



# People's Republic

A look at how India has engaged with its founding principles over the decades

# After Trump, feeler by Nepal to mediate between India, Pak; says revive SAARC

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
KATHMANDU, JANUARY 25

DAYS AFTER US President Donald Trump reiterated his offer to “help” on Kashmir, a top Nepal government source on Saturday said that “if necessary”, it “can play the role of a mediator” between India and Pakistan since the country is “impartial, neutral, friendly, independent and peace-loving”. However, the source added for good measure that it would be “better” if the two countries talked directly.

This is the first time that Nepal has offered to mediate between India and Pakistan, as the SAARC summit — due to be held

in Pakistan — has been postponed since 2016. At the last SAARC summit in Kathmandu in November 2014, former PM Sushil Koirala had played a role in getting the two leaders to talk to each other at a retreat in Dhulikhel.

The top Nepalese government source also asserted that there is “no relation between SAARC and terrorism”. New Delhi has always maintained that Pakistan’s support to terrorist activities in the region has led to a situation, which is not conducive to holding the SAARC summit.

In response to a question by *The Sunday Express* on whether

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Brazilian President Bolsonaro with PM Modi and President Kovind in New Delhi Saturday. *Praveen Khanna*

## India, Brazil sign 15 pacts, plan to boost bonds

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

FROM POLITICAL and strategic coordination to trade and commerce, agriculture and energy to consular and legal issues — India and Brazil on Saturday signed a multi-pillar action plan to strengthen their strategic partnership.

After the bilateral talks with visiting Brazil President Jair

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# ‘OPPN WITH PROTESTERS, HAS NO SHAME’ Vote us to rid Delhi of Shaheen Bagh: Shah

Tells BJP workers: Want a Delhi that is without pollution, slums, traffic jams

**ABHINAV RAJPUT**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah Saturday said there should be “no Shaheen Bagh” in Delhi and appealed to people to choose the lotus symbol on voting day so that protesters have to leave the place by the evening of February 11, when results are declared.

Addressing a gathering of the BJP’s social media volunteers at an event called ‘Jeet Ki Goonj’ at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Shah said, “Hum aisa Dilli chahte hain jo pradushan mukt ho, har ghar mein jahan par swachh peene ka paani mile, 24-hour bijli uplabdh ho, bachon ki achchi shiksha ki su-



Amit Shah at a BJP meeting in Delhi Saturday. *Amit Mehra*

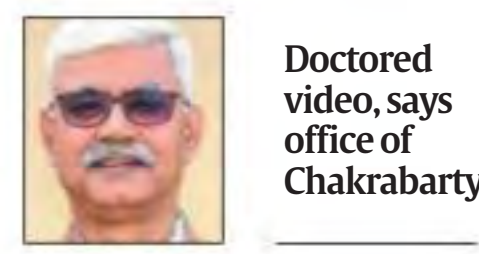
vidha ho, jhuggi jhopri se mukt ho, anudhikrit colony ka naam-o-nishaan na rahe, rapid transport system ho, cycle track ho, word-class road ho, traffic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Visva-Bharati V-C ‘on video’: Give the students a dose

**ANAMNI GUPTA & ATRI MITRA**  
KOLKATA, JANUARY 25

A POLICE complaint has been filed against Visva-Bharati University Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Bidyut Chakrabarty by a students’ group after a video surfaced where he can purportedly be heard telling fellow participants at a rally to “teach a lesson” to some students. The video appears



Doctored video, says office of Chakrabarty

to have been shot at a march on January 7, a day before students affiliated to Left outfits stalled a seminar on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, which BJP MP Swapan Dasgupta was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Rajasthan now rejects CAA, Telangana says will do so too

**REENIVAS JANYALA & HAMZA KHAN**  
HYDERABAD, JAIPUR, JANUARY 25

AS RAJASTHAN became the third state on Saturday, after Kerala and Punjab, to pass an Assembly resolution against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the Telangana government announced that it would not implement the legislation that has seen protests across the country.

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, whose Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) had voted against the CAA in Parliament but has since kept quiet on it, told reporters in Hyderabad, “We are against the Act. The Centre has to withdraw it. What will they achieve by dividing people? We will not implement it.” Calling the CAA “the first step towards an NRC (National Registry of Citizens)”, he added that he would “tie up” with other parties

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## ‘SHAHEEN BAGH LINK’, JNU STUDENT FACES SEDITION CHARGES

US ON CAA [PAGE 9](#)

SUNDAY STORY

PAGE 11

Her fight

Stories of wait as Delhi gang rape convicts head for gallows

BIG PICTURE

PAGES 12-13

In black, white, grey

Ramnath Goenka Awards for Journalism

**KASHMIR JAISH CHIEF AMONG 3 KILLED** [P 17](#)

**4 DIE IN DELHI TUITION CENTRE COLLAPSE** [P 6](#)

## Hold fast to constitutional methods: Kovind’s R-Day call for protesting youth

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

PRESIDENT RAMNATH Kovind on Saturday urged “those fighting for a cause... particularly the youth” to be mindful of the Gandhian principles of truth and non-violence, and stressed on the need to “hold fast to constitutional methods” of achieving social and economic objectives.

The President’s remarks, part of his address to the nation on the eve of Republic Day, come in the backdrop of the ongoing protests in various parts of the country against the Citizenship

### INSIDE

**OFFICER WHO KILLED BURHAN HONOURED**

**AWARD FOR FATHER OF BHU PROF DENIED POST**

**SUSHMA, JAITLEY IN PADMA LIST** [PAGE 17](#)

Amendment Bill, many of them helmed by students and the youth.

“For our youth, nation always comes first. With them, we are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## FIRST TIME IN 5 MONTHS

This photo of former J&K CM Omar Abdullah, who has been in custody since August 5, surfaced on Twitter Saturday, triggering reactions from everyone from West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee to former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti. [PAGE 17](#)



FLYING HIGH  
THE COLORS OF INDIA  
REPUBLIC DAY 2020

www.rafale.co.in

OVER 60 YEARS. 6 AIRCRAFT TYPES. 1 NATION  
TOOFANI | MYSTERE IV | ALIZE | JAGUAR | MIRAGE 2000 | RAFALE

RAFALE INTERNATIONAL

DASSAULT AVIATION • SAFRAN • THALES

epaper.indianexpress.com



More news  
zero ads



POINT YOUR CAMERA TO  
GO TO THE APP STORE  
VISUAL STORIES | DAILY BRIEFING  
CUSTOMISED NEWS EXPERIENCE

EXPRESS TECHNOLOGY  
Apple CEO Tim Cook  
defends billion dollar  
deal with Google

WEB  
EXCLUSIVE



CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Kerala prepares line of defence against coronavirus, sets up isolation wards at hospitals.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



R-DAY SPECIAL

Mayur Dumasia was  
an amputee at 14, now  
he's a man on a  
mission

FULL COVERAGE



CASH AT NYC STORES

As India pushes digital  
payments, why is New  
York forcing businesses  
to accept cash

EXPRESS AUDIO  
What Ranbaxy doesn't  
want you to know

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In the latest episode of the Sandip Roy Show, he talks to Katherine Eban about her book *Bottle of Lies*, which exposes global fraud and large-scale data fabrication inside Indian drug plants.

Patna college to  
students: Burqa  
not allowed

Patna: JD Women's College in Patna has asked its students to come for classes only in pre-scribed uniform and not in a burqa, for which a student could be fined Rs 250.

The college administration said it had to issue the instruction since many students violate the dress code and come to classes in burqa. The college administration, however, re-issued its order, removing the reference to burqa.

The principal later told *The Sunday Express*, "With the growing use of burqa, it had been getting difficult to identify our own students... At times, some burqa-clad girls would say they did not belong to our college and had come for the admission forms".

She, however, added that it was "not proper to use burqa in the notice". "We have now modified the order...", she said. **ENS**

SC to review  
compensation in  
Bhopal tragedy

New Delhi: The Supreme Court will hear next week a curative petition filed by the Centre seeking more compensation for victims of the deadly December 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy.

The matter has been listed before a bench of Justices Arun Mishra, Indira Banerjee, Vineet Saran, M R Shah and S Ravindra Bhat. The Centre's petition seeks an additional Rs 7,000 crores compensation, saying that the amount fixed in the 1989 judgment of the court was based on wrong count of the number of deaths and injuries.

The actual toll, says the Centre, was much more than what was estimated in the judgment. **ENS**

Complaint filed  
against Naseer  
daughter

Mumbai: A non-cognizable (NC) offense was registered against Naseeruddin Shah's daughter Heeba Shah on January 16, after she allegedly got into a tussle with employees of Feline Foundation, an NGO where she had taken her cats for sterilization. In a video that went viral, Heeba can be seen getting into an argument with one of the employees and then pushing her away and hitting her on the head before being stopped. However, Heeba has apologised and said she had paid for the procedure and did not appreciate the way they treated the cats. An NC complaint has been taken under Sections 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt) and 504 (intentional insult) of the IPC. **ENS**

Roof collapse at  
airport work site  
leaves 1 dead

Bhubaneswar: An accident at a work site in Bhubaneswar's Biju Patnaik International Airport on Friday night has reportedly killed one person while two workers were injured. Sources said the roof of the link between two terminals collapsed between 10.30 pm and 11.00 pm. This link was under construction as part of the expansion plans of the airport. Fire fighters, police, Central Industrial Security Force and NDRF reached the spot to help clear the debris and rescue survivors. In a written statement on Saturday, BJD called it an "unfortunate and preventable incident". The party also demanded compensation for the deceased. **ENS**

FROM PAGE ONE  
Nepal offer

Nepal would like to play a constructive role as mediator, the top Nepalese government source said. "Peaceful talks and discussions are the best ways to resolve any problems. There may be contradictions and differences but it can be resolved through dialogue. If necessary, we can play the role of the mediator as Nepal is an independent, neutral and peace-loving country. In the region, we are neutral, impartial and we love truth and facts."

The source, however, said that a better solution would be to develop better dialogue between the two countries. "We can be instrumental, but it will be better (for the two sides) to develop direct contact," the source told a group of visiting Indian journalists.

India has always maintained that there is no space for a third-party involvement in the bilateral relationship between New Delhi and Islamabad. The government reiterated this position this week, in response to Trump's comments, once again, in Davos. The US President has been talking about his willingness to mediate since July last year, and has been politely refused by Delhi several times, including by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Biarritz in August last year. What makes Nepal's offer a bit more interesting is that it is headed by a strong Nepalese government, led by K P Sharma Oli, which has been asserting its position on bilateral issues of concern.

The top source in the Nepalese government said SAARC is "not dead" and needs to be "revived". "There is no relation between SAARC and terrorism. We cannot connect the two. Terrorism is a common enemy. We are strongly against all forms and manifestations of terrorism."

The source said SAARC has been pushed into "uncertainty" and that "misunderstandings should be narrowed down and resolved". "We can come together, sit together, and differences can be narrowed down, gaps can be narrowed down. In each and every situation, we have to sit and try to resolve the problems, otherwise the situation can deteriorate..." I think misunderstandings should be narrowed down and SAARC should be revitalised... We can find out amicable solutions," the source said.

Visva-Bharati

supposed to address. The V-C, who took over in October 2018, refused to talk on the issue, directing The Sunday Express to contact his public relations officer (PRO). The PRO, Anirban Sarkar, denied that it was Chakrabarty in the video. "The voice in the clippings is not our Vice-Chancellor's voice. It is a doctored video. It has been made to ruin the image of the university," Sarkar said.

Two of the students who were part of the January 8 protests were beaten up on the campus on January 15, and have alleged the attack on them was planned on WhatsApp groups that included professors and administration officials as members. Three people were arrested for the attack.

In the video, which seems to

Press lotus symbol so hard that Shaheen  
Bagh protesters leave, says Shah

vyavastha jam se mukt ho, aur kabhi Shaheen Bagh na ho — aisa Dilli chahte hain (We want a Delhi which is free of pollution, every household has clean water to drink, 24-hour electricity, facilities for children's education, no jhuggi jhopris or unauthorised colonies, a rapid transport system, cycle tracks, world-class roads, where there are no traffic jams and there is never a Shaheen Bagh — we want such a Delhi)," he said, adding that such a Delhi can be made when people come out of misleading advertisements and cast their support for Narendra Modi and the lotus symbol.

Since December 15, Shaheen Bagh has been the centre of protests, led by women, against the Citizenship Amendment Act and the proposed National

Register of Citizens. While the Congress has backed the protest, the AAP has stayed away from the site, though Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has said he stands with the protesters. The BJP has been critical of the protesters, with several leaders calling for their removal.

Hitting out at his opponents, he said: "Ye abhi bhi kehte hain hum Shaheen Bagh ke saath hain. Aaj ek video prasariit hua hai, dekh lo zara. Aapko kehte hue sharam bhi nahi aati, voton ke laalach ne aapki aankhon mein patti baandh di hai (Even now they say they are with Shaheen Bagh. A video has come out today, you can see it. They have no shame, in their greed for votes, they have blindfolded themselves)."

Addressing the party's social media volunteers, he said,

"February 8 ke subah parivar ke saath, 10 baje se pehle kamal ke nishaan par button dabainge?... Aur mitron, itni zor se dabana woh button ki current se hi aath tarik ke sham ko Shaheen Bagh waale uth kar chale jaayein (On the morning of February 8, will you, along with your family, press the lotus symbol before 10 am... and friends, press the button so hard that its current forces the protesters at Shaheen Bagh to leave the place by evening)."

The speech began on a similar note, with Shah asking people to chant Bharat Mata ki Jai so loudly that people across India supporting Shaheen Bagh can hear it.

"Mere saath boliye Bharat Mata ki Jai, zor se awaaz ke saath boliye, prachand awaaz ke sath boliye, desh bhar mein jo Shaheen Bagh ka samarthan

karne waale hain, un tak pahuche aisi awaaz se boliye," Shah said.

Shah also took aim at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, saying that he won the 2015 Delhi Assembly polls by "misleading people". "What happened after that? What happened in Varanasi, Punjab, Haryana? They lost and he will fail in Delhi too this time," Shah said.

"The people of Delhi have made their decision for 2020 as well. The trend is set to continue. We won 88 per cent of the booths in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls," he added. "When you support the BJP, you support the promise to secure the national boundaries of India. When you support the BJP, you are supporting the mission to make India a global figure-head."

Rajasthan clears anti-CAA resolution

and state governments opposed to the CAA, NRC and the National Population Register (NPR) for a joint strategy.

"If we remain silent and do not oppose the CAA fiercely, the nation will not forgive us. What will happen if Indians living in Gulf countries are driven away?" Rao said.

The resolution passed by the Rajasthan Assembly urged the Centre to repeal the CAA, making it the second Congress-led state after Punjab to do so. Earlier, the Kerala Assembly had passed a resolution against the CAA, moved jointly by the ruling Left alliance and the opposition Congress-led UDF.

The Rajasthan resolution said the CAA "violates the provisions of the Constitution" and "threatens the secular fabric of the country", and also asked the Centre to put off the NPR exercise as there was apprehension that it was a prelude to the NRC.

The BJP opposed the resolu-

tion, accusing the Congress of pursuing appeasement politics.

Addressing mediapersons after the TRS created history by sweeping the municipal elections, Rao said there was no need for a law like the CAA. "In almost all Telangana towns, Hindus and Muslims live together peacefully. These kind of policies are not required as they will divide people."

The CM added that people of the country were against the CAA, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah should judge the mood and withdraw it. He said the CAA and NRC plan had derailed the country at a time that it "was doing well and going forward wonderfully". "There are already enough problems in the country, including poverty and non-availability of safe drinking water."

He also urged the Supreme Court to take suo motu action and scuttle the CAA, NPR and

NRC plans.

Rao had not clarified the TRS's stand on the CAA in the face of growing protests, despite its ally AIMIM urging it to do so. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi is one of the most prominent opponents of the Act.

TRS leader K T Rama Rao, the IT Minister and Rao's son, however, had said that the party would make its stand against the Act clear once the Centre sent a message to implement it. Home Minister M Mahmood Ali said last week that Telangana would not comply if the Centre went ahead with the NRC.

The Ashok Gehlot government passed the resolution on the second day of the Rajasthan Assembly session. It said the CAA "discriminates persons on religious grounds", "has been designed to deprive a section from the citizenship of India", and was the first such law in the history of the country.

It also urged the Union government to withdraw the new questions added to the NPR, and said to soothe the fears, the exercise should be held only after this had been done. The additional information will cause "considerable inconvenience... without much tangible benefit. Assam state is a live example of the same", the resolution said, adding that Rajasthan too had seen protests against the CAA.

BJP MLAs protested against the resolution, saying the matter was outside the purview of the House. However, Speaker C P Joshi said the Assembly was free to express its freedom of expression as the law had a bearing on the citizens of the state.

Later, Chief Minister Gehlot said, "It is the duty of the Centre to keep the federal structure intact and strong. I urge the NDA government to withdraw the Act. The government should not make it a prestige issue."

have been shot during a January 7 march led by Chakrabarty, seeking end to "defamation" of the university, the V-C appears to be asking for photographs of certain people, to which a reply comes that all the names and photographs will be provided to him. After this, the V-C can purportedly be heard saying, "Ektu osudh diye dao na (Give them some medicine, no)," to which comes a reply, "Without your green signal, we can't do anything, no." The other man is not clearly visible.

Later in the video, Achintya Bagdi, one of the three arrested for the January 15 assault on students, apart from Sulabh Karmakar and Sabir Ali, can be seen walking in the front row with Chakrabarty. The Visva Bharati Students' Unity, which has filed the complaint and which claims to be an independent forum not linked to any party, has attached the video with it.

Superintendent of Police, Birbhum district, Shyam Singh

said, "We have got the FIR along with the video clippings. We have started our investigation."

In the wake of protests against the CAA, National Register of Citizens and National Population Register on campus, Chakrabarty had organised a lecture on the Act on January 8. The students claim the video is proof that the V-C intended to disrupt their protest against the lecture.

On that day, students had gathered outside the auditorium where the lecture was to be held, confining the V-C and Swapan Dasgupta inside. While Chakrabarty's aides arrived at the spot, the situation was defused at the time without violence.

In their complaint, students have said the video proves the V-C "directly aided" the January 15 attack and was part of the "conspiracy".

Visva-Bharati University Faculty Association president Sudipta Bhattacharyya said while the authenticity of the

video was yet to be determined, there was "prima facie basis" for the complaint as one of the persons in it had been arrested for the violence against students, and it seemed he was being "directed by the V-C". "The police complaint lodged by the students supported with a video is serious and the silence of the authority suspicious," he said.

In the video, Chakrabarty is purportedly also heard instructing an aide to arrange a "bike bahini" (biker army), apparently to check protests against the January 8 seminar. "Come over tomorrow during the lecture at 3.30 pm. They can create trouble. Come over with your bike bahini," the V-C is heard saying.

One of the two students beaten up on January 15, Falguni Pan, said, "If we look at the assault, we could see a lot of it was planned on various WhatsApp groups, of which professors and people in the varsity administration were a part. All the screen-shots prove this... Now we have video proof that the administra-

tion took responsibility to break the students' movement by inciting violence through such goons."

Pan drew a parallel to the violence seen on Jamia Millia Islamia University, Aligarh Muslim University and JNU campuses.

Another student, Somnath Sow, said police were yet to register an FIR, but had assured them that probe was on and they would be called to the police station when required.

Bhattacharyya, Professor at the Department of Economics and Politics, also accused the administration of cracking down on faculty, saying the office of the teachers' association had been locked without notice and staff members were being "subjugated by show-cause notices, suspension and transfer".

Kovind

witnessing the emergence of a new India... When fighting for a cause, people, particularly the youth, should not forget the gift

of Ahimsa Gandhiji gave to humanity. Gandhiji's talisman for deciding whether an act is right or wrong also applies to the functioning of our democracy. Government and opposition both have important roles to play. While giving expression to their political ideas, both must move forward in tandem to ensure that development of the country and welfare of its people are promoted consistently," Kovind said.

Quoting Babasaheb Ambedkar, he said, "If we wish to maintain democracy not merely in form, but also in fact, what must we do? The first thing in my judgment we must do is to hold fast to constitutional methods of achieving our social and economic objectives". These words have always lighted our path. These words will continue to show us the way ahead to new glories."

On the special significance that January 26 holds for Indian democracy, he said, "Our Constitution gave us rights as citizens of a free democratic nation, but also placed on us the responsibility to always adhere to the central tenets of our democracy — justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. It becomes easier for us to follow these constitutional ideals if we keep in mind the life and values of the Father of our Nation." Kovind spoke about how government programmes such as Swachh Bharat and the call to give up LPG subsidy have been "owned" by people and made into successes.

Saying access to health and education are often considered the foundation of good governance, the President said, "In both these sectors, we have come a long way in seven decades. The Government has rightly focused its attention on the health sector, with its ambitious initiatives. Starting with the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and expanding to Ayushman Bharat..." On education, he said, "Our endeavour is to ensure that no child or youth is denied education."

Kovind lauded ISRO's achievements and spoke about how the nation is looking forward to the Gaganyaan Mission.

He mentioned several of their "exceptional commitment" to society, including Aarifa Jan for reviving the Numdha handicrafts in Jammu & Kashmir, Ratnawali Kottapalli for serving patients suffering from thalassaemia in Telangana; Devaki Amma who has developed forest wealth through her efforts in Kerala; Jamkhojang Misao for his community development efforts in Manipur; and Babar Ali for providing education to underprivileged children in West Bengal.

India, Brazil

Messias Bolsonaro on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was confident that the action would be implemented and that the relationship between the two countries would be deepened by 2023, which marks the platinum jubilee of the diplomatic ties established in 1948.

Besides the comprehensive action plan, the two sides also signed pacts and announced 15 agreements — oil and gas, mineral resources, traditional medicine, animal husbandry, bio-energy and trade and investment.

Bolsonaro landed in Delhi on Friday, accompanied by his daughter Laura, daughter-in-law Leticia Firme, eight ministers, four members of parliament and a large business delegation.

Modi said, "Our partnership is based on common values. That is why we are together in many multilateral fora, despite being separated by a long distance."

Bolsonaro said he is "deeply moved" that "our two great countries, by entering into major strategic partnerships, will consolidate our relationship and the world will look at us differently."

The Action Plan said "the solid bonds of friendship that unite India and Brazil, as they prepare to celebrate 75 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2023" and "the common values shared by India and Brazil as two large democracies and pluralistic societies" would strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.

To implement the Action Plan, the India-Brazil Joint Commission on Political, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation — set up in 2002 and chaired by foreign ministers — will be the main forum for monitoring. The Joint Commission will meet every two years.

Modi said that besides the traditional areas, the two sides are also working on "defence industrial cooperation" and that they want "broad-based partnership". Brazil will participate in the DefExpo 2020 next month.

Bolsonaro said it is a "great pride" to come to India for the "most important celebrations" in the country and he felt "tremendous warmth" — "very much like we welcome guests in Brazil".

The 15 agreements that were signed are, he said, the "highest number in record in our history". "We have further consolidated our relationship. We will see more matters of mutual interest given the potential and the relevant profile of our country's economies," the Brazilian President said, adding, "I have two days left, and I already miss India".

Modi, on his part, said Brazil is a "valuable partner" in India's "economic transformation". He said that while looking at the complementaries, the two countries can strengthen economic relations. He also said that the two countries have made the necessary legal framework to enhance investments.

The two leaders also vowed to work closely at the global anti-terror watchdog FATF to effectively confront challenges of terror financing and state-sponsored terrorism.

The two leaders also decided to significantly expand bilateral cooperation in key sectors such as energy and mining and set a target of USD 15 billion in bilateral trade by 2022. The volume of bilateral trade in 2018-19 was USD 8.2 billion.

Bolsonaro met President Ram Nath Kovind and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar as well on Saturday. On Sunday, Bolsonaro will attend the Republic Day celebrations, which will be followed by an At Home reception. He will also visit Agra on Monday, besides meeting Indian and Brazil's business forums.

Prajapat describes CAA and NRC as an assault on the Constitution. It talks about the ongoing protests in the country, including universities. It also criticises the RSS, demonetisation and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His son said he doubted if the signature on the pamphlet was his father's because he normally signed as Rameshchandra Prajapat, not as Ramesh Prajapat.



# December 16 convict knocks on SC's door

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

IN A last ditch attempt, one of the accused in the December 16, 2012 gangrape-murder case moved the Supreme Court Saturday, challenging the rejection of his mercy plea by President Ram Nath Kovind.

The petition was filed by Mukesh Kumar Singh, one of the four convicts sentenced to death in the case. The President had rejected his mercy plea on January 17, and his hanging, along with three other convicts, has been fixed at 6 am on February 1.

On January 14, a five-judge Bench in the SC had rejected curative petitions filed by Mukesh and co-convict Vinay Kumar Sharma. The SC said it had "gone



The four convicts

through the curative petitions and the relevant documents" and concluded that "no case is made out".

On January 7, a Delhi court issued death warrants against Sharma and Kumar and two other co-convicts, Akshay Kumar

Singh and Pawan Gupta. They were set to be hanged in Tihar Jail on January 22. However, with the convicts filing one petition after the other, the January 22 date had to be postponed and the fresh date has been fixed for February 1.

The case dates back to December 16, 2012, when a 23-year-old woman was gangraped and assaulted by six persons in a moving bus in South Delhi. She died on December 29, 2012.

One of the accused, Ram Singh, hanged himself in jail, while another, a juvenile, was convicted and given the maximum sentence of three years' imprisonment in a reform facility. The others were convicted and sentenced to death in September 2013. This was upheld by the High Court in March 2014 and by the Supreme Court in May 2017.

## All case documents supplied, says court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

A DELHI court Saturday disposed of a plea by the counsel for convicts in the December 16, 2012 gangrape-murder case that had sought additional documents from Tihar Jail, after authorities supplied a diary belonging to one of the convicts. The court noted that all relevant documents had been supplied and no further directions were needed in this regard.

Additional Sessions Judge Ajay Kumar Jain disposed of the plea by advocate A P Singh seeking the documents to file curative petitions for convicts Akshay Kumar Singh and Pawan Gupta and the mercy petition for convict Vinay Sharma.

"Jail authorities have already complied with the request made by the convicts to supply documents lying with them and have

also brought paintings, diary today for supply. In view thereof, no further directions for supply of more documents are required. However, jail authorities are directed to hand over the copy of the paintings and the diary to the counsel for convicts today in court itself," the judge said.

Public prosecutor Irfan Ahmed told the court the authorities had already received an application for the documents from Singh, and these were delay tactics by convicts to postpone the execution date, which is February 1. Singh said he received some documents at 10:30 pm Friday, but is yet to receive a diary and medical documents from authorities to file the mercy petition for convict Vinay Sharma.


The public prosecutor told the court that Tihar authorities have supplied all documents and did not have anything except for a painting and a diary, which they were ready to supply in court.

## Yechury alleges BJP conspiracy at protest

New Delhi: CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury Saturday said the new citizenship law, NRC and NPR are precursors to the BJP's conspiracy to turn the country into a "Hindutva Rashtra". Addressing an anti-CAA protest

led by women in East Delhi's Khureji Khas, he said, "The national flag is one-third saffron, one-third green and one-third white. If coloured only with saffron, the country will perish... CAA, NRC and NPR are a conspir-

acy by BJP for a Hindutva Rashtra." "The PM is wrong when he says opposition is inciting protesters. We are at the back, people are at the vanguard of this fight to save the Constitution," he said. **ENS**



**Nominations are invited for**

### LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE-2020


Nominations are invited for the prestigious Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award which honours each year a distinguished Indian residing either in India or abroad for his/her sustained individual contributions and outstanding achievements of high professional order and excellence in the field of management, public administration, public affairs, education or institution building, art & culture and sports. The Award will be declared by a jury comprising of eminent persons.

The award is given every year on October 1, on the eve of the birth anniversary of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. The honour carries award for Rs. Five Lakh plus a citation and a plaque and the awardee is designated as Lal Bahadur Shastri Fellow.


**Nominations may be sent in confidence to the undersigned latest by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

Nomination form may be obtained from the Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management, Plot No. 11/7, Sector-11, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 or download from Website: [www.lbsim.ac.in](http://www.lbsim.ac.in)  
Tel.: 011-25307700 (100 Lines), Fax: 91-11-25307799, E-mail: [director@lbsim.ac.in](mailto:director@lbsim.ac.in)

**Chairman, LBSIM, Delhi**




**SHRI LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI**  
(1904-1966)




**BOI**



## Nurturing relationships in the largest democracy



Wishing You a Happy

# republic वंद्य




Visit : [www.bankofindia.co.in](http://www.bankofindia.co.in)  
Follow us on  

**Bank of India**

*Relationship beyond banking*

## 24th Death Anniversary 26th January 2020




*Dr. B. V. Rao*  
~ 1935 - 1996 ~

*"By fulfilling one's duty, and detaching one self from the fruits of action, one is liberated from the cycle of birth and death, and ascends to the Indestructible State that is free from all bonds..."*


Bhagavadgita : Chapter II, Stanza 51

---

On his 24th Anniversary, we pay homage to the Karma Yogi, who brought happiness to the homes of millions of Poultry Farmers, and rededicate ourselves to his mission.



**Venkateshwara Hatcheries Group**




**NATIONAL  
EGG CO-ORDINATION  
COMMITTEE**

## Wishing you a Happy 71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day

*We Treasure Your Trust*



**63** Years of Care and Courtesy

Follow us :    LIC India Forever

Customer care : (022) 68276827

[www.licindia.in](http://www.licindia.in)



भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम  
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

*Har Pal Apke Saath*

IRDAI Regn No.: 512



# 4 DECISION 2020 DELHI

I HEREBY  
DECLARE



**PRAVEEN KUMAR (35)**  
AAP, Jangpura

<b>TOTAL ASSETS (2020)</b>	
<b>₹91.84 LAKH</b>	
<b>MOVEABLE ASSETS</b>	
<b>₹20.59 LAKH</b>	
<b>CASH: ₹5,000</b>	
<b>JEWELLERY: ₹5.6L</b>	
<b>IMMOVABLE ASSETS</b>	
<b>Rs 71.25 LAKH</b>	
<b>Assets</b>	
Agricultural land	₹NIL
Houses	₹71.25 lakh
Commercial buildings	NIL

<b>TOTAL ASSETS (2015)</b>	
<b>₹8.07 LAKH</b>	
<b>MOVEABLE ASSETS</b>	
<b>₹3.07 LAKH</b>	
<b>IMMOVABLE ASSETS</b>	
<b>Rs 5 LAKH</b>	
<b>EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION</b>	
MBA, Technocrate Institute of Technology, Barkatullah University, 2008	



**IMPREET SINGH BAKSHI (37)**  
BJP, Jangpura

<b>TOTAL ASSETS (2020)</b>	
<b>₹46.76 LAKH</b>	
<b>MOVEABLE ASSETS</b>	
<b>₹46.76 LAKH</b>	
<b>CASH: ₹1.46L</b>	
<b>JEWELLERY: ₹36.8L</b>	
<b>IMMOVABLE ASSETS</b>	
<b>NA</b>	
<b>Assets</b>	
Agricultural land	Nil
Houses	Nil
Commercial buildings	Nil

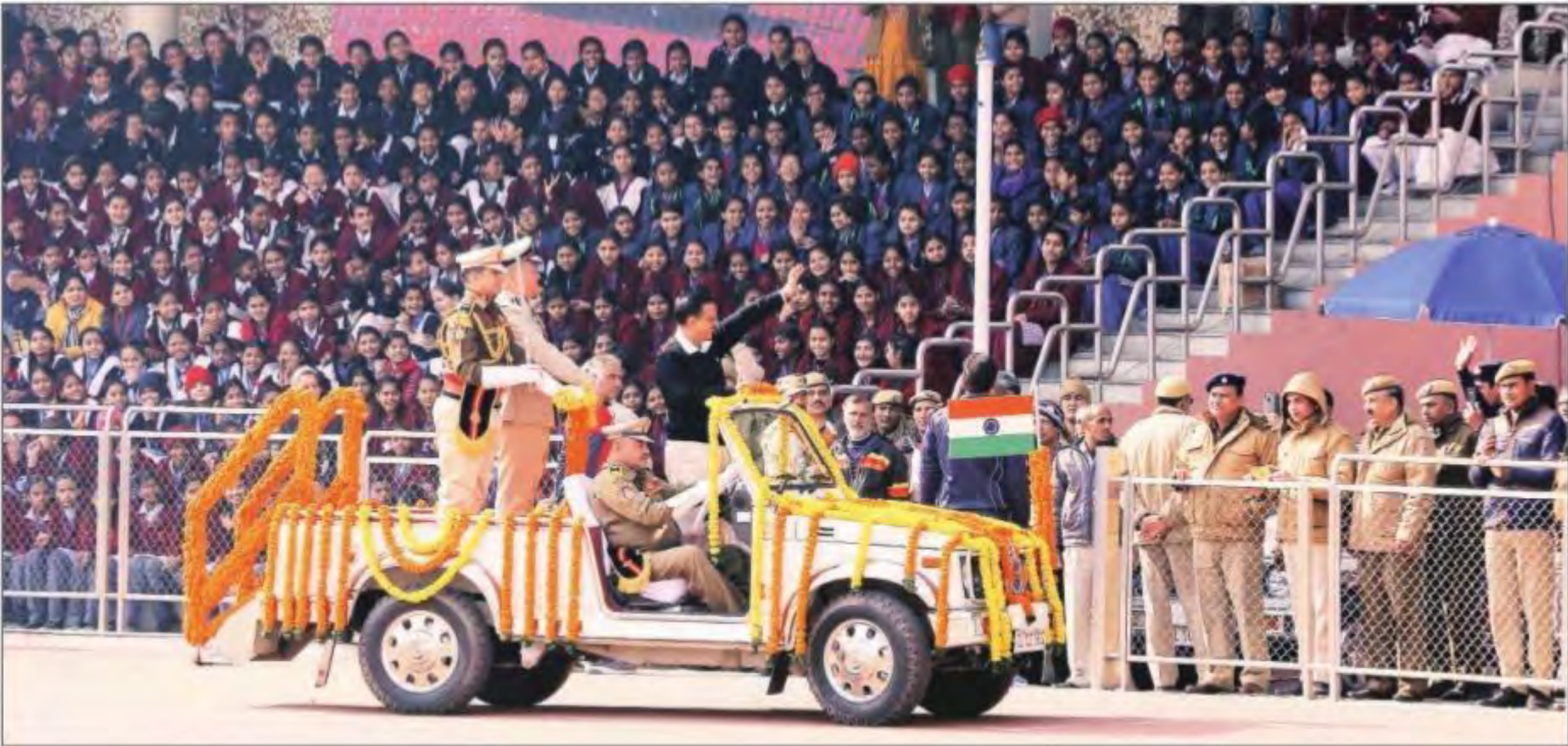
<b>EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:</b>	
BA, Delhi University	



**TARVINDER SINGH MARWAH (60)**  
Congress, Jangpura

<b>TOTAL ASSETS (2020)</b>	
<b>₹42.62 CR</b>	
<b>MOVEABLE ASSETS</b>	
<b>₹11.41 CR</b>	
<b>CASH: ₹9.35L</b>	
<b>JEWELLERY: ₹45.38 L</b>	
<b>IMMOVABLE ASSETS</b>	
<b>Rs 31.21 CR</b>	
<b>Assets</b>	
Agricultural land	NA
Houses	₹24.21 cr
Commercial buildings	₹7 cr

<b>TOTAL ASSETS (2015)</b>	
<b>₹35.05 CR</b>	
<b>MOVEABLE ASSETS</b>	
<b>₹1.18 CR</b>	
<b>IMMOVABLE ASSETS</b>	
<b>Rs 33.87 CR</b>	
<b>EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:</b>	
BA, 1st year pass, DU	



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal during a Republic Day parade at Chhatrasal Stadium, Saturday. Amit Mehra

## BATTLE OVER CITY SCHOOLS

# Shah sharpens education attack, CM hits back: ‘Don’t insult our kids’

**SOURAV ROY BARMAN**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

WITH TWO weeks to go for the Delhi Assembly polls, the ruling AAP Saturday mounted a strong defense of its track record in education, suggesting that Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s asser-tion that the capital’s schools were in a bad shape amounted to “insulting the children and teachers” of these institutions.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal led the charge against Shah at a press conference during the day. The thrust of Kejriwal’s speech at a rally in the Greater Kailash constituency, where sit-ting MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj is pitted against BJP’s Shikha Rai, later in the evening was also along similar lines.

Shah is “mocking” the people of Delhi and “insulting the hard work” of the children in Delhi government schools, Kejriwal said in both his addresses, seek-

ing to put the BJP on the defen-sive. The reform in Delhi’s school education sector is among the AAP’s biggest poll planks.

On Friday, Shah had claimed that contrary to its promise of building 500 new schools, under the AAP government, existing schools were also in a bad shape. “There are no principals in 700 schools, no science wing in over 1,000 schools, a shortage of around 19,000 teachers. The Kejriwal government has failed to spend 30% of its education budget,” Shah claimed.

There are 1,026 Delhi govern-ment-run schools while 207 re-ceive its aid. In February 2019, the government had told the Delhi Assembly that since 2015, 8,089 new classrooms have been built while 12,748 more are coming up. The government has also com-pleted the construction of 25 new school buildings, sanctioned be-fore it took over, while 30 more have been sanctioned, the House was told.

### ‘INDIANS MUST KEEP CONSTITUTION SAFE’

*New Delhi:* “If Indians keep the Constitution safe, it will protect us and the nation in times of difficulty,” said CM Arvind Kejriwal on the Republic Day parade at Chhatrasal Stadium Saturday. Organised by the Chief Secretary, the Delhi Police as well as government school students, the parade to celebrate India’s 70th Republic Day at Chhatrasal stadium in Model Town saw CM Kejriwal as the Chief Guest.

On Saturday, Kejriwal said the transformation of Delhi’s schools was the talk of the entire country. He pointed out that the class XII pass percentage in Delhi govern-ment schools was 96%, as op-

posed to 93% in the city’s private schools. “The situation is just the op-posite in UP, Haryana, MP, Rajasthan. How did it become 96% in Delhi? Kejriwal just made

the arrangements. Our 16 lakh children, their parents, and 65,000 teachers worked hard. You abuse me, the AAP. But please don’t demoralise our children, don’t insult them. I wonder what must have been going through the minds of the children when they saw their Home Minister ridiculing their hardwork,” the AAP chief said.

He also referred to Shah dining at the house of a BJP worker on Friday night.

“You are suddenly reminded of our workers. Where were you when private schools were raising fees and power bills were going up? Kejriwal was the one who brought the bills down,” he said.

Meanwhile, four-time BJP MLA Harsharan Singh Balli Saturday joined AAP in the CM and Deputy CM’s presence. Balli has been an MLA from Hari Nagar Assembly constituency, and a minister in the Madan Lal Khurana-led Delhi cabinet.

# In Chandni Chowk, Cong & BJP have a hill to climb

**ANANYA TIWARI**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

WITH THE AAP government’s free electricity and water schemes touching thousands of voters in the Chandni Chowk Assembly constituency, Congress candidate Alka Lamba (44) and BJP’s Suman Gupta (63) have their task cut out. The AAP has fielded Parlad Sawhney (69).

A constituency of around 1.13 lakh people, Chandni Chowk was won by the then Congress leader Sawhney four times in a row be-

tween 1998 and 2013. In 2015, he lost to Lamba, who fought on an AAP ticket. Lamba shifted to the Congress in October last year — and Sawhney left Congress to join AAP the same month.

No talk of politics in the constituency is untouched by the govern-ment’s subsidy schemes. A BJP sup-porter on the national stage, Bijender Sharma (62), a resident of Vaidwara, said, “Everyone wants free electricity and water. This gives AAP a clear

edge.”

His views were echoed by Shравan Arora (72), a resident of Nayi Sadak, and Mohammad

Iqbal (56), a restaurant owner. “They are work-ing for the poor,” Iqbal said about the AAP, adding that Congress’s support to the anti-CAA/NRC protests may not have an impact on state elections.

Mohammad Parvez (50), a shoe shop owner, said Sawhney, by virtue of being a four-time MLA, enjoys goodwill



FROM THE  
GROUND  
CHANDNI CHOWK

in the area.

Sawhney told *The Indian Express*, “Muslims won’t leave Kejriwal because they need to fight the BJP and RSS. The poor man won’t leave Kejriwal be-cause Rs 5,000-7,000 is coming to his pocket due to free electric-ity and water. How will any other party come to power?”

On his exit from the Congress, he said, “In Delhi, Congress has no name anymore. All the bigwigs who usually fight elections said they won’t contest. Congress’s very existence is waning.”

BJP’s Suman Gupta, who con-

tested in 2013 and 2015, said, “Lamba left AAP to join the Congress, and Sawhney left Congress to join AAP. Both are es-sentially Congress members.” On the BJP’s policies, he said, “We have completed the ISBT station and many others projects... We will work for development.”

Lamba, when contacted, said: “There are many communities in Chandni Chowk — a minority belt in Jama Masjid, the bastis, Civil Lines, Brahmins, Jains and Baniyas. Perhaps across Delhi, Kejriwal may win, but in Chandni Chowk, Alka Lamba will win.”

## SAY ALL PARTIES INDIFFERENT

# Traders who faced sealing heat vow to make votes count



At a market in Amar Colony. More than 6,500 shops, godowns and industrial units have been sealed since December 2017

2017 by the three municipal cor-porations on the direction of the Supreme Court-appointed Monitoring Committee. They were shut for violations in floor area ratio (FAR), land use, conver-sion charge, environment and fire safety.

*The Indian Express* visited eight markets and a residential area where industrial units were forcibly shut. The history of most of these markets in South and North Delhi can be traced to the

Partition, when refugees from Pakistan were allotted land here. Almost all traders *The Indian Express* spoke to conceded that sealing will dent the BJP’s vote bank and may benefit the AAP.

At least 350 shops were shut-tered in Amar Colony in March 2018 for encroachment. The mar-ket was deserted, with many shopkeepers selling women’s ap-parel from the steps of their closed shops.

Grover, one of the affected



traders, sold snacks outside his four shops. Another was making strings of flowers at a temple. Most of the shop owners have rented shops in other areas. “It’s been two years. People have lost their livelihood. After sealing, all parties visited and promised to get shops de-sealed, but nothing has happened,” said Satish Kumar (59), sitting outside his closed shop lined with mannequins and kurtis suspended from a string on display. He said the AAP has an

edge in the market.

Another market that came under the court’s radar was Defence Colony. Manoj, a gro-cery trader, said: “My sale has slumped by 70%. The BJP de-stroyed the market. It used to be abuzz on a Saturday; now not even a bird flutters its wings here.”

