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Nobel couple Duflo and Banerjee at Adda today



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ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

ABHIJIT BANERJEE and Esther Duflo, the economist couple who shared the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics with Michael Kremer for their “experimental approach to alleviating global poverty”, will be guests at the Express Adda in Mumbai on Monday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MOB ENTERS 7 HOSTELS, TEACHERS AMONG INJURED

Masked men run riot inside JNU for 3 hours, 26 injured

Oppn plays ‘fascist forces’; Union ministers condemn attack; Home seeks report

ARANYA SHANKAR & SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

MASKED MEN wielding sticks, rods and sledgehammers terrorised Jawaharlal Nehru University for close to three hours on Sunday evening, entering hostels, attacking students and teachers and leaving 26 injured.

Eyewitnesses and many of those injured said the men, who as per some estimates numbered around 100, were mostly outsiders and belonged to the ABVP — a charge the RSS student outfit denied. Eyewitnesses also accused police of failing to stop the mob from entering the campus or ending the violence sooner, despite calls from JNU as well as frantic students and teachers.

Among those injured were 22 students, including JNU Students’ Union (JNUSU) president Aishe Ghosh, two teachers and two guards, who have been admitted to AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah ordered the Delhi Police to hold an inquiry, as the HRD Ministry condemned the incident, blaming outsiders for it, and said “anarchy will not be tolerated”. Several Union ministers and JNU alumni, such as Nirmala Sitharaman and S Jaishankar, criticised the violence.

The chaos started around 6:30 pm when a ‘peace march’ called by the JNU Teachers’ Association on campus was wrapping up. Teachers had

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



A video grab shows a mob with sticks inside one of the hostels

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY

GOONS ON CAMPUS; REGISTRAR LINKS IT TO FEE PROTESTS

FULL COVERAGE PAGES 5, 6

Police watch as ambulances smashed, leaders heckled

SHIVAM PATEL & SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

A LITTLE before 8 pm on Sunday, police gathered outside JNU’s north gate, having been called in following the violence unleashed by masked men on campus that lasted close to three hours. What followed was dozens of men, their faces covered with mufflers, chanting slogans — “Desh ke gadaro ko, goli maaro saalo ko”, “Naxalwad murdabad” and “Na Maowad, Na Naxalwan, Sabse Upar Rashtrawad” — not allowing



JNUSU chief Aishe Ghosh was struck on head. Express

ambulances to reach the campus by puncturing tyres and smashing windows. They did so next to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Tehran says n-limits off, Trump warns ‘52 Iran sites on target’



Slogans against the US, Israel in Iran Parliament Sunday. AP

NASSER KARIMI & JON GAMBRELL
TEHRAN, JANUARY 5

AMID SOARING tensions between Iran and the US, President Donald Trump late Saturday threatened to hit 52 Iranian sites hard if Tehran attacks Americans or US assets in retaliation for the

US killing of military commander Qassem Soleimani. In return, Tehran condemned Trump as a “terrorist in a suit”, with its parliament Sunday opening with lawmakers chanting “Death to America!”

Late on Sunday night, Iran said it would further roll back its commitments to a 2015 nuclear

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Sikh killed, India tells Pakistan: ‘guard minorities’

KRISHN KAUSHIK & NAVJEEVAN GOPAL
NEW DELHI, AMRITSAR, JAN 5

INDIA HAS condemned the “targeted killing” of a member of the Sikh community in Pakistan, an incident that came a day after the mob attack on the Nankana Sahib gurdwara in the country, and asked Pakistan to “stop prevaricating” and protect its minorities.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, New

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BJP to fight Delhi polls on Modi name, CAA agenda

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

IN AN indication that the BJP may not declare its chief ministerial face ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, BJP president Amit Shah, while addressing booth-level workers, said the party would form the next government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Setting the tone for the upcoming elections, Shah accused the Congress and the Aam

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

‘Concerned’ India in touch with Iran, US

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

TWO DAYS after the killing of top Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani in an American drone strike, Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar spoke to his counterparts in Iran and the United States on Sunday. While he expressed India’s deep concern over the situation with Iran, in his talk with the US, he mentioned India’s interests.

In a tweet, Jaishankar said he had a conversation with “FM @Zarif (Mohammad Javad Zarif) of Iran”. He said he had “noted that developments have taken a very serious turn” and “India remains deeply concerned about

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED No CM face sign of rift

AMIT SHAH’S assertion that the BJP would fight the Delhi Assembly election under the leadership of the PM is an indication that the party is unlikely to announce a chief ministerial candidate. It’s also a sign that the party is still beset with infighting.

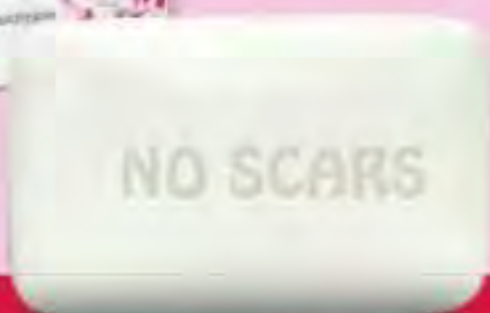
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THIS SIX-TIME CAT TOPPER DOES NOT WANT ADMISSION AT IIM

Patrick D'Souza enjoys the unique distinction being the top scorer — six times — in the Common Admission Test (CAT). In 2019, he figured among 10 candidates from across the country to have obtained a perfect 100 percentile in the nationwide competitive exam

VIDEO OF THE DAY

FAIZ AHMED FAIZ'S 'HUM DEKHENGE'

The actual history behind this poem

BOLLYWOOD

2019'S BIGGEST CONTROVERSIES

Nothing wrong with Rafale procedure, pricing: Government

EXPRESS AUDIO

What's killing India's elephants?

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

India has the world's largest population of wild Asian elephants. It also has a colossal human-animal conflict problem. India has the world's largest population of wild Asian elephants. It also has a colossal.

FROM PAGE ONE

India in touch

the levels of tension". The two countries would remain in touch, Jaishankar said.

In another tweet a few hours later, Jaishankar said "had a telephonic discussion with Secretary of State @SecPompeo on the evolving situation in the Gulf region". Jaishankar added that he "highlighted India's stakes and concerns" in his discussion with the US official.

Later, Pompeo tweeted about his conversation with Jaishankar, saying, "@DrsJaishankar and I spoke just now regarding Iran's continued threats and provocations. The Trump Administration won't hesitate to act to keep American lives, and those of our friends and allies, safe."

US State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortigas said Pompeo and Jaishankar had discussed "Iran's continued provocations and threats to the region". Jaishankar also spoke to his counterparts in Oman and the UAE on Sunday regarding the situation in the region.

This was the first official statement by India that it was in contact with either Iran or the US over Soleimani's assassination, which has spiked tensions in the Middle East and raised concerns across the globe. Earlier, on Friday, it had expressed concern at the rising tension and said the situation should not escalate further.

India is walking the diplomatic tightrope since it has close ties with both Tehran and Washington DC. Though the sanctions on Iran have impacted India's economic ties with the country, the latter has been the largest exporter to India of crude oil for a long time. India is also developing a port in Iran.

Last month, Jaishankar was in Iran on a two-day visit. It was just three days after his trip to the US along with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

After Soleimani's killing, the US said it had approached various countries to update them. On Saturday, Pompeo had tweeted a list of the countries he had reached out to, including Pakistan and Afghanistan.

He said he had spoken to Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on "the defensive action to kill Qassem Soleimani". He had tweeted about a similar conversation with Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani, saying the step was taken "to protect American lives at stake".

The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary with the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, Alice Wells, tweeted: "To strengthen mil2mil cooperation on shared priorities & advance US national security, @POTUS authorized the resumption of International Military Education and Training #IMET for Pakistan. The overall security assistance suspension for Pakistan remains in effect."

Tehran

deal with six major powers, by enriching uranium without restrictions. However, it said Tehran will continue to cooperate with the UN nuclear watchdog.

Thousands of mourners accompanied a casket carrying the remains of the General — killed in a US drone strike — through two major Iranian cities as part of a grand funeral procession across the Islamic Republic.

"Like ISIS, Like Hitler, Like Genghis! They all hate cultures. Trump is a terrorist in a suit. He will learn history very soon that NOBODY can defeat 'the Great Iranian Nation & Culture,'" Iranian Minister Mohammad Javad Azari-Jahromi tweeted.

Trump responded to that and other strong words from Tehran with a series of tweets Saturday, saying Iran "is talking very boldly about targeting certain USA assets". The United States has "targeted 52 Iranian sites", some "at a very high level & important to Iran & the Iranian culture, and those targets, and Iran itself, WILL BE HIT VERY FAST AND VERY HARD", he said.

The 52 targets represented the 52 Americans held hostage in Iran after being seized at the US Embassy in 1979 during the country's Islamic Revolution, Trump said.

While defending the strike on Soleimani, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned that Washington could target any "Iranian decision-makers" if there were further attacks. He also denied that Trump had threatened to target Iranian cultural sites.

Speaking on CNN's State of the Union, Pompeo said, "We took him (Soleimani) from the battlefield. We saw that he was plotting further plans to take down Americans... We've told the Iranian regime: enough. You can't get away with using proxy forces and think your homeland will be safe and secure. We're going to respond against the actual decision-makers."

In Baghdad, where the strike happened, Iraq's parliament called Sunday for US and other foreign military forces to leave, reflecting the concern of many that the strike could engulf the country in a major war. Some 5,000 US troops remain in Iraq, most in an advisory role.

Iran has promised "harsh revenge" for the US attack. Late Saturday, a series of rockets launched in Baghdad fell inside or near the Green Zone, which houses government offices and foreign embassies, including the US Embassy.

Aspokesman for Iran's armed forces, Gen Abolfazl Shekarchi, said Iran and the "resistance front will decide the time, place and way" revenge will be carried out. The military adviser to Iran Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the Islamic republic's response will be military, CNN

reported. "The response for sure will be military and against military sites," Brigadier General Hossein Dehghan said.

In a thinly veiled threat, one of the Iran-backed militias, Asaib Ahl al-Haq, called on Iraqi security forces to stay at least a kilometre away from US bases starting Sunday night. However, US troops are invariably based in Iraqi military posts alongside local forces.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, leader of Lebanon's powerful, Iran-allied Hezbollah movement, said the US military in the Middle East would pay the price for Soleimani's death.

The US-led coalition has already scaled back operations and boosted "security and defensive measures" at bases hosting coalition forces in Iraq, a coalition official said. It has also dispatched another 3,000 troops to Kuwait. The US Embassy in Saudi Arabia warned Americans "of the heightened risk of missile and drone attacks".

Iran is giving Soleimani a multi-city ceremony, the first in the republic. Not even the Islamic Republic's founder, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, received such a processional with his death in 1989.

Soleimani's body was on early Sunday flown to the southwestern Iranian city of Ahvaz from Baghdad. Ahvaz was a focus of fighting during the 1980-88 war between Iraq and Iran, in which the General had grown to prominence. The caskets then moved through streets choked with mourners wearing black. Demonstrators carried red Shiite flags, which traditionally both symbolise the spilled blood of someone unjustly killed and call for their deaths to be avenged.

Later Sunday, Soleimani's body was taken to Mashhad. His remains were scheduled to go to Tehran on Monday, but late on Sunday night, Iran announced it was cancelling the Tehran ceremony due to the overwhelming turnout by mourners in Mashhad.

Britain and France have warned their citizens to avoid or strictly limit travel in Iraq, as London said it would begin escorting ships through the Strait of Hormuz. British Foreign Minister Dominic Raab described Soleimani as a "regional menace" and said he was sympathetic to the situation the US found itself in, while also calling for crisis diplomacy to avoid war.

European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell urged Iran's foreign minister by phone Sunday to work to de-escalate the situation and invited him to Brussels to discuss ways of preserving the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran.

The nuclear accord had been signed between Iran and the UN Security Council's five permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the US. In May 2018, the US withdrew, though the three European nations remain parties to the deal along with China and Russia.

State television said Iran would now not respect any limits set down in the nuclear pact: whether the limit on its number of uranium enrichment centrifuges to its enrichment capacity, the level to which uranium could be enriched, or Iran's nuclear Research and Development activities.

Tehran said it can quickly undo those breaches if those sanctions are removed.

Back in the US, protesters held demonstrations in dozens of cities Saturday over Trump's decisions to kill Soleimani and deploy more troops to the Mideast.

ASSOCIATED PRESS, WITH REUTERS FROM DUBAI, BAGHDAD, WASHINGTON

Express Adda

Kolkata-born Banerjee, 58, and Paris-born Duflo, 46, both professors at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), were awarded the Nobel for their groundbreaking work in develop-

Masked men run riot inside JNU

gathered to call for calm a day after the campus had seen a scuffle between activists of the ABVP and Left outfits. The campus has been seeing protests against hostel fee hike for around three months.

Police finally arrived outside the campus only around 7.30 pm, and said it held flag marches inside at regular intervals. By night, over 700 policemen were present on the campus.

The ABVP claimed it had no link to the violence and its members were, in fact, attacked by Left outfits. While all Opposition parties condemned the violence, blaming "fascist" forces, the BJP called it "a desperate attempt by forces of anarchy, who are determined to use students as cannon fodder, create unrest to shore up their shrinking political footprint". Congress vice-president Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited the injured students at AIIMS.

While tweeting his "pain and anguish" over the injured students, Vice-Chancellor Mamidala Jagadeesh Kumar attached a press note by the Registrar talking about the protests over the fees hike and expressing regret that "a group of students with their violent means of protests are preventing thousands of non-agitating students from pursuing their academic activities".

According to eyewitnesses, the crowd of masked men first gathered at Periyar Hostel, a couple of hours before the attacks started. Soori Krishan, an SFI activist, was among the first to get hit. "A large crowd with covered faces abused us in Hindi. When I started retorting, they hit me with a metal rod on my head. I've received two stitches and my hands are injured too," said the MA student who was taken to AIIMS.

The teachers said on seeing the group "of around 100 men

with their faces covered, sticks and stones in hands" marching towards them, they approached them in a bid to placate them, but were attacked instead. One teacher said "the stones were big enough to crack a skull".

Professor Shukla Sawant said she was hit on the head and back. "They just starting pelting huge stones at us and beating everyone," she said. Professor Atul Sood said, "Police were at the JNU gate while all this was happening and nobody stopped this mob."

A Master's student told *The Indian Express* over the phone around 9.45 pm: "When the mob began attacking, many of the women ran towards the women's wing of Sabarmati Hostel. Around seven of us have been locked inside a room for three hours now. There are people with head injuries here."

Students said at least seven hostels were targeted. Doors were broken, windows smashed and students' belongings were trashed as the men went from one corridor to the next. One video showed a group of women asking the mob to back off, and the men rushing at them with weapons.

A resident of the men's wing of Sabarmati Hostel said the attackers asked him if he belonged to any Left group. "Around 6:30 pm, around 20 masked people entered the hostel. They were carrying sticks, iron rods and some liquid in glass bottles... I waited in my room and they pushed me and asked me if I belong to any Left party. I said I'm not, even though I am. They looked around my room for a while and then left," he said.

He spoke to *The Indian Express* around 10:30 pm and said no security guard or police personnel had come to the hostel till then.

JNUSU president Ghosh was taken to AIIMS. Nikhil Matthew,

who was with Ghosh and her sister at the time, said they "begged" the mob not to hit them. With blood flowing down her head, Ghosh said, "I am not in a condition to talk." Doctors said she had lacerations on her forehead.

In a statement, the JNUSU blamed "ABVP goons, mostly from outside campus" for the violence. "The Bajrang Dal and members of other such outfits outside the main gate are asking for students to be shot. Why is police not ensuring that JNU remains a safe space for all students?" it said.

HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal called the incident "unfortunate" and urged students to maintain peace. His ministry tweeted, "a group of masked people entered the JNU campus today, threw stones, damaged property and attacked students. This is very unfortunate and highly condemnable, such acts of violence and anarchy will not be tolerated."

Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare told *The Indian Express* the violence was a "serious matter" and the HRD Ministry had sought a report from the Registrar. Khare, who was in Bhopal Sunday, came back to Delhi late night.

Khare's predecessor R Subrahmanyam, who was transferred out last month amidst the protest by JNU students against the hostel fee hike, was the first from the government to condemn the violence. Subrahmanyam, who is also an alumnus of the university, wrote on Twitter, "#JNUViolence completely unacceptable and shameful... demand immediate action against the hooligans."

Subrahmanyam was one of the main drivers of the dialogue with JNU students over the hike. His transfer order of December 13 came less than two hours before the officers-elect of the

JNUSU were scheduled to meet him for a third round of talks.

Soon after Subrahmanyam, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tweeted. "Condemn the violence unequivocally. This is completely against the tradition and culture of the university," Jaishankar said on Twitter. Sitharaman said, "Horrible images from JNU — the place I know & remember was one for fierce debates & opinions but never violence... This govt, regardless of what has been said the past few weeks, wants universities to be safe spaces for all students."

NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant also tweeted, saying, "#JNU has always been a centre of lively & vibrant debate, discussion & co-existence of different viewpoints. What has happened today is extremely sad & tragic."

In a reaction late Sunday night, K Vijayraghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to the government, said, "Campuses are places for learning, discussion, collegial debate amongst diverse opinions, and research. There is no place at all for violence. What has happened in JNU today is unhesitatingly and unequivocally condemned."

Denying charges of not acting adequately, police said that initially, around 20-30 of its personnel were on the campus due to the planned march, and on receiving information of the violence around 5 pm, it deployed 20 personnel from every police station in the South-West and South districts. At around 8 pm, 50 more personnel were called.

JCP (New Delhi) Anand Mohan said, "We were informed that there was a clash between two groups of students. The JNU Administration approached us and then we entered the campus to control the law and order. The situation is now under control."

Communists on our people".

CPI leader D Raja, who also came to the north gate around 10.45 pm, was heckled, with some seen abusing him verbally and asking him to go back, even as women and supporters gathered around him. With no intervention from police, Raja said, "It is nothing but fascism. Delhi Police remains a mute spectator... It is under the Union ministry and Amit Shah should be questioned about this."

Asked about the violence inside and the lawlessness outside the campus, DCP (Southwest) Devender Arya said, "We are inquiring into the matter and probing the role of outsiders as well." An officer said that since most senior officers were in JNU at the time, the situation outside may have escalated as a result. By Sunday night, 700 police officers had descended on JNU.

act in defense of their own minorities instead of preaching sermons about it to other countries".

Singh, a resident of Shangla district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, was killed on Saturday night when he was out shopping for his marriage to be held six weeks later. He is the younger brother of Harmeet Singh, the "first Sikh TV anchor in Pakistan" who works with Public News in Pakistan.

Investigators in Pakistan told *The Indian Express* that they were probing the murder from "different angles". "The victim was to get married in February. We are investigating whether a jilted lover may have committed the crime. The victim had also given a sum of money as loan... So we are also investigating that angle too. We will also look at whether robbery was a motive," the investigator said.

PTI quoted Harmeet Singh as telling the media that an unknown person called him from his brother's cellphone on Saturday and informed him that his brother had been killed. "The government must arrest the culprits as early as possible. I will not find peace until the criminals are arrested," he said.

In a tweet, Punjab CM Captain Amarinder Singh said he was "shocked & anguished" over the killing of the Sikh youth. The tweet further read, "@ImranKhanPTI govt must ensure thorough investigation & strict punishment for the culprits. This is the time to act on what you preach."

The MEA's statement on the killing is seen as response to comments made by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and others since the abrogation of Article 370 in August and the passing of the citizenship Act in December.

In a tweet on Sunday, Imran Khan condemned the attack on Nankana Sahib. Khan said "the major difference between the condemnable Nankana incident & the ongoing attacks across India on Muslims & other minorities is" that "the former is against my vision & will find zero tolerance & protection from the govt incl (uding) police & judiciary". In another tweet, he added, "in contrast, Modi's RSS vision supports minorities oppression & the targeted attacks against Muslims are part of this agenda". He also said that the "RSS goons conducting public lynchings, Muslims being violated by mobs are all not only supported by Modi Govt but Indian police leads anti-Muslim attacks".

Delhi polls

Aadmi Party (AAP) of instigating "riots" by "misleading" people on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and asking BJP workers to carry out an extensive campaign to explain the law to voters.

Targeting AAP's Arvind Kejriwal and the Congress's Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Shah said, "*Pradhanmantri CAA ko lekar aye, cabinet me man-juri di, Lok Sabha ne parit kiya... Kejriwal ne janta ko ghumrah kar... Congress Party ne, vishesh kar Rahul Baba aur Priyanka Vadra ne, janta ko ghumrah kar ke dange karwane ka kaam kiya hai*" (The Prime Minister brought in CAA, the Cabinet cleared it, Lok Sabha passed it... then, by misleading people, Arvind Kejriwal and the Congress, especially Rahul Baba and Priyanka Vadra, are doing the work of instigating riots by misleading people). Do you want a government in Delhi which incites riots for politics?"

Asking BJP workers to reach out to Dalits, Sikhs and refugees by holding door-to-door campaigns and telling them that "Modiji wants to give them citizenship, but anti-Dalit Kejriwal and anti-Dalit Congress is opposing it", Shah said, "I will start the campaign by reaching out to each house... Will you spread the message of Modiji? Will you expose the anti-national stand of Rahul Gandhi? Will you tell people how Kejriwalji has misled."

epaper.indianexpress.com

3 THE CITY

BRIEFLY

Two injured in East Delhi house collapse

New Delhi: Two people sustained injuries after a two-storey building collapsed in East Delhi's Gandhi Nagar Sunday. The Delhi Fire Services said it received information about the collapse around 4.48 pm and deployed four tenders to rescue the people inside. The firemen found two persons trapped, who were rescued in time. DFS director Atul Garg said no casualties were reported. Police said the building housed a commercial unit.

Cops beaten by 6 men in arrest bid

New Delhi: Two police personnel, who were taking a man they had arrested for allegedly smuggling illicit liquor to the police station, were attacked by six men in South West Delhi's Dwarka, police said. In the ensuing scuffle, wherein one of the policemen fired a shot which hit one of the accused, four of the seven accused were nabbed, police said. **ENS**

2 held for robbing man

New Delhi: Two men were arrested for allegedly robbing a man along with three other accused, after offering him a lift near Shankar Chowk in Gurgaon's Sector 33, police said. **PTI**

'WORLD RECORD'

152 mohalla clinics opened in a day: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal Sunday inaugurated 152 mohalla clinics in the capital and claimed the government has set a "world record" by starting so many health facilities on a single day. The total number of functional clinics in Delhi now stands at 450.

"We initially constructed around 150 clinics. Later, we faced many difficulties and roadblocks in expanding the project. Many files were pending for one-two years. Then, the Supreme Court judgment came out and it eased the process of opening new mohalla clinics. Now, we have made 450 mohalla clinics functional. In the coming three-four months, more clinics will be opened and I hope the target of 1,000 mohalla clinics will be achieved in Delhi," Kejriwal said while inaugurating a clinic in Pitampura.

Simultaneously, MLAs inaugurated mohalla clinics in 43 Assembly constituencies. Started in 2015, the mohalla clinics have served two crore OPD patients and conducted 18 lakh tests until November 2019.

"Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said mohalla clinics will find a place in the Guinness World Records and the Limca Book of Records. If people are happy, I would be happy. It is a Guinness World Record for me. I don't require anything more than that," said Kejriwal.

Praising Delhi's health model, he said the AAP govern-



Kejriwal inaugurates one of the clinics, Sunday.
Gajendra Yadav

ment has added 15,000 new beds in the last five years, while the previous governments managed to add 10,000 beds in 70 years.

"Government hospitals are being closed down and the standard of government dispensaries is deteriorating across the country. There you may see broken walls, absence of doctors and staff, and people losing trust. But across Delhi, mohalla clinics are being opened and AC-hospitals are being built. In Delhi, people's trust in the public healthcare system has been multiplied," he said. With Delhi gearing up for the Assembly polls, the CM once again spoke about work done in various sectors like education, transport, electricity, and water.

"We were forced to be poor, uneducated and underdeveloped by the governments we had. Why? This is due to politics, politics of corruption. Now, the people of Delhi elected a responsible and accountable government..." he said, adding that the bandwagon of Delhi's development should not be stopped.

Protest at ITO over JNU violence

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

DEMANDING THE arrest of the masked men who entered JNU and beat up students and teachers, hundreds of protesters from Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi University and other campuses gathered at the old Delhi Police headquarters in ITO Sunday night.

Present at the site when JNU Students' Union president Aishe Ghosh was beaten up, Pritish Menon, who was at the protest, claimed: "After ABVP members attacked in the afternoon, JNUSU and the teachers' union had called a protest. After the protest, a hundred-odd students were at Sabarmati hostel. Suddenly, several persons with



Outside the old Delhi Police HQ, Sunday. *Amit Mehra*

their faces covered came rushing towards us with metal rods. We all ran; I ran to Tapti hostel. When we came back, we saw Aishe wounded and unconscious at Sabarmati."

Students demanded that

FIRs be registered against those responsible.

Congress leader Alka Lamba, who was at the protest in support of the students, said, "The V-C must resign for this act. How was it that for three hours, po-

lice was not inside the campus?"

Many teachers from Jamia, JNU and DU were present. Bhupinder Choudhary, a history professor from DU, alleged, "This attack, organised by the ABVP and Sangh Parivar, signifies that the government is unable to negotiate with students and tolerate an iota of peaceful dissent. The V-C must resign."

A student from Jamia, Amzad Ansari, said, "At Jamia, police were not allowed in but they still beat up students. What about this time? Police is as responsible as the administration and ABVP for this."

Chanting "lodge an FIR today" and "Delhi Police wake up", several protesters carried posters expressing support for Aishe Ghosh.

MORE REPORTS: PAGE 5

At Lajpat Nagar, Shah hands out pamphlets on citizenship law

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

HOURS AFTER suggesting that BJP workers focus on holding group meetings at the mohalla level and campaigns to spread awareness about the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), Union Home Minister Amit Shah Sunday kicked off the party's 10-day door-to-door campaign at Lajpat Nagar.

Shah arrived at Lajpat Nagar's 2C-Block, a colony inhabited mostly by refugees who migrated from Pakistan in the 1950s, around 4.30 pm and visited eight houses, a jhuggi and a temple.

While most households Shah visited expressed their support, a doctor in the locality said she was not convinced about the Act. A woman in the area raised a banner outside her house, bearing the words 'Shame', 'Azaadi', and 'NRC' crossed out, as Shah was



Shah in Lajpat Nagar, Sunday. *Prem Nath Pandey*

meeting others in the locality.

The Home Minister gave residents a pamphlet with messages in support of the CAA and asked them to dial the number 8866288662, which the BJP has launched to garner support for the Act.

Rakesh Grover, who met Shah, said his family supports CAA: "Decisions like CAA are in the national interest. Nowhere does it say that it will take away the citizenship of anyone." Aarti

Pahuja, whose house Shah first visited, said, "Where will those facing religious persecution go?"

Addressing a meeting of Delhi BJP's booth-level workers at IG Stadium earlier in the day, Shah launched the party's 'Jan Jagran' campaign to raise awareness among 3 crore families on the CAA and counter the Opposition's campaign against it. He also asked BJP workers to reach out to Dalit, Sikh and refugee households and tell them "Modi ji wants to give them citizenship, but anti-Dalit Kejriwal and anti-Dalit Congress is opposing it".

CM Arvind Kejriwal tweeted: "I heard the entire speech of Home Minister Amit Shah ji. I thought he would point out shortcomings of our work and talk about development of Delhi. He did not say anything else except abuse me... If they (BJP) have suggestions for Delhi, then tell (us) and we will implement them in the next five years."

Irani attacks Oppn over CAA 'politics'

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, JANUARY 5

LAUNCHING THE Citizenship Amendment Act awareness campaign in Gurgaon Sunday, Union Minister Smriti Irani warned against the "politics" of the Opposition. She condemned them for supporting "anti-national elements", repeating the rhetoric of Pakistani officials and spreading fear about the new law.

"Some Opposition leaders have stood with anti-national elements. Several of them are talking the language of the Pakistan government. It is worrisome that when criminal elements declare an on-slaught on police, pelt stones or burn buses and trains given to the people by the Indian taxpayer, the Opposition supports such criminal elements," said Irani.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO. 1243 OF 2019 (UNDER ARTICLE 32 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA) WITH I.A. NO. 151415/2019-APPLICATION FOR EX-PARTY STAY AND I.A. NO. 151416/2019-APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO FILE SYNOPSIS AND LIST OF DATES I.A. NO. 153473/2019- APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES GULSHAN ARORA AND OTHERS ... Petitioner(s)/Applicant(s) VERSUS M/S SRS REAL ESTATE LTD. AND OTHERS ... Respondent(s)	
1. RAJ KUMAR DIRECTOR, SRS REAL ESTATE LTD. SRS TOWER, PID: 3267752019 FOR R(9) IN W.P.(C) NO. 1243/2019 (SEC X)	
2. DILIP SINGH DIRECTOR, SRS REAL ESTATE LTD. SRS TOWER, PID: 3267742019 FOR R(10) IN W.P.(C) NO. 1243/2019 (SEC X)	
3. SRS AND 3RD, 3RD FLOOR, NEAR METRO STATION, MEVLA MAHARAJPUR, G.T. ROAD, FARIDABAD-121003, DISTRICT: FARIDABAD, HARYANA	
3. YOGESH KUMAR DIRECTOR, SRS REAL ESTATE LTD. SRS TOWER, PID: 3267762019 FOR R(11) IN W.P.(C) NO. 1243/2019 (SEC X)	
4. JOGENDRA KUMAR ARORA, DIRECTOR, SRS REAL ESTATE INFRASTRUCTURE LTD., PID: 3267772019 FOR R(12) IN W.P.(C) NO. 1243/2019 (SEC X)	
5. VINITA MANGLA, DIRECTOR, SRS REAL ESTATE INFRASTRUCTURE LTD., PID: 3267782019 FOR R(13) IN W.P.(C) NO. 1243/2019 (SEC X)	
6. YOGESH SHARMA, DIRECTOR, SRS REAL ESTATE INFRASTRUCTURE LTD., PID: 3267792019 FOR R(14) IN W.P.(C) NO. 1243/2019 (SEC X)	
SRS MULTIPLEX, TOP FLOOR CITY CENTRE, SECTOR-12 FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121007, DISTRICT: FARIDABAD, HARYANA	

WHEREAS the Writ Petition along with application above mentioned was filed in this registry by Mr. MOHIT PAUL, Advocate for the petitioner above-named (copy in is enclosed);

AND WHEREAS the Said Writ Petition along with application above-mentioned was lastly listed before this Hon'ble Court on 04th October, 2019 when the court passed the following Order:

"Issue Notice on the Writ Petition and also on the application for stay, returnable on 18 October 2019.

Dasti, in addition, is permitted."

AND WHEREAS the Said Writ Petition along with application above-mentioned was lastly listed before this Hon'ble Court on 27th November, 2019 when the court passed the following Order:

"AS Prayed in the application for direction (I.A. No. 178426/2019), counsel for the petitioner is permitted to serve notice on the unserved respondent Nos. 3 to 14 by way of publication within three weeks from today.

I.A. No. 178426/2019 is accordingly allowed.

The respondent(s) who have entered appearance but not filed counter affidavit(s) must file the same within four weeks from today, filing which it will be assumed that the have waived their right to file counter affidavit(s)

And the matter will proceed on that basis. Thereafter two weeks time is granted to petitioner(s) to file rejoinder affidavit(s), if any. Interim order dated 18.10.19 to continue till the next date of hearing.

List the matter on 15th January, 2020."

NOW THEREFORE TAKE NOTICE that the writ petition along with application above-mentioned will be posted for hearing before this court on the 15th January, 2020. At 10.30 A.M. or so soon thereafter as may be convenient to the court for orders, when you may appear before this court either in person or through an advocate on record duly appointed by you and advocate cause to the court as to by rule nisi in terms of the prayer of the writ petition should not be issued and application as prayed for may not be granted.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in default of your appearance the matter will be heard and determined in your absence.

Date: 05th December, 2019

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Copy to :-
1 Mr. Mohit Paul (Adv.)
A-86 Ground floor, Defence colony,
New Delhi

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR



LATE FEE WAIVER

on **GSTR-1**

if you file it by



For the taxpayers who haven't filed their return in respect of

**ALL PENDING
FORM GSTR-1**

from July 2017 to November 2019,

if the same are filed by

10th January 2020

- From 11th January, taxpayers will not be able to generate E-Way Bill, if they have not filed their GSTR-1.
- This is the last opportunity for all taxpayers and after this late fee will be levied and collected. The maximum liability may run upto ₹ 10,000/- per month.
- Recipients should encourage their suppliers to file this return as non-filing of their FORM GSTR-1 will affect the recipient's eligibility to input tax credit.



MINISTRY OF FINANCE
Government of India



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dadvp 15502/13/0019/1920



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Nominations Invited

**43rd JAMNALAL BAJAJ NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL
AWARDS - 2020 FOR GANDHIAN 'WARRIORS'**



**National Award for
Constructive Work**

For contribution in any of or all the development areas of Mahatma Gandhi's Constructive Programmes, to create a self-reliant community in rural India.

The Man - Jamnalal Bajaj was among the stalwarts who gave of himself completely - mind, body and soul to India's freedom movement. Jamnalalji overreached himself in making words into deeds and in implementing the Constructive Programme of Gandhiji, be it Khadi, Dalit - welfare, women emancipation, ethics in business, or preservation of cattle-wealth through Goseva. So much so that Mahatma Gandhi adopted him as his 'fifth son'.

The Awards - To promote and propagate Jamnalalji's philanthropic vision as also Gandhian ideology of rural development, the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation instituted four Awards, which have come to be regarded as most coveted in respective fields.

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**National Award for
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For contribution through adaptable, affordable, replicable appropriate grassroots technologies, which has resulted in economic, social and ecological development of rural people.



**National Award for
Development & Welfare
of Women & Children**

Only to a woman.
For contribution towards education, skills training, healthcare, literacy, livelihood activities, holistic development, advocacy, etc. of women and children.



**International Award for
Promoting Gandhian
Values Outside India**

Only to a foreign national.
For contribution, outside India in promoting Gandhian principles like vision for peace, non-violence, harmony of human life with nature and moral conscience.

**Last Date
for
Nominations**

National Awards: 20th January, 2020 | **International Award:** 28th February, 2020

Online Submission: www.jamnalalbajajawards.org/nomination-forms

Know more: www.jamnalalbajajfoundation.org; www.jamnalalbajajawards.org; www.bajajgroup.com

Email: nominations@jamnalalbajajfoundation.org

For more details contact: Secretary, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, 2nd flr., Bajaj Bhawan, Jamnalal Bajaj Marg, 226 Nariman Point, Mumbai-400021 India

Tel: 91-22-22023626 Ext: 241/243/244/247 Fax: 91-22-22816604

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JBFMumbai>



4

HARDLOOK

AUTOMATED DRIVING TEST



TWO YOUNG men, huddled in a corner and braving the winds on a cold December morning, look on intently as a man in his 30s tries to navigate the driving test track at the Regional Transport Office (RTO) in Mayur Vihar — and fails.

Neither Jagat Patwal (20) nor his friend Rohit Singh are to appear for the test that day. They are out to familiarise themselves with the track, which has cut short the dream of getting a driving licence for several of their friends. “You can’t take too long, there isn’t much time to think,” Patwal tells Singh.

He will appear for the test sometime next month and is here to prepare. “I heard from all my friends that the test is very difficult. I have been watching several videos on YouTube but I realised I will not be completely prepared till I see it (the track) myself,” said the third-year student at Delhi University’s Ram Lal Anand College.

Over the past year, the Regional Transport Offices of Delhi’s Transport department have seen a tectonic shift in how driving tests are conducted to issue licences. Tests are now conducted in specially designed driving tracks (Automated Driving Test Tracks) which have six segments, each of which has to be passed. The track is completely automated and results are determined automatically using readings taken from CCTV footage and RFID (radio frequency identification) tags. The entire test has to be completed in under seven minutes.

