

INSIDE



NO OTHER NAME, NADDA IS NEW BJP PRESIDENT
PAGE 6

BUSINESS AS USUAL

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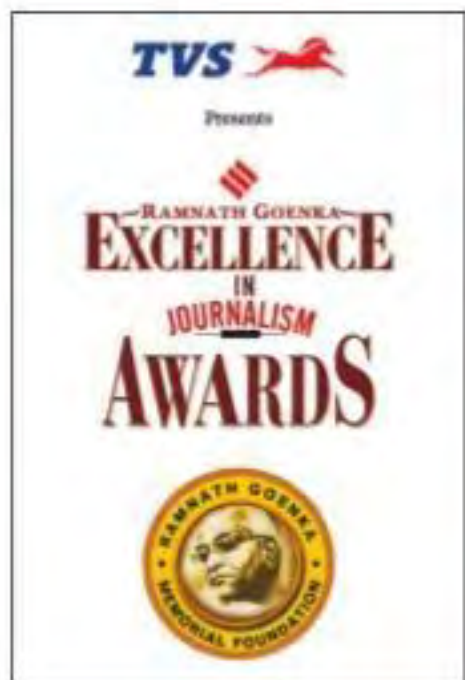
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PAGE 8

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14TH RAMNATH GOENKA AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM

Our democracy relies on uncovering facts, willingness to debate: President

'Fake news new menace, purveyors proclaim themselves as journalists, taint this noble profession'



KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

UNDERLINING THE role of debate in a democracy, President Ram Nath Kovind said Monday that the system is "meaningful" only if citizens are "well informed". And excellence in journalism, he said, "grants full meaning to democracy".

Addressing the gathering as chief guest at the 14th Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards in New Delhi, the President said: "The quest for truth is, of course, difficult and easier said than done. But it must be pursued. A democracy like ours deeply relies on the uncovering of facts and a willingness to debate them. Democracy is meaningful only when the citizen is well informed. In that sense, excellence in journalism grants full meaning to democracy."

Kovind was speaking after presenting awards to 23 winners in 11 categories — across print,



President Ram Nath Kovind with (from left) The Express Group CEO George Varghese, Chairman and Managing Director Viveck Goenka, Executive Director Anant Goenka, former Chief Election Commissioner and jury member SY Quraishi and winners of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards in New Delhi on Monday. Praveen Khanna

broadcast and digital — for outstanding work in 2018.

Cautioning against the dangers posed by fake news and paid news, the President said: "In the din of the 'breaking news' syndrome that has consumed the media now, this fundamen-

tal principle of restraint and responsibility has been undermined substantially. Fake news has emerged as a new menace, whose purveyors proclaim themselves as journalists and taint this noble profession."

In this context, Kovind said, if

journalism has to remain relevant, "it has to reclaim its values of honesty and fairness". "It has to, 24x7, reinforce its compact with citizens: that it will not bend, that it will always fight for truth no matter what the consequence, and that it will remain

committed to finding the truth without fear or favour," he said.

The President said that
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

LIST OF WINNERS

PAGE 2



ED arrests Vadra aide, says bank records link to laundering, property

RITUSARIN & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20



Money trail led to Vadra associate Thampi, claims ED

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate Monday arrested NRI businessman C C Thampi in connection with a case of alleged money laundering it is probing against Robert Vadra, son-in-law of Congress president Sonia Gandhi, and arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari.

Thampi is said to be a close aide of Vadra and is alleged to have helped him invest in real estate assets in London. Thampi runs a company named Skylight FZE in Dubai which shares its name with a company owned by Vadra in India.

It was the receipt of foreign

banking transactions from several countries that led to the arrest of Thampi with the ED claiming that they now had evidence to link him to money laundering and property acquisition deals with Vadra and Bhandari.

Vadra's lawyer K T S Tulsi, contacted by *The Indian Express*, said since the case was sub-judice, he did not wish to make any comment on the ED claims.

The first of the deals that the ED is likely to submit as evidence
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IMF lowers India growth to 4.8%, calls it a drag on world economy too

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund (IMF) Monday marginally lowered its growth estimate for the world economy to 2.9 per cent for 2019, citing negative surprises to economic activity in a few emerging market economies, notably India, which led to a reassessment of growth prospects over the next two years.

For 2019, the fund revised downward its forecast for India to 4.8 per cent from its October projection of 6.1 per cent. For the current calendar year 2020, India saw a sharp 1.2 percentage point

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
2020 to be better, but risks remain

THE GLOBAL economy does not offer much hope in 2020, with IMF cutting growth forecast for both China and India. Global growth is expected to be 3.3% in 2020, up from 2.9% in 2019, but uncertainties remain: a return of US-China trade war, new US-EU trade tensions, and poor performance of emerging markets.

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