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A BROKEN JUSTICE SYSTEM

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I DON'T FOLLOW ANY PLAN: ANIL 13 VIVACITY

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## ANTI-CAA PROTEST FLARES UP IN CAPITAL

Agitation in Jamia turns violent, students clash with police, 60 injured, 3 DTC buses torched

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

### All in a day

- Police forcibly enter Jamia campus, fire tear gas, beat students and detain them along with some 'outsiders'
- Police said they entered the campus to only control situation after incident of arson
- Demonstration at police headquarters after police crackdown at Jamia
- Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia announced closure of all schools in South Delhi following the incident
- Both the Jamia Millia students' community as well as the Teachers' Association have disassociated themselves with the violence and arson that took place near the university

The protest against the amended Citizenship Act (CAA) by the Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) University students erupted on Sunday. Violence spilled on the Mathura Road, Jamia and its adjoining areas following a clash between police and students who were protesting against the amended CAA. The student protest is said to be led by the local leaders of the area. Three buses of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and four fire engines were damaged by the protesters, claimed the police.

According to a report, at least 60 people were injured and taken to a nearby hospital.

Delhi Police personnel entered the Jamia Millia campus after situation became highly volatile in the wake of intense violence. Police blocked the university gates to nab some "outsiders" who had entered the premises to hide, sources said. There was a heavy deployment of police in and around the campus. Several metro stations were closed, including Jamia Millia, Okhla Vihar, GTB Nagar, Shivaji Stadium, Patel Chowk and Vishwavidyalaya metro stations.

Later, Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia announced closure of all schools in South Delhi following the incident.

A demonstration was held at Delhi Police headquarters after police crackdown at Jamia. Both the Jamia Millia students' community as well as the Teachers' Association have disassociated themselves with the

violence and arson that took place near the university on Sunday afternoon. Three public buses and a fire tender were set afire by the protesters during the violence and arson at New Friends Colony.

The students claimed that "certain" local elements had "disrupted" their protest and indulged in violence.

The sources said as the police tried to disperse the protesters by baton charge and firing tear gas shells, some of the "outsiders" ran towards the campus and tried to hide there.

While, a group of Jamia students sitting on the protest said police baton charged them when they were holding a peaceful protest. A Delhi Fire Services official said four fire tenders were rushed to the



A bus set ablaze by protesters against the Citizenship Amendment Act at Mathura Road in New Delhi on Sunday

PTI

spot. "One fire tender was completely damaged and two personnel were injured," said a senior police officer at the protest site.

While, National secretary National Students' Union of India (NSUI) Saimon Farooqui, said, "The protesters were peacefully sitting on Mathura Road when policemen tried to 'trouble' a couple of protesters, who resisted."

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### BJP ANNOUNCES NATIONWIDE DRIVE TO SPREAD AWARENESS ABOUT CAA

New Delhi: Amid Opposition's pitch against the amended Citizenship Law, the BJP on Sunday announced a nationwide campaign to spread awareness about it. Party spokesperson Sambit Patra said on Sunday the BJP workers will spread out across the country to inform people about the law. He said party cadre from 11 States were briefed by the national leadership on the law. The party has asked all the MPs, including those from the Rajya Sabha, to visit their constituencies and States to create awareness.

PNS

### AASU HINTS AT LAUNCHING PARTY AS OPTION TO BJP, AGP, CONG IN ASSAM

Guwahati: The All Assam Students' Union (AASU), which has been protesting the amended Citizenship Act, on Sunday hinted at launching a political party along with "Shilpi Samaj" (artists' forum) as an alternative to the ruling BJP and AGP as well as to Opposition Congress. AASU president Dipanka Nath supported popular actor Zubeen Garg's proposal of launching a political party. "We are in talks with Shilpi Samaj and also discussing with people of Assam to think about an alternative," he said.

PNS

## In U-turn, AGP all set to move SC against law

PNS ■ GUWAHATI/ NEW DELHI

### 2 injured in protest succumb, unrest continues in Assam

Taking a u-turn after voting in support of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in the Rajya Sabha, BJP ally Assam Gana Parishad (AGP) has decided to challenge the Act in the Supreme Court. The party leaders have also decided to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah over the matter.

Meanwhile, the North-East continued to witness unrest with two more people protesting against the amended Citizenship Act in Assam succumbing to injuries on Sunday. The deceased were identified as Ishwar Nayak and Abdul Alim. Both of them suffered bullet injuries due to police firing during clashes in Guwahati on Thursday.

Curfew imposed on Guwahati and parts of Dibrugarh district in the wake of the violent protests was relaxed on Sunday for several hours. Special trains have been arranged by the Assam tourism department in association with the railways to ferry passengers stranded in various parts of the state.

Former Rajya Sabha MP and AGP leader Kumar Deepak Das on Sunday said that AGP would file a petition in the Supreme Court praying for revocation of the amended Citizenship Act. The decision was taken after a meeting of top

party leaders in Guwahati on Saturday night. He asserted that the AGP respected the sentiments of common people, who were wary that the law might threaten their identity and existence.

"We will take the legal route to seek revocation of the amended Act as the indigenous people of Assam are apprehensive that their identity, language might come under threat," Das said. Sources said a delegation of the AGP, led by Das, would leave for Delhi to file the plea in the apex court as PILs seeking revocation of the Act were scheduled to be taken up for hearing on December 18. Former AGP Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, who had been vocal about his opposition to the amended Act, claimed the party never adopted any resolution supporting the law. He urged the AGP leadership to clear its stand on the contentious matter.

On the other hand, dissonance had been brewing in the AGP after party chief Atul Bora had said if the Centre "wants to bring the Bill, he cannot do anything about it."

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People who are setting fire (to property) can be seen on TV... They can be identified by the clothes they are wearing

NARENDRA MODI

In his first public rally after the Citizenship (Amendment) Act cleared the Parliament hurdle, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday hinted that "some changes" could be made in the law's provisions to address the concerns of the northeastern States

AMIT SHAH

No one should indulge in violence. Any kind of violence is unacceptable. Protesters should remain peaceful

ARVIND KEJRIWAL

Delhi is burning, Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya are burning. Violence is spreading in Bengal, the Home Minister does not have the courage to go the North-East, Japan PM's visit had to be cancelled, but Modi is happy doing poll campaign

RANDEEP SURJEWALA

## Opp parties behind unrest, raising storm over Act: PM

PNS ■ RANCHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday accused the Congress and its allies of raising a storm over the citizenship law and asserted that the Opposition parties were behind the unrest and arson in parts of the country.

Modi, addressing a rally in Dumka, said the Congress and its allies are creating a ruckus in North Eastern States and other parts of the country after Parliament passed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). He said, "They are doing arson because they did not get their way. Those who are creating violence can be identified by their clothes itself. The work that was done by protesters on Pakistan's money in London is now being done by the Congress."

The Prime Minister accused the Congress of speaking the language of Pakistan on CAA and other important deci-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses an election campaign rally, in Dumka, Jharkhand on Sunday

Sanjib Kumar Dutta | Pioneer

sion taken by his Government in last six months. Modi making a scathing attack on the Congress following the line of Pakistan assumes importance as this is for the first time that the PM has spoken against the Congress after Parliament passed CAA last week.

The

Amendment Bill, 2019, which provides a path to Indian citizenship for persons belonging to religious minority groups persecuted in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, was passed by Parliament on Wednesday, with the Rajya Sabha voting 125-99 in favour of the Bill.

After the passing of the Bill, many parts of country witnessed violent agitations in Assam, West Bengal and even at national capital as students of Jamia Millia Islamia University took to the streets to protest against the exclusion of Muslim immigrants from the provisions of new Citizenship Act.

Also, the Congress on Saturday had held a massive rally called "Bharat Bachao" at Delhi's Ramliya Maidan attacking the Modi Government on a number of issues, including the economy, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and women's safety.

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### ROW INTENSIFIES

- The AMU administration on Sunday night announced that the institution will remain closed till January 5 as clashes broke out between police and students
- AMU hostels being evacuated, clashes reported from inside as police enter campus: Registrar Abdul Hamid
- Toll in police firing amid protests against citizenship law rises to 4 in Assam, say officials
- Curfew imposed on Guwahati and parts of Dibrugarh district in the wake of the violent protests against the amended Citizenship Act was relaxed on Sunday for several hours, police said
- Protests over the amended Citizenship Act continued in various parts of Bengal for the third consecutive day on Sunday as sporadic incidents of violence were reported from Nadia, Birbhum, North 24 Parganas and Howrah
- Internet services suspended in parts of Bengal as a precautionary measure, amid protests against CAA: Official

## Violence spreads in Bengal Guv terms Govt's ad against NRC, CAA unconstitutional

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Post passage of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), violence continued unabated and spread to other parts of Bengal on an incremental basis with protester going on a rampage. Things threatened to lapse into a bigger turmoil as BJP leadership warned retaliation if the State Police continued to sit silent spectator allowing public properties to be looted and destroyed.

Violent protests that were largely limited to Murshidabad, Howrah and North and South 24 Parganas on Saturday on Sunday spread to Malda, North Dinajpur and outer fringes of Kolkata leading the State administration to partially shut down the internet network.

As people, including daily commuters suffered from road and rail blockades and cancellation of trains, fresh conflict war of words erupted between the State Government and Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar



Members of West Bengal Human Rights Cell stage a protest rally against CAA and NRC in Kolkata on Sunday

PTI

who denounced a televised publicity clipping of the State Government — in which Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is appealing for peace as a quid pro quo for her blocking the implementation of the new Act at any cost — as unconstitutional.

Parts of Bengal sizzled and simmered as rural mobs in Malda, Murshidabad, outer Kolkata and Birbhum took to

streets attacking and vandalising public properties. At Bhaluka Road Railway station in Malda district bordering Bangladesh miscreants ransacked the station premises forcing the railway staff on duty to flee the area, police said.

Similar protests were witnessed at Tildanga station at Farakka where locals torched the station offices.

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10-year-old Raj girl 'kills' classmate for snatching pen, sent to juvenile home

Jaipur: A 10-year-old girl was sent to a juvenile home on Sunday for allegedly killing her classmate by hitting her using an iron rod after the two got into an argument over snatching a pen, police said.

Also, the girl's parents were produced before court and sent to jail for destroying evidence by dumping the body of the 12-year-old in an open ground, Chaksu station house officer Braj Mohan Kaviya said.

On Saturday, the girl and her parents were arrested by police in the case, he said.

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## Global warming leads to rise in red deer population

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Multiplication of red deer population in Scotland could not be on account of their fault but may be linked to the change in their genes due to climate change-induced warm weather, speeding up their breeding in the



region. A new study has said that Scotland's red deer are altering their birthing patterns in order to adapt to global warming.

This finding has come in the light of the Scottish Government's order of culling of the red deer whose population has multiplied over the years. It is estimated that the main highland range in Scotland now has about 4,00,000 of the animals.

Hence, while man-made climate change is having a serious impact on the wildlife animals — some are moving to cooler climes, some on the verge of extinction while a few like turtles are witnessing change in sex, red deer seems

to be following the theory of evolution developed by Charles Darwin, said the scientists in the study published in the journal PLOS (Public Library of Science) Biology.

And this evolution is happening in decades, not centuries, they said after studying field records and genetic data collected on the four-legged animals on the Isle of Rum in Scotland over a 45-year period since 1972.

This is one of the first evidences of wild animals undergoing evolution process, said the scientists from the University of Edinburgh, Australian National University and the universities of St Andrews and Cambridge.

"Not only do warmer temperatures encourage deer to give birth earlier in the year, it

has also meant the gene for breeding earlier has become more common among the deer," said Dr Timothée Bonnet, of the Australian National University, who led the study. He explained that the deer that give birth earlier have more calves over their lifetime — which means they have more reproductive success.

"It is rare to see evolution over such a short period," he said about the study "the role of selection and evolution in changing parturition date in a red deer population."

Previous studies have shown that the deer have been giving birth earlier since the 1980s, at a rate of about three days per decade. However, the new study says that female red deer — called hinds — give birth to a single calf each year,

and those that reproduce earlier in the year have more offspring over their lifetime.

The gene which causes earlier birth is therefore much more common among the red deer population over time. This is an example of natural selection, the theory of evolution developed by Charles Darwin, he added. The research shows that natural selection "may help populations adapt to climate warming."

Professor Josephine Pemberton, of the University of Edinburgh's School of Biological Sciences, who was also involved in the study, added, "Long-term studies of individual lifetimes are one of the few ways to understand how populations respond to environmental change and how to manage its effects."

The Scottish Government has taken various steps to manage the burgeoning population of the animal, culling being one of them, in a bid to protect biodiversity as the deer are voracious eaters with high breeding rate. The figures are specific to the study site in highland in Sweden, but wildlife experts feel that such "evolution" reported by the red deer might be happening in other animals somewhere in the world.

"We all know that climate change is having serious impact on the wildlife world. This study shows that the new adaptation by the red deer may very well help their population thrive as the climate continues to warm, said Dr K SivaKumar, wildlife expert from Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

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### CAPSULE

#### PAYAL ROHATGI DETAINED BY RAJASTHAN POLICE

Kota: The Rajasthan Police on Sunday morning detained Bollywood actress Payal Rohatgi from her Ahmedabad residence for interrogation in a case relating to alleged objectionable content against the Nehru-Gandhi family on social media

#### FATE OF J'KHAND MINS TO BE SEALED TODAY

Ranchi: The fate of State Labour Minister Raj Palwar and Land and Revenue Minister Amar Kumar Bauri will be decided in the fourth phase of polling in Jharkhand on Monday. BJP candidate Bauri will lock horns with NDA ally AJSU party nominee Umakant Razzak in Chandankiyari seat while BJP's Palwar will contest JMM candidate Hussain Ansari in Madhupur constituency.

