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CAT 2019: TWO FRIENDS FROM IIT-BOMBAY AMONG TOP SCORERS

Rahul Manglik and Somansh Chordia, friends from IIT-Bombay, are among the toppers of the Common Admission Test (CAT), 2019. Rahul who hails from Delhi has scored 99.99 percentile while Somansh who hails from Nagpur has obtained 100 percentile marks.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



TWO DECADES AFTER LAL KUAN TRAGEDY

Over 20 years ago, a fire broke out in Lal Kuan, killing over 50 people



FULL COVERAGE

US-IRAN TENSIONS LIVE UPDATES

Tel Aviv, 35 American bases within Iran's reach, says commander

EXPRESS AUDIO
How social media enables different conversations

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

From YouTube as a messaging medium to regional language social media, Shruti Dhapola and Nandagopal Rajan discuss how different mediums enable the youth to have different conversations.

FROM PAGE ONE

Iraq-US

conflicts away from Iraq.”
Iraqis woke to the news on Friday that Maj Gen Qassem Soleimani, the architect of Iran’s dominating influence over Iraq, had been killed in an American drone strike near Baghdad airport, along with several others.
Even before the shock wore off, Iraqi factions were weighing their responses. Militias with ties to Iran vowed bloody revenge. The Prime Minister, Adel Abdul Mahdi, condemned the attack as “an outrageous breach to Iraqi sovereignty” and said Parliament would meet to discuss the future of the US presence in Iraq.

Anti-government protesters, who have been protesting Iran’s stifling influence in the country, were worried their movement could be snuffed out by pro-Iran militias. And throughout the country, there was the familiar feeling that Iraq was a mere bystander in the broader geopolitical conflict between the US and Iran taking place on Iraqi soil.

More broadly, the events raised a single, overarching question: can the US maintain a co-operative security relationship with Iraq given the upheaval the assassination has provoked? The question was already coursing through the halls of power in Baghdad, even as the Trump administration said Friday that it was rushing new troops to the region in response to the crisis.

The airstrike on Soleimani “was a clear breach of the terms of the American forces’ presence,” Abdul Mahdi said. He said that Parliament would meet in the coming days to consider “appropriate measures to preserve the dignity of Iraq and its security and sovereignty,” including whether to ask the Americans to leave.

It could well turn out that Soleimani’s killing, intended as a shot against Iran, could accelerate one of Iran’s long-term objectives: pushing the US military out of Iraq.

“I think in his death he put the final nail in the coffin of the US military presence in Iraq,” said Mohammad Shabani, a doctoral researcher at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London who focuses on Iran-Iraq relations. “If Iran can erase the US military presence in Iraq and all it has to do is give up five Iranian military men, would Iran do it? I think the answer is yes.”

The US has nearly 5,000 troops in Iraq on a handful of bases. But whether they stay or go, the American power in Iraq was only likely to be diminished.

“One sure result of the US strike is that the era of US-Iraq cooperation is over,” Richard N Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations and a former American diplomat, wrote on Twitter. “The US diplomatic & mil presence will end b/c Iraq asks us to depart or our presence is just a target or both. The result will be greater Iranian influence,

terrorism and Iraqi infighting.” —THE NEW YORK TIMES

Soleimani

New Delhi. India’s outgoing ambassador in Washington DC, Harsh Shringla, who will now take charge as foreign secretary, “paid a farewell call” on Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday, but there was no official statement on whether they discussed Gen Soleimani’s killing.

The Indian security establishment has never considered Iranian intelligence or militia operations as a major threat. Barring an attack on an Israeli diplomat in New Delhi in 2012, there is no history of Iranians or Iranian agencies being involved in a terrorist attack or subversive activity in India.

In February 2012, a man on a motorcycle stuck a bomb with a magnet on to a vehicle in which the wife of an Israeli diplomat was travelling. The bomb went off about 500 metres from the Prime Minister’s official residence, injuring the woman, identified as Tal Yehoshua Koren, her driver, and two bystanders.

The following month, Delhi Police arrested Urdu-language journalist Mohammed Ahmed Kazmi for allegedly having provided logistic support to the bombers, and for having conducted reconnaissance for them. The police also accused Kazmi of having received more than Rs 20 lakh from Iran. Kazmi had been rounded up on the basis of call data records, which showed he had been in touch with the alleged bombers.

A letter rogatory sent to Iran by Delhi Police seeking information on the alleged conspirators and cooperation for their arrest, had expressed suspicion that they were members of Iran’s elite Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).

In its chargesheet filed in July that year, the Delhi Police did not mention the IRGC — even though it did say the conspiracy had originated in Iran. The police have not received responses to their letters rogatory for cooperation sent to Iran, Georgia, and Thailand — and the case has not progressed. Kazmi, who always maintained his innocence, is currently on bail.

“Iranian groups or intelligence have never had India on their radar. Their interest is in the Middle East. The 2012 attack was an exception arising out of the assassination of an Iranian nuclear scientist by Israel. The failed attack in Georgia and another in Thailand were a result of that,” a senior official in the Indian security establishment said.

The only foreign militant groups — apart from those operating from Pakistan and Bangladesh — that have had India on their crosshairs over the past couple of decades have been al-Qaeda and the Islamic State. Members of al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) have been arrested by Indian author-

In one of worst-hit UP towns

Firozabad Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sachindra Patel said, “None of the bodies was taken to hospital by police.

From two of the three post-mortems in Firozabad, we have got reports that there was entry and exit of bullets. We have not received reports of the three post-mortems conducted in Delhi.”

The SSP added, “We have registered FIRs in all six cases of death, under Section 304 of the IPC, for ‘culpable homicide not amounting to murder’ against unknown persons. Please note that the protesters were very aggressive that day, still police did not fire any bullet.”

Almost all the deaths happened around the Naini Glass roundabout in the town.

While most of the glass and bangle factories in Firozabad are owned by Hindus, a majority of the workers are Muslims.

NABI JAN, 21

A resident of Mohammadganj under Firozabad South police station, Nabi was a worker at a bangle workshop on the town’s Urvashi Road and the youngest of six siblings. His father Ayub said he was shot in the chest. “Nabi was returning home from the workshop when he was shot. His friends brought him home, and we took him to SN Hospital, where he was declared dead,” Ayub said.

The FIR makes no mention of “bullet injury”, with Ayub saying they wrote “what police told us to write”.

Police said they had registered a case under Section 304 of the IPC. “Further forensic tests will be carried out to ascertain the truth.”

R K Pandey, Chief Medical Superintendent of SN Hospital, said, “We found the entry and exit of the bullet in his body but no bullet was found.”

RASHID, 25

A resident of Kashmiri Gate under Ramgarh police station, Rashid was the eldest among four sons and two daughters of Noor Mohammed alias Kallu. Divorced from his wife, he was single parent to a daughter, 5. Kallu, 55, said Rashid was par-

tially disabled, with his right hand smaller than his left, and earned Rs 150-200 per day serving water at bangle workshops. According to Kallu, on the day of the protests, Rashid had gone to collect his wages. “He had nothing to do with any protest.” Kallu accused police of forcing them to bury his body around 4 in the morning. Police, who have registered a case under Section 304 of the IPC, said, “It seems he had head injury due to stone-pelting.” However, Kallu said, “His brain had spilled out. This cannot happen due to stone-pelting.” Pandey of S N Hospital, where Rashid was taken, said, “He had a serious skull injury but we did not find any bullet marks.”

ARMAN ALIAS KALLU, 24

A resident of Rehmat Nagar under Ramgarh police station, he worked as a labourer in local workshops. Said uncle Rafeeq, “Late evening of December 20, some neighbours told me Kallu was seriously injured and lying on the street. We immediately took him to SN hospital. His body was sent home and at 4 am on December 21, and police brought along a maulana and forced us to bury it immediately. Not even close relatives were allowed.” The 24-year-old had lost his mother just six months back.

The FIR mentions “bullet injury”. Police said: “Based on the complaint of relatives, we have registered a case under Section 304 of the IPC. All further forensic tests will be carried out to ascertain the truth.”

CMS Pandey said, “We found the entry and exit of the bullet in his body as well, but no bullet was found.”

HAROON, 30

The 30-year-old buffalo trader lived in village Mulla ka Nagla on the outskirts of Firozabad, falling under Matsena police station. The second among nine children, Haroon passed away at the AIIMS Trauma Centre in Delhi on December 26. Said his brother-in-law Zaqiuddin, “He was returning from the Pachokhara animal fair after selling a buf-

falo and was sitting in an autorickshaw when a bullet hit him.” Zaqiuddin added that Haroon was the main breadwinner in the family and “kept away from such disputes”.

The FIR makes no mention of a bullet injury, and Zaqiuddin said, “We wrote what police told us to write.”

Haroon’s medical report, though, mentions “Gunshot injury. As told by attendant”. AIIMS confirmed to The Indian Express that a bullet had been found in Haroon’s neck.

Police said: “We have registered a case under Section 304 of the IPC and now the SIT is constituted to take up further investigations of all cases.”

MUQEEM QURESHI, 18

A resident of Nagla Kothi under Ramgarh police station, Muqem died at Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi on December 23 night. The eldest of eight children of Mubeen, he did zari work on bangles for a living. Mubeen said Qureshi was returning from work when shot in the stomach, and was first taken to S N Hospital. “When doctors there denied him treatment, we took him to Agra, from where he was referred to Delhi’s Safdarjung Hospital.”

Mubeen they were yet to get any medical papers. “We were told the documents had been handed over to police. We were given only a panch-nama of the dead body.”

Police said, “We have registered a case under Section 304 of the IPC and now the SIT is constituted under SP (Rural Area) Rajesh Kumar to take up further investigations of all cases as per the direction of the government.”

MD SHAFIQ, 45

One of eight sons of Razzaq, Shafiq also worked at a bangle workshop. After initial treatment at S N Hospital for head injuries, he was taken to Agra’s S N Medical College and then admitted to Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi, where he died on December 26. His younger brother Md Sayeed said, “Shafiq was returning from the workshop and had tiffin in his hand when he was shot. Safdarjung

Hospital did not give us papers and said these would be given only to police. Shafiq always kept away from any disputes.”

The FIR has no mention of a bullet injury but an X-ray done at Safdarjung mentions “gunshot wound to head”. Also an ‘NCCT Head (a standard radiologic test)’ conducted at Agra’s M B Jain Imaging & Pathology says, “Evidence of bony fracture by the gunshot is seen...”, and “Pallets are also seen in left temporo-occipital brain parenchyma & occipital horn of left lateral ventricle”.

A source at Safdarjung Hospital said, “Patient had gunshot wounds. We noticed bullet entry and exit in his head. The bullet was not found inside.” The source repeated that Shafiq was fired from a powerful weapon, explaining the absence of a bullet.

Police said, “We have registered a case under Section 304 of the IPC and now SIT is constituted to take up further investigations of all cases as per the direction of the government.”

AVRAR, 25

The 25-year-old was referred to Delhi’s Apollo Hospital from S N Medical College, Agra. His medical records, accessed by The Indian Express, show “multiple small metallic density foreign bodies” in D3 vertebra, while his MRI report talks of “multiple small metallic density foreign particles seen in right posterior chest wall”. The SN Medical College’s discharge slip mentions “suspected firearm injury”.

Brother Muqtalib said Avrar was returning home from the site where he worked as a construction worker when he got shot. “Police contacted us in Agra when Avrar was getting treatment there. Now the first priority is his treatment. Once he is discharged, we will file a proper complaint with police.”

Said police: “Cases are coming one by one as people themselves take the injured to hospital. They are approaching police because hospitals seek details from them. All matters will be investigated and necessary action will be taken.”

ities, and several attempts by Indians to join the IS war in Syria and Iraq have been detected.

Several informal groups have tried to carry out attacks in India after being inspired by the ideology of IS, but without any structural connect with the group or its operations in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

Kota deaths

Speaking to reporters after vis-

iting the hospital on Saturday, Pilot said: “Our response to the entire episode could have been more sensitive, I think we should have more compassionate. I feel that after 13 months of being in government, it may not serve any purpose to keep pointing to the previous government’s misdeeds or wrongdoings...”

Because, if they had done their job, they would not have been

voted out. We have been voted in, we have to face the responsibility and consequences.”

On Friday, State Health Minister Raghu Sharma had blamed the previous BJP government for the lack of infrastructure at the hospital. He had claimed that the previous government had turned down the hospital’s request for funds.

“People expected us to deliver... I believe we have to fix ac-

countability. If we are expecting others to be accountable, we have to be accountable ourselves. I think this is not a small incident, it’s heart-wrenching. The whole state, the entire country is shaken, and I think a much more positive and a sensitive response from all of us would have been appreciated,” said Pilot.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* later, Pilot, who is also the state president of the Congress,

Bihar teen

handyman, and her mother was an *anganwadi* worker. “My father put me ahead of others and helped me in every way he could. I would tell coaches to lend me spikes, I would prove I deserved them by winning,” she says.

In rugby, her pace was evident and she quickly settled into the wings, playing as centre at times. “Now the South African coaches plan for me because teams have started putting three defenders on me because of my speed. Indonesia did that, so that’s the next challenge,” she says.

Meanwhile, Sweetie has gained fame in her home state, as the government has elevated rugby to the level of cricket and hockey and started offering jobs to talented players. “When I walked in 10 minutes late for an exam once, the in-

vigilator started talking to me about my game and others clapped. They let me write the exam with an easy let-off,” she adds.

She says she gets mobbed when she travels to rugby-crazy Pacific islands. “In Laos, they all pointed their shoulders to me, asking me to sign,” she recalls.

IIT-Kanpur prof

his research interests on IIT-Kanpur’s website. He has written 10 books, all published by Agniveer, a group that, as per its official website, aims to revive the “glory of Vedas” and “fight against every form of injustice and discrimination”.

When contacted on Saturday, Sharma said he did not want to be quoted. He said he feared for his safety, and what he has written in public comes with “disclaimers” and “without adequate emphasis

on those disclaimers, it will lead to misrepresentation”.

Excerpts from his books, *A Liberal’s (F) Laws – Hypocrites that feed terrorism and Indian Muslims – Children of India or Slaves of Arabs*:

On Kanhaiya Kumar:

In *A Liberal’s (F) Laws...* Sharma supports the “sentiments” that spurred lawyers at Patiala House to attack Kanhaiya Kumar in 2016.

“I also believe that such incidents act as deterrents against designs of terrorists... Next time, anti-Indians would be shit-scared to indulge in anti-national activities. How legally or ethically correct it is for analysts to decide who merely analyse and rarely act. But in extreme situations, extreme measures that go beyond the normal call of duty are necessary,” he wrote.

On the Shivaji statue:

Criticising the controversy over the estimated cost of building the Shivaji statue, Sharma wrote, “I never heard any of you shouting what waste of money these massive monuments were — the Taj Mahal, Red Fort etc. — that as per your own history were built when India faced worst hunger, drought, and poverty ever in history. But if we talk of creating a monument for Shivaji, you start burning... If governments in India have enough money to maintain Taj Mahal, Humayun Tomb, Lal Quila and other Islamic sites, stop crying about Shivaji Maharaj’s statue. We know his sword scares your rear, but this is how it is. Live with it.”

On Kathua rape case:

In the chapter titled ‘Asifa Rape Case’, he questioned the investigation conducted by the J&K police into the Kathua rape case. “And finally, have you ever heard the news that

Hindus raped in the temple? It is not in our blood. Had we done it, we would have retaliated (to) Muslim invaders in the language they attacked us... Had Hindus known to rape, that too in the name of religion, no Muslim invader or woman could survive in India.”

On Indian Muslims:

In the book *Indian Muslims – Children of India or Slaves of Arabs*, Sharma urges the “confused subcontinent Muslims” to recognise their Indian roots. He writes, “Inspite of the fact that many of the sub-continent Muslims think they belong to Arabs, the truth remains that their ancestors were Hindus and Buddhists. This truth brings thunderbolts to many subcontinent Muslims because it makes them inferior in front of Arabs in Sunnat of the prophet (to be like Muhammad) which has a direct say in getting heaven or hell hereafter. In

record their statements.

Bihar NPR

process. No state can oppose it,” Sushil Kumar Modi said.

“If any official opposes the Census, he is liable to be punished with three years in prison with penalty. If an enumerator or a collector says he will not do it, he can get punishment up to three years. There is a provision of disciplinary action and Rs 1,000 fine for opposing the NPR exercise,” Sushil Modi said.

Opposition-led West Bengal and Kerala have put the exercise to update the NPR on hold, citing apprehension that the data collected would be used for the NRC. The 2018-19 Annual Report of the Home Ministry says that “The National Population Register (NPR) is the first step towards the creation of the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRC) under the provisions of the aforementioned Statute (Citizenship Act)”.

However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told an election rally in Delhi on December 22 that there had been no discussion in the government on the NRC.

Subsequently, Home Minister Amit Shah, who has repeatedly asserted that a countrywide NRC is imminent, said in an interview to ANI that “there is no connection” between the NRC and NPR, and that “NPR data can never be used for NRC”.

Sushil Modi said he wondered how the Kerala government had passed a proposal (to oppose the NPR), and had been writing to Chief Ministers of other states, asking them to act similarly. “Mamata Banerjee (of West Bengal) is also opposing it. Do (Kerala’s) Pinarayi Vijayan and Mamata Banerjee have the guts to oppose NPR and stop the Census? If they dare to oppose it, passing proposals will not suffice. Opposing the process is against the Constitution, Sushil Modi said.

JD-U spokesperson Tyagi said: “It is the UPA government that had introduced the NPR in 2010 as an extension of the Census process. As long as NPR data is not used for NRC, we have no issue. Now that the PM has clarified that the NRC would not be implemented, the matter has been put to rest. Also, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has made it clear that the NRC would not be implemented; there is no issue now with going ahead with NPR.”

JD-U Bihar spokesperson Rajib Ranjan Prasad said: “Congress had brought NPR and several Congress-ruled states, we learnt, would be implementing NPR. The confusion began after then Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju said in a written reply in Parliament that NPR is the first step to NRC. Now that both the PM and the Home Minister have clarified their position on the NRC, and it is okay to go ahead with the NPR.”

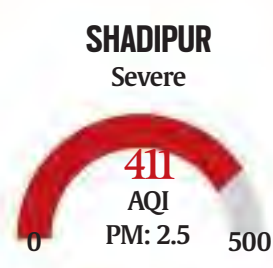
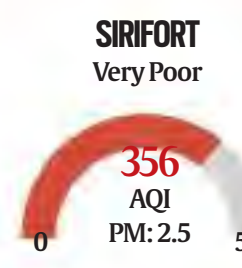
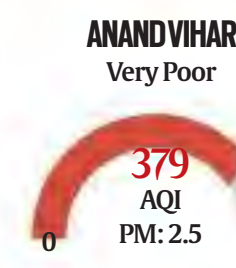
order to convince themselves, and of course, Allah and Muhammad, that they are no less Arabs, Mullahs in the Indian subcontinent preach the gullible masses to ape Arabs in every possible field.” Sharma adds a disclaimer that the purpose of his book is “not to create hatred of one community among rest”.

On Faiz

In his blog on January 1, Sharma disagrees with the view that Faiz was against the Pakistani regime and that his poem challenged its authority. “The revolutionary Faiz Sahib opted (for) Islamist Pakistan of Jinnah over secular India... No, It was not fear of death in ‘Hindu India’ that made Faiz opt for Pakistan... Faiz literally thought of creation of Pakistan as liberation of Muslims!”

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3 THE CITY



0-50 Good

51-100 Satisfactory

101-200 Moderate

201-300 Poor

301-400 Very poor

401-500 Severe

Air India to probe video of passengers misbehaving with staff

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

TWO DAYS after a Mumbai-bound Air India flight was delayed by at least eight hours, videos of passengers allegedly misbehaving with the airline crew have surfaced online, prompting Air India and the DGCA to begin an inquiry into the matter.

The flight AI-865 was supposed to take off from Indira Gandhi International airport Thursday at 10 am, but passengers only managed to leave for Mumbai on another Air India flight at 6 pm.

Videos that have surfaced show a few passengers standing outside the cockpit, knocking and asking the pilot to come out, and a man threatening to break open the door. In another video, a female passenger attempts to open the emergency exit.

Air India spokesperson Dhananjay Kumar said, "AI 865 was considerably delayed due to technical reasons on January 2. Air India management has asked the operating crew for a detailed report on misbehaviour by some passengers. Further action would be considered after getting the report."

An airline source said passengers were delayed by 2 pm and the crew had not informed Air India about the incident.

A passenger on board, Anuradha Karkun, told *The Indian Express*, "On January 1, I received a message that the flight was rescheduled to 11.10 am, and then on January 2, at the airport, we were told it was further moved to 11.40 am. By 11.10 am, passengers had boarded and the plane began moving at 11.40 am. Seconds later, it moved back. We were told there was a technical issue."



Grabs from a video show people trying to open the plane's door, cockpit

nical issue."

Karkun claimed that passengers complained to the staff about the smell of engine oil and asked to be deplaned.

"It was stifling inside. There were also senior citizens. The crew started giving food but only half the passengers got it. People were irritated. Finally, we were deplaned at 2 pm," she said.

She said a "few passengers did get offensive with the crew", and that once everyone was deplaned, Air India staff told them they will leave for Mumbai at 4.10 pm. Karkun said, "That flight too was delayed and we finally left at 6 pm."

A DGCA spokesperson said, "The videos have come to our notice. We have asked Air India to start proceedings to identify those responsible. We will take appropriate legal action."

GHAZIABAD

2 booked for sharing video that Pak PM tweeted, then deleted

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, JANUARY 4

TWO GHAZIABAD residents, both in their 20s, have been booked for allegedly circulating a fake video on WhatsApp, which had also been tweeted—and then deleted—by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday.

The video, showing the Rapid Action Battalion of Bangladesh Police attacking unarmed men, had been passed off by Khan as "Indian police's pogrom against Muslims in UP". The same video was allegedly forwarded by the two to WhatsApp groups whose members and admins are based out of Ghaziabad's Murad Nagar.

The two have been booked under relevant sections of the IT Act and Section 153 (provocation to riot) of the IPC.

"We had received information that a video had been forwarded on two different WhatsApp groups. It was the same video tweeted by the Pakistani PM, which was later declared fake by appropriate government authorities. The two men somehow got possession of the video and tried to incite tensions between communities by forwarding it. We identified them. They have been booked and will soon be arrested," said Neeraj Jadaun, SP Rural, Ghaziabad. He refused to share the names of the two men.

According to police, out of the two groups, one is run by a mediator and the other by a lawyer. Police first received the information Friday afternoon and traced the video to the two groups. Police, thereafter, asked the administrators to file two different FIRs and share information

of the participants who shared the video.

"The role of the admins was not found to be incriminating. We gave them the benefit of doubt. Due to the volume of messages, admins often do not notice each message. Action was taken in a few hours and they provided all the information," said Jadaun.

Ghaziabad Police has expanded their scope of investigation to find if other people in the area are sharing the same video.

"We are constantly requesting people not to share videos which incite communal passions, else action will be taken. In this particular case, it is possible that there is another source who downloaded the video and forwarded it to other people. We are working on such links. Further investigation will take place," added Jadaun.

National Entrance Screening Test 2020

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The candidates admitted to the programme are eligible to receive annual scholarship of Rs 60,000 through DISHA program of Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India. In addition, the scholarship recipients receive grant of Rs 20,000 per annum for summer internship. Candidates selected by DST for the INSPIRE-SHE program are endorsed for INSPIRE scholarship by NISER and CEBS.

For detailed information on NEST 2020 application procedure and previous years' question papers please visit NEST 2020 website: www.nestexam.in

Application:	Examination:
Through ONLINE portal ONLY. Visit www.nestexam.in to apply. Online portal opens on Jan. 07, 2020 , & closes on Apr. 03, 2020	ONLINE/computer based ONLY. Date of examination: June 06, 2020 (Saturday) Time: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM (1st session) 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM (2nd session) Results announcement : June 16, 2020
Address for correspondence : The Chief Coordinator, NEST 2020 UM-DAE Centre for Excellence in Basic Sciences University of Mumbai, Kalina, Santacruz (East), Mumbai-400 098 (India) E-mail: nest2020@cbs.ac.in Website: www.nestexam.in	Fees structure and mode of payment : Male(General and OBC categories) : Rs 1200/- Male (SC and ST categories) : Rs 600/- Female (all categories) : Rs 600/- Divyang Category : Rs 600/- Pay ONLY via Net banking/Credit card / Debit card

HARYANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BAYS NO. 1-10, BLOCK-B, SECTOR-4, PANCHKULA

ANNOUNCEMENT

It is hereby announced for the general information of the candidates who had applied against **01 post of Rural Community Theatre Organiser (Class-II) in Information & Public Relations Department in response to the Advertisement No. 3 (2) 2017 published on 07.12.2017** that the lists of rejected candidates (**List-I & II**) along with this announcement has been displayed on Commission's Website i.e. <http://hpsc.gov.in>.

The candidature of the candidates mentioned in **List-I** displayed on Commission's website is liable for rejection on account of non-submission of Printed/Hard Copy of online application form at the time of Scrutiny/document verification of their documents required **upto 12.03.2018**. The candidature of candidates mentioned in the **List-II** is liable for rejection due to various other reasons which will be communicated to them separately.

The candidates mentioned in **List-I** can submit their representations, if any, against the proposed rejection along with documentary proof/evidence of having submitted the relevant documents well before at the time of Scrutiny/document verification dated i.e. **12.03.2018** and candidates in **List-II** can submit representation, against the proposed rejection within a period of **10 days from the date of publication of this announcement i.e. upto 05.00 P.M. on dated 10.01.2020, failing which no representation** will be entertained and the decision in this regard shall be made on merit as per available record.

Sd/-
Dy. Secretary,
Haryana Public Service Commission,
Panchkula.

Dated: 31.12.2019

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
O/o, THE OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR, HIGH COURT, MADRAS
"Corporate Bhavan" 2nd Floor, No. 29, Rajaji Salai, Chennai - 600001.
Telephone No: 044-25271149/51, Fax: 044-25271152,
Website: www.olchennai.in, Email: olmadras@gmail.com

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS
(ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 1956
AND
In the Matter of Industrial Agricultural & Engineering
Company (Madras) Private Limited
(In Liquidation)
Company Petition No.34 of 1988

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORIES TO PROVE THEIR
CLAIM/EXTENT OF INTEREST

Pursuant to the orders of the Hon'ble High Court, Madras dated 29.11.2019 in Company Application No. 432/2019 in Company Petition No.34 of 1988, notice is hereby given to the contributories of the above named company (in liquidation) that they are required to submit to the Official Liquidator of the Court proofs of their respective claims / shares in the character and the number of shares or extent of interest and the amount paid in respect of such shares or interest in the above named company by delivering all the relevant share certificates (authenticated) to substantiate their claim as a Contributory to the extent of interest (subject to production of originals for verification) at the office of the Official Liquidator on or before 21.01.2020. Any contributory who fails to submit his / her proof within the time limit prescribed by the Hon'ble High Court, Madras will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution of dividend before his / her claim is proved or as the case may be from objecting to such distribution.

Any contributory who has sent his / her proofs, if so required by notice in writing shall either in person or by his / her advocate, attend upon the investigation of such claims by the Official Liquidator at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice and shall produce such further evidence of his / her claim as may be required.

DATED AT CHENNAI THIS 1st DAY OF JANUARY, 2020.

Sd/- (Dr. K.THIRUMALAIMUTHU)
OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR, HIGH COURT, MADRAS

We humbly invite you to salute farewell to
Brigadier (Dr.) Rajinder Paul Madhok
and celebrate the life of a great father, grandfather & great grandfather who touched the lives of everyone who had the honour of meeting him.

Cremation to be held Sunday 5th January, 4pm
Lodhi Electric Crematorium, Lodhi Road
Prayer meeting to be held at Chinmaya Mission
Lodhi Road. Tuesday 7th January, 2020 from 4-5pm

RSVP:
Mr. Deepak Madhok
Dr. Pradeep (Dinky) Madhok+919810607612

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पर्यावरणीय आपातपत्र हेतु लोक सुनवाई के लिये आम सूचना
सर्वसामान्य को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैंने सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में प्रारम्भित, खसरा नं०-2074 व 2090, ग्राम सुजौड़, 4 किमी०, मेरठ रोड, मुजफ्फरनगर (उ०प्र०) द्वारा पूर्व से कार्यवाही इकाई में Proposed Expansion of Induction Furnace and Rolling Mills 53,000 MTPA Induction Furnace and 60,000 MT TMT Bars to 2,25,000 MTPA (1,15,000 MT Jugoite, 1,10,000 MT TMT Bars) विस्तारीकरण किये जाने हेतु 10990 प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड को लोक सुनवाई हेतु संबोधित प्रपत्र प्रस्तुत किया गया है। ग्राम बोर्ड द्वारा भारत सरकार के पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा अधिसूचना संख्या-ए०२०७०-1533, दिनांक-14/9/2006 के अनुसार मैं इस इकाई को अनगणित प्रमाण-पत्र जारी करने से पूर्व लोक सुनवाई की सूचना जारी किया जाना आवश्यक है एवं इस सूचना के अंगण में शेषीय आम जनता को किसी भी आणीत/सुझाव हेतु 30 दिन का नोटिस दिया जाता आवश्यक है। लोक सुनवाई केवल को संरचना पर्यावरणीय अधिसूचना संख्या-स०२०७०-1533 दिनांक-14/9/2006 के अनुसार होगी एवं उक्त उद्योग के प्रस्ताव से संबंधित अधिलेख निम्नलिखित कार्यालयों में उपलब्ध है:-

(अ) जिलाधिकारी कार्यालय, मुजफ्फरनगर।
(ब) उपायुक्त, जिला उद्योग एवं उद्यम प्रोत्साहन केंद्र, मुजफ्फरनगर।
(स) कार्यालय, जिला पंचायत, मुजफ्फरनगर।
(द) पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार के शोचोय कार्यालय, सी.जी.ओ. कॉम्प्लेक्स, पुरविया चौराहा, अलीगंज, एखनऊ।

अतः, समस्त सर्वसामान्य को इस नोटिस के माध्यम से सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक 04.02.2020 को अपरान्ह 1:00 बजे अपर जिलाधिकारी (वित्त/राजस्व), मुजफ्फरनगर की अध्यक्षता में पूर्व से स्थापित उद्योग मंडल सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में प्रारम्भित, खसरा नं०-2074 व 2090, ग्राम सुजौड़, 4 किमी०, मेरठ रोड, मुजफ्फरनगर (उ०प्र०) के परिसर में लोक सुनवाई को कार्यवाही निष्पत्ति की गई है, जिसमें जनसामान्य उपस्थित होकर अपनी आपत्तियाँ प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं। पर्यवेक्षण के सम्बन्ध में कोई सुझाव, विचार, टीका-टिप्पणीएँ एवं आपत्ति लिखित रूप में प्रकाशन की तिथि से 30 दिन के अंदर इस कार्यालय में दे सकते हैं।

क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी

Man caught trying to smuggle liquor bottles in ambulance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, JANUARY 4

IN A peculiar case of liquor smuggling, Palwal Police retrieved over 400 bottles of illegal liquor being transported via the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal expressway in an ambulance Saturday. One person has been arrested.

Police said the ambulance is among the private vehicles used by Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi to transport patients.

The intervention took place on the basis of a tip-off claiming a Sonepat resident would be transporting liquor from the district to Noida in this manner.

"A checkpoint was set up at the KMP toll on the basis of the information. When an ambulance was spotted passing through the area 15-20 minutes later, police personnel signalled the driver to stop, but he halted the vehicle before the checkpoint and tried to escape on foot," said Manjeet Kumar, PRO of Palwal Police.

"Police chased the accused

and arrested him. On checking the vehicle, 460 bottles of foreign liquor were found inside, but the driver was not able to produce any licence or permit for the same," he said.

"The accused, Anil, was the driver of the ambulance, which has a Haryana number plate. He had used the vehicle to smuggle liquor illegally before too. A case has been registered against him, and the vehicle and alcohol have been seized. The matter is being investigated," said head constable Jitender, the investigating officer of the case.

In another case on the same expressway Saturday, police recovered 1,000 cartons of illegal liquor from a truck whose driver was transporting alcohol from Kurukshetra to Agra.

"The truck driver, Satnam, who hails from Sirsa, was arrested from the spot," said the PRO. "Directions have also been issued by the Superintendent of Police to SHOs of police stations and police post in-charges to curb smuggling of illegal liquor in their areas," he said.

8-yr-old boy found dead, was sexually assaulted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, JANUARY 4

A day after an eight-year-old boy was found dead with his clothes stripped off in Gurgaon's Manesar area, close to the village where he resided with his family, the autopsy conducted Saturday confirmed he had been sexually assaulted prior to his death.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* Saturday, police said they suspect a "black magic angle". "That is because of the items we have found on the spot. Among these is a dead white pigeon. Six teams have been formed to probe the case," said DCP (Manesar) Rajesh Kumar.

The cause of death appears to be a head injury caused by a blunt weapon, said Dr Deepak Mathur, who conducted the autopsy.

"The accused has not been identified yet, but we suspect he is someone known to the child. CCTV footage of the day he disappeared shows him walking with a man, holding his hand, which indicates familiarity," said Kumar.

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Woman dead in house collapse

New Delhi: A 47-year-old woman died and nine people, including five children, were injured after a portion of a single-storey house in Dwarka's Uttam Nagar collapsed Saturday afternoon. The victim, Dulari Devi, was declared dead on arrival at a nearby hospital. Delhi Fire Service director Atul Garg said that the incident took place at 3 pm and three fire tenders were deployed for rescue. Devi's family had moved into the house 10 months ago on rent. A case of death due to negligence has been registered in the matter, said police.

Man found dead

New Delhi: A 30-year-old man was found dead in a plot next to his residence in North East Delhi's Karawal Nagar Saturday. According to police, the man, Deepak, was allegedly shot dead by unknown assailants. Police said a case has been registered in the matter and an investigation is under-way.

Infant girl rescued from under flyover

New Delhi: Police rescued an abandoned infant girl from under the Mahipalpur flyover Saturday. Police said they received information about the infant at 7.14 am, following which they rushed to the spot and found the baby wrapped in a piece of clothing. The child was rushed to Safdarjung Hospital, where her condition is stated to be stable, police added. **ENS**

Two held for phone theft

New Delhi: Two persons were arrested in North West Delhi's Rohini in connection with mobile phone snatching incidents, officials said Saturday. The accused were identified as Vishal (23) and Chetan (27), said police, adding that both are residents of Bawana. The duo were arrested on Thursday from near BSA Hospital Sector 6 in Rohini. One motorcycle and seven mobile phones were recovered from their possession, police added.

60,000 died of pollution in five years: Cong chief

New Delhi: Delhi Congress chief Subhash Chopra Saturday claimed that more than 60,000 people have died of pollution-related health problems in the national capital in the last five years. Addressing a congregation of Purvanchal, he claimed, "You might not be aware, around 61,500 people died of breathing problems in the last five years. Pollution crossed every limit." **PTI**

In Trump statement, a throwback to attack on Israeli diplomat in capital eight years ago

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's statement Saturday that Qasem Soleimani had "contributed to terrorist plots as far away as New Delhi" is being read by security agencies in Delhi as a reference to a targeted attack on an Israel embassy vehicle in the national capital on February 13, 2012, which had left an Israeli diplomat and three others wounded. While a Delhi-based journalist, Mohammed Ahmad Kazmi, had been arrested on March 6 after the attack, believed to have been carried out by Iranian nationals, the progress in the case since then has been slow.

On the basis of a request made by Delhi Police, the CBI had requested the Interpol to issue Red Corner notices against four Iranians, but no headway has been made since then. "The order on framing of charges has not been passed by the trial court so far. The accused has moved the Delhi High Court and the matter is pending before it," a senior police officer said.

The incident took place around 2.45 pm at the traffic signal of Aurganzeb Road near the Prime Minister's residence. Israeli



An explosive device was attached to the diplomat's vehicle. *Archive*

diplomat Tal Yehoshua-Koren and her Indian driver were among the four injured. Koren, wife of the Israeli defence attache, received injuries when a motorcycle rider attached a magnetic explosive device in her car and managed to escape. Within seconds, the device exploded with a thunderous sound, setting the car on fire. Koren moved back to Israel after getting treatment at a hospital in South Delhi.

Intelligence agencies came to know about Kazmi's alleged links after the arrest of one Masoud Sedaghatzadeh, the operational

head of a module which also carried out an attack in Bangkok. "Sedaghatzadeh was in touch with another accused, Houshang Afshar Irani, and technical surveillance led to his purported links with Kazmi," an officer said.

The then Delhi Police Commissioner BK Gupta had said Kazmi was allegedly instrumental in getting the Israeli Embassy and its surrounding areas receded by the suspects. "Kazmi was arrested on charges of being a facilitator and being a part of the conspiracy. His questioning brought to light that he has been in con-

tact with persons of Iranian origin involved in the attack for some time. Iranians had allegedly conducted reconnaissance of the Israeli embassy earlier with the help of Kazmi," Gupta had said.

Police had found that the conspiracy to bomb the Israeli diplomat's car was hatched in early 2011, when two Iranian nationals came to India to conduct a reconnaissance of the embassy, besides monitoring entry and exit timing of diplomats.

"The two — Syed Ali Mehdi Sadr and Mohammad Reza Abolghasemi — had allegedly

been accompanying Kazmi in their reconnaissance mission before they left India for Tehran to finalise the plan and prepare an executor of the operation. Irani is alleged to be the person who stuck the bomb to the car. He came India in the last week of January in 2012 and stayed in a hotel in Karol Bagh," a senior police officer said.

While seeking police custody for Kazmi, the then public prosecutor Rajiv Mohan had stated in a Delhi court that it was a case of international terrorism. "The conspiracy was hatched outside India. We do not want to disclose all information in the open court as the main accused, who is yet to be arrested, could go out of reach of the probe agency," the prosecutor had stated.

In the chargesheet filed by the Special Cell of Delhi Police in 2012, Kazmi had been accused of offences under various provisions of the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and the Explosive Substances Act. Kazmi was released on bail from Tihar Jail on October 20, 2012. He got a job with the IRIB, Iran's state-run radio agency, in 2015. He was earlier associated with Doordarshan, having joined in 1993. In 2003, he had reported from Iraq's conflict zone.