Since these tracks were introduced, there has been a considerable dip in the number of people passing their driving test. At the six RTOs where the tracks now exist, failure rate has risen from around 10% to 33%. In some places, such as the Mayur Vihar RTO, it is as high as 42%. Before automated tests, the average failure rate was 15%. At the Loni manual track, the failure rate is 5%.

The first such tracks at Mayur Vihar Phase I, Vishwas Nagar, Sarai Kale Khan and Shakur Basti were made functional in March 2019. Each track has six tests — one to test reversing; one 8-shaped

track; one to test overtaking; one to check for stopping at traffic signals; one to check parallel parking; and one to test for driving on a gradient.

The track was developed by Maruti Suzuki. Each track is equipped with CCTVs that closely track the vehicle and RFID readers which keep track of the time one spends on each task.

The first task of reversing the vehicle on a curved patch has to be completed in not more than 120 seconds. It is the section that has been allotted the most time. RFID readers are present on every portion to read time. Yellow lines on the edges guide the cameras and the driver is allowed to touch them only thrice. If a driver hits the line more than three times, the computer automatically disqualifies them.

For the parallel parking section of the test, the time allotted is 90 seconds and the driver is allowed to drive forward after reversing only once. The tests are based on the format given in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules.

Aryan Kishore, who joined Delhi University in the 2019-20 academic session, is back at the Mayur Vihar track after a week. Standing next to his mother, the 18-year-old is a bundle of nerves. “I failed the gradient test last time and I want to crack it this time. My parents have promised me that I will be able to drive to college as soon as I pass the test,” he said.

Officials at the RTO said that intervention of the computer is the main reason behind the high failure rate. “The process is entirely automated and that is why the failure rate is high. People can be influenced, a machine cannot.

STUCK IN

REVERSE

Six tests in under seven minutes — that’s what one has to clear to get a driver’s licence in the capital. With driving tests now being conducted on specially designed, automated tracks, failure rate has spiked. MALLICA JOSHI speaks to applicants and officials to understand why

tions are raised. Court-appointed commissioners also audit some of these tapes randomly to make sure rules are followed.

For now, each licence applicant is given an RFID tag to enter the track. The applicant’s test is linked with the RFID and results are logged under each person’s application. According to officials, soon a face recognition system will also be installed at the entry point to ensure people don’t cheat.

According to Dutt, the test that most people fail is the first one — the S reverse.

“I have seen even seasoned drivers drive their car forward one too many times to clear the first test. I think it is the toughest one to crack as most people who have been driving are not required to do this in real life situations,” he said.

The high failure rate has also prompted the transport department to try and make things a little easier. The department will soon start sending videos of the test to those who fail so that they can understand what they did wrong. The department is also looking to give applicants an audio-visual aid so that they know beforehand what they are supposed to do. Presently, an RTO officer takes people in batches through the track on foot, explaining at each place what is expected of them. No one, however, is allowed a practice run to familiarise themselves with the track and no videos of people driving on the track are shown.

“We are planning to shoot a video of someone driving through the track as they explain the passing criteria. It will help applicants familiarise themselves with the test track,” said a senior Transport department official.

Cities in Punjab, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand have also adopted automated tests. Punjab was the first to start one track in Bhatinda in 2015. It exists in over 20 cities in the state now. Recently, the track was also adopted by the RTO in Dehradun and the results were similar. According to reports, more than 45% of applicants failed within six months of the tracks becoming functional.

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said: “In the last five years, our government has completely reformed the manner in which Transport Authorities (RTOs) work — first by introducing doorstep delivery of services and breaking the tout culture, and now by introducing Automated Driving Test Tracks. This has completely taken out manual interface in driving tests, ensuring that only trained and skilled drivers get driving licences, which will play a big role in making our streets safer and reducing road accidents. In another three-four months, all of Delhi’s RTOs will have Automated Driving Test Tracks, making Delhi the first city in the country to issue driving licences only through fully automated tests with complete video record and automated pass/fail results.”

The one visible difference after the automation is the absence of touts. With the introduction of an exclusively online application and tracking system, the number of touts offering these services had started to decline. “Touts would earlier help get licences for even those who did not know how to drive. The new system has weeded out that problem. Even licensing officers will talk about the difference between then and now,” said Jasmine Shah, chairperson of the Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi, a body that advises the government.

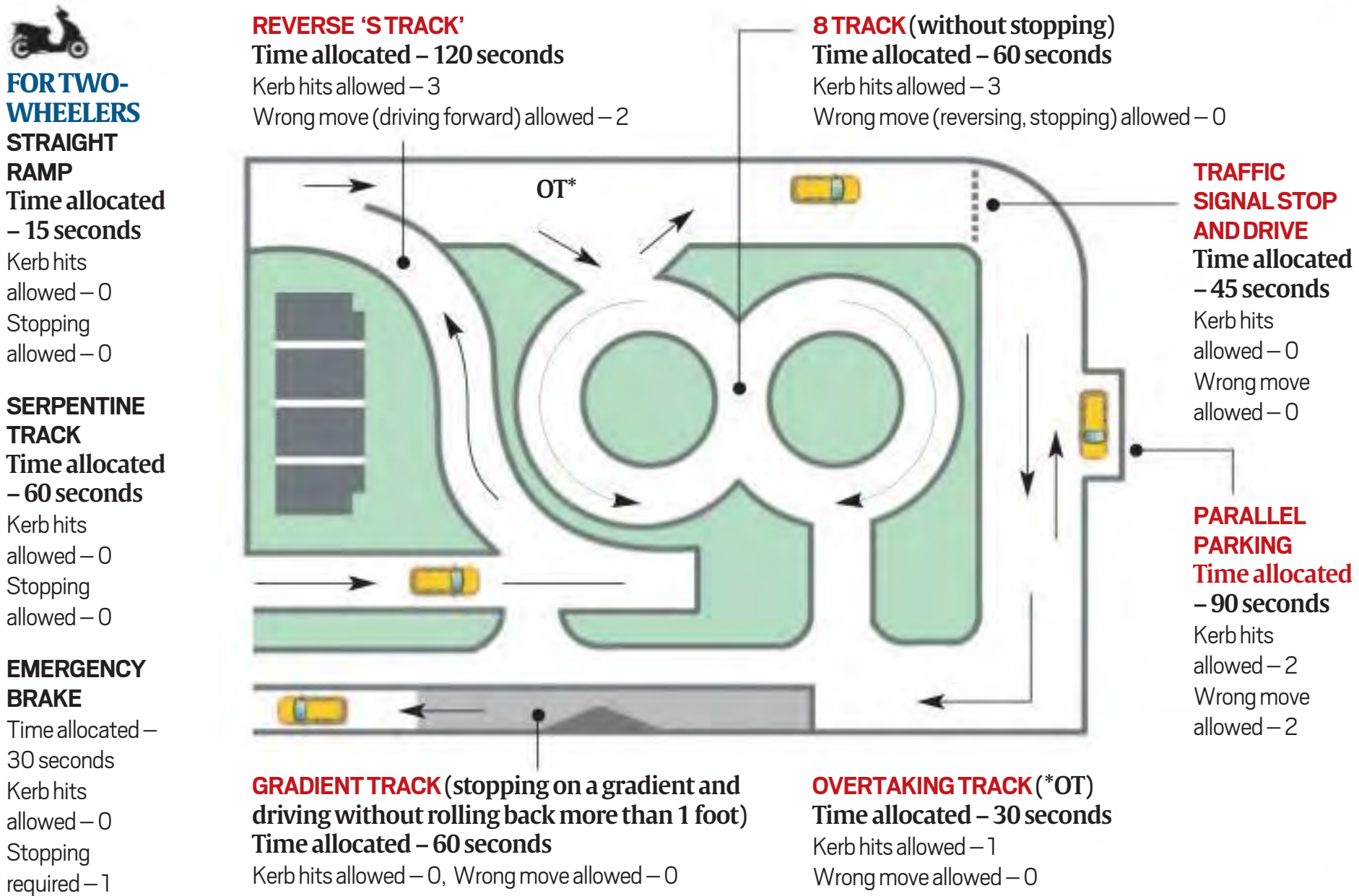
The system will change as per need, Shah said: “Tech-based inputs are analysed. The way the track has been designed has been thought out and has a rationale. If things have to be added or removed, it can always be done. What is different is that it shakes the mindset of governance.”

— WITH INPUTS FROM SOURAV ROY BARMAN

The Automated Driving Test Track at the Road Transport Office in Mayur Vihar.

Praveen Khanna

THE TEST TRACK



FAILURE RATE

RTO	Manual test	Automatic
Sarai Kale Khan (south)	12%	38%
Sarai Kale Khan (central)	9%	28%
Mall Road	14%	42%
Rohini	9%	40%
Mayur Vihar	14%	41%

(Figures from Transport dept)

In the manual test, most inspectors make an applicant drive on a straight road and a few ask them to reverse. But the new format and slow-changing methods of driving schools mean that many people who have been driving for several years and have come back for licence renewal are also failing.

Rajiv Mathur (48), who has been driving

for 15 years, went to the Sarai Kale Khan centre after his licence expired. He failed the test within the first 40 seconds. “I touched the yellow line while reversing on a turn four times but the permissible limit was three. The test is quite hard because it requires you to remember too many things. The number of times you drive forward, the yellow line touch as well as the time limit, all has to be taken into account,” he said.

For Nitika Yadav (31), who was driving on her learners’ licence for the past one month, a premature stop saw her fail. “I drive to Gurgaon comfortably everyday but I stopped half a metre too soon as soon as I cleared the 8 turn, and failed. There should be some relaxation for such small mistakes,” she said.

The RTO also has a test track for two-wheelers. It tests manoeuvrability, driving on a ramp and sudden braking. The driver cannot touch his/her feet on the ground while making any of the four serpentine turns.

At the RTO, videos of each test are preserved for the court to see in case any ques-

5 JNU VIOLENCE

UNPRECEDENTED MAYHEM INSIDE JNU
Teachers say shocked at being targeted by mob

23 PEOPLE ADMITTED TO AIIMS
Doctors say injuries include head lacerations

THREE HOURS OF FREE RUN
Faces covered throughout, no arrests till night

GOONS ON CAMPUS



Video grabs from the rampage by the masked mob inside JNU campus on Sunday. The men barged into at least seven hostels and terrorised students and teachers.

'STUDENTS NOT SAFE ON CAMPUS'

"I am so shocked to know about the violence at JNU. Students attacked brutally. Police should immediately stop violence and restore peace. How will the country progress if our students will not be safe inside university campus?"

ARVIND KEJRIWAL,
DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

"Violence in JNU against students and teachers highly condemnable. Directed Delhi Police to take all possible steps in coordination with JNU administration to maintain law and order and take action against perpetrators of violence. The situation is being closely monitored"

ANIL BAIJAL,
DELHI LT-GOVERNOR

"The frustration of political parties and leaders who have been rejected by the people is playing out as violence in universities. We condemn it."

MANOJ TIWARI
DELHI BJP CHIEF

Admitted to AIIMS: JNUSU head, professors

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

"A MOB came towards us and started pelting stones. We all ran, but they hit me with iron rods, bricks, and stones. This is the first time I have seen anything like this," said Ameet Parameswaran, assistant professor at the School of Art and Aesthetics, who started his career in JNU. Like him, several students and teachers recounted how they were attacked by a group of masked men and women armed with sticks and bricks on campus.

Parameswaran was discharged late Sunday night from AIIMS Trauma Centre, where he and 22 others who were injured were admitted.

Students and teachers started to collect outside the emergency ward as soon as they heard the news about the violence.

By 11.33 pm, 23 injured persons were admitted at the cen-



(From left) Prof at Centre for the Study of Regional Development Sucharita Sen, MA Linguistics student Soori Krishnan were injured in the violence; Yogendra Yadav was attacked outside campus; an ambulance was stopped while on its way to injured students; a hostel room that had been vandalised. Abhinav Saha

tre, while three were admitted to Safdarjung Hospital. JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh and Prof Sucharita Sen suffered deep cuts on their foreheads and have been admitted for observation.

"Most of them have suffered lacerated wounds on the head due to stone pelting; others have sustained abrasions and swelling on hand and legs. One student

and a professor have suffered deep cuts on their forehead. We have sent them for a CT scan," said a senior doctor.

Meanwhile, harried students and teachers waited outside the hospital for the injured to be discharged.

Professor Shukla Sawant from the Department of Arts and Aesthetics said she saw the mob

coming towards the teachers: "We were shell shocked because teachers being beaten is a bizarre thing. This mob was beating students with impunity. I got hit on my back with a stick and a stone. There was complete mayhem; the mob was breaking windows and furniture. They were all masked."

Soon, the scene outside the

hospital took a political tone as senior leaders began to gather and slogans were raised.

Some ABVP members outside the Trauma Centre got into a minor clash with guards after they allowed senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi to meet the injured. Other Congress leaders like Ajay Maken and Kiran Walia had to return as the argu-

ment between the two groups escalated. Supporters of Bhim Army also got into a scuffle with guards.

Other leaders such as BJP's Manoj Tiwari, Vijay Goel, Meenakshi Lekhi, CPM's Brinda Karat, Sitaram Yechury, AAP's Sanjay Singh, Somnath Bharti and Congress's Salman Khurshid also visited the hospital.

Registrar statement seeks to link fee hike protests to violence

MALLICA JOSHI &
ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

AS JNU students, including Students' Union president Aishe Ghosh, were attacked by masked men Sunday, the administration, including the Vice-Chancellor, sought to suggest the students protesting against hostel fee hike were responsible for violence on campus. V-C M Jagadesh Kumar tweeted: "JNU administration feels great pain and anguish for students who have sustained injuries in the violence... The administration strongly condemns any form of violence on campus."

He attached a statement by Registrar Pramod Kumar: "Around 4.30 pm, a group of students, who are against the registration process, moved aggressively from the front of the admin block and reached hostels. The administration immediately contacted police to come quickly and maintain law and order. However, by the time police came, students who are for the registration were beaten up by a group of agitating students... It is unfortunate that a group of students with their violent means of protests are preventing thousands of non-agitating students from pursuing their academic activities."

V-C Kumar's predecessor, SK Sopory, meanwhile, expressed shock and sadness at reports from the campus. "What is happening is shocking... There has been no violence inside the campus for 50 years. There have been dharnas and protests, but never this. The university's security should have taken immediate action against those indulging in violence. Police need to intervene and catch those who carried out the attack," said Sopory, who headed JNU between 2011 and 2016.

TWO HOURS OF CAMPUS TERROR

3:45 PM First news of masked men collecting at Periyar Hostel. SFI activist beaten up.

4 PM JNUTA's peace march begins at Sabarmati T-point. Teachers and students in attendance.

5:30 PM News begins to trickle in of masked persons roaming around on campus. First PCR call by student at 5.57 pm

6:15 PM Amit Thorat, a teacher, heads to Periyar hostel to check. Rushes back after he is beaten up by the masked men

6:30 PM Mob moves towards the JNUTA site. Teachers attempt to engage in dialogue but are met with stones and lathis. Several injured.

7:30 PM JNUSU head Aishe Ghosh attacked while telling students not to panic.

TILL 9 PM Mob runs riot inside 7 hostels.

The Indian Express made over 10 calls each to the Registrar and the Chief Security Officer of JNU to seek comment on the developments. Multiple calls were also made to the V-C and Rector, apart from text messages, but none elicited a response.

'MAZAA AA GAYA,' READ ONE MESSAGE

Before mayhem, WhatsApp chatter suggests planning

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

MESSAGES urging people to "thrash the anti-nationals" in JNU allegedly did rounds of some WhatsApp groups in the hours leading up to the violence on campus Sunday. *The Indian Express* managed to contact six people from whose mobile numbers the messages threatening violence were made in the groups.

Out of the six, three said someone else may have "misused" their number to post the messages, one said his "friend posted the message", two others

said they entered the groups to "provide intel". One person wrote: "Bilkul, ek baar thik se aar paar karne ki jarurat hai, abhi nahi marenge saalo ko toh kab marenge, gand macha rakha hai komiyo ne."

When contacted, he said: "I am a JNU student pursuing PhD from the School of International Studies. Yes, I am from ABVP. The journalists are tarnishing the image of JNU." Hours later, he added: "I am from JNU but I did not post those messages. Someone misused my number."

Another post was made by a person in the group 'Left Terror Down Down', saying, "We have so much fun at JNU. Maza aa



Police outside JNU; 700 officers were called in. Abhinav Saha

gaya. In saalon ko deshdrohiyo ko maarke." When contacted, he

said, "I'm a college student from Haryana. A few of us were hav-

ing fun. Then we came across a post by a media portal on Left terror at JNU. My friend took my phone, joined the group and posted this. I reprimanded him. I'm not politically aware so don't know if JNU students are anti-nationals or not."

Another person posted "saalon ko hostel mai ghuske tode". When contacted, he said he stays in Noida. "Who gave you my number? Disconnect the phone," he said and abruptly cut the call.

Another person, who was in the group "Unity Against Left", said he was there to "gather information about the plans to unleash violence on the campus".

"I am in AIIMS Trauma Centre now. I am not a JNU student, but I stand with my comrades. I joined the group for intel. Later, they removed me. The link to the group was shared with me by someone," said the person, dissociating himself from the ABVP.

Another person, in the group "Unity Against Left", changed the name of the group to "Sanghi goons murtadabad" at one point, following which he left.

When contacted, he said, "I am from Kerala. Someone had added me to the group. I am vehemently against the ABVP. I have nothing to do with the violence. In fact, I changed the name of the group."



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



TIGHT SCHEDULE

THE FIRST month of the new year will be very busy for top bureaucrats and all the ministers. At least five meetings of the Union Council of Ministers are scheduled in the next two weeks. The Council of Ministers headed by PM Narendra Modi is expected to meet on the 7th, 8th, 13th, 17th and 20th of this month. This could be the first time the Council — which used to meet once or twice a year until a few years ago — will meet so frequently. Although it is deliberating sector-wise five-year vision documents concerning a group of ministries, all the secretaries have been asked to be present in every meeting.

ON COURSE

IN AN unusual intervention, Rashtrapati Bhavan ensured that the destination wedding of Ohio resident Ashley Hall at Taj Cochin happened as planned. Hall had tweeted “Hey @rashtrapatibhvn- anything you can do to help us with your security team so that we don’t have to move our wedding from the @Taj_Cochin in under 48 hours?” about the wedding that took eight months to plan. As Rashtrapati Bhavan ensured it was on course, Hall thanked them, after which Rashtrapati Bhavan tweeted, “We are glad the issues have been resolved. President Kovind conveys his best wishes to you on this joyous occasion.”

POLL FACES

THOUGH THE party has not yet formally made its stance clear on whether it is considering projecting a CM candidate for the Delhi Assembly elections, recent actions by the state BJP seem to suggest it will be a Modi-versus-Kejriwal poll battle. The latest indication being the loudest slogan — “Delhi chale Modi ke saath 2020” — adorning the dais of the booth workers’ convention addressed by BJP president Amit Shah on Sunday. Late last month, the state unit put up posters across 1,731 ‘unauthorised’ colonies in the capital declaring them as ‘new authorised’ colonies with pictures of only Narendra Modi and the BJP’s election symbol. Both these developments came within a fortnight of PM Modi launching the BJP’s poll campaign for Delhi on December 22. The party had put up Kiran Bedi as CM candidate at the last moment in 2015, and it helped the party pin the blame for the disastrous results. There is still time before the next poll is announced, and these developments have set many a tongue wagging about a Modi-Kejriwal contest.

Not for Netflix, number only to support BJP’s CAA campaign: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

WITH SEVERAL social media users advertising the BJP’s missed call campaign number with unrelated connections, party leaders on Sunday came out with a strong clarification that the number was solely dedicated to the party’s campaign. “Rumours have been spread about this number being of Netflix, which is some channel. I want to make it clear that this number was never of Netflix channel, this number is purely for supporting the BJP on CAA, for supporting Narendra Modi. Don’t be misguided,” Home Minister Amit Shah during his speech at a meeting of BJP workers in Delhi.

The missed call campaign was launched by the party on Thursday to gather data of supporters of the Citizenship Amendment Act. Twitter users began sharing the number as women asking for companionship, free Netflix subscriptions, and money deposits. Senior BJP leaders chimed in.

MHA sanctions third advisor to J&K Lt Governor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JANUARY 5

THE MINISTRY of Home Affairs (MHA) on Sunday accorded sanction to the appointment of Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar, a retired IPS officer, as Advisor to Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu.

The advisor, according to the communication from the MHA, shall assist the Lieutenant Governor in the effective discharge of his functions. The appointment will be effective from



Amit Shah

“Dirty tricks department of opposition exposed. The missed call number belongs only to BJP,” BJP IT Cell Chief Amit Malviya tweeted. He also tweeted a photo of a letter from Vodafone stating that the number belonged to Cosmic Information & Technology Limited and a letter from Cosmic Information & Technology Limited that they are using the number for the BJP’s missed call campaign.

The party began using missed call campaigns during PM Narendra Modi’s 2014 poll campaign and has since used the initiative to gather phone numbers. They have set up a number of call centers across the country to call these numbers and collect further information. That information is then used to send targeted political messaging and run subsequent campaigns.

the date from which he assumes charge, it added.

Bhatnagar will be Murmu’s third advisor, the other two being KK Sharma and Farooq Khan. While Sharma is a former IAS officer who held various positions including Chief Secretary of Delhi and Goa, besides Secretary in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Khan is a retired IPS officer who served Jammu and Kashmir Police in various capacities, and later served as the administrator of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

PARTIES CONDEMN VIOLENCE AT JNU

Cong blames ‘fascists’, BJP ‘forces of anarchy’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

FROM RAHUL Gandhi to M K Stalin, Mamata Banerjee to Akhilesh Yadav, top Opposition leaders on Sunday condemned the violence unleashed by “masked men” at Delhi’s Jawaharlal Nehru University.

The BJP, too, condemned the violence and called it a “desperate attempt by forces of anarchy, who are determined to use students as cannon fodder, create unrest to shore up their shrinking political footprint”. Universities, it said, should remain places of learning and education.

Delhi Chief Minister and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal condemned the violence and spoke to Lt Governor Anil Bajjal and urged him to direct the police to restore order. “I am so shocked to know about the violence at JNU. Students attacked brutally. Police should immediately stop vio-

lence and restore peace. How will the country progress if our students will not be safe inside university campus?” Kejriwal said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said, “The fascists in control of our nation, are afraid of the voices of our brave students. Today’s violence in JNU is a reflection of that fear.”

AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi visited AIIMS trauma centre to meet the injured students. “There is something deeply sickening about a government that allows and encourages such violence to be inflicted on their own children. Wounded students at AIIMS trauma centre told me that goons entered the campus and attacked them with sticks and other weapons. Many had broken limbs and injuries on their heads,” she said.

She later tweeted, “India has an established global reputation as a liberal democracy. Now Modi-Shah’s goons are rampaging through our universities, spread-



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra arrives at AIIMS to meet the injured students. Tashi Tobgyal

ing fear among our children, who should be preparing for a better future... To add insult to injury, BJP leaders are all over the media pretending that it wasn’t their goons who unleashed this violence. The people are not deceived.”

Punjab CM Amarinder Singh tweeted, “Situation in JNU is clearly out of hand. @DelhiPolice

cannot remain silent spectators to this mayhem unleashed by a handful of goons in the premier university. This is barbaric, atrocious and needs to be tackled with iron hand. #JNUattack #SOSJNU” Former Union minister Manish Tewari argued, “What is happening in JNU is reminiscent of Kristallnacht — the night of the



Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Education Minister Kanwar Pal Gujjar start the door-to-door campaign on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in Panchkula. Jasbir Malhi

BJP begins door-to-door campaign to dispel ‘misinformation’ on CAA

ENS & PTI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

BJP CHIEF Amit Shah visited several houses in Delhi as the party Sunday launched a 10-day ‘Jan Jagran’ door-to-door campaign across the country to dispel “misinformation” on the new citizenship law, which has triggered massive protests since it was passed in December.

In Uttar Pradesh, where at least 19 people were killed during anti-CAA protests, Chief Minister Adityanath handed over a booklet on the citizenship law to one Haji Chaudhari Kaifulwara at his shop in the BJP leader’s pocket-borough Gorakhpur and said the Act is meant to give citizenship to persecuted people. “It is the tradition of India to give shelter to persecuted people and Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought CAA to give citizenship to such people,” Adityanath said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the residence of Justice Khem Karan in his constituency Lucknow.

BJP’s working president J P Nadda was in Vaishali in



Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad holds a baby named Nagrikta by her parents as she was born on the day the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill became an Act. PTI

Ghaziabad while Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi visited Rampur for the awareness drive.

In Kerala, Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju visited the houses of some prominent citizens in Thiruvananthapuram, including Malayalam writer George Onakkoor who told the BJP leader it was not fair to exclude members of one religion from the purview of the Act. Rijiju said the Act was not against any religion and pointed out that the NDA government had given citizenship to “good Muslims”

like singer Adnan Sami.

Meanwhile, addressing the media in Jaipur, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, “More than 2,000 people who have come from Pakistan, majority of whom are Muslims, have been given citizenship in the last six years. More than 900 people from Afghanistan mostly Muslims, they too have been granted citizenship in the last 6 years. Nearly 200 people from Bangladesh, mostly Muslims have also been granted citizenship. Even today, there is no exclusion of Muslims under Citizenship Act through which they can become citizens.”

Former Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh cited the example of Pakistan’s first law minister Jogendra Nath Mandal to drum up support for the CAA. “Jogendra Nath Mandal, the first law minister of Pakistan, had to resign when he raised issues of atrocities on minorities in that country. He had to leave Pakistan and take shelter in a refugee camp in West Bengal where he died,” Singh said.

In Karnataka, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said they will visit Muslim-dominated areas to create awareness on the law.

Over five-star dinner, BJP’s CAA drive with Bollywood

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 5

THE NARENDRA Modi government held a private meeting with Bollywood personalities at a five-star hotel in Mumbai on Sunday evening, followed by a “sumptuous dinner”, as part of its efforts to bolster support for the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

An invite was sent by producer and BJP supporter Mahavir Jain to Bollywood actors and filmmakers for “an interactive meeting” with Union Minister of Railways Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and BJP national vice-president Baijayant ‘Jay’ Panda.

Among the Bollywood personalities who came for the meeting were Anu Malik, Rahul Rawail, Ritesh Sidhwani, Prasoorn Joshi, Kunal Kohli, Roop Kumar Rathod, Bhushan Kumar, Ramesh Taurani, Abhishek Kapoor and Ranvir Shorey.

Invites were known to have

been sent to Jackie Shroff, Raveena Tandon, Rajkumar Hirani, Boney Kapoor, Madhur Bhandarkar, Suniel Shetty, Prahlad Kakkar, actors Vicky Kaushal, Ayushmann Khurrana as well as Richa Chadda and Kabir Khan. Like the Akhtars, Khan and Chadda have been vocal in their support for students’ protests against CAA.

Among the other invitees, while Bhumi Pednekar’s manager told The Indian Express she would not be attending, producer-director Karan Johar is travelling abroad.

The invite read: “We request participation of all rational thoughts and different points of view pertaining to the Citizenship Amendment Act. We strongly believe in a healthy discussion around all the possible dimensions of the issue. Your inputs will enlighten the discussion. It will be followed by a sumptuous dinner.”

Around 50 people gathered outside the hotel in Santa Cruz to protest against CAA, holding placards and singing songs such

as Hum Dekhenge. The Mumbai Police kept a strict vigil, with no press allowed inside and hotel authorities closing off the lobby.

Mahavir Jain was the man behind the well-publicised ‘Bollywood selfie’ with Modi that took place a day before Uri released in theatres, almost exactly a year ago. “Guests have been invited from the film and TV world, like Javed Akhtar, Farhan Akhtar, Dia Mirza, Ritesh Sidhwani. The idea is to have a positive meeting, and start a dialogue,” shared an industry insider on the condition of anonymity.

However, while Jain was the face of the event, all questions regarding it were referred to BJP Mumbai Pradesh vice-president Hitesh Jain. The latter said, “As part of an outreach programme, we (the BJP) are reaching out to all segments of society to explain the history and rationale of CAA and answer any questions people may have. This was a closed-door meeting.”

— WITH ENS, NEW DELHI

All deaths in UP caused by police bullets: Akhilesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 5

SP PRESIDENT Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday alleged that all the deaths during the protests against the new citizenship law in Uttar Pradesh were caused by police bullets and said the BJP’s campaign in support of the Act was to “mislead” people.

Yadav, who visited the residence of Mohammad Wakil , who was killed during an anti-CAA protest in Lucknow, said, “He (Wakil) was not involved in the agitation. The government should probe as to whose bullet hit him. They (police) have the post-mortem report now.”

“All the deaths during the agitation in the state were caused by police bullets,” he claimed.

Yadav also demanded compensation, house and job for Wakil’s family, currently living in a rented accommodation.

He said that families of all those killed during protests should be given adequate compensation.

The UP Police initially claimed that none of the deaths was caused by police firing, but subsequently admitted some casualties in police bullets when cops fired in “self defence”.



Akhilesh Yadav meets the family of a man killed during the protests. Twitter

Officials have put the death toll at 19 in widespread clashes in the state, though the opposition parties claimed a higher figure.

Yadav asked the government that if it wanted to make someone from another country its citizen, then why has it not given this ‘right’ to Muslims.

“This is because you (BJP) want to divide the society and play politics. Every Indian is against CAA and NRC. When Aadhaar has all information why NPR?” he asked.

Asked to comment on the BJP’s campaign in support of the CAA, he said it was to “mislead” people.

“They could not convince us in Parliament. Now, they have come out to mislead the people,” he said.

Owaisi slams Pak PM, asks him to worry about his own country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HYDERABAD, JANUARY 5

AIMIM PRESIDENT Asaduddin Owaisi has asked why losses were not recovered from those who indulged in damage to public property during the Jat agitation in Haryana, while money is proposed to be recovered by the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh in connection with the recent anti-CAA protests.

Owaisi, who was addressing a protest meeting at Sangareddy town near late on Saturday night against the amended citizenship



‘No power on earth can take away my Indianness’

law, also said Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan need not worry about Indian Muslims.

The AIMIM president also announced that a protest meeting will be held at Charminar on January 25 against the CAA, adding, “We will hoist the Tricolour on January 25 midnight and recite the national anthem.

such heinous acts. A shame on our democracy. Trinamool delegation led by Dinesh Trivedi (Sajda Ahmed, Manas Bhunia, Vivek Gupta) headed to Delhi to show solidarity with ShaheenBagh JNU,” Banerjee said.

In Chennai, DMK chief Stalin condemned the violence. “...DMK condemns rising incidents of violence against students within universities in the aftermath of CAA 2019. All those who are responsible for these incidents must be brought to book immediately,” he said.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar said, “JNU students and professors were subjected to a cowardly but planned attack. I strongly condemn this undemocratic act of vandalism and violence.”

Anand Mahindra, chairman of the Mahindra group, tweeted, “...If you’re an Indian, you cannot tolerate armed, lawless goons. Those who invaded JNU tonight must be traced & hunted down swiftly & given no quarter...”

Maya to Yogi govt: Apologise for sending protesters to jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 5

BSP CHIEF Mayawati on Sunday asked the Uttar Pradesh government to seek an apology from the public for putting anti-CAA protesters behind bars without thorough investigation. She dubbed it as “highly shameful and condemnable”.

Accusing the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government of jailing protesters without any proper investigation, she asked them to seek an apology from the public. She demanded financial assistance for those killed in the protests. She also demanded the immediate release of those innocent and urged the government to provide “justifiable” financial assistance to the kin of those who have died during the protests.

Around 1,200 people were arrested and 5,558 kept in preventive detention following clashes during the protests, officials said.

She said a BSP delegation will meet Governor Anandiben Patel on Monday and submit a memorandum seeking a judicial inquiry into the clashes that took place in the state.

The meeting would be to save the Constitution and the country.”

Referring to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, Owaisi said, “Mr Khan, you worry about your own country... We have rejected the message, the wrong theory of Jinnah. We are proud Indian Muslims and till the day of judgment, Inshallah, we will remain as proud Indian Muslims.”

“No power on earth can take away my Indianness. No power on earth can take away my religious identity. Why? Because the Constitution of India guarantees me that,” he said.

especially the poor, marginalised and vulnerable belonging to all communities. The central government needs to focus on the real priorities of governance such as the disastrous state of the economy,” Varma wrote.

However, JD(U) national spokesperson KC Tyagi reiterated that the NPR must not be confused with the NRC. “NPR had been introduced during the UPA regime. Now that PM has clarified that there would be no NRC, there is no problem going with NPR.”

BJP spokesperson Nikhil Anand said, “Pavan Varma’s criticism of the Bihar deputy CM makes no sense because the land and revenue department had duly notified NPR on December 18 and it was published in a gazette on January 3.”

— WITH ENS, NEW DELHI

PROTEST WATCH

ASSAM

Thousands participate in 15-km protest march



A rally in Guwahati on Sunday. Dasarath Deka

Guwahati: Leaders of the All Assam Students Union (AASU), Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) and popular cultural icons, including singer Zubeen Garg, led a massive protest gathering and rally here against the new citizenship law on Sunday. Thousands of people hit the streets in the state capital in a 15-km long march originating from Bhupen Hazarika's memorial. AASU General Secretary Lurin Jyoti

Gogoi said, "The government is trying to dominate us by various means, but we will not bow down until this Act is repealed." AASU leader Akhil Gogoi has been under arrest since December 12. He was handed over on December 17 to the NIA which arrested him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Protesters have also demanded the release of Gogoi during the agitation. **ENS**

KARNATAKA



A protest against CAA, NRC and NPR in Bengaluru. PTI

Burqa-bindi protest among three in Bengaluru

Ahmedabad: Protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, NRC and NPR continued on Sunday, with at least three separate gatherings being held in Bengaluru. At the Town Hall, a women-led "Burqa-Bindi protest" saw a gathering of approximately 1,500 people, who protested against the new citizenship law and the proposed citizens' register. Prajakta Kuwalekar, one of the organisers of the protest, said, "Because some of the media is bent on de-

scribing the protests as Muslim protests, we decided people from all religions had to turn up." Among artists, singers, activists and journalists in attendance was Manipuri activist Irom Sharmila. Another protest was organised by a group called Engineers against the amended citizenship law at the Town Hall. A blood donation camp was organised by the Jamiat Ulama South Bangalore to protest against the CAA and NRC. **ENS**

After Kanpur, two shot in Dec 20 Bijnor violence to be probed as 'accused'

KRISHNKAUSHIK
NEHTAUR (BIJNOR), JANUARY 5

TWO WEEKS after Mohammed Suleman, 20, and Mohammad Anas, 24, were killed in Nehtaur during the violence that erupted after protests against the CAA and NRC, families of both victims are still struggling to register FIRs. Instead, police are set to name the two as accused in cases of rioting and violence.

Post-mortem reports of both Suleman and Anas state bullet injuries as cause of death. However, as reported by *The Indian Express* on December 24, authorities have admitted to only Suleman's death in police filing, adding that they had opened fire in self-defence.

Nehtaur Police Station SHO Satya Prakash Singh told *The Indian Express* that Anas and Suleman's deaths will be dubbed in the FIRs filed regarding the violence, and these have not been shared with the families as the two are "accused". While neither was named in the initial FIRs filed regarding the December 20 incident, Singh said more names were being added as the investigation continues.

Bijnor SP Sanjeev Tyagi said Suleman had been an accused since "day one", while he did not know the details of Anas's case. Arguing that there could only be one FIR per incident, and hence all related events were clubbed together, Tyagi said that since the families' complaints had been "officially received", these were now "merged", and a part of the probe. Earlier, *The Indian Express* had reported that Kanpur police had decided to name 13 Muslims, including three minors, who suffered gunshot injuries during the protest in Kanpur on December 20, in FIRs registered over the violence.