# 'Even BJP, Cong supporters will vote for AAP'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister on Sunday said that even the supporters of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress will vote for Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, due to the developmental works done for the public including 24-hour tap water supply, electricity subsidy, women safety, marshals, CCTV cameras by the AAP Government in the past five years.

He also announced that the Army personnel in the national Capital will be able to access the provision of free electricity and water supply.

Speaking in the Delhi Cantonment constituency on Sunday, Kejriwal said, "I am happy to share that a lot of areas which had inadequate water supply, now have abundant supply of water. A lot of

areas which had no water supply earlier now receive water from the River Ganga. The installation of water pipelines in the areas which were devoid of water pipeline connections is starting in a few days, to provide adequate and 24-hour water supply to the residents."

Adding to it, Kejriwal said, "I want to thank the army officers and soldiers for supporting us in our endeavors. You all must be aware of the provisions of the Delhi government to provide free electricity consumption up to 200 units and half rates for electricity consumption up to 400 units, but somehow army personnel could not access this free consumption scheme. Now, the army personnel will also gain access to this scheme, we have resolved this issue as well."

Delhi CM said our efforts in the last five years have even made the opposition believe



Arvind Kejriwal at Delhi Cantt on Sunday

Pioneer photo

that the education and health-care in Delhi have actually improved. "They accept that school infrastructure has been revamped, health infrastructure has improved, Mohalla Clinics are functioning well, medicines in hospitals are free, senior citizens are going for teeth-yatras," he said.

Kejriwal said that his government has made all these efforts for everyone, including

BJP supporters, Congress supporters and AAP supporters. He said, "I am everybody's Chief Minister, and I will not discriminate on the basis of who the people are voting for. I have worked for Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians, and for people belonging to all communities. This is the kind of politics that you will witness for the first time in the nation. In the last 70 years, no other

government has had the audacity to ask for votes on the basis of the work that they have done during their tenure. It is the first party which is appealing for votes on the work that it has done in Delhi in the last five years."

Kejriwal further claimed that earlier only 58 per cent of Delhi had water pipeline connections but now 93 per cent of areas have got direct water pipeline connections. "My second aim is to provide 24-hour water, and I have been working on planning the provision of 24-hour non-polluted tap water supply to all the residents of Delhi. We have also worked out on a plan to clean River Yamuna in the next five years. We are increasing the strength of buses in Delhi and are working to improve public transportation in Delhi, which will help to decrease pollution and traffic congestion in the city."

# Court to pronounce verdict in Unnao rape case today

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court is scheduled to pronounce on Monday its judgement in the case of alleged kidnapping and rape of a woman by expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar in Unnao in 2017.

During in-camera proceedings, District Judge Dharmesh Sharma had said he was likely to pronounce the verdict on December 16 after conclusion of hearing of final arguments by the CBI and the accused in the case.

The judge heard the case on a day-to-day basis from August 5 after it was transferred to Delhi from a court in Lucknow on the Supreme Court's direction.

The woman was allegedly kidnapped and raped by Sengar

in 2017 when she was a minor. The court has also framed charges against co-accused Shashi Singh in the case. Sengar, a four-time BJP MLA from UP's Bangermau, was expelled from the party in August, 2019.

The court had on August 9 framed charges against the MLA and Singh under Sections 120 b (criminal conspiracy), 363 (kidnapping), 366 (kidnapping or inducing a woman to compel for marriage), 376 (rape) and other relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

On July 28 this year, the woman who had accused Sengar was severely injured after the car in which she was travelling was hit by a truck. Two of her aunts were killed in

the accident and her family had alleged foul play.

The woman's father was allegedly framed in an illegal arms case and arrested on April 3, 2018. He died while in judicial custody a few days later, on April 9.

The local court here has framed murder and other charges against the MLA, his brother Atul and nine others in the case. The apex court, taking cognisance of the rape survivor's letter written to then Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, had on August 1 transferred all five cases registered in connection with the Unnao rape incident from a Lucknow court in Uttar Pradesh to the court in Delhi with directions to hold trial on a daily basis and completing it within 45 days.

# DCW chief hospitalised after fainting during hunger strike

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Commission of Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal who was sitting on an indefinite hunger strike for the past 10 days demanding capital punishment for rapists within six months of their conviction has been admitted to a city hospital after health condition got deteriorated and she fell unconscious on Sunday morning.

Maliwal's health condition got worse from Saturday night and the doctors also advised her to visit the hospital for treatment and end the protest but she refused to budge. On Sunday morning, she was taken to the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital after she fainted.

According to a DCW member, she was initially taken to the

emergency ward of the hospital since she was unconscious. Later when she regained consciousness, she refused to allow doctors to put her on intravenous fluids.

Maliwal was shifted to a special ward, where she was put on intravenous fluids, said the member, adding that her condition was stated to be stable. DCW chief's supporters were stationed outside the hospital. According to a health bulletin, the uric acid in her blood had reached dangerous levels and could damage kidneys.

Maliwal was on a hunger strike for over 10 days at the Samta Sthal near Raj Ghat. She on Saturday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure that Disha Bill, which mandates disposal of cases of atrocities against women with-

in 21 days and handing out the death penalty, is implemented in the entire country.

Further, DCW chief before falling unconscious wrote a letter to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding immediate implementation of the Disha Bill in the entire country, which mandates disposal of cases of atrocities against women within 21 days and handing out the death penalty.

Maliwal also expressed sadness over the "indifferent attitude" of the Central Government on the issue of women's safety despite her hunger strike. This was her second letter to PM Modi after she sat on the hunger strike on December 3 demanding capital punishment for rapists within six months of their conviction.

# N-E students protest against CAA at Jantar Mantar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A group of Northeastern students staged a protest against the amended Citizenship Act at Jantar Mantar here on Sunday, terming it 'anti-Constitution' and a threat to identities of indigenous people in the region.

Demanding scrapping of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the protesters claimed that the Act was against the spirit of Assam Accord of 1985.

"We have gathered here to protest against the CAA because it threatens indigenous identities in the region. We demand the Centre to scrap it and also lift restrictions like internet ban and stop police brutality," said a Delhi University student hailing from Assam.

The Act, recently passed by Parliament, provides for Indian citizenship to members of



N-E students hold a protest at Jantar Mantar

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who have come from Pakistan, Bangladesh and

Afghanistan till December 31, 2014 and faced religious persecution there. The Northeastern States

have been facing the issue of illegal immigration for decades which is going to be revived by the Citizenship Amendment

Act, said Rituparna Kaushik, another student.

"We accepted illegal immigrants till 1971. Now, we do not want anymore as Assam is a poor State with limited resources. The Act threatens identities of Assamese people and poses fear of them being turned into a minority," he said.

The Act is against the Constitution and also a threat to the unique composite culture of the region, said Rukhsaar, a Delhi-based professional from Guwahati.

"For the BJP and its Government, they are vote bank but for us they are foreigners whom the Act is going to extend citizenship. It is against the secular culture of Assam where native Muslims fought mughals in medieval times and where surnames are shared by Hindus and Muslims now," she said in reference to the Act making religion as the basis for citizenship.

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 Capri Global Capital Limited 2nd Floor, 3B Pusa Road Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110005  
**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 Securitisation 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 described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Capri Global Capital Limited Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on dates below mentioned, for recovery of amount mentioned below due to the Capri Global Capital Limited Secured Creditor from Borrower mentioned below. The reserve price, EMD amount and property details mentioned below.

| SR. NO. | BORROWER(S) NAME  | DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY   | 1. DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION   | 1. RESERVE PRICE  |
|---------|---|---|---|---|
| 1.      | 1-Mr. Anil Sharma "Borrower"<br>2-Mrs. Seema Sharma (Co-borrower)<br>LOAN ACCOUNT NO. LNCGNSPTL000003008<br>Rupees 1,41,39,788/- Rupees One Crore Fourty One Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Eight only along with interest from 30.07.2019 along with applicable future interest. | 1. All that piece and parcel of PROPERTY NO. IX/4340 (SOUTH EASTERN PORTION), ADMEASURING 66.1/3 SQUARE YARDS i.e. 55.45 SQUARE METERS, KHASRA NO. 156, 157, 158 AND 161, GALI NO. 8, AJIT NAGAR, GANDHI NAGAR, VILLAGE - SEELAMPUR, ILLAQA SHAHDARA, DELHI - 110031 AND All that piece and parcel of PROPERTY NO. IX/4340 (SOUTH WESTERN PORTION), ADMEASURING 66.1/3 SQUARE YARDS i.e. 55.45 SQUARE METERS KHASRA NO. 156, 157, 158 AND 161, GALI NO. 8, AJIT NAGAR, GANDHI NAGAR, VILLAGE - SEELAMPUR, ILLAQA SHAHDARA, DELHI - 110031 | 1. E-AUCTION DATE: 20.01.2020 (Between 3:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)<br>2. LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD WITH KYC: 17.01.2020<br>3. DATE OF INSPECTION: 10.01.2020 | RESERVE PRICE:<br>Rs.1,01,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore One Lac Only)<br>EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT:<br>Rs. 10,10,000/- (Rupees Ten Lacs Ten Thousand Only)<br>INCREMENTAL VALUE:<br>Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lac Only) |

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link <https://www.capriglobal.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/e-auction-notice-anil-sharma.pdf>

**TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ONLINE E-AUCTION SALE:-**

- The Property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS, WHATEVER THERE & WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS". As such sale is without any kind of warranties & indemnities.
- Particulars of the property / assets (viz. extent & measurements specified in the E-Auction Sale Notice has been stated to the best of information of the Secured Creditor and Secured Creditor shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission. Actual extent & dimensions may differ.
- E-Auction Sale Notice issued by the Secured Creditor is an invitation to the general public to submit their bids and the same does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the Secured Creditor. Interested bidders are advised to peruse the copies of title deeds with the Secured Creditor and to conduct own independent enquiries / due diligence about the title & present condition of the property / assets and claims / dues affecting the property before submission of bids/.
- Auction/bidding shall only be through "online electronic mode" through the website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> Or Auction Tiger Mobile APP provided by the service provider M/S eProcurement Technologies Limited, Ahmedabad who shall arrange & coordinate the entire process of auction through the e-auction platform.
- The bidders may participate in e-auction for bidding from their place of choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by bidder himself. Secured Creditor / service provider shall not be held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash, power failure etc.
- For details, help, procedure and online bidding on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the Service Provider Procurement Technologies Ltd. Auction Tiger, Ahmedabad (Contact no. 07961200546/519/538/554/568/587/594/598.) or Mr. Vijay Shetty Mob.9619002431. Email: vijay.shetty@auctiontiger.net.
- For participating in the e-auction sale the intending bidders should register their name at <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> well in advance and shall get the user id and password. Intending bidders are advised to change only the password immediately upon receiving it from the service provider.
- For participating in e-auction, intending bidders have to deposit a refundable EMD of 10% OF RESERVE PRICE shall be payable by interested bidders through Demand Draft/NEFT/RTGS in favour of "Capri Global Capital Limited" on or before 17-JAN-2020.
- The intending bidders should submit the duly filled in Bid Form (format available on <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>) along with the Details of Demand Draft/NEFT/RTGS remittance towards EMD in a sealed cover addressed to the Authorized Officer, Capri Global Capital Limited, Plot no. 3B, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, New Delhi 110 005 latest by 03:00 PM on 17-Jan-2020. The sealed cover should be super scribed with "Bid for participating in E-Auction Sale - in the Loan Account of Anil Sharma for property of "Anil Sharma".
- After expiry of the last date of submission of bids with EMD, Authorised Officer shall examine the bids received by him and confirm the details of the qualified bidders (who have quoted their bids over and above the reserve price and paid the specified EMD with the Secured Creditor) to the service provider M/S eProcurement Technologies Limited to enable them to allow only those bidders to participate in the online inter-se bidding / auction proceedings at the date and time mentioned in E-Auction Sale Notice.
- Inter-se bidding among the qualified bidders shall start from the highest bid quoted by the qualified bidders. During the process of inter-se bidding, there will be unlimited extension of "10" minutes each, i.e. the end time of e-auction shall be automatically extended by 10 Minutes each time if bid is made within 10 minutes from the last extension.
- Bids once made shall not be cancelled or withdrawn. All bids made from the user id given to bidder will be deemed to have been made by him alone.
- Immediately upon closure of E-Auction proceedings, the highest bidder shall confirm the final amount of bid quoted by him BY E-Mail both to the Authorised Officer, Capri Global Capital Limited, Regional Office Plot no. 3B, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, New Delhi 110 005 and the Service Provider for getting declared as successful bidder in the E-Auction Sale proceedings.
- The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount (including EMD) on the Next Working day of the sale, being knocked down in his favour and balance 75% of bid amount within 15 days from the date of sale by DD/Pay order/NEFT/RTGS/Cheque favouring Capri Global Capital Limited.
- In case of default in payment of above stipulated amounts by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid (including EMD) will be forfeited and the property will be again put to sale.
- At the request of the successful bidder, the Authorised Officer in his absolute discretion may grant further time in writing, for depositing the balance of the bid amount.
- Municipal / Panchayat Taxes, Electricity dues (if any) has to be paid by the successful bidder before issuance of the sale certificate. Bids shall be made taking into consideration of all the statutory dues pertaining to the property.
- Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful bidder only upon deposit of entire purchase price / bid amount and furnishing the necessary proof in respect of payment of all taxes / charges.
- Applicable legal charges for conveyance, stamp duty, registration charges and other incidental charges shall be borne by the auction purchaser.
- The Authorised officer may postpone / cancel the E-Auction Sale proceedings without assigning any reason whatsoever. In case the E-Auction Sale scheduled is postponed to a later date before 30 days from the scheduled date of sale, it will be displayed on the website of the service provider.
- The decision of the Authorised Officer is final, binding and unquestionable.
- All bidders who submitted the bids, shall be deemed to have read and understood the terms and conditions of the E-Auction Sale and be bound by them.
- For further details and queries, contact Authorised Officer, Capri Global Capital Limited: Mr. Devennder Gautam Mo. No. 9599986424.
- This publication is also 30 (Thirty) days notice to the Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantors of the above said loan account pursuant to rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, about holding of auction sale on the above mentioned date / place.