In June 2018, the Centre had notified amendments to the Master Plan-2021 to legalise LSCs and other establishments.

# BJP’s ‘art & artist’ meme under poll body’s scanner

**ARANYA SHANKAR**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

WHILE BJP candidate Kapil Mishra’s tweets were pulled down on directions of the Election Commission (EC), they are not the only social media posts the Delhi Chief Electoral Office (CEO) has found problematic.

The Delhi CEO office is also learnt to have forwarded a tweet by the Delhi BJP’s official Twitter handle on January 20, which shared a meme containing two photos. On the left side was the visual of the burning bus from the anti-CAA protest which was held on December 15, near New Friends Colony. The photo was labelled “art”. On the right side was the photograph of CM Arvind Kejriwal and AAP candidate from Okhla Amanatullah Khan, both wearing skull caps and shoulder scarves and dressed in white. The photo was labelled “artist”.

Sources said the Delhi CEO wrote to the EC, flagging the post and saying it was a violation of the MCC. The CEO office has invoked Clause 1 (1) which says, “No party or candidate shall include in activ-ity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual ha-

tred...” They also asked the EC that the tweet be taken down.

EC officials said the matter was under observation.

The CEO office had earlier written to the EC regarding per-sonal jibes being made by polit-ical parties and their social media handles through videos and memes.

They had flagged posts from all three parties — BJP, Congress and AAP — in which they had poked fun at each other, saying that such posts may vitiate the political atmosphere. They had asked the EC to clarify if such posts constitute political adver-tisement, since the EC does not recognise posts from party and individual handles as political ads.

EC sources had told *The Indian Express* that in response, the Delhi CEO had been told to check if the posts were violating the MCC.

The CEO is learnt to have writ-ten to the EC to take down at least two of those posts — one by the BJP, where they had tweeted a video titled ‘AAP ka khalnayak’ on January 12. The video has now been deleted. The other was a morphed video of Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari dancing to AAP’s poll jingle ‘Lage Raho Kejriwal’ posted by the AAP on January 11.

# Kapil Mishra barred from campaigning for 48 hrs over tweets

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

A DAY after an FIR was registered against BJP candidate Kapil Mishra for his tweets comparing the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections to an India-Pakistan contest and calling Shaheen Bagh “mini-Pakistan”, the Election Commission Saturday barred him from campaigning for 48 hours.

The EC’s order came into ef-fect on 5 pm Saturday. In a state-ment, the Delhi CEO office said, “ECI has condemned the state-ments made by Mishra through Twitter on January 22 and 23 and has barred him from holding any public meeting, processions, ral-lies, road shows, interviews, pub-lic utterances in media (elec-tronic, print and social media) in connection with ongoing elec-tions for a period of 48 hours.”

The EC, in its order, said it had considered “all the documents and relevant facts” and found the tweets violate the Model Code of Conduct.

It is learnt that more of Mishra’s tweets are being moni-tored and could be referred to the EC for cognizance.

The Election Commission had earlier asked Twitter to remove the tweets by Mishra, and a



Mishra compared polls to India-Pakistan contest

showcase notice was issued to him by returning officer Banbari Lal for “violation of poll code”. Mishra responded to the notice, but the RO did not find his re-sponse satisfactory.

Mishra had said on Shaheen Bagh, “It is likely that in these protests, there are present sepa-ratists and rogue elements from across the border, using women to propagate their seditious ideals and hurt India administratively and economically.”

He also defended his India versus Pakistan statement, saying he had “merely referred to two countries, two entities who are not involved in any election process at the national level a present”.

The former AAP leader was removed as minister by the AAP government in 2017.

ident of Vishwas Nagar where 70 industrial units were closed.

Brijesh Goyal, president of AAP’s trade wing, said, “Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri claimed that they had solved the matter. But around 9,000 shops are still closed. The Centre has to find a permanent solution. A sword is hanging on traders.”

He dismissed allegations that his party did not stand by traders. “Our MLAs took part in anti-seal-ing protests. I myself led some of them.”

The BJP rejected claims that sealing may lead to a split in traders’ votes. “Traders were up-set with the BJP, but not anymore. Shops were sealed on the direc-tion of the Supreme Court. The BJP is not responsible for it. We have done everything that we could,” said BJP’s Rajya Sabha MP Vijay Goel.

Delhi Congress spokesperson Mukesh Sharma said: “If we come to power, we will ensure all roads in affected markets are commercialised. We have been leading a drive called Nyay Yudh against sealing. It was discontin-ued because of elections.”





Ministry of Information & Broadcasting  
Government of India



Republic Day is a festival of reiterating the ideals  
of freedom, equality, sovereignty and fraternity.  
This is an occasion to celebrate India and the  
spirit of being Indian.

Let us come together and fulfil our duties to make a new  
India which is clean and free from corruption, dirt, poverty,  
terrorism, casteism & communalism.

## Heartiest Greetings on Republic Day



### PARAM VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL

Air Marshal Raj Karan Singh Shera AVSM VSM (Retd)  
Air Marshal Kuldeep Sharma AVSM VSM (Retd)  
Air Marshal Harjit Singh Arora AVSM  
Air Marshal Surendra Kumar Ghotia VSM  
Air Marshal Rajiv Dayal Mathur AVSM VSM  
Air Marshal Pradeep Padmakar Bapat VSM (Retd)

### ATI VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL

Air Marshal Shashiker Choudhary VSM  
Air Marshal Rajvir Singh VSM (Retd)  
Air Vice Marshal Sanjeev Narayan Deshpande VM (Retd)  
Air Vice Marshal Manoj Kumar Dixit VSM (Retd)  
Air Vice Marshal Gurcharan Singh Bedi VM VSM  
Air Vice Marshal Dilip Kumar Patnaik VM  
Air Vice Marshal Amar Prasad Babu Guttikonda VM  
Air Vice Marshal Bavisetti Chandra Sekhar  
Air Vice Marshal Nikhil Ramesh Chitnis VSM (Retd)  
Air Vice Marshal Sattaru Bhanoji Rao VSM (Retd)  
Air Vice Marshal Laxmi Narain Sharma  
Air Vice Marshal Makarand Ranade VM

### VAYU SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)

Wing Commander Daler Singh Billing  
Wing Commander Rajesh Agarwal  
Squadron Leader Ninad Anil Mandavgane (Posthumous)  
Squadron Leader Siddharth Vashisht (Posthumous)

### BAR TO VAYU SENA MEDAL

Group Captain Subhash Singh Rao VM

### VAYU SENA MEDAL

Group Captain Satish Kumar Gupta  
Group Captain Aniruddha Nandan Karulkar  
Group Captain Prabhat Malik  
Group Captain Rohith Vijayadev  
Group Captain Kosana Rama Rao  
Group Captain Promeet Bose  
Group Captain Girish Dantale  
Group Captain Tarun Gupta  
Group Captain Sumit Garg  
Group Captain Mandetira Medaiah Bopanna  
Group Captain Parijat Saurabh  
Group Captain Neetin Kumar Vatsya  
Group Captain Samit Gupta

### VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL

Air Vice Marshal Daljit Singh  
Air Vice Marshal Shanmugasundaram Anandan  
Air Commodore Sambasivam Bhaskaran  
Air Commodore Vijay V Joshi  
Air Commodore Niraj Nainwal  
Brigadier Sanjay Mathur  
Group Captain Arindam Lahiri  
Group Captain Vadapalli Ravi Satyanarayana Raju

Group Captain Nitin Yashwant Patil  
Group Captain Deepak Ahluwalia  
Group Captain Himanshu Gopal  
Group Captain Anuj Gupta  
Group Captain Anupam Banerjee  
Group Captain Ashish Srivastava VM  
Group Captain Yogesh Kalyan Dixit  
Group Captain Mantha Srinivasa Rama Mohan  
Group Captain Vikram Singh  
Group Captain Manoj Kumar Rana  
Group Captain Tushar Agrawal  
Group Captain Tarun Desai  
Group Captain Ajay Rana  
Group Captain Raji Ranjan  
Group Captain S Vinay Kumar  
Group Captain Jaswant Patel  
Group Captain Samrath Dhankhar  
Wing Commander Achin Pillai  
Wing Commander Sankarasubbu Siddharthan  
Wing Commander Arun Singh  
Junior Warrant Officer Kumar Chandra Shekhar

### MENTION-IN-DESPATCHES

Wing Commander K Suryanarayanan  
Sergeant Vikrant Sahrawat (Posthumous)  
Sergeant Vishal Kumar Pandey (Posthumous)  
Corporal Pankaj Kumar (Posthumous)  
Corporal Deepak Pandey (Posthumous)



IndianAirForce



iaf\_mcc



IndianAirForce



<https://www.youtube.com/c/PublicityCellDIS>







# CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

## Celebrates 71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day with Nation's Bravehearts

### 76 CRPF bravehearts honoured with gallantry medals

**PRESIDENT'S POLICE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY**



SHAHEED CONSTABLE  
UTPAL RASNA

**POLICE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY (75)**



 SHAHEED CONSTABLE MANDEEP KUMAR	 SHAHEED CONSTABLE NIRPAL GHOSH	 SHAHEED CONSTABLE MAHESH KUMAR SERNA	 SHRI ATUL KARWAL, IPS, IO (NOW ADD)	 SHRI RAJENDER SINGH, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT	 HEAD CONSTABLE PRAVEEN KUMAR
 CONSTABLE SARJESHWAR SINGH	 HEAD CONSTABLE (NOW ASI) SANJAY KUMAR SINGH	 CONSTABLE S. BALACHANDRA REDDY	 HEAD CONSTABLE UMESH YADAV	 ASSTT. SUB INSPECTOR LALIT KUMAR	 SUB INSPECTOR ANUJ KUMAR TYAGI
 CONSTABLE (NOW HC) PRANSHU KUMAR DUBEY	 CONSTABLE NAND J KUMAR	 SHRI DHIRENDRA SINGH, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT	 SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT	 CONSTABLE ANIL SHARMA	 CONSTABLE VIVEK KUMAR
 SHRI RAJENDRA HARJAIN, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT	 CONSTABLE AMARJEET KUMAR DAS	 CONSTABLE ANUP DEY	 CONSTABLE JAYANTA BORO	 CONSTABLE RANGAJULU BABU	 CONSTABLE (NOW HC) RAHUL KUMAR PATHAK
 CONSTABLE DHANRAJ BARUA	 SHRI VINAY KUMAR THAKUR, COMMANDANT	 SUB INSPECTOR RAKESH KUMAR	 ASSTT. SUB INSPECTOR MOHD YOUSUF TTOO	 CONSTABLE NEEHAR KUMAR	 CONSTABLE SHAAD HUSSAIN
 SUB INSPECTOR R. D. ASHWINI KUMAR	 CONSTABLE NILADRI DEKA	 CONSTABLE RISHABH DAS	 CONSTABLE RAKESH BHAGAT	 CONSTABLE MOHD YOUSUF KHAN	 CONSTABLE RAJU LOHAR
 SHRI GOPAL RAIN, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT	 CONSTABLE LATIF AHMAD BHAT	 CONSTABLE SREENIVASULU R	 SHRI TILAK RAJ, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT	 HEAD CONSTABLE RATTAN SINGH	 CONSTABLE BHENDER SINGH
 SHRI PRAVEEN K. SERNA, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT	 HEAD CONSTABLE G. VIJAYA KUMAR	 CONSTABLE SHOUKAT AHMAD RATHER	 CONSTABLE NASSER AHMED	 CONSTABLE K. K. PRABHAKAR	 SHRI D. S. SHARMA, DEPUTY COMMANDANT
 SHRI MAHESH KUMAR, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT	 HEAD CONSTABLE RAJINDER KUMAR	 CONSTABLE RAKADE NISHANT ARUN	 CONSTABLE AJAY KHANDU	 SHRI KUMAR MAYANK, SECOND IN COMMAND	 SHRI RAJARDHAN, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT
 ASSTT. SUB INSPECTOR JAGAT CHANDRA BORA	 CONSTABLE MOHD HUSSAIN	 CONSTABLE RAVINDRA SINGH TOMAR	 SHRI RAKESH RAO, COMMANDANT	 SHRI JITENDER SAHUL, DEPUTY COMMANDANT (NOW S-1)	 CONSTABLE SHAFIQUUL ISLAM
 SHRI BABBARI LAL, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT	 HEAD CONSTABLE ANIL KUMAR	 CONSTABLE KARISHMA SINGH	 CONSTABLE DEEP CHAND SINGH	 CONSTABLE LEKHI RAJ	 SHRI RAKESH KUMAR, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT
 SHRI RAVI SHARMA, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT	 CONSTABLE VIJAY PRAKASH YADAV	 CONSTABLE ANISH KUMAR SINGH	 CONSTABLE YOUNGS AHMAD DAR	 CONSTABLE DEVENDRA KUMAR	 HEAD CONSTABLE MAHPAL SINGH
 SHRI ASHOK KUMAR, SECOND IN COMMAND	 SHRI SANJAY MOHANTY, DEPUTY COMMANDANT	 CONSTABLE VIPIN KUMAR			



## Warm Greetings to all from CRPF

### The Peacekeepers of the Nation

[crpf.gov.in](http://crpf.gov.in) [CentralReservePolice](#) [@crpfindia](#) [crpf.peacekeepersofthenation](#)

6

THE CITY

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM  
THE SUNDAY EXPRESS, JANUARY 26, 2020

## NORTH EAST DELHI'S BHAJANPURA

# 4 children dead as coaching centre roof comes crashing



Rescue operations underway at the collapsed building in Bhajanpura, Saturday. Photos: Praveen Khanna

### JIGNASA SINHA

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

FIVE PEOPLE, including four children, died after the roof of a three-storey building, which also housed a coaching centre, collapsed in North East Delhi's Bhajanpura Saturday afternoon. According to police, a fourth floor was being constructed, as a result of which the building gave way.

An FIR has been registered against the building owner. Police said that initial investigation revealed two brothers were allegedly illegally running the coaching centre in the building for the past 10-15 years.

DCP (North East) Ved Prakash Surya said they received a call around 4.30 pm. "We found that a coaching centre was being run and that a fourth floor was being constructed. The roof of the third floor collapsed. Around 12 children, a teacher and one of the building owners were present inside at the time," he said.

Atul Garg, DFS director, said the girder over the third floor wasn't laid properly, and as the construction work was underway on the fourth floor, a portion of it fell, causing the roof to collapse. "Over 20 people were trapped. We rescued 12 children and two adults," Garg said.

According to police, the deceased have been identified as Farhan (6), Deshu (14), Krishna (12), Kirti (10) and their teacher Umesh Kashyap (30), who was also the co-owner of the building. "The children were attend-

ing classes on the third floor where Umesh and another teacher, Sujata, were teaching. Suddenly, the fourth floor collapsed, trapping all students under the debris," the officer said.

Prem Mohan Gupta (60), a neighbour, said, "I was inside my house when the building next to ours started crumbling. I heard children screaming, and then there was silence. Children on the second floor came out and started shouting for help. People rushed to rescue those who were trapped, but not more than 10 people could stand on the building as it was weak."

Locals claimed they rescued over 10 children before fire officials arrived. They claimed that ambulances and fire tenders arrived after parents started looking for their children.

Rajesh, a fireman, said, "It was challenging to access the narrow lanes as the area was congested. We had to park fire tenders and climb through adjacent buildings. Local police along with NDRF teams helped in the rescue. The whole building was crumbling... debris from construction work and the roof of the third floor had trapped children and their teachers."

DCP Surya said, "Initial probe has revealed that a coaching centre, Educational Point, was being run in the three-storey building. We will take legal action in the matter."

The institute was started by Umesh's elder brother Shankar, said police. The two taught English, maths and history.

## Three siblings in same class, two made it out

### AMIL BHATNAGAR & JIGNASA SINHA

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD Nitin lay curled up in a bed at GTB Hospital and asked only one question: "Is Krishna okay?" Siblings Nitin, Krishna and Uma were in the same classroom when a freshly built roof collapsed, killing four minors and a teacher. While Uma and Nitin escaped with head injuries, Krishna did not make it.

Lakshmi, Krishna's mother, sat at the steps of the hospital: "I still cannot believe what happened. My three children were studying in the same class for months. Why did they have to hold a class when the roof had just been built?" Krishna's father, a labourer, hails from Aligarh.

Locals who helped with the rescue operations said children were identified through their clothes and limbs from under the debris. "The sound was like a bomb blast. As the dust settled, we could see pieces of cloth and began pulling out the children. We saw a child's leg and dragged him to safety. The teacher was the last to be found. All were very scared," said Faizal Khan, a local.

Injured in the collapse was Sujata Tiwari (23), a teacher who had earlier attended tuitions in the same centre. "It's a miracle she

survived with just a back injury. She was standing when a portion of the roof collapsed on her," said a relative.

Locals said the tuition centre, running illegally, catered to several students in the locality.

The deceased were identified as Farhan (6), Deshu (14), Krishna (12), Kirti (10) and their teacher, Umesh Kashyap (30).

Farhan's father Arif Sultan said, "My daughter informed me that my son was trapped under the rubble. I went to the spot and tried to find him with the firemen. His mother and sister were outside the building, crying. It took me an hour to find him — I recognised him by his school bag. I ran to the ambulance, but by the time it reached the hospital, he was declared dead on arrival." Arif is a tailor who lives nearby.

Umesh's family, who lives across the street, was stunned to see the building collapse. "Umesh and his elder brother Shankar started the coaching centre around 10-15 years ago. We didn't support them earlier, but they eventually started earning enough to support the family. The rooms would be filled with students. Most of the children from our locality studied here. They had recently bought the new building to build a coaching centre for school and college students," said Umesh's mother.

## No permission for more floors or coaching centre, building flew under MCD radar

### EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

THE BUILDING in Bhajanpura, where five people lost their lives, was undergoing additional construction without requisite permission, it is learnt. The building owner was allegedly getting a fourth floor made while a portion of it collapsed.

MCD rules states one has to get the layout plan passed by the civic body before constructing a new building or adding floors.

Mayor Anju Kamalkant claimed there was no fresh construction taking place, hence no permission had been taken. An East MCD official claimed the building owner was getting repairs done when the collapse took place.

Leader of Opposition in the



East MCD, Rohit Kumar, said the incident suggests the BJP-ruled civic body has failed to ensure the safety of buildings in the capital. "Whenever there is a new construction in the capital, officials come to extort money, but

the same officials cannot ensure safety standards are maintained during construction," he said.

In the wake of the May, 2019 fire at a Surat coaching centre that killed 22 students, the East civic body had started a drive to

identify coaching centres violating rules, and had taken action against two in Laxmi Nagar. "The idea was to identify coaching centres that were violating safety standards or had not paid conversion charges. The incident suggests the whole exercise was ruderless," Kumar said.

Kamalkant, however, said this was not a coaching centre but one where people were giving private tuition.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who visited the site of the incident, tweeted: "I am pained by tragic death of four students and owner of the coaching institute. One illegal floor was being constructed which collapsed. Inquiry is being ordered. Guilty shall not be spared. Sending proposal for compensation to EC for approval."

## Suicide at hotel: Friends in shock, police probe suggests victim threatened suicide earlier too

### EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

A DAY after a 24-year-old man was found dead inside a suite of the Taj Ambassador Hotel, police said he had threatened to commit suicide earlier as well, following a fight with his parents.

"We suspect he was depressed after his parents separated," an officer said.

Police added that prima facie, the man, Karan Chandra, died of an overdose of medicines, after

65 used pill strips were recovered from the suite. His body was handed over to his family Saturday, after a post-mortem at RML hospital.

Police said Karan lived with his father, a psychiatrist, in South Delhi's Malviya Nagar area.

"He was an art investor and a platinum customer of the hotel. He had been staying at the hotel since January 19. His body was found in a decomposed state on his bed on Friday afternoon," a senior police officer said.

One of his friends told *The Indian Express*, "We were shocked to hear about his death. I last spoke to him on January 19. He said he was staying at the hotel and wanted to concentrate on his work. He had gone to Kathmandu for a vacation a week earlier, and said he was happy."

Karan was known for his rare collection of mechanical mods — a device used for vaping — and was referred to as the "mech god" by some of his friends, police said. He was also featured in

an article in *GQ Magazine* last year.

A purported suicide note recovered from the spot had the lyrics of a song by the band Linkin Park: "In the end, it doesn't even matter."

In his note, he said he was committing suicide and left contact numbers of his father and sister.

Police said domestic helps of the victim's family told them that Karan started buying art after he finished schooling and would sell it to galleries and buyers.



# Citizenship India’s issue: Nepal ‘reassured’ by Shah statements

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
KATHMANDU, JANUARY 25

AS ABOUT one lakh Gorkhas have been left out of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, the Gorkha community in India has reached out to the Nepalese government with their concerns.

Although there have been no formal or official conversations between Kathmandu and Delhi, a top Nepalese government source said that Nepal is reassured by the statements of senior Indian ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh that no Nepalese-origin people will face any problems.

Stressing that it is an “issue of India and its people,” the source stressed that the concerned Nepali-speaking people are “local” to India, as they are native to the territory that had been ceded from Nepal long ago.

Nepali speakers settled in Assam - which was never under Nepalese sovereignty - centuries ago. “If there are any problems,



Statements by Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh have made it clear that no Nepali-speaking person will face problem, said a Nepal official

we can talk and resolve,” the source maintained.

However, there should not be “any confusion that Nepali-speaking people are not Indian”, the source said.

When the updated National Register of Citizens (NRC) was published on August 31 last year, more than 1.9 million applicants, whose names were missing, were told that they would have to

file appeals at one of the 200 Foreigners’ Tribunals (FTs) established for the purpose across Assam. However, around 60,000-1,00,000 of those left out of the NRC from the Gorkha community are angry and refusing to do so. Gorkha is a community from an ancient kingdom in western Nepal. They were first brought to the Assam as workers and soldiers by British colonisers, when the latter annexed the northeast state in the early 19th century.

When asked whether members of the Gorkha community have sought the help of Nepal government over the issue, a Nepal government source told visiting Indian journalists here that they were assured by the statements of India’s Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah that no Nepali-speaking person will face problems.

“We haven’t spoken to the Indian government regarding NRC. They (Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah) have made it clear. It has not been necessary to talk about it,” the source said.

## TRANSFER OF KOREGAON-BHIMA CASE TO NIA

# Fear of being exposed led to probe transfer: Pawar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, NAGPUR JANUARY 25

NCP CHIEF Sharad Pawar Saturday alleged the Centre transferred the investigation into the Koregaon-Bhima violence case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to shield certain individuals, even as Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said the state was weighing legal options to challenge the move.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs on Friday handed over the investigation into the Elgaar Parishad case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) just a day after the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress government in the state held a meeting to review the chargesheet filed against the accused in the case.

Nine rights activists and lawyers had been arrested by the Maharashtra police in 2018 for allegedly inciting people at a meeting of the Elgaar Parishad

## KOREGAON-BHIMA SIGN OF RESISTANCE: RAHUL

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hit out at the Centre on Saturday, saying that anyone who opposes the ruling BJP’s “agenda of hate” is dubbed as an “urban naxal”. Rahul Gandhi also attacked the NIA. He said on Twitter: “Bhima-Koregaon is a symbol of resistance that the Government’s NIA stooges can never erase.” PTI

in Pune on December 31, 2017. Police claimed the activists and lawyers incited people and this led to caste violence in Koregaon Bhima the next day.

Questioning the Centre’s “haste” to hand over the probe to the NIA, Pawar said, “When the state government wanted to reinvestigate the case, what was the reason to transfer the case in such

a hurry? This shows that there is substance in allegations that certain officials misused their powers to arrest innocent people. This (Central) government fears that it will be exposed and (so) the case has been transferred to hide this fact.” The NCP chief also said it was unfair to label people speaking against injustice as anti-nationals.

Last month, the NCP chief had demanded that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) be set up under a retired judge to probe the action taken by Pune police against activists.

State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said, “The Central government without taking our permission has handed over the case to the NIA. This is unconstitutional. We are seeking legal opinion on how we can challenge this,” he said, while referring to an alleged tiff between the Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal government and the Centre over the handing over of the 2014 Burdwan blast case to the NIA.

# Israel PM Netanyahu greets Modi for Republic Day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday discussed global and regional matters of mutual interest and agreed to remain in touch for forthcoming initiatives and developments, the Prime Minister’s Office said.

The PMO in a statement said that Netanyahu telephoned Modi to greet him for Republic Day and the two leaders “agreed to remain in touch, including in the context of the forthcoming

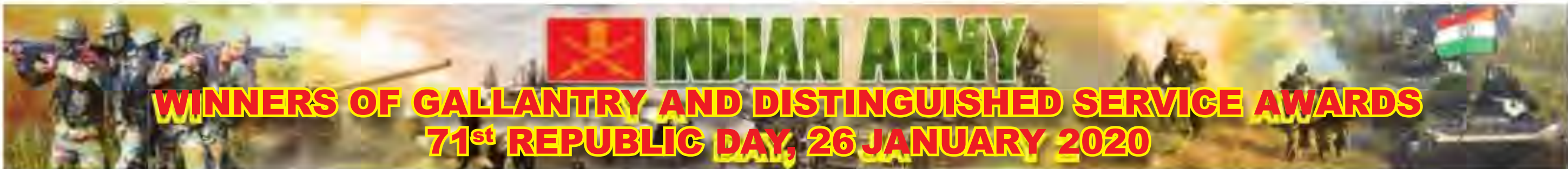
initiatives and developments regarding the region”.

The two leaders underscored the significance of the strategic partnership between the two countries and expressed happiness over the growth of cooperation between India and Israel in all spheres, according to the statement. They also welcomed efforts to facilitate air connectivity between the two countries.

Modi stressed on the significance of initiatives in the areas of agriculture, water and start ups, it said.

Modi and Netanyahu also exchanged greetings and good wishes for the year 2020.

**Advertisement No. 14/2020**  
Government of India  
Public Enterprises Selection Board  
Invites application for the post of  
**MANAGING DIRECTOR**  
IN  
**DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED**  
Last date of receipt of applications in  
PESB is  
**by 15.00 hours on 26th February, 2020.**  
For details login to website  
**http://www.pesb.gov.in**



PARAM VISHIST SEVA MEDAL			26. MAJ ANKIT PATHAK, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES			18. COL SANJU MATHEW, INFANTRY		
1.	LT GEN RANBIR SINGH, AVSM**	YSM, SM, INFANTRY	27.	MAJ BHANU PRATAP SINGH, ELECTRONICS AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	19.	COL VIJAY PAL SINGH JAMWAL, INFANTRY	20. COL KAPIL MOHAN SEHGAL, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	
2.	LT GEN SANJEEV KUMAR SHRIVASTAVA, AVSM, ENGINEERS		28.	MAJ NISHANT MEHTA, ENGINEERS	21.	COL RAJEEV DHINGRA, ENGINEERS	22. COL ARINDAM BARDHAN, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	
3.	LT GEN RAJEEV CHOPRA, AVSM, INFANTRY		29.	CAPT AMARINDER SINGH, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	23.	LT COL BISWAS RAMACHANDRAN NAMBIAR, ARMY AVIATION	24. LT COL VIVEK KUMAR JHA, INFANTRY	
4.	LT GEN PODALI SHANKAR RAJESHWAR, AVSM, VSM, ARTILLERY		30.	CAPT DEEPAK BISHT, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	25.	LT COL IROM CHINGKHEINGANBA, ENGINEERS	26. MAJ AASHISH KUMAR, INFANTRY	
5.	LT GEN SATINDER KUMAR SAINI, AVSM, YSM, VSM, INFANTRY		31.	CAPT ANKUR, ARMoured CORPS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	27.	MAJ GAURAV DAHIYA, INFANTRY	28. MAJ KSHETRIMAYUM BIKRAM SINGH, INFANTRY, ASSAM RIFLES	
6.	LT GEN AMARJEET SINGH BEDI, UYSM, YSM, VSM, INFANTRY		32.	CAPT PIYUSH SHARMA, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	29.	CAPT GOURAV KUMAR PRASAD, INFANTRY, ASSAM RIFLES	30. CAPT NAGA MALLIKARJUNA RAO B, ENGINEERS	
7.	LT GEN ANIL CHAUHAN, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, INFANTRY		33.	CAPT A RANJITH KUMAR, INFANTRY	31.	RIS MAJ & HONY LT KULDIP SINGH, THE PBG	32. NK DINESH KUMAR, SCOUTS	
8.	LT GEN JAIVEER SINGH NEGI, AVSM, YSM, VSM**, INFANTRY		34.	CAPT SIDDHARTHA DAS, INFANTRY	33.	NK INDAR SINGH ADHIKARI, INFANTRY	34. NK NARAYAN SINGH, SCOUTS (POSTHUMOUS)	
9.	LT GEN SANTOSH KUMAR UPADHYA, AVSM, SM, VSM, INFANTRY		35.	CAPT RAMAN TIWADI, INFANTRY	35.	LNK JAYPAL SINGH, INFANTRY	38. GDRS DEEPAK KUMAR, INFANTRY	
10.	LT GEN SANJEEV KANAL, AVSM, ARTILLERY		36.	SUB MUKESH KUMAR SINGH, ARTILLERY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	VISHIST SEVA MEDAL			
11.	LT GEN RAJINI KANT JAGGA, AVSM, VSM, ADC, ARMoured CORPS (RETD)		37.	SUB DILBAG SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	1. MAJ GEN SUNANDA KUMAR PANIGRAHI, ARTILLERY (RETD)			
12.	LT GEN ALOK SINGH KLER, VSM, ARMoured CORPS		38.	HAV BHAL SINGH, INFANTRY	2. MAJ GEN AMITABH JOSHI, INTELLIGENCE CORPS			
13.	LT GEN RAVENDRA PAL SINGH, AVSM, VSM, MECHANISED INFANTRY		39.	HAV PAWAN, INFANTRY	3. MAJ GEN SANJAY SHARMA, ARTILLERY (RETD)			
14.	LT GEN ARVIND DUTTA, AVSM, VSM, INFANTRY		40.	HAV BANTI, INFANTRY	4. MAJ GEN RAKESH KAPOOR, ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS			
15.	LT GEN HARPAL SINGH, AVSM, VSM, ENGINEERS		41.	HAV SHAMSHER SINGH, INFANTRY	5. MAJ GEN PAWAN KUMAR SAINI, MECHANISED INFANTRY			
16.	LT GEN DALIP SINGH, VSM, ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS		42.	HAV JASBIR SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	6. MAJ GEN ULHAS VEERAPPA TALUR, ARMY AIR DEFENCE			
17.	MAJ GEN SANDEEPAN HANDE, ARMY AVIATION (RETD)		43.	HAV RAJIB SWARGIARY, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	7. MAJ GEN SURESH MOHINDERA SINGH, ARMY SERVICES CORPS			
18.	MAJ GEN MUKESH KUMAR, SM, INFANTRY		44.	HAV BALJEET, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)	8. MAJ GEN PREET MOHINDERA SINGH, ARMY SERVICES CORPS			
19.	MAJ GEN ASHWANI KUMAR CHANNAN, SM, ARTILLERY		45.	HAV KIRAN KUMAR BOMMALI, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	9. MAJ GEN PRAVESH PURI, ARMoured CORPS			
UTTAM YUDH SEVA MEDAL			46.	HAV ESHWAR SINGH BANAFAR, ARTILLERY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	10. MAJ GEN RAJENDRA SACHDEV, INFANTRY			
1.	LT GEN PARAMJIT SINGH SANGHA, AVSM, SM, INFANTRY		47.	HAV HARIBIR SINGH, INFANTRY	11. MAJ GEN SANJAY SETHI, ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS			
2.	LT GEN YOGESH KUMAR JOSHI, AVSM, V/c, SM, INFANTRY		48.	HAV RAJESH SINGH, INFANTRY	12. MAJ GEN NANDA KISHORE SAHOO, ARMY DENTAL CORPS			
3.	LT GEN RAJEEV SIROHI, AVSM, VSM, INFANTRY		49.	HAV PARDEEP KUMAR, INFANTRY	13. BRIG RAMESH BALAN, SIGNALS			
4.	LT GEN KANWAL JEET SINGH DHILLON, YSM, VSM, INFANTRY		50.	HAV PRITAM SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	14. BRIG RAJINDER PAL SINGH, ARTILLERY			
ATTI VISHIST SEVA MEDAL			51.	HAV SUNIL SINGH, INFANTRY	15. BRIG SALIL SHARMA, ARMoured CORPS (RETD)			
1.	LT GEN SUNIL SRIVASTAVA, VSM**, ARTILLERY		52.	HAV RAVINDRA SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	16. BRIG RAJAGOPALA CHELLAMANI SRIKANTH, ARMY AIR DEFENCE			
2.	LT GEN ANIL KAPOOR, VSM, ELECTRONICS AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS		53.	HAV LALLANZOVA, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	17. BRIG PRAVIN SHINDE, INFANTRY (RETD)			
3.	LT GEN PANDALA NAGESH RAO, YSM, SM, INFANTRY		54.	L'DFR FAROOQ AHMED KHAN, ARMoured CORPS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	18. BRIG SHAILENDRA MALIK, ELECTRONICS AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS			
4.	LT GEN RAKESH KUMAR ANAND, SM, VSM, SIGNALS		55.	NK SANDEEP, INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS)	19. BRIG MUKESH AGGARWAL, ARTILLERY			
5.	LT GEN SUKHDEEP SANGWAN, SM**, INFANTRY		56.	NK BISHAN SINGH LIMBU, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	20. BRIG AJEY SETHI, ARTILLERY			
6.	MAJ GEN VIRINDER SINGH RANDHAWA, VSM, ELECTRONICS AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (RETD)		57.	NK DASARI RAMESH, ARTILLERY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	21. BRIG RAJESH SACHDEV, INFANTRY			
7.	MAJ GEN RAJESH CHOPRA, MECHANISED INFANTRY, (RETD)		58.	NK BUTA SINGH, ARTILLERY (POSTHUMOUS)	22. BRIG MANISH KUMAR, ARMY AIR DEFENCE			
8.	MAJ GEN AMIT KUMAR SANYAL, VSM, ARMoured CORPS (RETD)		59.	NK SAMAY LAL SINGH, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	23. BRIG RAJEEV OHRI, SIGNALS			
9.	MAJ GEN BASAVARAJ GURUSIDDAPPA GILGANCHI, SIGNALS (RETD)		60.	NK DILEEP POL, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	24. BRIG AJAY DUA, ARMoured CORPS			
10.	MAJ GEN SANDEEP SHARMA, VSM, INFANTRY		61.	NK KOTA RAGHUNATH REDDY, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	25. BRIG LAKHBINDER SINGH LIDDER, SM, INFANTRY			
11.	MAJ GEN PAWAN ANAND, ENGINEERS		62.	NK RAJENDRA SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	26. BRIG AMIT SINGH SOHAL, ENGINEERS			
12.	MAJ GEN SANJAY SINGH, SM**, VSM, INFANTRY		63.	NK RAVINDER SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	27. BRIG RAMANKUTUJ PREM RAJ, MECHANISED INFANTRY			
13.	MAJ GEN KC PANCHANATHAN, ENGINEERS		64.	NK SONVEER SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	28. BRIG SANDEEP S SHARDA, INFANTRY			
14.	MAJ GEN NS RAJA SUBRAMANIAM, SM, VSM, INFANTRY		65.	NK OUM SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	29. BRIG GIRISH KALIA, INFANTRY			
15.	MAJ GEN DEVENDRA PRATAP PANDEY, SM, INFANTRY		66.	NK SURESH CHAND CHOUDHARY, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	30. BRIG RAJESH SETHI, SM, INFANTRY			
16.	MAJ GEN RAVIN KHOSLA, SM, VSM, INFANTRY		67.	NK KULDEEP SINGH, INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS)	31. BRIG ZUBIN BHATNAGAR, INFANTRY			
17.	MAJ GEN VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA, INFANTRY		68.	NK SURENDER SINGH RAUTELA, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	32. BRIG RAJAT PRAKASH, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS			
18.	MAJ GEN JASBIR SINGH SANDHU, INFANTRY		69.	NK SURENDRA YADAV, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	33. BRIG SUSHIL KUMAR JHA, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS			
19.	MAJ GEN JYOTINDER SINGH SANDHU, ARMoured CORPS		70.	ALD VINOD KUMAR THAKUR, ARMoured CORPS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	34. BRIG APALLA VENKATA RAMESH, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS			
20.	MAJ GEN JOHNSON P MATHEW, VSM, INFANTRY		71.	LNK PAWAN KUMAR, GUARDS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	35. BRIG ATUL KUMAR SOOD, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS			
21.	MAJ GEN P GOPALAKRISHNA MENON, INFANTRY		72.	LNK ANIL KUMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	36. COL GAURAV KAUSHAL, ENGINEERS			
22.	MAJ GEN PRADEEP CHANDRAN NAIR, YSM, INFANTRY		73.	LNK YOGENDRA SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	37. COL SUDEEP SINGH, ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS			
23.	MAJ GEN SANJIV RAI, SM, VSM, INFANTRY		74.	LNK SUBZAR AHMAD WANI, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	38. COL RAKESH CHAND KATOCH, INFANTRY			
24.	MAJ GEN RAJINDER DEWAN, VSM, INFANTRY		75.	SEP GURMEET, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	39. COL SAYED TAQUI ABBAS RIZVI, ARMY SERVICES CORPS			
25.	MAJ GEN ATUL RAWAT, MECHANISED INFANTRY		76.	SEP GURDEEV SINGH, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	40. COL ANUJ KALIA, ARMoured CORPS			
26.	MAJ GEN GURBIRPAL SINGH, VSM, INFANTRY		77.	SEP PUSHKAR, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	41. COL ASAD SHEIKH, ARMY SERVICES CORPS			
27.	MAJ GEN RAJESH KUNDRA, SM, GUARDS		78.	SEP VINOD KUMAR, ARTILLERY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	42. COL MUNESH CHANDRA TAMANG, INFANTRY			
28.	MAJ GEN SHAMMI RAJ, SM, ARTILLERY (RETD)		79.	SEP GURPREET SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	43. COL ARVIND KUMAR DIMRI, INFANTRY			
29.	MAJ GEN KALIKA PRASAD SINGH, YSM, INFANTRY		80.	SEP AMANDEEP SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	44. COL AMANDEEP MALHI, INFANTRY			
30.	MAJ GEN SANJAY DARSHAN BEHERA, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS		81.	SEP TARSEEM SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	45. COL SUBRAHMANYAN RAMAKRISHNA, INFANTRY			
31.	MAJ GEN VIVEK SHARMA, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS (RETD)		82.	SEP ARUNESH SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	46. COL DHANURJIWAN JYOTI RANADE, SIGNALS			
32.	BRIG PREET PAL SINGH, VSM, INFANTRY		83.	SEP SANDEEP, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)	47. COL AKHIL KUMAR SINGH, ELECTRONICS AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS			
SHAURYA CHAKRA			84.	SEP PRITHVIRAJ, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	48. COL ARUN KUMAR RAI, SM, ARMoured CORPS			
1.	LT COL JYOTI LAMA, INFANTRY, ASSAM RIFLES		85.	SEP JAYPAL SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	49. COL AKSHAY CHANDRAN, INFANTRY			
2.	MAJ KONJESHBAM BIJENDRA SINGH, ARMY AIR DEFENCE, ASSAM RIFLES		86.	SEP UDAY BHAN, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	50. COL DHEERAJ KUMAR SINGH, INFANTRY			
3.	NB SUB NARENDER SINGH, INFANTRY		87.	SEP AMIR KHAN, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	51. COL RANJIT SINGH SANDHU, ARTILLERY			
4.	NB SUB SOMBIIR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)		88.	SEP SAIYAD SAJEED IBRAHIM, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	52. COL PUNAR PREET SINGH MANN, GUARDS			
5.	NK NARESH KUMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		89.	SEP ANUP SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	53. COL ANTERPREET SINGH, ENGINEERS			
6.	SEP KARIMDEO ORAOIN, INFANTRY		90.	SEP YOGENDRA SINGH JODHA, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	54. COL AJAY KUMAR, INFANTRY			
YUDH SEVA MEDAL			91.	SEP RAMVEER, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	55. COL JAI VIJAY SINGH RAWAT, INFANTRY			
1.	BRIG VIJAY KUMAR PUROHIT, SM, INFANTRY		92.	SEP MEDYO NAKI, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	56. COL NISHIT MURAT SINGH THAKUR, INFANTRY, ASSAM RIFLES			
2.	BRIG VIKAS CHOUDHARY, INFANTRY		93.	SEP UYOKTA KUMAR MARING, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	57. COL SUMIT SHARMA, ENGINEERS			
3.	BRIG SACHIN MALIK, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		94.	SEP NEHMINLEN HAKOIP, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	58. COL DEBASIS NATH, INFANTRY			
4.	BRIG PAWAN BHARDWAJ, INFANTRY		95.	SEP GRATEFUL, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	59. COL BHUPINDER SINGH, INFANTRY			
5.	BRIG BALBIR SINGH, VSM, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		96.	SEP RATHOD RANJITSINH AMARSINH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	60. LT COL PALLAV BORA, ARMY AIR DEFENCE			
6.	BRIG SURESH KUMAR SHEORAN, SM, INFANTRY, ASSAM RIFLES		97.	RPN ANIL KUMAR JASWAL, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)	61. LT COL ROHIT RASAILY, ARTILLERY			
7.	COL NARESH CHANDRA GAIROLA, SM, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		98.	RPN AYUB MOHD, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	62. LT COL HARSHVARDHAN SATRE, ARTILLERY			
8.	COL SHAITAN SINGH, INFANTRY		99.	PTR HARI VIYAPAK, INFANTRY	63. LT COL VARUN BAJPAI, INFANTRY			
BAR TO SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)			100.	PTT Y ELONTUNG LOTH, INFANTRY	64. LT COL BINIT KUMAR, INFANTRY			
1.	LT COL SANJEEV KUMAR SINGH, SM, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		101.	SWR KULDIP SINGH BHADAJURIA, ARMoured CORPS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	65. MAJ HARENDER SINGH RAUTELA, ENGINEERS			
2.	MAJ HARPRIT SINGH, SM, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		102.	SWR RAMAN KUMAR, ARMoured CORPS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	66. MAJ TASHI THAPLYAL, SIGNALS			
3.	MAJ VIPUL NARAYAN, SM, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		103.	SPR VIPIN KUMAR UPADHYAY, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	67. MAJ ANOOP MISHRA, ENGINEERS			
4.	MAJ VARUN GAUR, SM, ARMoured CORPS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		104.	SPR NAGENDRA UDAYGOL, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	68. MAJ ABDUL HAMEED, INFANTRY			
SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)			105.	SPR ELUMALAI R, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	69. MAJ PRAVEEN KUMAR, INFANTRY			
1.	LT COL SUNDEEP SINGH WALIA, ARMY AVIATION		106.	SPR ARJUN M, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES	70. SUB MAJ RANJEET SINGH SHEKHAWAT, INFANTRY			
2.	LT COL RAHUL GUPTA, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		107.	GDRS HARI BHAKAR, INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS)	71. SUB JITU RAI, SM, INFANTRY			
3.	LT COL RAJ KUMAR PALLAB GOHAIN, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		BAR TO SENA MEDAL (DISTINGUISHED)					
4.	MAJ SHISHIR KUMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		1.	BRIG AMIT KATHYAL, SM, INFANTRY	72. SUB NEERAJ CHOPRA, INFANTRY			
5.	MAJ CHANDAN KUMAR THAKUR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		2.	COL CS PARMAR, SM, INFANTRY	73. NB SUB OM PRAKASH MITTHARVAL, INFANTRY			
6.	MAJ BALRAJ SINGH RANDHAWA, INFANTRY		3.	COL SANJAY SINGH KARKI, SM, INFANTRY	74. NB SUB JINSON JOHNSON, ARTILLERY			
7.	MAJ GOOTY BALAJI NIRANJAN, ARMY AVIATION		4.	SM BALWANT SINGH, SM, SCOUTS	75. NB SUB GAURAV SOLANKI, ENGINEERS			
8.	MAJ RAHUL KUMAR RAJ, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		SENA MEDAL (DISTINGUISHED)					
9.	MAJ VINEET KUMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		1.	MAJ GEN MANOJ SINGH, VSM, ARTILLERY	76. NB SUB AMIT, INFANTRY			
10.	MAJ PRANAV PRABHAT, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		2.	MAJ GEN RAJ VIJAYENDRA SINGH, VSM, ARMY SERVICES CORPS	MENTION-IN-DESPATCHES			
11.	MAJ SACHIN ANDOTRA, ARMY SERVICES CORPS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		3.	MAJ GEN REENA BHARADWAJ, VSM, ARMY MEDICAL CORPS	OPERATION RHINO			
12.	MAJ KULBHUSHAN SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		4.	BRIG VINAYAK SAINI, ENGINEERS	1. LT COL RAHUL NARANG, ARMY AVIATION			
13.	MAJ VIKAS, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		5.	BRIG HARDEV SINGH SOHI, INFANTRY	OPERATION RAKSHAK			
14.	MAJ KRUNAL THAKRE, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		6.	BRIG NEERAJ GOSAIN, ENGINEERS	2. MAJ ASHUTOSH PANT, INFANTRY			
15.	MAJ C PRAVEEN KUMAR, ENGINEERS, ASSAM RIFLES		7.	BRIG RAJESH KUMAR SHARMA, SIGNALS	3. MAJ BIKRANT AZAD, INFANTRY			
16.	MAJ MOHIT KHARE, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		8.	BRIG MAN RAJ SINGH MANN, INFANTRY	4. MAJ GIDDALURU GANGA PRASAD, ARTILLERY			
17.	MAJ RAHUL BALAMOCHAN, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		9.	BRIG MOHIT SETH, VSM, INFANTRY	5. CAPT KIRTIMAN KUMAR SINGH, ARTILLERY			
18.	MAJ NILAAV SURENDRA, INFANTRY		10.	BRIG TRAILOKYA MOHAN PATTANAIK, INFANTRY	6. MAJ NAVEEN BHANDARI, INFANTRY			
19.	MAJ HARSH KAKRAN, MECHANISED INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		11.	BRIG SAUMYA BANERJEE, SM, INFANTRY	7. CAPT VISHESH BATRA, ARTILLERY			
20.	MAJ SANDEEP, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		12.	COL RAHUL THAPLYAL, ARTILLERY	8. SUB PATIL MACHINDRANATH GOVINDA, INFANTRY			
21.	MAJ SOURABH SUSHANT, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		13.	COL ALOK DASH, INFANTRY	9. SUB BHOGAN SAMBHAJI GOVIND, INFANTRY			
22.	MAJ A SRINIVAS REDDY, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		14.	COL NAGARAJ MOHAN BENDIGERI, INFANTRY	10. NB SUB LALIT MOHAN CHAND, ARTILLERY			
23.	MAJ ANKIT DAHIYA, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		15.	COL PANKAJ SETHI, ENGINEERS	11. HAV APPASAMY RAJKUMAR, ENGINEERS, NSG			
24.	MAJ MOHIT MALIK, ENGINEERS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		16.	COL PUSHPAM KUMAR, INFANTRY	12. NK RAMU MASHYAL, INFANTRY			
25.	MAJ AJAY KUMAR, GUARDS, RASHTRIYA RIFLES		17.	COL ANKUSH MARKAN, INFANTRY, ASSAM RIFLES	13. LNK AJAY KUMAR, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES			
					14. LNK MD JAVED, INFANTRY (POSTHUMOUS)			
					15. SEP DHARMENDRA SINGH, INFANTRY, RASHTRIYA RIFLES			



# 8 Govt & Politics

PACT WITH BODO MILITANT GROUP

## Govt set to sign peace accord with NDFB

ABHISHEK SAHA  
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 25

The Centre on Monday will sign an important accord with all factions of Bodo militant group National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and the All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU), which is expected to result in a slew of political and economic benefits for the Bodo community, although territorial change in terms of a new state or union territory is said to be off the table.

