data. Inflow of FDI during April-September of 2018-19 stood at \$22.66 billion.

Sectors which saw maximum inflows include services (\$44.5 billion), computer software and hardware (\$4 billion), telecom (\$4.28 billion), automobile (\$2.13 billion) and trading (\$2.14 billion). **PTI**

# Banks get nod to utilise Mallya's movable assets to clear debt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 1

A SPECIAL court here has permitted a consortium of 15 banks led by the State Bank of India (SBI) to utilise movable assets of former liquor baron Vijay Mallya towards repayment of his debt.

The assets, comprising financial securities like shares of the United Breweries Holdings Ltd

(UBHL), were attached by the special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in 2016 when it declared Mallya a proclaimed offender.

Under provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, a court orders attachment of a person's movable assets after he or she has been declared a proclaimed offender. A person against whom a warrant has been issued can be declared a proclaimed offender if

the court believes that he or she has absconded or is evading execution of warrant.

The consortium of banks earlier filed an application before the special court, seeking release of Mallya's movable assets to utilise them for repayment of loans given to him. Senior counsel Rajeev Patil, appearing for the consortium, said the special court on Tuesday lifted the attachment on the movable assets.

# 'Airbus delivers 863 jets in 2019, ousts Boeing from top spot'

REUTERS  
PARIS, JANUARY 1

AIRBUS HAS become the world's largest planemaker for the first time since 2011 after delivering a forecast-beating 863 aircraft in 2019, seizing the crown from embattled US rival Boeing, airport and tracking sources said on Wednesday.

A reversal in the pecking order between the two giants had been expected as a crisis over Boeing's grounded 737 MAX drags into 2020.

Boeing's grounded 737 MAX drags into 2020. But the record European data further underscores the distance Boeing must travel to recoup its market position.

Airbus, which had been forced by its own industrial problems to cut its 2019 delivery goal by 2-3 per cent in October, deployed extra resources until hours before midnight to reach 863 aircraft for the year, compared with its revised target of

## A reversal in the pecking order between the two giants had been expected as a crisis over Boeing's grounded 737 MAX drags into 2020

860 jets.

Deliveries rose 7.9 per cent from 800 aircraft in 2018.

Airbus declined to comment on the figures, which must be audited before they can be finalised and published.

Planemakers receive most of their revenues when aircraft are delivered - minus accumulated progress payments - so the end-year delivery performance is closely monitored by investors.

Airbus's tally, which included around 640 single-aisle aircraft, broke industry records after it di-

verted thousands of workers and cancelled holidays to complete a buffer stock of semi-finished aircraft waiting to have their cabins adjusted.

Airbus has been hit by delays in fitting the complex new layouts on A321neo jets assembled in Hamburg, Germany, resulting in dozens of these and other models being stored in hangars to await last-minute configurations and the arrival of more labour.

Such out-of-sequence work drives up costs and could have a modest impact on Airbus profit margins, but the impact will be largely blunted by the high volume of planes and already solid profitability for such single-aisle aircraft, analysts say.

Still, the problems in fitting complex cabins have curtailed Airbus's ability to take advantage of the market turmoil surrounding Boeing's 737 MAX - grounded since March following two fatal accidents.

## China cuts banks' reserve ratios to spur economy

Beijing: China's central bank said on Wednesday it was cutting the amount of cash that all banks must hold as reserves, releasing around 800 billion yuan (\$114.91 billion) in funds to shore up the slowing economy. The People's Bank of China said on its website it will cut banks' reserve requirement ratio by 50 basis points, effective Jan. 6. The move will bring the level for big banks down to 12.5 per cent.

The PBOC has now cut RRR eight times since early 2018 to free up more funds for banks to lend as economic growth slows to the weakest pace in nearly 30 years. **REUTERS**

भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग DEPARTMENT OF SPACE  
इसरो नौदन कॉम्प्लेक्स ISRO PROPULSION COMPLEX  
महेंद्रगिरि पी ओ MAHENDRAGIRI PO  
तिरुनेलवेली जिला TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT- 627 133, तमिलनाडु TAMILNADU

क्रय व भंडार प्रभाग / PURCHASE & STORES DIVISION दिनांक / DATE: 01.01.2020

निविदा सूचना सं. आईपीआरसी / प्र.क.व.भं. / पीई / ई-प्रक्रय / 01/2020-21 / TENDER NOTICE NO.IPRC/HPS/PT/E-PROC/01/2020-21

भारत के राष्ट्रपति के द्वारा और उनकी ओर से प्रधान, क्रय व भंडार, इसरो नौदन कॉम्प्लेक्स (आईपीआरसी), महेंद्रगिरि निम्नलिखित की आपूर्ति हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित करते हैं। For and on behalf of the President of India, Head, Purchase & Stores, ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri invites online tenders for supply of the following

क्र. सं. Sl. No.	निविदा संदर्भ सं. Tender Ref. No.	संक्षिप्त विवरण Brief Description	निविदा प्रस्तुतीकरण की अंतिम तिथि व समय / Last Date & Time for Tender Submission
1.	आईपीआरसी / क्रय / 2019ई0394201 (एक-भाग) IPRC/PUR/2019E0394201 (Single-Part)	जंगली इस्पात पाइप Stainless steel pipes	Upto 17.01.2020 10:00 बजे/hrs. तक
2.	आईपीआरसी / क्रय / 2019ई0395201 (एक-भाग) IPRC/PUR/2019E0395201 (Single-Part)	सीस्टमेटिक में छुट-छुट कार्य बहिःउत्पन्न पैकेज Sporadic work outsourcing package at CSTF	Upto 09.01.2020 10:00 बजे/hrs. तक
3.	आईपीआरसी / क्रय / 2019ई0398901 (दो-भाग) IPRC/PUR/2019E0398901 (Two-Part)	नोडक टैंकी Propellant Tanks	Upto 21.01.2020 10:00 बजे/hrs. तक

इच्छुक विक्रेता हमारे इसरो नौदन कॉम्प्लेक्स लिंक पर जाएं <https://eprocure.isro.gov.in> पर जाएं और कृपया ऑनलाइन द्वारा अपने कोटेडन आपूर्ति करें। इस निविदा सूचना के प्रकाशन के पक्ष पर जो कोई भी शुद्धिपूर्ण केवल हमारे वेबसाइट में ही देना जा सकता है। आप कृपया केंद्राधीन नियमित रूप से देना करें। / The interested vendors may visit our ISRO PROPULSION COMPLEX Link in URL <https://eprocure.isro.gov.in> and upload your quotations through online only. Corrigendum if any, issued after publication of this Tender Notice, will be hosted in our web site only. You may please visit the site regularly.

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भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE  
निर्माण एवं अनुसंधान ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP  
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE  
तिरुवनंतपुरम, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM- 22  
(फोन नं. / Ph.No.: 0471 2564568 / 2564537)

ई-निविदा सूचना सं. वीएसएससी / सीएम / 10/2019-20 दिनांक 31.12.2019  
E-Tender Notice No.VSSC/CMG/CIVIL/10/2019-20 Dt.31.12.2019

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

1. भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, **समिश्र श्रेणी** के अंतर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। / On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following work under composite category.

क्र.सं. Sl.No.	विवरण / Description	व्योरे / Details
1.	कार्य का शीर्षक / Title of work	टल्ले, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में रासायनिक एवं बहुलक उत्पादों, पोलिथेन के लिए उत्पादन हब हेतु मकान का निर्माण (सिविल, पोलिथेन लब्ध वस्तु कार्य)। / Construction of building for Production Hub for chemicals & polymeric products, PCM at TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil, PH & Electrical works)
2.	निविदा में दी गई अनुमानित लागत / Estimate cost put to tender	कुल / Total - ₹ 883.25 लाख / Lakhs (a) सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य / Civil & PH works - ₹ 721.20 लाख / Lakhs बी/बी वैल्यू कार्य / Electrical works - ₹ 162.05 लाख / Lakhs
3.	कार्य पूरा होने की तिथि / Period of completion	18 (अठारह / Eighteen) महीने / months
4.	बयाना जमा राशि (ईएमडी) / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	₹ 17,65,500/-
5.	अनुचित निरुद्धि के दौरान निविदा दस्तावेज को खारज न होने देना / Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	से / From 02.01.2020, 10.00 बजे / Hrs. तक / to 16.01.2020, 23.00 बजे / Hrs.
6.	बीडी स्पष्टीकरण / Bid Clarifications	से / From 02.01.2020, 10.00 बजे / Hrs. तक / to 17.01.2020, 16.00 बजे / Hrs.
7.	निविदा पाने की अंतिम तिथि व समय / Last date and time for receipt of tenders.	को तक / Up to 20.01.2020, 14.00 बजे / Hrs.
8.	निविदा खोलने की अंतिम तिथि व समय / Due date and time of opening of tenders	को / On 21.01.2020, 15.00 बजे / Hrs.

11. कोटेडन मानदंड तथा अन्य व्योरे को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एन्क्वायरी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे [www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO](http://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO) से ऑनलाइन किया जा सकता है। Interested tenders may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from Website: [www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO](http://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO)

ग्रुप निदेशक, वीएससी, वीएससी, वीएससी / Group Director, CMG, VSSC

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Ref. No. 425/VRET/Academic/19 **ADMISSION NOTICE (2019-20)** Bilaspur, Date-30-12-2019

Guru Ghadas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur invites online applications for admission to various Ph. D. programmes for the Academic Session 2019-20 through Vishwavidyalaya Research Entrance Test (VRET) and direct interview (VRET Exempted Category). Details of subjects available for admission, admission procedure, eligibility criteria, number of seats, reservation policy, fees, scholarship, entrance test date & time, exam. Centre etc. are available on university website [www.ggu.ac.in](http://www.ggu.ac.in)

1. Starting date of Online Application Process : 31.12.2019  
2. Closing date of online submission of Application forms : 24.01.2020  
3. Date of Entrance Test : 08.02.2020 (10.00AM) 4. Declaration of Results : 17.02.2020  
Help line: 07752-260342, 260299, Email: [admissionsgvg@gmail.com](mailto:admissionsgvg@gmail.com) Registrar (Acting)



HOT TUBER

# Chips are up for *aloo* again

After four years of low prices, Punjab's seed-potato growers are seeing better times



(Above) Farm labourers planting potato in a field near Hathras, Uttar Pradesh; harvested potatoes in a farmer's field near Agra. Harish Damodaran

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA  
JALANDHAR, JANUARY 1

THE YEAR gone by may have ended with the harshest of winters in recent memory, but it has returned Jagir Singh Randhawa's missing smile after four years. The 63-year-old was able to sell the entire 80,000-odd 50-kg bags of seed potato from his 500 acres land — 85 own and the rest taken on lease — at reasonably good rates.

"The last four years were disasters. I had to even throw my crop on the road or give it free of cost to the Gujjars (traditional milch cattle rearers)," says Randhawa, who has been cultivating potato since 1972, when he started with just one acre at his native village of Wadala Khurd in Punjab's Kapurthala district and tehsil.

Kapurthala, along with the three other Doaba region districts of Punjab (Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur and Nawanshahr), is India's seed potato hub. The crop that growers like Randhawa cultivate is used as 'seed' by potato farmers in Uttar Pradesh (UP), West Bengal, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and other states. Potatoes are mostly propagated by vegetative methods; the 'seed' that farmers plant are the tubers, having nodes or 'eyes' from which the stems (sprouts) grow into new plants. Roughly 150 kg of seed tuber is required for production of 1,000 kg of regular table potato. Farmers growing seed potato harvest 80-100 quintals per acre. This is lower than the 120-140 quintals yield for normal potato.

According to Randhawa, the extended low price phase for his produce began in 2015, when a bumper 2014-15 crop resulted in less demand for seed potato. "That wasn't abnormal. What we couldn't handle was the price crash continuing in 2016, 2017 and 2018 as well, which was largely cour-

tesy demonetisation. This business has always run on cash, with traders taking seed from us on credit. The one thing I have heard from them in the last three years is that they have no money to pay," he notes.

But this year has finally seen a turnaround. "In May-June, I sold to traders from Karnataka (where farmers sow first) for Rs 500-600 per bag. By September, the rates had improved to Rs 700-800 (for supply to Bihar and UP), and further to Rs 1,000-1,100/bag towards October-November (for plantings in West Bengal and Gujarat). This is the first time in four years I have managed to sell all my seed potatoes," states Randhawa, who also owns two cold stores with capacity to stock one lakh and 1.35 lakh bags, respectively.

