

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

**FAIZ AND A DYING PLURALISM**  
 BY KHALED AHMED  
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BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNY



Govt readies provisions to protect jobs and land rights in J&K

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

FIVE MONTHS after the scrapping of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, the Ministry of Home Affairs is likely to finalise provisions to protect jobs and land ownership of people in J&K in the next few days.

"It is almost finalised, we are just discussing the procedure: whether the state administration alone can notify it or we need to approve it," a top official in the Ministry said.

For protection of jobs in the new UT, a provision to make domicile of at least 15 years in the erstwhile state will be introduced. "Several states have such provisions for protection of jobs for locals," the official said, adding this provision will also be applicable for admission to educational institutions in J&K.

For protection of land ownership in J&K, a handful of provisions, the official said, are being considered which include land ownership protection regimes in force in states such as Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

"There are provisions in several states that agricultural land cannot be acquired. Similarly, there is protection provided for people in Himachal and Uttarakhand. All of these are under consideration," the official said.

The government had stripped the state of its special status on August 5. The decision abrogated Article 370 and Article 35A — the latter reserved jobs in Jammu and Kashmir for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**TARGETED AT BAGHDAD AIRPORT**

**US drone strike kills Iran's top General, tremors across world**



Photo released by the Iraqi Prime Minister's press office shows a burning vehicle at Baghdad airport, where Soleimani was killed in an airstrike early Friday. AP

**Tehran promises 'harsh retaliation', US and Israel brace for revenge attacks**

**QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA & ZEINA KARAM**  
 BAGHDAD, JANUARY 3

IRAN VOWED "harsh retaliation" for a US drone strike near Baghdad's airport that killed a top Iranian general who had been the architect of its interventions across the Middle East, and the US announced Friday it was sending more troops to the region as tensions soared in the wake of the targeted killing.

The killing of General Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds Force, marks a major escalation in the standoff between Washington and Iran, which has careened from one crisis to another since President

Donald Trump withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal and imposed crippling sanctions.

The United States said it was sending nearly 3,000 more Army troops to the Middle East and urged American citizens to leave Iraq "immediately" following the early morning airstrike at Baghdad's international airport that Iran's state TV said killed Soleimani and nine others.

The US State Department said the embassy in Baghdad, which was attacked by Iran-backed militiamen and their supporters earlier this week, is closed and all consular services have been suspended. US embassies also issued a security alert for Americans in Lebanon,

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**HE WAS IRAN'S UNOFFICIAL NO. 2**

■ Gen Soleimani, 62, was the second most powerful figure in Iran behind Ayatollah Khamenei.

■ He was the architect of Iran's policy in Iraq, Lebanon and Syria, where it supported Bashar al-Assad against rebels backed by the US and Saudi Arabia.

**EXPLAINED**  
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**Unease in New Delhi over fallout, relations with Washington and Tehran**

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN**  
 MUMBAI, JANUARY 3

HOURS AFTER the killing of Iran's top military commander, General Qassem Soleimani, in an American drone strike in Baghdad Friday, India said it had "noted that a senior Iranian leader had been killed by the US", urged restraint and called for de-escalation.

The terse statement masked the deep unease about how far the ripples from this sharp spike in US-Iran tensions will extend across the region, and impact India.

One part of that question was answered after Iran warned of

retaliation, with jitters on Dalal Street over the potential for an oil shock. The stock market fell by over a hundred points, but more telling was the rupee's 38-paise drop around the same time to Rs 71.74 to the US dollar.

India's oil import bill in 2018-19 was \$111.9 billion. And the new geopolitical tensions could not have come at a worse time, when the economy is crawling at 4.5 per cent GDP growth in Q2 this fiscal year.

With Iran vowing revenge, a possible widening of the US-Iran conflict, from Saudi Arabia to Afghanistan and Pakistan, will not leave India unaffected. "We have to see what Iran's options are. There will be enormous rage

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**RUN-UP TO BUDGET 2020-21**

**On Govt table: Do away with or prune tax on long term capital gains**

**SUNNY VERMA & SANDEEP SINGH**  
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

TO PROMOTE long-term flows into equities, the Finance Ministry is considering a partial or complete rollback of the long term capital gains (LTCG) tax on shares of listed companies. The Prime Minister's Office and the Finance Ministry have held a series of discussions on the issue in the run-up to the Budget, two senior government officials told *The Indian Express*.

Sections within the government as well as leading market players have noted that LTCG has not yielded much in terms of revenue. The tax was imposed after direct intervention by Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking financial market players to make a fair contribution for nation building. It was reintroduced after a gap of 14 years and the Finance Minister had proposed that all gains up to January-end 2018 would be grandfathered.

If not a complete rollback, it was possible that the tax on LTCG on sale of equity shares could be reduced to 5 per cent from 10 per cent now. An announcement is expected in the Budget for 2020-21. In the Budget announced on February 1, 2018, then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley imposed the 10 per cent tax on capital gains exceeding Rs 1 lakh per year arising from transfer of listed shares without any indexation benefit.

**EXPLAINED**  
**E.**

**Will promote equity culture**

AFTER A gap of 14 years, the government decided to impose a 10 per cent tax on long-term capital gains arising from sale of shares in listed companies and equity-oriented mutual funds. It has not yielded much in revenues, but has instead reduced the incentive for holding stocks over longer periods. Doing away with the tax will give an impetus to the equity investment culture in the country.

Market players say the re-introduction of the tax is "an avoidable irritant" in the structural growth of the Indian equities market. While it did not contribute much to the exchequer, it led to hot money flows into the market. "As of today, there is not much incentive to hold equities for the long term, as the LTCG is 10 per cent, while the tax on short term capital gains (STCG) is 15 per cent. This needs to be corrected to promote long term equity culture and prevent money chasing short-term

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Storm in UP after SSP's report says top officers in transfer-for-cash nexus, DGP seeks explanation**

**AMIL BHATNAGAR & MANISH SAHU**  
 FIROZABAD, LUCKNOW, JANUARY 3

THE UTTAR Pradesh Police finds itself at the centre of a storm with the Director General of Police seeking an explanation Friday from Gautam Buddh Nagar SSP Vaibhav Krishna for allegedly leaking details of a report that levels serious allegations, including bribery for postings, against top police officers of the state.

The details of the report prepared by Krishna were made public after a purported video sex chat featuring him began doing the rounds. Krishna said the video was morphed and was an attempt to tarnish his credibility since he had sought to expose a criminal nexus involving top officers and arrested journalists.

DGP O P Singh told reporters in Lucknow: "Inspector General, Meerut Range has been instructed to seek explanation from Gautam Buddh Nagar SSP for unauthorised communication... (this) is against the All India Service Rules."

Alok Singh, IG, Meerut Range, said: "SSP Gautam Buddh Nagar will be responding to the DGP's



Noida SSP Vaibhav Krishna

order with regards to the contents of the secret document that were made public recently. ADG Meerut Zone and I will be overlooking an enquiry into the allegations made in the paper, while a separate investigation is being made into the alleged morphed video of the SSP that surfaced a few days ago. More answers will be provided once investigations are included."

A month before the video surfaced, a confidential report had been sent by Krishna to the offices of the Chief Minister and DGP, highlighting an alleged nexus between senior IPS officers and journalists to influence transfer postings, even cases and arrests in exchange for money.

The report had been prepared by Krishna following the arrest of journalists Sushil Pandit, Udit Goyal, Chandan Rai and Nitesh Pandey by Gautam Buddh Nagar police for alleged publication of fake news about police officers, involvement in

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**Fears of surge in oil price, Govt looks outside Gulf**

COUNTRY	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20**
Iraq	37.5	46.9	46.1	26.0
Saudi Arabia	39.5	36.9	39.8	20.7
Iran	27.2	22.6	23.9	1.7
UAE	17.6	14.0	17.7	8.9
Nigeria	18.1	17.8	17.0	9.9
Venezuela	22.6	17.9	17.8	8.0
Russia	0.6	3.2	1.4	1.5
USA	0.0	1.9	6.2	5.4
<b>TOTAL*</b>	<b>213.9</b>	<b>220.4</b>	<b>226.5</b>	<b>111.4</b>

\*for 39 countries \*\* (April-September); MMT: Million Metric Tons  
 Source: Oil companies/Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE & ANIL SASI**  
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

AS OIL prices surged after the killing of Iranian commander, General Qassem Soleimani, in a US drone strike in Baghdad, senior officials of the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas held a high-level meeting Friday to assess the impact and review contingency measures.

Officials in the Petroleum

Ministry are learnt to have held an internal meeting, following which they were called to the Finance Ministry for discussions, given the possibility of a disruption to oil supplies impacting India's external debt situation and restricting the headroom to counter the slowdown.

A government official said that both short-term and long-term diversification measures to reduce dependence on the West Asian region, especially in the wake of a protracted escalation

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WORLD



**IRAN IN MOURNING, U.S. SENDS MORE TROOPS TO GULF**

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**No to CAA: Pinarayi asks 11 CMs to go Kerala way, Captain flags security risk**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
 KOCHI, CHANDIGARH, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THREE DAYS after the Kerala Assembly passed a resolution demanding scrapping of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act that will provide citizenship to non-Muslim refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan wrote letters



Pinarayi Vijayan and Amarinder Singh

Friday to 11 non-BJP Chief Ministers, including Nitish

**IMRAN KHAN POSTS WRONG VIDEO ON TWITTER, DELETES**

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Kumar of Bihar who heads a government with the BJP as partner, urging them to consider similar steps against the citizenship law and the National Population Register exercise.

Coming out in support of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Outrage over stoning at Nankana Sahib gurdwara, India asks Pak to act**

**NAVJEEVANGOPAL**  
 CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 3

TENSION MOUNTED in Nankana Sahib in Pakistan and there was outrage in India after a mob, led by the family of a Muslim man who had married a Sikh teenage girl, hurled stones at Gurdwara Janam Asthan, the birth place of Guru Nanak Dev, and threatened to convert it into a mosque.



The crowd outside the gurdwara in Pakistan on Friday. ANI

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**DEEP MUKHERJEE**  
 KOTA, JANUARY 3

OF THE 100 children who died at the J K Lon government hospital in Kota in December, 10 died within 48 hours — between December 23 and 24. Many of them had been referred from smaller hospitals in the area.

Some of their parents work as labourers, others have marginal land holdings; some are from Kota, others are from neighbouring districts like Bundi and Baran. United in their grief and poverty, they say they had no alternative as they cannot

afford private hospitals.

The *Indian Express* spoke to some of the grieving families:

**SAGAR SINGH,**  
 FATHER OF BHARAT (23 MONTHS)

Bharat died on December 24 at 5:15 pm, a day after he was admitted to the hospital. Official records show the cause of death as "seizure disorder" with "aspiration pneumonia".

"My son was referred to this hospital from a hospital in Baran. Such was the negligence of the staff at J K Lon Hospital that my aunt noticed that the cannula had stopped working, and he had a swelling on his hand.

When this was pointed out to the hospital staff, they didn't insert a fresh cannula," alleged Sagar Singh, who works as a homeguard and also has a small shop in Baran district.

"In the evening, his condition became serious. When my wife sought help from a doctor, he said my son had been dead for some time. But we had seen him alive moments ago. Instead of trying to revive him, the doctors were arguing among themselves," he alleged.

"My son would have turned two on January 15. We had thought of celebrating his birthday," he said.



Outside the J K Lon government hospital, Kota. Deep Mukherjee

**NAND BIHARI MEENA,**  
 FATHER OF JOGENDRA (7)

Jogendra died on December 23 at 12:15 am, about 12 hours after he was admitted to the hospital. Hospital records show the cause of death as acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

"My son suddenly fell ill. The government hospital in Kapren (in Bundi district) referred him to Kota... We couldn't afford a private hospital, so we admitted him at the J K Lon Hospital, hoping that he would get better treatment, since it is the biggest government hospital in the area. But the ventilators didn't work properly," said Meena (25), a resident of Keshorai

Patan in Bundi district.

In its report on December 27, the hospital's paediatrics department mentioned that of the 19 ventilators, 13 were not working.

"We cannot afford a private hospital... If they die after being taken to a government hospital, what choice do we have," he said. Meena, who has a younger son, said besides growing wheat on his small plot of land, he earns about Rs 3,000 per month by working as a labourer.

**NEERU DEVI,**  
 GRANDMOTHER OF DAY-OLD INFANT

The infant girl died on

December 23 at 5:40 am, a day after she was born at the J K Lon Hospital. She hadn't even been named yet. According to hospital records, the infant was put on ventilator after birth. The hospital records show the cause of death as "SBA (severe birth asphyxia) with HIE-3 (hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy)".

"The hospital staff didn't cooperate. They didn't answer our questions and, at times, even misbehaved with my son. The doctors didn't come on time," alleged Devi, a resident of Rajgarh village in Kota district. "The hospitals and health

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# TODAY YOUR CHILD AND THEIR SCHOOL WILL BRING A PROUD SMILE TO YOUR FACE



## MEGA PARENT-TEACHER MEETING TO BE HELD IN ALL GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS TODAY

Mega parent-teacher meeting is being organised by 1026 government schools, where the parents of the students will meet their respective teachers and will experience the many changes that have taken place in Delhi's educational system.

Parents will get an opportunity to have discussions with their children's teachers, ask them questions and give them suggestions. The focus will be on the following issues:

- Pre-board exams results for classes 10th and 12th
- Academic performance of your children.
- The impact of 'Happiness class' activities on students.
- Feedback of parents on recently conducted dialogue between children and Chief Minister of Delhi on Women's safety.
- General tips to parents on how to engage more with their children at home and be an active participant in their learning.

Do attend this upcoming parent-teacher meeting for your child's and country's future.

**Date:** 4th January 2020  
**Venue :** All Government schools of Delhi  
**Time:** Morning /General shift- 8:30 a.m to 12 p.m  
Evening shift- 2 p.m to 6 p.m







## BRIEFLY

### Puri lays foundation for SDMC park

*New Delhi:* Union Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri laid the foundation stone of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation's ambitious 'Bharat Darshan Park' project in Punjabi Bagh Friday. The park will house replicas of prominent monuments, made with waste and scrap material, from all states of India, said a senior official, adding that the project will cost Rs 18-20 crore.

### Speaker's son complains of extortion bid

*New Delhi:* An FIR was registered against a man who allegedly tried to extort money from Delhi Assembly speaker Ram Niwas Goel's son. When the speaker's son refused to pay Rs 2.5 crore to the accused, the latter said he would "tarnish the reputation" of the family, police said.

### Two men beat 3 over parking row, held

*New Delhi:* Police arrested two men, who allegedly beat up three men outside a Metro station near Lado Sarai over a parking issue Thursday night. Police said one of the injured men, Abdul Zain Khan, a resident of Okhla's Jamia, told them he was with his friends in a car when the accused approached them, allegedly hurled communal slurs and hit them. **ENS**

## DAY AFTER FIREMAN'S DEATH, DFS CHIEF HIGHLIGHTS CONCERN

# Why firemen go in blind: Calls that give half the information

**SOMYA LAKHANI**

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

INCORRECT INFORMATION and delayed SOS calls are the main reasons why firefighting operations have been hampered in the recent past, said Delhi Fire Services (DFS) director Atul Garg. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Garg spoke about the spate of fire incidents in the last six weeks in the capital, the challenges faced by firemen on the spot, and the urgent need to give basic fire training to the public.

"The message we need to spread is that the public shouldn't be scared of us while reporting a fire. Whether the structure is legal or not isn't our priority. Our job is to save lives," said Garg.

Referring to the factory fire in Anaj Mandi, in which 45 people died in December, he said the early morning call stated it was a "fire inside a house," due to which "two fire tenders needed to deal with a house fire were sent at first." It was only after the situation was gauged by firemen on spot that more tenders were rushed in. Garg said, "We had no idea it was a factory or that there were people inside."

At the same time, on December 26, at least 40 people had a narrow escape when the godown of a building in East Delhi's Krishna Nagar caught fire. Within two hours, DFS rescued all 40 people. Garg said, "We got correct information that it was a building with a godown and there were people inside. A different firefighting technique, that focussed on rescue, was applied."

Garg said if it's a fire in a house, fewer tenders are sent and focus is on the rescue. If the fire is in a residential building with a godown then more tenders are deployed, and if it's a factory fire, even more men and tenders are



DFS officers pay tribute to Amit Balyan on Friday. Balyan died on Thursday while carrying out rescue operations at a battery manufacturing unit.



sent to ensure the fire doesn't spread and that rescue can happen at the same time.

In the Krishna Nagar case, Garg said that since there was information about people on the top floor, one fire tender doused the flames outside and the other splashed water on steps the firemen used to go up and down. "With the right information, we can apply the right technique."

DFS is also starting a "fire cell," with three firefighters to train school students in fire safety techniques. "We have written to the Director of Education to share with us contact details of all principals, so we can start by sharing short films and info-graphics on fire safety that they can share with the students. We will hold workshops at schools to tell them to look for signs of fire safety in public spaces such as restaurants and banquets," said Garg.

He said the plan came into being after repeated workshops in apartment complexes gave poor results with very few residents showing up. Garg said, "Children have a better grasping power and talk about things they learn at home. They become educators."

## Brother-in-law wanted to rush in, was stopped

**JIGNASA SINHA**

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

MINUTES AFTER 28-year-old fire operator Amit Balyan found himself trapped under debris inside a burning factory, his brother-in-law Amit Pawar, also a fireman, tried to enter. But he was stopped by seniors, who warned him that the structure was shaky and crumbling.

"My husband survived because his seniors stopped him from entering. I wish someone would have stopped my brother as well," Pawar's wife Monika said. Balyan was among four men trapped after a part of the building, owned by inverter battery manufacturer Okaya, collapsed around 9 am in Outer Delhi's Mundka. Seventeen firemen were injured in the operation. Balyan was the last man to be pulled out from the rubble, and was declared dead on arrival at

the hospital.

Pawar, a fireman at Rohini fire station, said: "When someone told me some men were stuck inside, I was about to rush in, but the entire structure was shaking and another portion fell. When my seniors read out a list of names, I was shocked to find Amit's name," said Pawar.

Balyan and his wife Shivani (26), a Ghaziabad Police constable, said she last spoke to him Wednesday night about her transfer. "Around 5 am, he messaged me saying there was a fire and he would return later. Hours later, my father-in-law informed me about his injuries, but nobody told me he was trapped under debris. When he was pulled out, we thought he would survive, but he never returned." His mother Munesh said she won't let her younger son Anuj become a "policeman or firefighter" any more: "We respect Amit's sacrifice, but can't handle another loss."

# A 3 km march brings Jamia and Shaheen Bagh together

**SUKRITA BARUAH**

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

HUNDREDS OF people marched over 3 km with candles in their hands on Friday evening, to bring together the two most prominent anti-CAA protest sites of the city — Jamia Millia Islamia and Shaheen Bagh.

The call for the march had been given by the Jamia Coordination Committee, which has been organising protest events at the gates of the varsity for the last two weeks. In its call, the committee said the march was "in support of the women protesting relentlessly day and night at Shaheen Bagh."

Around 6.15 pm, as a group of hundreds began their march with candles in their hands, the Tricolour was ubiquitous—painted on the faces of marchers, most of whom were residents of Jamia Nagar.

A group of four friends, all second-year BA students of Jamia, had pinned their headscarves with Tricolour brooches shaped like the Indian map.

"We got these today. They were given to us by some people before the march," one of them said.



At Shaheen Bagh on Friday. Praveen Khanna

As the march proceeded through the lanes of Okhla, the air rang with cries for *azadi*: "Woh Bismil wali azadi! Woh Gandhi wali azadi! Ambedkar wali azadi! Akhlaq wali azadi!" Residents of the localities, who had gathered to watch from their balconies, and bystanders in the market areas joined in the chanting as well.

As protesters reached their destination at Shaheen Bagh after over two hours of marching, the women were ushered to the area where the women of Shaheen Bagh have been sitting through the nights for close to 20 days. Hundreds of residents

of Shaheen Bagh, who were already present at the site, formed a human chain to let the women in.

Nazia (38), a resident of Indrapuram, had travelled from Ghaziabad to join the evening's march. It was not her first evening at Shaheen Bagh. "This is something that affects everyone. I don't have anyone studying at Jamia or living in Shaheen Bagh, but this issue is important and I think I need to offer my support where the Act is being resisted strongly," she said. She was yet to decide if she too would spend the night at the protest site.

# Women and queer collectives say CAA and NRC will hit them hard

**ANANYA TIWARI**

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

WOMEN, TRANS and queer communities will be worst affected due to the NPR-NRC exercise, said activist Shabnam Hashmi at a protest march organised by women and queer collectives from Mandi House to Jantar Mantar Friday against the NRC and CAA. Around 500 people participated in the march to highlight the effect of CAA and the proposed NRC on queer communities.

The march honoured Savitribai Phule, considered one of India's first modern feminists,

who worked for the reform and literacy of women and untouchables.

Kaushal Bodwal (24), a DU student who identifies as queer, said, "Transgender people often get disowned by families and go to *gharanas*. In Assam, as trans people were unable to get documents, thousands of them were excluded from the list."

Rituparna Borah, an LGBTQ activist, said, "Women and LGBTQ people can challenge fascism because we have been challenging patriarchy, which, like fascism, others people and oppresses them." Bittu Kondaih from Telangana Hijra Intersex Trans

Samiti and Trans Now Collective told the crowd at Jantar Mantar that most legal documentation is discriminatory towards trans people, which will have adverse effects if NRC is implemented. She said, "As a trans person, my ID and gender certificate is different, as birth certificates are not inclusive of transgenders."

Kavita Krishnan, president of the All India Progressive Women's Association, said: "Linking citizenship to documentation in itself is exclusionary. This will affect not just Muslims but all vulnerable communities like women, queer and trans people, adivasis and the poor".

**DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAST)-II**  
**E-BLOCK: PREET VIHAR: DELHI-110092**  
**PRESS NIT No. 53/ E-II (19-20)**

S. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender	Tender Processing Fee	Earnest Money	Tender ID No. & Date of Release of tender in E-Procurement Solution	Last Date / Time of receipt of tender E-Procurement Solution
1.	Providing house sewer connection from nearest D.J.B. manhole to individual house under the scheme Mukhyamantri Muft Sewer Connection Yojana at Bihari Colony in ward no. 31E, Shalidara AC-62 under East-II.	48,33,951.00	500.00	97,000.00	2020_DJB_187141_1 03-Jan-2020 02:00 PM	20-Jan-20 02:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 782/2019-20

Sd/-  
**EX. ENGINEER (EAST)-II**

**Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd.**  
CIN No. U40108JH12013SGC001702  
**OFFICE OF THE General Manger Cum Chief Engineer**  
Electric Supply Area, Dhanbad, Combined Building Pn- 826001  
GSTIN No.- 20AADCC3148A529, E-mail ID- gm\_dhjnseb@yahoo.co.in

**e-Tender Notice**

Online tender is invited from Agency/Consortium/Firm/Company/State and Central Government Undertaking under Companies Act 1956 (or all the future applicable amendments) and in operation from at least 5 (Five) years as on the date of bid opening and shall have their registered offices in India, having past experience of billing services with Government State Electricity Board/Government Power Distribution utility in India for engaging and managing Urja Mitra (Meter Reader) for operationalization of android based smart dedicated handheld device (with in-built printers) photo spot energy Billing & collection System under Electric Supply Circle, Dhanbad & Chas under Electric Supply Area, Dhanbad.

Online tender is invited from Agency/Consortium/Firm/Company/State and Central Government Undertaking under Companies Act 1956 (or all the future applicable amendments) and in operation from at least 5 (Five) years as on the date of bid opening and shall have their registered offices in India, having past experience of billing services with Government State Electricity Board/Government Power Distribution utility in India for engaging and managing Urja Mitra (Meter Reader) for operationalization of android based smart dedicated handheld device (with in-built printers) photo spot energy Billing & Collection system in all Electric Supply Division of Electric Supply Circle, Dhanbad & Chas under Electric Supply Area, Dhanbad.

NIT No.	Name of the work	EMD (In Rs.)	Cost of BOQ non-refundable
217/PR /JBVN L/2019 -20	Appointment of Service Agency for engaging and managing Urja Mitras (Meter Readers) for Operationalization of Android Based Smart dedicated handheld device (With in-built Printer) Photo Spot Energy Billing & collection System under Electric Supply Circle, Dhanbad, under Electric Supply Area, Dhanbad for period of 3(three)Years .	1500000/-	20000+3600 (18%GST)=23,60 0/-
218/PR /JBVN L/2019 -20	Appointment of Service Agency for engaging and managing Urja Mitras (Meter Readers) for Operationalization of Android Based Smart dedicated handheld device (With in-built Printer) Photo Spot Energy Billing & collection System under Electric Supply Circle, Chas, under Electric Supply Area, Dhanbad for period of 3(three) Years .	1600000/-	20000+3600 (18%GST)=23,60 0/-

Particulars	Details / Date and Time
Date of Publication of Tender on website	06.01.2020 up to 04:00 PM
Start Date/time for upload/submission of bids	From 10.01.2020 at 11:00 AM
End Date/time for upload/submission of bids	06.02.2020 up to 05:00 PM
End date/time for submission of original copy of DD towards EMD & Tender Fee and Hard copy of Technical document.	Upto 07.02.2020 up to 04:00 PM
Outer cover should be addressed to	General Manager cum Chief Engineer, Electric Supply Area, Dhanbad.
Date of Opening of Bid	Techno-Commercial part will be opened at 02.00 PM of 11.02.2020 and opening of Price Part to be notified later.
Date of Pre-bid Meeting	17.01.2020 up to 11:00 AM (IST)
Offer Validity (Days)	180 days from date Bid opening.
Last date of Receipt of Queries	17.01.2020 up to 05:00 PM (IST)

Tender Notice, terms & conditions is available on website: [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in)  
For any clarification please contact: **9431135807**.

- Guidelines for online submission of bids can be downloaded from the website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
- Interested bidders can download the bid from the website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> Bidders have to produce the original Demand Draft towards tender fee & EMD as mentioned in NIT to the Accounts Officer, Electric Supply Area, Dhanbad Payable at "Dhanbad" and collect the money receipt before the cutoff date & time as mentioned in the NIT failing which bid will not be accepted. The details of cost of documents, EMD specified in the tender documents should be the same as submitted online (scanned copies) otherwise tender will summarily be rejected.

स्वाहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाव। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को टोल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।

Sd/-  
**GM-cum-CE**  
**ESA, Dhanbad**

PR 223221 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd) 19-20 (D).

**DELHI TOURISM & TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A Government of Delhi Undertaking)  
19-A, DDA SCO Complex, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

**TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are invited for operation & maintenance of DTTDC Property at Subway, opp. Times of India Building, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi. **Tender ID No 2020\_DTTDC\_187018\_1**.

The tender documents containing detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded from website [www.govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in](http://www.govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in).  
Bid submission by 2:30 pm on 21 January 2020.

Chief Manager - Catering

**SBI**

IT - Special Projects - III, State Bank Global IT Centre, Om Sagar Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Plot No D-222/2, MIDC Nerul, Navi Mumbai - 400 706.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

State Bank of India has issued RFP for Procurement of end to end software solution and services for filing of TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) returns for FY 2020-2025 subject to yearly review of the services. Services can be "extendable by another 5 years, solely at the discretion of the bank, subject to delivery of satisfactory services". Please refer **Procurement News** at Bank's website, <https://bank.sbi/web/sbi-in-the-news/procurement-news>.

**Place:** Navi Mumbai **Sd/-**  
**Date:** 04/01/2020 **Deputy General Manager (IT-SP-III)**

## कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, धनबाद

## :: शुद्धि पत्र ::

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि, इस कार्यालय द्वारा निर्गत पत्रांक 773, दिनांक 23.11.2019 एवं पी० आर० संख्या : 222242 (19-20) द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा संख्या **WRD/ MIDIV/DHAN BAD/F2-12/2019-20** को अपरिहार्य कारण वश स्थगित किया जाता है।

ह० / -

**PR 223153 (Minor Irrigation) कार्यपालक अभियंता 19-20#D लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, धनबाद**

**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, देवघर**

**अति अत्यकालीन ई-प्रोक्चोरमेंट सूचना (द्वितीय कॉल)**  
**ई-निविदा प्रसंग संख्या - RCD/DEOGHAR/16/2019-20**  
**दिनांक -03.01.2020**

1.	कार्य का नाम	रिखिया थाना से माउंट लिटेरा जो रकूल (रिखिया-मोहनपुर पथ पर) का पुर्ननिर्माण कार्य (कुल लम्बाई 1.15 कि०मी०)
2.	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में)	रुपये <b>2,95,02,541/-</b> (दो करोड़ पनचानवे लाख दो हजार पंच सौ एकतलीसरुपये मात्र)।
3.	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि	3 (तीनी) माह।
4.	निविदा प्रार्थी को अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	14.01.2020 (12-00 बजे दिन तक)
5.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि एवं समय	06.01.2020 (10:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न)
6.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, देवघर।
7.	प्रोक्चुरमेंट अधिकारी का सम्पर्क नम्बर	<b>06432275640</b>
8.	ई-प्रोक्चुरमेंट सेल का हेल्पलाइन नम्बर	0651-2446007

अतिरिक्त जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखें। पथ निर्माण विभाग, PR223194 (Road)19-20\*D

## KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)  
No.49, 4th & 5th Floor, East Wing, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001. Phone: 080-22265383, Website: [www.kiadb.in](http://www.kiadb.in)

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-22/13752/2019-20 Date: 02.01.2020

### SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-I Contractors (Electrical) registered in KPWD & KCEI who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:

Sl. No	Name of the work	Approx. cost put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in lakhs)	Time for completion Including Monsoon	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>KW-4</b>					
1	Providing Power Infrastructure & LED Street lights to newly formed Imnavu Industrial layout KIADB Industrial Area Part-1, Nanjangud Taluk, Mysuru District.	532.00	7.98	4 Months	KPWD Class-I (Electrical) and Super Grade Electrical License issued by KCEI
2	Providing Power Infrastructure & LED Street lights to newly formed Imnavu Industrial layout KIADB Industrial Area Part-2, Nanjangud Taluk, Mysuru District.	548.00	8.22	4 Months	KPWD & KCEI Class-I (Ele)
3	Providing Power Infrastructure & LED Street lights to Thandya 2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase Industrial Area, Nanjangud Taluk, Mysuru District.	1286.00	12.86	7 Months	KPWD Class-I Electrical) and (Super Grade Electrical License issued by KCEI

Applicants may download bidding documents from the e-procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

**Scheduled of dates are as follows:**

- Last date to receive pre-bid Queries: **10.01.2020** up to **5.00 P.M.**
- Pre-bid meeting will be held on: **13.01.2020** at **12.00 Noon**
- Last date for submission of bids is : **29.01.2020** up to **4:00 P.M.**
- Time and date of opening Technical bids is on: **31.01.2020** at **11.30 A.M.**

Sd/- Chief Development Officer & Chief Engineer





Outside Jamia campus, where protests against the new citizenship act have been on for three weeks. Praveen Khanna

# Weeks after campus was stormed, Jamia is fighting back — with some street art

SHIVAM PATEL  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THREE WEEKS ago, police personnel armed with lathis charged after protesters inside gate 4 of Jamia Millia Islamia, allegedly landing blows on students in the library.

Since then, the area outside the university has become ground zero for protests against the new citizenship law and a proposed national register of citizens, with many calling it 'Jamia Square', reminiscent of Tahrir Square which was the focal point of the 2011 Egypt revolution.

The campus and Metro pillars along Okhla road are now painted with graffiti denouncing CAA and NRC, and with words of solidarity with protesters. On Friday, Shazia Shamim and her friends from the university began painting an artwork on a section of the road in front of gate 4.

"Our Constitution is being destroyed," said the 26-year-old vfx and animation student at Jamia, who has been making



artwork on campus ever since protests started.

A section of the road starting from gate 4 is cordoned off for traffic and is painted with political artwork, which artists began making Thursday afternoon. One of them is a painting of a Rs 500 note in which the Prime Minister is seen leading a group of men and women in blindfolds on an uphill road as teargas shells fall from the sky. Words below say, "My country, my Constitution," and "Acche din aa gaye?"

Mir Shaz Ali (19) saw the artworks while passing through Jamia Thursday and came to draw one himself with his

brother on Friday.

His painting was of a black hole pulling the earth towards it. Words below said, "CAA and NRC, the black hole of our country."

"My idea is, make space for everyone," Ali said.

The 19-year-old completed schooling from Patna in 2018 and is currently living with his family in Delhi. He is preparing to appear for a SAT exam to study astronautical engineering in the United States.

"Remove the Hindu-Muslim narrative of the CAA and NRC and you will see it is bad for the economy too. There's so much unemployment; who will pro-



vide jobs to people who will be granted citizenship?" Ali said.

Farheen Zaidi (20), a fine arts student at Jamia, wrote slogans on placards and distributed them among protesters. On Thursday, she along with her friends painted a stretch of road in front of the university with an artwork showing the Home Minister driving a crane through the Constitution.

"This is to show how the country and the Constitution are being destroyed," she said.

Zaidi has earlier made artwork on legal and social issues as part of her assignments. "The artwork will help the protests move forward," she said.

## AT FOURTH TOWN HALL MEET

# No requirement for CAA, entire country should reject it: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

STRESSING THAT India does not require the Citizenship Amendment Act, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Friday said the "entire country should reject" the law, arguing that it will affect "both Hindus and Muslims" in equal measure.

Addressing a town hall gathering, fourth in the series of seven such scheduled events, Kejriwal said the discourse of the country should primarily be about generating employment, not "throwing people out for failing to produce birth proof".

"I want the entire country to understand the objective of the Bill. You people (media) have made this a Hindu-Muslim issue. Through this Bill, both Hindus and Muslims will be evicted from the country. Everyone should know this. The text of the Bill says it will only shield only Hindus coming from Pakistan. All the Hindus sitting here must arrange identity proofs of themselves and their



Both Hindus and Muslims will be affected because of the Bill: CM



parents," Kejriwal said.

Responding to another question by NDTV's Nidhi Razdan, who was moderating the discussion, Kejriwal asserted: "This Bill has absolutely no requirement. Everyone together, the entire country should reject the Bill. The Union government should reject the Bill."

Kejriwal has in the past termed CAA as "dangerous". On Friday, he once again pointed out the need to focus on reviving the economy and generating employment for people of the

country. On Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remark that there is no plan to conduct NRC across the country as of now, Kejriwal said "kabhi na kabhi toh karenge".

"There is no point in indulging in word play. They plan to bring 2 crore Hindus from Pakistan. Where will they be housed? From where will they be given jobs? First take care of your own, the rest can be taken care of later. Lafde chodo, isme kuch nahi rakha," he added.

Asked about him giving the

protests outside Jamia Millia Islamia University against CAA and NRC in Delhi a miss, Kejriwal said that as CM, his job is to maintain peace and establish order in Delhi.

"People voted for me to develop Delhi, to ensure peace. I was trying to ensure that there is no incident of violence anywhere, that the protests remain peaceful and there are no police excesses. I was taking all the necessary steps towards that end during this time," Kejriwal said.

## For street performers, a new fellowship

ASTHA SAXENA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

TO ENCOURAGE artists in the field of street performance and theatre and promote art and culture in the city, the Delhi government launched a fellowship programme for street performers Friday.

Launching the programme at Dilli Haat in Janakpuri, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia said: "This is not a commercial move. If we bring the street art on the roads, it will become a movement. This movement is an effort to soften the edges in people's lives... Let's aim to achieve a vibrant environ-



Sisodia at Saturday's event

ment in our city, by filling it up with street performances. I will again be the Art and Culture Minister if everything goes well after the elections... Everyone should feel happy about the art and culture programmes hap-

pening across the city. We should not take it as a hobby, but as a mission."

Richa, a first-year LLB student at Delhi University's Law Centre, was awarded the fellowship for her acting skills. A part of her college's theatre group, she registered for the programme after finding out about the initiative on social media. She wants to be a lawyer and feels the programme will help her talk about important social issues.

"The fellowship will address social issues which several artists have been talking about. We will be more confident about raising these issues and spreading awareness about them. Being an

artist will help me in my pursuit of law," she said.

Krishna Raj, another fellow and student of DU, said the programme will help him pursue acting. He had acted on 'Ethical voting' during the auditions, which had taken place on December 30.

Officials said applications were invited from individuals working in the field of acting, direction, scriptwriting, dance, music and other forms of street performance. These fellows will be divided into 100 groups. Each group will have a maximum of 10 artists. Each artist will get Rs 5,000 a month for a year under the fellowship.

presents

# The Indian EXPRESS ADDA

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**Seema Chishti**  
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The Indian Express

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NEW DELHI  
**WORLD BOOK FAIR 2020**  
04-12 JANUARY 2020  
PRAGATI MAIDAN, NEW DELHI | 11 AM TO 8 PM

**INAUGURATION**  
4th January 2020 at 9.00 am  
Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

## HIGHLIGHTS

- CEO Speak
- New Delhi Rights Table
- Authors' Corners
- Lekhakh Manch
- Theme Pavilion
- Children's Pavilion
- Cultural Programmes
- International Events Corner
- National Conclave on Readership & Book Promotion

**VISIT HALL NOs. 7A to H, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 12A**

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BJP rolls out 49 vans to gather inputs on manifesto

SUKRITA BARUAH  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

FOR THE next two weeks, 49 vans will be circulating in the national capital, collecting inputs from citizens for the BJP's manifesto for the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls.

These were launched Friday as part of the party's two-week drive, 'Mera Dilli, Mera Sujhao'. It was inaugurated by several senior BJP leaders, led by Union Minister Smriti Irani, and included Manoj Tiwari, Vijay Goel, Meenakshi Lekhi, Vijender Gupta and MPs Parvesh Verma and Hans Raj Hans.

"Each BJP worker, officer and MP invokes the people of Delhi to share their inputs as to the heights Delhi should scale in the next five years. We want your inputs on how the definition of development should be written in Delhi, how the poor can be uplifted, how women should be respected, how children should be educated, how health facilities can be improved, what the infrastructure requirements are," said Smriti Irani, before launching the drive.

Delhi BJP general secretary Rajesh Bhatia said 35 of the vans will be travelling across the 70 state Assembly constituencies, while the other 14 will cover colleges, universities and public spaces like malls. Officials said 20 boxes will be sent to each constituency for citizens to submit their inputs.

A phone number — which people can call and give inputs in the form of voice messages — and a website to submit suggestions online were also launched.

The vans will be playing two videos while doing rounds of the city — both featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While one is a jingle on the new drive, the other features a street play attacking the AAP government, holding them responsible for poor drinking water, excessive expenditure on publicity, incomplete work on CCTV cameras and DTC buses and air pollution.

NUMBER OF 'BAD' AIR DAYS DOWN

2019 saw more 'good' air days than 2018: 'Policy, enforcement helped'

SHIVAM PATEL  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

AIR QUALITY in the national capital improved in 2019 as compared to 2018, with the number of 'good' and 'bad' air quality days roughly the same last year, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) officials said.

While the number of 'good, satisfactory and moderate' air quality days increased from 159 to 182, the number of 'poor, very poor and severe' days decreased from 206 to 183 in 2019.

