



Cabinet expansion in three days, says Yediyurappa

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WHO declares global virus emergency as death toll hits 213

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Ecstasy for India, agony for NZ in yet another Super Over finish

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Thiem gets past Zverev, meets Djokovic in final of Australian Open

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NEARBY



BJP promises 10 lakh jobs, quality flour at ₹2 per kg

NEW DELHI
 The BJP released its "sankalp patra" or the manifesto for the Assembly elections here on Friday, promising "quality flour" at ₹2 per kg to the poor, 10 lakh jobs in the next five years and a "gift" of ₹51,000 to the daughters of poor widows at the time of their marriage, among others.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

U.P. hostage taker's wife lynched by mob

LUCKNOW
 Over 20 children were rescued after an armed man, a murder convict who took them hostage after inviting them for a birthday party at his house in a village at Farrukhabad, was killed on January 30 night. His wife was later lynched by a mob.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9

6 suspected coronavirus cases at RML Hospital

NEW DELHI
 Six persons, suspected of being affected by coronavirus, are being kept under observation at an isolation ward in RML Hospital here.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

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CEA sees growth rebounding to 6%

Economic Survey admits to slowdown, seeks end to norms stifling industry's global competitiveness

VIKAS DHOOT

NEW DELHI

The Economic Survey for 2019-2020 seems an exercise driven by 20/20 hindsight, combined with an optimistic 20/20 vision for the year to come, as it expects GDP growth to revive from the 5% estimated for this year to a range between 6%-6.5% next year.

The Survey hints at going easy on fiscal deficit targets to shore up growth and makes a valiant attempt to evangelise wealth creation by entrepreneurs, instead of demonising them.

It also calls for unravelling multiple regulations stifling Indian industry's global competitiveness and urges policy makers to stop being "judgemental" about importing inputs, assembling them and re-exporting them, even if it means little value-added at home. Focusing on just six such 'network' sectors could generate 4 crore jobs by 2025 and 8 crore jobs by 2030 and reverse the country's tepid job creation record, the Survey said.

Blames UPA

While admitting there has been a slowdown with the economy poised to grow at just 5% in 2019-20 – the slowest in 11 years – Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian, attributed the deceleration to slower global growth and domestic financial sector

Hoping for the best

While the GDP growth in the first half of FY20 slowed to 4.8%, the Economic Survey suggests that the second half will witness an uptick

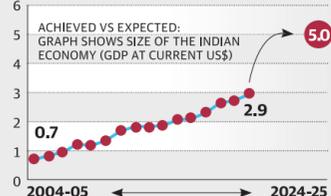
Some developments which hint at a revival, according to the Survey:

- IIP in Nov, 2019 saw a growth of 1.8% compared to a contraction by 3.4% in Oct, 2019
- PMI Manufacturing increased from 50.6 in Oct, 2019 to 51.2 and 52.7 in Nov, and Dec, 2019 respectively
- The gross GST revenue collected in Dec, 2019 and Nov, 2019 saw a positive growth rate of 9% and 6% respectively
- NIFTY India Consumption Index picked up for the first time in Oct, 2019

Size matters | India's economy is estimated to be the fifth largest in the world. The top 5 economies in terms of GDP at \$ trillion in 2019:

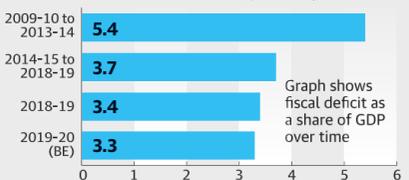
Sl. No.	Country	2017	2018	2019 (E)
1	United States	19.5	20.6	21.4
2	China	12.1	13.4	14.1
3	Japan	4.9	5.0	5.2
4	Germany	3.7	4.0	3.9
5	India	2.7	2.7	2.9

Vision 2025 | The government had set a goal to make India a \$5 tn economy by 2024-25. But growth suffered a setback this year due to a slowdown induced by a crash in demand



Nirmala Sitharaman, Anurag Thakur and Finance Ministry officials posing for a photograph after giving final touches to the Union Budget 2020-21. ■ PTI

Deficit narrowed | Centre's gross fiscal deficit as a share of GDP has come down in the past five years



GDP revised downwards for 2018-19

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The National Statistics Office (NSO) on Friday released revised estimates for economic growth in the last three years, pegging actual GDP growth in 2018-19 at 6.1% instead of the 6.8% provisional estimates reported earlier in May 2019.

The NSO attributed the downward revision in the 2018-19 growth rate to a re-

duction in numbers from the primary sector (representing farm- and mining-related activity) and the secondary sector (manufacturing, utilities and construction).

"Real GDP or GDP at constant (2011-12) prices for the years 2018-19 and 2017-18 stand at ₹139.81 lakh crore and ₹131.75 lakh crore, respectively, showing growth of 6.1% during 2018-19 and 7% during 2017-18," the NSO

said in a statement.

As per the first revision for 2017-18 numbers released last January, real GDP had grown at 7.2%.

In terms of gross value-added (GVA), the economy grew at 6% in 2018-19 as opposed to 6.6% estimated earlier, with primary sector GVA growth pared to 2.7% estimated earlier to 1%.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Colours of protest



Artists paint graffiti on a wall on Friday during the ongoing demonstration against the amended Citizenship Act and the National Register of Citizens at Shaheen Bagh in New Delhi. ■ PTI

3 truck-borne militants killed in Jammu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR

Three truck-borne Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militants were killed at a toll plaza in Jammu's Nagrota on Friday morning.