Randhawa has not only emptied his cold stores, which also keep the seed potato of other farmers, but expects demand to be good in the coming year as well. "Table potato itself is fetching good rates now. Consistently low prices for four years have led farmers to reduce area or divert it to wheat. But that has also meant lower production, higher prices and, hence, more demand for seed," he adds.

As per data from the National Horticultural Research & Development Foundation, the modal price of potato ruled at Rs 1,450 per quintal in Agra (UP) on December 31, compared to Rs 445, Rs 430, Rs 460 and 510 for the same date of the preceding four years.

Doaba's farmers mostly sow potato in the first week of October. The table crop is harvested by early-December. Harvesting of the seed potato takes place in February-March. Seed-potato cultivation is highly labour-intensive, as the size of the tubers have to be maintained at 30-55 mm, as opposed to 70-90 mm for table varieties. In December, the leaves of the plants above the



ground are cut in order to prevent extra growth or the probability of virus infestation, while the tuber remains inside the earth. Even the harvested tubers are kept in the fields under paddy/wheat crop stubble cover for 2-3 weeks. Once their peels get sufficiently hardened, they are put in cold stores for sale through the year.

Last year, Gurmil Singh Dhadda from Haripur village in Jalandhar's Nakodar tehsil was forced to sell 7,000 bags of seed potato at Rs 35/bag. The buyer was a trader supplying to *gaushalas* (cow shelters) in Rajasthan. This time, Dhadda realised Rs 500-600/bag for 10,000 bags in September and an average of Rs 1,000 on his remaining 40,000 bags sold in October and early-November. "If prices remain at these levels, I should wipe out my losses of four years running in 2020," he remarks.

His hopes partly rest on many smaller seed potato farmers choosing to harvest their crop within 65-70 days. "Since table potatoes are fetching good rates now, they decided to sell it as such, instead of growing further for seed. That will help us, as there would be a shortage of seed in the coming season as well," points out Dhadda, who grows seed potato on 125 acres, including

105 acres of leased-in land.

Punjab, in 2018-19, produced 27.24 lakh tonnes (lt) of potato, which was a mere 5.1% of the country's total estimated 530.27 lt output led by UP (153.24 lt), West Bengal (137.83 lt) and Bihar (81.01 lt). But Punjab supplies practically the country's entire seed potato requirement. Farmers usually plant new seed once in every three years and use saved tubers in the other two.

Doaba's sandy loam soils are considered best suited for seed production, with the October-December period also being relatively free of aphid attacks. The development of this unique seed hub has been equally attributed to region's entrepreneurial farmers and the Central Potato Research Institute's regional station at Jalandhar. "We grow several improved varieties such as Kufri Jyoti, Kufri Chipsona, Kufri Pukhraj, Badshah, Diamond, Chandramukhi and Sultana at our farms and supply their seeds to the growers here, who further multiply and sell them all over India," sums up Paramjit Singh, nodal officer for potato at the Punjab government's horticulture department.

Those growers are finally seeing happy times again.



## Agri exports

How it has the potential to transform Indian farm sector



ASHOK SHARMA

IT'S ALMOST sardonic that when you type "agrarian" in Google, it invariably suggests "crisis" as the following word. In 2019, the Indian farm sector grew minus 0.1% year-on-year in January-March and 2% and 2.1% in the next two quarters. A host of reasons have affected the sector's growth, from a slump in rural demand and liquidity crunch (especially post the collapse of IL&FS) to the overall slowdown in the economy, slump in rural demand and liquidity crunch.

However, production-wise, we are actually doing not all that bad in agriculture. In fact, as the NITI Aayog member Dr Ramesh Chand has shown, a mere 5% increase in farm output today can lead to price crashes in excess of 30%. It is clear, therefore, that we are more constrained on the demand side than on the production side. And it is demand that's also driving farmers' income.

There are two sources of creating demand for agri commodities — domestic and global. Given the innate vagaries of the domestic value chain and subdued consumption sentiment, it is important to focus on the exports value chain. India now fares miserably compared to its global peers here. We are the world's second largest farm producer, but the country doesn't figure in the ranks of the top 10 exporters and has a measly 2.2% share of the \$1.6 trillion global agri trade. India has, moreover, not leveraged its position as the second largest horticulture producer. Smaller countries such as Thailand and Egypt fare better than India in horticulture exports.

There's a need to come up with a new model of growth through focused value chains. When it comes to exports, there are several key issues that affect the various stakeholders concerned. The most crucial are our farmers, who cultivate fractured landholdings and are often not updated on the global demand trends, whether it pertains to the varieties to grow or quality and the safety standards to be maintained. Further, even when they are, investing in

post-harvest processing, cold chain or branding requires capital, which isn't tenable for a small farmer. Thus, there is an imperative to bring scale to agricultural operations through, say, farmer producer groups or organisations (FPO).

At Mahindra, we have found some success in export of grapes. In the last 15 years, we have been able to achieve export of over 9,000 tonnes annually to global consumers across Europe, Asia and Canada. This has been on the back of promoting export-oriented production of grapes, interventions taken to increase yield and reduce use of pesticides. In addition we have ensured a transparent supply chain, garnered international food certifications and partnered with clusters of farmers in focused districts. In this journey, we have also been helped by the government through transfer of knowhow from its research organisations and incentives to undertake capital expenditures. All of this enabled us and our farmers to 'rise' — which is also the company's logo. Many of our grape farmers have reported income increases of over five times after our interventions. It wouldn't be a hyperbole to call them a poster-child for exports.

Can we replicate this model across the country? Given the backdrop of 10,000 FPOs that the 2019-20 Union Budget has targeted to set up in the next five years, I propose that a 'Public-Private-Farmer Group Partnership' model could be the way ahead for pushing agri exports from India. This model can receive a boost through establishing crop-specific councils with representation from the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, the ministries of agriculture and commerce, big FPOs, corporates and SMEs, with some experience and interest in developing agri value chains. These councils need to be adequately funded by the government for carrying out market research, building strong brands and setting up common infrastructure (the Basmati Export Development Foundation is a good model).

Given the huge export opportunity and with a robust implementation model, I am confident that this approach can contribute to the government's vision of doubling farmers' income and ultimately transform the narrative from "crisis" to "agrarian prosperity".

The writer is President-Agribusiness, Mahindra & Mahindra and CEO, Mahindra Agri Solutions Ltd

## WEATHER AND AGRICULTURE

# Food inflation returns despite best rainfall in 25 years

2019 was extraordinary for crop damage caused by too much rather than too little rain. The prospects for rabi, however, look good

HARISH DAMODARAN  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

2019 HAS seen India receive an average area-weighted rainfall of 1,278.7 millimetres (mm), the highest since 1,295.3 mm for 1994. This wettest-ever year in a quarter of a century comes just after 2018, which had, in fact, registered the worst rainfall performance since 2009.

The extent of turnaround is captured by another statistic: During January-June 2019, cumulative rainfall in the country was 22.7% lower than the normal historical average for this period. Coming on top of an extended dry phase — rains were deficit by 14% in 2018 — and amid an ongoing El Nino event, it portended a disaster worse than the back-to-back drought years of 2014 and 2015.

Then followed the revival no forecaster had anticipated.

By early-August, El Nino — the abnormal warming of the equatorial eastern Pacific Ocean waters, known to adversely impact the monsoon in India — was officially over. The second half of 2019 recorded 21.3% above long period average precipita-

tion, with rainfall being surplus in every month: July (4.6%), August (15.3%), September (52.4%), October (44.3%), November (3.3%) and December (10.3%).

The above unusual pattern of late revival, which was preceded by drought-like conditions, had implications for the kharif crop this time. The lack of rains at the start — almost till the last week of July — affected sowing, with farmers planting late, if not less. But more significant was the heavy showers, especially during September-October, when the crop was in late maturity or harvesting stage. The agriculture ministry's first advance estimates, released on September 23, showed a marginal 0.8% decline in the production of kharif foodgrains and a 5.2% increase in that of oilseeds for 2019 compared to the previous year. Those numbers will, in all likelihood, be substantially revised downwards.

This will probably be the first time where the kharif crop has suffered pretty extensive damage on account of too much, rather than too little, of rain. Proof of it is prices: virtually every agri-commodity today — from maize, *bajra* (pearl-millet), *arhar* (pigeon-pea), *urad* (black gram), *moong* (green gram) and soyabean, to

ALL-INDIA AREA-WEIGHTED RAINFALL IN MM					
	Winter	Pre-Monsoon	Monsoon	Post-Monsoon	Annual
2012	39.2 (-4.2)	90.5 (-31.1)	823.6 (-7.1)	101 (-20.6)	1054.3 (-11.1)
2013	51.4 (25.7)	103.8 (-20.9)	937.4 (5.7)	150 (17.9)	1242.6 (4.8)
2014	46.7 (14.2)	131.1 (-0.2)	781.7 (-11.9)	85.2 (-33)	1044.7 (-11.9)
2015	38.1 (-8)	183.6 (39.6)	765.8 (-13.7)	97.6 (-23.3)	1085 (-8.6)
2016	17.9 (-56.8)	130.3 (-0.9)	864.4 (-2.6)	70.5 (-44.6)	1083.1 (-8.8)
2017	39.4 (-4.8)	129.5 (-1.5)	845.9 (-4.7)	112.3 (-11.7)	1127.1 (-5.1)
2018	15.6 (-62.3)	121.8 (-7.4)	804.1 (-9.4)	71.4 (-43.9)	1020.8 (-14)
2019	51.4 (24.2)	99 (-24.7)	968.3 (10)	160 (29.2)	1278.7 (8.6)

Winter: Jan-Feb, Pre-Monsoon: Mar-May, Monsoon: Jun-Sep, Post-Monsoon: Oct-Dec  
Figures in brackets are % departure from long period average  
Source: India Meteorological Department

onion, potato and milk — is trading higher than last year, while even close to or above their minimum support price levels. Consumer food price inflation, which averaged a mere 1.38% for a prolonged period from September 2016 to August 2019, has

also since climbed to 5.11% in September, 7.89% in October and a near six-year-high of 10.01% in November. Prices rising so sharply and suddenly in a good monsoon year — again, the best since 1994 — is an unprecedented phenomenon of sorts.

The bright side, though, is that one can expect a return to normalcy in the rabi season. The recharging of groundwater tables and aquifers from the abundant late monsoon as well as post-monsoon rains, along with major dams being filled to near capacity, has resulted in the progressive area sown under rabi crops rising 6.6% over the coverage for the same period of 2018-19. Another indicator of farmers' keenness to plant, because of better soil moisture and also prices — is the demand for fertilisers. Cumulative retail sale of all fertilisers during April-September (kharif), at 270.94 lakh tonnes (lt), was 3.3% below the 280.17 lt for the corresponding six months of 2018. But sales in October-December 2019, at 206.09 lt, have been 12.9% more than the 182.49 lt for October-December 2018. And the rabi applications aren't over yet.

The status of the current crop, too, seems good as of now.