AFTER VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS
Jamia exams set to begin from Jan 9

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

EXAMINATIONS AT Jamia Millia Islamia, which were postponed after violent clashes on campus last month between anti-CAA protesters and police, are set to begin on January 9.

On December 15, an anti-CAA protest around the university had escalated into violence after a section of protesters began stone-pelting. The police responded with a lathi-charge and stormed into the main library of the university, firing teargas shells, allegedly following "rowdy elements that had entered the university". Vice-chancellor Najma Akhtar had said that nearly 200 students had been injured.

Following this, the winter vacation — which was scheduled from December 24 to January 15 — was advanced. All examinations had been postponed.

Classes are now due to begin Monday.

On Friday, an advisory was sent to all students to ensure they be present in the university for the rescheduled examinations — the first of which is to take place on January 9. The examinations for most courses begin on January 16.

"In the consultative meeting of Deans of the Faculties and other functionaries of the university held on January 3, 2020, it has been decided that since JMI is scheduled to open on January 6, 2020 after winter vacation, therefore, in order to safeguard the academic career of the students of Jamia Millia Islamia, the remaining odd-semester examinations shall start as per schedule uploaded on the JMI websites," the advisory read.

However, in its advisory, the university administration also stated that "cases of serious hospitalisation/medical ground will be dealt separately".



At a protest outside the Jamia campus, Saturday. *Amit Mehra*

JNUSU, ABVP allege assault amid protests

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

ALLEGATIONS FLEW thick and fast at Jawaharlal Nehru University Saturday, with claims and counter-claims of violence and assault by the students' union, the Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad and the university administration, during a protest over the boycott of the varsity's registration process.

The JNUSU alleged that protesters were attacked by security guards near the university's Communication and Information Services (CIS) room in the morning, then by ABVP members at the School of International Studies (SIS) in the afternoon, and again by ABVP members at the CIS building.

"Today morning at around 6 am near the Communication

and Information Services room, security guards in the number of 30-40 mobilised, switched off the lights and like the police did at Jor Bagh, attacked students," read a statement by the union.

They also alleged that students protesting at the SIS were attacked by ABVP members.

The ABVP, in turn, claimed that its members had been attacked by students affiliated to Left groups while protesting.

Registrar Pramod Kumar meanwhile issued a statement claiming that the administration was trying to revive the varsity's internet servers, which they said had been disrupted by student agitators who turned off the servers and evicted technical staff from the CIS office on Friday afternoon. However, JNUSU general secretary stated that the union had not been involved in disrupting the internet supply.

13 FIRs against builders in Dwarka real estate scam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

THE ECONOMIC Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police has filed 13 FIRs against city builders for allegedly duping thousands of homebuyers with the promise of flats in Dwarka and other areas under Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) Land Pooling Policy, according to a statement released by Delhi Police.

As per police, builders allegedly acting in the name of the

government lured homebuyers through "lucrative housing schemes" and demanded a large sum of money for advance bookings or allotments.

Advertisements through web portals were disseminated and names of housing societies were allegedly used to lure people. As per the EOW statement, a group of Nigerian nationals is also involved in the alleged scam, and investigation is under-way.

A Special Investigative Team (SIT) has been constituted for the investigation.

Amid politics, mega PTM at govt schools goes as planned

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

A MEGA parent-teacher meeting (PTM) took place across all Delhi government schools on Saturday, amid controversy after Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan wrote to the Lieutenant-Governor asking that it be called off.

On Saturday, government schools across the city were decorated to welcome parents of students from classes IX to XII. Most of the parents who streamed into schools with their children were mothers. "I come when there's a meeting because it's good to know whether my son is studying or not, or if he's misbehaving. These are not things we usually get to know about. Usually, I'm the only parent who comes because it's hard for my husband to get free from work," said Bijaylaxmi, whose son studies in class IX at Premchand Rajkiya Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya.

Earlier this week, Harsh Vardhan had forwarded a letter by the Government School Teachers' Association (GSTA) which stated, "...the motive be-

hind organising a PTM in such harsh weather conditions is clearly political. Very soon assembly elections for Delhi are going to be announced and the incumbent government sees this as the last straw to interact with parents throughout the national capital to further their political agendas before the Code of Conduct is enforced in Delhi."

Following this, the education department wrote to all government schools to ensure that no activities apart from those pertinent to students' school academics and well-being take place in the PTMs. "The sanctity of the Parent Teachers' Meeting is maintained as a purely academic exercise aimed at reviewing with parents the academic progress of each student after the pre-board exam/periodic exam/other learning interventions and plan how students can perform better in coming annual examination..."

"Thus it is clear that that the activities other than those prescribed... should not be allowed on the day of PTM and entry of any unauthorised person in the school should not be allowed," the letter read.

It went on to ask heads of

schools to videograph key activities "for feedback and research purpose".

According to instruction sent to all schools, the key points to be discussed with parents included informing them of the datesheets for the upcoming board exams, advising them on how to create an environment conducive for studying at home, advising them to free their children of home chores, attendance issues, effects of pollution and substance abuse, and sensitisation on women safety.

On Saturday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also visited a school in Rouse Avenue to interact with parents who were attending the PTM there. Speaking to them, he said, "How can imparting good education to our children be a gimmick? We have been holding regular PTMs since the last two-three years. They tried to end these PTMs but I don't think politics on schooling and education is justified... We did not have such a platform where parents and teachers could interact with each other. Now we do, and I hope that this interaction will be fruitful for the future of the children."

Kids of Delhi residents should get preference in colleges, jobs: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

IN A pre-poll bonanza, the Delhi government is likely to issue a notification by early next week, enhancing the circle rates of agricultural land in the capital from Rs 53 lakh per acre to Rs 2.25 crore-Rs 5 crore per acre, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced Saturday.

Kejriwal said Lt Governor Anil Bajjal has approved the proposal, which was cleared by the Delhi government cabinet on December 18. The CM made the announcement while addressing a town hall, the fifth in the series of seven meetings across seven Lok Sabha constituencies.

"The L-G has cleared the proposal on hiking the circle rates of agricultural land. The notification will be issued by Monday or Tuesday. We want to thank the L-G for his approval," Kejriwal said. The town hall was held at the Dilli Haat in Janakpuri.

The previous decision of the AAP government to revise the rates in August 2015 was struck

down by then L-G Najeeb Jung, who cited many infirmities, including the lack of his consent. The last time circle rates were revised in Delhi was in 2008, when Sheila Dikshit was the chief minister.

Kejriwal, who fielded a host of questions from the audience, said at one point that he also feels that children of people settled in Delhi should be given "preference" in terms of education and employment. "I also came to Delhi from outside. But I also feel that some kind of preference should be given to them in schools, colleges and jobs," Kejriwal said.

The AAP, in its 2019 Lok Sabha election manifesto, had promised that "in every college of Delhi, 85% of seats will be reserved for the residents of Delhi" in the event of Delhi getting full statehood. On Saturday, Kejriwal said that the demand for full statehood will figure in the party's manifesto for the assembly polls as well.

The AAP chief also reiterated his opposition to the CAA and NRC. He said, "What if Pakistan sends its spies misusing CAA? This is a valid concern I feel."



itors over a period of nine days. From Gandhi to climate change, spirituality, health, importance of the mother tongue, to Saudi Arabia's education goals and Iran's joint ventures with India, seminars and panel discussions will be held throughout the fair.

Bharatanatyam recital, tribal dances and musical presenta-

The book fair will end on January 12. *Amit Mehra*

FOOTFALL OF 20,000 ON DAY 1

Texts by and on Gandhi are highlight of this year's Delhi Book Fair

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE,
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

COMMEMORATING MAHATMA Gandhi as the 'writer of writers' and showcasing over 500 publishing houses from both regional and foreign languages, the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) opened its doors to the public at Pragati Maidan Saturday.

Presented by the National Book Trust in collaboration with the India Trade Promotion

Organisation (TIPO), the nine-day long fair from January 4 to 12 has lined up international literary programmes, seminars, children's activities, panel discussions, cultural performances, book releases and talks by authors.

This year's theme honours Gandhi's contribution to Indian literature as a writer, journalist, editor, translator and publisher. Jayatan Das, general manager of TIPO, said, "There are more than 500 books — by him and on him

— on display here."

The fair attracted over 20,000 visitors on its first day and showcased 596 publishing houses spread over 1,300 stalls.

Books from countries such as France, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and UAE were also available. "About 23 countries have participated, but countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka could not take part..." said Das.

Last year, the fair was attended by more than 12 lakh vis-

itive and creative learning as well. The tickets for the NDWBF are available online on BookMyShow and cost Rs 20 per person for adults and Rs 10 for children. The entry is from gate 10 of the Pragati Maidan Metro station.

The entry is free for unimformed school children and senior citizens.

The New Delhi World Book Fair is India's first book fair of the year, with two other book fairs slated to be held in Jaipur late January and Kolkata in March.

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INAUGURATION CEREMONY

Sunday, 5 January 2020 at 11 am
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C-1, West Enclave, New Delhi

Chief Guest: **ARVIND KEJRIWAL** Chief Minister, Delhi

Guest of Honour: **SATYENDAR JAIN** Health Minister, Delhi



6 GOVT & POLITICS

Gujarat Speaker makes students promise not to eat non-veg food

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 4

GUJARAT ASSEMBLY Speaker Rajendra Trivedi on Saturday made students of the central school run by Shree Narayana Cultural Mission in Ahmedabad promise never to eat non-vegetarian food in their lifetime, as it was “not part of Indian culture”.

Speaking in Hindi, Trivedi said, “Indian culture says that we should not eat non-vegetarian food. We should be vegetarian. Why?... those animals whose offspring’s eyes are closed when born, all of them are non-vegetarians, but, the children of human beings are born with their eyes open, therefore, we cannot eat non-vegetarian food. Nature has taught us this. Our saints have seen this.”

Trivedi then asked the students to promise that they would remain vegetarian in their life time when they chorused a “Yes”.

NCP demands withdrawal of Seva Dal booklet on Savarkar

Mumbai: The NCP Saturday called for the withdrawal of a booklet, ‘*Veer Savarkar, Kitne Veer*’, published by the Congress Seva Dal that questioned Hindutva ideologue Vinayak Savarkar’s sexuality and credentials as a patriot.

“Writing an objectionable article is wrong. Ideological differences are fine, but personal comments should not be made, especially when a person is not alive. The booklet should be withdrawn,” NCP leader Nawab Malik said. **ENS**

Shia groups in Kargil, Valley protest Iran commander’s killing in US strike

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JANUARY 4

THE KILLING of Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani triggered protests in Shia-dominated Kargil, in Ladakh UT, and Budgam in central Kashmir, with thousands of people taking to the streets in Kargil to protest against the US drone strike.

Leaders condemn Nankana Sahib attack, Pak says gurdwara ‘untouched’

NAVJEEVANGOPAL & PTI CHANDIGARH, NEW DELHI, JAN 4

LEADERS FROM across the political spectrum condemned Friday’s mob attack on the historic Gurdwara Nankana Sahib in Lahore, calling it “cowardly” and “shameful”, while protesters took to the streets in many cities across the country, including near the Pakistan High Commission in the national capital.

While protesters demanded that Islamabad provide adequate security to Sikh shrines and community members in the neighbouring country, the Pakistan foreign ministry on Saturday stated that the “gurdwara remains untouched and undamaged”.

The Pakistan government dismissed Friday’s incident as an altercation between two groups and said that “attempts to paint this incident as a communal issue are patently motivated”.

On Friday, a mob led by the family of a Muslim man, who had married a Sikh teen, reportedly threw stones at the birthplace of Guru Nanak and threatened to convert it into a mosque.

Linking the incident with the ongoing protests across the country against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri tweeted, “The violent mob that besieged Nankana Sahib Gurdwara has threatened to change the name of our holy place to Ghulam-e-Mustafa. Do those who are opposing the CAA need more evidence of oppression of minorities in Pakistan.... The outrage & stir against CAA is manufactured & treacherous to say the least, because the law does not take away any right from anyone. It simply offers sanctuary to persecuted minorities who came to India from theocratic states in our neighbour-



Chandigarh MP Kirron Kher, BJP vice-president Prabhat Jha and other leaders protest against the attack on Gurdwara Nankana Sahib in Chandigarh on Saturday. Kamleshwar Singh

hood before 31 Dec 2014”.

Union minister and Shiromani Akali Dal leader Harsimrat Kaur Badal said the incident exposes the “true face” of Pakistan, where “persecution of minorities is a reality”.

Earlier, the Press Information Department of Pakistan stated on its official website, “The altercation happened over a minor incident at a tea stall. The district administration immediately intervened and arrested the accused, who are now in custody.”

Earlier, Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee president Satwam Singh had asked for registration of a sacrilege case. He told *The Sunday Express* over the phone: “It could also be a conspiracy of foreign countries because the Pakistan government has had very good relations with Sikhs for a long time.”

Condemning the “attack”, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) president Gobind Singh Longowal on Saturday said that the SGPC will send a four-member delegation soon to Pakistan.

Cong condemns gurdwara attack

New Delhi: Condemning the attack on Gurdwara Nankana Sahib, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday asked the Government to take up the issue with Islamabad to ensure security of the Sikh pilgrims.

In a statement, Sonia said the “unwarranted and unprovoked attack on Gurdwara Nankana Sahib... by an unruly mob of miscreants” was condemnable. Expressing concern over the safety of Sikh pilgrims, she asked the government to “immediately take up the issue with Pakistani authorities to ensure security for the pilgrims and adequate security for the Holy shrine to prevent any future attacks”.

“Government of India should also press for immediate registration of case, arrest and action against the culprits,” she said.

Meanwhile, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, in a tweet, called the attack “reprehensible”. **ENS**

Lekhi, Pakistan minister in war of words

ENS & PTI NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi on Saturday said the Nankana incident shows how minorities there are persecuted and why they need citizenship in India.

Lekhi later got involved in a spat with Pakistani minister Fawad Chaudhry after the latter took to Twitter to term her allegation “fake propaganda”.

During a press conference, Lekhi said the gurdwara “is the holiest shrine for Sikhism. Baba Nanak was born there”. Her comments were also posted on Twitter.

Chaudhry responded by tweeting, “Yes we know that and huge respects for our Sikh brethren but BJP spokesperson giving lectures on diversity and religious harmony is like pot calling the kettle black, you guys are most bigoted bunch of haters so stop fake propaganda.”

Lekhi hit back immediately, saying Chaudhry should “take charge” of initiating action against those involved in the incident and “stop conversions, rape and abductions taking place in Pakistan”.

She added, “Fawad should worry more about Imran Khan’s tweets and the fake propaganda he has indulged in...,” referring to a video that the Pakistani Prime Minister had shared, claiming that it was of police violence targeting Muslims in Uttar Pradesh.

However, the video was from Bangladesh, and Khan soon deleted the video.



Members of Shia community protest in Lucknow Saturday against the killing of Iran Major General Qasem Soleimani. They raised slogans against the US President, and burnt the US flag. They hailed Soleimani as a ‘martyr’. Vishal Srivastav

MAHARASHTRA PORTFOLIOS

Final list sent, Governor ‘retires for day’, faces flak

Koshiyari OK likely today; Pawar ‘surprised’

VISHWAS WAGHMODE MUMBAI, JANUARY 4

WHILE THE delay in allocation of portfolios in the Maharashtra Cabinet has been due to disagreement between the three ruling allies — Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress — on Saturday, at least two allies shifted the blame on Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari for one more day’s delay in the matter.

Sources in the Sena and the NCP said the portfolios had been finalised by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday evening and sent to the office of the Governor, but had not been cleared, forcing another day’s delay.

Umesh Kashikar, Public Relations Officer to the Governor, said, “I am not aware and don’t want to comment.”

Principal Secretary to the Governor Santosh Kumar did not respond to calls and messages.

There was no clarity at what time the list was sent to the Governor’s office.

State minister and NCP leader Jayant Patil tweeted that the list was sent to Koshiyari at 7.30 pm. An official from the state government said the file was sent around 8-8.30 pm. Sources in the Sena and the NCP claimed that the file was sent at 9.45 pm.

“But the Governor’s office conveyed to the state government that the Governor has retired for the night and the file could not be cleared on Saturday. The file will be put up before the Governor on Sunday,” a top source from NCP said.

Sources also said that Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was keen to finish the task of allocat-



Governor B S Koshiyari

ing and announcing the portfolios on Saturday itself. “After holding discussions and completing the work, the list was sent to the Governor’s office. In the past, lists have been sent much later than this, and we were hoping it would be cleared immediately,” a source said.

Calling the Governor’s office response “very surprising”, NCP chief Sharad Pawar told *The Sunday Express*, “The same Governor had revoked President’s Rule late at night and administered oath to Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar early morning. Had the list been cleared today, the ministers would have started working from tomorrow.”

CM should assert his position: Sena’s Raut

Pune: As the portfolio allocation in the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maharashtra Cabinet was finalised late on Saturday, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut said Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray should “assert his position” to ensure that his government gains momentum.

“Had he asserted his position, it would not have been difficult to resolve the problems arising over portfolio distribution,” Raut told *The Sunday Express*. **ENS**

Venkaiah for more public awareness on functioning of RS ethics panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

RAJYA SABHA Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu has directed the secretariat of the Upper House to promote awareness among the public about procedures and functioning of the Ethics Committee of the House.

The Ethics Committee oversees conduct of members and examines complaints of unethical conduct.

Naidu’s direction came after a review of the functioning of the Ethics Committee last week, during which it came to his notice that 22 complaints against 19 Rajya Sabha MPs during the last four years had to be returned by the committee without examination, as the complaints were not made in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

Under Rule 295 of the ‘Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States’, any person can make a complaint of unethical conduct against a member of the House in writing - either to the Ethics Committee or an officer authorised by the committee. The committee can also take up such matters suo motu.

EXPLAINED

What the Ethics Committee does

The Ethics Committee of Rajya Sabha, the first of its kind for legislatures in the country, was set up in 1997 to oversee moral and ethical conduct of the members as internal self-regulatory mechanism, further to submission of a report by the N Vohra Committee on declining standards in public life in 1995, which was discussed in both Houses of Parliament.

In its first report, in 1998, the committee formulated a 14-point Code of Conduct for MPs. Among these are, members should not do anything that brings disrepute to Parliament and erodes its credibility; maintain high standards of public morality, dignity, decency and values; not expect or accept any fee or benefit for a vote on the floor of House; not misuse confidential information for private gain, etc.

Under Rule 296, the Ethics Committee may take up complaints for preliminary inquiry if it is made in proper form. Under Rule 303, the Rajya Sabha Chairman may refer any question involving unethical conduct and other misconduct of a member to the committee for examination, investigation and report.

The complaints against 19 members of Rajya Sabha belong-

ing to eight major parties, besides two Independent members, were not taken up for preliminary examination by the Ethics Committee since they were not directly addressed to the authorities mentioned in Rule 295.

The Rajya Sabha secretariat has forwarded a proposal to the chairman of Ethics Committee to reexamine the rules regarding admission of complaints.

‘Nehru was genuinely global, his nationalism inclusive’

SEEMA CHISHTI NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

MORE THAN five decades after his death, as India’s first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru continues to dominate headlines and elections speeches even today, what he had to say has finally been put together in 100 volumes of his Selected Works, compiled late last year.

The process of accumulating and sifting through scores of Nehru’s writings, letters and replies, his speeches and other essays began shortly after his death in 1964.

Historian Prof Madhavan Palat, the second series editor, said, “Nehru was known to be

short-tempered, but whatever he wrote was courteous, firm, clearly stating his position without being abrasive. I was astonished at the number of times he explained himself to (Sikh leader) Tara Singh, refuting the latter’s arguments point by point repeatedly, always correctly and exhaustively. Tara Singh was equally civilised.”

On the civility in discourse at the time, Palat said that when EM S Nambudiripad’s Communist government in Kerala was overthrown unconstitutionally, many Communists were summarily imprisoned in 1962. “Yet, their exchanges with Nehru were remarkably dignified - a Communist like Hiren Mukherjee positively adored Nehru. I have



Madhavan Palat

found only two persons were rude to or about him, a retired lieutenant general, Nathu Singh by name, and Ram Manohar Lohia (vol. 78, p. 143). But Nehru did not reply to them in the same vein; he preserved his dignity.”

For a historian, were there any surprises? Palat said: “I think

it is conventional wisdom that Nehru was woolly-headed, vacillating, tending to compromise, not tough enough as it were. But as I read through his archives and saw him dealing with crisis after crisis, and the immense diversity of the country, I sensed that these were his strengths. He tried to bring people together, which meant reconciling the irreconcilable. Many see this as compromise, not realising that he achieved what you need from a leader - team work.”

Nehru, he said, “supported his subordinates, holding them up when they faltered rather than punishing or dumping them. He would point to their strengths and suggest how their talents could be better used elsewhere.”

So why does India’s first PM raise hackles of the Sangh Parivar, his staunch ideological rivals till date? “Because his nationalism was inclusive - that is, all those resident in India were included; other nationalisms in India are exclusive, be it Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, the linguistic, the regional, and so on. Second, he was genuinely global, not insular. He was obviously proud of being Indian, but like Gandhi and Tagore, he considered it absurd to exclude what the rest of the world had to offer.

“It seemed to him a form of self-mutilation to do so. People who are parochial and exclusive, afraid of the wide open world, detest him.” **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

From mobile app to library, a farmers’ club in Kerala district ploughs a unique path

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SHAJU PHILIP THODUPUZHA (IDUKKI), JAN 4

FROM A mobile app for buyers and sellers in the farming sector, to an organic agri-shop and an exclusive library — a farmers’ club in Idukki district of Kerala is sowing new seeds, and reaping the benefits.

Started as a group of farmers in 2012, with support from NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development), the club in Thodupuzha

has a string of interventions to its credit.

NABARD had envisaged the club as a grassroots-level informal group of agriculturalists to ensure hassle-free credit flow from banking institutions. But the Thodupuzha Farmers’ Club has gone beyond its role as a linkage between farmers and banks.

It is the only farmers’ group in Kerala which runs a library exclusively for farmers. Started in 2017, the library has over 1,000 members and 600-odd books related to agriculture, animal husbandry and other farm ventures.

“When the younger generation wants to enter farming, they should not be left in the dark for want of information on farming practices and techniques. The books in the library would offer them knowledge on farming, animal husbandry and all allied areas. Its membership is open for all

farmers. Quality seeds are also sold at the club,” says Tom Cheriyann, club secretary.

The reading room is open to all, but books can be taken home only after paying a one-time membership fee of Rs 500.

The club has also brought out four books on farming, which deal with good practices and stories of successful farmers. The write-ups in these books are by farmers, many of whom have scripted success stories with innovative farming techniques.

For instance, one book published by the club, on “Modern farming and farming practices”, includes an article on mango cultivation by Mathew Madathikkandam, a farmer from Kerala’s mango hub of Muthalamada. Another article in the book, on pepper cultivation, has been authored by George Puliymakkal, a winner of the



The club has set up an organic agri-shop. Express

National Innovation Foundation award.

“All books have been a hit among farmers. One is into the second edition. This has helped many who wanted to take up farming as a serious profession,”

says Cheriyann.

The club has opened a shop too, where pesticide-free vegetables and certified organic products are sold at premium prices — from farm to fork without a chain of middlemen.

EXPRESS NETWORK

PROTEST WATCH

ASSAM



At a protest against CAA in Assam on Saturday. Reuters

DEHRADUN

Marginalised Oppn trying to foment unrest: Thakur

Dehradun: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jairam Thakur Saturday said a marginalised opposition is trying to foment unrest over the amended citizenship act, but the people will not let them succeed.

Asserting that the Act was passed to grant citizenship to persecuted religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, Thakur said it was not meant to strip minorities in India of

their citizenship as was being propagated by the Congress and other opposition parties.

"A marginalised opposition is trying to incite violence in the country over CAA but the people are in favour of the law and will never let them succeed in their machinations," he said. Thakur was speaking at a press meet in Dehradun as part of the party's plan to counter "misinformation" on the law. **PTI**

MUMBAI



An artist paints during a protest against the new citizenship law at Azad Maidan in Mumbai on Saturday. Nirmal Harindran

Yashwant Sinha to launch yatra against new law

Mumbai: Former BJP leader Yashwant Sinha on Saturday announced a Bharat Jodo Yatra 2020 in demand of the withdrawal of the new citizenship law. The yatra will start from Mumbai on January 9 and cover six states before culminating at Raj Ghat on January 30, the day Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated.

Speaking to the media on Saturday, Sinha said, "We are against the government's

policies, we are standing up for the Constitution."

He appealed to other organisations to carry out similar yatras that culminate at Raj Ghat the same day.

Sinha called the new law patently unconstitutional and discriminatory against a community and demanded that it be scrapped. He also criticised police action against protesters in UP, terming it "state sponsored terrorism". **ENS**

UTTAR PRADESH

Tiranga Yatra to be taken out at AMU tomorrow

Lucknow: A 'tiranga yatra' is scheduled to be taken out on the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) premises on Monday against the new citizenship law and the proposed NRC. The march is scheduled to be held from the Mass Communication Department to the Bab-e-Syed gate of the university.

The police said that they have been informed that the students have taken permission for the march from the AMU administration. AMU

spokesperson Shafe Kidwai, however, denied having information about such a march.

Mohammad Imran, a PhD scholar, said a call for the march has been given through social media. "We don't know who has given the call. A poster for the event was circulated and it will be attended by several students," said Imran, a member of AMU coordination committee, which has been organising activities against the CAA and NRC. **ENS**

NADDA ADDRESSES BJP SHOW OF STRENGTH IN GUWAHATI

Himanta stresses need to save Assam from 'Miya poetry, Ajmals'

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 4

EVEN AS Assam witnesses massive protests against the CAA, in a show of strength on Saturday, thousands of BJP workers participated in a public meeting in Guwahati where the party's top leaders spoke on the new citizenship law, the Centre's development work in the region, and the state government's commitment towards development and protection of interests of indigenous communities of Assam.

Maintaining that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promised citizenship to only those "who are already in India", BJP working president J P Nadda said, "Lakhs of people had to run to India overnight to save their land, dignity of their brothers, their family... People who have come to India, where would they go? India is their home. We will allow them to live with dignity. We will give them citizenship. This is what CAA has done."

Addressing the meet, state Finance Minister Himanta Biswa said that three years ago there was



BJP workers during a party meeting in support of the new citizenship law in Guwahati on Saturday. Dasarath Deka

only "one Ajmal", referring to Lok Sabha MP and AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal, but today there are "lakhs and lakhs of Ajmals".

He said BJP karyakartas have to fight to "save Assam from those who write Miya poetry, from the likes of Ajmals, such ultra communal forces".

"Miya poetry" was a reference to works of poets and activists of Bengali-speaking Muslim community of Assam who write in a dialect colloquially called the 'Miya' dialect. Ajmal's AIUDF draws much of its support from

among Bengali-speaking Muslims in the state.

Highlighting the BJP government's work in the state, Sarma said, "We have worked for the people, we have worked for our motherland, we have worked to free Assam from the Ajmals. And let me tell you, till there is the last drop of blood in our bodies, we will continue to fight against the likes of Badruddin Ajmal (Lok Sabha MP)."

Nadda targeted the Opposition and said, "They are claiming that so many crores (or people)

CONGRESS LEADER MEETS VICTIMS' KIN

Cong will ensure justice, says Priyanka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MEERUT, JANUARY 4

CONGRESS LEADER Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday met family members of those killed during protests against the new citizenship law in Meerut and Muzaafarnagar and asked local party leaders to help the families in filing cases against "police brutality".

"The primary job of police is to ensure security of people and not to harass them, but we have seen a totally opposite face of law enforcers during the anti-CAA protests on December 20," said Priyanka. She met relatives of five persons who died during the protests in Meerut on December 20.

On December 24, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka had tried to meet the victims' relatives, but they were not allowed to enter Meerut, with the local administration citing Section 144 restrictions in the town.

Brahmpuri Deputy SP Chakrapani Tripathi said on Saturday, "After getting the information that Priyankaji is coming to Meerut, we met her and told her that the



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra meets the family of a victim in Meerut on Saturday. PTI

same section was still in force under which she and Rahulji were sent back on December 24. We have no objection to them meeting people... as long as it does not create a law and order problem."

Priyanka said she had sent a list of the victims of violence to Governor Anandiben Patel and hoped that they would get justice.

On Saturday, she visited the residence of a local party leader at Bhudbaral where relatives of those killed in the December 20 violence were called. The relatives told Priyanka that they were being targeted and sought help.

Karnataka BJP MLA booked

Bengaluru: A case was registered against BJP MLA Somashekar Reddy on Saturday for an alleged provocative speech targeting those protesting against the new citizenship law.

Addressing a demonstration in support of the new law in Ballari, the MLA had said, "We are 80 per cent, you are 17 per cent, if we react, what will be your situation. Be careful."

On Saturday, a delegation of Congress leaders led by former CM Siddaramaiah submitted a memorandum against the MLA

in the state DGP office and demanded that he be booked for sedition. An agitation was staged in Ballari against the MLA's remarks.

"I have told them an FIR has already been registered and inquiry will be conducted and further action taken," Ballari SP C K Baba said.

Siddaramaiah alleged that Reddy made the speech with an intention to instigate communal violence. "Somashekar Reddy has spoken out what is BJP's mindset," he said. **PTI**

will come. No one will come. They are already here from the days you (Congress) were in power."

He also said that Clause 6 of Assam Accord would be implemented: "To protect Assam's culture is our responsibility, it is Bharat Mata's responsibility which we will fulfill."

The government has pitched implementation of Clause 6 of Assam Accord as an antidote to protests against the CAA in the state. Clause 6 states, "Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people." A high-level committee is preparing its report which will recommend the suggestions for implementation of Clause 6 and the state government has said it will take up the report as soon as it is submitted.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, BJP national general secretary Ram Madhav, and party's state unit chief Ranjeet Dass also addressed the meet, with participants mainly comprising booth-level workers and leaders.

IAS officer who quit over J&K curbs held on way to AMU

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

FORMER IAS officer Kannan Gopinathan, who resigned in August over "denial of freedom of expression to the people of Jammu and Kashmir", was on Saturday detained at the Agra border while on his way to deliver a talk on NRC in Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

According to Gopinathan, police detained him after citing an order by Aligarh administration. "I had come back from a function in Gwalior and was heading to a talk in Aligarh on CAA. As I reached (the border), I was surrounded by policemen who told me I am not allowed to enter Aligarh... they alleged I was trying to mobilise a crowd from Agra to Aligarh," he told *The Indian Express*.

According to Gopinathan, he was first taken to a dhaba and then to a guest house where he was informed by a police officer that a liaisoning officer from his home cadre had to deliver him a memo regarding his employment status. "I told them I would not accept any order since I was under duress. I insisted they take me to a police station. After hours, they made an official entry, alleging that I was going to gather a crowd in Agra and take them to Aligarh which is completely baseless. This was sheer paranoia on the part of the administration," he said.

Agra Police said they received a letter from the Aligarh administration, asking them to detain Gopinathan. "It was regular detention and he was released in the evening at a personal bond which costs nil," said Ravi Kumar, SP, West Agra.



Protest rally in Hyderabad on Saturday. Reuters

HYDERABAD

Anti-CAA march questions KCR silence

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, JANUARY 4

CARRYING THE Tricolour and placards, over 20,000 people took part in the "Million March" in Hyderabad on Saturday to protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), NRC and NPR, organised by the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Joint Action Committee, which comprises 40 social and political organisations.

Thousands of people from across Hyderabad and surrounding districts joined the march.

As the protesters converged at Dharna Chowk, it became a sea of Indian flags. Although Hyderabad Police had stated that not more than 1,000 people would be allowed at the protest site, the crowd swelled to an estimated 20,000; the police allowed many people into the NTR Stadium nearby.

Raising slogans such as "Inquilab zindabad", "Hindu-Muslim bhai bhai", "KCR chup kyon hai (why are you silent, KCR?)" and "Modi down down", people marched peacefully.

Amjad Ullah Khan of Majlis Bachao Tehreek, one of the 30 outfits which organised the march, said, "This is a victory of the peo-

ple. People are angry at CAA and NRC. This rally has proved how many people — and not just Muslims — are against these laws."

A large number of Muslim women arrived early at the venue, followed by groups of youths and students. By 3 pm, the Telugu Talli flyover near Telangana Secretariat abutting Hussain Sagar Lake was jammed with protesters.

Some BJP activists and members of Hindu Sanghathan, including its president Karuna Sagar, tried to protest against the march, but they were detained by police.

Earlier in the day, some miscreants tried to create confusion on social media that the Million March was cancelled. However, leaders of the different organisers denied this as rumour and appealed to everyone to join.

"CAA and NRC are against the secular spirit of this country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and (Home Minister) Amit Shah are behaving like dictators. The Constitution is being undermined and our country's secular values are being eroded," Rehana Khan, a student of Osmania University, said.

On Friday, police gave permission to the Million March but changed the venue.

In Meerut, police say those who died killed by other rioters

APURVA VISHWANATH
MEERUT, JANUARY 4

FOR THE five people killed in Meerut in the December 20 violence following protests against the new citizenship law, police say they were protesters who were killed by other protesters and not separate FIRs were filed in connection to their deaths.

"They are rioters themselves who were shot at by other rioters. We have videos which show the protesters fired shots and these were killed by those bullets," said SSP, City, Ajay Kumar Sahni.

The deaths of Asif, Mohsin, Zaheer, Aleem and Mohammad Asif of Ahmednagar are noted in the general FIRs that contain details of rioting and no separate FIRs have been filed. Police officers said families of those killed have not filed separate complaints with the police.

"No separate FIRs needed to be lodged for those killed because not a single person died from a police bullet," Sahni said.

"There is only entry and exit wound and no bullet was recovered from these bodies. So it cannot be verified if they succumbed to a police bullet," another senior

police officer said.

While police insists no bullet was recovered from the bodies of any of the five men who died on December 20, none of the families of those killed have received a copy of the post-mortem report yet. *The Indian Express* spoke to the families of at least two victims and they said that despite follow-ups with local police station, post-mortem copies were not provided.

"It will be shared in due course. The investigation is being done by local stations. They will take a call on this," Sahni said.

A total of 22 FIRs were filed following the violence on December 20 — three by citizens and the remaining by police. The 22 FIRs name 161 persons as accused and over 500 unidentified persons have been booked.

Since December 20, officials said at least 38 Muslim men have been arrested in cases lodged in four police stations. None of them have moved for bail, the officers said.

"Not a single person is under detention in Meerut. We are making arrests," Sahni said, adding that arrests are being made only when people have been seen in CCTV footage or other video recordings.

Anil Vij: Parties opposing CAA are anti-national

Chandigarh: Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij on Saturday said Opposition parties opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act are "anti-national". In a statement released on Saturday evening, Vij accused them of acting as "stooges" of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

In the statement, issued in wake of the Nankana Sahib gurdwara incident, Vij said, "The opposition political parties, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi who are opposing Citizenship Amendment Act, they should be told about the kind of ill-treatment meted out to minorities in Pakistan. They should be shown how minorities are being attacked. Congress leaders should be shown such videos". **ENS**

Azad not getting proper medical care, says doctor

New Delhi: Thirteen days after Bhim Army chief Chandrasekhar Azad was sent to judicial custody, his doctor has alleged that Tihar officials are denying him adequate medical attention.

Dr Harjit Singh Bhatti has said Azad has a condition in which excess blood is produced and a bi-weekly phlebotomy needs to be performed. "He told officials about his condition but they told him he is fine. He is being denied proper medical follow-up and this condition can lead to a cardiac arrest."

Sandeep Goel, DG, Delhi Prisons said, "We are aware of his medical history as he has been lodged in Tihar earlier. He is on medication and is doing well. Doctors are carrying out check-ups. If there is need to take him to a hospital, we will do it". **ENS**

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कार्यालय प्रधान चिकित्सा अधिकारी नागरिक हस्पताल हिसार					
नागरिक हस्पताल हिसार में हॉस्पिटल Cleaning & Washing Material की खरीद हेतु योग्य फर्मों/कंपनियों/एजेंसीज से Press Tender निविदाएं अवत द्वारा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।					
कार्य का नाम	निविदा लागत (रुपए में)	ईएम्पीडी (रुपए में)	निविदा खरीद तथा जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय	ईएम्पीडी. उच्च टेंडर कीमत जमा करवाने की तिथि	ग्रेस-टेंडर की प्री-बिड मीटिंग
Cleaning & Washing Material	500/-	5000/-	निविदा खरीद की तिथि 03.01.2020 सुबह 9 बजे से	निविदा बंद होने की तिथि 13.01.2020 5 बजे तक	ग्रेस-टेंडर खूले की तिथि 08.01.2020 को सुबह 11.00 बजे
नोट: टेंडर फॉर्म की खरीद हेतु निम्न हस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय से कार्यदिवस में सुबह नौ से शाम पांच बजे तक रुपए 500/- का भुगतान करके ले सकते हैं व इस बारे में अलग से कोई भी पत्राचार नहीं किया जाएगा।					
प्रधान चिकित्सा अधिकारी सिविल हस्पताल हिसार।					

ASSAM

Man dies in detention camp after brief illness

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 4

A MAN lodged at a detention centre for illegal foreigners in Assam's Goalpara district died after a brief illness on Friday evening, officials said. Naresh Koch, aged around 56 years, was at the detention centre for two years and is the 29th inmate to die in Assam's six detention centres, according to government data.

A senior said Koch was ill and was treated at Guwahati

Medical College and Hospital. He died there on Friday evening. Assam cur-

rently has six detention centres for illegal foreigners and these are located inside jails. Together they house 1,000-odd detainees. A new detention centre solely for detaining illegal foreigners is under construction at Matia in Goalpara district.

Naresh, who hailed from Mornoi in Goalpara district, was in detention since March 7, 2018. In an order dated June 1, 2017, Foreigners' Tribunal No 5 in Goalpara had declared Koch an illegal foreigner in an ex-parte order. Saying that Koch has not presented himself before the tribunal despite repeated adjournments, the tribunal said, "Hence, this Tribunal is compelled to pass an order declaring opposite party as a foreigner of post 1971 stream." It ordered that he be taken into custody and detained till deported.