A senior Assam government official confirmed the development to *The Indian Express*.

News agency PTI reported from New Delhi that the agreement will be signed in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal by top leadership of the four factions of NDFB, Joint Secretary in Home Ministry Satyendra Garg and Assam Chief Secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna.

ABSU president Promod Boro said he, too, will be in New Delhi for the signing event, and that the accord will ensure "economic and political" benefits for the community.

Addressing the media in Guwahati on Saturday, state Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "The Government of India has clearly informed the gov-

ernment of Assam that there will be no new divisions in Assam and there will not be any formation of any new union territory. Assam's territorial integrity will be preserved. There will be no provision for the inclusion of any new village or area. The accord will bring permanent peace to Bodoland."

On Saturday, influential Bodo militant leader NDFB(RD) chairman Ranjan Daimary, who and nine others were sentenced to life last year by a special CBI court in Guwahati for the 2008 serial blasts, left for Delhi after he was granted bail a day earlier.

Daimary's bail comes a week after leaders of NDFB-S, led by B Saoraigwra, which was hitherto not in peace talks with the government, signed an agreement to shun violence and participate in talks to resolve the longstanding Bodo issue. Earlier this month, nearly 30 members of the faction, including top leaders and their family members, were allowed to enter India from Myanmar, and their delegation headed to Delhi for finalising the agreement.

Parallel to political movements for a Bodo state, one of the prominent armed groups was Bodo Security Force (BdSF), formed under Ranjan Daimary's leadership of October 1986. The BdSF renamed itself the National Democratic Front of Bodoland, an outfit alleged to be involved in attacks, killings and extortion.

FROM WALL ART TO BAGS

## Pithora paintings get a new canvas

TRACKING  
**CHANGE** >>  
EVERY SUNDAY

For all Change stories, log on to [www.indianexpress.com/change](http://www.indianexpress.com/change)  
Witness Change? Write to us at [change@expressindia.com](mailto:change@expressindia.com)

AISHWARYA MOHANTY  
CHHOTA UDEPUR, JANUARY

LAST DECEMBER, Paresh Rathwa, 51, an artist of Pithora paintings from Chhota Udepur, Gujarat, conducted his first-ever workshop on the art form for students from over 45 schools in Delhi.

Rathwa now wants to take his workshops to schools across Gujarat and other states, a dream that has taken wings thanks to an initiative by a few officers in the



Paresh Rathwa with his artwork, Bhupendra Rana

district administration who have decided to revive, promote and popularise the "dying" tribal art.

The paintings, traditionally

done on walls, are characterised by seven horses representing the seven hills that surround the area bordering Gujarat and Madhya

Pradesh, which is home to the Rathwa community that makes these paintings. The paintings are rich with imagery from their everyday life - elephants, men, women, arms and musical instruments, besides weddings, festivals and celebrations.

In 2019, officers of the district administration, led by Assistant Collector on probation Shivani Goyal, started an online campaign to promote the art. As part of their campaign, a Facebook page dedicated to Pithora artists was launched and an official email ID created to welcome inquiries, with a website now under construction. It was through one of these that Rathwa got a chance to visit Delhi and conduct a workshop with the students.

Goyal, who started the initiative, says, "Whenever we talk about tribal art, we talk of

Madhubani and Warli, which are well known, but these art forms too should be popularised. The first step is to make people aware of its existence, which we started doing through social media. Secondly, we are trying to motivate the artists to shift their canvases from walls to items that can be sold."

Goyal, along with other administrative officers from various departments including skill development, labour and IT have pitched in to create the website, provide raw materials like bags on which the artists can paint, make short documentaries with the artists, etc.

So far, they have approached around 10 artists from the district to push the art form further. Through them, they plan to network with other artists and motivate children and youngsters to learn the art form.

## RS panel submits report on child porn

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

THE ADHOC Committee of Rajya Sabha constituted by Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu has made 40 recommendations to prevent sexual abuse of children and contain access to and transmission of child pornography on social media. The report was presented to the Chairman on Saturday.

Among the recommendations are adoption of a broader definition of child pornography, controlling children's access to such content, containing generation and dissemination of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) and mak-

ing Internet Service Providers and online platforms accountable. It has also recommended amendments to Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and Information Technology Act, 2000. The report calls for monitoring, detection and removal of content, preventing under-age use of such content, enabling parents for early detection of access of such content by children, enabling effective action by governments and authorised agencies to take necessary preventive and penal measures, etc.

Noting that the purveyors of child pornography always seem to be one step ahead of regulators, the Committee stressed on

the need for implementation of its recommendations as an integrated package of measures and not piecemeal to have any value and impact. The Committee urged the Prime Minister to take up the subject of child pornography and the measures required to combat it in one of his forthcoming 'Man Ki Baat' broadcast besides taking the lead in building up a global political alliance to combat child pornography on social media such as the International Solar Alliance initiative.

The 14-member committee, including 7 women members of Rajya Sabha, was set up by Naidu on December 12 last year.

## No positive cases yet, health minister reviews coronavirus readiness

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI,  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
JANUARY 25

WITH SEVEN more people being kept under observation at health facilities in Kerala after screening for a possible novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan held a review meeting on Saturday on the preparedness and steps being taken for prevention and management.

No positive case has been detected in the country so far and samples of these seven passengers from China have been sent to the ICMR-NIV Pune lab. Samples of four other passengers tested earlier have been confirmed to be negative for nCoV by the lab.

Dr Harsh Vardhan also spoke to the Uttarakhand CM and assured him of all support for screening at the border with Nepal, where a confirmed nCoV case has been reported. Vardhan will also request all CMs to review state preparedness for control and management of nCoV.

"The situation is being closely monitored at the highest level for adequate preparedness. All the officials of my ministry, concerned departments and States/UTs

have been put on high alert for novel coronavirus. We are taking all required possible precautions to

manage all possible scenarios," Vardhan said.

Dr P K Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, chaired a high-level meeting, and officials informed him of recent developments, preparedness and response measures. The Principal Secretary also reviewed preventive measures taken by other ministries, including civil aviation.

The Health Minister has directed for multidisciplinary central teams to be formed and sent to states where thermal screening is being done at the seven designated airports of New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Kochi.

Each central team shall consist of a public health expert, clinician and microbiologist and these teams shall reach the respective states today. They shall review end-to-end preparedness for management and control of nCoV, including at the airports, for thermal screening and transferring of patients to hospitals for isolation. They will also visit tertiary hospitals attached to the airports for reviewing the isolation wards and availability of personal protective equipment.

The teams will also check whether infection control, surveillance and other guidelines are being followed. The teams shall coordinate with the state health secretaries to explore all avenues for further strengthening preparedness.

A 24x7 call centre (+91-11-23978046) has been made operational.

## TRS wins urban local body polls in Telangana

**Hyderabad:** The Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) on Saturday swept the urban local body elections in Telangana by winning 108 of the 120 municipalities, and 7 of the 9 municipal corporations. The counting was still on in two municipal corporations at the time of filing this report.

The Congress won 5 municipalities, BJP 3 and others 4. The AIMIM retained the Dabeerpura division of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.

The elections were held on January 22 to elect 325 corporators in nine municipal corporations and 2,727 councillors in 120 municipalities. Of the 2,727 wards in 120 municipalities, TRS won 80 wards unanimously.

On the victory, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao said, "This is the result of the work that the TRS government has done for the welfare of the people. We have won every election since 2014 — be it Assembly, Lok Sabha, panchayat or urban local bodies. It shows the kind of work that this government is doing."

## Attack on Constitution, vicious conspiracy, says Sonia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

ON THE eve of Republic Day, Congress president Sonia Gandhi Saturday accused the government of having hatched a "deep rooted conspiracy" to set a divisive discourse based on religion, regionalism and language to divert attention of the people from "economic mess", "administrative bankruptcy" and "all round recession".

Gandhi, in her Republic Day message, said the Constitution and its values today are being attacked by way of a concerted and vicious conspiracy and argued that an unprecedented atmosphere of disturbance, fear and insecurity has been foisted upon the country.

Her attack came at a time when protests against the new citizenship law and NRC are continuing across the country. Gandhi, however, did not mention either of the issues. Arguing that "every letter of the Constitution" is an "eternal path of governance for the democratically elected rulers", Gandhi said, "Today, the Constitution and its values are being attacked by way of a concerted and vicious conspiracy."

"Constitutional principles are being systematically encroached upon as also the independence of Constitutional institutions is being scuttled at the whims of autocratic authoritarianism. It is, therefore, the duty of every citizen to stand united in defence of the Constitution."

Gandhi hit out at the government accusing it of mismanaging the economy. While agriculture and the farmer are standing on the verge of devastation, the youth is ravaged by unfathomable unemployment and recession, she said.

## AICC nod to Uttarakhand Congress new team

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
DEHRADUN, JANUARY 25

TO STRENGTHEN the party organisation in Uttarakhand for the 2022 Assembly elections, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) on Saturday approved a team of 242 office-bearers and members for the state.

The decision came a month after Congress Uttarakhand chief Pritam Singh dissolved the state executive. The Uttarakhand Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) now has 242 members, including 22 vice-presidents, 31 general secretaries, 98 secretaries, 90 special invitee members and one treasurer.

According to party leaders, the team's size will increase soon with the appointment of members of the media cell, including spokespersons.

Pritam Singh, who was appointed as the Congress state president in May 2017, had last month dissolved the party's state executive, weeks after the Congress's defeat in Pithoragarh Assembly bypoll and poor performance in panchayat polls. After his appointment, Singh chose to continue with the 300-strong team of his predecessor Kishore Upadhyaya.

While Congress spokesperson Garima Dasauni said the new committee is balanced with

representation of members from all the sections and age groups, the party's Dharcula MLA Harish Dhami took to Twitter to express dissatisfaction and announce his resignation from the post of state secretary.

Dhami could not be reached for comment.

**HIMACHAL PRADESH  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
e-Procurement Notice  
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Chief Engineer HPPWD, Shimla Zone at Shimla, HP on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites sealed bids for **‘Performance Based Routine maintenance of rural roads in District Shimla/Sirmour/Solan (Himachal Pradesh)’** from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with HPPWD. Non-registered Bidders may submit bid, however, the successful Bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract. Bidding is open to all Bidders as defined in the bidding document.

**Project Scope & Duration:** To undertake Maintenance services, Initial Rectification/ Rehabilitation Works, Periodic Maintenance Work and Minor, improvement works and Emergency works on selected road approximately 84.825 Kilometres in Shimla, Sirmour & Solan Districts. The contract duration is for a period of 5 years. The maintenance work will also include improvement of riding quality of carriageway cross drainage/ retaining wall/breast wall works, minor work on culverts/bridges and roadside maintenance within the select road limits. The Ordinary Maintenance works will be carried out under performance based road maintenance on a lump sum basis paid monthly throughout the five years. Initial Rectification/Rehabilitation (to be carried out in the first 6 months) and Periodic Maintenance (to be carried out in selected sections of the road in each of the first 4 years) will be paid on measured quantity to the value of the Lump Sum and Minor Improvement Works (to be carried out during the course of the first year of the contract) will be paid on the basis of actual quantities of work completed. There is a requirement for specialized maintenance road construction equipment.

The detail of work is given as under:

Sr. No.	District/ Division	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Lakh)	Period of Completion of work	Bid Security (Rs. Lakh)	Cost of Form (Non-Refundable) (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Nahan	OPBMC Chailla Neripul Yashwant Nagar Kumarhatti road km. 0/0 to 84/825 (SH- Output and performance based maintanance contract KM 0/0 to 84/825.	4540.57 lacs	60 Months	90.81 lacs	10000
<b>Total:</b>						
2.	Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: <b>27th Jan, 2020 at 10.30 A.M.</b>					
3.	Cost of Bid Form: Cost of Bid form in shape of Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineers Rajgrah Division HPPWD Rajgrah					
4.	<b>Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:</b> The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website <a href="http://www.hptenders.gov.in">www.hptenders.gov.in</a> . The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in State work may obtain the same from the website: <a href="http://www.hptenders.gov.in">www.hptenders.gov.in</a> Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender. <b>* Non-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.</b>					
5.	<b>Submission of Original Documents:</b> The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Contact <b>on or before 26th Feb, 2020 at 11.00 A.M.</b> with Superintending Engineer, 12th Circle HPPWD, Nahan, on a date of opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand.					
6.	<b>Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering:-</b> Last date /time for receipt of bids through e-tendering:- <b>25th Feb, 2020 at 5.00 P.M.</b>					
7.	Bidders are invited to attend Pre Bid Meeting on dated <b>5th Feb 2020 at 11.00 hours</b> , in the office of Superintending Engineer 12th Circle HPPWD Nahan to clarify issues and to answer the questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 7.4 of 'Instructions to Bidders' of the bidding document. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.					
8.	The site for the work is available.					
9.	Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website <a href="http://www.hptenders.gov.in">www.hptenders.gov.in</a> . The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at <b>11.30 A.M. on 26th Feb., 2020</b> in the office of Superintending Engineer, 12th Circle HPPWD Nahan by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.					
10.	All the required materials like Cement/Steel/Bitumen/Explosive etc shall be arranged by contractor at his own level.					
11.	The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than one hundred twenty days after the deadline date for bid submission.					
12.	Joint ventures will be permitted.					
13.	To qualify for a tender/ work of contract made up of this for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.					
14.	Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.					

(Mahesh Singhal)  
Superintending Engineer,  
12th Circle HPPWD Nahan  
Tel 01702-222826, Fax 01702-222581, E-mail [hp-nah@nic.in](mailto:hp-nah@nic.in)  
For Chief Engineer HPPWD Shimla  
Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar Shimla -171002

4293/HP

**JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE  
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED**

3<sup>rd</sup> FLOOR, RRDA BUILDING, PRAGATI SADAN, KUTCHERY  
RANCHI 834 001, JHARKHAND Ph: +91 651 2243203

e-mail: [juidcolimited@gmail.com](mailto:juidcolimited@gmail.com)  
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

**CORRIGENDUM - 1**

NIT No: - JUIDCO/NIT/MDF/ KTT/ 2019 / 335  
Tender ID: - 2020\_UDD\_43809\_1  
Ref PR No.:- 223249

All the bidders are hereby informed that **Corrigendum 1** for the tender **"ESTABLISHMENT OF MUSICAL DANCING FOUNTAIN AT KARAMTOLI TALAB, RANCHI"** has been published on the e-procurement website of Government of Jharkhand.  
It is requested to please refer the same before submission of bids.

e-procurement website:- <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Sd/-  
Project Director (Tech.)  
JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi

PR 224405 Urban Development(19-20)D

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU  
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES**

Director of Fisheries,  
Integrated Office Buildings, 571, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035  
Ph: 044-24321927 / 24336311, Fax: +91-44-24335585

**TENDER NOTICE** Dated:24.01.2020

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES invites Tenders from eligible firms for  
i) Fabrication and installation of Modern Hygienic Retail Fish Stalls in Twenty seven places,  
ii) Marine floating cages for fish rearing,  
iii) FRP tanks of 1 ton capacity

Date and time of submission of bids - upto 24.02.2020 @ 3.00 PM  
Bid opening Date and time - 25.02.2020 @ 3.30 PM

The Bid document can be downloaded from [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) [www.fisheries.tn.gov.in](http://www.fisheries.tn.gov.in) and filed in Bids should be submitted to the address mentioned above.

G.S. Sameeran  
Director of Fisheries

**Uttar Pradesh Police Technical Services Head Quarter,**  
8th Floor, 4th Tower, Police Headquarter, Amar Shaheed Path, Gomti Nagar Vistar,  
Lucknow-226002

Lett. No.: TS/06/2019 Dated : January, 20, 2020

**Re-E-Tender Notice**

Online E-tender of the following instrument for Forensic Science Laboratory, UP is invited by Additional Director General of Police, UP Police Technical Services HQ, Lucknow:

S. N.	Name of the District	Tender No.	Name of the Instrument	Qty	EMD (In Rs.)	Tender Cost. (In Rs.)	Period of Work
1	Lucknow	TS-06 /2019	Genetic Analyzer (8-Capillary)	01	2,30,500.00	29,500.00	According to Conditions

Bid documents are available on the website <http://etender.up.nic.in>, <http://eprocare.gov.in> and <http://uppolice.gov.in> in from 27.01.2020 to 10.02.2020. E-Bids can be upload upto 10.02.2020 at 12.00 noon. Technical bids will be opened on 10.02.2020 at 12.00 Hrs.  
All informations regarding E-Tender are available on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>, <http://eprocare.gov.in> and <http://uppolice.gov.in>.

Sd/-  
(VIJAY BHUSHAN)  
Inspector General of Police,  
Technical Services HQ, UP,  
Lucknow (Phone: 9454400243)

UPID-148027 DATE 24.01.2020  
WWW.UPGOV.NIC.IN

**कार्यालय - प्राचार्य, शासकीय नवीन विधि महाविद्यालय, इन्दौर**  
( नैक द्वारा B+ ग्रेड प्राप्त )  
जी.ए.सी.सी. केम्पस, ए.बी. रोड, इन्दौर फोन नं. 0731-2400083  
E.Mail: [principalnclcindore@yahoo.com](mailto:principalnclcindore@yahoo.com), [hegclind@mp.gov.in](mailto:hegclind@mp.gov.in)

**क्रमांक /S1/ विधि, /2020 इन्दौर, दिनांक 20/1/2020**

**जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से उपकरण एवं फनीचर क्रय संबंधी विज्ञप्ति**

महाविद्यालय में रुसा परियोजना के माध्यम से कंपोनेंट 9 के अंतर्गत प्राप्त राशि में से उपकरण एवं फनीचर क्रय किये जाने हैं। क्रय संबंधी कार्यवाही जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से को जाना हैं जिसके बौद्ध क्रमांक निम्नानुसार हैं। इच्छुक व्यक्त एवं फर्म जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से अपनी निविदा बौद्ध समाप्ति दिनांक तक प्रस्तुत करें। क्रय संबंधी कार्यवाही शासकीय नियमानुसार संपन्न की जावेगी।

S.No.	Bid Number	Last Date
01	GEM/2020/B/499136	01/02/2020
02	GEM/2020/B/507829	07/02/2020
03	GEM/2020/B/507823	27/01/2020
04	GEM/2020/B/507883	27/01/2020
05	GEM/2020/B/507252	27/01/2020
06	GEM/2020/B/507886	27/01/2020

Sd/-  
नोडल अधिकारी,  
रुसा, शासकीय नवीन विधि महाविद्यालय, इन्दौर

Sd/-  
प्राचार्य  
शासकीय नवीन विधि महाविद्यालय, इन्दौर

नि:शास्त्र अधिकारी की शक्ति किरी भी परिस्थिति में  
बराबर शक्ति से सर्वश्रेष्ठ होगी - महाराज गान्धी

G-22050/2019

**Central Warehousing Corporation**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
**WAREHOUSING SPACE AVAILABLE**

Open/Covered Space available at following locations in Delhi/NCR for Warehousing/ Office/ Tower/ATM/Hoardings/Other Commercial purposes.

Location	Vacant space (in Sq.ft)	Rate/sq.ft/per month on gross area basis (in Rs.)		
	Covered Area	Office space	Covered Rate	Office Space
R.P.Bagh	16506		43.95	
Sahibabad-II	37735		32.99	
Surajpur	23672	2647	26.20	52.40
Noida-68	30451	3013	39.96	79.92
Gr.Noida	209980	13335	23.14	46.28
Narela	57996	476	39.96	79.92

**Allotment is on first come first serve basis**  
Please contact: R. K. Bansal - 09771493015, Nidhi Garg -07045443474, Fitesh- 09891288009 Regional Office, Scope Minar, Core-3 1st Floor, Laxmi Nagar Distt.Center, Delhi-110092 Phone-011-22444370-74 [rmkli@cewacorc.nic.in](mailto:rmkli@cewacorc.nic.in)

epaper.indianexpress.com



# EXPRESS NETWORK

## PROTEST WATCH

TAMIL NADU



A protest in Kanyakumari on Saturday. Similar gatherings were seen in Chennai, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Villupuram and Cuddalore districts. *PTI*

WEST BENGAL

## 11-km human chain to be formed on Republic Day

**Kolkata:** Several organisations, including political parties, will step up their protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC) during the Republic Day celebrations on Sunday. United Interfaith Foundation India (UIFI), an inter-faith group comprising leaders of different religious communities in the state, will join hands with the residents of Kolkata, to form a human chain from Golpark to Shyambazar.

According to the organisers, the 11-km chain will be formed to “uphold and safeguard” the Constitution of India, which will complete 70 years. Meanwhile, the TMC continued its protest against CAA and NRC at four venues in Kolkata. Some anti-CAA demonstrators who are on a sit-in before the Kolkata Municipal Corporation building had a scuffle with police when the police asked them to leave the spot.

ENS

PUNJAB



A protest in Amritsar on Saturday. *Rana Simranjit Singh*

## Lukewarm response to Punjab bandh call

**Chandigarh:** The one-day ‘Punjab bandh’ call given by Sikh outfit Dal Khalsa and SAD (Amritsar) against the CAA and the NRC evoked lukewarm response in most parts of the state barring Amritsar. Markets and commercial establishments remained opened in most parts of the state as protesters at a few places faced opposition from shopkeepers for trying to forcibly down the shutters of their shops. Protesters carrying black flags and placards against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens

(NRC) took out protest marches and raised slogans against the BJP-led government at the Centre. The impact of the shutdown call was visible in Amritsar as traders kept their shops and commercial establishments shut. The protest remained peaceful, officials said. Carrying placards that read ‘Punjab Rejects CAA, NRC’ and raising slogans against the Union government, the demonstrators, led by Dal Khalsa president H S Cheema and spokesperson Kanwar Pal Singh, assembled at Bhandari bridge and took out a protest rally. *PTI*

MAHARASHTRA



A protest against CAA, NPR and NRC in Mumbai on Saturday. *AP*

## TV journalist’s name dropped from event due to CAA stand

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PANAJI, JANUARY 25

THE NAME of TV journalist Faye D’Souza was dropped from the list of speakers scheduled to speak at the DD Kosambi Festival of Ideas on January 27.

Speaking at a press meet, Goa’s Art and Culture Minister Govind Gawade said D’Souza’s name was dropped to avoid “mess and chaos”. “Actually she was shortlisted but we were

quickly notified that she speaks against the CAA. Please understand that this is not a small event or a private event. This is a government event and we do not want any controversies around it,” Gawade said.

When contacted, D’Souza said, “I had declined the invitation to that event because of other work commitments I had in Mumbai.”

The event is annually hosted by the Goa Art and Culture Ministry. The list of speakers was made public Friday morning.

## UP, Assam charge JNU scholar with sedition, cite ‘Shaheen Bagh link’

SOURAV ROY BARMAN & ABHISHEK SAHA  
NEW DELHI, GUWAHATI, JANUARY 25

SEDITION CASES have been filed in Assam and Uttar Pradesh against a JNU PhD scholar, who was earlier associated with the Shaheen Bagh protest in Delhi, for a speech he made against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act at Aligarh Muslim University on January 16.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra claimed at a press conference in Delhi that Sharjeel Imam had made the speech, where he called for stepping up the protests in Assam through road blocks to force the Centre to listen, at Shaheen Bagh on January 24. He said it was “a classic case of jihad” and “a conspiracy was brewing at Shaheen Bagh to end India’s Independence”.

At a press conference in Guwahati, Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma called Imam “the main organiser of the Shaheen Bagh protests”, and said, “A lot of wrong things have been said, that in Assam, Bengalis, Hindus and Muslims, are being killed... We are going to bring this person to law.”

At both the press conferences, the BJP leaders played a clip from Imam’s speech. Union minister Jitendra Singh also slammed Imam over his comments.

Imam, who is pursuing PhD in Modern Indian History, did his graduation from IIT-Bombay in



Sharjeel Imam

computer science. While an active volunteer at the Shaheen Bagh protest since it began, starting December 16, he had left on January 2 after the protesters rejected his call to end the stir. In his January 16 speech too, Imam criticised the Shaheen Bagh protest as having become an “exotic getaway” for Delhi’s civil society.

On Saturday, the current co-ordinators at the Shaheen Bagh protest criticised Imam over his comments. “He is not even from the area and was using this platform to promote himself. That is why locals forced him to leave. Our peaceful women-led protest is to uphold the Constitution,” Meraj Khan said.

In a tweet announcing action against Imam, Assam Additional DGP (Law and Order) G P Singh attached a YouTube video of his speech, uploaded by a channel called Youth Neeti on January 17 under the title ‘Sharjeel Imam Students Activist JNU | Day 32 AMU PROTEST AGAINST CAA NRC NPR’.

Aligarh SSP Akash Kulhary said the sedition case had been

lodged against Imam on Saturday. “A police team has been sent to arrest him from Delhi... A video had gone viral where the accused is talking about disintegration of India. Based on that, we have lodged the FIR.”

Sarma said, “This entire agitation — Shaheen Bagh or rest of India — has been caused by members of a community who want to destroy India, create another Pakistan out of India. People of Northeast will not allow anybody to take Assam out of India.”

Imam told *The Sunday Express*, “I was saying we should try to peacefully block roads wherever possible. In that context, I said you have to block roads going to Assam. It was basically a call for chakka jam.”

Saying he spoke for an hour, he added, “They can put cases on me by editing these clips, but there is nothing that they can prove.”

In the video of the speech available on social media, Imam can be heard telling a small crowd that no political formation, the Congress or the Communists, had ever stood with Muslims, believing that the Constitution would emancipate Muslims was “a suicidal thought”, and that they must “use the anger productively”.

He gave the example of a Kanhaiya Kumar rally in Bihar, where “around five lakh people turned up”, and said, “If we have five lakh people with us, we can

cut off the Northeast from India. If not permanently, for one or two months. Put rubble on tracks and roads... *Assam aur India katke alag ho jaaye, tabhi ye humari baat sunenge* (Once Assam is cut off, then only they will listen to us)... We can do that because the Chicken’s Neck corridor (connecting Northeast to rest of India) is dominated by Muslims.”

He also called for more roads in Delhi to be blocked, like at Shaheen Bagh, to put pressure on the government.

AMU spokesman Professor Shafey Kidwai told PTI that some of Imam’s comments were “highly objectionable” and they will write to police to take strong action.

Patra asked what Imam meant by saying “use anger productively”. “The kind of statements being made at Shaheen Bagh, which should be called *disha-heen* (directionless) Bagh, *touheen* (Insult) Bagh... Some kind of conspiracy is brewing at Shaheen Bagh to finish India’s Independence, we have evidence... Recall the attempts to establish a Caliphate in many Arabic countries.”

Patra asked Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi if they still stood with Shaheen Bagh.

Responding to the remarks, Kejriwal said, “We are with each and every resident of Delhi. We are with Sangam Vihar, we are with Rajinder Nagar.”

WITH INPUTS FROM  
ARANYA SHANKAR



Children offer roses to police personnel at the protest in Ghanta Ghar, in Lucknow on Saturday. Police refused the offer. *Vishal Srivastav*

## SP leader among 8 held, top Shia cleric’s son booked

ASAD REHMAN  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 25

DAYS AFTER lodging three FIRs against women protesting against the CAA at Lucknow’s Ghanta Ghar, Lucknow police on Saturday arrested eight accused, including Samajwadi Party leader Pooja Shukla, from the protest site.

The police said the arrests were made as these persons allegedly misbehaved with policemen at the site on Saturday. All the eight accused were sent to jail later in the evening.

Police also lodged a fresh FIR against prominent Shia cleric Kalbe Sadiq’s son Sibtain and others, hours after Sadiq visited the women at Ghanta Ghar to lend them support.

Additional DCP Vikas Chandra Tripathi said the accused misbehaved with police-

men after the latter asked them to remove vehicles parked on the road. “They were arrested from the road outside Ghanta Ghar. Some of them had already been named in one or more FIRs, while some were among the unidentified persons in those cases,” said Tripathi.

Those arrested were identified as Shukla, Faizan Ilahi, Rehan, Naseem, Muhid Nadeem, Laeeq Ahmad, Danish and Shariq.

The fresh FIR lodged Saturday at the Thakurganj police station is against 10 named people, including Sibtain, and hundreds of unidentified people. The complaint, lodged by the police, alleges, “An illegal protest is being held at Ghantaghar... by women... on January 24, around 6 pm, hundreds of people with sticks in hand came in a group and started chanting slogans against CAA-NRC. The people parked their cars in a haphazard manner and

created a traffic jam and started protesting while violating section 144. These people also pushed policemen when they were told about section 144.”

The accused have been booked under IPC sections 145 (unlawful assembly), 147 (rioting), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 283 (danger or obstruction in public way or line of navigation), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) and section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

When contacted, Sibtain said the FIR against him is “full of lies”. “These are all lies... I was there with a Tricolour and spoke about non-violence there. I spoke about how the protest must remain peaceful. How can police book me for rioting when no violence happened there on Friday?” he asked.

## Oppn Cong to move resolution against Kerala Governor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 25

THE CONGRESS-LED Opposition has sought the Speaker’s consent to move a resolution in the Assembly requesting the President to recall Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan.

Ruling CPI(M) and Opposition Congress have been vying with each other to criticise the Governor after he supported the CAA. Khan had stated that the resolution passed by Kerala Assembly — demanding scrapping of the Act — was illegal and



Arif Mohammed Khan

unconstitutional as the issue was not in the state’s domain.

Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala said that he has approached Assembly Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan seeking his nod. “The Governor has insulted the Assembly which has unanimously passed the resolution against the CAA. This is a very grave situation. His action

amounted to harming the dignity of the Assembly. Hence, the resolution,” he said.

Reacting to the development, Khan said, “They (Opposition) are most welcome. I am appointed by the President of India. I am the constitutional head of the state. My duty is to advise the government, to counsel the government, to warn the government and to encourage the government. It is part of my duty.”

The move is being seen as a bid to outsmart the ruling front in attacking the Governor as well as to drive home the message that the Congress is at the forefront of the fight against CAA.

## To soothe NPR fears, govt works out online update

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

WITH CONTROVERSY around updation of the National Population Register (NPR) failing to abate, the government is working on making the process online where participants can themselves update their information without an enumerator asking them questions or filling up forms. This may help alleviate anxiety around NPR updation and make the process truly voluntary.

However, this facility would be available only to those who gave their Aadhaar details during the 2015 exercise. This means about 60 crore people whose Aadhaar numbers were updated with the NPR at the time.

The Registrar General of India (RGI) has digitised NPR data of 119 crore Indians already. This was to be updated by enumerators in the 2020 NPR exercise, beginning April 1, through paper forms and a mobile app accessible only to them. The Home Ministry is now planning online enumeration for the NPR through the RGI website.

“Since we already have 60 crore Aadhaar numbers, those people can self-enumerate their NPR data by logging onto the RGI website. Entering their Aadhaar number and generating an OTP, they can see their 2015 data and update the same. We are working on it,” a ministry official told *The Sunday Express*.

Such participants whose Aadhaar data is not seeded with

the NPR (roughly 70 crore people) will have to wait for the next NPR exercise — to be held in 2030 — for online self-enumeration (presuming their Aadhaar, NPR data are seeded this time). “We can’t allow it without Aadhaar as authentication of the participant would be required. It can’t be done on the basis of mobile number as since 2015, it might have changed hands,” the official said.

These 70-crore-odd people would be covered for the current NPR by enumerators visiting them. Those who have already updated their data online will not be asked any questions.

The ministry is already working on making the Census 2021 exercise online by using the mobile numbers which will be collected during the houselisting phase to be carried out along with the NPR exercise. This would happen again through generation of a unique ID number and OTP on the registered mobile number, followed by issuance of a reference number after self-enumeration is complete. The applicant would need to just give this reference number to the Census enumerator, who would then feed the same into his app to check if the enumeration has actually been done.

The recent inclusion of NPR letter by the Reserve Bank of India among “officially valid documents” for customer KYC in banks is also in line with the objectives envisaged for NPR data.

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

## Catholic churches to read out Preamble after Sunday Mass

To observe ‘Constitution Protection Day’

LIZ MATHEW & SHAJU PHILIP  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

LENDING THEIR voice to protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, bishops of the Catholic Church in India have announced January 26 as ‘Constitution Protection Day’ and urged the faithful to read out the Preamble of the Constitution after the Sunday Mass.

“Since this Republic Day is closely associated with the Constitution of India completing 70 years, I request you to carry out the following in all our parish/quasi-parish churches,” said Archbishop Thomas D’Souza in a letter to parishes in Kolkata, before going on to add, “The Preamble of the Constitution will be read in the Church (read by one and repeated by the entire congregation) after every Holy Mass or outside the Church after the flag hoisting.”

D’Souza also asked the community to be part of the human chain in Kolkata on January 26 organised by the United Interfaith Foundation to express the “desire of all citizens of India

to have and uphold the values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity guaranteed by the Constitution of India”.

In a letter to all the parish priests under his diocese, Paul Antony Mullassery, the Bishop of Kollam in Kerala, has asked all the parishes as well as Catholic organisations to read the Preamble and take a pledge to protect the Constitution on Sunday, Republic Day.

The letter by Mullassery, written in Malayalam, reads: “The country is going through an unprecedented social situation. The Prime Minister... is leading attempts to violate the values provided in the Constitution. Most important among this violation is the division of society on the basis of religion. We should react strongly to (attempts to) exclude one particular community from the CAA.”

The Kerala Latin Catholic Bishops Council too issued a pastoral letter to be read out in all churches on Republic Day.

The Kerala State Wakf Board, which has around 10,000-odd properties under its fold, will also observe Republic Day at its mosques.

## Top US diplomat: CAA undergoing democratic scrutiny in streets, courts

LALIT K JHA  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 25

AMID PROTESTS over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in India, a top US diplomat has underscored the importance of the principle of equal protection under the law.

Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Alice Wells, who has just returned from a trip to the region besides attending the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi, on Friday said that her visit offered an opportunity to hear more regarding developments with the new citizenship law.

According to the CAA, members of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till December 31, 2014, following religious persecution there will get



Alice Wells

Indian citizenship.

“The visit also offered an opportunity to hear more regarding developments with India’s Citizenship Amendment Act, which is undergoing I would say a vigorous democratic scrutiny, whether it’s in the streets, by the political opposition, media, and the courts,” she said. “We continue to underscore the importance of the principle of equal protection under the law.”

On Jammu and Kashmir, Wells said she was “pleased to see some incremental steps, including the partial return of internet service” in Kashmir. **PTI**



10

IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

“...Not 100 per cent of the Hindus, Muslims, and Christians are against it. In Northeast, people are out on roads in support of CAA. Some selective reporting is also creating misunderstanding”

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G:** What prompted you to write *Hindutva for the Changing Times*?  
The book is a compilation of write-ups and articles based on the Hindutva paradigm. I tried my best to address and analyse the philosophical aspects of Hindutva *darshan*. I am using the word '*darshan*' because I am not quite sure if the book is a true description of the philosophy (of Hindutva). I have tried to analyse the contemporary issues which we, and humanity as a whole, are facing, and attempted to answer some of the major questions before us. For example, the political turmoil, environmental issues, multiculturalism, the so-called liberalism, the industry 2.0 or the technological advancements... I have tried to touch upon the hot subjects of the modern era.  
It is, of course, necessary for us to progress, but along with that, some vested interests are trying to get all our data and based on that are creating algorithms to control our emotions. So not just trade or economics, but even your emotions are being controlled. So that's the purpose of the book, to look at some of these issues through the Hindutva paradigm or with the help of the Hindutva light.

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G:** Your book also comes at a time when there are protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. You have touched upon the subject in your book, and have also said that B R Ambedkar would approve of the law. Can you elaborate?  
The enactment of the CAA is, in some way, a fulfillment of Babasaheb Ambedkar's dream. That's my conviction. Someone who has sincerely gone through his thoughts on Pakistan, his observations on Partition, will surely agree with my statement. He has clearly stated the difficulties that Hindus, especially Hindu Dalits, the minorities in Pakistan, are facing. The Hindus of Pakistan cannot exist peacefully there. They will face total annihilation, especially the Dalits of Pakistan. So his suggestion for that grey question was... his famous statement, that populations should be transferred. He quoted the Greece-Turkey agreement of 1923. There was a big issue over minorities in both the countries, and they settled it through a transfer of population. (As part of the Treaty of Lausanne, the two countries agreed to uproot two million people in a population exchange. Only since the 1990s have people been able to visit what they see as their ancestral villages.) I am not saying that transfer of population happened at the time. That is not my point, but what Ambedkar said at that time, in due course, history proved him correct. What is the plight of minorities, especially the Hindus there (in Pakistan)? At one point, there were 20% Hindus there, now that number has reduced to 1%. The promises that were made by Liyaqat Ali Khan on behalf of Pakistan to Jawaharlal Nehru have not been met. In fact we have actually kept our promises and the minorities here have flourished in all aspects. The CAA was not an issue when I wrote the book, but in the present context (what I wrote) holds relevance. That is what I said.

**LIZ MATHEW:** But the CAA and National Register of Citizens (NRC) are no longer Muslim issues, they have become national issues...  
Firstly, the CAA is not a discriminatory Act. It is an inclusive Act as far as I am concerned; it's against discrimination that minorities face in (Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan). It was a dream not only of Ambedkar but also Mahatma Gandhiji. It was a promise made by Jawaharlal Nehru... The NRC is a promise made by our constitutional heads, our government.

Also, while the CAA has been passed, where is the NRC? I am not saying that the NRC will not come, but why is there agitation and rioting against the NRC? The rules, regulations, legalities, and modalities have not been finalised. Still, some people are campaigning against it and creating havoc.

