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## THE EDITORIAL PAGE

**WHY I QUIT THE GOVT PANEL**  
BY CP CHANDRASEKHAR  
PAGE 12

**Mamata on NPR: When enumerators come, don't give any info**



At Patharpratima, South 24 Parganas, Tuesday, Express

**ATRI MITRA**  
SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, JANUARY 7

RAISING THE pitch on the National Population Register (NPR), weeks after ordering a stay on all work related to its preparation and updation, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday appealed to people not to give any information to enumerators. Saying that citizenship is a democratic right, she warned that anybody who wanted to "snatch away this right" would have to go over her "dead body".

"They (central government) are saying it can be done online. Can rice be cooked online? Physical verification will always be required... If anyone from outside comes to you and asks for your father's name, his mother's name, your mother's birthplace, don't disclose the information... We will not allow CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act), we will not allow NRC (National Register of Citizens), and we will not allow NPR here," she said. Banerjee was addressing a

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**Vikram spun out of control midway to landing site, ISRO could only watch**

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**JOHNSON T A**  
BENGALURU, JANUARY 7

THE CHANDRAYAAN-2'S Vikram lander ended up spinning over 410 degrees, deviating from a calibrated spin of 55 degrees, and making a hard landing on the moon, according to ISRO scientists. The anomaly, which occurred during the second of four phases of the landing process, was reflected in the computer systems in the mission control room, but ISRO scientists could not intervene to correct it as the lander was on autonomous mode, using data already fed into its system before the start of the powered descent. The Indian Space Research Organisation's maiden attempt

## 7 am, January 22, Tihar Jail: Delhi court orders hanging of December 16 gangrape convicts

Death warrant signed, Tihar prepares for execution; lawyers of convicts say filing curative pleas

**ANAND MOHAN J, PRITAM PAL SINGH & JIGNASA SINHA**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 7

MORE THAN seven years after the death of a 23-year-old woman who was gangraped and brutally assaulted by six persons inside a moving bus in south Delhi before being thrown out on a road, a Delhi court Tuesday ordered the hanging of four death row convicts at 7 am on January 22 in Tihar Jail.



From left: Akshay, Pawan, Vinay and Mukesh

Akshay Kumar (31), Vinay Sharma (26), Pawan Gupta (25) and Mukesh (32), who appeared before Additional Sessions Judge Satish Kumar Arora via video-

conferencing from Tihar Jail, were informed by the judge about his decision to execute their death warrant. They will be placed in isolation

cells till the date of their execution. They will be hanged to death inside Jail Number 3 at 7 am on January 22 by a hangman from Meerut who will use ropes sourced from Buxar in Bihar.

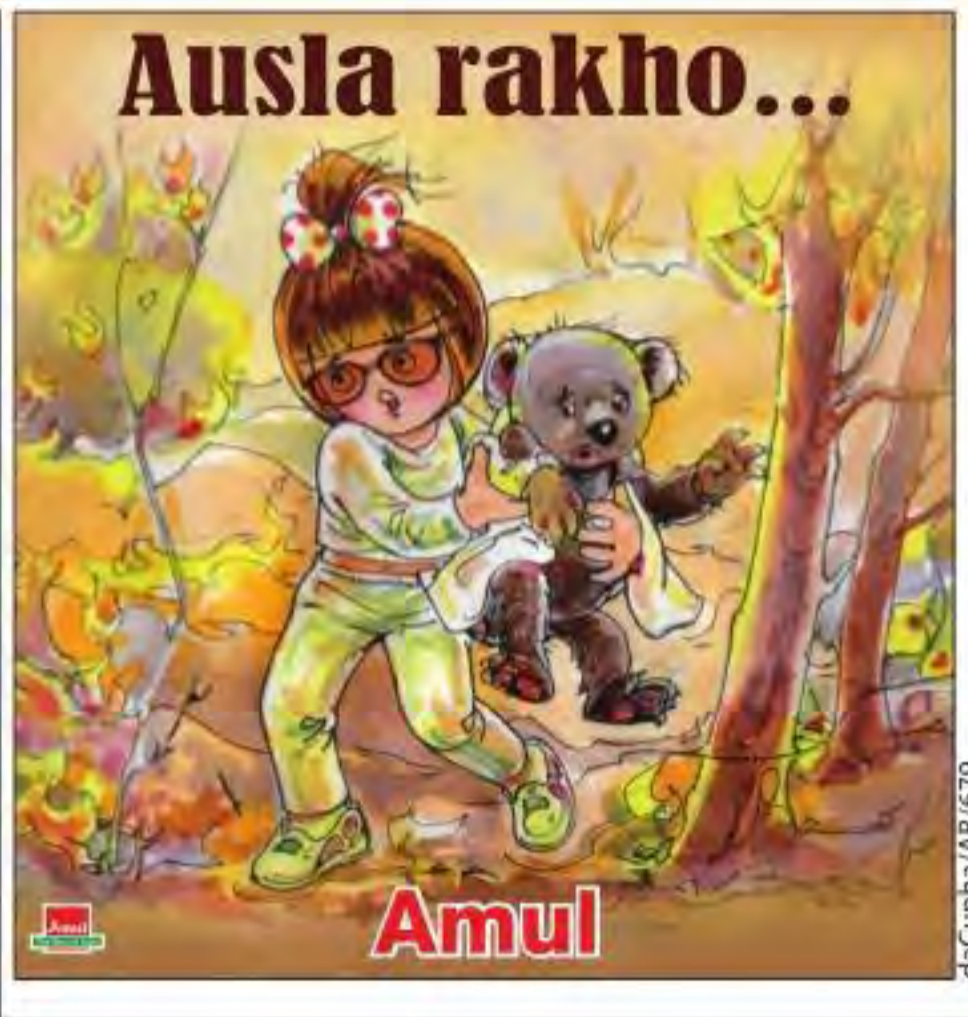
Of the initial six accused, Ram Singh, the bus driver, committed suicide in Tihar Jail during the trial, while one turned out to be a juvenile. Tried by a Juvenile Justice Board, he was released from a reformation home after serving a three-year term.