**Special Instructions / Caution: Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Capri Global Capital Limited nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements / alternatives such as back-up power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.**

Place: Delhi Date : 16-12-2019 Sd/- (Authorised Officer) Capri Global Capital Ltd.

# Min lauds SDMC for improving education

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hailing the efforts of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) for improving the quality of education in its schools and contributing in producing the best brain in the country, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javdekar said on Sunday that the civic body should take lead in developing better learning process to enable the students to become best brains in the country; this will go a long way in dominating our country with its young think tanks to emerge as super intellectual power in the world.

Javdekar was speaking at first of its kind seminar called "Sabbhagita" organised by SDMC which aims to focus on creating awareness on stress management, disaster management and special session on CPR training and providing first aid without kit.

Explaining the need of organising such programme, Javdekar said that this is unique initiative through which SDMC is providing a platform to teachers, parents and educa-



Union Minister Prakash Javdekar during an event organised by the SDMC education department

Pioneer photo

tionist for interacting, discussing and analysing the new education systems and learning processes contributing towards over all development of the students.

He also appreciated the efforts of all three municipal corporations of Delhi in giving good primary education to about 10 lakh children from economically weaker section of

the society. Addressing the gathering, Commissioner of SDMC Gynesh Bharti said that it is an opportunity to analyse the valuable suggestions received from parents and chalk out an action plan to make students better than the best as far as their keenness to learning is concerned. "The large number of participation is an encouraging

sign which signifies the intention of parents to contribute towards the education of children," he said. The event witnessed a huge gathering of 12000 teachers, parents and political bigwigs including BJP president Manoj Tiwari, SDMC Mayor Sunita Kangra, Chairman of Standing Committee Bhupendra Gupta, Leader of House Kamaljeet Sehrawat.

# Puri to lay foundation of various DDA projects today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri will lay the foundation of several ambitious projects of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in Rohini area on Monday. The projects include Socio Cultural Centre, Sports Complex, Outfall Drain, Utsav Pandal and seamless synthetic rubberized flooring at various parks will be constructed at a cost of ₹540 crore.

"The work on several projects will start from 16th December after the Union Minister will lay foundation stone for the various projects. A socio-cultural centre at Rohini Sector 10 for performing arts, indoor and outdoor recreational activities, mall, and convention centre, among others will be constructed. The project will cost ₹350 crore and is likely to



be completed in 42 months," said a DDA spokesperson.

Apart from this, a Sports Complex is also proposed at Sector 33 Rohini, a Centre of Excellence for Aquatic with a budget of ₹110 crore is on the plan and is expected to be completed by 2021.

An Utsav Pandal is also proposed to be built in Sector 24 Rohini with the cost of ₹7.45 crore, which will be a facility for community to conduct social

functions and community activities. The target date of completion of the Pandal is 9 months.

Besides, an outfall drain will be constructed between Sector 24 and 25 linking two supplementary drains at the cost of ₹70 crore. The time of execution of the project is 18 months. Once completed, it will avoid flooding of water at Sector 34, 35, 36 and 37 during rainy season.

Officials added that the minister will also lay foundation of seamless synthetic rubberized flooring in total six parks of located in Sector 7,8,13,14,15 and 19 of Rohini. The target for the completion of the project is 6 months at the cost of ₹3.3 crore. It will provide cushioning/spring effect and thus useful for elderly people with knee pain.

## NOTICE

We, M/s Uroguj Manpower Consultants, New Delhi holding Registration Certificate No. B-0437/DEL/PER/1000/5/8452/2009 under the Emigration Act, 1983 for Export of Manpower, have closed our business with effect from August 2014. In the event there is any claim against us, the same may be referred within 30 days of publication of this notice, copies of the complaint may also be sent to protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of External Affairs, Akbar Bhawan, Satya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

## WOMEN SAFETY STILL A CONCERN

After seven years of the brutal gangrape and murder of a 23-year-old paramedical girl on the night of December 16, 2012, does a woman feel safe on Delhi roads during odd hours? *The Pioneer* carried out a reality check and spoke to women across the city. They all were susceptible of their safety especially after the sun set

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Seven years have passed after the brutal gangrape of a paramedic, the Capital has yet to go a long way in providing a safe infrastructure and public transport to women. The grisly gangrape had exposed the perils of commuting at night. Although installation of GPS devices has been made mandatory by the Delhi Transport Department under the new permit conditions for the public service vehicles (PSVs), bus marshals have also been deployed in city buses, lot is still left to be done to ensure safety and security of girls and women especially those who work during nights and travel back to their homes.

Post-December 16, 2012, there was an alarming increase in the number of rape cases being registered in the national Capital. The gravity of the situation could be judged from the fact that the Delhi Police recorded a staggering 200 per cent increase in rape cases and cases of molestation, eve teasing, stalking and outraging the modesty had gone up considerably.

Even after the gangrape and subsequent murder of Nirbhaya in a moving bus had jolted the conscience of the country and had forced the then Government at the Centre and the Delhi Police announce a slew of protective measures. The Delhi Police officers deny that the rise in this crime has made the national Capital highly unsafe for girls and women. The spike in the figure is due to the "free and fair policy of registration" adopted by the force on the instructions of the Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik.

"There are standing instructions to the rank and file to register a case under the relevant sections once a girl/woman approaches a police station with her complaint," a senior police official said.

Delhi had recorded 632 rapes in 2012 and the same figure jumped to 1,493 in 2013. Cases of molestation too had gone up to 3,237 in 2013 as compared to 632 in the previous year. This is a whopping 500 per cent increase and that has been a major cause of worry since then.

According to the Delhi Police data for the current year, "A total of 2,616 women reported molestation cases, 427 filed a case of insult to the modesty of women, 3,104 cases of kidnapping of women in Delhi were reported and 1,947 rape cases have been registered till November 15, 2019, in the Capital. As the year closes, rape figure may well jump over 2,000 cases."

According to statistics, six rapes and eight molestation cases are reported on an average everyday.

As the clamour to hang the four rapists of



Nirbhaya, the national Capital is witnessing a series of protests against the rape accused Akshay Thakur, Vinay Sharma, Mukesh Singh and Pawan Gupta — the four convicts put on death row by the Saket fast track court and later on by Delhi High Court and Supreme Court.

After seven years of the brutal gangrape and murder of a 23-year-old paramedical girl on the night of December 16, 2012, does a woman feel safe on Delhi roads during odd hours? *The Pioneer* carried out a reality check and spoke to women across the city. They all were susceptible of their safety especially after the sun set.

Though, the Delhi Police claims that they have identified more than 2,000 desolate stretches, which are considered too dangerous for women to venture out during odd hours, (10 pm to 2 am), in the Capital and police said they have intensified its patrolling in those areas. There are still several dark spots in city where civic agencies have also failed to install street lights.

Out of 2,000 desolate stretches, 25 spots, according to sources, are crime-prone. These include metro station points such as Dwarka Mor, Uttam Nagar, Janakpuri West, Janakpuri East, Tilak Nagar, ITO, Jama Masjid, Govindpuri, Shadipur, Chandni Chowk, Kashmir Gate, New Delhi, Adarsh Nagar, Vishwavidyalaya and Jahangirpuri. The other stretches are Lajpat Nagar, South Extension, Saket, Vasant Vihar and Dhaula Kuan area.

Explaining the reason behind insecurity in women while travelling on roads, Esha, a resident of Malviya Nagar, said gender inequality and the systemic discrimination that women face in a patriarchal system limit their movement to such an extent that they just don't have the 'licence' to hang around with their friends or alone in public spaces. What's worse is that movement is restricted both in terms of time and space and women have to dress in a certain way to feel 'comfortable' in public.

"Infrastructure in Delhi is also the issue. Most residential colonies in Delhi are poorly lit. Even main roads, inner streets, sections of markets, areas between residential blocks and bus stops pose a threat. Most women now keep pepper spray or other safety equipment with them but such individualistic solutions like pepper-spray and self-defence are not an answer to our plight. This is juaad, a make-do arrangement to protect ourselves not a permanent solution," said Suchi Sharma, a resident of Malviya Nagar.

"During night hours, whenever I travel from Qutub Minar Metro Station towards Maidangarhi road, the area which is popularly known as 100 feet road, I had never seen street lights switched on. Though I have seen PCR vans roaming in the area but this dark stretch needs lightning and more patrolling," said Anshika, a resident of Chattarpur area.

"Women like me work till late at office and if it's about our safety I don't feel safe. It is not the police and agencies only to blame but the mindset of people who are indulged in harassing women. Such people mindset is to be blamed," said Anshika.

"There always stalking and following incidents whenever a woman is returning late from office or any party etc. The night roamers, mostly drunk,



leave no stone unturned to harass and molest women," said Surbhi, a resident of Munirika.

According to Sharat Kumar Sinha, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Police Control Room (PCR) unit of the Delhi Police, the Mobile Patrol Vehicles (MPVs) have intensified its patrolling at frequently and vulnerable points used by the families, working women and night travellers' safety.

"Large numbers of PCR vans are stationed with specific direction to do patrolling in areas frequently used by women to ensure their safety. Around 30 PRAKHAR vans are focused specially for taking action against street crimes with emphasis on women safety," Sinha added.

"Around 15 women PCR vans are deployed ensuring women safety at many places. Even tourist PCR vans are also ensured towards safety of tourists and women at locations including Red fort, Qutub Minar, Janpath Market, India Gate. Around 48 PCR vans are also deputed at schools and colleges across the city for safety and security of the girls and women. Where ever there is street light issue we make sure to inform the authorities concerned regarding it," Sinha said.

According to a police official who does not wish to be named, presently there are only 10,184 women police personnel in the Delhi Police out of a total strength of 87,500 personnel.

"The vacancies add up to 26,000 - more than double of what the existing strength is. Though police in this strength makes sure crime is low," he added.

Anil Mittal, Additional Public Relation Officer (APRO), Delhi Police said police has left no stone unturned in providing safety and security to women in the national Capital and several steps have been initiated in the aftermath of the unfortunate December 16 gangrape.

"Efforts made by the Delhi Police have shown positive results and men and officers have been asked to be vigilant in ensuring the safety of girls and women. We are here to provide security and safety to women and girls," Mittal said.

Delhi had recorded 632 rapes in 2012 and the same figure jumped to 1,493 in 2013. Cases of molestation too had gone up to 3,237 in 2013 as compared to 632 in the previous year. This is a whopping 500 per cent increase and that has been a major cause of worry since then

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According to statistics, six rapes and eight molestation cases are reported on an average everyday

Though, the Delhi Police claims that they have identified more than 2,000 desolate stretches, which are considered too dangerous for women to venture out during odd hours, (10 pm to 2 am), in the Capital and police said they have intensified its patrolling in those areas. There are still several dark spots in city where civic agencies have also failed to install street lights

### EMERGENCY HELPLINE NO. 112

"Police emergency helpline No. 112 functions 24 X 7 round the year from Police Headquarters. This emergency number is very popular among women as well as others and is being extensively used," said Anil Mittal, APRO, Delhi Police.

### WOMEN HELPLINE 1091

"A 24 hour helpline 1091 is functional since September, 2002 to reach out to women in distress. A separate specialised Women Police Mobile Team is functioning to attend to distress calls on this emergency helpline round-the-clock.

### ANTI-STALKING SERVICES FOR WOMEN

One of the main problems faced by the women in Delhi is receiving of obnoxious telephone calls and stalking using mobile phones. "There are thousands of such calls received from women. Hence, all such distress calls from women about stalking are diverted to a special anti-stalking group in the CPCR which functions 24 X 7 and appropriate action is initiated immediately," said Mittal.

### HIMMAT PLUS APP

The Himmat Plus App for women was re-

launched on 6th February 2018. The App has been made bilingual. During the year 2019 (upto 30th November) 23,369 downloads have been counted and 15,602 persons have registered on the Apps which even have a panic button.

TATPAR A far-reaching digital initiative was launched by the Delhi Police in September 2019 to smoothen its service delivery to the citizens of Delhi. TATPAR — literally signifying ever-readiness to respond — amalgamates all the websites and mobile applications of Delhi Police, and over 50 services can be accessed with a single touch.

SPECIAL POLICE UNIT FOR N-E PEOPLE A Special Police Unit for North Eastern people has been set up in Nanakpura for making life more secure for them, and also issues related to Safety of Women pertaining to North-East region.