Also, any agitation will have all sorts of religious representation. However, that does not mean 100% Hindus, Muslims, and Christians are against it. This is not a fact. And where is this agitation going on now, please tell me. I am coming from the Northeast, I was in Manipur, I didn't see any agitation there. In Jamia Millia (Islamia University) agitation, there were specific slogans on the Northeast, but the people of the Northeast are out on the roads in support of the CAA. Huge programmes are going on, lakhs of people are participating. Now whether it is being covered in Delhi or not, that is a different thing. Some selective reporting is also be-



WHY J NANDAKUMAR

As protests over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act spread, senior RSS leader J Nandakumar argues in his new book, *Hindutva for the Changing Times*, that Babasaheb Ambedkar would have been “happy to see the passage of the Bill”. The book also assesses contemporary issues “in light of Hindutva”. National convenor of the

RSS-affiliated think-tank Prajna Pravah, a forum for ‘nationalist’ thinkers, Nandakumar has been at the centre of what the organisation calls its attempts to “decolonise Indian minds from Eurocentric impact” through academic rigour. In the past, he has spoken out against “CPM aggression” in Kerala



“There are many points behind considering a person a refugee — religion, language, class... One serious issue people are facing has been taken into account in CAA. Other classification can be made in due course

I’m optimistic about NRC. If you have Aadhaar, ration card, or any other I-card, it’s well and good’

National Convenor of Prajna Pravah J Nandakumar says BJP has never kept plans for CAA, NRC secret, insists RSS shakhas have no link to party in power, explains Sangh's concept behind calling all Indians Hindu, and argues it is wrong to say RSS hasn't changed with times



National Convenor of Prajna Pravah J Nandakumar with Senior Assistant Editor Ananthakrishnan G in *The Indian Express* newsroom. Abhinav Saha

ing done by a section of the media. That is creating misunderstanding.

**LIZ MATHEW:** But the Home Minister spoke about chronology and said the CAA will be followed by the NRC. That is why people are making the link.

The Home Minister has said that in due course the NRC will be... The plan is there, you can submit your ideas, what your problems are... You can raise them before the government when the modalities and legalities are being formulated. We can come up with a solution. See, the CAA and NRC are not a secret thing. It has been in the public domain since 2016.

**ABANTIKA GHOSH:** But why make religion a criteria for CAA? Persecution is not just based on religion...

There are many points which need to be taken into account to consider a person a refugee or not — religion, language, class. But when a particular (law) is formulated, you cannot take all the issues together. One serious issue that people are facing has been taken into consideration at this point in time. Other reasonable classification can be made in due course. When such Acts are made, we cannot complicate it... The persecuted minorities (based on) religion are to be taken care of. It is our obligation, our moral duty, a constitutional obligation.

**KRISHN KAUSHIK:** BJP leaders often say that the NRC was brought in by the Congress. But that was for Assam. Why is the BJP pushing for a nationwide NRC?

This particular aspect is mentioned in their (the BJP's) manifesto. People of this country gave them two-thirds majority on the basis of their manifesto. How can they go back on a promise they made to the public? Not just in the 2019 manifesto, it was mentioned in the 2014 manifesto as well. Also, if you look at the NRC through a non-political, national perspective, then it is specifically related to the security of the nation. That is why almost all nations have their own Register.

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY:** But do you think the NRC exercise is really feasible in a country like India where a large section of people have no assets or documents to prove even their date of birth?

I'm very optimistic about it. If you

have an Aadhaar card, ration card, or any other identity card, then it's well and good. But even if you have none of it, it (the law) asks you if there are three-four people who know you... So in that way, it is feasible and I am quite optimistic that it can be done.

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY:** But in Assam, where the exercise was conducted, I don't think four people testifying that you are a citizen of this nation has been enough to prove citizenship...

Let us try. We are positive about this step. Once people said that Article 370 is a sacred clause, it cannot be touched, but it was scrapped. So if there is a will, there is a way. I understand the concern of the people, but if the move helps our country prosper, if it ensures our security, then it is our duty to support it.

**ABANTIKA GHOSH:** There are allegations that ABVP members beat up students on the Jawaharlal Nehru University campus...

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G:** Also, you come from Kerala which is not new to campus violence. In your book you have written about political violence in the state, and you have also been one of the main campaigners against what you call “redtrocitry”. In that context, how do you view the violence on the JNU campus?

First of all, any violence in a university is highly condemnable. There must be no place for violence in educational centres and in student politics. As for JNU, I have heard and read a lot about it... When more



than 70 CRPF jawans were massacred by Maoists in Dantewada, there were celebrations on JNU campus. Later, the infamous ‘tukde gang’ incident also happened. I heard about it through the media, I wasn't there. There has been some agitation going on there for months... Their (protest) style has changed. Professors are being chased, the Vice-Chancellor is heckled. Students have all the right to hold a strike, but its style and nature have changed. Classrooms are closed, they have been transformed into living rooms. Is this the way to strike? They are not ready to write examinations... I think my conclusion is that a frustrated section of students from an organisation of a (certain) political leaning, on seeing that they are losing ground... These student organisations have themselves unleashed trouble in JNU. Also, as per my information, many fake photos are being published. I condemn the violence, it should not have happened, and, of course, both sides have been injured. You say ABVP students have done it but ABVP students were also taken to hospitals. One girl student has lost her memory. We have to look at things from a proper perspective, see how JNU is changing, that's my point.

**LIZ MATHEW:** But why didn't police stop the violence at JNU?

It is some sort of dereliction of duty and needs to be looked into by the authorities and the government to see if this happened or not.

**SHYAMLAL YADAV:** What is the mandate of the Prajna Pravah? What work does the organisation do?

“Violence in a university is highly condemnable. As for JNU... there has been some agitation on for months... Professors are being chased, V-C is heckled... some students who are losing ground have unleashed trouble

In the last five-six centuries, intellectual activities by nationalist people lost momentum. Bharat is the land of knowledge but maybe, because of continuous attacks on Bharat and its educational and academic centres, the churning for knowledge creation was stalled. So, many people, not just those linked to the RSS, but also those who have a *Bharatiya* viewpoint, came together to delve deep into the knowledge system and tradition. That is how this movement started. So in that sense it is not a single organisation, but an umbrella organisation for intellectual movements.

After Independence, from 1950 onwards, there was planned ethnic cleansing of such thinkers, their books got sidelined. Many of you may be political science students. Have you seen a copy of Kashi Prasad Jayaswal's *Hindu Polity*? Jayaswal was not an RSS person. To put my point across clearly, Jayaswal as a thought process was cleansed. Where is Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy's *Hindu Chemistry*? He wrote about the *Bharatiya* tradition of chemistry. So this churning has to be restarted. I have also pursued political science and we were taught about the thoughts of Karl Marx, Antonio Francesco Gramsci... Of course, all these thought processes should be taken into consideration, but why not Jayaswal's, why not Chanakya's?

**SHYAMLAL YADAV:** At the ground level, what is the relationship between the BJP and RSS shakhas? There have been some reports that at many places the numerical strength in shakhas has been declining.

RSS shakhas have no relationship with the political dispensation. Right from the beginning, the RSS is working on its own strength. If there was any such relation, the maximum number of shakhas would have been in Gujarat. The BJP has been in power in the state for the last four terms. If I say that the BJP will come to power in Kerala in the state election next year, all of you may laugh because you are well aware of the BJP's political strength in the state. But you will be surprised to know that the maximum number of shakhas in a state are in Kerala. So, shakhas have no link to the party in power.

**RAVISH TIWARI:** RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has often said that all Indians are part of the Hindu society, irrespective of their religion and

**culture. What is the RSS's fascination with declaring everybody a Hindu?**

He didn't insist on calling everyone a Hindu. He said this is my concept. In his Vigyan Bhawan speech (in December 2019), at the outset, he said that it (the statement) is not to convince you... Those who are living in Hindustan are Hindus. A national newspaper is called *The Hindu*, there are no issues over that. That particular media group came to the conclusion that our paper is Hindu. The RSS is also thinking on the same lines. Both *The Indian Express* and *The Hindu* are Indian, and they are both Hindu. Mohan Bhagwat uses the word Hindu as a synonym for India.

When Vir Savarkar was in jail in the Andamans, suffering all sorts of criminal atrocities, he wrote thousands of poems. In one of them, he defined Hindutva. He said those who are living in this great nation, it is their *punya bhumi* (land of good karma), their sacred nation. Those who are born here, those who consider this the land of their ancestors, I am calling them Hindu. That's all. I am putting my ideas before you, it is not binding for you to follow my ideas. You can accept or reject them.

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G:** For several decades now the RSS has had the same structure, pattern, habits, sports. Has the RSS as an organisation failed to keep pace with the times? You took several decades to even change your uniform from shorts to trousers. Do you think there has been a delay in adapting to the times?

No, I don't think so. When RSS shakhas were started, we adopted the most modern uniform of that time. You may look at it now and say that it was old-fashioned, but 94 years ago that was not the case. In fact, back then there was an allegation that the RSS has adopted a western uniform. And since then the uniform has also changed six times. Also, the basic concept of the RSS is to work to transform minds. Only through that can the system be transformed. We are continuing to do so through the people who come to our *shakhas*.

Secondly, the programmes which we have adopted, these have transformed people. In the shakhas, games such as football, physical activity for 40-45 minutes have transformed things. We have started I-T shakhas... But our basic concept and values have not changed.







The victim's mother addresses the media outside Gate No. 5 of the Delhi High Court. Ankita Dwivedi Johri

‘WHAT WAS MY DAUGHTER’S ROLE IN WORLD?’

# HER FIGHT

As death warrant is issued for the accused in the 2012 Delhi gang rape case that shook a nation, ANKITA DWIVEDI JOHRI tells two stories of wait — a mother’s as she hopes to find closure after an agonising battle for justice, and that of families of the accused as they make a desperate cry for reprieve

AROUND 3 pm on January 15, she strides out of the courtroom, followed by a battery of lawyers holding case files. Her husband is a few paces behind her, letting her take the lead like she has all these years. At Gate No. 5 of the Delhi High Court, she plunges straight into the storm of jostling mediapersons with their cameras, microphones and tangled wires. And launches into a blistering attack on the investigators, the court, and the government. Around this time of the year, the 50-year-old mother of the Delhi gang rape victim is the most recognisable face on national television. Cardigan over sari, wrapped in a shawl, her “bytes” seeking “nothing but death” for her daughter’s rapists beamed on national television every December 16, a date that has defined her every living moment since that dark night of 2012 when six men had raped the eldest of her three children, a 23-year-old physiotherapy student, in a moving bus and left her for dead. Thirteen days later, she had died in a Singapore hospital. Last week, a Delhi court issued death warrants for four of the six accused to be hanged on February 1.

Now looking straight into the camera, the mother says, “Today the Delhi government told the court that the convicts cannot be hanged on January 22 as long as their mercy petition is pending before the President. Why are they doing this? If in a big case like this we cannot get justice, what happens to the others? I want to ask the government, the court, why are they delaying it?”

She repeats the same lines tirelessly to reporter after reporter, camera after camera, for an hour — breaking down in some frames, fuming in others.

While the gang rape case shook the Capital, prompting protests across the country, and leading to tougher anti-rape laws, it thrust the victim’s family into a turbulent maze of police stations, courtrooms and television studios — a world far removed from the ordinariness of their middle-class lives.

“I was a simple housewife. I would go nowhere without my husband. Since my daughter’s death, however, our life has been about court dates, meeting this or that person, talking to journalists... *Kuchch hosh nahin hai* (Nothing makes sense),” she tells *The Sunday*

*Express*, taking a break from the cameras.

She is, by now, used to the hot glare of the television camera lights, the prying, predictable questions about her daughter, the rapists, whether she thinks they deserve death, on rapes elsewhere in the country — Hyderabad, Unnao, Kathua. But rarely have these questions been about her. Had she had her tea this morning? Her lunch? How is she? What’s her story?

Minutes ago, outside Room No. 33 of the court, she had had a rare moment of privacy as she sat silently on a chair meant for the guard. Nearby, her husband paced the corridor that milled with advocates, law interns, policemen, a few reporters, murder convicts, and estranged couples, the air thrumming with their conversation. As her lawyer approached her, the 50-year-old, misty-eyed, her voice heavy, had asked, “*Baais ko faansi hogi ya nahin* (Will the rapists be hanged on January 22)?” The lawyer had nodded reassuringly, and escorted her to the courtroom. Returning to the guard’s chair as the court broke for lunch, she said, “I have not had the time to think about my daughter in the past seven years. All I remember now are the nine-ten days that I saw her in hospital, her body and face bruised. *Bas wahi chhavi hai* (That’s the only image I remember).”

It’s that image that forces the mother to stick to her “only demand” — death for the rapists. “It was such a big case, I was convinced that justice will be done. But I am not so sure now... *Darr lagta hai, koi jhatka na de sarkar* (I am scared, hope the government doesn’t give us a shock),” she says. It’s this uncertainty that

### In 2019, 102 put on death row

THE Delhi gang rape accused may be the first to be executed in India since the 2015 hanging of Bombay blasts convict Yakub Memon. As they file mercy petitions, and a debate brews on death penalty as a deterrent, the Supreme Court said Thursday that the “finality” of a death

EXPLAINED

sentence was important. Meanwhile, as per Project 39A of National Law University, Delhi, while trial courts handed out 102 death sentences in 2019, in the 27 cases heard in the apex court, 17 saw commutations and 3 acquittals while 2 were sent for fresh trial.

forces her to play her part every time the cameras roll, however tired she may be.

A Class 8 pass, she had come to the Capital from Uttar Pradesh as a young bride of 22, “around the age my daughter was when she died”, tears rolling freely down her face. “All my three children were born here. I was a very strict mother, always paid attention to their education. We didn’t have money, but we were happy. My daughter wanted to become a doctor since she was very little... She didn’t play with dolls, she roamed around with needles and acted as a doctor,” she says, breaking into a rare smile. “We couldn’t fulfill that dream of hers either, we didn’t have money for medical school.”

“But when she wanted to join the physiotherapy course, I supported her,” says her husband, who comes with a bottle of water for his wife. “*Arre, par aise hee thode na maane the*

(But you didn’t agree so easily either),” she counters. “She had got admission but the fees were very steep. She locked herself up in a room and kept crying. Then my son told us, *aap didi ko padha do, didi humein padha degi* (you support *didi*’s education, she will support ours),” recalls the mother, as her husband adds, “I sold the only piece of land I had for her admission... She was very close to me. If she needed anything, she would tell me.”

Every time a reporter approaches the father, he says little, instead directing them to his wife. “We didn’t decide for her to speak, but somehow it just happened. A mother’s pain is very deep... I also need to go to work,” he says.

Since the incident, the 60-year-old has continued with his job at Delhi airport, but has never managed to clock full attendance. “I have to take leaves for court dates. I earn Rs 24,000 a month, but that money is cut

when I miss work,” he says.

Another reporter pulls the mother aside for a “byte” and she talks about her fatigue with the legal system that has taken seven years for the rapists to be punished.

It was during one such “byte” — soon after four alleged rapists of a Hyderabad veterinarian were shot to death by police recently — that she had said she was “extremely happy with this punishment... and no action should be taken against the policemen”.

Now that the cameras are off, she allows herself a rare moment of reflection. She admits to being confused. “So far I have shown full faith in the system... But I have got nothing after seven years. At least the Hyderabad family would be feeling some sense of justice. But then, I can’t help wonder if killing the rapists is a solution... But these men definitely need to be hanged for what they did,” she says, her eyes brimming with tears again. “I feel I haven’t slept peacefully in years.”

Has she sought help, counselling to cope with the trauma? “*Rehne dijiye, kaun karega hamari counselling. Koi nahin poochta ye sab* (Forget it, who will counsel us? No one talks to us about such issues),” she says, as the couple ready to leave for home, a long Metro ride away.

At the two-room house given to them by the Delhi government, there are no photographs of their daughter or even her belongings — only memories of their lives after her. A glass shelf is stacked with photographs of the couple with the Prime Minister, politicians and diplomats, who promised to help or honoured the family for their “daughter’s

sacrifice”. On another wall, hangs a framed poster of the ‘Nirbhaya Jyoti Trust’ which the family instituted to help women victims of violence, and which is often a ready backdrop for their television interviews and photographs. “I have decided not to put up any pictures of my daughter in the house till the rapists are hanged,” says the mother.

Despite their avowed stance, there have been moments, they admit, when a nagging thought has crossed their minds: what if even death to the rapists fails to bring them closure?

“But it (death to the rapist-killers) was my daughter’s last wish, it’s my wish now too,” says the father. The mother simply nods, switching on the television to see how the news channels are reporting the day’s hearing in the Delhi High Court. As she makes tea, she rarely has a minute’s rest, juggling calls from relatives and reporters and responding to messages and posts on WhatsApp and Facebook while scrolling through groups and pages such as ‘Justice for Nirbhaya’ and ‘We are with Nirbhaya’.

“For us, incidents of rape were only newspaper headlines. Only when we faced it did we realise what hundreds of families across the country go through,” says the mother. “Many of them call me for help. Earlier, I didn’t know what to do when they called; now I refer them to NGOs. It’s hard to fight these battles alone. After the incident, we got a lot of help. But now we are alone. I hardly cook at home. I have sent my sons away, I don’t want their lives to be ruined... Her friend (who was with the victim on the night of the incident) is now married, he came to tell us about the *shaadi*,” she adds.

Finally, as she settles down with a cup of tea, the only thing she has consumed all day, she says she often wonders, “What was my daughter’s role in the world? Why was she born? Just to go through this pain? What is our role?” These are the thoughts that she goes to bed with every night, thoughts that hit her unflinching every morning. “That is why I turn up for every event, every interview, and every court hearing. I don’t know what I will do when it all ends... maybe I’ll focus on the Nirbhaya Trust. But the men must hang. As for us, *hamari khushiyan toh hamesha ke liye chhin gayi hain, zindagi bhar ki saza hai* (Our happiness has been snatched forever. We have been punished for a lifetime),” she says.

‘LIFE GIVES EVERYONE A SECOND CHANCE’

# Clinging to hope, they count the hours

ANKITA DWIVEDI JOHRI & SANTOSH SINGH

“*MUIJHE MARNA nahin hai, bas marna nahin hai* (I don’t want to die. I just don’t want to die). That was all my son said in the half hour that I met him for yesterday (January 14). That’s his last wish,” says Hariram Sharma, father of Vinay Sharma, 26, speaking from behind a window grille above his two-room shanty’s iron door, refusing to come out. He disappears for a few minutes before emerging again at the grille, this time sticking out his hand to show a framed picture. It’s a family portrait — Hariram dapper in a suit and tie, his wife in a yellow sari and Vinay, the eldest of his four children, as a four-year-old, wearing a ‘baba suit’ and two tight pigtailed. “He has not done it, just look at him,” says the 50-year-old, weeping uncontrollably.

At 6 am on February 1, Vinay, along with Mukesh Singh, 32, Akshay Singh, 31, and Pawan Gupta, 25, are slated to hang for the December 2012 Delhi gang rape. Ram Singh, Mukesh’s brother, who was also the main accused in the case, was found dead in his cell at Tihar Jail in March 2013, while another accused, a juvenile, was released after serving a three-year sentence.

Situated on the fringes of government colonies in South Delhi’s R K Puram area, Ravidas Camp is home to the families of three of the convicts — Vinay, Mukesh and Pawan. Much like the arc that the family of the victim followed, from a village in Uttar Pradesh to Delhi, most of the slum’s residents are migrants to the Capital from towns and villages in UP, Rajasthan and Bihar.

“We came here in 1999 from Gorakhpur. He was born here. He spoke English, and was in his second year of BCom when he was arrested. I work as a contractor near the airport,

making less than Rs 7,000 a month, but my son had managed to get a job offer from Subroto Park (a military base nearby),” says Hariram, after he finally agrees to open the door. He then retreats into his house, saying, “Wait, I will show you more.”

Outside Hariram’s house, his neighbour Seema is scrolling through her phone, and inquires curiously, “Isn’t Vinay dead? Hasn’t he committed suicide? At least that’s what’s on WhatsApp.” A 2016 report, of when Vinay had unsuccessfully attempted suicide by consuming painkillers, has resurfaced on social media platforms.

Since the incident, jail authorities have said that the 26-year-old has been battling depression, with a recent report also claiming that of the four convicts, he is the one with the “maximum number of punishments” for breaking rules in Tihar.

But Hariram will hear none of it as he returns with a trophy and some paintings. “He was a very good painter also. See this... He has not done it (the rape), the media has framed him. I don’t think he can be saved now... but my wife is trying,” he says. His wife, 45, has gone home to Gorakhpur to do a *pooja* for her son.

“The jail authorities don’t even let us take food for him... When I meet him, I don’t know what to say or do,” says the father.

On Saturday, *The Indian Express* reported that the four convicts had been asked to decide the last day of meeting their families before January 30. “So far, they haven’t told us the dates,” said a Tihar Jail source.



(Clockwise from top) Akshay Singh, Mukesh Singh, Vinay Sharma, Pawan Gupta

A few homes away, Pawan’s father Hiralal Gupta, a fruit-seller, is chopping cabbage for lunch. When asked about his son, he shouts, “He was not in the area that night,

he had left in the afternoon. *Kuchch nahin kiya usne, par aap ye toh nahin likhenge* (He is innocent, but you won’t write that).”

Neighbours say that while Hiralal visits

his son in jail regularly, he also pushes himself and his fruit cart to the market daily. “*Paise kamana bhi toh zaroori hai* (He needs to earn money too),” says a man in his 40s.

In one of the slum’s farthest corners, past dingy, wet lanes and decrepit shanties, stands Ram Singh and Mukesh’s locked home. While Ram Singh was the driver of the bus in which the girl was raped, Mukesh was its cleaner.

Says a neighbour who does not wish to be identified, “Rambai, their mother, has been living here alone since her husband’s death... She has another son who lives in Saket and visits her sometimes. The family had moved into this slum in 1991, and were among the oldest residents here.” The neighbour adds, “But what is the point of talking about it... *Faansi toh hogi hee* (They will be hanged for sure).”

Sitting in his courtyard in the winter sun, Bihari Lal, the Resident Welfare Association ‘pradhan’ of the slum, blames Hiralal and the others for bringing “disrepute” to the slum. “Since the incident, policemen and reporters have been crawling all over the place. The victim was our daughter too and the guilty must be hanged, but these families don’t want to believe their sons committed the crime. They only blame the press,” he says, adding, “Anyway, we don’t interact with them much.” More young men gather around Lal and complain about the “notoriety” the slum has gained since the incident.

Over a thousand kilometres away, in a Bihar village, stigma hangs as heavy in its

open fields, narrow lanes, and exposed brick homes. Outside one such brick-and-tile structure at Karmalahang village in Aurangabad district, home to the family of Akshay Kumar Singh or Akshay Thakur, one of the convicts in the gang rape case, is his eldest brother Vinay Singh.

Dropping the axe with which he is cutting wood, Vinay rages, “Has the media ever told our story? Have you ever talked about how I was beaten up by police those three days (December 19-21, 2012)? In fact, we handed over Akshay to police on December 21. Has anyone written about that?” he says, as others try to pacify him.

On Vinay’s allegation of police torture, Aurangabad SP Deepak Barnwal says, “We simply cooperated with the Delhi Police that did a commendable job... It is not proper for me to react to what Akshay’s family says.”

In the small courtyard outside his house, Vinay, now calmer, says, “The media even reported that we have disowned Akshay. But we need him. His wife and son need him. Life gives everyone a second chance. Why was a juvenile spared when his crime was much graver? Can the government give us in writing that rape will stop after my brother and the others are hanged?”

Refusing to let *The Sunday Express* meet Akshay’s parents or his wife, Vinay says, “They don’t want to be written about as they die every day.” None from the family has gone to meet Akshay, the youngest of three brothers, he adds. “We have six *bighas* of land among us three. We could not even afford a lawyer. Whatever is being done is by the government lawyer. We get updates on Akshay through TV or newspapers.”

About the death sentence, Vinay says, “What can we say? But if Sonia Gandhi could forgive the killers of her husband, can’t Akshay’s hanging be stopped?”





The quest for truth is 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... If journalism has to remain relevant, it has to retain its sense of mission, reclaim its values of honesty and fairness

RAM NATH KOVIND, PRESIDENT OF INDIA

# In black, white, grey

From stories of those who never returned after a riot to uncovering rising instances of sexual assault on minors, from news breaks that broke the mould, the winners of the 2018 Ramnath Goenka Awards for Excellence in Journalism stuck to the basics while telling stories simply, factually

## INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

PRINT/DIGITAL

**Detailing the pain of the victims of J&J's faulty hip implants**



TEENA THACKER  
MINT

"The problem with acetabular surface replacement was that it involved additional painful operations, which left some people permanently disabled. When I got to know about this, I started chasing the story right away. The task was challenging because the victims had lost all hope. However, the story set the ball rolling and the government swung into action."

BROADCAST

**Are donations made through poll bond scheme really anonymous?**

POONAM AGARWAL  
THEQUINT.COM



"The electoral bond scheme was floated with the promise that the identity of the donor would not be revealed. The story exposes the presence of an alphanumeric code, which is visible only under ultraviolet rays. This defeats the purpose of the scheme. Even paper currency notes do not have features that are not visible to the naked eye. So are electoral bonds more important than currency notes?"

## HINDI

PRINT/DIGITAL

**A seven-part series on rising instances of sexual assault on minor girls**

DITI BAJPAI  
GAON CONNECTION

"Every 15 minutes, a minor girl in India faces sexual assault. In rural areas, these crimes are common and do not evoke outrage. The objective of the series was to raise awareness about the issue. Finding out such incidents in rural India was the foremost challenge. Victims and their families were unwilling to talk because they had lost confidence in the media, police and the political system."



BROADCAST

**The 15 'missing' who never returned home after 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots**



SHADAB AHMAD MOIZZE  
THEQUINT.COM

"As many as 15 people are considered 'missing' since the 2013 riots. Their families, however, claim they were murdered. The challenge was to trace these families after five years. Many people told us that their relatives were killed in front of their eyes but they had no proof as the bodies were burnt by the rioters. The story is of these 15 missing people who never returned home after the riots."

## REGIONAL LANGUAGES

PRINT/DIGITAL (BENGALI)

**Stories of trafficking told through lives of women of a nomadic tribe**



ANWESHA BANERJEE  
EI SAMAY

"The stories were about the Prerna tribe, which practices inter-generational prostitution. When I visited their homes in Najafgarh (Delhi), I was asked to leave by their husbands, who act as pimps. These tribal women, who are married off at the age of 13, are forced into prostitution after their first baby. Later, the husbands threatened me, following which I had to return to Kolkata."

BROADCAST (MALAYALAM)

**Chronicling devastation in Kerala caused by the August 2018 floods**

SANEESH T K  
MANORAMA NEWS



"The 2018 floods was one of the worst natural disasters Kerala had faced in the past 100 years. Many families in Wayanad lost their relatives and properties. The objective was to tell the story in the form of a travelogue. During my travel, I found that people lived in fear of snakes and other animals in their water-filled homes. The biggest challenge was to locate victims as mobile phones were not working."



23 AWARDS

were handed out to winners in 11 categories — across print, broadcast and purely digital — for outstanding work done in 2018

OVER 900 ENTRIES

were received

## ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY REPORTING

PRINT/DIGITAL

**A two-part investigation on the use of at least 99 lethal chemicals as pesticides**

MRIDULA CHARI &  
VINITA GOVINDARAJAN

SCHOLARLY

"The objective was to find out how complex rules and an opaque regulatory system allow the use of at least 99 chemicals banned in other countries as pesticides in India," said Chari. "One of the biggest challenges was to sift through years of government paperwork to understand the regulatory system and procedure," said Govindarajan."



BROADCAST

**How uranium mining has impacted lives in Jadugoda, Jharkhand**



SARVAPRIYA SANGWAN  
BBC NEWS HINDI

"Jadugoda has seen uranium mining since 1969 and the nuclear waste has affected the health of its residents. Although the issue has been covered by the media often, nothing has happened on the ground. As a result, the locals did not want to talk to us. Convincing them was a hard task. However, the person with whom the story would have been difficult to do is cameraman Deblin Roy."

## UNCOVERING INDIA INVISIBLE

PRINT/DIGITAL

**Getting to school in Morni, Haryana, walking over a 20-ft-high pipeline**



HINA ROHTAKI  
THE INDIAN EXPRESS

"In the absence of a bridge, children in Morni walk over a 20-foot-high pipeline to reach their school. People of 59 other villages too take the same path. There was pressure from the administration to stop reporting on the issue. But soon, this became a national matter. The state government later laid the foundation stone for the bridge, which is likely to be completed in the next two months."

BROADCAST

**In the name of the cow: Probing nexus between police, politics**

ASMITA NANDY &  
MEGHAD BOSE  
THEQUINT.COM



"Our documentary *The Making of Lynchistan: Killing in the Name of the Cow* is an explainer on the nexus between the police, politician and the *gaunakshaks*," said Nandy. "We spoke to *gaunakshaks*, who told us how these attacks are carried out. Sitting in front of people who proudly claim to have resorted to violence is intimidating," said Bose."

## POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

PRINT/DIGITAL

**For some of the biggest breaks — from the Rafale talks to the Naga Accord**

SUSHANT KUMAR SINGH  
THE INDIAN EXPRESS

"Stories about institutions like the CBI and Supreme Court threw light on their functioning, forcing the government to react. These also led to greater transparency in how judges were appointed to the Supreme Court, and the monitoring of the CBI. These stories were able to set the agenda. It was about holding those in power accountable."



BROADCAST

**A show on the nuts and bolts of the giant election machinery**



MOUMITA SEN & SHIKHA  
INDIA TODAY TV

"An election is not just about who we intend to vote for. There is so much more in between. We compared the present with earlier times," said Sen. "One of the challenges was that whenever there is a camera, people tend to be politically correct. It was also a task to string the narrative together because people were talking about different elections," said Shikha."

## REPORTING FROM CONFLICT ZONES

PRINT/DIGITAL

**Away from the State vs Maoist binary, capturing lives in the jungles of Bastar**



DIPANKAR GHOSE  
THE INDIAN EXPRESS

"The aim was to explore how violence affects polls and people who are caught in the cross-fire. In most cases, reporting gets caught between the binary — the State and Maoist. But even in conflict zones, one finds people who believe in bringing out the truth. The challenge is to convince them that the objective of the media is making their voices heard."

BROADCAST

**Covering elections in face of death**

DHEERAJ KUMAR, MORMUKUT SHARMA & (LATE) ACHYUTA NANDA SAHU



DOORDARSHAN NEWS

"I spoke to him (Sahu) on the day of the incident. He told me they were visiting an area that had Naxalites... I heard of the attack on TV," said Himanchali, wife of Sahu, who died when the DD team he was part of came under Naxal firing. Sharma and Kumar say they wanted to go to Nilawaya in Dantewada as it had not voted in 20 years. "About 1 km from the place, we came under fire. As Sahu and three soldiers were killed, I thought I should cover the gunfight so that the nation would know what had happened if we all were killed," said Sharma."

## BUSINESS & ECONOMIC JOURNALISM

PRINT/DIGITAL

**On diplomacy, and the economics and politics of sanctions**

NIDHI VERMA  
THOMSON REUTERS

"The year 2018-19 was a difficult one for India with rising crude oil prices and pressure from the United States to suspend imports from Iran. I got to know that India had placed an order for oil from Iran and this indicated that sanctions were going to be placed and that some relaxation was being given to India."



NON-FICTION

**Understanding Emergency by looking back at Independence**



GYAN PRAKASH

"The idea to write the book came in 2011 when I saw youths at the India Against Corruption protests. This reminded me of the youth movement of the 1970s with JP (Narayan) at the helm. As I worked on it, I realised that the dominant interpretation was that the movement was a complete aberration from normal politics. But the more I looked into it, it seemed that there was a story of continuity."

## CIVIC JOURNALISM

PRINT/DIGITAL

**Investigating UP government's claim of having controlled encephalitis**



ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL  
NEWS18.COM

"I looked at information that was publicly available on the incidence of AES and JE in Gorakhpur, and the numbers didn't add up. This could have also been an instance of data being entered incorrectly. Hence, upon reaching Gorakhpur, the challenge was to be able to find doctors who knew what was happening to the cases."

## PHOTO JOURNALISM

PRINT/DIGITAL

**For zooming into places and faces away from headlines**

C SURESH KUMAR  
THE TIMES OF INDIA



"Manjuvirattu, a bull-taming sport, is played in Sivaganga district, about 70 km from Madurai. The sport takes place in an open area or empty fields after harvest is completed. I went to a village in Sivaganga, where more than 50,000 people were sitting on a hill to attend the sport. I thought of composing my photos with the bulls and the crowd."



SUNDAY PROFILE  
ASHWINI BHIDE

The woman  
at the wheel

Capable, considerate, Ashwini Bhide was seen as having put Mumbai Metro on track in her five-year tenure — till she ran aground over Aarey row. Is it wrong to tie an officer so closely to a project, or was the mistake hers in identifying herself with one party? And is her transfer anything but routine?

ZEESHAN SHAIKH  
& SANDEEP ASHAR

SOMETIME IN 2010 news leaked from the corridors of the Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA) that a “haughty” politician was stalling the opening of a walkway. The next day, the livid politician landed up at the office of then Joint Metropolitan Commissioner Ashwini Bhide, the in-charge of the project. After a turbulent hour-long meeting, the politician left Bhide’s office apparently tamed while the project was inaugurated within a few days. A combination of knowing how to use the media and diplomatic skills had done the trick, and burnished the 1995-batch IAS officer’s credentials as an efficient, capable civil servant, fit to oversee a slew of infrastructure projects in the financial capital.

In 2019, Mumbai saw another side of Bhide. As Managing Director of the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL), a special purpose vehicle for Mumbai’s flagship Metro Line 3, Bhide launched a very public defence of an unpopular plan, including on social media, to cut over 2,000 trees to construct a Metro car shed in Aarey in north Mumbai. In the process, she found herself pitted against environmentalists, as well as Shiv Sena scion Aaditya Thackeray.

Last week, when the Maha Vikas Aghadi government moved Bhide, 49, out of the MMRCL, no one was surprised. January marked the end of a five-year term for her, but the transfer was seen as punishment by the Thackeray-led government.

Additional Chief Secretary (Urban Development) Dr Nitin Kareer told *The Sunday Express*, “Bhide is a fine officer. She was assigned a responsibility, she has done very well. She has completed her tenure and will move onto her next assignment.”

While Bhide still awaits her new posting, many believe where she erred was in going beyond the call of duty in public advocacy of the car shed, a project that had become identified with a particular party (the BJP) and politician (then Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis).

Said a retired IAS officer, “Even Kiran Bedi was an activist in many ways when she was an IPS officer, but the causes she took up, such as parking in Delhi, were not identified with a party or leader. A bureaucrat’s job is to implement policy. Handling public sentiment is a politician’s job.”

Hailing from Sangli and a student of literature, Bhide first came in contact with Fadnavis as CEO of Nagpur zila parishad in 2000-2003. Her husband, batch-mate and former IAS officer Dr Satish Bhide, was also posted there at the time, while Fadnavis was a first-time MLA and mayor of Nagpur.

Between 2004-08, Bhide served as deputy secretary to successive Maharashtra governors, before joining the big league with her posting to the MMRDA.

A series of prestige projects followed, like Eastern Freeway, Mumbai’s skywalks project and the Mithi river clean-up. “For someone with no background in engineering, she quickly acquired knowledge of technical subjects. My assessment is that she was a quick responder, a good listener, and more democratic than most bureaucrats,” said Ashok Datar, Chairman of Mumbai Environmental Social Network and a transport expert who has worked with the MMRDA on various projects.

In the MMRDA, for example, Bhide dealt several times with people who had to be rehabilitated for projects. “She was a stickler for rules but was very considerate. Her persuasion skills helped the MMRDA remove even religious structures without strife,” an MMRDA officer who did not wish to be named said.

In February 2014, Bhide was moved as Secretary, School Education, before Fadnavis brought her back to the infrastructure department. She was seen as among the officers handpicked by him to implement his grand plans for the city.

In January 2015, Bhide was made the MMRCL MD. A joint venture between Maharashtra and the Government of India, the MMRCL was set up to construct the 33.5-km underground corridor for Metro Line 3

“I think what we as the MMRCL Team have achieved is pretty assuring for the city. Mumbai needs the Metro and I am happy that I could contribute. I am also sure the work will continue to progress at the same speed,” says Bhide

from Colaba to SEEPZ. In the past five years, Bhide is seen to have tied up all the project’s loose ends, tendering out most of the contracts and putting the tunneling work on course for completion by September this year.

Observers say it was this stint, her most high-profile, that transformed Bhide from an officer willing to listen to one who stonewalled suggestions. “Knowing you have the complete backing of the Chief Minister probably changes the demeanour of an officer. Many believed that the BJP government would come back and a lot of officers, including Bhide, did its bidding,” a former senior MMRDA officer said.

Activists accuse her of turning the Aarey issue into a personal fight. “Not many officials go on Twitter to put out their views and then

block people who disagree... We are fighting with the MMRDA on other issues but they have not taken things personally,” pointed out Zoru Bhatena.

Recalling personal experience, Bhatena said that in February 2017, he met Fadnavis along with activists Pervin Jahangir and Neena Verma over tree cutting along the entire Metro 3 Line. Bhatena said the CM assured them the trees would not be cut, and asked Bhide to meet them. “I was shocked by her attitude. Her first question was how we had gained access to the CM. She thought we had complained against her.”

Environmentalist Stalin D accused Bhide of spreading “misinformation” using public money. “She is a very fine officer, but her shortcoming was that she was too rigid and treated citizens as insignificant... At Aarey, no citizen was opposing the car shed as such, only the location. Yet she misguided people, spent money recklessly to defame citizens. She tried to cover up her violations through false submissions and publicity.”

Denying the charge that Bhide had misled people, an MMRCL officer said, “Bhide never took on the Shiv Sena personally. All her media interactions were to remove doubts and rumours being planted about the project.”

Bhide told *The Sunday Express*, “I think what we as the MMRCL Team have achieved is pretty assuring for the city. Mumbai needs the Metro and I am happy that I could contribute. I am also sure the work will continue

to progress at the same speed.”

Others, including Datar, believe Bhide might have acted out of character as she was under pressure to complete the project. Mumbai’s Rs 23,000-crore Metro Line 3 passes through some of its oldest and most congested areas and is the city’s first attempt to take its public transport underground. The pace of the 33.5-km project, launched in October 2016, has been brisk given that it took close to six years to complete Mumbai’s first Metro line, which is only 11.40 km long. Some have expressed fear that Bhide’s removal may slow the project. Former state chief secretary U P S Madan, who was her senior at the MMRDA, said, “The Metro is perhaps the most challenging project to be ever implemented in Mumbai. It is no mean achievement that she has overseen implementation of 75 per cent of the tunnelling work... Be it rehabilitation of families in Girgaum or tunnelling on the premises of a Parsi fire temple, Bhide was up to the task.”

BJP MLA Ashish Shelar says “while normally every officer is transferred after three years, in this case Bhide was entrusted with a special project. It would have been better if she was allowed to continue”.

However, serving officers warn against equating Bhide with Metro 3, noting that it was unreasonable to expect her to continue till its completion. “The end of her term with the MMRCL is not the end of the road for her. Bhide has a bright future,” said an officer.



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

TAKE 5

FACES ON THE FRINGES OF NEWS

RAJU PORWAL, DISTRICT  
GOVERNMENT COUNSEL  
(CRIME), KANPUR DEHAT

‘Somewhere in  
those thick files is  
the case diary’

A special court in Kanpur Dehat that was supposed to pronounce the verdict in the Behmai massacre case, in which 20 people were killed allegedly by Phoolan Devi’s gang in 1981, recently postponed the matter after a complainant advocate said the case diary was missing



‘We keep documents wrapped, and did so in this case too’

1 What is a case diary?

After an FIR is registered, several documents are prepared — a general diary of the FIR, medical reports or post-mortem reports collected by the investigating officer (IO), papers such as the map of the site and recovery memo of evidence made by the IO. Later, based on the findings, the IO submits either a final report or a chargesheet. This entire process related to a particular case is compiled in a case diary. Earlier, case diaries were handwritten, but now we do it online.

2 At what stage is a case diary submitted to court?

It is submitted along with the chargesheet and other documents. Once the judge takes cognisance of it, the documents are in judicial records. The prosecutor can then receive the case diary from the court. The defending side, however, cannot get a copy and gets only those documents and witness statements which the IO is taking into consideration.

3 Can’t photocopies of a case diary be used?

The Behmai case is around 39 years old and the record is in several volumes. In general, photocopies can be used as old paper starts tearing if handled too often. We keep such documents wrapped, and the same was done in this case too.

4 Does loss of the case diary impact a case?

In this case, the trial has concluded and the arguments on both sides are over. If a case diary goes missing at an initial stage, the IO can be told to reconstruct it with the copy available at the police station.

5 How many documents are being sifted through to find the Behmai case diary?

This is a case in which 35-36 people were named. Then matter went to the High Court and Supreme Court. Because of all this there are a number of thick files and somewhere in those files we have the original case diary. AVANEESH MISHRA

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF INNER LINE PERMIT COUNTER, MAO, SENAPATI DISTRICT, MANIPUR

A line in the sand

2,900 km from home in Gujarat, a 50-year-old welder, who has lost his Aadhaar and voter card, tries to get past an ILP barrier on the Nagaland-Manipur border

JIMMY LEIVON

WEARING JUST a thin navy blue jacket against the 8-degree-Celsius cold, his feet in a pair of open sandals, Govindbhai Laxmanbhai Zala, 50, hangs around restless at the ‘Mao Gate’ in Senapati district of Manipur, which marks the entry to the state from Nagaland.

He sits on a bench near the gate, located along National Highway 102, shifts after a few minutes, before strolling down to a nearby vegetable market.

A resident of Taiyabpura, in Gujarat’s Kapadvanj district, Zala, a welder, arrived at the gate with three co-workers. The others proceeded to Imphal after getting an Inner Line Permit (ILP) within 30 minutes, but Zala was stopped as he didn’t have the required documents to prove his identity.

First introduced under the Bengal

Frontier Regulation Act, 1873, the ILP system was extended to Manipur on December 11 to provide the state relief from the purview of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Since it officially came into force from January 1, outsiders who are not permanent residents of Manipur have to get this permit to enter the state.

The government has set up seven ILP counters in border areas of Manipur, including the Imphal airport. They issue four types of permits — special category, regular, temporary and labour.

The counter at the Mao Gate, located on the premises of the Mao Police Station, issues only temporary permits, valid for 15 days, against payment of Rs 100 and submission of identity proof. The counter functions round the clock, like other ILP counters.