V K Shukla, head of the CPCB's air quality management division, said, "This is a result of policy change and better enforcement of pollution control measures by all agencies. The number of days meeting air



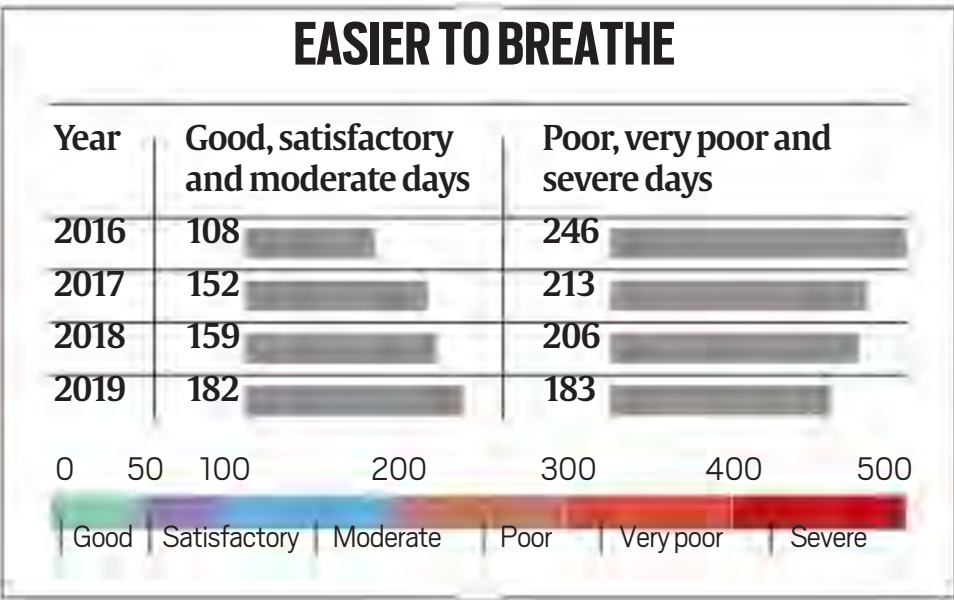
Good and bad air days were roughly the same last year. Archive

quality standards have also increased. While we are still above the standards annually, there's gradual improvement every year."

A preliminary assessment by the CPCB also shows the concentration of PM2.5 and PM10 in the air in Delhi has reduced

in 2019 as compared to the previous year. Figures shared by CPCB officials show the air quality of the capital has been improving every year since 2016.

There were 108 'good, satisfactory and moderate' air quality days in 2016, which increased to 152 in 2017 and 159



in 2018. The number of 'poor, very poor and severe' air quality days were 246 in 2016, and decreased to 213 in 2017 and 206 in 2018.

Shukla said policy changes, including opening of peripheral expressway around Delhi and closure of Badarpur thermal

power station in 2018, shifting industries to piped natural gas and use of BS6 fuel, helped improve air quality. "Our pollution control teams and those of all agencies have been on the ground...Every body is doing their bit to control air pollution," Shukla said.

Man found dead on Jan 1 slipped into a drain, drowned: Cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THE PROBE into the death of a 24-year-old man, whose body was found inside a drain in Vasundhara Enclave, has led police to prima facie conclude that he fell into the drain and drowned.

Police said Alex Kuriakose, an MBA student, lived with his parents and was returning from a New Year's party when the incident took place.

Jasmeet Singh, DCP (East) said, "On January 1, he went to celebrate New Year's with his friends, but didn't return in the morning. His father Kuriakose George filed a missing person report at New Ashok Nagar. During the search, we analysed CCTV footage and found his body in a drain in front of New Delhi Apartments."

Police said the drain, less than a kilometre from his home, was around two-three feet deep.

An officer said the man and his friend left the party around 4 am on Thursday.

"Alex's friend told us his phone was missing since last night and that Alex might have taken it by mistake. When we traced the man's phone, its location was detected near the victim's house. We guessed that the man must be near the phone and checked the area but couldn't find him at night."

Around 10 am on Friday, police again went to check the drain and found Alex's body. Police said no external injuries were found and that they don't suspect foul play.

DCP Jasmeet Singh said, "After conducting a post-mortem, the body of the deceased was handed over to his father."

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely: Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age : Approx. 60 years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Sky colour shirt and salati colour Pant and Brown colour Jacket** has been found dead at road near Metro Pillar No. 304, Najafgarh Road, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi on 31.12.2019. In this regard a case vide DD No. 13-A dated 31.12.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Kirti Nagar, New Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours in Din Dayal Upadhyaya Hospital Mortuary. Any person having any information or clue about this dead person may kindly inform to the following:-

**SHO P.S. Kirti Nagar, New Delhi West Distt., Delhi**

DP/8568/WD/2020 Ph. No. 011-25190462, 25438719

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely: Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age : 30 years, Height : 5'5", Complexion : Shallow, Wearing: Sky blue colour Jacket, Grey colour pant & bare footed** has been found at Kalha Kunj Park, Behind Hanuman Mandir, Yamuna Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 28.12.2019. In this regard a case vide DD No. 06-A dated 28.12.2019 has been lodged at Police Station Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this found dead person may kindly inform to the following:-

**SHO P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi North Distt., Delhi**

DP/836/N/2020 Tel. No. 011-23968730, 23967889

**Bihar School Examination Board**

**CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER NOTICE NO. : PR 485/2019**

With reference to Tender Notice No. PR 485/2019 issued in various newspapers on 17th Dec. 2019 for "Mobile & Web Based Application for Examination Centre Absentee, Exam Material Dispatch, Distribution & Reporting with Image", changes have been made in Tender Schedule. Changes have been made in Tender Schedule.

**Revised Tender Schedule :**

Date and Time for Activity	Date/Time : Duration
Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents	From : 17/12/2019 (11:00 Hrs.) to 07/01/2020 (13:00 Hrs.) ( <a href="https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> )
Last Date/Time for submission / uploading of offer/Bid	07/01/2020 upto 14:00 Hrs. ( <a href="https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> )
Submission of form fee & EMD in Hard copy/ Original	07/01/2020 upto 14:15 Hrs. (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid	07/01/2020 at 14:30 Hrs. ( <a href="https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> ) (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Financial Bid Opening Date and Time	Date to be announced later by competent authority

**Secretary**

**POOMPUHAR SHIPPING CORPORATION LIMITED**

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**GLOBAL TENDER TENDER NO. H/OP/ORSE/200/001/19-20**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PERFORMANCE MONITORING SERVICES (PMS)/OCEAN ROUTING SERVICES (ORS) OF PSC CHARTERED VESSELS FOR A PERIOD OF 1 YEAR.

Sealed tenders are invited from the service providers for Performance Monitoring Service (PMS)/Ocean Routing Service (ORS) of PSC Chartered vessels engaged for coastal transportation of thermal coal in East Coast of India from Haldia / Paradip / Dhamra / Vizag/ Gangavaram / Kakinada - Ennore / Karaikal / Tuticorin on account of TANGEDCO / NTECL.

Last date for receipt of Tenders -	15:00 hrs on 20.02.2020
Tender opening time	15:30 hrs on 20.02.2020
Cost of Tender document	Rs. 500/- for each book (Indian) USD 10/- for each book (Foreign)
EMD	Rs. 1,00,000/- for each offer (Indian) USD 1,500/- for each offer (Foreign)

A Tender document is available in our website [www.tamilship.com](http://www.tamilship.com) / [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in) from 06.01.2020 & the same may be downloaded at free of cost.

For more details visit our website [www.tamilship.com](http://www.tamilship.com) / [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in)

DP/02/TENDER/2020 **GENERAL MANAGER (OPS)**

**SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED**

General public is here by informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely: **Subodh Lal S/o Firangi Lal R/o A-239, DSIDC, Narela, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi since **10.12.2019**. In this regard a DD No. **20-A** dated **12.12.2019** has been lodged at **P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under:-

**Sex: Male, Age: 51 years, Height: 5'6" ft., Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Cream Colour pent & red Colour Sweater and Chappal in feet.**

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following:-

**SHO Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph. No: 011-2787592, 2787593 Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No: 7065036324 Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/895/ON/19**

**BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (POWER WING)**

**Corrigendum-3 NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER Dated : 30.12.2019**

**NIT No.: 464/PHD/Pong-331 Dated : 12-09-2019**

**Name of Office:** Chief Engineer / System Operation, Planning & Design (Power Plant) Dte BBMB (PW), Flat No. 75, SLDC Complex, BBMB, Industrial Area, Phase-1, Chandigarh. Tel. Fax: 0172-2637035

**Name of Work:** Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of complete new ventilation System and dismantling of existing ventilation system equipment for Bhakra Right Bank Power House, Gangwal & Kofia Power Houses of BBMB.

Tender documents Download Start Date & Time	19.09.2019 from 1000 hrs.
Last date & time of uploading complete Pre-qualifying document	06.01.2020 upto 1700 hrs.
Tender document download end date & time	13.01.2020 upto 1700 hrs.
Start date & time of online bid submission	19.09.2019 from 1000 hrs.
List date & time of online bid-submission (Part I & II)	16.01.2020 upto 1100 hrs.
Date & time of online bid opening (Part-I)	16.01.2020 from 1130 hrs. onwards

The Bids are to be submitted online. For pre-qualifying conditions, cost of the specification, detailed NIT and Earnest Money deposit please visit BBMB website <https://bbmbproc.abcpocure.com> and [www.bbmb.gov.in](http://www.bbmb.gov.in)

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**THE KERALA STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED**

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Ph.No:0484-2206775, 2206795, Purchase Section- Ph.No: 0484-2207924, 2206786, 2206782  
E-Mail: agmp@supplyco.com ■ [www.supplycoerala.com](http://www.supplycoerala.com)  
No.R10/42286/2019 Date: 03.01.2020

**TENDER NOTICE (ONLY THROUGH ELECTRONIC TENDERING SYSTEM)**

The Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd intends to purchase Pulses, Spices, Rice and Sugar through e-tender, which will be accepted up to **2.00 PM on 16-01-2020** and will be opened thereafter. Tender Form and Terms & Conditions may be downloaded from our website [www.supplycoerala.com](http://www.supplycoerala.com) or [www.tenderwizard.com/KSCSC](http://www.tenderwizard.com/KSCSC). For additional details please contact at the above address. Only suppliers possessing digital signatures will be permitted to participate in the e-tender.

Sd/-  
Addl. General Manager (Purchase)

**PUNJAB HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

E-Block, 2nd Floor, Phase-8, (Sector-62)  
**Punjab School Education Board Complex Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali), PUNJAB**  
Phone: 0172-2232243, 2232245 & 2232247  
Visit us at: [punjabhealth.co.in](http://punjabhealth.co.in), E-mail: [proc.phsc@gmail.com](mailto:proc.phsc@gmail.com)

Ref. No. E-Tender/PHSC/Proc/2020/032

The Punjab Health Systems Corporation, Mohali (Department of Health & Family Welfare, Punjab) invites Online Bids ([www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in)) for the Rate Contract for Two Years for the Supply of **Hepatitis B Immuno - Globulin (HBIG) for Hepatitis Patients** in the State of Punjab. Pre-Bid Conference Date, Time & Place : 10.01.2020 at 12.00 Noon in Room No. 271 of PHSC, Mohali. Closing Date & Time: 04.02.2020 upto 12.30 P.M. For details log onto [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in).

**Note:** Any Corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Director (Proc.), PHSC, SAS Nagar

C-8437/Pb.

**M. P. PASCHIM KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN Co. Ltd., GPH COMPOUND, POLOGROUND, INDORE**

(Email: [sepurchase06@gmail.com](mailto:sepurchase06@gmail.com), CIN No-U60000MP30025SC015121).

No. MD/WZ/06/PUR/EOL/133 Indore, dated: 03.01.2020

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

M.P. Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Co. Ltd., Indore is a power distribution company in MP having head quarter at Indore intends to outsource the work of Monthly Meter Reading and Load survey through AMR and analysis of meter data, load survey and tamper events of all LT high value consumers with ATR portal for MPPKVCL, Indore.

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited from interested firms having experience in the field of Monthly Meter Reading and Load survey through AMR and analysis of meter data, load survey and tamper events of all LT high value consumers with ATR portal.

The interested firms are requested to submit their technical proposal indicating their technical capability, appropriate supporting document in respect of the experience in the field of power discom, details of job carried out along with relevant technical specification related to the required work, technology, equipment involved etc along with financial capability.

The related information may be downloaded from our website <http://www.mpwz.co.in>

Interested firms are requested to submit their offer duly sealed in duplicate to the CE (Purchase), O/o. MD (WZ), GPH Campus Pologround, Indore, latest by 15:00 Hrs on date 24.01.2020.

C.E. (Purchase)

**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, बोकारो**

**शुद्धि पत्र**

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 1002 दिनांक 23.11.2019 एवं पी० आर० संख्या 222244(19-20) द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा संख्या-WRD/MIDIVBOKAR O/F2-15/2019-20 के तहत चास प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत कालापरथर बड़ा बाँध मध्यम सिंचाई योजना का रीजॉनल कार्य की निविदा को अपरिहार्य कारणों से स्थगित किया जाता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता  
PR 223176 (Minor Irrigation)19-20#D लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, बोकारो

Many hopeful as 20 illegal colony residents get ownership papers

ANANYA TIWARI  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

MINISTER OF Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Puri handed over authorisation papers to the first 20 applicants of the Pradhan Mantri Unauthorised Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana (PM-UDAY) at Nirman Bhavan Friday. 57,000 have registered to get ownership rights under the scheme.

The 20 beneficiaries belong to Suraj Park and Raja Vihar. Karam Chand Sharma (60), a blacksmith from Suraj Park, said, "People are happy to receive ownership rights. Fear of demolition used to hang over us like a sword."

Citing difficulty in procuring loans to manage their household and business due to lack of registry papers, several residents said they now hope to live in well-developed colonies.

"It gets difficult to run a home with a seasonal income. With the home registry papers, I will be able to take loans at cheaper interest rates," said Praveen Sharma (45), who runs a small tarpaulin business in Suraj Park and has to feed a family of six.

Vinod Kumar Sharma (49) from Raja Vihar, who works in the furniture business, said, "We



Minister Hardeep Singh Puri gave papers to 20 applicants of PM-UDAY

have electricity and water connections, but there are no schools, hospitals, post office or parks. We hope to have these facilities now."

Chand Sharma said that before they were handed the papers, Delhi Development Authority (DDA) officials had come to the colonies to measure and assess their properties.

Meanwhile, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia Friday termed as "fake" the conveyance deeds and registry papers, saying the papers hold no value in the absence of complete regularisation of the colonies.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said in a tweet: "In the future, you will only seal these properties".

SIT probing protest violence identifies 25 men using footage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

A SPECIAL investigation team (SIT) of the Delhi Police Crime Branch, which is probing 10 cases of rioting registered in connection with recent protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act and proposed National Register of Citizens in the capital, has identified 25 men allegedly involved in violence that took place in Seemapuri, Seelampur and Jaffarabad on December 20.

The SIT was constituted following Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik's directives to conduct a fair probe into the cases.

"After receiving case files, the investigating officers started visiting areas and coordinating with local police to identify the

attackers. With the help of CCTV footage, police have so far identified 25 men. Police have identified their homes and hideouts and they would be arrested in the coming days," a senior police officer said.

The officer said that once the men are arrested, it will be ascertained whether the protests were spontaneous or planned.

Apart from identifying the men, the SIT also came to know during their investigation that some of the accused have previous cases of burglary and robbery.

"We have so far identified only those who were clearly seen in footage damaging public property and pelting stones at police personnel," an officer said, adding that police are also probing whether some protesters had been instigated using WhatsApp or social media.

<p><b>OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, X CIRCLE, U.P. JAL NIGAM, AGRA 4/A SANJAY PLACE, AGRA</b></p> <p>Ref. No.: 3231/विद्युत/83 Date: 27.12.2019</p> <p><b>E-TENDER NOTICE</b></p> <p>U.P. Jal Nigam, E-tenders are invited on two bid system for "Construction of pump house, OHT (including testing bearing capacity of soil and design &amp; drawing of OHT, Boundary Wall, gate, Site development, supply &amp; laying, jointing of risingmain and distribution system, Tube Well, labour T&amp;P etc all complete as per satisfaction of engineer in charge including defect liability period of 1 year and handing over to Gram panchayat of Rahalai and Irradat Nagar village water supply under Chief Minister Declaration Programme in Vidhan Sabha Kheragarh of Distt. Agra" from reputed, experienced and eligible bidders. Tender documents shall be available at e-procurement website <a href="https://etender.up.nic.in">https://etender.up.nic.in</a>. Any corrigendum in this regard shall be uploaded only on e-tender portal. Interested contractors may view &amp; download tender document and upload their tenders, duly filled, online as per schedule given below: <b>Date for: (i) Uploading bid document at website : 30.12.2019 upto 17:00 Hrs (ii) Online Submission of e-bids : 14.01.2020 upto 17:00 Hrs (iii) Opening of pre qualification bid : 15.01.2020 at 15:00 Hrs.</b></p>	<p><b>NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY</b></p> <p><b>E-Tender Notice</b></p> <p>No. WA/E-Tender/01/2020 Dt. 01.01.2020</p> <p>Following E-tenders are invited by DRM (WA) NWRA/Amr at 15:00 Hrs. on the mentioned date : <b>1. Tender No. : 237/2019 Name of work : Deep Screening of seven Nos. loop lines of Amer- Chittaurgarh section and miscellaneous Track works. Approximate cost : Rs. 33,22,859.91 Earnest Money : Rs.66,500.00 Tender Closing date : 27.01.2020 2. Tender No. : 238/2019 Name of work : Amer Division - Hiring of Five Nos. Utility Vehicles (Double Cab) (1.0MT Capacity) for SSE (P.Way) USFD, for the period of 24 Months. Approximate cost : Rs. 44,35,348.80 Earnest Money : Rs. 88,700.00 Tender Closing date : 27.01.2020 3. Tender No. : 240/2019 Name of work : ADEN-Rana Pratap Nagar Sub Division - House keeping and Maintenance of Officer's Rest House (ORH) &amp; Subordinate Rest House (SRH) through outsourcing at Rana Pratap Nagar and Udaipur city station for 24 months. Approximate cost : Rs. 5,62,793.28 Earnest Money : Rs. 11,300.00 Tender Closing date : 27.01.2020 4. Tender No. : 244/2019 Name of work : ADEN (line) Amer Sub Division - Providing coach filling Hydrant at Line No.1 and 200 mm dia Borewell at Daurai station. Approximate cost : Rs. 32,41,873.81 Earnest Money : Rs. 64,800.00 Tender Closing date : 27.01.2020 The detailed information of the above tender is available on website <a href="http://www.reps.gov.in">www.reps.gov.in</a> and Tender notice board on DRM Office NWRA/Amr. <b>07-PA/20</b></b></p> <p><b>Always travel with proper ticket.</b></p>
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**MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY (MBMA)**

**Meghalaya State Housing Financing & Cooperative Society Ltd. Campus, Upper Nongrim Hills, Shillong- 793093**

**Expression of Interest**

Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) invites Expression of Interest for the following assignment:

**Hiring of an agency for capacity building and developing Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) maps for 400 villages to support the implementation of the Meghalaya Community Led Landscapes Management Project (MCLLMP) under MBMA**

Last date for Submission of the EoI: **on or before 24th January, 2020 by 5:00 PM.**

**Detailed EoI and draft Terms of Reference is available at [www.climp.com](http://www.climp.com) and [www.mbda.gov.in](http://www.mbda.gov.in)**

The EoI responses must be submitted in a sealed envelope to The Project Director - Office of Meghalaya Basin Development Authority, Meghalaya Basin Management Agency, C/o Meghalaya State Housing Financing & Cooperative Society Ltd., Upper Nongrim Hills, Shillong- 793003. Phone: 0364-2522043/2522921. For details please visit <http://www.climp.com> and <http://www.mbda.gov.in>



# 7 GOVT & POLITICS



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## CALM AFTER STORM

EARLIER THIS week, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had hit out at Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan over the state Assembly passing a resolution demanding scrapping of Citizenship Amendment Act — Prasad had asked Vijayan to seek legal advice. On Friday, Prasad made a much calmer reply to Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh's open letter criticising the Union minister's remarks on passage of the resolution in Kerala Assembly. He tweeted: "Dear @capt\_amarinder Ji U r a senior, seasoned & informed leader who fought for India as an Army officer earlier. Both center and states have to work together to keep India safe & secure & also give shelter to those persecuted for their faith. This is the glorious tradition of India."

## SETTLING DOWN

AFTER LOKPAL chairman, retired judge Pinaki Chandra Ghosh, and eight members were appointed in March last year, the DoPT had provided them vehicles on rent. Inspection of files in DoPT reveals that Justice Ghosh was provided a Toyota Camry and the members Toyota Altis cars - on daily rent of Rs 5,700 and Rs 3,200, respectively. Now the budget of Lokpal has been transferred to it and the Lokpal secretariat has bought one Skoda, eight Altis and two Ciaz cars - respectively for its chairman, members, and senior officers. The Lokpal secretariat says Rs 3.85 crore has been paid as rent for the space occupied at Hotel Ashok since March 22 up to October 31 last year. The office of Lokpal will soon be shifted to a new office in Vasant Kunj.

## MISSING NAMES

All BJP leaders, including Union ministers, actively participate in party programmes and campaigns, and there had been no exemption for its national president, Amit Shah, even after he became the Union Home Minister. But the party's latest list of leaders to carry out door-to-door campaign for the CAA has some names missing. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had become a BJP member after he took oath as minister, but his name is not among the 42 leaders assigned the task, which include Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Among other names missing are those of Union ministers Harsh Vardhan and Hardeep Singh Puri, although party leaders maintain that more names could be added to this "first list".

# Dhindsa quits as SAD legislative party leader

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL  
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 3

DAYS AFTER after his father and Rajya Sabha member Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa rebelled against the SAD leadership, Lehragaga MLA and former finance minister Parminder Singh Dhindsa on Friday resigned as leader of the SAD legislature party in Punjab Vidhan Sabha.

SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal accepted the resignation. Parminder's resignation comes less than a month after he and his father skipped an event where Sukhbir was re-elected SAD chief for the third time. Sukhdev had instead attended a parallel event in Amritsar on December 14 to observe the 99th foundation day of the party, but Parminder did not attend that either.

Former Cabinet minister Sharanjit Singh Dhillion was named the new leader of SAD legislature party.

While Parminder was not

EXPLAINED

Grouse against 'family rule'

THE MOVE deals another blow to the SAD president, whose leadership has been questioned by senior Dhindsa and the trio of Ranjit Singh Brahmampura, Sewa Singh Sekhwan and Rattan Singh Ajnala, who have formed a political outfit called SAD (Taksali). Their main grouse is that SAD has been reduced to "a party ruled by a family".

available for comment, Sukhdev said, "I welcome it. The strange thing is that the resignation was not discussed in the legislature party and accepted. This is the dictatorship we have been protesting against."

# Sena, BJP slam Cong over Seva Dal booklet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, JAN 3

THE CONGRESS on Friday came under fire from its new ally Shiv Sena and rival BJP over insinuations on VD Savarkar in a booklet distributed at a camp of Congress-affiliated Seva Dal in Madhya Pradesh.

The Sena said the Congress had "dirt" in their mind by questioning Savarkar's credentials as a patriot and reputation for valour, while the BJP described the comments as abhorrent and perverted, and sought an apology.

The booklet contained an insinuation about Savarkar's relationship with Nathuram Godse. Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut reacted sharply saying, "Veer Savarkar was a great man and will remain a great man. A section keeps talking against him..."

# Will not backtrack an inch on CAA: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
JAIPUR, JANUARY 3

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah on Friday said the government will not backtrack on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), adding that protests against the new law were due to a misinformation campaign by the Congress.

Shah, who is also the BJP president, skipped any mention of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) or the National Population Register (NPR).

Speaking in Jodhpur at the launch of the BJP's awareness campaign on the CAA, Shah said, "Across the nation, the BJP has organised an awareness campaign on the CAA and I have come here as part of that campaign. What was the need to organise (this campaign)? Why is it (the law) being opposed? Because those who have grown accustomed to indulging in vote bank politics, that Congress has launched a misinformation campaign against CAA. And in that misinformation campaign, the country's youths were misled and there were protests against this law."

"Today Congress, Mamata didi (Banerjee), SP, BSP, (Arvind) Kejriwal and company, communists, all of these are opposing (CAA). And I have come to challenge all these parties — you say that minorities will lose their citizenship due to this. Rahul baba (Gandhi), come for a discussion anywhere if you have read the law. And if you haven't, then I can get it translated into Italian and get it sent to you," Shah said.



Home Minister Amit Shah in Jodhpur on Friday. PTI

"Let all these parties come together, the BJP government will not backtrack even an inch on CAA. No one can stop your citizenship. We will work hard and go to the youth and minority and tell them that this has nothing to do with your citizenship. My refugee brothers have come and they've to be given citizenship," Shah said.

The BJP president said the CAA has no provisions for taking away someone's citizenship. "It only has the provision to give citizenship... This law is for granting citizenship to persecuted Hindus, Sikh, Buddhists, Jain, Parsi and Christians from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who have come here."

Shah said that after Partition, over 30 per cent of the population of Pakistan — both East and West — was that of minorities. "These minorities expected to live safely but their numbers in Pakistan have declined from 30 per cent to 3 per cent in Pakistan and from 30 per cent to 7 per cent in Bangladesh."

# BJP finalises massive outreach campaign

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THE BJP on Friday announced a door-to-door campaign as part of its outreach programme on the CAA. As part of this, senior leaders, including party chief and Home Minister Amit Shah and senior ministers, will reach out to people and counter the "misleading campaign by the Opposition" over the new citizenship law.

The party has formed a six-member committee, to coordinated by general secretary Anil Jain. The panel also comprises Saroj Pande, Avinash Rai Khanna, Rahul Sinha, Suresh Bhatt and Ravinder Raju.

Another panel, the Samvad committee, will be responsible for organising rallies, holding meetings with intellectuals, and reaching out through the media, it was announced.

A third committee headed by BJP general secretary Bhupender Yadav will meet people from a cross section of the society for clarifying provisions of the CAA.

The BJP expects to reach out to 3 crore people with its door-

Bhupender Yadav will head one of the outreach committees

to-door campaign, hold around 1 lakh small meetings across different states and a signature campaign.

On Friday, the BJP stepped up its attack on the Congress and accused the opposition party of indulging in "politics of duplicity and expedience" over the new citizenship law.

Giving details of the Congress's manifesto for 2018 Rajasthan Assembly elections, BJP spokesperson G V L Narasimha Rao told the media, "Item number 27 of this manifesto relates to governance. They claim citizenship rights in this and there is a promise that they are lying about today... The Congress in its manifesto had promised all-round development of people who have been displaced from Pakistan; that means the refugees, and they promise to give them citizenship rights and rehabilitation."

# NRC will come in future but no draft yet, says BJP's Trivedi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

BJP WANTS a nationwide National Register of Citizens (NRC) "in the future" but a draft of it has not been prepared yet, party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said Friday.

According to PTI, Trivedi said in Bhopal, "The NRC in Assam was conducted as per a Supreme Court order. We also believe there should be (nationwide) NRC in the future. But there is no draft of NRC as of now, so there is no question of controversy. When it (NRC) will happen, then raise objections; they will be heard."

The statement comes a day after Home Minister Amit Shah said that NRC is not on the government's agenda yet. In an interview to ABP news channel, Shah was asked whether NRC has been kept in the cold storage; he replied, "Where have I said that?" The statements encapsulate the uncomfortable position the

Sudhanshu Trivedi

BJP has put itself into after first harping on pan-India NRC and then attempting a climbdown after PM Narendra Modi said at a rally in New Delhi last month that there was no discussion on NRC in the government.

Shah, however, had repeatedly spoken about inevitability of a nationwide NRC in the past, and even asked people to understand the "chronology" — that the NRC would come after the new citizenship law. "NRC has not been brought before Parliament. It has not been discussed in the Cabinet. I can assure 130 crore Indians that since 2014, when our government was formed, the term NRC has not figured in any discussion in the government," the PM said in the rally on December 22.

Referring to the pact between then prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his Pakistani counterpart Liaquat Ali Khan, Shah said, "Minorities of both nations were given an assurance. And here (in India) we kept our brothers and sisters from the minority communities with respect and their population is booming."

He added, "Mahatma Gandhi had promised (citizenship to refugees), was he communal? And in Parliament, Jawaharlal Nehru had said that we will give citizenship to Hindu and Sikh (refugees). Was he also communal? I am telling the refugees sitting here that your acche din (good days) are here and you are going to become a citizen of this nation."

Shah said that the refugees "have the same right over India as much as me."

The BJP president also launched a toll-free number where one can call to express their support for CAA.

## RSS wings to take message on citizenship law to campuses

DIVYAA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

TO QUELL opposition from among a section of students against the CAA and proposed NRC, the RSS has planned a big outreach programme in colleges and universities across the country, with more than 2,000 seminars, talks and informal gatherings to be held over the next one month, it is learnt.

The events will be organised by various affiliated organisations of the Sangh such as ABVP, its students' outfit, Jan Jagran Manch, All-India Lawyers' Council, and All-India Teachers' Federation.

As part of this, senior advocate Ajay Jagga had addressed a group of students at Panjab University in Chandigarh last week.

Stating that the Sangh does not get involved in these activities directly, a senior RSS office-bearer, who did not want to be named, said that "swayamseviks will take the message to people".

The content of the messages, he said, has been prepared by RSS and is being sent by the headquarters.

Two days later, Shah said in an interview to ANI, "There is no point discussing this (NRC) because it is not under discussion at the moment. The PM rightly said it has neither been discussed in the Cabinet nor has it been spoken of in Parliament in relation-ship to the Act..."

In an interview published on December 29 in *The Indian Express*, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "Rule 4 of the Citizenship (Registration of Citizen and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003, talks about processes like enumeration, verification, scrutiny, objection, appeal etc that have to be followed for NRC. But nothing has been done. NRC has not even been initiated." Asked when NRC will be implemented, Prasad said, "That position has to be taken. There is a legal process. There will be consultation with the state government, feedback will be taken. If anything is to be done it will be done publicly."

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee administers an oath while leading a protest in Siliguri on Friday. PTI

# Why compare nation with Pak, are you its envoy: Mamata to PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, JANUARY 3

CHIEF MINISTER Mamata Banerjee on Friday asked whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi had become an "ambassador of Pakistan" since he is seen "glorifying" the neighbouring country on most occasions.

Banerjee, while addressing party workers after a rally in North Bengal's Siliguri against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), also slammed the PM for frequently comparing India with Pakistan. "India is a big country with a rich culture and heritage. It is the biggest democracy in the world. Why does the PM always compare our nation with Pakistan? Are you the ambassador of Pakistan? You should talk about Hindustan. We don't want to hear about Pakistan. Why do you refer to Pakistan in every issue? We don't support Pakistan. We love Hindustan," she said.

The Prime Minister on Thursday dared the Congress and

its allies to raise their voice against Pakistan's atrocities on its minorities for the last 70 years.

Referring to his remarks, Banerjee said the PM and his party spoke of Pakistan every now and then to divert attention from the prevailing economic crisis and unemployment in the country.

"If someone says give me job, PM says go to Pakistan. If someone says we don't have any industries, he says go to Pakistan... we should talk about India. This is our motherland," said Banerjee.

Talking about CAA, the TMC chief said it was a shame that even after 70 years of independence people were being asked to prove their citizenship.

Criticising the BJP leadership for creating confusion over the NRC, Banerjee said, "On one hand, PM says there will be no NRC; on the other, Union Home Minister and other BJP ministers claim the exercise will be conducted across the country. Who is speaking the truth? We do not want to see either CAA or NRC in the country."



## REMEMBERING D P TRIPATHI

(From left) CPI general secretary D Raja, NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the funeral of senior NCP leader D P Tripathi in New Delhi. Anil Sharma

# After CAA, govt's next move on deporting Rohingya: Jitendra Singh

ARUN SHARMA  
JAMMU, JANUARY 3

AFTER GETTING the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) passed in Parliament, the government's next move would be regarding the deportation of Rohingya refugees, Minister of State in the PMO Dr Jitendra Singh said on Friday.

The Rohingya are Muslim refugees from Myanmar who have accused the regime there of

mass murder, rape and arson. Thousands of Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh, and some have also come to India.

Singh, speaking at the first capacity building programme for officials of the Jammu and Kashmir government on Central Financial Rules, 2017 and E-procurement on Friday in Jammu, said, "We have a sizeable population of Rohingya here... What will be the plan of their deportation, the Centre is concerned about it... Lists will be made and if needed, their

## PM teaching MPs new lessons in civic responsibility: Chidambaram

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

SENIOR CONGRESS leader P Chidambaram on Friday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was teaching new lessons in civic responsibility to MPs by saying that if they voted against a Bill in Parliament, it was a "protest" against the House.

The former Union minister said the Congress was not against giving refuge to those persecuted in Pakistan irrespective of their religion, but wanted a non-discriminatory law that applied equally to all such people.

"The PM is teaching MPs new lessons in civic responsibility. I did not know that if an MP voted against a Bill in Parliament, that MP was 'protesting against Parliament'," he tweeted.

"We are not against giving refuge and eventually citizenship to those persecuted in Pakistan, be it Hindus, Sikhs, Jains or Christians. We only demand that the law should apply equally to all persecuted people including Pakistani Ahmadisyyas, Sri Lankan Tamils, Bhutanese Christians, Myanmarese Rohingyas etc..." Chidambaram said.

The Congress also accused Home Minister Amit Shah imposing a "conspiratorial and divisive agenda" on India and bringing the country to a 1947-like situation.

"Amit Shah ji, Modi ji and you have been made Prime Minister and Home Minister to work for public welfare... and not abuse opposition leaders like Rahul Gandhi... You should desist from slapping your conspiratorial and divisive agenda on the country," Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said.

biometric certificates will also be taken, because the CAA does not give any leverage to Rohangiya... They do not belong to any of those three countries and those six minorities," referring to the six non-Muslim minorities of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan covered under CAA. He added, "They would not be able to secure citizenship by any means."

The minister said that it was for "analysts and researchers" to find out how the Rohingya reached Jammu from Myanmar.

# Bengal student wants Supriyo apology for 'pack off to your country' remark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA, JANUARY 3

DAYS AFTER Union minister Babul Supriyo told a college student on Facebook "let me first pack you off to your country" after the latter questioned his educational qualification, the two engaged in a fresh spat on Friday.

Mustafizur Rahaman, a final year student of chemistry in a college in Birbhum district, said on Friday he wanted nothing but an "unconditional apology" in public from the minister. Supriyo hit back saying he does "not need to apologise to fools".

Supriyo also said his comments on Facebook had nothing to do with the student's religion.

The dispute began on December 26 when Supriyo shared a post on social media ad-

vocating the new citizenship law (CAA) and criticised a woman JU student who had torn up the first page of the contentious law at the annual convocation of a university on December 24. The next day, Rahaman commented on Supriyo's Facebook post and questioned educational qualifications of Supriyo and West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh. He wrote: "Babulda apni kotota sikkhito aar aapnar guru Dilip koto sikkhito je kina goru theke sona baar kore (Babul-da (dada) how educated are people like you can be gauged from the fact that your mentor (state president) Dilip Ghosh spots gold in cow milk)."

In reply to his comment, Supriyo wrote, "Aage tomaye tomar deshhe pherot pathai tarpor post-card ye jobaab debo (Let me first pack you off to your country, then will send the reply

by post card)". Rahaman in a prompt rejoinder said, "I am in possession of enough proof about my identity as Indian and Bengali. You don't know how to respect Bengalis and still you are the MP..."

"I had merely made a comment whether people like Supriyo and Ghosh have the authority to make adverse comments about the individual decision of a gold medalist to protest against CAA at the annual convocation of an educational institution," Rahaman said.

Reacting to the youth's demand for apology, Supriyo claimed that Rahaman is a "serial offender" on social media.

"...Those who are fools won't understand my comment. It has nothing to do with Hindus or Muslims. I don't need to apologise to fools," Supriyo said



## PROTEST WATCH

ASSAM

## Left stages protest, AASU says movement will be long



At the protest by Left parties in Guwahati on Friday. PTI

**Guwahati:** The CPM Friday held a demonstration against the new law in Guwahati which was addressed by the party's general secretary Sitaram Yechury. Besides criticising CAA, NPR and NRC, Yechury spoke on the deterioration of the country's economic condition. He slammed the Prime Minister for accusing the Left of engineering protests.

Protests by All Assam Students' Union (AASU), artists and other organisations

continued. Demonstrations were held at Tinsukia, Kalabor and Mariani on Friday. At the Tinsukia protest, AASU general secretary Lurinjyoti Gogoi warned people against falling for statements by CM Sarbananda Sonowal and said the ongoing movement will be long. He said people wanted a leadership that would fulfil responsibilities towards protection of the language, culture and political rights of the indigenous people. **ENS**

PUNJAB



Protest outside the Jama Masjid in Ludhiana. Gurmeet Singh

DELHI

## JuH slams law, to launch protests in major cities

**New Delhi:** Condemning the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), Jamiat ulama i Hind has decided to organise demonstrations against the law in Delhi and other major cities. The outfit has also decided to give compensation of Rs 1 lakh each to families of those killed in the protests.

"The Working Committee of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind outrightly condemns CAA which is in contravention to the Indian Constitution as apparently it negates Articles 14 and 21...this Act has put a question mark over the secular edifice of the Constitution. This controversial law will have its negative impact on those

Assamese who have been left out in NRC. Non-Muslim citizens will get relief from this Act but Muslims will be declared illegal migrants. Every Muslim of the country feels deeply apprehensive about this law," reads the resolution adopted on Friday.

It adds, "JuH condemns highhandedness and brutality of the Yogi government against the CAA protesters in the state. JuH appeals to the agitators to continue their peaceful protest and exercise caution from anti-social elements and never get provoked. Remain peaceful and never take law and order into own hands..." **ENS**

GUJARAT

## 58 detained for 'silent protest' in Vadodara

**Vadodara:** Citizens from Vadodara and members of the Public Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL) were detained on Friday for organising a silent protest against the new citizenship law. A total of 58 people were detained.

With their hands tied and mouths covered with a white cloth, 11 people had gathered at the Sardar Patel statue at Dairy Den Circle in Sayajigunj to express dissent against the citizenship law. "We did not raise any slogan and just stood there in solidarity, but we were detained," a student said.

PUCL member Shaukat Indori said they went ahead with the protest despite police not granting them permission. "We had asked for permission, but it was denied. We then informed the police that we are going ahead with the protest. We wanted to express that we are being silenced."

The police said people were detained because no permission had been granted for any rally. "Silent or not, no permission was granted for any protest. We have detained 58 people," said S G Solanki, Inspector at Sayajigunj police station. **ENS**

MUMBAI



People protest at Mantralaya against police action in Uttar Pradesh, in Mumbai on Friday. Nirmal Harindran

## 8-YEAR-OLD KILLED IN STAMPEDE IN VARANASI

## 'We don't have time to protest... my son was probably curious'

AVANEESH MISHRA  
VARANASI, JANUARY 3

LITTLE IS known of how Sageer Ahmad came to be among the dead. How the eight-year-old who was playing on the terrace of his house ended up on the road below, his blue shirt and pants covered in mud, his slippers missing. The youngest victim so far in the protests against the new citizenship law, Sageer died in a stampede on December 20 as police lathicharged protesters at Bajar-deeha locality in Varanasi district.

