



IRAN TARGETS MILITARY BASES HOUSING U.S. TROOPS IN IRAQ

After Tehran missile strikes, US & Iran take a step back, Trump says all safe

Iran standing down, says Trump; end US presence in region, says Khamenei

AHMED ABOULENEIN, PHIL STEWART & PARISA HAFEZI
BAGHDAD, WASHINGTON, DUBAI, JANUARY 8

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Wednesday Iranian missile strikes on bases in Iraq had not harmed any US troops stationed there and damage was minimal, an outcome, he said, showed Tehran wanted to prevent an escalation into conflict. Iranian forces fired missiles at military bases housing US

troops in Iraq early on Wednesday, saying it was in retaliation for the killing in a US drone strike of powerful Iranian commander General Qassem Soleimani on January 3.

"All of our soldiers are safe and only minimal damage was sustained at our military bases," Trump said. "Iran appears to be standing down, which is a good thing for all parties concerned"

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Celebrations in Tehran after Iran launched missile strikes on Wednesday. Reuters

DURING FEE HIKE UPROAR

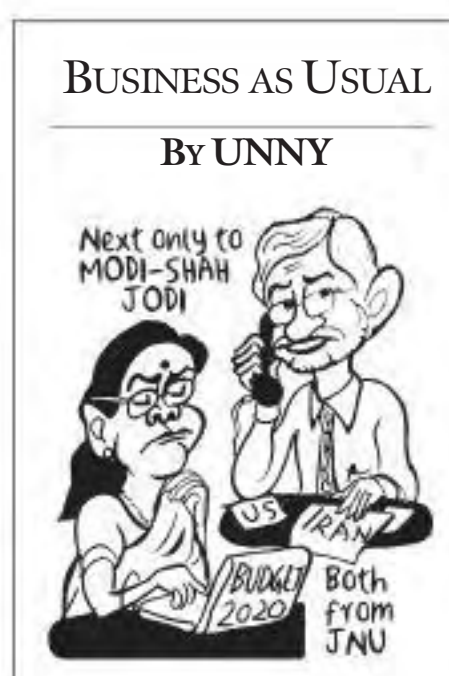
HRD gave JNU V-C ultimatum last month, Secy was shunted out

V-C was told to accept Ministry formula or resign

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 8

UNDER PRESSURE from protesting students and teachers to quit, JNU V-C Jagadesh Kumar may well dig his heels in. For, barely a month ago, he had his way.

The Indian Express has reliably learned that Kumar was given an ultimatum on December 11 to either accept a compromise formula to end the standoff with agitating students or resign. In less than 48 hours, the then Higher Education



Secretary R Subrahmanyam was himself shunted out.

According to the formula proposed by the Ministry, the JNU administration would charge

only the increased room rent and the service and utility charges were to be borne by the University Grants Commission. In exchange, the students would call off their agitation and engage in dialogue with the university administration. To compensate for the lost academic period, JNU was asked to extend the semester by two weeks. The university was also advised to notify the students' union and withdraw police complaints against students.

Following the ultimatum on December 11, Kumar is learned to have agreed to the compromise, but he backtracked a day later. Subrahmanyam was transferred on December 13 and was replaced by Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare.

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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

READING BETWEEN FAULTLINES

BY SHASHI THAROOR & SAMIR SARAN
PAGE 12



Swapna Dasgupta on campus Wednesday. ANI

Protesting students confine BJP's Dasgupta to room for hours

SANTANU CHOWDHURY
KOLKATA, JANUARY 8

RAJYA SABHA member and BJP leader Swapna Dasgupta, Visva-Bharati Vice-Chancellor Bidyut Chakraborty and several others were confined to a room on the Santiniketan campus for over seven hours Wednesday by members of the SFI who protested the university's decision to invite Dasgupta to deliver a lecture on the new citizenship law.

Late at night, the SFI members ended their sit-in, allowing Dasgupta and others to emerge from the room. Earlier, West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar spoke to the DGP, while BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya urged the administration to intervene.

Taking to Twitter, Dasgupta said: "Drama ends in Vishwa" CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

HCs may give different orders, so call all anti-CAA petitions, Govt tells SC

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 8

THE SUPREME Court will hear on January 10 a plea by the Centre seeking transfer of petitions challenging the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 pending before various High Courts to the top court.