Section 9 of the Foreigner's Act, 1946, says that the onus of proving that a person is an Indian lies on the person and, hence, when the person is absent from proceedings despite receiving a notice from the tribunal, the member of the tribunal can pro-

ceed ex-parte and declare the person a foreigner. Last year, MoS, Home, G K Reddy told Parliament that Foreigners' Tribunals in Assam had declared 63,959 people foreigners through ex-parte proceedings between 1985 and February 28, 2019.

People close to the family said Koch was financially weak and did not properly understand the complexities of legal process and paperwork. "He was in detention centre for almost two years. The family got a house under a government scheme and under the Modi government's scheme, they got a toilet. How can such person be a foreigner?" asked Noni Kumar Das, a neighbour. Local village headman Bomkesh Banai said, "The family belongs to the Koch community. They migrated in 1964 as refugees and settled in Goalpara district. The family is extremely poor. He used to work as a daily-wage labourer. His only son also works as a daily-wager."

A relative of Naresh said his grandfather Hiralal Koch's name was in the 1971 voters' list.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

9419246 LNK GOPAL LIMBU of 1/11 Gorkha Rifles (BATALIK) left for heavenly abode during an active training exercise on 05 Jan 1996. The soldier will always be remembered for his valuable service to the Nation. To this braveheart we pledge that we shall always be guided by his immortal spirit and make his name proud.

CO AND ALL RANKS, 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES (BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE) (BATALIK)

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: SUNDARGARH
No. 5836 Dt. 03/01/2020
COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Bid Reference No.: SNGM-13/2019-20/DT. 03.01.2020
On behalf of the Sundargarh Municipality, on-line Item rate Bids / proposals from eligible Registered firms/ Entrepreneurs/ NGOs/ Agency / Organization having eligibility criteria as mention in Technical Bid through on-line item rate bids under two bid system (Technical and Financial) in prescribed formats in conformity with the Detailed Tender Call Notice.
Name of the work for which Tenders invited: **Sanitation work including collection of waste from door to door in 19 (Nineteen) nos. of wards of Sundargarh Municipality area i.e. from ward No. 01 to 19 by engaging 120 no's of TATA ACE Vehicles.**
2. Intending bidders have to participate through "On-Line" bidding only. The website for online bidding is <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>
3. The bid documents will be available in the above website from **11 A.M. on 06.01.2020 to 5 PM on 20.01.2020** for online bidding.
4. Bids received online will be opened at **04 PM on 27.01.2020.**
5. The bidders must possess valid and compatible **Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).**
6. The DTN for bid shall be available in the e-procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in> for on-line bidding.
Sd/-
Executive Officer
Sundargarh Municipality

Department of Water Resources
Odisha Community Tank Development Management Society
7th Floor Rajeev Bhawan Bhubaneswar
Ph. 0674-2542252, E-Mail: spuoipecra.od@gov.in
ODISHA INTEGRATED IRRIGATION PROJECT FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE(OIIPCR) REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB) E-Procurement Notice
NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT FOR SMALL WORKS
Date:31.12.2019 RFB No: OIIPCR-AW-2/2019

Name of Work	: Civil Construction works (Rehabilitation of Minor Irrigation Projects under OIIPCR)
No. of works	: 21 (Twenty One) Packages comprising 74 Projects.
Estimated Cost	: Ranges from Rs.176.97 to 777.98 Lakhs Rps. of each package
Cost of Bid Document	: Free of Cost
Period of completion	: 15 (Fifteen) calendar Months for each package
Availability of bid documents	: From 08.01.2019, 10.00 Hrs to 07.02.2019 up to 13.30 Hrs in the e-procurement website https://tendersodisha.gov.in
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	: 20-Jan 2020
Last date of receipt of bid	: Up to 07.02.2020, 13.30 Hrs through online
Date of opening of Technical Bid	: On dt: 07.02.2020 at 14.00 Hrs
Name & Address of the Office Inviting Tender (OIT)	: Project Director, OCTDMS-cum-Additional Secretary, DoWR, Odisha, 7th Floor Rajeev Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Ph.-0674-2542252, E-Mail: spuoipecra.od@gov.in & https://dowr.odisha.gov.in

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement site.
Sd/-
Dr. Kamal Lochan Mishra
Project Director, OCTDMS-cum-Additional Secretary to Govt., DoWR, Odisha
32188/11/0004/1920

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, KENDRAPARA
At : Ichhapur, Post : Shree Baladevjeu, Email: eerwsskendrapara@gmail.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]
Bid Identification No. RWS/43/2019-2020
Letter No.....Dated

1 The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Kendrapara on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites lump sums its bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for execution of Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes in Kendrapara District.

2. Name of the work : Execution of RPWS Schemes in the district of Kendrapara.

3. No. of Work : 7 (Seven Nos.)

4. Value of the Work : 102.70.00 Lakhs to 145.90 Lakhs

5. Concerned tender inviting authority : Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Kendrapara

6. Security amount (Rs.) (Online) : 103000/- to 146000/-

7. Cost of Bid documents (Rs.) : 10000.00 (Online)

8. Class of Bidder : "B" & "A"

9. Period of Completion : 10 Months

10. Availability of bid documents in the website : From date. 16.01.2020 at 10.00 A.M to date. 31.01.2020 5.30 P.M

11. Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification : Up to 28.01.2020 at 5.30 P.M

12. Date of Opening of Bid : On date. 01.02.2020 at 10.30 A.M onwards.

The bidders have to participate in the tender through ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be had from the website i.e <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>. Subsequent corrigendum / addendum if required shall only be appeared in the above website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
RWS&S Division, Kendrapara
25004/11/0020/1920

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA (SRINAGAR)
DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (PURCHASE-2nd)
e-NIT No. SIMS 01 (P-II) OF 2019
Dated: 01.01.2020
Sub: Abbreviated Notice inviting e-Tenders for supply of Commercial Kitchen ware items.
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, through Director Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, Srinagar, e-tenders are invited under two bid system, from Original Manufacturers/ their authorized distributors/ dealers for Supply of Commercial Kitchen ware items.
Complete List of items required with detailed description & Tentative quantity is given in Annexure-A of the detailed e-NIT
The detailed tender document containing specifications and quantity, rating of the items along with terms & conditions are available at www.jktenders.gov.in for downloading & submission by the interested agencies as per the following schedule:-

SCHEDULE TO TENDER		
S. No.	Activity Description	Schedule
1.	Cost of tender document	Rs. 1,000/-
2.	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 20,000/-
3.	Start date for downloading of tender document	01.01.2020
4.	Last date & time for submission of tenders	31.01.2020 upto 4.00 P.M.
5.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bids	04.02.2020 upto 3.30 P.M.
6.	Date & time for opening of Financial Bids	Shall be intimated later
7.	Duration of Contract	One time purchase
8.	Validity of Tenders	240 Days (8 Months) after opening of price bids
9.	Type of Contract	Item Rate

Any clarification will be entertained from **01.01.2020 to 20.01.2020 on all working days during office hours.**
Complete bidding process will be online on e-tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. No hard copies of Financial or Technical Bids need to be submitted in Physical form. However, SKIMS shall ask for any of the documents at any stage later on, for verification etc.
The detailed NIT documents shall be available on official website of SKIMS for reference only.
Director SKIMS reserves the right to accept/reject or cancel any tenders or all tenders in full or part thereof without assigning any reason.
The bidders must be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed NIT.
No. SIMS 325-33/2019-03-11-4021-23 Sd/- Asst. Material Management Officer, (Purchase-2nd), Dated: 01.01.2020

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: SUNDARGARH
No. 5837 Dt. 03.01.2020
COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT
Tender invited vide tender call notice no. 5422 Dt. 30/12/2019 and bid Reference No. SNGM-12/2019-20 published in Sambad/Dharitri/Pragatvani/Indian Express is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable reason.
Sd/-
Executive Officer
Sundargarh Municipality

Ex- Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) Employment Notice
Name of Employer : ECHS
Place of Employment : ECHS Polyclinic, Palwal
Name of Posts : Medical Officer - 01 Dental Officer - 01, Nursing Assistant - 01, Dental Hygienist - 01, Lab Assistant - 01, Clerk - 01, IT Technician - 01, Female Attendant - 01 Chowkidar - 01, Safaiwala - 01
Terms and Condition (application) and remuneration available at :- www.echs.gov.in
Last date of Receipt of application : Application to be submitted within 30 days from the date of publishing of the advertisement in the newspaper and Addressed to :- Station Commander, Air Force Station Faridabad (ECHS CELL), Dabua Colony, Dist -Faridabad-121005, Telephone No. 0129-2470714

Paschimanchal vidyut vitran Nigam Ltd., Victoria Park, Meerut
TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE E-tenders were invited for supply of:- (1) 200 Nos. 11 KV TVM Cat-B Meter against tender specification no. PVVNL-MT/COM/15/19-20. (2) 100 Nos. 33 KV TVM Cat-B Meter against tender specification no. PVVNL-MT/COM/16/19-20. The date of opening of Part-I & II of above tenders are hereby extended from 04.01.2020 to 20.01.2020. For detailed information please log on www.pvvnl.org & E-Tendering website www.etender.up.nic.in till the date of submission of bids. Superintending Engineer (Commercial) "Help line Number For Information of Theft of Electricity: "1800-180-3002 (Meerut), & 9412207451" Remark:- www.etender.up.nic.in "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (Commercial) For Managing Director पत्रांक: 150 दिनांक: 04.01.2020.

North Eastern Karnataka Road Transport Corporation
Stores & Purchase Department, Central Offices, Sarige Sadana, Main Road, Gulbarga-585 102. Tel. & Fax No. 08472-260502, Mobile No. 77606 86172 (COSP). No. NEKTCO/COSP/03/2019-20 Dated: 03.01.2020
Notice inviting Tenders (through e-procurement mode only)
Tenders through e-procurement portal (pre-qualification & commercial) for supply of (1) (T-16/03.01.2020) Selection of an Agency for Establishment of Driver Test Track at Humnabad RTI on per candidate basis. (2) (T-17/03.01.2020) Selection of an agency for providing Internal Audit Service to NEKRTC Central Office and Division. (3) (T-18/03.01.2020) Procurement of Office Furniture to NEKRTC are invited.
All the details of Tender, Registration, Tender documents etc. are available at <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> Mail to cospnekrct@gmail.com or support@ihelpdsk.com for further information if required.
Sd/- Controller of Stores and Purchases, (Tender Inviting Authority) DIP/Kalaburagi/913/MC&A/2019-20

KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,
Mysuru division, mysuru – 570008
Ph: 0821-2483853, Email: dcfdm@gmail.com
No.A3/Sandale/auction/CR-17/2019-20 Date: 23.12.2019
BRIEF SALE NOTIFICATION
It is hereby notified for the general information of the public that the Sandal logs and pieces stored at Government Sandalwood Depot, Sandal Koti, Mysuru – 570008. As mentioned below will be sold by e-tender-cum-auction mode through MSTC Ltd., on the online platform www.mstcecommerce.com. The sale conducting authority is Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mysuru Division, Mysuru. The e-tender-cum auction is subject to terms and conditions uploaded on the website www.mstcecommerce.com by e-tender-cum auction Notice No: MSTC/BLR/Karnataka Forest Department/1/Aranya Bhavana, Ashokapuram/19-20/30865 Date of e-tender-cum-auction: 20th January 2020. Mode: Online www.mstcecommerce.com Time: 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM. Quantity of Material: 62 Lots of Approximately 72.811 MT Sandal wood of Different kinds. Approximate value: Above Rs.5.00 Crores. Inspection of logs by the bidders: 10.01.2020 to 17.01.2020 (Both dates inclusive) 10:30 AM and 04:00 PM (On working Days) at Government Sandalwood Depot. Sandal Koti, Mysuru – 570008. Pre Bid Meeting: 17th January 2020 at 4.30 PM.
Conditions: 1) Interested bidders should get themselves Registered with MSTC well in advance. **2)** Interested bidders are advised to inspect the material to their satisfaction. **3)** The Quantity notified adjacent to each class kept for sale is approximate. **4)** Every Registered bidders shall pay an Earnest money deposit (EMD) of Rs.1,00,000/- (One Lakh only) for all lots/or any lot. **5)** The black listed bidders, defaulters, Minors, insolvent persons will not be Permitted to participate in the sale. **6)** Detailed Sale Conditions to be downloaded from www.mstcecommerce.com
Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mysuru Division, Mysuru. DIPR/DD/MYS/MCA/993

MADURAI SMART CITY LIMITED
Municipal Corporation Building, Aringar Anna Maligai, Tallakulam, Madurai - 625 002
Ref. No. MSCL P(26)/19-20 Phone : 0452 - 2530521 to 0452 - 2530526
INVITATION FOR BIDS NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
1. On behalf of Madurai Smart City Limited, The Managing Director invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for following works under Madurai Smart City Limited.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Value Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakh)	EMD (Rs. in Lakh)	Period of Completion	Bid Available Date & Time	Bid Opening Date & Time
Ref. No. MSCL P (26) / 19-20	Construction of convention center at Thammakam Ground in Madurai City Municipal Corporation under Madurai Smart City Limited	Rs. 44.05 Cr.	Rs. 45.00	18 Months	06.01.2020 To 06.02.2020 upto 3.00 PM	06.02.2020 at 3.30 PM

2. Date, Time and Venue for the Pre-Bid Conference : 21.01.2020, 04.30 PM at Conference Hall Q/o, Madurai Corporation Building, Aringar Anna Maligai, Madurai - 625 002.
3. Form of Contract : Two Cover system
4. Bid documents will be available in <http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in>, in from 06.01.2020 to 06.02.2020, upto 3.00 P.M.
5. The Managing Director, Madurai Smart City Limited reserves the rights to accept or reject any bid or and reject all the bids at any time without assigning any reason thereof. Eligibility criteria and other details can be had from the Bidding document.
6. For any clarifications in Bidding Documents the Bidders may contact the office of the "The Managing Director, MSCL and the Commissioner, Corporation of Madurai, Aringar Anna Maligai, Tallakulam, Madurai - 625 002".
7. Bids must be submitted to the "The Managing Director, MSCL and the Commissioner, Aringar Anna Maligai, Tallakulam, Madurai - 625 002 Corporation of Madurai" in person on or before 03.00 PM on 06.02.2020 and bids will be opened on 06.02.2020 at 03.30 PM, in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the bids as specified, the bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
8. E-mail Address: mducorpcpe@gmail.com Contact No: 0452 - 2532412.
Managing Director, MSCL & Commissioner, MMC
DIPR/28 / TENDER / 2020

राजस्थान विश्वविद्यालय, जयपुर
ई-निविदा सूचना
राजस्थान विश्वविद्यालय की वर्ष 2019 एवं पूर्व की विभिन्न परीक्षाओं के उपयोग में ली गई उत्तरयुक्तिकाओं की लगभग 2200 क्विंटल, रद्दी की लक के अनुसार एवं कॉम्पियो के साथ काम में लिया गया पैकिंग मैटेरियल इत्यादि की एकमुश्त के लिये ठेका/बिक्री हेतु रद्दी का व्यवसाय करने वाली मिला / फर्मा / ठेकेदारी से ऑनलाइन ई-निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है।
निविदा प्रपत्र एवं शर्तें State Public procurement Portal <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>, or www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.uniraj.ac.in राजस्थान विश्वविद्यालय, जयपुर से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।
UBN : URA1920GLOB00114 कुलसचिव

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH CORRIGENDUM
Ref: Open Tender Notice No. PI (EP)/19-20/12
1. In continuations to the Tender Notice No. PI(EP)19-20/11 of the Office regarding the following Cases :-
(1) Sr. No. 1 Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Equipments/ Instruments and Upgradation of the existing MORTUARY on Turnkey basis.
(2) Sr. No. 2 High Energy Linear Accelerator with Latest Technology, it is to inform that a Pre-Bid Conference for these items will also be held along with other Pre-Bid Cases on 06.01.2020 at 03:00 P.M. in the office of Professor In-Charge (Equipment Purchase). The Date of Opening of the above Tender is extended to 16.01.2020 instead of 07.01.2020.
Ref: Open Tender Notice No. PI (EP)/19-20/11
2. The Tender Item is at Sr. No. 12 (Computerized System (Software and Hardware) due on 08.01.2020 has been withdrawn due to technical reasons.
3. The Tender Item is at Sr. No. 03 (Central Computerization Observation Station) will be Opened on 16.01.2020 instead of 07.01.2020.
All other details of the Tender shall remain the same.
PROFESSOR IN-CHARGE (EP)

Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board
(Govt. of NCT of Delhi)
9, Institutional Area, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 Tel:- 28524421, Fax:-011-28521871
NOTICE of E- TENDER
The item rates tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works:
Name of Work - Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 20 mtr high mast of i/c all accessories in B-block at NGM Narela.
Estimated Cost (Rs.) 6,76,846/-
Earnest Money (Rs.) 13,600/-
Last date & time for receipt of tender through e-procurement 09.01.20 at 13.00 Hrs.
Tender ID No 2020_DAMB_186978_1
The Term- conditions and other details of the tender may please be seen on the website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
DIP/Shabdarth/1241/19-20

G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment & Sustainable Development
Kosi-Katarmal, Almora - 263 643, Uttarakhand
TENDER NOTICE No.: GBPNIHESD/NMHS-SGP/ Central/Facility/2019-20/10
Please refer to Institute's Tender notice No. GBPNIHESD/NMHS-SGP/Central/Facility/2019-20/10 published in "Indian Express" (Delhi Edition) dated 20.09.2019 for Providing **Hand multipara meter analyser data logger with sensor of different parameter equipments under I House project-02.** The last date of receiving of Tender for equipments is hereby extended up to 22.01.2020 at 15:00 p.m. The documents shall be submitted online at website <https://moefcc.eunizward.com>. The other terms and condition will remain as such. The full details of Document are available in the Institute Website <http://gbpihed.gov.in>.
Administrative Officer
E-mail: ao@gbpihed.nic.in

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH
Tender Notice No. PI(EP)/19-20/12 Phone No. 0172-2756469
Sealed tenders are invited from the manufacturers or their sole authorized distributors/ agents on the prescribed form for purchase of various items against tender No. 1-20 The manufacturers and their authorized dealers / distributors can offer their minimum rates as per terms & conditions contained in the Tender Form:-

Sr. No.	Equipment/Item Name	Quantity	EMD	Opening Date	Deptt. Name
Pre Bid Cases					
1.	Cytogenetic Microarray system with software for analysis	01 No's	4,00,000/-	23.01.2020	Paediatrics
2.	HIPEC-01 No.	01 No's	2,00,000/-	-do-	General Surgery
3.	Anterior Segment Tomographer with Corneal Biomechanical	01 No's	1,60,000/-	-do-	AEC
4.	FFA Digital Fundus Camera-01	01 No's	1,20,000/-	-do-	AEC
5.	Clinical Simulator for in Viro Testing	01 No's	200,600/-	-do-	Anaesthesia
6.	Automatic Blood Collection Monitors	10 No's	50,000/-	-do-	BTD
7.	Transport Incubator	02 No's	60,000/-	-do-	Paediatrics
Non Pre Bid Cases					
8.	Double dome OT light with pendant	03 No's	40,000/-	24.01.2020	Renal Transplant Surgery
9.	Automated Urine Culture Analyzer-02 Nos.	02 No's	1,00,000/-	-do-	Medical Microbiology
10.	Videolaryngoscope (C-MAC)	02 No's	1,20,000/-	-do-	Neurosurgery
11.	Rapid Infuser System	01 No's	30,000/-	-do-	Neurosurgery
12.	Laser for Maxillofacial Surgery for Head and Neck Surgery	01 No's	50,000/-	-do-	OHSC
13.	Comprehensive Electronic Medical Record System with sample tracking System	01 No's	28,000/-	-do-	Paediatrics
14.	X-Ray Dosimeter	01 No's	23,400/-	-do-	Anaesthesia
15.	Inverted Microscope	01 No's	32,000/-	27.01.2020	BTD
16.	Plasma Thawer	02 No's	30,000/-	-do-	BTD
17.	Point of Care Hb1Ac Analyzer with Accessories	01 No's	30,000/-	-do-	Paediatrics
18.	Viscoelastic Global Coagulation Testing Device	01 No's	60,000/-	-do-	Hepatology
19.	Rigi Scan Plus	01 No's	20,000/-	-do-	Urology
20.	Vital Sign Monitor	02 No's	20,000/-	-do-	Gastroenterology

Tender List can also be downloaded from website: www.pgimer.edu.in and Item wise Tender Form with specifications can be downloaded from website: www.eprocure.gov.in. Cost of Tender is Rs.200/- (non-refundable) which can deposited in the shape of Demand Draft in favour of Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) must be in the form of FDR TDR valid for a period of one year from any scheduled bank in the name of the Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh. EMD in any other form will not be accepted. Tender can be dropped in the tender box placed in the Procurement Branch (Import) manually by 2.30 PM, on or before the date mentioned against respective item. The tenders shall be opened on the same date at 03.00 PM, in the presence of the authorized intending tendering. Tenders not submitted on the prescribed form, not accompanied with valid Earnest Money and tender cost shall be summarily rejected straightaway. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof. "PRE-BID CONFERENCE" WITH INTENDING BIDDERS FOR ITEM SR. No. 01 to 07 shall be held on 06.01.2020 from 3.00 P.M. ONWARDS IN THE (P/EP), OFFICE, PGIMER, CHANDIGARH. For more details contact: 0172-2756469 at Procurement Branch (Import).
NOTE: If any of the tender opening dates happens to be a holiday in PGIMER, Chandigarh, then the same shall be opened on next full working day.
PROFESSOR IN-CHARGE (EP)

TAMIL NADU SALT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)
735, Annasalai, LLA Building, Chennai-02.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
TENDERS INVITED BY TAMILNADU SALT CORPORATION LTD FOR THE FOLLOWING SUPPLY, SERVICE UNDER TWO PART SYSTEM FOR THE YEAR 2020-2021
SUPPLY:
For supply of 1. 1 Kg coextruded LDPE/LLDPE multilayer Pouch and Roll. 2. 1 Kg Poly polyester Laminated LD Film Pouches & Film Roll. 3. 25 Kg PP bags. 4. Crystal Iodised Salt, Refined Free Flow Iodised Salt and Double Fortified Salt to various destinations in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh States. 5. Refined Non Iodised Salt 6. Food Grade Potassium Iodate 7. Food Grade Ferrous Sulphate. 8. Food Grade Sodium Hexa Meta Phosphate. 9. Food Grade Silica Powder 10. Supply of Firewood.
SERVICES:
1.Transportation including Loading & Unloading of Fortified Salt from Valinokkam Ramnathapuram District to various districts of Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh & Puducherry States. **2.**Transportation including Loading & unloading of Salt from Pan area to FS unit and Salt Refinery. **3.**Transportation including Loading and unloading of Salt from pan area to new washery. **4.**Transportation including Loading and unloading of salt from Pan area to the old washery/ Centralized platform. **5.** Collection & Heaping of Salt at the salt works in MVSC.
DIPR/008/TENDER/2020 Managing Director

Bardhaman: Part of station building collapses, two injured



At Bardhaman station. Express

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, JANUARY 4

A PORTION of Bardhaman railway station in West Bengal collapsed on Saturday night, injuring at least two persons, sources said. A three-member committee has been formed to probe the incident.
According to railway officials, the portion of the building that collapsed was old and construction work was underway.
Train services have not been disrupted as the collapse took place towards the entrance of the station, away from the platforms.
"Railway officials are inspecting the site and will ascertain the reason behind the collapse," said an official.
The two injured persons have

been admitted to Bardhaman Medical College and Hospital.
Sources said one of the victims had suffered severe head injuries and is in a critical condition.
"Our priority is to ensure safety for all and keep things normal. Train services are normal," said Ishaq Khan, Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah.

Two friends from IIT-B among top scorers in CAT

SHYNA KALRA MUMBAI, JANUARY 4

TWO STUDENTS of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, Rahul Manglik and Somansh Chordia, are among the top scorers in the Common Admission Test (CAT), 2019, results for which were announced Saturday.
Chordia, who is from Nagpur, scored a perfect 100 percentile, while Manglik, from Delhi, scored 99.99 percentile. Both the students are in the final year of mechanical engineering, and have cracked the exam in their first attempt.
CAT 2019 was held on

November 24, 2019, at 376 test centres across 156 cities. Over 2.09 lakh students appeared for the exam, of whom 10 scored 100 percentile and 21 scored 99.99 percentile. All 10 toppers are from an engineering background.
"I was introduced to management during my operation analysis class," Manglik said. "I found business studies and management to be interesting...I started preparations in my last semester."
Chordia, who wants to be an entrepreneur, said, "Through business management, we can reach a large group of people. Technical tools also have business applications."

Militants throw grenade at CRPF men, civilian injured

Srinagar: Suspected militants lobbed a grenade in Srinagar's old city on Saturday afternoon, injuring one civilian, officials said.
IGP, CRPF, (Srinagar sector) Ravideep Singh Sahi said militants lobbed a grenade towards a CRPF deployment in Wadkara area of Srinagar. "It exploded 25-30 m away from the area where CRPF personnel were deployed," he said.
Singh said no security personnel was injured. "One civilian suffered minor injuries and had to be hospitalised. He was discharged immediately," he said.
An official from SMHS hospital, Srinagar, said, "The civilian had come with splinter injuries. He was discharged immediately." ENS

कार्यालय परिचोजना प्रबन्धक (कार्पु) निर्माण इकाई (मि/मो), उत्तर प्रदेश
बाल निगम, लखनऊ
अध्य. कार्पु ई-निविदा सूचना
पत्रांक : 3649 / एन-18 / 222
दिनांक : 27.12.2019
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम की ओर से जनपद लखनऊ की नगरीय पेयजल योजनाओं हेतु बाल कुंआ नगरी की सी-वेरेज की कार्य हेतु जल निगम में सम्पूर्ण करी से कार्य हेतु ठेकेदारों से ई-टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से निविदाएं दिनांक 08.01.2020 को अपरान्ह 05:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया द्वारा आवेदन की जाती है। जो दिनांक 09.01.2020 को अपरान्ह 03:00 बजे उपस्थित निविदादाताओं को खसक कार्यालय परिचोजना प्रबन्धक (कार्पु), निर्माण इकाई (मि/मो), जल निगम, लखनऊ में सौंपी जाएगी। निविदाओं को उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement website <https://etender.up.nic.in> के माध्यम से ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया द्वारा दिनांक 01.01.2020 से दिनांक 08.01.2020 तक वेबसाइट पर आवेदन किया जा सकता है। निविदा प्रपत्र का शुल्क ₹ 2000.00 + 18 प्रतिशत जीएसटी है। निविदा सूचना से सम्बंधित विवरण बाल निगम की वेबसाइट www.jn.upscd.gov.in पर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। निविदा प्रपत्र का शुल्क ₹ 2000.00 + 18 प्रतिशत जीएसटी है। निविदा सूचना से सम्बंधित विवरण बाल निगम की वेबसाइट www.jn.upscd.gov.in पर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। निविदा प्रपत्र का शुल्क ₹ 2000.00 + 18 प्रतिशत जीएसटी है। निविदा सूचना से सम्बंधित विवरण बाल निगम की वेबसाइट www.jn.upscd.gov.in पर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Zohair, S/O Abdul Razzaq R/o 25/1, Kucha Bela Mal, Naya Bans, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Mohammad Zohair. 0040526490-1

I, Yatharth Kumar S/O Rakesh Srivastava Adid:Flat No.94, Tower.No.2-A, Aravali-Heights, Dwarkadhish, Sector-23, Rewari, Haryana-123106. Changed My Name To Yatharth Srivastava. 0040526484-2

I, Yash Kanta W/o Mukesh Khurana R/o 20/1, SF, Block-20, Ashok-Nagar, Tilak-Nagar, N.Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Sakshi Khurana. 0040526505-5

I, Vipen Kumar S/o, Late Om Parkash Sahdev R/o-Road-33, H.No.22, West-Punjab Bagh Extn., N.Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Vipin Kumar Sahdev. 0040526505-2

I, Sumedha Nagpal D/o A R Mehra R/o 24-A, DDA-Flats, Gulabi Bagh, Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Manu Mehra. 0040526505-1

I, Sukhbeer Singh S/o Late Mehr Singh R/o-B-547, Pandav Nagar, Patel Nagar, N.Delhi-110008 have changed my name to Sukhbir Singh. 0040526505-4

I, Subeena Parveen Khan W/o Adeel Murtaza Khan R/o Flat No.12, 3rd Floor, H.No L92, Vijay Vihar Phase-II, Sector-4, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Subeena Khan. 0040526370-1

I, Shahid Ali S/o Sughar Ali R/o-RZG-61, Ist-Floor, New Balaji Apartment, Palam-Village, Delhi-110045 changed my name to Shahid Ali Khan. 0040526505-7

I, Sanjay Gupta S/o Late Sh. Prem Narayan Gupta R/o. H.No. F-54, Preet Vihar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name from Sanjay Gupta to Sanjay Kumar Gupta for all future purposes. 0040526510-1

I, S Karthik Iyer S/o Shiva Kumar R/o-380, GF, Gali-No.24, Chattarpur Pahari, N.Delhi-110074 have changed my name to Karthik. 0040526487-1

I, Renu W/o Kamal R/o:A-39B, Mansa Ram-Park, Uttam-Nagar, New Delhi-59, inform that Renu and Renu Bala are One and the Same Person. 0040526482-5

I, Rameez S/o Haji Rais Ahmad R/O L-24, Loha-Market, Near-DCP-Office, welcome- Seelampur Delhi-110053, Have Changed my name to Rameez Ahmed permanently. 0040526482-9

I, Rajeev Dutt S/o Baldev Raj Dutt R/O C-75/B, Pankha-Road, jeevan-park, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Rajiv Dutt permanently. 0040526482-3

I, Rachna R/O E-124, Stamford Street, Rosewood City, Sector-49/50, Gurugram-122018 Haryana have changed my name to Rachna Kumar. 0070691234-1

I, Purvez Jawed, S/o Mr. Azmat Jawed, R/o-Flat No.40, AIMS-Apartment, Mayur-Kunj/Near Chilla-Regulator, New Delhi-110096, have changed my name from Purvez Jawed to Parvez Jawed for all future purposes. 0040526482-4

I, Priyanka Upadhyay W/O Kartik Sachdeva R/O C-247, Millenium Apartment, Sector-18, Rohini, Delhi-110089, Have Changed My Name To Priyanka Sachdeva. 0040526484-6

I, Pooja w/o Dimple Narang R/O H.No.- 122, 2nd Floor, Bhai Parmanand Colony, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Model town, Delhi-110009, Have Changed my name to Pooja Narang. 0070691237-1

I, Nawabuddin S/o Khan Mohammad R/O H.No. E-74, Prem Gali No.4, East Babarpur Shahdra, Delhi-110032, have changed my name from Nawab S/o Khan Mohmmmed (wrong) to Nawabuddin S/o Khan Mohammad (correct), for all future purposes. 0040526447-1

I, Sunish Pasahan S/o Ved Vyas residing D2A/91-C, Janakpuri Delhi 110058 have changed my name to Manish for all purposes. 0040526478-1

I, MANGZAMUAN S/o KHAIKHANTHANG, R/o-H.No. 109, Room No.20, Fourth Floor, Munirka, New Delhi-110067 have changed my name from TH MANGZAMUAN THANGKHAL to MANGZAMUAN for all future purposes. 0040526450-1

I, Lovneet Kaur Dang W/o Ramandeep Singh Dang R/o Hno.- 6, Road No.-69, West PunjabBagh, Delhi-110026, have changed my name to LOVNEET KAUR DANG permanently. Lovneet Kaur Dang and Lovneet Kaur Dang both are same and one person. 0040526449-2

I, Lokesh Gaur S/o Jai Chand Gaur R/o-B-3, Mahavir-Enclave, Main-Palam, Dabri-Road, Delhi-110045, changed my minor daughter's name Taniya to Taniya Gaur. 0040526505-6

I, Kartikey Jee S/o Surendra Prasad residing 194, GP-2, Hastasl, DDA Flats, Uttam Nagar, Delhi 110059, have changed my name to Kartikey for all purposes. 0040526442-1

I, Jagat Aggarwal S/o Sh. Shri Kishan Aggarwal R/o 2100/164, Ganesh Pura-B, TriNagar, Delhi-110035, changed my name to Jagat Narain Aggarwal. 0040526482-10

I, Seema W/O Purshotam Kumar R/O G-49, Mb.Road Lal-Kuan Pul-Pehladi South/Delhi-110044, Changed My Name To Seema Devi. 0040526484-3

I, Dheeraj Kumari w/o Rajesh Yadav R/o-154, Pocket-D, Mayur Vihar, Ph-2, Delhi-110091, have changed my name to Dheeraj Yadav permanently. 0040526482-7

I, Deepa Singhal W/O Vipin Singhal R/O-1449/15-A, Street No.8, Durgapuri, Delhi-93, Changed My Minor Child Name,Pratishta Singhal To Pratistha Singhal. 0040526484-4

I, Davender Aggarwal S/O Surender Kumar Aggarwal R/o 3883/13 Kanhaiya Nagar Tri-Nagar Delhi-110035, changed my name to Davender Kumar Aggarwal. 0040526484-1

I, Danish S/O Haji Rais Ahmad R/o L-24, Loha-Market, Near-DCP-Office, Welcome-Seelampur Delhi-110053, Have changed my name to Mohd Danish permanently. 0040526482-8

I, Danish Sah S/o Rang Lal Sah R/o: C-15B,Gali No-37, Mahavir-Enclave-3, New Delhi-59, Have Changed My Name To Dasae Sah. 0040526482-6

I, Bhukya Venkanna S/o Bhukya Balya R/O H.No-2-109, Etukalapadu, Thanda, Maripeda, Giripuram, Waralga, Telegana-506315, have changed my name to Bhukya Venkanna Naik for all purposes. 0040526504-1

I, Aman Madhok S/o Harvinder Singh Madhok R/o M-460, Second Floor, Guru Harkishan Nagar, Paschim Vihar Delhi-110087, have changed my name to AMAN SINGH MADHOK permanently. 0040526449-1

I, Aman Kumar S/o Sukhbir Singh R/o B-547, Pandav Nagar, Patel Nagar, N.Delhi-110008 have changed my name to Aman. 0040526505-3

I, Abdul Mazid S/o Mohd Farooq R/O C-12/166, Yamuna Vihar, Bhajan Pura, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Abdul Majid for all purposes. 0040526443-3

I, Aayush S/o Dr. Sudhanshu Shekhar R/o 204, Saraswati Apartment, GH-8, Sector-46, Faridabad, have changed my name to Aayush Shekhar for all purposes. 0040526460-1

Iyukti Dureja D/o Sh.Naresh Gambhir W/o Sh. Sandeep Dureja R/o House No.545, First Floor, Sector-5, Gurugram, Haryana have changed my name to Yukti Gambhir W/o Sh. Sandeep Kumar for all purposes. 0040526443-4

I Sugandha Kapoor D/o Late Sh.Sunil Kumar Kapoor R/O CC-2A, G-8, Rajouri Garden Area, Hari Nagar, DDA Flats, New Delhi-110064 have changed my name to Suganda Kapur for all purposes. 0040526443-1

I Shanker Dutt Panday S/o Sadanand Pandey R/O RZC-3 /186 Mahavir Enclave New Delhi 110045, Have Change My Name To Shanker Dutt Pandey. 0040526482-2

I Saransh Kapoor S/o Late Sh.Sunil Kumar Kapoor R/O CC-2A, G-8, Rajouri Garden Area, Hari Nagar, DDA Flats, New Delhi-110064 have changed my name to Sransh Kapoor for all purposes. 0040526443-2

I No 4090844N NK Mukesh Kumar S/o shri.Bhupendra Prasad Anthwal serving in 19 Garhwal Rifles, hereby announce that in my service records my name Mukesh kumar is wrongly mentioned and my real name is Mukesh Kumar Anthwal and in future i will be known by the same name. 0040526490-9

I Manjit Chadha W/o S. Onkar Singh Chadha r/o 12/64A Tilak Nagar New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Manjit Kaur Chadha.. 0070691235-1

I Jagdish Singh S/o Sh.Suraj Bhan R/O.H.No.425 Hospital Wali Gali, V.P.O.Auchandi, Delhi-110039, inform that my wife name Vemla Devi wrongly in my Service no.1.4296253K Rank Naik(Jagdish Singh)But my wife Actual name is Vimla Devi, for All Purposes. 0040526484-9

I Harshita D/O Steefan Yadav R/O 786 C-1 Madangir, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Delhi-110062 Have Changed My Name To Harshita Steefan. 0040526484-8

IDinesh Chander Panday S/O Shanker Dutt Pandey R/O B2b 218 First Floor Janak Puri New Delhi 110058 Have Change My Name To Dinesh Chander Pandey. 0040526482-1

I,6389718,Ex Army Rajesh Kumar Bharia,S/o-Hari Singh Bharia,Village-Pandasi,Teh-Malsisar,Dist-Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan,declare that by mistake,my wife name Manju enrolled in army recoru then correct name Manju Bharia, & my son name enrolled Hani Bharia then correct name is Honeya bharia.I want to mention correct name in my army record. 0040526487-4

I,Jawahar Lal S/o Ram Lal Prajapati R/o,House.No.302,1st Floor,Arun Vihar,Sector-37,Noida,Gautam Budh Nagar,U.P.,have changed my name to Jitesh Kumar for all future purposes. 0040526487-3

I,Maya W/O Chand Babu R/o-8791, Gali-No-3,Multani Dhand,Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055,have changed my name to Vimla Devi for all future purposes 0040526487-2

I, Kamal Jain S/O Ramdhan Jain R/O C-154, Prashant Vihar, Delhi-110085, Have Changed Myriad Name To Kamal Kishor Jain. 0040526484-7

I, Dr. Irfan Siddique S/o Sabbir Ahmad, R/O C-/77-A, Second Floor, Raju Park, Devil Road Khanpur, New Delhi-110080 have changed my name to Irfan Ali for all purpose. 00405225943-6

I, Harinder Kaur W/o Vivek Chhabra R/O 6/10, Block-6, Ramesh Nagar, Delhi-110015, have changed my name to HARINDER KAUR CHHABRA permanently. 0040526472-1

I Neelam W/O Inder Gupta H.No-77, 1st Floor State-Bank-Nagar Opp-Meerabagh Paschim Vihar Delhi-110063 Have Changed My Name To Neelam Gupta. 0040526484-5