The prevailing cold conditions are favourable for wheat, which is mostly now in tillering (branches produced from the initial parent shoot) stage. Farmers have expanded wheat area by 9.7% so far, with reports of sowing still coming in. However, the combination of chilly nights and foggy

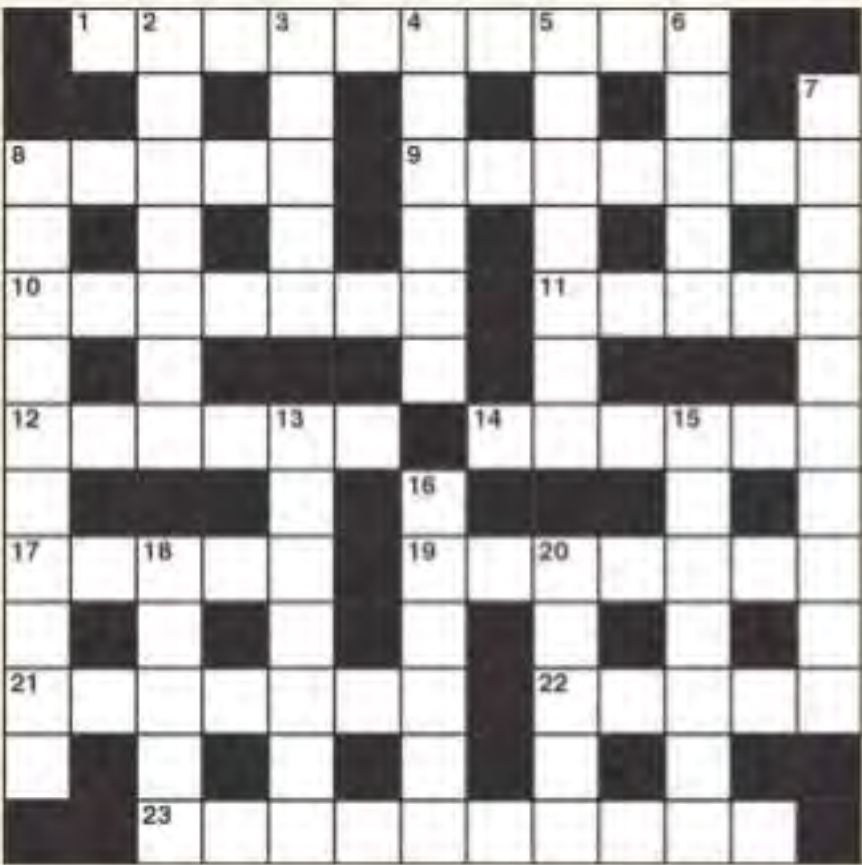
days is not ideal for mustard. The crop that was sown by early-October — in which much of flowering is over and the pods are forming — is vulnerable to frost. Flowering is still going on in normal mustard varieties sown before mid-October. Sunshine during daytime would be most helpful for yields now.

The same goes for sugarcane. While mills in Uttar Pradesh have crushed 309.78 lt of cane in this season (October-September) as on December 28, which is 15.5% more than the 268.26 lt during the corresponding period of 2018-19, their production of sugar is up by only 6.9% (from 31.02 lt to 33.16 lt). The reason for that is lower sugar recovery (10.71% versus 10.84%), which, in turn, has to do with the late rains reducing the dry matter and sucrose content in the cane. Sugarcane, like mustard, will also benefit from sunnier days and the night temperatures remaining low.

As things stand, the prospects of a bumper rabi harvest appear bright. If prices also hold, farmers would be doubly blessed — a far cry from the situation of the past few years where they borne the brunt of both droughts and low produce realisations.



CROSSWORD 4004



- ACROSS
- Down
- 1 Inexpensive fish will suit him (10)

8 Jewish teacher in Arab biophysics (5)

9 Notedly brisk (7)

10 Rubens, for example, puts himself out (7)

11 Correct some work the men did wrongly (5)

12 Carry on with a summary (6)

14 Walk a short way and turn (6)

17 Report about the initial forms of aquatic life (5)

19 Fashionable substitute for wood or metal (7)

21 Time of day when engine breaks down - about five (7)

22 They're inclined to prevent steps being taken (5)

23 He can rely on a permanent occupation (4,6)
- 2 Wild herbs we found in Israel (7)

3 I break bail in order to prove I was elsewhere (5)

4 Hit with explosive - bandage needed (6)

5 I lament about disorder (7)

6 It stoops to conquer (5)

7 Wealth is about to provide security for girl in nursery tale (10)

8 Respects one's testimonials (10)

13 Mother's pet dog? (7)

15 Seat of Empire (7)

16 One taps a cask with it (6)

18 A revolutionary invention (5)

20 Article written about the professional stage, perhaps (5)

Solutions Crossword 4003: Across: 1 Sherpa, 4 Boards, 9 Signora, 10 Frame, 11 Erie, 12 Ill will, 13 Part company, 18 Proverb, 20 Ruche, 22 Opine, 23 Average, 24 Bleats, 25 Stared. Down: 1 Sister, 2 Eager, 3 Protest, 5 Offal, 6 Realign, 7 Stella, 8 Haricot bean, 14 Anodise, 15 Perfect, 16 Aplomb, 17 Defend, 19 Expert, 21 Chair.

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 quip.

All sweeping assertions are \_\_\_\_\_. - Letitia Elizabeth Landon (9)

TXEER

CHTOR

KTTYNO

SPROUT

SOLUTION: EXERT, TORCH, KNotty, STUPOR. Answer: All sweeping assertions are erroneous. - Letitia Elizabeth Landon

SUDOKU 4078

Difficulty Level 4s  
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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4077



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
If you do eventually decide to move on, it can only be because the moment is right to broaden your horizons. Once you allow your feelings to change, they will develop a momentum of their own, and you will soon find that what was good enough in the past will no longer do.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
You may imagine that there is no way out of embarrassing situations, in which case it must be said that you are quite wrong. So much exists purely in your fantasy world at the moment, that you should hold back from making definite judgments about partners' thoughts and feelings.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
If you are still in a quandary over matrimonial or partnership affairs, the reason is because you're allowing your desire for status to influence your feelings. You should try to be less critical of partners' ambitions, and support them whatever they do.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
The overall planetary picture is extremely encouraging, even though you may have some doubts. Indeed, if you didn't have any worries about the future you wouldn't be human. You just have to realise that people who are behaving erratically are serving your life pattern, even if in their own curious way.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
There will be days when the odds seem to be stacked against you, and this might just be one of them. Look more closely, though, and you'll see that all you have to do is complete a certain number of essential tasks and everything will turn out fine.

**VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
You have had more than your fair share of financial problems in the past and, if these should now threaten to return, it could be because of bad management, especially where other people's money is concerned. Ask for advice and you'll be astonished how ready people are to help.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
Listen carefully to what other people are saying, mainly because for once their words and feelings seem to coincide. You can therefore afford to trust people who have proved their worth, and even hope that they'll make up for a past mistake - with your encouragement, of course.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
You must turn your attention to cash or career issues, but only because these areas of your life can be the subject of such intense emotions. It's important that you check out any area that has been ignored over the past fortnight, just to see that all's well.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
In a matter of days, you should have found out exactly how someone really does feel about you. This, of course, could come as something of a relief, for at last you will know where you stand. There are few people who can get the better of you, and many who should learn from your example.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
The scope for dramatic change at home is almost infinite. Forget what you're 'supposed' to do, realise that the rules are completely meaningless, and do what you know in your heart of hearts must now be accomplished. Try to convince people you live with that what is good for you is best for them.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
The dominant planetary alignment is still thoroughly Aquarian, so you should be in your element at the present time. Surprisingly enough, there is no need for you to say what you mean, but do realise that partners could be equally inconsistent.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
Let others live with their consciences while you fall in with splendid Martian alignments and concentrate on new plans and responsibilities. Don't waste time, and devote special attention to buttering up people who can help you in the future.

NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY

EVENTS, HONOURS



FOUNDATION STONE-NBCC

Home Minister Amit Shah, recently laid the foundation stone of Bharat Vandana Park at Sector 20, Dwarka, New Delhi. On the occasion, Hardeep Singh Puri, MoHUA, P K Gupta, CMD NBCC and other dignitaries were present.



COMMISSIONED-INDIANOIL

IndianOil has commissioned its 119th Aviation Fuel Station at Agatti Island in Lakshadweep. The inaugural refueling was done for an Alliance Air flight operating between Kochi and Agatti. Agatti AFS shall cater to the aviation fuel needs of Indian Navy,



WORKSHOP-NDMC

Chairman, NDMC, Dharmendra inaugurated a workshop for Swachh Survekshan-2020 for representatives of RWAs, MTAs, JJ Clusters and other NGOs at NDMC Convention Centre in New Delhi today.



PRESS CONFERENCE- LIC

A Kumar, ZM, North Zone, LIC addressed a Press Conference in New Delhi recently. While addressing the Conference, he said that LIC has registered a significant increase in market share in the current financial year.



FOUNDATION STONE-CRPF

CRPF new headquarter's foundation stone was laid today by Home Minister Amit Shah. DG, CRPF, RR Bhatnagar, expressed the hope that the proposed building will address the constraints of space presently being faced by the Force.

**NHPC** has commissioned the Unit no 2 (60 MW) of its 180 MW (3 x 60 MW) Baira Siul Power Station located in Himachal Pradesh. The Unit no 2 has been tested and commissioned after completion of Renovation and Modernization works. The commercial operation of the Unit no 2 of the Baira Siul Power Station has been started from 00.00 Hrs, 29th December 2019.

**PNB** has announced a reduction in its MCLR rates by 5 bps to 30 bps. The one-year MCLR will come down to 8.05 percent from 8.15 percent and one month MCLR will come down to 7.50 percent from 7.80 percent. The new rates will be effective from 1st January 2020.

**BHEL** has successfully renovated and modernised one unit of the 3x60 MW Baira Siul Hydro Power in Himachal Pradesh. Notably, Baira Siul is the first hydro station of NHPC Ltd to have been taken up for comprehensive Renovation & Modernisation (R&M). Significantly, BHEL won the order for R&M of three units of the Baira Siul Hydro Power Station located in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh, amidst stiff competitive bidding. R&M of the other two units is under various stages of execution. Scope in the project comprises design, manufacture, supply, replacement & commissioning of critical parts of Turbines & auxiliaries, Governors, Generators and Control & Monitoring. The equipment has been supplied from BHEL's manufacturing units at Bhopal, Bengaluru and Jhansi, while the on-site installation activities were carried out by the company's Power Sector - Northern Region division, Noida. .

**IRCTC** After the successful run of Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express by IRCTC, the second premium Tejas train is ready to run between Ahmedabad and Mumbai. The inaugural run of this second Tejas Train will be flagged off from Ahmedabad on 17th January, 2020. The commercial run of the train will start with effect from 19th January, 2020 from Ahmedabad. The booking for this train has commenced and passengers can book their tickets exclusively on IRCTC website www.irctc.co.in and its mobile app "Irctc Rail Connect". There will be no booking at railway reservation counters. However, passengers can get their tickets booked through IRCTC authorized agents. The train will also be available for booking through IRCTC's online travel portal partners like Paytm, Ixigo, PhonePe, Make My Trip, Google, Iibao, Railyatri etc. This will be yet another step of the Ministry of Railways in its endeavour to improve the overall traveling experience of rail passengers by providing state of the art amenities to them on trains. This train 82902/82901 shall ply on Ahmedabad - Mumbai- Ahmedabad route for 6 days a week with Thursday as an Off-day for maintenance activities . The train shall be equipped with all modern on board facilities for ensuring a high level of comfort to the passengers.



DIVIDEND-LIC

MR Kumar, Chairman, LIC, presented the Dividend cheque of Rs 2610.74 Cr to N Sitharaman, M/o FCA, as the Government of India's share of the surplus arising out of LIC's Actuarial Valuation as at 31.3.2019.

APPOINTMENTS

**AAI** SN Borkar, GM- Vigilance, on promotion has been appointed as ED-Vigilance, at Corporate head-quarters AAI, New Delhi and taken over charge on 20th December 2019.Hehas Joined AAI in May 1990 as Electronics officer and served at various airports at various levels in CNS discipline, as Airport Dir, and GM- IT..



**PRPC** GC Sikder has assumed charge as ED of IndianOil's Panipat Refinery & Petrochemical Complex, the largest integrated Refinery Complex of its kind in the country. Prior to taking charge as ED at PRPC, Sikder was working as CGM (In-charge) of PRPC overseeing all technical aspects of day to day working of the this mega complex including ongoing projects activities. Sikder is a Graduate Engineer in "Mechanical Engineering" from NIT, Durgapur and "Post Graduate Diploma in Management (Finance)" from Management Development Institute, Gurgaon.



Global Award for 'Technology Startup of the Year'

**SOLUTION BUGGY** added one more feather to their cap as they bagged global award for "Technology Startup of the Year" recently during 23rd International Conference on SMEs organized by WASME (World Association of SME). The Bangalore-based start-up has recently been appreciated at multiple national & international platforms for their support to Micro Small & Medium Scale Industries in manufacturing sector, already in stress due to economic slowdown. AK Choubey, Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, presented the award to Solution Buggy during the international conference in presence of global industry leaders & stakeholders. The online platform claims to connect 60,000+ manufacturing organisations. It plans to establish its footprints to multiple locations across India in 2020 to benefit industries.

Corrigendum

Tender notice for manpower in the office of General Manager, Haryana Roadways, Jhajjar.