GENDER SENSITISATION Gender Sensitisation and legal awareness



## POLICE INITIATIVES

programmes are being organised for police personnel in association with the NGOs to create a gender-friendly environment in police stations of Delhi considering the need to educate and sensitize the police personnel on gender and related issues including legal provisions so that women do not face apathy and callousness while approaching police in distress.

Around 331 gender sensitisation programme have been conducted in which 9176 police personnel have participated in the year 2018 and 316 gender sensitization programme have been conducted in which 8,925 police personnel have participated during the year 2019 (upto 30th Nov.) Considering the gravity of this matter, Municipal Corporations in the national Capital has also started programmes with an aim to aware children in its schools against sexual harassment. A senior official of South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) said that the Corporation has already light up many of these spots and it keeps doing it on routine basis after getting information

about such areas. "The process of providing street light at identified dark spots in the city, we are in constant touch with other law enforcing authorities to identify and installed electricity polls at various spots.

The civic agency has also roped in a plan to aware thousands of students studying in schools run by the SDMC. "The school administration has been directed to hold a special program every month to sensitise students about various aspects of sexual offences. They have also been told to council children of good and bad touch," he added.

Besides, civic bodies have taken several other measures such as installing CCTV cameras to ensure safety of its students, he said.

### SHISHTACHAR

Under this scheme, women police officers, dressed in civil clothes, are posted at busy places like markets, metro stations, cinema halls and buses to keep a watch on the miscreants. In case someone is caught while eve teasing or demonstrating illicit behaviour, the person is immediately nabbed and taken to the police station for further course of action.



A police team on PCR helping a woman, whose car was stuck in a sewer pothole filled with rain water near Delhi's Hotel Leela, Sarojni Nagar at around 9.40 pm on December 13, 2019

Pioneer Photo



Out of 2,000 desolate stretches, 25 spots, according to sources, are crime-prone. These include metro station points such as Dwarka Mor, Uttam Nagar, Janakpuri West, Janakpuri East, Tilak Nagar, ITO, Jama Masjid, Govindpuri, Shadipur, Chandni Chowk, Kashmir Gate, New Delhi, Adarsh Nagar, Vishwavidyalaya and Jahangirpuri. The other stretches are Lajpat Nagar, South Extension, Saket, Vasant Vihar and Dhaula Kuan area

## DELHI GOVT TAKES SLEW OF MEASURES

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has taken a slew of measures for women safety, including installation of CCTV cameras and deployment of marshals in buses, after the 2012 Nirbhaya gang rape-and-murder case.

Nearly 1.3 lakh CCTV cameras have so far been installed across Delhi and 1.7 lakh more are in the process under a Delhi government project aimed at ensuring safety of women.

A senior government official said a total of three lakh CCTV cameras will be installed in all 70 assembly constituencies under the ambitious project being executed by

the works department.

The Government has recently procured 428 new cluster buses which are equipped with panic buttons, CCTV cameras and Global Positioning System (GPS) device.

A 23-year-old paramedic student, who came to be known as Nirbhaya, and her friend had boarded a private bus from Munirka stand on the fateful night of December 16, 2012.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal recently announced that the government would install three CCTV cameras, 10 panic buttons and GPS device in each of the existing 5,500 DTC and cluster buses, which

he said is aimed at making women passengers feel safer in public transport.

According to the official, 1,300 marshals are currently deployed every day in all DTC and cluster buses, a move also directed at ensuring women safety. The government has also made it mandatory for all public vehicles, including buses, auto-rickshaws, taxis and cabs, install GPS device, which intends to track their location in case of crime cases.

As part of women safety measures, the government has decided to light up "dark spots" which often cause crime in the national

capital.

"A total of two lakh LED street lights will be installed to light up dark spots. The process has begun to execute the project," official said.

Recently, the government announced that it would administer pledge to students of all schools and colleges to respect women. Under the initiative, a one-hour classroom discussion on respecting women will be conducted.

According to the plan, girl students will also be asked to talk to their brothers on the issue of respecting women and warn them against any wrongdoing.



# JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA PROTEST

## Police entered campus by force, no permission taken: Chief Proctor

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Jamia Millia Islamia Chief Proctor Waseem Ahmed Khan claimed on Sunday that Delhi Police personnel entered the university by force without any permission and beat up staff members and students who were forced to leave the campus.

Police said they entered the university campus only to control the situation, after protesters indulged in violence near New Friends' Colony area in south Delhi.

Condemning the police action, university vice chancellor Najma Akhtar said students who were inside the library have been taken out and are safe.

Soon after violence erupted in south Delhi during a protest against the amended Citizenship Act, police entered the Jamia Millia Islamia campus and blocked the university gates to nab some "outsiders" who had entered the premises to hide, sources said.

"Police entered the campus by force, no permission was taken. Staff members and students were beaten up and



Police personnel conduct a march after the violent protests that erupted against Citizenship Amendment Act near Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi on Sunday

forced to leave the campus," the chief proctor said.

Escorted by police, youths could be seen coming out of their hostels with their hands raised. Some of them claimed the police also entered the library and "harassed" the students.

Both the Jamia Millia students' community as well as the Teachers' Association have dissociated themselves from the violence and arson that took place near the university Sunday afternoon.

The vice chancellor said its

students were not involved in the violent protest which saw buses being torched.

"In the evening, when the agitation started, my students had not given a call for it. They were not inclined towards the group," she told PTI.

The group had about 20,000 people, according to TV channels, she said.

"Which university can have such a huge crowd. At least not my university. It was a Sunday and we had already declared winter vacation on Saturday so half of the students

### Students inside library have been taken out and are safe

had already gone home," she said.

Condemning the violence during the protest, she said it was wrong to say that they were from Jamia.

She alleged that the police ran after the protesters, some of whom entered the varsity.

"Police ran after them. They could have at least asked us but they just entered the university. They broke open our library and troubled our students," she alleged.

Asked about students sending out distress messages to their friends in other universities, she said students have been taken care of. "None of the students are hurt and they are safe," she said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Chinmoy Biswal said four buses and two police vehicles were torched during the protest, adding six policemen were also injured.

He said stones were pelted from inside the varsity at police personnel, forcing them to use teargas to disperse the "violent mob".

Biswal said some people have been detained but did not give details.

## Situation under control, some people detained: Police



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after violence rocked south Delhi on Sunday, police said the situation was under control and they have detained some of the people who had allegedly indulged in arson and vandalism during a protest against the amended citizenship law.

They said police entered the Jamia university campus to only control the situation, after protesters indulged in violence

near New Friends' Colony area in south Delhi on Sunday afternoon. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Chinmoy Biswal said four buses and two police vehicles were torched during the protest, adding six policemen were also injured.

## Kejriwal urges LG to restore peace

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal spoke to Lt Governor Anil Bajjal and urged him to take all steps to restore normalcy following violent protest against the amended citizenship law in a posh south Delhi neighbourhood on Sunday.

Kejriwal said the Delhi Government is doing everything possible at its end to restore peace.

"Spoke to Hon'ble LG and urged him to take all steps to restore normalcy and peace. We are also doing everything possible at our end. Real miscreants who caused violence should be identified and punished (sic)," Kejriwal tweeted.

In another tweet earlier, the chief minister said any sort of violence is unacceptable. "No one should indulge in violence. Any kind of violence is unacceptable. Protests should remain peaceful," he said.

Protesters clashed with police on Sunday afternoon.

## Several metro stations closed due to violent protests

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of violence during protests against the amended Citizenship Act in south Delhi, DMRC closed gates of several metro stations, including GTB Nagar, Shivaji Stadium, Patel Chowk and Vishwavidyalaya, on Sunday evening. In a series of tweets, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said that entry and exit gates of GTB Nagar, Shivaji Stadium, Patel Chowk, Vishwavidyalaya, Vasant Vihar, Munirka, R K Puram Metro stations were closed on the advice of the police.

According to DMRC, trains will not be stopping at these stations. Earlier, DMRC closed the entry and exit gates of the Sukhdev Vihar Metro station in view of the violent protest in southeast Delhi against the amended Citizenship Act. As advised by Delhi Police, entry & exit gates of Sukhdev Vihar and gate no. 3 of Ashram have been closed," DMRC tweeted.

## Protests in UK over CAA 2019

PTI ■ LONDON

People from different groups gathered outside the Indian High Commission here on Saturday to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act and what they branded as Modi Government's "failures".

A group of protesters from the British Assamese community, dressed in their traditional attire and accompanied by children, waved placards in Assamese as well as some in English that read: "Save Democracy, Stop CAB".

The peaceful demonstration involved some sloganeering against the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), which was signed into law earlier this week.

## Global warming leads to rise ...

From Page 1

He, however said, climate change is having impact in various other ways also. For instance, up to 93 per cent of green turtle hatchlings could be female by 2100, as climate change causes "feminization" of the species, he said citing a study conducted by the Researchers at the University of Exeter in the UK and the Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre in Portugal.

According to various studies, if we do not reduce our carbon emissions and instead allow global temperatures to rise by 4.5°C, up to half the animals and plants in some of the world's most biodiverse areas could go extinct by 2100.

"In fact, even if we are able to limit global warming to the Paris climate agreement goal of 2°C, areas such as the Amazon and the Galapagos could still lose one quarter of their species," noted the studies dwelling on the effects of climate change on 80,000 plants and animals in 35 areas.

Another study has found that local extinctions (when a species goes extinct in a particular area, but still exists elsewhere) are already occurring in 47 per cent of the 976 species studied, in every kind of habitat and climatic zone.

(This article has been published with support from the Nature India/India Alliance India Science Media Fellowship)

## In U-turn, AGP all set to move SC against law

From Page 1

He demanded that the Brahmaputra valley, where violent protests have been happening over the amended Citizenship Act, should be excluded from its purview.

Addressing a press conference at Guwahati, Bora, also a state minister, said as the legislation has already become an Act, so at least the Brahmaputra valley should be excluded and it may be implemented in the Barak valley. The Barak valley, which has a significant Bengali population, has not seen any major agitation.

AGP leader and Assam minister Keshab Mahanta said the party has not left its "old stand" of opposing the contentious Act.

"Though we are a part of the NDA, our stand has not changed. We still do not want this Act to be implemented in Assam and North East," he said. The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, which was cleared by the parliament on Wednesday and became an Act on Thursday.

## 10-year-old Raj ...

From Page 1

The incident happened on December 11 when the victim had gone to the girl's house after school for getting her pen back but an argument led to a fight, the SHO said.

The accused girl attacked the other with an iron rod in which the victim sustained critical injuries on her head, ribs and stomach leading to her death, Kaviya said adding that the girl's parents were not at home then. After her mother got home, the girl apparently narrated the entire story. The mother and daughter went on to tie the victim's body to a rock and threw it in a pond, the SHO added.

Later, the mother informed her husband. The couple, then, fished out the body from the pond and dumped it in an open ground, Kaviya said. After the 12-year-old did not reach home, her parents lodged a missing complaint and the body was recovered on Thursday, the officer said.

## Clashes between AMU students, police

### UNIVERSITY CLOSED TILL JAN

PTI ■ ALIGARH

Hundreds of AMU students protesting against the amended Citizenship Act clashed with police on Sunday at a campus gate after which the university administration announced closure of the institution till January 5.

Aligarh Muslim University Registrar Abdul Hamid said the police entered the campus late Sunday night and clashes were reported from inside. "Hostels are being evacuated," he said.

The clashes at AMU started after an agitation by Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia students against the legislation turned

violent and police used batons and teargas to disperse them. Several students were injured in the national capital.

The AMU students started gathering at the Babby Sir Syed Gate and shouted slogans against the law and police action on the demonstrators in Delhi.

The AMU students broke the police cordon and fought pitched battles with the police.

AMU Proctor Prof Afifullah Khan said some security personnel were injured in brick-battling near the gate. An official of the Rapid Action Force, who sustained head injuries, was seen asking for a helmet in a video.

Tension prevailed in the area as police used batons and teargas to control the situation. Police have sealed all gates to the campus.

AMU Registrar Abdul Hamid said, "AMU has been closed till January 5. Hostels are being evacuated."

He said police have entered the campus and clashes with protesters have been reported from inside.

"The university is closed from today (15/12/2019) till 05/01/2020. This is being done due to disturbances created by some antisocial elements for last three days," he said.

"All other offices will remain open as usual and the closure of the university is for the purpose of reading and examination only. The remaining examination will be conducted after 05/01/2020," the said in a statement. He said the schedule for examination will be notified later. PTI

## Opp parties ...

From Page 1

On the Opposition to the citizenship law, he said after seeing the quality protests in Northeast, it is clear that the decision was commendable and in the right direction.

The rally which was also

attended by Chief Minister Raghuraj Das, Dumka BJP candidate and Minister Louis Marandi, Minister and Sarath candidate Randhir Kumar Singh, MPs among others.

The Prime Minister urging the protestors to end violence said that those having any doubts on CAA should sit and talk, but these people have embarrassed the country by

demonstrating there.

Modi in Dumka also said the BJP Governments at the Centre and the State will continue to protect Jharkhand's 'jal', 'jungle' and 'jameen', no matter what the opposition parties say. "In Jharkhand, the institutes of higher education, engineering and medical studies like IIT, AIIMS were opened, this is also done by BJP," PM Modi asserted. The Prime Minister outlined the progress and development successes of the Jharkhand. He said, "Before 2014, the Chief Minister of the State used to claim the construction of 30,000

to 35,000 houses and described it as their achievement. But now we are moving forward with the resolve that every poor person in the country should have their own house."

