



Progressive painter
Akbar Padamsee
passes away at 91

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90% of promises
in BJP manifesto
fulfilled: Amit Shah

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Austria's Sebastian Kurz
returns as world's
youngest head of govt.

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Saini and Thakur set up
India's thumping win in
second T20I

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NEARBY



3-member AAP panel to
draft election manifesto

NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Monday formed a three-member committee for drafting the party's manifesto for the Delhi Assembly elections. Senior party leader Atishi is chairperson of the committee, while Jasmine Shah and Ajay Kumar are its members.

CITY ► PAGE 2

AASU to protest if
PM visits State

NEW DELHI

The North East Students' Organisation and the AASU said on Tuesday that they would protest if Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the State for the Khelo India Games 2020, scheduled from January 10.

NEWS ► PAGE 13

CRASH COURSE STARTS 16th JANUARY
70+ QUESTIONS ASSURED
MALUKA IAS 9910133084
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OPPORTUNITIES ► PAGE 15

At least 50 killed in stampede at Soleimani's funeral in Iran

General was killed in a U.S. drone strike near Baghdad airport

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KERMAN

A stampede broke out on Tuesday at the funeral of a top Iranian General killed in a U.S. drone strike near the Baghdad airport in Iraq, leaving more than 50 people dead and many injured as huge crowds packed his hometown.

The tragedy in the south-eastern city of Kerman came as Iran prepared to bury Revolutionary Guards Commander, Qassem Soleimani, a hugely popular figure in the Islamic republic. More than 50 people were killed and 212 people injured in the stampede, semi-official news agency ISNA said, citing officials in the southeastern city.

The streets of Kerman overflowed with mourners, while others took refuge on hillsides around the city, where the General was to be buried at the martyrs' cemetery.



Tense moments: A woman enquiring about her brother outside the information office of a hospital in Kerman on Tuesday. • AFP

tery.

Schoolgirls joined chants of "Death to Trump" from the crowd.

People converged from afar on Azadi Square, where two flag-draped coffins were on display, with the second one reportedly containing

the remains of Soleimani's closest aide, Brigadier General Hossein Pourjafari.

"We're here today to pay respects to the great Commander of the holy defence," said a mourner.

IRAN WARNS U.S. ► PAGE 14

Government projects slower GDP growth

5% estimate in line with RBI forecast

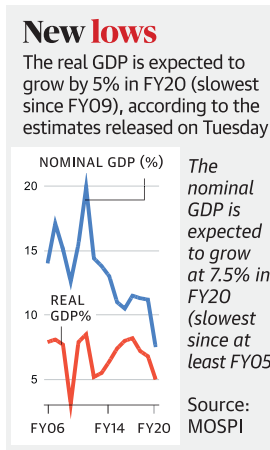
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government expects the country's gross domestic product (GDP) to grow at a slower pace of 5% for the full year 2019-20, as compared to 6.8% in the previous year, according to the first advance estimates released by the Statistics Ministry on Tuesday.

This estimate is in line with projections made by the Reserve Bank of India, which had revised GDP growth downwards to 5% for 2019-20 from 6.1% during its October policy.

As per the data, the manufacturing sector is estimated to grow by 2% as compared to a robust growth of 6.9% in 2018-19. Likewise, the growth in the construction sector for the fiscal is expected to see a sharp decline to 3.2% as against a growth of 8.7% in the previous year.

Economic growth slowed



to a six-year low of 5% in the first quarter of the 2019-20 fiscal, while slipping further to 4.5% growth in the second quarter (July-September).

The advanced estimates also forecast slower rate of growth for real Gross Value Added (GVA) at 4.9% as against 6.6% in 2018-19.

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Kicked, abused in police custody, says Sadaf Jafar

Darapuri claimed he was denied a blanket in the cold and was also not provided food for 24 hours

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

Congress worker and social activist Sadaf Jafar on Tuesday alleged that not only did male police officers assault her in custody but they also subjected her to communal slurs and humiliation and asked her to "go to Pakistan".

"They said 'you are a Pakistani'," Ms. Jafar told *The Hindu* after being released from jail, more than two weeks after her arrest following the violence during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in Lucknow.

"They said 'you eat here but sing songs of Pakistan. What have we not provided to you people? You are doing jobs here, getting to eat and also produce kids'," she claimed.

Ms. Jafar, a single mother with two minor children, said the police accused her of re-



Former IPS officer S.R. Darapuri and social activist Sadaf Jafar coming out of jail in Lucknow on Tuesday. •PTI

ceiving funds from Pakistan. She claimed that when she begged the police to allow her to inform her family of her detention on December 19, a male police officer beat her up while women constables slapped her multiple times and abused her.