Tender Notice published in various newspaper on date 01.01.2020, last date of submission of bid extended upto 12.02.2020, due to some technical fault. Detailed as below:-

Sr. No.	Description of Work/ Items	EMD to be Deposited by Bidder	Tender Document Fee & eService Fee (Rs.)	Start Date & Time of Bid Preparation & Submission	Expiry Date & Time of Bid of EMD Submission	Expiry Date & Time of Bid Preparation & Submission
1.	Chowkidar	Rs. 40,000	2500 & 1000	09.01.2020 upto 16.00 hours	10.02.2020 upto 17.00 hours	12.02.2020 upto 15.00 hours

The detailed tender documents can be downloaded from the main portal <http://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in>. For any clarification bidder may contact Helpdesk No. 1800-180-2097 (Toll Free).

Sd/-  
General Manager,  
Haryana Roadways, Jhajjar.

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER: DISTRICT CENTRAL

14, DARYA GANJ, NEW DELHI-110002

F.DEO/C/1098/Refresh& Catering/2020

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders(Online Tenders) are invited by the District Election Officer (Central)/DEO(Central), Delhi on behalf of the President of India from reputed firms/Companies/Proprietors having minimum average annual turnover of amount to Rs. 40,00,000/- ( Rs. Forty Lakh) for the last three years and proven experience/ capabilities of election work or other similar nature of work done in the past for arrangement of Refreshment/ Catering services are required for Counting Centres/Poll Day, Election training Centres/RO office/ARO office etc., at different places of Central Delhi for the conduct of Delhi Legislative Assembly-2020 for all 07 Assembly Constituencies of District Central. The estimated cost of the work is amount to Rs. 50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakhs). The e-tender approved rates will be valid for a period of 12 months from the date of opening of the bid.

TENDER ID NUMBER: 2019\_REV\_186661\_1

The Last Date of submission of e-bid is 03/01/2020 at 12.00 Noon

More details please visit e-tender website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/>

Sd/-  
SDM (ELECTION)  
DISTRICT-CENTRAL

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Regional Office, Ground Floor, NCR Plaza, 24-A, New Cantt Road, Hathibarkala, Dehradun- 248001

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]  
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) /Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr.Kamal Singh Panwar (Borrower), Vipin Singh Panwar( Co-Borrower), Loan No. LBDEH00003988235/ LBDEH00003988236	Khata No. 1145, Khasra No. 544, Situated at Mauza Ajabpur Kalan, Pargana Central Doon District Dehradun- 248001 Area of Property- 1600Sq Feet, Built up area - 4000 Sq Feet Type of Property- Residential House	Rs. 44,93,812/- (as on Dec 26, 2019)	Rs. 39,00,000/- Rs. 3,90,000/-	Jan 24, 2020 from- 11 AM to 2 PM	Feb 10, 2020 from- 11:30 AM To 12:30 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-<https://eauctions.samil.in/>) of our auction agency ShriramAutomall India Ltd. . The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till Feb 10, 2020 before 10:30 AM else these secured assets will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with the earnest money deposit (refer column E) in a sealed envelope that mentions "Offer for purchase of property" to ICICI Bank Ltd, Regional Office, Ground Floor, NCR Plaza, 24-A, New Cantt Road, Hathibarkala, Dehradun - 248001 or to our marketing agent ShriramAutomall India Ltd at STFC Office, 1st Floor, Shanti Plaza, West Canal Road, Sandhu Center, Transport Nagar, Dehradun- 248001 on or before Feb 07, 2020 before 3:00 PM. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Dehradun.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 8953652366 or ShriramAutomall India Ltd on 099104553434. Tenders which are acknowledged by the Bank/e-auction vendor official and registered before the cut-off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit [www.icicibank.com/n4p4s](http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s)

Date: January 02, 2020  
Place: Dehradun

Sd/-  
Authorised Officer  
ICICI Bank Limited

epaper.indianexpress.com



# 21 TALK

ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD

## SNAP SHOTS



### Sweeth Tooth

RACHEL GOENKA'S *Adventures with Mithai* has won the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards 2020. The book won the award for the pastry and desserts category. Goenka's first ever cookbook, *Adventures with Mithai* compiles 50 original recipes and is an ode to the Indian mithai. Recipes include chocolate barfi-flavoured cheesecake to cardamom mousse sprinkled with motichoor laddoo, the book combines original recipes of Indian classics with a modern twist.



### Retelling and Rewriting

VETERAN FILM director Sudhir Mishra (pictured), who made *Hazaaroon Kiwaishin Aisi* in 2005, featuring KK Menon, Shiney Ahuja and Chitrangada Singh, will now remake his first feature film, *Yeh Woh Manzil To Nahin*. The director took to Twitter to post to say how the current student protest has inspired him. "I am going to remake my first film! The students of today are the trigger. It won't be exactly the same though," wrote Mishra. Mishra made *Yeh Woh Manzil To Nahin* in 1987, which earned him a National Film Award for Best Debut Director. The film starred Pankaj Kapur, Manohar Singh, Habib Tanvir, Sushmita Mukherjee and Naseeruddin Shah.



### A Full Year

SHE GAVE us the much acclaimed *Ladybird* and followed it up with *Little Women* recently, and now actor-director Greta Gerwig (pictured) has announced her next project, a musical. "One thing I feel that the world is really missing right now is tap dancing. I'm just going to say that," she said in a podcast when asked about details on her next plan. Gerwig is set to return to acting in a production of Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters* along with actor Oscar Isaac at the New York Theatre Workshop. This is a busy year for Gerwig, as she has also written a script with partner and frequent collaborator Noah Baumbach for a live-action *Barbie* movie starring actor Margot Robbie.



### Sneak Peak

TEEN-POP singer Justin Bieber (pictured) will document the creative and professional aspects of his life in an upcoming 10-part documentary, titled *Justin Bieber: Seasons*. The docu-series comes right before he makes a comeback after three years. The announcement was made by YouTube, who will stream the series from January 27 onwards. It begins with a glimpse at Bieber's first album in four years, his private life and wife, model Hailey Baldwin, and other family members. Bieber started out with Youtube in 2007, when he was 13.



## Giving Colour to Sound

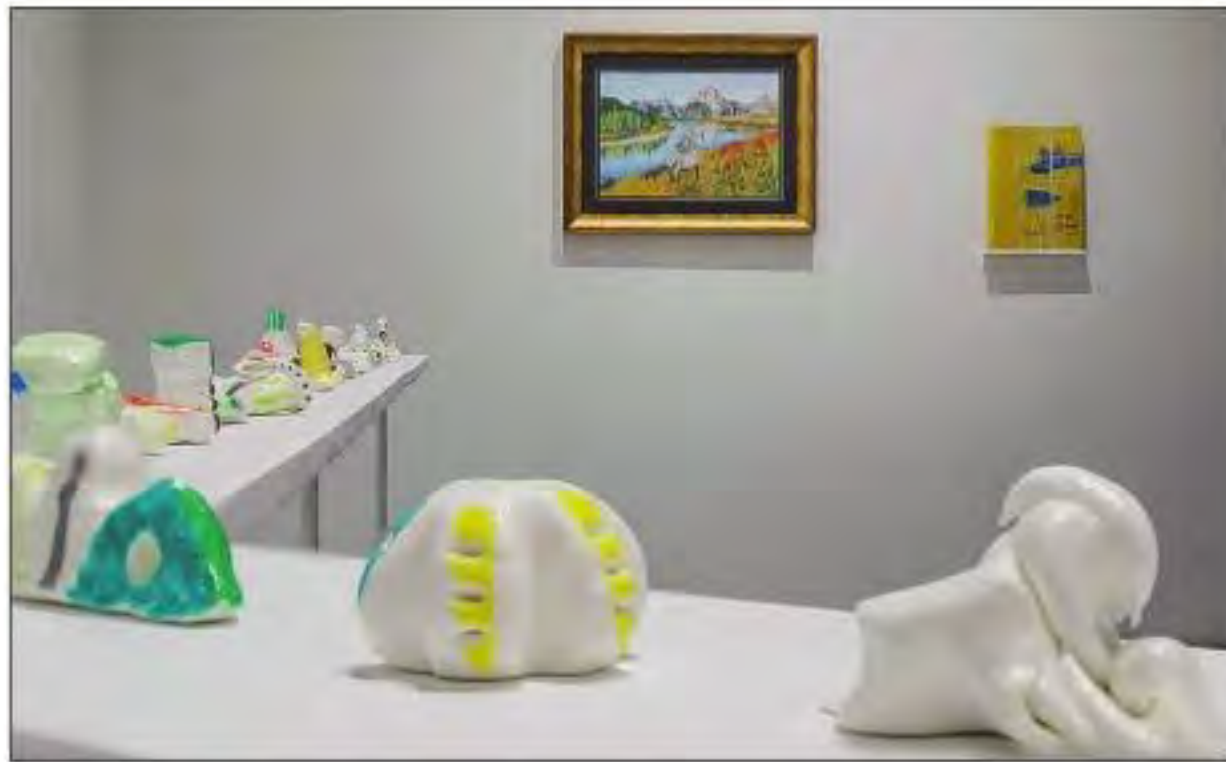
Hong Kong-born artist Samson Young on transcribing sonic compositions into graphic notations to discuss global concerns

VANDANA KALRA

THE QUIETUDE of Experimenter gallery in Kolkata is broken with the voice of jazz vocalist Michael Schiefel reciting the thoughts of American composer Earle Brown in a re-enactment of his lecture 'Notational Tendencies and Performance Processes', delivered at Germany's Darmstadt International Summer Course for New Music in 1964. Emphasising on the "cultural responsibility" of notational practices, the video installation titled on the lecture seems the most befitting starting point for artist Samson Young's solo "Available Forms" at the gallery. "His (Brown's) very specific approach to graphic connotation is not something people talk about a lot," says the Hong Kong-born artist.

Known to incorporate elements of music into his art practice, giving image to sounds, the trained composer with a Ph.D in Music Composition from Princeton University often comments on global issues and conflicts through his work. If in December 2018, he invited audiences to debate the notion of utopia on a touring broadcast van for a live radio show, he has also recorded and archived the sounds of protests on the streets of Hong Kong. His first American solo museum exhibition at Smart Museum in Chicago, titled "Silver Moon or Golden Star, Which Will You Buy of Me?", analysed the present in context of the optimism expressed at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. "It came from the feeling of being conflicted about the idea of utopia and then using moments connected to either imagination or invention of utopia as a way to process what it has meant at different times," says Young, 40.

If in the 2012-14 work *Liquid Borders*, he presented sound compositions and graphic notations of the sounds he recorded in the area separating China and Hong Kong, in the exhibition "Pastoral History" in 2015, he attempted to reproduce sounds of war, among others. The 2017 Venice Biennale saw him explore charity singles in the exhibition titled "Songs for Disaster Relief". "I am fascinated with the way he brings in fundamental aspects of cultural understanding of what things are meant to be... Different ways of



Samson Young (above); some of his works on display at the exhibition

looking at things through mediums that we haven't explored enough; how sound, music and spoken voice have been presented as tools of instruction but also control," says gallerist Prateek Raja.

At a time when anti-government protests have rocked Hong Kong, Young might not be directly addressing the situation in his ongoing solo in Kolkata, but the multi-layered approach offers perspectives. So step into a room and the poster on the wall calls out to 'Choose Your Revolt and its Shadow'. Printed below is the song *Row row row your boat*, "composed in the form of an infinite canon". If 3-D printed sculptures, 'Support Structures', are made from

"modified surpluses from the processes of 3-D printing models of iconic works of classical sculpture, such as *The Thinker* by Auguste Rodin and *The Discobolus* by Myron", the series of drawings titled 'Chopin' is based on abstract cluster of scribbles "with a pen plotter markings of Polish composer Frederic Chopin's original manuscripts, where he crossed out mistakes made in the composition".

Those in Kolkata during the opening week of the exhibition also saw a performance by Kolkata-based Armenian musician Vachagan Tadevosyan, based on musical interpretation of "notational objects" jointly conceived by Young and Tadevosyan. "I imagined that these objects can be played as notation, and Vachagan too shared his interpretation, which we then put down in a manual," says Young.