The battle of Dumka gains much importance for both BJP and JMM as there is huge stake in Santhal Pargana which goes to poll on December 20. Santhal Pargana is considered a JMM bastion as most of the MLAs are from this region. JMM executive president Hemant Soren too is contesting from two seats - Dumka and Barhait.

The region which was synonymous with JMM chief Shibu Soren as he had represented Dumka parliamentary seat eight times, however, in Lok Sabha election this year, BJP made a successful dent in JMM bastion as BJP candidate Sunil Soren defeated senior Soren in Lok Sabha election.

## ANTI-CAA PROTEST ...

From Page 1

Thereafter, police started lathi charging the protesters and using teargas," he alleged.

While other students claimed that the police forcefully entered the campus and fired tear gas on Students. "Students are hiding inside washroom. This is barbaric on part of Delhi Police," they claimed.

However, a group of students and Jamia Millia Islamia Teachers Association (JTA) condemn the ongoing violence at Jamia and on the Mathura road. The students also claimed that the students groups have nothing to do with the violence. They alleged that "local elements" joined the protest and "disrupted" it.

"The students of Jamia Millia Islamia disassociate themselves from the violence that has erupted today. We have time and again maintained that our protests are peaceful and non-violent. We stand by this approach and condemn any party involved in the violence. We have maintained clam even when students have been lathi-charged and some women protesters have been badly beaten up. Media personal are a witness to these events. Violence by certain elements is an attempt to vilify and discredit genuine protests. We appeal to everyone to share this message," said a group of students.

While the teachers association of Jamia, issued a statement saying, "Jamia Teachers' Association condemn the violence in south Delhi, outside Jamia Millia Islamia. JTA is not part of any such violence. JTA

also appeals to students, if any, to keep away from such direction-less protest lead by local political leaders. Jamia practices and preaches peace. JTA condemn all sort of violence near Jamia or anywhere in India."

JTA has also called an emergency meeting of the extended Executive Committee on Monday to discuss misuse of Jamia's name in the protests.

Witnessing the rage of protest, the Jamia Administration has postponed the semester examination and declared winter vacation. "A large number of students staying in hostels have already left and the Vice Chancellor Najma Akhtar appealed to the students to maintain peace," read the statement issued by the University.

"Police have entered the campus by force, no permission was given. Our staff and stu-

dents are being beaten up and forced to leave the campus," said Waseem Ahmed Khan, Chief Proctor, Jamia Millia Islamia University.

With the protest getting more violent in the parts South East Delhi, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) also closed the entry and exit gates of Sukhdev Vihar metro station on Magenta Line and Gate Number three of Ashram Metro station on Pink Line.

"As advised by Delhi Police, entry & exit gates of Sukhdev Vihar and gate no. 3 of Ashram have been closed. Trains will not be halting at Sukhdev Vihar," the DMRC tweeted. Entry and exit gates of Jamia Millia Islamia, Okhla Vihar and Jasola Vihar Shaheen Bagh have also been closed with no trains halting at these stations.

## Violence spreads...

From Page 1

Even as a helpless police force stood a mute spectator in absence of specific orders from above local MLA Moinal Haq accompanied by his followers was seen chasing away the mob with stick in his hand. Violence continued at Rezinagar police station in neighbouring Murshidabad district where the protesters vandalised the station premises, put the signaling office afire. A Railway Protection Force vehicle and a local BJP office was also torched, sources said.

Similar incidents were reported from Kalyani Expressway in Nadia district, Amdanga in North 24 Parganas where copies of the CAA were burnt by angry protesters. Parts of Howrah district like Uluberia and Domjur where 15 buses were torched on Saturday were however comparatively peaceful on Sunday.

At Burdwan and Birbhum, agitators took out rallies and shouting slogans against the Narendra Modi Government and throwing

burning tyres on the roads. At Bhyabla in Basirhat sub-division of North 24 Parganas the Congress workers protested by blocking the Kolkata-Basirhat highway resulting in disruption of services. Police contingents have been rushed to the troubled areas to control the situation, sources said.

Near Kolkata, agitators ransacked the Akra railway station in the southern fringes of Kolkata. They burnt tyres, and blocked train services prompting the Government to send large contingent of police force in the area. This affected Kolkata-Budge Budge railway link. The train services remained hit for several hours in the region.

Train services were partially disrupted in the Kolkata-Baruipur suburban region too when protesters stoned running suburban trains at Mullickpur.

Meanwhile, fresh war of words erupted between Governor Dhankhar and State Government with the former terming unconstitutional a State-run advertisement in which the Chief Minister is seen appealing to the people for CAA as she would not allow the CAA to be implemented in the State.

Telling "those on constitutional posts" that this was "no occasion to play politics," the Governor wondered "How can an elected head of a Government use public money to give advertisement in national media that there will be no NRC, no CAB in state?" before concluding "This advertisement is unconstitutional."

He added as Constitutional head "I had very gracefully invited her (Chief Minister's) attention, I had urged her (to) withdraw it. I am sure you all will agree that public money can't be used to lead an agitation against law of the land."

In the advertisement the Chief Minister is seen holding meeting with top Government functionaries including police chief and senior secretaries whereafter she appeals to the people to "maintain

peace as we all want to protest against this Act but in a peaceful manner."

She added, "We will not allow CAA and NRC to take place in Bengal" though now there is a central Act in place. "Remember the Central Acts have to be implemented through the State Government and we will not implement it. We will not allow NRC in Bengal. We will protest jointly but in a peaceful manner. We will protest irrespective of caste, creed, religion."

Describing the law and order situation of the State as unimaginable Dhankhar questioned the way how public property was being damaged in a wanton manner, ruthlessly and recklessly, and how fear has been put in the minds of people belonging to a certain section of the society.

The Governor who has been at loggerheads with the Mamata Banerjee Government for quite some time now immediately received a counter attack from the State Ministers who asked him not to give advices to the Chief Ministers. State Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya said the Chief Minister was an elected

person and had people's mandate with her and she was a senior politician who knew her brief better than anyone else. "She can teach others about constitutional ways and she does not have to take lessons from others," the Minister said.

In a relevant development, things threatened to lapse into a bigger crisis with the State BJP vowing to "retaliate" if the Government did not take immediate action and if the police continued to remain silent spectator to people's properties being destroyed.

"We have been watching how the Government and its police are sitting silent spectators to incidents of public and private properties being looted, ransacked and destroyed like this.

We have been keeping silent but if things continue like this we will have to intervene," State BJP president Dilip Ghosh said adding "if due to that law and order issues erupts the responsibility will not lie on us."

Ghosh and State party secretary Sayantan Basu had earlier demanded immediate imposition of President's Rule in Bengal.

**Section 1**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer U.P.R.E.D. Sub Division Budaun**  
 Address:-Room 206, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Vikas Bhawan,Civil Lines Budaun  
**Press Notice for Manual Tender**  
 1. Letter NO: 102/RED/Tender/File No-01/ Bond Clerk/2019 dated: 11-12-2019  
 The Assistant Engineer, U.P.R.E.D. Sub Division Budaun on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids through Sealed Bids for **Manual tendering system** from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP RED, in appropriate class A, B, C, D and E as the case may be. **The Bidder may submit bids for the works**  
 1. Name of work as per table.

| S. N. | Name of District | Name of work  | Total estimated cost (in Lakh) | Bid security (EMD) in Lakh | Cost of Bid document including GST (in Rupees) | Period of completion including rainy season |
|-------|------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| 1.    | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Faizgunj Behta(Asafpur)  | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 2.    | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Badasahpur(Ambiyapur)    | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 3.    | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Bisauli(Bisauli)         | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 4.    | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Jarfingar(Dehgawan)      | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 5.    | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Gangaula(Datagunj)       | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 6.    | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Islamnagar(Islamnagar)   | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 7.    | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Jagat(Jagat)             | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 8.    | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Alapur(Myon)             | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 9.    | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Wazirgunj(Wazirgunj)     | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 10.   | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Khandak(Sahaswan)        | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 11.   | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Mongar(Salarpur)         | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 12.   | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Samrer(Samrer)           | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 13.   | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Chhatuaya(Ujhani)        | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 14.   | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Sansher(Usawan)          | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 15.   | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Wazirgunj(Wazirgunj)     | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 16.   | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Shekhupur(Sahaswan City) | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 17.   | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Khandak(Sahaswan City)   | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |
| 18.   | Budaun           | Consturction of Septic tank in K.G. B. Avasiya School at Ujhani(Ujhani City)      | 1.670                          | 0.035                      | 589.00   | 60 Days                                     |

2. Date of availability of Bid document in the offices as mentioned in:- 01-01-2020  
 3. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids: 13-01-2020 up to 12.00 Noon in the office of the Assistant Engineer, Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Department Division Budaun, or District Magistrate Badaun  
 4. Date of opening of bids: 13-01-2020 at 12.30 PM  
 For further details please contact the employer office i.e. Office of the Assistant Engineer U.P.R.E.D. Sub Division Budaun Address:- Room 206, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Vikas Bhawan,Civil Lines Budaun  
 (Vinod Kumar) Assistant Engineer Rural Engineering Department Division Budaun on behalf of Governor of UP  
 UP 146533 Date 12.12.2019  
 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgvo.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

# Delhi's traffic woes from neighbours!

Despite Western and Eastern Peripheral Expressways, Delhi sees more than 12 lakh vehicles everyday from its neighbouring States. Of them, less than one fourth of the total vehicular movement is attributed to the freight vehicles. As per the study conducted by CRRl, number of vehicles entering to Delhi rose from 6,13,797 to 6,19,946 everyday

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Despite Western and Eastern Peripheral Expressways to reduce traffic congestion in Delhi, there is to-and-fro movement of more than 12 lakh vehicles everyday from neighbouring States of Delhi.

Of them, less than one fourth of the total vehicular movement is attributed to the freight vehicles. The volume of both personal and freight vehicles is gradually increasing. As per the study conducted by Central Road Research Institute (CRRl) namely "Megacity Logistics: Metrics, Tools And Measures For Sustainability", the number of vehicles entering to Delhi rose from 6,13,797 to 6,19,946 everyday. The respective figures for the year 2009, were 4,72,852 and 5,50,841.

A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on "the management of worsening traffic situation in Delhi", expressed concern as there is no planning to regulate or restrict the vehicular movement from



the neighbouring States when the roads of the city are already reeling under heavy stress because of traffic congestion and other related issues.

The Committee also expressed its strong displeasure on the fact that freight management plan for Delhi has not been formulated till now. The committee was informed by the representative of the CRRl that the road traffic demand has increased exceptionally and is not in keeping with the growth in the supply side factors such

as increase in road network and upgradation of road infrastructure.

The Committee observed that freight traffic on Delhi roads contribute more than 18 per cent of the total vehicular volume on Delhi Roads. The committee, therefore, strongly recommended that after due study and assessment of management of freight traffic in other major cities, Government of Delhi along with other agencies should formulate a suitable plan for the freight traffic man-

agement in Delhi and NCR and this must be done keeping in mind the fact that least burden is felt during peak hours.

The committee therefore, recommended that infrastructure of suitable nature to commute, transport and dedicated places for boarding and de-boarding of freight materials needs to be earmarked on a priority basis and the timing of freight movement should be regulated/kept in mind the material being carried by it like whether it is perishable item like food or vegetables or building materials, etc..

As per the data, there has been an average growth of 3 per cent in overall vehicular movement on the roads of Delhi in the last decade. Also, during the year 2018, 21.35 per cent of the freight vehicles entering Delhi used the roads of Delhi just to bypass Delhi and there was no plan as of now to regulate or restrict the to and fro vehicular movement from the neighbouring States to Delhi.

Therefore, the Committee also recommended that there

was an urgent need to formulate plan/policy to regulate the entry of the inbound traffic and ensure smooth exit of the outbound traffic by diverting the vehicles using Delhi roads only for bypassing via peripheral and ring roads.

"Recurrence of extreme congestion on the Delhi roads has become a common phenomenon and has hampered the quality of life of all. The average speeds have been reduced to 5 to 10 km/hr during peak hours even on the major arterial roads of the city leading to the loss of time of the working population, fuel wastage and environmental pollution," said.

Furthermore, the problem of traffic congestion has been aggravated by the rapidly increasing population of Delhi, geographical expansion of Delhi, inadequate expansion of public transport, improper parking on roads and lack of a central coordination mechanism for formulation and implementation of traffic management policies in Delhi.

# BJP announces nationwide campaign on Citizenship law

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid public unrest and Opposition's pitch against the amended Citizenship Law, that allows six religiously persecuted minorities excluding Muslims from three neighbouring countries to take Indian citizenship, the BJP on Sunday announced a nationwide campaign to spread awareness about the legislation, asserting that it was not discriminatory against Muslims or any other community.

The Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019, which was passed last week by Parliament which has now turned effective as an act with Presidential assent has triggered public protest in the North-East, Bengal and the national Capital with police and army called out at the epicenters of the violence.

The ruling BJP has sought to "dispel" the Congress and a section of other Opposition's campaign that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) was unconstitutional as it seeks to exclude Muslim persecuted minorities from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan from the provisions of CAA and is

thus discriminatory.

Party spokesperson Sambit Patra told a Press conference on Sunday that the BJP workers will spread out across the country to inform people about the law that, he said, meant to provide Indian citizenships to persecuted minorities — Hindus, Sikhs, Parsis, Buddhists, Jains and Christians — in the neighbouring three countries where their numbers have come down drastically on account of various discrimination against them.