Sageer's father Wakeel Ahmad, 38, who cooks at Lallan Dhaba nearby, says, "We are illiterate and do not have enough resources to send our children to school. They play here and there all day. Every day before leaving for work, I would see Sageer playing kancha or playing with a ball, or riding his small, red bicycle on the lane outside. Who would have known that playing on the streets would take away his life?"

Sitting outside the single-room house that he shares with his family of 10, including his parents, his children, and his brother's family, Ahmad says, "Around seven years ago, my wife left me and my five children. Then a year ago, my 18-year-old daughter, Gausiya Nargis, died of a long illness. And now, Sageer has gone too."

What pains him most, says Ahmad, is that he wasn't around



Sageer's father Wakeel cooks at a nearby dhaba. Anand Singh

when Sageer, the fourth of his five children, probably needed him the most. "I was in Lohta area (around 5 km from Bajardeeha), where we had been called to cook at a function. While I was working, at 4:17 pm, I got a call saying there had been a lathi charge by police in our area. I called home, but no one picked up. Around 9:30 pm, when I came back, I realised Sageer was not home. Others in the family were also looking for him. We thought he was probably hiding. Some of my neighbours then came to me with photos of the injured. Sageer was among them. Someone said police had taken the injured to the trauma centre (of Banaras Hindu University's hospital), so I rushed there and realised my son was among those brought dead. He must have died around 4:30 pm, and I got to know about it

after midnight."

Days after the incident, at Bajardeeha, a locality of mostly Muslim weavers, few are willing to speak of the protests or of the death of the eight-year-old. Around two dozen police personnel have been posted here since the day of the incident.

"That day after Friday namaz, 35-40 youth from mosques in Bajardeeha started a peaceful protest with placards and pamphlets. By the time they reached Dharara Bazaar, the crowd had swelled to more than a thousand. That child (Sageer) probably joined the crowd thinking it was a religious procession," says a local.

"When the protesters reached Chhayi Bazaar, half a km from Dharara Bazaar, police got people to move towards the open ground in Dharara Bazaar and made them

## Sessions court reserves order on bail pleas of Jafar, Darapuri

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 3

A SESSIONS court in Lucknow on Friday reserved its order on bail applications of eight persons, including activist and Congress leader Sadaf Jafar, retired IPS officer SR Darapuri and activist Pawan Rao Ambekar. The eight were arrested in connection with the December 19 protests in Lucknow against the new citizenship law that turned violent, leading to the death of one person.

"After hearing argument on the bail pleas, Additional District and Sessions Judge Sanjay Shanker Pandey reserved the order. Investigating officers also appeared before the court," said Additional District Government Counsel Deepak Yadav. The court is likely to pronounce the order on Saturday, he added.

Darapuri, Jafar and Rao, who are in jail since December 20, have been booked under IPC sections 307 (attempt to murder), 332 (Voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 147 (rioting) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy), among others. Their earlier bail pleas were rejected by the judicial magistrate.

In all, 42 FIRs have been lodged in connection with the December 19 violence that took place in different parts of Lucknow.



Congress workers protest in Guwahati on Friday. PTI



ASSAM IS the second state, after West Bengal, where the state unit of the Congress has said that it is open to join hands with all parties opposing CAA. In Kerala, the party's leaders had even participated in a joint protest with arch-rivals, the ruling CPM, sending out a message of unity among opposition forces.

proceeded towards Lower Assam.

The BJP will be organising a meeting in Guwahati on Saturday, which will be attended by BJP working president J P Nadda and party national general secretary Ram Madhav. "Over 70,000 karyakartas will come," state BJP chief Ranjeet Dass said.

## Firozabad: Residents say locals, cops targeted them, police deny

AMIL BHATNAGAR  
FIROZABAD, JANUARY 3

DAYS AFTER a video purportedly showed residents and policemen throwing stones, allegedly at certain establishments, during protests against the citizenship law in UP's Firozabad on December 20, police have said incidents of stone-pelting were too scattered to contain.

The video shows a few men standing next to policemen and throwing stones at a wood godown in Rasoolpur area. The godown was later identified as belonging to one Azad Khan. In another video, the men and police can be seen attempting to set fire to the godown.

Six men from Firozabad died after the protests turned violent on December 20. While their families have alleged they were

shot by the police, police officers say they did not shoot at anyone.

Firozabad city SP Prabal Pratap Singh said, "The video is showing only one aspect of the events. There was heavy stone-pelting and firing from the other side," he said. "Since there was a heavy attack, police could not control stone-pelting from all sides. If it was a targeted attack, there could have been communal clashes which did not happen," he added.

Many local residents in the area, however, allege that they were targeted by both police and some local residents.

Godown owner Azad Khan alleged that a crowd stormed the godown after being provoked by police. "My nephew Faraz, I and four women had taken shelter in the office to escape the crack-down. They broke locks and entered the godown and set fire. Several men in plain clothes with

their faces covered joined them. I was dragged outside and beaten and this was captured on video," alleged Khan.

His nephew Faraz (19) has been booked under attempt to murder charge and arrested. Azad maintained that Faraz was hiding with him in the godown's office.

Police have denied allegations of excesses on Muslim establishments. They have also sent a recovery notice to Faraz's family, finding them "complicit" in damaging public and private property but no amount has been mentioned.

A local BJP leader said they "helped" the police. "It was a display of solidarity by Hindus. They stepped up and became a shield for the police. They did not indulge in violence and their response was merely protecting the police personnel trapped from all sides in the violent clashes," said BJP leader Prakash Bhargadwaj.

## Home Ministry may not consult states on framing CAA rules

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THE MINISTRY of Home Affairs (MHA) is not considering consulting states over the framing of rules for Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), even though as many as six states have declared they would not implement the law.

"The work on framing rules for CAA is on. Every aspect is being carefully examined. But we have not sought any suggestions from any state on how these rules are to be framed. It is not required. Ample consultation has been done before the Act was passed," a senior MHA official said.

The official added that the ministry was not waiting for resolution of certain petitions in the Supreme Court against CAA as the apex court had not stayed the implementation of the Act.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal recently said his government had sent some suggestions with regard to the rules being framed for CAA to the MHA. The legislation has been vehemently opposed in Assam, and there have been widespread protests in the state since the day it was passed by Parliament.

"We have received suggestions from Assam. But we are not seeking such suggestions from other states. After the Bill is passed, framing of rules is the domain of the government," the official said.

Elaborating on what the

rules would broadly look to deal with, the official said they would be concerned with certain definitions, requirement of documents and further fleshing out of provisions of the Act.

"There is a cut-off date fixed in the Act. So we have to arrive at how an applicant will prove that he came before December 2014. What are the documents he would need to present to prove this. Then there is the question of whether the applicant needs to prove that he faced religious persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan or Bangladesh. All these matters are being looked into," the official said.

Kerala, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra — all with non-BJP governments — have declared that they would not implement CAA in their states. MHA sources said it was not in their ambit to deny the implementation of CAA as it was a subject in the Union list. The MHA also plans to bring necessary administrative notifications that will prevent states from putting roadblocks in implementation of CAA.

Notably on December 30, Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said at a press conference in Kochi, "If any (state) government says it won't implement it, then it is not as per the Constitution, be it the West Bengal government, Kerala, Rajasthan or Madhya Pradesh government. It is an Act passed by Parliament. The states have to follow. It is in national interest."

## FORMER FOREIGN SECY SHIVSHANKAR MENON

## 'Action on J&amp;K to CAA increasingly isolating India'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

A "CUMULATIVE effect of a series of actions" over the past year — from the Union government's treatment of Kashmir to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) — has made India "increasingly isolated" from the rest of the world, former Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon said on Friday.

He said India's actions may be in violation of Article 2(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that requires rights of the Covenant "to be applied to all individuals in its territory with no distinction of any kind," highlighting that it reads "all individuals", not just citizens.

Speaking at an event organised by the Constitutional Conduct Group and Karwan-e-Mohabbat at the Press Club of India, Menon said, "What we have achieved in recent past is to hyphenate our image with Pakistan's in a fundamental way as religiously-driven and intolerant states... We have lost India's ability to be an example and a model for other countries in the subcontinent..."

He said, "Disengagement or going it alone is not an option, but we seem determined with actions like this to cut ourselves off and isolate ourselves."



Shivshankar Menon

Menon also questioned Foreign Minister S Jaishankar's decision to cancel a meeting with the US Congress's foreign affairs committee, which would have also been attended by Chennai-born US Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, who has tabled a resolution critical of CAA. "Rather than attending a meeting and rebutting these charges, we chose to duck this," he said. "We have broken the bipartisan consensus that used to exist in the US for the last 25 years."

Menon, who played a critical role in the India-US nuclear deal, cited examples of US Congressional hearings, language on Kashmir added to the US Foreign Appropriations Act for 2020, and the bipartisan support for the Congressional resolution critical of CAA.

He said there has been "no meaningful international sup-

port" for India's recent actions, barring some diaspora members and extreme-right Parliamentarians. On the other hand, the "list of critical voices abroad is quite long," he said, and named France's President Emmanuel Macron and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel.

"All knowledgeable people I have spoken to seem to agree that we seem to be in violation of our international commitments. For those who say international law cannot be enforced, we must consider the political and other consequences of being perceived as violators of international law," Menon said.

He pointed out that the United Nations High Commission has condemned CAA, and the UN Security Council has discussed Kashmir after 40 years.

Menon also drew upon the shifting opinions of media organisations from across the political spectrum, from the 'Wall Street Journal' to the 'Guardian'.

Referring to Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan's remarks — "let them fight among themselves", when asked about CAA and NRC — he said, "Even our friends have been taken aback. Is this what we want? If this is what our friends think, what would our adversaries be thinking? ... We have gifted out adversaries a platform from which to attack us."

## PFI denied nod for Murshidabad rally

**Kolkata:** Radical outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) was on Friday denied permission for a rally against the new citizenship law on January 5 in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, a police officer said.

The organisation has decided to "postpone its meeting for the time-being", PFI Bengal general secretary Manirul Sheikh said. PTI

## Prohibitory orders in Jharkhand

**Ranchi:** Anticipating protests against the new citizenship law, prohibitory orders have been issued by the Jamtara district authority in Jharkhand. The order was issued by SDM Sudhir Kumar on January 2, stating that attempts were made to disturb the communal peace in Narayanpur area of Jamtara. The order also said rallies by candidates who won in the state polls may be misused by anti-social elements. **ENS**



## Most Indian Nobel winners Brahmins: Gujarat Speaker

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 3

MOST NOBEL prize winners from India, including recent recipient Abhijeet Banerjee, are Brahmins, and it was a Brahmin, B N Rau, who made the draft Constitution and handed it over to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, Gujarat Assembly Speaker Rajendra Trivedi said at the inauguration of a 'Brahmin Business Summit' on Friday.

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and Deputy CM Nitin Patel also spoke at the event. In the first edition of the event in 2018, Trivedi kicked up a storm when he referred to Ambedkar as "Brahmin".

On Friday, he said: "After studying Constitutions of 60 countries in detail, do you know who made a draft Constitution and handed it over to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar? It was B N Rau.... Benegal Narsing Rau means Brahmin. Historically, Brahmins have stayed behind and kept oth-

ers ahead..." He also quoted Ambedkar publicly praising Rau for his contribution in drafting the Constitution.

"Of eight Nobel prize winners in India, seven have gone to Brahmins. Does anyone remember the name of the ninth Nobel Prize recipient? Abhijit Banerjee got it. Abhijit Banerjee means a Brahmin," he said, as the audience cheered at the event, where the organisers also raised pro-CAA and pro-NRC slogans.

India-born Banerjee along with France's Esther Duflo, both professors in the US, won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2019.

Rupani said the BJP's foundation in Gujarat was laid by three Brahmins: Chimanbhai Shukla, Suryakant Acharya and Ashok Bhatt. "They set the base for the Jan Sangh in Gujarat," he said.

"Most of these people on the dais are mostly from BJP... The Brahmin community has always spoken about national interest, and because of that, the community has joined with the BJP and the RSS..."

## Imran shares wrong video on Twitter, deletes it later

New Delhi: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday shared an old video showing the Rapid Action Battalion of Bangladesh police attacking unarmed men, and passed it off as "Indian police's pogrom against Muslims in UP".

The official Twitter handle of the Pakistani PM deleted the tweet after it was pointed out

that the video was of Bangladesh. "Tweet Fake News. Get Caught. Delete Tweet. Repeat," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted with hashtag 'Old habits die hard'.

UP police also reacted. "This is not from U.P, but from a May 2013 incident in Dhaka, Bangladesh..." it tweeted. **ENS**

## Assam ex-DGP, Himanta's mother to lead Sahitya Sabha

ABHISHEK SAHA  
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 3

FORMER DIRECTOR General of Assam Police Kuladhar Saikia was on Thursday elected as president of the apex and most influential literary body of the state, Asom Sahitya Sabha, while the mother of state cabinet minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Mrinalini Devi, was elected as its vice-president.

Established in 1917, the Asom Sahitya Sabha has been active in the protests against the CAA. On December 31, the Chief Minister announced that the state government would provide Rs 10 crore to the sabha's corpus fund.

Saikia, a Fulbright scholar and writer who won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2015, retired as DGP in November last year. He is credited with introducing multiple projects to enhance community engagement in policing — like Project Prahari in 2001, a community project by police against killing of women after branding them as "witches", a social evil that plagued parts of the state, and formation of the first Nagarik Committee in the mid-1990s, which paved the way for residents' participation in policing.

Saikia got 269 votes out of 619, defeating six other candidates.

On his new role, Saikia told *The Indian Express*, "The century-old organisation has many challenges in the current times — and we have to overcome them. The young generation should be the prime movers in the development of Assamese culture."

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA  
DUTTAPUKUR (NORTH 24 PARGANAS), JANUARY 3

NEARLY A kilometre from the Duttapukur market area, where the body of 30-year-old Asadul Islam was found inside a local club, triggering communal clashes on New Year's Eve in the town, his wife is trying to come to terms with his death.

"We are shattered. He was the only breadwinner. I have to take care of my 13-year-old son. Those who killed him must be punished. I appeal to the state government for help. How will we live?" said Roushanara Bibi.

According to police, the club had organised a fair in Duttapukur where Islam had put up a stall. He was allegedly beaten up by members of the club after he had a fight with a woman buyer Tuesday. The woman had alleged that Islam assaulted her.

"For the past two years, he has

### AFTER KOTA DEATHS, INFRASTRUCTURE IN FOCUS

## In hospital, ministers blame past BJP govt

DEEP MUKHERJEE  
KOTA, JANUARY 3

TWO RAJASTHAN ministers visited Kota's J K Lon Hospital on Friday, where over 100 children have died over the past month, and conducted an inspection.

Health Minister Raghu Sharma told *The Indian Express* that there was no clinical negligence behind the deaths, "but there have been cases of administrative negligence for which action will be taken against those responsible".

He also blamed the previous BJP government for not developing the infrastructure of the hospital. "They were there in power for five years. The financial approval of 60 beds, which the previous Congress government had given in 2012, where did that go? Had there been 60 beds, our bed strength would have been 102 and there wouldn't have been a need to put two children on one bed," said Sharma.

"In 2017, the medical administration here had sent a requirement of 300 beds to the then government. But no approval was granted. In 2015, Rs 8 crore was asked to make this hospital well-equipped, but again no approval was given. In 2016, this hospital had asked for Rs. 9.25 crore but they didn't get a single penny. In 2017, Rs 20 crore was



Protesters outside government hospital in Kota on Friday. AP

asked, but approval for that too was not granted," added Sharma.

Transport Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas, who accompanied Sharma, said the people responsible for negligence "won't be spared".

"The deaths are a very serious issue because of which all of us are in grief. From the very first day our thoughts are clear; that the deaths of children should stop and strict action should be taken against anybody responsible. We held a meeting today and it is clear that there is no fund crunch as they have more than Rs 6 crore. We have clearly said that if any equipment was damaged, it

was your (hospital administration) responsibility to buy new ones," said Khachariyawas, who is also minister-in-charge of Kota.

Sharma added that by January 15, a centralised oxygen system will be put in place and the equipment will be updated.

Prior to the visit of the ministers, the hospital staff expedited repair work and maintenance which had been due for months. A carpet had also been rolled out in front of the hospital entrance but was later removed after it was filmed.

Meanwhile, the opposition BJP slammed the Congress government in the state for failing to tackle the situation.

1,000 children died in Gorakhpur in past 12 months, says Akhilesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 3

SAMAJWADI PARTY president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday alleged that in the past one year, nearly 1,000 children died in Gorakhpur due to negligence of doctors, a claim which the government termed as "false allegations".

"The CM is worried about children dying in Kota. But in the past 12 months, more than 1,000 children have died in Gorakhpur. When will he worry about that? And, the most inhuman deed has been that doctors knew that the children had a disease, but on directions of the government, so that statistics are kept intact, the children were not given medicines for Japanese encephalitis (JE)... In the coming days (on Monday), we will release a list of names of children who died," Akhilesh said in Lucknow.

Responding to Akhilesh's allegations, Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma said that the former CM should have issued a list before leveling "false allegations" on deaths of children.

"He (Akhilesh) says thousands have died. Before leveling the allegation, he should have provided a list. He can't mislead anyone by leveling false allegations. The government has changed the direction of the medical college there, and the OPD in AIIMS has also started. Expensive medicines are available now for people."

"The SP leader said they will not register in NPR. The country is changing... This is [Prime Minister] Modi's Digital India... You are hatching a conspiracy which will deny people right to be part of mainstream," said Sharma.

## Undertrial killed in clash at Bihar jail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
PATNA, JANUARY 3

AN UNDERTRIAL prisoner was killed in a clash with fellow prisoners in Vaishali jail on Friday.

Manish Singh alias Manish Telia, an accused in a Kolkata gold loot case, had an argument with a fellow prisoner Annu,

## Rajasthan's infant mortality rate higher than national average

MORTALITY RATE AT RAJASTHAN'S SNCUs				
Year	Admissions to SNCUs across state	Death (%)	Admissions at J K Lon Hospital	Deaths (%)
2017	71,788	6,801 (9.5)	1,659	72 (4.3)
2018	95,972	9,559 (10)	2,114	345 (14.3)
2019*	1,03,545	10,831 (10.5)	3,018	623 (20.2)
(*till December 26)				

ABANTIKA GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

RAJASTHAN'S INFANT mortality rate (IMR) has reduced significantly since 2014, but its IMR of 38 deaths per 1000 live births, as of 2017, is still higher than the national average of 33.

In 2014, the IMR in Rajasthan was 46 per 1000 live births, which has declined at a rate of 17.4 per cent, against the national average of 13 per cent. However, of the 16.5 lakh births in Rajasthan each year, an estimated 62,843 babies die. This translates to the state contributing 8 per cent of all infant deaths in the country — according to government data, the only other states with a higher IMR are Arunachal Pradesh (42), Madhya Pradesh (47), Assam (44), Uttar Pradesh (41), Meghalaya (39) and Odisha (41).

This is why Rajasthan is a high-priority state under the National Health Mission for improving child survival in the country.

In the state, every district has at least one special neonatal care unit (SNCU), which is a fully-equipped paediatric ICU meant for newborns up to the age of 28

days (neonates). They are an integral part of India's plan to control infant mortality.

Last year, when the Health Ministry undertook an assessment of the 30-odd worst performing SNCUs in the country, three from Rajasthan featured in the list. However, Kota's J K Lon Hospital — where around 100 infants have died over the past month — did not feature.

Data from SNCUs shows that death rates at J K Lon in 2019 were twice that in the rest of the state. In 2019, a total of 1,04,209 newborns were admitted in the 60 SNCUs in Rajasthan with a reported mortality of 10.5 per cent. In comparison, J K Lon Hospital admitted 3,087 newborns with a mortality rate of 20.2 per cent — an increase from the 14.3 per cent in 2018.

"Last year we analysed data from SNCUs and visited the worst performing ones. Three from Rajasthan were in that list... But J K Lon, Kota did not feature there. We have flagged the shortages at J K Lon but it is also a fact that SNCUs, especially those attached to medical colleges, get very sick babies..." said senior health ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

### COMMUNAL CLASH IN BENGAL TOWN

## ‘We are shattered, he was the lone earning member...his killers must be punished’



Police in Duttapukur on Friday. Partha Paul

been setting up stall at the fair... We got a call Tuesday afternoon that some people were beating him up. We rushed to the spot but could not find him at the ground. Later, someone opened the gates of the club and I saw his body, with a rope around his neck," said Islam's brother Masud Ahmed, who plies an auto-rickshaw.

After Islam's body was found,

his relatives reportedly vandalised shops in Hathkhola area and set vehicles on fire. They also blocked roads, alleging that he had been killed by the club members.

Three days later, as Duttapukur limps to normalcy, there is an uneasy calm amid huge deployment of security personnel. Prohibitory orders are in place and Internet services blocked.

"Patrolling is on. Police camps have been set up. Everything is under control. We have initiated a murder case in connection with Islam's death. We are meeting residents and asking them not to pay heed to rumours," said Addl SP Biswachand Thakur.

Residents in and around Duttapukur, including Palpara, Chaktaberia crossing, Ramkrishnapalli and Natun Rasta said the situation is tense. "Our family has not slept for three nights. We heard about clashes. Crude bombs were also hurled," said Joydeb Roy, a resident of Palpara. Roy, who works at a private firm in Sealdah, said he had not gone to office since the clashes erupted.

"There have been many rumours. We are living in fear. When we see policemen patrol, we feel safe. I pray everything normalises soon," said Mohammed Abdullah, a resident of Chaltaberia Uttar.

Police said they have arrested 12 people in connection with the violence.

## UP journalist says police tried to detain him

AMIL BHATNAGAR  
FIROZABAD, JANUARY 3

NOIDA POLICE on Thursday allegedly tried to detain a Meerut-based journalist, Piyyush Rai, who was asked by officers to accompany them to Sector 20 Police Station. While police did not disclose why they wanted Rai, a journalist with *Times of India*, to

accompany them, the move comes against the backdrop of a video purportedly showing Noida SSP Vaibhav Krishna in an intimate video chat with a woman. "I was travelling in Meerut when I was approached by men who identified themselves as police officers. They were dressed in civilian clothes. I resisted their attempt and contacted the Meerut SSP." Rai told

*The Indian Express*.

In his complaint to the ADG, Meerut Zone, Rai wrote: "...The SHO was also present. They told me they are here in connection with the video. I had had a conversation with SSP Noida (Krishna) about it a day earlier... I told them I will cooperate if the due procedure is followed. I and another journalist then went inside (Meerut) SSP's office after

which they went away."

"We received a letter with regard to the incident and have taken cognizance. Appropriate action will be taken once facts are checked," said ADG Prashant Kumar. SSP Noida tweeted, "There was no such attempt to trouble/question Rai. I had talked to him many times to clear the air. Request that there shouldn't be any misunderstanding."

**G.B. PANT INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT**  
KOSI-KATARMAL, ALMORA 263 643, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA

**WALK-IN-INTERVIEW**

Walk-in-Interview will be conducted on **16.01.2020 (10:00 hrs.)** for purely project based temporary positions of **Scientist- "D" (01 No.), Project Coordinator (01 No.) and Junior Project Fellow (02 No.)** under various projects of the Institute.

For details (age, emoluments, qualification, etc.) please see Institute website ([www.gbpihed.gov.in](http://www.gbpihed.gov.in)).

**Administrative Officer**

**HFCL LIMITED**  
(Formerly HIMACHAL FUTURISTIC COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED)

CIN: L8420HP1987PLC097466

Regd. Office: 8, Electronics Complex, Chembaghail, Solan - 173 213 (Himachal Pradesh)

Tel: 91-1792-230644 Fax: 91-1792-231902

Email: [secretary@hfcl.com](mailto:secretary@hfcl.com)

Website: [www.hfcl.com](http://www.hfcl.com)

**NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of HFCL Limited is scheduled to be held on **Monday, 20th January, 2020** at New Delhi, to consider and approve, inter-alia, the un-audited Financial Results of the Company for the 3rd quarter and nine months ended on December 31, 2019 of the financial year 2019-20, both on Standalone & Consolidated basis.

In compliance of the provisions of the SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 and the Company's 'Code of Internal Procedures and Conduct for Regulating, Monitoring and Reporting of Trading in Securities by Designated Persons', the Trading Window for dealing in the securities of the Company for all the Designated Persons including Insiders, had already been **closed w.e.f. January 01, 2020, and the same shall re-open on January 23, 2020.**

The said Notice is also available on the website of the Company at <http://www.hfcl.com> as well as on the websites of Stock Exchanges – The BSE Limited at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and The National Stock Exchange of India Limited at [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com).

For HFCL Limited (formerly Himachal Futuristic Communications Limited) Sd/- (Manoj Baid) Vice-President (Corporate) & Company Secretary

Place : New Delhi  
Date : 03.01.2020

**NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA**  
(An autonomous Institution of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)  
Sanskara Rang Toli (T.I.E CO.)  
**SUNDAY CLUB THEATRE FESTIVAL (06<sup>th</sup> To 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2020)**

Date	Name of the Play	Age Group
<b>(Sunday Club Part - I)</b>		
06 <sup>th</sup> January, 2020	Nanhaa Dimag Bada Dil	8-10
07 <sup>th</sup> January, 2020	The Real Me	10-12
08 <sup>th</sup> January, 2020	Paheili	12-14
09 <sup>th</sup> January, 2020	Kshitiij Ki Aur	14-17
<b>(Sunday Club Part - II)</b>		
10 <sup>th</sup> January, 2020	Web	11-14
11 <sup>th</sup> January, 2020	Rangeen Parchhai	14-18
<b>(Sunday Club Part - III)</b>		
12 <sup>th</sup> January, 2020	Prasthaan	16-19

**LTG AUDITORIUM**  
Copernicus Marg, New Delhi- 110001  
**AT 6:30 P.M. DAILY**

Limited seat cards are available at N.S.D. Reception, Bahawalpur House, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi- 110001 from 04th January, 2020 between 11:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. except 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm lunch) on all days and also available one hour before the show at the auditorium. Mobiles, cameras, recorders, handbags and eatable materials not allowed inside the auditorium.

Enquiry: 23389054, 23031137, website: [www.nsd.gov.in](http://www.nsd.gov.in)

davp 09130/11/0049/1920

## Innovate, patent, produce, prosper: Modi at Indian Science Congress

EXPRESS NEW SERVICE  
BENGALURU, JANUARY 3

ITERATING THE importance of technology in development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday exhorted young scientists to "innovate, patent, produce and prosper".

Speaking at the inauguration of the 107th Indian Science Congress in Bengaluru, the Prime Minister said, "India's growth story depends on its success in the science and technology sector. There is a need to transform the landscape of Indian science, technology and innovation."

"We need innovation for the people and by the people in the direction of new India," he added.

Speaking on the theme of this year's science congress — 'Rural Development' — Modi said, "in the last five years, ordinary people have experienced rural development; from Swachh Bharat to Ayushman Bharat."



PM Narendra Modi with Karnataka CM BS Yediyurappa at Indian Science Congress, in Bengaluru on Friday. PTI

"The coming decade will be a decisive one for science and technology-enabled governance, especially in the fields of cost-effective agriculture and farm-to-consumer supply chain..." he added.

The PM also urged scientists to come up with solutions to pressing problems in the country. "It is your responsibility to find cheap and effective technology for

reuse and recycling of water. In one way, water governance is a new frontier for you... We need you to come up with new alternatives to single-use plastic. The alternative will come from your labs. For the development of a green, circular and sustainable economy in villages, there is a lot of opportunity for startups," he pointed out.



## President accepts AU V-C's resignation

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday accepted Allahabad University (AU) Vice-Chancellor Rattan Lal Hangloo's resignation.

Hangloo had resigned on December 31 and had a year left in his term. He is the third head of a central university appointed during Smriti Irani's stint as HRD Minister who either quit or was

fired before completing his term.

"The senior-most professor of the university shall perform the duties of the office of vice-chancellor of the University of Allahabad till the regular vice-chancellor is appointed or until further orders, whichever is earlier," the press release states.

Kovind also gave the HRD Ministry his approval to probe al-

legations of financial, academic and administrative irregularities against Hangloo, according to the press statement. UGC Chairman D P Singh will head the inquiry committee and V-C of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Prakash Mani Tripathi and V-C of Gujarat Central University Rama Shankar Dubey are its other members. **ENS**

## DMK, allies trump AIADMK combine in TN rural civic polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHENNAI, JANUARY 3

THE OPPOSITION DMK and its allies emerged as winners in the closely fought elections to rural civic bodies in 27 districts in Tamil Nadu, relegating the AIADMK combine to the second spot. The DMK said it posted a "massive victory" despite the ruling party's alleged misuse of power.

The polls were held from December 27 to 30, after a gap of eight years. As counting of votes continued for the second day on Friday, the DMK front won 2,215 ward member posts in Panchayat unions out of the total 5,090 posts and the AIADMK bagged 2,069. Others, including smaller parties, won 517 seats.

In the opposition front, the DMK won 1,997, Congress 126, CPI(M) and CPI(M) 31 ward member posts while the AIADMK bagged 1,668 posts, ally PMK 224, DMKD 93 and BJP 84, according to official results made available at 9 pm on Friday. Results in 289 union seats are awaited.

In percentage terms, DMK accounted for 43.51 per cent of the panchayat union seats and the AIADMK marginally behind at 40.64 per cent.

Out of the total 515 district panchayat ward member posts, the DMK combine won 237 (DMK 215, Congress 13, CPI(M) 2), while the AIADMK front emerged successful in 210 seats (AIADMK 187, PMK 16, BJP 5 and DMKD 2). The results were a setback to the ruling AIADMK, which had seen success in recent bypolls to two Assembly constituencies.

Thanking voters, DMK chief M K Stalin said that if urban local body polls had been held with rural local polls, their victory would have been bigger. He added that the anger of common man was reflected in the results.

"The local body elections should have been held in October 2016. But the ruling party was afraid to meet the people. This government delayed the elections," he said. "DMK was leading in both district councils and panchayat councils but the AIADMK created hurdles with the help of the State Election Commission to prevent our victory."

Deputy CM O Panneerselvam said, "Whatever the poll results, we accept and bow to the people's verdict."

AIADMK's minority wing secretary and ex-MP Anwhar Raajhaa had said that the party had lost its minority vote base to the Opposition after striking an alliance with the BJP. A source in the AIADMK admitted the results were a setback. "People have mistaken us for the BJP alliance. If polls are conducted for urban seats and nine districts, the DMK will benefit again," the former minister in the Jayalalithaa cabinet said.

A senior AIADMK minister told *The Indian Express* that the results may suggest people's strong objection to their alliance with the BJP-led NDA. "It doesn't mean that people oppose us, but definitely rings an alarm," he said.

Asked about chances of reviewing alliance equations with the NDA, the minister said, "There is no option for the AIADMK to quit (NDA alliance) anytime soon."

With PTI inputs

**PURVANCHAL VIDYUT NIGAM LIMITED**

**VIDYUT NAGAR; POST OFFICE: D.L.W. VARANASI-221004 E-Short Term Tender Notice**

E-Short term tender are invited for the following material. The tender will be accepted up to at 15.00 hrs. Please visit website **www.etender.up.nic.in** for details/ corrections/ amendments/modifications till the date of submission of bids. **Sl. No. 1. Tender Specification No. EAV-63/2019-20 Name of Material 33 KV CT (outdoor), 33 KV/110 Volt PT (Outdoor) Quantity 200 Nos., 200 Nos. Earnest Money (Rs.) 74,000.00, Tender Fee (Rs.) 5,000.00 + GST @ 5%, Last date & Time for online submission of tender document 21.01.2020 15.00 Hrs, Date & Time for online opening of tender par-1 22.01.2020 15.00 Hrs. . Sd/- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-I) "Save Electricity in the interest of Nation" पत्रांक: 15/पू.वि.नि.लि. (वा.)/सा.प्र.-I/अअ-I/विज्ञापन दिनांक: 03.01.2020**

**PANKI POWER STATION, PANKI, KANPUR UTTAR PRADESH RAJYAVIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.**

**TENDER NOTICE** Sealed and Separate Tenders are hereby invited containing requisite Tender Cost, Earnest Money through NEFT/RTGS (Re-fundable) in the CBI Account no 1439501795 (IFSC - CBIN0280983, MICR-208016020) in Name of Dy. CAO, CFA & BO, PTPS, Panki, Kanpur and Tendered will have to provide the signed copy of UTR Number, Name of Account and photo copy of Pay in Slip along with relevant required Tender documents as per Pre-qualifying Condition and other commercial terms & conditions. Details of Tender Notice as well as Tender Specifications, Corrigendum may be seen on our Web Site: **www.uprvnl.org/ e-tender portal www.etender.up.nic.in** 1. E-Tender -14/PTPS/O&M-C-II/EDD/2019-20 Annual rate contract for Routine/ Breakdown maintenance of electrical distribution system & lighting system in Officer colony and New Staff Colony of PTPS. Panki. Estimated Cost: 6,29,736.00 Tender Fee: 826.00 Earnest Money: 12,600.00 OPENING DATE OF E-TENDER: 30.01.2020 2. **E-Tender -15/PTEP/SE(CIVIL)/CCD-II/EDD/2019-20** Operation and maintenance of Central Sewerage Treatment Plant, PTEP. Panki. Kanpur. Estimated Cost: 15,02,000.00 Tender Fee: 1,180.00 Earnest Money: 30,000.00 OPENING DATE OF E-TENDER: 22.01.2020 Web Site: **www.uprvnl.org "SAVE ELECTRICITY FOR THE NATION" Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER** स. 01/पीटीएसएम/अ.सी.पी.डी./ विज्ञापन दिनांक: 03.01.2020

**Government of Madhya Pradesh Energy Department Mantralaya Vallabh Bhawan**

Applications for the post of Chairperson. MP Electricity Regulatory Commission were invited vide public notice no. 11171/F-2-22/2009/XIII dated 27.12.2019 The due date for receipt of applications against above public notice is hereby extended up to **29.02.2020** Interested person(s) may submit application(s) at the following address :-

**Additional Chief Secretary Government of Madhya Pradesh, Energy Department, Mantralaya, Vallabh Bhawan-II, 3rd Floor, Bhopal- 462004 (M.P.) Fax 0755 2678360 G-21305/2019**

**Sd/- Officer on Special Duty Govt of Madhya Pradesh Energy Department**

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

**E-Tender Notice**

DRM/Electrical, North Western Railway, Jodhpur for & on behalf of the president of India, invites E-tender for the following work. **1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on website No. :** <http://www.ireps.gov.in> **2. Date & time of closing of e-tender:** 27/01/2020 upto 15.00 hours. **3. Date & time of opening of e-tender:** After 15.00 Hrs. on 27/01/2020 **Tender No. 21/19-20 Name of work:** Improvement of power supply system for mechanized laundries at Jodhpur. **Approx. Cost of the work (in Rs.):** Rs. 42,75,171.47 **Tender No. 22/19-20 Name of work:** Electrical work in connection with improvement to Platform surface, circulating area & other amenities at A Class stations (BME, JSM, PMT & AGC) and Renovation of underground tank at JU station yard (Bhakhli) and at RKB Station (Zakhli) for sweet water & replacement of old pipe line for water supply at RKB station under ADENHO over JU division. **Approx. Cost of the work (in Rs.):** Rs. 17,12,933.00 **06-PA/20**

**Always travel with proper ticket.**

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS**

The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division No. II, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, I&F Wing, Vikas Bhawan-II, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054. Invites on behalf of the president of India, online tender from approved specialized agencies or eligible contractors of I&F, M.E.S., Railways, CPWD & Deptt. of Central/State Govt. (whose registration details have been verified by the I&F Deptt.) dealing with similar nature of work for the following works:

N.O.W/- Update & Automation of existing Regulators at Gopal Pur (Jahangir Pur Drain R.D.- 1135m.) (H.O.A/- MH 4711) 03-800-99-00-53 (Other Drainage Works)

Estimated Cost: Rs. 2,03,84,044/- Earnest Money: Rs. 4,07,681/- Period of completion: (120) Days, Last date & time of submission of tender: upto 3:00 p.m on 15/01/2020. (Tender I.D 2020\_IFC\_186986.1)

Note 1) The Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> DIP/SA/DM/12327/19-20

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM AND ON BEHALF OF MY CLIENT, MR. MOHIT NIGAM SON OF LATE SUNIL KUMAR NIGAM, R/O, A-74, U.G.F. KIRTI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110015. PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MY AFORESAID CLIENT IS THE ONLY LEGAL HEIR/SURVIVING MEMBER AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER - LATE SUNIL KUMAR NIGAM, EXPIRED ON 08.09.2014, AND MOTHER LATE SHASHI NIGAM, EXPIRED ON 28.05.2016.

Sd/- J.C. Trikha (Advocate) 71/2, Prem Nagar, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID Card of **Sapna** issued by (ICICI) Bank Ltd. having ID card no: **03188** has been found missing and/or lost on **31-12-2019**. Anyone, who finds the said ID card, is requested to return the said ID card to the Manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, 50 Tower Sec-08 Rohini New Delhi 110085.

Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorised person holding the said ID card no. **03188**.

Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril (ICICI) Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

To be known to all that I, Laili R, (name of the allottee/Purchaser) Son of Late Sh. Madan Lal R/O H. No. 145, Pk-II, Janta Flats, Paschim Panchayat, New Delhi-110063, Sec.-11, Block-A, U.G.F. Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, in the scheme/area of Madpur (paschimpur) has applied for conversion of the above-said flat to lease hold to the Government of India. No. 158828 Dated 06.08.18 in DDA. Last person of (i.e. DAL, P/C NO for electric, water Possession etc.)

Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9999190428 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (L&B) or Director (H&D) Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**A-8, Shubham Enclave, New Delhi-110063**

The Public at large is informed that my clients **MS. MONIKA AGRA** and **M/s. ORTIVA REALTY AND DEVELOPERS PRIVATE LIMITED** ("Purchasers") have entered into an agreement to purchase from **MR. SUNDER KENRE, Mr. SHAM KENRE, and Dr. (M/s.) PUNAM MUKHERJEE ("Sellers")** in respect of Entire Freehold Built-up Property No. A-8, Shubham Enclave, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063, measuring 297.995 Square Metres ("Said Property"). Any person(s)/ entity/firm/company, having any claim or claims on the said property by way of ownership, tenancy, licence, sale, mortgage, exchange, charge, lease, lien, interference, maintenance, possession, gift, trust, Govt. Disputes, levies, encumbrances, litigation, attachment or the decree of any court, acquisition, easement or otherwise are requested to inform the undersigned in writing along with supporting documentary evidence to the undersigned within 14 days of publication of this notice. Any claim received after the aforesaid period shall be deemed to have been waived or abandoned and the sale will be completed without taking any reference to such claim or claims.