With the Supreme Court dismissing their review peti-

tions, lawyers for the four convicts said they will file curative petitions before the Supreme Court and mercy petitions before the President of India.

Special Public Prosecutor Rajiv Mohan told the court there was no remedy pending before any court and the death warrant must be executed. "Issuance of execution order is not the end of the matter. They will be given two weeks for their curative petitions. They will not be hanged immediately after issuance of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## Deepika stands in — and up

Meets injured chief of JNU students' union, tells her she's proud of her

**ARANYA SHANKAR**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 7

AS SLOGANS of "azadi", raised by former JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar, resonated through the air at JNU, the campus had a surprise guest on Tuesday. At 7.45 pm, Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone arrived at the university to lend solidarity to JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) president Aishe Ghosh. A member of her team said she wanted to "express her anguish at the JNU violence".

While she did not address the gathering, Padukone,

dressed in a black turtleneck, told Ghosh that she was "proud" of her, and asked her to "take care". Ghosh received 16 stitches on her head and fractured her left hand in the violence that took place on campus on Sunday, when masked men ran riot inside the university for more than two hours.

While police have filed an FIR in connection with Sunday's violence, two more FIRs have been filed over alleged vandalism on campus on January 1 and 4. Ghosh is named in both those FIRs, which were filed by police at Vasant Kunj (North) police

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Actor Deepika Padukone with JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh on the campus on Tuesday, Express

**POLICE FIRs NAME JNUSU PRESIDENT INJURED IN ATTACK** MORE REPORTS, PAGE 4

## 23 PCR calls and hours later, police stepped in

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 7

FOR NEARLY four hours Sunday — starting 2.30 pm when masked "miscreants" were first seen gathering inside JNU — 23 calls went from inside the campus to the Police Control Room (PCR). And yet, it wasn't until 7.45 pm that Registrar Pramod Kumar handed over an official letter to Delhi Police, "seeking in-

creased presence and deployment on the premises".

Sources told *The Indian Express* that this is the key finding in a police report detailing the sequence of events that day, when around 100 masked persons went on a rampage inside the campus for about three hours starting 6 pm, leaving 36 students, teachers and staff injured. The report, which has been submitted to Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik,

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## LOWEST SINCE 2008 ECONOMIC CRISIS

# It's official: GDP rate seen slumping to 5%

Manufacturing growth at 15-year low, construction faces 6-year low

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 7

WITH A sharp slowdown in manufacturing and construction, and the only major support coming from government expenditure, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate is seen slumping to 5.0 per cent, the lowest since the 2008 economic crisis, according to data released by National Statistical Office (NSO).

With this, the GDP growth rate is expected to rise only marginally to 5.25 per cent during October-March, the second half of the financial year, from 4.75 per cent in the first half.

A major area of concern for policymakers is that with the exception of government expenditure, all other demand drivers — private consumption, investment and exports — are flagging. Two major employment generators are also showing signs of a slump, with growth in manufacturing seen slowing to a 15-year low and construction to a six-year low. To make matter worse, the

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Stress hits job sectors

THE SHARP slide in growth recorded by two employment-intensive sectors, construction and manufacturing, is expected to trigger concern. Government expenditure has been the only source of support, but shortfalls in revenue limits the headroom even here.

**EXPLAINED**  
PAGE 11



Banerjee and Dufflo

**Close to tipping point of major recession, says Banerjee**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 7

SOUNDING THE alarm on the state of the Indian economy, Nobel Laureate Abhijit Banerjee has said "we are extremely close to a tipping point of a major recession".

Comparing the slowing growth of the economy to the 1991 economic crisis, Banerjee, who along with Esther Dufflo and Michael Kremer won the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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