LOST & FOUND

I, Harsh Kumar Singh S/O Sh. Krishna Mohan Kumar R/o 71-B, Regal, Shipra Suncity, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P., declare on oath that my Passing Marks Statement/Certificate issued by the Central Board of Secondary Education of having passed the Secondary Examination in the year-2013 from Ryan International School, Sector-39,Noida, G.B.Nagar, U.P., has been actually lost.My Roll.No. Was 51631055. 0040526491-1

I, Sidhu Singh, have lost my Original Lease Deed of Property No.136, Hakikat Nagar, New Delhi, duly Regd. No.13765, Book No.1, Volume No.1704 on dated 30/01/1968. 0040526476-1

I, Surjan Singh Verma S/o Late Sh. Ramji Lal Singh R/o III-A/16, Rachna, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 do hereby solemnly affirm and state under oath as under- The Allotment cum possession Letter dated - 15/07/1993 and physical possession letter dated - 15/02/1994 of my House No. III-A-189, Vaishali Housing Scheme, Ghaziabad in favour of Mr. Krishan Chand Narang have been actually lost. If anybody found please contact on above address- III-A/16, Rachna. Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh- 201010 or contact No-9582897263



NRI/GREEN CARD

Col-NRI,Bride WantedSuitable Match for Canadian Postgraduate NAI Sikh Boy 1992, 5'-11" PR Applied.Now In India. Contact- 94170-67451 0020399708-1



CASTE NO BAR

Mumbai based hindu divorcee girl aged 30 & 5'5" B.D.S. (dentist) currently practicing seeks suitable match. She is pretty looking. Her parents are settled in Mumbai. We are searching well educated working groom 9833461175 vivekkumarm1984@gmail.com 0050160203-1

GENERAL

OBC Bride, 31/ 5'-3", LL.M, Canada, PR Holder, 9 Lacs Annual Income seeking Groom, Settled or Moving to Canada. Call: 8097171809. 0070690807-1

My Client Mr. Vinod Kumar Bhatia S/o Sh. Madan Lal Bhatia, R/o Pkt-2, Sec-D, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110091 have lost my original Allocation Letter dated 15.01.1984 and Demand cum Allotment letter dated 07.12.1989 issued by DDA. That my client is absolute owner of the said property. Please return the same within 7 days if find by anyone. Contact No. 7827702007. 0040526484-9

Public notice isherby given for and on behalf of Mr. Amarjeet Singh& Mrs. Kamaljeet Kaur my clients who entered in an agreement withShri Nareesh Sharma son of Shri M.N. Sharma resident of 39/17, GF, Double Story, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-15 on 12th Feb 2019 for construction of property E-45 Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015, measuring 200 sq. yds. Further both the parties cancelled this agreement 1stMarch 2019 itself as Shri Nareesh Sharma failed to pay any money against the said agreement. The said Agreement is not binding upon my clients in any manner. If anyone dealing directly with Nareesh Sharma in relation to the above property any manner shall be at his/her own risk, cost & responsibility and shall be challenged before the Court of Law at New Delhi and my clients shall not be liable in any manner. 0040526484-9

Sanjay Mishra (Advocate) 9/10 Subhash Nagar New Delhi-110027

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients:-Smt. Chaitra Gupta W/o Shri Vikas Gupta R/o House No. 3081, Phase-II, Urban Estate, Dugri Road, Basant Avenue, Ludhiana, Punjab-141013, has instructed me to notify for general information that she has severed forthwith all the relations with her husband namely Vikas Gupta S/o Shri Jugal Kishore from all her movable and immovable properties. Anybody who deals with them in any manner shall be doing so at their own risk and responsibilities. SANJEEV JAIN (Advocate) Enr. No. D-226/1991

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients:-Smt. Chaitra Gupta W/o Shri Vikas Gupta R/o House No. 3081, Phase-II, Urban Estate, Dugri Road, Basant Avenue, Ludhiana, Punjab-141013, has instructed me to notify for general information that she has severed forthwith all the relations with her husband namely Vikas Gupta S/o Shri Jugal Kishore from all her movable and immovable properties. Anybody who deals with them in any manner shall be doing so at their own risk and responsibilities. SANJEEV JAIN (Advocate) Enr. No. D-226/1991

PUBLIC NOTICE
*Public at large is hereby informed that my client Smt. Renu India Jaisingh is Regd. Office at 1157, 2nd Floor, Kuchia Mahipal, Chanderi, Chhatis, Delhi-110035. She sells, leases, transfers and exclusively owner in possession of the property i.e. Freehold Three Storeyed Building, Property bearing Municipal No.136 to 141, Wala Na. VI, Vihar road Righte, approx Area measuring 185 sq. yds. i.e. 154.88sq. meters, fully loaded with all fittings and fixtures of electric & water connections in working order situated at Gali Meera Vihar, Katta Baryan, Faridapur, Chhatis, Chhatis, Delhi-110006 having been purchased the same from Anwarul Jaseem, Anwarul Jaseem and Anwarul Jaseem by virtue of Sale Deed duly registered vide Regn. No.7489 in Book No.1 Vol. No.7738 on pages 67 to 67 at 17.7.2019. My client is absolute owner and in possession of the above said property. Any body, should my client have no right, interest or interest in respect of the said property and if any person shall deal with the said property, the same shall be at his/her own risk and costs and my client shall not be responsible for the same. ALOK KUMAR PANDEY (Advocate) Ch. No. 382, Civil Wing, To Hazrat Courts, Delhi

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Mondipatti, Manapparai Tk, Trichy Dist. - 621306
Phone : 04332-265102/265279
E-mail ID : purchasepacking.u2@tnpl.com.in

Tender No.	Description	Due Date
192023/002177	90 GSM Plain Kraft Reels & Sheets of various sizes in 24 BF	22.01.2020
Quantity :- Reels - 402 MT / Sheets - 531 MT		
Terms & conditions, Tender Fee, EMD etc. are available in the tender document at our websites: www.tenders.tn.gov.in & www.tnpl.com		
DIPR/12/Tender/2020		

GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT
Directorate of Forensic Science
Sector-18 A, Near Police Bhavan, Gujarat State, Gandhinagar - 382007
Phone & Fax - 079-232 56276, 232 56393
Website: <https://dfs.gujarat.gov.in>

e-TENDER Notice: DFS/Store/ET-33/2019-20
Tenders are invited online from reputed manufacturers/authorized representatives/dealers appointed by manufacturer for the purpose of equipments/accessories costing approx Rs. 904.00 Lacs. Interested bidders are requested to submit offers through e-tender process. For downloading the tender documents & other details please visit www.dfs.nprocure.com or <https://dfs.gujarat.gov.in> or www.statetenders.com and this office notice board.

Duration of downloading & submission of Tender (online): 06/01/2020 to 27/01/2020 upto 18.00 hrs.
Last date for Physical Submission : 29/01/2020 upto 18.00 Hrs.
Opening date of Technical Bid (online): 31/01/2020, 11.00 Hrs.
INF/71/19-20 ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR

Annexure 1
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SIMDEGA.
Very Short Tender e-Procurement Notice
Single Bid System

Tender Reference No. WRD/MID SIMDEGA/G-2/09/2019-20		Date: - 03/01/2020
1.	Name of the work:	Renovation of M.L. Scheme at Kolebira, Block -Kolebira, Dist. - Simdega
2.(a)	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lakh.)	166.113
2.(b)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	2,32,400.00
3.	Time of Completion.	335 days (11Months)
4.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	14.01.2020 (2.00PM.)
5.	Last date/Time for submission of Bids	22.01.2020 (upto 5:00 P.M.)
6.	Last date for receipt of bids Fee, Security and other documents.	23.01.2020 (up to 4:00PM)
7.	Date of opening of e-tender	24.01.2020 (02:00 pm)
8.	Name & address of office inviting tender	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SIMDEGA.
9.(a)	Contact no. of Procurement officer	8709566373
9.(b)	E-mail of e-procurement Officer	ecmidsia@central.gov.in
10.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2491232
Note: - Only e-Tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Simdega. PR 223247 (Minor Irrigation)19-20'D		

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
3rd FLOOR, PRAGATI SADAN, KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI 834 001, Jharkhand
PH: +91 651 2225878, E-MAIL: juideco@juideco.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752
E-Procurement Notice
Tender Notice
NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/MDF/KTT/2019/335 Date:04.01.2020

	Name of the work	ESTABLISHMENT OF MUSICAL DANCING FOUNTAIN AT KARAMTOLI TALAB, RANCHI
1.	Name of the work	ESTABLISHMENT OF MUSICAL DANCING FOUNTAIN AT KARAMTOLI TALAB, RANCHI
2.	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
3.	Estimated Cost	Rs. 2,36,46,441.70 (Rupees Two Crore Thirty Six Lakh, Forty Six Thousand, Four Hundred Forty One and Seventy Paise Only)
4.	Tender Fee and Bid Security	Tender document fee: Rs 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) only - Non-Refundable. Bid Security: Rs. 2,37,000. (Rupees Two Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand) only
5.	Date & Time of Publication of Tender on Website	06.01.2020 & 17:00 Hrs
6.	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission	27.01.2020 & 17:00 Hrs
7.	Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD	28.01.2020 & 17:00 Hrs
8.	Date & Time of Bid Opening	28.01.2020 & 17:30 Hrs
9.	Address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, 3 rd Floor, Pragati Sadan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi - 834001
10.	Helpline No. of e-Procurement Cell	+ 91 651 2225878

Note: Only e-Tenders will be accepted.
Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
Sd/- Project Director (Tech.) JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi
P.R. 223249 Urban Development (19-20)'D

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
DRM (S&T) NWR, Ajmer on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for the following work up to 15:00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. **Tender No.** DRM-S&T-35-2019-20 **Name of work :** Ajmer Division - Annual Maintenance Contract of SMPS- Based Integrated Power Supply system of M/S Station Make installed at stations & LC- gates over Ajmer Division NWR. For Three year - 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22
Approximate cost of work : Rs. 4935669.69 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 98700.00 **Date & Time of opening E-Tender -** 30.01.2020 at 15:30 Hrs. The details of above E-Tender are available on website www.nwrps.gov.in **12-PA/20**
Contact helpline no. 182 for railway security complaints.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
सं 01-06/2020/वाणिज्य/बीकानेर
मंडन रेल प्रबन्धक (वाणिज्य), उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, बीकानेर मंडल के राष्ट्रपति की ओर अनुमति विज्ञापन प्रसारित है बीकानेर मंडल के बीकानेर, बिजाना, हिसार, दुर्गासाइट जं. लाइन पर एच श्रीगणेशमय रेलवे स्टेशन का मंडन रेल एच स्टेशन पर एच स्टेशन पर एच स्टेशन डिवाइज (Product) Display cum sales promotion activities) कोरमण्डा रायर जॉयल सोमवार में लीज पर देने की विधि से एक वर्ष की अवधि (एच अगामी दो वर्षों की लिए विचारित) हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। इस सम्बन्ध में निम्नलिखित जानकारी दी जाती है।
1. कार्य का नाम एवं स्थान : बीकानेर मंडल के 6 रेलवे स्टेशन पर प्रोडक्ट डिवाइज का लेन लेन प्रमोशन (एक्टिविटीज) की स्थापना करवा जॉयल प्राधिकार में लीज पर देने हेतु।
2. कार्य की अनुमानित लागत : IREPS की वेबसाइट पर दर्शाये गये विस्तृत विवरण के अनुसार।
3. बचाना राशि : IREPS की वेबसाइट पर दर्शाये गये विस्तृत विवरण के अनुसार।
4. ई-टेंडर दिनांक 27.01.2020 को 15:30 बजे खोला जायेगा।
5. IREPS की वेबसाइट www.ireps.gov.in **18-PA/20**
Do not travel on the roof or footplate of the train

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
No. WA/E-Tender/02/2020 Dt. 03.01.20
Following E-Tenders are invited by DRM (WA) NWR/ Ajmer at 15:00 Hrs. on the mentioned date : **1. Tender No.** 239/2019 **Name of work :** Through Rail Renewal (S)- E-446 Km. (Loop Lines) in Haripur-Karjoda Section. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 93,04,806.93 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 1,86,100.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 29.01.2020 **2. Tender No.** 241/2019 **Name of work :** Marwar J.n.- Providing Permanent Connectivity from DFCCL to IR Track for Goods train operation at Approximate Cost : Rs. 11,26,077.87 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 22,500.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 29.01.2020 **3. Tender No.** 242/2019 **Name of work :** ADEN-Marwar Jn. Bus Division : Loading/ unloading of Pway Material from Railway Wagons on Truck at CPWL (Depot.) Sojatroad. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 8,57,468.99 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 17,200.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 29.01.2020 **4. Tender No.** 243/2019 **Name of work :** Ajmer Division - Complete Track Renewal work between km. 588.30 to 590.00 = 1.70 kms & from km. 596.19 to 601.34 = 5.15 Km (Total 6.85 Kms.) on Madwar- Palsampur section **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 1,24,96,632.50 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 22,500.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 29.01.2020 The detailed information of the above tender is available on website www.ireps.gov.in and Tender Notice Board of DRM office,NWR/Ajmer. **13-PA/20**
Do not travel on the roof or footplate of the train

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Chief Works Manager,
Wagon Repair Workshop, Kota Jn.
NIT No. G-368-1-Vol-IV-HW-03, Dated 03.01.2020
For and on behalf of the President of India Chief Works Manager, Wagon Repair Shop, Kota, invites E-Tenders for following work:- **Tender No.:** G-368-1-Vol-IV-HW-03. **Description of work:** Disposal of Hazardous Waste for the period of 1 year for Wagon Repair Shop, Kota. **Approx. Cost of the work:** ₹ 19,32,168/- **Cost of tender form:** ₹ 2,000/- **Earnest Money:** ₹ 30,700/- **Completion Period:** 12 months. **Time and date of closing/opening of tender:** Closing 11.00 Hrs. on 04.02.2020 & Opening at 11.30 Hrs. on 04.02.2020. E-tender notices complete details are available on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> and also available on the tender notice board of progress section in CWM office, Kota. Offers are acceptable through E-tender only. Manual offers are not allowed against

10

IDEA EXCHANGE

NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

If someone says your adversary has this much readiness, we should not discount that... Having said that, there is too much hype about Pak's nuclear capability. Also, there is probably a nexus between China and Pak"

AMITABH SINHA: Your book talks of two epoch-making events that happened over two decades — the 1998 nuclear explosions and the 2008 civil nuclear deal between India and the US. It has been more than 20 years since the explosion, over 10 years since the deal was signed. Looking back, have we achieved the strategic objectives that these events aimed to achieve?

ANIL KAKODKAR: Well, I would say a good part of it has been achieved. Today, we are a *de facto* nuclear weapon power, though not *de jure*. The world looks at us as a country which is to be taken seriously and India's standing globally has improved. Part of that can be attributed to the emergence of India as an economic power, but the strategic strength given by the 1998 nuclear tests has played a very important role too. On the civil nuclear energy cooperation, the objective was to obtain nuclear technology for the development of our nuclear programme, in accordance with our national needs — both strategic and socio-economic needs. (Nuclear-produced) electricity was probably the most important... Following the (nuclear tests of) 1974 and 1998, international embargoes were becoming tighter. So we struggled to get the technology. Also, we didn't have (enough) uranium... So the point is, you have the technology but you can't produce electricity in the required amount because you don't have fuel... (and) you couldn't access uranium from outside. That we are able to do today (following the civil nuclear cooperation agreement).

Also, this (the nuclear deal) happened just at the right moment. The capacity factor of power plants was continuously going down and down. I was terribly worried at some stage that NPCIL (the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, that runs India's nuclear reactors) will start getting into red. Now that the uranium question is behind us, that constraint has gone. Today, the government has approved, apart from the six PHWRs (Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors), which are already under construction, 10 units to be constructed in one go, in fleet mode. So hopefully, one will see a growth which will not be constrained due to uranium supply.

AMITABH SINHA: You had earlier said that both the 1998 nuclear tests and civil nuclear deal would have happened regardless of the political party in power. But in the book you also say that there were some differences of opinion within the establishment, within the MEA and even within the scientific community. What were the opposing arguments on these two issues?

KAKODKAR: In a large group, there will always be multiple opinions, and decision-making is always about taking a decision on balance. On the nuclear tests, for example, one of the questions was also that if you do the test, what will be the repercussion, what will happen to the economy... Different people had different takes on this, and this had happened even during the 1974 tests. Same thing happened during the debate on the civil nuclear cooperation — one school of thought was that the geopolitical situation was just right, the US was coming so close to us, and we shouldn't lose this opportunity at any cost. There was another viewpoint, some of it from right within the Department of Atomic Energy itself. Some of the nuclear scientists, the stalwarts, were saying look, you can't trust the US... you're pushing the country into serious trouble. So, what you saw in the debates at that time was basically a reflection of these issues.

AMITABH SINHA: In the book, you also mention that Dr A P J Abdul Kalam (who was then Defence Research and Development Organisation head) was not entirely convinced of the need to include a thermonuclear device in the 1998 tests. What were his arguments?

KAKODKAR: Prior to 1998, India had already developed its nuclear weapons designing based on the 1974 tests. The weaponisation part was largely done. It was about actually demonstrating it through another series of tests. There is always this feeling that if we can do two tests instead of one, and both are successful, then we can say our design is more reliable. If we can do five, we can say it is even more reliable. Now, India was unlikely to get any further opportunity to carry out tests (after 1998). So, we were keen to demonstrate our thermo-nuclear capability as well. Not that anyone was against it. In fact, Dr Kalam actually wanted that. His problem was that there was a populated village, Khetolai, just 5 km from the test site. We calculated that if the explosion of the tests was below 60 kilo ton, then the village would be safe. Now, the fission device we were testing was 15 kilo tons. So, the thermonuclear capability we were trying to prove had to be below 45 kilo tons. The con-



WHY ANIL KAKODKAR & SURESH GANGOTRA

Anil Kakodkar, a former chairman of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), is among the few associated with both the 1974 and 1998 nuclear tests. Kakodkar was also one of the key architects of the 2008 India-US nuclear deal. In 2015, he resigned as chairman of the board of governors of IIT Bombay,

apparently over differences with the HRD Ministry. Kakodkar's new book, *Fire and Fury: Transforming India's Strategic Identity*, which he co-authored with Suresh Gangotra, senior technical advisor to the DAE chairman, offers a broad view of India's nuclear programme



"That we have more IITs is a very good thing... but why this expansion so suddenly. Why such mad rush?... Then there are cultural issues... inculcating creative pursuits in children needs different kind of handling

'It's unthinkable to do n-test now unless you want to be N Korea... but there is always

dil maange more'

Nuclear physicists Kakodkar and Gangotra believe India's nuclear industry "lost time" due to liability regime that followed 2008 nuclear deal, say country should aim for 50 per cent nuclear energy, and insist that the space programme is about "national pride", not jingoism



Nuclear physicists Anil Kakodkar (centre) and Suresh Gangotra (right) with Resident Editor, Pune, Amitabh Sinha in *The Indian Express* newsroom. Amit Mehra

fidence that Dr Kalam was seeking from us was that the thermonuclear explosion could certainly be controlled to 45 kilo tons, and not go over that. Because if that happened, it could have had serious consequences. Now, there couldn't just be verbal assurances. So Dr Kalam told me, 'I think it's better you write it down'. And I agreed to it.

RAVISH TIWARI: The political argument for the civil nuclear deal was that nuclear power would be a replacement for conventional resources that India is so short on. Ten years down the line, what is holding up India's nuclear power generation? Also, Mr Gangotra, with so many international agreements, does the nuclear industry find its hands tied up?

KAKODKAR: On the nuclear power generation, we should recognise that the issues connected with the liability Act have actually been a very big damper... (The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, allow lawsuits to be brought against suppliers for nuclear reactor accidents, with liability fixed on nuclear plant operators.) The liability regime internationally has come from a very different perspective... In case of a major accident, people need to be protected, and there has to be a provision for guaranteed compensation. But that burden (of compensation) should not fall on a single commercial entity. A set of industries that are behind nuclear technology... we should ensure that their businesses remain protected. So, there was this concept of shared responsibility for the industry. Now, following the Union Carbide episode, the mood in India was obviously quite different, and that is why the liability Act has some different provisions compared to the other original liability laws... I would say because of this liability clause, our nuclear programme must have been delayed by at least four to five years. For instance, when tenders for the Haryana project (for a new nuclear plant) were floated, there were few takers because of the uncertainty. So we lost time. Something that should have happened maybe four or five years ago, is beginning to happen only now. But, I think, going forward, this process will get accelerated.

The second issue is this greater realisation of climate change. It has given a very welcome boost to renewable energy... My rough estimate is that we should aim for an energy basket that is 50 per cent nuclear and 50 per cent renewables.

SURESH GANGOTRA: About international agreements, I don't think our hands are tied. On the contrary, there are many things that these agreements have enabled. One of the most important is that we have been able to access uranium from the international market. Had that not been the case, many of our reactors would not have been

operating at capacity factors that they have been operating at. The task ahead for serving and future nuclear scientists includes mastering of this PHWR technology and then going into the second stage of our three-stage nuclear programme.

SHUBHAJIT ROY: I wanted to get your sense on the nuclear weapons programme of two of our neighbours — Pakistan and China. What is Pakistan's capability status and how potent is their programme? On China, how ahead of India are they in terms of potency and capability?

KAKODKAR: It is very difficult to talk about this in an authentic way because we are not privy to all the information. In matters of nuclear weapons, we should be ready for all eventualities... If some adversary or anybody else says that your adversary has this much readiness, I think we should not discount that... Having said that, I have reason to believe that there is too much hype about Pakistan's nuclear capability. Also, there is reason to believe that there is probably a nexus between China and Pakistan. For example, one of the issues which we have discussed in the book is this aspect of whether Pakistan tested plutonium-based weapons. On the face of it, they were all uranium weapons, but we know that there is a huge emphasis on plutonium production for weapons in Pakistan. If that is so, where has the validation of plutonium weapon designs come from? Obviously, one can draw conclusions. So, I don't want to discount whatever is being said, though I have reason to believe that a significant part of that is a hype.

Coming to China, I know that even in the '90s, the Chinese nuclear establishment was three-lakh strong and their programme had been running for a much longer time.



RAVISH TIWARI: What is our size?

KAKODKAR: Well, we are around 50,000 to 60,000. But, our size, a large majority of that, was for the civilian programme. The Chinese civil programme, particularly the electricity generation programme, started much later than India's, but their establishment was that big. So obviously China is a much bigger power.

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G: Do we need to test again?

KAKODKAR: As I said, for a country like India, we are not going to get these opportunities again and again, and that is why we were very eager that we should prove thermonuclear capability. But we also knew that while these two large tests will prove capability on the basis of which we can build a deterrent, there was also a need to test a large number of ideas and we knew that we can't be testing so many things with discreet individual tests. So we decided to work in terms of what is known as integral tests... The way the scenario exists today, I think it is unthinkable that any country would carry out nuclear tests unless you want to become North Korea. So with that option not being there, I think we have secured enough confidence to be able to carry out continuous design improvements and evolve new systems on the basis of these tests, but there is always this issue of *dil mange more*.

RAVISH TIWARI: How do you look at our civil and military technology capabilities? For instance, there was a lot of jingoism around Chandrayaan 2. Considering that some countries landed men on moon 50 years ago, are we still reinventing the wheel so far as frontline technologies are concerned?

KAKODKAR: I wouldn't be so negative about this. I don't champion jingoism but I think there is a huge importance to national pride. Whatever one may say, the space programme has created a huge amount of

national pride, motivation, everybody wanting to do something. And I think that is a huge contribution, you can't visualise the positive impact it would have on the country. It's huge, according to me. Today if you ask a child what he wants to do, a significant fraction of students would say they want to be in that space school in Trivandrum. So it has made that difference. So I don't call it jingoism because things don't happen until you are proud of yourself and that self-confidence has to come. Having said that, how many countries have entered Mars orbit in the first attempt? Nobody, except India. So is that not a matter of pride? It is not as if everybody has succeeded in soft landing (on the moon) the first time. Many countries have failed. So I won't hold it against them.

AMITABH SINHA: After your retirement from the atomic energy establishment, you have been associated with higher technical education, especially with the IITs. What has been happening on the education front in the last four to five years?

KAKODKAR: By and large, things are moving forward in a positive way. The fact that we have many more IITs than earlier is a very good thing. More NITs have come about. These are great developments. Now, I have my doubts about the wisdom of doing this expansion so suddenly. For decades, no expansion took place. Why is there so much of mad rush? Why children get burnt-out by the time they arrive in IIT because there is such a large need but so little opportunity. So now the question is, if India has to go forward, investment in education, investment in health sector, these are all very crucial things. I think things are happening but perhaps much more needs to happen. I don't think we are investing as much as we should.

Then there are cultural issues. Creative pursuits have to be handled in some way and inculcating that kind of mindset in children requires a different kind of handling. At the centre of it all are teachers. You can't say that I have a national programme of inculcating creative pursuits and I have standardised templates.

AMITABH SINHA: Across higher education campuses, including some of the IITs, we are seeing protests. Do you see that as part of a culture that needs to be inculcated — of students coming out and expressing themselves?

KAKODKAR: I think these are two different things. What I am talking about is a culture of being inquisitive, a culture of wanting to learn from everything that you see... You know young people will get exercised about issues, whether you like it or not. I firmly believe that young people

should not get into politics. But that doesn't mean that if something is happening, their minds won't get exercised. And if their minds get exercised, I think it'll find expression. So, I think whatever is happening is only natural.

VANDITA MISHRA: How does this culture of inquisitiveness and scientific temper sit with the overt display of religiosity? Say, when a puja happens before a Rafale plane is flown?

KAKODKAR: This is a complex issue. For example, I have headed the Department of Atomic Energy, so I have been a part of several projects. Sometimes you start the foundation, people ask me to do *puja* and I do it. They ask me to break a coconut, I break a coconut. In my house, if my mother says tomorrow we are going to do *Satyanarayan puja* and you and your wife will sit there, I do that. In the heart of hearts, I'm a religious person, I believe in God, but I don't believe in rituals. I may conform to something as a family tradition. I may conform to something as a societal tradition... Our Constitution talks about inculcating scientific temper, and I do believe in that. But at the same time, I won't hold it against anyone...

SHUBHAJIT ROY: India has been very keen on getting permanent membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Right now, if India wants, it can have bilateral arrangements with three or four prominent countries which actually can offer that kind of high technology. So why is it important to be part of the group?

KAKODKAR: No, it's not the question of accessing technology. First of all, while we should, of course, access technology from wherever, whatever technology we need, we should also have a domestic programme of development of the technology ourselves. And both have to go hand in hand. The issue with respect to the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) is primarily that it works on consensus. So if you are outside the group, the rules of the group can change without your being there, and it may create harm for you. If you are a member of the group, then the rules cannot change without your concurrence. And so it gives you the ability to protect your interest and in that sense, membership is very important. It would be a part of our diplomatic efforts. I think we should start really acting big. What does it mean to be a member of the NSG? Members of the NSG are countries which have the capability of being a nuclear supplier. We are a nuclear supplier but we are small right now. I think we should be big and we have that capability to really do so, and if you do that, maybe the process of becoming a member will be shortened.

11 SUNDAY STORY

BATTLE READY

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addressing teachers at the launch of the Delhi government's 'Constitution at 70' campaign

Praveen Khanna

Beaming from billboards, steering clear of personal attacks, focused on development, and refusing to be drawn into national debates, it's a new Arvind Kejriwal to the forefront. SOURAV ROY BARMAN tracks the careful transition of the perpetual protester to the affable family man, in AAP's preparation for Delhi polls

EXACTLY SIX years ago, during his 49-day first term as chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal spent 30 hours outside Rail Bhawan on the road, protesting against police officials. The image of him cuddled in a mattress through the night there, and later holding a nine-hour sit-in inside Raj Niwas, were milestones in the Aam Aadmi Party and the Capital's politics. It's a sign of how far Kejriwal has come as a politician that as another day-night protest is waged on the chilly streets of Delhi for nearly a month now, the Delhi CM has chosen to support from a distance.

As the BJP once again repeats its charge of lawlessness against him over the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests, calling the Battle for Delhi a battle between "nationalists" and "anarchists", Kejriwal refuses to be drawn in. On Friday, asked about his absence from the protests, he said, "People voted for me for Delhi's development. I was trying to ensure there is no violence anywhere."

With elections in the Capital only days away, the stakes for both parties are high. Delhi had been among the first defeats of the Narendra Modi-led BJP post the 2014 general election sweep. In the five years since that February 2015 election, AAP has kept the BJP on the toes in Delhi and mostly a few steps-behind, matching it optics-for-optics, scheme-for-scheme, and keeping the focus on *vikas*. The BJP, additionally, is entering this election buffeted by a series of poll losses.

For AAP, which surprised even itself with the 67/70 seats endorsement last time, it is a chance to prove that wasn't a fluke. Having been disappointed in its national ambitions since, it is now focused only on Delhi. A repeat victory is its only re-launch pad.

And characteristically, if the BJP has sounded the bugle with a big rally by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Ramlila Maidan, Kejriwal has started town hall gatherings, one for each of the Capital's seven Lok Sabha seats.

■ ■ ■

The change has been a while coming — some of it staring Delhi, literally, in the face. For some months now, the AAP government has flooded newspapers with full-page advertisements and Delhi streets with billboards projecting its numerous schemes, and featuring a beaming Kejriwal.

Sources say a decision has been taken to upload only smiling images of the CM on his social media accounts, including Twitter and Instagram, even as a dedicated team captures moments that people can relate with.

"The idea is to make Kejriwal likeable. So you can see him worshipping Laxmi on Diwali with his wife, daughter, son, father and mother. At other times, wife Sunita Kejriwal uploads pictures. The attempt is to project Kejriwal the family man. And it's not a celebrity family, but one that eats together, prays together, just like any other family," an AAP leader says.

In the process, the perpetually angry Kejriwal, who built his political career as a protester, has given way to a mild-mannered CM, "elder son" to many, "elder brother" to some, a connection he makes repeatedly in his speeches. The leader who constantly attacked Modi, badmouthed corporates and took on bureaucrats, who burnt a copy of the UPA's Lokpal Bill in public, is gone.

Kejriwal addressed this change at his Friday Town Hall gathering, saying, "I have no interest in hurling abuses at anyone, but I will stand up when society is wronged."

AAP leaders direct you to an October Facebook Live session of Kejriwal's. When the

cameras start rolling, the unsuspecting CM has a frown on his face. Realising he is on air, that swiftly melts into a warm smile. Through the next nine minutes, the smile doesn't slip as Kejriwal talks about his government's plan for free rides for women in public buses.

Says a member of the team looking after Kejriwal's image management, "Despite all odds, many of our projects were successful, but we were unable to seize the narrative. The impression that we were good in activism and poor in government was gaining ground."

That belief was cemented by successive poll setbacks in 2017, when the AAP candidate lost his deposit in the Rajouri Garden by-election and the party with 26% of the votes finished behind the BJP's 37% in the municipal polls.

Since ending up behind the BJP as well as the Congress in vote share in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections as well, Kejriwal has shied away from any personal attacks on the PM or Amit Shah, the team he once dubbed "the dangerous duo".

The party is instead focusing on the government's uncontested accomplishments in education and health, and to some extent, in power and water. The regularisation of unauthorised colonies, a long-pending promise that was finally fulfilled in the run-up to the polls, was seen as the BJP's response to AAP. However, AAP is as loudly laying claim to it. Since the Union government pitched in to hand over registry deeds to 20 families, AAP has been arguing that conferment of these ownership rights to residents means little in the absence of actual regularisation of these settlements.

On December 14, came another message from AAP that it was taking the battle to the BJP camp. The party announced that its campaign had hired the advocacy group, I-PAC, of Prashant Kishor — one of the men credited with Modi's 2014 win.

The release of the AAP government's 'report card' soon after was seen as I-PAC's brainchild, as is the three-layer campaign planned next — door-to-door visits, corner meetings and Kejriwal's town halls.

"In today's age, one needs to have various ideas and technological interventions during polls. Kishor bring that expertise on board. We hope to benefit from his experience. I-PAC is helping us introduce innovative elements in our campaign. We are open to each other's suggestions on every campaign related issue. There are no restrictions," AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, the party's Delhi election in-charge, said.

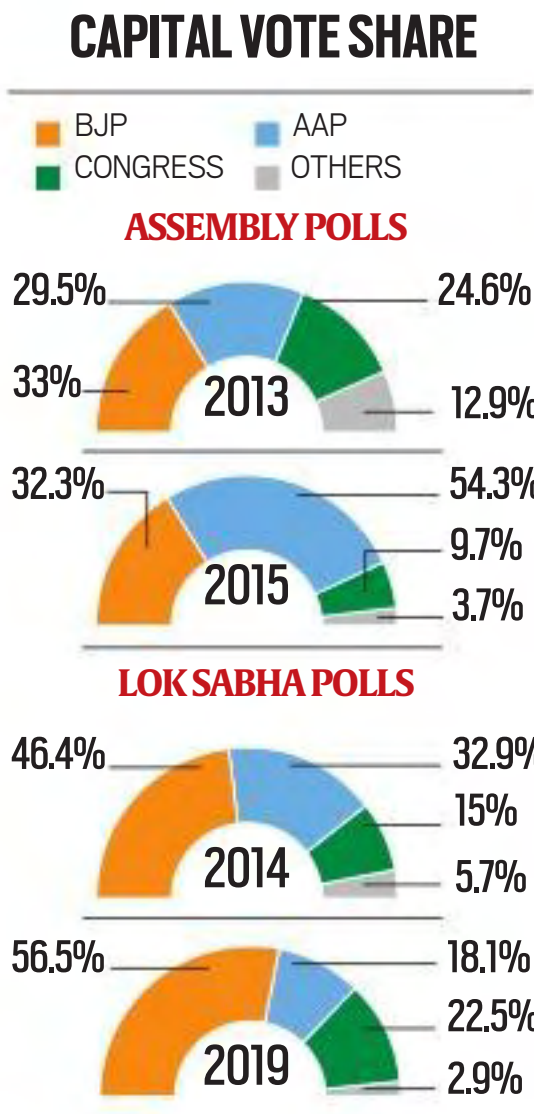
■ ■ ■

A party functionary said, on condition of anonymity, that "negotiations between the AAP and I-PAC were going on for quite some time. Kejriwal and Kishor met multiple times since the Punjab Assembly Polls, when I-PAC was assisting the Congress. They were never averse to each other. After the Lok Sabha elections, talks gained traction. He might join AAP after the polls."

Over the years, Kejriwal has been accused of losing several close lieutenants to his authoritarian approach — including Yogendra Yadav, Prashant Bhushan, Ashutosh, Ashish Khetan, and political advisor Ashish Talwar. It was one of the reasons AAP disintegrated in Punjab, the other state that showed surprising faith in it.

However, many others have stayed with Kejriwal from his India Against Corruption days, and it's some of them who are leading the transformation even as the AAP chief himself mellows down.

If Singh and state Labour Minister Gopal



- HIGHLIGHTS OF AAP GOVT**
- Rise in Education Budget from Rs 6,600 crore to Rs 15,600 crore; 20,000 new classrooms added
 - Health Budget up from Rs 3,500 crore to Rs 7,500 crore; more than 400 mohalla clinics set up
 - Free power till 200 units of consumption; 50% rebate between 201-400 units
 - 20,000 litres of free water per connection per month; many new areas brought under water supply
 - 1.4 lakh CCTVs across Delhi
 - Bus service free for women
 - Doorstep delivery of 100 services such as caste, birth certificates
 - Wi-Fi hotspots across 11,000 sites

Rai are in-charge of a team working closely with the Delhi CM to recast Kejriwal's as well as the Delhi government's image, giving support are Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission vice-chairman Jasmine Shah, Atishi and Naru Radhakrishnan, who had an over 12-year stint with Ogilvy & Mather.

Deputy CM Manish Sisodia remains a huge asset with his clean and affable image, driving the AAP government's education push and earning it goodwill among school students and parents. Sisodia has taken up more party role of late, and has been addressing press conferences regularly.

In the division of duties, Shah, a Columbia University graduate, is driving policy-level changes, while Atishi and Radhakrishnan, both on the board of government's ad agency Shabdharth, are shaping the government's narrative, ensuring coverage across all media verticals.

The party's long-time IT department head Ankit Lal and Pulkit Sharma are among others handling AAP social media campaigns.

The Delhi CM's Facebook page has been getting an average of 5,000 likes a day since a decision was taken to upload posts in the form of stories. The Instagram account, AAP says, adds around 2,000 followers per day.

EXPLAINED

E

Now slow, steady

SEEN AS punching far above its weight during its early days, a gambit that paid off before blowing up on its face, the Aam Aadmi Party seems to have settled down now. Arvind Kejriwal and party are concentrating on strengthening their hold over the Capital, and banking on their government's works, to win them a return to power. For one, it has refused to be baited into getting too involved in the anti-CAA protests, despite the BJP's attacks.

AAP recently posted, across platforms, photos of Kejriwal helping an elderly woman board a bus, and another one climb onto a dais. Quips a party insider, "In contrast to his public persona, Kejriwal is actually very witty and warm in person. So it's not as if he is always grumpy. But, of late, he has been smiling a little more than required."

Atishi adds that Kejriwal is smiling because work is "finally getting done". "We were facing a concerted attack. To give you one example, the L-G opposed our doorstep delivery of services scheme saying motorbikes of delivery persons on the roads will cause pollution. That same scheme is today winning awards. So the anger was justified. How would he have smiled under such circumstances?"

The party sees the Supreme Court verdict of July 2018 curtailing the L-G's authority in the allocation of powers in Delhi as a boost.

Apart from the doorstep delivery scheme (September 2018), AAP has announced free rides for women in buses, a project to install 2.10 lakh streetlights, started installation of Wi-Fi hotspots across 11,000 sites, inducted over 500 cluster buses, waived electricity charges for those consuming between 0-200 units.

While the free power, water and travel schemes have drawn their share of criticism, including over fiscal prudence, and opposition parties have dismissed them as poll stunts, AAP believes the trick lies in communicating the same to the public.