One of two persons arrested from the truck is a cousin of suicide bomber Adil Dar, who carried out a deadly attack in Pulwama last year and killed 40 CRPF jawans, the police said.

The incident took place at the Bann Toll Plaza on the Srinagar-Jammu Highway around 5 a.m., and the militants were hiding behind urea bags in the truck. "They were heading for Srinagar," said DGP Dilbagh Singh.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 12

Execution of Nirbhaya convicts postponed till further orders

Court to hear their pleas; lawyer says remedies yet to be exhausted

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The execution of the death sentence awarded to all four convicts in the December 16, 2012 Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case was postponed for the second time on Friday, following an order from a Delhi court.

Additional sessions judge Dharmender Rana directed that the execution be postponed till further orders after considering the pleas by three convicts – Pawan Gupta, 23, Akshay Kumar, 31, and Vinay Sharma, 24.

On January 7, the court had ordered the execution of the death sentence on January 22. This was postponed to February 1. Shortly after the court's

order, the victim's mother said she would continue her fight till the convicts are hanged. During the day, family members of Pawan, Mukesh and Vinay came to meet them in Tihar jail. Advocate A.P. Singh, representing the three, urged the court to postpone the hanging, contending that their legal remedies were yet to be exhausted.

Mercy petition

He told the court that a mercy petition under Article 72 of the Constitution has been filed on behalf of convict Vinay.

Advocate Singh said a curative petition filed on behalf of convict Akshay was dismissed on Thursday by the Supreme

Court. Hence Akshay intends to move a mercy petition before the President under Article 72, he said.

Taking note of the arguments, the judge said that since Vinay's mercy petition is pending before the President, "I have no hesitation in observing that the execution of warrant qua accused Vinay ought to be postponed."

"As far as the case of the remaining convicts is concerned, the second proviso appended by Rule 836 categorically provides that if an appeal or application is made by only one convict, the execution of sentence shall be postponed in the case of co-convicts also," the judge noted.

Shooter sent to 28-day protective custody

Bone ossification test at RML Hospital ordered to determine if he is a juvenile

SAURABH TRIVEDI

NEW DELHI

The young man who fired at a Jamia Millia Islamia student during a protest march against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act on Thursday was sent to 28-day protective custody in a correction home by the Juvenile Justice Board a day later.

Purportedly 17 years old, a bone ossification test would be conducted to ascertain if he is indeed a little over two months shy of being an adult. Police said they have approached Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital to form a board of doctors for the test.

'No remorse for act'

Rajesh Deo, DCP (Crime), confirmed that the young man was presented before a magistrate at the JJB on Friday and sent to a correction home.



The shooter outside Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi. ■ REUTERS

A police officer who interrogated the young man after the Thursday incident said he displayed no remorse for his act. The shooter told the police that he bought the country-made handgun from a man in his town for ₹10,000 on January 29, a day before using it. He boarded a bus to Delhi the next day and at the Noida-Delhi border,

shifted to an autorickshaw and asked the driver to take him to the protest site. "The driver dropped him off outside Jamia Millia Islamia. He was concealing the handgun in the bag he was carrying with him," said the officer.

The young man revealed during interrogation that he had planned to fire a bullet in the air but fired on the

protesters as he panicked after seeing them coming towards him.

"A police team has been formed to nab the person who supplied him the firearm. We are also verifying his mark sheets and other documents to ascertain his correct age. His mobile phone is also being scanned to find out about people he was in touch with and if the attack was planned by someone else," said the officer.

Tutor for exams
 While sending the shooter to the correction home, the JJB asked him if he needed a tutor inside to help him prepare for his upcoming Class XII exams. He asked for books, which the JJB allowed.

The board also recommended regular psychiatric sessions during his stay at the correction home.

Supreme Court asks U.P. govt. to reply on notices to protesters

Petition questions government's 'arbitrary' action

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Uttar Pradesh government to explain its notices to certain persons to cough up money for destruction of public property during protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in December last year.

A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud issued formal notice to the State government on a petition filed by Uttar Pradesh resident Parwaiz Arif Titu, who said the notices for payment of damages were "arbitrarily" sent to people. They include a person, Bannu Khan, who died six years ago at the age of 94, to two others, Fasa-



Mir Khan and Sufi Ansar Husain, both in their 90s and bedridden.

The petition said the notices were in furtherance of the "promise" made by the BJP-led Yogi Adityanath government "to avenge the loss to public property by seizing the assets of CAA-NRC protesters in order to take revenge, for political reasons, from

one community who is in minority". "This means that 925 persons arrested so far for violent protests may not get bail easily in Uttar Pradesh till they pay up for the losses... Many of them are not involved in violent protests," the petition said.

Notices clearly show that the persons to whom they were sent had not been booked for any offence. "There is no detail of any crime committed by them," the petition said.

Mr. Titu said the State government should follow the guidelines laid down by the top court, both in 2009 and 2018, while claiming damages for properties destroyed during protests.

'We are giving pens, they are giving guns'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal said on Friday that while his party was putting pens and computers in the hands of students, "they" are offering guns and hatred, in a veiled attack at the BJP.

"Fabulous! Delhi government school student addressing big IT tech conference! We have put pens and computers in the hands of children and dreams of entrepreneurship in their eyes! They are giving guns and hatred. What do you want to give your children? Tell on Feb. 8!" Mr. Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi.

On Thursday, the AAP had hit out at the BJP over a Jamia Millia Islamia student being shot at by a young man at an anti-CAA protest.