Appearing for the Centre, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a bench of Chief Justice of

Explained Why SC said let HCs also hear

WHILE IT agreed to hear the Centre's plea to transfer to itself all petitions challenging the CAA, the Supreme Court did not accept the explanation that different HC orders would lead to confusion. It was of the prima facie view that HCs should also hear the matter and the SC could step in if there was any conflict. It also said it will have the advantage of having the views of the HCs on the matter.

India S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant that there was a possibility that High Courts may give different orders which will create confusion.

The bench said the court was of the prima facie view that the High Courts should also look into the matter and the Supreme Court could look at it in case of a conflict.

Mehta pointed out that there were already about 60 petitions challenging the Act pending CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Muzaffarpur shelter home: No inmate was killed, all traced, CBI tells SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 8

IN A twist to the Muzaffarpur shelter home abuse case, the CBI told the Supreme Court Wednesday there was no evidence that any inmate had been murdered, as was alleged earlier.

Appearing for the CBI, Attorney General KK Venugopal told a bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant that there were 35 girls at the shelter home. The agency said all the 35 girls had been traced, and found to be alive.

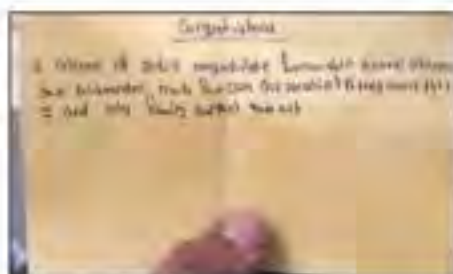
Venugopal said some of the inmates had earlier alleged that minors had been murdered, and their bodies buried. "When the probe agency went to the spot where the alleged bodies were buried, two skeleton parts were CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Gujarat school gets students to pen CAA postcards to PM, parents force retreat

VAIBHAV JHA
AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 8

"Congratulations. I, citizen of India, congratulate honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act). I and my family support this act."

A PRIVATE school in Ahmedabad asked its students, from Classes V to X, to write this message on postcards to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday. However, following



School says 'misuse of authority' by some teachers

protests by parents on Wednesday, the school management apologised and called the

exercise a "misunderstanding". The postcards were returned to the parents, who tore them up.

The incident occurred at Little Star School, an all-girls school affiliated to the Gujarat Secondary and Higher Education Board in Kankaria area of Ahmedabad.

According to some parents, during classes on Tuesday, teachers wrote the congratulatory message on the blackboards, and asked the students CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Govt to take 15 foreign envoys minus EU on two-day visit to J&K today

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 8

FIVE MONTHS after revoking Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcating the state into two Union territories, the government will take a group of 15 foreign envoys to Srinagar on

Thursday, for a two-day visit to review the ground situation. However, the delegation will not comprise European Union envoys, who will be taken later, said sources.

According to government sources, EU envoys wanted to visit J&K as a group. It was not possible to accommodate all of

them due to restrictions on numbers, and the plan to keep the group broad-based.

"We wanted to take a group of envoys to J&K with only some EU ambassadors; not all EU envoys were asked to join," said a government source.

Some EU ambassadors CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

New Parliament not break from past, rather working with it, says man behind redesign



SOMYA LAKHANI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 8

WITH A capacity to accommodate 800-1,200 people, the Lok Sabha hall inside the new Parliament building will accommodate both

Houses twice a year for the joint parliamentary session — unlike the current Parliament where the sessions take place inside the Central Hall. "This was a suggestion by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," said Dr Bimal Patel, architect and urban planner, whose Gujarat-based firm won the consultancy bid for the coveted redevelopment project of the Central Vista in New Delhi.

On Wednesday, Patel, speaking at The Indian Express Idea Exchange, said the Central Vista



Dr Bimal Patel at the Idea Exchange. Gajendra Yadav

redevelopment project is expected to be finished by 2024, which is the deadline set for his firm. Patel said the PM wanted to ensure the project is "not stuck endlessly". "I've worked with him in the past, so I'm not surprised," he said.

Patel said the facade of the new Parliament will be made of Agra red sandstone, like the rest of the structures. "This is not a break from the past; this is in fact taking the past and working CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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