Meanwhile, in his Hong Kong studio are recordings of bells from 14 countries, not just the sound but also their context and stories. "It's such a complicated object, associated with religion, peace but also other things; for instance, historically, during wars, bells were melted for making weapons. It's such a tranquil object, but in villages when there were wars over religion, it caused people to be armed. So there are these inherent contradictions," says Young, who is still adding to his body of work.

The exhibition is on at Experimenter, 45, Ballygunge Place, Kolkata, till January 4



### HACK AWAY

Popstar Mariah Carey's Twitter account has been hacked. A slew of weird posts and numerous racist slurs were tweeted out from Carey's handle. The singer has 21.4 million followers on Twitter. The offensive posts were deleted soon after.

## 'Women still a minority in architecture, design'

A conference in Mumbai will celebrate and challenge the notions about women in design

SHINY VARGHESE

WHEN ARCHITECT Brinda Somaya with HECAR Foundation curated the 'Women in Architecture' (WID) conference in 2000, she brought together architects from Asia and the subcontinent. Two decades later, Somaya reconnects these women designers as they stop by to tell their stories, at Nehru Centre, Mumbai, from January 8 to 10, for the 'Women In Design 2020+' conference. Alongside the event is the exhibition "20 Year Manifesto", at the Goethe-Institut Max Mueller Bhavan, Mumbai, which will showcase practices led by women from various creative fields. Curators Nandini Somaya Sampat and Ruturaj Parikh talk about the need for such a conference, how women approach design and what makes for women-centric spaces. Excerpts from an interview:

#### What is the idea behind organising the conference?

Nandini Somaya Sampat: Architecture no longer functions as an independent silo. At the heart of WID 2020+ lies the journey of architecture through the eyes of the master practitioners, academicians, sustainability experts, conservationists, urban and rural designers, landscape architects and authors. Women who have the courage to work in war-torn countries, and in bureaucratic environments, and those who competed with and built for the best in the world, will come together. It is also important for men to be present to understand the challenges and be an integral part of the movement for the way forward.

#### Internationally too, women architects had to fight for a place on the Pritzker table. Do you think such discrimination begins at school?

Ruturaj Parikh: It is difficult to come to this conclusion but the statistics suggest that majority of students in an architecture school are women. But, very few of the women students end up practising and an extremely small number end up running independent practices. Young women architects also have to battle a strange, wider perception that women are better suited to practice interior design. The challenge of establishing an independent office for women, we think, is much greater and this shows in the known practices in India led by women — it is rather rare to come across mediocre work done by a woman-led studio.

#### Being a woman, does it affect behaviour on site?

NSS: Architecture and construction is a technically and physically challenging profession and industry. Even as more women are found working successfully in these spaces, we are still the minority. Whether it is ensuring the safety and working conditions for women labour, to women supervisors being able to manage male labour, female site supervisors or architects or design consultants that have to lead projects — the challenges in the space are many.

#### Does the choice of research and scope differ for women?

NSS: As women, we find ourselves



Nandini Somaya Sampat (top) and Ruturaj Parikh

delving into the nuances of life as we begin projects. The ability to multi-task, and sensitivity towards the inclusion of arts and crafts in projects presents a deeper connection.

Also, as a woman, one ensures that project sites include creches and labour conditions specific to women on construction sites, are integrated into the work-scope. Until factors like these become the norm in the industry, women will continue to work differently.

#### Movements such as the Garden City were introduced as a way to bring women out into the work space. Can India dream of such interventions that make spaces more conducive for women?

RP: There is a great case to be made for making urban spaces conducive for women. Why can't women, just like men, take leisure bike-rides at 3 am? Why can't women loiter around the city too? Why can't women have more claim to our city spaces? The primary effort should be in changing societal perceptions towards women who work. Urban design and sensitive planning can make a huge difference in this. One can almost map the places in the city for women and cross-reference them with good urban design.

For details, visit: wis2020plus.org

## One Note at a Time

Songs of inclusivity and photos of people from the margins marked the death anniversary of activist Safdar Hashmi

SUANSHU KHURANA AND SURBHI GUPTA

NON-COOPERATION with evil is as much a duty as cooperation with good." The famed talisman by Mahatma Gandhi hung above the simple, flower-less platform as Carnatic classical vocalist and Magsaysay awardee TM Krishna took the stage at Delhi's Constitution Club "to reclaim the country we call India". To reinforce his point, he sang one of Gandhi's favourite hymn, *Vaishnav jan toh, Muslim jan toh, Boddh Jan toh, Christian jan toh, Jain jan toh... tene kahiye je, peed paraayi jaane re...* "This is how they sang it at Sabarmati Ashram; I am not the first one to do it," said Krishna, who also attempted to reclaim Lord Ram and Allah through a Tyagaraja *krithi* and an Arabic hymn *Salatullah Salamullah* respectively. "In this country we need to reclaim Ram and Allah," he said.

Titled "Jashn-e-Suroor", a day of dissent, through music comprising songs that defined the idea of India's resistance and protest poetry, it was organised by Sahmat, the Safdar Hashmi Memorial Trust, on Wednesday, to commemorate the death



(Above right) TM Krishna in performance Surbhi Gupta; the exhibition in Delhi Amit Mehra

anniversary of activist-playwright Hashmi. Earlier in the day, Iqbal Bano's *Hum dekhenge* and Habib Jalib's famed poem *Dastoor* with words *Aise dastoor ko, subhe benoor ko, Main nahi jaanta, main nahin manta* reverberated in the auditorium. The two pieces were sung by Rini Singh. While Indian Ocean frontman Rahul Ram and stand-up comedian Sanjay Rajoura spoke and sang of the current times through their outfit Aisi Taisi Democracy, professor and vocalist Madan Gopal Singh took one on a journey of Sufi poets. He made the mood sombre with *Alif Allah chambe di booti*, a



poem by 17th century Sufi mystic and poet Sultan Bahu from Punjab (present-day Pakistan).

The venue also hosted an exhibition featuring photographs from protests in the Capital, against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the proposed National Register of Citizens. "What happened in Jamia shocked the whole country, and after that, I have noticed people are no longer afraid to protest against the government. It was amazing to see youngsters and women lead the protests, and I had never seen cut-outs of leaders such as Maulana

Azad, Ashfaqullah Khan and Savitribai Phule at protests, so it felt like the spirit of the Indian freedom struggle is back," said photographer Ram Rahman.

At the one-day exhibition, which displayed over 200 photographs by a dozen photographers, were those by writer-photographer Vijay S Jodha. His series of postage stamps titled 'Most of My Heroes', showed portraits of men, women and children, who died during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Delhi.

Parthiv Shah's work from 2008, documented the survivors of the 1987

Hashimpura massacre. A series of woodcuts from artist Riyas Komu from his 2018 exhibition "Holy Shiver" documented violence from every decade of independent India from 1947 onwards. Then there was Javed Sultan's photos from the Rohingya refugee camps in Delhi that showed the stateless and the "most persecuted ethnic community of the world". "What do these different stories echo — the fight for basic democratic rights, the right to exist, land right — and all are eventually connected to the struggle to maintain a democracy," said writer-filmmaker Sohail Hashmi.



BRIEFLY CRICKET



Hardik Pandya with his fiancée Natasha Stankovic.

Pandya engaged to long-time girlfriend

Mumbai: India all-rounder Hardik Pandya rung in the New Year by announcing his engagement with actress-girlfriend Natasha Stankovic on social media. Pandya, who is on an injury break due to a back surgery, is expected to be back to competitive cricket later this month with the India A team in New Zealand which will also be his extended fitness test before he is drafted into the senior team. Pandya took to Instagram to announce his engagement with Stankovic, who is a former reality show 'Big Boss' contestant and featured in a popular music Badshah music video 'Bandook', apart from a few dance numbers in Bollywood movies. The colourful Pandya, quoted a hit Bollywood song from Amitabh Bachchan starrer 'Shaan' as the 27-year-old Stankovic flaunted the engagement ring sitting by his side. PTI

Mathews returns to SL T20 squad

Colombo: Former skipper Angelo Mathews on Wednesday returned to the Sri Lanka squad for the three-match T20 International series against India starting in Guwahati on January 5. The 32-year-old all-rounder made a comeback to the team after a 16-month absence from the shortest form of the game. Mathews played his last T20 International against South Africa in August, 2018, when he led Sri Lanka to a three-wicket win. Sri Lanka Cricket said in a statement that the 16-member squad will be led by veteran pacer Lasith Malinga. Initially, fast bowler Nuwan Pradeep was included in the squad but he will now make way for seamer Kasun Rajitha after sustaining an injury during practice sessions. The squad will leave Sri Lanka on Thursday. **SQUAD:** Lasith Malinga (captain), Danushka Gunathilaka, Avishka Fernando, Angelo Mathews, Dasun Shanaka, Kusal Perera, Niroshan Dickwella, Dhananjaya de Silva, Isuru Udana, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Oshada Fernando, Wanindu Hasaranga, Lahiru Kumara, Kusal Mendis, Lakshan Sandakan and Kasun Rajitha. PTI

CAB league final to be five-day affair

Kolkata: For the first time, the Cricket Association of Bengal's (CAB) League final is set to be a five-day affair, to be played under lights with the pink ball. The Indian Express has learnt that the CAB's tournament committee and tours and fixtures committee will rubber-stamp the proposal during their meeting on Thursday. The League final will be played after the IPL and the match is likely to start from 1pm. Eden Gardens hosted India's first-ever day-night Test, against Bangladesh, in November last year. ENS

Four vs Five

Pragmatists and romantics get locked in an intense debate as cricket officials get serious about shrinking Tests



THE YEA-SAYERS

**One day too many:** Fewer Test matches are lasting the full course of five days, more so in 2019, wherein as many as 68 percent of the games ended in four days or fewer. There has been a progressive decline over the years. In 2018, it was 56.25, while in 2017 the number was 47.83. In the 80s, it was as much as 70 percent, in the 90s, it went down to 68, the aughts saw it further slipping to 58 percentage, while in the last decade only 51 percent saw the fifth day. Take for instance, the Test matches India played this year. Apart from the rain-marred Sydney Test and Vizag Test against South Africa, all other Tests, six overall, finished in four days. Or for that matter the Tests against Bangladesh—the entire two-Test series consumed only 403 overs, which's 47 overs less than a full Test. **Resulted-oriented pitches:** If Test matches are scheduled to end in four days, curators could be encouraged to prepare more resulted-oriented pitches. It could, in turn, result in fewer draws, exciting cricket, more declarations and less attritional phases of the game. Overall, the game will quicken up—more aggressive strokes from batsmen, attacking lengths by bowlers, attacking fields by skippers, Test cricket could be more adrenaline-fuelled. The usual 'waiting for things to happen' the meandering phase will be an archaic phraseology. **Scheduling, workload:** The advocates of four-day cricket are convinced that the workload on players will be considerably reduced by striking out the fifth day, furnishing the players with an extra day for recovery. It also (relatively) decongests an otherwise congested calendar. For instance, if a team plays 15 Test matches a year, it would play an equivalent of 75 days. In four-day Tests, it could be reduced to 60. **No eating into game time:** A recent analysis by The Daily Telegraph fished out a stat that only an average of 362 overs are

bowed in Test match, which equates to four days. Moreover, in four-day, the number of overs will be increased from 90 to 98. So essentially, not much time is lost in terms of the overs. **Marketing fillip:** Besides the Ashes, Test cricket is a hardsell in most parts of the cricketing globe. Though the World Test Championship has contextualised a lot of previously random fixtures, it hasn't necessarily filled the stands, even if the contests are at times thrilling. Like the Boxing Day Test between England and South Africa last week or those during the thrill-a-ball rubber between Sri Lanka and South Africa last year. Slotting the fixture to a Thursday-to-Sunday cycle could make it more appealing for the market, and convenient for the audience. A recent survey by Cricket Australia stated that a startling 68 percent of the participants wanted Tests to end in four days. A Wednesday-to-Sunday slot is too tedious, Thursday-to-Monday schedule risks the last day, even if the match is in balance, being sparsely attended. Fewer spectators are likely to bunk schools or offices on Monday than any other day of the week. **Commercial viability:** An extra day isn't necessarily lucrative, especially if the game wraps up inside four days or even if it finishes in the first hour of the last day. It's less cost-efficient, even burdensome, for broadcasters as well the boards in the eventuality of a stipulated five-day game ending in four days or fewer. The broadcasters lose out on ad revenue, while the boards have to still pay for basic amenities like security and catering. It's a logistical mess too, and the day gained is as good as a day lost. Moreover, four-day Tests could de-congest the calendar, and the boards could squeeze in an extra T20I or ODI, which invariably woo more audience. Fundamentally, making space for an extra day of limited-over cricket at the expense of a wasted fifth-day.