"The target of these schemes is largely the lower middle class, the poor. So the CM chose the term 'lifeline power' while announcing the scheme under which households are not charged for consumption of up to 200 units. We have conveyed that it is about making sure that people of all classes lead dignified lives. Similarly the decision to make public transport free for women is about ensuring upward mobility for them. It may not mean much for the well-off, but in many families men hold the purse strings. For a working class woman, a saving of Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000 per month is not a small thing," a person involved with the process says.

The figures so far bolster the Delhi government's case. While the annual state budget increased from around Rs 30,000 crore in 2015 to over Rs 60,000 crore in 2019, a CAG report, tabled in the Delhi Assembly in December, noted that the state went from

a fiscal deficit of around Rs 3,942 crore in 2013-14 to a fiscal surplus of Rs 113 crore in 2017-18. The share of public debt to the GSDP has fallen from 7.23% to 4.89%.

A survey of 2,298 voters in Delhi by the Lokniti programme of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), in November-December, showed approval for the AAP government on education, health and transport.

An AAP leader, refusing to come on record, says, "The schemes are mostly the brainchild of the CM. But, for the first time, there is a synchronisation between government ads and announcements. There is a big component of public outreach in the campaigns, be it dengue, community Diwali or installation of streetlights. Earlier, the entire government was busy with governance alone. Now we are working very systematically. Tailored messaging has also been adopted for various sets of audiences whose needs and demands vary."

Says another party leader, "Our policies are geared towards meeting the everyday needs of the common man, be it power, water, travel or security at the *mohalla* level. We are a household party in that way. His image as the elder son or brother also fits our model of governance and he looks the part, doesn't he?"

In this makeover, that look has remained a constant, with AAP leaders standing out in their regular shirts and trousers among a sea of *khadi*.

■ ■ ■

On other matters though, AAP has effortlessly donned more political colours, showing its dexterity despite being new to the game. Having led its entire Lok Sabha campaign on the plank of statehood, the party has now adopted radio silence on the issue. Sanjay Singh, however, defends that statehood remains the party's core demand. At a town hall gathering on Saturday, Kejriwal said that the demand for statehood will figure in the party's manifesto for the Assembly polls.

The state Art, Culture and Languages Department has been organising cultural festivals aimed at specific communities, like Poorvanchalis, Jats, Punjabis, and at the unlikely venues, breaking away from the Mandi House circuit. "For example we have been organising the Ragini form of theatre in pockets with a high density of Jats. These performances are helping us deliver political messages. The decentralisation of the art circuit means we are catering to their demand, and not thrusting our choices on them," a government functionary says.

This year, between October 26 and 29, the AAP government held a "community Diwali". "The idea had come in the form of public feedback on ways to deal with pollution. We did not want to say don't burst crackers. That would not have worked. Diwali is to be celebrated. So instead, we said, come celebrate together," the functionary adds. Thousands turned up for the government event at Central Park in Connaught Place, where laser shows and musicals were held every night.

Between November 4-15, the Delhi government implemented the odd-even scheme, with pollution levels peaking after Diwali. Kejriwal later admitted that many AAP MLAs had expressed fears that the license plate policy might cost them politically, but he went ahead "reposing faith on the people of Delhi. *Kyunki Delhi ke log bohot achhe hai* (Because residents of Delhi are nice people)."

Nearer to the polls, AAP has been doing a balancing act to avoid being trapped into any pre-determined slots by the BJP. It "supported" and "welcomed" the scrapping of

J&K's special status, as well as the Supreme Court verdict paying the way for a temple at the disputed Ayodhya site. While it voted against CAA in Parliament and has opposed it in public, Kejriwal was among the first to project it as anti-poor rather than anti-Muslim. Calling CAA "dangerous", he asked where would the refugees who become citizens be settled, and how would they be given jobs.

On Friday, urging the entire country to "reject" the law, Kejriwal repeated that it will affect "both Hindus and Muslims". At what was his fourth town hall gathering, he stressed that the discourse of the country should be on jobs.

Sanjay Singh rejects suggestions that AAP is acting with eye on Hindu votes. "If we go to any protest, and there is even a stray incident of violence," he said, "the blame will land at our door. That's why we have been urging people to carry out protests in a democratic way."

■ ■ ■

However, some party leaders warn that AAP may be deluding itself thinking support will translate into votes. Kejriwal's rallies ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, for example, had also drawn thousands of people but five of the party's seven candidates finished last.

"You ran a negative campaign, said things like Modi, Amit Shah would change the Constitution, would not hold any more elections, alleged that the PM wants to kill you, said without statehood Delhi's development would remain a chimera, then suddenly you change tack, talk about working together. Even a modicum of consistency is absent. What if people see through the supposed transformation?" a party leader asks.

Delhi BJP general secretary Ravinder Gupta says Kejriwal realises that the people of Delhi, just like the entire country, "love and trust Modi", and hence the change. "He is trying to deceive people by announcing schemes just ahead of elections. But people of Delhi are aware of his original face and they don't trust him anymore. People are questioning his announcement spree. What was he doing over the last five years?" Gupta says.

The BJP campaign though has been plagued by infighting, particularly over the CM face. The Congress, which is predicted by most to finish a distant third, says Kejriwal is trying to dodge questions by projecting a reconciliatory image. "The last five years have been a lie. None of the 70 poll promises has been fulfilled. In the Lok Sabha polls, the people of Delhi gave Kejriwal an answer," says Delhi Congress chief Subhash Chopra. He also claims that the reason for the changed tune of the Delhi CM is that "all his projects and initiatives are being passed by the LG and Centre now".

Atishi denies the charge of lack of consistency. "The point is Delhi's statehood will not be decided by the Delhi Assembly. The upcoming polls are for the Assembly... We raised that during the general elections as, in the event of an Opposition coalition coming to power, we could have made some progress on that front," she says.

Asked about AAP's national ambitions, Sanjay Singh is honest. "Such decisions are taken based on a state unit's strength. Currently, our focus is Delhi." He is ambiguous, however, on whether AAP would tie up with non-BJP parties, like it had done briefly with the Congress. "We have not taken a call on that," he says.

During a recent interaction with *The Indian Express*, Sisodia pointed out another changed reality that is giving AAP hope. "The Haryana and Maharashtra results show people are clear about their choices. They know who to vote for in which election," he said.





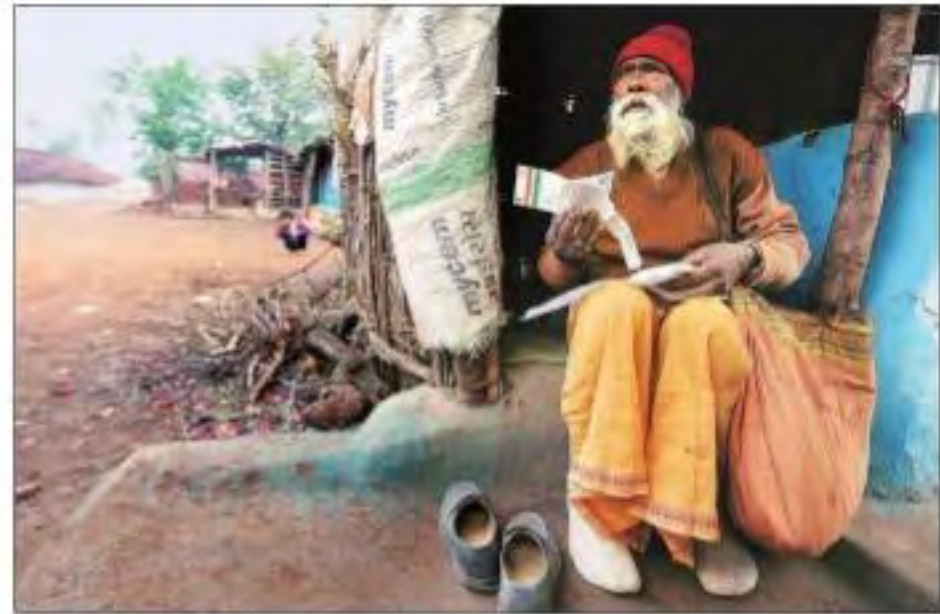
PREMIATA YADAV, a resident of Aanakheda village in Dindori, keeps all her documents securely in a trunk at her grandfather's house. HER PAPERS: Voter ID, Aadhaar, Samagra Parivar card



ABDUL KHAN, from Shahpura, keeps his documents and their photocopies wrapped in six plastic bags. He says he values those bags as much as he does his family. HIS PAPERS: Voter ID, Aadhaar, ration card



BILASIA BAI, a resident of Kohani village, says she doesn't trust her alcoholic son with her papers. She keeps them hidden in a plastic bag in her nephew's house. HER PAPERS: Voter ID, Aadhaar, Samagra Parivar card



RATNA CHAMARU lives in a small hut attached to his family home in Kohani village. Deeply religious, he says that after God, he values his documents the most. HIS PAPERS: Voter ID, Aadhaar



LAKHANLAL YADAV has been struggling to get the names of his daughter-in-law and grandchild included in the family's Samagra Parivar card, which entitles him to an additional 10 kg of food grains. He gets 25 kg now for five family members. HIS PAPERS: Voter ID, Aadhaar, Samagra Parivar card, school leaving certificate, land documents

Documents in Dindori

As the nation debates citizenship and the accompanying burden of proof, MILIND GHATWAI travels to Dindori, Madhya Pradesh, to find out what “kagaz” means in a district where, as per the last Census, almost two in three people have no assets. Where Aadhaar is ubiquitous but riddled with errors, where papers in tin boxes and plastic bags are less about identity, more essential proof of existence

PHOTOGRAPHS: GAJENDRA YADAV



Bilasia Bai doesn't trust her son with her papers. "What if he burns them in a fit of anger," she says, pushing open the tin door to her nephew's house, barely a few feet from her home, and slowly taking out a large bag from a niche in the wall. It's a windowless mud house with mud floors, much like the other homes in Kohani village in Shahpura tehsil of Madhya Pradesh's Dindori village.

In the deep recess of the yellow bag that's ridden with holes are her Aadhaar card, a passbook and a Samagra Parivar Card, which assigns a unique eight-digit number to each family that benefits from government schemes. Launched during the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP regime, beneficiaries use the card for all social security schemes, including to get pension and ration.

Her son, a daily wageer, is alcoholic, she says, and often beats her up. "My daughter goes out to work too. I go home only when she is around," says Bilasia, who is in her sixties.

A few years ago, Bilasia's husband walked out on her. "He left me for another woman. I don't think about him anymore. I have no hope that he will return or that my son will behave better. These papers are all I have. Where will I go if they are destroyed," she says. The family owns no land.

As the debate over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and a nationwide National Register of Citizens (NRC) roils the country, with fears that people will be asked to prove their citizenship, Madhya Pradesh's

Dindori district, among the poorest in the country, has been largely untouched. The administration says there have been two rallies so far — one pro-CAA and the other against — and both passed off peacefully. But in a district where 64.9 per cent — the highest in the country — reported "none of the assets specified" to a question in the last Census on whether they had assets such as television, personal vehicles or phones, the “kagaz”, or documents that establish identity, have always been a prized possession, wrapped in polythene or cloth bags, or tucked away in iron pots. They have determined who gets to go to school, who doesn't; who gets a scholarship, who doesn't; who comes back from the ration shop with the 5-kg rice or wheat each person is entitled to, who comes back empty-handed.

A few feet from Bilasia's nephew's house, seated in front of another mud house is Hanumat Vishwakarma, a 35-year-old father of three. He disappears into the darkness of his house and comes back with his “kagaz”. But there are problems, he says. When he got his Aadhaar done the first time, it carried only his first name. The second time, it came with a surname, but a wrong one — “Dhurve”, which would have made the landless Dalit a tribal. “I will have to go to the local Aadhaar centre again... I don't like going there. All these places are only for the rich, those with money to spare,” he says sullenly.

His eldest daughter, 13 years old and a Class 6 student, is speech impaired. “Her teacher told me to get a disability certificate... that I will get money under some scheme,” he says. Someone in the village told him the certificate can be made at Dindori, the district headquarters, more than 60 km away. So the daily-wage labourer skipped a day's work to make the trip — “It cost me more than Rs 100”. But at Dindori, they told him the certificate can be made at Shahpura, barely 15 km from his home. “I will have to go another day now,” he says.

Like Bilasia, Vishwakarma hasn't heard about CAA or NRC.

Over the years, while mobile phones and



SHASHI DHURVE, an anganwadi worker, says she has no idea about NRC or CAA but knows that “people without documents face a lot of problems”. HER PAPERS: Voter ID, Aadhaar, bank passbook, school marksheet, land documents

to most remote villages of Dindori, with no industries to speak of, most people go as far as Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bhopal and Jaipur in search of work. Jobs under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme are erratic, “only when panchayats come up with some work”.

At the anganwadi in Kohani village, the children have left for the day and anganwadi

worker Shashi Dhurve is preparing to leave. Dhurve, who has been working for close to two decades, says she is preparing to apply for a PAN card. “Since I have a job, someone told me I will need a PAN card in case I decide to apply for a loan in the future,” says Dhurve, who earns Rs 10,000 a month.

She admits she has no idea about NRC or CAA but knows that “people without

documents face a lot of problems”.

Around 3 km from the anganwadi, at Dhurve's house, her husband Haridas, a farmer, says he does not own a mobile phone but has heard about CAA and NRC and knows documents are “crucial these days”. Taking out a plastic bag from the steel almirah, Haridas says, “If we are ever asked to prove our citizenship, we have Aadhaar. It's the most important document in our lives.”

■ ■ ■

“Before CAA and NRC, our only grouse was that our Aadhaar cards never got our spellings right because the people at the centre feeding all that data into computers can't differentiate between common Muslim names,” says Mohammed Qasim, a 40-year-old trader of wheat and rice at Vikrampur village, off the main road leading to Dindori. “Now we have bigger worries,” he says.

Unlike the other communities of Dindori, its Muslims, who make up less than 1 per cent of the population and whose members are scattered in villages across the district, mostly small-time traders and small landowning farmers, are aware of CAA and the NRC, and admit to being fearful and confused.

“They (the government) are creating a rift between Hindus and Muslims. They want to establish their *badshahat* (supremacy),” he says. Among the wealthier Muslims in the village, his family has “all the documents”, he says, from Aadhaar to land records. The family owns a TV, fridge, sofa, and a motorcycle, among other “assets”.

“They came for the Muslims first, then they will come for tribals and later Dalits,” says Anis Khan, 44, sitting in his house in Shahpura village. Anis admits he has picked that line from “informal conversations”, but says it could well come true.

The 44-year-old says farmers will stop selling their produce to teach those backing the legislation a lesson. His father Mohammad Hamid Khan, who has joined the conversation, listens impassively, before he says he fears a backlash.



More than 40 per cent of girls of school-going age in Dindori have never attended school, according to the National Family Health Survey, 2015-16

When Hanumat Vishwakarma got his Aadhaar done the first time, it carried only his first name. The second time, it came with a surname, but a wrong one — “Dhurve”, which would have made the landless Dalit a tribal. “I will have to go to the local Aadhaar centre again... I don't like going there. All these places are only for the rich, those with money to spare,” he says sullenly

“Nahin, nahin (no, no),” the son protests. “*Hindus hamare support mein hai. Kewal BJP aur RSS walon ko chhodke* (The Hindus are with us, except for those with the BJP and RSS),” he says.

■ ■ ■

It's 11 am and the Aadhaar Panjian Kendra in the district headquarters has come to life. Young couples, toddlers swathed in blankets and sweaters, school girls and the elderly stand patiently in queues, awaiting their turn at the two-room centre, not far from the collectorate.

Dasru Lal Yadav and his wife have travelled 30 km from their Darri Mohgaon Mal village to stand in the queue. A fortnight ago, Dasru had applied for updating his Aadhaar card. In his 50s, Dasru owns only one acre, which makes him eligible under the PM-Kisan Yojana Samman Nidhi Yojana. Though the Central scheme, which promises Rs 6,000 a year as income to small and marginal farmers, was launched a few months ago, Dasru has not got any money so far due to spelling errors in his Aadhaar card, which don't match the details in his bank passbook.

“*Modi wale paise nahi mile, baki sabko mil gaye* (We haven't got money under the Modi scheme; everyone else has got),” says his wife

Lali. Till his Aadhaar card is updated, Dasru will have to continue looking for work in places as far as Bhopal.

After waiting for close to an hour, when his turn comes, the official at the centre looks up his details and says dryly, “*Process mein hai. Char-panch din aur lagenge* (The application is being processed. It will take 4-5 days),” Yadav quietly nods and turns around. The couple will now make the trip back home, only to come back and stand in the queue some days later.

At the centre, there are no less than 30 people in the queues — some to make new Aadhaar cards, which is done free of cost; others to update or correct mistakes in the old ones, for a fee of Rs 50. It takes up to three months for a new Aadhaar to be delivered at home. A wall at the centre lists 35 documents — passport, driving licence, among others — that applicants have to furnish to carry out changes in name, address, date of birth and other details.

But hardly anyone stops to look at the wall; instead queuing up for hours just to get to the data-entry operator or the assistant at the centre who then hollers out instructions.

According to District Collector Bakki Karthikeyan, Aadhaar penetration in Dindori is complete. “Almost every body is documented because of Aadhaar, Samagra Parivar

Card, job cards under NREGA. People don't have to come to Dindori because all paper work is done either at the block headquarters or at gram panchayat level,” he says.

Metres away, at the Dindori District Hospital, a 100-bed facility whose Out Patient Department sees about 200-250 patients a day, Chief Medical Health Officer Dr RK Mehra says about 500 patients have benefited so far from the Centre's Ayushman Bharat scheme since its launch in 2018. “But the biggest problem for the beneficiaries of the Ayushman scheme is the mismatch between the 2011 Socio Economic Caste Census, which is the basis for Ayushman Bharat, and the details on their Aadhaar cards. If these spelling and factual errors in the documents are not enough, there are issues of Internet connectivity. Since much of the authentication happens online, erratic online connectivity is a problem. We ask for documents only from patients applying under the Ayushman scheme,” he says.

The district hospital, which has seven community health centres (CHCs), 22 primary health centres (PHCs) and 219 sub-centres under it, does not carry out Caesarean operations because the only anaesthetist the hospital had was transferred six months ago. “Barring the 17 MBBS doctors attached to the government hospital, there are just four

ASSETS IN DINDORI

According to Census 2011, when information was sought on whether they owned specific assets (see table below), 64.9 per cent of households in Dindori fell into the category of “none of the assets specified” — the highest in the country.

PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH ASSETS

Radio/Transistor	15.1
Television	8.1
COMPUTER/LAPTOP	
With Internet	0.3
Without Internet	3.5
TELEPHONE/MOBILE PHONE	
Landline only	1
Mobile only	13.5
Both	0.9
Bicycle	15.8
Scooter/Motorcycle/Moped	4.7
Car/Jeep/Van	0.8
Households with TV	0.4
Households that own none of the specified assets	64.9

Source: 2011 Census of India

DISTRICT DATA

In Dindori, 93% homes have no toilets, over half have no kitchens

NUSHAIBA IQBAL

BORDERED BY the Maikal hill range in Chhattisgarh to its south, the district of Dindori in Madhya Pradesh has a tribal population of 64 per cent, with the Baigas being the most numerous group, according to the 2011 Census. The district's Hindu population stands at 86 per cent, while Muslims and Christians constitute less than 1.5 per cent. More than 5 per cent of the population belongs to the Scheduled Castes.

Less than 80 per cent of the births in the district between 2010-11 and 2015-16 were registered, according to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-IV). However, the actual number of children with birth certificates may be smaller as registration does not imply that a certificate was provided at birth.

Around 0.08 per cent of the population — about 546 people in all — reported being homeless, which rules out the possibility of them being able to furnish any proof of residence. Homes in the district lack access to basic facilities, with around 93 per cent households not including a toilet on the premises, and 90 per cent practising open defecation.

Almost 92 per cent of the households do not have a drainage system for used waste water, and 56.3 per cent do not have a kitchen. Additionally, about 97 per cent of the households use fuels such as firewood or crop residue for cooking, making them vulnerable to intestinal and respiratory illnesses. Only 7.4 per cent have access to drinking water at home. Less than one per cent have a computer, television set, phone or a vehicle.

This predominantly rural district has an average literacy rate of 64 per cent, according to the 2011 Census. More than 40 per cent of girls of school-going age have never attended school, according to NFHS-IV. Almost half of all women are illiterate, and only 13.6 per cent have received education beyond secondary school. More than one-third of the

ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION IN DINDORI

IN PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION

Households with drinking water source within premises	7.4
Households having latrine facility within the premises	7.3
Households reporting open defecation	89.8
Households with no connection to a drainage system	91.9

FUEL SOURCES FOR COOKING IN DINDORI

IN PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION

Firewood	92.4
Crop residue	1.9
Cowdung cake	1.6
Coal, lignite, charcoal	0.3
Kerosene	0.5
LPG/PNG	3.1

women in the district (37 per cent) were married before the legal marriage age of 18.

Low levels of education among women are also linked to poor health and nutrition in their offspring, even after taking into account the effects of poverty. More than half (50.6 per cent) of all children are not immunised against polio, tuberculosis and measles — diseases that can be easily prevented with timely vaccination, thus reducing child mortality. Close to 46 per cent of children under the age of six are too short for their age — much higher than the all-India average of 38 per cent. Two-thirds of the women and an equal proportion of children under the age of six are anaemic. Less than 2 per cent of children eat the recommended number of meals consisting of the required food groups.

SUNDAY PROFILE
GENERAL MANOJ MUKUND NARAVANE

The chief

A humble man who is direct and professional with colleagues and an officer who is known to deliver. Apart from his experience in counter-insurgency ops and the strike corps, these are qualities likely to hold General M M Naravane in good stead, as he takes over as Army Chief

SUSHANT SINGH

AS PER tradition, on Independence Day, the General Officer Commanding (GOC), Delhi Area, a lieutenant general-rank officer, escorts the Prime Minister to the dais, stands behind him as he delivers his speech from the ramparts of Red Fort, and then escorts him back to his seat. In 2016, the then GOC, Delhi Area, Lt General Vijay Singh, followed the protocol. However, during Narendra Modi's speech, he was asked to shift to the side so that he was not visible in the same frame as the Prime Minister.

The following year, there was a new GOC, Delhi Area. During Independence Day rehearsals, the Special Protection Group (SPG) once again raised the 2016 argument and objected to his presence behind the Prime Minister. This time, however, the new GOC did not stand behind Prime Minister Narendra Modi or shift to the side. After escorting Modi to the dais, he returned to his seat in the audience and after his speech ended, he got up to escort the Prime Minister back.

The officer was Lt General Manoj Mukund Naravane, who took over as the 28th Chief of Army Staff on the last day of the previous decade. General Naravane will serve as the head of the 1.3 million strong Army till he turns 62 in April 2022.

His colleagues say General Naravane's ramrod straight posture and perfect military bearing is indicative of his conduct as a senior military officer: humble, fair, direct and professional. Whenever he was congratulated for his promotions, his reply, invariably, would be a laconic, "It is a part of the profession".

Born in 1960 in Pune to an Indian Air Force officer and an All India Radio announcer, he joined the National Defence Academy (NDA) at the age of 16 after his schooling from Jnana Prabodhini Prashala in the city. General Naravane's childhood friends recall him as being very close to his parents. He came down to Pune a few months ago to celebrate his father's birthday. His mother passed away in 2018.

Shimla-based writer-historian Raaja Bhasin, who got to know Naravane when he commanded the Army Training Command in Shimla, where he was also president of the Amateur Dramatics Club, says, "He is one of the most down-to-earth persons I have met. He is informal to the extent that when he came to meet us, he would ring the bell himself without any paraphernalia... We couldn't stage a play for him but we did a rehearsed reading of *Twelve Angry Men* at his farewell."

In 1976, General Naravane joined the NDA's 56th course in Lima squadron, where the current IAF chief, Air Chief Marshal RK S Bhaduria, was his batchmate. The current Navy chief, Admiral Karambir Singh, was also part of the same batch, but in the Hunter squadron. To add to the string of coincidences, the fathers of all the three current service chiefs served in the IAF.

Later, in June 1980, after completing his training from the Indian Military Academy, he was commissioned in the seventh battalion of the Sikh Light Infantry. In his first me-

dia interaction as Army Chief on New Year's morning, after inspecting the Guard of Honour, he revealed his regimental affiliations when he invoked 'Waheguruji' to give him "courage and strength" in his new role.

As a young officer, he served with the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka, one among his many stints in counter-insurgency operations — most notably in Jammu and Kashmir, where he commanded a Rashtriya Rifles battalion as a Colonel, and was Inspector General of the Assam Rifles in the Northeast. He also served as the country's defence attaché to Myanmar. His path to the top was evident when he commanded the prestigious Strike Corps headquartered at Ambala and then headed the Eastern Command that's tasked with securing the sensitive India-China border.

Though the present BJP government has come up with surprises in its selection of military chiefs, General Naravane was seen as the most likely candidate to succeed General Bipin Rawat after he moved to South Block as Vice Chief of Army Staff in September 2019. The official announcement of his elevation was made on December 16, an auspicious date for the Indian Army — it was on this date in 1971 that the Pakistan Army surrendered in Dhaka.

"General Manoj Naravane has served extensively in the mountains and in counter-insurgency environments. This, along with his exposure as Strike Corps Commander, would have truly empowered him to tackle the challenges that the Army faces today. A man of few words, he made his intent clear in his short media interaction shortly after taking



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

over. His emphasis on reinforcing the core values of the Army, including its apolitical nature, was particularly welcome," says Lt General AK Singh (retired), former Southern Army commander and former lieutenant governor of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. "Also, as Army Chief, one of his first acts was to visit soldiers at the Base Hospital. That sends a good message to the rank and file."

Speaking about his vision for the Army and the challenges ahead, the General said at the media interaction, "The priority will always remain to be ever-ready to meet any challenge and to be operationally prepared at all times. This will happen as a result of modernisation. We will continue to build up capabilities, especially in the North and Northeastern regions of the country. We will also lay emphasis on raising security awareness among the rank and file."

Known to keep his family away from the limelight, Naravane is married to Veena Naravane, a teacher. They have two daughters, Isha, who is a performing artiste, and Amala, a PR consultant.

An M.Phil from Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore, General Naravane is a keen reader of non-fiction. Not known to be fussy about food, he harbours a special interest for the state of Nagaland and is very fond of his Labrador.

There is near unanimity in views about him among his colleagues and seniors, best encapsulated in the words of his friend of 45 years, Devdutt Modak: "Manoj is very quiet, not noisy at all... As they say, still waters run deep. He does not like to be voluble, but if he makes a commitment, he will deliver."

In June 1980, Gen Naravane was commissioned in the seventh battalion of the Sikh Light Infantry. In his first public comments as Army Chief on New Year's morning, he revealed his regimental affiliations when he invoked 'Waheguruji' to give him "courage and strength" in his new role

TAKE 5
FACES ON THE FRINGES OF NEWS
AJIT KUMAR, CONSTABLE,
SHASTRI NAGAR
POLICE STATION, PATNA

'No takers for the goods... We have to stay on guard'

A police station in Patna finds itself caught in the divorce battle between Lalu Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap Yadav and his wife, Aishwarya. On December 26, after Aishwarya moved out, the Yadavs sent the goods she had brought to their home. However, with the Rais refusing to accept it, the stuff has landed up at the Shastri Nagar Police Station, with Constable Ajit Kumar keeping guard



Kumar with the goods at the police station. Ashok Sinha

1 What all goods were brought to the police station?

There is a sofa, beds, TV sets, a fridge, an almirah, utensils etc. These were brought in two pick-up vans.

2 Why were the goods brought here?

Aishwarya Rai's father Chandrika Rai refused to accept them. In his complaint he has said there was no inventory of the goods and the family had not asked for the same in the first place.

3 How did police get involved?

As the vans stayed put in front of Chandrika Rai's home, there could have been a law-and-order issue. A designated protection officer (a state government employee who was called by Tej Pratap) has given us a full list of the goods. Our role is limited to guarding them till the matter is resolved. The parties now have to take back the stuff from us.

4 How are you guarding the goods?

We are on rotation duty. We unloaded the stuff and covered it up with tarpaulin to keep it safe. The luggage has caused a space crunch at the police station.

5 How long will the goods be kept here?

We have no idea. The protection officer should know more. We have to keep guarding the goods because there are no takers for them and the pick-up van drivers had to leave. *Is tarah ke case shayad hi aate hain* (Such cases are one of a kind).

SANTOSH SINGH

A footnote

Three years after demonetisation, a 75-yr-old needing cataract surgery realises her money is worth nothing. The shock lingers

ARUN JANARDHANAN

A LOT has passed Rangammal by. Nicknamed 'Gandhi' in infancy, in the flush of the Independence movement, Delhi has meant little for the 75-year-old since prime minister Indira Gandhi's time. She has not heard of Sonia, Rahul or Priyanka, or even the new generation of DMK leaders. She has a faint memory of M Karunanidhi, but remembers MGR fondly for ensuring the family at least had "*kanji* (a mix of rice with water)" during hard times in the early '70s.

Living next door to each other in the remote Poomalur village near Tirupur, Rangammal and her younger sister, Chinna (small) Rangammal, 73, never went to school. With weakening eyesight, television is a drain.

Towards the end of November though, the world beyond Poomalur came crashing into the lives of the two sisters. As did a new name, Narendra Modi. Almost three years after the Prime Minister announced demonetisation on November 8, 2016, they realised that the Rs 46,000 they had painstakingly saved over decades was worthless.

Rangammal's son Selvaraj, a construction worker, recalls their shock. "How is it possible? How do currencies go invalid?", Amma asked," says the 42-year-old, the eldest of three siblings. Rangammal kept holding on to her Rs 24,000, most of them in Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 denominations, till a local politician dropped in to explain after hearing about their case, Selvaraj adds.

Rangammal's husband was a stone mason, who mostly worked in sites near Kerala's Palakkad, and died of tuberculosis.



Rangammal kept money in this trunk. Her sister, she lost Rs 46,000. Arun Janardhanan

The family says he got the disease due to his work. Rangammal raised cattle and worked as a farm labourer to supplement the family

income, as did her younger sister, a mother of two.

While Rangammal kept her money in an

old iron trunk at home, her sister used a pillow. They say they never considered bank as an option.

Rangammal decided to tap into her savings after a local doctor advised her to undergo cataract surgery to cure her eye pain and loss of sight. Chinna was happy to pitch in with her Rs 22,000. "Only after she had brought her share and we calculated the total amount did we realise that the notes were invalid. We didn't believe our children when they told us that. Who can make savings invalid like this? Why should people save money then?" asks Rangammal.

Selvaraj says he was taken aback to hear the two had so much money at home. He himself has little cash to spare, he says, and so was unaffected by demonetisation. "I never knew about these savings," he says. "Whenever I would ask Amma for money, she never gave me more than a penny fearing I would buy liquor with it, and said the little that she saved was for her daughters-in-law and grandchildren."

Selvaraj isn't surprised though that they didn't think of going to a bank, pointing out that formalities such as even a proper name have little meaning in his mother's life. "Everyone always called her Gandhi or Thankamma."

Hearing about their plight, Mani

Gounder, a local politician of Vaiko's DM DK, was among those who dropped in and explained to the sisters about demonetisation at length. Later, he took them to meet Tirupur Collector K Vijayakarthiskeyan.

The Collector arranged to provide the two Rs 1,000 monthly under a state government old-age pension scheme. He also put together money with the help of donations for Rangammal to undergo her operation in the second week of December.


While Vijayakarthiskeyan didn't want to talk, sources close to him say he approached the authorities to explore if the old notes could be exchanged as a special case, but didn't succeed.

A few days ago, during the local body elections, Rangammal had another encounter with changed times. For the first time, Selvaraj claims, she was not allowed to cast her vote without an electoral ID card.

The donation money left over after Rangammal's surgery is now in her newly opened bank account. Says Selvaraj, "Amma says I can touch it only after her death."

Chinna though won't be able to use her share. Around 15 days after getting to know that her money was useless, and a fortnight before she would have got her first month's pension installment, the 73-year-old who had been ailing for a long time passed away.

Across
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website: pchidambaram.in
Twitter @Pchidambaram_IN

When Nani Palkhivala propounded the theory of an unalterable and unamendable “basic structure” of Constitution, legal experts scoffed at the argument. How can the power of a sovereign Parliament to amend the Constitution (Article 368) be curtailed or subjected to a review by judges appointed by the Executive, they asked. At the end of the day, only seven out of 13 judges on the Bench bought Palkhivala’s then-novel argument. Today, we can say, thank god they bought the argument

inside
TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR



UP AND DOWN IN 2019
As recent political developments in Maharashtra demonstrated, a day, not to speak of an entire year, can be a long time in politics. The wheel of fortune kept changing. Here are some key winners and losers at the end of 2019. But who will be at the top in New Year 2021 is anybody’s guess.

JODI No. 1
Narendra Modi and Amit Shah were riding quite high in January 2019. But the general elections loomed large and the naysayers warned of the unbeatable arithmetic of a Samajwadi Party-BSP combine in Uttar Pradesh and the handicap of incumbency, seen in the Assembly results in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. But the formidable *jodi* raised the level of campaign outreach to a new high, decimated the Opposition and outdid the party’s 2014 performance, with the BJP on its own crossing 300 seats. Then, with lightning speed and steely determination, not witnessed since Indira Gandhi’s times, Shah as Home Minister successfully pushed through some far-reaching legislation. Parliament voted to scrap Jammu and Kashmir’s special status and amended the citizenship Act to bring in religion as a criterion on refugees. Also, the Supreme Court finally gave a ruling in the century-old Ram Janmabhoomi dispute. But when the rise is so sharp, the fall can be equally steep. A slowing economy, rising inflation and a steady growth in the number of non-BJP-ruled states could foreshadow the future. It depends whether the economic downslide or the mood of majoritarianism propagated by the BJP prevails.

VETERANS ON TOP
In the past year, many veterans bested the younger generation in the political sweepstakes. The laid-back royal, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, demonstrated that he was supreme in Punjab and not dependent on his party, which was keen to rein him in. The Shiv Sena’s Uddhav Thackeray took a big gamble and won the chief ministership of Maharashtra, but his future depends on how long he can steer his boat with three oarsmen not in sync. The savvy old-timer Kamal Nath outsmarted a

Out of
MY MIND

MEGHNAD DESAI



AS 2019 closed, much of what happened in the earlier half of the year was forgotten. Prime Minister Narendra Modi rode the waves in the first half. Modi was the story. Now six months later, the solidity of Modi’s leadership is being tested. We are witnessing a mass movement which surpasses the Anna Hazare movement. The sole parallel people can cite is the Navnirman Movement which got Jayaprakash Narayan to give up his retirement from politics to lead a new generation of youth. This movement has not found its JP. Maybe the millennials are more confident

WE THE people gave unto ourselves the Constitution of India. The Constituent Assembly was not constituted on the principle of ‘one person, one vote’ and hence not truly representative of the people. Yet, judged on the final outcome, the Constituent Assembly spoke for all the people of India. It is a Constitution that has proved resilient in times of extreme stress like the Emergency (1975-77) or the premature collapse of the Central government (1979-80); and it has survived many amendments without losing its basic structure.

When Nani Palkhivala propounded the theory of an unalterable and unamendable “basic structure” of the Constitution, several scholars and legal experts scoffed at the argument. How can the power of a sovereign Parliament to amend the Constitution (Article 368) be curtailed or subjected to a review by judges appointed by the Executive, they asked. At the end of the day, only seven out of 13 judges on the Bench bought Palkhivala’s then-novel argument. Today, we can say, thank god they bought the argument.

WHITHER JUSTICE FOR ALL ?

It is the Constitution of India that has resolved to *secure to all its citizens* JUSTICE, *social, economic and political*. Each phrase — e.g. social justice — has profound meaning. The phrases ignited the fire of ambition in millions of hearts and continue to do so. On January 26, 2020, we will celebrate the Constitution’s 70th anniversary. It is time to ask hard questions: who has got social justice and who has not?

predatory BJP, holding on to the CM’s chair in Madhya Pradesh. Another from the old guard who bested the youth was Sharad Pawar. During the Maharashtra campaign, most in the Opposition, including Rahul Gandhi, thought it was a lost cause. Pawar seethed silently when some of his lieutenants were targeted by the government and others crossed over to the BJP. But he fought back heroically, delivering a hefty punch for the NCP. His post-result role was more spectacular. He played the wily king-maker, who would determine whether the BJP or Sena ruled Maharashtra. Many reckon he is now a potential leader for any anti-BJP national-level alliance.

YOUTH LOSES OUT

Rahul Gandhi could have taken over as prime minister and leader of the Congress party at any time between 2004 and 2014, but he procrastinated, assuming that age was on his side. Now at 49, Rahul can no longer be considered youthful. Perhaps his heart was never really in the role his mother felt was his destiny. Though he campaigned spiritedly during the Gujarat and Karnataka Assembly elections, his interest seemed to flag by the time of the general elections and his judgment of campaign strategy and choices for key party assignments was wanting. After the humiliating result, Rahul announced his resignation and departed for Vipassana sessions abroad, leaving his party adrift. The Congress old guard was quick to take control in his absence. Rahul may yet reclaim his post as party president, but an increasing number of Congresspersons view the plight of their party as similar to that of Britain’s Labour Party where Jeremy Corbyn, though a distinct handicap, refuses to quit gracefully and make way for a new leader. The Congress young blood is dispirited and at a loose end.

QUICKIE LEGISLATION

The government may have won temporary plaudits with its quick-fix legislation and glib semantics. But the real impact will be known only in the months to come. Increasing polarisation makes it difficult to heal the scars in the national psyche. High-handed methods to quash the continuing unrest of a disenchanted, educated youth is not a long-term solution. True statesmanship lies in taking all sections of society on board. A refusal to back-track is not a sign of strength, but a failure to learn from the lessons of the past. History has shown that it has not generally been a happy outcome for rulers who tried to forcibly stamp out the voice of dissent, especially when a new generation is at the vanguard.

Republic for half the people

What is economic justice and do all citizens get economic justice? Even when all citizens have a political vote, do all get political justice?