**Rajesh Gandhi (Advocate)** D/2593/2011 E-996 C.R. Park, N. Delhi-19 09668106823

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**SALE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY BEARING ENTIRE FOURTH FLOOR TOP FLOOR (BELOW TERRACE) OF PLOT NO. 32, BLOCK Q, AREA MEASURING 340 SQ. MTRS., SITUATED AT RESIDENTIAL COLONY KNOWN AS SOUTH CITY-1, GURUGRAM.**

Notice is hereby given for information to the General Public by my client i.e. HDPC LTD. that Smt. Anika Goyal & Smt. Neeta Juneja acquired the above said property through Sale Deed dated 22.10.2018 registered vide no. 107176. The original Agreement dated 05.10.1989 & Surviving Members Certificate of Late Sh. J.C. Malhotra in respect of above referred property has been lost. Now the said Smt. Anika Goyal & Smt. Neeta Juneja intend to sell the above referred property to the customer (i.e. Sh. Vivek Vatsyayan, Smt. Sheemla Vatsyayan & Smt. Shashi Saxena) of my client HDPC LTD. The customer is availing the financial facility to purchase the above referred property and against the security of above referred property. If any person including banks, financial institutions or any other person, relative, organizations, company, firm or government authority having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the above-referred property, hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing with documentary evidence by registered AD Post to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below, within 7 (seven) days of publication of this notice failing which the same shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned. In the event of no response being received to this notice, the purchase/mortgage of this property shall be completed by my client without any reference to and without in any manner being affected by any such right title, interest or claim whatsoever.

**MANISHA CHAUDHARY, ADVOCATE** JUS LEGALS, 210, VARDHMAN STAR CITY MALL, NEAR RAMPHAL CHOWK, SECT-7 DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075 011-45606769, 9899008723

**"IMPORTANT"**

Whitaker care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

**I, Abdul Wahid, S/o Haji Sukhwa, R/o-B-14, Abul Fazal-Enclave, Jamia-Nagar, New Delhi-110025.** have lost or misplaced my original chain of title documents related to property No. H.NO.52-A, NOOR-NAGAR, JAMIA-NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110025. If found by anyone kindly contact- 9818562995 0040526358-8

**LOST & FOUND**

We would like to inform the general public that we have lost

1. Original Lease Deed dtd. 28-05-2004 executed between Noida Authority and M/s. Hari Krupa Exports Pvt. Ltd., signed on its behalf by Smt. Maena Gupta in respect of Plot No 217, Block No. H. Sec 63, Phase III, Noida (U.P.)

2. Original Transfer Deed dtd. 11-04-2008 transferring Lease hold rights in respect of Plot No 217, Block-H. Sec 63, Noida (U.P.) executed by M/s Hari Krupa Exports Pvt. Ltd., through Sh. Hari Om Dixit (transferee) to M/s Shri Nidhi Infra Build Pvt. Ltd. through its Director, Sh. Sanjeev Vohra (transferee).

If any person/s who finds it, is requested to return the same to us at below mentioned address: **Indigo Advertising Pvt. Ltd. A-28, Sec-65, Noida**

**Lost**

Lost Original G.P.A. & Agreement to sell executed by Mr. Mohan Lal on dated 08.02.1973 in favour of Mr. Shyam Prakash Gulati in respect of the Property, receipt & etc. and Original Sale Deed executed on 23.02.1973 executed by Shri Shyam Prakash Gulati as General Attorney of Mr. Mohan Lal in favour of Mr. Kanhaiya Lal in respect of Plot No.4 (now known as G-14) having land area measuring 250 Sq. Yards out of Mutastal No. 83, Kila No. 5, in Block G-1, situated in the area of village Hastal, colony known as Uttam Nagar, New Delhi.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given to the general public that my client Sh. Sandeep S/o Sh. Suresh Bhan R/O House No. 135, Panna Dalma, Bahi Pur Thana, Dist. Bhawani, Delhi-110016 has agreed to purchase, the plot situated at Kharsana No. 29, ETC, D-Block, Shastri Nagar, Sector-13, New Delhi-110016, Pur. Majhi, Delhi Measuring 500 sq. Yards from Smt. Kavita W/o Late Sh. Manoj, free from all encumbrances. Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the said plot, is hereby requested to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof to the undersigned within ten days from the date of publication hereof failing which the registrations shall be completed, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

Hinu Mahajan, Advocate 165 A, Pocket-J&K, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

I am authorized to declare that my client Sh. Sanjay Gambhir S/O Late Sh. Sunder Kumar Gambhir, during the renovation at his office at F-1/9, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I, Delhi has lost the original title documents along with the chain of ownership documents of property bearing no. 1-A and 1-A/2, South Extension Part-II, New Delhi. Whoever finds it may deliver the same at the office of undersigned.

Sd/- RAJIV BAJAJ (Advocate) D-9, 3rd Floor, Nizamuddin West New Delhi-110013

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**FREE HOLD PROPERTY BEARING 43 KANALS 5 MARLAS 5 E. 5 43125 ACRES VIDE JAMABANDI YEAR 2009-2010.**

Notice is hereby given for information to the General Public by my client i.e. **M/S AMOLIK RESIDENCY LTD.** that it acquired the above said property through Sale Deed dated 29.05.2019 registered vide no. 2448. The original Sale Deed dated 08.12.2005 registered vide no. 137132. Sale Deed dated 08.12.2005 registered vide no. 13714 & Sale Deed dated 12.04.2005 registered vide no. 569 in respect of property referred property has been lost. The customer is availing the financial facility against the security of above referred property. If any person including banks, financial institutions or any other person, relative, organization, company, firm or government authority having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the above-referred property, hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing with documentary evidence by registered AD Post to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below, within 7 (seven) days of publication of this notice failing which the same shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned. In the event of no response being received to this notice, the purchase/mortgage of this property shall be completed by my client without any reference to and without in any manner being affected by any such right title, interest or claim whatsoever.

**MANISHA CHAUDHARY, ADVOCATE** JUS LEGALS, 210, VARDHMAN STAR CITY MALL, NEAR RAMPHAL CHOWK, SECT-7 DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075 011-45606769, 9899008723

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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**MANISHA CHAUDHARY, ADVOCATE** JUS LEGALS, 210, VARDHMAN STAR CITY MALL, NEAR RAMPHAL CHOWK, SECT-7 DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075 011-45606769, 9899008723

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**MANISHA CHAUDHARY, ADVOCATE** JUS LEGALS, 210, VARDHMAN STAR CITY MALL, NEAR RAMPHAL CHOWK, SECT-7 DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075 011-45606769, 9899008723

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**I, Shri Chand, R/o F-81 East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065** have changed my name to Shri Chand Matta. 0070691019-1

**I, Karamveer Dabas S/O Late Shri. Dilip Singh R/O-G-3/244, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110089,** have changed my name to Karamvir Singh Dabas. 0040526369-3 0040526358-8

**I, Kamola Sarkar W/o Shankar Kumar Sarkar R/o-3-G, Mukund Pur Extn Part-2 Delhi-110042** Have changed My Name to Kamla Sarkar. 0070691014-1

**I, Jmratan W/o Mohammad Amrafat R/o 2912, Shams Ganj, Lal Darwaza, Sirkiwalan, Hauz Qazi, Delhi-110006** have changed my name to Raeesa Begum. 0040526345-2

**I, Gursev Singh S/o Bhupinder Singh Bhurji R/o G-38 Santnagar Extn. New Delhi-110018** changed my name to Gursev Singh Bhurji. 0040526369-5

**I, Gauri Manikandan, D/O Sh.Laxmi Narayan Dutta R/O-Tower E-2/907, Bharat-City Phase-I, Indraprastha-Vojna, Nistaiul, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201003.** Have Changed My Name From Gauri Manikandan To Gauri Datta, For All Future Purposes. 0040526358-2

**I, Gajinder Singh Chhabra S/O-Gurudharan Singh Chhabra R/O-A-18/3, Ranapratap-Bagh Delhi-110007.** Have Changed My Name To Gajinder Singh. 0040526343-6

**I, Faqir Syed Shazuddin S/O Faqir Syed Ziauddin R/O G-18/18, DIF City-1, Gurgaon-122002,** have changed my name to Fakir Syed Shazuddin for all purposes. 0040526338-1

**I, Bhanu Kumar Jha S/O Sh Ravi Kant Jha R/O- HM-994, Housing Board Colony, C-Block, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar, Punjab-143001,** have changed my name to Bhanu Jha for all future purposes. 0040526296-1

**I, Anubhav Pahuja S/O Satish Pahuja R/O H.No.**



THIS WORD MEANS

EXTRAOCULAR VISION

The ability to ‘see’ without eyes. How does the red brittle star manage it?

FOR THE first time, researchers have shown that a species of brittle stars, which are relatives of starfish, can see even though it does not have eyes. The red brittle star (*Ophiocoma wendtii*), which lives in the coral reefs of the Caribbean Sea, becomes only the second creature, after a sea urchin species, known to have this ability (barring freak cases in other species).

The ability to see without eyes is known as extraocular vision. Previous researchers have defined it as the ability to resolve scenes without discrete eyes. In 1966 Dr L. Chertok of the Cochin Hospital wrote about the case of one Rosa Koulechova in Soviet Union who was able to “see” colours with her fingers. Chertok wrote that many thought the explanation for extraocular vision was to be found in the photo-sensitivity of the skin.

In sea urchins and brittle stars, researchers suspect that extraocular vision is facilitated by the photoreceptor cells found on their bodies. Scientists from the University of Oxford, who have published their findings in *Current Biology*, placed brittle stars in a circular arena in the laboratory. The brittle stars moved toward walls that were white with a black bar, suggestive of a daytime hiding place. When grey walls were included, they still moved towards the black stripe, which was centred on a white stripe.

The researchers suggest that a brittle star sees with the help of light-sensing cells that cover its entire body. These light-sensing cells give the brittle star visual stimuli, allowing it to recognise



Red brittle star, *Ophiocoma wendtii*. Lauren Sumner-Rooney/University of Oxford

coarse structures such as rocks, the research suggests.

Another peculiar feature of the red brittle star is its signature colour change. While the creature is deep red during the day, it changes its colour to beige at night. The researchers think that there may be a link between their extraocular vision and colour changing abilities since the responses they saw in the creatures tested during the day, disappeared in those that were tested at night.

“It’s a very exciting discovery. It had been suggested 30 years ago that changing colour might hold the key to light-sensitivity in *Ophiocoma*, so we’re very happy to be able to fill in some of the gaps that remained and describe this new mechanism,” Lauren Sumner-Rooney, a research fellow at Oxford University Museum of Natural History who studies unusual visual systems, said in a statement released by the university.

TIP FOR READING LIST

A BRISK INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS

THE INTRODUCTION of *The Guardian’s* Iranian-born editor and writer David Shariatmadari’s new book, *Don’t Believe A Word: The Surprising Truth About Language*, begins with a question: “Is there anything quite so familiar, yet so mysterious as language?” Because, he says, language “fills our lives” and “most of us use it without thinking”, but “most of us also have only the vaguest idea of what it really is, and how it works”. Several metaphors to describe language follow: “in our lungs and on our lips but far from our grasp”; “a box of magic tricks inside every one of us”; “an inescapable trap, (because) we can only think and talk about language by using it”, and “deploy (it) to wonder about itself”.



Why do millennials speak in their own language, he asks — do the words that they choose reflect their superficial, lazy, and addicted-to-technology personalities? Do words direct thoughts, or vice versa — that is, is the language that is used to talk about climate change, likely to impact the way people think about it? Who decides what a word actually means, anyway?

Each one of the books chapters (with titles such as ‘Language is going to the dogs’, ‘A word’s origin is its true mean-

ing’, ‘We can’t talk to animals’, ‘You can’t translate this word’, ‘What you say is what you mean’, etc.) explodes a common myth about language, says the review of Shariatmadari’s book in *The Guardian*. There is no evidence, for example, to claim that the standards of English are declining — if younger people say “aks” instead of “ask”, they are only demonstrating a natural linguistic process where the sounds in words wrap around. And since youth is the driver of linguistic change, says *The Guardian* review, “older people feel linguistic alienation even as they control the institutions — universities, publishers, newspapers, broadcasters — that define standard English”.

The “Enemy Number One” for Shariatmadari, says the book’s review in *The New York Times*, is “the pedant or self-styled grammar snob, who has been with us for at least 400 years... wringing his hands and lamenting the decline in linguistic standards”. The expressive power of language is undiminished, but human communication is in constant flux — and ought to be understood, says *The NYT* review, quoting Shariatmadari, as “a snapshot of a time, place and particular community of speakers”.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

ON FRIDAY, Iran’s top security and intelligence commander, Major General Qassem Soleimani, was killed in a US drone attack in Baghdad. Why is the killing causing concern in the Middle East and beyond?

What exactly happened in Baghdad on Friday morning?

Gen Soleimani was killed in an airstrike, for which the US later claimed responsibility. The strike was carried out by a drone on a road near Baghdad’s international airport. Soleimani had reportedly just disembarked from a plane. The blast also killed others including Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, deputy commander of the Iranian-backed militias in Iraq known as Popular Mobilisation Forces. The Associated Press quoted Iran’s state TV as saying those killed included Soleimani’s son-in-law.

The strike capped a week of conflict between the United States and Iranian-backed militia in Iraq, starting with a rocket attack at a military base on December 27, which killed an American contractor (see graphic).

Who was Gen Soleimani?

Soleimani, 62, was in charge of the Quds Force of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which the US designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in April last year. The Quds Force undertakes Iranian missions in other countries, including covert ones.

Soleimani, who had headed the Quds since 1998, not only looked after after intelligence gathering and covert military operations, but also drew immense influence from his closeness to Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He was seen as a potential future leader of Iran, according to various reports.

“... To say that today’s Iran cannot be fully understood without first understanding Qassem Soleimani would be a considerable understatement. More than anyone else, Soleimani has been responsible for the creation of an arc of influence — which Iran terms its ‘Axis of Resistance’ — extending from the Gulf of Oman through Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon to the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea,” the United States Military Academy (USMA) wrote in a dossier in November 2018.

Why is his killing such a big deal?

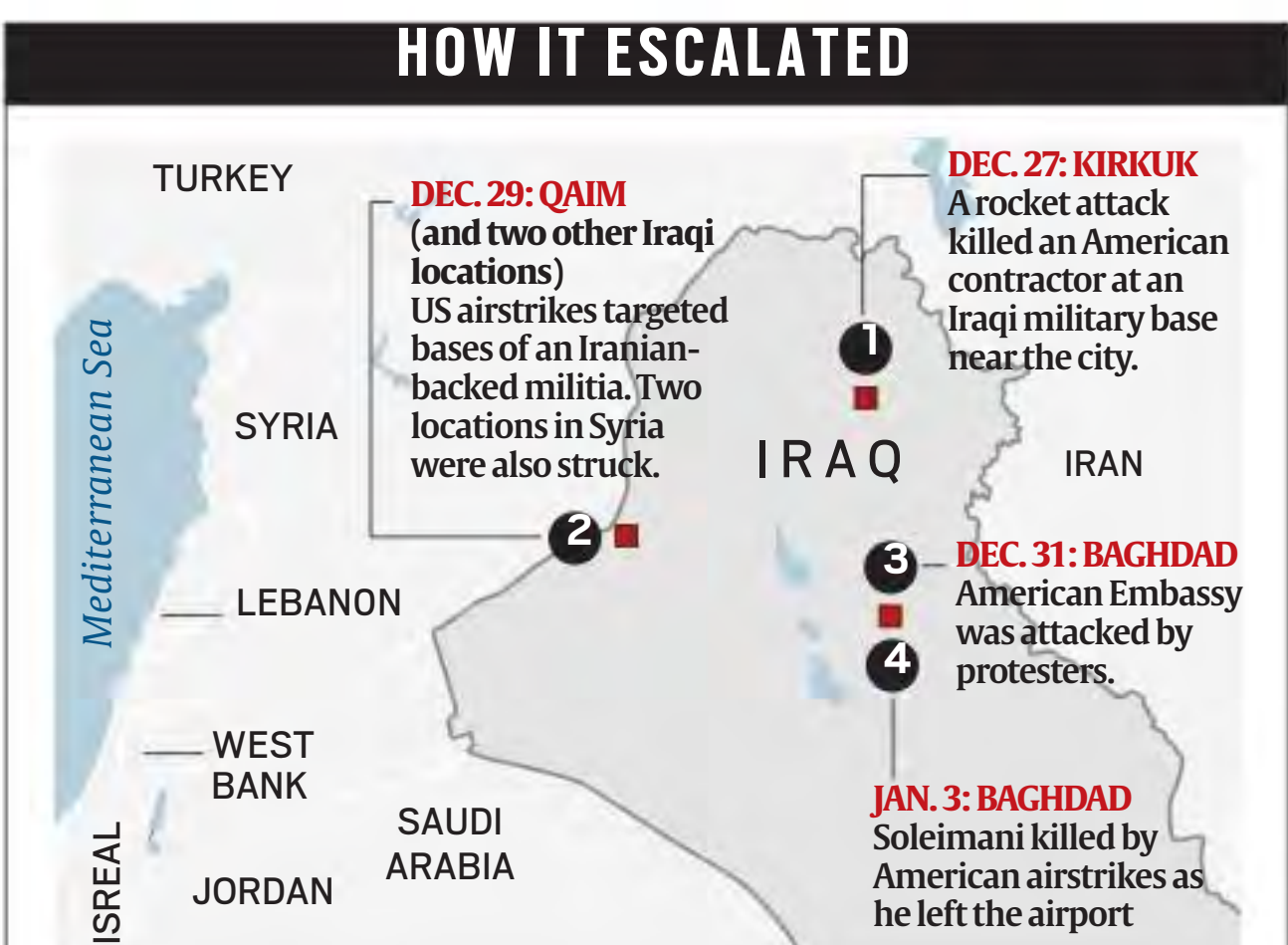
Because of his influence, observers have equated his killing with the killing of a United States Vice President. While he commanded respect in Iran, he was by most accounts a quiet man who usually stayed inconspicuous in public. However, there have been occasions when he has taken to bluster. One such occasion came last year, after US President Donald Trump tweeted: “To Iranian President (Hassan) Rouhani: NEVER, EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE.”

At a speech quoted by the USMA, Soleimani responded: “It is beneath the dignity of the President of the great Islamic country of Iran to respond, so I will respond, as a soldier of our great nation... Mr Trump, the gambler!... You are well aware of our power and capabilities in the region. You know how powerful we are in asymmetrical warfare. Come, we are waiting for you...”

An earlier display of his power came in 2008, in a text message to US General David Petraeus, then commanding the Multi-National Force in Iraq. According to *The Guardian*, Soleimani texted: “General Petraeus, you should know that I, Qassem Soleimani, control the policy for Iran with respect to Iraq, Lebanon, Gaza, and Afghanistan. And indeed, the ambassador in Baghdad is a Quds Force member. The individual who’s go-



Major General Qassem Soleimani (centre) in Tehran in 2016. AP



The killing of Qassem Soleimani was the culmination of a US offensive in Iran over the last one week. The flashpoints:

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27**  
**THE TRIGGER:** More than 30 rockets were launched at an Iraqi military base near Kirkuk, killing an American contractor and wounding four American and two Iraqi servicemen. United States officials blamed an Iranian-backed militia, Kataib Hezbollah, which denied responsibility.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**  
**AMERICAN AIRSTRIKES:** US responded to rocket launches with airstrikes on sites in Iraq and Syria. These killed 24 members of an Iranian-backed militia. Such militias represent a powerful faction in Iraq, controlling a large bloc in Parliament. As the Trump administration has imposed economic sanctions on Iran,

the militias have increasingly struck at American targets.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31**  
**EMBASSY SIEGE:** Pro-Iranian militia members marched on the US Embassy in Baghdad, effectively imprisoning American diplomats inside for more than 24 hours and burning the embassy’s reception area. President Donald Trump blamed Iran for orchestrating the protest.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 3**  
**SOLEIMANI KILLING:** American drone strike hit two cars carrying Soleimani and several officials with Iranian-backed militias as they were leaving the Baghdad International Airport.

Source: *The New York Times*

ing to replace him is a Quds Force member.”

How did he rise to this stature?

In a September 2013 article in *The New Yorker*, Dexter Filkins charted Soleimani’s life and career. Then 56, Soleimani lived in Tehran with his wife, and had three sons and two daughters; Filkins described him as “evidently a strict but loving father”.

In 1979, when Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini’s rebellion toppled the Shah in Iran, Soleimani, then 22, joined the Ayatollah’s Revolutionary Guard. During the Iran-Iraq War, Soleimani was sent to the front with the task of supplying water to soldiers, but ended up undertaking reconnaissance

missions, and earning a reputation for bravery and élan, Filkins wrote.

In 1998, Soleimani was made head of the Quds Force, which launched his rise to power.

What did the Quds Force do?

Khomeini had created the prototype in 1979, with the goal of protecting Iran and exporting the Islamic Revolution, Filkins wrote. In 1982, Revolutionary Guard officers were sent to Lebanon to help organise Shia militias in the civil war, which eventually led to the creation of Hezbollah. According to the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, the IRGC including the Quds Force has contributed roughly 125,000 men to Iran’s forces

# Maharashtra’s second farm loan waiver in 2 ½ years: what is different?

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS  
PUNE, JANUARY 3

LAST WEEK, the new Maharashtra government announced a loan waiver for farmers who had up to Rs 2 lakh in pending loans between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2019. Maharashtra thus became possibly the only state to have offered two consecutive farm loan waivers within two-and-a-half years of each other. The previous loan waiver was announced by the Devendra Fadnavis government in June 2017. A look at why this loan waiver was considered necessary, and how it is different from the earlier one:

The loans, the defaults

At the start of the cropping cycle, banks extend short term credits to farmers to finance their need of capital for purchase of seeds, fertilisers etc. Financial institutions usually provide this loan at 7 per cent interest. Timely repayments allows farmers to get a 3 per cent interest subvention from the central government and a further 2 per

cent subvention from the state government, thus effectively reducing the interest rate to just 1 per cent. This is envisioned to help farmers access credit at the right time and keep them away from the clutches of money lenders who lend at exorbitant rates.

However, a spate of extreme weather events, like droughts, floods, hailstorms etc, often results in farmers defaulting on their repayment. As of September 30, 2019 the outstanding crop loan in Maharashtra was Rs 1,08,781.90 crore. Defaulting farmers become ineligible for new capital from the banks and are forced to knock at the door of private money lenders.

To help the farm sector, state governments have time and again announced loan waiver schemes. Back in 2008-09, the then UPA government at the Centre had announced a loan waiver scheme for the entire country. States like Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh and others have announced similar schemes in the recent past.

The 2017 waiver

Faced with an unprecedented farmers’



A march by farmers from Thane to Mumbai in November 2018, demanding an unconditional loan waiver and compensation for drought. Archive

strike, the Fadnavis-led government had announced the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Shetkari Sanman Yojana in June 2017. Irrespective of the size of land holding, the scheme waived off outstanding crop loans

up to Rs 1.5 lakh per family. Farmers who made regular repayments got Rs 25,000 as incentive for good credit behaviour. The scheme waived off loans pending from April 1, 2012 to March 30, 2016. Later, this

was extended to include outstanding loans from 2001. Farmers whose outstanding was more than Rs 1.5 lakh were expected to deposit the additional amount to get the waiver. For example, for an outstanding of Rs 2 lakh, the farmer was to deposit Rs 50,000 in the loan account after which the government agreed to waive off Rs 1.5 lakh.

Government records show about 44 lakh farmers have benefited from the scheme so far, with loans worth Rs 18,600 crore having been waived.

The new scheme

Calling for a complete loan waiver, the Opposition Congress and NCP described the Fadnavis government’s scheme as a cruel joke on farmers. They promised a complete loan waiver in their election manifestos ahead of Assembly polls. Even the Shiv Sena talked about making farmers loan-free.

Last week, the new coalition government announced the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Shetkari Karja Mukti Yojana. State government sources said this scheme would see Rs 26,000 crore of outstanding loans of

over 36 lakh accounts being waived off.

The difference

Unlike the previous loan waiver, this latest scheme will see outstanding crop loan up to Rs 2 lakh, pending from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2019, being waived off. Farmers with more than Rs 2 lakh outstanding are not eligible for the scheme. Also, the scheme has no incentive for farmers who are regular in their repayments. Farmers’ activists have criticised these two provisions which they say defeats the purpose of loan waiver.

Thackeray and senior minister Jayant Patil have talked of extending the scheme later to cover farmers with more than Rs 2 lakh outstanding as well as for farmers who are regular with repayments.

A new provision in the present scheme is that families with more than one loan account are eligible for waiver in each one of their accounts. The last waiver was limited to one account per family. Also, this time farmers will not have to file online forms to avail their waivers. It had led to major confusion last time.



The Indian

EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## AFTER SOLEIMANI

Escalation of Iran-US conflict could put entire Gulf region at risk. And with it, the already fragile global economy

THE KILLING OF a top Iranian military commander, Major General Qassem Soleimani, by the US forces is breathtaking and forebodes the escalation of the US-Iran confrontation. As Washington and Tehran move from a proxy conflict to open confrontation, the entire Middle East is in danger of being consumed. Gen Soleimani was no ordinary soldier. He headed the much-feared Quds Force of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. He was the face of Iran's expanding regional strategic footprint. Soleimani was widely seen as the most consequential figure in Tehran's political hierarchy after the supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Soleimani's aggressive political and military tactics continuously challenged America's regional primacy. His hybrid warfare compensated for the weakness of Iran's conventional military forces. His successful intervention in the domestic politics of various countries in the Middle East — from Iraq and Syria to Yemen and Libya — made him a formidable opponent to the US and its regional allies.

President Donald Trump's successful targeting of Gen Soleimani has been compared to his predecessor Barack Obama's attack on Osama bin Laden in the summer of 2011. President Trump will surely expect a huge bounce in the approval ratings that could feed into his campaign to retain the White House in the elections later this year. But he will also have to contend with political consequences larger than those from Osama's killing. Unlike Osama, Gen Soleimani is a high-level functionary of an important state in the world. In a furious reaction, Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif warned that the US will bear "responsibility for all consequences" of its adventurism. There is no doubt that Tehran will respond at a place and time of its choosing. Having raised the ante in the confrontation with Iran, Trump has little room to back down. Unless something gives in either capital, there is no avoiding an intensified military confrontation between the two sides.

Ever since the Islamic revolution in Iran four decades ago, Washington and Iran have been daggers drawn. Occasional attempts at finding compromises have failed. But the unintended consequences of US policy in the region — the ousting of the Taliban from Afghanistan in 2001 and Saddam Hussein from Iraq in 2003 — generated huge space for the expansion of Tehran's regional influence. Iran has also successfully mobilised the support of Russia and China and has constructed a regional coalition with Turkey, Qatar and Syria against the US and its allies. Although the elimination of Soleimani and other militia leaders is a big setback, Iran is fully capable of widening and escalating the asymmetric war against America. This, in turn, puts the entire Gulf region, the world's largest supplier of hydrocarbons, at risk. And with it, the already fragile global economy. As a major importer of oil, India is especially vulnerable to the deepening crisis next door. Delhi will also be under pressure to take a fresh look at its regional policy that sought to overcome the multiple contradictions in the Gulf by trying to be friends with all. The sharpening conflict will certainly make India's navigation of the Gulf that much harder.

## HORROR IN KOTA

Deaths of children in government hospital must be a wake-up call, draw attention to state of public healthcare

AMID THE HORROR provoked by the deaths of 100 children in the month of December at the J K Lon Government Hospital in Kota, Rajasthan, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has sought to shift the blame on to his predecessor, Vasundhara Raje, insisting that the issue must not be politicised. But CM Gehlot has been in office for nearly a year and cannot avoid responsibility. In a sense, it is high time the issue is, in fact, politicised. Public health must be pushed to the top of the political agenda and citizens must hold political parties accountable for the state of healthcare in the country.

The hospital authorities have claimed that the high rate of mortality is because J K Lon, being the only public referral hospital for children in Kota division, receives a large number of critical cases from a vast area. But that is also good reason for the hospital authorities to have been alert to the evidently deteriorating conditions at the hospital. While in a report to the Kota Government Medical College, the Paediatrics Department of the hospital had claimed that most of the equipment is functional and none of the patients died due to lack of resources, the secretary, Medical Education Department, Rajasthan, has admitted to several problems, including improper maintenance of equipment and shortage of oxygen lines. The hospital has also reported a 30 per cent shortage of nursing staff. Anecdotal evidence has pointed to the callousness and insensitivity of the hospital staff to the concerns of the patients. Of course, this is a story likely to be heard in the wards of most public hospitals in the country. Unfortunately, until the number of deaths crosses a critical threshold, which varies from state to state, the poor state of infrastructure, or the absence of professionalism fail to attract the attention of the authorities. Lon came into the spotlight — like the Gorakhpur Medical College where scores of children died in 2017 — only after the media reported that 963 children had died in 2019. Government data on Lon reveals that on an average, 1,000 deaths have been reported annually since 2014.

Every single death in a hospital ought to be seen as a failure that needs to be addressed urgently. Governments need to make public health a priority. Better supervisory systems to fix accountability also need to be in place. The Kota tragedy must be a wake-up call.

## THE FIFTH DAY

It is essential to the romance of Test cricket, cannot be dispensed with without hurting the game

THE METAPHOR OF Test cricket as a dying patient was first heard when an Australian businessman brought bright colours and floodlights to cricket's landscape. The moaning of the old school fans grew louder after the advent of T20 cricket. It might get deafening in case the soon to be launched format — The Hundred — flourishes. Sure, Test cricket is not in the best of health. But the magic cure to the ailments afflicting it is not by compressing it to four days, an alternative the world body is seriously considering.

The suggested shift, its proponents argue, would free up space on the international calendar, bring greater certainty to boards and broadcasters, enliven the dull phases of the game and reduce players' workload. About 68 per cent of five-day games end in four or fewer days anyway. Yet, it is also true that everything in the game is planned with the fifth day in mind. There's also an undulating romance about the fifth day — a test of batsmen's nimble feet, icy veins and dexterous footwork on a subcontinental turner against a rampaging spinner, lower-order batsman braving the odds to force a draw, or the pitch suddenly cracking up, and slow-burning drama exploding to a nail-biting finish.

The arguments of calendar decongestion and workload reduction are but a myth, as it would only create space for more lucrative white-ball activities. There would be more financial windfall for the boards, but Test cricket should not be held hostage for their avarice. Also, longer days might not satisfy the stated goal of reducing workload for the players — rather, it could be just the opposite. It might be better to mercy-kill the dying patient instead of killing its very soul.

# Faiz and a dying pluralism



KHALED AHMED

First Pakistan, and now India, has failed the poet who belongs to both countries

WHAT HAPPENED IN India on the eve of 2020 is unbelievable even given India's decline into religion, especially for Pakistanis who have been suffering under Islamic extremism for decades. The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, has reportedly taken offence at Faiz Ahmad Faiz's famous poem "Hum Dekhenge" recited by students there protesting the Citizenship (Amendment) Act on campus in December. At Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi, too, a professor complained "that protesting students had made communal remarks at the event".

The verse that gave offence was: Abarz-e-Khuda ke Ka'abe se, sab buut uthwaae jaayenge / Hum ahl-e-safa mardood-e-haram, masnad pe bithaaye jaayenge / Sab taaj uchhale jaayenge, sab takht giraaye jaayenge/ Bas naam rahega Allah ka, hum dekhenge (From the abode of God, when the idols of falsehood will be removed/ When we, the faithful, who have been barred from sacred places, will be seated on a high pedestal/ When crowns will be tossed, when thrones will be brought down, only Allah's name will remain.)

The objection was to the word "buut" (idol) which was taken as a reference to Hindu "murti" and was therefore seen as a communal insult — and perhaps Allah. Back in Pakistan, everyone was surprised. Faiz was a deeply secular person, a recipient of the Lenin Peace Prize under the Soviet Union, and much maligned by Islamist Pakistanis under General Zia ul Haq, who were particularly peeved by Faiz's use of Islamic symbols to write his "protest poem" against an intolerant religious order. The title of the poem written against religion "hum dekchain gai" (we will see) was taken from the Quran. Only a savage will miss the irony.

General Zia is gone, killed suspiciously in an air crash, but his order endures through Islamic amendments of the legal codes. What is tragic is that some Pakistanis see their triumph in India's turning to religion: "See, we were right in announcing our belief in the two-nation theory that created Pakistan; now

Faiz was a deeply secular person, a recipient of the Lenin Peace Prize under the Soviet Union, and much maligned by Islamist Pakistanis under General Zia ul Haq, who were particularly peeved by Faiz's use of Islamic symbols to write his 'protest poem' against an intolerant religious order. The title of the poem written against religion 'hum dekchain gai' (we will see) was taken from the Quran. Only a savage will miss the irony.



P C MOHANAN

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SURVEY estimates and comparable data from administrative sources are not surprising. The survey data are believed to present a more realistic view, especially when it relates to access to public goods and services. Generally, the distrust is more on administrative data from implementing agencies. While the National Sample Surveys (NSS) are not meant to evaluate government programmes directly, its estimates, with a given margin of error, help in an independent assessment of outcomes. Impact assessments are, however, mostly done through specially designed studies.

In a recent article ('Between the lines of a survey', IE, December 4, 2019), the writers, one of them being the Chief Statistician of India, have claimed that surveys measuring the impact of government programmes have become less reliable. Several factors are stated to support this conclusion. These mostly deal with the tendency to conceal information. They claim that there is no incentive for people to correctly report their well-being in surveys; rather they perceive an incentive in concealing information on access to goods and services provided by the government.

The immediate cause for suspecting the genuineness of survey responses is the divergence in the estimates of households with access to toilets. The NSS survey pegged households reporting access to a toilet at 71.3 per cent. But when compared to claims of achieving complete access for all rural households or the estimates from the National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey, the NSS estimate falls short of official acceptability. The same sur-

## BIAS HERE AND THERE

*It exists in survey responses, but also in government's own telling*

vey found the percentage of urban homes with access to toilet at 96.2. The earlier NSS surveys showed very high figures for rural homes without access to toilets, though there were schemes for rural sanitation even then. The authors of the article claim that this was due to the schemes remaining mostly on paper unlike now when these are actually reaching the people. The fact remains that there has been a creditable reduction in households without access to latrine as per the latest survey, evidently due to the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). It is well known that cooperation from survey respondents has been dwindling. This writer was part of the NSSO for many years and had the opportunity to observe respondents from close quarters. In the early years of the NSSO, the villagers genuinely believed that these surveys were meant to inform the government of their living conditions and responded favourably to field investigators, often providing them accommodation and other assistance to conduct interviews. Experts agree that respondent cooperation cannot be taken as granted and it requires sustained efforts to cajole them to sit for interviews. Interviewing the head of the household is not always possible and data have to be gathered from other members. Non-government survey agencies have the flexibility to recruit local investigators and adopt innovative practices, which are not available to government agencies like the NSSO.

However, the temptation to attribute the divergence between government claims on toilet use and survey estimates to untruthful reporting by respondents to extract more benefits

India is taking that road". The theory didn't survive too long after 1947. Bangladesh found itself to be a nation separate from Pakistan, broke free and adopted a secular constitution and a wonderfully "inclusive" national anthem written by Rabindranath Tagore. Pakistan didn't survive its famous two-nation theory and broke up. Will India survive?

India is, in fact, not offended by Faiz's "communalism"; it is offended by Faiz's pluralist message in 2019. It started disliking his message some time back. In the fall of 2016, when the Jio MAMI 18th Mumbai Film Festival decided to ban the showing of the film *Jago Hua Savera*, written by Faiz Ahmad Faiz, and boasting a galaxy of Indian actors, including Padma Shri recipient Tripti Mitra of the Indian People's Theatre Association.

Then in 2018, Moneeza Hashmi, daughter of Faiz Ahmed Faiz and trustee of the Faiz Foundation Trust in Pakistan, was not allowed to attend the 15th Asia Media Summit held in New Delhi on May 10 even though she had been invited to speak at the event. Moneeza, once a TV producer, was to speak on "Should all good stories be commercially successful"; but when she arrived at her designated hotel in New Delhi she was told that no room was booked in her name as "no Pakistani was invited to the event". "No one was willing to register me for the summit despite being a guest speaker," she said as she left India.

India is walking away from the ethos that compelled it once to adopt Vande Mataram as its national song by deleting all its verses except the first two because they were deemed offensive to Muslims. Sadly, the polarisation is so glaring today that a Muslim Samajwadi Party MP Shafiqur Rahman Barq actually said this in Lok Sabha: "Vande Mataram is against Islam, we cannot follow it". His statement was met with chants of "Vande Mataram" and "Jai Shri Ram" by several leaders in Parliament.

This is a far cry from what Indians were before Partition. In 1918, a group of countries in Europe decided to defrock the Caliph of Islam. Since the caliph of Turkey was a caliph

of all Muslims, there was a reaction in British India. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who was to become a minister of India after Independence in 1947, called for agitation. The Khilafat Movement became the biggest movement of Muslims in history and was led by a Hindu remembered by all Indians today as Mahatma Gandhi, while the Muslim leaders Allama Iqbal and Jinnah stayed away. The movement was significant because Hindus participated in it. This unprecedented cooperation laid the foundation of the Jamia Millia Islamia University in Delhi, one of the functions of which was "to promote true Islamic and Indian values" among Muslims. The university remains one of the leading academic institutions in India. Gandhi gave its vice-chancellorship to poet Allama Iqbal which he declined.

Ali Hashmi, a grandson of Faiz, wrote an article after his mother's ouster from a conference in New Delhi, lamenting "the rise of bloodthirsty jingoism on both sides of the Indo-Pak border" and pointed out the obvious: Faiz belonged as much to India as he did to Pakistan. While he was born and raised near Sialkot in Pakistan, Faiz's first job out of college was in MAO College, Amritsar; he served in the British Indian Army in Delhi during World War II, got married in Srinagar and maintained a deep affection for the land that became India after 1947. Both his daughters were born in what is now India.

Ali Hashmi concludes: "While Faiz never proffered an opinion about Partition per se, his editorials in *The Pakistan Times* from 1947 make clear what he thought of the communal bloodshed. At one point, he wrote, 'The Muslims have got their Pakistan, the Hindus and Sikhs their divided Punjab and Bengal, but I have yet to meet a person, Muslim, Hindu or Sikh who feels enthusiastic about the future. I can't think of any country whose people felt so miserable on the eve of freedom and liberation.'"

*The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan*



## JANUARY 4, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

### POLL VIOLENCE

THREE PERSONS WERE killed and about 18 injured in a poll clash in Moradabad district. Polling in that centre was adjourned and a fresh date will be announced soon. All those killed and injured were believed to be Harijans supporting the Janata Party, the assailants armed with guns were alleged to be Jats supporting the Lok Dal. According to official information, the incident occurred at the Akoaipur Patti polling centre following a dispute over the eligibility of a Jat voter. Reportedly, the village had two localities, one inhabited by Harijans and the other by Jats and others. The polling centre was nearer to the basti of the Harijans who were the first

to form the queue in the morning. When one voter believed to be a Jat came to vote, his eligibility was questioned. There was an exchange of words leading to a scuffle.

### SOVIET INVASION

SOVIET INVADERS WERE reported to have crushed resistance and occupied Afghanistan's southern provincial capital of Kandahar and the eastern city of Jalalabad on Thursday, reports AP. Travellers from Kandahar, south-west of Kabul and 50 miles from the border with Pakistan's Balochistan province, told the Pakistani newspaper, Jasarat, that the Soviets occupied Kandahar city on Wednesday after two days of clashes

with Afghan government forces opposed to the Russians.

### US-CHINA ALLIANCE

US DEFENCE SECRETARY Harold Brown, who is visiting China this weekend, is expected among other things to discuss with Chinese leaders coordinated aid to Pakistan in the context of the Soviet move into Afghanistan. Brown's visit had been scheduled several months ago but a senior official said that Moscow's intervention in Afghanistan has given his mission "a new dimension". The official said: "The Soviets have forced us and the Chinese into a posture in which we both see the world in the same way."