Zala only has a photocopy of a ‘resident certificate’, issued by the sarpanch of his village, with his photo on it. As he approaches



Constable Mohamad Ali (right) inspects documents at the border. Jimmy Leivon

the IPL counter, Head Constable Mohamad Ali says, “This won’t do. Don’t you have other ID cards? Aadhaar, voter card?”

His voice shaking, Zala says he has lost his Aadhaar and voter cards.

Ali asks Zala if he can ask his family members to WhatsApp their IDs, so as to verify his identity. Zala shakes his head again. “Sir, my wife’s Aadhaar and voter cards are also lost and my phone battery is dead.”

A little exasperated, Ali tells him, “How did you reach Manipur without an ID card? Pradhan Mantri ke rajya ke ho phir bhi aisi laparwahi kyon (You belong to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s own state, why such carelessness)?”

The counter has been handling around 180 applications a day, and officials say most people who come have valid Aadhaar or voter cards. They have issued nearly 3,000

permits so far and sent back only one person, who claimed to be from Assam and born and brought up in Nagaland.

Ali, who has been posted in Mao since 2016 and did mostly clerical work at the police station before he was assigned to the IPL counter, says, “Despite how hectic things are, we do our best to ensure visitors are not harassed.”

The counter, which can accommodate around eight people at a time, is run by four policemen under the supervision of an assistant sub-inspector or sub-inspector. During rush hour, 8 to 11 am, it is set up in the open. Drivers of inter-state buses from Guwahati, Shillong or Dimapur mostly crowd the counter at this time, apart from taxis, as Nagaland does not allow heavy vehicles to enter Kohima between 11 am and 3 pm to regulate the mounting traffic problems in the capital. Two volunteers from the District Legal Authority Services have set up a help desk, and offer their services from morning till evening.

Zala urges Ali to let him through, pleading he is going only for a few days. Ali explains that it is not possible, that even if he allows Zala through Mao Gate, he would be stopped and sent back from the checkpoint down the road. He might even be arrested for travelling without a permit, Ali says.

Taxi driver Depesh Chhettri is among those in the queue, seeking ILP for his four passengers, all labourers from Bihar. Says Chhettri,

“Passengers get angry. They have to sometimes wait nearly an hour.” Now, locals have started refusing to share vehicles with outsiders, hitting business, he adds.

The policemen say they do their best to speed up matters, but it still takes at least seven minutes to prepare a permit. They fill in the application form, prepare a receipt and verify ID cards before issuing a permit. One of the policemen at the counter, Md Hafizzudin, adds, “We have to answer endless queries in the midst of all this. Some visitors even ask why police are charging money. We have to also update the number of permits issued with the headquarters or the superintendent of police.”

A Home Department official said they were yet to compile the total number of permits issued.

Around noon, four passengers from Assam, including two women, approach the counter. As Ali asks the women to come forward, one of the drivers standing in the queue loses his cool. The Head Constable explains that they have instructions from above to prioritise women and senior citizens.

Around 5.30 pm, after he has been waiting nearly nine hours, there is relief for Zala. One of his fellow workers who had gone on to Imphal earlier has WhatsApped documentary proof regarding his younger brother to a police officer. His papers checked, Zala is finally handed his ILP.



Across  
THE AISLE



**PCHIDAMBARAM**  
Website: pchidambaram.in  
Twitter @Pchidambaram\_IN

# Hope for the best, prepare for the worst

ANOTHER YEAR has started, another Budget is round the corner, and another fateful year for the Indian economy.

Since 2016-17, every year has brought surprises and tears. 2016-17 was the year of the catastrophic demonetisation. 2017-18 was the year of the flawed GST and its hurried implementation. 2018-19 was the year when the slide began and the growth rate dipped in every quarter (8.0, 7.0, 6.6 and 5.8 per cent). 2019-20 was the wasted year when the government refused to heed warnings and allowed the growth rate to collapse to below 5 per cent.

## EXTENT OF COLLAPSE

It is now pretty clear that

- 2019-20, when the final revisions are made, will record a growth rate of less than 5 per cent;
- that the government's revenues will fall significantly short of the BE (Budget Estimates) under both major heads (net tax revenue and disinvestment);
- that the fiscal deficit will breach the BE target of 3.3 per cent and will be close to 3.8 to 4.0 per cent;
- that both imports and exports of merchandise will record negative growth over the previous year;
- that private sector investment (measured by Gross Fixed Capital Formation), in current prices, will be about Rs 57,42,431 crore (or 28.1 per cent of the GDP), indicating investor risk-aversion and weariness;
- that private consumption remained sluggish throughout the year;

that the agriculture sector remained under acute stress and will return a growth rate of about 2 per cent;

that the job-creating sectors like manufacturing, mining and construction shed jobs in 2019-20, leading to a reduction in total employment;

that credit growth to industry as a whole, and to the SME sector in particular, will be negative over the previous year; and

that year-end CPI-based inflation will be over 7 per cent (with food inflation at over 10 per cent), adding to the distress caused by rising unemployment and stagnant wages/incomes.

According to Dr Arvind Subramanian, former chief economic adviser, the economy is in the 'intensive care unit'. According to Nobel Prize winner Dr Abhijit Banerjee, the economy is 'doing badly'. None of the observations of critics seems to have worried the government, that maintains that the upturn will happen in the 'next quarter'! Because of its ostrich-like attitude, the government has rejected every correct remedial measure and has, instead, taken the wrong measures. For example, if taxes had to be cut, the government should have cut indirect taxes; instead it gave a bonanza amounting to Rs 1,45,000 crore to the corporate sector and got nothing in return in terms of higher investment. The government should have boosted demand by putting more money in the hands of the poor; instead it cut back on the outlays (BE) for MGNREGA, Swachh Bharat, White

Revolution and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and may actually spend even less.

## PM'S BUDGET: WHAT WILL HE DO?

When the Prime Minister met with 12 top businesspersons (without Ms Nirmala Sitharaman or aides), it showed nervousness as well as lack of confidence in the Finance Minister. According to sketchy reports in the media and hints dropped by some of the participants, the following are possible in the Budget that will be presented on February 1, 2020:

1. A cut in the income tax rates for individuals earning up to Rs 10 lakh a year.
2. Abolition or reduction of the tax on Long Term Capital Gains realised after holding the security for two years.
3. Reduction of the rate of Dividend Distribution Tax.
4. A promise to introduce the Direct Taxes Code.
5. Selective, short-term reduction of GST for a few sectors like construction.
6. Increase in the PM-KISAN amount from the current level of Rs 6,000 per year and/or extension of the scheme to more categories of beneficiaries.
7. Large increases in the outlays for defence; MGNREGA; SC, ST, OBC and minority scholarships; Ayushman Bharat (health insurance) etc by over-estimating tax revenues or borrowing heavily.
8. Setting up of one or two Developmental Finance Institutions (DFIs)

for providing long-term finance to industry in general and SMEs in particular.

9. A massive disinvestment programme and/or asset monetisation programme with the narrow objective of raising resources.

## ECONOMY A DRAG

All of the above is in line with the thinking of the government that relies heavily on the corporate sector (for funds), on the middle class (for votes) and on the defence of India (for distraction). Its capacity to think of structural reforms is limited. It has no confidence that the banking system will provide credit. Thanks to its protectionist lobby, it has given up on foreign trade as an engine of growth. It does not wish to curtail the exuberance of the stock markets. It cannot define its relationship with the RBI and determine how the two can maintain financial stability, promote growth and contain inflation.

The economy is not the main concern of the BJP government; it is the Hindutva agenda. On the other hand, the people are concerned with issues tied to economic growth such as more jobs, better producer prices, wages and incomes, relative price stability, access to better education and health care, and improved infrastructure

# Hate politics pushing us into existential crisis

## Dalitality



**CHINNAIAH JANGAM**  
chinnaiah.jangam@carleton.ca

AMONG THE decolonised nation-states, India had stood as a model. Its non-violent anti-colonial struggle showed to the other colonised a means of resistance. Post-independent India's Constitution, drafted by Dalit visionary B R Ambedkar, enabled the imagination of people to build an ethical and inclusive democracy. Most importantly, it showed that, if led by an ethical leadership, the State could address historic injustices. In the same vein, Jawaharlal Nehru's commitment to nation-building in terms of institutions and electoral democracy ensured India's forward march. The template worked out by the anti-colonial, anti-caste and anti-communal visionaries of the nation not only freed the country from the shackles of colonial oppression but also rebuilt it from the trauma of Partition. Like the mythical phoenix, India re-emerged as a modern, secular, democratic, socialist republic.

When, in 1975-77, the suspension of democracy through Emergency by Indira Gandhi threw the nation into an existential crisis, people fought for democracy. Ironically, it was at this juncture that the nation conceded public and political space to the Hindu right. The RSS as an originator of the two-nation theory and the producer of Nathuram Godse, the killer of M K Gandhi, had remained invisible till then. By aligning with democratic mobilisations, the RSS enhanced its agenda, it distilled and distributed its poisonous, hate politics in the name of social and educational services. It produced Hindu nationalists with military-style training similar to fascist Black Shirts. They orchestrate violence and act as extra State actors with the support of the higher echelons of power.

## POISONED DEMOCRACY

The post-1990s rise of Hindu nationalism has fundamentally altered Indian public life and political discourse. One, by inciting hatred towards Muslims; the worst example was the pogrom in Gujarat in 2002 under Narendra Modi as Chief Minister. RSS affiliates have simultaneously spread their influence into mainstream media and corporate houses, strengthening its money power and packaging its Hindu communal agenda as development and nationalism. As a result, after 2014,

She SAID



**MUKULIKA BANERJEE**  
m.banerjee@lse.ac.uk

# A small 'feastie' in a Republic's anniversary

IN A small village in West Bengal, every year on 26th January, a young schoolteacher called Akhtar organised a picnic for the children of the village. On India's Republic Day, with schools closed and no family-oriented activities, as there are on religious festivals, the children missed nothing by being away from the village. Akhtar knew most of the children personally, either as students at his school or as their private tutor. The quality of his tuitions was considered very good given that he possessed a rare degree in English, and so any knowledge that he could impart was at a premium. His widowed mother fiercely believed in the value of education for her two sons and one daughter, and made sure they all went to university, inculcating in them the importance of supporting education wherever they went.

On 26th January, Akhtar rounded up the children and, as the national flag was unfurled, they sang the national anthem and sweets were distributed to everyone who stopped by. Then he took the children for a picnic, which they called a 'feastie', to a little cove about a couple of miles away, not far from the edge of the highway. It was a lovely spot, with some unusually large trees, the ruins of an old inspection bungalow and a dried-up river bed. Akhtar read out the Preamble of the Indian Constitution, after which he explained to the children that these were the very words that were read out on the same date in 1950 when India became a Republic, and gave a brief commentary explaining the meaning of the words in it. The children then played some games he organised and won small prizes of stationery and books, after which everyone enjoyed a modest picnic of *muri*, salted peanuts and fruits. By late afternoon, the children were back in the village.

While Akhtar did not intend to make too obvious a statement by this gesture, the choice of Republic Day to mark his ritual calendar was of course heavy with symbolism. He was the most educated member of the village but kept his distance from all party politics, including all Left politics, which was dominated by the local comrade. Nor did he overtly support the opposition party his brother had initiated. He also tended to stay away from Eid and other religious festivals and weddings as he

found them wasteful and claustrophobic. Instead, he chose to invest his personal money and time on Republic Day, preferring a 'modern' and 'secular' ritual as his contribution to the social life of the village.

In the short speech that he made to the children, Akhtar drew their attention to the Preamble's words and explained the significance of living in a Republic, what being a sovereign citizen meant, and the rights and responsibilities it brought to each of them. Quietly, he underscored that while they were too little to vote, they should not forget that India's founders had laid the foundation for political and social equality through universal franchise and urged the children to always remember that.

Akhtar himself belonged to the elite Syed caste and had benefited from having had an education up to the Masters level. This little celebration allowed him to also mark his commitment to a wider distribution of this privilege, which he practised the rest of the year through free and excellent tuitions for those who could not afford to pay. By including children from every household, regardless of caste and religion, and by taking them away from the glare of the village, Akhtar was able to avoid any debate and competition with anyone else. In a context where very few social activities were arranged purely for children, people in the village saw his

gesture as noble, affectionate and progressive, if slightly eccentric.

I never got to know Akhtar very well, or 'Akhtar Master' as we all called him, despite having visited his village for over 20 years. But his picnic stood out for me as a unique moment in the social life of a community when an otherwise taciturn adult went out of his way to do something meaningful for the children of the village and made it fun. At this point in India's history, when millions feel the very constitutional soul of the Indian Republic is under assault, it is possible to see the real worth of Akhtar Master's gesture and that of all the Akhtar Masters across India. They have celebrated and taught future generations the values of the Republic and an Indian citizenship — sovereignty of people, the secular basis of our political foundations, the importance of civic participation, civility in competition, the importance of team spirit and the joys of togetherness. As one watches India erupt in a wave of popular protests and demonstrations unfettered by the petty rivalries of political parties, of the young providing leadership to the disillusioned, of 90-year-old women inspiring young men to keep up, it is the quotidian lessons of citizenship that have been taught and practised over seven decades that are now being used to express what it is to be Indian.

On this Republic Day, I hope that Akhtar is holding his feastie as usual, and I expect there will be a few extra goodies for the children on this special 70th anniversary.

*Mukulika Banerjee is Director, LSE South Asia Centre, and author of Why India Votes?*

Out of  
MY MIND



**MEGHNAD DESAI**

# The anti-Muslim century

in a war against Muslims worldwide. Russia has its Chechnya, China its Uighurs. France has sustained multiple terrorist attacks this century on civilians. US President Donald Trump is hostile to Muslims worldwide and has just declared his displeasure against Iran. We could, though not very likely, yet end up with a world war in the second fifth of this century.

Why has this happened? Why has the 21st century become so blatantly anti-Muslim? Let's go back to 1920. The oldest Empire in Europe, the Ottoman Empire, fell and with it came the end of Islam's global domination after 1,200 years. The Western world was no longer threatened by Islam on its eastern front.

The remainder of the 20th century was spent sorting out the problems created by the collapse of Western European empires. The end of the Austrian empire unleashed nationalism, the Russian gave birth to Bolshevism. The German empire broke up to birth fascism. It took up to 1991 to sort out Bolshevism. In the meantime, maritime Western empires dissolved. The transfer of Hong Kong to China ended the British Empire.


But the one Empire whose problems were left unresolved was the Ottoman. Its territory was carved up during the First World War by Britain and France in a secret treaty and territories were given names and governments — Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon etc. These remained informal colonies of Western powers. Turkey alone emerged a Republic.

After the Second World War, the Arab countries became nominally independent kingdoms. When Israel was created by a UN Resolution, these Arab kingdoms tried and failed to win a war against Israel in three attempts. By 1973, despair had set in. Pan-Arabism had lost its appeal as had Arab Socialism. The people turned to religion as a consolation. The oil-rich Saudis spread Wahhabism. Iran imploded and the Shah was replaced by the Ayatollahs. The

Sunnis and Shias now had oil-rich States capable of encouraging orthodox Islam and each other. The Iran-Iraq war was one of the bloodiest.

Islamism is the political movement which was born as a response to the crisis, but it is Janus-faced. Islamist political movement has fought to disestablish Muslim governments across the Middle East. It was recruited by the Americans to expel the Soviet Union from Afghanistan, which gave birth to the Taliban and al-Qaeda. It is a moot point, but across the wars in the Middle East, Islamism has probably killed more Muslims than any other people. It is a tragedy with no end in sight.

Fifth  
COLUMN



**TAVLEEN SINGH**  
Twitter @tavleen\_singh

# Celebrate the Constitution

THERE WERE many things that impressed and moved me when I spent a morning in Shaheen Bagh last week. I was impressed by how clearly the women leading the protest have understood why the changes in the citizenship law mean more for them personally than Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ministers say they do. I was moved by their dedication, courage and resolve to continue with their protest through a month of freezing cold days and nights. But, what moved me most was a poster on the front of a podium that said 'savers of the Constitution'. It moved me most because in the seventieth year of its birth, the Indian Constitution is being seen as it was meant to be seen: a guarantee of democracy.

The men who wrote it translated a dream into a document. To borrow Madhav Khosla's words from his remarkable new book, *India's Founding Moment*, "At the heart of this moment — in which constitution-making and democratization occurred simultaneously — lay the question of democracy in an environment unqualified for its existence. Democracy was being instituted in a difficult setting: poor and illiterate; divided by caste, religion, and language; and burdened by centuries of tradition".

Unsurprisingly, for most of India's early years as a modern nation, there was constant speculation about when democracy was going to die. Of the handful of Indians who could read and write in those dark times, too many actually wished that it would die sooner than later. As someone who spent most of those years in military towns, I remember hearing often that what India needed was a decade of military dictatorship so that we could prosper as Pakistan had by then. Hard though it is to believe today, Pakistan in its early years of military rule was actually doing much better economically than 'socialist' India. And yet, democracy survived even through Indira Gandhi's Emergency.

So, it is quite wonderful that today, on the seventieth birthday of our Constitution, those who are protesting against the discriminatory changes in our citizenship law are using it as the symbol of their protests. Last week lawyers in Mumbai gathered outside a court to read the Preamble aloud in public. The government of Maharashtra has made it compulsory to teach the Preamble in schools. And, the most promising young Dalit leader of our time, Chandrashekhar Azad, came to Shaheen Bagh holding the Constitution in his hands. The dream that the men who wrote it dreamed has become a reality, and that is something to be celebrated.

Since Narendra Modi began his second term, the world has started to see India as a country in which aggressive nationalism and religious intolerance have become a serious threat to democracy. So much so that in Davos last week, Imran Khan got away with telling an important international news channel that India was in the grip of an ideology called 'Hindu-vata' that was inspired by the Nazis. From a man who comes from a country that has been the epicentre of jihadist terrorism for at least three decades, that is rich.

He got away with saying this because there appears to have been a consensus at this year's annual meeting of the World Economic Forum that India is in worse shape than ever before, both economically and politically. Someone as eminent as George Soros had this to say, "The biggest and most frightening setback occurred in India where Modi is creating a Hindu nationalist state, imposing punitive measures on Kashmir, a semi-autonomous Muslim region, and threatening to deprive millions of Muslims of their citizenship."

If this was not bad news enough for one week, *The Economist's* latest issue arrived on the day of my deadline for this column with a cover story titled 'Intolerant India'. The cover has the BJP's saffron lotus rising out of menacing rolls of barbed wire. The longish story inside caused me to sink into a miasma of gloom. In long years of political journalism, almost the only other time that I have read so much bad news about India was during the Emergency. And, that was not so bad as now when bad news travels in seconds because of the speed of social media.

To cheer myself up, I opened my notebook and read the notes of my conversations with the women of Shaheen Bagh. I found that they had talked more about the Constitution and the rights it guarantees them than anything else. It was because of the Constitution that they believed nothing bad would happen to them despite BJP spokespersons describing them as paid protesters and Shaheen Bagh as a 'mini-Pakistan'. There is far too much talk of this kind. It actually ends up demeaning India more than Pakistan, but what should cheer all of us up this Republic Day is that our Constitution is a shining beacon in this troubled time.



Except for the Marabar Caves — and they are twenty miles off — the city of Chandrapore presents nothing extraordinary. Edged rather than washed by the river Ganges, it trails for a couple of miles along the bank, scarcely distinguishable from the rubbish it deposits so freely. — *A Passage to India*, (1924), EM Forster

# Seize the Right

A comprehensive account tracing the history of the Lokpal movement, and locating its relevance in contemporary times



Social activist Anna Hazare being offered lemon water by a little girl to break his fast unto death for Jan Lokpal Bill, Jantar Mantar, 2011 *Express Archives*

## SHYAMLAL YADAV

THE YEARS 2011-13 saw unprecedented turbulence in India's social and political life. A slew of allegations of corruption were levelled at those in power, involving the 2G spectrum sale, the Commonwealth Games, Adarsh Housing, the allocation of coal mines and others, under the aegis of a mismanaged Union government. The septuagenarian Gandhian Anna Hazare, who was until then known only for his developmental work in the village of Ralegan Siddhi, came to Delhi to press for the Jan Lokpal Bill to address maladministration and corruption in public life. He found associates like Santosh Hegde, Arvind Kejriwal, Kiran Bedi, Baba Ramdev, Prashant Bhushan and many other activists, and for some time, the masses were chanting, "*Main bhi Anna*".

There was a lot of manoeuvring, politics, debate and discussion in and outside the government from 2011 till the end of 2013, when a Lokpal (not Jan Lokpal) Bill was passed. Hazare's protest forced Parliament to adopt a 'Sense of the House' resolution in a special session. Many who led the movement to cleanse the political system now seek room within it. Arvind Kejriwal formed the Aam Aadmi Party which now rules Delhi, Kiran Bedi joined the BJP to lead it in the Delhi assembly polls in 2015, Baba Ramdev abandoned his dream of forming a political outfit and stood with the BJP, and Prashant Bhushan and Yogendra Yadav first went with Kejriwal but were later sacked, and formed the Swaraj Abhiyan party. Former Army chief General VK Singh went to Hazare's village in December 2013 and talked of "some people

who made political gains from Hazare and then deserted him", but later he himself joined the BJP and successfully contested two Lok Sabha elections from Ghaziabad.

The movement showed the power of civil society, but the quest for a Lokpal dates back to the Sixties. In two volumes, Rajeev Dhavan, senior advocate in the Supreme Court and dedicated human rights activist, answers every question related to the anti-corruption ombudsman and the Anna movement that forced the Union government to enact the law. The first volume, *The Lokpal Idea: 1963-2010*, looks at ombudsmen across the world, while the second volume follows the story of Hazare and the Lokpal Bill from 2010 — contemporary history that is unputdownable.

Most of the earlier Lokpal versions fell through because they were drafted by the ruling party on what Dhavan terms a "regime-revenge" model, to target political adversaries. Fulfilling an old demand, the new Act covers the prime minister, ministers, MPs, and all bureaucrats, as well as chairpersons, members, officers or employees of boards, corporations, authorities, companies, societies, trusts, and autonomous bodies established by Parliament, or wholly or partly financed by the central government or controlled by it. The prime minister enjoys special protections — an inquiry against him must be approved by two-thirds (or six out of nine) of the full bench and all members of the Lokpal. Inquiries will be in camera and if the charges are dismissed, the report cannot be made public.

Dhavan questions the subordination of civil society to political society. He writes, "Where political society consists of arbitrary rulers who claim divine right or defend total-



THE LOKPAL IDEA: 1963-2010  
RAJEEV DHAVAN  
Orient Blackswan  
436 pages  
₹ 1095

itarian rule as necessitous, civil society is oppressed and suppressed with savagery — no less in our time than in any other." Showing how easily secular democracy can be destroyed, he continues, "It is civil society that has risen to challenge autocracy and the suppression of free speech ... The purpose of dissent, disobedience and activism is not only to enable electoral democracy to work, but also to enable people to confront those in power in civil and political society, and thereby profoundly affect the very structure of power." Minutely detailed chapters like 'August of Kranti', 'Come September and Beyond', 'The Denouncement', 'Parting of Ways' and 'Anna's Legacies' are of great interest for students of this civil society initiative.



ANNA AND THE LOKPAL BILL : 2010-2018  
RAJEEV DHAVAN  
Orient Blackswan  
624 pages; ₹ 1350

It is easy to dismiss the event in hindsight, but Dhavan advises, "Anna will be remembered as one who threatened the rulers of Delhi and then faded away from glory ... Like JP, Anna did not challenge the autocracy of the government, he challenged the system of governance itself ... Anna-style campaigns have their own place in India, reminding all that the ultimate power lies in the vigilance of the people." About the new Act, Dhavan writes, "The Act has a lot of authorities, processes and decision-makers clubbed together to achieve the ambitions for which it had been created, under intense pressure from all sides."

This is in fact the history of whatever has happened in the name of curtailing corrup-

tion and punishing the corrupt since independence. It is also a concise history of a government system which has failed to deliver, making corruption and maladministration the biggest challenges after poverty. Dhavan follows the Lokpal journey from the Sixties, analysing the role of each of its players — governments, ministers, protesters, political parties — and sparing none, from Anna to Shanti and Prashant Bhushan, Arvind Kejriwal and Ramdev. While the Act specifies that not less than 50 per cent of the members of Lokpal shall be from the scheduled castes and tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities and women, Dhavan terms this reservation as "cumbersome".

The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act 2013 got presidential assent in early 2014, but the Lokpal chairperson and members were only appointed in March 2019, after intervention by the Supreme Court and contempt of court proceedings filed by the NGO Common Cause. Now functioning from rented space in the Hotel Ashok in the capital, the Lokpal is yet to start work because rules must be finalised. The significant work done by the Lokpal in over nine months has been to purchase vehicles for its officials according to protocol. One member, former Allahabad High Court Chief Justice Dilip B Bhonsale, resigned on January 9, for "personal reasons". Draft rules of the Lokpal are travelling between the Department of Personnel and Training and the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Dhavan's optimism about civil society makes his book relevant at a time when it is voicing its opposition to the Citizenship Amendment Act, and when the Aam Aadmi Party, one of the legacies of Anna's protest, faces a life-and-death election in Delhi.

# Listen to Me

A collection of stories that speak to and of teenage spirit, with all its dark shades



THIS IS HOW IT TOOK PLACE  
RUDRAKSHI BHATTACHARJEE  
Harper Collins India  
224 pages  
₹ 399

## SUKRITA BARUAH

IN OCTOBER 2017, 16-year-old Rudrakshi Bhattacharjee jumped to her death from the building in which her family lived in Bangalore. She had left behind a body of writing including these 16 stories which were published posthumously in 2019, when she would have been 18.

At times, reading this collection is almost alarming for how frequently and deeply these stories written by a teenager explore death, living with death and dying. A good third of the collection is one story broken into three and spread through the book, interspersed by other stories. Throughout it, the adolescent protagonist must navigate all manner of death — the guilt attached to the death of a friend in a fire, the loss of yet another friend to a fatal habit, the death of an absentee father in an accident, the deadly love of a doting and abusive mother — and it ends in a chaotic crescendo of tragedy that is hard to read.

But, perhaps, the most disquieting treatment of death in the collection is in the story 'Who Else Will Love the Damned?' located in the aftermath of the teenage protagonist's elder sister's attempt to end her own life. The protagonist is empathetic to her sister's situation despite their troubled relationship. When her mother reacts strongly to both her sister's action and her measured response to it, she thinks to herself "My sister slit her wrists because she didn't have the courage to do anything else. It wasn't wrong, Mom. It was her decision."

The characters in several different stories echo each other. At the centre is often a young woman with a difficult relationship with the world — lonely, rebellious, misunderstood by those around her, all written in the first person. Fathers are absent, and the mothers go out every evening leaving take-out noodles for dinner, failing to protect their daughter from abuse and exploitation. Mothers who respond with anger and shame to their children's difficulties. Only in 'When Carl's Café Closed Its Door on Me' does the mother's volatile behaviour offer an uneasy, happy ending to the protagonist's story.

One cannot help but wonder if the mood of these stories by a promising young writer would have been written off as teenage angst had it not been for the deep tragedy of Rudrakshi's own life. While the writing might be a little underdeveloped and uneven for adult readers, it holds a serious mirror to them — one that tells them to listen, to engage more deeply with what children, and those approaching adulthood, are saying and thinking.

Rudrakshi's stories speak louder and more unsettlingly than a lot of writing for young adults because here is a teenager speaking through teenage characters, as opposed to an adult writing for and as younger people. Her audience is indeterminate; her writing almost seems to be for herself.

## EXPRESS EDITORS RECOMMEND



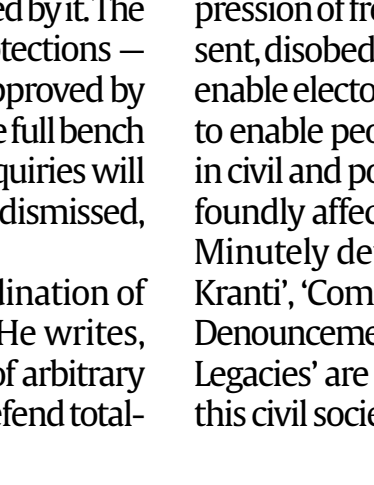
THE HOT ZONE, by Richard Preston (Anchor): As the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan continues and airports worldwide install screening devices to keep borders sanitised, the air of urgency recalls Preston's 1994 nonfiction bestseller *The Hot Zone*. The book had followed outbreaks of filoviruses like Ebola and Marburg, and raised public consciousness about emerging bio-threats. One of the most influential books of the century, it is also accused of eco-romanticism and sensationalism, which conditioned perceptions of ebola. In 1969, Michael Crichton earned his spurs as a genre fiction writer with *The Andromeda Strain*, which described the effects and containment of an infective agent from space. His account was uncannily prescient about pandemics yet to come, like HIV-AIDS.

## A Tear in Time

*The Tribune* archive sheds light on a dark spot in India's political history

### PARSA VENKATESHWAR RAO JR

THE DISPATCHES published in the then Lahore-based nationalist newspaper, *The Tribune*, in the traumatic days of 1919-20 show the extreme self-restraint on the Indian side after the April 13, 1919, Jallianwala Bagh massacre, and the stance of Brigadier General Reginald Dyer, who commandeered troops to open fire at a political meeting on the day. The British continued to govern India for 28 years after the Jallianwala Bagh tragedy. Editor Kalinath Ray was tried by the military tribunal for his allegedly seditious articles, sentenced to two years in prison and released after two months. *The Tribune's* editorials were passionate and logical, couched in inornate early 20th century prose. On 21



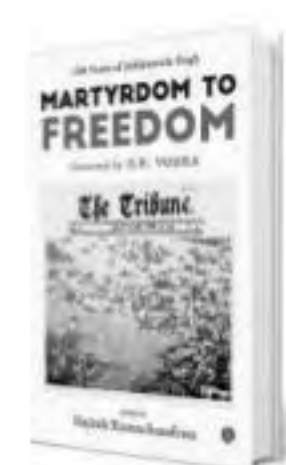
Kalinath Ray  
*Tribune archive*

March, 1919, the editorial pronounced in unequivocal and authoritative tones against the passing of the Rowlatt Bills, which formed the background of the Jallianwala Bagh meeting on April 13: "...the right of open and regular trial by ordinary courts... comes automatically to an end" and "The reign of law... is now superseded by the region of discretion." It said: "With the passing of this bill the already attenuated liberties of the people cease to have any meaning and any reality in the English sense, and the paramountcy of the executive becomes complete."

The editorial of 6 April 1919, about the protest against the Rowlatt Act, talks of "the scheme of protest" devised by Gandhi — of fasting and *hartal*. And adopting a voice of impeccable derision, it says, "The Westerner does not understand how we are going to

have the Rowlatt Act repealed by observing a fast or by suspending for a day our usual business and thus inflicting a loss on ourselves. To his positive, practical mind, therefore, all this is the apotheosis of foolishness... They are exactly the forms of activity in which the commonest man can take part in and through them the whole nation can act as one man." In the editorial on 10 April, Ray reprimanded outgoing lieutenant governor of Punjab Sir Micheal O'Dwyer for "indiscreet utterances in a speech as extraordinarily unwise and unstatesmanlike as any speech could well be." Ray objected to O'Dwyer, saying, "The recent puerile demonstrations against the Rowlatt Act in both these cities [Lahore and Amritsar] would, therefore, be ludicrous if they did not indicate how easily ignorant and credulous people — not one in a thousand of whom knows anything about the measure — can be misled. Those who wantonly mislead them incur a serious responsibility." And he is admonished: "His Honour knows, as well all do, that the public mind is highly surcharged; that the public mind is in a state of unusual excitement. At such a time a wise ruler would do all he could to allay the public feeling, to utter the soft word that turneth away wrath. The exact reverse of this policy Sir Michael O'Dwyer follows. If there is bitterness, he increases it immensely." This sent Ray to prison.

The publication of *The Tribune* was sus-



100 YEARS OF JALLIANWALA BAGH: MARTYRDOM TO FREEDOM  
EDITED BY RAJESH RAMACHANDRAN  
Rupa Publications India  
256 pages  
₹ 595

ended and it resumed only on 26 July, 1919. On 16 March 1920, the newspaper supported "Mr Gandhi's decision not to advise *hartal* on this occasion [the first anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre] as not only the test but the most statesmanlike in the circumstances" and it adds to the Gandhian programme to mark the occasion that "suitable extracts from the Royal Proclamation should be read out at the meetings to be held

either on the 6th or the 13th, and resolutions passed both thanking His Majesty for his gracious message and calling upon the bureaucracy to faithfully and literally carry out His Majesty's instructions, especially as regards the release of political prisoners and the suspension of the working of repressive laws."

The newspaper's editorials and dispatches of this tumultuous and traumatic year reveal the efforts of the editor to maintain a sane stance in provocative circumstances, to confront the authorities and to warn people of the consequences of their words and actions. Having won its editorial spurs in the heat of the independence struggle, *The Tribune* again played a distinguished role in the 1980s when terror and violence from the Sikh militancy and the government's responses traumatised Punjab again.

Rajesh Ramchandran, editor of *The Tribune*, has done a tremendous job in the newspaper's archives, and brought in the writings of other writers like Ramachandra Guha, V N Datta, Kishwar Desai and Navtej Sarna, to assemble a memorial volume for the centenary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, with the uncanny caveat: "This is not a good time to talk about nationalism." But it is always good to talk about difficult questions, if not to resolve inherent contradictions, but to give them a healthy airing.

*The writer is a freelance journalist*





Around 4,000 students from Zeal Education Society recreate a giant Tricolour on the eve of Republic Day in Pune. *Ashish Kale*

# Padma honours for Jaitley, Sushma, Fernandes, Parrikar

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

THE GOVERNMENT has conferred Padma Vibhushan on deceased NDA leaders and former Union Ministers Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj and George Fernandes. All three died last year.

Former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, who died of cancer last year, has been awarded Padma Bhushan.

Among seven Padma Vibhushan awardees are also boxer Mary Kom, Hindustani classical singer Chhannulal Mishra (who endorsed Narendra Modi's nomination from Varanasi before 2014 polls and has called the PM an incarnation of Lord Ram), former Mauritius President Anerood Jugnauth, and spiritual guru from Karnataka Vishveshateertha Swamiji Sri Pejavarada Adhokhaja Matha Udipi.

Industrialist Anand Mahindra, badminton player PV Sindhu, former Nagaland CM SC Jamir, legal luminary N R Madhava Menon, and classical singer Ajoy Chakravorty are among 16 Padma Bhushan awardees.

The government has conferred Padma awards on 14 Muslim personalities this year as compared to eight last year. PDP leader and former Jammu and Kashmir deputy CM Muzaffar Hussain Baig, spiritualist from Kerala M Mumtaz Ali and former Bangladesh foreign secretary Syed Muazzam Ali have been awarded Padma Bhushan. Muazzam Ali, who died recently, was instrumental in transforming India-Bangladesh ties in the last five years.

Singer Adnan Sami, who was born in Pakistan but later took Indian citizenship, has been awarded the Padma Shri.

Bicycle mechanic Mohammed Sharif from Faizabad, who has performed last rites of over 25,000 unclaimed bodies; Jagdish Lal Ahuja, who serves free food to patients and attendants outside PGI Hospital in Chandigarh; and elephant doctor from Assam Kushal Konwar Sarma are among the coveted Padma Shri awardees.

Prof HC Verma, whose books are considered essential reading for anyone looking to clear the IIT entrance exams, is also among the Padma Shri awardees.

Tulasi Gowda, 72, from Karnataka, who earned the sobriquet "encyclopedia of forests" given her vast knowledge of diverse plants species in spite of lacking formal education, has been given the award, officials said. Sathyanarayan Mundayoor, known as Uncle Moosa of Arumachal Pradesh, who has been promoting education and reading culture in remote areas of Northeastern states for last four



Clockwise from top: Sushma Swaraj, Arun Jaitley, George Fernandes and Manohar Parrikar

decades; Abdul Jabbar a.k.a. 'voice of Bhopal' (posthumously), known for fighting for the cause of victims and survivor of 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy; and Usha Chaumar, a Dalit social worker working in the field of sanitation in Rajasthan, have also been given the award.

Poptarao Pawar of Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, known for reviving groundwater in drought-prone Hware Bazar area; Harekala Hazabba, 64, a social worker from Karnataka providing affordable education to poor children; Arunoday Mondal, a doctor from West Bengal who treats patients in remote Sunderbans; Radha Mohan and his daughter Sabarmatee, both Gandhians who have converted a piece of degraded land into a vast food forest in Odisha by using only organic techniques are among the Padma Shri awardees.

Of 141 awardees, the film world also has a sizeable share. Producer-director Karan Johar, producer Ekta Kapoor and actor Kangana Ranaut have been awarded the Padma Shri. Singers Suresh Wadkar and veteran TV actor Sarita Joshi have also been conferred with the fourth highest civilian award of the country.

The Padma Shri for this year has been awarded to 118 eminent personalities across fields of art, literature and education, medicine, trade and industry, sports, public affairs, social work and science and engineering.

Among sports personalities, besides Mary Kom and PV Sindhu, six were named for Padma Shri: cricketer Zaheer Khan, Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, former Indian men's hockey player M P Ganesh, shooter Jitu Rai, former Indian women's football team captain Oinam Bembem Devi, and archer Tarundeep Rai.

Among foreigners awarded the Padma Shri is Bob Blackman, MP from Conservative Party of the UK, who had supported India's move to revoke Article 370. Barry Gardiner, Labour Party MP and 'shadow' Secretary of State for International Trade, has also been given the honour. He had supported the Modi government on the Kashmir move.

# Over 100 gallantry medals to J&K Police, officer who killed Burhan Wani honoured

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

THE J&K Police has this year bagged more than 100 gallantry medals, with the President's Police Medal for Gallantry going to Abdul Jabbar, the officer who headed the Anantnag police when Hizbul Mujahideen militant Burhan Wani was killed in an encounter in the district in 2016.

As every year, the J&K Police topped the tally among all the police forces in the country, followed by the CRPF, which has bagged 75 gallantry medals and has topped the charts among the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF).

The President on Saturday approved gallantry and service medals for police forces across the country. These will be

awarded on Republic Day on Sunday. According to a government statement, as many as 290 gallantry medals have been approved by the President this year, apart from 750 meritorious and distinguished service medals.

Of the 290 gallantry medals, there are four President's Police Medals for Gallantry (PPMG), with the rest being Police Medals for Gallantry (PMG). Of the four PPMGs, J&K Police has bagged three while one has gone to the CRPF. Of the 286 PMGs, 105 medals have been won by the J&K Police while 75 have gone to the CRPF.

Apart from Jabbar, the other PPMG winners from the J&K Police are DySP Hasan Shaikh and Constable Asif Iqbal Qureshi. In the CRPF, the PPMG has gone to Constable Utpal Rabha posthumously for bravely fighting Maoists in Khunti district of

Jharkhand in 2018.

Jabbar was SSP Anantnag when Wani was cornered and killed in Kokernag area of Anantnag on July 8, 2016. However, within a fortnight, Jabbar was transferred out to the traffic department for his alleged failure to curb the post-encounter violence in the district. Jabbar is currently with the Intelligence Bureau.

In the CBI, 28 officers have won service medals, with distinguished service medals to Joint Director Dharendra Shankar Shukla, ASPs Joy Thondattuparambil Varghese and Diptendu Bhattacharya, Sub Inspector Rajesh Singh, and DySP Ramaswamy Parthasarathy, among others.

Parthasarathy had arrested Chidambaram in the INX Media case last year and had also arrested the senior Congress

leader's son Karthi in the case.

Among other CAPFs, SSB won four gallantry medals, three distinguished service medals and 11 meritorious service medals. ITBP won 15 medals in the service category while CISF won 27. The Intelligence Bureau too bagged 31 service medals, while NIA had five officers being conferred the service medals.

Among states, it is the UP Police that bagged the maximum number of distinguished and meritorious service medals and among CAPFs, the CRPF. The UP Police bagged six distinguished service medals and 72 meritorious service medals. The CRPF bagged six distinguished service medals and 56 meritorious service medals. It was closely followed by the BSF, which won five distinguished service medals and 46 meritorious service medals.

## DySP who held Chidambaram among 28 CBI officers given medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

AN OFFICER who climbed the walls of former Finance Minister P Chidambaram's house to arrest and another who headed a team that deported the first Indian national from the UAE are among 28 CBI officers who have been awarded the President's police medals on the eve of Republic Day, officials said on Saturday.

Deputy SP Ramaswamy Parthasarathy, who arrested Chidambaram in INX Media case last year, has been conferred with the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service, officials said.

Dhirendra Shankar Shukla, who joined as DySP and rose to become its Joint Director, has also been given President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service, officials said.

SP Binay Kumar of special crime unit has been awarded Police Medal for Meritorious Service. He had led, among others, the probe into infamous Kherlanji murders of 2006.

Another SP from special crime unit Nirbhay Kumar, who had probed infamous Nithari murders, IRCCT case involving former railway minister Lalu Yadav and murder of Delhi Police ACP Rajbeer Singh has also been awarded for Meritorious Service.

Among the recipients of President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service are ASPs Thondattuparambil Varghese in Cochin and Diptendu Bhattacharya in Kolkata, Sub-Inspector Rajesh Singh in CBI Academy, Ghaziabad, Head Constables Om Prakash Bishnoi and Sanjay Kumar Bhat in New Delhi.

Officers who have been awarded with Police Medal for Meritorious Service are SP Manoj Verma, DySPs Thangluam Zamang, Rabi Narayan Tripathy, Mukesh Verma, Nitesh Kumar, Barun Kumar Sarkar, Narayan Chandra Sahoo, ASIs Nand Kishore, Nur Ali Sheikh and Rohitash Kumar Dhinwa, they said. The medal recipients also include Head Constables Madan Lal Dhiman, Dharamvir Singh, Parthasarathy Seshadri, Constables Kaishash Chand Yadav, Pawan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, and Officer Superintendent Pushpa Joshi, they said.

# Shaurya Chakra for 9 soldiers, over 400 other medals for bravery

KRISHNKAUSHIK  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

FROM PREVENTING a highly wanted terrorist from escaping during an operation and killing him in J&K to creating a "vibrant intelligence network" in Manipur and apprehending 14 terrorists; from establishing a surveillance detachment in the jungles of Manipur and killing terrorists to killing two infiltrators along the LoC in J&K.

These are some of the actions of Army personnel that will be honoured by the President with Shaurya Chakras on Republic Day, along with more than 400 other medals and decorations for the personnel of Army, Navy, Air Force, Paramilitary and the Coast Guard.