For centuries, the people at the bottom of the pyramid have been the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The Other Backward Classes, and among them the Most Backward Classes, and the minorities are other disadvantaged categories. The blacks in the United States were, for over a hundred years, in the same position as the Dalits, tribals and Muslims are in India today. It took a civil war to abolish slavery and a Civil Rights Act in 1963 to begin the long process of acceptance, affirmative action and providing equal opportunity. In India, we have a Constitution that frowns upon untouchability, outlaws discrimination on the basis of religion, and provides for reservation for SC/STs. Yet the reality is that social justice, in terms of access to education and health care (among other Human Development Indicators) and appointments to government jobs, is beyond the reach of the neglected sections.

DISCRIMINATED AGAINST AND POOR

I have not referred to data on housing, crime, undertrials, representation in sports teams etc. which will conclusively establish that SCs, STs and Muslims are socially discriminated against and are subjected to neglect, humiliation and violence.

Economic justice is an offspring of social justice. The neglected and disadvantaged groups have lower educational attainments, less property, fewer government or quality jobs and lower in-

Life
&WORK

SHWETA CHAUHAN

schauhan99@yahoo.com



NINETEEN METRO stations closed. Mobile Internet services suspended. Section 144 of the CrPC invoked. Vehicles, police post torched in Uttar Pradesh, protests in Assam, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Kolkata. These headlines along with images of opposition leaders, activists assembled in their winter clothes just as Delhi records its lowest temperature of the year flood our TV screens. It is not a happy day in the life of a police officer. The larger the gathering, the higher the stakes for us. We must tread carefully, protecting life and property, remaining neutral, acting strictly by the book, because one mis-step will reverse the direction of protests. And once that happens, all issues will become secondary, police bashing will start and we will be facing a public trial.

I spent hours watching over protests at Ramliya Maidan during my posting in Delhi. Sometimes we would hear taunts. On other occasions, like at a doctor’s strike at AIIMS, I was asked by the protesters to resign, join them. Sometimes our patriotism was questioned, as in the Anna Hazare protests. Sometimes our humanity was questioned, as in the Nirbhaya protests. But on a basic human level we are not very different from the people on the other side of the barricades. The only major difference is that we carry the weight of protecting democracy, protecting lives, protecting the rule of law. Trust me, this isn’t a lament, this is just an earnest attempt at KYC — Know Your Cop.

Handling protests is an integral part of the work of a police personnel. We are given exhaustive training in riot control at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad — weekly classes on the use of anti-riot gear and equipment; extensive training on negotiation skills; engaging positively with a crowd of protesters; forging a rapport with the stakeholders; giving a clear warning before any escalation of force. It is done week after week, continuously, till it is ingrained as muscle memory. All this finally culminates in a grand riot-control practice session where all 120-odd officer trainees participate in containing a mob of unruly protesters made up primarily of our own trainers and academy staff.

We are aware that in a democracy, there will be protests. We also know that a large crowd by nature is unpredictable. Only a few rabble-rousers are enough to turn a peaceful protest into a full-blown riot. Handling a protest is an ordeal for all police officers and we are well aware that lives, law

	Per 1,000 persons 15+ with higher secondary education		Percentage in govt jobs	Monthly per capita consumption expenditure in rupees	
	Rural	Urban		Rural	Urban
All	85	139	100	1,430	2,630
SC	71	116	17.49	1,252	2,193
ST	66	107	8.47	1,122	2,028
Muslims	57	90	n.a.	1,133	1,673

comes/expenditure, as the numbers in the table (above) illustrate:

THE WORST CASUALTY

The third promise of political justice is the worst casualty. Thanks to reserved constituencies, SCs and STs have a fair proportion of seats in elected bodies including the state legislatures and Parliament, but political justice seems to have stopped there. In many political parties, representation of SCs and STs in decision-making bodies or levels is no more than tokenism. Even if the SCs found their own party (the BSP, VCK), their support base is limited to SC voters and, unless they form broader social alliances (*Bahujan*), or political coalitions, they are stuck where they are. In the case of minorities, especially Muslims, the position is worse. Mainstream political parties have ‘minority cells’, but rarely frontline leaders of the party. The BJP openly shuns Muslims and intimidates them with NRC-CAA-NPR. On the other hand, a Muslim-promoted party like the IUL or the AIMIM can be a coalition partner or a spoiler but never a winner.

Causes that are central to Muslims get

‘A democracy has protests... most end at the barricades’



A clash between police and protesters at Jamia Millia Islamia. File

and order in society are on the line.

I remember that in 2015, when I was posted in Outer Delhi, we received a call that a crowd of protesters from Narela colony had stopped traffic on NH-44. When I reached with reinforcements, I found that the protesters had torched our police post (no lives lost) and pelted stones at a fire tender. It took some strict warnings for the crowd to allow the fire tender to douse the fire. Meanwhile, a separate group of hooligans torched two motorcycles and one private car belonging to a police personnel. Before we could gauge the strength of the crowd, they started pelting stones at us. I saw a police inspector bleeding from his nose. Another stone came hurling at the one standing next to him and hit his forehead.

We fired tear gas after adequate warning but even the wind did not favour us. Soon I was calling my own teary-eyed flock of policemen, trying to keep them together. We had to charge at the protesters with *lathis*; this resulted in people running in all directions. Some policemen went so far into the alleys that I was momentarily worried about their safety. Some protesters came back brandishing *lathis* of own. There was mayhem for several minutes till the crowd was dispersed. Thankfully no shots were fired, no protesters grievously hurt.

Like each investigation, each protest is also different. Each minute spent at the barricades makes one wiser for future incidents. Much is said about police excesses but rest assured, contrary to representations in popular cinema, there are no trigger-happy Chulbul Pandey in real life. In my eventful career, I am yet to meet a police of-

ficer who is eager to order a lathicharge on a crowd of peaceful protesters, forget firing on them. In fact, we try to avoid any confrontation at the barricades, till it is felt that a rule of law has been threatened.

When there is information of a protest, police try by all means to contain it within manageable proportions. We try to contain rumours. We try to cut down on mass means of transportation to stop unmanageable crowds from gathering, because a large mob is faceless, nameless and offers a false sense of anonymity, power and ruthless disregard for law in its members. Suspending Internet services, closing down metro stations, diversion of traffic are all steps to stop collection of a large crowd of protesters.

Yet people gather, protests take place and when they turn violent, we try to contain them from damaging life and property by graded use of force; lathicharge is mostly the last step. In a full-blown riot, police may resort to firing, but it comes with its own hazards.

In conclusion, I will say, most protests end at the barricades. But when they don’t, we are easily targeted. This is because police is a branch of government that has the maximum interface with common people. Khaki has the maximum visibility of all government functionaries. We perform our duties without getting affected by the disdain of the very public we serve. We have learnt to live with the hatred, but a little appreciation is always welcome!

The writer is Superintendent of Police, Leparada district, Arunachal Pradesh. She is a 2010-batch IPS officer, AGMUT cadre

Fifth
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter @tavleen_singh



A real leader needed

THERE ARE many reasons why Narendra Modi’s image has taken a beating since that long ago ‘Howdy Modi’ moment. But, despite the protests across India in recent weeks that have so severely damaged the Prime Minister’s image internationally, there is one reason why he continues to be India’s most credible leader. That reason is Rahul Gandhi. He has been missing in action for a while but returned recently to declare that the new citizenship law was going to be worse than demonetisation because the ‘money that will be made will go to Modi’s fifteen friends’. It was only a snippet of a video that circulated virally on social media, but it was long enough to remind every viewer of an important reason why Modi won a second term.

I watched the video more than once to try and understand why the heir to our most powerful political dynasty believes that this is ‘note bandi number 2’, but was utterly mystified by his analysis. Neither have I managed to fathom why his political advisors have not told the former (and probably future) president of the Congress party that, in this case, it is the people’s money being squandered on a terrible idea that is the problem. Rahul also needs to be urgently told that he has to stop repeating the tired old charges of corruption that he has been flinging at Modi and ‘his fifteen friends’ for more than six years. They did not stick then and they do not stick now. Someone needs to explain to him that if people are protesting angrily against the citizenship law, it is because it is discriminatory. Something much more important is at stake and it is this that Modi’s principal opponent should be talking about. For the moment the best thing Rahul can do is listen carefully to what the protesters have been saying.

There is underway across India the first serious revolt against the Modi government’s policies. It is being led by young people who use the Indian Constitution as the symbol of their protest and who sing the national anthem at public gatherings to ensure that nobody charges them with being ‘urban Naxals’ or ‘anti-national’. These protests have been so effective that the Prime Minister has deployed a small army of ministers, party spokesmen and friendly journalists to try and change the narrative. They have been ineffectual because his closest political comrades, Amit Shah and Yogi Adityanath, spend their time adding fuel to the fire. Modi himself did not exactly cover himself with glory last week when he declared that the Congress party seemed to hate India’s Parliament more than it hates Pakistan.

He will however remain unchallenged as long as his main rival on the political stage is Indira Gandhi’s grandson. This is unfortunate. A real opposition leader is needed if the outpouring of anger and violence that we have seen is to be channelled towards saving political ideas that must be saved. Much has gone wrong. The Kashmir Valley remains in almost complete lockdown and now the same stories about police brutality against children that came from there are beginning to come from Uttar Pradesh. What is going on? Why is the Prime Minister not ordering his hand-picked Chief Minister to do more to calm public anger instead of fuelling it with his threats?

Uttar Pradesh has seen the largest number of protests against the changes in the citizenship law because it has a huge Muslim population and Muslims have understandably been in the forefront of the protests. But, instead of trying to calm people’s fears and their anger, Yogi Adityanath has taken to seizing people’s properties and allowing his police a free hand. He has an allergy to dissent that is quite frightening. He has made it clear that he will crush all signs of it. So he has allowed his police force to use maximum force and, if reports are accurate, to torture women and children in order to stop the protests.

The other dynasty heir, Priyanka, has gone many times to show solidarity with families who have been victims of the Yogi government’s police, and this is good. But, she would have looked more credible had she not made that childish drama about being ‘strangled’ by a woman police officer in full view of a large crowd of protesters. There is a sense of entitlement that the heirs to the dynasty exhibit that makes both of them a liability for the Congress. It must start looking for a new leader. A leader who will stand up for the values that the party professes to still believe in. These are the values of liberalism, democracy and the right to dissent. Values that are more important today than ever because Modi and his cohorts have made it plain that these ‘foreign’ ideas need to be crushed.

The Non-Alignment Man

An ‘archive rat’s’ account of the extraordinary life of V K Krishna Menon



Marshal Tito (left), chief of state of Yugoslavia and Krishna Menon, defence minister, at the 1960 session of the UN General Assembly *Express Archives*

MANI SHANKAR AIYAR

MY DAUGHTER, who is a professional historian at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, describes herself as an “archive rat”. It is a description that perfectly fits Jairam Ramesh. His burrowing in the archives is deep and wide. Then, instead of paraphrasing his research material to tell his own story, Ramesh has perfected the art of laying out the evidence in the words of his players before closing into the hunt with a few carefully selected pungent comments of his own that brilliantly sum up the point he is making.

This is a stunningly successful way of telling the story of a personality as tortured, as brilliant, and as “chequered”, as that of VK Krishna Menon, who fought for India’s independence, far removed geographically from the overwhelming shadow of Mahatma Gandhi; someone who might well have been relegated to a footnote in history had he not come under the spell of Jawaharlal Nehru and, in turn, mesmerised the man who became the undisputed Prime Minister for at least 15 of his 17 years as modern India’s principal architect.

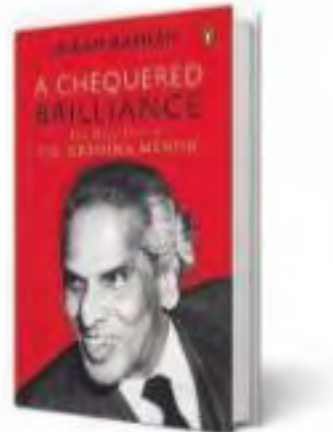
As Nehru’s right hand in evolving newly independent India’s foreign policy, Menon claims — without boasting but as a matter of fact — to have spontaneously, in the middle of an extempore speech, mouthed the word “non-alignment” to describe that policy. To convert that policy from an eccentricity as the lone voice that refused to take pre-ordained sides in a world divided into two irreconcilable camps, into a viable and decisive influence in international relations, Menon fashioned viciousness into a remarkably effective tool of diplomacy. He turned upside down the notion of “making friends and influencing people” as the key to pursuing the nation’s vital interests. Instead, he forced people, if not always the State

Department, to reflect on their damaging inconsistencies and hateful hypocrisy that, despite the horror of two world wars, was once again leading the way to global rack and ruin. At least through his golden period of the Fifties, Menon was the one international personality capable of dousing international fires, whether in Korea, Indochina, Gaza, Cyprus or the Congo. He could be as charming and persuasive in private conversations with the most powerful people in the world as he was bitterly sarcastic about them in public; as effective with a turn of phrase in cutting the Gordian knot in tangled confabulations on resolutions in New York and Geneva, as he was biting in his public diatribes; as warm in a quiet handshake and a bewitching smile in person as in wielding a verbal stiletto as effectively as any hitman of the mafia when making his vitriolic case in public. He aroused as much fierce hatred in the lands he excoriated as he created faithful fans among the exploited and despairing. It is doubtful if polite courtesies and a gentle adherence to prescribed protocol would have transmogrified an individualistic philosophy of Non-alignment into a worldwide Nonaligned Movement — comprising two-thirds of the member-states of the United Nations and more than half of the world’s population, but for Menon’s temperate language and vile abuse. That is what shook the world and gave courage to the weak and dispossessed to stand up to the machinations of the hegemons.

Yet, this outstanding statesman was a tragically flawed being, always living on edge on endless cups of tea, pathetically seeking reassurance that his principal (and perhaps only) patron had not withdrawn his favour — compelling Nehru to quite disproportionately waste his time on endless correspondence with Menon, quieting his needless anxieties and soothing the fierce antago-

nisms that his many insecurities raised in the discontents who despairingly worked with him. Menon was the quintessential bully, ruthless in verbally lashing out at subordinates who covered before his towering temper, but begging forgiveness when they stood up to him and gave it back. And all the time weeping on the compassionate shoulders of the one man — Nehru, who, fully aware of his protégé’s many warped faults, pierced through the veil of these evident faults to the “chequered brilliance” of the Pygmalion he had nurtured.

Even Menon’s fall, when it came with the Chinese armed incursion into India, did not initially shake Nehru’s faith in his irascible friend until aroused and indignant public opinion forced the Prime Minister’s hand. To his credit, Menon, who treasured his warm relations with Chou Enlai and Chen Yi, dis-



A CHEQUERED BRILLIANCE: THE MANY LIVES OF V.K. KRISHNA MENON
JAIRAM RAMESH
Penguin Viking
744 pages
₹ 999

covered the threat of China’s angry decision to teach India a “lesson” well before Nehru and India woke to the alarm bells — this was after visiting Geneva to meet his old Chinese colleagues from a decade earlier. The Chinese leaders he met there gave him the coldest shoulder possible. He returned to Delhi at the end of July 1962 thoroughly perturbed, but, for once, he could not secure Nehru’s ear. Yet, despite being India’s *raksha mantri* and despite his informed premonitions of disaster in the offing, he did nothing meaningful to bolster India’s defences or defuse the military crisis. Instead, he discovered a mirror image of himself in that thoroughly incompetent sycophant, General Brij Mohan Kaul. The rest, as they say, is history. Menon forfeited not only his position in the cabinet but, more importantly, the trust of the nation, the trust even of his mentor and that of the young woman he had nurtured in London in the late Thirties and early Forties, Indira Gandhi — who had allegedly come up to Oxford to take a degree but spent most of her time in London where she was introduced to Menon and his India League companions. She did not rehabilitate him in the Congress although her personal affection and regard for him remained undiminished.

Menon’s last decade, from his fall from grace in 1962 to his death in 1974, was a sad epitaph to what had been an extraordinarily fruitful life. Ramesh has rendered yeoman service to the new generation in recapturing the life and times of a man who, whatever his failings as a public personality and as a hugely flawed individual, left his “footprints on the sands of time”. Ramesh has done so at a stage when memories of Menon are fading: they linger only in the remembrances of old men like me coming to terms with the evening of their own lives.

The writer is a former Union minister

CHAPTER 1, LINE 1

On an exceptionally hot evening early in July a young man came out of the garret in which he lodged in S. Place and walked slowly, as though in hesitation, towards K. bridge.
— *Crime and Punishment*, (1866), Fyodor Dostoevsky



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

A Crimson Destiny

An unsentimental, evocative study of a killer and the crime that tears his life asunder

AMRITA DUTTA

“CHIDAMBARAM HAD only planned to hack off the man’s arm.” The opening of Poomani’s *Heat* plunges us into a crime — a 15-year-old slashes his sickle at a powerful, older man. “As he ran, he heard the man’s scream rise and fade like the final cry of a goat in a butcher’s yard.” For the rest of the book, till the last sentence, the boy and his weapons are almost never parted. In the interregnum unfolds a novel in which guilt and innocence lose their fixed contours.

Tamil writer and Sahitya Akademi winner Poomani wrote *Vekkai* in 1982, inspired by the story of a real-life teenage killer. The novel, a classic in Tamil literature, has been translated into English, over three decades on, by N Kalyan Raman. When a child commits a violent crime, how much is that choice his? How much does society bear responsibility for the coarsening of a child? This slim novel seems to suggest that while well-meaning and earnest, these are blundering, journalistic questions. What remains vital is the child, his sensibility and his world.

And so, even if a body does turn up on page one, a curious thing happens. The novel backs away from the gore, and clears a space for the reader to glimpse Chidambaram better. We see him flee his home and village, as the news of the killing spreads. We see him rub his dog’s coat with affection, a few moments after he has struck the powerful landlord. We see him wash the bloody sickle clean and tie it to his waist. We see him watch silently as he suddenly turns into a “man” in his father and uncle’s estimation.

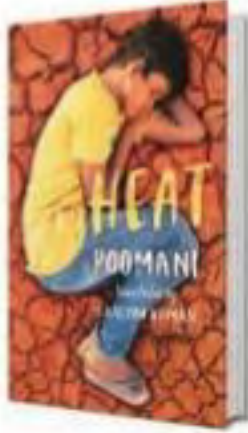
His father, Paramasivam, becomes a fugitive too, as he accompanies his son into the countryside for protection. Ayya, as Chidambaram calls him, is torn between pride and shame: he feels upstaged by his son, who took it upon himself to take revenge. As we slowly realise, from the brief, tense conversations between the father-son, this is a family torn asunder by violence. Their small stretch of land had caught the eye of the powerful Vaadukkaran; Ayya held out, refusing to sell the plot, but found

his elder son, Annan, murdered. It’s the “heat” of that rage and injustice that they carry with them.

Though Poomani never spells out the caste dynamics, the hierarchical nature of the society is never in doubt. The novel is a clear-eyed, unsentimental assessment of who gets away with crimes, and why — and who are left waiting for justice. Powerlessness perpetuates itself from generation to generation. In his youth, Chidambaram’s father, had also landed up in jail, when he had protested casual oppression by the powerful. Ayya is this novel’s most complex character, convinced of the need for violence to reclaim his dignity, even as he is aware of how it will crush his son’s freedom. “A man can’t live on rage alone, son,” he says.

What do the fugitives live on? That’s an important question. Every day, Chidambaram steps out to find the answer. The scorched, arid landscape, which rustles with life and love in Poomani’s writing, is not his enemy, but an old friend. Here, beyond guilt and punishment, the rhythms of daily life carry him through. He scours the land for food, he plucks tangy fruits and vines; he climbs palm trees to find pandaneer, and fashions vessels out of things strewn around. He stops, fascinated by the beauty around him. He keeps his bombs aside, and plays a childhood game. He makes a hammock for himself, and weaves a garland of kurundi flowers.

While this reviewer is not equipped to judge what is lost in translation, this English rendition is vividly told. The minimal, even inexpressive dialogue conveys the inarticulate truths of family relationships. The language is supple and cinematic; unobtrusive details — the flickering of lights, the smell of a flower, the stare of an owl in a field — underline the presence of a natural world fecund with possibilities, one that cradles human life, in all its imperfections. Troublingly, the book remains silent on the question of Chidambaram’s guilt, if it does not dodge it altogether. It seems to suggest that the dignity of human life persists beyond crime and punishment — the reader is convinced, almost.



HEAT
POOMANI
TRANSLATED FROM
TAMIL BY N KALYAN
RAMAN
Juggernaut
244 pages
₹ 499

EXPRESS EDITORS
RECOMMEND

LEVELS OF THE GAME.

by John McPhee (Farrar, Straus and Giroux): Acclaimed *New Yorker* penman, John McPhee’s account remains a definitive literary landmark for the sport of tennis. On the surface, the book offers a blow-by-blow recounting of the 1968 US Open semifinal between Arthur Ashe and Clark Graebner. But there is subtext. Through Graebner, a conservative white man from Ohio, and Ashe, a liberal black man from Virginia, McPhee presents two contrasting cultural narratives. In between the points, the reader is transported to the upper-class neighbourhoods of Ohio, and then, to Ashe’s room down South, where Malcolm X and Nat Turner adorn the shelves. King’s assassination happened five months prior to the game, and the socio-political landscape comes through. Now, tennis barely resembles the time McPhee writes about, though some of the deeper chords continue to resonate.

Manufacturing Victory

An intrepid reporter’s account of how the NaMo effect mesmerised voters across the country

COOMI KAPOOR

IT WAS a David versus Goliath match, in which David could not wrest the miracle of a hung Parliament: Prime Minister Narendra Modi completely outmanoeuvred his rivals in the 2019 campaign. In fact, the victory far eclipsed his 2014 triumph. While in 2014, he had the advantage of being the outsider — offering the moon and taking on a discredited establishment, in 2019, Modi had to face the challenge of incumbency and unfulfilled promises. But the formidable Modi-Amit Shah duo pulled off an electoral victory which surpassed that of 2014. They raised the bar of the campaign to a totally different level of outreach. In the new electoral reality, there was no longer room for laid back part-time politicians. The BJP in election mode functions not as a political party but as a ruthless corporate machine. Politics is a do-or-die business in which the minutest detail is meticulously scrutinised by hard-nosed backroom boys.

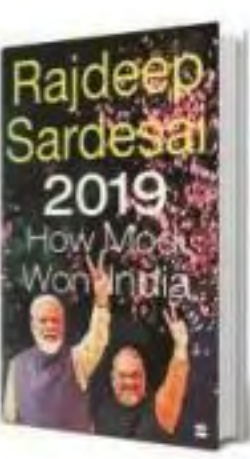
In the book, veteran journalist Rajdeep Sardesai analysing the carefully planned campaign for marketing Modi, conceived more than two years back with the help of highly skilled technocrats, brings out the extent of planning and build-up of a multi-pronged communication network. After Shah took over as party president, the BJP membership shot up dramatically. It was two crore when Shah became president and is now around 11 crore. Call centres kept tabs of the personal details of every member: from voter IDs to mobile numbers and addresses. The data was fed into computers accessible to the party leadership. Shah boasted that with one SMS he could connect instantaneously to one lakh workers. Poll booth committees of between 15 and 30 workers were formed for some 8.63 lakh election booths across the country.

Six months before the polls the BJP organised 161 round-the-clock call centres for tele-marketing. The centres were provided a detailed list of the 22 crore beneficiaries of various government schemes such as

Swachh Bharat, Ujjwala, the Jan Dhan Yojana, Awas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat. They were then asked to contact the beneficiaries through SMS, WhatsApp, e-mail or personal visits, to remind them of how they had benefited from the Prime Minister’s programmes. Many of the 15,000-strong call-centre staff were paid employees who, in turn, provided feedback from the ground to the BJP booth committees. The outreach was awe-inspiring, though the author questions whether it was above board. The lines between the government and the party were completely blurred: official agencies were passing on private information concerning beneficiaries.

Another advantage was that Rahul Gandhi ran a confused, diffused and disoriented campaign. He was convinced of the effectiveness of the “Chowkidar Chor Hai” slogan, even though party elders tried to tell him it held little appeal for voters. Rahul Gandhi resisted giving interviews even to sympathetic journalists and was sometimes disdainful of his own party leaders. Unlike his sister Priyanka, he still remains uncomfortable in the political space. His close advisers are from his social circle of left-leaning intellectuals, out of touch with Indian reality.

Still, Rahul Gandhi had a legitimate grievance that he was not fighting on a level playing field. The BJP stooped to every



2019: HOW MODI WON INDIA
RAJDEEP SARDESAI
Harper India
392 pages
₹ 699

trick in the trade. It whipped up Islamophobia and polarised the atmosphere. The BJP’s army of trolls filled the internet with toxic messages. A pliable media played along with the ruling party, conscious that the information ministry had a monitoring cell which kept tabs on who filed what. The Election Commission’s role was suspect. It raised no objection even to a NaMo TV channel opening up just two weeks before the election, without official permission. It meekly accepted the argu-

ment that it was a DTH advertising platform. India’s first multimedia campaign marketed the PM’s larger-than-life image everywhere: TV screens, mobiles, online, books, movies and billboards. Even before Pulwama and Balakot, Modi was in the driver’s seat, but after the Pakistan attack the narrative turned decisively in his favour. The ruling party did not shy away from taking the credit for the performance of our defence forces.

Sardesai, a popular TV personality and columnist, was on the election beat for months, travelling all over the country. With an alert and inquisitive reporter’s instinct and refreshing boldness, at a time when journalistic candour is fast diminishing, Sardesai provides fascinating insight into Shah’s systematic build-up of Modi over the last few years (among the interesting anecdotes, Sardesai quotes a Gujarat-based journalist recalling that Shah as home minister in Gandhinagar once organised a demonstration of an Israeli phone-tapping machine for police officers and home ministry officials). However, even the resourceful Sardesai has not quite succeeded in penetrating the inner circles of the regimented and secretive party. He is unable to give us an insider’s account of how decisions were arrived at and what happened behind closed doors during the campaign.



DAY AFTER US AIRSTRIKE KILLS SOLEIMANI, AL-MUHANDIS

‘Revenge is coming’:Thousands mourn Iran general

Washington asked for proportionate response to killing of Soleimani: Iran

THE NEW YORK TIMES
BAGHDAD, JANUARY 4

AS IRAQ held joint funeral services on Saturday for two revered military leaders killed in an American drone strike near the Baghdad airport this past week, tens of thousands of pro-Iranian fighters marched through Baghdad, waving flags and chanting that “revenge is coming” to the United States.

■ A Katyusha rocket fell near the United States embassy in Baghdad’s heavily fortified Green Zone which houses government buildings and foreign missions on Friday but caused no casualties, two police sources told Reuters. The rocket fell inside the Green Zone’s Celebrations Square, near the US embassy

not be spilled in vain. Revenge is coming.”

When President Hassan Rouhani of Iran paid his condolences on Saturday during a visit to General Soleimani’s home, he, too, spoke of revenge — but with an open-ended timeline. “The Americans did not realize what a great mistake they made,” Mr. Rouhani said. “They will see the effects of this criminal act, not only today, but for years to come.”

Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, vowed “forceful revenge” as the country mourned the death of General Soleimani and calls have accelerated to eject the United States from Iraq.

At the joint funerals, many of the mourners were members of Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Forces, militias that came together to fight the Islamic State and are now overseen by the Iraqi military. The most powerful of those militias are affiliated with Iran; their fighters wore somber faces and black clothes as they marched carrying the flags of their groups.

They chanted: “The blood of Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis will



Mourners during the funeral of Iranian Major General Qassem Soleimani and Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, in Baghdad. Reuters

RESPONSES FROM
CHINA, FRANCE

THE US should not “abuse force” and instead seek solutions through dialogue, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in a call with his Iranian counterpart Saturday. “The dangerous US military operation violates the basic norms of international relations and will aggravate regional tensions...” Wang told Javad Zarif.

FRANCE URGED Tehran to stick with a nuclear accord, “France fully shares with Germany the objective of de-escalation and preservation of the Vienna accord,” Le Drian said. With China, “we in particular noted our agreement... to urge Iran to avoid any new violation of the Vienna accord,” he added

Soleimani made death of innocent people his sick passion, says Trump

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 4

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has said Iranian General Qasem Soleimani had made the death of innocent people his “sick passion” and contributed to terrorist plots as far away as New Delhi and London, a day after ordering the drone attack that killed the powerful Revolutionary Guards commander in Iraq.

“The recent attacks on US targets in Iraq, including rocket strikes that killed an American and injured four American servicemen very badly, as well as a violent assault on our embassy in Baghdad, were carried out at the direction of Soleimani,” Trump told reporters at his personal Mar-a-Lago resort. “Soleimani made the death



Donald Trump. AP

of innocent people his sick passion, contributing to terrorist plots as far away as New Delhi and London. Today we remember and honour the victims of Soleimani’s many atrocities and we take comfort in knowing that his reign of terror is over,” he said.

Trump said what the US did yesterday should have been done a long ago. “A lot of lives

would have been saved. Just recently Soleimani led the brutal repression of protesters in Iran, where more than 1,000 innocent civilians were tortured and killed by their own government,” he said.

Trump claimed Soleimani’s killing will not lead to war. “We took action last night to stop a war. We did not take action to start a war. I have deep respect for the Iranian people... We do not seek regime change.

“...the Iranian regime’s aggression in the region, including the use of proxy fighters to destabilise its neighbours, must end now. The future belongs to people of Iran, those who seek peaceful co-existence and cooperation, not the terrorist warlords who plunder their nation to finance bloodshed abroad,” he said. PTI

EXPLAINED
Three major criticisms

POLITICAL LEADERS and experts have questioned the Trump administration’s claim of “self-defence” for the attack, and have questioned whether the action had legal basis.

A UN official has stated that the killing appeared to be more retaliatory than anticipatory, an analysis echoed by many experts. They also pointed out that the US, by operating without Iraq’s permission, had violated the UN Charter. A third argument rebuked Trump for acting without consulting the US Congress.

Another air strike hits pro-Iran convoy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BAGHDAD, JANUARY 4

A FRESH air strike hit pro-Iran fighters in Iraq early Saturday, as fears grew of a proxy war erupting between Washington and Tehran a day after an American drone strike killed a top Iranian general.

A new strike on Saturday targeted a convoy belonging to the Hashed al-Shaabi, an Iraqi paramilitary network dominated by Shiite factions with close ties to Iran. The Hashed did not say who it held responsible but Iraqi state television reported it was a US air strike.

But US-led coalition spokesman Myles Caggins denied involvement, telling AFP: “There was no American or coalition strike.”

A police source told AFP the strike left “dead and wounded,” without providing a specific toll.

It came hours ahead of a planned a mourning march for Soleimani, who was killed alongside Hashed number two Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in the precision drone strike.

A total of five Revolutionary Guards and five Hashed fighters were killed in Friday’s air strike near Baghdad international airport.

Their bodies will be laid to rest in an elaborate mourning procession on Saturday, beginning with a state funeral in the capital and ending in the Shiite holy city of Najaf to its south.

The bodies of the Guards will then be flown to Iran, which has declared three days of mourning for Soleimani.



In West Java on Saturday. AP

Indonesia flood death toll at 60

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAKARTA, JANUARY 4

INDONESIAN RESCUE teams flew helicopters stuffed with food to remote flood-hit communities on Saturday as the death toll from the disaster jumped to 60 and fears grew about the possibility of more torrential rain.

Tens of thousands in Jakarta were still unable to return to their waterlogged homes after some of the deadliest flooding in years hit the enormous capital region, home to about 30 million.

In neighbouring Lebak, where half a dozen people died, police and military personnel dropped boxes of instant noodles and other supplies into remote communities inaccessible by road after bridges were destroyed. “It’s tough to get supplies in there... and there are about a dozen places hit by landslides,” Banten police chief Tomsu Tohir told AFP. “That is why we’re using helicopters although there aren’t any landing spots.” Local health centre chief Surtpto, who goes by one name, said injured residents were flowing into his clinic. “Some of them were wounded after they were swept away by floods and hit with wood and rocks,” he said.

Australia bushfire crisis: PM calls up 3,000 reserve troops, toll reaches 23

AGENCIES
MELBOURNE, JANUARY 4

AUSTRALIAN PRIME Minister Scott Morrison on Saturday called up 3,000 military reserve troops to combat the raging bushfire crisis which has so far claimed the lives of 23 people with high temperatures and strong winds threatening to worsen the conditions across the country.

This is the first time that reservists have been called up in such a large number “in the living memory”, Defence Minister Linda Reynolds said.

Morrison said 23 deaths have been confirmed so far this summer, including the two in a blaze on a highway on Kangaroo Island in South Australia. The Prime Minister, after calling up 3,000 military reserve troops, said:



Bushfires at the coast of East Gippsland in Australia. Reuters

“Today’s decision puts more boots on the ground, puts more planes in the sky, puts more ships at sea”.

The ongoing bushfire crisis continues to worsen the deadly conditions in New South Wales,

Victoria and South Australia.

About 100,000 people were said to be in the fire zone of East Gippsland and according to police up to 70 per cent of people had now left the region.

‘WEATHER SYSTEMS’

■ The bushfires in Australia are generating so much heat they are creating their own weather systems such as dry lighting storms and fire tornadoes

■ The conditions are the results of the formation of pyrocumulonimbus clouds. They have been recorded across the world, as per a report

■ These clouds cause dangerous changes in fire behaviour, making them harder to fight, as well as causing lightning strikes

KEITH ZHAI
SINGAPORE, JANUARY 4

CHINA HAS replaced the head of its Hong Kong liaison office, the most senior mainland political official based in the Chinese-controlled territory, following more than six months of often-violent anti-government protests.

China’s Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security said on its website late on Saturday that Wang Zhimin, who had held the post since 2017, had been replaced by 65-year-old Luo Huining, who until November was the top official of China’s ruling Communist Party in the northern province of Shanxi.

Reuters reported exclusively in November that Beijing was considering potential replace-



Pro-democracy graffiti in Hong Kong on Saturday. AP

ments for Wang, in a sign of dissatisfaction with the Liaison Office’s handling of the crisis, the worst since the city reverted from British to Chinese rule in 1997.

Saturday’s statement gave no other details on the change.

The Liaison Office, which re-

ports to China’s State Council, serves as the platform for Beijing to project its influence in the city, and has come in for criticism in Hong Kong and mainland China for misjudging the situation in the city. Wang is the shortest serving Liaison office director since 1997. REUTERS

OTHER NOMINEES WERE ‘#BLACKLIVESMATTER’, ‘#METOO’ AND ‘CLIMATE’

Singular ‘they’ voted Word of the Decade by American linguists

BARBARA GOLDBERG
JANUARY 4

US LINGUISTS on Friday chose “they” as their Word of the Decade, recognizing the growing use of third-person plural pronouns as a singular form to refer to people who identify their gender as neither entirely male nor entirely female.

Separately, the American Dialect Society bestowed its Word of the Year honors on the increasingly common practice of introducing oneself in correspondence or socially by the set of pronouns one prefers to be called by

—declaring in an email, for example, “pronouns: she/her.”

The two awards were decided by some 350 member of the society at its annual meeting of academics, graduate students and word lovers who voted by a show of hands, said Ben Zimmer, a linguist and lexicographer who chairs the group’s New Words Committee.

The most popular pick for Word of the Year was “(my) pronouns,” a reflection of “how the personal expression of gender identity has become an increasing part of our shared discourse,” the society said in a statement announcing the outcome.



At a Gay Pride parade in San Jose, Costa Rica. Reuters/File

The same trend was behind the selection of “they” as the Word of the Decade, recognizing its growing use to refer to a person whose gender identity is non-binary. The singular use of “they” was previously designated as the 2015 Word of the Year.

“People want to choose something that stands the test of time and sums up the decade as a whole,” said Zimmer.

Social media has turbocharged the way words or phrases become popular, leading to some recent multi-word champions for Word of the Year, including “tender-age shelter” (a detention facility for young un-

documented migrant children separated from their parents) in 2018 and “fake news” in 2017.

Other decade nominees considered on Friday included:

■ “#BlackLivesMatter,” the hashtag used to protest alleged disparities in police use of force against African Americans.

■ “Climate,” reflecting increased interest in the impact of climate change.

■ “#MeToo,” the movement that has highlighted widespread patterns of sexual abuse and harassment that women have faced at the hands of men across many spheres of life, including business, politics and entertainment.

Other “Word of the Year” nominations for 2019 included:

■ “OK Boomer,” described as a retort to someone older, typically a member of the Baby Boom generation, who expresses views that are out-of-touch or condescending to young people and their concerns.

■ “Cancel,” meaning to withdraw support from someone or something that is considered problematic or unacceptable, used in the phrase “cancel culture.”

■ “Karen,” the stereotype of a complaining, self-important, demanding white woman, typically a member of Generation X or “Generation Karen.” REUTERS

18 ECONOMY

RISES \$2.56 BN FOR WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 27, 2019

Forex reserves surge \$64 bn in 2019 to \$457 bn; rising crude prices a concern

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

FUELLED BY strong foreign direct investment, foreign portfolio investment and relatively stable global crude oil prices in calendar year 2019, foreign exchange reserves in the country shot up by 16.3 per cent, or \$64 billion, to close the year at \$457.46 billion. However, a sudden spike in global crude oil prices on Friday, following the growing geopolitical tension between the US and Iran, poses a potential threat in the near term to Indian currency, inflow of funds to India and India's import bill.

According to the weekly data released by the Reserve Bank of India, the forex reserves rose by \$2.56 billion in the week ended December 27, 2019. The reserves have grown sharply over the last three months and it has grown week after week over the last 14 weeks, adding \$28.9 billion since September 20 when the foreign exchange reserves stood at \$428.57 billion.

On September 20, the

EXPLAINED Strong FPI, FDI inflows help reserves rise

WHILE STRONG FPI and FDI inflow of funds into the Indian markets and economy over the last year has led to a sharp rise in forex reserves, the geopolitical concern on account of growing tension between the US and Iran poses a threat to global crude oil prices, which may, in turn, hurt India's potential to attract foreign funds at the same pace.

Finance Minister announced a cut in the corporate tax rate, a move that was termed as one that would propel investments into the Indian economy.

While FPIs invested a net of \$19.4 billion into the Indian capital markets, the FDI equity inflows in the first nine months of calendar year 2019 amounted to \$36.97 billion.

This continued inflow of funds by foreign investors despite a slowdown in economic growth has fuelled the rise in forex reserves.

In the reporting week ended December 27, the rise in re-

serves was mainly on account of an increase in foreign currency assets, a major component of the overall reserves, which surged by \$2.2 billion to \$424.936 billion. During the week, gold reserves also increased by \$260 million to \$27.39 billion.