Kanpur SSP Anant Deo said those injured were present at the spot.



Suleman's mother, Anas's father. No FIR on deaths. File

"This can be taken as sufficient evidence to name them in the FIR."

Suleman and Anas's families had filed written complaints with police on December 28, and were given copies stamped 'received', which they have been told is all they need. The families said SHO Singh met them on December 27 and gave them two days to file an FIR, warning that otherwise these would be clubbed to one of three FIRs registered over the violence. However, they never gave a copy of an FIR in relation to the deaths.

In his complaint, Anas's father Arshad Husain said his son was killed when he had stepped out to get milk from his uncle's house. Husain said "Ashish Tomar, City In-charge Nehtaur", "Mohit Constable" and "two other policemen" "dragged Anas out of the lane, slammed him to the (ground) and Mohit and the two policemen pushed him under their feet and Ashish Tomar put the pistol in his hand to Anas's eye and shot him".

Husain said Anas died before they could get him to a hospital.

Demanding an FIR, Suleman's brother Shoab said in his complaint that he was returning from a mosque after Friday prayers when "SHO Rajesh Solanki, city-in-charge Ashish Tomar along with Constable Mohit and three other policemen" "dragged him (Suleman) to... the lane in front of the madrasa near Ghaas Mandi and Constable Mohit on listening to his colleagues

shot my brother and killed him around 2:15 in the afternoon".

Suleman's uncle Afzan Ahmed Usmani, a lawyer, said that on December 27, SHO Singh came to Suleman's parents' home and told them that "if you want to file an FIR, you have two days". Anas's uncle Risalat Husain said his family was also given similar notice by police the same day, and that police also told them that one of the cases of "stone-pelting, arson, lathicharge and firing by rioters had resulted in the death of your son".

On December 30, the two families said, Bijnor SP Tyagi and District Magistrate Rama Kant Pande told them at the Nehtaur Police Station that no independent FIR would be filed in the two deaths and their complaints "would be merged with the existing FIRs". But, Anas's family said, the DM did tell them that the SDM of Dhampur was being made an "observer" and would conduct an inquiry and the families should provide evidence to them whenever called.

Nehtaur SHO Singh said the deaths were "part of investigation" and both the applications have been included in the probe. Asked why couldn't the existing FIRs be given to the families if they were being clubbed, Singh said, "Right now they are the accused, why will we give them a copy of the FIR?"

The SHO also argued that there can only be one FIR per incident, which is why independent FIRs were not needed in the two deaths, and that they had given a stamped copy to the families saying they had received their applications to register FIRs. He claimed that the families had, in fact, come forward to file cases at police's urging.

The SHO asserted that police had used "minimum force" to control the mob on December 20, and that cases of 20 to 25 rounds fired by protesters were recovered.

Madrasa inmates say police beat them, forced them to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'

UP Police deny allegations, say rumours being spread

ARANYA SHANKAR
MUZAFFARNAGAR, JANUARY 5

STUDENTS AND other inmates of a Muzaffarnagar madrasa have alleged that police barged into the complex on December 20, during protests in the town against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, and, besides allegedly beating up with lathis, forced them to chant "Jai Shri Ram" and called them "terrorists".

Maulana Asad Raza Hussaini, 68, who runs the madrasa, said he was among those the police thrashed. "They didn't say anything, they just hit me so much that I fell and someone else fell on me. I didn't think I'd live but God saved me. I have never seen anything like this, not even during the riots (2013)," said the maulana, who has a fractured left arm and bandages on both his legs.

Senior Superintendent of Police Abhishek Yadav denied the charges. Denying allegations that students and others were forced to chant "Jai Shri Ram", Yadav said, "the question of such a thing doesn't arise". On allegations of assault, he said, "We had to do a lathi charge as protesters had en-

tered the madrasa, but after that, there was no action. Rumours are being spread," he said. Yadav said that on December 20, several protesters had allegedly entered the madarsa complex. "We detained 75 people in all, of whom 28 students were let off the same day. Yesterday, 10 others, who we found were part of the protest, were granted bail because no vandalism charges could be established," he said.

The SSP added that the maulana's son, Mohammad Hussaini, had issued a press statement on Sunday refuting allegations of police violence or "misdeed". Hussaini, however, said, "I have only refuted false reports of rectal bleeding and other such claims carried by the media. However, police did beat up people."

There were earlier reports of the madrasa's students, many of them minors, being assaulted and of some of them suffering "rectal bleeding".

Irfan Haider, 21, a student who was among those detained on December 20 and released a day later at 11 pm, alleged that more than 150 policemen in uniform and riot gear entered the madrasa

around 3.45 pm that day. "They broke the CCTV cameras, broke open the doors and started hitting us with lathis. We were rounded up and taken to the police station, where we were hit with the butt of guns," he said, nursing fractures on his right arm and foot. "Around midnight (on December 20), they gave us a glass of water to be shared by five people. They also forced us to chant Jai Shri Ram," he added.

A 59-year-old government employee, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he had come to offer namaz in the campus mosque on December 20 when he was picked up by the police. "They said *Jai Shri Ram keh ke bata*. I did so. We were also thrashed. I'm unable to sleep at night and haven't gone to work since then," he said.

Adil Hussain, 19, one of the students released on bail on Saturday, said he was preparing to return home to Kamal when police barged into his room. "When they entered, there was some commotion — all of us ran here and there. They said, 'if you try to move, you will be shot'. After that they thrashed us and took us to the police station," said Hussain.

Police bid to disrupt event at IIM-A, forced to change venue: participants

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 5

POLICEMEN IN plain clothes reportedly tried to disrupt an event at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A), on Sunday evening following which the venue had to be shifted from the Louis Kahn Plaza to a classroom and the event later had to be held in the open, according to participants.

However, police claimed that they only visited the campus to enquire about the event.

A local team from the Satellite

police station came to the campus around 5.30 pm before the event, 'IIM-A stands up for democracy', scheduled to be held at 6.30 pm, they said. The venue of the event, organised by students, faculty and staff members, was changed. "The policemen pushed us into a classroom... How can police come and stop us from holding a peaceful event? We have no idea who informed them or why they came here," said one of the students.

A reading session of the Preamble, a session on police violence and a candlelight vigil were scheduled as part of the event.

Professor Navdeep Mathur,

one of the participating faculty members, said, "We were holding a peaceful reading session when a few policemen came and stopped us. It was only an event in solidarity with students who were reportedly attacked in other parts of the country..."

However, PD Darji, incharge officer of Satellite police station denied the accusations. "We received a message on WhatsApp that a candle march was being organised inside the college campus and we visited the campus to enquire about it. Police have not disrupted the event and it is going on," said Darji.

FIR against Vijayvargiya, 350 others

Bhopal: Days after he courted controversy by threatening officials in Indore, senior BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya on Sunday again issued a purported threat to officials that they will have to face consequences if they work at the behest of the ruling Congress. He and 350 other BJP workers were booked for violating prohibitory orders in Indore.

Vijayvargiya was in Neemuch for the BJP's programme to create awareness about the amendment to the citizenship act. Speaking at the event, he said officers should bear in mind that the Congress was not destined to rule for ever. "Tera kya hoga..." he said, repeating a line from the film 'Sholay' to warn officials.

Reacting to the BJP leader's comments, Chief Minister Nath said Vijayvargiya should decide whether he is a leader of the land mafia or the BJP. **ENS**

Bengal BJP leader accused of assaulting man

Kolkata: A man lodged a complaint against BJP leader Anupam Hazra on Sunday for allegedly assaulting and threatening him at a pub in Kolkata Saturday night. Police, however, are yet to file an FIR against Hazra, who denied the allegations.

Suresh Roy, a resident of Kolkata, alleged in his complaint that Hazra and his security guards beat him up after he took a photo of the BJP leader. "As he is a politician, I took his photo. Suddenly, Hazra started assaulting me. When I protested, he threatened to get me killed..." Roy said.

Hazra, however, said, "He requested for a selfie... Later, I found that he was making my video and sharing it. When my security guards asked him to stop, the man started hurling abuses..." **ENS**

Indian Bank
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e-mail : hauzkhas@indianbank.co.in

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property
E Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable property mortgaged /Charged to the secured creditor the constructive possession of which has been taken by Authorized Officer of Indian Bank, will be sold on "As is where is" "as is what is basis" and "whatever there is" on 11.02.2020 for recovery Rs. 20,02,692.74 (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Two Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Two & Paise Seventy Four Only) due to the Indian Bank, secured creditor from 1. Ms.Neha Sharma and 2.Mr. Prashant Sharma both R/o Flat No. C-211, Ground Floor, Block -C, Pocket -A, INA Colony,Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi-110023 and also at Property no.117, 2nd Floor, Out of Khasra no.904, Village Nawada, Gulab Bagh, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059.
At the reserve price and EMD amount given in respective column hereunder.

Mortgaged Assets	Reserve Price (Rupees)	EMD (Rupees One Lakh thirty thousand only)
2nd Floor, without roof rights, Property No.117A, Out of Khasra No.904, Village Nawada, Gulab Bagh, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059. Physical details of Property, North : Gali, South : Gali, East: Portion of Plot, West : Portion of Plot	Rs.13,00,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs only)	Rs.1,30,000/- (Rupees One Lakh thirty thousand only)

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to link provided in Secured creditors website i.e **M/s C1 INDIA LTD website i.e, www.C1india.com or www.indianbank.in**
Date: - 04.01.2020
Authorized Officer (Indian Bank)

CONSORTIUM FOR EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATION
IUAC CAMPUS, ARUNA ASAF ALI MARG, NEW DELHI - 110067
Phone: 011-24126418-19-20 Fax: 011-24126416
Website: www.cec.nic.in

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
Advertisement No. 1/2020
Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC), an autonomous body under University Grants Commission (UGC) invites suitable candidates for Walk-in-Interview for one (1) post of Consultant (Research & Training) on a consolidated salary Pay Range of Rs. 50000-70000 per month. For the said position, we are looking for young work oriented professional with a broader work profile who can, in addition to conducting awareness and capacity building workshops, perform multi-facet tasks like coordination with UGC and other educational institutions including Academics/Faculty for content generation & MOOCs. He can be a working/retired Research Professional/ Academician with vast experience in the area of Media Research for educational application. While the appointment would be for an initial period of one year, it may be extended further on a year to year basis as per the requirement. The walk-in-interview would be held on 10th January, 2020 (Friday) at 11:00 AM.
Interested candidates should report one hour before the scheduled time of Walk-in-Interview at CEC Reception in IUAC Campus, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi - 110067.
The interested candidates should bring their Bio-Data (Form attached) along with one self attested photograph, original certificates along with self attested photocopy of the certificates at the time of Interview.
*(Please refer to CEC Website www.cec.nic.in for Bio-Data form)
Chief Administrative Officer, CEC

STATE BANK OF INDIA, Stressed Assets Management Branch-1
12th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan (STC Building), 1, Tolstoy Marg, Janpath, New Delhi-110001,
Ph. No. : 21-23701070, 23701097, 23701157, 23701167, 23701195, Fax No. 23701202, E-mail ID : sbi.04109@sbi.co.in

E-Auction Sale Notice

"APPENDIX- IV-A]" [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Properties
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below mentioned immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor (State Bank of India), the constructive/physical possession mentioned below of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of State Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" Basis on **22-01-2020**, for recovery of amount as mentioned below, due to the Secured Creditor from Borrowers, Guarantors and Mongagors. The reserve price is mentioned below and the eamnest money to be deposited is mentioned respectively.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower (B) / Guarantor/s (G) with address/es	Address of Security charged covered under Auction	Reserve Price(RP) EMD Amount 10% of The Reserve Price Incremental Amount	Demand Notice Date & Amount Due	Date / Time of on-site Inspection of Property with name of Authorized Officer	Date & Time of E-Auction with auto extensions of 10 minutes each
1	M/s Brushman (India) Ltd. (Borrower) Regd. Office: B-95/3, Phase-1, Naraina Industrial Area, New Delhi-110028. M/s Brushman (India) Ltd. (Borrower) 34-35-36, Sector-3, Sidecut Industrial Area, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand M/s Brushman (India) Ltd. (Borrower) Flat No. 604, 6th Floor, "Makani Centre", Prem Co-op. Housing Society, Bandra (West), Mumbai Guarantors: 1. Shri. Kapil Kumar S/o Late Shri Kanwal Krishan 2. Smt. Ritu Kumar W/o Shri Kapil Kumar 3. Smt. Raj Rani W/o Late Shri Kanwal Krishan, Alt R/o D-6/2 Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057 M/s Omega Brushware (Through its Partners Shri Kapil Kumar & Smt Raj Rani) B-95/3, Phase-1, Naraina Industrial Area, New Delhi-110028	Residential Flat no. 604, 6th Floor, "Makani Centre" 35th Road Off linking Road, Prem Co-op. Housing Society, Plot No. 522, C.T.S No. F/355, Town planning Scheme no. III "Pushpa Sadan" Bandra (West), Mumbai, built up area 462 sq. ft. & Carpet area 385 sq. ft., standing in the name of M/s Brushman (India) Ltd. (Physical Possession)	₹ 143.00 Lac ₹ 14.30 Lac ₹ 1.00 Lac	₹ 59,45,43,370.52 together with interest cost charges and expenses upto 31.03.2011 with costs, etc. thereon. Demand Notice date: 18th April, 2011	15-01-2020 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. Authorized Officer: Sh. Harbhajan Singh Mob.: 9650298154	22-01-2020 Time : 3 hours From 11.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M. with auto extensions of 10 minutes each
2	M/s Radikal Foods Ltd. (Borrower), Smt. Anju Chaudhary W/o Late Sh. Chandra Prakash Chaudhary (Personal Guarantor & Mortgagor), Sh. Siddharth Chaudhary S/o Late Sh. Chandra Prakash Chaudhary (Personal Guarantor & Mortgagor), M/s Shreedhar Estates Pvt. Ltd. (Corporate Guarantor), M/s Tirumala Vanijaya Pvt. Ltd. (Corporate Guarantor), M/s Radikal International Pvt. Ltd. (Corporate Guarantor) & Mortgagor), M/s Kundan Commercial Pvt. Ltd. (Corporate Guarantor) and M/s Radikal Global Foods (India) Pvt. Ltd. (Erstwhile Radikal Warehousing Pvt. Ltd.) (Corporate Guarantor) & Legal Heirs of Late Sh. Chandra Prakash Chaudhary i.e. 1. Smt. Anju Chaudhary (Wife), 2. Sh. Siddharth Chaudhary (Son), 3. Sh. Mohit Chaudhary (Son), 4. Ms. Anindita Chaudhary W/o Sh. Siddharth Chaudhary, 5. Sh. Shridhar Chaudhary (Son), 6. Sh. Prateek Chaudhary (Son), 7. Ms. Krati Chaudhary (Daughter) and 8. Smt. Savitri Devi W/o Sh. Samunder Singh	(1) Property owned by: Sh. Siddarth Chaudhary All that Part and parcel of J-3, Second Floor with Two Servant Quarters on the top terrace with proportionate undivided, indivisible rights, Saket New Delhi-17, built up area 3800 sq. ft. 4BR, 1DR, 3 BALCONY, 1STORE ROOM, 1 LOBBY, KITCHEN, 5 TOILETS, PLOT AREA 500 SQ. YARDS (Physical Possession) (2) Property owned by: Smt. Anju Chaudhary All that Part and parcel of D-119, Entire Basement Floor, Saket, New Delhi-110017, Plot Area 291.54 sq. yds. covered area 1968 sq. ft. (Physical Possession)	₹ 420.00 Lacs ₹ 42.00 Lacs ₹ 1.00 Lac ₹ 123.00 Lacs ₹ 12.30 Lacs ₹ 1.00 Lac	(1) State Bank of India (including erstwhile e-SBP, e-SBBJ, e-SBH, e-SBT and e-SBM) Rs. 695,13,16,548.00 as on 30.12.2017 plus interest & expenses thereon (Date of Notice 30-12-2017) (2) Indian Overseas Bank Rs. 129,26,11,556.00 as on 31.08.2016 plus interest & expenses thereon (Date of Notice 03-10-2016) (3) Exim Bank Rs. 20,90,35,051.78 as on 08-11-2016 plus interest & expenses thereon (Date of Notice 11-11-2016) (4) Vijaya Bank Rs. 31,56,26,444.00 as on 30.09.2016 plus interest & expenses thereon (Date of Notice 24-10-2016) (5) Bank of Maharashtra Rs. 50,05,13,742.00 as on 24.07.2016 plus interest & expenses thereon (Date of Notice 25.07.2016) (6) IDBI Bank Rs. 29,22,01,447.00 as on 29.06.2016 plus interest & expenses thereon (Date of Notice 29.06.2016) (7) UCO Bank Rs. 32,15,54,793.00 as on 31.05.2016 plus interest & expenses thereon (Date of Notice 20.07.2016) (8) Catholic Syrian Bank Rs. 31,00,89,108.93 as on 31.08.2016 plus interest & expenses thereon (9) Oriental Bank of Commerce Rs. 37,99,62,294.24 as on 30.09.2016 plus interest & expenses thereon (Date of Notice 20.10.2016) (10) Bank of India Rs. 23,95,82,897.31 as on 31.08.2016 plus interest & expenses thereon (Date of Notice 06.09.2016)	15-01-2020 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. Authorized Officer: Sh. Harbhajan Singh Mob.: 9650298154	22-01-2020 Time : 3 hours From 11.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M. with auto extensions of 10 minutes each
3	M/s 4 Genius Minds Pvt. Ltd. Regd. Office : K-1/17, Ground Floor, Chitranjan Park, New Delhi - 110019 GUARANTORS: 1 Mr. Aditya Agarwal, M-46, Greater Kailash, Part-I, New Delhi - 110048 2 Mr. Abhishek Agarwal, M-46, Greater Kailash, Part-I, New Delhi - 110048 3 Mr. Akhilesh Agarwal, 2630, Southern Gate, Drive Greensboro, North Carolina 27410, United States of America 4 Mrs. Komal Agarwal, M-46, Greater Kailash, Part-I, New Delhi - 110048	All that part and parcel of the residential property consisting of land and building situated at House no. M-46, Greater Kailash, Part-I, New Delhi-110048; (plot size 510 sq. yds.) and Movable (not Permanently affixed) Household Items at House No. M-46, Greater Kailash, Part-I, New Delhi-110048, being sold to recover lawful charges and costs and not as secured asset. Property Standing in the name of Mr. Aditya Agarwal, Mr. Abhishek Agarwal and Mr. Akhilesh Agarwal all sons of Mr. Arvind Agarwal	₹ 2051.00 Lacs ₹ 205.10 Lacs ₹ 1.00 Lac	Rs. 48,01,41,591.31 (Rupees Forty Eight crores One lacs Forty One thousand Five hundred Ninety One and paise thirty one only) as on 07.04.2018 plus further interest, expenses, costs and other charges etc. from 07.04.2018 owed by the Borrower Company M/s 4 Genius Minds Pvt. Ltd. Demand Notice Date: 07-04-2018	18-01-2020 12.00 Noon to 2.00 p.m. Authorised Officer Sh. Prashant Singh Mob. 9999355060	22-01-2020 Time : 3 hours From 11.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M. with auto extensions of 10 minutes each

Date and Time For Submission of Bid Application Form, KYC Documents, PAN Card, Proof of EMD etc. On or before 20-01-2020 upto 4.00 P.M. and EMD through MSTC Wallet.

EMD to be transferred / deposited by bidders in his / her / their own wallet provided by M/s MSTC Ltd. on its E-Auction site https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp by means of RTGS/NEFT

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE E-AUCTION ARE AS UNDER:
E-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and will be conducted "On Line". The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s MSTC Ltd. (Helpdesk No. 033-2290-1004)** at their web portal **https://www.mstcecommerce.com**; Declaration, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available in **https://www.mstcecommerce.com**
To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims / rights / dues / affecting the property/ies, prior to submitting their bid. In this regard, the e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the Bank.
The Authorised Officer / Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims / rights / dues. The sale shall be subject to rules / conditions prescribed under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. The other terms and conditions of the e-auction are published in the following websites. **1. https://www.mstcecommerce.com 2. http://www.sbi.co.in STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002**

Date : 06-01-2020, Place : New Delhi
Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

Classifieds
PERSONAL

I, Ruchi Aggarwal W/o Hari Chand Aggarwal R/o A-2/241-242, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name from Ruchi Gupta to Ruchi Aggarwal. 0040526303-2

I, Raj Kumar Sah S/o Raghav Sah R/o G-744 Sri Niwas Puri, New Delhi-110065, have changed my name to Raj Kumar for all purposes. 0040526489-1

I, Manish Gupta S/o Late Shri Roshan Lal Gupta R/o AG-327, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-88. In my 10th certificate my name is wrongly mentioned as Manish kumar also, I Manish Kumar and Manish Gupta is one and same person, that is me and should be known as Manish Gupta for all future purposes. 0040526520-1

I, Jaiivir K Sidhanth S/o Sonjay Kant R/o 146 Chitra Vihar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Jaiaveer Kant for all purposes. 0040526506-1

I, Hari Chand Aggarwal S/o Radhey Shyam Aggarwal R/o A-2/241-242, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name from Hari Chand Gupta to Hari Chand Aggarwal. 0040526303-3

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Manish Kumar S/o Sh. Shakti Singh Rawat permanently residing at DK-128, 4 Civil Lines, Palwal declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Manish Kumar Rawat in my passport No. F8158843. The actual name of mine is Manish Kumar which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my clients Sh. Sanjeev Sachdeva, S/o Lt. Sh. Jaisha Ram Sachdeva and Smt. Rita Sachdeva W/o Sh. Sanjeev Sachdeva presently R/o 34/2, 2nd Floor, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi 110 008 (Rented accommodation) also at : 3026/5A, Ranjeet Nagar, New Delhi 110 008 and at 3100, Street No. 3, Ranjeet Nagar, New Delhi 110 008 have debarred their son Sh. Sahil Sachdeva and his wife Ms. Kritika Ahuja from their personal life and also from their movable / immovable properties because of their unlawful / illegal conduct with the general public as well as with my clients. I hereby inform all of you that my clients would not be responsible for any legal / illegal / unlawful act of Sh. Sahil Sachdeva and Ms. Kritika Ahuja (Hansish Aggarwal) Advocate D/694/2006 Ch. No. 312, 3rd Floor Lawyers Chamber Block Rohini Courts Complex Date: 31.12.2019, Delhi - 110085

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that our client Mrs. Bharti Sharma is owner of Property bearing No. 77, on Second Floor and Third floor (Duplex) Block A-5/B, Paschim Puri, Delhi in this connection our clients have informed us that the following documents of the said property have been lost/not traceable.
a. Original Allocation Letter & Allotment Letter and Possession Letter/Slip/Certificate issued by DDA in favour of Mrs. Tara Chadha in respect of the said property.
b. Original GPA, ATS and Will dated 06.07.1990 executed by Mrs. Tara Chadha in favour of Mrs. Bharti Sharma in respect of the said property.
The General Public is hereby informed that any person who happens to find the above mentioned original document of following dates is called upon to return the same to us at our address stated herein below within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The General public is hereby also warned that any use of above said documents anywhere in any manner will be treated as null and void and illegal and the person doing so will be liable for such act as per law.
Ankit Kumar Khurana, Advocate
M/s Intellectual Law Offices
A-74, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi -110024

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that our client Mrs. Bharti Sharma is owner of Property bearing No. 25, area measuring 177 Sq. Yds. comprised in Khastha no.23/204, situated at Thana Road, Near Chhawia Bus stand, Najafgarh, New Delhi by virtue of a registered Sale Deed, executed by Mr. Mahender Singh Sharma, duly registered as Document no. 7416 in Additional Book No.1, Volume No.1531, on pages 48 to 61, registered on 06.09.2004, with the office of Sub-Registrar-IX, New Delhi. Our client have informed us that the registration particulars of the sale deed dated 09.08.2002, pertaining to the said property Plot no. 25, area measuring 177 Sq. Yds. comprised in Khastha no.23/204, situated at Thana Road, Near Chhawia Bus stand, Najafgarh, New Delhi, executed by Mr. Mahender Singh Sharma in favour of Mr. Mahinder Singh Sharma, duly registered as documents No. as 4076 which is written manually in sale deed dated 09.08.2002 but on inspection, the same is mentioned as Document no. 1180 instead of 4076 in the office of Sub-Registrar office. Our client has further informed us that in the Sale Deed dated 06.09.2004 which was executed by Mr. Mahender Singh Sharma in favour of Mr. Bharti Sharma, the recital of registration particulars of sale deed 09.08.2002 is also mentioned wrongly as document no. 4076 instead of 1180. The general public is hereby informed about the same.
Ankit Kumar Khurana, Advocate
M/s Intellectual Law Offices
A-74, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi -110024

"IMPORTANT"
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Have not resigned, not unhappy: Sena's Sattar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 5

A DAY after he threatened to resign, Shiv Sena MLA and Minister of State Abdul Sattar met Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday and said he is satisfied and that there is no question of him being unhappy.

After meeting Thackeray, Sattar told mediapersons that he had not resigned. "I have given (the CM) information about those who created rumours about me being unhappy. After meeting Uddhav ji, I am now satisfied and there is no question of unhappiness," he said when asked whether he was unhappy at not being made a Cabinet minister. In the portfolios allotted on Sunday, Sattar was chosen as MoS for Revenue and Rural Development.

Reports that Sattar was disgruntled over being allocated a MoS berth emerged after his supporters — six zilla parishad members — extended support to Sena rebel and BJP-backed Devyani Dongaokar for the president's post and BJP's L G Gaikwad for the deputy president's post in the Aurangabad Zilla Parishad, elections to which were held on Saturday. The Sena was contesting the elections under the banner of Maha Vikas Aghadi, the ruling alliance which includes the Congress and the NCP.

NCP BAGS IMPORTANT PORTFOLIOS

Ajit Pawar gets finance, Anil Deshmukh home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 5

SIX DAYS after Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray expanded his Cabinet, portfolios were allocated to the 36 newly-inducted ministers from Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress on Sunday. While Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar bagged the finance and planning portfolio, his colleague in the NCP, Anil Deshmukh, is the new home minister. First-time MLA and Cabinet minister Aaditya Thackeray has been allocated environment, tourism and protocol.

The NCP bagged important portfolios such as home, finance, excise and cooperation and rural development, among others. While Sena retained the agriculture portfolio, Congress, which was seeking an additional key portfolio in rural sector — either agriculture, cooperation or rural development — settled for other departments such as ports, cultural affairs and sports and youth welfare offered by the Sena. The Congress bagged revenue, energy and public works departments.

The announcement was made after Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyani approved the allocation of portfolios as proposed by Uddhav on Sunday morning. The list was sent to the Governor for approval on



NCP's Ajit Pawar and Anil Deshmukh

EXPLAINED
Why portfolio allocation was delayed

WHILE THE allocation of portfolios was delayed due to an apparent disagreement among Sena, NCP and Congress, NCP and Sena had blamed the Governor for not approving the list on Saturday itself and further delaying the process by one more day.

Saturday evening.

Senior Sena leaders Subhash Desai, Eknath Shinde, Uday Samant, Dada Bhuse, Sanjay Rathod, Gulabrao Patil and Anil Parab have been allocated industries, urban development, higher and technical education, agriculture, forest and relief and rehabilitation, water supply and

transport portfolios, respectively.

On the other hand, senior NCP leaders Jayant Patil, Chhagan Bhujbal, Nawab Malik and Jitendra Awhad have been allocated water resources, food and civil supplies, minority development and housing department, respectively. NCP's Hasan Mushrif will handle the rural development portfolio.

While former CM and senior Congress leader Ashok Chavan has been given the public works Department, state party chief Balasaheb Thorat will hold the revenue portfolio. Congress's Nitin Raut, Vijay Wadettiwar and Amit Deshmukh have got energy, other backward classes and medical education portfolios, respectively.

Amid reports of him threatening to resign, Sena legislator and Minister of State (MoS) Abdul Sattar was allocated the revenue and rural development portfolios. The other MoS portfolios were allocated to Congress' Satej Patil (home urban), Sena's Shambhuraj Desai (home rural), NCP's Prajakt Tanpure (urban development) and Aditi Tatkare (industries) as well as Congress's Vishwajit Kadam (cooperation).

On Monday, Uddhav had expanded the Cabinet by inducting 36 ministers. With 56 MLAs, Sena got 15 berths and NCP, with 54 MLAs, got 16. The Congress, with 44 MLAs, has 12 ministerial berths.

After report on baby deaths in Gujarat, Dy CM points to 'cyclical phenomenon'

Rajkot: As many as 111 infants died at Rajkot civil hospital and 88 in Ahmedabad in December 2019, Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said on Sunday, adding that the deaths, on the higher side, was a "cyclical phenomenon". He claimed that the state government managed to reduce infant mortality rate (IMR) to below 25 from 30 three years ago.

Following a report published by a vernacular daily on Sunday claiming that 134 infants died in Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Hospital in Rajkot and 85 in Ahmedabad civil hospital, Patel cited official records and said that 111 infants died in Rajkot and 88 in Ahmedabad in December. He further said that 87 infants died in the Rajkot hospital in October and 71 in November. The same figures for Ahmedabad hospital were 91 and 74.

Addressing a press conference in Ahmedabad, Patel said that IMR was a sensitive issue but suggested it was a cyclical phenomenon. "The records suggest that as compared to October and November, deaths were more in December in both Rajkot and Ahmedabad. When I asked doctors and experts for reasons, they said birth rate goes up in winter. They said that natural causes of infant deaths also increase in winter, consequently IMR also goes up," Patel said.

KOTA INFANT DEATHS

Rajasthan health minister takes veiled jibe at Pilot

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, JANUARY 5

RAJASTHAN HEALTH minister Raghu Sharma on Friday took a veiled jibe at Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, saying that the administrative officers of Kota's JK Lon hospital had written to the Public Works Department numerous times for repair work and it was their responsibility to get the work done.

Incidentally, Pilot holds the portfolio of Public Works Department in the state and is the PWD minister.

"If there is my mistake there should be my accountability too. Today, maintenance work is also done in hospitals. This question was also raised that doors and windows are broken, sewage water enters, water dripping from the roof. When numerous times the administrative officers of the hospital write to the PWD,

then the responsibility is theirs to ensure that timely repair is done," Sharma told reporters on Sunday.

A day before, Pilot had said that instead of pointing out the "misdeeds" of the previous government, the emphasis should be on "fixing accountability."

"RMRS meetings happen regularly. These public representatives who raise questions, do they go to these meetings? If they go in these meetings, they will come to know at that time which equipment in this hospital is non functional, what is to be purchased. Rs. 6 crore is available. Had the public representatives there went to the meetings regularly, or had sent their representatives, then they themselves would have known that the hospital had certain shortcomings. It is the responsibility of every person, and this is such a topic that no person can shirk from his responsibility," Sharma added.

Nirmala to Gehlot: Listen to deputy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, JANUARY 5

UNION FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday hit out at the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in Rajasthan over the death of over a 100 children at the JK Lon hospital in Kota since December 1.

"I come to Rajasthan every time with great joy because of the hospitality of people and their warmth...It's a very colourful state. Where in such a state, bad news is coming everyday about innocent children. The chief minister is not paying attention. He is talking against the entire country. It shows where his interest lies. He is concentrating on CAA so that he doesn't

lose the minority vote. It would be better if he focuses on the kids in the hospital, and the little children of Rajasthan," Sitharaman told reporters in Jaipur on Sunday.

Reacting to Gehlot's opposition against CAA and the allegations that the BJP doesn't talk about the economy, Sitharaman said the Congress leader should listen to Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot on the issue of deaths of infants.

"Let him please listen to his own deputy chief minister who has come out very clearly," she said.

Pilot had criticised his own government on Saturday and said that the state government's response could have been "more sensitive and compassionate".

Terror alert along border with Nepal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BASTI, JANUARY 5

TWO SUSPECTED ISIS terrorists have entered Uttar Pradesh, following which a high alert has been sounded along the India-Nepal border in Maharajganj, Kushinagar and Siddharth Nagar districts, a top police official said on Sunday.

"It has come to the fore that two wanted terrorists — Abdul Samad and Iliyas — can escape to Nepal from UP," IG (Basti Range) Ashutosh Kumar said. The alert was sounded after the intelligence input was received, he said.

The IG said photographs of the two have been widely circulated so that they could be identified. The officer said he was not aware which outfit they were affiliated to.

Previously, they were spotted in West Bengal's Siliguri and are suspected to be associated with the ISIS.

Member of first Lok Sabha Kamal Singh dies

Patna: Kamal Bahadur Singh, a member of the first Lok Sabha and the last maharaja of the erstwhile Dumraon Raj, died at 93 early on Sunday morning. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar called Singh's death the "end of a golden and glorious era" and recalled his immense contribution in the health and education sectors, particularly in Buxar.

Singh is survived by his sons Chandravijay Singh and Manvijay Singh. "Kamal Bahadur Singh had been unwell for the past six years. He breathed his last in Bhojpur Kothi at 5.10 am," Chandravijay Singh said.

In his condolence message, the Bihar CM said, "Kamal Bahadur Singh's contribution in field of education and social development has been remarkable. His demise marks end of a golden and glorious era. He had made huge donations for the cause of health and education".



ON TRACK

Maharashtra's newly inducted Urban Development Minister Eknath Shinde inaugurates the second tunnel boring machine for the Pune Metro at Shivajinagar on Sunday. Arul Horizon

IPS officer booked for 'molesting' teenager

ABHISHEK SAHA
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 5

A SUPERINTENDENT of Police in Assam district has been booked under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act for allegedly sexually harassing a 13-year-old daughter of a fellow police officer during a party on December 31, top officials said.

A senior police officer said that a case was registered against the IPS officer in Guwahati on January 3 based on a complaint by the mother of the victim. "Yes, there is a case against him. There is the law and everything will proceed as per the law," Assam DGP BJ Mahanta told *The Indian Express*.

The accused IPS officer did not respond to multiple attempts by *The Indian Express* for comment.

GUJARAT

Missing Dalit woman found hanging from tree

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GANDHINAGAR, JANUARY 5

THE BODY of a 20-year-old Dalit woman, who reportedly went missing on January 1, was found hanging from a tree in a village of Modasa taluka in Aravalli district on Sunday.

Modasa Rural police have filed a case of accidental death and probe is underway.

A family member of the deceased said that the girl, a graduate, operated a beauty parlour. "She left home on January 1. After she didn't return home the next day, her father had given a complaint to Modasa Town police and had named a suspect for the mysterious disappearance of his daughter. However, (Modasa Town) the police did not register an offence and told the father that the case falls under the jurisdiction of Modasa Rural police. On Sunday morning, the woman's body was found hanging from a tree in the neighbouring village," said the family member.

The person also alleged that the Modasa Town police did not register the case as the suspect and the police inspector are from the same community.

Aravalli SP Mayur Patil said said that police did not take any coercive action against the person named as suspect by the woman's father because there was not enough evidence to do so.

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, JANUARY 5

BUILDING An ultimate clean energy vehicle — one that combines atmospheric carbon dioxide with sunlight and water to produce fuel while leaving no harmful emissions — is a challenge that has preoccupied scientists for long. The work of an Indian scientist based in Australia on nano materials and his discovery of carbon nitrides with unique properties seem to have laid the ground for finding a solution to the world's twin problems of pollution and fossil fuel depletion.

The research work of professor Ajayan Vinu, global innovation chair and director at the University of Newcastle, on nano materials has led to the development of technologies for conversion of carbon dioxide into fuel



Ajayan Vinu

using sunlight and water and clean tech like sodium ion batteries to power electric vehicles.

Impressed by the research work of the Indian-origin nano materials scientist, the Indian Defence Ministry has awarded a \$2 million research project to Vinu to develop carbon nitride nano materials for clean energy system requirement in the defence sector.

This is probably the first time an Indian defence research requirement has been awarded to an Indian researcher based outside India. Vinu (43) said Sunday on the sidelines of the 107th Indian Science Congress, where he was one of the key speakers.