# The new Indian Muslim

It is the ability to find a vocabulary — political, unapologetic and involving large numbers of women — that makes the current moment unique



SEEMA CHISHTI

ON THE STEPS of the Jama Masjid in Delhi in 1947, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad addressed Muslims, several of whom would be heading to Pakistan, about the futility of the exercise. In a memorable speech that wove vivid Islamic imagery with the place of Muslims in India's history, he thundered: "I do not want you to lead a life of sycophancy as you did during the foreign rule. I want to remind you that these bright etchings, which you see all around you, are relics of the processions of your forefathers. Do not forget them. Do not forsake them. Live like their worthy inheritors, and, rest assured, that if you do not wish to flee from this scene, nobody can make you flee. Come, today let us pledge that this country is ours, we belong to it and any fundamental decisions about its destiny will remain incomplete without our consent."

The journey from then onwards for "Muslims" in India has been a roller-coaster. It has been an examined and studied path, but perhaps not quite as much as it should have been. This is where the largest number of Muslims anywhere in the world live in a functioning democracy. Those who heeded the Maulana's call, and became Indians "not by chance but by choice", chose to live here, well before India signed up for "We, the people", or gave to itself a Constitution. Long before citizenship was delinked from who your prayed to. The year 1950 was to witness one of the most modern ideas of nationhood — well before all Blacks had the right to vote in the US, making India an older democracy. The first Indian mosque came up in Kodangullur in Kerala during the Prophet's lifetime. The Muslim presence here is as old as Islam. This is no refugee or atithi story, it is an insider's tale. The civilisational urn has Islam as much in the mix as any other faith. But it has been a journey which has had its hiccups, defined as much by the strain as the smoothness of the ride.

But the nationwide debate on India's streets in the aftermath of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which provides that undocumented non-Muslims from three South Asian countries fast-track their citizenship has broken something, somewhere — even if no one can immediately point to exactly what.

The protests have been described as demography finally bursting upon democracy. But there is clearly much more to it. The 1990s were marked by many tremors — Other Backward Classes asserted themselves visibly and political parties were forced to make changes that should have been made decades earlier. The silent revolution of Dalit assertion came a little later, and was also seen as Dalits finally coming into their own. With Muslims, however, the "vote-bank" slur was something that was almost internalised. The rising wave of Hindutva meant that Muslims were political, but happy to be seen voting "tactically" and even till recent months, not keen to be seen as acting politically and visibly.

The CAA, by introducing religion as a differentiator in the question of citizenship, has resulted in a dam bursting, and brought many people, but also Muslims as Muslims, on to the street. The "Save Constitution" question was an abstract and the heavy idea so far. But with the line having been drawn



CR Sasikumar

clearly, and as one that keeps Muslims out, it personalised the Constitution like nothing before has. It has everyone asking how documents and the burden of proving citizenship will impact each person. So far, despite economic and social deprivation, the Indian constitutional democracy ensured an equilibrium of political rights whereby a former PM proudly witnessed ex-US President George Bush speaking of "no member of the al Qaeda" being an Indian Muslim.

Operating under the ghost of MA Jinnah, the "leadership" of Indian Muslims has been an uneasy question. A series of communal riots in Jabalpur, Calcutta and Rourkela pushed Muslims to start worrying about life under the post-Nehru Congress. The Majlis-e-Mushawarat was initially set up in August 1964 under Syed Mahmud, a Bihari Muslim leader, educated in Cambridge, and a friend of Motilal Nehru. The Mushawarat's UP unit was headed by a firebrand medical doctor. Abdul Jaleel Faridi proposed a new strategy for Muslims, asking them to vote for "good candidates" and not look to parties for security. But the Muslim vote was thought to be best mediated through a well-heeled upper class Muslim leadership. The notion of individual Muslim votes being aggregated was nowhere on the scene.

In the unstable and violent 1980s, amidst the rise of the BJP on the back of the Ayodhya dispute, leaders of the Janata Party, the RJD, Congress, Samajwadi Party, Left and Trinamool, all at different times, had the confidence of Muslims and their support had been forceful. Narendra Modi's win with a full majority was a turning point. But the CAA, seen as a fundamental reshaping of the Republic, threatens every dimension of citizenship. Both legally and in terms of identity, the social and emotional stakes for Muslims are much higher than the dadhi-topi-'personal law' battle of the 1970s or even one for education-economic rights that emerged in the more modern debate around the Sachar Committee.

The idiom and turn of the phrase, the sharp and uninhibited articulation on hand-drawn posters that derives from Hindi cinema, the Urdu poetry from both India and Pakistan - what can be seen on the street now is decidedly young. It reflects a guilt-free generation, unencumbered by the burden of Partition, and one that feels solidly Indian enough to demand

The idiom and turn of phrase, the sharp and uninhibited articulation on hand-drawn posters that derives from Hindi cinema, the Urdu poetry from both India and Pakistan — what can be seen on the street now is decidedly young. It reflects a guilt-free generation, unencumbered by the burden of Partition, and one that feels solidly Indian enough to demand its due and make its case in Constitutional terms. It is a loud show of strength and cuts across classes. It is not shy to turn up fully kitted as "Muslim", while also being happy to collaborate and seek support from all others who for personal or political reasons oppose the CAA. Political parties have been late-comers to this party, the venues were already resonating with slogans and messages. The freshness and candour has taken even the combative and deft BJP by surprise.

It is the ability of the Muslim to find a vocabulary this time — political, assertive and involving a massive number of women — that makes the current moment unique. The Act is seen as an attack on the Indian Muslim identity but the response to is not being framed in "Muslim" terms or through religious intermediaries. The framing of this as a fundamental question of "who is Indian" has meant that people of different faiths and creeds have joined in naturally and been welcomed wholeheartedly. And this is why Bhim Army Chief Chandrashekhar Azad, now in police custody, on the steps of Jama Masjid, standing amidst a sea of young Muslims — no Shahi Imam in sight — holding a copy of the Constitution and Ambedkar is seminal to the movement.

With the protest being about the idea of India, the tricolour is the protesters' to hold and wave. It is still early days and it is not 1968 yet, nor even a full-blown civil rights movement. But what is clear is that it is new, fresh, young and anxious to land a punch with a sketch pen, chart paper and a rhyme. And what gave both, rhyme and reason, was poet Hussain Haidry's verse at Mumbai's Azad Maidan:

Sau mein 14 hun lekin, yeh 14 kam nahi padte hain/Poore sau mein basta hun mein poore sau mujh me baste hain/Sau Kalam se likhi kahaani meri/Main jitna musalmaan hun bhaji/Main utna Hindustani hun/Main Hindustani Musalman hun. (I am just 14 amongst 100, but no light-weight/I occupy the soul of the 100, and the 100 are imbued in me/ My story is written with a hundred pens, I am as much Muslim as a Hindustani/I am a Hindustani Muslim).

The unapologetic Hindustani Musalman is out of the box. Maulana Azad was right.

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## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"In 2020, China will let the US know its strategic good faith as well as the fact that China is not to be trifled with. The US should be aware it must respect China as a major power." — GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

## A long fight

Country must unite in the effort to eradicate tuberculosis by 2025



HARSH VARDHAN

AT THE End TB Summit, 2018, the prime minister of India made a bold commitment to end tuberculosis by 2025 — five years ahead of the global target. To many, this goal may seem unattainable, but as someone who has worked at the grass roots all his life and had the privilege to dream of a polio-free India — and work for it for almost two decades — I believe it is possible, if we come together as a country to fight TB the way we did for polio.

India still has the highest TB burden in the world and despite the disease being fully curable, people still die from it. TB usually affects people in their most productive years and drives families into debt. It has a direct link to human suffering, discrimination and also poverty. Due to its infectious spread, it directly affects our economic growth as well. But, with resilience, sufficient investment, innovative approaches and strategies and the participation of all stakeholders, TB can be defeated.

The first step is the creation of awareness and empowering of communities. TB affects millions, yet very few know enough about it. We need a multilingual, multi-stakeholder awareness effort to ensure that every single Indian knows about the challenges of TB and where to seek treatment. Today, with the expansion of the media, especially in regional languages, and evolving technology, we can reach everyone with the right information. This is the first step towards ensuring that people are empowered with the necessary information to identify and recognise TB symptoms, and seek diagnosis and treatment.

The second step is ensuring that we provide every Indian with access to correct diagnosis and treatment for TB, regardless of their ability to pay for it. This can only happen if we work with the private sector as we did in the case of polio. We need to go door to door, identify TB patients, and provide each of them care with compassion. Today, there are numerous innovative private sector programmes and partnership schemes for TB. These have been formulated keeping in mind the needs of the private sector and those of patients' right to choose where to seek treatment.

I invite and urge the private sector to partner with the government. Our recently launched programmes for doctors and labs offer them various incentives and our health personnel are keen to work with them at all levels. We have made our processes simpler; we will make them simpler still. Even today, about half a million TB cases go unnotified, especially those seeking care in the private sector. We must track these missing cases and ensure that those in need of care and treatment are able to access it. We are also working with the private sector through organisations like the Indian Medical Association and Indian

Academy of Paediatrics, to ensure patient-centric care as per "Standards of TB Care in India" (STCI). A key challenge is building a forward-looking plan to address and control drug resistance, a man-made menace that is a major roadblock in our fight against TB. Every TB patient must be tested for drug resistance at the first point of care, whether in the public or private sector, to rule out any drug resistance.

Sincere efforts are also being made to make our health systems more accessible and reliable. Our government wants to ensure that those seeking care trust us and get the appropriate care for completing treatment. We are striving to create more labs, point of care tests, an assured drug pipeline, access to new drugs and, most importantly, provide counselling and support for those affected.

Every patient who is diagnosed late and does not receive timely treatment continues to infect others. How do we break this cycle of transmission? The government machinery at the field level should work with communities and provide free diagnosis and treatment to every affected individual. We also need to look beyond treatment. Recognising that medicines are not enough, we launched the Nikshay Poshan Yojana — besides numerous other schemes — under which TB patients receive Rs 500 every month while on treatment to ensure that the patients have economic support and nutrition during the required period.

We need to come together as a country to fight the disease and end the stigma surrounding it, so that every patient can seek care that is free from discrimination and with dignity. The community must act as a source of support for the patient. This will only happen as we educate more and more people about the nature of the disease.

On September 25, 2019, the TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign' was launched to accelerate the efforts to end TB by 2025. By employing a "multi-sectoral and community-led" approach, we are building a national movement to end TB by 2025. We have accordingly increased resource allocation towards the TB Elimination Programme four-fold and are confident of achieving our targets. The government has established a strong network of diagnostic and treatment centres, and all drugs and diagnostic are provided free to all types of TB patients.

The campaign aims to initiate preventive and promotive health approaches, and proposes potentially transformative interventions such as engagement with the private sector healthcare providers, inter-ministerial partnerships, corporate sector engagement, latent TB infection management and community engagement.

As long as our people continue to die every year from this preventable and treatable disease, we are failing in our duties as citizens, doctors, administrators and public health professionals. We must join hands to ensure a TB-free India. Each one of us can make a difference.

The writer is minister of health & family welfare, science & technology and earth sciences, Government of India

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CITIZEN FIRST

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Why I protest as a Muslim' (IE, January 3). Indian democracy, and the "Idea of India" itself, are based on the pillars of plurality, equality and legality. The fact that past few years have been quite strenuous for a particular community can't be denied. Asserting identity, however, will only fuel the politics of identity and will further harm the plural fabric of our nation. We must instead think rationally and protest as citizens of India.

Larson Singla, Patiala

### FAIZ AND YOGI

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Who's afraid of a song?' (IE, January 3). The whole discussion about the poem can be summed up in three lines. *Hum dekhenge* is not just a poem, it's an Urdu poem. Faiz is not just a name, it's a Muslim name. He is not just a chief minister, he is a yogi

Safdar Ali, Kolkata

### BULLET TRAIN LOSES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Auto vs bullet train', (IE, January 3). The political sweet nothings between the government and the opposition in Maharashtra have been a refreshing departure from dull debates. After all, cutting rhetoric is the essence of parliamentary debates. But this round certainly goes to Uddhav Thackeray for some quick thinking. Indeed, an improvised, 'jugaad' type auto rickshaw sarkar can be more innovative and functional with its grip on ground reality rather than a high-flying, high-visibility bullet train which shoots off

### LETTER OF THE WEEK

#### IIMS EXCLUDE

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Exempt us from faculty quotas, IIMS tell govt' (IE, January 1). There is no research is available that shows that reservation is killing meritocracy. In fact, study on the Indian Railway shows that proportion of SC-ST employees in high-level positions is positively associated with a growth in productivity. Therefore, the exemption from reservation in appointing faculty by the IIMS is nothing more than an attempt to exclude Dalits, Adivasis and OBCs, and maintain the hegemony of a few communities.

Aditya Rao, via email

promisingly only to stop jerkily a little later, causing huge disappointment.

Sangeeta Kampani, Delhi

### LIMIT NRC

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'NRC's cost-benefit analysis' (IE, January 3). The article succinctly brings out the futility of the entire NRC exercise of NRC. Most of the illegal immigrants from Bangladesh will be confined to the states bordering Bangladesh. Therefore, if at all the NRC has to be prepared, it should be done only for such states.

Anoop Kumar Srivastava, Greater Noida



ANOOP ANTONY JOSEPH

## Shelter from the storm

Given their persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Christians should embrace CAA

IN LAJPAT Nagar, at the Afghan Church of Delhi, Sunday masses are held in Dari, a variety of Persian spoken in some parts of Afghanistan. This not-so-old church was set up by some hundreds of Christian refugees who fled the Islamic state facing persecution for years. Recalling the horrors back home, the pastor at the church says, "Life has changed positively after reaching India. Indian citizenship to us is God's justice."

Afghanistan has only one church now — inside the premises of the Italian embassy. The last Christian priest in Afghanistan was Father Giuseppe Moretti who had to return to his homeland after being injured in a bomb attack. Afghanistan built a church in 1970 as a reciprocal gesture to US President Dwight D Eisenhower for the Islamic centre in Washington. But it stood there only for three years before being razed to ground. Moretti says: "The roots of Zoroastrianism are in Afghanistan. For centuries, Buddhism also played a very important role. Nestorian Christianity was present, [and so were] Jewish communities. I believe this multiple religious presence left a profound respect for others' in the Afghan spirit. Today, however, one learns to live with the fear of bombs."

According to the 2009 report of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor of the US State Department, " [In

Afghanistan] There are approximately 4,900 Sikh and 1,100 Hindu believers, and more than 400 Baha'is. There is a small, hidden Christian community; estimates on its size range from 500 to 8,000. Non-Muslim minority groups continued to face incidents of discrimination and persecution." As peaceful co-existence with radical Islam is next to impossible, non-Muslims had to flee to nations like India. There are about 14,500 refugees from Afghanistan registered with the UNHCR in India as of July 1, 2018.

A Pakistani Christian woman, Asia Bibi, reached Canada this May after spending 10 years in a Pakistani prison. Framed by her colleagues in a case of blasphemy, she was sentenced to death by a Pakistani court. Pakistan's minister for minorities, Shahbaz Bhatti, and Punjab Governor Salmaan Taseer were both assassinated for advocating relief for her. A Muslim cleric announced a Rs 5 lakh reward for killing her. Only significant international pressure, including from the Pope, could save her. Asia's ordeal reflects the viewpoint of Khawaja Nazimuddin, the second prime minister of Pakistan who said: "I do not agree that religion is a private affair of the individual nor do I agree that in an Islamic state every citizen has identical rights, no matter what his caste, creed or faith be."

In July 2010, a Hindu youth drinking water

from a tap near a mosque led to the ethnic cleansing of about 400 Hindu families. A suicide attack targeting Christians celebrating Easter at Lahore in March 2016 left 70 dead and more than 340 wounded. Hundreds fled their homes in Faisalabad in 2005 as churches and Christian schools were set on fire by a mob. A list prepared by the US-based platform, Open Doors, reveals that the top 10 nations which inflict maximum persecution on non-Muslims were Islamic nations, except North Korea and Eritrea. Pakistan ranked 4.

Hundreds of persecuted non-Muslim minorities including Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians migrate to India from these neighbouring nations every year. The case of Christians is not different. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) recognises the role that each nation has to play in ensuring that all human beings are given a chance to live a life of dignity. India might be a non-signatory to the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees, but it has never shied away from granting asylum to those in need.

In his famous opening address at World Parliament of Religions, Swami Vivekananda said, "I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations of the earth." In the 12th century, India welcomed the Zoroastrian (Parsi) community facing perse-

cution by Iran's Qajar dynasty. So was the Baha'is, Jews lived in India for centuries, becoming part of its culture and ethos. The people of Tibet, under leadership of 14th Dalai Lama, were welcomed with open arms. The country has absorbed many who have been wronged into its syncretic culture.

Many ancient churches of Kerala acknowledge the support of Hindu rulers who facilitated their setting up. It is in this spirit that the CAA should be seen and understood. India is the only nation in South Asia that has a syncretic culture and can absorb all the persecuted minorities who have nowhere to go. Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh have followed the policy of state-led Islamisation, which has dehumanised people hailing from other communities.

With the CAA, India is performing its historical duty, one it has been fulfilling for centuries. The Act also echoes the spirit of the Indian Constitution. The voices that are raised today against CAA need to answer only one question: Has any exodus of Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Zoroastrians or Sikhs from India occurred due to persecution under BJP rule? If the answer is negative, let us embrace the CAA with open arms.

The writer is National Secretary of the BJP's youth wing





TURKEY

GHOSN USED OUR JETS ILLEGALLY: FIRM

A Turkish private jet operator said ex-Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn used two of its planes illegally in his escape from Japan, with an employee falsifying lease records to exclude his name from the documents. MNG Jet said it had filed a criminal complaint over the incident.

'HARSH RETALIATION IS WAITING,' SAYS KHAMENEI

Iran mourns, US sends more troops

Washington tells all US citizens to leave Iraq immediately

AGENCIES  
BAGHDAD, JANUARY 3

THE KILLING of General Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds Force, marks a major escalation in the stand-off between Washington and Iran, which has careened from one crisis to another since US President Donald Trump withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal and imposed crippling sanctions.

Iran vowed "harsh retaliation" for the US airstrike near Baghdad's airport that killed Soleimani, and the US announced Friday it was sending more troops to the region as tensions soared in the wake of the targeted killing.

The United States said it was sending nearly 3,000 more Army troops to the Middle East and urged American citizens to leave Iraq "immediately" following the early morning airstrike at Baghdad's international airport that Iran's state TV said killed Soleimani and nine others. The State Department said the embassy in Baghdad, which was attacked by Iran-backed militiamen and their supporters earlier this week, is closed and all consular services have been suspended.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned that "harsh retaliation is waiting" for the US after the airstrike, calling Soleimani the "international face of resistance." Khamenei declared three days of public mourning.

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets of Tehran to protest against American "crimes" after Soleimani's Friday. Chanting "Death to America" and holding up posters of the slain commander, the demonstrators filled streets for several blocks in central Tehran after Friday prayers.

Women and men, many of them elderly, took part in the procession, some holding up portraits of Khamenei.



Iranians attend Friday prayers, protesting against the assassination of Major General Qassem Soleimani, in Tehran. Reuters



Brig Gen Esmail Ghaani

SOLEIMANI DEPUTY TO LEAD QUDS FORCE

IRAN'S SUPREME leader appointed the deputy commander of the Quds Force, Brigadier General Esmail Ghaani, as the replacement for Qassem Soleimani, the former head of the elite force who was killed in a US airstrike, state media reported.

Israel defends US move, puts its military on alert

STEPHEN FARRELL & RAMI AYYUB  
JERUSALEM, JANUARY 3

ISRAEL'S PRIME Minister defended a US decision to launch an air strike on Friday that killed powerful Iranian commander Qassem Soleimani and the Israeli military was put on high alert, after Iran threatened revenge.

Senior defence officials in Israel, America's closest ally in the Middle East and Iran's top regional foe, also met to assess the situation after the killing of Quds Force chief Soleimani and an Iraqi militia commander in the strike.

"Just as Israel has the right of self-defence, the United States has exactly the same right," Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement.

"Qassem Soleimani is responsible for the death of American citizens and many other innocent people. He was planning more such attacks," he said, speaking at an airport in Greece before heading back to Israel after cutting short his trip.

Israel's Army Radio said the military was on a heightened alert. REUTERS

How US Drones Struck Baghdad Airport



■ A US MQ-9 Reaper drone strike hit two cars carrying Soleimani and several officials with Iranian-backed militias as they were leaving the Baghdad International Airport.

■ Tracking Soleimani's location at any given time had long been a priority for the American and Israeli spy services and militaries.

■ The attack drew upon a combination of classified info from informants, electronic intercepts, reconnaissance aircraft and other surveillance.

■ The strike killed five people, including the pro-Iranian chief of an umbrella group for Iraqi militias, Iraqi television reported and militia officials confirmed. Source: NYT

Drone strike divides US Congress along party lines

CATIE EDMONDSON  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 3

THE KILLING of the powerful commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard, Maj Gen Qassem Soleimani, in a drone strike ordered by US President Donald Trump on Friday sharply divided congressional leaders along party lines and reignited a debate over whether Congress should curtail the president's war powers.

"This particular scenario is one that I've thought about for many years and it is one that could very well lead to the type of violence and chaos that we've been so desperately trying to keep ourselves out of," said Democratic lawmaker Andy Kim, "The coming hours and days will be very important."

The strike, according to

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, was carried out "without the consultation of Congress". "...We cannot put the lives of American service members, diplomats and others further at risk by engaging in provocative and disproportionate actions," Pelosi said.

Republican lawmakers praised the President for the strike, saying that Trump had brought justice to scores of American military families. US officials considered Soleimani, the commander of the Revolutionary Guards' elite Quds Force, responsible for the deaths of hundreds of US soldiers during the Iraq War and hostile Iranian activities throughout West Asia. "His death presents an opportunity for Iraq to determine its own future free from Iranian control," said Senator Jim Risch, chairman of Foreign Relations Committee. NYT

He travelled with impunity, till drones found him

ERIC SCHMITT, HELENE COOPER & THOMAS GIBBONS-NEFF  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 3

ONE NIGHT in January of 2007, American Special Operations commandos tracked a notorious adversary driving in a convoy from Iran into northern Iraq: Major General Qassem Soleimani, Iran's top security and intelligence commander.

But the Americans held their fire, and Soleimani slipped away into the darkness.

"To avoid a firefight, and the contentious politics that would follow, I decided that we should monitor the caravan, not strike immediately," General Stanley A McChrystal, head of the Joint Special Operations Command, recalled in an article last year.

But early Friday, a US MQ-9 Reaper drone from McChrystal's



Trump's decision to kill Soleimani was one that Presidents George W Bush and Barack Obama had rejected.

former command — operating under President Donald Trump's orders — fired missiles into a convoy carrying Soleimani as it was leaving Baghdad's international airport.

Tracking Soleimani's location had long been a priority for the American and Israeli spy services and militaries, especially when he was in Iraq.

Soleimani often travelled with an air of impunity, as if he felt he was untouchable, officials said. One former senior American commander recalled parking his military jet next to Soleimani's plane at the Irbil airport in northern Iraq.

Current and former US commanders and intelligence officials said that Friday morning's

attack drew specifically upon a combination of information from secret informants, electronic intercepts, reconnaissance aircraft and other surveillance tools.

The highly classified mission to locate and strike Soleimani was set in motion after the death of an American contractor on Dec 27, according to senior US officials. The military's Special Operations Command spent the next several days looking for an opportunity to strike. An option provided, and eventually approved, was dependent on Soleimani's arrival at Baghdad International Airport. If he was met by Iraqi officials, one American official said, the strike would be called off. But, the official said, it was a "clean party," and the strike was approved.

Trump's decision to kill Soleimani was one that Presidents George W Bush and Barack Obama had rejected, fearing it would lead to war. NYT



Australia PM Scott Morrison at a farm destroyed by fire in Sarsfield, Victoria, Friday. Reuters

Australian PM calls off his visit to India over bushfire crisis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

AUSTRALIAN PRIME Minister Scott Morrison on Friday called off his four-day visit to India from January 13 due to devastating bushfires in several parts of his country, sources said on Friday.

Morrison was scheduled to hold extensive bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the visit. The Australian PM was also scheduled to deliver the inaugural address at the Raisina Dialogue, the flagship annual lecture series organised by the Ministry of External Affairs. Morrison was also slated to visit Mumbai and Bengaluru.

Meanwhile, Modi had a telephone conversation with Morrison on Friday. "Prime Minister Modi conveyed his heartfelt condolences on behalf

of all Indians and on his own behalf on the damage to life and property in Australia due to severe and prolonged bushfires. He also offered India's unstinted support to Australia and the Australian people, who are bravely facing this unprecedented natural calamity," MEA statement said.

Massive fires ripped through swathes of the Australia's southeast on New Year's Eve, killing at least 20 people and stranding holidaymakers as seaside towns were ringed by flames.

Australian authorities on Thursday declared a state of emergency and forced evacuation of residents, tourists and closure of roads in the bushfire zones in the states of New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria ahead of Saturday's forecast of "horrible" fire conditions due to the intensified heat wave.

—WITH PTI INPUTS

Pak govt, Oppn reach agreement over Army chief's term extension

SAJJAD HUSSAIN  
ISLAMABAD, JANUARY 3

THE RULING Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government and Opposition parties have reached a rare agreement over the proposed amendments to the Army Act to fix the tenure and extension of service of Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, a media report said on Friday.

Prime Minister Imran Khan had extended 59-year-old Gen Bajwa's tenure through a notification on August 19. However, the Supreme Court in November suspended the government order, citing irregularities in the manner the army chief, a close confidant of Khan, was granted an extension.

On Wednesday, at an emergency meeting of the Cabinet, presided over by Khan, approved amendments to the Army Act, nearly four weeks after it assured the Supreme Court of passing a legislation on the extension and reappointment of an Army chief

The rare consensus was reached on Thursday, a day before tabling the Bill in Parliament to give a 3-year extension to the Army chief

within six months.

A rare consensus was reached on Thursday, a day before tabling the Bill in Parliament to give a three-year extension to Chief of the Army Staff General Bajwa, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The legislation, titled Pakistan Army (Amendment) Act 2020, will fix 64 years as the maximum age limit of the three services chiefs and the chairman of the joint chief of staff committee, with the PM having the prerogative to give extension to any of them in future after completion of their normal tenure at the age of 60 years and the President having the power to give the final nod. PTI

HONOUR KILLING CASE

Saudis hand over Qandeel Baloch's brother to Pak

SAJJAD HUSSAIN  
ISLAMABAD, JANUARY 3

SAUDI ARABIA has handed over social media celebrity Qandeel Baloch's brother, an absconding suspect in her gruesome murder, to Pakistan, days after he was arrested in the Gulf kingdom, according to a media report.

Fouzia Azeem, better known as Qandeel, was strangled to death by her brother Waseem Khan at her home in Multan in the Punjab province on July 15, 2016, in a chilling murder that sent shock waves across Pakistan, triggering an outpouring of grief on social media and igniting fierce debate over the prevalence of "ho-

nour killings" of women.

Waseem had confessed to the murder of his 26-year-old sister and said she had brought "disrepute" to the "family's honour" with her posted videos and statements posted on social media.

Interpol's cell in Saudi Arabia arrested Muzaffar Iqbal, brother and suspect in Qandeel's murder, on Wednesday.

The arrest was made on the Pakistani government's 2016 request to Saudi Arabia as Iqbal was residing in the country at the time. Iqbal has been accused of aiding and abetting in Qandeel's murder, the report said.

Following Qandeel's murder, her father Muhammad Azeem Baloch had lodged a murder case against his son, alleged accomplice Haq Nawaz and others. PTI

EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL RULING

Ethical veganism is a belief protected by law: UK judge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON, JANUARY 3

A BRITISH judge ruled Friday that ethical veganism is a philosophical belief and is protected under anti-discrimination laws.

The ruling came as part of an employment tribunal being heard in Norwich, eastern England, between Jordi Casamitjana and his former employers the League Against Cruel Sports, a group that campaigns against blood sports such as recreational hunting.

The decision "will influence the life of many vegans", said Casamitjana, who declined to discuss the rest of the ongoing case for legal reasons.

Judge Robin Postle determined that ethical veganism meets the tests required to be a philosophical belief and is therefore protected under the Equality Act 2010.

Ethical vegans follow a vegan diet but also exclude animal-derived products such as wool and leather from their daily lives.

They also try to abstain from using items such as cosmetics that underwent animal testing.

Spanish-born Casamitjana, 55, says he was fired from an animal welfare charity for raising concerns about its pension fund's alleged investment in companies that use animal testing.

He claims he was unfairly disciplined for making this dis-



Ethical vegans follow a vegan diet but also exclude animal-derived products such as wool and leather from their lives

closure and that his dismissal by the League Against Cruel Sports was due to his vegan beliefs.

The league says he was dismissed for gross misconduct.

Following Friday's decision, the tribunal will go on to determine whether the League Against Cruel Sports treated Casamitjana less favourably due to his belief in ethical veganism.

"I was successful because of the weight of the evidence. It's so obvious that veganism is a philosophical belief," said Casamitjana.

He said the judge's decision would help promote veganism.

"Vegans that might be afraid about talking about their belief, that might be feeling that they are not welcome, they will feel

empowered now," he told reporters.

"They will be more expressive in manifesting that veganism. That expression will create more vegans and more vegans will help more animals, the environment, health. It will be a domino effect."

Britain's 2010 Equality Act says a "philosophical belief" must be genuine "and not an opinion or viewpoint based on the present state of information available".

To be protected under the act, a belief must meet certain tests, including being worthy of respect in a democratic society, not being incompatible with human dignity and not conflicting with the fundamental rights of others.



GOLD

₹40,652

RUPEE

₹71.80

OIL

\$65.99

SILVER

₹48,870

\*Indian basket as on January 2, 2020

\*International market data till 1900 IST

CURRENCY FALLS 42 PAISE AGAINST DOLLAR, AT ONE-AND-A-HALF MONTH LOW

Rupee takes a hammering as crude prices surge after airstrike by US

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THE RUPEE on Friday plunged 42 paise to settle at a one-and-a-half-month low of 71.80 against the US dollar while the BSE Sensex ended 162 points down as crude oil prices shot up after the US ordered the killing of a top Iranian general. Intra-day, Brent crude surged 4.5 per cent to \$69.23 per barrel and WTI increased 4.1 per cent to \$63.71 per barrel, after worries over an escalation in tension hit the sentiment.

“The rupee extended losses yet again on the back of US-Iran tensions. The spike in crude prices is making importers buy the US dollar to hedge net outflows for crude buying. If crude prices go up further, the rupee will take a hit. If the US-Iran tension escalates, it will be bad news for global markets and currencies,” dealers said.

EXPLAINED  
E. Stock, currency markets to be impacted

THE RUPEE extended losses yet again on the back of US-Iran tensions. The spike in crude is making importers buy the US dollar to hedge net outflows for crude buying. If crude prices rise more, the rupee will take a hit. If the US-Iran tension escalates, it will be bad news for global markets and currencies.

However, near-term outlook of the rupee depends upon the outcome of the trade talks between the US and China.

After dropping over 286 points intra-day, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 162.03 points, or 0.39 per cent, lower at 41,464.61. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty closed 55.55 points, or 0.45 per cent, down at 12,226.65.

General Qassem Soleimani,

head of Iran’s elite Quds force and architect of its regional security apparatus, was killed following a US airstrike at Baghdad’s international airport in Iraq Friday. The strike also killed the deputy chief of Iraq’s powerful Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary force. The

Pentagon confirmed the death of Soleimani, 62, in Iraq, saying the strike was carried out at the direction of President Donald Trump.

Besides US-Iran tensions, weak domestic equity market also weighed on the rupee. Safe-haven assets like gold and the Japanese yen strengthened as investors assessed the risk dynamics. Traders said that the near-term outlook of the rupee depends upon the outcome of the trade talks between the United States and China.

“As US continues to interfere in the Hong Kong issue, there are concerns whether the deal will happen or not. If the trade talks fail, then the US will go ahead with tariffs on Chinese goods from 15th December,” said Rushabh Maru, research analyst—currency and commodity, Anand Rathis Shares and Stock Brokers.

Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services, said, “Investors turned cautious as ten-

sions emerged in the Middle East. Crude oil prices rose while strong dollar held IT & pharma stocks higher. With the market testing new highs, emergence of geopolitical tensions could force people to book some profits. Crude prices could turn volatile due to risk of possible retaliation from Iran which could impact the performance in the short-term.”

Sectorally, power, auto, bankex, finance, metal, utilities and basic materials indices skidded up to 1.20 per cent, while IT, tech and healthcare rose up to 1.52 per cent. The broader BSE Midcap index settled 0.45 per cent lower, while the smallcap gauge closed in the green. Asian Paints was the top loser in the Sensex pack, dropping 2.16 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, Bajaj Auto, SBI, NTPC and Bajaj Finance. On the other hand, Sun Pharma, TCS, HCL Tech, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and Bharti Airtel rose up to 2.08 per cent.

Fresh concerns for basmati exporters awaiting Iran dues

HARISH DAMODARAN  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

A MAJOR hit to India from the uncertainty triggered by the assassination of Iran’s most powerful military commander could be to its multi-billion dollar basmati rice export industry. The Islamic republic accounted for \$1.56 billion (Rs 10,790.02 crore) out of India’s total \$4.71 billion (Rs 32,804.30 crore) worth of basmati shipments in 2018-19.

“We have already been facing payment problems from Iran due to the US financial sanctions on account of the latter’s nuclear programme. This news (the killing of General Qassem Soleimani by a US airstrike) may make things worse,” industry sources told *The Indian Express*.

Rice exporters alone are said to be stuck with receivables of Rs 800-900 crore against shipments made till June 2019. “The outstanding dues had crossed Rs 1,300 crore at one point. They settled some payments, but we don’t know how things will pan out from here,” the sources noted.

The Islamic republic accounted for \$1.56 billion (₹10,790.02 crore) out of India’s total \$4.71 billion (₹32,804.30 crore) worth of basmati shipments in 2018-19

The two nations have been carrying out trade through a special payment mechanism, under which Indian refiners make payments for import of crude from Iran into a rupee account with UCO Bank. This money is, in turn, used by Iran to import various commodities from India. Apart from basmati rice, India also exported tea worth \$153.68 million (Rs 1,081.63 crore) to Iran in FY19. The latter has also become a major buyer of Indian soyabean meal — the volumes went up from a 22,910 tonnes in 2017-18 to 508,050 tonnes in 2018-19. Sugar mills, too, are looking at Iran as a potentially large buyer. But this trade has suffered in

recent months partly due to India stopping import of oil from Iran since May, following expiry of waivers from sanctions against Tehran granted by the US. “The barter deal mechanism worked well till they (Iran) had something to export to us — whether crude or urea — which would ensure sufficient balances in the UCO Bank account. Those balances started depleting once we stopped buying crude,” the sources pointed out.

Iran stopped buying Indian rice after June and started issuing fresh permits to importers only after November 22.

“We would have been able to export rice from the new crop (harvested after October) against these licences. But given the payment uncertainties, compounded by the latest developments, it is going to be difficult,” the sources admitted.

In 2019-20 (April-November), India has exported 23.64 lakh tonnes (lt) of basmati rice valued at \$2.53 billion (Rs 17,723.11 crore), with Iran’s share in this at 5.91 lt and \$643.18 million (Rs 4,489.64 crore), respectively.

SECTOR WATCH  
HEALTH INSURANCE

Irdai’s proposed Arogya Sanjeevani Policy offers life-long cover, no exit age

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THE INSURANCE and Regulatory Authority of India (Irdai) has stipulated a unique provision of ‘life-long renewability’ with no exit age for its new health insurance scheme, Arogya Sanjeevani Policy. In other words, a person can avail of this health insurance policy till death, a provision that will benefit old and ailing persons. Currently, insurers offer health insurance up to 75-80 or 90 years in select cases.

Irdai said general and health insurers should offer this product from April 1, 2020 onwards and don’t need any pre-approvals of the regulator. While Irdai has fixed the minimum entry age as 18 and maximum as 65 years, the policy has no exit age and has provision for lifelong renewability. This means if a person joins the scheme at the age of 65, he/she can use the policy till his death, provided renewals are done every year.

Dependents will be covered from the age of three months to 25 years subject to the definition of ‘Family’. If the dependent is above 18 years of age and financially independent, he/she would be ineligible for coverage in the subsequent renewals.

The regulator on Thursday issued guidelines on mandatory standard individual health insurance, asking general and health insurers to offer product that can take care of basic health needs of customers with maximum sum insured of Rs 5 lakh and a minimum of Rs 1 lakh. The standard product should have the basic mandatory covers, no add-ons or optional covers are allowed to be offered along with the standard product, and the insurer may determine the price keeping in view the covers proposed to be offered subject to complying with Irdai guidelines.

Meanwhile, Irdai has provided greater clarity on the definitions of ‘portability’ and ‘migration’ under the proposed Arogya Sanjeevani Policy, enabling customers to port and migrate from an insurer rather easily. It has clarified that ‘migration’ means the right accorded to health insurance policyholders (including all members under family cover and members of group health insurance policy) to transfer the credit gained for pre-existing conditions and time bound exclusions, with

TO BE ON OFFER FROM APRIL 1

■ General and health insurers should offer this product from April 1 onwards and need no pre-approvals of Irdai

■ Minimum entry age fixed at 18 and maximum at 65 years

the same insurer.

Similarly, ‘portability’ means the right accorded to individual health insurance policyholders (including all members under family cover) to transfer the credit gained for pre-existing conditions and time bound exclusions, from one insurer to another insurer.

For individual policies, if the policyholder is continuously covered in the previous policy without any break for a period of four years or more, migration will be allowed without subjecting the policyholder to any underwriting to the extent of the sum insured and the benefits available in the previous policy. Migration from group policies to individual policy will be subject to underwriting. Where underwriting is done, the insurance company will convey its decision to the policyholder within 15 days, Irdai said.

Individual members, including the family members covered under an indemnity based group health insurance policy will have the right to migrate from such a group policy to an individual health insurance policy or a family floater policy, and thereafter portability will be allowed.

“These guidelines list down the norms related to migration under health insurance policy as the norms for portability have been set previously. It provides clarity on how one can migrate from group policy to an individual health insurance policy, underwriting guidelines for insurer and waiting period applicable,” said Gurdeep Singh Batra, head—retail underwriting, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.

Insurers expect competitive pricing as the standards are uniform. “As the guideline also states individual insurers can set their pricing and underwriting norms, customers can look forward to competitive offering from the industry,” said Anand Roy, MD, Star Health and Allied Insurance.

Markets jittery as US airstrike kills Iranian general

Oil rose over \$2 a barrel and gold and other safe-haven assets jumped Friday, as the US killing of a top Iranian commander in an air strike in Iraq ratcheted up tensions

TRADERS WERE CLEARLY SPOOKED

■ Europe’s stock markets fell 0.5 per cent in early trading as hopes for a lengthy New Year rally vanished. Safe havens gained, with Japan’s yen rising half a per cent to the dollar to a two-month high and the Swiss franc hitting its highest against the euro since September

■ The Middle East-focused oil markets saw the most dramatic moves. Brent crude futures jumped nearly \$3 to \$69.16 a barrel before easing back to \$68.42



A currency trader at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, Friday. Asian stocks were mixed Friday. AP

PAST HISTORY

In September, US officials blamed Iran for a missile and drone attack on oil installations of Saudi Aramco, the Saudi state energy giant and world’s largest oil exporter

SCRAMBLE TO SAFETY

German Bunds and US Treasuries were caught a bid. 10-year German yields fell further away from seven-month highs touched earlier in the week. US 10-year yields fell 5 bps to a three-week low

Now, Ratan Tata, trustees move SC against NCLAT judgment on Mistry

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

AFTER TATA Sons, Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Group, has moved Supreme Court in his personal capacity, challenging the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal’s (NCLAT’s) decision to reinstate Cyrus Pallonji Mistry as the chairman of Tata Sons.