Of the nine recipients of Shaurya Chakra, four are being awarded posthumously. Six Shaurya Chakra winners are from the Army, and three from paramilitary forces.

The nine awardees are Lt Col Jyoti Lama of 11th Battalion of Gorkha Rifles, Major Konjengbam Bijendra Singh of Army Air Defence, Naib Subedar Narendra Singh of 9th Battalion of Parachute Regiment (Special Forces), Sepoy Karmdeoraon of 8th Battalion of Bihar Regiment, and Naik Naresh Kumar of the J&K Light Infantry.

The four who are being felicitated posthumously are Naib Subedar Sombir of Jat Regiment from the Army, and Challapilla Narasimha Rao, Kamal Kishore and Aman Kumar from paramilitary forces.

Two Air Force officers are being awarded the Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) posthumously. Squadron Leader Anil Mandavgane and Squadron Leader Siddharth Vashisht were the pilots who died when their helicopter crashed the day after the Balakot airstrike.

In all, 414 gallantry and other defence decorations to armed forces personnel and others will

be given by the President on the Republic Day.

Lt Gen Ranbir Singh, Northern Army Commander, who is set to retire soon, is among 28 senior officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force being given the Param Vishisht Seva Medals.

Besides nine Shaurya Chakras, and Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, the President will hand over four Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, 53 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 10 Yudh Seva Medals, 123 Vishisht Seva Medals, four Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 107 Sena Medals (Gallantry), five Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), four Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), four Bar to Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), 36 Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), eight Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), one Bar to Vayu Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty) and 13 Vayu Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty). He will also give three Tatkrashak Medal (Gallantry) and two Tatkrashak Medal (Meritorious Service) to Coast Guard personnel.

## Father of BHU Sanskrit prof who faced protests awarded

DEEP MUKHERJEE  
JAIPUR, JANUARY 25

BHAJAN SINGER Ramzan Khan, popularly known as Munna Master, was announced as one of the recipients of the Padma Shri on Saturday.

Munna Master is the father of

Firoze Khan, the BHU assistant professor whose appointment in November to the Sanskrit Vidya Dharam Vigyan (SVDV) department was met with opposition from students as he is a Muslim.

A tweet by the Ministry of Home Affairs spokesperson said, "Munna Master. Bhajan singer from a traditional Muslim family

of Bagaru in Jaipur district, carrying forward the family tradition of singing Ram-Krishna bhajans. Has penned bhajans in praise of Lord Krishna and cows. His book 'Shri Shyam Surabhi Vandana' is popular in the area. Epitome of India's syncretic ethos- offers namaz, sings bhajans, knows Sanskrit, takes care of cows."



## NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY OBSERVED

President Ram Nath Kovind, along with Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, hands voter ID cards to first-time voters on the occasion of National Voters' Day. *Praveen Khanna*

# JeM Valley chief, 2 others killed in encounter

ADIL AKHZER  
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 25

JAISH-E-MOHAMMED'S (JeM) self-styled Kashmir chief Qari Yasir was among three militants killed in an operation in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Saturday, officials said.

Senior officials said Yasir had a "supervisory role" in the February 14, 2019, suicide attack in Pulwama, which killed 40 CRPF men.

The other militants killed in the encounter were identified as Musa, who was Yasir's deputy, and Burhan.

The encounter began in Hariparigam area of Awantipora, in Pulwama district, on Saturday morning. In the evening, while the operation was still on, a joint press conference was called by the Army, J&K Police and CRPF to announce that three militants had been killed, including two foreign militants.

Yasir and Musa were from Pakistan, while Burhan was a local militant, the police said.

I-G (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar told the media: "As per our intelligence, there is one Qari Yasir, who is self-styled chief of JeM in Kashmir. He was involved in last year's February 14 blast at Lethpora (Pulwama). He was an IED expert, (was) involved in recruiting militants, and would relocate militants and coordinates. We were getting inputs from sister agencies during the last few weeks that there would be a big IED blast in Srinagar, or around the city."

The inputs named Burhan, and that the attack was to be led by Yasir, he said.

Srinagar-based 15 Corps Commander Lt General K J S Dhillon and other senior officers were also present at the media briefing.

In a statement issued on Saturday evening, J&K Police said,

"Qari Yasir had a history of terror crime records since 2016 and was operating as Commander of proscribed outfit JeM in areas of South Kashmir."

Besides the Lethpora IED blast last February, he was "also involved in abduction and killing of civilians Manzoor Kohli and Abdul Qadir in August 2019," the police stated.

I-G Kumar said J&K Police and the Army have intensified operations in the new year and have launched operations effectively, getting "continuous success". He said while south Kashmir region was a problematic area earlier, with Naveed Babu's arrest (along with suspended DSP Davinder Singh), and subsequent killing of Waseem Wani, who took charge after Naveed's arrest, has helped improve the situation.

"If we are able to neutralise Reyaz Naikoo (Hizbul Mujahideen's 'operational chief'), we would be able to wipe out HM from south Kashmir," Kumar said.

Kumar said they have recovered bodies of the militants and the search operation is going on. "Yasir's role was supervisory in February 14 blast," he said, adding that Saturday's operation was linked to busting of a JeM module recently in Srinagar.

Lt General Dhillon said, "(a) JeM module basically of Pakistanis terrorists was active and wanted to do something sensational on the eve of Republic Day... a major incident on January 26 has been averted." He said three Army jawans also sustained injuries in Saturday's operation.

He said JeM was trying to "resuscitate itself" but the terror outfit has been "cleaned out yet again (from the Valley)".

According to Lt Gen Dhillon, other than Riyaz Naikoo, the top leadership of JeM and HM has "more or less been eliminated" in Kashmir.

# Omar's photo emerges: Mamata, Cong, CPM react with dismay

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

A PHOTOGRAPH of detained former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah surfaced on Twitter on Saturday, with him sporting a long salt and pepper beard, provoking strong reactions from parties and dismay among his supporters.

While unverified, it was the first picture of 49-year-old Omar to have appeared in public since he was detained five months ago along with ex-chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti after the Centre scrapped the special status of J&K under Article 370 and divided it in two Union Territories.

Mufti, whose handle is run by her daughter, tweeted, "To those treating @OmarAbdullah's illegal & prolonged detention with non-chalance, would serve you well to remember he's been in solitary confinement away from family & loved ones since 6 months."

Physical appearances & tweeting are the least of his concerns."

Tagging a photo of Omar, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tweeted, "I could not recognize Omar in this picture. Am feeling sad. Unfortunately that this is happening in our democratic country. When will this end?"

Congress spokesperson Salman Soz said that after seeing Omar's "leaked" photo, some were asking the National Conference leader to come back on Twitter and carry on as usual. "It's as if he is off on a holiday. The govt illegally detained him (and others), judiciary played along, most media asked no questions. You are complicit," he said on Twitter.

CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the photo pointed to a "very disturbing fact" about the government. "A former CM, who is also a former Union minister, has been detained for months without any charge," Yechury said, retweeting a post with Omar's photograph.

# Back for a few hrs, Net on mobile blocked again in Valley ahead of R-Day

ADIL AKHZER  
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 25

THE JOY of Internet restoration on mobiles phones in the Valley lasted only a few hours, as 2G services were again suspended by telecom operators on Saturday evening following orders from the authorities in view of securities ahead of the Republic Day on Sunday.

Several telecom operators on Saturday afternoon had started restoring 2G internet services following the J&K Home Department's order to restore 2G mobile internet services in the Valley.

"(Mobile) internet services would resume again on Sunday," a senior police officer said.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration had on Friday ordered restoration of broadband and data services from Saturday for the Union Territory.

Restrictions on social media will continue until at least January 31, it is learnt.

While 2G services were restored in several areas on Saturday, fixed-line broadband internet services continued to remain suspended till late Saturday evening.

An official from one telecom operator told *The Sunday Express* that they received orders in the evening. "We have stopped the services again," the official confirmed.

A police officer in Srinagar said mobile phone services would also remain suspended on Sunday morning on the occasion of Republic Day. "Mobile services are stopped every year during the morning hours until Republic Day events are concluded. It will be the same this year," the officer said.

Network speed as per Friday's order was restricted to 2G. These restrictions will be reviewed after January 31.

## MALLS, EATERIES IN MUMBAI OPEN 24x7

# Lukewarm response to trial run, few walk-in customers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 25

A "TRIAL run" held at some malls ahead of the introduction of the 'Mumbai 24 hours' initiative from January 27, received a lukewarm response on Saturday.

Some malls, including Atria in Worli, High Street Phoenix in Lower Parel, Phoenix Market City in Kurla and Growel's in Kandivali, remained open till 3 am, with a few of its establishments participating in the trial run. Most said while they received orders from third-party food applications, there were not many walk-in customers.

On Wednesday, the state Cabinet had approved a proposal to allow malls and eateries to remain open in Mumbai 24x7

from January 27 as a pilot project.

At Growel's, while apparel brands shut shop at 12 am, extending its hours for over two hours, eateries saw customers after two film shows ended at the multiplex at its premises.

"We were pleasantly surprised to see some of the eateries open. It is a good initiative for people to go on a late night outing on weekends," said Dimple Patwa, who along with her two children went to a dessert place at the mall.

At Kurla, Ghatkopar resident Shyam Nagpaul, came to Phoenix Market City but found several shops shut. "The schemes will only be a success if all stores remain open," he said.

Some establishments said that with many unaware of the



Phoenix Market City in Kurla remained open till 3 am, with some establishments participating in the trial run.

extended hours, the 24x7 initiative needs to be promoted among the people. "In an hour after midnight, 10 customers came to the store. If the initiative

is promoted well and people start visiting malls at night, we may keep the store open 24x7," said Arbaaz Pawaskar from the ONLY apparel franchise at the

mall.

Many restaurants were also apprehensive since the pilot project does not allow alcohol to be served beyond 1.30 am. "Unless liquor is served, the idea may not be successful as we do not expect people to come late at night for shopping or food. But the new law will be helpful to us in many ways. Currently, people order a lot of drinks before closing hours but have to leave before 1.30 am," said Gaurav Choksi, a partner in a south Mumbai bar.

Mail authorities, meanwhile, experimented with a third shift of staffers, including security personnel.

However, malls saw lesser number of women staffers than during regular hours as well on Saturday. "It all depends on

whether the extra cost to the overheads is cost effective. Multinational brands, fast food joints and coffee shops may be able to handle the extra cost. For smaller shops, weekends may be the only time to expect any crowd," said the owner of a local eatery at Growels.

Now, with many establishments still planning to work their way around the extra requirement of stock, staff and the resulting costs, some said they will wait and watch in the coming weeks to see if the initiative is profitable for them. Many establishments said that while they expect footfalls to remain low on weekdays, the crowd on weekends will determine whether it would be profitable to keep their shops open through the night.



## Classifieds

## PERSONAL

I, hitherto known as Jai Pal/Jai Pal Singh S/o Late.Sohan Lal, employed as Sub Inspector in Delhi-Police residing at H.No.G-25, Old-Seemapuri, Delhi-110095 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jai Pal Singh. 0040528972-8

I, Yash Pal S/o Bhopal Singh Rawat R/o BFH-60, West Shalimar-Bagh Delhi-110088. have changed my name to Yash Pal Singh Rawat. 0040529014-3

I, hitherto known as Asha Ram S/o Shri Hazari Lal Bairwa R/o 384, Goyla Dairy, J.J. Colony, Delhi-110071 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ashok Kumar Bairwa S/o Shri Hazari Lal Bairwa. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. 0040528939-1

I, Yasir Arafat alias Yasser Arafat alias Yaseer Arafat alias Yasir araphat S/o Noor Mohammad R/o M-22, Abul Fajal Enclave-1 Jamia Nagar, New Friends Colony S.o, South Delhi,110025 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Yasir Arafat. 0070694724-1

I, Vishakha Jha W/o Amitesh Chandra Mishra R/o Cottage No.20,Shipra Sun City, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh,have changed my minor daughter's name from Aakanksha Mishra to Aakanksha Mishra. 0040528970-1

I, Uma Devi W/o Late Shri Lkshan Mehto, R/o 7/9, Kishanagarh, Vasant Kunj, Delhi-110070, (My husband had LIC Policy Holder Policy-No.124232601) have changed my Name from Uma Devi to BASNTI DEVI for all future purposes. 0040529007-1

I, Subhash Garg S/O Tek Chand Garg R/O 181-182, G-23, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-85. Have Changed My Name To Subhash Chander. 0040528972-2

I, Shokin S/o Rasheed Khan R/o 56, Village Prahladpur Post Badoli Faridabad have changed my name to Shokin Ali 0040528940-2

I, Shokat Khan S/o Maksoud Khan R/o 2/35, Khichripur, Delhi-110091 have changed my name to Shaukat Khan for all purposes. 0040528950-1

I, Satyavir Singh S/o Chhiddu R/o Kaural, Amroha, Nawgawan, Uttar Pradesh-244251, have changed my name to Satyavir Singh Tyagi. 0040528972-2

I, Sateesh Masabathini S/o Yadagiri R/o 7-3-406, Vijaya Nagar Colony-2, Khammam, Urban Khanapuram Haweli, Andhra Pradesh-507002 have changed my name to Sateesh Masabathini for all purposes. 0040528957-1

I, Sanjay S/o Sh. Mahender Singh R/o H.No. D-615, Nathupura, Burari, Delhi-110084 have changed my name from Sanjay Kumar to Sanjay for all purposes. 040528986-1

I, Sanjay Kumar S/o-Amrit Singh R/o-Flat.No.5,DDA Flats,Mianwali Nagar,Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Sanjay Shokeen for all future purpose. 0040528970-2

I, Sandeep Jha R/o P-59/28, Baird Place Officer Enclave, Delhi Cantt-110010 have changed my minor daughter's name from Aahna to Aahna Jha for all purposes. 0040528972-1

I, SYED SHAHENSASH HUSAIN S/o Mr. Afsar Husain R/o H.No. M-40, Batla House, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name from Shahenshah Husain to SYED SHAHENSASH HUSAIN for all future purposes. 0040528953-1

I, Ranveer Singh S/o Banarsi R/o F-40, Vishnu Garden, Tilak Nagar, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Ranbir Singh. 0040528972-6

I, Preeti Beniwal W/o Ravinder Beniwal R/o H.O.No.-274, Pitampura-Village, Delhi-110034, have changed my name from Priti Dabas to Preeti Beniwal, for future purposes. 0040529014-10

I, Pragati Rajvanshi R/o B-807, Gaur Grandeur, Sector 119 ,Noida U.P. 201307, have changed my name to Pragati Agarwal. 0070694734-1

I, Neeraj S/o Ved Prakash R/o B-14 Kirti Nagar New Delhi-110015. change my name to Neeraj Arora, for all purpose. 0040529014-2

I, Mohd Tasleem Address-8357-3, Model Basti Near Filmistan Cinema Delhi-110006, Changed My Minor Son Name Taif Qureshi To Mohammad Taif Qureshi. 0040528972-5

I, Manoj Kumar S/O Hukum Chand Kansal, R/O Q-302, Vvip-Addresses, Rajnagar-Ext. Ghaziabad, U.P.201017. Changed My Name To Manoj Kansal. 0040529014-5

I, Laishram Sharat Singh R/o Khangabok Khullakpam Leikai PO&PS-Thoubal Dist Thoubal Manipur-795138 have changed my minor son's name Laishram Roderick Singh to Roderick Laishram, vide affidavit dated 13/01/2020 before NCT, Delhi. 0040528951-1

I, Laishram Sharat Singh R/o Khangabok Khullakpam Leikai PO&PS-Thoubal Dist Thoubal Manipur-795138 have changed my minor daughter's name Laishram Gaylene Devi to Gaylene Laishram, vide affidavit dated 13/01/2020 before NCT, Delhi. 0040528951-2

I, Garikipati Sreenivas S/O Anjaiah Garikipati R/O F-Block, H.No-23, Sector-51, Noida, U.P-201301, Changed My Name To Garikipati Srinivas. 0040529014-1

I, Dawd Khan S/O Chahat R/o Pachanka (244), Hathin, Palwal, Haryana, 121103, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Daud Khan. 0070694731-1

I, Ashok Chandra Vardhan, S/o Harsha Wardenh Kumar R/o Air-Force Station-Vadsar Kalol-Gandhinagar Gujarat-382721. have changed my name from Ashok Chandra Vardhan to Ashoka Chandra Wardenh vide-affidavit dated-24-Jan.2020. 0040529014-9

I, Akshay Kumar Pandey R/O E-6/122B Block-E,Sangam vihar, New Delhi-62 Have changed my minor son's name Parth to Sarthak Pandey for all future purposes. 0040528960-1

I, Aakash S/o Arvind Kumar R/o 9-B, Ashok Mohalla, Nangoli, Delhi-110041. have changed my name to Aakash Tushtar, for future. 0040528972-3

I Yogander Singh Sharma S/o Sh.Lakhi Ram Sharma R/o H.No.14, Near M.C.D. Girl Primary School, Village Sanoth, Delhi-110040 inform that my actual & correct name in all records is Yogander Singh Sharma but in the documents of my son & my wife it is mentioned as Yogander Sharma whereas both the name are of one & same person which may corrected accordingly. 0040528943-2

I Thapar Balbir Kaur W/O, Harjinder Singh Thapar R/o 17/64, Subhash Nagar, West Delhi, 110027, New Delhi have changed my name to Balbir Kaur for all purposes. 0040529008-1

I Subhash Babu Gupta S/o Sh.Ram Bhargose Lal Gupta R/o I-451-452, Shakur Pur, Anand Vas, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi-110034 inform that name of mine has been wrongly written as Subhash Gupta in the school record of my minor son Daksh Gupta aged 14 years. The actual name of mine is Subhash Babu Gupta which may be amended accordingly. 0040528943-3

I Seema Rani W/o Sh.Sanjay Goyal R/O C-2/24, Rohini Sector-17, North West Delhi, Delhi-110089 have changed my name to Seema Goyal for all purposes. 0040529001-1

I Pankaj Mohan Gupta S/o Sh.Radhey Shyam Gupta R/o H.No.I-58/1373A, Mansarovar Park, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Pankaj Gupta for all purposes. 0040528943-1

I No.15394870 Hav Krishna Deo Kumar Unit 1 Afsr Delhi Cantt-110010. As Per My Office Record My Wife Name Was Abbreviated And Wrongly Mentioned As Lal Munni Kumari Where As My Wife Correct Name Is Lalmunni Devi. 0040529014-8

I, Ashwani Kumar S/o Amar Nath R/O 1678 Sector-9 Faridabad Haryana have Changed my Name to Ashwani Kumar Arora. 0040528940-1

I Laila Vellikulathu Muhammed D/O Muhammed holder of Passport No N164025 and R/O H-3/272 EWS Flats Sector 16 Rohini Delhi have changed my name to Laila Ismail for all purposes. 0050161405-1

I Atul Aggarwal S/O Raj Kumar Aggarwal R/O 221, Sector-15A, Noida,Gautambudh Nagar, U.P.201301, changed My Name To Atul Kumar Aggarwal. 0040529014-7

I, Sahil S/O Sh. Ashok Kumar Gupta R/O 41/12, Needs3 Project 100, Parappana Agrahara Main Road, Parappana Agrahara, Electronics City, Bangalore, South Bangalore, Karnataka-560100, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sahil Mahajan. 070694721-1

I, hitherto known as Kusum Aggarwal Alias Shweta Agrawal D/o chiranjai Ial Goel w/o Subhash Agrawal Residence of 40-block H-4/5, near pitampura club suvidha kuni pitampura Delhi-110034 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as shweta Agrawal. 0040528972-9

I, hitherto known as Megha alias Megha Sharma alias Madhusri Sharma, D/o Sh.Pawan Kumar Sharma R/O-4171/72, Street-Ahiran, Pahari-Dhiraaj, Sadar-Bazar, Delhi-110006. have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Madhusri Sharma Singh. 0040528972-7

I, ABHISHEK S/O-RAM RATTAN MISHRA, born on 8/2/1995, R/o-67-D, block B.R, Shalimar bagh, North West, Delhi-110088, have changed my name to ABHISHEK MISHRA for all future purposes. 040528996-2

I, Heera Gupta alias Neha Gupta W/o-Raj Kumar Gupta R/o-210-211,UGF, Pocket-7, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Hira Gupta. 0040529014-4

I, Garima Rajput, D/o-Satyapal Singh, R/o-Gram Kaitholi, Kheragarh, Agra, Uttar-Pradesh-283121, inform, That-Name.Of, My Father, Name, Has Been Wrongly-Written, As SATYAPAL SINGH RAJPUT In, My, 10TH-Marksheet & Certificate.The, Actual Name, Of My Father, Is SATYAPAL SINGH. For All Purposes. 0040528996-5

I, RAM RATTAN MISHRA, S/O-Ganga Pd Mishra, R/o-67D-block B.R, Shalimar Bagh, North West, Delhi-110088, declare that name of mine in my son ABHISHEK born on 8/2/1995, 10th-certificate is written as RAM RATTAN MISHRA, RAM RATTAN and RAM RATTAN MISHRA are name of one and same person. 0040528996-3

I, Vardhan Tomar S/O S.C Tomar R/O-D-54, First-Floor, Freedom Fighter Enclave, Ignou Road, Neb Sarai, Saket, N.Delhi-110068, have changed my, name to Yash Vardhan Tomar for all future purposes. 0040528996-4

I, Auti Sitaram Sahebaro (Army No-4483321A) / L/NK R/O-Near-380, ka, autimala, ralegan, shindhi, ahmadnagar, maharashtra-414302, inform that my wife name changed from fathangade sunita to auti sunita sitaram, for all future purposes. Both, name belongs to Same. Person. 0040528737-1

## LOST &amp; FOUND

I, Kirti Sharma D/o B Shri Mohan Singh R/O-1905, Sector-2, Near Moolchand Sharma Office, Ballabhgarh Has Actually Lost My Senior secondary School Certificate / Marksheet Passed From CBSE Board in 2016 My Roll No is 2612645, If Found Contact-9540959988. 0040528984-1

I, Piyush kumar S/o Vijay Kumar Srivastava R/o-Behind vm inter college-ward no-10 gandhinagar, gopalganj bihar have lost my original certificate class-10th(2010) RollNo-4167236 cbse-chennai Class-12th (2012) RollNo-9150590 CBSE-Delhi. 0040528972-10

I, Harbans Singh Grewal S/o Haribhajan Singh r/o Flat No. 88, Bank Niwas, cghs Ltd. Plot No. 22, Sec-4, Dwarka, New Delhi-78 have lost my share certificate for the above said premises. 0040528947-1

I, Balwant Kaur S/o Lt. Pritam Singh r/o Flat No. 58, Bank Niwas, cghs Ltd. Plot No. 22, Sec-4, Dwarka, New Delhi-78 have lost my share certificate for the above said premises. 0040528948-1



## KHATRI/ARORAS

Match for good looking well educated girl from high status business family 92/5:14 pm 5'1" no broker plz: 9316243229 0020401181-1

## SIKH/PUNJABI

Pune / Ahmednagar Based Small Education Ramgarah / Ahluwalia Industrialist/ Businesses Family Looking For A Bride For Their Clean Shaven Son January 91 Born, 5'10" Diploma In Business Administration Cast No Bar Call 9822024493 Call Vijay Singh 9822024493. 0050160876-1

Match for Sikh Khatri boy, 1993 ,6.1" MBA (Tier 1), Handsome Salary. Seeks smart, tall working girl. 9814701424 0050161248-1



## NRI/GREEN CARD

Professionally qualified/well settled NRI match for fair, slim, Sarswat Brahmin beautiful well cultured Manglik Girl 1990 born 5'-8" M/Ca, Soft, Engg., working in MNC Noida. 8360889518. dikshitbhardwaj@yahoo.com. 0020401179-1

## SIKH/PUNJABI

Suitable medico match for 93 born 5.3" smart fair intelligent girl have cleared all 3 steps of USMLE and given interviews for residency in USA. Doctor of Indian origin pursuing residency or settled and practicing in USA preferred. 98153-49909. 0020401210-1

## BUSINESS

Plant & Machinery for Sale Fully-Functional Ship Machinery & Equipment installed in an educational institute is for sale in a given state/condition. - Please Contact - Mr. T. N. Rathil 09850955322 020-24525525

## SITUATION VACANT

SWAMI DAYANAND COLLEGE OF EDUCATION Jaulana (Gurgaon) Requires:- (For B.Ed. Course) 1.) PRINCIPAL - 01 2.) TEACHING STAFF (ALL SUBJ.) 3.) NON TEACHING STAFF 4.) LIBRARIAN QUALIFICATION:- As per NCTE, UGC & M.O. University Norms. Application are invited from the eligible candidates for the above posts on regular basis. Application along with photographs and attested copies of testimonials should reach within 21 days in the College & the same should also be submitted in DCEC, MDU Rohtak. Contact: 9813456816, 9813456802

PUBLIC NOTICE My client Jagpreet Singh, S/O Sh. Pushwinder Singh, R/O H-25, Radhey Puri, Delhi, also as flat No.H-7, 1st Floor, Radhey Puri, Delhi-110051 is the sole and absolute owner and possession of the flat bearing No.H-7, 1st Floor, Radhey Puri, Delhi-110051. Khasra No.2/34, measuring area 103 Sq. Yds. 83.81 Sq. Mtrs., and my client is going to sell the said flat/property, however, in this regard, if anyone having an objection or any interest in the above said property/flat in any manner whatsoever, should contact my client within 7 days: Kulvinder Singh, Advocate Karkarduma Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the general public at large that my client Sh. Brahna Nand Yadav S/o Sh. Bhim Singh Yadav R/o H. No. 1/5140, Gali No-5, Balbir Nagar, Shahdara Delhi, have disowned & severed all relations with his son's namely Gaurav Yadav and Manish Yadav from his all movable and immovable assets as they are not under his control and any person dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her own risks and consequences and my client will be held liable for any of their acts & deeds. Sd/- (SANJAY SOTI) D-1655/2001

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I, IZHAN KHAN S/o NAUSHAD ALI, R/O House No. 16, Block-F, Pocket-23 Rohini Sector-3 Avantika Delhi-110085, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as NOUSHAD KHAN in my educational documents. The actual name of my father is NAUSHAD ALI, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the general public that I, Surinder Pal Singh Dang, S/o Late S. Makhan Singh Dang who was the eldest son of Late S. Karam Singh Dang hereby declare that House No. 2787/1-24, Gate Mohan Singh, situated at Amritsar, Punjab is in the name of Late S. Karam Singh Dang. This is our Ancestral (Pushitani) Property. My no. is 9771655060 Nobody should try to buy or sell the said property. If anybody does, he/she will be responsible for all risk, cost & expenses.

PUBLIC NOTICE "Public at large is hereby informed that my client S. Maninder Kaur, son of Shri Pratap Singh Kohli, 8/16, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi is absolute owner in possession of the chain of documents of this property has been mis-placed/lost somewhere. Anybody if found the said file documents be hand over the same to my client at his address or contact him on Mobile No 9368596143. Nobody, other than my client, will have right to deal with the said property on the basis of said lost documents and if anyone will do so, the same shall be at his/her own risk & consequences and my client will not be responsible for the same. Alok Kumar Pandey (Advocate) Ch. No. 731, Rohini Courts, Delhi-85

"PUBLIC NOTICE" My client Rakesh Kumar S/o Sh. Kishan Lal R/o B-789, J.J. Colony, Bhalawa, Bhalawa Dairy, Delhi-110042, do hereby disowned/ debarred their son and daughter-in-law namely Jai Mohan S/o Sh. Rakesh Kumar and Pooja W/o Sh. Jai Mohan from all his movable & immovable properties for being disrespectful, quarrelsome and disobedient towards my client and my client has henceforth severed all their relation with them. If the son and daughter-in-law of my client mentioned above is found involve in any illegal activities/criminal cases etc. at any time, my client shall not be responsible for the same in any manner whatsoever and anybody dealing with them will do at his/her own cost and risk. VIPIN (Advocate) Ch. No. 731, Rohini Courts, Delhi-85

NOTICE Be it known that I, Army No. 14621432 W Rank, Hawaldar Kalika Prasad, S/o Late Ram Kumar Pandey, R/o Pt. Deendayal Nagar Devkali Bypass, Bhikhpur, Faizabad (Ayodhya) U.P. have change my daughter's Name from Kumari Priya Pandey, which is wrongly mentioned in my Service Book to Priya Pandey for all future purposes.

**कार्यालय कलेक्टर (जनगणना)**  
**उत्तर बस्तर काँकेर (छ.ग.)**  
दूरभाष 07868-241222 (का) 222288 (नि)  
फॅक्स 241801 (का) 222960

**// निविदा //**

**क्रमांक/कले./जनगणना/2020/345 काँकेर दिनांक 23/1/2020**

भारत की जनगणना-2021 एवं राष्ट्रीय जनसंख्या रजिस्टर अद्यतन कार्य फरवरी 2020 से मार्च 2021 तक संपादित कराया जाना है। शासन के निर्देशानुसार काँकेर जिले के कुल 13 चार्ज (07 तहसील एवं 06 नगरपालिका/नगर पंचायत) में जनगणना 2021 कार्य प्रस्तावित है। जिला स्तर एवं चार्ज स्तर पर प्रणणकों द्वारा एकत्रित डाटा को CMMS portal में संधारण कराया जाना है, जिसके लिये शासन के निर्देशानुसार जिला प्रशासन में कुल 30 तकनीकी सहायक एवं 02 एम.टी.एस./चतुर्थ श्रेणी कार्मिकों (technical assistant & class 4 workers) की नियुक्ति जुलाई 2021 तक के लिये किसी एजेंसी के माध्यम से कराया जाना है। एतद् द्वारा उक्त कार्य के लिये इच्छुक फर्म/लेसमेंट एजेंसी से दिनांक 23 फरवरी 2020 दोपहर 2.00 बजे तक निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन कि तिथि से दिनांक 20.02.2020 तक जिला कार्यालय के जनगणना शाखा में कार्यालयीन समय प्रातः 10.30 से संध्या 5.00 तक 2000/- रुपये नगद भुगतान कर प्राप्त कर सकते है। निविदा दिनांक 27.02.2020 को दोपहर 2.00 बजे कलेक्टर द्वारा गठित समिती के सदस्यों एवं उपस्थित निविदाकर्ताओं के समक्ष खोली जावेगी। निर्धारित तिथि को नियत समयावधि के परचात किसी भी निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जावेगा। अधिक जानकारी के लिये कार्यालय के वेबसाईट [www.kanker.gov.in](http://www.kanker.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।

हस्ता/-  
कलेक्टर  
एवं प्रमुख जिला जनगणना अधिकारी,  
उत्तर बस्तर काँकेर (छ.ग.)

76381

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., अकबरपुर, कानपुर देहात** Email:- seedckan-purdehat@gmail. com CIN: U31200UP2003SGC027460 पत्रांक 858/वि.वि.मं.का.दे./ दिनांक 25.01.2020 अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा विद्युत वितरण मण्डल-कानपुर देहात के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित विवरण के अनुसार कार्य हेतु अनुभवी व सक्षम निविदादाताओं द्वारा निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, निविदा सम्बन्धी पूर्ण सूचना वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखी जा सकती है। क्र.सं. 1. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सं. 57/वि.वि.मं.का.दे./2019-20 विवरण विद्युत वितरण मण्डल-कानपुर देहात के अन्तर्गत राजस्व वसूली तथा उपभोक्ता सेवाओं में सुगमता हेतु बिल संशोधन, मीटर, डाटा सम्बन्धी कार्यों के त्वरित गति से निष्पादन हेतु वितरण क्षेत्रों में राजस्व वसूली तथा उपभोक्ता सेवा सम्बन्धी कार्यों हेतु कम्प्यूटर मय प्रिन्टर एवं यू.पी.एस. की आपूर्ति का कार्य। हस्ता./- (एस.के. श्रीवास्तव) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

उपरो पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि० निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अनुभवी कार्यदायी संस्थाओं/आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से विद्युत पारेषण मंडल, ग्रेटर नोएडा के अन्तर्गत निम्न सामग्री/कार्यों हेतु मोहर बन्द निविदाये दो भागों में क्रम संख्या 01 पर अंकित दिनांक 08.02.2020 को 12.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसका प्रथम भाग उसी दिन क्रमसः 13.00 बजे (यदि अवकाश हो तो अगले कार्य दिवस में) निविदादाता/उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष अधोहस्ताक्षर/ उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि द्वारा खोला जायेगा। धरोहर राशि एकडीडाअर/बी0जी0 के रूप में जो अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत 400 के०बी० उपकेन्द्र खण्ड, ग्रेटर नोएडा (EE, ELECTRICITY 400 KV S/S DIVISION, GREATER NOIDA) एवं निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क जो अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत 400 के०बी० उपकेन्द्र खण्ड, ग्रेटर नोएडा (EE,ELEC-TRICITY 400 KV S/S DIVISION, GREATER NOIDA) के पक्ष में बन्धक हो (डिमांड ड्राफ्ट के रूप में) प्रथम भाग में निविदा प्रपत्र, पैना कार्ड, जी0एस0टी0, इन्कम टैक्स रिटर्न की स्वयं प्रमाणित छाया प्रति एवं तकनीकी अनुभव इत्यादि तथा द्वितीय भाग में दूरे एवं वाणिज्यक नियम व शर्तें होंगी। निविदा की वैधता खुलने की तिथि से 90 दिन होगी। एकडीडाअर/बी0जी0 पर किस निविदा संख्या हेतु बन्धक है लिखा जाना अनिवार्य है। 1. निविदा संख्या - टी-225/डब्ल्यू/2019-20: अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मंडल, ग्रेटर नोएडा के उपयोगार्थ एक नमूना डीजल चलित वाहन चालक सहित एक वर्ष (12 माह) अनुबन्ध पर रखने का कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 3,500/- (रु० तीन हजार पाँच सौ मात्र)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क ₹ 590/- (कर सहित)। निविदाये भाग प्रथम एवं द्वितीय :- (निविदा मूल्य, धरोहर राशि, टैक्स/कार्मिशियल) एवं दूर मूल रूप में अलग-अलग भाग प्रथम एवं द्वितीय मुहरबन्द लिफाफों में इस कार्यालय में निविदा खुलने की तिथि को 12.00 बजे तक इस कार्यालय में स्वीकार किये जायेंगे। निविदा का प्रथम भाग उसी दिन 13.00 बजे एवं द्वितीय भाग 15.00 बजे सर्वजनिक रूप से खोला जायेगा। कृपया वेब साईट [www.upptcl.org](http://www.upptcl.org) पर विस्तार में सभी सूचना, विवरण/डाउनलोड तथा अन्य किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन/वित्तरा हेतु निविदा खुलने की तिथि तक लॉग ऑन करें। निविदाओं को बिना कारण बताये अस्वीकार/विभाजित करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। धरोहर राशि रहित व सराईत निविदायें स्वीकार नहीं की जायेंगी। हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत पारेषण मंडल उ.प्र.पा.ट्रा.का.लि., 400 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र पाली, ग्रेटर नोएडा "राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचावें"। पत्रांक 120 वि.पा.मं./ग्रे.ना./T-225/2019-20 दिनांक:- 24.01.2020

**HARYANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
**C-11, SECTOR-6, PANCHKULA**  
E-mail: [hspcbeehq3@gmail.com](mailto:hspcbeehq3@gmail.com)  
**CORRIGENDUM**

Whereas a notice was advertised on 24.01.2020 for conducting a public hearing on 25.02.2020 at 11.30 A.M. for the proposed project of production capacity of M/s. Maa Santoshi Khanij Udoyog for expansion of Calcite Mine Addition of associated minor mineral (stone) for enhancement from 9000 TPA to 12,59,000 TPA ROM (9,000 TPA for Calcite and 12,50,000 TPA for associate minor mineral (stone)) and 1,40,000 TPA overburden/Side Burden/ Inter-Burden, at Village: Musnota, Tehsil Narnaul, Distt. Mohinderghar, which was published in "Earth Prakash", "Danik Bhaskar", "Indian Express" and "The Tribune" Newspapers wherein the Address of the Govt. Offices for consulting the EIA study report of the said project was inadvertently mentioned as Rewari instead of Mohinderghar. The Actual Address of the offices where the EIA study report for the above said project for consulting of the General Public and all stakeholders is available as given below:-

1. Deputy Commissioner, Mohinderghar at Narnaul.
2. Regional Officer, Dharuhera, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Lala Nemi Chand Singhal Enclave, Sohna Road, Near Hanuman Mandir, Dharuhera.
3. Chairman Zila Parishad, Mohinderghar at Narnaul.
4. Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Narnaul.
5. Joint Director, District Industries Centre, Mohinderghar at Narnaul.

The Date, Time and Venue of Public Hearing will remain the same as advertised earlier which is reproduced as under :-  
**Date:** 25.02.2020, **Time:** 11.30 A.M, **Venue:** Village Musnota, Tehsil Narnaul, Distt. Mohinderghar.

**S Narayanan, IFS**  
**Member Secretary**

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अनुभवी फर्मों ठेकेदार/ कार्यदायी संस्थाओं से विद्युत पारेषण मंडल मेरठ के अंतर्गत निम्न कार्यों/ आपूर्तियों हेतु मोहर बंद ई-निविदाएं ई-पोर्टल [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर दो भागों में आमंत्रित की जाती है। भाग-1 में ई-निविदाओं के प्रपत्र निर्धारित शुल्क आर.टी.जी.एस./ एन.ई.एफ.टी. एवं निर्धारित धरोहर राशि आर.टी.जी.एस./एन.ई. एफ.टी./बैंक गारन्टी (अलग-अलग) के माध्यम से अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, मेरठ के पक्ष में **State Bank of India, Cantt Branch, Meerut Account No. 11047201099, IFSC Code SBIN0000680** में जमा करायी जायेंगी। बैंक जमा की साक्ष्य यथा योग्य यू.टी.आर. संख्या, पे-इन स्लिप मूल की प्रति, पैना कार्ड, इन्कम टैक्स रिटर्न, जी.एस.टी. प्रपत्र की स्वयं प्रमाणित छायाप्रति एवं तकनीकी अनुभव आदि ई-पोर्टल पर स्कैन्ड प्रतियाँ (PDF format) तथा ई-निविदा के द्वितीय भाग (प्रार्थजबिंद) में दूरे एवं वाणिज्यक नियम व शर्तें ई-पोर्टल ([www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in)) पर निम्नलिखित तालिका के अनुसार अपलोड की जायेंगी। निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य व्यवसायिक प्रपत्र हाई कॉपी में अथवा व्यक्तिगत संवाहक के माध्यम से इस कार्यालय में प्राप्त नहीं किये जायेंगे। ई-निविदा भाग द्वितीय (प्रार्थजबिंद) खुलने की तिथि हेतु तदनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। ई-निविदा का प्रथम भाग, तालिका में अंकित दिनांक एवं समय अनुसार सार्वजनिक रूप से खोला जायेगा। ई-निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति में ई-निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय तक स्वीकार की जायेगी एवं निर्धारित समय पर खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताए ई-निविदा/ ई-निविदाओं के अस्वीकार/ विभाजित करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। धरोहर/ ई-निविदा राशि रहित व सराईत ई-निविदायें स्वीकार नहीं की जायेंगी। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउन लोड, अन्य संशोधनों एवं ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के संबंध में कृपया [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर लॉग इन करें। निविदाओं का विवरण निम्न प्रकार है:- क्रम सं. 1 निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का विवरण टी- 157/19-20 (अल्पकालिक





“The Trump administration can correct its past, lift the sanctions and come back to the negotiating table. We're still at the negotiating table. They're the ones who left.”

— JAVAD ZARIF, Iran's Foreign Minister, on state of ties with US

TOP OF THE WORLD



At a protest. Reuters/File

US  
Pompeo lashes out at reporter

New York: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, apparently angered by a reporter's questions about the Trump administration's firing of the US ambassador to Ukraine, lashed out at her after the interview, cursing and challenging her to find Ukraine on a map, according to the reporter. "He asked, 'Do you think Americans care about Ukraine?'" He used the f-word in that sentence, and many others. "He called out for his aides to bring him a map of the world with no writing, no countries marked," Kelly said. "I pointed to Ukraine. He put the map away. He said, 'People will hear about this.'"

USA  
Airline fined for discriminating against Muslim passengers

Washington: Delta Air Lines was Friday fined \$50,000 by US Department of Transportation to settle allegations it discriminated against three Muslim passengers who were ordered off their planes. In its consent order, the department said it found Delta "engaged in discriminatory conduct" and violated anti-discrimination laws when it removed the three passengers. On July 26, 2016, a Muslim couple were removed from a flight in Paris after a passenger told an attendant their behaviour made her "very uncomfortable and nervous".

AUSTRALIA  
Three dead US men recovered from forest

Canberra: The bodies of three Americans who died when a water bombing plane crashed while battling Australia's unprecedented wildfire crisis were retrieved on Saturday as their families arrived in Sydney, officials said. Ian McBeth of Great Falls, Montana, Paul Clyde Hudson of Buckeye, Arizona, and Rick A. DeMorgan of Navarre, Florida, died when their C-130 Hercules tanker crashed on Thursday after dumping fire retardant on an out-of-control blaze northeast of the town of Cooma in southern New South Wales state.

USA  
85,000 artifacts feared lost in fire

New York: Some 85,000 artifacts that tell the story of the Chinese migration to the United States may have been lost in a fire that struck a building in the heart of Manhattan's Chinatown, a museum official said Friday. The president of the Museum of Chinese in America told The New York Times that most of the thousands of historic and artistic items in its collection were probably lost in the fire that started Thursday night and tore through a building where the museum's acquisitions were stored.

HONG KONG DECLARES EMERGENCY

Virus outbreak: Xi warns of grave situation, death toll spikes to 41

AGENCIES

BEIJING, JANUARY 25

AS CHINA marked a sombre Lunar New Year on Saturday, 15 more deaths from the new coronavirus were reported in Wuhan, the epicentre of the outbreak. Other countries, including Australia, said the virus had reached their shores.

The latest deaths, announced early Saturday by the health authorities in Hubei Province, whose capital is Wuhan, brought the toll in China to 41. All but three of those deaths were in Wuhan. The latest victims ranged in age from 55 to 87, the authorities said.

Nationwide, more than 400 new cases of the virus were diagnosed, officials said early Saturday, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in China to nearly 1,300.

In a sign of how the spread of the coronavirus has deeply shaken China, the nation's top leader, Xi Jinping, convened a meeting of the Communist Party leadership on Saturday to begin an offensive to stanch the spread



Medical workers at a hospital in Wuhan. AP

of the outbreak, improve treatment of victims and speed supplies to areas under lockdown.

"We're sure to be able to win in this battle to beat the epidemic through prevention and control," Xi said.