While investor sentiment turned weak after the Budget announcement in July to impose higher surcharge, market participants say the government's decision to reverse its Budget decision relating to higher surcharge impact on FPIs, along with a cut in the corporate tax

ISING FOREX RESERVES

WEEK ENDED	(\$ bn)
Forex	428.57
Sep 20	433.59
Sep 27	437.8
Oct 4	439.7
Oct 11	440.75
Oct 18	442.5
Oct 25	446.09
Nov 1	447.8
Nov 8	448.2
Nov 15	448.5
Nov 22	451.08
Nov 29	453.4
Dec 6	454.49
Dec 13	454.9
Dec 20	457.46
Dec 27	457.46

Source: RBI

rate in September, played a significant role in turning investors' mood and drawing them to invest in the Indian economy and markets.

Between September and December, FPIs invested a net of Rs 48,510 crore (over \$6.8 billion) into Indian equity and debt

market. By contrast, they pulled out a net of Rs 8,874 crore between July and August 2019 (aggregate of debt and equity markets).

While stability in global crude oil prices has played an important role in keeping India's import bill under check, an expected rise in global crude oil price on account of the US and Iran tension may just hamper the continuing inflow of foreign funds into Indian markets and may also increase India's import bill thereby hurting the continued rise in foreign exchange reserve.

However, the rise in foreign exchange reserves over the last three months has come as a breather for the country's rising external debt, which rose significantly over the last couple of years from \$485 billion in June 2017 to \$557 billion in June 2019. Experts say if external debts are higher than the forex reserves, it makes the economy vulnerable to any oil price shocks. So, the spike in crude oil price and an expected rise in price further may hurt the Indian economy and its potential to attract foreign investment.

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 4

THE GOVERNMENT in 2019 made progress in its goal towards a regime of self-regulation by the pharmaceutical industry, with decisions that signify a shift in how prices of medicines and medical devices in India may be regulated this year.

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), along with the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), has been finalising a proposal to limit the trade margins of non-scheduled medicines and medical devices, which are not under price control.

In the works and recommended for over a decade now, the move aims to bring down the prices of unreasonably marked up medicines and medical devices. However, different segments of the industry feel this will have a limited impact on improving affordability for various reasons.

So far, non-scheduled medicines have mostly been out of the ambit of price control, save for a limit on how much their prices can be increased every year — 10 per cent. In certain extraordinary cases, the NPPA had used special powers under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 to slash ceiling prices of some non-scheduled medicines, including cardiovascular and anti-diabetic drugs, in 'public interest'.

In 2016, a DoP expert panel proposed graded trade margins between 35 per cent and 50 per cent for medicines priced over Rs 2. This followed "various representations and complaints" of a "huge" difference in the price the distributor would pay for the product and its maximum retail price (MRP).

Three years later, in February 2019, the NPPA capped trade margins of 42 cancer medicines as a "proof-of-concept" for a system of trade margin rationalisation across medicine segments.

"The trade margin concept underscores self-regulation by the pharma industry, duly mentored by the government," NPPA Chairperson Shubhra Singh earlier told *The Indian Express*.

In November, the DoP and the NPPA held stakeholder discussions on expanding such a move to other non-scheduled medicines and medical devices.

CRUDE WATCH

OIL, SAFE HAVENS SURGE

New York/London: Oil prices surged as much as \$3 a barrel as gold, the yen and safe-haven bonds rallied on Friday after the US killing of Iran's top military commander in an air strike in Iraq ratcheted up tension between Washington and Tehran. **REUTERS**

AIM IS TO BRING DOWN PRICES OF MEDICINES

■ In the works and recommended for over a decade now, the move aims to bring down the prices of medicines that have been unreasonably marked up

■ So far, non-scheduled medicines have not been subjected to price control except for a limit on how much their prices can be increased every year

■ However, in certain extraordinary cases, NPPA had in the past used special powers under the Drugs

Prices Control Order, 2013 to slash the ceiling prices of some non-scheduled cardiovascular and diabetes medicines used in 'public interest'

■ In 2016, a DoP expert panel had proposed graded trade margins between 35-50 per cent for medicines priced over Rs 2. This followed "various representations and complaints" of a "huge" difference between the price at which the company would sell the product to the distributor and its MRP

Trade margin rationalisation of medical devices, especially, had been an important focus of the government in 2019 due to the rising trade tension between India and the US, partially fuelled by the NPPA's decision in 2017 to slash ceiling prices of stents and knee implants.

At the same time, it is unclear how many medicines and devices would see a price reduction and how much such a move would help in improving access to expensive medicines and medical devices in the country as a result.

There is little to no publicly available data on how much margins are enjoyed by manufacturers and importers, as well as other participants across the supply chain, according to various industry officials as well as health experts.

When the NPPA had implemented its trade margin cap on 42 cancer medicines, a senior government official involved in the process had estimated that the move would, "at best", hit 15-20 per cent of the drugs available.

The government's own analysis afterwards showed that prices of over 350 medicine brands would drop anywhere between 25 per cent and 75 per cent, but some industry executives feel such results cannot be expected in all therapeutic segments.

"Most cancer medicines are billed to patients at the hospital as part of in-house treatment. Other non-scheduled medicines that are sold at chemist shops would not be priced as high, to begin with," said an executive.

Most pharmaceutical industry bodies present during the stakeholder meeting, in November, agreed to a trade margin cap of 30 per cent, provided this was carried out in a phased manner across therapeutic segments.

A "majority" of medicines are already sold within the 30 per cent margin, claimed the executive, adding that only a "small" segment of medicines with higher margins, constituting 8-10 per cent of India's Rs 1.40 lakh crore pharma market, would see a price decrease.

"Trade margin caps can only have a limited impact because we are only looking at the margins taken at the level of the wholesalers, stockists and retailers. We're not even looking at the producer or importer's price, which is where a major chunk of profit lies," said Sakthivel Selvaraj, director, health economics, financing and policy at the Public Health Foundation of India.

"The entire price control mechanism has to change. A more serious issue is about the market-based pricing mechanism that is followed currently, which defeats the whole purpose of price control because the reduction in prices is moderate or nominal. The government is able to achieve a substantial reduction in prices in only a fourth of the market," he said.

"In the late 1970s, as much as 90 per cent of the market was under price control in a cost-plus based pricing regime. Despite this, a majority of the industry developed and had huge profits," he added.

BRIEFLY

IOB receives ₹4,360-crore capital infusion

New Delhi: Public sector Indian Overseas Bank has received capital infusion of Rs 4,360 crore from the government of India, the bank said on Saturday.

Future Retail board okays raising \$500 mn

New Delhi: Kishore Biyani-led Future Retail on Saturday said its board has approved raising long-term funds up to \$500 million (around Rs 3,588 crore) for the acquisition of certain in-store infrastructure retail assets.

Airtel gets nod to raise up to \$3 billion

New Delhi: Shareholders of Bharti Airtel have approved proposals to raise up to \$2 billion in equity and another \$1 billion in debt. The proposal for issuance of securities for amount up to \$2 billion received 99.99 per cent votes in favour of the special resolution at the company's EGM held on January 3, a regulatory filing showed.

SBI chief's views on \$5-tn economy target

Hyderabad: SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar Saturday said the country can become a \$5-trillion economy, but was skeptical whether it is achievable by 2024-25 as envisaged by the government. He was speaking at an interactive session organised by FICCI. **PTI**

'No. of co-working centres likely to double or treble in 2 yrs'

The number of centres of large co-working operators in the country is likely to double or treble in the next two years as the segment has gained momentum, real estate consultant Anarock said

TOP SEVEN OPERATORS

Coworks
WeWork India
Awfis
Regus
Smartworks
91springboard
OYO Workspaces



350 CENTRES

The top 7 operators own about 350 centres across cities in the country

OUTLOOK

This number is likely to double or even treble in the next two years, given the rate at which these leading players actively leased spaces across major cities in 2019

'Viable Asset Class'

Despite the WeWork debacle in the US raising questions about the future of the coworking business, the segment has emerged as a "viable asset class" for landlords and operators in India



■ Millennials are set to form 50 per cent of the global workforce by 2020. This influential segment has been at the core of the coworking story in India and will continue to drive demand for such spaces

■ Supply was about 7-7.5 million sq.ft. area by the end of 2018. By the end of 2019,

the coworking space crossed 12 million sq.ft. mark

■ The current lease-based structure does not offer much flexibility and cost efficiency. In 2020, it is likely to see the rise of ownership model, developed in partnership with landowners, or developers

Source: Anarock/PTI

India close to finalising a trade package with US, says Shringla

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 4

INDIA AND the US are close to concluding a trade package that would provide enhanced market access to both countries, India's outgoing Ambassador to the US Harsh Vardhan Shringla has said.

Shringla made the comments while addressing a group of Indian-American entrepreneurs during a farewell lunch on Friday organised for him by TIE DC, a regional chapter of the global non-profit membership and mentoring organisation for entrepreneurs.

"We are close to concluding a trade package that would provide enhanced market access to both countries," Shringla said during the event.

The outgoing Ambassador, who would take up his new as-

"We are close to concluding a trade package that would provide enhanced market access to both countries"

HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA
AMBASSADOR TO THE US

signment as India's next foreign secretary later this month, however, did not give an exact date for the inking of the much anticipated trade deal.

The trade deal was first announced by US President Donald Trump when he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New York in September on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

Trump said on September 24 his country will soon have a trade deal with India to boost economic ties between the two nations.

Shringla said the signing of the trade package would pave the way for a much bigger bilateral trade deal between the two largest democracies of the world, which will only benefit the companies of the two countries.

"We see a lot of openings," he said.

Shringla, who is scheduled to leave for India later this month, said that the India-US bilateral trade has increased significantly in the last one decade and it is expected to be over \$160 billion by 2019.

Noting that there are a lot of complementarities between the Indian and the US economy, the Ambassador said that Indian-American entrepreneurs, and in particular organizations like TIE DC, play an important part in strengthening these bilateral ties, not only people to people but also economic and strategic relationships. **PTI**

Maskin: Global cooperation needed to tackle financial crises

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, JANUARY 4

THE MAJOR global challenges of climate change and financial crises can be solved only if countries agree to cooperate with each other and resist isolationism, economist and Nobel laureate Eric Stark Maskin said on Saturday.

He added global collaboration will not be easy as more nations turn inward-looking.

"We can try to come together globally and devise an international treaty. Countries may be willing to sign an international treaty in which they promise to reduce their carbon emissions to a safe level," said Maskin, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics in 2007, at an event here while explaining the 'mechanism design' problems facing the world today.

US Fed policymakers broadly see eye to eye on 2020 outlook

REUTERS
SAN DIEGO/BALTIMORE, JAN 4

FEDERAL RESERVE policymakers who last year were frequently at odds over where to set US borrowing costs opened 2020 telegraphing confidence in the state of the economy and signalling broad agreement that monetary policy is right where it should be.

In their first remarks in the new year, heads of several regional Fed banks noted a strong job market, robust consumer spending and a rising optimism for a resolution to the trade tensions that had nicked growth in the second half of 2019.

And after cutting interest rates three times last year to bring the Fed's target to a range of 1.5 per

The Fed cut interest rates thrice last year to bring its target to a range of 1.5 per cent to 1.75 per cent

cent to 1.75 per cent and ensure global headwinds didn't short-circuit the longest US economic expansion in history, "I think most of us think that we are well-calibrated now," Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank President Loretta Mester said in an interview on the sidelines of an economics conference in San Diego. Based on forecasts of her fellow policymakers on the Fed's rate-setting committee, she said, "the committee thinks a flat path (for interest rates)... is appropriate."

'Ghosn fled after security firm hired by Nissan stopped surveillance'

REUTERS
TOKYO, JANUARY 4

OUSTED NISSAN boss Carlos Ghosn left his Tokyo residence after a private security firm hired by Nissan Motor Co stopped monitoring him, three sources familiar with the matter told *Reuters* on Saturday.

Ghosn has become an international fugitive after he revealed on Tuesday he had fled to Lebanon to escape what he called a "rigged" justice system in Japan, where he faces charges relating to alleged financial crimes.

Nissan had hired a private security company to watch Ghosn, who was on bail and awaiting trial, to check whether he met any people involved in the case, the three sources said.

But his lawyers warned the security company to stop watching him as it would be a violation of his human rights, and Ghosn was planning to file a complaint against the company, the sources said.

The security company stopped its surveillance by Dec. 29, the sources said.

One of his lawyers, Junichiro Hironaka, told reporters in November that they were considering steps to prevent people from stalking Ghosn.

A Nissan spokesperson declined to comment.

Japanese public broadcaster NHK, citing investigative sources, said a surveillance camera placed by the authorities in Ghosn's home showed him leaving alone around noon on Sunday, and did not show him returning.

Foreign banks can now set up wholly-owned branches in China

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING, JANUARY 4

CHINA HAS started lifting major restrictions on foreign investment in its financial sector, a move long demanded by the United States as the world's two biggest economies are locked in a fierce trade battle.

From the start of 2020, foreign banks can now set up wholly-owned branches in China without a local partner holding the majority stake, the banking regulatory authority, CBIRC, announced on Friday.

In the past, foreign banks were

required to have a local Chinese partner and not allowed to hold more than 49 per cent of their respective joint ventures.

The announcement could be seen as a gesture of goodwill by China towards the US as Washington says a preliminary trade agreement between the two sides looks set to be signed this month. The world's top two economies have been waging a merciless trade war since March 2018, resulting in mutual tariffs being slapped on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of annual trade.

Beijing has long promised to further open up its economy to

foreign investment, but it was slow to do so in the financial sector.

In October, China unveiled a timetable for lifting a number of the restrictions.

And in December, the Swiss bank UBS was authorised to take a majority stake in its activities in the country.

But starting from January 1, foreign companies specialising in futures contracts will now be able to invest in China with no limits on the amount of capital held.

Fund management companies will be able to do so from April 1 and brokers from December 1, 2020.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 4

APPLE CHIEF Tim Cook saw his annual pay slip to \$11.6 million in 2019 after the company registered a weaker financial performance compared with the previous year, according to documents filed Friday.

Cook, who took home \$15.7 million in 2018, is paid a base salary of \$3 million, in addition to a bonus and various compensations.

His 2019 incentive bonus, which is tied to Apple's performance, tallied about \$7.7 million, and was calculated based on the fact that Apple exceeded its sales target by only 28 per cent.

That compared with \$12 mil-



Apple CEO Tim Cook, who took home \$15.7 million in 2018, is paid a base salary of \$3 million, in addition to a bonus and various compensations. Reuters file photo

lion in 2018, based on the company exceeding its sales target by 100 per cent, the filing with the Securities and Exchange

Commission said.

Cook's 2019 pay was also reported to include another \$885,000 worth of benefits, most

19 CALENDAR



ARIES (Mar21 – Apr 20)

THE YEAR AHEAD

You should continue to broaden your horizons throughout the year. Do remember, though, that all the separate parts of your life are intertwined — personal relationships are extremely important in your career, and financial considerations are significant for your romantic hopes. You cannot afford to go around offending people and treading on their toes. It's better for you to avoid arguments and the subsequent necessity to apologise. You know you can always win out by charming other people, so take the path of compromise this year.

LOVE AND ROMANCE

One great astrologer said that the reason Ariens need to be surrounded by friends is because they lack self — confidence. With excitable Uranus and mystical Neptune still curiously aligned with your sign, you are still not quite sure where you should be heading. Why don't you just sit back and enjoy whatever life serves you? Ideally you should therefore be building up your capacity to act independently of your friends. If you know you can rely on yourself, you won't worry about what other people are up to. Your passions should rise when Venus passes your chart.

WORK AND MONEY

You're naturally ambitious and, right now, you're developing a much clearer idea of what these ambitions are and how they should reflect your own individual talents rather than the pressures of your background and conditioning. You'll be obliged to reorganise your professional affairs in June especially after the New Moon, perhaps because the people you work with will soon be changing out of all recognition. Money and romance seem to be intimately linked until August. A partner may come up with a profitable proposition.

TIP FOR THE YEAR

You will find that fluctuations in your energy may be more dramatic than usual.

TAURUS (Apr 21 — May 21)

THE YEAR AHEAD

It's time to get your act together. If all goes according to plan, you'll be making your ideas concrete, bringing them to fruition in a way that you've been struggling to do for so long. The early part of the year brings the distinct possibility of new activities in which you will blossom forth and show your talents to their fullest. It's a time of harmony and balance as well as hard work. Later in the year certain people may be doing things which you disapprove of on moral grounds, so be careful if you don't want to get involved in arguments over matters of principle. Enjoy yourself!

LOVE AND ROMANCE

As January opens, you find yourself entering a period of transition. A dilemma may arise in your social life, and you will have to go to great lengths to ensure that partners are content with your activities. Romantic concerns may well be taking precedence over work in the first part of the year, for the simple reason that professional matters may be so complicated that you do not know which way to turn — and it's easy to enjoy a spot of romantic escapism. However, there's also inspiration in the air, so don't be tempted to sit around waiting for people to come your way, take the initiative.

WORK AND MONEY

February is an important business month, during which you may experience a complete reversal in your fortunes, hopefully for the better. Look out for disagreements in March and confusion in April. July could also be an excellent month moneywise, and it looks as if you'll be making extravagant financial agreements. Perhaps you'll be asking for more money at work, or inviting friends to join you in a deal. You'll certainly be making plans for the future. October means a compromise at work, because if you wait for someone to back down you could be waiting for a long time.

TIP FOR THE YEAR

Don't believe promises of instant riches.

GEMINI (May 22 — Jun 21)

THE YEAR AHEAD

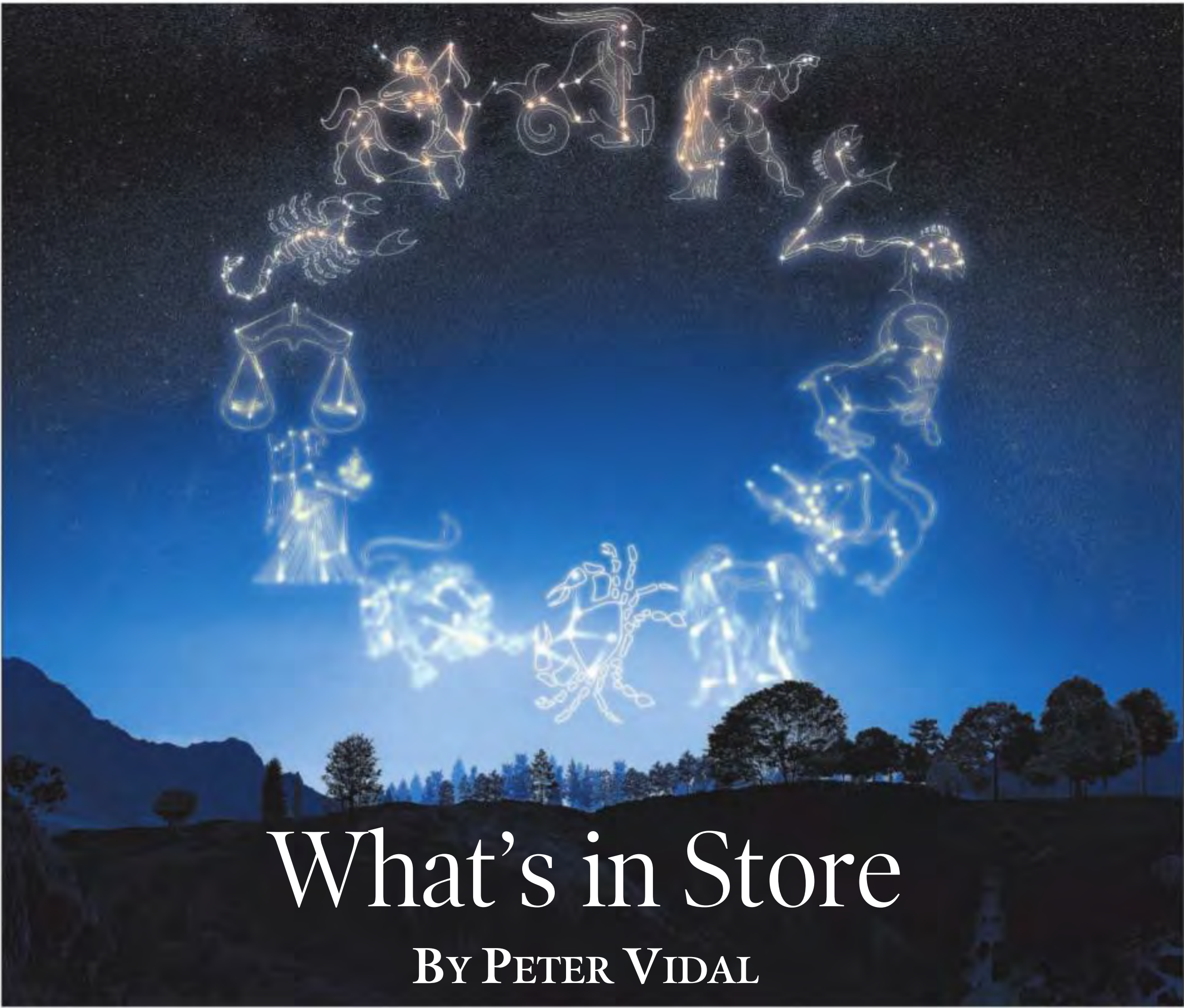
There are many welcome changes in store for you this year which will require an adjustment in your attitude and, on a number of occasions, you'll be both re — evaluating your progress and changing course. So that's exciting news. In fact, your morale cannot help but be high as you begin the year. Questions such as how far you should get involved with a new friend and what improvements need to be made in an existing relationship will be uppermost. August and September may be intense months so count your blessings. Keep your cool, enjoy whatever life throws at you, and make the most of your opportunities.

LOVE AND ROMANCE

The practical, easy going side of your nature benefits from cosmic conditions as the year begins. Your love of beauty and the good things of life will be combined with creative, artistic power, and you'll have the ability to relax and enjoy sensual pleasures to the full. However, this very ability of yours to amble through life can lead to laziness and mean that you fail to fulfil your full potential over the summer. You tend to assume other people will take charge of your affairs and, as a result, are often not quick enough to follow up romantic opportunities. Expect unusual and exciting encounters after October.

WORK AND MONEY

Professional prospects are extraordinarily bright early in the year, but all indications suggest that success is dependent on your ability to work out what other people really want —



gettyimages

What's in Store

By Peter Vidal

and this means talking to them as well as following their advice. Say the right words at the most appropriate time and in the best place, and this could be a year of acclaim and success. There's an absence of major planetary alignments in the financial sectors of your horoscope until June but, from then until October, anything could happen.

TIP FOR THE YEAR

Avoid arguments in December.

CANCER (Jun 22 – Jul 23)

THE YEAR AHEAD

There's so much potential in your life this year — creatively, financially and socially — that you will need to pace yourself if you don't want to wear yourself out. You may even be tempted to break with the past, split up with someone who's important to you, or undertake a complete change of direction. If you fancy a spot of drama then that's all fine, but, if you're keener on an easy life, you should be a bit more mellow and go for gentle transformation. When you do make substantial changes, hang on to the best of the past rather than making a complete break.

LOVE AND ROMANCE

You will be initiating activities in the field of pleasure and romance early in the year. Somehow the cosmic tone of the times just seems to suit your confident mood. If you meet with the odd rebuff, don't worry. If you don't try, you won't succeed. Put your feet up in July and August. The relaxed summer period is unlikely to extend into September, though. Having by now decided on your course of action, you will be eager to get on with it. You may be signing up for evening activities, embarking on all those self — improving tasks which will lead to new friendships.

WORK AND MONEY

April and May are adventurous months; of that there is little doubt. Financially you may be tempted to break with your normal caution and take a number of risks. The results of a gamble must always be uncertain, but even if you do not come out on top, there will be important lessons to be learnt. At work, you are interested in exploring new relationships and ways of completing vital tasks. You will not be happy to be stuck in a rut, although you may hold your fire for the time being. Make October your target for securing a more satisfying job, a prominent role.

TIP FOR THE YEAR

Let other people in on the secret but, perhaps, don't tell them everything.

LEO (Jul 24 – Aug 23)

THE YEAR AHEAD

What a year this is! Above all, you'll be supremely ambitious, eager to climb to the top in all activities and anxious to do the best you can. You may be taken aback both by the interest friends are expressing in your affairs, and by the central position which a partnership has now come to assume in your life. It's almost as if you're not yourself any more. Someone who is very close to you may be agitated by the direction you are taking early in the year, and you should look on this as a welcome expression of concern for your welfare.

LOVE AND ROMANCE

Shyness is your great hang — up. You probably don't need an astrologer to tell you that, but it may help to know that you can do something about it and overcome your self — consciousness. My advice to you this year

is to team up with groups of people who share your interests or who are involved in activities of which you would like to be a part. You will find it very easy to establish a role for yourself and will soon feel the pleasure that comes from experiencing the admiration of your new friends. May brings surprising encounters, June finds your heart fluttering and, by September, you may be very happy indeed with a new friendship.

WORK AND MONEY

This is an excellent time for work, not necessarily for great advances in your career but in terms of sorting out your responsibilities, acquiring respect and improving your professional relationships. There'll be every chance to take the lead in March and April. When, in July — August, Mars and Venus stir you up, you'll begin a phase when it will be essential for you to spend some time alone, being quiet and peaceful and listening to the inner voice that tells you what you should be doing. You'll be mulling over financial options in September, but by then it will be important to broaden your horizons and — make a profit.

TIP FOR THE YEAR

Tread carefully in July, and don't send out mixed messages.

VIRGO (Aug 24 — Sep 23)

THE YEAR AHEAD

You're in for a busy year. It's so easy to lose track of what to do, when to do it — and even why. The stars' top advice is to organise yourself; keep a pen and paper handy at all times, writing down your thoughts whenever you can, before they vanish like illusions in the night. It's likely that you'll be firmly set on a new course with fresh sources of income coming your way after July. You'll be tempted into a speculative enterprise, but take care and always check — and double — check — all those promises of huge profits. Eventually, the long — term pressure on your finances is building up to the point where you will have to take immediate action to assume control.

LOVE AND ROMANCE

A whole book of predictions would be insufficient to catalogue the complicated events which are liable to dominate in April. It is too difficult to pick out any particular dates. However, August is brilliant for all — round change, September for new friendships, October for lively relationships and November for practical commitments. Venus ends the year, boosting your confidence and upping your powers of attraction.

WORK AND MONEY

One thing is clear, and it's that you'll benefit from colleagues' initiatives and good fortune. Financial preoccupations will extend into May, although you may not find events are to your liking. Much depends on how you organise your business affairs later in the year. The June Full Moon will cause problems for some, but it continues to provide valuable help, especially if you should be involved in any legal complexities at this time. By September — October, you'll know the pressures for improvement in your professional affairs — and you'll be aiming for the top job.

TIP FOR THE YEAR

Take care with cash in January.

LIBRA (Sep 24 – Oct 23)

THE YEAR AHEAD

You're helped by the very unusual fact that your ruling planet, Mercury, spends so long

in sympathetic signs. So, the question comes to mind, why don't you take huge steps to fulfil personal ambitions which may have been pushed aside by pressing daily concerns. And don't play your usual game of waiting until someone comes along who is willing to serve up the goods. Remember that you have no excuse for failure. But don't be too hard on yourself. You will reap the rewards for all your efforts after September, so be patient!

LOVE AND ROMANCE

January brings your most powerful emotional trends, although you may have to watch while other people get steamed up. It may be June before you feel truly engaged in what's going on, and July before you are able to make your intentions plain. November brings your most intense romantic patterns, but rather than focus on short — term distractions, think about the longer term. By December, you'll be reviewing your long — range commitments.

WORK AND MONEY

May's stars are simultaneously profitable and extravagant, and much more money than usual will be flowing through your fingers. You'll switch into a fresh financial cycle in July when Jupiter alters its position. The Full Moon in July will raise sharp spending choices at home, and you may have to juggle your own desires with family members' demands. The question is: are you going to spend money on instant gains or are you willing to save for the future? At work you'll be putting in a great deal of extra effort and your reward could be increased responsibility and status. Don't expect gratitude from employers though.

TIP FOR THE YEAR

Keep a watchful eye out for banana skins when Mars meets Jupiter in November.

SCORPIO (Oct 24– Nov 22)

THE YEAR AHEAD

Mercury, will be your ally for much of the year, encouraging you to put yourself forward as the person with the brightest ideas and the smartest answers. Naturally, friends and colleagues will be impressed, and you may be on the receiving end of social favours or professional acclaim. Yet if you are genuinely intuitive you will sense the change of mood that occurs around April or May, when some of your previous promises and claims will return to haunt you! Agreements may come unstuck and partnerships broken but by September you'll be firmly back on track. This is why it is always so important to keep your feet firmly on the ground and avoid the rash commitments that may get you into deep water. Your independence will be reinforced after October, much to your satisfaction.

LOVE AND ROMANCE

There is nothing you love more than being in love. Your happiest times are therefore when the planets indicate simple straightforward romance. You could come closest to such feelings in June and July when Venus sails through your chart. You will undoubtedly have a sense of déjà vu — that you've been here before. You will be very much concerned with the serious side of relationships, and with working out any problems. You'll be attracted to older or more experienced people, seduced by their air of wisdom and intrigued by the thought that they can teach you valuable lessons. Make the right decisions though, and don't let anyone take you for a ride.

WORK AND MONEY

There are plenty of hints about money in this

year's chart, perhaps because Saturn's patterns remind you that you'll never put your dreams into effect unless you can pay for them. Some prospects opened by your planets are profitable in the extreme, others less so, some may even cause a cut in your income. Many fluctuations in your financial position are to be expected until August, which is precisely why it is time for you to turn your attention to such mundane matters as your daily cash flow. If you refuse to take this simple step, Fate will step in, you'll fail to maximise your advantages and will suffer a loss.

TIP FOR THE YEAR

Watch your tongue in May — or you'll say something you'll regret.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov 23–Dec 22)

THE YEAR AHEAD

This will be a year of serious thoughts and hard work, and you'll be tempted to make drastic changes in your home, relationships and career simultaneously. Pressures for personal transformation and professional success will pile up — but behind the scenes. You may have a foretaste of times to come by the middle of January but, until May, the emphasis is very much on thinking rather than doing. By July you need to bring other people up to date on your latest plans, and you may have the support you're looking for. In November, you may be able to spend your way out of a tight corner and buy happiness.

LOVE AND ROMANCE

You had the privilege of being born under the sign that is soon to be the centre of astonishing planetary alignments that there's little you can't achieve if you so wish. You're being blessed by Neptune, planet of dreams, illusion, intuition, imagination and mystery and Uranus, symbol of sudden change. Of course, not all of you will be feeling these planets' alignments for the whole of the year, or at the same time, or even in exactly the same way. January and March are months of romantic good fortune.

WORK AND MONEY

For the first part of the year you'll be looking to work with other people, not happy unless you feel that you're part of a team which is really going somewhere. From July to December, you'll be much happier to keep yourself to yourself, getting on with personal projects and pursuing private ambitions. You'll also be in an idealistic state of mind, keen to do your bit to make the world a better place. You might be happier working for no reward if you think you're doing some good. You need enough to live on. August and September favour money — making.

TIP FOR THE YEAR

There's a chance of a muddle in mid — summer; keep on top of things.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 – Jan 20)

THE YEAR AHEAD

You'll have every reason to sing and dance, what with the undoubtedly pleasurable patterns linked to magnetic Mars and affectionate Venus through the first part of the year, creating romantic and social opportunities as they move. In any case, you're now moving towards a phase of your life which will be much more serious than has often been the case. You may already be receiving indications that personal security is going to be much more important than in the past, and

this means money. At the heart of the matter, though, is the extent to which you value yourself and your true gifts and skills. Try to have as much confidence in your talents.

LOVE AND ROMANCE

Jupiter will be stirring up your feelings in January. February and the beginning of March. This is a prosperous position and one which is indicative of success in education and good fortune through travel, inaugurating a period of romantic change. June's stars are pleasantly sociable, but intense alignments in July and August bring new and favourable encounters. You are moving into a phase when you'll have a much greater than usual need for privacy and seclusion. You will be feeling less sociable and your true friends will understand your need to be alone. True romance will be important to you than to be surrounded by flatterers.

WORK AND MONEY

Focus on your career until April if you want to get the best long — term benefit out of powerful planetary aspects, including Venus' delicate and prosperous patterns. Make applications, go for interviews, seek promotion, and generally expand your ambitions. In July you'll come close to making your mark on the world and the last thing you want to do is waste any offers that come your way. Big choices will face you on several occasions during September, and all the signs are that you'll cope very well. You could face a minor change of direction, which could see you pursuing your long — term ideals.

TIP FOR THE YEAR

Take care with cash, in November.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 – Feb 20)

THE YEAR AHEAD

The stars are on your side this year, and bring you more blessings than difficulties. You can help your cause by keeping loved ones happy even when they don't share your ideas. Your big month could be May when the planets create exactly the right conditions for you to free yourself from all those situations which have made you feel as if you are losing control of your personal life. You'll stand up to people who have held you back but be fair to those who have given you a helping hand. September raises financial stakes, and you could turn a possible loss into a profit.

LOVE AND ROMANCE

You are a sensitive soul, but you must remember that other people's feelings also need to be respected. February, marks the best period for romance, and you may receive an intriguing offer when the Moon joins the picture. June and July could bring emotional expenses — in other words if you want to persuade a particular person that you're right for them, you may have to shell out, pick up the tab and settle the bill. An emotional outburst in August could catch you off guard, but sociable alignments in October remind you just how much you need someone else.

WORK AND MONEY

It is absolutely, totally essential that you continue to focus on your prosperity — and career — with one hundred per cent commitment during February: indeed, that you do so for the whole of this year. The reason is that you have come to a time in your life when your need to make your mark in the world is stronger than ever. October brings your plans to fruition, so there's not long to wait! And it looks, as if November reveals a financial bonus — if all goes according to plan.

TIP FOR THE YEAR

Avoid giving offence in September and October.

PISCES (Feb 21 – Mar 20)

THE YEAR AHEAD

Make a strong start, get into gear now and you'll be ready for success in the rest of the year. Start by focusing on creative activities and aspirations and concentrate on work once you've figured out exactly what you want to do. Conditions could be more complicated after April when that fiery planet Mars heads for intense and emotional regions of your chart. This should help you derive the most from all those wonderful, naive, spontaneous and colourful talents which make you such a charming and attractive person. Financial offers proliferate after August and by December you could turn a profit.

LOVE AND ROMANCE

There'll be moments when the stars are perfectly aligned for romance as well as for all sorts of serious partnerships. It's not easy to have fun without any responsibility, yet this is precisely what you should try. Yet you'll always come back to your belief that true love is for life! September and October exciting months though you could be walking a tight — rope, on the edge of offending someone even when you don't mean to. By the end you'll be doing whatever you can to restore the balance, see to it that a loved one believes in you.

WORK AND MONEY

The personal and the professional are beginning to merge, and everything depends on your relationships and how you behave in public. Given that other people hold the key to your success, April finds you in the best form to achieve professional advances. January and July advise caution in finances, promising profits if you are sufficiently careful. In July you may face a personal choice, perhaps because there's the chance of a business partnership with a friend or lover, although domestic pressures may intervene.

TIP FOR THE YEAR

Take care with essential details when financial risks come your way.





Pics: Amit Chakravarty

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT JEMI

Give her a hockey stick to dribble or a guitar to yodel, the free-spirited Jemimah Rodrigues can play both with aplomb. But it is with the cricket bat that the Bandra girl has come into her own, scoring truckloads of runs for India and on franchise fields afar. ANDREW AMSAN jams with Jemi as the teenager talks about her father, her faith and her fast runs

LIKE ANY other Bandra girl, Jemimah Rodrigues took a liking for hockey at a very young age.

Jemimah was just in the third standard when she hit the ground, sporting a short hairdo, with a hockey stick gifted by her church's pastor Emmanuel. And on the very first day of her training session, she caught the eye of former India coach Joachim Carvalho who has a knack for spotting young talent. Impressed with the way the wiry player held the stick and handled the ball without any prior training, Carvalho prophesied: "This boy will play for India!"

"Carvalho's words did come true but he got the sport wrong," father Ivan Rodrigues says.

The cricket maidans of Mumbai have always been a conveyor belt of talent for the Indian men's team. From Sunil Gavaskar to Prithvi Shaw, all have honed their skills in clubs from cricket's most prolific powerhouse. But now Jemimah has emerged from the quaint bylanes of the fancy suburb of Bandra known for its sizzling hockey dribbles, where cricketers usually head to buy homes after gaining considerable fame and money. Now an integral member of the India women's squad, she will be India's most exciting talent at the upcoming women's T20 World Cup February through March. Jemimah, who has also starred for English countryside Yorkshire Diamonds and also played for the IPL Supernovas in the 2019 T20 Challenge, is known for her bubbly, carefree attitude that helps her gel with new teammates instantly.

Just a little over five-feet tall and carrying a sinewy frame, the 19-year-old doesn't rely on muscles to bag her scores, it's her sound technique and cricketing acumen that has helped her shatter records and amass quick runs. Coached by her father Ivan, 'Jemi', came into the limelight after she slammed 202 off just 163 balls against Saurashtra in 2017 to become only the second woman to score a double century in 50-over cricket.

"That was the turning point. For me, it was just another match. I have seen my daughter score centuries after centuries but after her double ton, my phone did not stop buzzing. Till 11 at night I kept getting calls from journalists. Everyone wanted to know who this Jemimah was. That's when I realised people notice women's cricket too," says Ivan Rodrigues.

Jemimah was 16 then, but was at cross-roads just a year prior to that owing to her talent with both the stick and the bat. She had already been picked for the U-17 and U-19 Maharashtra hockey sides and now needed to choose between that and cricket.

"My parents left it to me and I chose cricket because I had reached a higher level in it. It was a tough decision and I did cry when I realised I had to give up hockey because it is a sport I really loved," Jemimah tells *The Sunday Express*.

Jemimah and her brothers Enoch and Eli were born in the suburbs of Bhandup and their initiation to cricket happened at a very young age. Jemimah was three when she was gifted her first bat and she soon started accompanying her brothers to an all-boys academy. The family moved to the western suburb of Bandra about 25km from Bhandup and rented a house that they own now, to avail better facilities for their daughter.