"It is a \$2 million project with Indian defence authorities. It is on the selective capture of carbon dioxide with nano porous carbon-based systems. They have seen our work on the carbon capture and grown interested in it. They were using some material that was not that effective and wanted to replace their existing adsorbent material in all their devices with our unique material," Vinu said.

The carbon nitride nano materials discovered since 2005 by Vinu — who is also associated with IIT Bombay, Institute of Chemical Technology Mumbai and IISc Bangalore — has resulted

in production of sodium ion batteries for vehicles at his lab at the University of Newcastle and the prospect of development of an 'ultimate clean energy vehicle' a reality in three to four years, the professor said.

A senior defence research official from India is scheduled to visit the lab soon to look at technologies like the sodium ion batteries for possible adoption in India, he said.

"The materials I have discovered — carbon nitrides like C3N5, C3N6, C3N7 — have seen researchers from top institutions jumping into the field since these materials have unique semi conducting characteristics," Vinu said. The 'highly ordered carbon nitrides' discovered in his research is the only nano material that can be applied to all systems in a clean energy vehicle, according to the scientist.

FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

SIMPLY PUT

WHO WAS AL-MUHANDIS, IRAQI MILITIA LEADER KILLED WITH SOLEIMANI?



Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in 2016. AP/File

THE PROFILE of Iran's Major General Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a US airstrike in Baghdad on Friday, overshadowed the death of another victim, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. The latter was an Iraqi militia leader, one of Iran's top lieutenants in Iraq and a veteran of battles against the United States and the Islamic State. According to *The New York Times*, the death of al-Muhandis alone would have sent shock waves through Iraq, even if Soleimani had not died with him.

Al-Muhandis, who was in his mid-60s, was born Jamal Jaafar Ibrahim. He was the deputy commander of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces, an umbrella body of paramilitary groups. It is a loose coalition, which initially came up to help Iraq defeat the Islamic State, but which has since become an extremely powerful group with its members often operating on behalf of Iran. Al-Muhandis was also a founder of the militia involved in conflict with the US over the last one week, including an attack on the US Embassy in Baghdad.

The fact that he helped hold together so many disparate groups underlines his importance. Fluent in Persian and close to

Iran's Soleimani, al-Muhandis was also the latter's key aide in Iraq. They were alike in some ways, with both men preferring to remain inconspicuous in public and yet becoming famous with their leadership in covert military operations. When Iraqi militias fought against the Islamic State, al-Muhandis thanked Iran and Soleimani for their support. In 2009, the US identified as an adviser to Soleimani.

After the Islamic Revolution of 1979 in Iran, al-Muhandis hoped to turn Iraq too into a Shia state, and joined the Islamic Dawa party. When Saddam Hussein rose to power and tried to crush the Dawa party, al-Muhandis fled Iraq along with other Shia leaders. Many returned after the US invasion in 2003, and al-Muhandis briefly served in Iraq's Parliament. He also helped found Kataib Hezbollah, which American officials have blamed for a rocket attack that killed an American contractor last week.

When the Islamic State from Syria had invaded Iraq, al-Muhandis's militia was fighting against the same enemy as Iran and the United States. After the Islamic State was driven out of Iraqi territories, the cooperation with the US ended.

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

INDIA'S FOREST cover has increased by 3,976 sq km or 0.56% since 2017. For the second successive time since 2007, the biennial State of Forest Report (SFR) recorded a gain — an impressive 1,275 sq km — in dense forest (including Very Dense Forest with a canopy density of over 70%, and Moderately Dense Forest with a canopy density of 40-70%). Given the pressure on forest land and natural resources, these figures have made happy headlines. But they do not tell how India continues to lose some of its best natural forests — a reality documented in the SFR itself.

Balance sheet

■ SFR data show 2,145 sq km of dense forests became non-forests since 2017. A dense forest can deteriorate into an open forest (10-40% canopy density) but conversion to non-forest signifies total destruction. This means India has lost dense forests one-and-a-half times Delhi's expanse in just two years.

■ Since 2017, plantations with high canopy density have added 2,441 sq km to the dense forest category, while 1,858 sq km of non-forests have become dense forests. These are plantations of fast-growing species since natural forests rarely grow so fast.

■ Since 2003 when data on "change matrix" were first made available, 18,065 sq km — more than one-third of Punjab's landmass — of dense forests have become non-forests in the country, nearly half of this (8,552 sq km) in the last four years.

■ Making up for much of this destruction of quality natural forests, 10,227 sq km of non-forests (read plantations) became dense forests in successive two-year windows since 2003, over half of this (5,458 sq km) since 2015.

■ While hill forests have gained in quality, large tracts of tropical forests have fallen off the "dense" category since 2017. The biggest loss — 23,550 sq km — is under the tropical semi-evergreen head in SFR 2019. In India, tropical semi-evergreen forests are found along the western coast, lower slopes of the eastern Himalayas, Odisha and Andamans.

■ Of India's 712 lakh sq km forest cover, 52,000 sq km is plantations that, in any case, cannot substitute natural forests in biodiversity or ecological services.

■ Of 7,28,520 sq km recorded forest area from digitised data and the Survey of India's topographic maps of greenwash areas (forest-land), 2,15,084 sq km (nearly 30%) recorded no forest cover in SFR 2019. In other words, forestland roughly the combined area of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal holds no forests.

■ There has been no recovery since 2017 as forest cover on forestland has shrunk by 330 sq km in the last two years.

Finer detail than before

The Forest Survey of India (FSI) uses satellite images to identify greenery as forest cover. In the 1980s, satellite imagery mapped forests on a scale of 1:1 million, and missed details of land units smaller than 4 sq km. The



West Bengal Forest Department

GAINS & LOSSES (in sq km)

	2003 -15	2015 -19	Total (2003-19)
FORESTLAND LOST			
VDF to NF	545	575	1,120
MDF to NF	8,968	7,977	16,945
Total lost	9,513	8,552	18,065
FORESTLAND GAINED			
NF to VDF	200	233	433
NF to MDF	4,569	5,225	9,794
Total gained	4,769	5,458	10,227

VDF: very dense forest; MDF: mid-dense forest; NF: non-forest Source: Forest Survey of India

1:50,000 scale now scans patches as small as 1 hectare, and any unit that shows a 10% tree canopy density is considered "forest".

While the SFR never segregated natural forests from thickets of weeds such as juliflora or lantana, and commercial monocultures such as palm, coconut, rubber etc. it has the capacity to identify plantations. That is how it classified over 52,000 sq km of "forests" as plantations while recording "Forest Type and Density-wise Carbon Stock" across the country.

FSI director-general Dr Subhash Ashutosh acknowledged that fast-growing species such as bamboo, rubber, coconut etc contributed to rapid change in canopy density converting no-forest areas to dense forests. "No forest types are assigned to monocultures since these are not natural. We need more time and resources if we are to identify and classify plantations through ground truthing," he said.

While accepting that the gain in forest cover is outside forestland, Dr Ashutosh said it would not be "practical" to share the raw data. "I have proposed to make the maps available for free. Even now the fees are nominal. A proposal to continue with the biennial reports while conducting a more comprehensive study maybe every five years is in place," he said.

Meanwhile, the FSI may start reporting India's green cover under more explicit categories, including plantations, and make the forest grid data public for anyone to visit a green patch and check what stands in the name of forest.

DENSE FOREST (VDF + MDF, in sq km)

FOREST TYPE	2019	2017	CHANGE
Tropical wet evergreen	17,217	17,783	-566
Tropical dry evergreen	565	633	-68
Tropical semi-evergreen	39,596	63,146	-23,350
Tropical moist deciduous	91,399	96,894	-5,495
Tropical thorn	3,765	3,877	-112
Tropical dry deciduous	150,854	146,396	2,458
Littoral and swamp	3,230	4,242	-1,012
Subtropical pine	10,457	11,977	-1,520
Himalayan moist temperature	19,914	21,856	-1,942
Subtropical broad-leaved hill	22,050	10,538	11,512
Subtropical dry evergreen	69	68	1
Montane wet temperature	18,425	3,554	14,871
Himalayan dry temperate	4,077	3,520	557
Sub-alpine	9,740	8,407	1,333
Moist alpine scrub	919	625	294
Dry alpine scrub	712	639	73
Plantation	14,762	12,321	2,441
Total dense forests	407,751	406,476	1,275

Source: Forest Survey of India

QUESTION & ANSWER

What carbon numbers mean for climate target

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, JANUARY 5

THE STATE of Forest Report (SFR) 2019, while showing an increase in the carbon stock trapped in Indian forests in the last two years, also shows why it is going to be an uphill task for India in meeting one of its international obligations on climate change. India, as part of its contribution to the global fight against climate change, has committed itself to creating an "additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent" by 2030.

That is one of the three targets India has set for itself in its climate action plan, called Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs, that every country has to submit under the 2015 Paris Agreement. The other two relate to an improvement in emissions intensity, and an increase in renewable energy deployment. India has said it would reduce its emissions intensity (emissions per unit of GDP) by 33% to 35% by 2030 compared to 2005. It has also promised to ensure that at least 40% of its cumulative electricity generation in 2030 would be done through renewable energy.

What is the relationship between forests and carbon?

Forests, by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere for the process of photosynthesis, act as a natural sink of carbon. Together with oceans, forests absorb nearly half of global annual carbon dioxide emissions. In fact, the carbon currently stored in the forests exceeds all the carbon emitted in the atmosphere since the start of the industrial age. An increase in the forest area is thus one of the most effective ways of reducing the emissions that accumulate in the atmosphere every year.

How do the latest forest data translate into carbon equivalent?

The latest forest survey shows that the carbon stock in India's forests (not including tree cover outside of forest areas) have increased from 7.08 billion tonnes in 2017, when the last such exercise had been done, to 7.124 billion tonnes now. This translates into 26.14 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent as of now.

It is estimated that India's tree cover outside of forests would contribute another couple of billion of tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

How challenging does this make it for India in meeting its target?

An assessment by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) last year had projected that, by 2030, the carbon stock in forests as well as tree cover was likely to reach 31.87 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in the business as usual scenario. An additional 2.5

CARBON STOCK IN INDIAN FORESTS
(not including tree cover)

Year	Carbon stock (in mn tonnes)
2005	6,621.5
2013	6,941
2017	7,082
2019	7,124

Source: State of Forest Report, 2019; Biennial Update Report, 2018

to 3 billion tonnes of sink, as India has promised to do, would mean taking the size of the sink close to 35 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Considering the rate of growth of the carbon sink in the last few years, that is quite a stiff target India has set for itself. In the last two years, the carbon sink has grown by just about 0.6%. Even compared to 2005, the size of carbon sink has increased by barely 7.5%. To meet its NDC target, even with most optimistic estimates of carbon stock trapped in trees outside of forest areas, the sink has to grow by at least 15% to 20% over the next ten-year period.

So, what is the way forward?

There are two key decisions to be made in this regard — selection of the baseline year, and addition of the contribution of the agriculture sector to carbon sink.

The baseline year can impact the business-as-usual projections for 2030. BAU projections are obtained using policies that existed in the baseline year. Now, there has been a far greater effort in recent years to increase the country's forest cover. So a 2015 baseline would lead to a higher BAU estimate for 2030 compared to a 2005 baseline when less efforts were being made to add or regenerate forests. The FSI projections made last year used a 2015 baseline. If 2005 baseline is used, India's targets can be achieved relatively easily.

India's emissions intensity target uses a 2005 baseline, so there is an argument that the forest target should also have the same baseline. But there is a strong demand for a 2015 baseline as well, so that it results in some concrete progress in adding new forest cover. When India announced its NDC in 2015, it did not mention the baseline year. It has to decide on it before it reconfirms its NDC targets ahead of the next climate change meeting in Glasgow towards the end of the year.

At that time, India would also have to specify whether it wants to count the carbon sink in the agriculture sector in its target. The NDC specifically mentions that and "additional" 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon sink would be created through "additional forest and tree cover by 2030", but Environment Ministry officials insist that tree cover outside forest areas must include agriculture as well.

chooses to strike Iran's nuclear installations.

Can it be war?

A lot will depend on how provocative Iran's inevitable retaliation turns out to be. If these provoke the US into a direct strike on Iran, it can potentially open up the threat of a sustained war.

"While the possibility of an unintended slide to war is impossible to rule out, fears of World War Three — a phrase that trended overnight on social media — are overblown. Russia and China might strenuously object to American attacks, but they are no more likely to join the fight than they were when the United States invaded Iraq or helped to topple Libya's government," *The Interpreter* noted.

THIS WORD MEANS
PROTECTING POWER

Why Tehran chose the Swiss Embassy to register its protest against the US over Soleimani killing

FOLLOWING THE killing of Iranian military and intelligence commander Major General Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad in a drone attack carried out by the United States on Friday, the Iranian government registered its protest with the Swiss Embassy in Tehran. "The *chargé d'affaires* (for Switzerland in Iran) was informed of Iran's position and in turn delivered the message of the United States," Reuters quoted Switzerland's Foreign Affairs Ministry as saying.

Switzerland represents the interests of the US in Iran. This is because the US itself does not have an embassy there. Iran's interests in the United States, on the other hand, are represented by the Pakistan Embassy in Washington.

In an arrangement such as this, Switzerland is the "Protecting Power" of the United States' interests in Iran. The instrument of Protecting Powers is provided for under the 1961 and 1963 Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations. "If diplomatic relations are broken off between two States, or if a mission is permanently or temporarily recalled... the sending State may entrust the protection of its interests and those of its nationals to a third State acceptable to the receiving State," the 1961 Vienna Convention states. And the 1963 Convention reiterates: "A

sending State may with the prior consent of a receiving State, and at the request of a third State not represented in the receiving State, undertake the temporary protection of the interests of the third State and of its nationals."

The Swiss Foreign Affairs Ministry spells out its role on its website: "In the absence of diplomatic and consular relations of the United States of America with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Swiss government, acting through its Embassy in Tehran, serves as the Protecting Power of the USA in Iran since 21 May 1980. The Swiss Embassy's Foreign Interests Section provides consular services to US citizens living in or travelling to Iran." The United States government describes the same role on a web page on the "US Virtual Embassy" in Iran. At the time Switzerland took over this role, a hostage crisis was playing out in Tehran with students having taken over the then US Embassy; the crisis lasted 444 days.

Why Switzerland? It has historically represented a number of countries in territories where they have no diplomatic mission. The news and analysis website Swissinfo says Switzerland represented 35 countries during the Second World War and had over 200 specific mandates, and between 1946 and 1964 had 46 mandates.



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Soleimani killing: why few expect full-blown war but no one rules it out

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

SINCE THE killing of Iran's Major General Qassem Soleimani in a US airstrike in Baghdad on Friday, the question being asked across the world is: how far will this escalation go, and will it eventually lead to war? Analysts appear to be generally agreed that while Iran will be forced to retaliate, likely against US installations, both sides will be wary of declaring outright war.

How it reached this stage

The US and Iran have already been in confrontation for over a week, with each attack

leading to a counterattack. On December 27, more than 30 rockets were launched at an Iraqi military base, killing an American contractor. The US responded on December 29 with airstrikes on sites in Iraq and Syria, killing 24 members of an Iranian-backed militia. On December 31, pro-Iranian militia members laid siege to the US Embassy in Baghdad, trapping American diplomats for more than 24 hours. Then came the US drone strike that killed Soleimani and others.

Retaliation inevitable

The killing forced Iran's hand, and Tehran immediately warned of retaliation. In fact, on Saturday itself, two rockets hit Iraq's Al-Balad air base where US troops are stationed,

while two mortars hit Baghdad's Green Zone that houses the US embassy, the AFP news agency reported. Such a backlash was being anticipated in US installations in Iraq.

While the US has sought to justify the killing of Soleimani by citing the role the general and his Quds Force played in the deaths of Americans over the years, including the death in the December 27 strike, the fact is that neither side has managed to calibrate its attacks in a way that would have forced the other to back down. Each strike has led to a more severe retaliation.

Also, by clearing the killing of Soleimani, President Donald Trump has taken a step his predecessors had avoided. Soleimani had been in the cross-hairs of the US for

decades, but neither President George W Bush nor President Barack Obama went so far. According to *The New York Times*, both Presidents had reasoned that killing Soleimani would only risk a wider war with the country, undermining the US in a region that had already cost plenty of lives.

What kind of escalation

For Iran, the stakes are high, but so are the risks. What kind of balance will Tehran look for?

"It will likely aim for counterattacks damaging enough to convince the United States that killing (Soleimani) was not worth it — a high bar, given his value and the United States' far superior strength —

Secularism’s Brexit moment



RAMESH VENKATARAMAN

India needs its secularists to engage in open and self-critical debate — rather than polarising polemic

REBOOTING THE ECONOMY

The prospect of food and fuel inflation makes it necessary for the government to initiate structural reforms

HEIGHTENED UNCERTAINTY IN West Asia following the US airstrike killing Iran’s top military commander has thrown the spotlight again on oil. In the last three months, Brent crude prices have risen from about \$ 58 to almost \$ 69 per barrel. It is true that the US and Russia have displaced Saudi Arabia as the world’s largest crude producers today, with the former’s output especially more than doubling from roughly 5.5 million to 12.9 million barrels per day in the last decade. As a result, the Persian Gulf region’s control over global supplies isn’t as much as during the 2003 or 1991 Iraq War. But that’s hardly any consolation for India, which cannot, for purely geographical reasons, source crude beyond a point from the likes of the US, Venezuela and Russia. The Narendra Modi government’s first term was marked by falling international oil prices. It did not, wisely, pass these on fully to consumers and, instead, netted a yearly revenue windfall of some Rs 150,000 crore by raising excise duties on petrol and diesel.

That windfall could come under threat if crude prices go up with increased US-Iran geopolitical tensions and the Modi government — unwisely, if at all — cuts duties or forces oil companies to absorb part of the burden. Rising oil prices can also impact India’s balance of payments and the rupee (the domestic currency shed 44 paise against the dollar on Friday), further adding to inflationary pressures. But it’s not just oil and rupee. There is a third component that contributed to benign inflation during the Modi government’s first term: Low food prices. Annual consumer food inflation crossed single digits in November, which was for the first time in nearly six years. Many commodities — from onion, potato, pulses and milk to maize and soyabean — have seen prices rising or at least correcting from lows. The reasons for it are partly weather-induced (excess rains during September-October) and partly structural (farmers reducing production in response to the earlier sustained low realisations). Either way, benign food and fuel inflation can no longer be taken for granted.

All this, of course, makes the job of growth and investment revival that much tougher. The return of inflation, on top of pressure on government revenues, leaves very little space for both monetary and fiscal policy. The focus has to necessarily shift to structural reforms that have been put off for too long. The existing system of open-ended procurement of wheat and paddy at minimum support prices has to go. So must super-subsidised physical sales of grain or urea. These should be replaced by direct cash transfers targeting vulnerable consumers and smallholder farmers. The resources thus freed, along with those raised through privatisation (inclusive of excess land parcels held by government departments/enterprises), can fund much-needed public investment without creating fiscal or inflationary pressures.

TABLEAUX OF EXCLUSION

Republic Day parade has become yet another front in the battle between the Centre and states

IT IS A sign of the fraught and polarised times we live in that even the Republic Day parade has been dragged into the over-politicised conversation that now stands in for meaningful public discourse. The tableaux that form an integral part of the parade — highlighting the culture of various states, union territories and even the mandate of Union ministries — are now a front in the battle between the Centre and non-BJP ruled states. Maharashtra, Kerala, West Bengal and Bihar are among the states that have been excluded from the parade, and are crying foul. The governments of both West Bengal and Kerala have drawn a connection between their rejection of the CAA-NRC and exclusion from the parade.

The selection of tableaux is done by a committee under the Union Ministry of Defence. Only 16 states have been selected for the parade, and government and BJP spokespersons insist that there is no political bias at play in the selection. They have also cited the fact that in the past, tableaux have been rejected when there were Congress governments both at the Centre and in the states concerned. It is by the same process that the current selection has been made. This is essentially a procedural justification for what has become a political issue, and, therefore, is unlikely to cut ice with the aggrieved states. Arguably, more than any other government in recent times, the Narendra Modi-led government is acutely aware of the potency of political symbolism and optics. To be seen as excluding entire states whose elected governments have stood in opposition to the NRC and CAA will certainly strain already fraying Centre-state relations. “Just because West Bengal has been opposing anti-people policies of the BJP government (like the CAA-NRC), step-motherly treatment is being meted out to the state,” West Bengal’s Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Tapas Roy said. And Kerala minister A K Balan asked if the Centre was “against the Malayali people”.

It is certainly possible, as the Ministry of Defence insists, that the exclusions are purely procedural. The current climate of division and suspicion makes it incumbent on the Centre to not conform to its image as being overbearing on the back of its majority in Parliament. The Republic Day parade in India has always been much more than a celebration of masculine nationalism and militarism — it bears testimony to the diversity of India. The way to rescue it now might be to practice that once-much-vaunted slogan — cooperative federalism.

FREEZE FRAME



E P UNNY

INDIA’S CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT to secularism is under serious threat. This is not just because the BJP government, riding its strong electoral mandate, appears determined to undermine India’s secular ethos. More fundamentally, it is because popular scepticism of secularism has grown substantially in the last few years.

In my recent travels across India, covering places as diverse as Amritsar and Goa, Ladakh and Hyderabad, and Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai, I have been struck by the fact that the recent flurry of perceived anti-Muslim measures — revoking Article 370 and downgrading Kashmir to a Union Territory, the triple talaq ban, the Supreme Court verdict on Ayodhya, and now the CAA/NRC — are seen as a good thing not only by Hindutva diehards but increasingly by the “moderate middle”.

This large constituency is made up of thoughtful, not particularly religious, and broadly liberal-leaning Hindus who are not reflexively anti-Muslim. Most in this segment find the crude bigotry and dog whistle politics of Messrs Modi and Shah distasteful and are far from signing up to a “Hindu rashtra”. However, many now buy in to the Sangh Parivar’s critique of secularism. It is no longer taboo to raise questions that were formerly the preserve of the right-wing fringe about Muslim special privileges, personal law, or patriotism, and correspondingly allege a neglect of Hindu concerns. Indeed, I have heard more from mainstream Hindus on the “Muslim question” over the last few months than collectively over the past four decades.

This sort of open airing of views reminds me of the time when the Emergency caused Indians of all stripes to seriously examine their commitment to democracy. Many will recall the arguments from the 1970s and early 1980s about whether poor, diverse, and divided India could only progress under a dictator — or at least a powerful, directly-elected, executive president.

Those debates were a good thing. An unexamined Constitution is not a sustainable one. India’s Constitution was “given” to the country top-down by the Constituent Assembly. Even though nearly three-quarters of the members of that body were indirectly elected, the franchise was limited. People at large did not have much of a say in shaping our Constitution. Today, thanks to the

Over the last few years, the relentless drum beat of anti-‘sickular’ rhetoric from the Sangh Parivar has prompted many mainstream Hindus to reconsider how the Muslim minority is treated. Ideally, this should provide the setting for robust and clarifying exchanges on why the Constitution’s endorsement of secularism still makes eminent sense. The problem is that those who are passionate about protecting India’s secular fabric have not shown up at this debate.

Emergency and its aftermath, democracy is taken for granted amongst Indians. No one — left, right, or centre — seriously challenges our parliamentary system and federal form of government. Secularism must attain a similar status.

Over the last few years, the relentless drum beat of anti-“sickular” rhetoric from the Sangh Parivar has prompted many mainstream Hindus to reconsider how the Muslim minority is treated. Ideally, this should provide the setting for robust and clarifying exchanges on why the Constitution’s endorsement of secularism still makes eminent sense. The problem is that those who are passionate about protecting India’s secular fabric have not shown up at this debate.

Rather than make the case for secularism and answer doubters, its champions indulge in rhetorical name-calling, citing the likes of Nathuram Godse to tarnish and shut down critics. Secularists take for granted that secularism is self-evidently right for the country. They cite the Constitution in support, as many anti-CAA protestors are doing, without realising that it is this very document’s secular thrust that has become suspect and in desperate need of re-legitimation.

The approach of self-righteously throwing the Constitution at anyone who supports the Modi regime’s agenda and demonising them as “bhakts”, “Sanghis”, or “chaddiwalahs” reminds me of how Britain’s liberal elite lost the Brexit battle. They assumed away the obvious correctness of their cosmopolitan worldview and sanctimoniously labelled those who voted to leave the EU as misled racists and “little Englanders”. A similarly patronising attitude towards Donald Trump supporters may well stymie the Democrats’ efforts to regain the US presidency this year.

India’s secularists must wake up to the fact that the discourse on the ground has profoundly altered. More and more, mainstream Hindus feel that they are being taken for a ride under the banner of secularism.

Preserving the country’s secular fabric in this changing environment will require secularism’s advocates to urgently and respectfully engage with the “moderate middle”. They must make the case for secularism anew, on principled (individual equality and freedom of conscience and personal habits) and practical grounds (no country can flourish

ish by degrading one-seventh of its citizens). They also have to create a compelling counter to the majoritarian “India-is-a-Hindu-country” narrative by underlining Hinduism’s plurality and rooting secularism firmly in its “live and let live” culture, syncretic traditions, and long history of respect and accommodation of difference.

But most important, hardline secularists need to show some humility. It is not a betrayal of ideals to admit that at least some of the right-wing accusations of “pseudo secularism” are well-founded even if couched in chauvinistic bombast. For instance, no objective observer can seriously deny that the Congress and other left-leaning parties have exploited Muslims as a “vote bank” without doing much to improve their lot. Equally, much evidence points to politically-sponsored illegal migration changing the demographics of some border areas in favour of Muslims. Also, defending Muslim personal laws as that community’s prerogative rather than campaigning for a progressive uniform civil code, flies in the face of allegiance to individual rights and equality across citizens.

In short, it is not anti-Muslim to accept where secularism has been compromised in practice. Rather, openness to fair-minded criticism will allow secularists to make their positive case more credibly.

Red lights are flashing over India’s future. The ongoing protests against the CAA notwithstanding, there is a very real possibility that if the “moderate middle” lose faith in secularism, the BJP will be further emboldened to pursue Hindutva. Even if non-BJP governments eventually regain power, they will struggle to roll back anti-Muslim legislation, systemic biases, and bigoted attitudes that are creeping into the educational system, police, and civil service and could soon become widespread across society.

In this anxious hour, India needs its secularists to engage in open and self-critical debate — rather than polarising polemic. This is the only way secularism, like democracy after the Emergency, can be re-founded as an unchallenged constitutional tenet that is “above politics” and second nature to our republic.

The writer is a private equity investor and former McKinsey partner



DEBSMITA CHOWDHURY

“THE GIRL WHO went viral by tearing a copy of CAA” is the statement frequently used by the media to introduce me. The fact that the media has to describe me in this manner is probably because they have not found any trace of political participation in my past — quite antithetical to the international relations course in which I had been enrolled in for the past five years. I think this particular aspect — my complete absence from any affiliated political fronts or activities — has sent shockwaves among my fellow classmates, juniors, seniors, faculty and, especially, family and friends over my action.

The recent spate of legislation by the present political establishment in Delhi has pushed many to the edge, including people like me — we are now left with no choice but to raise our voices for the voiceless. It is not that other political parties and government dispensations in the past have been an absolute delight to watch. But this government has acted entirely in opposition to the founding ideals of our nation, something we — the unbiased citizens — cannot accept.

Abraham Lincoln had said: “We are the rightful masters of both Congress and the courts, not to overthrow the Constitution but to overthrow the men in power who pervert the Constitution”. As a student, I understand the necessity of the Constitution

WHY I REFUSE TO ACCEPT CAA

Recent legislation threatens the very idea of India. We must raise our voices



The recent spate of legislation by the present political establishment in Delhi has pushed everyone to the edge, including people like me — we are now left with no choice but to raise our voices for the voiceless.

as a guiding mechanism to guarantee law and order and for the continuance of liberty, equality and fraternity amongst all. I completely uphold the sanctity of the Indian Constitution, and stand by my duty to abide by it. Therefore, what I did has been my individual form of protest in a desperate, non-violent attempt to save the basic fabric of our nation, woven painstakingly by our forefathers. I have always been quite an introvert from my childhood — with the completion of my post-graduation, I had intended to continue my research, focusing on my PhD proposal.

I had no intention to engage in any sort of action on the dais on the day of my convocation, but the brutal state crackdown on unarmed students of Jamia Millia Islamia, AMU, and now on innocent civilians has left no rational person unmoved. If this is the situation in my country where protestors, demonstrators or civilians face such serious repression — despite us not being under a dictatorial regime — I have to say that we are not free. We are living in dark times under the garb of democracy.

People may call me anti-national, the now commonly-used word for anyone who dissents against the dominant political discourse, but I would like to reiterate that I am a proud, responsible Indian because I can see

the grave national and international implications of the recent non-secular legislation on citizenship.

What do the youth of this great nation actually want? We want dialogue, employment, a thriving economy, people’s welfare, non-interference in one’s food habits or religion, and to get this country onto a much better developmental arc: We would all love to witness India’s spectacular inclusive growth.

Dialogue is the basis of Indian culture. We cannot remain mute witnesses to the actions of this government. We have to rightfully accept responsibility for our future because politics and governance is not a game. It is serious business and we — and all future generations — cannot bear the burden of the whims and fancies of a reckless power.

Let us not forget the beautiful words penned down by Saadat Hasan Manto: “Hindustan had become free. Pakistan had become independent soon after its inception but man was still slave in both these countries — slave of prejudice... slave of religious fanaticism... slave of barbarity and inhumanity”.

The writer is an independent researcher. She did her Masters in International Relations from Jadavpur University, Kolkata

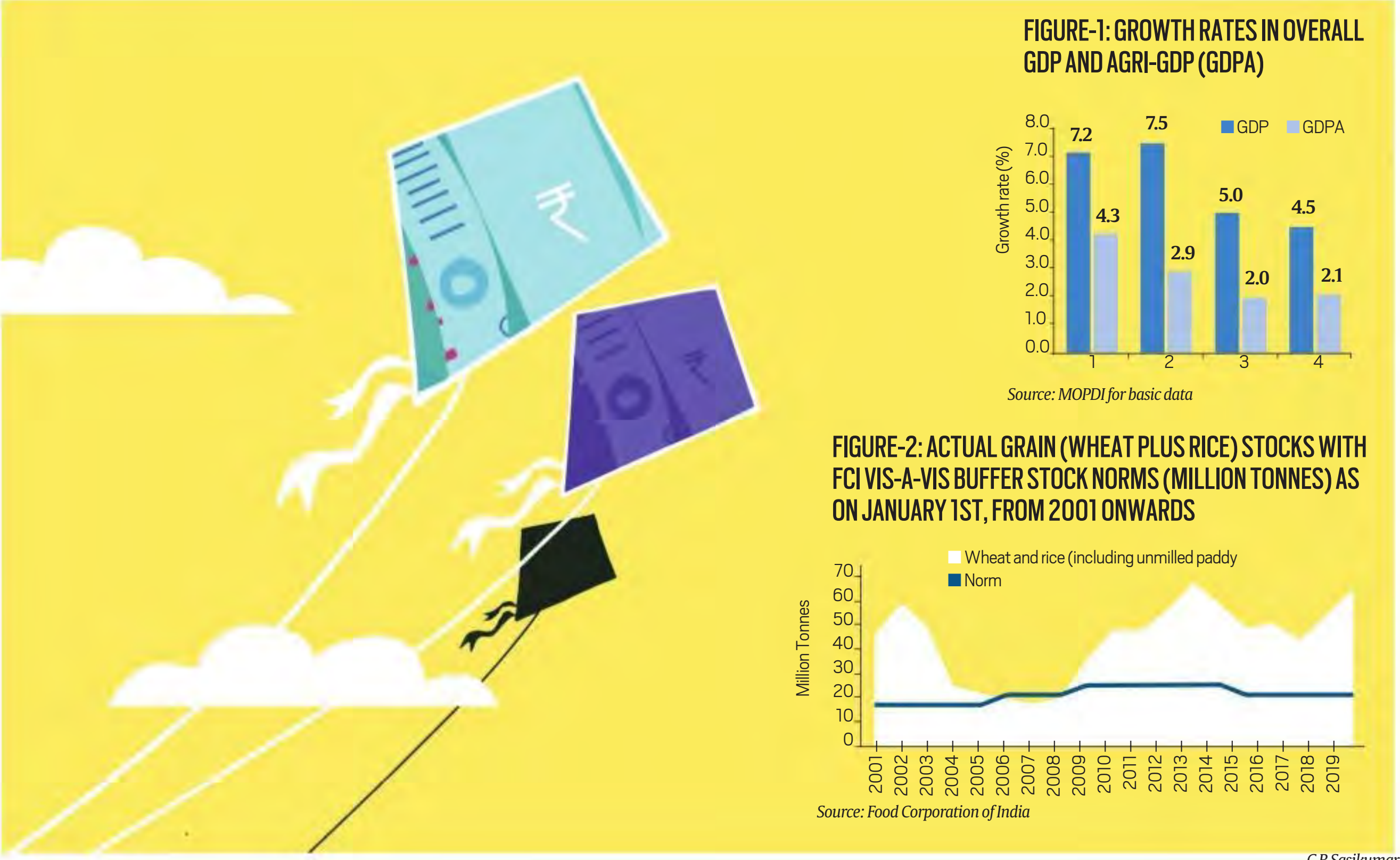
JANUARY 6, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO



BAGHPAT RE POLL
CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER S L Shakhder ordered repoll in one booth of the Baghpat parliamentary constituency from where Prime Minister Charan Singh is seeking reelection to the Lok Sabha. Shakhder said the repoll had been ordered in Garhi Dulla polling station in the Barnawa assembly segment because some Harijans had removed ballot boxes from there. He said he had summoned the district magistrate of Meerut to his office and asked all five observers in the constituency to give a report on the conduct of the poll. He was informed that “nothing unfair” had happened in the constituency except in the Garhi Dulla booth.

SOVIETS IN KABUL
SOVIET FORCES APPEAR to control all of Afghanistan’s major towns and military bases, and face little more than token resistance in the populous areas, diplomatic sources in Delhi said, reports AP. According to sources, reports from Kabul spoke of occasional sniper attacks on small groups of Soviet troops. Leaflets calling for demonstrations against the Soviet-backed coup d’etat were distributed in Kabul one night this week, but no demonstrations took place. There was no clear reading of the situation in the mountainous countryside where nationalistic rebels have been fighting the succession of Marxist-leaning regimes in Afghanistan.

ASSAM UNREST
THE SO FAR peaceful and orderly four-month-old mass agitation against “aliens” in Assam is taking an ugly turn. The movement, jointly sponsored by the All Assam Students Union and All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad — with the avowed objective “of securing detection of foreign nationals, deletion of their names from electoral rolls and their deportation” — is unfortunately taking on a communal, linguistic and parochial colour. The campaign has succeeded beyond the expectations of its organisers in focussing the nation’s attention on the dangers to national security by the unabated influx of foreign nationals from Bangladesh and Nepal.



Lifting growth, containing inflation

Reform of grain management system could free up resources for infrastructure investment



FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH
BY ASHOK GULATI

WITH GDP GROWTH rate plummeting to 4.5 per cent and with the agriculture GDP (GDPA) growth at 2.1 per cent in the second quarter of this fiscal year, everyone concerned with the economy is anxious. The question being asked is whether the Indian economy can be put back on the 7-8 per cent growth trajectory and can agri-GDP grow at least at 4 per cent.

It may be noted that in UPA 2 and Modi 1.0, while the average GDP growth rate was 7.2 and 7.5 per cent respectively, agri-GDP (GDPA) growth slowed in the Modi period to 2.9 per cent, far below the 4.3 per cent rate achieved during UPA 2. And now, when the quarterly growth in GDPA is hovering at around 2 per cent, it is a cause for great concern (Figure-1). Agriculture still engages about 44 per cent of India's workforce. If the masses do not gain from the growth process, their incomes remain subdued, then the demand for manufactured goods, housing and other goods will remain low. Low demand in the economy is one of the main reasons behind India's great slowdown today.