Cricket, especially its longest and oldest form has been historically stubborn to changes. Nonetheless, at various junctures of history, in its existential quest and commercial zest, it has shed its orthodoxy and leaped the evolutionary leap of faith. **Decision Review System, pink balls, bouncer rules, concussion subs, day-and-nighters, the format has accommodated several revisions from time to time. Next could be crunching five-day Tests to four days—the ICC will make a recommendation for the 2023-31 World Test Championship. It's little surprise that its most vocal supporters are those that run the game and the skeptics are mostly those that play the game. SANDIP G dwells on both sides of the coin**

THE NAY-SAYERS

**The Ashes proof:** The last Ashes was perhaps the most thrilling series in the last five years, with all but one decided on the fifth day, if at times weather-interfered. More significantly, at the end of the fourth day, the matches were still open. Hypothetically, if those were four-day Tests, England would have reclaimed the urn 1-0. Each of the fifth days was well-attended and was no less dramatic. The two series between India and Australia are other instances, wherein two evenly-competent teams produced some exhilarating cricket that more often than not lasted five days. **Spinners' grouse:** Barring the subcontinent, the spinners come into play mostly on the fifth day. In Adelaide and Sydney for example, or Oval and Rose Bowl, or even Durban and Wellington. So if Test matches are confined to four days, the spinners will become peripheral, and gradually would lead to the extinction, like what the 80s did to leg-spinners. Moreover, it would obliterate one of the game's most nuanced thrill, a spin-proficient batsman trying to negotiate a masterful spinner on a crumbling surface. Cricket will become poorer for that. **Risk of underprepared and over-cooked wickets:** Four-day Tests would encourage curators to produce more resulted-oriented surfaces. But it could also risk more under-prepared, substandard wickets, resulting in uneven bounce or vicious green-tops, where even mediocre bowlers could pass off as Hadlees and McGrath. Likewise, the subcontinent could see more dustbowls, snakepits, and akhadas. Sometimes, over-cooked pitches could induce sluggishness too. Thus the quality of the game will be not only compromised but also diluted. **Eating into game time:** A 98-over-day doesn't sound bad on paper. Effectively only 58 overs will be lost. But it's unrealistic, as

teams are struggling to even complete 90 overs a day, what with DRS-induced stoppages, slow over-rate and weather interruptions. Even if laws regarding over-rates are made more stringent, it's unlikely that it would result in a massive improvement. In some parts of the world, it's impractical too. Like a Test at Feroz Shah Kotla or Mohali in winter, where dusk beds in early. Or during the English summer, where a quick burst of shower could tumble down without any warning. So five days offer more probability of a result. **Work-load management, not quite:** An extra day could help recovery, especially for bowlers. But not really. If a team is made to bowl 98 overs a day, there could be less recovery time in between the days, leaving them more physically knackered and emotionally drained, resulting in more injuries like stress fractures. **A day less, a match more:** A cricketer's ultimate fear. Though several days might be saved, the cricket board would be tempted to fill in space with an additional ODI or T20I because of the extra money it could rake in. So rather than un-crowding the calendar, the schedule could be overloaded with more limited-over fixtures. Three four-day-Tests would read three more ODIs or T20Is. So an extra day is effectively not gained, from a player's perspective. **Less organic:** A Test match might not last full five days, but the fifth day is always factored in. So everything, from team permutation to tactics is premised on the possibility of the match organically flowing to the fifth day. Compressing it to four days harms the natural flow, making the game less organic and time-bound. Rather than an abbreviated Test match, it becomes an expanded limited-over game. **Tail-piece:** Cricket has this tendency to first refuse and then madly accept proposals. T20 and technology for example.

RETURNING HERO

Stokes returns to his Cape of good hope, but in different circumstances

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE & REUTERS  
CAPE TOWN, JANUARY 1

BEN STOKES returns to the scene of one of his most spectacular performances but the circumstances are different going into the second Test between England and South Africa at Newlands on Friday. Four years ago Stokes thrashed 258 off 198 balls in a brutal display of power hitting, collecting 11 sixes and sharing in a world Test record sixth wicket partnership of 399 with Jonny Bairstow, whose 150 not out from 191 balls was scarcely pedestrian. England went into that match 1-0 up in a four-Test series which they went on to win. This time they are the team needing to catch up after losing the opening encounter in Centurion. South Africa were captained by Hashim Amla, who effectively acknowledged his lack of aptitude for the job by resigning from it after the match despite making a double century of his own to ensure a high-scoring draw. On this occasion it is England's captain,

Joe Root, who is under pressure because of his team's poor recent record away from home. Stokes then was on his way to becoming England's talisman, a status which he cemented during 2019, which ended with him being awarded an OBE in Britain's New Year honours list. Bairstow, though, has gone backwards. He seems unlikely to play at Newlands this time after failing with one and nine at Centurion, where he only played because of Ollie Pope's illness. Newlands in 2016 provided an unusually benign pitch for batsmen, with both teams scoring over 600 in a first innings which only ended late on the fourth day. It is the only one of the most recent 11 Test matches at Newlands, going back to 2011, to have ended in a draw. South Africa have won nine of the other ten, losing once. Totals over 400 have been rare, with only four instances other than the 2016 run feast. There is a new groundsman but it seems reasonable to expect a fair contest between bat and ball this time around. After winning the first Test in Centurion by 107 runs, South Africa are likely to make one forced change with opening batsman

Pieter Malan expected to win his first cap in place of the injured Aiden Markram. England opted to go into the first Test without a spinner but Newlands is a ground where spin bowlers are usually needed. It is a dilemma for England, with Jack Leach having been ill virtually since the team's arrival. Although he is now reportedly recovering and out of quarantine he is unlikely to be considered match fit. Leg-spinner Matt Parkinson was unimpressive in two warm-up matches and off-spinner Dom Bess, flown out on standby because of the illness in the camp, could be selected, possibly ahead of veteran fast bowler James Anderson. England's most potent fast bowler, Jofa Archer, did not bowl during net practice at Newlands on Wednesday because of a sore right elbow although he was able to bat and take part in fielding drills, according to a team spokesman. **Racial quotas for test team clouds South Africa selection** The complexity of the transformation process in South African cricket, amid a desire for a racially diverse team that better rep-

resents the country, will again be highlighted on Thursday as selectors pick their side for the second test against England. South Africa's previously all-white cricket team has changed dramatically over the last three decades but there remains a quota target in team selection to redress the imbalances from the country's apartheid era. At least two black players and another four from South Africa's mixed-race and Indian communities must play but last week's first test had two new white players capped while another is expected to debut on Friday in the second test at Newlands. The quota target fell short by two players in Pretoria after Temba Bavuma suffered a hip injury and was replaced by debutant Rassie van der Dussen, who now looks to retain his place as the No. 5 batsman while Bavuma battles with his fitness. Dwaine Pretorius was chosen to fill the all-rounder's berth in the side, ahead of Andile Phehlukwayo, who has played in four tests and 52 One Day Internationals. Fulfilling the quota requirements while fielding a competitive team has long been a sensitive issue but after a poor 2019, return-

ing to winning ways looks to be the immediate priority of the four selectors, two of whom are black. Sunday's first test win arrested a run of five successive defeats but came in tandem with criticism about too many whites in senior roles in and around the team after the recent shake-up of Cricket South Africa. At the top of the order, coach Mark Boucher has already said Pieter Malan will most likely make his debut on Friday in place of Aiden Markram, who had surgery this week on a broken finger, which could fuel further controversy. Keegan Petersen, who is of mixed-race, was called to replace Markram in the squad but Boucher said: "For us to go messing around with the opening position wouldn't be clever." Pieter Malan has done a lot of good work over a long period of time. It's his home ground. At the moment, we are swinging towards having a straight swap for the opening batsman.2 "We understand transformation and we understand we need to do a lot of hard work on a lot of players, especially all-rounders," Boucher added.

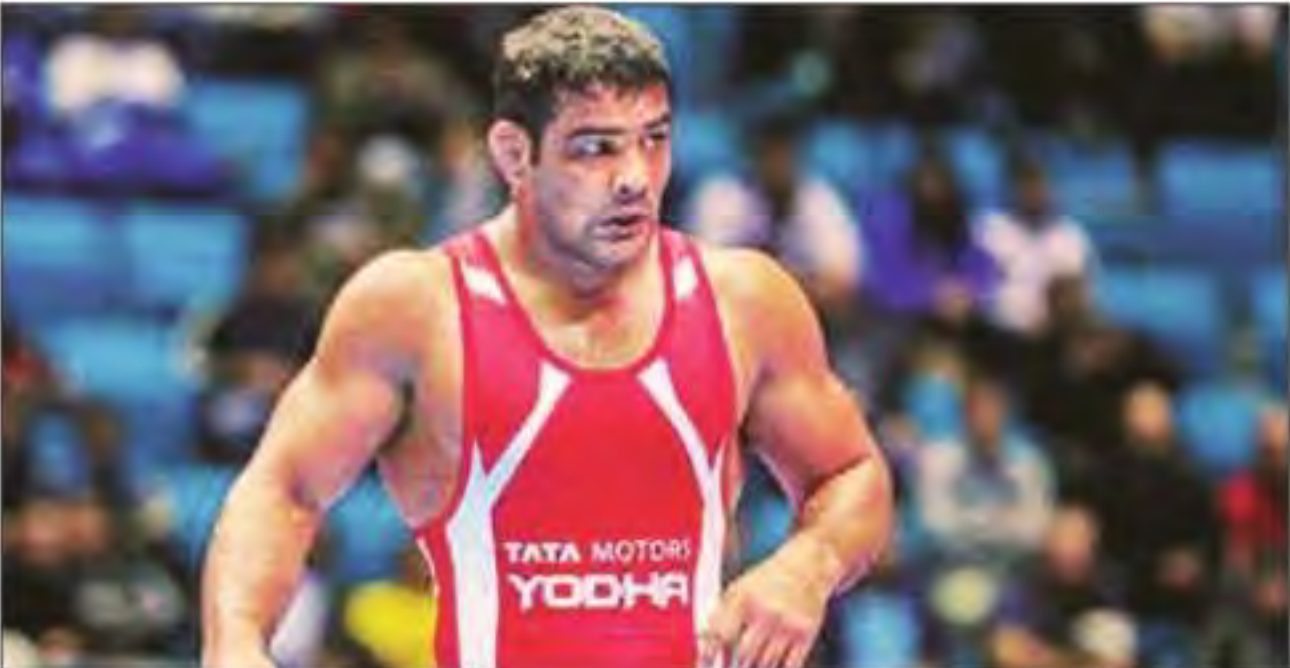


Four years ago Stokes thrashed 258 off 198 balls in Cape Town.





# Injured Sushil to miss Oly qualification trials, requests postponement



Sushil Kumar hasn't competed after last year's World Championships. *File*

**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 1

TWO-TIME Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar has opted out of Friday's selection trials for next month's Asian Championships and the continental Olympic qualifying event to be held in March.

Sushil said he was yet to fully recover from a shoulder injury and submitted a medical certificate to the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Wednesday. The 36-year-old has requested that the trials for 74kg category be postponed. Although it is likely that the federation will accept his request, WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar said a final call on the issue on Thursday.

After the Rio Olympics fiasco, in which India went unrepresented in the 74kg cate-

**I have requested the federation to postpone the trials. I am recovering from an injury to my right shoulder and will not be fit for Friday's trials. I have been preparing for it for a long time so I hope the federation will take it into consideration and reschedule the trials."**

**SUSHIL KUMAR**  
TWO-TIME OLYMPIC MEDALIST

gory despite having a quota, Sushil started competing in major events in 2018. He won the CWG gold but made early exits at the Asian Games later that year and also the 2019 World Championships – the first Olympic qualification event.

Sushil's future has been uncertain after the World Championship as he has not competed in any tournaments after that, including the national championships. In his absence, 18-year-old Gaurav Balyan emerged as the country's best wrestling in 74kg class. The clash between the two at the selection trials was highly anticipated. But that, it seems, will have to wait. "I have requested the federation to postpone the trials," Sushil said. "I am recovering from an injury to my right shoulder and will not be fit for Friday's trials. I have been preparing for it for a long time so I hope the federation will take it into consideration and reschedule the trials."