Jemimah and her father knew moving to Bandra was just the first step towards becoming a professional athlete. Jemimah had to slog it out, and she did. The youngster made sure she was faithful to her strict training regimen that meant hitting the gym even during off-seasons at 8 am every day, followed by

REMEMBER THE NAME... JEMIMAH



Remember the name... Jemimah Rodrigues.. did some throw downs with her today .. she's going to be a star for India

NASSER HUSSAIN (APRIL, 2018)

RHODES CONNECTION

Who cares about the lyrics @JemiRodrigues that strumming looks like your cover drive - flawless!!!!

JONTY RHODES, ON A VIDEO OF JEMIMAH PLAYING THE GUITAR

Have heard so much about @JemiRodrigues and awesome to watch her play those drives #class #multisport and no surprise when internet search reveals she is also a top hockey player #hockeytoo #T20challenge

REPLYING TO A TWEET BY JEMIMAH'S MOTHER LAVITA

CLIPS AND QUIPS



Fan: I like jemimah . Very cute. Are you seeing anyone ??

Jemimah: After this match? I'm definitely seeing a bright future for Women's Cricket!

A TWITTER EXCHANGE

■ Jemimah Rodrigues is a key member of the Indian ODI and T20 teams. The batting all-rounder is a favourite to make the cut for the team that will fly to New Zealand next month for the T20 World Cup.

■ Only the second woman to hit a double ton in 50-overs cricket after Smriti Mandhana. She scored 202 from 163 balls for Mumbai against Saurashtra in a BCCI U-19 tournament in 2017.

■ The first Indian woman to hit a fifty on T20 debut (A 45-ball 59 against New Zealand in the 2018 ICC Women's World T20). With that innings, she also became the youngest Indian woman to score a half-century in T20 internationals. She was just 17 years and 202 days old when she achieved the mark.

■ Scored the fastest century in England's T20 Kia Super League on her debut season in 2019. She brought up her ton in 51 balls. The record was previously held by Lizelle Lee (55 balls).



Father and coach Ivan Rodrigues has been instrumental in Jemimah's rise.

Her memes and witty replies on Twitter are worth mentioning. After a Women's T20 Challenge game a fan tweeted to her: "I like Jemimah. Very cute. Are you seeing anyone?" Jemimah's short and snappy reply was: "After this match? I'm definitely seeing a bright future for Women's Cricket!"

More recently, a four-minute clip on Instagram, starring Shikhar Dhawan and Mandhana, has garnered more than a lakh views. Despite the Rodrigues family being actively involved in enhancing Jemimah's social media status, father Ivan is almost oblivious. "I'm not on social media. My job is to take care of her spirituality and sports. I don't even read all the stories written on Jemimah. If there is a good article on her, my wife forwards it or reads it out to me," says Ivan.

'Pray and play'

At the Rodrigues household, there is a strict "pray and play" policy. Jemimah and her brothers would be allowed to go out only after completing their daily prayers and Bible reading. It's a routine Jemimah still follows. Each night before going to bed, she calls her parents to pray and share any spiritual revelations.

"For us, it's Jesus first and then comes studies and sports," explains Ivan, whose father was an obsessive cricket follower. Jemimah believes it's her faith that has been the foundation of her success and pillar of strength in dark times. The teenager's confidence hit rock-bottom when she was overlooked for a spot in the playing XI for the Asia Cup (June 2018). Crippling self-doubt clouded Jemimah's mind and the generally cheerful youngster's shoulders drooped. During a practice session, Ivan walked up to ask what was bothering his daughter.

"I generally try to hide my emotions but my mother can read my face easily and I broke down while telling her. The next day at training, Dad could see I was not feeling good. I broke down while telling him how I was feeling. My father told me something that has changed my outlook completely. He said: 'Jesus has brought you this far and he will not give up on you,'" she says. "I'm happy that I got to taste this side of life at a very young age. It helps me keep motivated and stay focused. I know if something goes wrong, I have God to fall back on."

Whenever Jemimah faces a hurdle on the field, answers are sought through prayers, says Ivan. During England's visit to India Jemimah was facing a little difficulty in playing her shots. When she came back home, Ivan used the bowling machine to create a similar scenario but couldn't find the root cause.

"Jemimah did not use her first-choice bat

for the tournament as it went for repair. At the training I prayed and got a revelation. Jesus asked me to weigh the bats and then we found out that the bat she was using was 20 grams heavier. We realised because of the weight she was pulling her bat with the bottom hand, affecting her stance and making her prone to edge the balls. Once it was sorted, everything fell back into place," explains Ivan.

Though second on the list, academics remained a high priority and Jemimah was given no leeway despite her sporting achievements. Ivan used to take special permission from the Mumbai Cricket Association to help her with her studies for two hours whenever she was part of a camp. And she's proved to be an all-rounder off the field too.

"In her 10th she got 80%. Whenever the camp used to happen in Mumbai or nearby, we used to teach her in the evenings. Luckily, I saw her innings today and I just thanked God," Ivan had told the paper in 2017 just after his daughter hit that record double-ton.

Playing to her strengths

Jemimah has a mature head and no qualms in admitting mistakes or improvements needed. She has changed her approach towards the shortest format drastically. During the Women's T20 Challenge, she tried to emulate her India teammates Mandhana and Harmanpreet and go after the bowlers, which wasn't her natural game. India head coach WV Raman noticed it and asked Jemimah to focus on timing the ball.

"I think I have made peace with the fact that I don't have the power or muscles to hit those big shots. I am a very good timer of the ball and that's what Raman sir told me. He asked me to just focus on timing the ball and it worked for me. My game plan is simple: rotate the strike, target areas where the fielders are up and consider any loose deliveries as a bonus. That's the role assigned to me even in the national team where there are plenty of big hitters," she explains.

Coming from Mumbai, where the wickets aren't as pacy, she naturally developed a strong front foot game but she knew she had to work on her backfoot as well to survive in international cricket. But ahead of the tour of South Africa, she spent countless hours in front of the bowling machine, working on playing the short deliveries, her pull and hook shots which helped her deal with conditions more comfortably. Not to forget she had an audience with Sachin Tendulkar who helped her calm her nerves ahead of the series.

Jemimah knows it's still early days for her. Her Hebrew name translates to 'little dove'. The young lady, with her chirpy run-amassing though is Indian cricket's not-so-little hope as it guns for its first global title.

two practice sessions. Jemimah was home this New Year for a short break but she still hit the nets with her mentor and dad to tweak certain areas.

For Jemimah, in her own words, the hard work has paid off. The second-year B. Com student has become one of the mainstays in the national side playing the anchor role. Her exploits earned her a stint with Yorkshire Diamonds in the Kia Super League where she hit 401 runs and ended up as the second-highest run-getter after Danielle Wyatt. Her 51-ball century in a game against Southern Vipers is also the fastest in the league.

Social media star

Jemimah is every advertising professional's dream. She performs consistently on the field, can strum the guitar and sing, and is extremely camera-friendly. Her modest 24 thousand plus followers on Twitter and nearly 95k on Instagram get their timely dose of fresh entertainment, and the best part is it all comes naturally to the teenager.

"My brother Eli edits my videos on social media to make me appear cooler. For me, taking a break on social media is really impor-

tant. After playing a match I cannot go home and watch more cricket on the tele. I need a break or else it will get really boring," says the Coldplay fan.

Her bubbly nature has made her the darling of the dressing rooms all over. From shaking a leg with her 'partner-in-crime' and India teammate Smriti Mandhana to serenading her Yorkshire mates in the team bus with her guitar, she truly becomes the life of the party, or in her case, team.

"That's how I am. I am talkative, bubbly and always up to some mischief. I'll be very honest, the Indian team members have been really kind to me. I am not saying this just because it will appear in the paper. They are professional enough to keep any jealousy at bay," she says.

Jemimah's social media posts are so popular that she has become the unofficial media manager of the team. "A lot of people come to me and ask me to fix their captions or write something witty. I am not going to name them but I think we should start charging them from here on (laughs)," says the youngster. Jemimah certainly has the numbers to demand a good fee from her mates.

Time to start the next journey: Irfan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, JANUARY 4

ALL-ROUNDER Irfan Pathan on Saturday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, ending an injury-ridden career that prevented him from realising his true potential. The 35-year-old's retirement was on expected lines, considering he last played a competitive game in February 2019 during the Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy for Jammu and Kashmir. Before turning up for Jammu and Kashmir as a player cum mentor in 2018, Pathan played all his domestic cricket for Baroda.

Though he remains a non-playing mentor to the Jammu and Kashmir outfit, Irfan had not been playing over the past 12 months and did not even put himself in the IPL auction pool last month.

"Today, I am saying goodbye to cricket, about which I thought for day and night. I last represented India in 2012 and after that I tried hard. Today in 2020, a thing comes up on social media 'make a comeback', so I want to thank the fans, who never left me alone. It's a time to start the next journey," Irfan said at a *Star Sports* show.

Break was an opportunity to build strength: Bumrah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 4

THE FORCED four-month break due to a stress fracture "wasn't a difficult" period for India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah as there was "no pain" and he utilised the time away from the game to work on his strength and conditioning. Bumrah is making a comeback to competitive cricket against Sri Lanka in the opening T20 international here on Sunday. "It was not difficult for me as I was never in pain. Not even for a single day. I took it as an opportunity to build my strength," Bumrah told bcci.tv after his first training session with the team.

He was always updated about how the team was progressing and did his homework so that he is not found wanting once he is back in action. "I was always keeping a track on what is happening so when you are back in the team, you shouldn't be too far away."

The 26-year-old slinger felt that playing all three formats continuously did affect his fitness, for which the break was necessary.

"When you play continuously, your strength level goes down. Your fitness level can also go down a little bit. So I was looking at how to bring the strength back, how to improve upon the things I wanted to improve. So take some time off and return fresh. Be hungry again. So all these things were on top of my mind. I am not looking too far ahead. I wanted to take one match at a time," said Bumrah.

Bumrah feels that if one plays regularly, it becomes difficult to remain "hungry". "Initially what happened, I was playing a lot of cricket and it was very difficult to manage the hunger. I was playing regularly. Then I got a break and after that I felt like 'now you want to play as soon as possible'. You are always eager but you don't want to rush into things."

Bumrah thanked the Indian support staff for consistently keeping a tab on his rehabilitation work and giving their valuable inputs.

"Very good inputs (from bowling coach Bharat Arun). I was always in touch with the support staff. The team management also kept on asking me what was going on and how was I progressing. Constant monitoring was going on. They asked questions like what do you want to do now that you are back from break."

Bumrah was satisfied with his first complete training session under lights on Friday evening. "The intensity was very good, very high intensity, to the point where you do exactly what you wanted to do. At the fielding session, we covered all bases, we did the high catches, we did the run-out practice. And in the nets, we did spot bowling, practised bowling yorkers. We ticked all the boxes."

The left-arm seamer's bowling was like a breath of fresh air when he made his India debut against Australia at the Adelaide Oval in 2003. He was all of 19 back then.

He never had express pace but his natural ability to swing the ball into the right-handers got him instant success, also drawing comparisons with the great Kapil Dev.

It seemed India had found the all-rounder they were looking for since Kapil left the scene. Talking about his favourite moments, Irfan said getting the blue India cap easily sits on the top. "There were many moments when I look back. Definitely getting (Mathew) Hayden as my first wicket is there. But when I got the cap, that was a special moment. It is close to my heart because you do everything for the cap. No one knows how your career will shape up, but going to play for the country first time, getting the cap from a senior player or the captain, that was special moment for me," he said.

With his elder brother Yusuf, he made a rare sibling pair to represent India. Irfan, who last played for India in October 2012, featured in 29 Tests (1105 runs and 100 wickets), 120 ODIs (1544 runs and 173 wickets) and 247 T20 Internationals (172 runs and 28 wickets).

IRFAN PATHAN RETIRES

He gave his best when it counted... proud of him



YUSUF PATHAN

OF LATE I somehow knew the day was near when Irfan would say goodbye to cricket. He spoke about it frequently over the past year. Retiring from the game is inevitable. However, today, I felt a little sad.

Irfan has achieved so many things in life. We now stay in such big house, but we still go to our old house to relive the memories. Just a few days ago, we went there once again. Hardship *bhi dekha, fame bhi dekha* (we experienced hardship as well as fame).

Irfan always wanted to be a fast bowler. He was a big Wasim Akram fan and wanted to have an action similar to his. There used to be a poster of Akram in our house. I must say swing came naturally to Irfan.

I feel that he could have done better but there were times when his body was not responding the way he hoped it would. That said his feats on the cricket field have been impressive, be it the hat-trick (versus

What is amazing to see is the way people still love him though he last played for India some seven to eight years ago. People still tell me. *Irfan bhai ko bolo aur cricket khele* (Ask Irfan to continue playing cricket).

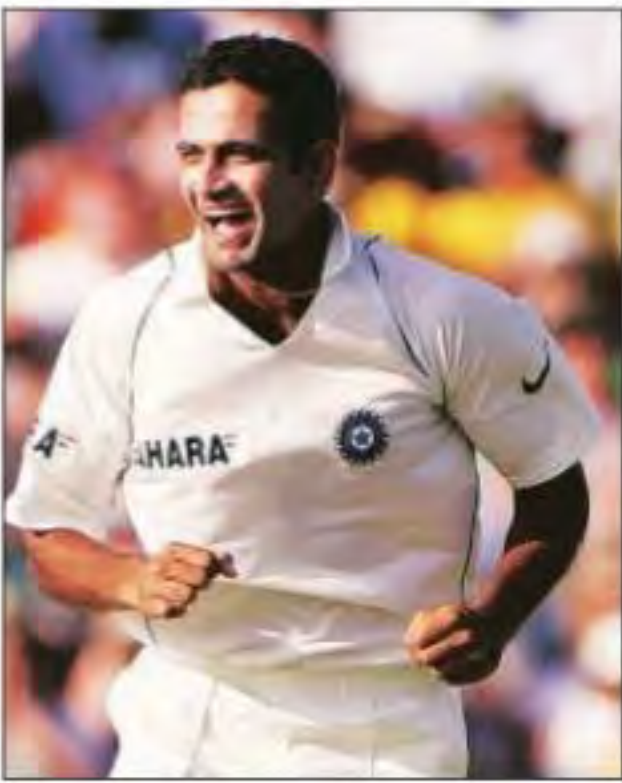
Pakistan, Karachi 2006) or any of his other milestones.

People say that he should have played more for India. I feel whatever we have got, we are happy with it. We all are proud.

That said I don't think Irfan regrets about what he could not achieve.

What is amazing to see is the way people still love him though he last played for India some seven to eight years ago. People still tell me. *Irfan bhai ko bolo aur cricket khele* (Ask Irfan to continue playing cricket). The other day I met a fan who came and said I copied Irfan's action and want to be able to swing the ball like him.

One thing we both remember is that there were many talented players who used to play with us when we were budding cricketers. They used to work as hard as us and some of them were more talented than us.



Irfan Pathan's hat-trick against Pakistan at Karachi in 2006 was one of the highlights of his career. *File*

But we were able to play for India because we peaked at the right time. He gave his best when it counted the most.

Irfan suffered many injury setbacks but he handled those difficult phases in his career well. More often than not he made a successful return from an injury lay-off.

Kohli voices his dissent

Indian captain not in favour of ICC's plan to have four-day Test matches from 2023

EXPRESS NEW SERVICE
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 4

INDIA CAPTAIN Virat Kohli — arguably the most influential voice in contemporary cricket — has given a thumbs-down to the ICC's reported plan to make four-day Tests mandatory as part of the World Test Championship from 2023. "Look, I am not a fan," the India captain told reporters in Guwahati on the eve of the first T20 international against Sri Lanka.

"I think the intent will not be right then because then you will speak of three-day Tests, I mean where do you end? Then you will speak of Test cricket disappearing. I don't endorse that at all," he added. Kohli has been a strong backer of the purest format of the game and he is not receptive to such a major tweak.

"I don't think that's fair to the purest format of the game. How cricket started initially, and five-day Test matches was the highest of Tests you can have at the international level. According to me, it shouldn't be altered." Earlier, Australia Test captain Tim Paine, too, had rubbished the idea, while his teammates, Travis Head and Nathan Lyon, supported him.

But Kohli's disapproval assumes a greater significance given his popularity and clout. On the face of it, the ICC wants to make four-day Tests mandatory from 2023 as a measure to create windows for its own events. The game's global body has planned eight flagship events during the next eight-year rights cycle, starting 2023.

Plans are afoot to have formal discussion on four-day Tests during the ICC cricket committee meeting in May. And although the BCCI is yet to take a stand on this, it is very likely that the Sourav Ganguly-helmed Indian board will have a word with Kohli and the Indian team once it receives a formal proposal from the ICC. The skipper, however, has already rejected it. In fact, Kohli feels innovations in the long-form should end at pink-ball Tests.

"Day-night cricket is the most that needs to be changed about Test cricket, according to me. I mean then you are purely going to be talking about getting the numbers in and entertainment. Day-night is another step towards commercialising Test cricket and creating excitement around it, but it can't be tinkered with too much."

India played their first-ever day-night Test, against Bangladesh, at Eden Gardens in November last year. And they might play a day-night Test in Australia during their tour Down Under later this year.

As for four-day Tests, back in 2015, when the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chairman Colin Graves had pushed for the



Jasprit Bumrah's return, after a four-month injury lay-off, will boost India's attack in the first T20I against Sri Lanka. *PTI*

"I think the intent will not be right then because then you will speak of three-day Tests, I mean where do you end? Then you will speak of Test cricket disappearing. I don't endorse that at all."

VIRAT KOHLI

truncated version as a countermeasure to dwindling global interest in the format, the BCCI wasn't warm to the idea, as it felt it could work to the disadvantage of the spinners.

In Indian conditions, spinners get the biggest purchase from the pitch on the fourth and fifth day. In 2017, the ICC approved four-day Tests and subsequently South Africa hosted one against Zimbabwe, while England played a four-day Test against Ireland last July. In fact, over the past couple of years, over 60 per cent of Test matches have finished in inside four days.

At the same time, three out of five Tests

during the last Ashes series in England went to the fifth day. The most memorable Test that India had played in the last two decades produced a result deep into the final session on Day Five — against Australia at Eden Gardens in 2001. Cricket Australia (CA) has spoken about giving the idea of four-day Tests a serious consideration. "It is something that we have got to seriously consider. It is something that can't be driven by emotion, but it needs to be driven by fact. We need to look at what's the average length of Test matches over the past five-ten years in terms of time and overs," CA chief executive Kevin Roberts told SEN Radio last week.

The ECB has given the idea a "cautious" backing, with an eye to "complex scheduling" and "player workloads". Then again, the ECB would also consider the "emotive" aspect of it. "We understand it's an emotive topic for players, fans and others who have concerns about challenging the heritage of Test cricket," an ECB spokesperson was quoted as saying.

BCCI to meet CA, CSA

It is learnt that the issue might come up for discussion, when the BCCI top-brass meets CA chairman Earl Eddings and his delegation on the sidelines of Australia's three-match ODI series in India commencing January 14. A Cricket South Africa (CSA) delegation headed by its president Chris Nenzani, too, is scheduled to arrive and while the proposed four-nation Super Series is expected to be the top item on the agenda, in the wake of the recent developments, four-day Tests could be part of the discussion as well. Without the BCCI's approval, the plan runs the risk of falling flat. Meanwhile, Kohli also spoke about the ECB's 'The Hundred', saying he wouldn't be interested. "I was asked about the 100-ball (in England), I said I am not going to try myself in another format because there's already so much going on." The franchise-based 100-ball tournament is set to commence in July.

Live on Star Sports network: 1st T20I: Ind vs SL; 7 pm

RANJI WRAP

GROUP A

Shorey, Rana bolster Delhi's response

After Akul Pandove's late-order heroics pushed hosts Punjab to 313, Dhruv Shorey and Nitish Rana dug in as Delhi ended Day 2 on 195/4.

AT MOHALI

Punjab 313 all out in 99.3 overs (Mandeep Singh 81, Gurkeerat Singh 65; Tejas Broka 3/45, Kunwar Bidhuri 3/62) vs Delhi 195/4 (Dhruv Shorey 96, Nitish Rana 64 batting)

AT HYDERABAD

Hyderabad 193/8 in in 68 overs (K Sumanth 91 batting, Ravi Teja 32; Sandeep Warrier 4/54, Basil Thampi 2/33) vs Kerala 164 all out in 51.1 overs (Salman Nizar 37, A Chandran 31 not out; Ravi Kiran 4/39, Mohammad Siraj 4/59)

AT JAIPUR

Rajasthan 151 and 23/2 in 14 overs vs Andhra 257 all out in 91.5 overs (C Gnaneshwar 73, KV Sasikanth 54, Srikr Bharat 52; Rituraj Singh 4/36).

GROUP B

Khan goes big

Rameez Khan hit an unbeaten 151 as Madhya Pradesh took the first innings lead against Himachal.

AT DHARAMSHALA

Himachal Pradesh 175 vs Madhya Pradesh 364/7 (Rameez Khan 151 not out; Gautam Raghuvanshi 64; PP Jaswal 4-82). MP lead by 189 runs.

AT KANPUR

Tamil Nadu 165/6 (L Suryaprakash 51, V Ganga Sridhar 45; Saurabh Kumar 3-39) vs Uttar Pradesh

AT VADODARA

Baroda 201 and 98 (Vishnu Solanki 44; Himanshu Sangwan 4-44) vs Railways 99 (Dinesh Mor 26; Anupreet Singh 5-39, L Meriwala 4-36) and 0/1. Railways need 201 runs to win

GROUP C

Maharashtra in trouble

Services were well-served by Ravi Chauhan's half-century (65, 180 balls, 6 fours) and knocks of 47 each by Vikas

Hathwala and AP Sharma. Services then left Maharashtra tottering at 93 for 5.

AT NEW DELHI

Maharashtra 44 all out in 30.2 overs (PS Poonia 5/11, Sachidanand Pandey 3/18) and 93 for 5 in 34 overs (NS Shaikh 40; Sachidanand Pandey 3/20) vs Services 285 all out in 95.2 overs (Ravi Chauhan 65, AP Sharma 47, Vikas Hathwala 47, Rajat Paliwal 42; MD Ingale 5/73, AA Sanklecha 2/78).

AT RANCHI

Jharkhand 259 all out in 84 overs (Saurabh Tiwary 81, Kumar Deobrat 35, Abid Mushtaq 5/56) vs J&K 135 for 3 in 36 overs (Suryansh Raina 76; Ashish Kumar 3/46).

AT DEHRADUN

Assam 294 all out in 92 overs (Riyan Parag 123, Gokul Sharma 47, Kunal Saikia 36; Sunny 3/34, Mayank Mishra 3/55, Rahil Shah 3/71) vs Uttarakhand 32 for 4 in 19 overs (Ranjeet Mali 3/11).

AT RAIPUR

Haryana 123 all out in 28.4 overs (AK Chahal 34 not out, Ankit Kumar 26; Pankaj Rao 3/26) vs Chhattisgarh 119 all out in 35.1 overs (Vishal Singh 45 not out, Jiwajot Singh 24; AK Chahal 5/25, Harshal V Patel 4/40).



BRIEFLY

Sonom stuns Sakshi, Anshu beats Pooja

New Delhi: Two-time World Cadet champion Sonam Malik stunned Rio Olympic bronze medallist Sakshi Malik while another promising junior Anshu Malik knocked out World Championship medallist Pooja Dhanda to seal their places in the Indian team for the Asian Championship, here on Saturday. Pitted against heavyweights in their respective first round, both Sonam and Anshu cared little for reputations, fighting fearlessly. Sonam was trailing 4-6 in the second period but produced a sensational four-point throw with just three seconds left in the bout to make it 10-10 and win on criteria of scoring the last point. She then defeated Radhika 4-1 in the final to seal her spot in the Indian team in the 62kg category. Hailing from a small village Madina in Haryana's Sonapat, Sonam is coached by Ajmer Malik in Gohana. Anshu, who trains with Jagdeesh, downed Pooja and then Mansi in the final of the 57kg. There were no surprises in other categories with Vinesh Phogat (53kg) and Divya Kakran (68kg) easily winning in their respective bouts. Nirmala Devi (50kg) and Kiran Godara (76kg) were other wrestlers to win the trials. **PTI**

Chaudhary wins gold in shooting Nationals

Bhopal: Ace shooter Saurabh Chaudhary stamped his class to win the men's 10m air pistol gold at the 63rd National Shooting Championship competitions here on Saturday. The 17-year-old from Uttar Pradesh, who is touted as India's biggest hope for a medal in shooting in Tokyo Games, went below his recently lost world record score by just 0.1, shooting a classy 246.4 to finish on top. Second-placed Sarabjot Singh of Haryana was well behind with a score of 243.9, while world number two Abhishek Verma settled for bronze in a high-quality final. Abhishek and Sarabjot did combine to win the team gold in the event for Haryana. Sarabjot also won the junior men's gold for a profitable day. **PTI**

IOA gets approval to host CWG shooting

New Delhi: The government on Saturday approved "in principle" the Indian Olympic Association's proposal to host the Commonwealth shooting championships and archery events — which are not part of the 2022 Commonwealth Games roster — in March 2022. Earlier this week, the IOA had withdrawn its threat to boycott the Birmingham Commonwealth Games over shooting's omission and decided to submit a formal proposal to host a shooting championships, where the medals won will be counted in the tally of the 2022 edition. "I am directed to refer to Indian Olympic Association's letter dated 1st January, 2020, regarding holding of Commonwealth shooting and archery events in India in March 2022 and to convey the 'in-principle approval' of the government," the ministry said in a letter. The IOA president Narinder Batra categorically told the CGF that they have conveyed to the government "that medals awarded in these events should be legitimately recognised in the final total medal tally for the XXII Commonwealth Games in addition to those won by the competing nations at the Birmingham 2022." **PTI**

The biggest hit of this summer

Labuschagne continues rich form, scoring a double ton and shattering records as NZ battle their way to 63 on Day 2

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SYDNEY, JANUARY 4

AUSTRALIA'S MARNUS Labuschagne's stellar summer reached a new peak with his first double century before New Zealand showed great resolve on a deteriorating Sydney Cricket Ground pitch to battle its way to 63 without loss on the second day of the third test.

Labuschagne scored 215 off 363 balls, with 19 boundaries and a six, before his epic innings was ended amidst a late order collapse by the hosts to be all out for 454 by tea on Saturday.

New Zealand openers Tom Blundell and captain Tom Latham found scoring difficult on a SCG pitch starting to show variable bounce and pace, but crucially for the tourists finished the day with their wickets intact on a hot, and at times smoky, afternoon.

Latham reached stumps unbeaten on 26, with Blundell, coming off the back of a century in Melbourne, 34 not out. Both batsmen showed patience in their stroke play and survived some frightening deliveries, especially from Pat Cummins, which unexpectedly reared up at the body.

But not for the first time this summer it was Labuschagne's day, despite a slow crawl toward his double hundred milestone. It took well over an hour into the middle session for Labuschagne to get the final 19 runs he needed from his 181 not out at lunch and the 25-year-old was stalled for several overs on 199 before a streaky outside edge off Colin de Grandhomme raced away for a boundary and his first double century off 346 balls.

"You do get nervous," Labuschagne said. "You probably don't get nervous as you would on 99. I don't know why. But that's just the feeling. When you're in the 190s, for me it's just about not doing something silly."

Run feast

The world's fourth-ranked batsman has scored 837 runs in five matches, including four centuries, this summer which is the most by any Australian over a five-test home program, eclipsing Neil Harvey's 834 runs in 1952-53 against South Africa.

"That's very special, going past a player of that caliber," Labuschagne said. "It's hard because, when you're midway through a game or series, you don't have time to reflect on the summer that you've had. It's been a very special summer but I think what makes it even more special is the camaraderie of this team."

The innings also helped his career average to 63.63, above Steve Smith's 62.84 and second only on the record list to Don



Labuschagne's double ton raised his career average to 63.63, above Smith's 62.84 and second only to Bradman (99.94). **AP**

NUMBER PLATE

837 Number of runs Australia's Marnus Labuschagne has scored in five matches, including four centuries. His scores against New Zealand are 143, 50, 63, 19, 215.

Bradman (99.94).

Skipper Tim Paine, who shared a 79-run partnership with Labuschagne, scored 35 before he was bowled by de Grandhomme (3-78) which triggered a late-order collapse for the hosts.

Astle then snared Labuschagne caught and bowled and Cummins for two, either

The 25-year-old was stalled for several overs on 199 before a streaky outside edge off Colin de Grandhomme raced away for a boundary and his first double century off 346 balls.

side of Wagner bowling James Pattinson (2). Some lusty hitting from Mitchell Starc (22) saw Australia pass 450 before Wagner (3-66) hit his middle stump to end the innings.

Resuming Saturday morning at 283-3, Australia added 71 runs for the loss of two wickets before lunch in an even session.

After making five changes for this match, four of which were for illness or in-

jury, New Zealand's tour took another blow with news that seamer Matt Henry had broken his thumb early on the first day and Jeet Raval had taken ill.

Henry continued to bowl as the injury is to his non-bowling hand, while Raval reappeared in the field later in the first session.

Despite the latest personnel setbacks, Saturday's first session was New Zealand's best in the field with spinner Will Somerville bowling Matt Wade (22) in the first over the morning, before Henry had Travis Head caught behind for 10 as they limited the hosts to 71 runs in two hours.

Labuschagne Australia is seeking a clean sweep after winning the first two tests at Perth and Melbourne.

BRIEF SCORES: New Zealand 63 for 0 (Blundell 34*, Latham 26*) trail Australia 454 (Labuschagne 215, Smith 63, Wagner 3-66, de Grandhomme 3-78) by 391 runs

Djokovic fends off Anderson to start year with a victory

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
BRISBANE, JANUARY 4

NOVAK DJOKOVIC got more than he bargained for in his first competitive match of 2020 before beating Kevin Anderson 7-6 (5), 7-6 (6) late Saturday to secure Serbia's win over South Africa at the ATP Cup.

The No. 2-ranked Djokovic, winner of a record seven Australian Open titles, was able to feed off the large Serbian crowd at Pat Rafter Arena in Brisbane to ensure his country got the new, season-opening team event started with a victory in Group A.

But he also had to remonstrate with the crowd when things got tense in the first tiebreaker, when spectators called out during rallies on consecutive points and Djokovic yelled toward the stands and held his finger to his lips to demand quiet. The chair umpire also intervened to ask the crowd to "show good sportsmanship".

Top-ranked Rafael Nadal had an easier time in clinching Spain's win over Georgia, on the opposite side of Australia, beating Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-3, 7-5 in Perth. Roberto Bautista Agut got Spain away to a flyer with a 6-0, 6-0 win over No. 678-ranked Aleksandre Metreveli. The night time matches in Groups A and B were both sealed before the doubles, but in starkly contrasting fashion.

Former No. 5-ranked Anderson was coming off an injury-plagued season, including surgery on his right knee last September, and couldn't initially keep up as Djokovic dropped just two points in the first three games and raced to a 4-1 lead.

But the 6-foot-8 South African warmed to the task and broke Djokovic's serve in the seventh game when he chased down a drop shot and produced a forehand winner. Then he saved five breakpoints in the eighth game to get back on serve, heightening tension in the crowd and sparking chants of "Nole, Nole, Nole" from the pro-Djokovic crowd, referring to his nickname.



Djokovic beat Kevin Anderson 7-6 (5), 7-6 (6) in the ATP Cup. **Reuters**

Despite Elgar fightback English pacers tilt match in their favour

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
CAPE TOWN, JANUARY 4

STUART BROAD and James Anderson led a relentless bowling performance as England gained what could prove a crucial advantage on the second day of the second Test against South Africa at Newlands on Saturday.

South Africa were 215 for eight the close, still 54 runs behind England's first innings total of 269 on a dry pitch which is likely to get more difficult for batsmen later in the match. More than half of South Africa's runs came in a 117-run fourth wicket partnership between Dean Elgar (88) and Rassie van der Dussen (68).

But Elgar and Van der Dussen were unable to dominate as England dried up the runs, with Elgar eventually falling to a lofted drive when

he tried to lift the scoring rate.

Anderson took three for 34, while Broad and Sam Curran took two wickets apiece.

Anderson took two wickets with the second new ball, bowling from the northern, Kelvin end. All the other wickets by the fast bowlers were taken from the southern, Wynberg end where they got bounce and some sideways movement.

A crack just outside the line of off stump created uncertainty for right-handed batsmen. Twelve of the 18 wickets in the match have fallen from that end.

Ben Stokes held four catches at second slip, three of them athletic diving efforts.

Off-spinner Dom Bess played an important role, bowling accurately from the northern end while England captain Joe Root rotated his faster bowlers from the more helpful



England's Stuart Broad and Sam Curran picked up two wickets apiece. **Reuters**

end. Bess had spells of nine and 14 overs and finished the day with one for 62 off 27 overs. Bess made a vital breakthrough when Elgar lost patience and sliced the ball to Root, running back from mid-off.

Elgar and Van der Dussen rescued South Africa from a precarious 40 for three.

Broad took the first two wickets in a hostile six-over opening spell before Anderson was given a turn from the Wynberg end and dismissed South African captain Faf du Plessis. Elgar played solidly in making his runs off 180 balls with ten fours but Van der Dussen had a precarious existence, especially early in his innings. His first scoring shot was a four edged at catchable height through a gap in the slips corridor. He was given out leg before wicket to Anderson but was reprieved on review because of an inside edge and gloved a

catch behind off Broad only to be called back because of a no-ball.

He also survived a difficult chance to Stokes at second slip off Anderson.

Curran took two wickets shortly before the second new ball was due, dismissing the dangerous Quinton de Kock before Van der Dussen fell to one of Stokes' catches when the second new ball was only four overs away.

England earlier added only seven runs to their overnight total of 262 for nine before Anderson was caught at slip off Kagiso Rabada, leaving Ollie Pope unbeaten on 61.

South Africa won the first Test at Centurion by 107 runs.

BRIEF SCORES: South Africa 215 for 8 (Elgar 88, van der Dussen 68; Broad 2/36, Anderson 3/34) trail England 269 (Pope 61*) by 54 runs

FIELD OF DREAMS

Sudan's women pursue football dream, challenging conservatives



For the first time, women have an officially recognised football league in Sudan. **AP**

MARIAM FAM
OMDURMAN, JANUARY 4

ALL HER life, Elham Balatone wanted to play football, like her brothers, like the boys on her street. But in the Sudan where she grew up, women could be flogged for wearing pants, let alone football shorts. She heard all the reasons why she had to give up her dream. It's a Muslim country; the uniform is inappropriate; the sport was meant for men.

She played anyway, wearing pants or putting on leggings underneath shorts.

"There's nothing in this world that I love more than football. Please let me play," she says she told her family. For years, she and other women played largely in the shadows, sometimes on dirt pitches they cleaned themselves, often bouncing from one spot to another.

The women finally took center stage when the world watched them play at a Khartoum stadium as the youth and sports minister and others celebrated Sudan's new, officially recognized women's football league. Balatone even had her family's blessings.

But it's more than just a game. The women's league became a field of contention as Sudan grapples with the transition from three decades of authoritarian rule that espoused a strict interpretation of Islamic Shariah law and, activists

say, disenfranchised women in particular.

Transitional authorities have taken some steps to roll back the legacy of ousted President Omar al-Bashir. In November, they overturned a notorious "public order" law that the prime minister said had been used as a "tool of exploitation, humiliation," resulting in "atrocities" against women and youth. Rights defenders call it a step in the right direction, but say the fight is far from over.

Some ultraconservatives, however, have been pushing back. Preacher Abdul Hay Yousif and others have painted football as part of a battle for Sudan's identity. "What religion, what Shariah, what manhood would allow a Muslim woman to appear before men ... with her arms, legs and some of her thighs exposed and then run before them," Yousif told worshippers in October, shortly after the league, made up of 20 teams, started.

"By God, these people have not come ... for economic development or social prosperity or scientific elevation. They have come to destroy religion and morals."

He also denounced the youth and sports minister, a woman, saying she "doesn't believe in what we believe in" and is a follower of "an apostate", comments that sparked a legal battle between him and the minister.

A pro-Shariah group that backs Yousif urged preachers "to use their pulpits to make the truth

victorious and to defend the constants of Shariah ... and expose the government's secularization plots."

Critics argue some conservatives are using an old playbook in Sudan: weaponizing stringent religious views to target political opponents, control women and thwart change.

"Clearly this is part of an effort by Yousif to undermine the new government by stimulating a 'moral panic' regarding the subversion of gender roles. Partly it's about his religious views, but it is predominantly a patriarchal form of gender politics," said Willow Berridge, a lecturer in history at Newcastle University who has written about Sudanese Islamists.

Yousif and his supporters "tend to occupy the most uncompromising end of the religious spectrum in Sudan." The preacher's diatribe has had little direct impact on the league. But Taghreed Awoda, an administrator with one of the teams, al-Difaa, and a feminist, said the showdown was part of a larger fight for change.

"To have a women's football league play in Sudan, this dismantles many of the main pillars underpinning the last regime," she said.

Under al-Bashir, laws like those restricting attire were inconsistently applied and disproportionately targeted the poor and less educated, as well as anti-regime activists, Awoda said. Women players were generally left alone if they kept a low profile, although one group

was once briefly arrested, she said.

Preparations for the league began more than a year ago in line with the objectives of the international football federation FIFA, said Mervat Hussein, head of the women's football committee at the Sudan Football Association. The efforts accelerated after al-Bashir's removal, she said. FIFA, which sets criteria for developing women's football, says member associations have objectives to meet to obtain funding. Women were at the forefront of the protests that eventually pushed the military to overthrow al-Bashir in April.

Hala Al Karib, regional director of the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa, said this should have translated into more rights, but many laws discriminating against women remain in place even after the public order law was reversed.

She said some headline Islamists are fighting for their interests after losing clout in al-Bashir's fall, arguing their rhetoric finds little resonance. Women's issues usually "get turned into bargaining chips" and risk being sacrificed to appease headline groups, she said.

In the midst of all the wrangling is the story of women who say they just want to play football. "These are people who have struggled, toiled and have pressed ahead in the face of so many attempts to destroy their talents," said Amany Anas, a player for al-Tahadi team. **AP**