Other than Tata, Tata Consultancy Services and Tata Tele Services also moved the apex court, challenging certain portions of the judgment. Venu Srinivasan, chairman of TVS Group and an independent director on the Tata Sons board, also moved a petition in the SC in his capacity as the trustee of Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and Sir Ratan Tata Trust. Other trustees of both

the trusts also moved the court via the same petition

In his plea to the SC, Ratan Tata said the NCLAT’s treatment of Tata Sons as a “two-group company” in its December 18 judgment was wrong in its premise as the Shapoorji Pallonji Group was always an investor and that there had “never been any relationship akin to a partnership”.

The Pallonji group, Tata said in his plea, has always been a financial investor in Tata Sons, and just because there was comity and mutual relationship, it did not indicate the existence of any partnership. The petition by Tata comes a day after Tata Sons moved the SC challenging the NCLAT judgment.

The former executive chairman of Tata Group, in his plea, added Mistry’s removal was not sudden as the relationship be-

tween the two had become “discordant” in the months leading up to the latter’s ouster.

“It was strongly felt by the Tata Trusts that he (Mistry) could not provide robust leadership to Tata Sons in future. Amongst the various fronts where Mistry’s leadership was lacking was his reluctance to timely and meaningfully disassociate himself from his family business after he became the Chairman of Tata Sons and address any conflict in this regard, which was a condition precedent to his appointment as Chairman of Tata Sons,” the plea read.

Meanwhile, the NCLAT Friday said it would pronounce its order on Monday on a plea moved by Registrar of Companies seeking some changes to its judgment reinstating Mistry to the top position at Tata Sons.

OYO AIMS TO BE WORLD’S BIGGEST HOTEL CHAIN, BUT GROWTH FUELED BY QUESTIONABLE PRACTICES, EMPLOYEES SAY

At SoftBank’s jewel OYO: ‘Toxic’ culture and troubling incidents

VINDUGOEL & KARANDEEP SINGH  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

OYO, A start-up that offers budget hotel rooms, has grown into one of India’s most valuable private companies and aims to be the world’s largest hotel chain by 2023.

But at least part of OYO’s rise in India was built on practices that raise questions about the health of its business, according to financial filings, court documents and interviews with 20 current and former employees, as well as others familiar with the start-up’s operations. Many spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation from the company.

OYO offers rooms from unavailable hotels, such as those that have left its service, according to the company’s chief executive and

‘UNLICENSED HOTELS AND GUEST HOUSES’

■ Thousands of the rooms are from unlicensed hotels and guest houses, its executives have acknowledged

■ To deter trouble from the authorities over the illegal

rooms, OYO sometimes gives free lodging to the police and other officials, according to nine of the current and former employees and internal WhatsApp messages viewed by *The New York Times*

nine of the current and former staff. Thousands of the rooms are from unlicensed hotels and guest houses, its executives have acknowledged. To deter trouble from the authorities over the illegal rooms, OYO sometimes gives free lodging to the police and other officials, according to nine of the current and former employees and internal WhatsApp messages viewed by *The New York Times*.

OYO has also imposed extra fees on hotels and declined to pay the hotels the full amounts they claimed they were owed, according to interviews with hotel owners and employees, emails, legal complaints and other documents reviewed by *The Times*. “It’s a bubble that will burst,” said Saurabh Mukhopadhyay, a former OYO operations manager in northern India who left the company in

September.

OYO is part of a group of prominent start-ups that have sprinted to get as big as possible, fed by money from large investors such as the Japanese conglomerate SoftBank. Now some of those young companies — from the office rental company WeWork in New York to the delivery service Instacart in San Francisco — have started showing cracks in their businesses.

Any fall by OYO could blight India’s start-up landscape, which has received billions in foreign capital in recent years, spawning other multibillion-dollar companies such as the ride-hailing firm Ola and the digital payments provider Paytm.

It would also be another black eye for SoftBank, which is OYO’s biggest investor and owns half the start-up’s stock. SoftBank declined

to comment.

Ritesh Agarwal, OYO’s chief executive, acknowledged in a recent interview that some of his company’s room listings included hotels that it no longer worked with. He said OYO left those listings up and marked them as “sold out” as it tried to woo the hotels back.

Aditya Ghosh, OYO’s head of India operations, also said in an interview that many hotels lacked required licenses, leaving them vulnerable to the occasional government raid. He denied that OYO gave free rooms to officials.

Mr. Ghosh dismissed what he called “noise” from hotels about extra fees and nonpayment of bills. “The disagreement is about the penalties we charge on customer service failure,” he said.

At the same time, Sequoia Capital and Lightspeed Venture Partners, reduced their holdings.

The venture capital firms, which both hold board seats at OYO, sold \$1.5 billion of their stock — about half their stakes — to Mr. Agarwal. He borrowed money to buy the shares and paid the venture firms a price that valued OYO at \$10 billion. Lightspeed and Sequoia declined to comment.

In a police complaint filed in November, Betz Fernandez, owner of the Roxel Inn in Bangalore, said OYO owed him \$49,000 and acted with “intention to cheat and cause wrongful loss” by charging him for nonexistent guests and refusing to pay the contracted minimum monthly payment. OYO said the dispute was in arbitration.

OYO’s oversight of its workers was also sometimes so lax that employees brazenly stole from it, said four people who were involved in the start-up’s fraud-fighting efforts. **NYT**

‘FARM LOAN WAIVERS INEFFICIENT’

■ Speaking at an event with Esther Duflo, co-winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics 2019, Banerjee said farm loan waivers are inefficient measures of addressing distress

■ He further said that remedial measures should focus on larger group of affected people



Express file photo

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THE GOVERNMENT, in the upcoming Budget, should look at more demand-side measures such as putting more money in the hands of poorer people, rather than going for any more reduction in the corporate tax rate, Nobel Laureate Abhijit Banerjee said on Friday.

He also said farm loan waivers are inefficient measures of addressing distress, and the remedial measures should focus on the larger group of affected people than only focusing on those who have taken loans.

Banerjee was of the view that corporates are already sitting on cash, not investing because of lack of demand and that’s why the government needs to resolve the demand-side issues first.

“I would say that first no more cuts in corporate taxes ... the corporate sector is sitting on cash, it is not investing. Why is it not investing? Because every sign of demand problem is there. Basically, if you talk to a lot of people in corporate sector, they say right now there is no market for them to sell. I think you have to get the demand side going. For that, you need to get money in the hands of people who will spend it now, people who need the money. Get the money in the hands of poorer people,” Banerjee said when asked about his expectations for the upcoming Budget for 2020-21.

He was speaking at an event here, along with Esther Duflo, his wife and co-winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics 2019.

When asked about the results of their studies on people’s spending when they are given cash, Banerjee said, “Our studies showed that if you give cash to people, they spend it. We don’t give cash to billionaires to check whether they spend it or not.”

Commenting on the issue of farm loan waivers, Banerjee said such instruments are unfair and inefficient. “We actually have a very underdeveloped machinery for providing support to people in distress ... what we do instead (is) these instruments like farm loan waivers, which are unfair and really inefficient.”

Banerjee further said deficient monsoons impact many people and there is “need to focus on more efficient machinery so that all people can be compensated, not only those who take loans”.

On the ongoing protests over the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens, Banerjee said there could be abuse of power if decisions are restricted in the hands of few, and gave an example of how an

official will get to decide whether one is a citizen or a doubtful case.

“I don’t think I’m the specialist. What is my experience from field work is that when you have somebody with enormous amount of power, that (person) would decide whether or not you will be on this list or that list. He has a lot of power. And so if he is going to say, ‘look, I am not sure that you’re a proper citizen’. Forget about religion ... many things could be worried about. I am saying just prima facie if I would be somebody living in a border district, I would be petrified by that thought. And just the fact that somebody is going to say ‘look I’m in charge of making this list, could put doubtful next to your name or I could not and can even make Rs 10,000’. The government’s challenge there is very severe,” Banerjee said.

He added, “Power to take decisions that can have passive consequences for life need to be extremely careful in designing institutions to make those decisions. They should not be made by quick Acts of Parliament.”



# IndiGo parent to hold EGM on Jan 29 as Gangwal seeks changes in AoA

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

INTERGLOBE AVIATION, the parent company of India's largest airline IndiGo, Friday announced convening a meeting of shareholders on January 29, at the request of co-promoter Rakesh Gangwal, for removing various provisions in the company's Articles of Association (AoA).

In signs that the feud between the two promoter groups is continuing to persist, Gangwal — who co-founded IndiGo with Rahul Bhatia — is seeking to delete certain rules in the company's AoA that give Bhatia the 'right of first refusal' (ROFR) should Gangwal choose to sell his shares. The extraordinary general meeting (EGM) would discuss deleting various Articles pertaining to transfer and acquisition of the company's shares, including 'ROFR' and 'Tag Along Right', in the firm's AoA, according to the meeting notice posted by IndiGo with stock exchanges.

The development comes over six months after Gangwal flagged concerns over corporate governance lapses at InterGlobe Aviation. The meeting is being convened follow-

ing request by Rakesh Gangwal (RG) Group and related entities, who together hold a 36.64 per cent stake in InterGlobe.

The group comprises Rakesh Gangwal, Shobha Gangwal and the Chinkerpoo Family Trust (Trustee: Shobha Gangwal and JP Morgan Trust Company of Delaware), as per the stock exchange notice.

The differences between the co-founders and co-promoters, Rakesh Gangwal and Rahul Bhatia, came to the fore last July after Gangwal sought the Securities and Exchange Board of India's intervention to address alleged corporate governance lapses at the company. Bhatia and affiliates — InterGlobe Enterprises (IGE) Group — have around 38 per cent stake in InterGlobe Aviation.

Gangwal also wants to remove an article that prevents either of the co-founders from buying publicly-listed shares in InterGlobe Aviation and potentially triggering an open offer for the rest of the company. Shares of InterGlobe, which fell early Friday due to a spike in oil prices, climbed over 6 per cent from the day's lows, before closing higher 2.1 per cent.

On December 24, a request for EGM was made by Gangwal

## 3 KEY POINTS

1 Rakesh Gangwal is seeking to delete certain rules in the company's AoA that give Rahul Bhatia the 'right of first refusal' (ROFR) should Gangwal choose to sell his shares

2 According to the meeting notice posted by IndiGo with stock exchanges, the extraordinary general meeting (EGM) would discuss deleting various Articles pertaining to transfer and acquisition of InterGlobe Aviation's shares

3 The development comes six months after differences between the co-founders and co-promoters came to the fore when Gangwal sought Sebi's intervention to address alleged corporate governance lapses at the airline

and InterGlobe Aviation's Board of Directors, on December 31, approved con-

vening such a meeting.

The company received a letter on November 13, 2019 from Gangwal seeking changes in the AoA, the filing said. An AoA typically provides the regulations for operating a company. The shareholders' agreement expired on the fourth anniversary of the company's initial public offering on November 10, 2019.

However, the AoA contains many provisions of that agreement. As these provisions have now expired, RG Group seeks an amendment to the AoA to remove those expired provisions, as per an annexure in the communication, dated December 24, from Gangwal seeking convening of EGM.

Gangwal has sought deletion of various Articles pertaining to transfer and acquisition of the company's shares, including 'ROFR' and 'Tag Along Right'. If any member of the IGE Group, led by Bhatia, or RG Group wants to transfer shares to a third party, then the non-transferring group will have the ROFR subject to certain conditions.

Similarly, the non-transferring group will also have the 'Tag Along Right' wherein it would have the option to sell some part of the shareholding.

## TOTAL NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS AT 1.3 BN

# UPI transaction value crosses ₹2L cr in Dec

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 3

THE VALUE of transactions made using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) channel crossed Rs 2 lakh crore in December after falling marginally month-on-month in November. The UPI recorded 1.3 billion transactions in December worth Rs 2.02 lakh crore, up from 1.22 billion transactions worth Rs 1.89 lakh crore in the previous month.

According to the data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), its Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) app was used for making 17.82 million transactions worth Rs 6,316.37 crore. In other words, the app now contributes a mere 1.37 per cent to UPI usage in volume terms.

The first mover in UPI payments has been losing share since mid-2017 to rival apps launched by large internet and e-commerce players, many of them multinationals. The withdrawal of incentive schemes to merchants and consumers on BHIM could have hit it hard, while other apps continued with these.

## BHIM TRANSACTIONS CONTRIBUTE ONLY 1.37%

■ According to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), its Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) app was used for making 17.82 million transactions worth Rs 6,316.37 crore. In other words, the app now

contributes a mere 1.37 per cent to UPI usage in volume terms

■ The withdrawal of incentive schemes to merchants and consumers on BHIM could have hit it hard, while other apps continued with these

Effective January 1, merchants will no longer have to shell out merchant discount rate (MDR) charges for accepting UPI payments. The move by the government is aimed at pushing greater adoption of the payments channel by smaller merchants.

Mandar Agashe, founder and vice-president of Sarvatra Technologies, said: "This would make it easy for every merchant to start accepting payments via RuPay debit card and UPI and push digital payments in a big way at merchant outlets." The government's mandate that all companies with a turnover of Rs 50 crore or more accept payments through RuPay debit cards and UPI QR

codes will increase adoption across business sectors, he added.

At the same time, some industry watchers say the recent move to waive charges on National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) transactions may end up cannibalising UPI transactions. At least 70 per cent of UPI volumes comprised peer-to-peer (P2P) transactions and there could be a significant overlap between UPI users and NEFT users.

Moreover, a two-year MDR subsidy that the government was offering for merchant transactions of up to Rs 2,000 expired on January 1. This, too, could lead to some merchants earlier using UPI falling off the network. **FE**

## BRIEFLY

### Gold at 4-mth peak on Middle East tension

*New York:* Gold prices surged on Friday to a four-month peak, racing past the key \$1,550 an ounce level after a US air strike in Iraq killed the commander of Iran's elite Quds Force, prompting a rush into safety assets. Spot gold rose 1.4 per cent to \$1,549.63 per ounce as of 10:29 am ET (1529 GMT), having risen to \$1,551.36 earlier in the session, its highest since September 5. **REUTERS**

### Ratings withdrawal norms tweaked

*New Delhi:* Credit rating agencies can downgrade the rating assigned to firms or instruments to non-investment grade with issuer not cooperating (INC) status, if an issuer has all the outstanding ratings as non-cooperative for over 6 months, regulator Sebi on Friday.

### HDFC slashes home loan rate by 0.05%

*New Delhi:* HDFC Friday reduced the benchmark lending rate by 0.05 per cent, a move that will reduce interest rate for existing and new borrowers. **PTI**

### Six bank unions to go on strike on January 8

*Mumbai:* Six bank unions will go on strike on January 8 to show their support for the central trade unions' strike call on the same day. SBI said the number of its bank employees participating in the strike is small so the impact on the bank's operation will be minimal. **FE**

### ICRA maintains negative outlook on PVs

*New Delhi:* ICRA Friday maintained a "negative" outlook on the passenger vehicle (PV) and commercial vehicle (CV) segments while maintaining a "stable" outlook on the two-wheeler OEMs and tractor segments.

### SBI plans to sell 1% stake in NSE

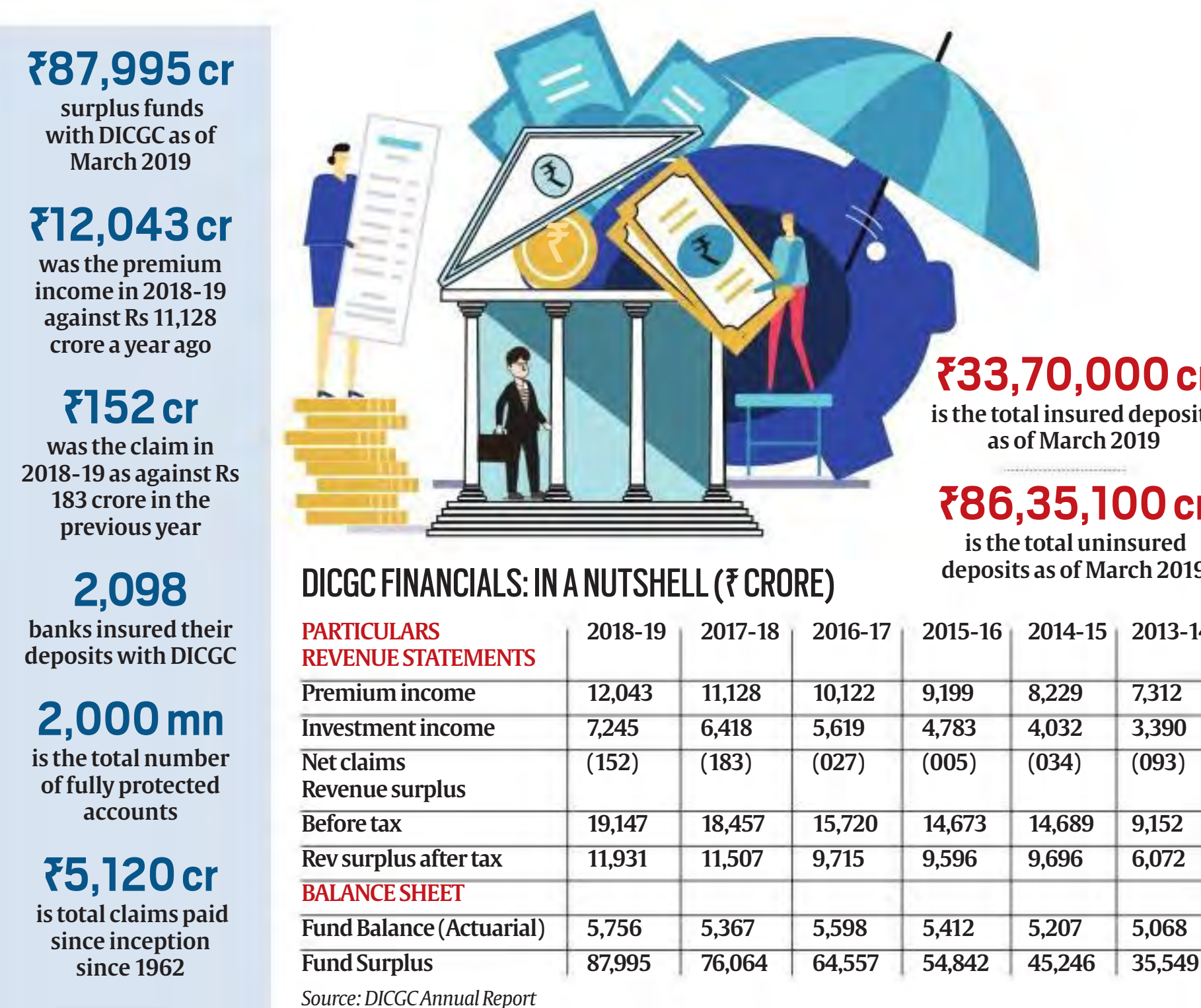
*New Delhi:* SBI on Friday said it is looking to sell 50 lakh shares representing 1.01 per cent stake in the NSE as part of its capital raising exercise. Currently, SBI holds 5.19 per cent stake in the NSE. **PTI**

### 'China to stick with inflation target of 3%'

*Beijing:* China has decided to keep its inflation target unchanged this year at around 3 per cent, sources say, suggesting policymakers will continue to roll out economic stimulus. **REUTERS**

# Deposit insurance: To hike or not to hike

After the collapse of Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank, there has been a demand from several quarters that the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), the RBI subsidiary that gives insurance cover to bank deposits up to Rs 1 lakh, should hike the coverage cap



**WHAT'S THE PREMIUM:** The premium was raised to .05 or 1/20th of 1 per cent per annum with effect from July 1, 1993. Since 2001, as it has had to settle claims for large amounts due to the failure of banks, the premium was raised to 8 paise per Rs 100 of assessable deposits from 2004-05 and later to 10 paise per Rs 100 deposits from 2005-06

**HOW MUCH WILL DEPOSITOR GET:** Irrespective of the deposit

amount, the depositor will get only Rs 1 lakh if a bank collapses. Currently, only one-fourth of the deposits are insured

**WHAT DAMODARAN PANEL PROPOSED?** The panel set up by the RBI had recommended that the deposit insurance cover provided by DICGC, a subsidiary of the RBI, should be raised to Rs 5 lakh so as to encourage individuals to keep all their deposits in a bank convenient for them

**INSURANCE COVER HIKE:** When asked whether the government will consider hiking the insurance cover cap that was revised more than 25 years ago, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur said in a written reply in the Upper House said no proposal has been received from the RBI in this regard

**IS THE DICGC SURPLUS ENOUGH?** While DICGC has a surplus of Rs Rs 87,995 crore, SBI has over Rs 30 lakh crore deposits. PMC

Bank, which collapsed in 2019, has over Rs 11,000 crore deposits. If the insurance cover cap is hiked, the premium to be paid by the banks may also rise, bankers say

**HIKE IN COVERAGE OVER THE YEARS** Initially, under the provisions of Section 16(1) of the DICGC Act, the insurance cover was limited to 1,500 only per depositor for deposits held by him in all the branches of the bank taken together. It has been revised five times since then

# Agriculture sector 'starved of income': Yashwant Sinha

RAEMEN SAHNEY  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 3

FORMER FINANCE and External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha on Friday said he predicted a growth rate of less than 5 per cent in the last quarter of the financial year, which is low enough to negatively affect the general public.

A decrease from 8 per cent during the "golden period" to 4 per cent today can incur a devastating Rs 6-lakh crore difference in national income, he said. He was speaking at 'Econundrum' hosted by St Xavier's College, Fort.

He recalled his statement from two years ago when he said the private sector investment had shrunk as never before, industrial production collapsed, agriculture was in distress, construction industry was in the doldrums, service sector was in the slow lane and exports have dwindled. "I do

**"Demonetisation was a deathblow and the damage has not yet been fully accessed. It has led to the loss of income among farmers, reduction in consumption and significant unemployment"**

YASHWANT SINHA  
FORMER FINANCE MINISTER

not want to be a prophet who predicted doom for India's economy," he added.

Death of demand and demonetisation were the two main reasons for the slowdown, both of which have affected the agricultural sector immensely, he said. "In practice, farmers are losing out on income and in turn, their worker's wages are either stagnant or reducing. Overall, the agricultural sector is 'starved of income', upsetting the rural community," said Sinha.

"Demonetisation was a deathblow and the damage has not yet been fully accessed. It has led to the loss of income among farmers, reduction in consumption and significant

unemployment. The loss of business in the unorganised sector spread and caused trouble within the organised sector. It is a vicious cycle," he added.

Speaking on the effect of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) on the Indian economy, Sinha said: "It has caused great economic damage. People go by intentions of the government. Previously, when the National Registry of Citizens was spoken about in 2003, there was no hue and cry but with the current distrust of government, people are more suspicious."

Former President APJ Abdul Kalam's vision of a "developed country" by 2020 and a "\$5-trillion economy" is a distant dream, Sinha said.

### Adani Ports to buy 75% stake in KPCL for ₹13,500 crore

*Mumbai:* Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), led by billionaire Gautam Adani, on Friday said it would acquire a controlling stake of 75 per cent in Krishnapatnam Port (KPCL) in Andhra Pradesh for a cash consideration of Rs 13,500 crore.

The acquisition of 64 million tonne (mt) capacity will help Adani Ports achieve its target of 400 mt of cargo handling capacity by FY25.

India's largest port developer plans to fund the acquisition through internal accruals and existing cash accruals of the company, and expects the acquisition to be completed in 120 days subject to regulatory approvals, including from the Competition Commission of India, the company said in a statement. **FE**

### US factory sector in deepest slump in more than 10 years

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 3

THE US manufacturing sector fell into its deepest slump in more than a decade in December as the US-China trade war kept a lid on factory output, orders and employment, although the long-awaited Phase 1 deal between Washington and Beijing could limit further downside.

The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) said its index of national factory activity fell to 47.2 last month from 48.1 in November. It was the lowest reading since June 2009 and, coupled with readings for both new orders and factory employment at multi-year lows, thwarted expectations for a leveling off in the pace of decline in a sector buffeted by trade

tensions. A reading below 50 indicates the sector is in contraction, and December's reading marked the fifth straight month below that benchmark level. Economists polled by Reuters had been looking for an increase to 49.0.

The manufacturing sector had been under pressure for much of the second half of 2019, as tit-for-tat tariffs by the United States and China slowed the flow of goods between the world's two largest economies and contributed to a cooling in the pace of global economic growth. "Global trade remains the most significant cross-industry issue, but there are signs that several industry sectors will improve as a result of the agreement," Timothy Fiore, chair of ISM's Manufacturing Business Survey Committee, said.

## MARKET CAME UNDER STRESS IN SEPT AS DEMAND FOR FUNDS TO SETTLE TREASURY PURCHASES & PAY CORPORATE TAXES OVERWHELMED LOANS AVAILABLE

# Wall Street's biggest worry in 2019: Strain in repo market may lead to liquidity crunch

REUTERS  
NEW YORK, JANUARY 3

THE \$2.2-TRILLION repurchase agreement market, part of the inner workings of the US financial system, is facing what could be another strain as the year comes to a close. That could have wider implications than just Wall Street.

## WHAT IS THE WORRYOVER REPO RATE?

The repo market came under stress in September as demand for funds to settle Treasury purchases and pay corporate taxes overwhelmed loans available.

Interest rates in US money markets shot up to as high as 10 per cent for some overnight loans, more than four times the Fed's rate.



An investor at a brokerage in Beijing on December 31, 2019. AP

Since September, the New York Federal Reserve has offered daily operations where it injects liquidity into the overnight market, in addition to frequent offer-

ings of longer-term loans. It is the Fed's first major market intervention since the financial crisis more than a decade ago.

This helped the market this

month get through another period of high corporate tax payments and Treasury debt settlements with relative ease.

Some analysts still fear, however, that there may be strains, when banks reduce risk taking to meet financial targets.

The Fed's repo operations are made only with major dealers, with the banks in turn passing liquidity on to their clients.

Heading into year-end the banks may be more reluctant to make these loans, which could leave borrowers struggling to raise cash. Some also fear that structural problems with the market leave it vulnerable to periods of stress.

The Bank for International Settlements said this month that growing reliance on the biggest US banks to keep the repo market functioning may have been a big

factor in September's cash squeeze. The big four banks, which the BIS did not name in its report, have become net providers of funds to repo markets as they account for more than half of all Treasuries held by banks in the US at the Fed.

## WHY IS THE REPO MARKET IMPORTANT?

The repo market underpins much of the US financial system, helping to ensure banks, companies and investors have the liquidity to meet their daily operational needs. In repo trades, borrowers offer US Treasuries and other high-quality securities as collateral to raise cash, often overnight. The next day, they repay the loans plus what is typically a nominal rate of interest and get their bonds back. In other words, they repur-

chase, or repo, the bonds.

The interest rate charged on repo deals typically stays close to the Fed's benchmark overnight rate, currently set in a range of 1.50 per cent to 1.75 per cent.

But when investors become fearful of lending, as seen during the global credit crisis, or when there is just not enough reserves or cash in the system to lend out, it sends the repo rate soaring above the federal funds rate.

Trading in stocks and bonds can become difficult. It can also pinch lending to businesses and consumers and, if the disruption is prolonged, it can become a drag on a US economy that relies heavily on the flow of credit.

September's funding strains did not spread to other markets. However, a prolonged disturbance or a weak economy would

increase the risks of contagion.

## IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THE LEVEL OF BANK RESERVES?

A reduction in excess bank reserves, cash held at the Fed that can be made available for loans, was also cited as a large contributor to September's repo stress. JPMorgan in particular cut the cash it holds on deposit at the Fed by 57 per cent this year.

Coming out of the financial crisis, after the Fed cut interest rates to near zero and bought more than \$3.5 trillion of bonds, banks built up massive reserves held at the Fed. But that level of bank reserves, which peaked at nearly \$2.8 trillion, began falling when the Fed started raising interest rates in late 2015. It fell even faster when the Fed started to cut the size of its bond portfolio about two

years later. To reverse this decline the Fed has been purchasing Treasury bills since October. When the Fed buys securities from a bank, it credits the bank's reserve account, which increases reserves in the system.

## IS A PERMANENT FIX PLANNED?

To reduce the risk of further disruptions, some market participants say they expect the Fed to set up a permanent backstop for the market, known as a standing repo facility.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell said that officials are dedicated to keeping money markets calm through year end. He said policymakers are open to suggestions for adjusting supervisory and regulatory practices in a manner that does not affect the safety and soundness of the banking system.



17

REVIEWS

CINEMA & MUSIC



# Showtime Secrets

SHALINI LANGER

A FILM about the greyer side of showy TV, sustained as much on blood, sweat and tears as short skirts and long legs, in which Rupert Murdoch comes out smelling roses. Well, clearly, *Bombshell*, its title notwithstanding, knows which higher powers to keep happy. Based on the sexual harassment allegations against the head of Fox News channel, Roger Ailes, it's also suitably reverent of what that media behemoth means — particularly with another Trump election round the corner. Consequently, the film dips into everything, Ailes's legacy as the stalwart political consultant to Republican presidents going back to Nixon, Fox's hold on its conservative base, why liberals don't get what it means, and the cruel world that TV can be for women on the wrong side of 30, both on and off screen. That doesn't make *Bombshell* a bad film — far from it. It's engrossing, sustained by some very good acting by all its cast. However, it's also not the definitive film on one of the biggest sexual harassment scandals to hit the



## Dancing to a Familiar Tune

BHANGRA PAAL ★★

**Director:** Sneha Taurani  
**Cast:** Sunny Kaushal, Rukshar Dhillon, Shriya Pilgaonkar

PIND-DA-munda Jaggi (Kaushal) and *she-har-di-kudi* Simi (Dhillon) are ace bhangra dancers. But they represent different colleges, and varying value-systems, so we know that daggers will be drawn sooner vs later. A flashback to pre-Independence India gives us a rustic, reluctant *fauji* (Kaushal again, in a double role) who loses his heart to a *gaon-ki-gori* (Pilgaonkar). Her family doesn't approve, but he's already danced his way into her heart, and we know how that will pan out too. It's that kind of film. *Bhangra Paa Le* flashes back and forth in time neatly and frequently, in fact too neatly and frequently. Here's the present sulking pair burning up the dance floor; there's the older one wooing his sweet-heart with his spy moves. Here's trouble; there's trouble. Here's a breakthrough; there... And so on. This is an ever-persisting problem with our movies, that you can tell how things are going to roll from the opening frames. *Bhangra Paa Le* keeps it all good-natured, and wonderfully authentic (only when you hear real Punjabis speak, or do the bhangra do you realise the extent of fakery in most films). Nice to see fresh faces in the lead: both Kaushal and Dhillon are likeable and move well; in a few places, she comes off more visible than he does. But oh the tropes. The *roothna-man-aana*, the *paas-mein-aana*, the side-long coy glances, the sarson ke khet, the glowing elders: the film wants to appeal to every single sector, so there are the *bijis* and *baujies*, long-suffering mothers, and NRI bhangra-clubs from Canada, US and UK, a climactic dance-off in London, and a cute little boy. All *jaana-pehchaana*. Finally, a dance movie is defined by the quality of choreography. Both Kaushal and Dhillon are good, but the numbers never really leap off the screen. Passable, like the film.

SG

BOMBSHELL ★★★★★

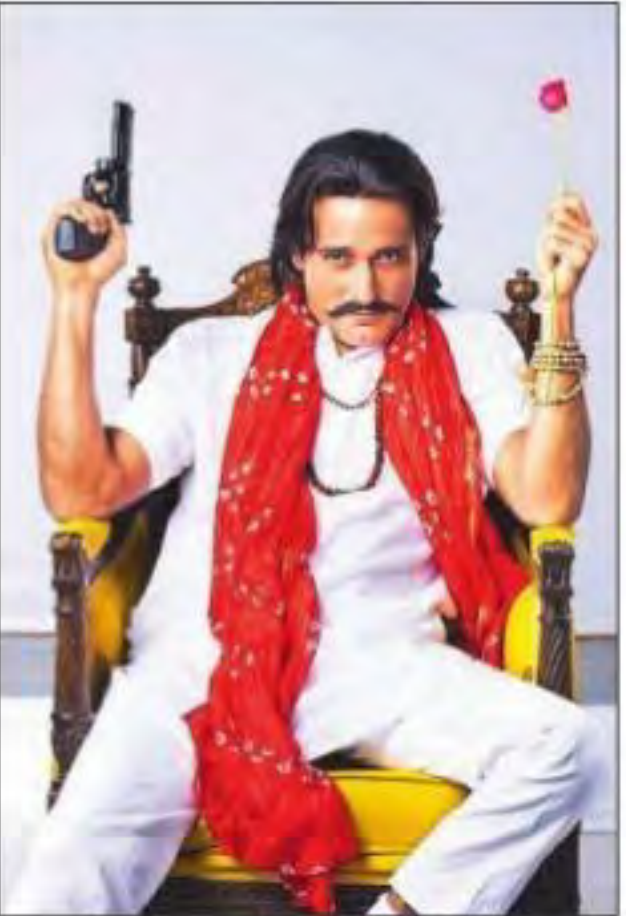
**Director:** Jay Roach **Cast:** Charlize Theron, Margot Robbie, Nicole Kidman, John Lithgow, Alison Janney, Kate McKinnon

media — before #MeToo, before Harvey Weinstein. Where *Bombshell* scores is in bringing out the casual sexism that dogs women in the workforce, from offhand compliments to insistence on shaved legs — take your pick from all in the middle. And in bringing out how women constantly navigate that territory, judging which can be minefields and what fences to jump over. If Ailes represents the menace that takes the form of large, grandfather-like figures, sitting in big chairs which you have to approach, Theron as star anchor Megyn Kelly represents the moral heart of this story. While it's Kidman as Gretchen Carlson, a Stanford graduate cum former Miss America, sidelined at Fox News, who casts the first stone at Ailes, it's Kelly who takes the call to ultimately bring him down. It's not an easy call, as *Bombshell* indicates.

Does it mean her career, as of other women at Fox, was built on "going down on their knees (literally)" before Ailes. Are the women who are complaining doing so because they were ignored? Are the women not complaining doing so because they are complicit? Did being his victim mean you were "the weak one in the herd", or "the hot one in the herd"? Did it matter even? And, why is it the women who are answering these questions? It's this ground that Kelly has to tackle. The film suggests the anchor's decisions were driven to some extent by the famous sexist attacks on her by Trump during the course of the 2016 election, when Fox didn't come to her rescue. Theron, who is also the producer, does well to bring out Kelly's moral ambiguity in decade-plus years of constant growth at Fox, without judging her for it. Robbie plays a fictional character, a beautiful newbie who wants to rise fast as a face

representing the "evangelical millennium" in a channel she thinks lacks one. Her plight at hands of Ailes is one of the film's most disturbing scenes. In a film more challenging of the status quo, it's Kidman who would be the heart and soul, whose no-makeup look gets the harshest putdown by Ailes — "no one wants to see a middle-age woman sweating her way through menopause" — and who jumps off a cliff not knowing where she would land. However, perhaps *Bombshell* is aware of the larger truth. Fox is still around, so is Trump, and Kelly hasn't found her feet since leaving Fox. As for Ailes, who died a year after the scandal forced him out of Fox... He once gave what he called the orchestra pit theory of politics — "You have two guys on stage and one guy says, 'I have a solution to the Middle East', and the other guy falls in the orchestra pit, who do you think is going to be on the evening news". The truth is, for years to come, there is only one answer to that, isn't it?

shalini.langer@expressindia.com



SG

## Where are the Claws?

CATS ★★

**Director:** Tom Hooper **Cast:** Francesca Hayward, Idris Elba, Laurie Davidson, Judi Dench, Robbie Fairchild, Rebel Wilson, Jennifer Hudson, Taylor Swift, Ian McKellen, James Corden

IF A cat has nine lives, *Cats* can certainly claim a much longer lifetime. TS Eliot's collection of poems going back to 1939 is the fourth-longest-running Broadway show and the sixth-longest-running West End production since appearing as an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical first in 1981. Whether we need *Cats* then on the big screen is besides the question, particularly if you can get some of Britain's star marquee names and Taylor Swift on board. What Hooper (*The King's Speech*) does with it is another question altogether, with the musical devoid of any real zing and fun. The film revolves around an innocent, abandoned, kind cat called Victoria (played by Hayward, who is the principal dancer in the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden in London), who is almost chalky white both in her appearance and her unblemished demeanour. Restrained to two looks — astonished and amazed — Victoria adds absolutely nothing to the essential tale of *Cats*. It is again the story of one night when all the 'Jellicle'



tary background and knowledge of explosives and desire to be a hero, Jewell heart-breakingly holds onto both his faith in the

## Fear is Missing Out

GHOST STORIES (NETFLIX) ★★

**Director:** Zoya Akhtar, Anurag Kashyap, Dibakar Banerjee, Karan Johar  
**Cast:** Janhvi Kapoor, Surekha Sikri, Vijay Varma; Sobhita Dhulipala, Sagar Arya, Pavail Gulati, Zachary Braz; Sukant Goel, Aditya Shetty, Eva Ameet Pardeshi, Gulshan Devaiah; Mrunal Thakur, Avinash Tiwary



SHUBHRA GUPTA

THE QUARTET which gave us *Bombay Talkies* and *Lust Stories* has regrouped for the latest Netflix India original, *Ghost Stories*. A young, attractive nurse (Janhvi Kapoor) walks into a once-well-appointed-now-neglected flat, to take care of a bed-ridden old woman (Surekha Sikri). The former is needy, clutching at a reluctant lover (Vijay Varma); the latter, a stunner in her time, looks as if she scythed through men back in the day. Now it's night. Time for things to go bump. Dolls are scary, especially when they sit in a row, and stare back at you with their beady eyes. A pregnant young woman (Sobhita Dhulipala), going up and down a steep set of stairs, a possessive little boy, and the harsh cowing of crows. The colours are leached out, the mother-to-be is constantly wary, all is ominous: what is going to happen?