Interestingly, it is during this slowdown that inflation has started to surge after a long period of low inflation under Modi 1.0. Inflation is led by different components of the food segment — cereals, pulses, and vegetables — in the consumer price index (CPI).

Everyone is waiting to see how Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman can prop up the economy by boosting demand without causing undue inflation (beyond the threshold level of 6 per cent to be maintained by the

RBI). Also, there is the challenge of not slipping on the fiscal deficit target of 3.3 per cent, although the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has already indicated that the real fiscal deficit of the country is much more if one accounts for the loans taken by many public sector undertakings (PSUs).

Sitharaman has already announced an investment package for infrastructure of about Rs 102 lakh crore over the next five years, which implies more than doubling the growth in infra-investments from its current levels. The legitimate question being asked is: Where will the resources come from? The announcement does not unveil any clear strategy on the resource mobilisation front.

Here are my two cents to raise (save) Rs 50,000 crore per annum to finance infrastructure projects without causing high inflation or without breaching the fiscal deficit target. The prime minister and the finance minister should take a look at the massive inefficiency in the grain management system under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) to find the required resources.

The NFSA gives certain quantities of wheat and rice to 67 per cent of the population at Rs 2/kg and Rs 3/kg respectively, while the economic cost of these to the Food Corporation of India is Rs 25/kg and Rs 35/kg respectively. This led to a provision of Rs 1.84 lakh crore for food subsidy in the last Union budget. Not many people know that the FCI had pending bills of Rs 1.86 lakh crore that have not been cleared by the government, and that it has been asked to borrow more and more to finance its operations. The grain stocks with the FCI are far more than double the buffer stock norms as on January 1, every year.

The massive accumulation of grain stocks is the result of a deeply inefficient strategy for food management wherein the procurement for wheat and rice (paddy) remains open-ended, but the disbursal of those stocks remains largely restricted to the public distribution system (PDS). The open market operations (OMO) are much less compared to what is needed to liquidate the excessive

The massive accumulation of grain stocks is the result of a very inefficient strategy for food management wherein the procurement for wheat and rice (paddy) remains open-ended, but the disbursal of those stocks remains largely restricted to public distribution system (PDS). The open market operations (OMO) are much less compared to what is needed to liquidate the excessive stocks. We don't have a clear strategy.

stocks. We don't have a clear strategy. And now, if the rabi procurement is good, FCI may not have the storage space to accommodate it. The money locked in these excessive stocks (beyond the buffer norm) is more than Rs 1 lakh crore. Even if the government decides to liquidate half of it, it can garner Rs 50,000 crore to finance at least half of its infrastructure projects. We need bold moves to reform our grain management system. There is no need to set up another expert committee for this. The blueprint for reforming the grain management system was presented to the PM by the Shanta Kumar panel. The report is on the FCI website.

Only three points need reiteration: First, while the poor under the Antyodaya category should keep getting the maximum food subsidy, for others, the issue price should be fixed at, say, 50 per cent of the procurement price (as was done under Atal Bihari Vajpayee for the BPL category). Second, limit subsidised grain distribution under NFSA to 40 per cent of the population rather than the current 67 per cent. After all, we must ask: What proportion of the poor cannot afford even the basic rations? The Indian government has not given any number for poverty since 2011 — it was 21 per cent as per the Tendulkar poverty line. It is time for the Modi government to tell the nation what is the level of extreme poverty in India. Third, limit the procurement of rice particularly in the north-western states of Punjab and Haryana where the groundwater table is depleting fast, and invite private sector participation in grain management.

If the government can implement just these three points, it can save another Rs 50,000 crore annually. On top of this, it will help the government to reduce its fiscal deficit. And if it liquidates stocks fast, it can contain inflation too. Can the Modi government focus on reforms and implement them? Only time will tell.

Gulati is Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture at ICRIR

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The new Indian army chief might want to get a full briefing on the Balakot misadventure before issuing any more provocative and irresponsible statements."
— DAWN

Farewell, year of darkness

Gandhi's dreams for the nation were dented in 2019. The new year offers hope



AVIJIT PATHAK

I KNOW that at this moment, soon after the entertainment industry seduced us to celebrate the new year with dance, music and food, it is not "cool" to speak of what Antonio Gramsci would have regarded as the "pessimism of the intellect". Yet, I cannot escape the psychic trauma associated with the year 2019. As I write this piece, I recall a tragic moment in our history: Nathuram Godse's bullets penetrating into Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's chest on January 30, 1948. It was an attempt to kill a dream, a possibility: An imagination of India tormented by the wound of Partition; yet, filled with the spirit of religious pluralism, cultural syncretism and egalitarianism. However, as I look back at 2019 and see, for instance, the loud assertion of the likes of Pragya Thakur (an inevitable consequence of majoritarian Hindutva), I experience with utter despair the merger of 2019 and 1948. Possibly, one day some of our sensible social historians would depict 2019 as a year that brought Godse alive, and sought to kill all that Gandhi stood for.

Can 2019 be seen as a distinctive marker of the age of darkness? Because of fragmentation, directionlessness and ideological impoverishment, the Opposition parties failed miserably to defeat Hindutva — a hyper-masculine doctrine of Hindu nationalism symbolised by "brand" Narendra Modi, and disseminated through a massive organisational network led by "loyal soldiers" of "Bharat Mata". Despite the devastating consequences of demonetisation and GST, the spectacular electoral victory in the 2019 parliamentary elections further enhanced the narcissism of the ruling regime. As the might of majoritarianism destroyed the art of listening and negotiation, nothing could be done to resist the stigmatisation of minorities. Be it the abrogation of Article 370, or the CAA/NRC, the minorities were led to believe that Gandhi was no more, and they must know their "locations" — similar to how Savarkar and Golwalkar saw them as "alien invaders".

Another manifestation of the dark in 2019 was the normalisation and celebration of violence. From mob lynching to the cacophony of "Jai Shri Ram", from the cult of narcissistic/authoritarian personalities to the militarisation of the consciousness (imagine the army general's critique of the anti-CAA protest), and from the gestures the all-powerful home minister emits for the people in the Kashmir Valley to the use of the metaphor of "surgical strike" in every sphere of life — we breathe violence. From Unnao to Hyderabad, rape victims were killed or allowed to die. The celebration of "encounter killings" revealed the hypnotising power of brute force in diminishing our moral sensibilities. Neither the presence of state-sponsored celebrity babas like Sadhguru or Ramdev, nor Modi's dramatur-

gical "meditative" moment at Kedarnath could do anything substantial to eradicate this toxic culture. Sometimes I wonder whether a child growing up in 2019 would really believe that once upon a time Gautam Buddha preached his first sermon at Samath near Varanasi. Or, would it ever be possible for her to accept that there was a poet called Rabindranath Tagore who loved to see India as an oceanic civilisation — a confluence of multiple traditions?

Since darkness prevails, the light of education has to be extinguished. Is that why in 2019 we witnessed an organised attack on the very idea of public universities — the culture of critical/reflexive thinking, the ethos of inclusion and heterogeneity, and the art of interrogating even the "official" truth? In a way, the celebration of some sort of anti-intellectualism became the new normal in 2019. Even though a courageous television anchor like Ravish Kumar tried his best to bring journalism closer to people's struggles and survival issues, it was sad to see the package of falsehoods many of our "star" anchors continued bombarding us with noise.

Only amidst this absurdity was it possible to imagine a television show where a "patriotic" Bollywood star engaged in a "conversation" with Prime Minister Modi on diverse forms of eating mangoes. Perhaps, at a time when manipulated public opinion has become the order of the day, it is naive to expect from these shiny "stars" a rigorous reflection on joblessness and economic hardship. Nor was it possible, then, to know about Medha Patkar's hunger strike, or why the farmers marched to Delhi. Likewise, it is not very clear whether the much-hyped Chandrayaan mission really succeeded in intensifying the attempt to use the spectacle of space research to stimulate the ego of the nation and its messiah. However, one thing is certain: With the narrative of Ganesha's plastic surgery, or of Kauravas as test tube babies, the spirit of what Nehru regarded as "scientific temper" has already been thrown into the dustbin.

Yet, it is difficult to diminish the human spirit. At the end of the year, young college/university students have begun to generate a new possibility. Even though the cops entered the Jamia library and reportedly brutally attacked the students, the mighty state didn't succeed in destroying their spirit. From Jamia to JNU, from Hyderabad Central University to Aligarh Muslim University, and from even the IITs and IIMs, students are taking to the streets and dissenting, in an articulate manner, against the devastating implications of the CAA/NRC. In this non-violent and aesthetically enriched resistance, I have begun to see the return of the lost dream: The dream that Godse tried to kill, the dream that led Gandhi to undertake a politico-spiritual pilgrimage at Noakhali in 1946, and the dream that led B.R. Ambedkar to take the lead role in drafting our secular Constitution. Even though the assertive home minister has warned this "tukde tukde gang", the dream of cultural pluralism and a spiritually enriched secularism has not yet died.

Can 2020 offer us the light of fearlessness to overcome the darkness of 2019?

The writer is professor of sociology at JNU

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PM'S DOUBLESPEAK

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Cong, allies and their ecosystem rising against Parliament, silent on Pak: PM' (IE, January 3). The prime minister's argument is a strange one, given the long history of opposition parties, including the BJP, protesting against the central government of the day. Calling the protest against the CAA as "rising against Parliament" is misleading and veiled attempt to castigate the others as being against the nation. So far, the debate has been around religion but Narendra Modi has now added a caste dimension by invoking Dalits in Pakistan. This political posturing may prove counter-productive in the face of rising atrocities against Dalits since he came to office.

L R Murmu, via email

LET FAIZ BE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Who's afraid of a song?' (IE, January 3). Not one Indian university is among the top 100 universities in the world. The quality of public education is worsening year by year. It is in this scenario that the IIT-Kanpur administration launched a probe to find out the credentials of a song and its author, Faiz Ahmed Faiz. Is this what they should be focusing on?

Suchak D Patel, Ahmedabad

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Who's afraid of a song?' (IE, January 3). Like students at other universities across India, those at IIT Kanpur have the right

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

to protest against the CAA or over other issue. And it is sad that a probe against them have been initiated. Faiz Ahmed Faiz wrote *Hum bhi dekhenge* after Zia-ul-Haq declared martial law. India, unlike Pakistan, remains a vibrant democracy. Protest should be allowed.

Bal Govind, Noida

TO SANGH'S BENEFIT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Why I protest as a Muslim' (IE, January 3). The author believes that in response to the saffronisation of Indian politics, Muslims have a right to use religion for political purposes. However, such a move could alienate secular Hindus. In the end, the Sangh Parivar will benefit.

Manisha Banerji, Mumbai

VIEW FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



A weekly look at the public conversations shaping ideas beyond borders — in the Subcontinent. Curated by Aakash Joshi

BELLICOSE INDIA

THE NEWSPAPERS across South Asia — like their counterparts the world over — commented on and analysed the consequences of the killing of Qasem Soleimani, in-charge of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps. The killing has been, broadly, been condemned and its aftermath is awaited.

On January 3, though, the editorial in *Dawn* took umbrage to the fact that "India's new army chief Lt Gen M.M. Naravane has said that conducting pre-emptive strikes across the LoC remained an option for India". The editorial recalls many of General Bipin Rawat's statements that may politely be called bellicose. It also recalls the "Balakot misadventure". "The Foreign Office has done well to remind the new Indian army chief that the last time India attempted "pre-emptive strikes" it lost two aircraft and one pilot. It also lost face. The pilot was returned in good faith by Pakistan. This good faith has not been reciprocated," the editorial says.

Its thrust is that increasingly, and towards the point of no return, the government and security establishment in New Delhi is becoming bellicose to appease a domestic constituency: "India is trapped in violent domestic convul-

sions that are creating dangerous fault lines within its society. The right-wing government of Narendra Modi is struggling to contain the fallout of its anti-Muslim policies. It may be tempted to embark on yet another misadventure across the LoC to divert attention from its domestic troubles." It asks the Pakistan government to be on alert for India to dial down its rhetoric.

NOT A NICE NEIGHBOUR

C R Abrar, an academic-activist in Bangladesh, writes in *The Daily Star* of the "fallacy of unsuspecting trust" that Bangladesh has developed vis-a-vis India. Abrar argues that the CAA and NRC have been a long time coming and the policies will seriously impact Bangladeshi society. But, the elites and civil society at large did not see the writing on the wall.

The article recalls the many controversial, even abusive, statements by Amit Shah over the last few years with regards to Bangladeshi migrants and Muslims. It says: "Such persistent emission of anti-Bangladeshi vitriolic statements of the Indian ruling elite triggered little concern in Bangladesh. The government of Bangladesh appeared to be oblivious to the

stirring up of anti-Bangladesh sentiments. Until quite recently, the statements of the ministers, advisers and senior functionaries gave the signal that the government was quite comfortable with the Indian assertion that the NRC was indeed an "internal matter" of that country."

But now, as Indians take to the streets against the NRC and CAA, Abrar says that the trust may have finally been broken: "The rolling out of the NRC and the application of CAA is likely to have grave consequences for Bangladesh. Even if India refrains from officially deporting those who would fail in the NRC test, millions of Muslims who would be unable to prove their claims to Indian citizenship and secure protection under the CAA in all likelihood will cross the border and seek shelter in Bangladesh. They would do so to avoid languishing in detention camps in atrocious conditions. The recent border crossings from the Indian side and the concomitant telecom network suspension in Bangladesh may signal the beginning of a difficult time for the country. It is time for those at the helm of the state to discard the rhetoric, take stock of these developments and collectively develop a national strategy to face the likely challenge."

CURBS IN NEPAL

Attempts to police the internet and free speech on social media seems to be a pan-South Asian phenomenon. Sushrey Nepal, a lawyer, writes in *The Kathmandu Post* about "another toxic layer of durability to the custom of state policing" being brought about in Nepal by the Information Technology Bill.

Using broad definitions of terms like "public order" and "decency", the article asserts that the Bill provides sweeping powers to the government to punish all forms of dissent, or even what it perceives to cause offence — from political speech to jokes.

In India, we have seen the dire consequences of such laws. The situation in Nepal, if the article is anything to go by, may not end up being any better: "This Information Technology Bill is a loud declaration by the government that it is coming for its citizens, and we cannot hide behind the shield of our right to privacy and freedom of speech. If a state is willing to incriminate its citizens for an internet post, one can only imagine what else it is hiding in its shadow."

Curated by Aakash Joshi

12 THE GOVERNANCE PAGE

DIGITAL INNOVATION

In Maharashtra, linking land records to PM Fasal Bima saves time, plugs leaks

Does away with need for village revenue officer’s signature; guards against crop insurance fraud

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS
PUNE, JANUARY 5

EARLY IN December, when Bhagwan Ingole, a farmer from Malegaon in Ardhrapur *taluka* of Nanded went to the Citizen Facilitation Centre in his village to insure his one acre of *rabi chana* (bengal gram) crop, he was in for a surprise. During the previous seasons, the operator of this one-stop shop catering to most of the Internet-related work of the villagers had insisted that he bring a copy of his 7/12 land extract signed by the local *talathi* (village level revenue office) for the enrollment process.

“This time, he just asked for my survey number, and from the drop-down menu helped me zero in on my land parcel and completed the process. This came as a pleasant surprise. Getting the *talathi*’s signature is tedious since the officer is never in his office,” said Ingole, who has been insuring his crops religiously since 2017.

Behind the simple drop-down menu, which saved Ingole from the trouble of locating the village *talathi*, lies an initiative of the Department of Agriculture, which officers hope will help make the process of enrollment for crop insurance easy. Not just that, it will help plug the leaks in the process. Maharashtra is the first state in the country to seamlessly integrate its land records with the web portal of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). This integration has been rolled out during the 2019-20 *rabi* season, with farmers accessing their land details online at the enrollment centres.

Farmers opting to insure their crops under the PMFBY, are required to share their Aadhaar number, their bank details, as well as their land records at the enrollment centres. Although available online, the 7/12 land records were to be signed and stamped by the local *talathi* who verifies the same with the records available with him. Given the work load — the *talathi* is normally responsible for around 10-12 villages in the locality — farmers have to often wait for days before the *talathi* comes to their village to sign their land records.

Suhas Diwase, Commissioner, Agriculture, pointed out how there have been cases when due to small clerical errors, farmers have failed to claim their insured amount in the past. The integration, Diwase said, was possible after the Land Settlement Commissioner of Maharashtra agreed to share its data with the central portal of the PMFBY. “Land records in Maharashtra have already been digitised. It is now being used to pinpoint the farmer’s



land during enrollment process,” he said.

Maharashtra counts itself among the top five states in the country in terms of payment of claims under the PMFBY. During the financial year 2018-19, the state had 1.39 crore farmers opting for the scheme and the total premium collected was Rs 4,778.30 crore. In the last fiscal, insurance companies had paid Rs 3,730.52 crore as compensation to 54.46 lakh farmers. In fact, Maharashtra presents an interesting scenario with farmers not opting for crop loans enrolling for the scheme with their own money. Farmers who opt for bank loans are automatically enrolled for the scheme. But there have been multiple protests by farmers groups as well as political parties, which claim that the scheme has failed to achieve its objectives.

If farmers are happy with the drop-down menu, officers of the Agriculture Department have more than one reason to root for this integration. Although the PMFBY mandates compulsory verification of land records by ground-level agriculture officers or bank officers, in reality this has not happened. As a result, cases of “over-insurance” — insurance of more land than in possession — as well as insurance of ineligible people have happened. Officers cited cases where the insured area was more than the cropped area of the district. “Taking advantage of the lack of stringent verification, there were instances of people insuring the same land parcel multiple times. Also there



Training sessions were organised to ensure implementation of the process in the current rabi season. *Express*

were cases when non-land holders were found insuring land,” said an officer.

Recently, an audit had unearthed a case where a single farmer with 4 hectares of land in Latur was found to have insured around 44 hectares in Latur, Beed, Osmanabad, and Parbhani. Rough estimates by officers of the Agriculture Department have shown that around 20 per cent of the enrollment in any given season had been cases of either over-insurance or of insurance by individuals who didn’t hold any land.

The integration, officers said, has almost done away with chances of over insurance, as the land records will be available online. Once

EXPLAINED E. Convenience and accuracy

SMALL CLERICAL errors sometimes led to farmers not getting their insurance dues. Land records in Maharashtra were already digitised — and after the land Settlement Commissioner agreed to share data with the central portal of the PMFBY, the lands of farmers were pinpointed during the enrollment process. Physical verification by the *talathi* is no longer needed.

the farmer chooses his survey number, the drop-down menu will prompt the user to choose the land parcel that he or she chooses to insure. Once insured, the same land parcel will not be open for insurance again. Multiple training sessions were organised across the state to ensure proper implementation of the process in the current *rabi* season.

‘The price (of drugs) should not exceed the cost price by an unreasonable amount’

THE GOVERNMENT should ensure that its move to cap trade margins of medicines take into account the cost price of the products, and the final price should not exceed its cost by an “unreasonable” amount, says **K Srinath Reddy**, President, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). Dr Reddy, who feels that strengthening the country’s public procurement system and capabilities of public sector enterprises is also important to bring down prices, tells **Prabha Raghavan** in an interview that any policy developed by the government should not be knee-jerk, and should focus on ensuring affordability, availability and quality. *Edited excerpts:*



THE
POLICY INTERVIEW
K SRINATH REDDY
PRESIDENT
PUBLIC HEALTH FOUNDATION OF INDIA

How crucial are pharmaceutical pricing regulations in ensuring access to quality and affordable healthcare in India, especially outside Tier-1 regions?

With a broad band of health disorders, infectious as well as non-infectious, affecting a large segment of our population, we need to ensure availability and affordability of these medicines. The question, of course, is who is actually going to be supplying them, who is going to be paying for them and their incomes, the production dynamics as well as the procurement dynamics, and then the pricing issue. Ultimately, all of this will have to converge to ensure medicines are available to all who need them without imposing a financial burden. That is ultimately the essential of universal health coverage overall.

Medicines are a very important factor in that. We know that even out of the 55 million persons in 2015-16 who were impoverished because of healthcare in India, 38 million were because of the cost of medicines alone. Given the fact that out-of-pocket expenditure is an important contributor to poverty, and that expenditure on medicines is an important contributor to that out-of-pocket expenditure, pricing, availability and quality is important.

So, any government policy will have to be tailored essentially towards ensuring all of these.

The government plans to move towards a regime of trade margin caps of medicines. How effective do you think this will be in curbing profiteering in this industry?

It depends on how the ceiling is set. The ceilings can be set arbitrarily, but if you can actually get the cost of production very clearly identified, and then you say cost plus (margins should be set from the basic production price), then it becomes easier to fix it. Otherwise, ceilings become very arbitrary over a period of time.

...If it (the cap) starts from the (price at which) manufacturer (has sold) to the distributor, you’re trying to reduce the cost along the rest of the value chain. Of course, those costs do need to be reduced, but I’m looking at the ultimate price.

I’m tracking backwards to the cost price and I’m saying that the ultimate price should not exceed the cost price by an unreasonable amount. Previously, it has gone up to 1,000 per cent and even higher in some cases. So, that’s where I’m saying it’s cost plus, but fixing it at the cost. Along the distribution chain...the more you shift to...sourcing through public procurement, the number of middlemen would be reduced. I know between the distributor and the retailer, there are some costs that are affixed. And now, obviously, how much is the distributor required is the big question to be asked.

What should the government keep in mind when going ahead with such a move?

We do need much more information, much greater transparency across (the value chain)... One of the reasons I’m also a little concerned is the fact that a number of our

Indian pharmaceutical firms are being taken over by international industry. Now, our priorities may be different from their priorities. Our control systems may be not something that they will appreciate, and they actually may slow down the production of some of the essential medicines and only focus on certain high profit margin medicines.

We need to ensure that our domestic industry is protected, that we do not easily permit acquisition of well-developed domestic industry by international profit-seeking entrepreneurs, and also that we retain, in some degree, public sector capacity to brace for eventualities — where we have to use compulsory licensing or produce drugs for neglected tropical diseases — and keep that running... I think reviving some public sector capacity is important. Trusting our private sector, in terms of its production and contribution of needed drugs with assured quality (is important), but encouraging them through adequate controls to keep their prices low is also going to be important.

I think one of the ways in which we can actually bring about this change in price is through pool public procurement... If the private sector gets engaged in (schemes like) the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana, and one of the conditionalities you lay down is that an empanelled hospital also should get (drugs) only from the central or state’s procurement agency..., then you’re cutting down the cost for everybody.

Over the last few years, we’ve seen policy vacillations between imposing price caps and easing price curbs to counter shortages. What is the impact of such changes?

Ideally, you should have a stable, rational, and predictable policy which will guide both the manufacturing sector as well as the health sector which is procuring and using the medicines. However, it is also true that policy has to be responsive to changing situations and specific new realities.

Now, for example, if the API (key ingredient) prices have gone up, and if some price revisions have to be made, then they have to be made. But then that cannot be seen as the only response. We need to ask the question, ‘Why is our dependency on important APIs holding us hostage?’, and (understand) how we can actually avoid that situation in the future...

A policy which only functions as a knee-jerk response would be very harmful, both from the point of view of the people who manufacture, and for the people who operate the health system. So, I would certainly want to see a great deal of stability in the way we analyse and predict things and frame a policy which is flexible, but not necessarily oscillating or vacillating.

Win-win: Punjab nudge to replace autos with e-rickshaws

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 5

TO CHECK pollution caused by autorickshaws that are 15 years old or older, the Punjab government has introduced a scheme that will incentivise owners to switch over to e-rickshaws, a non-polluting mode of transport. It has tied up with manufacturing companies to offer an exchange scheme for the owners of the autorickshaws.

In what is being projected as a “Tandrust Punjab” scheme, autorickshaws more than 15 years old would be replaced with CNG- and battery-run rickshaws. The government has already initiated the process of identifying the old and polluting autos.

To sensitise owners about the pollution and other benefits of CNG and e-rickshaws, the government has also tied up with non-governmental organisations. Simultaneously, it has co-opted manufacturers to help the government identify the owners of old autorickshaws, and offer them discounts under



Owners can exchange old autos with new green ones. *Representational image*

an exchange scheme to reduce the acquisition cost.

If the autorickshaw owners are unable to buy the new environment-friendly autos, the government would make a case for financing the vehicles under the MUDRA scheme.

“There are about 15,000 autorickshaws

across the state, which are more than 15 years old. When cities like Delhi ban these vehicles, they end up getting dumped in Punjab. When we try to stop them, it becomes a law and order situation as these autorickshaw pliers have unions, and they start agitating. Moreover, it is an issue of their livelihood. We do not want to take an extreme step so as to make them suffer. Hence, we have come up with this idea,” said Kahan Singh Pannu, Mission Director, Tandrust Punjab.

Pannu said the government is in the process of identifying these 15,000 autorickshaws plying on roads in different parts of the state. “Our drive has already been initiated in Ludhiana. We plan to finish with the identification process by March. By the end of this year, we will see e-rickshaws replacing polluting old vehicles,” he said.

The tie-up with manufacturing companies is to buy the old autos from the owners and offer new ones on discount. “The old autos thus bought from the owners would be scrapped and sold to furnace units in Mandi Gobindgarh. This will ensure that these vehi-

cles do not make their way into any other city or state,” Pannu said.

Autorickshaws older than 15 years plying illegally have been the most polluting vehicles on Punjab’s roads. Most of these are not registered, and do not pay any taxes to the government. Further, the drivers of these old vehicles often do not have valid driving licenses. “Now, everything will be taken care of. The government employees, manufacturing units and volunteers of NGOs are already in touch with the owners. With new vehicles, we will ensure all legalities are completed,” said Pannu.

Pannu said the idea was conceived about four months ago. The government got in touch with manufacturing companies and together with NGOs, they identified and sensitised owners and drivers to buy an environment-friendly rickshaw. “If someone comes at your doorstep to offer a new rickshaw on exchange, that too for a vehicle which is illegal, half of the mission is achieved. Also, we are offering a price for the old one. Otherwise, those are not sold in the market. This will help us achieve our mission,” said Pannu.



Arjun Tangu, 17, in his mobile shop

visitor to the shop, declining to give his name.

“It is best to remain anonymous to participate in a frank discussion about Maoists. But this will change everything,” he says, pointing to the newly-built road.

The new roads are changing the region’s economy. A tale of two shops, situated where Gurupriya Bridge ends, offers a good example.

Dhiraj Byapari, 46, sits in his shop in Jambai village with a wry smile on his face. His shop, which sells an impressive array of items from groceries to stationery and clothes, “will go down in a matter of months”, he says. Right opposite to him, Ajay Mallick, 28, the owner of a tiny garage, is elated about the bridge.

Dhiraj says in the pre-bridge days, his strategically located shop saw the most roaring business in the area because it was a few hundred metres away from where the boats carrying people across the water used to dock.

“People would buy groceries on their way back,” he says. When the boats ran late, business was better. From among the crowd waiting by the water, women would saunter in to buy trinkets, while the children would clamour for toys. Dhiraj says his shop used to sell items worth around Rs 2,000 per day,

but now sales have fallen to less than Rs 600.

Ajay, on the other hand, sees his business expanding. “Now, more men here will buy bikes. They will also invest in auto rickshaws. I will get to repair most of them. I can perhaps hire more people”, he says, looking around at his shop in a thatched hut on not more than 25 square feet.

The prospect of roads is also reducing the prices of essential items. Farmers in this previously cut-off region mostly grow ragi and millets. Fresh fruit and vegetables were brought over the water, and were costly.

“Now, prices of vegetables are going down. People here like to eat vegetables like cauliflower and carrots in winter, but we could hardly afford them. Now, supply is slowly increasing, and prices dropping,” said a resident of Jantapai village.

Trucks roll in all day, carrying construction material. The tribals are full of ideas like opening *dhabas* to cater to the truckers. The poultry in most people’s backyards, previously used for domestic consumption, is now being re-assessed as a source of income when sold to the

truck drivers, helpers and road contractors.

Development is also bringing conflict, but with roads being built, tribals can walk up to Papermetla police station, the only one in the area, and register a report.

More people have begun to think about concepts like property rights. “Earlier, land disputes were not frequent. But now locals have started thinking of land demarcation. There are arguments about land boundaries,” said Papermetla inspector-in-charge Laxminarayan Muduli.

Budram Naik, 55, is the patriarch of a family of six sons and two daughters, and a dozen grandchildren in Jantapai village. He says the family farmed 30 acres of which 10 belong to him, but he is worried that he has no documents to prove ownership. “Neighbours can claim my land as theirs. There have been a couple of arguments,” he says.

CPM leader Ali Kishore Patnaik says that lack of land *patnas* is also an obstacle to the tribals availing government benefits. “The state government must distribute land on a war footing,” he says.



RENOVATION CHIEF'S WARNING
'NOTRE DAME NOT SAVED YET'

The French general who is overseeing the reconstruction of the fire-devastated Notre Dame Cathedral says the Paris landmark is not saved yet. General Jean-Louis Georgelin told French broadcaster CNews on Sunday that "the cathedral is still in a state of peril" after last year's fire, which destroyed its roof and collapsed its spire as the cathedral was undergoing renovations.

TOPOF THE
WORLD



ISRAEL
Netanyahu, in
apparent stumble,
refers to Israel as
'nuclear power'

Jerusalem: In an apparent slip of the tongue on Sunday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described Israel as a nuclear power before correcting himself with a bashful nod and an embarrassed smile. Israel is widely believed to have an atomic arsenal but has never confirmed or denied that it has nuclear weapons, maintaining a so-called policy of ambiguity on the issue for decades. Netanyahu stumbled at the weekly cabinet meeting while reading in Hebrew prepared remarks on a deal with Greece and Cyprus on a subsea gas pipeline. "The significance of this project is that we are turning Israel into a nuclear power," he said, before quickly correcting himself to say "energy power".

ITALY
Drunken driver
rams into German
tourists, kills 6

Rome: A drunken driver ploughed into a group of young German tourists in northern Italy early Sunday, killing six people and injuring 11 others, Italian authorities said. The deadly crash occurred in a village near Valle Aurina, near Bolzano in the Alto Adige region, shortly after 1 am as the Germans — who were between the ages of 20-25 — gathered to board their bus. The largely German-speaking autonomous region of northern Italy, with its ski resorts in the Dolomites and quaint villages around Bolzano, is popular with German tourists.

HONG KONG
Dozens held after
protest taking aim
at Chinese traders

Hong Kong: Scuffles erupted between police and protesters in Hong Kong on Sunday, with dozens of arrests made, after thousands marched near the border, shouting pro-democracy slogans and venting their anger at mainland Chinese traders. The demonstrators in Sheung Shui took aim at so-called "parallel traders" from China who buy vast amounts of duty-free goods in Hong Kong and take them back to the mainland to sell at a profit. Locals say it pushes up prices, overcrowds neighbourhoods and adds to growing tensions between Hong Kong mainland residents.

SOLEIMANI KILLING: HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MOURNERS POUR INTO STREETS IN IRAN

Iraqi lawmakers vote to expel US troops

US-led coalition halts fighting against IS, braces for possible retaliation by Iran

NEW YORK TIMES
BAGHDAD, JANUARY 5

LAWMAKERS IN Iraq voted on Sunday to require the government to end the presence of American troops in the country after the United States ordered the killing of the Iranian leader of the elite Quds Force, Major General Qassem Soleimani, on Iraqi soil. The decision to heed the demands of angry Shia factions and politicians came as hundreds of thousands of mourners poured into the streets of Iran to pay their respects to Soleimani, the most powerful figure in the country after the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The vote is not final until Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi of Iraq signs the Bill. But since he drafted the language and submitted the Bill to Parliament, there was little doubt he would sign it.

Although the vote was 170-0 in Parliament, many of its 328 members, primarily Kurds and Sunnis, did not attend the session and did not vote, showing the division in Parliament on the demands to oust American troops.

The legislation threads a fine needle: While using strong language demanding that the government "end any foreign presence on Iraqi soil and prevent the use of Iraqi airspace, soil and water for any reason" by foreign forces, it gives no timetable for doing so.

Meanwhile, the American-led coalition in Iraq and Syria halted its yearslong mission of

EXPLAINED
E.
ISIS to regroup?

THE US halting its operations against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria leaves open the possibility that what remains of the group in those countries will be able to reorganise, leading to a potential revival of ISIS. The killing of Qassem Soleimani is also seen as a boost for the Islamic State, as he was the leader of the Iran-backed militias which did, according to an NYT report, much of the ground fighting to drive the terrorists out of their strongholds in Syria and Iraq. Moreover, after the killing of Soleimani, the militias are likely to focus most of their attention on US troops in the region, giving ISIS further leeway to reorganise.

attacking the Islamic State and training local forces in both countries Sunday as US troops braced for retaliation from Iran.

In a statement, the American command said that after repeated attacks on Iraqi and American bases in past weeks, one of which killed an American contractor on December 27, "we have therefore paused these activities, subject to continuous review".



SOLEIMANI'S BODY ARRIVES IN IRAN: Coffins of General Qassem Soleimani and his comrades, who were killed in Iraq by a US drone strike, are carried on a truck surrounded by mourners during a funeral procession, in the city of Mashhad, Iran, Sunday. AP

Anti-war protests across American cities

JAN WOLFE
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 5

GROUPS OF protesters took to the streets in Washington and other US cities on Saturday to condemn the airstrike in Iraq ordered by President Donald Trump that killed Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani and Trump's decision to send about 3,000 more troops to the Middle East.

"No justice, no peace. US out of the Middle East," hundreds of demonstrators chanted outside the White House before marching to the Trump International



At a protest outside the Texas state capitol in Austin on Saturday. AP

Hotel a few blocks away.

Similar protests were held in New York, Chicago and other cities. Organisers at Code Pink, a women-led anti-war group, said more protests were scheduled in

numerous US cities and towns.

Protesters in Washington held signs that read "No war or sanctions on Iran!" and "US troops out of Iraq!"

Speakers at the Washington

event included actress and activist Jane Fonda, who last year was arrested at a climate change protest on the steps of the US Capitol.

"The younger people here should know that all of the wars fought since you were born have been fought over oil," Fonda, 82, told the crowd, adding that "we can't anymore lose lives and kill people and ruin an environment because of oil."

"Going to a march doesn't do a lot, but at least I can come out and say something: that I'm opposed to this stuff," said protester Steve Lane of Bethesda, Maryland. **REUTERS**

EU INVITES IRANIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER
TO BRUSSELS

Brussels: Iran's foreign minister has been invited to Brussels, the European Union said Sunday, urging a "de-escalation of tensions" in the Gulf after US airstrikes that killed a top Iranian general. The EU's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell made the offer to Mohammad Javad Zarif during a telephone call this weekend. "Borrell invited the Iranian Foreign Minister to Brussels to continue their engagement on these matters," it said. A regional political solution was the "only way forward", Borrell said, underlining "the importance of preserving" the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. **FTI**

UK: U.S. HAS RIGHT
TO SELF DEFENCE

London: The US had a right to self defence in killing Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani, British foreign minister Dominic Raab said. Asked during an interview with the BBC if the killing was legal, Raab said: "There is a right of self defence." "It was General Soleimani's job description to engage proxies and militias... to attack Western countries that were legitimately there and in those circumstances the right of self defence clearly applies," he said. **REUTERS**

Trump chose most extreme option, stunning officials

Decision taken despite dispute within administration over intel warning about imminent attacks

HELENE COOPER, ERIC SCHMITT, MAGGIE HABERMAN & RUKMINI CALLIMACHI
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 5

IN THE chaotic days leading to the death of Major General Qassem Soleimani, Iran's most powerful commander, top American military officials put the option of killing him — which they viewed as the most extreme response to recent Iranian-led violence in Iraq — on the menu they presented to President Donald Trump.