The party has affirmed that the CAA was not against Muslims as has been "orchestrated" by the Opposition parties, particularly the Congress. "There is no provision in this law that even a single right of our Muslim brothers and sisters will be taken away. Instead rights will be provided to those who are living in India without any rights facing religious persecution in countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan," Patra said.

He said party functionaries from 11 States were briefed by the national leadership on the law's provisions here on Sunday before they start a campaign in their respective

State. The party has asked all the MPs, including those from Rajya Sabha, to visit their constituencies and States to create awareness about the provisions of the CAA and the specific purpose for which it was passed by the Parliament.

The state level leadership of the party including Ministers and MLAs would also be required to update themselves and inform public on the correct and positive implications of the Act.

Special awareness campaigns would be launched by the party in the North-East which has been the first to witness public protest after the bill was passed by Parliament with the apprehensions that giving citizenships to migrants across the borders and those already there in the region may impact the demography of the region and may also affect their social and cultural identity.

In the BJP Parliamentary party meet last week which was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the central leadership had directed all party MPs to counter political campaign launched by the Opposition against the Bill.

## 7 YEARS POST-NIRBHAYA

# Rape conviction rate low at 32%

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Seven years after the brutal Nirbhaya gangrape that shook the entire nation, the conviction rate in rape cases in the country is as low as 32.2 per cent despite laws dealing with sexual assault being made stringent in the aftermath of the incident.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data available for 2017, the total number of rape cases that went to trial in that year was 1,46,201 but only 5,822 of them resulted in conviction.

What is perhaps more worrisome is that while the conviction rate in rape cases has increased marginally in recent years, the charge-sheeting rate has gone down — which means cases are not going to court.

The charge-sheeting rate in rape cases dropped to 86.6 per cent in 2017 from 95.4 per cent in 2013, the NCRB statistics show. Shilpi Jain, who was the defence lawyer in the Alwar rape case wherein a foreign

tourist was raped by Bitti Mohanty, son former Odisha director general of police B B Mohanty, said the field-level staff of police dealing with rape investigation need to be made more efficient.

"They are mostly ill-equipped, inexperienced, power gets to their head and in most cases they are extremely corrupt," Jain said.

"A sub-inspector is the highest-level officer who files a chargesheet, so one can imagine the quality of the content," said Jain.

Similarly, the prosecutors who deal with the cases at the district level are of low caliber and less driven, she said, adding that all these factors make up badly investigated cases which results in low conviction rate.

A 23-year-old paramedic student, who came to be known as Nirbhaya, was gang raped on the intervening night of December 16-17, 2012, in a running bus in south Delhi by six people.

# Death penalty debate rages on as court considers plea of Nirbhaya convict

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The death penalty has no place in the 21st century." The quote by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres seems convincing, but over 50 countries still allow capital punishment and gruesome crimes such as the Nirbhaya gang rape-and-murder case serve as a reminder that the issue of doing away with death penalty is not a settled one.

Fifty countries that still allow death penalty include India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, the US, Iran, Japan, Kuwait, Bangladesh, Iraq, Indonesia and the UAE, according to information in public domain.

The US-based Death Penalty Information Centre, a non-profit organisation, States that there are 146 countries that have totally abolished it in law and practice. India executes criminals only in extreme cases and only 26 executions have

taken place in India since 1991, last being 1993 bomb blast case convict Yakub Memon in 2015. Before that, India had executed 2001 Indian Parliament attack Afzal Guru.

Death penalty is in focus in India with a plea in the Supreme Court by one of the four death-row convicts in the Nirbhaya gangrape-and-murder case, seeking review of the court's 2017 judgement awarding him the capital punishment.

A three-judge bench will hear the plea filed by convict Akshay Kumar Singh, whose lawyer has questioned in the review petition as to why give capital punishment at a time life is getting "short" due to rising pollution. The apex court had on July 9 last year dismissed the review pleas filed by the three other convicts — Mukesh (30), Pawan Gupta (23) and Vinay Sharma (24) — in the case, saying no grounds have been made out by them for review of the 2017 verdict.

# Six States didn't use Nirbhaya fund at all: Govt data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Nirbhaya fund — set up by the Centre in 2013 to be used towards ensuring women's safety — has seen a dismal nine per cent utilisation with States such as Maharashtra and Meghalaya not spending a single rupee from it, according to Government data.

In total, just ₹147 crore out of ₹1,649 crore sanctioned by the Centre has been spent by the State and Union Territories (UTs) Governments, Parliament was recently informed by Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani.

Uttar Pradesh and Telangana, the two States which were in the news recently for horrific incidents of rape and murder, were among the highest recipients of the Nirbhaya fund alongside

Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Delhi.

While Karnataka used 7 per cent of the fund allocated to it by the Centre (the fund allocated to Karnataka was ₹191 crore and utilisation ₹13.62 crore), Tamil Nadu used 3 per cent of the amount allocated to it under the Nirbhaya fund (the fund allocated was ₹190.68 crore and utilisation ₹6 crore).

Six States and UTs — Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura and Daman & Diu — have not spent a single rupee from the fund allocated by the Centre, according to data shared by the Minister in Parliament in response to a question.

The data also showed that Delhi, where the brutal incident took place, saw utilisation of less than 5 per cent of the fund allocated to it.

# Rahul should give up name of Gandhi: Patra

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the light of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's public proclamation that he is a Gandhi and not Savarkar to apologise for his "rape-in-India" comment at a public rally in Jharkhand.

Rahul had made the comment saying the Modi Government's "Make-in-India" has rather turned into "rape-in-India", indicating spate of rape cases in the country. A furious BJP had sought an apology from Rahul with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Lok Sabha saying the comment was unbecoming of a member of Parliament.

An unapologetic Rahul responded saying he has not done anything wrong and blamed the BJP Government for not protecting women and ruining country's economy.

In a counter attack, BJP has now accused Rahul of hiding behind his surname Gandhi and seeking to attack a patriot like Savarkar and demanded that he gave up his surname that the family has 'stolen'.

Gandhi and not a 'savarkar' to apologise and would rather "die" than seeking forgiveness. Congress leader had earlier come under the BJP's attack for his "rape-in-India" comment at a public rally in Jharkhand.

Rahul had made the comment saying the Modi Government's "Make-in-India" has rather turned into "rape-in-India", indicating spate of rape cases in the country. A furious BJP had sought an apology from Rahul with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Lok Sabha saying the comment was unbecoming of a member of Parliament.

An unapologetic Rahul responded saying he has not done anything wrong and blamed the BJP Government for not protecting women and ruining country's economy.

In a counter attack, BJP has now accused Rahul of hiding behind his surname Gandhi and seeking to attack a patriot like Savarkar and demanded that he gave up his surname that the family has 'stolen'.

# Home Min rejects move to give legal protection to docs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry does not seem to be appreciative of the Union Health Ministry's move to give legal protection to the practitioners of one specific profession i.e. doctors.

Sources said the Home Ministry has stalled draft central legislation, seeking to penalise those assaulting doctors and other healthcare professionals with imprisonment of up to 10 years and fine of ₹2-10L.

The proposed Bill, the Healthcare Service Personnel and Clinical Establishments (Prohibition of Violence and Damage to Property) Bill, 2019, prepared at the behest of Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, was set to go to the Union Cabinet soon but the Home Ministry has rejected it saying that no central legislation can be brought to protect the practitioners of one specific profession

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- Bill had been prepared in the wake of growing number of attacks on doctors in hospitals

Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, was set to go to the Union Cabinet soon but the Home Ministry has rejected it saying that no central legislation can be brought to protect the practitioners of one specific profession.

Bill had been prepared in the wake of growing number of

attacks on doctors in hospitals and the immediate trigger for the drafting the legislation was brutal assault on junior doctors in West Bengal in June this year, which led to nationwide protests by medical professionals.

"The Union Law Ministry had already given a go-ahead to the draft Bill. But now the

MHA has red-signalled it and we will be forced to junk it," said a senior official in the Health Ministry.

Sources in the Ministry also said that Vardhan was very keen on getting the Bill through and it was due to his intervention that it had got drafted within two months after holding inter-ministerial consultations and taking representations from doctors' bodies. The Ministry had hoped that it would serve as a deterrent to family members of patients assaulting medical staff and doctors on duty.

"It was put out in the public domain for feedback only after we received the Law Ministry's approval. Hence, even we are surprised at the

strong objections by the MHA," another official said.

Apart from proposing strict legal provisions against the grievous attack on doctors, the draft Bill had also said that those resorting to violence or causing damage to the property of a healthcare facility can be imprisoned for six months to five years and fined between ₹50,000 and ₹5 lakh.

Healthcare professionals would have included doctors and para-medical staff, as well as medical students, diagnostic service providers in a health facility and ambulance drivers. The Indian Medical Association, the largest organisation of private doctors in the country had been staunchly pushing the Bill.



Commissioner Santosh Kumar Mall and other senior officials were present at the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) foundation day celebration at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Sunday. Pioneer photo

# Deficiency of iron in early stages of pregnancy leads to anaemia

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Women considering becoming pregnant or who are within the early weeks of pregnancy, need to ensure that they have enough iron-rich food to prevent anaemia. For, early anaemic pregnant stage may leave their offspring afflicted with intellectually disability (ID), autism spectrum disability (ASD) or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), according to a study published in international journal, JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association) Psychiatry.

However, women diagnosed with anaemia later in pregnancy did not have the same risk, said the study which holds importance in the

context of India too which is home to 50 per cent anemic pregnant women. Iron is a mineral that plays a key role in the making of red blood cells, which carry oxygen.

The Indian Government has mandated consumption of iron-folic acid tablets for 100 days during pregnancy, but only 30 per cent, or three in every ten, pregnant Indian women consume iron-folic acid (IFA) tablets for at least 100 days (NFHS-4), as per the latest Government survey. Anaemia in pregnancy is defined as a hemoglobin concentration of less than 110 g/L (less than 11 g/dL) in venous blood.

The large population-based study (nearly 300,000 mothers of more than 500,000 children



born in Sweden between 1987 and 2010) published in the JAMA journal showed that the risk of ASD and ADHD in children whose mothers had anaemia in early pregnancy was 44 per cent and 37 per cent higher, respectively, compared

with those children born to mothers without early prenatal anaemia.

The risk of intellectual disability was highest, at 120 per cent. However, interestingly, said researchers, anaemia diagnosed after the 30 weeks' gesta-

tion was not associated with an increased risk for any of the neurological development issues. It is believed iron may play an important role in the development of a foetus's brain, particularly in a 'critical window' before 30 weeks, the scientists said.

"It is part of standard antenatal care to screen pregnant women for low hemoglobin levels, and this is important to continue," senior author of the study Renee Gardner, PhD, of Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, said.

Among the women, 5.8 per cent were diagnosed with anaemia during pregnancy; of these diagnoses, 5 per cent occurred before 30 weeks' gestation, while 90.9 per cent occurred after 30 weeks' gesta-

tion. However, experts caution that while prenatal iron supplements might offset the risk of conditions associated with anaemia, too much iron intake can be toxic.

In India, the prevalence of anaemia in pregnancy is among the highest in the world. The study published in the JAMA journal may not be directly linked with India's status on number of intellectually/neurologically disabled children but definitely indicate the reason that why nearly 1 in 8 children in our country has at least one neurodevelopmental condition.

The actual number may be higher, given that families do not report the cases in view of stigma associated with the condition. The Indian Government has launched Anemia Muk

## PREVENT ANAEMIA

- Rich sources of iron include heme iron (in meat, poultry, fish and egg yolk), dry fruits, dark green leafy vegetables (spinach, beans, legumes, lentils) and iron fortified cereals
- Using cast iron utensils for cooking and taking iron with vitamin C (orange juice) can improve its intake and absorption
- Certain foods which may inhibit iron absorption should not be taken with iron rich foods. These include polyphenols (in certain vegetables, coffee), tannins (in tea), phytates (in bran) and calcium (in dairy products)

Bharat (AMB) Strategy under POSHAN Abhiyaan with the aim to reduce anaemia prevalence by three percentage points every year till 2022.

Ajay Khara, Deputy Commissioner for Child Health and Immunisation under the Union Health Ministry said that the most

important of these is making available the IFA supplementation across the states. While earlier programmes existed for 30 years, the reduction of anaemia has been just 1 percentage point per year, because the coverage of the supplements was about 20 per cent, he said.

# CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT

## TMC takes out rallies in protest

Mamata to hit streets today

**Kolkata:** The ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal took out rallies across the State on Sunday, protesting against the amended Citizenship Act.

Several senior party leaders, including ministers, led rallies in various districts and also appealed to the people to maintain peace and refrain from indulging in violence.

Carrying posters and placards, TMC members shouted slogans against the Modi Government and demanded that the new citizenship law be immediately scrapped. "We want this divisive Citizenship Act to be immediately scrapped. Our State Government has already said that it will not be implemented in Bengal, so we appeal to the people not to take law into their



hands, and protest peacefully," senior TMC leader and education minister Partha Chatterjee said. TMC supremo and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will hit the streets from Monday in protest the law. For three consecutive days, Banerjee who has been at the forefront in opposing the law, will criss-cross the city in protest. **PTI**

## AASU hints at launching political party in Assam

PNS ■ GUWAHATI

The All Assam Students' Union (AASU), which has been protesting the amended Citizenship Act, on Sunday hinted at launching a political party along with 'Silpi Samaj' (artists' forum) as an alternative to the ruling BJP and AGP as well as to Opposition Congress. AASU president Dipanka Nath, addressing a protest meet 'Concert for Peace and Harmony', supported popular actor Zubeen Garg's proposal of launching a political party.