"Confronted with the grave situation of this accelerating spread of pneumonia from infections with the novel coron-

avirus, we must step up the centralized and united leadership under the party central" leadership, he added.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, declared a health emergency in the semiautonomous Chinese city and said schools would be closed until mid-February.

The city is treating five coro-

navirus patients connected to Wuhan, and more than 100 others are suspected of having the viral pneumonia.

Hong Kong is also suspending flights and train services to Wuhan and will cancel all Lunar New Year celebrations.

The Hong Kong Marathon, originally scheduled for early February, has also been called

LANCET WARNING

Medical journal *The Lancet* published a study on Friday suggesting that people infected with the coronavirus might be able to spread it even if they do not have flu symptoms.

"It shows this new coronavirus is able to transfer between person to person, in a hospital setting, a family home setting, and also in an intercity setting," Yuen Kwok-yung, an author of the study, said in an interview.

off. Masks and hand sanitisers have sold out in most pharmacies in the city.

On Saturday, officials announced that a second hospital was in the works to treat people infected by the virus. It would have a capacity for 1,300 beds. They plan to complete the facility, called Leishenshan Hospital, in 15 days.

‘Nobody can leave’: Trapped Wuhan residents stock up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WUHAN, JANUARY 25

POLICE AT A roadblock on the outskirts of Wuhan turned away cars trying to leave the virus-stricken city on Saturday, as other anxious residents trapped inside spent the Lunar New Year stocking up on masks and medical supplies.

Authorities have prevented anyone from leaving Wuhan, the city of 11 million people at the heart of the viral outbreak which has so far infected nearly 1,300 people and killed 41 others.

AFP saw a steady trickle of cars approaching the roadblocks around 20 kilometres (12 miles) east of the city centre on Saturday morning, only for police in fluorescent jackets wearing masks to



Work in progress to build a hospital in Wuhan. Reuters

tell them to turn around. "Nobody can leave," a policeman told AFP.

AFP journalists only saw two vehicles allowed to pass the roadblock, including a white van which an officer said was "buying medicines" and would later return to the city.

A few people were allowed to enter the city through the barricade: Desperately needed medical workers whose holidays were cut short to help overwhelmed hospital.

Three young nurses who crossed the barrier on foot told AFP they were going to two hospitals. Two of them were waiting for a friend to pick them up.

"We went to our hometowns for holidays before the ban on transportation, but because of the epidemic we have to come back quickly to Wuhan," said one.

Dragging wheelie cases behind them, they were holding their coat hoods up against the rain. "They need us to go there, otherwise they will be too exhausted," another medical worker said.

4 killed, dozens injured as Iraqi security forces raid key protest sites

MAHER NAZIH & THAIER AL-SUDANI

BAGHDAD, JANUARY 25

IRAQI SECURITY forces raided Baghdad's main protest site on Saturday and tried to eject protesters in southern cities, firing tear gas and bullets killing four people and wounding dozens more, police and medical sources said.

The new push to end the sit-ins and restore order came hours after populist cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, who counts millions of supporters in Baghdad and the south, said he would halt his involvement in anti-government unrest.

Sadr's supporters, who had bolstered the anti-government protesters and sometimes played a role in protecting them from attacks by security forces

and unidentified gunmen, began withdrawing from sit-ins early on Saturday.

Clashes then took place after authorities began removing concrete barriers near Tahrir Square where demonstrators have camped out for months, and across at least one main bridge over the Tigris River in the capital, Reuters reporters said.

Supporters of al-Sadr had begun to leave protest camps overnight after he announced he would no longer be involved in the anti-government demonstrations.

In the southern city of Basra, security forces raided the main anti-government sit-in overnight and deployed in force to stop protesters gathering there again, security sources said. Police arrested at least 16 protesters in the city, they said. **REUTERS**



22 DEAD IN TURKEY QUAKE

■ Rescue workers raced against time Saturday to find survivors after an earthquake claimed 22 lives and left more than 1,000 injured in Turkey.

■ The magnitude 6.8 quake struck on Friday evening, with its epicentre in the small lakeside town of Sivrice in Elazig province

■ Nearly 2,000 search and rescue personnel were sent while beds, blankets and tents were provided, the Turkish presidency said.

■ According to AFAD, there have been nearly 400 aftershocks following Friday's quake including 12 that were above 4 in magnitude

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

Democrats wrap up with warning, White House team begins its defence

NICHOLAS FANDOS

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 25

HOUSE DEMOCRATS concluded their arguments against President Trump on Friday by portraying his pressure campaign on Ukraine as part of a dangerous pattern of Russian appeasement that demanded his removal from office.

Ending their three-day presentation in the Senate, the impeachment managers summoned the ghosts of the Cold War and the realities of geopolitical tensions with Russia to argue that Trump's abuse of power had slowly shredded delicate foreign alliances to suit his own interests.

"This is Trump first, not America first," said Representative Adam B Schiff of California, the lead House manager. "And the result has been, and will continue to be, grave harm to our nation if this chamber does not stand up and say this is wrong."

Schiff also appealed to the consciences of Republican senators weighing whether to hear from witnesses and seek more documents that Trump suppressed. "I ask you — I implore you," Schiff said. "Give America a fair trial. She's worth it."

The president's lawyers presented the senators a different view of the facts and the

PARNAS HANDS OVER TRUMP CALL RECORDING

LEV PARNAS, a former associate of Rudolph W Giuliani, President Trump's personal lawyer, said on Friday he had turned over to Democrats a recording of the president ordering the removal of Marie L Yovanovitch as the US ambassador to Ukraine



where we need to start is we gotta get rid of Yovanovitch. "Get rid of her!" a voice that sounds like Trump's responds, as per ABC News. "Get her out tomorrow. I don't care... Take her out."

IN THE recording, Parnas is heard saying "the biggest problem there, I think

DAYS AFTER WORLD COURT RULING

2 Rohingya women killed as Myanmar army shells village

THU THU AUNG

YANGON, JANUARY 25

TWO WOMEN, one pregnant, were killed and seven other people injured after Myanmar troops shelled a Rohingya village on Saturday, according to a lawmaker and a villager, two days after the UN's highest court ordered the country to protect the minority.

Maung Kyaw Zan, a national member of parliament for Buthidaung township in northern Rakhine state, said shells fired from a nearby battalion hit Kin Taung village in the middle of the night. Government troops have been battling ethnic rebels in the state for more than a year.

"There was no fighting, they

just shot artillery to a village without a battle," he told Reuters by phone, adding it was the second time this year that civilians had been killed.

The military denied responsibility, blaming the rebels who they said attacked a bridge in the early hours of the morning.

Two military spokesmen did not answer phone calls from Reuters seeking comment on Saturday's deaths. In a statement posted on the Russian social media network VK, the army confirmed the deaths but blamed the Arakan Army, saying its artillery had hit the village during clashes.

In early January, four Rohingya children died in a blast the military and rebels blamed on each other. **REUTERS**

PEREZ TOLD JURORS THAT SCIORRA SHARED DETAILS OF THE ALLEGED ASSAULT

Weinstein rape trial: actor Rosie Perez backs up Sciorra account

BRENDAN PIERSON

NEW YORK, JANUARY 25

ACTRESS ROSIE Perez took the stand in the rape trial of Harvey Weinstein on Friday to bolster the account of friend and fellow actress Annabella Sciorra, who said she was raped by the former Hollywood producer in the early 1990s.

Perez, whose film credits include Spike Lee's "Do the Right Thing," told jurors that Sciorra shared details of the alleged assault, including that Weinstein



Perez points at Weinstein at the court in New York. Reuters

had pinned her arms above her head as he raped her.

Weinstein, 67, has pleaded not guilty to sexually assaulting two other women, Mimi Hiley and Jessica Mann. Sciorra, who appeared in "The Sopranos," testified on Thursday that Weinstein violently raped her more than 25 years ago.

While that allegation is too old to support a separate rape charge against Weinstein, prosecutors hope it will show that he is a repeat sexual predator — the charge that could put him in prison for life.

Since 2017, more than 80 women, including many famous actresses, have accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct.

Weinstein has denied any nonconsensual sex, and his lawyers said in opening statements on Wednesday that emails from his accusers would show they maintained warm relations with him after the alleged attacks.

Perez, testifying for the prosecution, said she called Sciorra, who confirmed her suspicion. Perez said she urged Sciorra to go to the police, but Sciorra refused, saying, "He'd destroy me." **REUTERS**

When she asked Sciorra what was wrong, Sciorra answered, "I think something bad happened. I think I was raped."

Perez testified that when she asked Sciorra who had raped her, Sciorra said only, "I can't, I can't."

Months later, Perez said, she heard rumours that Weinstein was stalking Sciorra in London and concluded he was the rapist. Perez said she called Sciorra, who confirmed her suspicion. Perez said she urged Sciorra to go to the police, but Sciorra refused, saying, "He'd destroy me." **REUTERS**

PSYCHIATRIST Barbara Ziv testified as an expert about why some sexual assault victims do not report attacks. Ziv said most victims of rapes and sexual assaults know their attackers, do not fight back during the attacks, and many maintain relationships with their attackers. "They're hoping that this was just an aberration," said Ziv



# 20 ECONOMY

STRONG FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT, STABLE CRUDE PRICES KEY FACTORS

## Forex reserves surge for 17th straight week; rise to record high of \$462 bn

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 25

FOREIGN EXCHANGE reserves rose for the 17th straight week to hit an all-time high of \$462.15 billion for the week ended January 17. While the government will present its budget for 2020-21 on February 1, it will be keenly watched by foreign portfolio investors and global businesses as they make their calls for future investment and additional inflows to India.

Led by strong foreign direct investment, foreign portfolio investments and relatively stable global crude oil prices over the last year (except for temporary spikes), foreign exchange reserves in the country shot up \$33 billion since the week ended September 20, when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a sharp cut in corporate tax rates.

While a sudden spike in global crude oil price (earlier this month) following the growing geopolitical tension between the US and Iran posed a potential threat to rise in global crude oil prices, which could have in turn impacted the

EXPLAINED

### Eye on Budget, fiscal road map to decide future

While forex reserves have been expanding, the forthcoming Budget 2020-21 will define its future trajectory.

At a time when the economy is undergoing a slowdown, the government's fiscal road map and growth trajectory will be instrumental in attracting foreign investments.

expansion of forex reserves in India going forward, a de-escalation in tension eased the prices within a week.

According to the weekly data released by the Reserve Bank of India, forex reserves rose by \$940 million in the week ended January 17, 2020. The reserves have grown sharply over the last four months. It has grown week after week over the past 17 weeks.

On September 20, the FM announced a cut in corporate tax rates — a move that was termed as one that would propel invest-

ments into the Indian economy. While FPIs invested a net of \$19.4 billion into the Indian capital markets in 2019, the FDI equity inflows in the first nine months of the calendar 2019 amounted to \$36.97 billion.

This continued inflow of funds by foreign investors despite a slowdown in economic growth has fuelled the rise in forex reserves.

In the reporting week ended January 17, the rise in reserves was mainly on account of an increase in foreign currency assets, a ma-

RISING FOREX RESERVES	
Week ended	Forex (\$ bn)
Sep 20	428.57
Sep 27	433.59
Oct 4	437.8
Oct 11	439.7
Oct 18	440.75
Oct 25	442.5
Nov 1	446.09
Nov 8	447.8
Nov 15	448.2
Nov 22	448.5
Nov 29	451.08
Dec 6	453.4
Dec 13	454.49
Dec 20	454.9
Dec 27	457.46
Jan 3	461.15
Jan 10	461.21
Jan 17	462.15

Source: RBI

major component of the overall re-

serves, which surged by \$867 million to \$428.449 billion. During the week, gold reserves also increased by \$28.56 billion. In January to date, FPIs have invested a net of \$234 million into Indian capital markets.

While investor sentiment turned weak after the Budget announcement last July to impose higher surcharge, market participants say the government's decision to reverse its Budget decision relating to higher surcharge impact on FPIs, along with a cut in the corporate tax rate in September, played a significant role in turning the investor mood and drawing them to invest in the Indian economy and markets.

While stability in global crude oil prices has played an important role in keeping India's import bill under check, the Budget announcements next week may provide some clarity to FPIs on future investments in the country.

The rise in forex reserves over the last four months has also come as a breather for the country's rising external debt, which rose significantly over last couple of years from \$485 billion in June 2017 to \$557 billion in June 2019.

### CRUDE WATCH

#### OIL DROPS MORE THAN 2%

New York: Crude prices fell more than 2 per cent on Friday and headed for a steep weekly decline over concerns that the coronavirus will spread farther in China, the world's second-largest oil consumer, curbing travel and oil demand. **REUTERS**

Q3 NET PROFIT AT ₹4,146 CRORE

## Essar Steel resolution helps ICICI Bank net jump 158%

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 25

PRIVATE SECTOR lender ICICI Bank has posted a 158 per cent jump in net profit to Rs 4,146 crore for the December quarter of 2019-20, as against Rs 1,605 crore in the year-ago period. The jump was mainly due to one-time gain from Essar Steel resolution, which led to lower provisions.

While the bank saw bad loan recoveries and upgrades worth Rs 4,088 crore during the third quarter, provisions declined 51 per cent to Rs 2,083 crore during the quarter as against Rs 4,244 crore during the same period last year.

During the quarter, gross additions to NPAs were Rs 4,363 crore. Net non-performing assets (NPAs) decreased 36 per cent from Rs 16,252 crore for December 2018 to Rs 10,389 crore by December 2019. The net NPA ratio decreased from 2.58 per cent to 1.49 per cent as of December 2019. The provision coverage on non-performing loans, excluding cumulative technical write-offs, increased from 68.4 per cent at December 31, 2018 to 76.2 per cent as of December 2019.

As of December 2019, the

### CORE NET INTEREST INCOME GROWS 24%

■ ICICI Bank posted a 158 per cent jump in net profit to Rs 4,146 crore for the December quarter of fiscal 2019-20 as against Rs 1,605 crore during the same period a year ago

■ While the bank saw bad loan recoveries and upgrades

worth Rs 4,088 crore in Q3, provisions declined 51 per cent to Rs 2,083 crore, as against Rs 4,244 crore during the same period last year

■ Core net interest income grew 24 per cent to Rs 5,545 crore

fund-based and non-fund based outstanding to borrowers rated BB and below (excluding nonperforming assets) was Rs 17,403 crore, compared to Rs 17,525 crore on March 31, 2019 and Rs 16,074 crore in September 2019. The bank has classified an exposure to a telco as below investment grade, which led to the increase in the overall BB and below book to Rs 17,403 crore after two consecutive quarters of reduction.

Its core net interest income grew 24 per cent to Rs 5,545 crore on a 16 per cent domestic advances growth and a 0.37 per cent expansion in net interest margin to 3.77 per cent. Other income growth was 18.77 per cent to Rs 4,043 crore, with the core fee income increasing 17 per cent, the

bank said.

Net interest margin was at 3.77 per cent in Q3. Fee income grew by 17 per cent, it said.

As per the bank, the year-on-year growth in domestic advances was 16 per cent as of December 2019. "The bank has continued to leverage its strong retail franchise, resulting in a 19 per cent year-on-year growth in the retail loan portfolio as of December 2019," it said.

Including non-fund outstanding, retail was 52 per cent of the total portfolio as of December 2019. Growth in the performing domestic corporate portfolio was about 12 per cent year-on-year. Total advances increased by 13 per cent year-on-year to Rs 635,654 crore from Rs 564,308 crore a year ago.

### BRIEFLY

#### Govt names Panda to SBI board

New Delhi: The government has nominated Debasish Panda, special secretary in the Ministry of Finance, on the board of State Bank of India. Panda has been appointed director in the central board of the public sector lender with immediate effect. SBI said in a regulatory filing on Saturday.

#### TVS Motor launches e-scooter

Bengaluru: TVS Motor Company on Saturday said it has forayed into electric segment with the launch of an e-scooter, priced at Rs 1.15 lakh (on-road in the city). Equipped with 4.4kw electric motor, the TVS iQube Electric can achieve a top speed of 78 kmph with a range of 75 kms in one full charge.

#### DCB Bank Q3 net up 12.3% at ₹96.70 cr

New Delhi: Private sector lender DCB Bank on Saturday reported an increase of 12.31 per cent in its net profit at Rs 96.70 crore for the third quarter ended December 2019. Its net profit was Rs 86.10 crore in the October-December period a year ago, DCB Bank said in a BSE filing. DCB Bank's total income was up 13.66 per cent at Rs 990.89 crore during the quarter under review. **PTI**

## ‘Indian smartphone market surpasses that of US in 2019’

Indian smartphone market surpassed the US for the first time on an annual level with shipment of 158 million units in 2019, according to Counterpoint Research

**2nd** With this, India has become the second largest smartphone market globally

**7%** Smartphone shipment grew 7 per cent in 2019 over the previous year

#### REASONS

■ Growth of the mid-tier segment where Chinese brands aggressively introduced many flagship-grade features and capabilities to capture demand coming from users looking to upgrade from their first or second smartphone

■ The online channels became the preferred selling platforms to



**MARKET SHARE (%)**  
■ Xiaomi (28) ■ Samsung (21) ■ Vivo (16) ■ Realme (10) ■ Oppo (9)

introduce these products faster into the market

**UNDERPENETRATED INDIAN MARKET**  
Although the rate of growth for the smartphone market

was only single digit for the first time on an annual basis, India is underpenetrated relative to many other markets; 4G penetration among subscribers being around 55 per cent

#### OUTLOOK

■ This demand is expected to grow further due to the ongoing transition from feature phones to smartphones and progressive diffusion of key smartphone features to the entry-level price tier as a result of hyper-competition among multiple players

■ Brands will have multi-tier strategies involving partnerships in the mobile ecosystem from hardware, software and services

**APPLE WAS** one of the fastest-growing brands in the fourth quarter, driven by multiple price cuts on its XR device, thanks to local manufacturing in India  
Source: Counterpoint Research/PTI

## US yields drop as new virus fears escalate

REUTERS  
NEW YORK, JANUARY 25

USTREASURY prices advanced on Friday, pushing yields lower for a fourth straight session, as news of the latest coronavirus spreading outside China continued to undermine risk appetite and spur demand for safe-haven assets.

US 30-year yields declined to a nearly three-month low, while those on benchmark 10-year notes dropped to more than two-month troughs. US two-year notes also slid, dropping to a two-week low. US 10-year yields have lost nearly 15 basis points this week, their largest weekly drop in about 3-1/2 months. Thirty-year

### US 30-YEAR YIELDS

#### 3-month low

■ US 30-year yields declined to a nearly three-month low, while those on benchmark 10-year notes dropped to more than two-month troughs.

yields, meanwhile, have fallen roughly 16 basis points this week, the biggest weekly decline in four months.

As rates fell, the yield curve flattened again on Friday as market sentiment took a hit amid a host of unknowns about the Chinese coronavirus.

## Mnuchin: Learnt lesson on dollar comments

REUTERS  
LONDON, JANUARY 25

USTREASURY Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Saturday he had learnt the hard way to be guarded in his comments on the dollar after roiling financial markets in 2018 by breaking from the usual language about the currency.

"I support a stable dollar but I'm not going to make more comments on that," he said at an event held at the Chatham House think tank in London.

Two years ago at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Mnuchin sent the US currency reeling when he said he welcomed a weak dollar.

**"I'm very careful about my comments on the dollar because two years ago in Davos I sneezed and I said something that I thought was completely calm, and all of a sudden the markets went crazy"**

**STEVEN MNUCHIN**  
USTREASURY SECRETARY

"One of the things I've clearly learned as treasury secretary, I'm very careful about my comments on the dollar, because two years ago in Davos, I sneezed, and I said something that I thought was completely calm, and all of a sudden the markets went crazy," he told the audience.

THE REGULATOR AND BOEING HAVE BEEN AT ODDS SINCE END OF 2019 ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE PLANE'S RETURN

## ‘FAA could approve MAX return before mid-year’

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 25

FEDERAL AVIATION Administrator Steve Dickson called senior US airline officials on Friday and told them the agency could approve the grounded Boeing 737 MAX's return to service before mid-year — a faster time frame than the planemaker suggested this week, people briefed on the calls said.

Dickson's calls came as the FAA issued a statement on Friday voicing progress on the 737 MAX, in a shifting tone that helped push the planemaker's shares higher even as concerns grew that it may cut production of another aircraft, the 787 Dreamliner.

"While the FAA continues to

### Boeing delays 777X first flight again due to bad weather

Seattle: Boeing has postponed again the first flight of its 777X long-haul jetliner that was scheduled to take place on Friday due to inclement weather.

follow a thorough, deliberate process, the agency is pleased with Boeing's progress in recent weeks toward achieving key milestones," the agency said in a statement.

A person briefed on one of Dickson's calls with the airlines said he told officials the Boeing mid-year timeline is "very conservative."

The FAA and Boeing Co had been at odds at the end of 2019 about the timing of the plane's return. The planemaker had forecast in November it would win FAA approval by December, which drew an unusual rebuke from the agency.

Boeing's new chief executive, Dave Calhoun, told reporters this week that the FAA "had a very dif-

ficult time" with Boeing's timeline in December.

Calhoun added Boeing's revised estimate included enough time so the FAA does not "feel so pressured that they explode like they did in December."

Dickson's calls come days after Boeing said it was pushing back its timeline for approval of the plane's return and "currently estimating that the ungrounding of the 737 MAX will begin during mid-2020."

Dickson has also spoken to senior Boeing executives since the company issued its new timetable, one of the persons briefed on Friday's calls to airlines said.

Boeing's best-selling plane has been grounded since March after two fatal crashes killed 346 peo-

ple. Boeing's stock erased losses on the news first reported by Reuters to close 1.7 per cent higher on the day at \$323.05.

The agency confirmed that Dickson made calls "to reiterate that the FAA has set no time frame for completion of certification work on the aircraft."

In recent weeks, several new concerns have drawn attention from Boeing and the FAA, including the location of wiring bundles on the MAX and a new software issue that emerged during recent testing involving a monitor. Calhoun said Wednesday he did not see those as "serious problems."

The FAA added Friday that "safety is the top priority, and the FAA continues to work with other safety regulators to ensure that

Boeing has addressed all known issues with the aircraft.

FAA approval before mid-year could happen only if Boeing continues to make complete and thorough submissions, an official told Reuters, and emphasised that unforeseen issues could always potentially delay approval.

American Airlines Group Inc, United Airlines Holdings Inc and Southwest Airlines Co have all pushed back the resumption of MAX flights until early June and indicated this week that the return could be delayed further if FAA approval does not happen until mid-year.

Airlines have said they will need at least 30 days after the FAA grants approval for pilot training, software updates and required maintenance.



BRIDGE

The technique of running a suit and hoping for a defensive error comes up more often than you could possibly imagine



WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
TNT			
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3NT	All pass	

West leads C9, and you are relieved to see nine top tricks. But can you find a way to trick West into giving you an extra diamond trick for a top board?

With an unpromising hand, West decided to try to find his partner's suit on the lead, and he chose the C9. He would have done much better with a spade, but you can't blame him for not guessing that.

Declarer can see a likely ten top tricks (two hearts, five diamonds and three clubs). But looking at all four hands, we can see the diamonds do not break and there are only four diamond tricks.

Declarer realised there was no hurry to play on diamonds, so he started by immediately playing all three of his clubs! What should West discard at trick three?

He didn't want to throw a spade from SK9 or a heart from HJ1094, so he threw the D3! Wouldn't you? Who would guess that declarer had five diamonds?

The diamond discard gave declarer ten tricks and 100% of the matchpoints.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2252

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 9. Win (7)
- 10. Grade or level (7)
- 11. Capital of Kenya (7)
- 12. Desire (7)
- 13. Fencing (9)
- 15. Deadly African disease (5)
- 16. Embarrassing mistake (7)
- 19. Depreciates coin by alloying, etc. (7)
- 20. Our national flower (5)
- 21. Massive (9)
- 25. Nuclear power plant (7)
- 26. Petty, unimportant or paltry (7)
- 28. Medical practitioners (7)
- 29. Tentative proposals or suggestions (7)

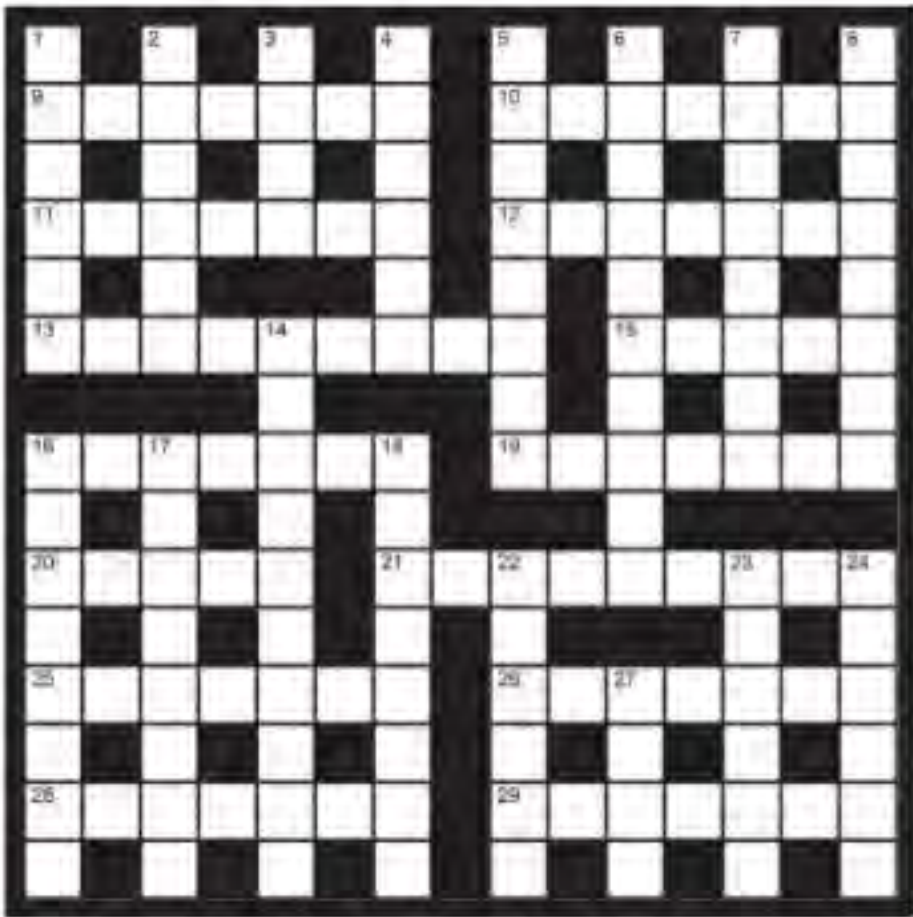
DOWN

- 1. Makes reparation (6)
- 2. Japanese form of self-defense (6)
- 3. Boss on a shield (4)
- 4. Cause delight (6)
- 5. Ran the tape twice (8)
- 6. Variable (10)
- 7. State in the central United States (8)
- 8. Words formed from letters of other words (8)
- 14. Removal from office (10)
- 16. Serbia capital (8)
- 17. Surpass (8)
- 18. Reword (8)
- 22. Formally advise (6)
- 23. Supposed (6)
- 24. Spatter a liquid (6)
- 27. List component (4)

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 9. Highly decorated nobleman has favourite spot for body-piercing (7)
- 10. A court practice, perhaps (5-2)
- 11. Heads for the Russian river lines (7)
- 12. A river once more rises and falls (7)
- 13. Yet it may mean a slender hope (3,6)
- 15. Laziness of a slow-mover among the trees (5)
- 16. Turning in grave? It's sour (7)
- 17. Bill, mountain climbing with Jack for example (7)
- 20. Nick isn't Charlotte's first (5)
- 21. Editors' resistance overcome by a poet (9)
- 25. Has second thoughts about scant distribution (7)
- 26. Not altogether in favour (7)



- 28. They may be responsible for reports from the front (7)
- 29. Hard place to grow plants (7)

DOWN

- 1. Drive back and be there for the departure (3,3)
- 2. Public relations and I have little time for hedging (6)
- 3. Rooftop seen behind low, open ground (4)
- 4. What a bore getting the number about right (6)
- 5. Superficial description of beauty (4,4)
- 6. Territory where women own all the rights? (2-4,4)
- 7. all right to abbreviate name of this state? (8)
- 8. With a bunch of pals, she had been playing in the water (8)
- 14. Overbearing attitude of one surrendering? (10)
- 16. Architect of the theatre (8)
- 17. Remark how a plane should be safe at altitude (8)
- 18. Note, fool with a letter to look at again (8)

Solutions to 2251

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Right, 5 Fairness, 9 Inferior, 10 Vowels, 11 Fortuitous, 12 Once, 13 Payments, 16 Sikkim, 17 Images, 19 Uttering, 21 Stoa, 22 Riboflavin, 25 Social, 26 Unending, 27 Agonised, 28 Assure. Down: 2 Ringo, 3 Greet, 4 Tuition, 5 Furious, 6 Invests, 7 New Yorker, 8 Selection, 14 Armstrong, 15 Migration, 18 Surplus, 19 Unbound, 20 Taffeta, 23 Aedes, 24 Inner. CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1 Usurer, 5 Sidecars, 9 Modulate, 10 Comeup, 11 Dirty Harry, 12 Fads, 13 Stripped, 16 Thrums, 17 Stager, 19 Planting, 21 Bern, 22 Sandpaper, 25 Mirror, 26 Erectors, 27 Aglimit, 28 Strays. Down: 2 Sumi, 3 Roust, 4 Reachup, 5 Sheared, 6 Decrypt, 7 Come first, 8 Roundsmen, 14 Tethering, 15 General, 18 Rostrum, 19 Pungent, 20 Algiers, 23 Outer, 24 Early.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday January 26

You've been pulled in two directions. You should be free to make your own choices. Today highlights emotional security and family contacts.

Monday January 27

Everything is up for grabs. It might be difficult to isolate what is important and what is not. Trivial events will be blown up, and others played down.

Tuesday January 28

The world will be at your feet. You're still not certain about what you think, feel, or what to do. What's important is that you learn about yourself and get clarity.

Wednesday January 29

What a romantic soul you are. But your desires may be directed as much towards a place or a principle as to a person. Your tendency to day-dream is much more useful than you might think.

Thursday January 30

Be careful and wait for the lights to turn green before you move. If you have doubts about your current course, slow down, seek reassurance and start afresh. This is a splendid moment to change direction.

Friday January 31

There's a lot of poetry in the air, but also an insistence that you get on with life. You can persuade people to support you by convincing them of your vision of the future.

Saturday February 1

This is a perfect moment to approach important decisions. It really is a special moment for all who can raise their sights to the stars, and to life's infinite possibilities.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

One rather favourable cycle is now coming to an end – as another begins. The transitional phase is signified by the somewhat wild encounter between the Sun and a series of planets, so please do take this final chance to let your hair down and put your cares to one side. Money matters will improve sharply within a fortnight.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You may come to doubt the wisdom of one or two rash promises. Your optimism may now be tempered by the knowledge that you'll have to put your fine words into practice. Change your mind. Someone has taken advantage of you in love, but hopefully all that is now in the past.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Domestic plans may have to be unmade and family arrangements scrapped. However, please remember that, in the astrological universe, all is for the best and be thankful you've been let off the hook. At home, you will be guaranteed all the help you need – just ask.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

If it's money you're after, then have one final push towards the end of the week and you never know what will happen. A fairy godmother is hovering in the wings but a sacrifice is called for. A romantic venture looks extremely well-starred so press on, even if you're acting on behalf of a close relation.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You'll be getting cold feet over a financial venture. It's quite possible that you'll be able to extricate yourself with no damage. Clear up outstanding domestic questions later on. If you should be contemplating a move of home, you should get on and make fundamental plans.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Others may persuade you that for your own peace of mind and security you really do have to make your final choice now. Yet, you have the power to delay for a few weeks, even to drop out altogether. The financial situation is looking bright, although the figures may look gloomy at present.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The planetary picture at the end of the week suggests you'll be on the receiving end of amazing generosity. You may step back from the precipice and decide that one course of action is no longer for you. Lunar alignments will reassure you that a family member is on your side after all.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

In spite of contradictory indications, it still looks as if you're about to receive thanks, recognition and acclaim. It's just no longer possible to hide your light under a bushel. The final stage in one emotional battle is on the way, so remain on your guard.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

There are bound to be moments when it seems very much as if you are being kept in the dark, but this is a feeling which many people will share this week. Appreciate your good luck instead of brooding. A relative is accident-prone, and so needs your protection. Give all the assistance you can.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)

You are gradually beginning to recover from the past few years' worth of tension. Perhaps you can now safely assume that you have won the final round and triumphed over all adversity. Professional Capricorns will shortly receive the acclaim they so earnestly desire and deserve.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

This is certain to be a period of financial satisfaction. Please don't squander this amazing opportunity to guarantee your future security. Remember that you may play for time if you wish. If someone wants you to offer them reassurance and stability for the future, you will have to oblige.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

This should be a phase of energy and renewed optimism. Don't be dismayed if partners seem to be going back on an agreement, be thankful that you are being given more time to think. There is every chance that someone you have not seen for a long time, but who you miss, is about to return.

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.

\_\_\_ is as likely to be wrong as anyone else - Heywood Brown (9)

PWEOR



ABRYTT



EORIS



RSUYPY



Answer: Positively is as likely to be wrong as anyone else - Heywood Brown

SUDOKU 4101

Difficulty Level 5s

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 4100



SALUTE THE SOLDIER



Baban Rai  
Constable  
SER-Chakradharpur  
02.04.1955-26.01.2006

During the Bharat Nadesh called by CPI (Maoists), on 26.01.2006 Constable Baban Rai was deputed for bandobast duty at Posoita railway station.

While performing duty, a group of armed Maoists entered on the station premises and opened fire on RPF staff. Constable Baban Rai showing extra ordinary zeal and courage, challenged them. During the encounter, Constable Baban Rai sustained fatal bullet injury and attained martyrdom on the spot. The selfless courage shown by Constable Baban Rai will always remembered with pride.

"Remembered with pride  
DG and All Ranks of Railway Protection Force personnel"

RFN BHIM BAHADUR LIMBU,  
SM (POSTHUMOUS)

No 9412902K Rfn Bhim Bahadur Limbu, SM (Posthumous) martyr of 1/11 Gorkha Rifles (BATALIK) made the supreme sacrifice during an expedition to the 'Mt Jonsang Peak' 7459 Mtr (24,472 ft) in North Sikkim at the tri junction of India, Nepal and Tibet on 26 Jan 1985 in a true act of valour. The brave soldier will always be remembered for his enthusiasm, dedication, devotion to duty and indomitable team spirit. To this braveheart we pledge that we shall always be guided by his immortal spirit and make his name proud.

1/11 Gorkha Rifles (BATALIK)

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP IN RESPECT OF PLOT NO. C 54, SECTOR 27,28,26(P).

Smt Bimla Devi D/o Mubank Singh has sold the plot to Smt Sudesh W/O Rajbir Singh on 10/03/2015. But inadvertently the name of Smt Bimla Devi (previous owner) was also mentioned along with Smt Sudesh (present owner) in the allotment letter issued by HSPV, (Rohtak).

However, Now Smt Sudesh W/o Rajbir Singh, resident of V.P.O Sisar Khas, Teh- Meham, Distt- Rohtak intends to apply for the transfer of the said property in her favour being the owner on the basis of sale deed.

If any person is having objection against the transfer of ibid plot, can submit objections in writing to the Estate Officer, HUDA, Rohtak, along with supporting documents within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise the Estate Officer may sanction days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise the Estate Officer may sanction days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise the Estate Officer may sanction days from the date of publication of this notice.

ESTATE OFFICER  
HSPV, ROHTAK

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION, LUCKNOW  
No. RE-Ten-Civ-LKO-G-281-BFA-07 Dated: 24.01.2020  
OPEN TENDER NOTICE  
By Chief Engineer, Railway Electrification, Lucknow acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender for the works mentioned below:  
Name of work: Provision of Sanitization services, upkeep and caretaker for Chief Project Director/RE, Lucknow office campus, and sub-ordinate rest house in office campus inclusive of new office building and RE officer Rest House at Bandariyabagh & Lucknow Junction Station for a period of Twenty four months.  
1. Tender No. RE-Ten-Civ-LKO-G-281-BFA-07  
2. Tender Type Open  
3. Period of Completion 24 Months  
4. Advertised Value (₹) ₹ 1,10,87,506.24  
5. Earnest Money (₹) ₹ 2,05,400.00  
6. Tender Closing Date Time 10.02.2020 15.00 hrs  
7. Validity of Offer (Days) 45 Days  
8. Bidding System Two Packet System  
9. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender Tender may be uploaded upto 15.00 hrs. on 10.02.2020 on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in. The bidder can participate in the E-tender, the tender will be opened after 15.00 hrs on 10.02.2020.  
10. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document: The detailed e-tender notice and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in wof. 25.01.2020 till 10.02.2020 at 15.00 hrs. Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 27.01.2020 to 10.02.2020. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.  
V.K. Gupta  
No. PR/192/200 R.D. Adv Dy. Chief Engineer/Railway Electrification, Lucknow For & on behalf of President of India

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-NOTICE OF INVITATION TENDER

Divisional Railway Manager, N.W. Rly, Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites sealed open tender for the following works on the date shown as below. Tender No. : S&T/BKN/ET 163 Name of Work with its Location : "Provision of E1 channel on OFC for BPAC/UFBSI working in section of LGH-BDWL section". Approx. Cost of Work : Rs. 2909025.68 Earnest money : Rs. 58200/- Date & Time for submission of Tender & opening of tender : Up to 15.00 Hrs. of 17.02.2020 Website from Which complete Tender details can be seen & download : www.ireps.gov.in 118-CT/20 Do not travel on the roof or footplate of the train

PRESS Short NOTICE INVITING PERCENTAGE RATE e-TENDER

Executive Engineer(C), Postal Civil Division, New Delhi invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate (CPWD-7) e-tenders for the following works:-  
N.I.T. No. NIT/EEPCND/2019-20/98(3rd call)  
Name of Work: Repair and maintenance of Krishna Nagar Head Post Office Building.  
Estimated Cost: ₹ 25,74,712/-  
Earnest Money: ₹ 51,494/-  
Period of completion- 3(Three) months.  
Last date of submission of bids: 30.01.2020 upto 15:00PM  
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.dopcivil.euniwizarde.com

HIMACHAL PRADESH, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

"CORRIGENDUM"

The Tender invited vide this office NIT No. 6816-65 dated 04.01.2020 due to be opened on 01-02-2020, the complete tender for Job No.1 to 2 are hereby postponed for dated 20.02.2020 due to administrative reasons. The detail of postponed date are given as under:-  
Key Dates:-

Sr. No.	Description	Previous Date	Revised Date
1.	Date of Online Publication	09.01.2020 04.30 Hrs.	03.02.2020 04.30 Hrs.
2.	Document Download Start and End Date	09.01.2020 05:00 Hrs. Upto 31.01.2020 05:00 Hrs.	03.02.2020 05:00 Hrs. Upto 19.02.2020 05:00 Hrs.
3.	Bid Submission Start and End Date	09.01.2020 05:00 Hrs. Upto 31.01.2020 05:00 Hrs.	03.02.2020 5:00 Hrs. Upto 19.02.2020 5:00 Hrs.
4.	Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	01.02.2020 upto 11:30 Hrs.	20.02.2020 upto 11:30 Hrs.
5.	Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	01.02.2020 11:30 Hrs.	20.02.2020 11:30 Hrs.

Executive Engineer, Poenta B&R Division, HP. PWD., Poenta Sahib, Dated:-

HIMACHAL PRADESH, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
Tel.: 01972-223965, 225735, E-mail: hp-ham@nic.in  
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)  
The Superintending Engineer, 8th Circle, HPPWD Hamirpur HP on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the Item Rate Bids, in Electronic Tenders System from the Eligible Class of Contractors Registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the Table.  
Sr. No. Name of Work Estimated Cost Starting Date for Download ing Bid Earnest Money Cost of Bid Form (In Rs.) Deadline for Submission of Bid Date of Opening of Technical Bid  
1. UP-Gradation of Parshada to Dwardu road km 0/0 to 11/400 including routine maintenance for five years Under PMGSY-II (Batch-I) 2019-20 Package No. HP-08-158 6,26,77,225.00 10.02.2020 at 06:00 P.M. 12,53,600.00 5000 24.02.2020 at 5:00 P.M. 25.02.2020 at 11:30 A.M.  
2. UP-Gradation of Longani to Bandal Chowk (Portion Bharat to Bandal Chowk) km 0/0 to 6/300 Under PMGSY-II (Batch-I) 2019-20 Package No. HP-08-159 3,46,38,785.00 10.02.2020 at 06:00 P.M. 6,92,800.00 5000 24.02.2020 at 5:00 P.M. 25.02.2020 at 11:30 A.M.  
The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the website: www.pmgsytenders.gov.in.  
Superintending Engineer, 8th Circle, HPPWD, Hamirpur: Pin. 177001 On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No. I, HPPWD, Mandi, Distt. Mandi(H.P.) on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Eligible Class of Contractor
1.	Periodic maintenance of Babil to Nashdarah road (PMGSY road) under Annual maintenance Plan for the year 2020-21. (Sub Head:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete including profile correction in Km. 7/0 to 8/0 & 12/0 to 21/0.)	1,04,44,038/-	1,36,900/-	5,000/-	Two Months	"A & B"
2.	Periodic maintenance of PadharBaliSakro road (PMGSY road) under Annual maintenance Plan for the year 2020-21. (Sub Head:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete including profile correction in Km. 1/0 to 5/0.)	41,47,721/-	56,500/-	2,000/-	One Month	"C" to above.
3.	Periodic maintenance of Padhar Bari road uptoHardgali (Other than PMGSY road) under Annual maintenance Plan for the year 2020-21. (Sub Head:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete including profile correction in Km. 2/0 to 3/0.)	9,97,639/-	20,000/-	350/-	One Month	All classes deal with bituminous work
4.	Periodic maintenance of Diana Park to Ghamarda road (Other than PMGSY road ) under Annual maintenance Plan for the year 2020-21. (Sub Head:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete including profile correction in Km. 2/0 to 4/0.)	20,42,086/-	38,100/-	500/-	One Month	All classes deal with bituminous work
5.	Periodic maintenance of Mandi Kamand Kataula Bajoura road (MDR-023) Major District Roads under Annual maintenance Plan for the year 2020-21. (Sub Head:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete including profile correction in Km. 31/0 to 34/0 and 40/0 to 46/0.)	92,59,341/-	1,25,100/-	2,000/-	Two Months	"A & B"
6.	Periodic maintenance of Seghali Baggi Prasher Jawalpur Panarsa road (MDR-068) Major District Roads under Annual maintenance Plan for the year 2020-21. (Sub Head:- Providing and laying 30mm thick Bituminous concrete including profile correction in Km. 47/0 to 51/0 & 52/0 to 56/0.	83,80,172/-	1,16,300/-	2,000/-	Two Months	"A & B"

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website: https://hptenders.gov.in. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: https://hptenders.gov.in. Digitalsignature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.  
3. Key Dates:

1. Date of Online Publication	03.02.2020 17.00 hrs.
2. Document Download Start and End Date	03.02.2020 17.00 hrs. upto 15.02.2020 17.00 hrs.
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	03.02.2020 17.00 hrs. upto 15.02.2020 17.00 hrs.
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	17.02.2020 upto 10.30 hrs.
5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	17.02.2020 11.30 hrs.