Friday's trials are significant from the point of view of the Tokyo Olympics. The WFI had announced the winner would make the team for three crucial tournaments: the year's first ranking series in Rome from

January 25 to 28, the Asian Championship in Delhi from February 18 to 25 and the Olympic qualification tournament in Xi'an, China, in March.

Of the four Olympic quota winners, only Bajrang Punia (65kg) has been exempted from competing in the trials because of his consistent performances, according to WFI. The rest – Ravi Dahiya (57kg), Deepak Punia (86kg) and Vinesh Phogat (53kg) – will take part in the trials despite earning Olympic quotas and winning World Championship medals. The trials in their categories will only be for the Rome ranking series and Asian Championship.

Indian wrestlers can still qualify in the 74kg, 97kg and 125kg categories in men's freestyle while in women's, apart from Vinesh no other wrestler has made the cut. I. Greco-Roman, too, no Indian wrestler has qualified so far for the Tokyo Games.

# Smoke could affect play in SCG Test

# Ings spoils Spurs' New Year party

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
SYDNEY, JANUARY 1

WITH MORE than 100 wildfires burning in New South Wales state there is a strong chance the smoke could affect play during the third test between Australia and New Zealand beginning Friday at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Air quality has been a regular concern for Sydney residents in recent weeks and the smoke is expected to be at its worst on Saturday. Bushfires, as they are called in Australia, have affected most states but they have killed 15 people this fire season, including four in the past 24 hours. Two people remain missing, more than 1,000 houses or buildings have been destroyed and about 2,500 firefighters, many of them volunteers, are battling the blazes.

New Zealand offspin bowler Will Somerville, who has lived in Sydney for most of his life, said any concern over smoke issues were inconsequential to those suffering from the fires. "It's bloody horrible, shocking, and it's been going on for so long," Somerville said. "I don't know what more to say. There's talk about smoke delaying this game but who cares, it doesn't mean anything compared with what people are going through."

It's possible that play could be stopped, as was the case during a recent abandoned Twenty20 Big Bash League match in Canberra. That decision in Sydney would rest with match referee Richie Richardson and the umpires as they closely monitor air quality and visibility. Australia coach Justin Langer expressed similar sentiments as Somerville, noting "a lot of people are suffering" and that he would leave it up to others to monitor air quality and whether it was fit to play. "The reality is this is a game of cricket," Langer said. "Our hearts go out ... It will be the first time I'll ever say this in my life, I hope it rains a bit during the test because Sydney needs it."

## Langer likely to name unchanged team for 3rd Test

Langer says it will be hard to make a change for the third cricket Test against New Zealand at the Sydney Cricket Ground despite the home side having clinched the series. Langer was impressed with Mitchell Swepson's work in the nets on Wednesday, suggesting the legspinner remains in the mix to make his debut on Friday, but wouldn't be drawn on Australia's likely starting side.

"It's going to be hard to make changes. That said, I think it's really important that we wait ... and see over the next two days what the wicket looks like," Langer said.

Australia won the first test by 296 runs in Perth and the second at the Melbourne Cricket Ground by 247, both in four days. Australia will be going for its fifth consecutive test win after beating Pakistan 2-0 before playing New Zealand.

**REUTERS**  
LONDON, JANUARY 1

SOUTHAMPTON COMPLETED a rejuvenating holiday schedule with a superb Danny Ings goal earning them a 1-0 win over stuttering Tottenham Hotspur at St Mary's on Wednesday. Ings fooled former Southampton defender Toby Alderweireld with a great piece of skill to fire the hosts in front in the 17th minute and a laboured Tottenham rarely threatened.

A hamstring injury to Harry Kane that forced the England striker off in the second half ensured it was a miserable start to the new year for Tottenham, whose manager Jose Mourinho was booked for an altercation with the home coaching staff.

Kane was injured scoring a goal that was disallowed for offside, the decision confirmed by VAR. While Tottenham's players looked low on energy and lacking spark after a typically hectic festive fixture list, Southampton are unlikely to moan about the workload.

Since losing to West Ham United on Dec. 14 — a result which left them in the bottom three — they have collected 10 points from four games to climb out of the relegation zone and up to the relative safety of 11th with 25 points. Tottenham, who have now gone a year without keeping a clean sheet away from home, remain in sixth place, six points behind Chelsea who occupy fourth spot.

"At the moment we are playing like a really good team and it's a joy to watch them," Southampton manager Ralph Hasenhuttl, whose team won at Chelsea on Boxing Day, told BT Sport. "We have found the right balance. "Our biggest problem was that we were not getting clean sheets but the discipline has changed."

The decisive moment of a dreary afternoon arrived early and in stunningly straightforward fashion. Jack Stephens played a long, flighted pass in behind Tottenham's defence and Ings, flicked the ball up and over Alderweireld, leaving the Spurs man on the floor, before slotting his shot past Paulo Gazzaniga. Ings now has 13 Premier League goals to his name this season and four in the last four games. Tottenham finally began to show some urgency later in the first half with Dele Alli close to getting on the end of a rebound after Alex McCarthy spilled Kane's shot.

The visitors also lost midfielder Tanguy Ndombele in the 25th minute to injury, and their frustration was complete when Kane hobbled off midway through the second half. Southampton could have had a penalty shortly after halftime when the ball struck Alderweireld's arm, but a VAR check deemed that it was not worthy of punishment. After a bright start to the Mourinho reign at Spurs, the Portuguese has now lost three of his nine league games in charge and a haul of four points from their last four games has seen them fall off the pace in the battle for a top-four spot.



## BULLET FROM SYLHET

Leicester City's Hamza Choudhary celebrates after curling in a shot from outside the box for his first senior goal. *Reuters*

■ Leicester's Bangladesh-origin striker Hamza Choudhury came on as a substitute in the 77th minute in place of James Maddison, and scored in the 87th minute in his team's 3-0 win over Newcastle.

■ Choudhury is the first player of Bangladeshi descent to score a Premier League goal. His mother and step-father are Sylhetis from the Dewan Bari in Habiganj, Sylhet.

■ The 22-year-old midfielder regarded as one of the most promising talents in world football, has featured in seven games for England U-21. He has routinely come off the bench for Leicester this season.

Mourinho has cut a relaxed presence since replacing Mauricio Pochettino in November but the frustration showed on Wednesday. "I was rude. I clearly deserved the yellow card. I had bad words," Mourinho said of his caution for appearing to go into the home technical area to have words with Southampton staff.

## Watford revival continues

Ten-man Watford continued their fine run of form under new manager Nigel Pearson and boosted their hopes of avoiding relega-

tion from the Premier League with a 2-1 home win over Wolverhampton Wanderers on Wednesday. Gerard Deleofeu and Abdoulaye Doucoure fired Watford ahead before Pedro Neto pulled one back for Wolves, who failed to capitalise on a numerical advantage in the last 20 minutes after defender Christian Kabasele was sent off for the hosts.

Deulofeu opened the scoring with a neat 30th-minute finish when he beat goalkeeper Rui Patrício with a crisp low shot into the far corner after good work by Ismaila Sarr. Doucoure made it 2-0 in the 49th when he cut

inside from the left and found the top corner with a firm drive which clipped Wolves defender Conor Coady and left Patrício stranded.

Neto reduced the arrears on the hour with a heavily deflected effort which sailed over Ben Foster and Wolves piled the pressure after Kabasele was shown a straight red card following a VAR review. The centre back was originally booked for hauling down Diogo Jota just outside the penalty area but Watford held on in the closing stages to celebrate their third league win coupled with one draw under Pearson

## Jahanbaksh stunner halts Chelsea's march

**AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE**  
LONDON, JANUARY 1

ALIREZA JAHANBAKHSH'S spectacular overhead kick earned Brighton a share of the points against Chelsea and dampened Frank Lampard's New Year celebrations on Wednesday as Aston Villa secured a vital win against Burnley.

Chelsea's 1-1 draw on England's south coast gave them a five-point lead over fifth-placed Manchester United in the race to secure Champions League football for next season. Cesar Azpilicueta gave the visitors an early lead, tapping in from close range following a corner in the 10th minute but Brighton were never out of it and pulled level in the 84th minute courtesy of Jahanbaksh's moment of magic.

"It was frustrating for different reasons," Lampard told BT Sport. "In the first half, the game was there to be won. We weren't ruthless enough. We got the goal and we had the possession. But we just didn't kill the game off. We allowed them to stay in the game. In the end it was a wonder goal but we were lucky not to lose the game."

The Chelsea boss said he was concerned about the lack of consistency from his side, who have beaten Tottenham and Arsenal in recent weeks but also lost at home to Southampton. The away side dominated the opening hour of the match but were clinging on at the end with the impressive Kepa Arrizabalaga denying Neal Maupay in the closing minutes. Christian Pulisic will rue three wasted openings that ultimately prevented Chelsea from cementing their dominance. Lampard's team were quickly on top from the start of the match and deservedly took the lead through Azpilicueta, who finished from close range after the ball fell to him.

But Brighton enjoyed a spell of possession towards the end of the first half and Leandro Trossard tested Kepa with a powerful strike that the Chelsea goalkeeper parried. Lampard's team were quickly into their stride after the break but Pulisic failed to make the most of his chances and was replaced by Callum Hudson-Odoi in the 66th minute.

Brighton kept battling and Kepa was forced to produce an outstanding save from Aaron Connolly in the 80th minute as the home side pushed for an equaliser. Their persistence paid off minutes later. Lewis Dunk kept the ball alive from a corner and Iranian midfielder Jahanbaksh acrobatically found the bottom-left corner to give his team share of the points.

**Playing tonight: Liverpool vs Sheffield, 1.30am**



## Bengaluru sign Jamaican forward Brown

Bengaluru FC on Wednesday signed Jamaican international Deshorn Brown for a one one-and-a-half-year deal, till the end of the 2020-21 season. Brown, who plays down the middle and is equally comfortable operating on the wings, will be a valuable addition in attack for the Blues who sit third in the standings after 10 rounds in the Indian Super League. "We had the option of signing a seventh foreign player and we felt now was a good time to exercise it. Deshorn lends us more options in attack and even though he joins us in the middle of the season, we believe he will play his part in helping the team achieve its goal," said Bengaluru FC head coach Carles Cuadrat. At the international level, Brown has represented the Jamaican national team, winning the Caribbean Cup in 2014.

## AAI elections to be held on January 18 in Delhi

The much-awaited elections of the Archery Association of India (AAI) will be held on January 18 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi. The Delhi High Court has appointed PK Tripathi as the Returning Officer for the elections. As per the Delhi High Court order passed in October and later modified in November, the elections will be held for the post of President, Senior Vice President, Vice Presidents (8), Hony Secretary General, Joint Secretaries (7) and Treasurer. A total of 31 state associations are part of the electoral roll. But state units representing Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Nagaland are absent from the roll.

## Can play the final at Olympics: Manpreet

National men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh believes India has the capability of reaching the final of the Tokyo Olympics, provided a sense of discipline and consistency is maintained in the run-up to the quadrennial extravaganza. "Our main target is to reach the finals of the Olympics and believe me it's achievable. Throughout the year we have managed to maintain the No 5 position in world rankings and there is no reason why we can't climb from that. But for that, we have to maintain the consistency which we have showed in the entire 2019," he added.



Andres Iniesta's Vissel Kobe beat Kashima Antlers 2-0. *Reuters*

## Iniesta's Kobe win title in Nat'l Stadium opener

Vissel Kobe, led by World Cup winners Andres Iniesta and Lukas Podolski, beat Kashima Antlers 2-0 to win the Emperors Cup final on Wednesday, in the first soccer match to be played at Tokyo's National Stadium, built for this year's Olympic Games. The first goal scored in the new stadium was an own goal from unfortunate Antlers defender Tomoya Inukai in the 18th minute before Kobe striker Noriaki Fujimoto added a second 20 minutes later following some more poor defending. Wednesday's win marks the first time in their history that Kobe have their hands on some silverware and vindicates the high wages forked out by owner Hiroshi Mikitani in recent years. Wednesday's match also saw a last appearance for former Barcelona and Atletico Madrid striker David Villa, who will retire at the age of 37. Villa, who has been struggling for fitness, only came on for the last few minutes of the contest but was greeted by rapturous cheers from the Kobe fans after a successful season that saw him score 13 goals in 28 league matches.