A young man (Sukant Goel) gets off at a railhead and walks towards a village where he's meant to join work. But things go south rapidly, as he runs into a boy and girl (Aditya Shetty and Eva Ameet Pardeshi) cowering in a corner, scared out of their wits. The desolate village feels like a place that time's forgotten, and, wait a minute, who are those zombie-like figures clomping about outside, snarling and drooling? A pretty young thing (Mrunal Thakur) agrees to have an 'arranged marriage' with a handsome, wealthy fellow (Avinash Tiwary) who lives in a house his granny built. She soon discovers that all is not as it seems in the stately mansion she comes to as a bride: the housekeeper glowers, the in-laws are strangely blank, and the spouse likes playing peekaboo. Ooh. Atmospherics-wise, all four segments, directed by Zoya Akhtar, Anurag Kashyap, Dibakar Banerjee and Karan Johar, come off well enough. Each instantly creates a specific world, and we get drawn in. But surprise-wise, with elements that jump-start orshock-and-startle, or traverse new territories, *Ghost Stories* doesn't score as high: those who are familiar with genre movies, or have seen enough horror/ supernatural/ creepy critters will pretty much guess where things are headed to. Will someone like me, who is petrified of any brand of horror, genteel or oblique

or straight-up in-your-face, emerge shaking? Honest confession: I closed my eyes in exactly two places. The rest of it was a series of oh look, there it comes, and oh look, it's hoveled out of view, phew. Or just simply, yuck. *Bombay Talkies* felt mint-new, as Johar revealed how surprisingly spiky he could be; Kashyap's jar of *murabbas* was memorable in a tale that lagged, Akhtar's little boy who likes to wear dresses was bright and alive, and Banerjee's fabulous segment I still keep visiting in my head. *Lust Stories* was good in parts, with whiffs of occasional freshness, as the four explored variations of love-that-turns-into-lust, or just plain hormones-raging-lust. A young wife trying very hard to bite down on the vibrations going through her, via a suitable object? The sweetest spot of all.

But this latest coming together of the four is neither particularly scary nor smartly revisionist. Some genre tales may not have a single *bhoot*, *praet* or *aatma*, because, well, live humans can be dead inside too. The best ghost stories can give us a whole new way of seeing, or take us down paths we haven't been down before. Banerjee's segment begins by sketching a subversive landscape: those who dare open their mouths to speak will be gobbled by those who can't handle dissent. There's resonance with our times, especially as a lot of the action takes place in a school: these guys want no education for students, they only want control. But then it becomes more tell than show, and the mystery whittles away. Overall, there's not enough sustained unease or a sense of dread or foreboding. Nor is there too much originality: I got flashes of John Krasinski's *A Quiet Place*, and Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*. Kashyap's segment has so much going on, with expecting wives and jealous husbands and little boys who look innocent, that it feels crowded and muddled. Johar's is expectedly, pretty, but you are ahead of every beat. Two solid performances light up Akhtar's short: Sikri is great, and Janhvi Kapoor surprisingly good, the only real surprise of the film, in fact. The segments are well produced, but the plots are predictable, and feel familiar. Seriously, where are the scares?

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cats come together for an annual ball where one of them will be picked to be reborn as anyone they want to be. There is a lot of leaping, prancing, twitching ears, swaying tails, distracting whiskers, and an amazing amount of fur, in a bleak, empty London. If you can't follow the songs, all you have are some very shapely people — but for the exception of Wilson and Corden, who lend cheer when around — doing a lot of the above. There isn't enough of hissing or clawing to draw blood and hence lend the film colour. Dench and McKellen add gravitas but little more, and Elba as Macavity is used surprisingly little. It's only Swift, descending perched on a crescent moon, sprinkling sparkling catnip powder, who looks like the cat that got the cream. There is really no other kind you want to watch.

SL

## Hero in the Villain

RICHARD JEWELL ★★★★★

**Director:** Clint Eastwood  
**Cast:** Paul Walter Hauser, Sam Rockwell, Kathy Bates, Jon Hamm, Olivia Wilde

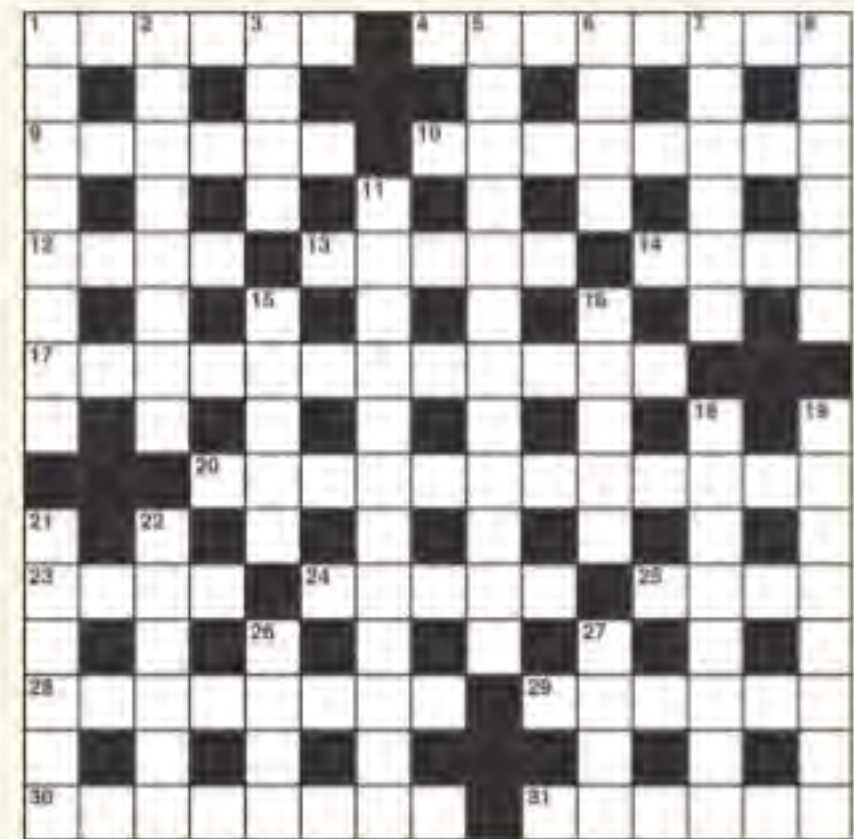
RICHARD JEWELL is the kind of hero Clint Eastwood's films are made of: a quintessential ordinary American fellow who loves his guns plus other 'traditional' values, who is driven by his sense of duty, and is mistreated by the system. Richard Jewell is also a real-world hero, having detected a bomb at a park in Atlanta while the Olympic Games were on in the city in 1996, in time to save potentially scores of casualties. The two, Eastwood and Jewell, one can say are made for each other. That said, this is a rare empathetic portrayal on screen of a young man who is both overweight and an underachiever, who

lives with his mother, and who is thrust into media spotlight, as Jewell was. Hauser is brilliant in his portrayal of a man who genuinely desires to "protect lives" and hence join law enforcement, and who keeps his small ambition alive by ignoring slights over it. You even forgive him for crossing boundaries such as barging into college hostel rooms in his enthusiasm to enforce campus discipline, while employed as a security guard. As Jewell's status quickly changes from a hero to a suspect in the Atlanta park attack, as he fits the lone bomber profile of a white, gun-loving man with a police/mili-

government and his dignity. However, Eastwood has little time for others in the story of Jewell. Rockwell is a



CROSSWORD 4006



**ACROSS**  
1 Funny story about oriental seafood (6)  
2 Reductions in capital growth (8)  
3 Two bills I stuck on a tree (6)  
4 Cop involved with the trial gets heated (8)  
12 Double act no longer seen (4)  
13 Big portion of Norwegian trout (5)  
14 Well-established business (4)  
17 Early news from a rare book sale (5,7)  
20 It gives an impression of permanence (9,3)  
23 Some steak or grouse perhaps (4)  
24 Boards a coach (5)  
25 Water thoroughly (4)  
28 Is it won by the fastest guns in the West? (4,4)  
29 Many a call for courage (6)  
30 Negative poles seen to change? Absurd (8)  
31 Turn meant to amuse, perhaps (6)

**Down**  
1 Switch choices occasionally (2,3,3)  
2 Quality that needs raising? (8)  
3 Live wildly in sin (4)  
5 Family ties for the mother's boy? (5,7)  
6 Cable from a European centre (4)  
7 Make straight for this (6)  
8 I'm unfortunately upset by highly spiced foreign food (6)  
11 Bows? Nonsense! (12)  
15 Tolerate a show of resistance (5)  
16 Work of monumental stupidity (5)  
18 By which railways earn extra money? (8)  
19 It gets the boat in somehow (6)  
21 Get the (8)  
22 A money changer who had a farm (6)  
26 At liberty to be generous (4)  
27 Vehicle to move before take-off (4)

**Solutions Crossword 4005:** Across: 1 Liszt, 4 Stumble, 8 Cam, 9 Trappists, 10 Fancied, 11 Entry, 13 Raisin, 15 Insult, 18 Risen, 19 Kitchen, 21 Given away, 23 Obi, 24 Dresser, 25 Tenor. Down: 1 Lucifer, 2 Semantics, 3 Tutti, 4 Shandy, 5 Umpteen, 6 Bus, 7 Essay, 12 Touch down, 14 Innings, 16 Tangier, 17 Skewer, 18 Rigid, 20 Tryst, 22 Vie.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLLED 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.

There are no \_\_\_ in evolution. - Louis D. Brandeis (9)

**DSORS**  
[Shaded squares for jumbled letters]

**HMOYTU**  
[Shaded squares for jumbled letters]

**THESE**  
[Shaded squares for jumbled letters]

**EKORCH**  
[Shaded squares for jumbled letters]

SOLUTION: CROSS, SHEET, MOUTH, CHOKER  
Answer: There are no **shortcuts** in evolution. - Louis D. Brandeis

**SUDOKU 4080**

**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 4079**

**Container Corporation of India Ltd.**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
ICD, Tughlakabad, New Delhi-110020

**PUBLIC AUCTION/TENDER NOTICE**  
**DISPOSAL OF UNCLEARED/UNCLAIMED IMPORTED CARGO THROUGH E-AUCTION**

Container Corporation of India Ltd. shall be auctioning scrap items, empty damage containers and unclaimed/uncleared imported cargo landed at the terminals of Northern Region & Northern Central Region those containers arrived on or before **30.11.2019** through e-auction on **20.01.2020 to 30.01.2020** on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". All details along with **Terms & Conditions of auction sale & cargo details will be available on [www.concorindia.co.in](http://www.concorindia.co.in) & [www.msstcecommerce.com](http://www.msstcecommerce.com) w.e.f. 03.01.2020 & 14.01.2020.** All importers including Government Undertakings/ Departments whose containers/goods are lying unclaimed/uncleared and falling in the said list uploaded in website at respective terminals, because of any dispute, stay by Court/ Tribunal/ others or any such reason may accordingly inform the concerned Executive Director at Northern Region, Northern Central Region & Eastern Region CONCOR as well as Commissioner of Customs of the concerned Commissionates, and file their objections/claims regarding disposal of such goods within **7 (Seven Days)** of this notice failing which the goods will be auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" without any further notice. For full details please log on to **[www.concorindia.co.in](http://www.concorindia.co.in) & [www.msstcecommerce.com](http://www.msstcecommerce.com)**

**Executive Director,**  
Northern Region

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL MANAGER, CTU & DIRECTOR TRANSPORT, 701, INDUSTRIAL AREA, PHASE-I, CHANDIGARH PUBLIC NOTICE

Smt. Swaran Kaur W/o Late Sh. Mohinder Singh who was working as Driver No. 46 in Chandigarh Transport Undertaking is hereby called upon through this Public Notice to appear before the Undersigned on 15.01.2020 at 11.00 A.M. in the Office Room along with the Life Certificate, failing which exparte proceedings will be taken without any further notice.

Sd/- **Uma Shankar Gupta, P.C.S.,**  
**Divisional Manager, CTU & Director Transport, U.T., Chandigarh.**

**NMDC Limited**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
Donimalai Iron Ore Mine, Donimalai Township - 583 118, Dist: Bellary, Karnataka, Phones : 08395 - 274624, Fax : 08395-274649, CIN : L13100AP19580G1001674

**OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Sealed tenders in two bid system are inviting from the competent and experienced bidder for the following works;

1. Tender No. CE/W/1(865)/2019 vide Date of notification 04-01-2020 and Name of Work: "Attending Plant Civil Works Tailing Dam Works, Jungle Cleaning Works inside Tailing Dam and Assistance to Water Supply Works and Survey Works at Civil Department for the period of One Year (Job Contract Basis)" with estimated cost of ₹ 23.03 Lakhs and period of completion for work 12 months (Including Rainy Season) with EMD is ₹ 23,050.00 and sale/download period from 06-01-2020 to 05-02-2020.

2. Tender No. CE/W/1(852)/2018 vide Date of notification 04-01-2020 and Name of Work: "Repair and Maintenance of OD (Ore Dressing) Lab at DIOM" with estimated cost of ₹ 18.57 Lakhs and period of completion for work 09 months (Including Rainy Season) with EMD is ₹ 18,500.00 and sale/download period from 08-01-2020 to 07-02-2020.

3. Tender No. CE/W/1(817)/2017 vide Date of notification 04-01-2020 and Name of Work: "Construction of Shed for Keeping HTLT motors, Transformers, Panels etc at Loading Plant DIOM" with estimated cost of ₹ 21.16 Lakhs and period of completion for work 10 months (Including Rainy Season) with EMD is ₹ 21,000.00 and sale/download period from 10-01-2020 to 10-02-2020.

4. Tender No. CE/W/1(808)/2017 vide Date of notification 04-01-2020 and Name of Work: "Construction of New Toilet at Crawler Shop and Laying of Bitumen Road from Main Stores to Survey Office" with estimated cost of ₹ 22.79 Lakhs and period of completion for work 06 months (Including Rainy Season) with EMD is ₹ 23,000.00 and sale/download period from 13-01-2020 to 12-02-2020.

5. Tender No. CE/W/1(456)/2019 vide Date of notification 04-01-2020 and Name of Work: "Mosquito & Pest Control Measures in Donimalai Township and Industrial area for the year 2019-21" with estimated cost of ₹ 44.18 Lakhs and period of completion for work 24 months (Including Rainy Season) with EMD is ₹ 44,200.00 and sale/download period from 15-01-2020 to 14-02-2020.

For accessing the tender document or download from NMDC Limited website <https://www.nmdc.co.in/nmcdtender/default.aspx>.

For any clarification bidders may contact DGM (Civil), by mailing to [diomcivil@nmdc.co.in](mailto:diomcivil@nmdc.co.in) or by fax message to 08395-274644.

For and on behalf of NMDC Limited  
Date : 04-01-2020  
DGM (Civil)

**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**

**MAJ RK LAUL, SC (22 JUL 67 - 04 JAN 96)**  
We pay homage to our noble martyr, who made the supreme sacrifice while fighting the enemy in 'OP RAKSHAK', J&K in the year 1996. His dauntless courage & sacrifice will forever inspire the organisation.

**CO & all ranks of 6th Bn Brigade of The GUARDS**  
(3rd January 2000)

**Sashastra Seema Bal fondly remembers and cherishes the valiant contribution of brave hearts Constable (GD) L. Natraj Singh and Constable Driver H. Bira Singh of erst-while GCo, SSB, Imphal (Presently 16th Bn SSB) who attained martyrdom while performing duties at Batmaloo market area in Srinagar in J&K, when a powerful bomb blast occurred on this day in the year 2000. Their supreme sacrifice will continue to inspire us all.**  
We salute the sacrifices of the brave soldiers.  
**SASHASTRA SEEMA BAL**

**BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
(Power Wing)

**Corrigendum-II**  
NIT No. 830  
Name of Office: Resident Engineer, Ganguwal & Kotla Power Houses Division, BBMB (PW), Ganguwal, Distt. Ropar - 140123 (PB.)  
Name of work: Replacement of old/damaged trench covers with new trench covers in 220 KV MISS Ganguwal.

Start date for submission of documents for checking PQR	26.12.2019 from 10.00 hours
Documents download End date & time	09.01.2020 upto 12.00 hours
Last Date & Time for Online Bid Submission	09.01.2020 upto 14.30 hours
Date & Time for submission of documents for checking PQR	09.01.2020 from 15.00 hours
Date & Time of Online Bid Opening	09.01.2020 from 15.00 hours onward on online
Approximate Cost	₹ 52,60,000/-
Earnest Money	₹ 1,05,200/-

Detailed NIT & Terms and Condition may be seen/downloaded from BBMB website <http://bbmbeproc.abcpocure.com> and [www.bbmb.gov.in](http://www.bbmb.gov.in).  
617-PR-Genration-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

**Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board**  
Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi  
Office of the Executive Engineer, C-04 First Floor, Office cum Shopping Complex, New Ranjit Nagar New Delhi-110008  
Email ID: [eec4.dusib@gmail.com](mailto:eec4.dusib@gmail.com)  
Ph. No.: 011-23378567

No: EEC-4/DUSIB/2019-20/D-665 Dated: 31.12.2019

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
The Executive Engineer C-4, DUSIB, invites on behalf of DUSIB online Percentage rate bid on two bid system for following work:  
**NIT No: 39, Tender ID No: 2019\_DUSIB\_186954\_1, Name of Work: MLA LAD FUND (Sub Head: Providing and laying of CC Pavement and SW Drains in deteriorated lanes at JJC Sanjay Camp, Part-I, Railway Camp Colony, Chanakya Puri, Delhi Cantt. Estimated Cost: Rs. 85,48,452/- Earnest Money: Rs. 1,71,000/- Tender Cost: Rs. 1000/- Period of Completion: 120 Days**  
**NIT No: 40, Tender ID No: 2019\_DUSIB\_186955\_1, Name of Work: Resources Mobilization (Sub Head: Improvement of main road & drains leading to DCP office to newly constructed MCD Zonal office and Road leading to Metro station Rajouri Garden and temporary road leading to main PWD road toward Shivaji College. Estimated Cost: Rs. 2,42,62,207/- Earnest Money: Rs. 4,85,250/- Tender Cost: Rs. 1,500/- Period of Completion: 120 Days**  
Date & time for down load of entire Tender document / encryption w.e.f 06.01.2020 at 15:00 Hrs to 16.01.2020 upto 15:00 Hrs.  
The bid form and other details can be obtained from the web site (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)  
**Note:** Any amendment/ change/ clarification (if any) will be uploaded only on <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>, therefore intending tenderer may inspect the website regularly.

Sd/-  
**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-C-4**  
DUSIB  
DIP/Shabdarth/1234/19-20

**दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि.**  
(अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (ई-निविदा))  
अयोध्याक्षेत्रतां द्वारा दो भागों में प्रतिष्ठित एवं योग्य कार्यदायी संस्थाओं/आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से निम्न दिनांक 19.01.2020 तक ऑनलाईन पोर्टल पर प्राप्त की जायेगी एवं ई-निविदा दिनांक 21.01.2020 को अपराह्न 1.00 बजे तक ई-टेंडर पोर्टल पर प्राप्त कर प्रथम भाग अपराह्न 4.00 बजे से खोला जायेगा। (1) निवि.सं. 82/2019-20: विद्युत आपासीय कॉलोनी, कमला नगर, आगरा के कार्य एवं सं. एफ-295 को विशेष रूपमत् एवं अन्य विविध जानपदीय कार्य। (2) निवि.सं. 83/2019-20: 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र सिकन्दर, आगरा स्थित प्रबन्ध निदेशक कार्यालय परिसर में पुलिस अधीक्षक सतर्कता के कार्यालय का विशेष अनुसंधान से सम्बन्धित कार्य एवं आवास सं. पंचम/1 में बरामदा का विस्तार/कण/टैंडर निमाण से सम्बन्धित विविध जानपदीय कार्य। (3) निवि.सं. 84/2019-20: 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र, सिकन्दर, आगरा स्थित विद्युत अधिकारी कॉलोनी में प्रबन्ध निदेशक आवास पर एक अदर सेवैन्ट रूम निर्माण, जलापूर्ति हेतु एक अदर स्वमर्सिस्वत रूप लगाने एवं अन्य विविध जानपदीय कार्य। (4) निवि.सं. 85/2019-20: 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र सिकन्दर, आगरा स्थित विद्युत अधिकारी कॉलोनी में प्रबन्ध निदेशक आवास एवं निदेशकगणों के आवास सं. पंचम/1, 2, 5 तथा टाईप चतुर्थ/1, 2 को विशेष रूपमत् एवं विविध जानपदीय कार्य। (5) निवि.सं. 86/2019-20: विभागीय पोत निमाण इकाई समुदा बैंक गारर हाउस कॉलोनी आगरा पर 45000 बोरी ओपीसी सीमेंट की आपूर्ति। (6) निवि.सं. 87/2019-20: विद्युत जानपद अनुसंधान एवं भूमि प्रबन्धन उपखण्ड, आगरा के कार्यालय हेतु बाह्य एजेन्सी के माध्यम से विभागीय कम्प्यूटर पर डाटा एन्ट्री/पत्र लेखन आदि कार्य हेतु एक नग कम्प्यूटर अपॉरेटर रखने का कार्य। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, के लिये [www.dvnvl.org](http://www.dvnvl.org) एवं <http://tender.up.nic.in> पर देखें। हेलप लाईन-1800-180-3023 हस्त./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत जनपद मण्डल (वितरण) 64 खबा, सिकन्दर, आगरा-7 पत्रांक: 0019/वि.जा.म. (वि.)/आ./सी-2 दिनांक: 3/01/2020

**verka**  
Photo Photo, Pure Khana Bites.

**THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX No. 0172-5041812-13**

**Notice Inviting Tender**

Sr No	Name of the Item	Contract Period/ Quantity	Consignee/ Place of Tender Opening	Tender Cost (Rs.)	E.M.D (Rs.)	Date & Time for Sale/downloading of e-tenders online	Last Date & Time of Submission of online e-tenders	Date & Time of opening of e-tenders
1.	Hiring of Insulated vehicles for transportation of Milk and Fresh Milk Products in Patiala and surrounding areas.	02 Nos. For 1 year	General Manager Verka Patiala Dairy Ph No. 80549-98531, 80549-98533 80549-98534	-	50,000/-	07.01.2020 From 12:00 PM	21.01.2020 till 11:00 AM	Technical Bid 22.01.2020 at 11:00 AM Financial Bid 24.01.2020 at 11:00 AM
2.	Hiring of Vehicle for lifting Milk in Can route capacity 1 Ton & above less than 2 Ton.	30 Vehicle having model 2014 & above period from 01.02.2020 to 31.01.2021	General Manager Verka Amritsar Dairy Ph. No. 0183-2263139, 7355599892	200/-	15,000/-	04.01.2020 upto 05:00 PM	22.01.2020 upto 04:30 PM	23.01.2020 at 11:00 AM
3.	Outsourcing of Security, horticulture & housekeeping Activities	01.02.2020 to 30.09.2020	-do-	500/-	50,000/-	04.01.2020 upto 05:00 PM	22.01.2020 upto 04:30 PM	23.01.2020 at 11:00 AM

Bidders shall have to pay required Tender Processing fee through online mode only i.e. through debit/credit card for getting registered for e-tendering system. EMD should be made only through online mode i.e. Credit/Debit card, NEFT/RTGS, Internet Banking. For participating in the above e-tender, the parties shall have to get themselves registered with our e-Tendering portal i.e. [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in) and get USER ID and Password valid in time. For downloading tender through e-tendering, process flow, please contact e-Procurement help desk on given Nos. 0172-2970263, 2970284 immediately so that process of timely registration and downloading the tender is completed in time by the date of tender opening. For additional details regarding e-tendering please visit website [eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://eproc.punjab.gov.in). Tender processing Fee is Non-Refundable.  
**Note:** Corrigendum if any will be uploaded on website only

General Manager (QA&E)

**DAY TODAY**  
BY PETER VIDAL

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
You are skilled in the art of compromise, but even your diplomatic talents could be stretched to the limit. It's always difficult being a perfectionist, and now you may have to consider backing down on a point of principle. Remember, compromise is a virtue.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
You are in a decisive mood, but hidden pitfalls are everywhere. Social activities should be based around shared interests. Even a romantic relationship could blossom if you show enthusiasm for a loved one's favourite hobby, even if you do have to put on a fixed smile.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
You are in a decisive mood, but hidden pitfalls are everywhere. Social activities should be based around shared interests. Even a romantic relationship could blossom if you show enthusiasm for a loved one's favourite hobby, even if you do have to put on a fixed smile.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
Mars makes its ambitious way around your chart, proclaiming that whatever the emotional complications, you can use your time in no better way than to get to grips with practical chores. The last thing you want to do at the moment is waste your time dealing with pointless rumours.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
Family gatherings should be at the top of the agenda, as should any improvements in domestic decor and decorations. Once you are happy that you have a pleasant place to relax, you will be able to tackle worldly ambitions. If you're in the right place at the right time you might even hear the news that changes your life.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
You may hold the centre stage and occupy all the time and space you need to get your point across. There is still plenty to be accomplished at home and, whatever you think, you are now entering a busy phase, with commitments and responsibilities piling up.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
It will do you good to spend a little time by yourself, dwelling on the past and planning the future. You may allow your spiritual aspirations and selfless instincts to dictate the pace, rather than any promise of immediate gain. Selfishness doesn't suit you.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
Your romantic life seems to be dominated by secrecy and fantasy. So, even if you seem to be confident socially, it is likely that you are holding a great deal back. Don't be surprised if others misunderstand your motives! And don't be put out if a partner plans a practical joke.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
If current financial arrangements don't suit, you may now wish to back out. In fact, you may even be able to drop a few commitments, including emotional ones, without anybody noticing. You might conceivably see that what was once so important is now completely irrelevant.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
You are about to discover hidden business skills, and partners may be amazed at your ability to take shrewd decisions. A temporary obstacle or hold-up should pass fairly quickly, largely thanks to your own sensible attitudes. Oh, and don't take trivial matters too seriously.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
Colleagues, friends and relations all have their own ideas. Don't expect other people to roll over and say 'yes' to your every whim. It is essential that partners criticise your plans, for this is the only way that you'll work out exactly what you want.

**VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
The whole progress of events is now determined not by what you want, but by what others are doing. Look, listen and learn, for events beyond your control will throw up extremely useful opportunities. You might be aware of a friend's change of attitude before long.



# 19 BODY & MIND

## Make 2020 the year of less sugar

Here's the last New Year's health resolution you might ever need: resolve to stop eating added sugar

TARA PARKER-POPE

WHILE YOU might think you're not eating much sugar, chances are you're eating a lot more than you realise. Added sugar lurks in nearly 70 per cent of packaged foods and is found in breads, health foods, snacks, yogurts, most breakfast foods and sauces. The average American eats about 17 teaspoons of added sugar a day (not counting the sugars that occur naturally in foods like fruit or dairy products). That's about double the recommended limit for men (nine teaspoons) and triple the limit for women (six teaspoons). For children, the limit should be about three teaspoons of added sugar and no more than six, depending on age and caloric needs.

Cutting added sugar isn't about dieting and deprivation, and you don't have to count calories or cut fat. In fact, when you stop eating foods with added sugar, you'll replace them with foods that taste even better. And yes, you can still have dessert.

Whether you are thin or fat, you can benefit by reducing the sugar in your diet. "It's not about being obese, it has to do with metabolic health," says Dr Robert Lustig, professor of pediatric endocrinology at the University of California, San Francisco, and one of the first to raise the alarm about the health risks of added sugar. (His 90-minute lecture called Sugar: The Bitter Truth has been viewed more than nine million times since 2009.)

"Sugar turns on the ageing programmes in your body," Lustig says. "The more sugar you eat, the faster you age."

A number of health authorities, ranging from the World Health Organization to the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, which issues national dietary guidelines for Americans, agree that cutting back on added sugars is a good idea. And critics like Lustig believe that the case against sugar is as strong as the case against smoking or excess alcohol.

Yet many of us who wouldn't dream of smoking or getting drunk on a daily basis might be unknowingly undermining our health by eating too much sugar.

### 'Sugar Belly'

Many scientists now believe that added sugar is a main culprit in the obesity epidemic, but normal-weight people can suffer the same health problems associated with too much sugar. A 15-year study found that eating high amounts of added sugar doubles the risk of heart disease, even for people who aren't overweight. Added sugar has also been implicated in an increased risk for Type 2 diabetes, cancer, stroke and even Alzheimer's disease.

And too much added sugar in your diet can damage your liver, similar to the way that alcohol can. About a third of American adults and 13 per cent of children have non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, a condition linked to added sugar consumption that is on the rise and that can progress to serious, even deadly, liver illness.

We've all seen the beer belly associated with drinking too much alcohol. Consuming too much added sugar can lead to a similar condition called "sugar belly," in which your waist is bigger than your hips. Sugar belly can arise when the liver repeatedly detects more fructose, a form of sugar found in fruits that is also added to many processed foods, than our bodies can use. To deal with it, the liver breaks down the extra fructose and changes it to fat globules, which are then exported into the bloodstream and deposited around your internal organs and your midsection.

### Fruit vs Fructose

But isn't sugar a natural food? That's a counter argument often promoted by the sugar industry, but there is nothing natural about the way most of us eat added sugar. When you eat a strawberry or other fruit, you are eating fructose in its natural state, and it comes with a number of micronutrients plus



Reina Takahashi/NYT



The fructose found in ultraprocessed foods and beverages is concentrated from corn, beets and sugar cane, and much or all of the fibre and nutrients have been removed. Without the fibre to slow it down, your body gets a big dose of fructose that can wreak havoc. High consumption of processed fructose can also dull your body's reaction to the brain hormone leptin, which is a natural appetite suppressant

fibre, which slows absorption and the rate at which sugar enters your bloodstream. So yes, it's O.K. to eat fruit! Your body can handle fructose when it's eaten as whole fruit.

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wreak havoc.

High consumption of processed fructose can also dull your body's reaction to the brain hormone leptin, which is a natural appetite suppressant. A condition called "leptin resistance" can develop among high-sugar eaters, and the brain stops getting the message to stop eating, leading to weight gain.

And increasingly, the scientific community is acknowledging the addictive nature of the fructose in processed foods and beverages. Brain scan studies show that fructose affects the dopamine system, a messenger centre in the brain that controls how we experience pleasure. Eating lots of added sugar can create changes in the brain similar to those found in people who are addicted to cocaine and alcohol, and it's one reason so many of us find ourselves craving sweets.

Cutting sugar is a simple concept, but it can be challenging when a majority of foods available in supermarkets contain added sugar. Gary Taubes, author of "The Case Against Sugar" and an advocate of low-carb eating, scoffs at the food industry recommendation that added sugars be consumed in moderation. Taubes has built a career touting the deleterious effects of processed food and added sugar. Just a few bites of a food like banana bread, he says, leave him wanting more.

"If I start to allow sugars into my life, there is a slippery slope," he says. "I think for many people, getting control of their sugar habit is the most important thing they can do for their health. If they can't do it through abstinence, then mostly-abstinence is a good thing to achieve."

To start, it's a good idea to cut sugar out of breakfast, which tends to be the sweetest meal of the day. Cutting sugary beverages and eating whole foods rather than packaged foods makes a big dent in your sugar consumption. If you crave dessert, eat fruit in-

stead (skip the grapes, which are mostly sugar), and it's best to limit other types of dessert to once a week.

And when you read food labels, look for added sugar in disguise. "One should keep in mind that added sugars go by many different names like 'brown sugar,' 'beet sugar,' 'agave nectar' and 'honey,'" says Dr Frank Hu, chair of the department of nutrition at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. "But don't be fooled by these names, because they are all added sugars with similar metabolic effects and extra calories."

Cutting added sugar isn't easy. During the first five days of no added sugar, you will probably experience cravings for sweets. And be warned that studies show that many of us are particularly vulnerable to craving sugary snacks in the evening.

But stick with it, and soon the cravings will fade. You'll start to feel more energetic, more focused and less irritable. You might even lose weight.

After just 10 days of cutting added sugar, one important study of overweight children has shown improvements in numerous metabolic markers, including blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar.

Note that cutting added sugar doesn't mean you'll be eliminating sweet foods from your life entirely. If you adopt a standard daily diet of whole foods with no added sugar, you will still be ingesting about 10 per cent of your calories from natural sugars. And once you've got added sugar under control, the occasional treat of chocolate or dessert won't derail you. Lustig recommends three weeks of no added sugar to get your brain's dopamine system back to normal.

"Then you can introduce something back in," Lustig says. "But it's got to be under your control, not the food industry's control."

NYT



## Move your body, bolster your brain

GRETCHEN REYNOLDS

WHAT'S GOOD for your muscles can also be good for your mind.

### A single workout can alter the brain

A single, moderate workout may immediately change how our brains function and how well we recognise common names and similar information, according to a promising new study of exercise, memory and ageing. The study adds to growing evidence that exercise can have rapid effects on brain function and also that these effects could accumulate and lead to long-term improvements in how our brains operate and we remember.

Until recently, scientists thought that by adulthood, human brains were relatively fixed in their structure and function, especially compared to malleable tissues, like muscle, that continually grow and shrivel in direct response to how we live our lives. But multiple, newer experiments have shown that adult brains, in fact, can be quite plastic, rewiring and reshaping themselves in various ways, depending on our lifestyles.

### How exercise may sharpen memory

A hormone that is released during exercise may improve brain health and lessen the damage and memory loss that occur during dementia, a new study finds. The study, which was published this month in *Nature Medicine*, involved mice, but its findings could help to explain how, at a molecular level, exercise protects our brains and

possibly preserves memory and thinking skills, even in people whose pasts are fading.

Considerable scientific evidence already demonstrates that exercise remodels brains and affects thinking. Exercise also can improve the health and function of the synapses between neurons there, allowing brain cells to better communicate.

### Weight training changes the brain

Weight training may have benefits for brain health, at least in rats. When rats lift weights, they gain strength and also change the cellular environment inside their brains, improving their ability to think, according to a notable new study of resistance training, rodents and the workings of their minds.

The study finds that weight training, accomplished in rodents with ladders and tiny, taped-on weights, can reduce or even reverse aspects of age-related memory loss. The finding may have important brain-health implications for those of us who are not literal gym rats.

### The right kind of exercise to lower dementia risk

Being physically fit may sharpen the memory and lower our risk of dementia, even if we do not start exercising until we are middle-aged or older, according to two stirring new studies of the interplay between exercise, ageing, aerobic fitness and forgetting. But both studies, while underscoring the importance of activity for brain health, also suggest that some types of exercise may be better than others at safeguarding and even enhancing our memory.

NYT

## DIET DIARY

### How to beat hangovers



BY ISHI KHOSLA

IN SEARCH of hangover remedies, I discovered that South Korea has a very high number of alcoholics compared to other places in the world. Hence it was not surprising when results showed that they also have the secret ingredient to deal with hangovers.

Long hours at work and the culture of "work hard party hard" has made drinking a part of their work life. Heavy drinking followed by the need to be up and about the next morning to be at work on time drives the working lot to use hangover remedies routinely. A novel extract from the raisin tree, also called Hovenia dulcis, is among the most widely used ingredients in hangover remedies in South Korea. As a matter of fact, it is sold extensively in and around the country.

Hovenia dulcis, also known as the oriental raisin tree, is mainly found in East Asia. It has long been used in traditional folk remedies for alcohol intoxication. A study published in the journal of ethnopharmacology in 2017 examined the anti-hangover effects of Hovenia dulcis. Twenty-six male adults consumed 360 ml of Korean Soju (50 g alcohol) with Hovenia dulcis and matched placebos with subsequent crossover. Decline in hangover symptoms scores were significant in the Hovenia dulcis group com-

pared to the placebo group.

Hovenia has been known by herbalists for ages as a natural liver detoxifier.

Recent research studies have demonstrated that it helps reduce blood alcohol level quickly and effectively by inducing the production of Alcohol Digestive Enzyme (ADH) and may break down acetaldehyde, the hangover-causing toxin.

Hovenia contains significant concentrations of hovenia-based antioxidants, flavonoids and saponins. These are known to promote liver detoxification.

Hovenia dulcis is listed among the premier anti-hangover herbal medicines in China's first pharmacopoeia. According to researchers in China, Hovenia extracts ameliorate alcohol-induced liver injuries and relieves hangover. However, its true efficacy, active constituents, and mechanisms of action have not been fully examined.

Recent studies demonstrate that a flavonoid component from Hovenia is highly effective in counteracting acute intoxication symptoms, as well as reducing excessive consumption.

Alcoholism is a major problem globally and kills 2.5 million people every year. According to a WHO report in 2011, nearly 4 per cent of all global deaths is related to alcohol abuse. A call to action to control alcohol abuse and preparations that help de-addict and deal with the negative impact of alcohol is needed. Research provides strong evidence that the extracts of Hovenia dulcis is a candidate for development as a novel therapeutic product. In addition, public awareness about dangers of drinking must be spread.

Author is a clinical nutritionist and founder of [www.theweightmonitor.com](http://www.theweightmonitor.com) and Whole Foods India

## SHORT COURSE

### [0-10 YEARS]

#### Antibiotics may raise risk of allergies in infants: Study



GIVING ANTIBIOTICS to infants may increase their risk for developing allergies, a new study suggests. Researchers used records of 798,426 children in the Military Health System database from 2001 to 2013, tracking their antibiotic prescriptions in infancy and allergy diagnoses in childhood. About 17 per cent of them were treated with one or more courses of antibiotics. Taking an antibiotic was associated with a significantly increased risk for anaphylaxis (a serious allergic reaction), asthma, food allergies, and allergies of the skin (dermatitis), respiratory tract (rhinitis) and eyes (conjunctivitis). Penicillin increased the risk by 30 per cent compared to infants who had been given no antibiotic prescriptions. **NYT**

### [10-20 YEARS]

#### Having dog as child tied to lower schizophrenia risk



LIVING WITH a pet dog in childhood may be linked to a reduced risk of schizophrenia in adulthood. Researchers studied adult patients at Sheppard Pratt Health System in Baltimore, 396 with schizophrenia and 381 with bipolar disorder. They compared them with 594 healthy controls. The participants reported whether they had had a dog or a cat in the household when they were children and, if so, the first and most recent time they had contact with the animal. The scientists found exposure to a dog at any time in childhood was associated with a 24 per cent reduced risk for schizophrenia. There was no significant effect of exposure to cats, and no effect of either animal on risk for bipolar disorder. **NYT**

### [20-40 YEARS]

#### Keeping plants on work desk may cut stress in employees



KEEPING PLANTS on the work desk may significantly reduce anxiety among employees who are typically removed from exposure to healthy green environments, a study claims. Researchers, including those from University of Hyogo in Japan, explored the practical use of indoor plants to boost mental health in office workers. Sixty-three office workers in Japan were participants of this study. They were directed to take a 3-minute rest when they felt fatigue. The researchers measured stress in the participants. The ratio of the participants whose pulse rate lowered significantly after a 3-minute rest with interaction with their desk plant proved definitive. **PTI**

### [40-60 YEARS]

#### Long-term insecticide exposure tied to heart disease



PROLONGED EXPOSURE to a widely used household insecticide may increase risk for cardiovascular disease and early death, research suggests. Pyrethrin and its derivatives are used in garden insecticides, mosquito repellents and lice shampoos. They cause no acute reactions in humans, but are absorbed by the body and then metabolised and excreted in urine. Researchers tested pyrethroid levels in 2,116 adults. The study followed the group for 14 years. After adjusting for several factors, they found that compared with those in the lowest one-third for urine levels of pyrethroids, those in the highest had a 56 per cent higher rate of all-cause death, and three times the rate of death from cardiovascular disease. **NYT**



## 20 SPORT

## Gill loses cool after being given 'out', umpires reverse decision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MOHALI, JANUARY 3

RISING STAR of Indian cricket Shubman Gill was embroiled in a controversy when his dismissal was overturned after an argument with the on-field umpire during Punjab's Ranji Trophy encounter against Delhi on Friday, leading to stoppage of play for around 10 minutes.