"We are in talks with Silpi Samaj (artists' forum) and also discussing with people of Assam to think about an alternative. With your (people's) permission, we will not hesitate one bit to go in that direction (of launching a political party).

"The AASU will remain apolitical. But, in the interest of the people, along with Silpi Samaj we are ready to go in that direction," Nath said to loud cheers from thousands of people at the event. Nath thanked the Centre decided to implement the amended Citizenship Act to render the culture, language and heritage of the indigenous people "extinct". "Our agitation against the Act will be



long. Each one of us has to carry on our fight peacefully," he said.

Claiming that five persons have so far been killed in police firing, the AASU president accused the Sarbananda Sonowal-led Government of using the state machinery to dominate the protesters.

"They have unleashed their oppressive machinery on people killing five minor students and injuring many others with bullets... This Government will be brought down.

"No Government can suppress our struggle with killings and force. We will intensify our democratic movement through non-violent means," Nath said. The AASU president accused AGP of "betraying" the people of the state and said the Congress was also "equally bad".



Protesters hold placards against Citizenship Amendment Act, in Ahmedabad on Sunday

PTI



Rashtriya Janata Dal activists stage a protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act, in Patna on Sunday

PTI

## Woman found dead in WB, family claims she killed self because of fear of NRC

**Bardhaman (WB):** A 36-year-old woman was found dead in West Bengal's Purba Bardhaman district, police said on Sunday, with her family claiming that scared of the proposed country-wide NRC she committed suicide.

Shipra Sikder was found hanging with a muffler wrapped around her neck at her house in Jaugram area's Teli village under Jamalpur police station limits on Saturday, police said.

She was taken to the Jamalpur government hospital where doctors declared her brought dead, they said. Locals said Shipra's husband, Shubhash Shikder, was a van driver and they have a son and a daughter. The woman had to depend on her income from the MGNREGA scheme to run her household.

Shipra's brother-in-law Bipul Sikder said she was tensed and scared ever since the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was cleared by

Parliament.

Though her son, 19, had Aadhaar card but he didn't have a birth certificate and voter ID, due to which Shipra was scared that her son might be "thrown" out of the country, claimed Bipul.

"She went to the BDO office several times to get documents for her son. But she couldn't manage to get those. She killed herself because of the NRC," he said.

An officer of the Jamalpur police station said they suspect it to be suicide, however, a case of unnatural death has been registered.

The body has been sent for postmortem examination, he said, adding that the family's claims are being investigated.

Jamalpur panchayat samiti president Mehmood Khan said that he has heard that Shipra's son didn't have the documents and she killed herself as she was scared that her son will be ousted. **PTI**

## Anti-CAA agitators: We are protesting as Assamese, not as Hindu or Muslim

**Guwahati:** They come from myriad backgrounds and faiths but at the protest venues in the city and several parts of the State, they all unite against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act as they believe it's an "assault" on Assamese culture and identity.

Forty-eight-year-old Guwahati resident Upendrajit Kalita says he felt a "sense of betrayal" the day Parliament passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, alleging that the legislation goes "against the Assam Accord" which was signed to protect the interest of the native Assamese people.

Kalita, who works in an advertisement agency, had participated in the historic six-year-long Assam Movement led by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) that had culminated in the signing of the Assam Accord in 1985. **PTI**

The massive protests across the state against the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), now an Act, are currently also led by the AASU, which has asserted that it will be unrelenting in its battle. From Guwahati, the nerve-centre of the protests, to Jorhat, and from Dibrugarh to Sivasagar, protesters have virtually brought the state to a standstill, demanding that "the CAA must go", otherwise the agitation will be stepped up.

"One of the clauses of the Accord mandated detection and deportation of all illegal migrants without discriminating on the basis of religion and the all-accepted cut-off year of 1971. Clause 6 of it was to give constitutional protection to original citizens of Assam," Kalita said, and alleged the CAA "goes against all of that". **PTI**

## Yogi seeks people's support for nationwide NRC, terms it as tribute to Iron Man

**Lucknow:** Amid fears in a section of population against the likely creation of a countrywide National Register of Citizens, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday sought people's support to the move terming it a "true tribute" to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Speaking at a function here to mark the death anniversary of the first Union Home Minister, Adityanath said, "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel checked divisive policies of the British."

"Through his efforts, he foiled evil intentions of anti-India elements, who had a mindset of dividing the country, and included the country's 563 princely states into the Republic of India, contributing to the creation 'Ek Bharat,

Shreshtha Bharat,'" he said. "The entire country should be united on the NRC and this will be a true tribute to Iron Man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

"Sardar Patel will be remembered for decades for being the symbol of India's unity, besides as a great freedom fighter," the Chief Minister added. Bowing to a Sardar Patel's portrait on the stage, the chief minister said, "We are trying our best to make India of our dreams by following your ideals."

Adityanath said the Centre has been successful in bringing Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh under Indian legislation, following the ideals of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' by Sardar Patel. **PTI**

## Kashmiri pandit group hails CAA, says entire nation 'stands with PM'

**Jammu:** Panun Kashmir, an organisation of Kashmiri migrant pandits, on Sunday welcomed the passing of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in both houses of parliament and said that the "entire nation stands wholeheartedly with Prime Minister Narendra Modi".

"The passing of CAB by parliament is a resolve to ensure complete politico-cultural decolonisation of India. Decolonising Indian mind is a critical necessity for national integration," Convener of Panun Kashmir, Agnishekhar, told reporters here.

Agnishekhar, who was flanked by several other leaders of the group including its chairman Ajay Chrungeo, said the decision to grant citizenship to persecuted Hindus of Pakistan, Bangladesh

and Afghanistan is a monumental decision of Modi Government to address the mutilations inflicted on Hindus during the colonial enslavement.

He alleged that the state of India since independence chose to remain a mute bystander to the genocidal attrition unleashed on Hindus left behind in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

"State of India for long had been functioning as a neutral or hostile entity towards the historical and civilisational responsibilities of the Nation of India. Congress regimes had converted state of India into an instrument to wage war on the historical and civilisational identity of the Nation of India," Agnishekhar said. **PTI**



Muslim community members protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act at Indira Park in Hyderabad on Sunday

PTI



Protesters gather for a concert organised by All Artists of Assam against Citizenship Amendment Act, at AEI playground in Guwahati on Sunday

PTI

## Act against Savarkar views, says Uddhav



**Nagpur:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday said the new citizenship law is against the views of Hindutva icon V D Savarkar.

Addressing a press conference on the eve of the winter session of the State legislature, Thackeray said that issues like CAB were being raised to "divert attention" of people from real issues like security of women, unemployment and farm crisis.

"Is CAB based on ideology? What about violence which erupted over it?, he asked. **PTI**

## Those opposing CAA should not jump the gun: Kerala Gov

**Kochi:** Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan on Sunday urged those opposing the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) "not to jump the gun" and let the things settle down.

He said this in response to a question from reporters here on the statement by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan that the CAA will not be implemented in the State.

He expressed the hope that elected Governments would fulfill their constitutional duties.

The Governor said he was certain that if there was an issue, in a democratic society, elected Governments — both at the Centre and State — would rise to the occasion and fulfill their Constitutional duties.

"I don't know what he has said. I don't like to comment on that. In our Constitution this

has been very clearly specified....

These are the subjects where the Central Government will have the exclusive jurisdiction and these are the subjects where the State Government will have the exclusive jurisdiction....

Sometimes there may be misunderstandings. We should not jump the gun. Let things settle down," he said.

He said in a democracy, even if there are some misgivings about something, the state government, under the Constitution, can take its time to consider the issues and then come to a decision.

Vijayan had lashed out at the BJP-led Government and said the "unconstitutional Bill" will have no place in Kerala and the State would not implement it. **PTI**

Justifying the the central Government's decision to enact the law, the Governor said life of the people belonging to the smaller denominations "in the neighbouring country" has become difficult.

"From 17 per cent, they came down to 1.3 per cent. Now this is a human tragedy, human problem. How to do it? I am not saying that everything is honky dory. But this is a problem, which is there before you. How to deal with it?", said. He said the controversies created for political reasons would soon settle down.

"Nobody should have any fear that any Indian will be subjected to any harassment or any difficulties. Nobody should have that fear. These controversies which are created for political reasons, they last a few days", Khan said. **PTI**

# Class 10 student raped in UP's Mau, 6 booked

**Mau:** Six youths were booked in connection with an alleged gang rape of a Class 10 student, officials said on Sunday.

According to Mau SP Anurag Arya, the prime accused, along with two others, have been detained for questioning, while efforts are on to nab the rest of the youths.

Arya said, "The incident took place in the Madhuban police station area of the district on Friday, when a student of Class 10 left her house around 9 am, but did not return till late in the evening."

"Around 10 pm, family members of the girl received a call that she was raped by six youths and they fled leaving her behind," he added.

The family members of the girl reached the spot and brought her back home. "When the girl regained her con-



scious, she narrated her trauma. Subsequently, she was admitted to a private hospital. On Saturday, a complaint was lodged against the six youths, including four named. A case has been registered against them under the IPC and the POCSO Act," the SP said. **PTI**

# Man held for raping, setting ablaze 18-yr-old woman in UP's Fatehpur

**Banda (UP):** A man was arrested for allegedly raping and setting ablaze an 18-year-old woman in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur city, police said on Sunday.

According to doctors, the woman sustained over 90 per cent burn injuries and her condition was critical.

An FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by the woman's family, and the accused was arrested for rape and attempt to murder, Fatehpur SP Prashant Verma said.

Additional Director General of Police (Allahabad zone) Sujat Pandey said it was the woman who allegedly set herself ablaze when a 'panchayat' did not approve of her relationship with a distant relative.

When the matter of her relationship with the distant relative came to light, a panchayat was held in her village during which the woman and the man were made to take a pledge that they would live separately and not meet each other, the police officer said. Upset over the panchayat's deci-



sion, the woman rushed to her house and allegedly set herself ablaze, he said.

District Magistrate Sanjeev Singh said that upon noticing smoke, villagers rescued the woman and took her to a local community health centre. Police said they are probing this aspect too.

Superintendent of Kanpur's Hallet Hospital RK Maurya said, "The condition of the 18-year-old woman from Fatehpur is extremely critical. She sustained over 90 per cent burn injuries. Only her feet were not burnt."

Party in Uttar Pradesh Aradhana Mishra and former Union Minister Rajeev Shukla visited Hallet hospital in Kanpur, and enquired her well bring from her family members.

"On one hand, the BJP raises the slogan of 'Beti Bachhao, Beti Padhao', and on the other hand, it is under the BJP Government that maximum exploitation happens to women. If strict action is not initiated against the criminals, then such incidents cannot be stopped," Mishra said.

She also demanded that the family of the woman be given ₹ 50 lakh as financial assistance, provided medical treatment free of cost, and security to her family.

On December 5, a rape survivor from Unnao was set ablaze by five people, including two accused of raping her. They were arrested the same day. The woman later died during treatment in a Delhi hospital. **PTI**

# Govt should impart moral education to curb rape: Maurya

**Ballia:** Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya has said lack of good values is the reason for rising incidents of rape in the country and the Government should impart moral education to curb such crimes.



"Such incidents taking place in the country are extremely unfortunate. Among other reasons, the lack of good values is a major reason for this," Maurya said while referring to the Unnao rape case.

"The lack of good values in society can be addressed through moral education, among other mediums," he told reporters on the sidelines

of a programme of the BJP's student wing Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) here.

On the statement of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi that democracy and the Constitution are in danger in the country, Maurya said, "It is not democracy and Constitution, but the existence of the Congress which is in danger." **PTI**

# In blood-written letter, shooter writes to Centre to let her hang Nirbhaya convicts

**Lucknow:** Shooter Vartika Singh on Sunday wrote a letter in blood requesting the Centre to let her hang the rapists convicted in the Nirbhaya rape and murder case, a day before the victim's seventh death anniversary. In the letter, she has sought permission from Union Home Minister Amit Shah to execute the rapists.

Speaking to reporters here, Singh said, "I have a letter in my hand that is written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah. I have written it with my blood. I have written that I should be allowed to execute the convicts in the Nirbhaya case. This will reinforce the concept that women are viewed as goddesses in India."

"This message should go to the entire world. The rapists should know that in India, a woman can execute them. I have sent the letter through registered post and also tweeted it," she added.

The shooter urged all women soldiers, actresses, public representatives and organisa-

tions to lend their support for her.

She hoped there would be a transformation in the country with a "different kind of society" where women need not live in an atmosphere of fear.

Meanwhile, Tihar jail authorities in Delhi said they have been receiving requests from several people who are ready to volunteer as hangman.

Earlier in the week, S Subash Srinivasan, a head constable from Tamil Nadu's Ramanathapuram district, wrote to the Director-General of Tihar jail stating his willingness to serve as an executioner.

The hangman at the Meerut prison has also indicated that he is ready to carry out the execution of the convicts. Pawan Jallad, a third-generation hangman, said his grandfather had carried out the hanging of the two men involved in the assassination of then prime minister Indira Gandhi besides notorious criminals Ranga and Billa. **PTI**

# Ensure justice delivery without delays in rape cases: Naidu to judiciary

**Gandhinagar:** Underlining the need to curb the crime of rape with speedy investigation by police, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday said it's the duty of judiciary to ensure that justice is delivered without "constant delays" though there cannot be "instant justice".