TENDER DETAILS:

The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover:  
i) Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information".  
ii) Cover 2: shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.  
5. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in O/O Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No. I, HPPWD Mandi, Distt Mandi (H.P.) a payable at Mandi as specified in Key Dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.  
6. BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on17.02.2020at11.30 HRS in the office of Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No. I, HPPWD Mandi, Distt Mandi H.P. by the authorised officer. In their interest the renderers are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.  
7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.  
8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh  
Executive Engineer,  
Mandi Division No. I, H.P.P.W.D.,  
Mandi Distt. Mandi (H.P.)

4306/HP



22

SPORTSLINE

India's most illustrious football club has been brought into the ISL fold. But the Mohun Bagan faithful are hardly a flock of sheep that'll obediently follow Atletico de Kolkata (ATK) into the lair of professionalism and modernity without asserting their identity in the ISL. SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY looks at Indian football's most anticipated merger and counts the reasons that might stop it from combusting.

# Bagan



# redux

“All I want is the well-being of Mohun Bagan. Irrespective of ownership, Mohun Bagan must always stand glorious.”

CHUNI GOSWAMI, MOHUN BAGAN LEGEND

# 102

The number of major trophies won by Bagan in Indian domestic football. Calcutta League (30), IFA Shield (22), Durand Cup (16), Rovers Cup (14), Federation Cup (14), National League (3), I-League (1), Super Cup (2).

## A BRIEF HISTORY

**THE BEGINNING:** On August 15, 1889 the club was established as Mohun Bagan Sporting Club, which was later changed to Mohun Bagan Athletic Club. The club crest, a country boat, signifies Bagan's place of birth, in north Calcutta on banks of the river Hooghly.

**FIRST TROPHY:** The Cooch Behar Cup in 1904.

**THE IMMORTAL XI:** Till this day, the 1911 IFA Shield final win (2-1) against East Yorkshire Regiment remains the finest moment. Bagan became a symbol of nationalism in pre-independent India.

**DERBY:** The first match between Bagan and East Bengal was played on August 8, 1921, at the Cooch Behar Cup. The first Calcutta League derby was played on May 28, 1925. Till date 370 competitive matches have been played between the arch-rivals.

**A JEWEL UNEARTHED:** In 1954, after eight years with the junior side, Chuni Goswami graduated to the senior team. The centre-forward went on to become Bagan and India's greatest-ever footballer, captaining India to the Asian Games football gold in 1962.

**PELE AT EDEN:** The legendary Pele came to Calcutta in 1977 as a part of New York Cosmos on Bagan's invitation. The friendly at Eden ended in a 2-2 draw.

**CENTENARY:** In 1989, the club celebrated its centenary. The then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi declared Bagan as the National Club of India. A postage stamp was released to mark the occasion.

**LIFTING 'OVERSEAS EMBARGO':** During the 1991-92 season, Bagan lifted their 'overseas embargo' and signed up Chima Okorie as their first-ever foreign player.

A VISIT to the Mohun Bagan ground on any matchday is an opportunity to witness love at close quarters. It's the same at the East Bengal ground, a short walk away from the Bagan tent. Bengalis are born either Mohun Bagan or East Bengal. The love for their respective teams has an adrenaline rush; passion mixed with aggression. Fans are Kolkata football's biggest stakeholders.

It's not all sweet sonnets for the Bagan supporters though; they best express their love in Kolkata by turning salty. "S... club ta ke beche dilo (bloody hell they sold our club)... that was our initial reaction," says Mohun Bagan fan Kingshuk Ghosh. Swearing is an integral part of on-field football viewership – any sport for that matter. Kingshuk just conformed to the norm, when he spoke about his club's merger with ATK FC, ceding 80 per cent of control to the RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group.

In 1998, when Bagan and the UB Group had entered into a fifty-fifty shareholding after forming a company to run the football team, protests arrived at the club tent's doorstep. A special officer had to be appointed to keep the peace. This time it's a takeover and yet, fans are not protesting. They, in fact, are counting the positives. To paraphrase Bob Dylan, times they've changed.

Or, have they? Kingshuk is empathic: "To start with, we didn't have a clear idea about how the merger would work. But gradually it has dawned on us that this might help change the whole set-up for the better. See, standing on the terraces, we will still shout, 'joy Mohun Bagan (victory to Bagan)'. We will never shout, 'joy ATK Mohun Bagan or Mohun Bagan ATK', or whatever the merged identity is called."

Going by the Bagan supporters, the merger has laid bare the tattered fabric of the club officialdom. "The club officials, both Bagan and East Bengal, have failed to use the brands. Otherwise, it wouldn't have come to this. See, the I-League is now a second-string tournament. But for far too long, the officials were in denial. They realised it a little too late that a club playing in the I-League wouldn't attract big sponsors, notwithstanding its heritage. Eventually, selling of stakes became their only option," Amit Ghosh, a researcher, and more importantly, a part of the Mariners fan club, offers the supporters' perspective.

He is right on the money, given that even 12 months back, Bagan and East Bengal were busy foisting a combined resistance by the I-League clubs and taking their 'fight' against the ISL to the All India Football Association (AIFF). The majority of the club officials were an impediment to progress, forcing the clubs to play catch-up all the time.

Little wonder then that the fans are by and large happy and convinced that football will be run in a professional way by the new management. The real upside is that now Bagan will play in the top-tier. They will yet again start wooing national team players. Like ATK midfielder Pronay Halder, spoke of how he had been missing the Kolkata derby and of his joy to play for Bagan again. "The harsh reality was, we would have again lost players like Nongdamba Naorem and Joseba Beitia to the ISL next season if we were still playing the I-League. Every good player in the I-League is making a switch to the ISL, for the right reasons. They have spoken about giving discounted tickets to Bagan members. So I hope fans won't be priced out," Mayukh Chatterjee, another Bagan die-hard drives home his point.

All positive factors aside, Bagan fans are still taking the merger with a pinch of salt, trying to uphold the club's superiority even in the takeover. "ATK are the biggest winner. They might have won the ISL twice but in Kolkata, few care for them. Our club and fans like us will make ATK popular." The sly dig is probably the order of the day. Bagan fans also have a warning for the football team's new bosses; "Don't be foolish enough to promote the ATK brand over our heritage."



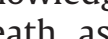
World War II was at its peak and Denis Compton was in Calcutta, serving the army that fought on the Eastern Front. Central India actually was the first port of call for the England cricket legend, where he turned up for Holkar in a Ranji Trophy match. In Calcutta, Compton wanted to play football for Mohun Bagan. Arsenal's official website records his entry to the club as a 14-year-old amateur in 1932.

In pre-independent India, Bagan had been a symbol of patriotism. A legend was born after the 1911 IFA Shield final that the green-and-maroon had won defeating East

Yorkshire Regiment. The Immortal XI were as celebrated as prominent freedom fighters. Bagan duly had a policy of not having any overseas player in their team. But Compton wasn't just another overseas sportsman. So, as the story goes, the then Bagan hierarchy had a meeting to discuss the great man's overture. By then, though, the Mahatma had launched the Quit India movement. The club management expressed their regrets to Compton. Bagan only lifted their 'overseas embargo' in the early 1990s, when they signed up Chima Okorie as their first-ever foreign player.

Sanjiv Goenka's press statement was carefully worded in trying to match up to this reverential history. "RPSG Group which has a 200-year-old legacy is humbled and honoured to welcome Mohun Bagan with folded hands and open arms to the RPSG family." RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group owns and runs the ATK FC in the Indian Super League (ISL). But Bagan's ownership, with an 80 per cent shareholding, was a momentous occasion. The legacy had to be acknowledged. What lay beneath, as Bagan and ATK merged to be part of the ISL from the next season onwards, was a corporate takeover. For 130 years, Bagan had been a supporter/member-based club, although in 1998, a company was formed – a fifty-fifty shareholding with the UB Group – to run

the football affairs. On the face of it, the takeover marked the end of a tradition.



"Corporate takeover is nothing new in today's football. Giants like Liverpool and Manchester United have American owners. In Bagan's case though, there could be a hint of conflict. Their new owner has his own team, ATK, that will be merged with Bagan. At the moment, they are hitting the right note, but who knows what will happen two years down the line. If there's an effort to promote the ATK brand at the expense of Bagan, in a board set up at 8-2 to Bagan's disadvantage, majority will prevail. So far, Bagan has been run by the officials elected by the club members. It will no longer be the case. Bagan's representation in the new order could become peripheral," former Indian football team captain Bhaskar Ganguly prefers to read between the lines.

Ganguly agrees that club officials kept modernity at arm's length, but he lays the

The merger will not change the governance structure of the Mohun Bagan Athletic Club, for the club and its football team are run by two separate bodies. In fact, this will help us remodel ourselves in the way our next generation wants their football. This will eventually help us get among the top 10 clubs in Asia."



On the 15th of every month, Sanjoy Sen used to get cold feet. He was the Bagan coach then and had been facing players on their payday. "Eventually the club paid every footballer, but salaries had been running on backlog and for me, it wasn't an easy situation." Sen was the Bagan head coach from 2014 to early 2018 before joining the ATK's youth set-up.

"Coming to the ISL was an eye-opener. At Bagan, I had repeatedly insisted on having a video analyst for the first-team to no avail. Here, our youth team has a video analyst and a physio. The whole thing is run professionally."

Sen believes the merger is a win-win for everybody. "The ISL will get Bagan's legacy. Bagan, in turn, will get the ISL and ATK's professionalism. Credit to Mr Goenka, he has been developing his own brand, ATK. Still, he took Bagan under his wings because he cares for Kolkata football. His family has had a long connection with Bagan. He knows the club's heritage."

A lot of players would be temporarily unemployed following the merger. Very few from the current Bagan squad will graduate to the ISL. What will happen to those who are left out? "So many players have come to the ISL from the I-League. If a player is talented, he won't be left out. It's survival of the fittest," Sen observes.

Players in the ISL also have the opportunity to be coached under some big names from Europe and Latin America. In a country where footballers start developing their ideas about different formations only after reaching the senior level, it's a big plus. ATK had Jose Molina as their head coach during their title-winning campaign in 2016. Molina is now the sporting director of the Spanish football federation. Luis Enrique reports to him.

Bagan legend Subrata Bhattacharya brushes aside the foreign coach factor, in his indomitable style. "After all, the result will be a big zero. India won't be able to beat China, Japan and Korea. Not even Myanmar. All we still have to show for will be victories against Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Singapore. What the hell are the 'top' foreign coaches doing then? India became the Asian champions under an Indian coach, Rahim *sahib*." Bhattacharya feels Bagan members should have risen to the occasion, contributing to the club through donations.

"Club members have a bigger role to play than just paying their annual subscription fee. If all the members had come forward and donated Rs 5,000 each, the financial crisis might have been averted. Maybe, the club wasn't in a dire situation to take the merger route. When

you are in extreme crisis, you look for survival. The Bagan officials probably had no other option," Bhattacharya defends his logic.

Since 2014, when the UB Group left, the Bagan football team has been run almost singlehandedly by the club general secretary Swapan Sadhan (Tutu) Bose through his company. The club might have struggled for existence without its chief benefactor. "To use the word difficult would be subversion. Without Tutu *da* it would have been impossible," Dutta confesses. Once the Bagan management decided to be part of the ISL, the club

needed financial muscle. Annual expenditure for the football team to play in the I-League and other tournaments has had been roughly Rs 15 crore. To make an almost threefold jump, required to be in the ISL, investors had to be invited.

Skepticism notwithstanding, Bagan are now part of ISL, though the more familiar hyphen seems incomplete. The tagline in the English Premier League at the moment is, how Liverpool want Manchester United to be great again. Liverpool versus United remains the biggest rivalry in world football, along with Real Madrid versus Barcelona.

Bagan's participation, with their giant fan-base, in the ISL from the next season onwards will be a huge value addition to the league. But Indian football needs their arch-rivals also in the same league. Bagan and East Bengal complement each other.

It is learnt that the FSDI played a major role in the Bagan-ATK merger.

Now, they are walking the extra mile to bring East Bengal into the fold.

blame on the AIFF. "The Federation is responsible. They allowed themselves to be gobbled up by IMG-Reliance by hurting the legacy and traditional clubs and traditional tournaments. The AIFF did nothing when traditional clubs like JCT, Dempo, Salgaocar and many others shut shop. They turned a blind eye, when tournaments like Rovers Cup and Durand Cup were disbanded. If the AIFF officials had taken a leaf out of Jagmohan Dalmiya's book, they wouldn't have needed the IMG-Reliance. They could have used football's popularity to spread the game across the length and breadth of the country, the way cricket did under Dalmiya. But the AIFF officials revelled in their ineptitude. And as the ISL becomes the mainstream, Bagan had to go there. East Bengal, too, will join in the near future to survive. And with Rs 15 crore annual franchise fee being the basic expense, the takeover was inevitable."

AIFF senior vice-president Subrata Dutta begs to differ. "To start with, IMG-Reliance, which is now known as the FSDI, is investing a huge amount of money in Indian football. Not only are they running the ISL, money that they give to the AIFF helps us organise all our tournaments and development programme including the I-League. So are they committing a sin? Aren't they contributing to the development of Indian football?"

Dutta gives a low-down on the FSDI's expenditure – around Rs 50 crore to the AIFF every year apart from hosting the ISL, which is roughly a Rs 100-crore business.

"You have to take into account the 10 ISL clubs also. If they have a Rs 40-crore budget each per season, then all combined, money spent is Rs 400 crore per season. So the FSDI has made Indian football a Rs 500-crore industry. Mind you, India's current Fifa ranking is 108. And they are doing it knowing fully well that they would struggle to reach the break-even."

Bagan official Debashis Dutta tries to allay the concerns.

"Since 1998, when Bagan had entered into a fifty-fifty shareholding partnership with the UB Group, the club's football team has been run by a company. Back then it was United Mohun Bagan Private Limited. Following the UB Group's exit, the company became Mohun Bagan Football Club (India) Private Limited. The club nominates directors to the company.





BRIEFLY

Mary to get Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan for Sindhu

New Delhi: Boxer MCMary Kom will be conferred with the Padma Vibhushan, the country's second highest civilian award, while world champion shuttler PV Sindhu will get the Padma Bhushan among eight sportspersons named for the prestigious honours on Saturday. The names of the awardees were announced by the government on the eve of the country's 71st Republic Day. The 36-year-old Mary Kom is an Olympic bronze medallist and six-time world champion, and was conferred with the Padma Bhushan in 2013 and Padma Shri in 2006. She is only the fourth sportsperson in the country to be given the Padma Vibhushan after Viswanathan Anand, Edmund Hillary and Sachin Tendulkar who all got the award in 2008. Sindhu is a silver medalist at the 2016 Rio Olympics and is the only Indian world champion in badminton. Cricketer Zaheer Khan, current Indian women's hockey team captain Rani Rampal, former men's hockey skipper MP Ganesh, ace shooter Jitu Rai, former Indian women's football team captain Oinam Bembem Devi and archer Tarundeep Rai were among the six other sportspersons who figured in the list of the 118 Padma Shri awardees.

Azam, Hafeez fifties power Pakistan

Lahore: Skipper Babar Azam and senior batsman Mohammad Hafeez stroked masterful half-centuries to steer Pakistan to a convincing nine-wicket win over a hapless Bangladesh in the second Twenty20 international in Lahore on Saturday. Babar scored a 44-ball 66 not out for his 13th half-century and Hafeez made an undefeated 49-ball 67 to guide Pakistan to a modest 137-run target in 16.4 overs at Gaddafi stadium, taking an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Bangladesh again failed to put up a challenging total despite opener Tamim Iqbal's 53-ball 65, managing 136 for 6 in their 20 overs after winning the toss and batting for a second consecutive match. **BRIEF SCORES:** Bangladesh 136 for 6 in 20 ovs (T Iqbal 65; Md Hasnain 2/20) bt Pakistan 137 for 1 in 16.4 ovs (B Azam 66 not out, Md Hafeez 67 not out; S Islam 1/27)

Jordan to now host boxing qualifiers

Lausanne: An Olympic boxing qualifier, which was cancelled in China following the outbreak of a deadly virus that has claimed 26 lives, will be held instead in Jordan, officials said Friday. The International Olympic Committee's Boxing Task Force (BTF) announced that the Asian/Oceania qualifying event for this summer's Tokyo Olympics will be held in Amman from March 3-11. Wuhan was also supposed to host China, Taiwan, Thailand and Australia for the Group B Asian women's football qualifiers from February 3-9. However, the tournament will now be held on the same dates in Nanjing.

Tennis: Souza gets life ban for fixing

Melbourne: Former top-100 tennis player Joao Souza has been banned for life and fined USD 200,000 for match-fixing and other corruption offences, the Tennis Integrity Unit said on Saturday. An investigation found the Brazilian fixed matches at ATP Challenger and ITF Futures events in Brazil, Mexico, the United States and the Czech Republic, the anti-corruption body said. The current world number 742, who reached a career-high ranking of 69 in 2015, also failed to report corrupt approaches, destroyed evidence and "solicited other players to not use best efforts". **AGENCIES**



‘SUPPORT TEAM’

After edging out Russian Karen Khachanov 6-2, 7-6(5), 6-7(6), 6-7(7), 7-6(8) in four hours and 26 minutes, Nick Kyrgios thanked the Melbourne Arena crowd: "I was losing it mentally but my support team just wheeled me over the line, I thought I was going to lose." Kyrgios now faces Rafael Nadal in the fourth-round clash on Monday. *AP*

Aussie hero in good Nick

Kyrgios loses temper, blows two-set lead before raucous crowd puts him back on course for his longest match win

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MELBOURNE, JANUARY 25

NICK KYRGIOS put aside a bloody hand, a hamstring issue, a tiff with the chair umpire and a resilient opponent who saved a pair of match points.

When the Australian Open third-round thriller ended after about 4 1/2 hours Saturday, Kyrgios dropped to his back behind the baseline. Guess what's next for the home-crowd favorite? A much-anticipated matchup with a familiar, but decidedly not friendly, foe: No. 1 Rafael Nadal.

Kyrgios eventually got past No. 16 Karen Khachanov 6-2, 7-6(5), 6-7(6), 6-7(7), 7-6(8) with the help of 33 aces and what sounded like an entire country of supporters in the stands.

"This is just epic, man," Kyrgios said. "Like, I don't even know what's going on." Kyrgios initially was a point from winning at 6-5 in the third-set tiebreaker, then again an hour later at 8-7 in the fourth-set tiebreaker, but he needed yet another hour to pull out the victory when Khachanov pushed a backhand wide.

"I was losing it mentally, a little bit," Kyrgios said. "I thought I was going to lose, honestly."

Along the way, he hit a dive-and-roll backhand, scraped his knuckles and, after wiping the blood, was warned for a time violation. That set off Kyrgios, who explained why play was delayed and said to the chair umpire, "Are you stupid? Well, take it back then."

There are sure to be more fireworks Monday during the eighth edition of Nadal vs. Kyrgios. Even so, Kyrgios tried to downplay the animosity Saturday, saying: "Whatever happens between us, he's an amazing player. Arguably, he's the greatest of all-time."

So far, Nadal holds a 4-3 head-to-head edge, including a contentious win in their last meeting, at Wimbledon last July.

Nadal was not thrilled that Kyrgios hit a ball right at him in that match. Kyrgios took a different sort of shot at Nadal from afar the other day in Melbourne, mimicking the 33-year-old Spaniard's series of mannerisms before he hits a serve. "It's clear, of course, that when he does stuff that in my opinion is not good, I don't like (it). When he plays good tennis and he shows passion for this game, he is a positive player for

our tour, and I want my tour bigger, not smaller. So the players who make the tour bigger are important for the tour," Nadal said. "When he's ready to play his best tennis and play with passion, (he) is one of these guys. When he's doing the other stuff, of course I don't like (it)."

Here's what Nadal loved Saturday: The way he stepped things up during a 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 victory over 27th-seeded Pablo Carreno Busta that required fewer than 100 minutes.

"I needed to improve," Nadal said, "and I improved." His down-the-line lefty forehand was perfectly on-target and "impossible to read," Carreno Busta explained.

"Starting," Nadal said, "to create damage." He won 52 of 62 points on his serve. He never offered his opponent a break chance. He finished with a total of merely seven unforced errors among the match's 125 total points — and six times as many winners at 42.

"My best match of the tournament so far, without a doubt," Nadal said. Against "this Rafa," Carreno Busta said, "you feel a little powerless." "When he plays that comfortably," Carreno Busta said, "there's nothing you can do."

And to think: Nadal did this after staying up late enough to watch on TV as the man he's chasing in the Grand Slam count, Roger Federer, was pushed to a fifth-set tiebreaker before getting through to the fourth round at nearly 1 a.m. That was part of a chaotic Day 5 — including losses by Serena Williams and reigning champion Naomi Osaka, who was ousted by 15-year-old sensation Coco Gauff — and the trend continued on Day 6 on the women's side.

No. 2 Karolina Pliskova, No. 5 Elina Svitolina and No. 6 Belinda Bencic all lost in straight sets, meaning nine of the top 13 seeds already are gone. Pliskova, the 2016 U.S. Open runner-up, lost 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3) to 30th-seeded Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova. Svitolina, a semifinalist at the past two majors, was beaten 6-1, 6-2 by two-time Slam champ Garbine Muguruzza. Bencic, a semifinalist at Flushing Meadows last September, offered even less pushback while being defeated 6-0, 6-1 in 49 minutes by 28th-seeded Anett Kontaveit. Halep, who is seeded fourth, stuck around by beating Yulia Putintseva 6-1, 6-4, and next plays No. 16 Elise Mertens, who ended the Grand Slam return of American CICI Bellis 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-0.

Nadal vs Kyrgios: A feud of ice and fire

Bad blood between Rafael Nadal and Nick Kyrgios will likely continue as the two face off for the first time this year. Before Monday's season premiere, here's a recap of the previous episodes in the rivalry.

NADAL UPSET

Kyrgios, then 19, announced his arrival with a four-set win over Nadal in the second round of the 2014 Wimbledon. Powerful aces, winners and the usual trick shots for good measure, Kyrgios treated the world No. 1 with borderline disdain, and hinted at the reasons after the match. "I saw an interview with (mother Noriella Kyrgios) saying Nadal was too good. That made me a bit angry and that helped."

ABOUT TIME

The feud was reignited in the first round-meeting at the Acapulco Open last year, when Kyrgios chipped away at Nadal's two great peeves. He kept complaining about Nadal taking too much time before service, and dusted out underarm serves — a ploy long discussed to agitate the Spaniard who stands way behind the baseline. Kyrgios saved three match points, won the match and the tournament. "He lacks respect for the crowd, his opponent and towards himself," said Nadal. "I don't think he's a bad guy, but he lacks a little respect for the public and the rival".

Kyrgios replied: "He doesn't know anything about me. He doesn't know the journey I've been through. So, I'm not going to listen at all."

UNCLE CHIPS IN

Toni Nadal came to nephew Rafa's aid, telling a radio station: "Rafa is totally right. (Kyrgios) lacks education and smartness. He should be fighting for the top-rankings and instead, he is No. 40." In a podcast, Kyrgios went after both. "Nadal is super salty. When he wins, he will credit the opponent. But as soon as I

beat him, he has no respect for me, my fans or the game. And then Uncle Toni comes out and says 'he lacks education'. Bro, I did 12 years at school, you idiot. I'm very educated. I understand you're upset that I beat your family."

SHOTS FIRED

In the heated second-round meeting at 2019 Wimbledon, Kyrgios waged mental warfare against an unusually terse Nadal. He served underarm, was handed a code violation for other antics, and argued with the chair umpire. During a rally, Kyrgios drilled a ball at Nadal's chest and in the press conference admitted that he "wanted to hit (Nadal) square in the chest." "Why would I apologize? I mean, the dude has got how many slams, how much money in the bank account? I think he can take a ball to the chest, bro"

SERVE'S THE PURPOSE

During Thursday's second-round win over Gilles Simon, Kyrgios pulled out his best Nadal imitation. Warned for taking too much time before the serve, Kyrgios tucked imaginary hair behind his ears and picked his shorts — an ode to Nadal's pre-serve ritual. It drew a chuckle from the umpire, and encouraged the Frenchman across the net to try a Rafa imitation of his own. Nadal's reaction: "I am here to play tennis. Honestly, I don't care at all. If it was funny, good."

When asked about the upcoming clash with his arch-rival, Kyrgios said, "Regardless, if we don't like each other or whatever, I think there's a layer of respect. He's one of the greatest of all time. I also read that he thinks I'm good for the sport," he said.

TRAMLINES

Monfils perplexed by 'PlayStation injury'

Great entertainer Gael Monfils charged into the fourth round of the Australian Open on Saturday before rounding on the media for a "made up" story about him injuring his hand while playing video games. The 10th seed ousted Ernests Gulbis 7-6(2) 6-4 6-3 on Melbourne Arena showing no signs of a hand injury French media reports last weekend had said resulted from him hitting the bedboard in frustration while on his PlayStation. "I say this in a funny way but it's a disgrace to be honest with you because I'm fine," the 33-year-old told reporters. "I'm in second week, playing great tennis. I never said I was hurt. Playing PlayStation, this? Come on? And it's easy, because I think I'm a good name to make up a good story like that. Now you know." The Frenchman will face fifth seed Dominic Thiem in the last 16 as he looks to reach the quarter-finals at Melbourne Park for the second time after 2016.

Barty named Young Australian of the Year

Ash Barty was named Young Australian of the Year on Saturday in recognition of her rise to number one in the world and Grand Slam triumph at last year's French Open. Barty was her country's first number one women's tennis player since her fellow indigenous Australian Evonne Goolagong Cawley in 1976 when she first reached the top spot in June last year. "Ash Barty is the world's number one tennis player, a champion athlete and an extraordinary young woman doing our nation proud," said Danielle Roche, who chaired the National Australia Day Council. "Her achievements are inspiring young Australians to follow their dreams." Barty is in Melbourne for the Australian Open and will play American Alison Riske on Sunday for a place in the quarter-finals as she continues her quest to give her country a first homegrown champion at the tournament since 1978. The award, handed out on the eve of the Australia Day national holiday, was also won by Lleyton Hewitt in 2003 - the year after he won his second Grand Slam title at Wimbledon.

ON A ROLL

15 Win-streak for No. 17 Andrey Rublev after finishing the Davis Cup 4-0 last November, winning titles at Doha and Adelaide this month and now reaching the fourth round of the Australian Open.

KEY RESULTS

**Men's third round:** No. 1 R Nadal beat No. 27 PC Busta 6-1, 6-2, 6-4; No. 5 D Thiem beat No. 29 T Fritz 6-2, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-4; No. 10 G Monfils beat E Gulbis 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-3; No. 17 A Rublev beat No. 11 D Goffin 2-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4, 7-6 (4); No. 23 N Kyrgios beat No. 16 K Khachanov 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (6), 6-7 (7), 7-6 (8). **Women's third round:** No. 4 S Halep beat Y Putintseva 6-1, 6-4; No. 28 A Kontaveit beat No. 6 B Bencic 6-0, 6-1; No. 30 A Pavlyuchenkova beat No. 2 K Pliskova 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3); No. 17 A Kerber beat C Giorgi 6-2, 6-7 (4), 6-3; No. 16 E Mertens beat C Bellis 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-0; I Swiatek beat No. 19 D Vekic 7-5, 6-3.

Generally I'm happy outside the court, happy on the court, happy in life. Then I think you play your best. When you have stress outside, when you have stress that I had last year with all sorts of things, you're not going to perform your best. I have a pretty calm life right now, which is nice for me."

ALEXANDER ZVEREV, ON REGAINING CONFIDENCE AFTER LOSING ALL THREE OF HIS SINGLES MATCHES AT THE INAUGURAL ATP CUP

Wood's all-round show puts England in control

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
JOHANNESBURG, JANUARY 25

MARK WOOD starred as England took a huge stride towards securing a series win when they dominated the second day of the fourth and final Test against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium on Saturday.

England posted a first innings total of 400 before reducing South Africa to 88 for six by the close. Two century partnerships and a boisterous last-wicket stand of 82 took England to a total which almost certainly put the match beyond the reach of South Africa, who need a win to level the series.

Then it was the turn of the bowlers, led by Wood, as England pushed for a third successive win in a series which they lead 2-1.

South Africa finished the day still 312 runs behind, with Quinton de Kock their only consistent batsman during the series, seeking to give the innings some respectability on Sunday.

Wood made the first breakthrough when he had Pieter Malan caught behind for 15. He followed up with the wicket of the recalled Temba Bavuma, then finished the day on a high when nightwatchman Anrich Nortje was caught at gully in the last over of the day. He had figures of three for 21.

Sam Curran, Ben Stokes and Chris Woakes picked up a wicket each. England's total was built around three big partnerships.

The first two, 107 for the first wicket between Zak Crawley and Dom Sibley and 101 for the fifth wicket between captain Joe Root and Ollie Pope, were compiled by recognised batsmen. The last wicket stand probably hurt South Africa the most. Wood and Stuart Broad, batting at numbers 10 and 11, hit seven sixes between them and put on 82 off only 50 balls.

The Wood-Broad stand was devastating for South Africa as England turned a respectable total into one which by the end of the day looked too big for the hosts, who have yet to make 300 in an innings in the series.

South Africa's bowling, with the exception of Nortje, was largely toothless. Nortje bowled tirelessly at high pace and took five for 110, his first five-wicket haul in Test cricket.

Nortje dismissed both Pope for 56 and Root for 59 after the pair had dominated the first hour of play, adding 66 runs to England's overnight total of 192 for four.

Thanks largely to Nortje, England were reduced to 318 for nine. Then came 41 minutes of mayhem as Wood and Broad indulged themselves against some mediocre bowling when Nortje was out of the attack.

Captain Faf du Plessis resorted to placing



Broad and Wood's last-wicket stand of 82 took England to 400. Reuters

most of his fielders on the boundary but Wood (35 not out) and Broad (43) either hit over them or found the gaps.

In contrast, South African openers Dean Elgar and Malan could only score 11 runs in 12 overs before tea as they made a cautious start to their innings. They lifted the tempo after the

interval but Wood's pace undid Malan to end an opening stand of 29. It proved to be South Africa's biggest partnership of a miserable day, while England left the field in high spirits.

Stokes fined

England vice captain Ben Stokes was fined and given a demerit point on Saturday for swearing at a fan as he walked off the field after getting out. The International Cricket Council said Stokes was charged under its code of conduct for "use of an audible obscenity during an international match."

The star all-rounder was fined 15 percent of his match fee. It was his first demerit point in the last two years. Players who accumulate four disciplinary points in a two-year period are banned. Stokes accepted the charge and there was no need for a formal hearing, the ICC said. The incident happened on the first day.

Stokes had been dismissed for 2 and was heading up the players' tunnel when he was heard on live TV coverage hurling two expletives in the direction of a fan. Stokes, clearly angered at something that was said to him, shouted back "come and say it to me outside the ground" before using the two expletives. **BRIEF SCORES:** South Africa 88 for 6 (de Kock 32\*, Wood 3-21) trail England 400 (Crawley 66, Root 59, Pope 56) by 312 runs

Versus Kiwis, India aim for two in two at Eden Park

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AUCKLAND, JANUARY 25

INDIA ARE unlikely to change a winning combination but a few changes in the bowling department won't come as a surprise when the visitors take on New Zealand in the second T20 at the high-scoring Eden Park here on Sunday.

Jasprit Bumrah was the only bowler on either side to concede less than eight runs per over at the peculiar shaped ground with short boundaries in the series opener on Friday. Both Mohammad Shami (0/53 in 4 overs) and Shardul Thakur (1/44 in 3 overs) were taken to the cleaners with New Zealand batsmen using their pace to collect boundaries at will.

Since Shami is expected to retain his place in the playing eleven, Thakur might make way for Navdeep Saini. However, Saini, with his extra pace, too could go for big runs at the small ground. It remains to be seen whether India stick to three specialist pacers and two spinners combination or bring in an extra tweaker in Kuldeep Yadav to partner Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravindra Jadeja. Washington Sundar is the other spin option India have. If India do

play an extra tweaker, all-rounder Shivam Dube will be third fast bowling option.

On the batting front, Virat Kohli was a pleased skipper as the much scrutinised middle-order delivered for the team under pressure. Shreyas Iyer solidified at his position at number four with an unbeaten 58 off 29 balls. It was a near perfect start of the tour for the away team which chased down 204 with relative ease to go 1-0 up in the five-match series. Iyer has figured in all of India's 12 T20Is since September last year, averaging 34.14 in 11 innings with two half-centuries and strike-rate 154.19.

As Manish Pandey and Dube alternate in finishing duties, aided by KL Rahul's wicket-keeping skills, India's T20 batting line-up finally seems set in the short term barring unforeseen changes. New Zealand were left pondering about a shortage of 10-15 runs to their total as well as missed chances in the field. In turn, the Black Caps themselves now have to come to terms with India's adaptation if they are to prevent an early 2-0 lead within three days. India had also won here in February 2019, albeit it was a three-match T20I series they had eventually lost 1-2.

LIVE on Star Sports from 1:30pm



# Turning the tables

Lower-ranked France deny Indian women’s TT team Olympic berth; Individual quota places still up for grabs

SHAHID JUDGE  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 25

FORLORN EXPRESSIONS remained fixed on the faces of the Indian women's table tennis team. They clapped feebly, more out of sporting compulsion, to congratulate the victors and comfort Ayhika Mukherjee, who lost her deciding singles rubber against France, as she walked back to her dugout.

These scenes told the story of errors made across a table, a result that extends the wait for a first ever spot at the Olympics for the women's team by another four years. And when the dust settles after the 3-2 loss to the lower ranked French, what will be left behind are painful thoughts of what could have been.

This was the second stage of a tournament that was designed to distribute nine 2020 Olympic Games quotas to worthy teams. In the first leg, eight teams earned their spot at Tokyo. Against all odds, the Indians were in close contention.

A day back, they played a higher-ranked Romanian team, cancelled out the threat of world no 19 Bernadette Szocs, but could not avoid defeat in the best-of-five rubber format, as they eventually stumbled 3-2. No matter, there was still a chance to get the last quota. For that, they'd have to win an eight-team tournament.

On Saturday, the 17th seeded Indians came up against 18th seeds France in the quarterfinal tie. On paper, the rankings would have suggested a straight-forward win for the Indians – India's lineup was led by world no 61 Manika Batra, Ayhika (121) and Sutirtha Mukherjee (157), while the French team included Stephanie Loeuillet (99), Jia Nan Yuan (161) and Marie Migot (195).

But after a five-set win in the doubles, Batra, who led the team to gold at the 2018



World no. 61 Manika Batra was upset by lower-ranked Marie Migot in the second rubber. India lost the tie 2-3.

Commonwealth Games, was upset by Migot 3-2 (7-11, 11-3, 9-11, 11-3, 7-11) in the second rubber. The French then went on to take a 2-1 lead in the third, when Yuan beat Sutirtha in straight games (11-7, 11-8, 11-6). Batra however did come back strong in the fourth match. Playing Loeuillet, the 24-year-old pulled off a strong 3-0 win (11-7, 12-10, 11-4), taking the tie to the fifth rubber.

The decider is where talent and stroke-play isn't the only thing that counts, nerves play a big role.

"That was the problem. In those situations you have to hold on to your nerves," says former Olympian Neha Aggarwal, after 22-year-old Ayhika lost her five-game match 3-2 (11-6, 8-11, 11-5, 9-11, 9-11). "She was trailing 9-10 in the final game. It gets very tense in those situations. But the inexperience also made a difference. Overall the Indian girls don't get many opportunities to go out and train, so these situations all come new to them."

The loss to France now means

the Indian women's team's hopes of making it to the Olympics this year is over. But even in defeat, Aggarwal draws a few positives.

"Yes, what happened here was unfortunate and France was beatable. But the girls did put up a brave performance throughout," she says.

"Importantly, women's table tennis in the country has been all about Manika. But now the other girls have shown that it's not just about her. Sutirtha, Ayhika and Archana (Kamath) have stepped up quite well. The Olympics have gone now, but before you know it the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games will be around. So it's good to see that these new names are coming up."

The individual quota places are still up for grabs, and those slots will be decided in the coming few months. But at the Olympic team qualifiers event in Portugal, the men's team still remains active, and with them, there is still hope of an Indian team making it to the Olympics for the first time.

**DARVESH**  
WATER METERS

Approved by: Sitarc Coimbatore & FCRI, Palakkad (B.I.S. Approved Labs.)  
Approved by: Punjab Water Supply & Sanitation Deptt., Chandigarh Municipal Corp.

MANUFACTURED BY  
**DASMESH ENGINEERS (INDIA)**  
36, EAST MOHAN NAGAR, AMRITSAR, PUNJAB  
Phone: +91 183-2582616, Mobile: +91 9814733005, +91 - 98156-98990, +91-75890-39399  
E-mail: sales.darveshmeters36@gmail.com Website: www.darveshwatermeters.com

MULTI JET

WOLTMAN TYPE WATER METER

SINGLE JET

Quality, Accuracy, Durability at its Best

IS:779

CLASS-B

CML: 9700003612

CE

ADVERTISEMENT

**Make in India: Allengers unveils ‘ACUTOM-32’ CT scanner at IRIA conference in Gandhinagar**

With this, Allengers becomes the 1st Indian firm to manufacture CT scanner in India in joint collaboration with Canon Medical Systems Corporation (CMSC) Japan.

Chandigarh-based Allengers Medical Systems Limited, makers of digital healthcare equipment in Digital Radiography Systems, DRF Systems, Digital Mammography System with Tomosynthesis, DSA Systems, on Friday announced the launch of ACUTOM 32 – A32 slice CT scanner in Gandhinagar.

Commenting on the launch, Suresh Sharma, CMD, Allengers Medical Systems Limited, said, "Allengers strongly believes in synchronized efforts towards a quality driven organization, a customer minded approach and system efficiency. In this direction, Allengers is the first company of Indian origin MNC to manufacture a CT scanner in India." Allengers now launches ACUTOM 32 – A32 slice CT scanner.

Sharma added that, "Acutom32 is jointly developed by Allengers and Canon Medical Systems Corporation, Japan and will be manufactured using

launch their CT scanner at IRIA conference Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar in Gujarat."

Dr Harshad Shah, and Dr Dinesh Patel, Organising Chairmen of IRIA and Dr Asutosh Dava, organizing secretary were present at the CT scanner launch event.

On the price of CT scanner, Allengers Director-Sales Ashu Goyal said, "We will price it, initially, 15 percent less than the imported CT Scanner. Once the production is scaled up, we will reduce the price up to 25 percent. However, we have not finalized Acutom32 price at present."

Goyal further added, "Allengers has an in-house Govt of India recognized research and development centre. The company spends 12 to 15 percent of its annual revenue for R&D and quality control. Considering expansion, 22 acres of land have been acquired near the company's existing manufacturing set up."

**ACUTOM-32**

**Product / technical features that stand out from others in its segment:**

- Wide Bore Gantry (78cm)
- X-ray tube of 2.0MHU.
- Fastest Rotation time of 0.75 sec

**How it will make work easy for the user (USPs):**

- Up / Down movement of the couch (For ease to the patient)
- Dose reduction protocols.

Allengers also has been a recipient of various National (From President / Prime Minister of India) and International Awards.

**Allengers Medical Systems Limited**  
B.C.O. 212-213-214, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh-160022 (U.T.) Toll Free 1800-268-8800

Government of Gujarat

## Greetings on 71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day

Ensuring Gujarat's holistic development is highest form of Patriotism

## Exemplary Achievements Of Gujarat Government

### Statue of Unity- Tourist Top Spot

Accorded as one of the **top 100 tourist destinations of the world** by TIME magazine. Statue of Unity has attracted more than 37 lakh footfalls till date.

### 16 Check Posts Abolished

To bring in more transparency and boost Ease of doing business, Gujarat government has abolished 16 check-posts in the state. **This step has also decreased vehicle transit time; thereby increasing logistics efficiency.**

### First production, then permission- MSMEs

"First production, then permission" policy has been widely accepted and appreciated. Gujarat is leading in MSME sector with establishment of 483363 units in last 3 years.

### Double-digit Agricultural Growth Rate

Due to comprehensive Irrigation policy, Gujarat's agricultural growth is in impressive double digits. **Gujarat is largest producer of groundnut, cotton, castor seed, potato, and Isabgol.**

### Employment rates at all time high

As per Employment exchange, Gujarat tops the chart among all states with 81% employment generation. The State is also a best performer in the start-up rankings as per Government of India; which is a crucial indicator of employment.

## Best water managed state of India

Gujarat is best water managed state for third consecutive year according to NITI Aayog. State not only conserved additional 23000 lakh cubic feet water through Sujalam Sufalam Jal Abhiyan, but also provided safe, affordable and assured Narmada water to 160 cities and more than 10000 villages across Gujarat. Five mega desalination plants will soon be a reality in the state. which shall convert 35 crore litres of sea water in to potable drinking water.

## Gujarat leads in Healthcare to all

Over five lakh people have received healthcare benefits under Ayushman Bharat Yojna (PMJAY). Around 4 crore people have got registered and over 8.5 lakh beneficiaries have received over 1400 crore rupees for treatment of heart, Kidney, Cancer and other serious ailments.

## Most preferred Investment Destination

Gujarat is most preferred investment destination with over 26000 crore FDI in first six months of current financial year. Out of total industrial investment in India, Gujarat bags 51% of total IEMs (Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum).

Category	Share (%)
Gujarat	51%
Rest of India	49%

## Gujarat leads in

- Cargo handling Exports
- Online Governance
- Solar energy generation
- Green Energy Initiatives
- Drip Irrigation

### CM DASHBOARD

A new benchmark of efficiency. Efficiency in functioning of 26 departments and district offices closely monitored by the Hon'ble Chief Minister using 3400 indicators.

Gujarat Government has been successful in providing conducive environment for investment, industry and all round development of the state.

**- Shri Nitinbhai Patel, Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat**

Z INFO - 2019-20 (M)