## Learnt from mistakes, says PV Sindhu

Neither criticism nor the burden of expectations bother world champion shuttler P V Sindhu, who says she is completely focussed on improving her craft in pursuit of a second Olympic medal at this year's Tokyo Games. Sindhu claimed India's first ever World Championships gold in 2019 but she made early exits from a series of tournaments the rest of the season, including her failure to defend the World Tour Finals title last month. "It is not possible that you will win all matches. Sometimes you may play brilliantly, sometimes you will make mistakes," Sindhu said. "I learnt a lot from those mistakes. It is important for me to stay positive, and come back stronger."

## Kubica joins Alfa Romeo as reserve driver

Experienced Pole Robert Kubica will be a reserve driver for Alfa Romeo in the 2020 season, the team announced on Wednesday. Kubica, 35, made his return to Formula One with Williams last season following a long absence caused by a life-threatening rally crash. He will back up Kimi Raikkonen and Antonio Giovinazzi. Kubica's return to the team formerly known as Sauber has been facilitated by a sponsorship deal between Alfa Romeo and his principal backer, Polish oil company PKN Orlen.



## Celtics bounce back, beat Hornets

Jayson Tatum scored 24 points, Kemba Walker added 22 points and seven assists, and the visiting Boston Celtics handed the Charlotte Hornets their sixth consecutive loss, 109-92 on Tuesday. Coming in off a lopsided loss to reigning NBA champion Toronto, Boston ratcheted up its defensive intensity early. The Celtics limited the Hornets to just 18 first-quarter points and 43 for the first half. Boston bookended the contest by holding the Hornets below 20 points again in the fourth quarter, ultimately pulling away with a 29-19 edge in the final 12 minutes. The Celtics forced Charlotte into 17 turnovers, with the help of three steals each from Tatum and Walker, who played eight seasons for the Hornets before leaving in the most recent off-season. Boston then exercised an advantage on the interior to steadily build its lead.





BRIEFLY  
Venus pulls out of  
Brisbane tournament

Venus Williams pulled out of the season-opening Brisbane International on Wednesday after a "setback" during practice. The American veteran said she still hoped to play at the Adelaide International later this month ahead of the Australian Open, the first Grand Slam of the year. "Unfortunately I will not be starting my season in Brisbane due to an unexpected setback during my training," the 39-year-old seven-time major winner said in a statement. "I look forward to being in Australia in the new year and will see everyone in Adelaide." The tournament, featuring a strong field including world number one Ashleigh Barty and Australian Open champion Naomi Osaka, gets underway on January 6. Organisers will announce a replacement for Williams on Thursday.

AFP

Man City was team of  
the decade: Guardiola

Manchester City were the team of the decade in the Premier League because no other club had won more trophies, points or scored more goals over the past 10 years, manager Pep Guardiola said on Tuesday. City played 381 league games in the past 10 years, collecting 818 points -- 71 points more than their closest challenger Manchester United (747 points from 380 games). They scored 845 goals, 130 more than Chelsea and Liverpool. City also won 10 trophies -- including four league titles -- and Guardiola credited the owners, the Abu Dhabi United Group, for investing in the club and transforming them into a competitive team that took on the established elite. "I think in the last decade we were the best team in terms of points, in terms of goals, in terms of everything, titles even. So congratulate Manchester City for that," Guardiola told reporters. "When we analyse every single day here... it gives us perspective in what happened in the last 10 seasons. Especially when the people from Abu Dhabi took over the club and bought good players, (brought in) interesting managers."

REUTERS

24 nations, \$15m bounty and new format

The first week of the decade begins with the innovative ATP Cup, adding to the growing list of tennis team tournaments

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
SYDNEY, JANUARY 1

TENNIS' INNOVATIVE new team championship kicks off the men's 2020 season on Friday, with Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic among those looking for a winning start ahead of the first Grand Slam of the year.

The ATP Cup will see 24 nations split into six groups across three Australian cities, with eight teams emerging from the round-robin to compete in a knockout phase until one country is left standing.

It is the sport's newest tournament and the third men's team event competing for the hearts and minds, and dollars, of fans, along with a revamped Davis Cup and the annual Laver Cup, which pits Europe against the World.

But it has already suffered setbacks, with major drawcard Roger Federer opting to give it a miss and Andy Murray and Kei Nishikori pulling out injured.

Despite this, world number two Djokovic said the move towards more team tennis was good for a sport best known for the individuality of its global superstars.

"More than 90 percent of the time, we're playing as individuals and we don't have too many team events," said the Serbian great, who also heads the ATP player council.

"This is going to bring together a lot of nations and, for me personally, it will be a very nice and proud moment to represent my country. An event like this is truly going to make an impact."

Sydney hosts the finals, along with group games, which are also held in Brisbane and Perth with US\$15 million in prize money and up to 750 singles and 250 doubles ATP rankings points at stake.

Australian star Nick Kyrgios agrees with Djokovic, believing it will be "an awesome event". "I know everyone on the Tour wants to be with their teammates. There's nothing better than playing for your country against the other best players in the world," he said.

Looking to the future

While Federer, Nishikori and Murray are missing, most of the world's top 30 men are playing. The championship, from January 3-12, will feature two ties each day in the



World No1 Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic are among the crowd-pullers who will take part in the tournament. Reuters

Sydney hosts the finals, along with group games, which are also held in Brisbane and Perth with US\$15 million in prize money and up to 750 singles and 250 doubles ATP rankings points at stake.

three cities during the round robin, comprising two singles matches then a doubles.

Belgium kick off the Sydney action against Moldova before Britain face Bulgaria. Kyrgios spearheads local hopes for Australia in Brisbane against the Alexander Zverev-led Germany while Greece take on Canada in the same city.

First up in Perth will be the United States against Norway followed by Russia and Italy. Djokovic makes his tournament debut in Brisbane for Serbia on day two, as does Spanish world number one Nadal in Perth.

Under the format, the second-ranked singles players from each country face each other first, then the top-ranked men ahead of a potentially decisive doubles.

A country winning two of three matches

will claim the tie.

The skippers

As well as the players, some big-name former stars are captaining their countries, including Boris Becker (Germany), Marat Safin (Russia), Tim Henman (Britain), Lleyton Hewitt (Australia), and Thomas Muster (Austria).

Previously the men's season kicked off with players spread across various smaller-scale tournaments, and outgoing ATP chairman Chris Kermode said it made far more sense to have everyone under one umbrella.

"The ATP Cup fits perfectly with our strategy to innovate and look towards the future," he said.

"The first week of the season is when the players want to play and that's why the tournament has their strong support."

**TEAMS:** Group A (Brisbane) - Serbia, France, South Africa, Chile Group B (Perth) - Spain, Japan, Georgia, Uruguay Group C (Sydney) - Bulgaria, Belgium, Great Britain, Moldova Group D (Perth) - Russia, Italy, USA, Norway Group E (Sydney) - Austria, Croatia, Argentina, Poland Group F (Brisbane) - Germany, Greece, Canada, Australia.

EXPLAINED  
E.  
How does the  
format work

The 24 teams are divided into six groups of four for group stage, round-robin play. The six winners of each group and the two best second-placed finishers across the groups emerge to contest the Final Eight. Each tie will comprise two singles and one doubles match. The country winning two matches wins the tie. Every country will be guaranteed to play three ties in the group stages. Singles will be best-of-three tie-break sets. Doubles will feature No-Ad scoring and a Match Tie-break in lieu of a third set.

Mane set for African crown as trouble brews on

Liverpool sharpshooter Sadio Mane is expected to become the first African football headline-maker of 2020 by winning the Player of the Year award in Egypt next week. Here's a looks at some of the issues facing the most popular sport in a continent where good footballers and bad administrators often share the media stage.

AWARDS

Consistent Liverpool scorer and Senegal talisman Mane is favoured to become the second star from his country after El Hadji Diouf to be named Player of the Year. His rivals are Liverpool teammate Mohamed Salah, the Egyptian who won the last two editions, and Algerian Riyad Mahrez of Manchester City. The Player of the Year, and the winners of seven other male and female categories, will be announced at a ceremony in Egyptian Red Sea resort Hurgada.

WORLD CUP

A couple of weeks after the awards banquet, Egypt will host another eagerly anticipated event, the draw in Cairo for the group stage of World Cup qualifying. The latest FIFA rankings are expected to determine the seedings, meaning Senegal, Tunisia, Nigeria, Algeria, Morocco, Ghana, Egypt, Cameroon, Mali and DR Congo will be in pot one. All those nations except Mali have played at the World Cup, and an Ivory Coast team that can call on the dazzling footwork of Wilfried Zaha could be the most dangerous second seeds.

CUP OF NATIONS

Trouble lies ahead after a change from a January/February to June/July tournament this year to avoid tug of wars between clubs and countries over the services of Europe-based stars. The first revamped Club World Cup, featuring 24 teams, is set for June 17 to July 4 2021 in China, effectively ruling out a mid-year Cup of Nations in Cameroon. Senior CAF officials say off the record that a return to January/February dates is likely, and with it the possibility that an increasing number of players will put clubs first.

NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

Tunisia have reportedly decided because of fixture congestion to withdraw from the 2020 edition in Cameroon of the tournament for footballers playing in their country of birth. Traditionally a biennial January/February competition, it is slated for April 4 to 25 this year in three southern Cameroon cities, the capital, Yaounde, Douala and Limbe. The 16-nation championship will test the readiness of Cameroon to stage the Cup of Nations next year after construction delays led to them being replaced by Egypt as 2019 hosts.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Tunisian club Esperance have been erratic as they seek an unprecedented third straight title, battling to overcome a Chadian club then defying the odds to defeat Raja in Casablanca. They have lost several 2019 title-winning stars, including Algeria winger Youcef Belaili, and the starting line-up for a group match last weekend included only four Tunisians. Record eight-time champions Al Ahly of Egypt, TP Mazembe of the Democratic



Liverpool star Sadio Mane scored 26 EPL goals in 2019. Reuters

Republic of Congo, Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa and Casablanca clubs Raja and Wydad are potential threats.

CONFEDERATION CUP

A new name will be engraved on the trophy this year as recent winners Ahly, Etoile Sahel of Tunisia, Mazembe, Raja and Zamalek of Egypt are all competing in the Champions League. Judged by group form up to the halfway mark, Cairo outfit Pyramids could become the third Egyptian winners of a competition modelled on the UEFA Europa League. Emirati Salem al Shamsi has invested millions in a squad dominated by Egyptians but also containing stars from Burkina Faso, Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Tunisia and Uganda.

SUPER CUP

Zamalek are threatening to boycott the February 14 match against Esperance scheduled for Qatar, a country Egypt accuses of destabilising the Middle East region. Controversial club chairman Mortada Mansour says Zamalek will change their stance only if ordered to do so by the government. "I do not understand why CAF want to stage the match in a country which is an enemy of Egypt. We are African clubs so why should we play in Asia?," Mansour asked

during a press conference.

CAF

The six-month secondment of FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura to crisis-plagued CAF ends on January 31 and there will be huge interest in what progress the Senegalese has made. Her brief was to introduce reforms, notably in governance, competitions and refereeing, to an organisation World Soccer magazine labelled the "biggest basket case in football". Assisting Samoura is CAF president Ahmad Ahmad, who has not commented on various allegations against him, including corruption, financial misappropriation and sexual harassment.

BROADCASTING

There have been no broadcasts in sub-Saharan Africa of CAF national team and club fixtures since November after a 12-year TV deal with a French company was scrapped. Lagardere Sports paid one million dollars (890,000 euros) in 2017 for the TV and marketing rights, but separate judgments ruled the deal illegal because there was no tender process. Desperate football followers have resorted to streaming, but fixture options are limited and the high cost of internet data is an additional obstacle.

AFP

# SHOPLIFTERS

A TALE ABOUT HARDSHIPS.  
A DISCUSSION THAT SIMPLIFIES IT.

Director: Hirokazu Koreeda | Curator: Shubhra Gupta, Film Critic, The Indian Express  
Screening Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2020 | Time: 7:00 PM  
Venue: Gulmohar, India Habitat Centre

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