They didn't think he would take it. In the wars waged since the September 11, 2001, attacks, Pentagon officials have often offered improbable options to presidents to make other possibilities appear more palatable. After initially rejecting the

Soleimani option on Dec 28 and authorising airstrikes on an Iranian-backed militia group instead, a few days later Trump watched, fuming, as reports showed Iranian-backed attacks on the US embassy in Baghdad, according to officials. By late Thursday, the President had gone for the extreme option. Top Pentagon officials were stunned.

Trump made the decision, senior officials said Saturday, despite disputes in the administration about the significance of what some officials said was a new stream of intelligence that

warned of threats to US embassies, consulates and military personnel in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon. Soleimani had just completed a tour of his forces in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq, and was planning an "imminent" attack that could claim hundreds of lives, those officials said.

"Days, weeks," Gen Mark A Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Friday, when asked how imminent any attacks could be, without offering more detail other than to say that new information about unspecified plotting was "clear and unambiguous".

But some officials voiced private scepticism about the rationale for a strike on Soleimani. According to one US official, the new intelligence indicated "a normal Monday in the Middle East" — Dec 30 — and Soleimani's travels amounted to "business as usual". That official described the intelligence as thin and said Soleimani's attack was not imminent because of communications the US had between Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and Soleimani showing the ayatollah had not yet approved any plans by the general for an attack. **NYT**

Pak: Will not allow soil
to be used against anyone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, JANUARY 5

PAKISTAN SAID on Sunday that it would not allow its soil to be used against anyone, amidst raging tensions between Iran and the US after the killing of top Iranian military commander Qasem Soleimani in an American drone strike in Iraq.

"We will not allow our soil to be used against anyone," Army spokesman Maj Gen Asif Ghafoor was quoted as saying by ARY News.

"Pakistan will not be party to anyone or anything but will be a partner of peace and peace alone," he said quoting Prime Minister Imran Khan.

His remarks came two days after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Friday said that Afghanistan's soil will not be used against any nations as per a Bilateral Security Agreement signed between Washington and Kabul in 2014.

Both Pakistan and Afghanistan share border with Iran, which has vowed to avenge the killing of its top general.

Al-Shabab attacks military base
used by US forces in Kenya

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NAIROBI, JANUARY 5

THE AL-SHABAB extremist group attacked a military base used by US and Kenyan troops in coastal Kenya early Sunday, with US aircraft and vehicles destroyed, Kenyan authorities said. Kenya's military said the pre-dawn breach was repulsed and at least four attackers were killed.

It was the first known al-Shabab attack against US forces inside Kenya, a key base for fight-



At Camp Simba, Manda Bay, Kenya. AP file

ing one of the world's most resilient extremist organisations. A plume of black smoke rose above the base near the border

with Somalia, where al-Shabab is based. Residents said a car bomb had exploded. Lamu county commissioner Irungu Macharia told *The Associated Press* that five suspects were arrested and were being interrogated.

The US Africa Command confirmed the attack on Camp Simba in Lamu county.

Spokesman Col. Christopher Karns called al-Shabab's claims, including that its attack inflicted severe casualties, "grossly exaggerated." There was no report of US or Kenyan deaths.

Airstrike on military academy
in Libya's Tripoli kills at least 30

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAIRO, JANUARY 5

THE DEATH toll from an airstrike that slammed into a military academy in Libya's capital climbed to at least 30 people, most of them students, health authorities said Sunday.

Tripoli has been the scene of fighting since April between the self-styled Libyan National Army led by Gen. Khalifa Haftar and an array of militias loosely allied with the weak but U.N.-supported gov-

The fighting for Tripoli
escalated in recent
weeks after Haftar
declared a 'final' battle

ernment that holds the capital.

The airstrike took place late Saturday in the capital's Hadaba area, just south of the city center where fighting has been raging for months. The ambulance service in Tripoli said the airstrike also wounded at least

33 others. It posted images of dead bodies and wounded people being treated at a hospital.

The UN Support Mission in Libyan condemned the attack. The Tripoli-based government blamed the airstrike on the self-styled Libyan National Army.

The fighting for Tripoli escalated in recent weeks after Haftar declared a "final" and decisive battle for the capital. That followed a military and maritime agreement Tripoli authorities signed with ally Turkey calling for the deployment of Turkish troops to Libya.

'Serious' cyber
attack hits
Austrian govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
VIENNA, JANUARY 5

AUSTRIA'S FOREIGN ministry has been targeted by a "serious cyber attack", officials said, warning another country could be responsible.

The attack, which began Saturday, was continuing on Sunday and "experts say it could last several days," a foreign ministry spokesman said.

The interior and foreign ministries issued a statement about the attack which started shortly before 11 pm on Saturday.

"Due to the gravity and nature of the attack, it cannot be excluded that it is a targeted attack by a state actor," the statement said.

"In the past, other European countries have been the target of similar attacks.

Immediate measures have been taken and a "coordination committee" set up, the statement said.

The attack came as Austria's Greens on Saturday gave the go-ahead to a coalition with the country's conservatives at a party congress in Salzburg, removing the last obstacle to the unprecedented alliance.

The German government's IT network was hit by a cyber attack in 2018.

Last year the EU adopted powers to punish those outside the bloc who launch cyber attacks that cripple hospitals and banks, sway elections and steal company secrets or funds.

PM SCOTT MORRISON'S UNWAVERING DISMISSAL OF CLIMATE CHANGE INVITES SCORN

As bushfires rage, Australia sees its leader as missing in action

LIVIA ALBECK-RIPKA, JAMIE TARABAY & ISABELLA KWAI
HASTINGS, JANUARY 5

THE POSTERS have popped up on streets around Australia, showing the prime minister looking very tropical: floral wreath on his head, ocean-blue shirt open at the collar.

"MISSING," they blared. "Your country is on fire."

The immediate reference was clear. The prime minister, Scott Morrison, has been widely castigated for taking a vacation to Hawaii last month, and trying

to keep it quiet, while Australia was in the early clutches of one of its most devastating fire seasons ever.

But the message went well beyond one island getaway. Angry and frightened, Australians have been venting their frustration with Morrison over what they see as his non-chalant and ineffectual response to the disastrous blazes and his unwavering dismissal of the force that has made them so intense: climate change.

With thousands fleeing eastern towns this weekend as fires swept from the hills to the coast, the inescapable realities of a



Morrison has minimised the connection between climate change and Australia's extreme environmental conditions

warming world were colliding with the politics of inaction.

Morrison has minimised the connection between climate

change and Australia's extreme environmental conditions, even as the country just completed its hottest and driest year on record. He has derided calls to end coal mining as "reckless," prioritising economic interests and loyalty to a powerful lobby. He has opposed taxing heat-trapping emissions or taking other significant steps to reduce them, although a majority of Australians say the government should take stronger action.

And he signalled no change in his policies even as 24 people have died, hundreds of homes have been destroyed, and more than 12 million acres have burned, an area larger than Denmark.

"The thing that strikes everyone about the present situation is the federal government's disengagement and lethargy, to put it politely," said Bill Hare, director of Climate Analytics, a policy institute. "People are just bewildered," he added.

As the fire conditions worsened over the weekend, Morrison defended his government's response and announced a military mobilisation — one that he quickly promoted in a video on social media, drawing widespread criticism. He also denied that his government had played down the links between global warming and changes in

Australia's weather patterns.

"The government has always made this connection, and that has never been in dispute," he said.

The PM said he was under-tenured by the anger at him. "There has been a lot of blame being thrown around," he said. "Blame: It doesn't help anybody at this time, and over-analysis of these things is not a productive exercise."

Morrison's attempt at damage control came as Australians have been voicing a growing sense since November, when the fires arrived early and with far more force than usual, that the government is no longer protecting them in the way it once did. **NYT**

14 ECONOMY

I-T notifies some returns for AY2020-21; simple ITR not for those owning house jointly

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

CARVING OUT a separate category for individual taxpayers in the annual income tax returns (ITRs), the Income Tax Department has specified that those having joint ownership of a house property will not be eligible to file the Sahaj (ITR-1) or Sugam (ITR-4).

Notifying the two ITRs for assessment year 2020-21, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) also followed up on the

Budget announcement to mandate filing of ITR-4 for those individual taxpayers who have paid Rs 1 lakh in electricity bills in a year or spent Rs 2 lakh on foreign travel.

ITR-1 is the income tax return for individual taxpayers having total income upto Rs 50 lakh and includes mainly salaried taxpayers, while ITR-4 is filed by individuals having business income, HUFs and firms (other than LLPs) having a total income of up to Rs 50 lakh from business and profession and filing return under pre-

ITR-4 FOR THOSE WHO PAID ELECTRICITY BILLS ABOVE ₹1 LAKH

■ Individual taxpayers having joint ownership of house property not allowed to file ITR-1 and ITR-4 for AY 2020-21. Only those with one house property (single ownership) can file these returns. Currently, individuals with one house

property file ITR-1 or ITR-4

■ ITR-4 to record high-value transactions, even if income below exemption limit: individuals who deposited over Rs 1 crore in one or more current accounts or incurred foreign travel

expenditure of over Rs 2 lakh for self or others or spent over Rs 1 lakh towards electricity consumption. Currently, exempted persons entering into certain high-value transactions are not necessarily required to furnish ITR

sumptive taxation scheme.

Though the CBDT has issued two forms — ITR-1 and ITR-4 —

for AY2020-21, the return filing utility is yet to be activated, and thus, a taxpayer who is re-

quired to file the return before the end of the previous year cannot do so until the return fil-

ing facility is activated on the e-filing portal.

Other returns are expected to be notified before the end of this fiscal year.

Usually, the I-T Department notifies the ITR forms in the first week of April of the relevant assessment year.

“There are two major changes in the ITR Forms — first, an individual taxpayer cannot file return either in ITR-1 or ITR4 if he is a joint-owner in house property; second, ITR-1 form is not valid for those individuals who have deposited

more than Rs 1 crore in bank account or have incurred Rs 2 lakh or Rs 1 lakh on foreign travel or electricity, respectively,” Naveen Wadhwa, DGM, Taxmann said.

In Budget 2019-20, presented in July last year, the government had proposed to make filing of ITRs mandatory for certain individuals even if their income is below the taxable limit such as those depositing over Rs 1 crore in current account, those with over Rs 2 lakh expenditure on foreign travel, those spending over Rs 1 lakh

on electricity bills and any person claiming benefits of tax exemption from long term capital gains under various provisions under section 54 of the Income-tax Act.

Currently, a person other than a company or a firm is required to furnish the return of income only if his total income exceeds the maximum amount not chargeable to tax, subject to certain exceptions. Therefore, a person entering into certain high-value transactions is not necessarily required to furnish his return of income.

RISE OF OVER ₹4,000 CRORE IN SEPT 2019 FROM ₹10,006 CRORE IN JUNE 2019

Collapsed co-operative banks: DICGC facing devolvemement of over ₹14,000 cr

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 5

THE DEPOSIT Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), the RBI subsidiary that gives insurance cover to bank deposits up to Rs one lakh per customer, is facing devolvemement of Rs 14,098 crore as of September 2019, a rise of over Rs 4,000 crore from Rs 10,006 crore in June last.

According to data available from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the extent of devolvemement on DICGC in the event of all the banks ‘under direction’ or ‘weak’ banks going into liquidation or ordered to be wound up would be Rs 3,414 crore in the case of state co-operative banks (StCBs) and district central co-operative banks (DCCBs), and Rs 10,684 crore in the case of urban co-operative banks (UCBs), including Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank.

Devolvemement in the case of

EXPLAINED No RBI proposal to govt yet on hiking deposit cover

DEPOSITORS AND the Damodaran panel want insurance cover to be raised — at least to Rs 5 lakh — so that depositors can keep their deposits in a bank convenient for them and get protection for their funds.

However, the government says no proposal has been received from the RBI in this regard.

UCBs (which are ‘under direction’) accounted for a lion’s share, with the figure rising from Rs 3,427 crore to Rs 8,116 crore by September 2019, mainly due to the PMC Bank issue, data from the RBI reveals.

The latest bank to come under the RBI direction, PMC Bank has public deposits of around Rs 11,000 crore. However, the entire deposit won’t come under

the DICGC cover as a depositor will get only Rs one lakh irrespective of the total deposit held by the customer in an account.

After the collapse of PMC Bank, there has been a demand from several quarters that the DICGC should hike the coverage cap. The DICGC has Rs 87,995 crore surplus funds as of March 2019, with premium income of Rs 12,043 crore in 2018-19

against Rs 11,128 crore a year ago.

The central bank says insured deposits of banks which are ‘under direction’ or ‘weak’ constituted about 0.4 per cent of the total insured deposits of commercial and co-operative banks, as of end-September 2019. As a percentage of the deposit insurance fund, these deposits are about 13.9 per cent.

“It needs to be noted that the banks which are under direction/weak will go under liquidation over a period, not together at a particular point of time. Weak banks may also witness a revival,” says the RBI’s Financial Stability Report.

The DICGC has facilitated the merger of 22 weak banks with strong banks since 1985 (nine commercial banks and 13 co-operative banks). “However, the recovery rate of funds provided by DICGC is not satisfactory,” the RBI report further says.

With co-operative banks facing RBI action due to misman-

agement and frauds, the banking regulator says it is taking steps to integrate fraud reporting of non-banking financial companies and UCBs in its central fraud registry database.

Such interlinking would serve as an invaluable resource in effective fraud detection/monitoring.

“Banks are required to set up specialised units to make use of market intelligence and data analytics and also put in place transaction monitoring system. In order to bring clarity, the role and scope of forensic audit along with timelines is also being examined,” the RBI report says.

Banking laws were made applicable to co-operative societies since March 1, 1966.

Currently, there is duality of control over StCBs, DCCBs and UCBs between the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) or the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) and the Reserve Bank.

Mistry ‘won’t pursue Tata Sons chairmanship’, but will ‘protect rights of minority shareholders’

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 5

FORMER TATA Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry on Sunday said he “won’t be pursuing the executive chairmanship of Tata Sons, or directorship of TCS, Tata Teleservices or Tata Industries” despite the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) order in his favour. However, in a statement Sunday, he demanded a seat on the board of Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group.

Mistry said the Tata Group’s leadership, both in conduct and in their statements to the world at large, has shown scant respect for the rights of minority shareholders in the last three years.

Hiss statement came after TCS, Tata Teleservices and Tata Trusts separately moved the Supreme Court seeking stay on reinstatement of ousted Mistry as director of the three group companies. Tata Sons had on Thursday approached the SC against Mistry’s reinstatement as its executive chairman asking the NCLAT order, which termed conversion of Tata Sons from public to private company as “illegal”, be set aside.

Cyrus Mistry said the Tata Group’s leadership, both in conduct and in their statements, has shown scant respect for the rights of minority shareholders in the last three years

Tata Sons chairman emeritus Ratan N Tata also moved the apex court Friday in his personal capacity, asking that the NCLAT order that found him guilty of taking oppressive and prejudicial steps against the interest of the shareholders of Tata Sons be quashed.

Stating that “the interests of the Tata Group” are “far more important than the interests of any individual” and he won’t be pursuing Tata Sons’ chairmanship, Mistry said, “I will vigorously pursue all options to protect our rights as a minority shareholder, including that of resuming the 30-year history of a seat at the board of Tata Sons and the incorporation of the highest standards of corporate governance and transparency at Tata Sons.” He said the relation-

ship between the Tata Group and the Shapoorji Pallonji Group is one spanning multiple decades that was built on common agreement and mutual faith. “Former Tata leaders worked together with the minority partner to create value for all stakeholders.”

“As an 18.37 per cent shareholder, it is in our own interest to ensure the group’s long-term success,” he added. Mistry was ousted as chairman of Tata Sons on October 24, 2016.

“My family, although a minority partner, has been a guardian of the Tata Group for over five decades. This legal fight has never been about me. It has always been and will always be about protecting the rights of minority shareholders and upholding their right to demand a higher standard of corporate governance from controlling shareholders,” Mistry said.

He said recent media reports “attributed to Ratan Tata and others questioning the NCLAT judgment ahead of an important hearing in the Supreme Court, profess an interpretation of corporate democracy as being one of brute majoritarianism with no rights for minority stakeholders”.

“The question in these legal

proceedings is whether the oppressive actions of a majority that stifles minority shareholders is beyond reproach and outside judicial oversight,” he added.

According to Mistry, globally, and including in India, company law has evolved to protect the rights of minority shareholders and strengthen corporate governance. “The Companies Act, 2013 has considerably strengthened the statutory protections accorded to minority shareholders from oppressive conduct of the majority shareholders,” he said.

Indeed, for corporate democracy to be strengthened, all stakeholders must operate within the ambit of law and statutorily enshrined protections. The founding fathers of the Tata Group had laid a strong ethical foundation that cared for all stakeholders, he said.

“It is time the group’s management introspects and reflects on its conduct as it embarks on future actions,” Mistry added. “I am humbled by the NCLAT order, which after review of the enormous material on record, recognised the illegal manner in which I was removed and the oppressive and prejudicial conduct of Tata and other Trustees,” he said.

DGFT asked to tighten norms for accrediting exporters with ‘star’ tag

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

THE REVENUE Department has asked the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to make the system of accrediting exporters with ‘star’ tag more robust as such exporters enjoy many facilities, including reduced customs inspections. The department based its advice on preliminary findings that some ‘star’ exporters were fraudulently availing ICGST refunds.

“There are instances where an exporter with over Rs 50 crore of exports of readymade garments has taken refund of Rs 3.9 crore while the entity’s total GST payment in cash was a mere Rs 1,650. In another case, tax payments in cash were Rs 51,201 while the exporter obtained refund of Rs 9.59 crore. It is believed that such cases involve fake invoicing and fraudulent tax credits, which have been encashed through the facility of ICGST refunds,” an official said.

The department further said there was a strong case for DGFT to continuously (or annually) seek

a compliance and verification report from other regulators or obligate exporters to produce statutory records of compliance, including certifications from banks of “no NPAs”.

Star Export House exporters are certified on the basis of export performance (Rs 15 crore to Rs 5,000 crore FOB in the current and three preceding years). They are extended certain benefits including customs clearance on self-certification basis and exemption from furnishing bank guarantee under certain schemes.

“Of the 241 cases taken up for detailed scrutiny, data of 82 star exporters show that declarations before income tax and GST are at significant variance. Data matching between income tax and GST of the star exporters has also shown that 40 out of 241 entities have declared turnover from business ranging from nil to less than Rs 1 crore in FY18 and FY19, whereas it is understood that an exporter must maintain exports of \$3 million in a year to be eligible for the status,” the department said in a letter to DGFT. **FE**

FM: Without waiting for Budget, we are taking steps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR, JANUARY 5

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said the government has taken steps to address the challenges faced by various sectors without waiting for the Budget.

She also said the GST collection, which crossed Rs 1 lakh crore per month mark during the last two months, will remain “good” in coming days. “The government has been regularly taking steps to help sectors which are facing challenges. Without waiting for the Budget, we are taking the steps,” she said at a press conference here.

Stating that the Centre does not differentiate between BJP ruled states and non-BJP ruled states, she said that of states were not being held back by the Centre, and funds were being given as per recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission.

“The GST collection has gone above Rs 1 lakh crore per month. It will remain good in the days to come,” Sitharaman said.

Govt’s FY20 spending seen lower by ₹2 lakh cr; sharpest cut since FY15

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 5

WITH TAX revenue growth lagging the required rate by a wide margin, the Centre is all set to cut the annual budgetary expenditure for the current financial year by nearly Rs 2.2 lakh crore or 8 per cent from the Budget Estimate (BE). The axe could fall on spending across most ministries, though budgeted capital investment may remain intact.

With actual expenditure this year likely to be around Rs 25.6 lakh crore, or 92 per cent of the BE, the spending reduction from BE level this year could be the sharpest since FY15, when the new Modi 1.0 government retained the (slashed) expenditure level of 92.7 per cent of BE estimated by the previous UPA government in the interim budget.

While the NDA dispensation has been focused on keeping the

NEARLY 8% OF BUDGET ESTIMATE

■ The Centre is set to cut annual budgetary expenditure for current fiscal by nearly ₹2.2 lakh crore or 8 per cent from the Budget Estimate

■ The axe could fall on spending across most ministries

headline deficit numbers under check, unlike its predecessor, it has also largely achieved it without effecting huge spending cuts (it is another manner, off-Budget financing of committed government expenditure increased sharply during the NDA regime).

The spending curbs being imposed now to avoid a big fiscal slippage would, however, weaken

the one pillar of the economy; government expenditure, that has been holding the fort for other constituents of the economy like private investments/consumption and exports that have lost steam. Notably, the slashing of the Centre’s budget spending comes at a time when state governments have also reined in their expenses in the wake of revenue shortfall.

An office memorandum (OM) issued by the Department of Economic Affairs, dated December 27, states that expenditure in the March quarter of FY20 would be restricted to 25 per cent of BE against the norm of 33 per cent and that spending in March should not exceed 10 per cent of BE compared with the norm of 18 per cent. “Considering the fiscal position of the government in the current financial year, it has been decided to cap the expenditure in the last quarter /last month of the current financial year,” the DEA said in the OM. **FE**

THE SUPERPOWER SPLIT

Don't be fooled by the trade deal between America and China

The planet's biggest break-up is under way



US President Donald Trump with China's President Xi Jinping at the start of their bilateral meeting at the G20 leaders summit in Osaka, Japan, in June last year. Reuters

ON JANUARY 15th, after three years of a bitter trade war, America and China are due to sign a “phase one” deal that trims tariffs and obliges China to buy more from American farmers. Don't be fooled. This modest accord cannot disguise how the world's most important relationship is at its most perilous juncture since before Richard Nixon and Mao Zedong re-established links five decades ago. The threat to the West from China's high-tech authoritarianism has become all too clear. Everything from its pioneering artificial-intelligence firms to its gulags in Xinjiang spread alarm across the world.

Just as visible is America's incoherent response, which veers between demanding that the Chinese government buy low-cost soybeans and insisting it must abandon its state-led economic model. The two sides used to think they could both thrive; today each has vision of success in which the other lot falls behind. A partial dismantling of their bonds is under way. In the 2020s the world will discover just how far this decoupling will go, how much it will cost and whether, as it confronts China, America will be tempted to

compromise its own values.

The roots of the superpower split go back 20 years. When China joined the World Trade Organisation in 2001 reformers at home and friends abroad dreamed that it would liberalise its economy and, perhaps, its politics too, smoothing its integration into an American-led world order.

That vision has died. The West has faced a financial crisis and turned inward. China's behaviour has improved in some ways: its giant trade surplus has fallen back to 3% of GDP. But it has an even bleaker form of dictatorship under President Xi Jinping and has taken to viewing America with distrust and scorn. As with every emerging great power, China's hankering to exert its influence is growing along with its stature. It wants to be a rule-setter in global commerce, with sway over information flows, commercial standards and finance. It has built bases in the South China Sea, is meddling with the 45m-strong Chinese diaspora and bullying its critics abroad.

President Donald Trump has responded with a policy of confrontation that has won

bipartisan support in America. Yet the China hawks thronging Washington agencies and corporate boardrooms share no consensus over whether America's goal should be the mercantilist pursuit of a lower bilateral trade deficit, the shareholder-driven search for profits in American-owned subsidiaries in China or a geopolitical campaign to thwart China's expansion. Meanwhile, Mr Xi oscillates between grim calls for national self-reliance one day and paeans to globalisation the next, while the European Union is unsure if it is an estranged American ally, a Chinese partner or an awakening liberal superpower in its own right.

Muddled thinking brings muddled results. Huawei, a Chinese tech giant, faces such a disjointed campaign of American pressure that its sales rose by 18% in 2019 to a record \$122bn. The EU has restricted Chinese investment even as Italy has joined China's belt-and-road trade scheme. China spent 2019 promising to open its big, primitive capital markets to Wall Street even as it undermined the rule of law in Hong Kong, its global financial hub. The phase-one trade

deal fits this pattern. It mixes mercantilist and capitalist goals, leaves most tariffs intact and puts aside deeper disagreements for later. Mr Trump's tactical aim is to help the economy in an election year; China is happy to buy time.

Geopolitical incoherence is neither safe nor stable. True, it has not yet inflicted a big economic cost—since 2017 bilateral trade and direct investment flows between the superpowers have dropped by 9% and 60% respectively, but the world economy still grew by about 3% in 2019. Some businesses, such as Starbucks's 4,125 cafés in China, need never be affected. But confrontation is constantly spreading into new arenas. America's campuses are convulsed by a red scare about Chinese spying and intimidation. Rows blaze over athletes kowtowing to China, naval docking rights and alleged censorship on TikTok, a Chinese app used by teenagers worldwide. In the background is the risk of a confrontation between the superpowers over Taiwan, which holds elections in January.

Each side is planning for a disengage-

ment that limits the other superpower's day-to-day influence, reduces its long-term threat and mitigates the risk of economic sabotage. This involves an exceptionally complex set of calculations, because the two superpowers are so intertwined. In technology, most electronic devices in America are assembled in China, and, reciprocally, Chinese tech firms rely on foreign suppliers for over 55% of their high-end inputs into robotics, 65% of those into cloud computing and 90% of those into semiconductors. It would take 10-15 years for China to become self-sufficient in computer chips and for America to shift suppliers. Likewise in high finance, which could serve as a vehicle for sanctions. The yuan accounts for just 2% of international payments and Chinese banks hold over \$1 trn in dollar assets. Again, shifting trade partners to the yuan and winding down the banks' dollar exposure will take at least a decade, probably longer. And when it comes to research, China still trains its best talent and finds its best ideas in America's world-beating universities—at the moment there are 370,000

mainland students on campuses in the United States.

Were the superpower rivalry to spiral out of control, the costs would be vast. To build a duplicate tech hardware supply-chain would take \$2trn or so, 6% of the superpowers' combined GDP. Climate change, a great challenge which could provide a common purpose, would be even harder to cope with. Also at stake is the system of alliances that is a pillar of America's strength. Some 65 countries and territories rely on China as their largest supplier of imports and, asked to choose between the superpowers, not all of them would opt for Uncle Sam—especially if it continues to pursue today's policy of America First. Most precious of all are the principles that really made America great: global rules, open markets, free speech, respect for allies and due process. In the 2000s people used to ask how much China might become like America. In the 2020s the bigger question is whether a full superpower split might make America more like China.

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SUMMER INFERNO

Australia's bushfires intensify its debate about climate change

The government that scrapped a carbon tax has no plans to bring it back

THE FIRES eased over Christmas. But as 2020 neared, Australia's inferno blazed anew. In the state of Victoria, thousands of people fled to the seashore on New Year's Eve as bushfires ringed the coastal town of Mallacoota. Samuel McPaul, a volunteer firefighter, died earlier in neighbouring New South Wales when a “fire tornado”, as colleagues described it, overturned his vehicle. The federal government has called in military planes and ships to help evacuate people sheltering on beaches in both states. Experts say the fires are the most extensive in Australia's history and are far from over. They have sparked heated debate about the impact of climate change and the government's equivocal commitment to tackling it.

New South Wales is the country's most populous state and has suffered some of the biggest losses: 15 lives and about 1,300 homes. The state's bushfires have covered almost 40,000 square kilometres, nearly the area of Denmark. That is greater than the total area during the past three years' fire seasons. These usually start in October,

Australia's mid-spring. In 2019 the fires began in July. A drought that started in eastern Australia three years ago had left plenty of dry fuel. On December 18th Australia as a whole had its hottest day on record, at 41.9°C. The fires have spread across the country, at one point closing the highway to the Nullarbor Plain that links Western Australia to the east coast.

In early December former fire chiefs called on the government to help organise an emergency meeting to discuss the growing threat of wildfires amid global warming. Scott Morrison, the prime minister, had different plans. He took his family on a holiday to Hawaii, without telling the public. After an outcry, and the deaths of two firefighters during his absence, he returned just before Christmas. But he rejected requests to change the approach his conservative Liberal-National coalition takes to climate change.

The government's climate policy takes its tone from John Howard, a former Liberal prime minister, who once dismissed calls for

action as “the latest progressive cause” and a “substitute religion”. As the fires took hold in November, Michael McCormack, the deputy prime minister, blamed “inner-city raving lunatics” for linking them to climate policy and Australia's coal industry. Coal, a big source of carbon emissions, is Australia's second-biggest export, and is used to generate almost two-thirds of its electricity. The coalition abolished a carbon tax imposed by the former Labor government. In place of this market-driven mechanism it set up a public fund worth A \$3.5bn (\$2.5bn), partly to pay polluters to cut emissions.

Critics say such measures are inadequate. Greta Thunberg, a Swedish climate activist, cited the fires when tweeting criticism of Australia's climate policy. Mr Morrison retorted that he was “not here to try and impress people overseas”. As the fires raged, some countries at a recent UN climate conference in Madrid grumbled about Australia's apparent sleight of hand, involving the use of carbon credits linked to its emission-reduction targets for 2020 as a way



Smoke billows during bushfires in Bairnsdale, Victoria, on December 30, 2019. Reuters

of meeting its higher targets for 2030. Angus Taylor, the energy minister, argues that because Australia produces just 1.3% of global emissions, it “can't single-handedly have a meaningful impact”.

The fires are raising the temperature of Australia's climate-change debate. Mr Morrison says climate change is just one of

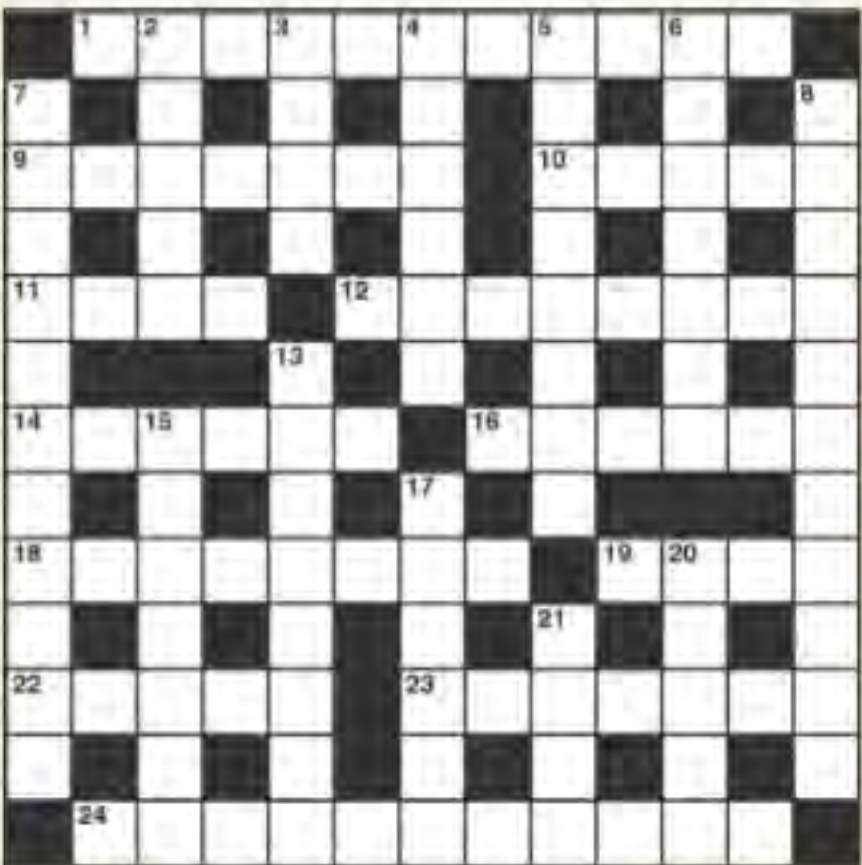
“many factors” behind the inferno. Greg Mullins, a former fire chief, retorts that these factors all relate to climate change. He and fellow ex-chiefs still plan to convene a meeting to discuss the problem, even if the government stays aloof. “We'll invite the prime minister,” he says, wryly. Some business leaders also want the government to

adopt a tougher climate policy. Peter Harmer, the head of IAG, an insurance firm, speaks of an “urgent need for Australia to prepare for and adapt to climate change”. With no end to the bushfires in sight, such calls are bound to grow.

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CROSSWORD 4007



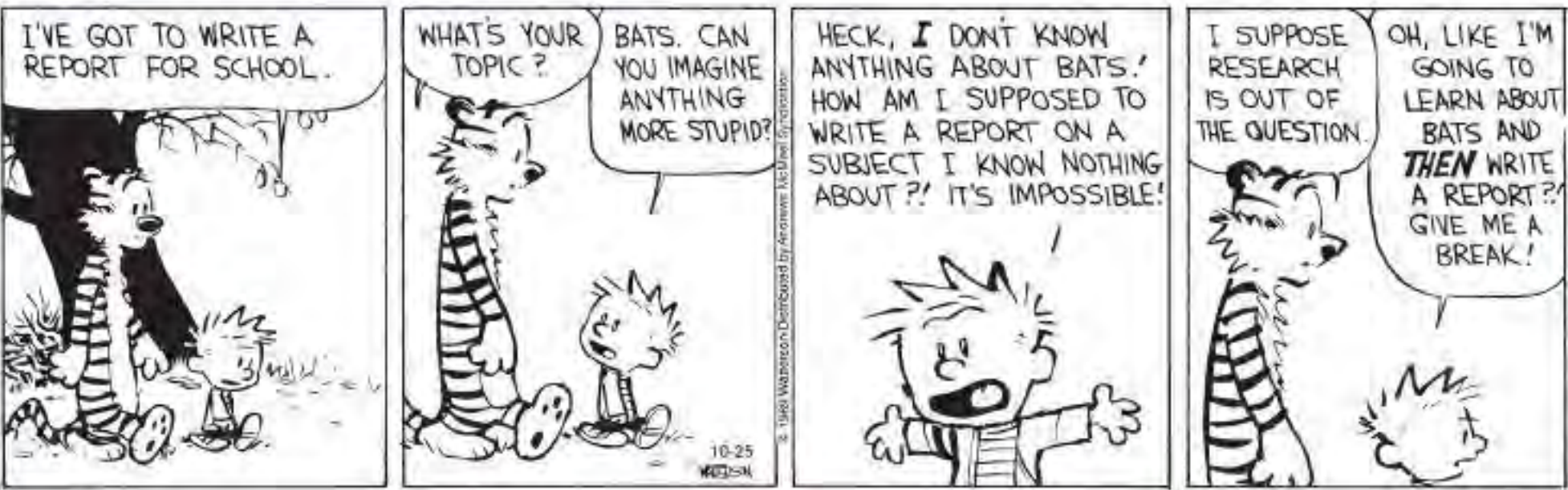
- ACROSS
- 1 Apt to steal (11)
- 9 Finish off the job? (7)
- 10 A place where waiters are forgotten? (5)
- 11 Spent American notes (4)
- 12 Arch-supporter of comic policemen (8)
- 14 Some variations in game line-up (6)
- 16 Unnatural cunning (6)
- 18 Crimes put one's life in jeopardy (8)
- 19 A lifetime of bridge (4)
- 22 Side where the brightest is best off (5)
- 23 The end is not in reach (7)
- 24 He has no power to go over people's heads, but does (6,5)
- Down
- 2 Part that is played? (5)
- 3 Put to flight right away (4)
- 4 Like better quietly to allude to something (6)
- 5 Your ills may turn out to be imaginary (8)
- 6 Leisure period gets cancelled (4,3)
- 7 An attraction to excursionists on a diet? (7,4)
- 8 He takes interest in his work (11)
- 13 Call-up date wrongly issued (8)
- 15 Heard improper golf score isn't sanctioned by official rules (7)
- 17 One can't go straight ahead and make it (6)
- 20 In short, a final result of a snap decision (5)
- 21 A case for sewers (4)

Solutions Crossword 4006: Across: 1 Oyster, 4 Haircuts, 9 Acacia, 10 Tropical, 12 Dodo, 13 Giant, 14 Firm, 17 First edition, 20 Indelible ink, 23 Beef, 24 Stage, 25 Well, 28 Arms race, 29 Daring, 30 Nonsense, 31 Divert. Down: 1 On and off, 2 Standard, 3 Evil, 5 Apron strings, 6 Rope, 7 Uncoil, 8 Salami, 11 Fiddlesticks, 15 Stand, 16 Folly, 18 Sideline, 19 Skylight, 21 Obtain, 22 Yeoman, 26 Free, 27 Taxi.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

A__ is having nothing to do and all day to do it in. - Robert Orben (8)

KPRAA

EGGUNT

NRYIO

ALCOVE

SOLUTION: PARKA, IRONY, NICEFACE, COVEAL

SUDOKU 4081

Difficulty Level 1s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4080



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
The current passionate Mars-Pluto relationship is pushing you into battles of principle, probably at home rather than at work. However, relations may not wish to be the objects of your crusading zeal. You might do best to leave them alone to make up their own minds.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
There's a fairly pronounced change in planetary energies this week, moving from pure excitement and drama to a situation which combines the need for adventure with sobriety and caution: a tall order! Your natural caution will come in extremely handy.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
There's little change in the long-term cycle for the bulk of Geminians this week. However, the rapid movements of Venus and Mercury point to a series of intriguing fluctuations in your personal relationships. Meanwhile Mars indicates rising tension, so keep the lid on wilder feelings.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
It may be another twelve months before your seeds which are sown now come to fruition. However, you should soon begin to see very beneficial results. You can look forward to the future with hope, but in the meantime you'd better pay close attention to the details.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
The Moon arrives in a powerful region of your chart, bringing a remarkable degree of emotional strength. Play your cards right now and you will emerge as the dominant force at home and the victor in a family struggle. Friends may be falling out—and you'll soon be called in to play the peacemaker.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Your better Virgoan qualities are all set to flourish. You have little choice but to adhere to the self-sacrificing tendencies that you would rather forget. But that doesn't mean that you should let people walk all over you. Far from it. By doing the right thing you will attract loyalty and respect.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Challenging planetary aspects may set you on edge, but shouldn't disturb your genuine peace of mind. Perhaps you will find welcome stimulation in tense situations. A little extra stress might be all it takes to push into finally achieving a cherished goal.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
Certain partners have been very loyal indeed and have gone out of their way to put up with your needs and desires. However, you might be wise to backtrack and make an attempt to be more amenable. If you have made a mistake at home, now's your chance to make amends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
You haven't always had a fair deal, but that should soon change. The stirring impact of Mars, planet of energy, on intense Pluto, is arousing your righteous anger. You will fight for your rights, even if you're wrong! Make sure you don't pick on an inappropriate target, though.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Venus' most powerful relationship today bodes well for love, but you do have to find the right words to say what you want. The impact on your life may therefore be indirect, but no less impressive, explosive even, for all that. Look to close friends for support.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
A perfect planetary period for family gatherings and home entertaining is now beginning. Hopefully, you will make the most of wonderful opportunities and now have your memories to look back on. But it may not be possible to keep impatient partners waiting for ever.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
You can't always win the support you deserve. Of course there will be times when you don't see eye to eye with loved ones, but you must regard disagreement as an essential part of daily life. How boring it would be if everyone shared the same opinions.