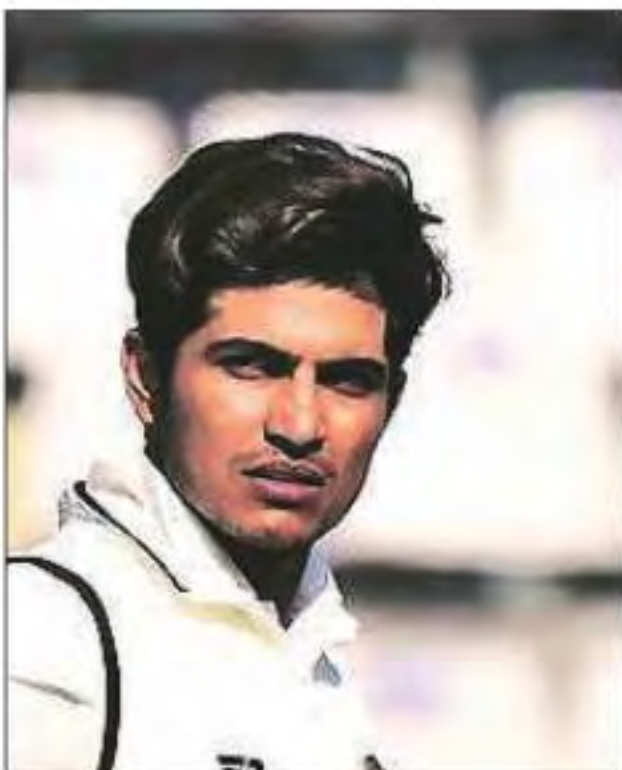
The current white-ball captain of the India A team refused to leave the crease after he was adjudged caught-behind by slow medium bowler Subodh Bhati. An argument with the umpire followed and the batsman was reinstated after a discussion between the on-field officials.

Showing dissent to the umpire's decision is a breach of the 'Code of Conduct' and there is a possibility that match referee P Ranganathan will have a word with the

player. He could either be let off with a warning or charged with a Level 1 offence.

Gill was batting on 10 then. He didn't last long as he edged one off Simarjeet Singh to Anuj Rawat for 23 off 41 balls with the team's score on 60. "The straight umpire (Mohammed Rafi) had adjudged Shubman caught behind and the batsman then walked up to the umpire and was seen having an argument asking him to reverse his decision. The straight umpire then consulted the square-leg umpire (Paschim Pathak) and reversed his decision," Delhi team manager Vivek Khurana said.

Asked if there was any plan for a walk-out by the visiting side, Khurana denied any such move. "Our vice-captain (Nitish) Rana just asked the umpires as to why they overturned the initial decision. We never walked out. The match referee (Ranganathan) came in and play resumed as usual," Khurana added.



Shubman Gill made 23 off 41 balls. File

**The current white-ball captain of the India A team refused to leave the crease after he was adjudged caught-behind by slow medium bowler Subodh Bhati. An argument with the umpire followed and the batsman was reinstated after a discussion between the on-field officials.**

DDCA general secretary Vinod Tihara said: "The match was halted for seven to eight minutes.

There was nothing untoward. Our boys felt that Gill was out and that's why they asked the umpires why the decision was re-

versed. We are not filing any official complaint as the matter is closed for us."

Senior Punjab Cricket Association official GS Walia said Gill didn't use any cuss words during his argument with the umpire. "He just told the umpire that he had not nicked the ball. All of us have seen Shubman, he is a very polite and calm boy," Walia said.

Any decision on a sanction by the match referee will only be announced after the fourth day's play.

**Mandeep, Mann**

Delhi's seamer all-rounder Kunwar Bidhuri and leg-spinner Tejas Baroka restricted Punjab to 266 for eight after Shubman Gill grabbed headlines for arguing with an umpire in the Ranji Trophy here on Friday. Bidhuri (3/62 in 13 overs) and Baroka (2/34 in 10 overs) put the brakes on scoring on the opening day of the Group A match. Skipper Mandeep Singh's painstaking (81 off

181 balls) was the only saving grace for the hosts. Gurkeerat Mann (65 off 50 balls) entertained for a while as he struck 12 boundaries in his innings before a delivery from left-arm spinner Vikas Mishra (1/52 in 29 overs), whose job was to bowl wicket to wicket and keep one end tight, castled him.

Mandeep and Anmolpreet Singh (45) had a 64-run stand before Bidhuri got one to held its line and trap Anmol plumb in-front. Sharad Lumba (0) gave a return catch to Baroka, who also removed Anmol Malhotra, caught by skipper Dhruv Shorey.

At 223 for six, Mandeep didn't have the option to attack as Bidhuru struck twice with the old ball, casting Mayank Markande and then getting Mandeep caught by substitute fielder Vaibhav Kandpal.

**BRIEF SCORES:** (In Mohali): Punjab 266/8 (Mandeep Singh 81, Gurkeerat Mann 62; Kunwar Bidhuri 3/64) vs Delhi.

**RANJI WRAP****Siraj and Ravi rattle Kerala on spicy pitch**

INDIA DISCARD Mohammad Siraj had an indifferent outing against Delhi, but re-discovered his outswing and form against Kerala. He took just two wickets including that of Kerala's mainstay Jalaj Saxena, but bowled better than he ever had this season. Ravi Kiran fed off the pressure and grabbed three wickets. Resultantly, Kerala find themselves fumbling at 126/7. This time, they didn't have the in-form Sanju Samson to bail them out of trouble, and their season seems headed for another heartbreak.

**BRIEF SCORES** (In Hyderabad): Kerala 126/7 in 41 overs (Salman Nizar 37, Sachin Baby 29; Ravi Kiran 3/24, Mohammad Siraj 2/36) vs Hyderabad.

**Stephen, Sasikanth combine again**

ANDHRA'S MEDIUM-PACERS CV Stephen and KV Sasikanth seem to enjoy each other's company, as they have a combined tally of 38 wickets in just three games. The rest have managed just 10. Against Rajasthan they nabbed four apiece, bowling them out for a meagre 151. Stephen is the brisker of the two and has a deceptive outswinger while Sasikanth pins batsmen down with stifling lengths. In reply, Andhra were comfortably placed at 82/2, though they lost Hanuma Vihari for a four-ball zero.

**BRIEF SCORES** (In Jaipur): Rajasthan 151 in 49.5 overs (Ashok Menaria 74, KV Saikanth 4/50, CV Stephen 67/4) vs Andhra 82/2 in 29 overs (C Gnaneshwar 32 not out, Prasanth 31).

**Railways continue their impressive show**

FORMER CHAMPIONS Railways continued their revival under coach JP Yadav with yet another strong first-day performance, wrapping up Baroda for a mid-dling 201. The latter has a resourceful batting unit, with Yusuf Pathan, Krunal Pandya and Deepak Hooda among the ranks. But barring opener Kedar Devdhar none have got their act together, none apart from him has managed a hundred either. On Friday, only Hooda hung around with a patient 86. Railways, who humbled Mumbai last week, might not have a top-billed bowler, but they've functioned smoothly as a unit. Medium-pacer Amit Mishra was Baroda's destroyer with a four-wicket burst. Their batting efforts, though, haven't been commanding, and yet again they slipped to 24/2. Their recovery will hinge on Karn Sharma, their hero against Mumbai.

**BRIEF SCORES** (In Vadodara): Baroda 201 (Deepak Hooda 86; Amit Mishra 4-51; Himanshu Sangwan 3-57) vs Railways 24/2.

**Avesh files a reminder of his talent**

Once counted among the most promising young speedsters in the country—he was India's spearhead in the 2016 U-19 World Cup and bristling run-up had Virat Kohli gushing with superlatives—Avesh Khan has often struggled to translate his potential to performance. Occasional flashes of brilliance didn't suffice to realise his dream of representing the country. Intermittent injuries too stalled his organic progress. But he has begun this season on a consistent note, picking 17 wickets at 17.35 in just three games. Against Himachal Pradesh, in nippy Dharamsala, he picked his first five-for of the season. His senior accomplice Ishwar Pandey, who came close to playing for India himself, snared three as Himachal Pradesh were restricted to 175, which looks like a competitive score on a bowler-friendly surface. Madhya Pradesh were already four wickets down for 87 runs.

**BRIEF SCORES** (In Dharamshala): Himachal Pradesh 175 (AP Vashisht 33; Avesh Khan 5-52; Ishwar Pandey 3-51) vs Madhya Pradesh 87/4 (Rameez Khan 36 batting; PP Jaswal 2-16).

**Maharashtra shot out for 44; Poonia gets 5**

Delhi is considerably warmer than what it was last week during the Delhi-Hyderabad game, but the new ball does move in the first hour. Services made the best use of the conditions in Palam, shooting down Maharashtra for a paltry 44. The destroyer again was medium-pacer Poonam Poonia, Fresh from his hat-trick against Tripura, he rifled through Maharashtra's middle-order, pocketing stunning figures of 10.2-7-11-5.

**BRIEF SCORES** (In Delhi): Maharashtra 44 all out in 30.2 overs (PS Poonia 5/11, Sachidanand Pandey 3/18) vs Services 141 for 4 in 51 overs (Ravi Chauhan 49 batting, Rajat Paliwal 42).

**Parag scores maiden first-class ton**

Riyan Parag is barely 18, but he has already set the eyes rolling in the IPL. Last year, his enterprising strokeplay, taking on Trent Boult of all fast-bowlers once, was the lone silver-lining for Rajasthan Royals. The second youngest youth-Test debutant, though, has struggled at the first-class level, averaging only 28 before this game. But he showed his growing adaptability with a patient unbeaten 104 off 218 balls, his maiden first-class century.

**BRIEF SCORES** (In Dehradun): Assam 237/5 in 92 overs (Riyan Parag 104 batting; Sunny 2/19) vs Uttarakhand.

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 3

IT WAS an unusual decision, given how the game had panned out so far, but it was one Mumbai's skipper Suryakumar Yadav was willing to take. He opted to give his medium pacers a bit of a rest when he tossed the ball to off-spinner Shashank Attarde, just for an over. Bowling a spinner on Day One of the Ranji Trophy tie at the MCA-BKC Ground in Mumbai was a gamble as there wasn't much turn predicted. There was no expectation of a spinner influencing the game. After all, it was the Karnataka pace attack that bowled out Mumbai for a paltry 194 in first innings.

But before describing how the Mumbai spin-unit managed to restrict Karnataka to 74 for 3 at stumps, a quick look at how the visitors' pace attack ran through the Mumbai line-up is in order.

Karnataka won the toss and opted to bowl first with the idea that the morning moisture would come into play. It was a smart decision, since it took just seven deliveries on the morning for the visitors to draw first blood—Mumbai opener Aditya Tare fell on the first ball he faced after getting caught behind off a V Koushik delivery.

A short while later, Ajinkya Rahane walked out of his crease to chase an outswinger, edging a Ronit More delivery and drawing a smart diving catch from wicketkeeper BR Sharath. Two balls later, More uprooted Siddhesh Lad's stumps.

Despite Mumbai losing its first three wickets for just 30 runs, there was a silver lining in the discipline on display from the other opener Prithvi Shaw. The 20-year-old, who just last month scored a double-ton, was picking his shots carefully and confidently, finding the boundary at regular intervals. But the mistake did come, when a thick inside edge off an Abhimanyu Mithun delivery played on to the stumps.

And that was the recurring theme for most of the afternoon. Karnataka stayed patient and hit the right areas, tempting the Mumbai batsmen. Left arm pacer Prateek Jain picked up the wickets of Sarfaraz Khan and Shams Mulani in quick succession. Mumbai were tottering at 60 for 6. It was a firm reminder of Mumbai's last Ranji Trophy match, where the entire Mumbai team were bowled out in a single session. Clearly, lessons were not learned, and the hosts lacked the application and intent.

What eventually took the hosts up to 194 was the tenacity of Yadav. The captain has been in a good run of form and was clear in his shot selection on the day. There were no signs of impatience, as he took his time and waited for the opposition to tire, and also picked his moments. For example, when leg spinner Shreyas Gopal was introduced to the attack for the first time on the day, the 29-year-old hit him for 19 runs—which included two boundaries and Yadav using his feet for



Gujarat teammates Priyank Panchal (R) with Jasprit Bumrah.



Mumbai skipper Surykumar Yadav saved the team the blushes against Karnataka. Pradip Das

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a six over long off.

With the field spread for Yadav, the middle order batsman played some unorthodox strokes. He swept left arm pacer Jain for a six and played late behind trying to find the gap between slips and third man. Yadav's intent was clear. But as he carved through the

Karnataka attack, he ran out of partners till he teamed up with Attarde, who walked in at number eight. By then—post lunch—the pitch eased out and there wasn't much movement from the ball, giving the batsman liberty to free their arms.

Together, the pair added 88 for the seventh wicket until Attarde edged a Koushik delivery to Abhishek Reddy at slips. Just under seven overs later, Yadav came out of his crease, but the Mithun delivery kissed his gloves and Sharath took the resulting catch. It didn't take much time thereon for Karnataka to wrap-up the Mumbai innings.

In reply, Karnataka openers Devdutt Padikkal and R Samarth gave their team a steady start.

They were risk free and played the ball as per its merit. That's when Yadav made his move and called Attarde. The spinner managed to get sharp turn, surprising teammates and opponents alike. It even prompted left

arm spinner Mulani, standing at mid-on, to signal at Yadav to let him bowl from the other end.

Mulani was unlucky as Sarfaraz dropped Samarth at gully, but he finally got the much needed break as he trapped Padikkal with 15 minutes left of play. Two balls later, Sarafraz made amends and took a brilliant low catch at silly point to get Abhishek Reddy. Mulani's two quick wickets gave Mumbai hopes of a fight back.

Attarde took the third wicket to dismiss Rohan Kadam, who tried to scoop the ball only for him to find Sarfaraz.

From 68 for no loss, Karnataka ended their day one 79 for 3, trailing the hosts by 115. A Mumbai comeback is now on the cards, but the onus will now be on the pacers when they come out on the second day.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Mumbai 194 all out (Suryakumar Yadav 77, Shashank Attarde 35; V Koushik 3 for 45) Vs Karnataka 79 for 3.

**WAITING IN THE WINGS**

## Tale of two friends: Bumrah took elevator, Panchal keeps climbing stairs

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
KOLKATA, JANUARY 3

AT THE Gujarat nets, before the match against Kerala, Jasprit Bumrah was running full steam. Priyank Panchal was facing him and he was happy to see that his team-mate didn't lose anything after recovering from a lower-back stress fracture. Bumrah, though he was supposed to play, pulled out after the board felt he needed more time ahead of the T20 international series against Sri Lanka, commencing Sunday.

"He (Bumrah) was amazing. He was bowling with proper rhythm, the rhythm he wanted. He looked in good shape. There was no loss of pace and he trained quite hard. It was pretty normal, the way he was. He was giving 100 percent," Panchal told *The Indian Express*.

Panchal and Bumrah are friends on and off the field. Panchal is senior to Bumrah, having made his first-class debut in 2008. Bumrah burst through in 2013. But the fast bowler took the elevator, was fast-tracked to

international cricket and became arguably India's most valuable player.

The doughty opener, on the other hand, took the stairs, to paraphrase Vinod Kambli, despite his consistency in domestic cricket, he is yet to play for the national team. In 2016-17, he was the highest run-getter in the Ranji Trophy - 1,310 runs, besides enabling Gujarat win their first title. In 2017-18, he finished with 542 runs from seven matches and in the last season, Panchal had 898 runs from nine games. Panchal was picked for India A and showed consistency with three centuries in four series. But even after Murali Vijay's exit and Shikhar Dhawan and KL Rahul's loss of form, he wasn't considered for the Indian team.

At 29, he is slowly running out. Frustration has started to creep in. "Obviously you can get frustrated. But that's the time you have to hang on and you have to tell yourself, 'just be patient, be calm'. These are the situations that test you and make you stronger. There's no option apart from being patient and do things that you have been doing for so

was hooked to American philosopher William James's books. Now, as he is striving hard to reach the next level, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella's Hit Refresh has become an inspiration. "From Hyderabad to leading Microsoft is an inspiring story in itself. And what I can learn from his book is that if you are creative, if you have something in you, if you believe you have something in you, then you can do anything," Panchal said.

Closer to home, Mayank Agarwal is a living proof of hard grind reaping dividends. The Karnataka batsman had to wait a little too long, a mountain of runs in domestic cricket notwithstanding, to get into the Indian team.

But when the opportunity arrived he was not only ready but also grabbed it. "What he has done is amazing. All credit to him the way he worked hard and performed," Panchal was full of appreciation.

A piece of advice from Rahul Dravid, when he was the India A team coach, also stuck. "I had some short conversations with him, when we were playing against Sri Lanka

and I was the captain. He told me to hang in there. 'Be patient, don't think about anything that's not in your control,' he told me. My ultimate goal is to play for the country and I have been performing consistently, both in the Ranji Trophy and for India A. I have scored a double hundred against England. Recently I scored a hundred against South Africa. From that perspective, I would be very happy if the opportunity comes."

The Ranji Trophy has started late this year, in full winter, when there's nip in the air and movement off the deck. It has become more challenging for the batsmen. Panchal has embraced the challenge. "I think it's good. These are the challenges batsmen need to face. The Ranji Trophy in December-January; if you score runs here, then you can score runs against any team in any condition."

Up next is India A team's tour to New Zealand. With Agarwal, Prithvi Shaw and Shubman Gill also in the side also, it needs to be seen if Panchal gets a look in. If he is picked, it would be a great opportunity to impress the selectors and team management.



# South Africa seize early advantage at Newlands

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
CAPE TOWN, JANUARY 3

BEN STOKES gave his wicket away three runs short of a half-century to start off another England batting collapse on the opening day of the second Test against South Africa on Friday. Stokes spooned a catch to mid-off on 47 and England went from 185-4 to 262-9 at stumps to take little reward from winning the toss and batting first at Newlands.

The collapse followed similar slumps in the first Test, when the tourists lost 7-39 in the first innings and 7-64 in the second to lose the series opener by 107 runs. Ollie Pope resisted to stumps with his 56 not out and last-man James Anderson was with him on 3 not out. They had clung on at the end of the day to add valuable runs after England was 234-9 when Stuart Broad's stumps were rearranged by a yorker from quick bowler Kagiso Rabada.

Stokes, who made a career-best 258 at record pace on his last visit to Newlands four years ago, appeared to have momentarily swung the momentum of the opening day with his six fours and a six in a 58-run stand with Pope. The thousands of England fans who poured into Newlands for South Africa's marquee New Year Test hoped so. But the star allrounder hit a half-volley straight to Dean Elgar off the bowling of Anrich Nortje, then rested his head against his bat in frustration before walking off.

Stokes wasn't the only one to miss out. Five of England's top seven batsmen made promising starts in the Cape Town sunshine but didn't follow through: Dom Sibley was out for 34, Joe Denly for 38, captain Joe Root for 35, Stokes for his 47 and Jos Buttler for a quickfire 29 off 27 balls -- exciting but not what England needed. Opener Zak Crawley, rushed into the team as an injury replacement for Rory Burns, was the first man out for 4 and England was often under pressure on the opening day except for periods when Denly and Sibley, and then Stokes and Pope, were together.

England's on-field struggles in South Africa have mirrored its battles off the field. As many as 11 players in the squad were affected by a flu-like illness before and during the first test in Centurion, which the tourists lost by 107 runs in four days. There was no better luck for England in Cape Town when fast bowler Jofra Archer and opening batsman Burns were injured in training ahead of the second test and ruled out of the game.

Crawley, with just one Test appearance before Friday, was rushed into the team in his place and lasted three overs before edging behind to Vernon Philander. England's top three -- Crawley, Sibley and Denly -- have only 15 test appearances between them.

South Africa's front-line pace pair of Philander and Rabada had two wickets each but newcomer Nortje continued to be the Proteas' breakthrough bowler. He removed Root via a fierce bouncer that flew off the England skipper's gloves to wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock. The South Africans celebrated with gusto, with Root having been dropped by Rassie van der Dussen at first slip earlier in the over. Root walked as the South Africans went up for the appeal. Nortje also picked up the precious wicket of Stokes.

Pope, who missed the first Test with illness, showed impressive resolve on a day when England was hoping to put its struggles behind it after winning the toss on what looked like a batting-friendly pitch.

**BRIEF SCORES:** England first innings 262 for nine in 89 overs (Ollie Pope 56 batting, Ben Stokes 47, Joe Denly 38, Joe Root 35, Dom Sibley 34, Vernon Philander 2-46, Anrich Nortje 2-54, Dwayne Pretorius 2-26, Kagiso Rabada 2-63) vs SA. England won the toss.

**Five of England's top seven batsmen made promising starts in the Cape Town sunshine but didn't follow through: Dom Sibley was out for 34, Joe Denly for 38, captain Joe Root for 35, Stokes for his 47 and Jos Buttler for a quickfire 29 off 27 balls**



## PICKING BRAIN?

South Africa paceman Anrich Nortje is seen in action on Day One of the second Test in Cape Town on Friday. Reuters

# New year, same old Labuschagne

Marnus makes unbeaten 130 -- his fourth ton in five Tests -- as Australia score 283 on the opening day of the third match

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
SYDNEY, JANUARY 3

MARNUS LABUSCHAGNE scored his fourth century in five matches this summer as Australia continued its dominance of New Zealand by reaching 283-3 after the first day of the third cricket test.

Labuschagne shared a 156-run partnership with Steve Smith, who made 63, to give first day honors to Australia after captain Tim Paine won the toss and batted Friday on a dry Sydney Cricket Ground pitch. At stumps, Labuschagne was 130 not out with Matt Wade on 22.

It was a long day in the field for a depleted New Zealand, which was forced to make five lineup changes, including the absence of captain Kane Williamson because of a virus. Neil Wagner and Colin de Grandhomme again most-troubled the Australian batsmen, with Wagner's short-pitched aggressive line complemented by de Grandhomme's accurate swing bowling.

Smith took 39 balls to get off the mark as his series nemesis Wagner -- who hit the star batsman on the body with his first ball -- employed his short-pitched tactic to good effect to limit the Smith's scoring options and greatly slowed Australia's run-rate in the hour after lunch.

Labuschagne, however, was untroubled and kept the score ticking over, raising his 50 off 97 balls.

The 25-year-old batsman continued to score serenely and reached his fourth century in seven innings this summer with a clip to fine leg for a boundary off de Grandhomme in the 72nd over.

Labuschagne celebrated his first hundred at the SCG -- coming 12 months after his shock selection at No. 3 against India at the same venue -- by raising both arms to the crowd before embracing batting partner Smith, who had reached his half-century two overs prior. His stylish cen-



Labuschagne celebrates his first hundred at the SCG -- coming 12 months after his shock selection at No. 3 against India at the same venue.

ture came off 163 balls with eight boundaries and one six.

"This time last year I was sitting here and there were a lot of questions," Labuschagne said, referring to criticism of his inclusion in the top order against India here last year.

"I believed that I had the ability. For me it was a lot of mental stuff and just making sure I stayed focus for long periods of times. "It's been an amazing time."

The 156-run third-wicket partnership was eventually broken by de Grandhomme (2-63), who teased Smith into driving a ball outside off-stump and found the edge

which carried to Ross Taylor at slip.

Smith's second half century of the series also saw him surpass world No. 1-ranked batsman Virat Kohli's current career tally of 7,202 runs in 84 tests, with the Australian taking 11 tests fewer to reach the same mark at an average of 62.84.

Opener Joe Burns (18) was the only wicket to fall in the first session when he edged to Taylor in the slips off de Grandhomme.

Wagner (1-48) then struck with the third ball after lunch by tempting David Warner into a pull stroke and had him

**Smith's second half century of the series also saw him surpass world No. 1-ranked batsman Virat Kohli's current career tally of 7,202 runs in 84 Tests, with the Australian taking 11 Tests fewer to reach the same mark at an average of 62.84.**

caught by de Grandhomme at leg gully. Warner made 45 runs, his third score in the 40s this series.

After losing Trent Boult to a hand injury sustained in last week's second test, a virus swept through New Zealand's squad leading to five changes here in Sydney.

Glenn Phillips, who only flew in from Auckland on Thursday as injury cover for Williamson, made his test debut. Tom Latham was named captain, and Mitchell Santner, Henry Nicholls and Tim Southee were also out.

Seamer Matt Henry, spinners Todd Astle and Will Somerville and batsman Jeet Raval were the other inclusions for the tourists.

Australia was unchanged from the lineup that clinched the series 2-0 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground last weekend.

Players from both teams wore black armbands in memory of those killed in current wildfires in southern New South Wales and Victoria states. Conditions were expected to worsen on Saturday and smoke from the fires could affect play on the second day of the test.

Before the match began, a minute of applause was held to thank the thousands of emergency personnel, many of them volunteers, who are fighting the fires.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Australia 283 for 3 in 90 ovs (David Warner 45, Marnus Labuschagne 130 batting, Steve Smith 63; de Grandhomme 2/63) vs New Zealand

## Eng give up their morning kicks after own goal



Rory Burns injured himself while playing football to warm up ahead of England's final practice session.

Cape town: England have put a stop to warm-up football games after injury to Rory Burns ruled him out of the Test series against South Africa. Burns was injured before England's final practice ahead of the second Test which started at Newlands in Cape Town on Friday.

The ban was confirmed by an England team spokesman, who said the decision was made by head coach Chris Silverwood, supported by Ashley Giles, England's director of men's cricket.

Giles previously banned football warm-ups during stints with English counties Warwickshire and Lancashire but had not stopped the England team from playing the game.

It was the second relatively serious injury by an England player in just over a year. Jonny Bairstow was injured and missed several matches during a tour of Sri Lanka in October 2018. Burns suffered ligament damage to his left ankle when he kicked the turf in trying to make contact with the ball on Thursday.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

## Sydney cricket grind for a depleted NZ

Sydney: Any hopes New Zealand had that the New Year would bring a change of fortune on their tour of Australia were shattered on Friday by a combination of illness, a lost toss, some questionable selections and brilliant batting from their hosts.

The first blow did not come entirely out of the blue with captain Kane Williamson and batsman Henry Nicholls having missed training on the previous two days with a flu bug that was sweeping through the squad.

Spinner Mitchell Santner joined them in the sick bay on Thursday and while he was ruled out altogether on Friday, Williamson and Nicholls were allowed a net to test their fitness.

"You could see pretty quickly that they weren't right. Both those guys have been tough competitors and tough people," said coach Gary Stead. "And when you don't get an argument back around whether you should play or not, you know they are not very well."

The bug led to three changes to the team that lost heavily in Melbourne last weekend with batsman Glenn Phillips, who was flown over as cover on Thursday, handed his first cap.

A fourth change was forced by the injury suffered by paceman Trent Boult in the second test, but the fifth and last was the unexpected decision to drop experienced quick Tim Southee in favour of Matt Henry.

"We just felt we wanted a bit more pace out there with what Matt offers over Tim," Stead added. "The workload that Tim's had, not just in the last two tests, but you put the last four together it's somewhere around about 200 overs in a short period of time, we felt that Matt would have given us a point of difference."

REUTERS

## Steyn wants another crack at world glory, eyes int'l comeback

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MELBOURNE, JANUARY 3

INJURY-RAVAGED South African pace legend Dale Steyn says this year's T20 World Cup is very much on his "agenda" and he will begin another effort at an international comeback with the series against England next month.

Steyn, who retired from Test cricket last year, has been battling to keep his career alive in the other two formats despite being hampered by a recurring shoulder injury. The 36-year-old is currently playing in the Big Bash League for Melbourne Stars.

"I know I'll be part of (the T20 series against England), that was the last conversation I've had. I get a nice two-week break, then straight into it again. I'll be around for the ODIs -- to be honest, I don't know how much I'll play (the ODIs) ... I'll be there for that and then definitely the T20s," he told 'cricket.com.au'.

"That (T20 World Cup) is very much on my agenda. I'm starting to enjoy my cricket a lot

more now, I think four overs is a lot easier on the body than the Test matches are," he added.

Steyn picked the career-threatening shoulder injury in 2016 and appeared in just eight Tests, nine ODIs and two T20 Internationals since. He could not play in the 2019 World Cup despite being named in the squad due to the same injury.

The upcoming T20 World Cup is scheduled to begin in October in Australia.

"KG (Kagiso Rabada) is very young -- to lead the attack at 24, and the next bowlers to come in are all younger than him. I think he needs somebody that's there that is experienced, to look around and he knows he's not only one there," Steyn said.

"So I'm putting my hand up for that and then I'll wait and see how selections goes. After the MSL (Mzansi Super League) that we played, there were a lot of players that come out -- some fantastic bowlers.

"But the old guys still seem to do the trick -- AB (de Villiers) was there, Imran Tahir was taking wickets, I was up in the wickets. Maybe we will get the nod, maybe we don't -- but I'm putting my hand up," he added.

# In Sushil's absence, Jitender presents his case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

SUSHIL KUMAR'S fate is no more in his hands. The chances of the two-time Olympic medalist competing at this year's Tokyo Games will depend on how well his rival in the 74kg category, Jitender Kumar, does in the year's first two tournaments.

On Friday, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) conducted selection trials for three upcoming tournaments -- the first ranking series in Rome later this month, February's Asian Championship in Delhi and the penultimate Olympic qualification tournament in Xi'an, China, in March.

Sushil had requested the WFI to postpone the trials, claiming he was nursing an injury. But the federation decided to go ahead without him. That opened up the field for others, including the likes of national champion Gaurav Balian and Amit Dhankar, considered to be Sushil's prodigy. However, in a battle between equals, it was Jitender -- who had cut back from competing in the 79kg category (a non-Olympic class) to 74 -- who emerged dominant on



Jitender won the selection trials in the 74 kg category, beating Amit Dhankar 5-2 in the final.

the day, beating Dhankar 5-2 in the finals.

The road to Tokyo, though, will not be straightforward for Jitender. The WFI had originally announced that the winner of Friday's trials will be assured of a spot in all

three events. However, it went back on its word on Friday and instead declared that they can hold another trial before the qualifiers in weight categories where the performance is not satisfactory.

"If we find that the performance of our wrestlers is not satisfying at the first two events, we can have fresh trials to select wrestlers for the Asian Olympic qualifier. We want to send our best wrestlers to make sure we have maximum entries at the Olympics," WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh said. The definition of satisfactory performance, meanwhile, was left ambiguous.

It is largely held that medals in Rome and New Delhi should be good enough for a wrestler to lock his spot for the Olympic qualifiers. That means if Jitender medals in the two tournaments, he will get an opportunity for a Tokyo berth. And if he manages to earn a quota at the qualifiers, then as per the federation's selection policy, Jitender will go to the Olympics and it'll be curtains for Sushil.

In a bitterly-fought trial, Sushil had defeated Jitender to book his place in the World Championship last September. The

World Championship was the first Olympic qualifying tournament but Sushil could not book a quota. Jitender's coach Jaiveer said the defeat 'hurt them a lot' and forced them to change a few things in his style.

Jitender has since training with world championship bronze medalist and Tokyo-bound grappler Bajrang Punia's coach Shako Bentinaidis and there has been an increased focus on his attacks.

"We prepared him to be aggressive from the beginning. We made him perform short sprints -- 10-20m -- to improve his explosiveness on the mat," Jaiveer said. "The defeat against Sushil in the World trials had hurt us a lot. Now he has a chance to book an Olympic quota. It will not be easy but at least he has the first shot at it."

In other categories, world Championship medalists Deepak Punia (86kg) and Ravi Dahiya (57kg) -- who have qualified for the Games as well -- won their categories with ease. In the heavyweight categories, Satyavart Kadian (97kg) and Sumit Malik (125kg) dominated their weight class.

The selection trials for the women will be held in Lucknow on Saturday.



# Nicking the aces

Kyrgios serves 20 aces in a win that costs him AUD4,000; Australian to donate the money to bushfire victims

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BRISBANE, JANUARY 3

NICK KYRGIOS served 20 aces in a win that cost him \$4,000 in local currency and helped set up Australia's opening ATP Cup win over Germany.

It was all for a cause. Kyrgios, so often considered the bad boy of tennis for his emotional behavior and outbursts, promised to donate 200 Australian dollars (\$140) for every ace he serves this month to go toward the recovery effort from the wildfires that have devastated large parts of Australia, leaving at least 19 people dead and 1,400 homes destroyed.

He opened and closed his 6-4, 7-6 (4) win over Jan-Lennard Struff on Friday in Brisbane with booming, high-value serves—including a second-service ace down the middle to close it out. Alex De Minaur followed that up with an upset over No. 7-ranked Alexander Zverev, trailing a set and a break before rallying to win 4-6, 7-6 (3), 6-2 on Pat Rafter Arena to clinch the best-of-three match for Australia ahead of the doubles.

Kyrgios devised the cash for aces idea earlier in the week, and inspired other fundraising efforts from other players and from organizers of the ATP Cup and the Australian Open. He said he was lifted by the crowd, and motivated by the plight of people struggling in parts of the country impacted by the fires, including his hometown of Canberra. A tournament had to be relocated from the Australian capital to Victoria state earlier Friday because of the proximity of the fires.

"I just thought it would be a good initiative," Kyrgios said of the idea. "And then the traction it got, just seeing my hometown almost being on the alert and having, like, just the worst air quality in the world literally at the moment. It's just sad to see. It's tough to go out there and concentrate on tennis, to be honest. Every ace I was hitting that's all I was thinking about. Every time I stepped up to the line that's all I was thinking about."

The Canadians registered the first victory of the new international team tournament, and the United States went down in the first major upset despite being one point from clinching a win over Norway. The 24-team tournament kicked off the men's tennis season for 2020, with matches Friday in Brisbane and Sydney on Australia's east coast



Nick Kyrgios started and finished his 6-4, 7-6 (4) win over Jan-Lennard Struff with aces. His win helped Australia beat Germany in the opening ATP Cup tie. Reuters

and Perth in Western Australia state.

The Canadians took an unassailable 2-0 lead ahead of the doubles when Denis Shapovalov held off No. 6-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6 (6), 7-6 (4) after 19-year-old Felix Auger-Aliassime beat Michail Pervolarakis in the first singles victory of the tournament. They the combined to win the doubles to complete a 3-0 sweep of Greece.

The No. 15-ranked Shapovalov now has a 3-1 lead in career meetings over ATP Finals champion Tsitsipas, who was unable to convert his break-point chances in the seventh and 11th games of the second set and then had a double-fault on match point. "It's definitely a huge win for me. Obviously, he had

an unbelievable end to the season and he's definitely one of the top players in the world right now," Shapovalov said. "He's got a great game. So to beat a guy like this first match of the year, it's really special for me. It means a lot."

In Perth, Taylor Fritz beat Viktor Durasovic 6-2, 6-2 to give the Americans the lead in the Group D match and John Isner had two match points in the second-set tiebreaker of the second singles match before Casper Ruud rallied to win 6-7 (3), 7-6 (10), 7-5 to level it for Norway. Ruud and combined with Durasovic to beat Rajeiv Ram and Austin Krajicek 4-6, 6-3, 10-5 to seal Norway's 2-1 win.

## RAVE REVIEWS

■ The ATP Cup format received rave reviews on the opening day. World number 11 David Goffin, who swept past Moldova's Radu Albot 6-4, 6-1, said 'it was very nice' to have two coaches in his corner for inputs during the match. Stefanos Tsitsipas said he too was 'loving the new tournament format.'

■ The tournament features two ties each day in the three cities during the round robin, comprising two singles matches then a doubles. Roughly \$15 million in prize money and up to 750 singles and 250 doubles ATP rankings points are at stake.

■ Under the innovative tournament rules, on-court coaching is allowed and team zones are in the corners of the court, rather than on the sidelines by the umpire.

■ Real-time statistics, data and match vision are also available to the captain and players during the match, and there is a video review system to challenge contentious decisions like foot faults.

"It's good. I mean, I cannot picture anything better than this right now."

STEFANOS TSITSIPAS  
WORLD NUMBER 6

"What I need to do is really just put this match behind me as best as I can, because at times it wasn't pretty out there," Isner said. "So hopefully I can fix some things and try to play a little bit better on Sunday."

In Sydney, Belgium secured the best-of-three match against Moldova, the last team to qualify, when Steve Darcis held off Alexander Cozbinov 6-4, 6-7 (4), 7-5 and David Goffin beat Radu Albot 6-4, 6-1. The Belgians then won the doubles for a 3-0 sweep.

The Moldova team got a formal apology from tournament organizers after the wrong national anthem was played before the match.

# Leaders Liverpool on course to shatter EPL points record

REUTERS  
LONDON, JANUARY 3

LIVERPOOL ARE on course to shatter the Premier League's record points haul and the way Juergen Klopp's side are churning out wins it would now be a surprise if they failed to do so. When Manchester City won the title in 2017-18 it was felt their 100-point total, a new Premier League record, would become a high-water mark to endure for many years.

City's haul that year was five more than the previous Premier League record of 95 set by Chelsea under Jose Mourinho in 2014-15, although they needed almost as many last season when they topped the table with 98 to Liverpool's 97. Liverpool's 2-0 win over Sheffield United on Thursday means they have 58 points from a possible 60 after 20 games -- the tally Man City achieved at the same stage two years ago.

With 19 wins and a draw they are averaging 2.90 points per game, putting them on course for 110 from 38 games which would also be a record for Europe's top five leagues. Even with a couple of defeats or a few draws they would still would top City's 2018 total.

Since losing to Manchester City exactly a year ago, Liverpool are unbeaten in the Premier League, taking 101 points from 37 games during that period.

Only two other teams have gone a year unbeaten in the Premier League -- Arsenal's so-called invincibles in 2003-04 (a run of 49 Premier League games) and Chelsea (40 matches) from October 2004 to November 2005. Since that City defeat, Liverpool have won 32 of their 37 league matches, averaging 2.7 points per game.

They are 13 points clear of Leicester City having played a game less and those desperately seeking a chink in Liverpool's armour appear to wasting their time. They have scored in 29 successive league games and have netted 89 goals in their year-long unbeaten run.

Liverpool have won their 11 league games and have even stopped leaking goals, a theme earlier in the season when they went eight games without clean sheet. They have scored 12 goals without reply in their last five league matches. Yet Klopp believes his side are still improving. "We can do things better and we have to," he said after the win over Sheffield United. "In the dressing room there was no party or something."



Mo Salah (L) and Sadio Mane scored in Liverpool's 2-0 win over Sheffield United on Thursday. AP

While a first English title since 1989-90 looks a formality, Liverpool still have a way to go to match other great runs in European football. Arsenal's 49-match streak is beatable this season but matching AC Milan's remarkable 58-game run without a Serie A loss from 1991-1993 still looks a distant prospect.

## After winter break, La Liga resumes with Catalan derby

*Barcelona:* La Liga leaders Barcelona will be looking to preserve their two-point lead over Real Madrid when they visit local rivals Espanyol on Saturday but their preparations have been hit by a legal battle with their own midfielder Arturo Vidal.

The Chilean's lawyers filed a complaint to Spain's player's union (AFE) last month citing an unpaid bonus of 2.4 million euros (\$2.69 million), news of which emerged while the player was back in his homeland during the league's winter break. Barca have declined to comment on the complaint, while Vidal has said its an issue for his representatives but has declared it is "unfair" he has not received all of the 4.1 million euros his people believe he is owed in total in appearance bonuses.

Vidal has only started four of Barca's 18 league games this season, making 10 substitute appearances, and was left out of the line-up for the club's biggest matches against Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid. He has not accepted his drop in influence in the team quietly, telling Catalan network TV3 in November he would "look for a solution and look to other horizons" if he did not regain a regular place in the side.

*Playing tonight: Getafe vs Real Madrid (8.30pm); Barcelona vs Espanyol (1.30am)*

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