"An officer walked up to me and pulled my hair – the whole strand of hair came off – and then he kicked me on my stomach and my knee,"

Ms. Jafar alleged. "They used such filthy language that I can't repeat it."

Ms. Jafar and retired IPS officer S.R. Darapuri were among the 14 persons granted bail by a Lucknow court on Saturday in connection with the violence.

Social activist and teacher Robin Verma and theatre artiste Deepak Mishra, who too were arrested in connection with the violence during the

anti-CAA protests in Lucknow, were granted bail on Tuesday.

Ex-IPS officer 'mistreated'

Mr. Darapuri (76), too, alleged mistreatment at the hands of the police. He claimed he was denied a blanket in the cold and was also not provided food for 24 hours. "On December 20, I was picked up from my house at 11 a.m. and kept the whole day at the Ghazipur police station and was taken to the Hazratganj police station in the evening. They showed my arrest at 7 p.m., and not 11 a.m., from some park," he said.

"I didn't have any [warm] clothes. They [police] refused to give me a blanket and food," the septuagenarian said. The police also did not record his statement at the police station and fabricated it, he alleged.

Mr. Darapuri, who is also an Ambedkarite activist, said the arrests were an attempt by the government to suppress the voice of activists.

"The government was rattled by the manner in which the entire country opposed the law and adopted a tactic of suppression. They sent political and social activists to jail with the strategy that it would leave protesters outside without anyone to guide them. But the government has failed in it," he said.

Mr. Darapuri was under house arrest on December 19 but was arrested the following day. During his house detention, he had posted on Facebook a photo of him holding a placard, which read "Save citizenship", to express solidarity with the protesters.

He said he would continue to exercise his "democratic right to protest till the law [CAA] is withdrawn".

Charges against student leader, but none held for JNU attacks

Aishe Ghosh, 18 others charged with vandalising server room on campus

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Forty-eight hours after masked goons attacked students and teachers on the campus of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), the Delhi police are yet to make any arrests in the case.

Instead, they have registered two FIRs against injured president of the JNU Students Union (JNUSU) Aishe Ghosh and several others for allegedly attacking security guards and vandalising a server room on January 4.

The two FIRs against Ms. Ghosh and the others were registered at 8.44 p.m. and at 8.49 p.m. on Sunday even as the masked intruders were going around the campus beating up students, entering hostel rooms and ransacking them.

Faculty plaint ignored

No FIR has been filed by the police so far on a written complaint filed on Monday by a JNU faculty member, Prof. Sucharita Sen, who suffered head injuries during the attack. In her complaint, which has a copy of her med-



Supportive role: Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone visiting JNU to show solidarity with the students on Tuesday. • ANI

ical report from the AIIMS, Prof. Sen has demanded that the police register an FIR that includes attempt to murder among other sections of the law.

The FIRs say a large number of student agitators, including Ms. Ghosh, Saket Moon and 18 others, allegedly entered the Communication and Information Services (CIS) office located in the administration block by "breaking" a glass door. They trespassed and damaged the fibre optic cables,

servers and biometric devices and "attacked" security guards, the FIRs say.

In a video posted online on Monday, a fringe right-wing group, Hindu Raksha Dal, claimed responsibility for the attack.

The video shows a man, identifying himself as Pinki Chaudhary, saying that those who resort to "anti-national activities" will be treated in the same way that JNU students and faculty were.

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Leave past behind: V-C

JNU Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar urged students to put the past behind and return to the campus. In a brief statement, Mr. Kumar said, "Our heart goes out to all injured students. The incident [violence] is unfortunate. I would like to tell students that JNU campus is a secure place. Let us put the past behind." ► PAGE 3

Allahabad HC seeks report

The Allahabad HC has issued directions to the NHRC to submit a report in one month on the alleged police excesses at the Aligarh Muslim University. It said, "The facts of the instant case indicate alleged violation of human rights and negligence in the prevention of such violation." ► PAGE 13

Govt. invites diplomats to visit Kashmir

SUHASINI HAIDAR
PEERZADA ASHIQ
NEW DELHI/ SRINAGAR

Five months after its decision on Article 370, the government has invited the

first group of Delhi-based diplomats to travel to Srinagar and assess the situation there, and is now awaiting a response from them.

According to sources in

Delhi and Srinagar, security and hotel and travel arrangements are in place for the visit.

DETAILS ON ► PAGE 12