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PLASTICS ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY (CIPET)
(Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Govt. of India)
Head Office: Guindy, Chennai 600032
E-mail : cipetdgoffice@gmail.com Website : www.cipet.gov.in

RE-TENDER
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (Online) No.: CIPET_HO/Pur/Ten_05/2019-20
CIPET invites technical & commercial bids separately item-wise from the reputed suppliers / manufacturers for the supply & installation of Processing, Testing and R&D Equipments / Machinery, Hardware & Software for various CIPET centres, interested and eligible bidders are requested to apply through e-tender (online), website www.tenderwizard.com/CIPET, also visit CIPET website & CPPP for complete details on technical specification and commercial terms. CIPET reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders either in part or in full without assigning any reasons thereof.
Last date for the online submission of the bid : 27/01/2020, 03.00 p.m.
Opening of Technical bids : 28/01/2020, 10.00 a.m.
Opening of Commercial bids : After Evaluation of Technical Bids
For further clarification, please contact 044 22254787, 788 & 22254780, Ext. 240
Principal Director (Technical)

Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB)
Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Prayatan Bhawan Garhi Cantt (Near O.N.G.C Helipad), Dehradun - 248003 (Uttarakhand)
Tel.: 0135-2559898, Fax:- 0135-2559988
Website: uttarakhandtourism.gov.in

No- 4497/2-6-1389/2019-20 Dehradun : Dated: 04.01.2020
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF AN AGENCY TO DESIGN, INSTALL AND OPERATE TOURIST SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
Details may be obtained on website: www.uktenders.gov.in and www.uttarakhandtourism.gov.in. A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled at 2:30 PM on **13th January 2020**. Prospective Service Providers may seek clarification till **2:00 PM on 16th January 2020** through Email: utdbplanning@gmail.com with CC to procurement.utdb@gmail.com. Any Addendum/Corrigendum including date extension will be uploaded only on www.uktenders.gov.in. Proposals must be submitted online through www.uktenders.gov.in. The last date for submission of proposals is **27th January 2020 till 2:00 PM**.
Chief Executive Officer

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN
Government of India, Ministry of Finance, (Department of Financial Services)
2nd Floor, Paras Tower, Mazra, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun, UK. 248171
PUBLICATION NOTICE
IN O.A. No. 380 OF 2019
SUMMONS UNDER SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 19 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993, READ WITH SUB-RULE (2A) OF RULE 5 OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME)
Dy. No. 690 Dated : 24.12.2019
Corporation Bank Vs Krishana Pal Singh Rana & Ors.
To,
3. M/s Amrapali Centurian Park Pvt. Ltd. Through Its Director/Authorized Singnatory Brig. Rajesh Malhotra, Registered Office at 307, 3rd Floor, Nipun Tower, Plot No. 15, Community Centre, Karkardooma, Delhi-92.
Corporate Office: C-56/40, Sector-62, Noida, UP.
Whereas the above named Applicant Bank has instituted OA No. 380 of 2019 against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 25,70,908/- in which Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to issue Summons/Notice U/s 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and was listed before the Hon'ble Presiding Officer on 17.12.2019
Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way, therefore, this notice is given by way of this publication directing you to appear in person or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner before the Tribunal on **28.01.2020 at 10.30 A.M.**
Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time before the tribunal, the case shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **24th day of December, 2019.**
By order of Tribunal
sd,
Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Dehradun

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.
e-Procurement Tender Notice
TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of (a) 11KV, 3C X 300 Sq.mm XLPE UG Cable (b) 33KV, 1C X 630 Sq.mm XLPE UG Cable (c) 11KV, 3CX185 Sq.mm XLPE UG Cable (d) 500 KVA 3-ph Cu Wound Distribution Transformers with BIS EEL-3 (star 2) (e) E-Auction of various Scrap Materials available in all District stores of TSSPDCL on e-procurement platform.
For further details, please visit www.tssouthernpower.com, www.tender.telangana.gov.in and www.auction.telangana.gov.in
Sd/- M.BALARAJU,
CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&MM)
Phone: 040-2343 1035, 1360

DEVI AHILYA VISHWAVIDYALAYA
Central Library Building, Takshashila Campus
DAVV, Indore - 452017
IT CENTER
No. DAVV/ITC/2019-20/AMC/2 Date : 06.01.2020
Online tenders are invited under two bid system (Technical and financial) for **AMC of Campus Wide Network and Services**. Tender document may be downloaded on payment of Rs. 2000/- at <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> (main portal) and can be seen at website www.dauniv.ac.in/tenders.php.
M.P. Madhyam/96329/2020 REGISTRAR

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT/ WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT/ THAMBARAPARAN BASIN CIRCLE, TIRUNELVELI-2 TN IAM PROJECT
AMENDMENT
EXTENSION OF TENDER RECEIVING DATE
Bid invitation No.-07/TBC/2019-2020/Date:27.11.2019
The Tender Receiving date for the works in the above said advertisement is extended **upto 12.00 Noon on 13.01.2020**
For further details and Bidding documents visit the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD/WRD., (U) THAMBARAPARAN BASIN CIRCLE, TIRUNELVELI-2
DIPR020TENDER/2020

BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
CIN No. U27310WB1920G01003601
"KANKARIA CENTRE", (4TH & 5TH FLOOR), 21, RUSSEL STREET, KOL-71
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (e-NIT)
Online "Single Percentage Rate" Bid(s) / offer(s) are invited in two part system for execution of the following works on Sub-Contract Basis in connection with the Construction of (G+6) Second 2nd Technical Building at Sagardighi Thermal Power Project of WBPDCL, Murshidabad, West Bengal.
Sl. No. Name of work: NIT No. & Date of Hosting Last date of submission of Offer
A. Electrical Work (Revised) B&R / HO / 51149 / TD / ELECTRICAL WORK / 02. Dated: 06.01.2020 16.01.2020 within 4.00 P.M.
Interested Bidder(s) have to enroll & register with the Government e-Procurement System and download the Tender document through logging on to wbenders.gov.in
Corrigendum / Addendum, if any shall be hosted in West Bengal Tenders Portal i.e. wbenders.gov.in and in Company's Website <http://www.bridgeroof.co.in> only.

URBAN TRANSPORT DIRECTORATE, UTTAR PRADESH
Office Address:
Room No.305, 3rd Floor, Urban Training & Research Centre & Directorate of Local Bodies, Sector-7, Gomti Nagar Vistar, Shaheed Path Lucknow-226010
TENDER NOTICE
Procurement of 02 Nos. A.C./12M/ELECTRIC/Low Floor Fully Built Buses for Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. The proposed Buses should comply with the UBS-II Code and AIS 052 Bus Body Specifications for Urban Buses. The tender format is available on E-tender website <https://tender.up.nic.in> and Urban Transport Directorate, Uttar Pradesh website-www.uptd.gov.in.
Duly completed tender document should be deposited upto before 1500 hours Feb 04, 2020 by E-tendering only.
For further information please contact:
Joint Director, Directorate of Urban Transport
E-mail id: jdutdgoup@gmail.com; Mob. No. 094150 49719
UPID No. 147175 Date 03/01/2020
www.upgov.nic.in
Ordered By Sd/- Director Urban Transport Directorate, Uttar Pradesh

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Corporate I.D. No. UA40109UP2001SGCO25867 / 2358
V.C.V. Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun - 248001
Ph. No. 0135-2763672-75, Fax 0135-2763830
DATE EXTENSION OF e-TENDER NOTICE-Ist
In reference to this office e-tender specification no. 12 & 13/SE/MM/2019-20 for supply of **Steel Scrap (Melttable, Iron/ Empty T/I Tank /Plate/ GI Wire/Galvanised Scrap/Tower Part /Rail Piece)** on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" available to be available in **Electricity Workshops/ Store Center Dehradun/Rishikesh/Roorkee/Kotdwar/Handwar/Haldwani/Kashipur/ Rudrapur/Tanakpur**. Due to unavoidable circumstances the tender will be opened on dated 13.01.2020 at 16:30 hrs. and 16:45 hrs. respectively Last Date & time of online request for purchase of tender document & submission of tender in online 13.01.2020 upto 13:00 hrs. and offline mode will be on dated 13.01.2020 upto 15:00 hrs.
All other terms and conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit website www.uktenders.gov.in.
No.: 59/EE(CM)/UPCLA-2 Superintending Engineer(MM)
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भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम सारभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/ VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुसंधान गुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM- 22
(फोन नं. / Ph. No.: 0471 2564568 / 2564537)

ई-निविदा सूचना सं वीएसएससी / सीएससी / सिविल / 11/2019-20 दिनांक 03.01.2020
E-Tender Notice No.VSSC/CMG/CIVIL/11/2019-20 Dt.03.01.2020
ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
1. भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, **संक्षिप्त श्रेणी** के अधिन विमलसिखित कार्य के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। / On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following work under **composite category**.
2. भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, **संक्षिप्त श्रेणी** के अधिन विमलसिखित कार्य के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। / On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following work under **composite category**.
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172. निविदा में दी गई अनुमानित लागत / Estimate cost put to tender
173. कार्य पूरा होने की तिथि/ Period of completion
174. क्याना जमा राशि (ईएमडी) / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)
175. शर्तों जिसके दौरान निविदा दस्तावेज को डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है/ Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.
176. निविदा खोलने की अंतिम तिथि व समय / Last date and time for receipt of tenders.
177. निविदा खोलने की अंतिम तिथि व समय / Due date and time of opening of tenders
178. कार्य का शीर्षक / Title of work
179. निविदा में दी गई अनुमानित लागत / Estimate cost put to tender
180. कार्य पूरा होने की तिथि/ Period of completion
181. क्याना जमा राशि (ईएमडी) / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)
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183. निविदा खोलने की अंतिम तिथि व समय / Last date and time for receipt of tenders.
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188. क्याना जमा राशि (ईएमडी) / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)
189. शर्तों जिसके दौरान निविदा दस्तावेज को डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है



SOUND MACHINE

Rage Against the Machine (pictured), a political rap-rock band will headline Coachella music festival in the US this year. The two weekend fest, which starts in April, will also include acts by Calvin Harris, 21 Savage and Lana Del Ray.

SNAPSHOT

Blazing a Trail

THE YEAR 2019 was good for women in Hollywood, where women made up 10.6 per cent of directors of the top movies last year, more than double the percentage in 2018. The number of women behind the camera in Hollywood movies jumped to record levels in 2019, with 12 directing top-grossing films including *Frozen II*, *Captain Marvel* and *Hustlers* (pictured). These findings were a result of a study by the Annenberg Inclusion Initiative at the University of Southern California. Greta Gerwig's *Little Women* and Olivia Wilde's *Booksmart* also helped propel the record numbers.



Every Woman's Story

Theatre production *Daughters Opera* touches upon violence against women and issues of citizenship



A scene from Indo-Australian theatre production *Daughters Opera*

PALLAVI CHATTOPADHYAY

WHILE ESSAYING the role of 39-year-old Rubina Begum in the hour-long Indo-Australian theatre production *Daughters Opera*, staged in Delhi on Friday, Melodi Dorcas from Chennai speaks in Tamil about her plight, while shuffling through a plastic bag full of documents. With floods and cyclones paying a visit to her state every year, washing away many houses and forcing many to reconstruct their houses, Begum struggles to prove her identity every year. Having no school education, most of her documents have been washed away in the natural calamity. All that she has is her marriage certificate and the land that her husband owns in the village. Another character, essayed by Shipika Bordoloi from Assam, speaks of how her father's name, Moinul Islam, has been misprinted as Mohtab in the voter identity card, much like many others in the country.

With its all-female cast, when *Daughters Opera*'s director Anuradha Kapur was asked if the opera hints at the proposed National Register of Citizens, Australian librettist Tammy Brennan points out, "Documents of people is an issue the world over. Even in Australia, for instance, in our indigenous culture, many people are born in settings such as the deserts where there are no birth certificates. So it is very difficult for them to have identity documents; it was a common thread of the current climate." While Kapur, former Director of the National School of Drama, agrees that one is hearing more about documents today, she adds, "The common thread is that it was said on TV some months ago that people who are completely dispossessed of documents are mostly women. Whatever documents she has is with the family, be it her husband or father. If something happens, she is left without anything, and that is true across the world."

Scenographer Deepan Sivaraman has

done a brilliant job of turning the stage into a box moving back and forth towards the audience, atop which most scenes unravel. A group of women appear to be in a train compartment, cutting vegetables on the go, after a hard day's work. The aim is to depict the 24-hour work cycle that women have to keep up with. A factory scene precedes this, where women rush to finish their food in the canteen. It's interspersed with some moments of joy, as they sing Madhuri Dixit's classic song *Ek do teen*.

Kapur says, "What has been on our minds a lot is that a woman in India and abroad works 24 hours. She does her job, chops vegetables in the train, and later goes and cooks them. It's economy, it's invisible labour, but they are constantly working." Dressed in saris, the actors soon switch into the role of women labourers from rural backgrounds, laying down bricks at a construction site.

The background voice echoes issues of infanticide, forced labour and the violence and traumas women and girls are subjected to. Brennan reveals how the writing of *Daughters Opera*'s libretto found its roots in the aftermath of Delhi gangrape case in 2012. She says, "It was the beginning of the research, it was the provocation. Why was this story so powerful in terms of its reach? It went global. And these acts happen to women every day around the world, but they do not get the attention to enable them to go and find those men."

The musical score is by award-winning composer David Chisholm, who has utilised the Portuguese guitar to bring out Fado, aiming to look at another kind of violence apart from gender violence. "It was about looking at colonial violence. Portugal had administrative control over swathes of India for around 500 years, in Goa and other regions, and I wanted to use that allegory," he says. Sound artist Marco Cher-Gibard from Melbourne provides live music, with his extensive use of axes and saws on the guitar. He says, "I see the guitar as a body, and this was my way of inflicting violence upon it."

A World of His Own

Australian writer Ken Spillman on forging a relationship with India, writing for children, and the power of imagination



I actually do think that books are being read pretty much as good as ever. Ten to 15 years ago, people didn't expect that would happen and thought kids would be reading on devices. But they are still in love with the physical book

KEN SPILLMAN, AUTHOR

SURBHIGUPTA

AUSTRALIAN WRITER and historian Ken Spillman, 60, may be based in Perth but he shares a special relationship with India. His first book with an Indian character and setting, *Advaita The Writer*, in 2011, ended up on CBSE's recommendation list, and subsequent visits gave rise to other stories for children and young adults such as *Daydreamer Dev*, *The Auto That Flew*, *Rahul and the Dream Bat* and *No Fear, Jiyaal*. With more than 70 books, the writer has also engaged with Australian social history, sports writing, poetry and literary criticism. Back home, he is regarded for writing history in a lucid fashion and fitting it in a broader context. His first major solo publication, *Identity Prized* (1985), was on the history of Subiaco in Western Australia, a region whose history and institutions he had widely documented in the last three decades. He received international recognition in 2009 for his *Jake* series of books for early readers that has been published in over 20 countries. He was in Delhi recently for children's literature festival, Bookaroo. Excerpts from an interview:

Many of your stories and characters are set in India.

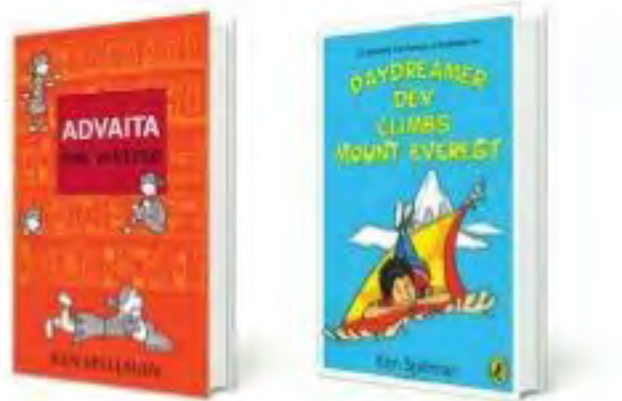
I had teachers of Anglo-Indian descent who spoke lovingly of India. When I came here in 2006, it was just casual, but I knew within 24 hours that I would keep coming back. But setting my stories here was unplanned. It wasn't until 2008 when I was at a residency here at Sanskriti Kendra that a story came to me which had an Indian character (*Advaita the Writer*). I thought I'll just write it but it will never be published, but then it did. It gave me the confidence to write more Indian characters.

Who are your favourite Indian writers?

That's another way I've familiarised myself with this country. Literary fiction from India is my favourite. In the last 13 years, probably two-thirds of my reading has been Indian authors, and it really takes me inside Indian families and different cultures across the country. Some of the writers who made me love India are Rohinton Mistry, Anita Desai, and I've enjoyed works by newer writers like Anuradha Roy and Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.

And Ruskin Bond?

Oh, absolutely. When I first came to India, I went to the children's section at the bookstores. I wanted to see what writers in India were writing and I saw so many books by Ruskin Bond. They were so wonderfully constructed and the writing was so crystal clear. I met him very briefly in Mussoorie. Since then I've come to know so many Indian writers. The writing for children and young adults — that market has changed so much and more quality work is being produced. Initially, there was a domination of authors from the US and the UK, but now, we see so many Indian writers.



Ken Spillman Amit Mehra; (above) covers of his books

Authors these days are writing more about difficult issues.

That's true, especially for the 12+ readership. It's really necessary because it's one of the ways you can build resilience by exposure, and a safe place to do so is through books. In *Advaita*, I took her into a place of such pain of homesickness. She's in a residential school and missing home, family, friends, her bookshelves, and Delhi. I take the reader to a place of home through imagination. That's one of the reasons I'm so enthusiastic about the series *Daydreamer Dev*, because in the stories he can go anywhere through the wings of imagination. For me, as an author, it's wonderful because I haven't been to those places.

Do you think children are reading enough these days?

I actually do think that books are being read pretty much as good as ever. Ten to 15 years ago, people didn't expect that would happen and thought kids would be reading on devices. But they are still in love with the physical book. I also think children should be given options with books, instead of saying they must read a particular one. This way they will enjoy it and read more.

What are the new issues, and the kind of characters you want to write about?

What I've discovered with *Daydreamer Dev* is that I've always loved travelling, and these are places I've haven't been to — the Mt Everest, Sahara and Amazon — I can virtually go there with the power of imagination. I would like to do more of that. I've been asking children about where they would like Dev to go, and some suggested the space. The other place popular with them is the volcano. I would also like to write about the environment. Dev may go to Antarctica, may be the North Pole, where global warming will become a part of his learning.

What is your next book about?

I'm working on a picture book to be published by Pickle Yolk, called *My Upside Down World*. It's about a girl and her family, who is handed down an old map. Her brother, who is a bit of a nuisance, has turned the map upside down and it seems like her own world is upside down. It's ultimately about how families live in their own little worlds but come back together when it really matters.

WEEK AHEAD



Valley Bound

VISIT THE arid and dry locales of the Spiti valley with "Light and Lines in the Middle Land", an exhibition which is a monochrome journey through the Spiti Valley. The exhibition has 25 pictures by Amit Vermam who took them on a single, 10-day trip through the Valley. At the Convention Center Foyer, India Habitat Centre, 9am to 8pm, January 8-12.



Carry On

WATCH CONTINUER, a 2018 French film directed by Joachim Lafosse. The film is the story of Sibylle, a divorced mother who takes her son on a long journey through Kyrgyzstan, with two horses as their only companions. The mother and her son face a natural environment which is splendid and hostile and dangerous. At the Alliance Francaise, Lodhi Estate, January 9, 6.30 pm.



Strumming Sound

TAKE A break from your mid-week blues with a performance by Wanderlust, a band which has roots in good old rock-n-roll and the blues. Four members of the band will play original music as well as classics like Eric Clapton, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Muddy Waters, Robert Johnson, Gary Moore and Led Zeppelin. At The Piano Man Jazz Club, Safdarjung Enclave, January 8, 9 pm onwards.



Reggae Beats

LISTEN TO musical duo of Sara Lugo & Supa Mana for an evening in Delhi. Influenced by artistes such as Lauryn Hill, India Arie and Erykah Badu, their sound is fresh and earnest. Presented by District India in collaboration with the German Embassy, DJ MoCity of Reggae Rajahs will also be playing an early selection. At Auro Kitchen & Bar, on January 9, 8 pm onwards.

'South Asians aren't often painted as desirable'

Writer-actor Vishaal Reddy on creating *Insomnia*, a show that finally puts the spotlight on the queer, desi lives in America

CHINTANGIRISH MODI

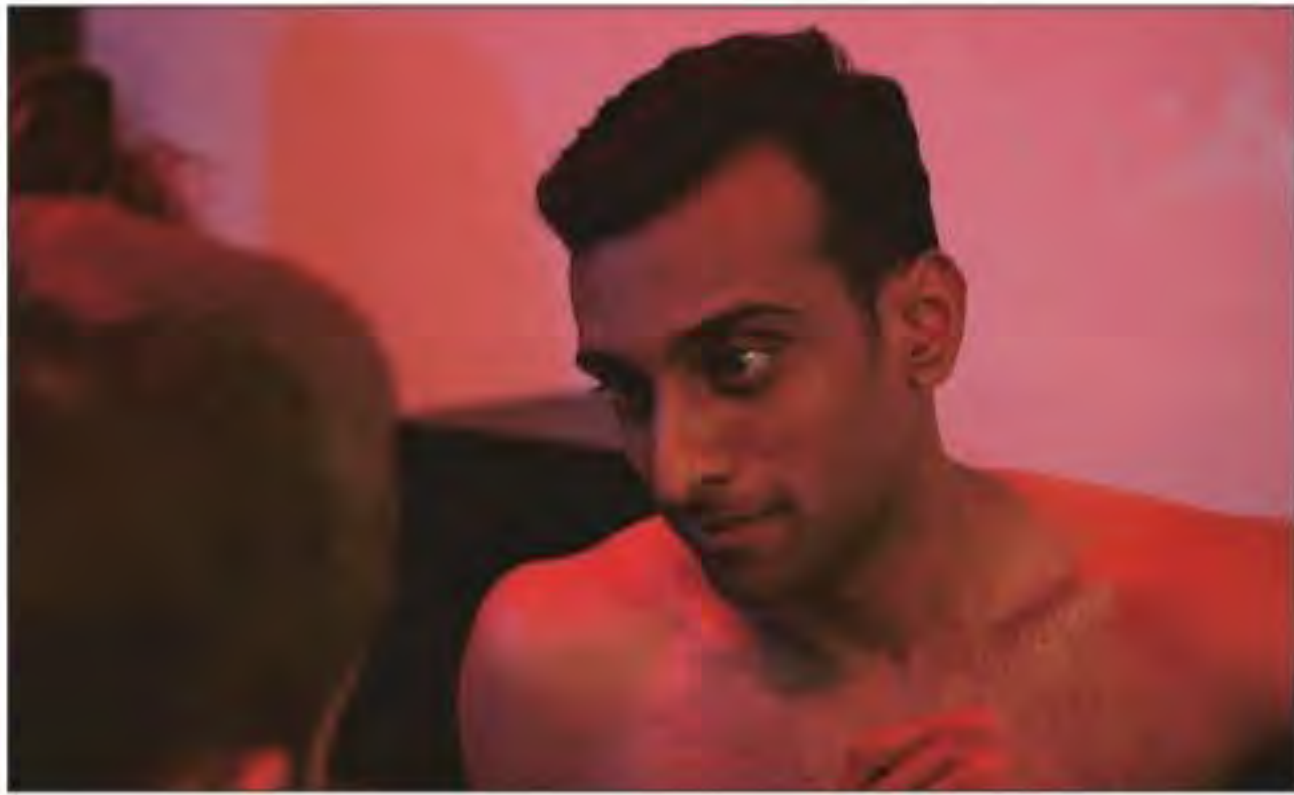
IT WAS a misunderstanding that led to Vishaal Reddy creating *Insomnia*, a web series about a queer American of Indian heritage. Reddy was once approached by a man at a bar who thought he was an escort, and when Reddy revealed that he wasn't, the man shrugged and suggested that this was probably because Indians "do not do such things". It was a lightbulb moment for the 28-year-old New York-based writer-actor. "South Asian characters aren't often painted as desirable on screen and stage, so I wanted to flip the script and change that narrative," says the Tennessee-raised Reddy.

American television may have come a long way in how it represents South Asian characters, as well as characters who belong to sexual minority groups, but a show like *Insomnia*, built around a protagonist who is simultaneously queer and desi, remains rare. In *Insomnia*, Reddy, who identifies as queer, plays a bisexual South Asian man named Nikhil who works in publishing, and moonlights as an escort. In addition, he's afflicted by the titular inability to sleep. Laced with dark humour, the show



Vishaal Reddy; (right) in a still from *Insomnia*

weaves in conversations around racial discrimination, mental health, sex work and queer loneliness. *Insomnia* — directed by Michelle Cutolo, with Milan and Dipali Goswami as ex-



ecutive producers — is currently streaming on YouTube. Reddy raised funds through a Kickstarter campaign, and the episodes were shot using a hand-held camera.

Besides Reddy, other American-Indian actors on the show are Aneesh Sheth, Nandita Shenoy, Cheech Manohar and Piyali Syam. "I find that many South Asian characters in me-

dia are totally whitewashed or are caricatures of who we are as people. I wanted to strike a balance with those elements," says Reddy, who has also worked in theatre.

His parents, who are from Hyderabad, ensured that Reddy spent most summer vacations in India to keep in touch with his roots, and there's a clear nod to his upbringing in Reddy's show: Nikhil speaks a bit of Telugu. He eats idlis for breakfast, wears a Ganesha pendant to honour the memory of his mother who chose death by suicide, and lives with an aunt battling multiple sclerosis. While the family has its own share of drama, the show does not stereotype desi parents as people who stigmatise non-heteronormative sexuality. Importantly, the story of Nikhil's coming out is not part of the show. Viewers are introduced to him as someone who is already comfortable with his sexuality.

The pride in his heritage, Reddy says, is not out of compulsion but is an act of agency. That is why, with *Insomnia*, he decided to create a show that would hire a lot of South Asian talent. "Even for my crew, I made sure that most of them were of colour and that there were many women on the set," he says.

While Reddy says that lots of queer South

Asians have reached out to him, saying they have felt 'seen' through the show, his focus is on the misunderstood 'B' in LGBTQ+. One of the episodes features a sequence about the prejudice and humiliation that bisexual individuals face even within the queer community. They are seen as promiscuous or as sex maniacs, Reddy says. "Because society has built up this idea that we must be straight or gay, when people don't fit into this box, they begin to question the mere existence of the entity. I am a bisexual man and have experienced much biphobia through the years but I am confident with who I am."

It is significant that *Insomnia* is set in New York, a city with a rich history of queer activism. It is also an attractive destination for queer desis, who organise locally through associations such as South Asian Lesbian and Gay Association of New York City. Reddy remarks, "It is vibrant, messy, resilient, and beautiful all in one breath... I am also reminded that I'm lucky to live in a city where queer people can express themselves in all different forms freely, which is a gift."

Chintan Girish Modi is a writer, educator and researcher based in Mumbai



PCB REJECTS BCB PROPOSAL

Pakistan Cricket Board rejected Bangladesh proposal to play just one Test in Pakistan, provided the second match is held in Dhaka.

ROUND-UP

Rana and Shorey fortify Delhi

NITISH RANA and Dhruv Shorey batted out of their skins to help Delhi gain a slim 26-run lead over Punjab. After Shorey's 96 on day two, Rana (92 off 189) batted sensibly alongside Jonty Sidhu (41) to take Delhi past Punjab's first innings score of 313 and end their first innings at 339. After a spirited showing with the bat, pacers extended Delhi's advantage, especially the young Opener Shubman Gill (4), who courted controversy in the first innings by arguing with the on-field umpire, failed for the second time in the game. **BRIEF SCORES (IN MOHALI):** Punjab 313 & 44/4 in 13 overs lead **Delhi** 339 all out in 115.5 overs (Shorey 96, Rana 92; Markande 3/77) by 18 runs.

Meriwala continues his merry ways

LEFT-ARM seamer Lukman Meriwala nabbed his career-best figures of 6/25 in Baroda's 99-win over Railways. Required to chase down a modest total of 201 on a relatively placid surface, Meriwala sliced through the top-order as Railways were shot out for a paltry 101. In two games, the 28-year-old has so far plucked 16 wickets at an average of 10. **BRIEF SCORES (IN VADODARA):** Baroda 201 and 98 beat **Railways** 99 and 101 (Karn Sharma 38; L Meriwala 6-25, A Sheth 3-43) 99 runs. **Baroda** 6 points, **Railways** 0 points.

Five each for Pathania and Pandey

AFTER BEING bowled out for 44, Maharashtra was literally out of the game against Railways. They batted marginally better in the second innings, scoring 103 more runs than that they'd managed in the first. But a first-innings deficit of 241 runs was always going to be impossible, and they eventually surrendered by an innings and 94 runs. This time around, Diwesh Pathania and Sachidananda Pandey were the destroyers, sharing the bounty between themselves. **BRIEF SCORES (IN PALAM):** **Maharashtra** 44 & 147 in 48.1 overs (Naushad Shaikh 40; Diwesh Pathania 5/49, Sachidanand Pandey 5/56) lost to **Services** 285 by an innings and 94 runs. Services: 7 points, Maharashtra: 0.

Hussain stars in Assam win

ASSAM PILED more agony on Uttarakhand, who stumbled to their fourth defeat in as many as games this season. If it was Ranjit Mali who destroyed them in the first innings, it was his medium-pace accomplice Mukhtar Hussain who wrecked them in the second with an effort that read 12-7-15-6. **BRIEF SCORES (IN DEHRADUN):** **Assam** 284 bt **Uttarakhand** 121 & 83 (Mukhtar Hussain 6/15, Ranjit Mali 4/27) by an innings and 90 runs.177/4 in 67 overs.

TN respond strongly

THOUGH TAMIL Nadu limped to 180 in their first innings, a spirited bowling effort has them sniffing at a lead. In reply, Uttar Pradesh were 170 for 9. The hosts were at one point 51/5 before the in-form Mohammad Saif engineered their recovery with an 89-run sixth-wicket partnership with Upendranath Yadav. **BRIEF SCORES (IN KANPUR):** **Tamil Nadu** 180 lead **Uttar Pradesh** 170/9 (Mohammed Saif 77, T Natarajan 3-23, Sai Kishore 2-38) by 10 runs.



Devdutt Padikkal's composed half-century steered Karnataka to a five-wicket win over bitter rivals Mumbai. Pradip Das

Vengsarkar and Muzumdar weigh in: Time for some tough decisions

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, JANUARY 5

DILIP VENGSAKAR and Amol Muzumdar have called for 'tough decisions' following Mumbai's Ranji Trophy team's second straight outright loss at home. On Sunday, the former champions lost to Karnataka by five wickets. This had come on the back of their 10-wicket loss to the Railways.

Neither Vengsarkar nor Muzumdar – who have both captained Mumbai in the past – can remember of such tepid capitulations during their tenures. Going forward, they reckon that it's time for selectors to make some bold decisions and ensure players don't take their spot for granted.

"It's hard to pinpoint where and why Mumbai's batting line-up has failed, because it has been our strength over the years," Vengsarkar opined.

"I feel some changes need to be made. Nobody can take their place in the team for granted. I am not talking about wholesale changes, but a few players need to be shown the door."

Mumbai have historically known to be a formidable batting team boasting of the likes of Ajit Wadekar, Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar, Wasim Jaffer, Vengsarkar and Muzumdar. Even the current crop of players includes stalwarts such as Rohit Sharma and India's Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane. Of late, however, the team's batting has been going through a

rather lean patch. Just to put things into perspective, in the last four innings, they have failed to cross the 200-run mark, with Rahane, their most experienced batsman, managing scores of just 5, 8, 7 and 1. Talented young opener Prithvi Shaw, who was retired hurt in the second innings against Karnataka compiled scores of 12, 23 and 29 in the last three innings, while seasoned wicketkeeper Aditya Tare could only muster scores of 4, 14, 0, 6. Siddhesh Lad didn't fare any better. His scores read 14, 8, 4, 4. Amidst this sordid tale, only their captain Suryakumar Yadav managed to impress with the bat thus far.

Against Karnataka, Mumbai were 59/5 in the first innings and then were tottering at 26/4 in the second, as the top order drew blanks. "The batting has been terrible this season, but I am an optimistic guy. I still feel there is enough potential in the dressing room. But some tough decisions need to be taken," Muzumdar said.

"It's not the end of the world if tough decisions are taken. Tough decisions have been made in the past, but it's up to the selectors now."

Eye on the future

With respect to making changes to the team line-up, Vengsarkar is of the opinion that selectors may want to call-up some of the players from the Under-23 team in order to prepare the squad for the long term. "Selectors should look to find a perfect combination for the future," he added.

I feel some changes need to be made. Nobody can take their place lightly. I am not talking about wholesale changes, but a few players need to be shown the door."

DILIP VENGSAKAR

Muzumdar meanwhile, expressed concern at the way the team has fared. "Two back-to-back defeats hurt. If this doesn't hurt them, then there is something wrong with the players and the system. When you see such scores, you ask what is going on. Something needs to be done," he said.

Muzumdar reckoned that players need to shoulder the responsibility of finishing the game. He also expressed surprise over the way Shaw was sent to the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru on the second day of the match after injuring his shoulder.

As a result, the opener didn't turn out to bat in the second innings, forcing Mumbai to play with just 10 batsmen. "I was surprised to see Shaw being sent to NCA in the middle of the game. He has also got the responsibility to complete the match," Muzumdar pointed out.

"He is in the middle of a Ranji Trophy match, and I will not agree to anything that has been said. I can understand if he is in hospital, but he needs to stay in the match. You cannot pull the plug."

Winter of discontent

A second straight defeat, this time at the hands of Karnataka, has Mumbai clutching at the straws to save this season

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, JANUARY 5

WITH A boundary, just under an hour after lunch on Day 3, Karnataka finished the match. There wasn't much celebration from the visitors at the MCA-BKC ground in Mumbai, for they made the win look regulation against a Mumbai team that has won the competition a record 41 times. But for the Mumbai outfit, which boasted a strong batting line-up, there was a fair degree of disappointment.

On Sunday, the hosts' endured their second consecutive defeat at home in the competition this season. And it wasn't entirely a case where the Karnataka team overpowered their opponents; the Mumbai team was responsible for their own downfall.

After folding out for a paltry 194 in the first innings – which Karnataka answered with a 218 and a 24 run lead – Mumbai faltered to a score of just 149 in the second innings to set a target of 126.

Mumbai never looked to be well positioned in their defence of the target as Karnataka openers Devdutt Padikkal and R Samarth ensured a 78-run stand for the first wicket to set the tone. Padikkal in particular was in control of the run chase. He used his feet confidently to carve through the Mumbai spinners.

He slammed two sixes – the first just about clearing the ropes at square leg followed by a powerful strike over midwicket that landed in a swimming pool outside the ground. The talented 19-year-old left-hander was finally undone in the first over after lunch, when he was trapped LBW off spinner Shashank Attarde, bringing an end to a well-constructed 46-ball 50.

The Mumbai bowler was easily the most consistent performer for the hosts over the two innings. The 28-year-old, in only his second Ranji Trophy match, picked up a five-wicket haul in the first innings and then started to help himself to more wickets in the second. On a pitch that allowed him to turn his deliveries, he managed to pick up four quick wickets in the second innings. But since a star-studded Mumbai batting outfit failed to put on a decent target, there was not much chance for Attarde to help his team.

The last hope

The day started with Mumbai continuing their second innings hoping that overnight batsman Sarfaraz Khan could add more runs with the team's tail-enders. With opener Prithvi Shaw being ruled out mid-way through the match, after suffering from a shoulder injury on the opening day, the hosts were short of one batsman. Later skipper Suryakumar Yadav explained that Shaw's injury was so severe that he was "unable to lift a plate during lunch."

Hopes were now on Khan to salvage a score. He started the day batting on 53 and eventually remained unbeaten on 71 after running out of partners.

Karnataka's left arm seamer Prateek Jain was responsible of taking the four remaining wickets that packed up the Mumbai team. He got Attarde early through a catch at slips, bowled Tushar Deshpande, got Deepak Shetty out caught behind, and then bowled Royston Dias to end the Mumbai innings.

And it was the Karnataka bowling which did the trick for the visitors. They read the pitch conditions well, opting for four pacers when skipper Karun Nair won the toss and put Mumbai in to bat.

For Mumbai though, Yadav explained it was a lack of application that caused the downfall. "Like against Railways in our last match, we failed to score big due to lack of application. We could have done better in all departments. We failed as a unit. Maybe in the first innings we could have batted better and got a 20-run lead and in the second got those extra 50 runs," Yadav rued

LANDMARK MATCH

200 Karnataka registered their 200th victory in the Ranji Trophy. They are the second team to enter the double-hundred club after record champions Mumbai, who they beat on Sunday.

04 It's the fourth time in their last six meetings that Karnataka has beaten Mumbai outright. Since 2013-14, Karnataka has an unbeaten record over them.

after the match. But Mumbai's problems are yet to find an end. With two losses in three matches this campaign, three players from the squad are expected to travel for the India A tour of New Zealand, including captain Yadav.

But he isn't too concerned. "Players coming in can fill in our (missing players') shoes. I will tell them to forget what has happened and focus on the next game (against Tamil Nadu in Chennai from January 11) and come back stronger," he remarked.

Karnataka, meanwhile, kept their record against Mumbai in the past five years in tact—never losing outright against Mumbai in a Ranji Trophy tie.

BRIEF SCORES: Mumbai 194 and 149/9 (Sarfaraz Khan 71 not out, Shams Mulani 31; Prateek Jain 4-11) lost to Karnataka 218 and 129/5 (Devdutt Padikkal 50, R Samarth 34; Shashank Attarde c4-52). Karnataka 6 points, Mumbai 0 points.

though, the bowling of Akash and Porel brightened up a dull morning. They shared seven wickets in Gujarat's first innings. Akash, for a while, outshone Porel. He now has seven wickets in two innings — three wickets against Andhra — in the Ranji Trophy.

Akash's father Ranjit Singh was a teacher at Sasaram in Bihar. He didn't want his son to become a cricketer. "My father didn't like me playing cricket. Bihar was out of the Ranji Trophy then and cricket didn't offer a bright future. *Hum chhup, chuup ke khelte the* (I used to play cricket secretly)," he said after the day's play on Sunday.

In 2010, Akash came to Durgapur in Bengal from his village and started staying with his uncle. At a local academy, he got in as a batsman. But as he was gaining height, he turned to fast bowling.

The family tragedies sent him back to his village. Three years ago, upon his return to Durgapur, his uncle's son worked up a Kolkata connection and Akash joined the United Club in the CAB first division league.

A year later he got picked for Bengal U-23 and as Ashok Dinda was dropped from the senior Bengal team following a row with the team's bowling coach Ranadeb Bose, the youngster made his Ranji Trophy debut against Andhra in the last game.

Reveling in helpful conditions

Today, he revelled in helpful conditions. Priyank Panchal's wicket was the highlight of his first spell. Panchal, Gujarat's most accomplished batsman and their wall of resistance, was playing beautifully.

Akash cleaned the pedigreed opening batsman with a delivery that moved late off the seam. Later, with great satisfaction, he recalled the dismissal. "He (Panchal) is either fully forward or fully back. So the idea clearly was to bowl full on the fourth stump line and tempt him to play away from his body," Akash elaborated.

The delivery that dismissed the Gujarat opener was full on the fourth stump line. Panchal attempted an extravagant cover drive, but the ball jagged back off the deck,

went through the gate and took the off stump.

Three balls previously, Akash had castled another set batsman, Samit Gohel, with a similar delivery, an in-ducker.

"He (Akash) has the ability to dismiss set batsmen. He has pace. Yes, he is a little inconsistent, but he will improve with experience," Bengal head coach Arun Lal observed. Consistency would be very important for Akash on placid pitches.

Move on Dinda

Akash's emergence is a reason why Bengal have decided to move over the seasoned Dinda, who has been far from his deceptive best in the last few years. He had clearly looked knackered in the last few games, bereft of his old pace and brisk movement. At 35, age was clearly telling on Dinda in the last season. So the plan was to thrust more responsibilities on their young pack of bowlers.

The youngster looked comfortable with the white ball also, in the Syed Mushtaq Ali

Akash Deep has the ability to dismiss set batsmen. He has pace. Yes, he is a little inconsistent, but he will improve with experience."

RANADEB BOSE

BENGAL COACH ON YOUNG PACER AKASH DEEP

Trophy, where he took eight wickets from seven matches at an average of a little over 18. With Akash emerging and Porel improving, the Bengal fast bowling at the moment appears to be in good hands. And their partnership will be vital in making Bengal a force to be reckoned with again.

For the record, Gujarat rallied after being reduced to 120/7, thanks to an unbroken 49-run partnership between Rujul Bhatt and Roosh Kalaria for the eighth wicket.

BRIEF SCORES: Gujarat 169/7 (Priyank Panchal 40, Roosh Kalaria 33 not out; Akash Deep 4/43, Ishan Porel 3/54)



Akash Deep demonstrated his wares in a his career-best 4-43 verses Gujarat.

Nice Garry leaves nice guys in shade

Australia take control of the third Test against Black Caps after off-spinner Nathan Lyon takes five

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
SYDNEY, JANUARY 5

AUSTRALIA TOOK a commanding 243-run lead over plucky New Zealand in the third Test in Sydney on Sunday, looking set for a clean sweep of the series. The Australians dismissed the Black Caps for 251 to lead by 203 runs on the first innings before batting a second time in a bid to build an overwhelming total with two days remaining.

At stumps on day three, the hosts were 40 without loss with David Warner on 23 and Joe Burns not out 16, and were expected to bat on for some time on the fourth day. Off-spinner Nathan Lyon captured five for 68 to lead the Australian bowling attack, with Kiwi Test debutant Glenn Phillips top-scoring with a charmed knock of 52.

"We're in a very good position here," said Lyon, who has now taken a career 385 Test wickets. "A lot of work to do in the morning and we have to see what lead we the batsmen want to get to. It is pretty special to play here in front of your home crowd, in front of your family and friends. Nice to go up on the honours board."

Phillips, who only flew in on the eve of the Test as cover for a team weakened by a virus outbreak, was dropped twice and given a reprieve when caught off a no-ball. Lyon put down the two caught-and-bowled chances when Phillips was on two and 17. The Kiwi batsman dodged another bullet on 28 when he was caught by Travis Head at deep mid-wicket only to be recalled when James



Nathan Lyon took five for 68. AP

Pattinson was found to have over-stepped. Phillips hit a cracking pull shot off Pat Cummins to raise his debut half-century before Cummins got him two balls later, ripping through his defences to take off-stump for 52. Lyon bowled Will Somerville and Neil Wagner for ducks and fast bowler Matt Henry came out to bat despite fracturing his left hand earlier in the match. Henry ducked out of the way of a couple of Mitchell Starc thunderbolts directed at his body before he was stumped off Lyon's bowling to end the New Zealand innings.

It was the longest innings of a disastrous lost series for the Kiwis, bettering the 71 overs they faced in the second innings of the second Test in Melbourne. The Black Caps lost three wickets in the middle session with the experienced Ross Taylor out lbw to Cummins for 22 in the second over after lunch.

Taylor remains 20 runs away from becoming the highest-scoring New Zealand batsman in Tests, behind Stephen Fleming (7,172). Wicketkeeper BJ Watling chopped a wide Starc delivery on to his stumps for nine off 30 balls to put his team under more pressure. Colin de Grandhomme was needlessly run out for 20, taking on Matthew Wade's throw from the deep to wicketkeeper Tim Paine while attempting a second run.

Lyon grabbed two key wickets in the morning session, removing Melbourne Test centurion Tom Blundell and recalled Jeet Raval. Raval, who was dropped after twin batting failures as an opener in the first Test in Perth, batted positively at number three before he was leg before wicket to Lyon for 31 off 58 balls.

Tom Latham was out two balls later in the next over from Cummins, done by a fuller delivery and chipping straight to Starc at mid-on. The new skipper, deputising for the sidelined Kane Williamson, was denied a deserved half-century on 49 in his 133-ball vigil.

Blundell fell in the day's fifth over, bowled by Lyon for 34.

Bushfires backdrop

The Sydney Test is being played against the backdrop of one of Australia's most devastating bushfire seasons, with at least 24 people losing their lives in blazes raging across the country, including on the outskirts of Sydney. Play will be suspended in the match at the umpire's discretion, should smoke significantly affect air quality or visibility, but the sky above the ground has remained largely clear so far.

BRIEF SCORES: Australia 454 and 40/0 (Warner 23*, Burns 16*) lead New Zealand 251 (Phillips 52, Latham 49, Lyon 5-68, Cummins 3-44) by 243 runs.



APOCALYPSE NOW

Players practise ahead of the ASB Tennis Classic as the sky in Auckland turns orange as smoke from the Australia wildfires arrives in New Zealand on Sunday. *New Zealand Herald via AP*

Never lost my swing, blaming Chappell for it is a cover-up: Irfan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, JANUARY 5

FORMER INDIA pacer Irfan Pathan on Sunday said he never lost his swing, contrary to the general perception at that time, and added blaming then coach Greg Chappell for his downfall was a cover-up.

Pathan, 35, announced his retirement here on Saturday, saying "most players start their India career at 27-28 but I ended up playing my last game at that stage".

Pathan was 27 when he made his final appearance in 2012. There was also a time when there was speculation over the left-arm pacer's intention to play all three formats.

"All these discussions...people talking about Greg Chappell they are just covering up. (The discussion that) Irfan was not interested, it was coming from somewhere. All the aura

they made that Irfan lost his swing, people need to understand, that you are not going to get the same kind of swing that you get in 10 overs. I was still getting the swing," Pathan said.

"People talk about my performance, but my job was different. I was given job to contain because I was bowling first change. I had been told this is your job. I remember getting dropped after winning the game in Sri Lanka in 2008, who gets dropped after winning the game for the country without any reason?" he questioned.

Pathan featured in 29 Tests (1105 runs and 100 wickets), 120 ODIs (1544 runs and 173 wickets) and 24 T20 Internationals (172 runs and 28 wickets).

Many former players feel he could have played for much longer. Form and injury issues prevented him from realising his true potential. After the 2008 IPL, questions were raised over Pathan's willingness to play all

'I remember getting dropped after winning the game in Sri Lanka in 2008, who gets dropped after winning the game for the country without any reason?'

three formats. Pathan, however, asserted that it was never the case.

"Yes, I always wanted to play all three formats. In 2009-2010, I had a back injury, and I was struggling to go to Mumbai, Ahmedabad, in Bangalore to check my back. I used to go through the scan, which is not good for your body, but I used to go through that and have different kinds of scans to actually know what is exactly happening with my back.

"Unfortunately we didn't have those kind of machines at that time which (would) make clear that why I am getting back pain. It eventually turned out to be five fractures, disc prolapse and a crack. I was struggling for two years with back injury and that back injury kept going (getting) worse, but I didn't stop playing Ranji trophy."

Pathan said despite all the challenges he kept pushing himself.

"My speed went down during that time because I was not fully fit. I just kept pushing myself. It was because for the love of the game and the red ball moving away from my hand."

"I was leading Baroda side as well in Ranji Trophy. If that was the case, why would a player, who was well settled in IPL, well settled in ODIs, play nine-day cricket in 10-days (Champions League, three day game versus England and Ranji match against Karnataka)? I scored 100 in the game and

bowled 25 overs. Why should I do that? I love playing for the country and wanted to make a comeback to Test cricket," he said.

He also praised his former captains Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and Anil Kumble.

"When I came into the Indian team, Ganguly knew I could do well with the new ball in Australia. He eventually gave me the confidence. I think that was the start," he said. "When Dravid became the captain, he utilised my potential one step ahead. (He) used me higher in the batting order (when) besides bowling with the new ball," he said.

"Anil bhai was the kind of senior I was lucky to have alongside Sachin *paaji* (Tendulkar), who always gave me the right advice.

"His leadership was outstanding. He is matured in handling tough situations and he showed that during the Monkeygate episode," he signed off.

Sibley, Root put England ahead after Anderson, Stokes records

Cape Town: A gritty 85 not out from opener Dom Sibley ground down South Africa's bowlers as England took control on the third day of the second Test against South Africa at Newlands. Sibley, playing in only his fourth Test, came in during the morning session after James Anderson had picked up the last two South African wickets to finish with 5-40 and give England a first innings lead of 46.

By the close, Sibley was still there and England had reached 218 for four, stretching their overall lead to 264. Sibley's 85, his first Test half-century, came off a painstaking 222 balls in just under six hours and included 13 boundaries.

It was slow going but it consolidated England's advantage after Anderson and Ben Stokes combined to secure an important first innings lead. Anderson completed his 28th Test five-wicket haul — an England record — and Stokes caught last man Anrich Nortje to set an England Test record of five catches by a fielder.

A battle of attrition

Zak Crawley made a streaky 25 when England started their second innings, with Sibley making only three in an opening stand of 28, before the day settled into a battle of attrition.

Sibley and Joe Denly (31) used up 33 overs in adding 73 for the second wicket before Denly hooked Nortje to fine leg.

England captain Joe Root was more aggressive as he and Sibley added 116 for the third wicket. Root made 61 off 98 balls before being caught at slip off Dwaine Pretorius shortly before the close. The ball that got Root was an exception in deviating from a crack outside off stump that was far more of a factor on the first two days.

Dom Bess, who suffered a golden duck in the first innings, came in as nightwatchman and survived until the last ball of the day when he was adjudged to have gloved a bouncer from Nortje to wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock, thus collecting a 'pair'.

Those two late wickets marked the high point of the day for the toiling South Africans who will be wary of the potential damage that Stokes and Jos Buttler could inflict on Monday.

On a cool, overcast day, South Africa's bowlers were unable to gain any swing, either conventional or reverse, while the application of the heavy roller before play and after the South African innings seemed to have removed some of the life the pitch had shown on the first two days.

The 24-year-old Sibley came into the match having scored only 71 runs at an average of 14.20 in his first three Tests but the tall, strongly-built opener showed the powers of concentration and patience that made him a heavy scorer for Warwickshire in the 2019 county championship.

Despite the late wickets, England, needing a win to level the four-match World Test Championship, played themselves into a commanding position with two days remaining.

South Africa will be able to claim a second new ball after one over on Monday and will look to strike early if they are to find their way back into the match.

Evergreen Anderson

Anderson took both South Africa's remaining wickets as the hosts added only eight runs to their overnight total. Stokes held his fifth catch of the innings, all taken at second slip to dismiss last batsman Nortje off Anderson's bowling. It was the first time in 1,020 Test matches that an England fielder held five catches. There had been 23 instances of four catches in an innings, most recently by England captain Joe Root against Ireland at Lord's last year.

BRIEF SCORES: England 218/4 (Sibley 85*, Root 61) and 269 all out lead South Africa 223 all out (Anderson 5-40) by 264 runs. **AFF**

[SPORTS BAR]



Pliskova looks to former Murray coach

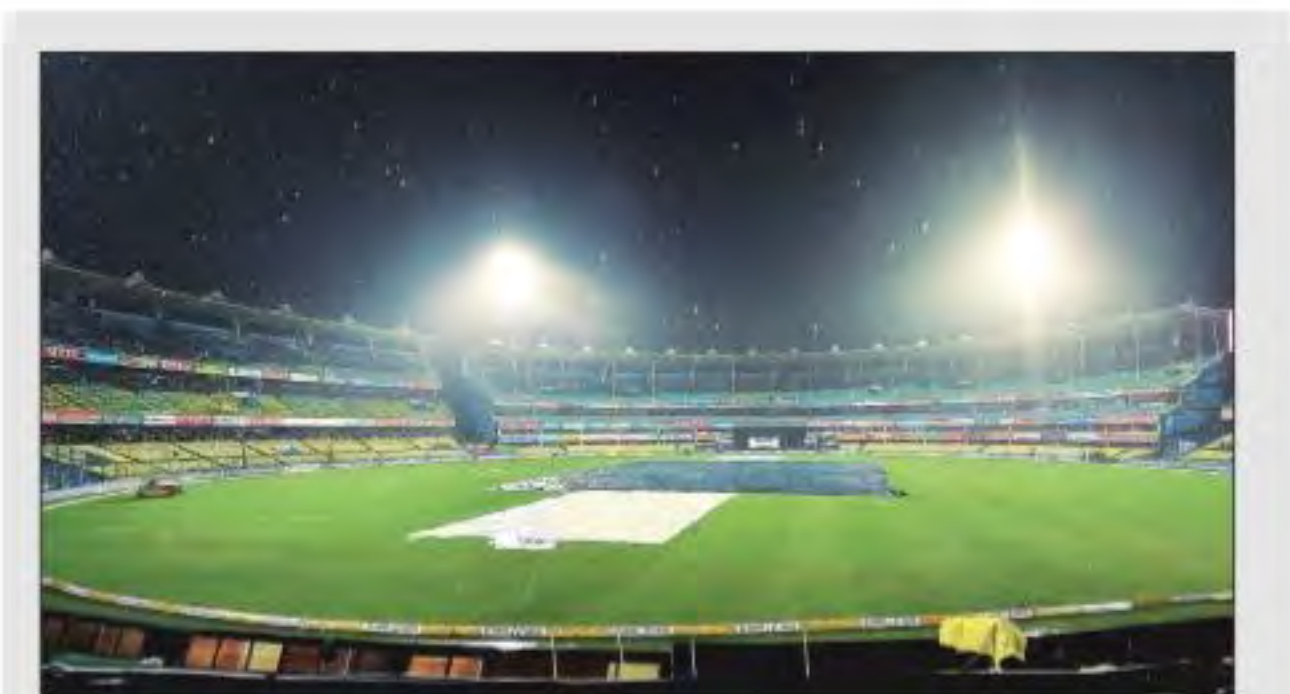
World No.2 Karolina Pliskova is hoping Andy Murray's former coach can help her take the next step up as she targets a Grand Slam breakthrough and reclaiming the top ranking. The tall Czech ditched Spaniard Conchita Martinez in November despite winning a single-season career-high four titles in 2019. She has since hired Venezuelan coach Daniel Vallverdu with former Ukraine Fed Cup player Olga Savchuk — a long-time friend — also joining her team. "I didn't want to stay where I was," she said at the Brisbane International on Sunday ahead of opening the new season with the defence of her title. "He also had stints with Thomas Berdych and Grigor Dimitrov, but has not worked before with a top women's player," she added.

Mohun Bagan beat Real Kashmir 2-0

There was bone-chilling cold. Then there was a Real Kashmir outfit used to such extreme conditions but Mohun Bagan still, making light of both, won their I-League match 2-0 here on Sunday. After a barren first half, Joseba Beitia (71st minute) and Nongdamba Naorem (73rd) scored for the Kolkata giants in a span of two minutes, shattering the hopes of home fans. Meanwhile, Indian Arrows played out a 1-1 draw with NEROCA FC in the I-League here on Sunday. Sushil Meitei gave the visitors the lead in the 24th minute before Vikram Partap Singh equalised for the hosts three minutes before the end of first half.

Five-star Kerala end winless run in style

Kerala Blasters ended their 10-match winless run in the Hero Indian Super League with a convincing 5-1 demolition of Hyderabad FC here on Sunday. Bartholomew Ogbeche (33', 75') scored twice in a contest that saw the visitors score the opener through Bobo (14'). Vlatko Drobárov (39'), Raphael Messi Bouli (45') and Seityasen Singh (59') also managed to add to the hosts' dominant display at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. It was the first time that the Kochi-based side scored five goals in an ISL game and the result takes them to the seventh spot in the table while Hyderabad continue at the bottom.



The umpires made three inspections before deciding that the outfield had not dried enough to commence the match. PTI

Rain washes out India-Sri Lanka T20I

The first T20 International between India and Sri Lanka was called off without a ball being bowled due to wet outfield, caused by a spell of heavy rain just after the toss, here on Sunday. The umpires held several inspections but the damp patches on the pitch did not allow the match to start, much to the disappointment of fans who had gathered in large numbers to watch their favourite stars in action. The cut off for a five-over shootout was 9.46pm but the outfield could not be prepared in time. The groundsman even used vacuum drier to remove the damp patches on the pitch, but it did not help much. The second match of the three-match series will be played on Tuesday in Indore while the final game is scheduled to be held in Pune on January 10, asprit Bumrah, who was out of action for four months due to stress fractures in his back, was named in the eleven by skipper Virat Kohli, who won the toss and elected to bowl in the team's first match of the new year.

Anahat Singh reaches British Junior Open final

Anahat Singh made the final in the U-13 girls category at the prestigious British Junior Open, beating Egyptian Janna Galal here on Sunday. One more Indian could make the final here and that is Veer Chotrani in the U-19 boy category with his semifinal to held later on Sunday. The morning session belonged to Anahat after her gruelling semifinal against second seed Janna. The India lost the first game only to start a fight that ultimately took the match to a scintillating fifth game. The excitement reached a crescendo in the decider with Janna racing to a 7-1 lead and then Anahat catching up and saving four match balls.

Lagat, Alemu return to Mumbai Marathon

Defending champions Cosmas Lagat and Workesh Alemu will return to Tata Mumbai Marathon, which will be held here on January 19. Kenya's Lagat won the event last year in decisive fashion, when he broke away from the rest of the leading pack around 29 km into the race. He clocked 2:09:15 in 2019, the second fastest winning time in the history of the Mumbai Marathon. Having come home just 40 seconds outside the course record of 2:08:35, set by his compatriot Gideon Kipketer in 2016, Lagat will be back on the start line, motivated not only by the possibility of pocketing another \$45,000 first prize cheque, but also the \$15,000 on offer for a course record.



Hathurasingha demands \$5mn compensation

Sacked coach Chandika Hathurasingha has demanded \$5 million in compensation from Sri Lanka Cricket over the premature termination of his contract, an official said Sunday. The former Sri Lankan Test star and coach made the claim after the two sides failed to agree the terms of his termination last summer. "He has sent a letter of demand asking for \$5 million," board secretary Mohan de Silva told AFP. Details were not immediately available, but the Sunday Island newspaper said Hathurasingha had sought his full salary for the remaining 18 months of his contract which amounted to just over a million dollars. He has also claimed that his reputation as an international coach suffered as a result of what he called the wrongful termination. His claim of \$5 million includes damages as well as the wages he says are due to him.



‘Chinese Maradona’ holds Messi’s Barcelona

Wu Lei’s goal helps bottom-placed Espanyol play out a 2-2 draw with leaders

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
MADRID, JANUARY 5

ESPANYOL’S WU Lei became the first Chinese footballer to score against Barcelona on Saturday and has revealed how the goal that went viral was planned while he was warming up. Wu earned Espanyol a dramatic 2-2 draw at the RCDE Stadium after he fired in an 88th-minute equaliser to salvage a point in the all-Catalan clash of La Liga’s top against bottom. The 28-year-old drove decisively past Barcelona’s stand-in goalkeeper Neto and into the far corner but his goal owed much to a brilliant reverse pass too, executed by his team-mate Matias Vargas. Both players had been introduced by new coach Abelardo Fernandez in the second half and Wu said after the match that Vargas had predicted he would give him a chance.

“I am very happy, not just because I scored but because of that assist,” Wu told Espanyol TV. “When we were warming up, Matias told me he was going to put me in with a through ball. After 10 minutes he played one to me and I scored.”

Chinese media on Sunday declared the strike as heralding “a new chapter” in Chinese football while one related hashtag generated 370 million views on social media platform Weibo. “Wu has now become the first Chinese player to score against Barcelona in all competitions ever,” state-run China Global Television Network (CGTN) said. The 28-year-old Wu “single-handedly revitalised Espanyol” against the Spanish champions, CGTN continued. “A new chapter in history has been opened,” it added.

“For Wu, it was a night that will live long in the memory.” State news agency Xinhua said Wu’s dramatic leveller from a narrow angle “sparked a wave of praise from media and fans in China”. Wu joined in the celebrations by writing on *Weibo*: “Wonderful night, a new year, a good start.”

The forward, dubbed the “Chinese Maradona” as a youngster, joined Espanyol from Shanghai SIPG in January last year and after finishing top scorer in the Chinese Super League, he said he wanted to prove the country’s players could deliver at the highest level. “Pressure is my driving force, it’s what pushes me forward,” he said last year. “I want to show fans around the world that there are players in China who can shine in the best leagues in the world.”

He has stayed true to his word and more than justified his modest transfer fee of 2 million euros. After making his debut at the start of February, Wu missed only one game for his new club through to the end of last season, playing 21 times and scoring four goals.

This term, he has been even more effective, scoring six goals in 28 appearances in all competitions, despite Espanyol’s poor



Chinese striker Wu Lei (C) scored Espanyol’s equaliser in the 88th minute. *Reuters*

WHO IS WU LEI?

■ **Lei, 28, is the youngest player ever to play professional Chinese football (aged 14, for Shanghai SIPG). He went on to become the all-time top scorer of the Chinese Super League, scoring 101 goals.**

■ **In 2015, Chinese billionaire Chen Yansheng bought La Liga side Espanyol. To boost the league’s profile in China, Yansheng got Lei to his club in January 2018 for a transfer fee of just £1.8million.**

■ **The China international’s debut against Villarreal attracted 40million viewers – the same match was viewed by 177,000 people in Spain. Forty eight hours after he signed, 2,000 Espanyol shirts with Wu’s name printed on it had already been sold.**

form that has them languishing at the bottom of the La Liga table. Yet Abelardo’s appointment seems to have revitalised the team and Wu believes their stirring performance against Barcelona can now be a turning-point in their fight against relegation.

“After the game in the dressing room, you could see everyone’s confidence was up,” Wu said. “It feels like we are going to change the whole dynamic this year. Hopefully in the next game we can get the victory because we are gaining momentum. We thank all the fans who supported us because they give us unity. We are all a family together.”

Balotelli again subjected to racist abuse in Serie A



Mario Balotelli (C) reacts after being racially abused by fans. Balotelli, who scored Brescia’s goal in a 2-1 defeat to Lazio, complained twice to the referee during the first half. *Reuters*

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRESCIA, JANUARY 5

THERE WAS yet another incident of racism in Serie A on Sunday as Mario Balotelli was once again the target of racist chants in Brescia’s 2-1 defeat at home to Lazio. The match was halted for a few minutes shortly after the half-hour mark and an announcement was made on the stadium’s tannoy system, while Lazio coach Simone Inzaghi wildly gesticulated to the visiting fans to stop.

Brescia was leading 1-0 at the time following a goal scored by Balotelli, who had also been subjected to racial abuse earlier in the match. Balotelli posted a video of his goal on Instagram after the match and wrote: “Lazio fans that were today at the stadium SHAME ON YOU!”

The 29-year-old Balotelli was also the target of racial abuse earlier this season when he threatened to leave the field due to racist chants directed at him by Hellas Verona fans during a match in November. Racism has been a problem all season in Italy with of-

Balotelli posted a video of his goal on Instagram after the match and wrote: "Lazio fans that were today at the stadium SHAME ON YOU!"

fensive chants aimed at Romelu Lukaku, Franck Kessie, Dalbert Henrique, Miralem Pjanic, Ronaldo Vieira and Kalidou Koulibaly as well as Balotelli.

All of the players targeted — except for Pjanic, who is Bosnian — are black, and many of the incidents have gone unpunished.

Third-placed Lazio, meanwhile, notched up a dramatic win thanks to two goals from Serie A’s leading scorer Ciro Immobile, the second in stoppage time. This was their ninth successive league victory.

Juventus and Inter, who have 42 points each from 17 games, both play on Monday while Lazio, with 39 from 17, have an outstanding fixture at home to Verona to come in early February.

Djokovic concerned about smoke at Aus Open

REUTERS
SYDNEY, JANUARY 5

TENNIS WORLD number two Novak Djokovic said he is concerned that smoke might cause some problems at the Australian Open later this month as bush-fires continued to blaze across large sections of the southeast on Sunday.

Hundreds of fires in New South Wales and Victoria have killed at least 24 people and destroyed more than 5.25 million hectares (13 million acres) of land over the last few months. Smoke from the blazes has also resulted in hazardous conditions in Sydney, where the final rounds of the inaugural ATP Cup will take place next weekend, and Melbourne, where the year’s first tennis Grand Slam gets un-

If it continues same way and if the quality of air is affected in Melbourne or Sydney, I think Tennis Australia probably will be forced to create some rules about it.”

NOVAK DJOKOVIC
WORLD NUMBER 2

derway on Jan. 20.

Seven-times Australian Open champion Djokovic, who is playing in the ATP Cup, said he hoped the crisis would “dissipate” soon but that an action plan would be needed to avoid any impact on the health of players if it did not. “If it continues same way and if the quality of air is affected in Melbourne or Sydney, I think Tennis Australia probably will be

forced to create some rules about it,” he told a Brisbane news conference in the early hours of Sunday morning. “It’s tough for them because ... there’s a lot of different things involved. But health concern is a health concern for me and for anybody.”

The smoke has so far caused the most disruption to the sporting calendar in Canberra, where a Twenty20 cricket match was abandoned on Dec. 21 when conditions became too hazardous to continue. An ATP Challenger/ITF Futures tennis tournament scheduled for next week in the capital was moved to Bendigo, while on Sunday the city’s ACT Brumbies rugby team announced they would be moving their pre-season training camp to Newcastle.

The twice Super Rugby champions made the decision af-

ter their training ground at the University of Canberra was closed indefinitely “due to hazardous air quality”. “The small changes we have had to make are nothing in comparison to the distressing position so many people in our region are sadly experiencing at the moment,” coach Dan McKellar said in a statement.

No Nick, no problem

Nick Kyrgios’ late withdrawal due to a back problem did not stop Australia from defeating Canada in their ATP Cup tie on Sunday as the hosts strengthened their bid for a quarter-final spot with their second 3-0 win in the inaugural team event. The hosts had blanked Germany in their opening tie and will qualify for the Final Eight stage in Sydney as the Group F winner if Greece beat Greece in the evening session on Sunday.

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Klopp’s kids knock Everton out, Rooney scores in Derby’s win

AGENCIES
LONDON, JANUARY 5

A STUNNING strike from 18-year-old Curtis Jones gave Liverpool a 1-0 win over Everton in their FA Cup, third round tie at Anfield on Sunday. Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp made nine changes to his side, giving starts to three teenagers, while his Italian counterpart Carlo Ancelotti opted for a largely full-strength Everton lineup.

Everton had the better chances, with Liverpool keeper Adrian foiling goalbound efforts from Dominic Calvert-Lewin, Mason Holgate and Richardson in the first half, but a youthful Liverpool side played the more enterprising football, Jones, a local-born academy product, delivered the killer blow in the 71st minute with a superb curling effort into the top corner, leaving Everton without a win against their rivals since October, 2010.

Lucas Moura kept Tottenham’s hopes alive with

FA CUP: RESULTS	
Crystal Palace 0	Derby 1
Chelsea 2	Nottingham 0
Middlesbrough 1	Spurs 1
Liverpool 1	Everton 0
Wolves 0	Man Utd 0
Man City 4	Port Vale 1

the equaliser in their 1-1 draw at second tier Middlesbrough, while Callum Hudson-Odoi got back in the groove as Chelsea cruised to a 2-0 win over Nottingham Forest.

Tottenham haven’t lifted a major trophy since 2008 when current Middlesbrough manager Jonathan Woodgate scored the League Cup winner against Chelsea. Woodgate was on course to dent Tottenham’s bid to end that wretched run when Ashley Fletcher put Middlesbrough ahead in the second half.

But Brazilian winger Lucas headed the equaliser to send the

tie to a replay in north London later in January. Keen to win silverware in his first season, Tottenham boss Jose Mourinho had made just three changes, with Son Heung-min returning from a three-match suspension and replacing the injured Harry Kane.

At Stamford Bridge, there were signs that Hudson-Odoi might be emerging from his sophomore slump. Hudson-Odoi has endured a difficult season as injuries and poor form have ruined the positive impact he had last season.

Crystal Palace became the third Premier League club to be knocked out this weekend as second tier Derby won 1-0 at Selhurst Park. Wayne Rooney was in the Derby attack and his side took the lead in the 32nd minute when Jayden Bogle fizzed a cross to the far post and Chris Martin tapped into the net. In a VAR rarity, referee Michael Oliver used the pitch-side monitor to change a decision, sending off Luka Milivojevic after initially booking the Palace midfielder for kicking out at Tom Huddlestone in the 63rd minute.

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On the occasion of **Bank’s Foundation Day**, 6th January, we re-dedicate ourselves to the service of the Nation, our valued Customers, Stakeholders and Well-wishers with a renewed commitment to honour the trust reposed on us.

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सन्मान आपके विश्वास का Honours Your Trust

■ **Dedicating three new UCO RSETI Buildings to the Nation - Dausa (Rajasthan), Jagatsinghpur (Odisha) and Ropar (Punjab)**
■ **Opening two Urban UCO BANK MITRA Centres in Kolkata** ■ **Credit linkage to 10000 SHG and exhibition of UCO RSETI products**