He also said that the crime of rape should be curbed without any discrimination or giving it a political hue.

The vice president's comments came on the eve of the 7th anniversary of the December 16, 2012 Nirbhaya gang-rape case that shook the nation, though he didn't mention the incident in his speech.

Recently, Union Home Ministry had sent to President Ram Nath Kovind the recommendation of the Delhi

Government rejecting the mercy plea of one of the convicts in the gang-rape case.

Naidu was speaking at a ceremony where he awarded President's Colour and Standard, including special flag and emblem, to the Gujarat Police, at the State Police Academy in Karai village in Gandhinagar district of Gujarat.

The Gujarat Police became the seventh such police force to be conferred with the symbol of excellence and pride.

"The rise in the number of crimes against women and children, especially heinous crimes, troubles me deeply. We have been hearing incidents here and there across the country."

"I want political leadership of the country not to politicise



complete investigation at the earliest and start prosecution at the earliest," the vice president said.

Appealing to judiciary, Naidu said judicial enquiry should be concluded at the earliest and punishment be handed to culprits at the earliest so as to "curb" such criminal tendency.

The country had witnessed a huge outrage with the recent incidents of rapes and murders in Hyderabad and Unnao.

He said while police should do speedy investigation and file a chargesheet at the earliest in such crimes, judiciary should ensure that there are no "con-

stant delays". "There is a duty cast upon the judiciary as well. You cannot do instant justice, but you can't have constant delays. This has to be understood by one and all," he said.

Recently, Telangana Police had killed four suspects arrested for the rape and murder of a Hyderabad-based veterinarian in an alleged encounter. After the 'encounter', Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad Bobde had said that justice can never be instant and it "loses its character as justice" if it becomes revenge.

Stating that 2013 Justice Verma Committee report on crimes against women be implemented "in the letter and spirit", the vice president said, "We simply cannot let the situation to continue." **PTI**



Tribals perform during Tata Steel 25K run, in Kolkata on Sunday

# Will sidelined leader Eknath Khadse quit BJP? Leader's recent cryptic comment sparks speculation

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra's sidelined BJP leader Eknath Khadse's recent cryptic comment that there is no guarantee that he may continue to remain in the party has sparked speculation in the State political circles that he might quit the Amit Shah-led party during the next fortnight.

Informed sources said here on Sunday that Khadse might announce his resignation from the BJP either during the Winter Session of the Maharashtra Legislature beginning on Monday or when Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray visits Aurangabad to lay foundation stone for the construction for a memorial of late BJP leader Gopinath Munde in the near future.

Sources said that Khadse — who had met NCP president Sharad Pawar in the national capital on December 9 and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on the following day in Mumbai — was toying with the idea of joining the Shiv Sena.

Speaking at public rally organised by BJP leader Pankaja Munde at Panli on the occasion of the 70th birth

anniversary of her father and senior party leader Gopinath Munde on Friday, Khadse had made no bones about admitting the manner in which he was side-lined within the party and that he had created such a situation where he would have to decide on continue to remain in the party in such a troubled atmosphere or quit the party.

"While Pankaja will remain in the BJP, there is no guarantee about me," Khadse had said.

Singled out former Chief Minister Devendra Fandav for a vicious attack, Khadse had charged that Fandavis "ungrateful" towards late Munde. "Gopinathrao did not stab anyone in the back. It was Gopinathrao who made Fandavis the State party president. When I was the Minister in the BJP-led Government, I had allotted the land for constructing a memorial after Gopinathrao. But, Fandavis completed one full term as the Chief Minister and came back briefly as the Chief Minister."

"Nothing happened during Fandavis' five year-term. It was only when Fandavis remained as the Chief Minister for 80 hours during his sec-

ond term that he issued work orders for the start of the construction of a Gopinath Memorial at Aurangabad," Khadse said, adding that if Fandavis so chose, he could have constructed the memorial for late Munde during the first tenure as the Chief Minister.

Khadse revealed that when he met Maharashtra's new Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, latter readily agreed to allocate money for the construction of a memorial for late Gopinath Munde at Aurangabad. "When I met him recently and broached the issue of the memorial for late Munde, Uddhav readily agreed to allocate money for the memorial. He also told me that he wanted to the location in Aurangabad where late Munde's memorial is to be constructed," he said.

With the possibility of Khadse quitting the BJP looming large over the state political arena, spotlight will turn on him during the course of the winter session of the Maharashtra Legislature. This is despite the fact the Khadse, who was denied party ticket by the BJP contest the State Assembly elections, is not member of both the Houses of the State Legislature.

# DIG killed in mishap on Jammu-Srinagar NH

PNS ■ JAMMU

A DIG rank officer of Central Reserve Police Force, currently posted in Srinagar, was killed along with his driver while his personnel security officer (PSO) received critical injuries when their vehicle was hit by a boulder near Digidol in Ramban district around 8.00 p.m. on Sunday.

According to CRPF authorities in Jammu, "the DIG rank officer, Shailendra Kumar, holding the charge of DIG, North (Srinagar) was travelling in a Scorpio vehicle along with his driver and PSO when their vehicle was hit by a large boulder near Digidol on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway around 8.00 p.m."

"Both DIG and his driver died on the spot while critically injured PSO was rushed to the nearby hospital", police said.

Local police authorities along with rescue workers immediately rushed to the spot to shift the injured to the hospital. The rescue workers struggled hard to retrieve the injured PSO from the mangled remains of the vehicle while dead bodies of DIG and the driver were shifted to the local hospital.

Traffic on the Jammu Srinagar National Highway earlier remained suspended due to inclement weather conditions and fresh spell of snowfall for last three days.

## WINTER SESSION

# MVA Govt to corner BJP over State's debts, farm loan waiver

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government will go all out to put the Opposition BJP on the defensive in the Winter Session of the Maharashtra Legislature beginning in Nagpur on Monday, by trying to corner former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis among other things over the piled up the State's debts amounting to a staggering ₹ 6.71 lakh crore and his failure to implement properly the farm loan waiver scheme.

The Sena-NCP-Congress Government will also try to embarrass Fadnavis, who is now the leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly, by raking up the issue of questionable decision of invoking the controversial provision in the schedule of rates for irrigation projects to regularise payments for additional works worth several hundred crores of rupees, taken by him days ahead the State Assembly polls.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has already stayed Fadnavis' decision. The treasury benches will in all likelihood go for

the jugular against Fadnavis, alleging irregularities in the decision taken by the former Chief Minister.

The two major developments that can be expected during the week-long budget session of the State Legislature are: the tabling of a white paper on the State's current fiscal position and unveiling of a relief package for the unseasonal rain-hit farmers in the State.

Through the white paper on the current fiscal position of the state, the ruling MVA will attempt to put the previous Devendra Fadnavis Government over the "mishandling" of the State's finances. It may also speak about stalling of certain development projects, including the construction of a car shed for Metro phase-III at Aarey Colony in south Mumbai and bullet train project.

The ruling front leaders will also try to needle Fadnavis over BJP MP from Karnataka Ananta Kumar Hegde's claim that during his 80 hour-tenure as Chief Minister of Maharashtra the former "moved back ₹ 40,000 crore" to the Centre. Fadnavis will have to face the music despite the fact that he has

already denied the allegation and hit back at party colleague Hegde for making "false" and "baseless" claims when the fact remained that "the state did not return even one naya paisa to the Centre".

The treasury benches will also try to exploit the statements by disgruntled BJP leader Eknath Khandse and upset Pankaja Munde and delay on the part of the previous Devendra Fadnavis Government to construct a memorial for Gopinathrao Munde at Aurangabad, to project the BJP in a poor light.

In the brief session, there will be no customary question hour. There will be debates on Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's address to joint session of the two houses of State Legislature delivered in Mumbai on December 1, supplementary demands of the budget, official and unofficial bills and passing of a resolution congratulating Sharad Arvind Bobde, who hails from Nagpur, on his appointment as the Chief Justice of India.

On its part, the Opposition BJP will try to drive a wedge between

the ruling Shiv Sena and Congress over the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 in Maharashtra. While the Congress has opposed the CAA, the NCP is seeking consensus over the CAA implementation. The Shiv Sena, which had supported the Citizens Amendment Bill (CAB) in the Lok Sabha and staged a walk out in Rajya Sabha before the bill was put to vote in Rajya Sabha, has not made it stand clear on the CAA.

The BJP has already laid bare its game plan to corner the Shiv Sena over CAA issue. Advising its erstwhile ally Shiv Sena to go ahead and implement Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 in Maharashtra, the BJP said on Saturday it was ready to make a "political compromise" and support the Sena in the event of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) Government's collapse over the implementation of CAA in the State. Rahul Gandhi's "My name is not Rahul Savarkar, I am Rahul Gandhi" comment has given fodder to the Opposition to target the Shiv Sena.

The BJP will exert pressure on Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to speak his mind on CAA and Rahul's controversial comment. However, Uddhav is unlikely to oblige the Opposition as his statements will have a bearing on the stability of the MVA Government.

The winter session will witness nomination of a new Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Maharashtra Legislative Council in place of NCP leader Dhananjay Munde. With the change in the government in the State, Munde has moved to the ruling side and the LoP's position has fallen vacant.

In the normal course, the then BJP's group leader Chandrakant Patil would have become the LoP in place of Munde in the Upper House. Since Patil was elected to the State Assembly in the recent elections, Patil is no longer a member of the State Legislative Council. There are three contenders for the BJP — Bhai Girkar, Dr Parinay Purke and Pravin Darekar — LoP's post. It remains to be seen as to who — among these three leaders — will become the LoP in the Upper House.

# Speculation rife about creating more Deputy CM posts in Karnataka

**Bengaluru:** As Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa plans expansion of his Ministry, speculations are rife within the state BJP about creating more posts of Deputy Chief Minister or the coveted position being removed altogether, given the growing number of aspirants.

There are already three Deputy Chief Ministers in the Cabinet-Govind Karjol, CN Ashwathnarayan and Laxman Savadi.

Amid speculation that at least two more such posts would be created during the coming cabinet expansion, Savadi on Sunday termed it as a 'creation of the media' and said there was no confusion within BJP on this.

Everyone in the party would abide by the high command's decision on the matter, he said. "There have been no such discussions, its only a creation of the media. On such issues, the party's state and national leadership will decide," he said to a query about the

demand for at least two more Deputy Chief Minister's posts and also talk of such a position being removed all together.

Noting that there have been instances in the past when Deputy Chief Ministers were appointed by the high command, he said "three of us are DCMS now... Whatever the party leadership decides next, we will abide by it."

While there is talk within BJP that newly elected BJP MLA from Gokak, Ramesh Jarkiholi, who was earlier disqualified as Congress legislator for his instrumental role in bringing down the Congress-JD(S) coalition Government, was being considered for the post, health minister Sriramulu is reportedly sulking with his chances looking dim.

Sriramulu, who had earlier openly expressed his desire for the post, has not been attending official engagements for the last few days. **PTI**

## Take the lead

The domino effect of protests over fee hikes and citizenship law shows that a mass student movement may be possible



The protests over the new Citizenship Act, which promises religion-based acceptance of refugees and excludes the concerns of minorities and indigenous people, may congeal as a mass student movement that's rearing its head across the country in a manner reminiscent of the anti-reservation stir of the 90s. As the young Assamese stood up for their linguistic and cultural pride, one that has been threatened since colonial times by waves of privileged Bengali-speaking settlers, their marginalisation has found echoes across

the country. Students at various colleges and universities, even in faraway Delhi, are out to challenge not just the autocracy of the ruling regime but occupy the space for balance, humanism and logic that has been vacated by civil society, Opposition leaders and rationalists. This confluence of students, therefore, comes from generational solidarity, from their stakeholderhood in an India that is being created by selfish politics but will leave them suffering the consequences and unlearning what we have raised them to believe, to hold the establishment to account. Perhaps, it is getting endorsement because of the silence from a coopted majority. For the new Citizenship Act is not about reimagining India in a positive way but about reconstructing on ruins and relics of our civilisational foundations. It is not about denying immigration rights to Muslims but the selective culling of whom we want on our land that goes against the grain of the Constitution, one of the best documents that guarantees our citizenry equality. It is about creating a fear psychosis among the majority community that for the first time believes it has been a victim of parasitic minorities, no matter how small their numbers. It is about a One India based on Hindu nationalism that disregards, as in the North-east, the emotions of locals who have over the years reclaimed their political rights as national parties have merrily played around with demographics, encouraging immigration for votebanks, first Muslim, now Hindus. It is about upending stability that has been hard-earned in a diverse India. In that sense, the BJP has, by fomenting disunity, probably gifted a plank of unity that might just lead to a transformative and revolutionary student movement. If the mass coalescence following the Nirbhaya rape, the Dalit atrocities, the Rohith Vemula suicide and fee hikes at institutions is any indication, then the young are getting restive. If the 90s fed the drive for economic empowerment in a globalised world, then millennials are looking at value-creation of a different kind, one that keeps them connected to their identity that be submerged by the homogeneous hold of power. One that is not intellectual fadism of campus politics but can be carried into the real world, one that is not just anger against the system but about claiming it.

Perhaps this is the reason why students in Assam, unlike the anti-outsider movement of the late 1970s and early 80s, are spontaneously coming together as an amorphous force. They have demonstrated peacefully by and large through blockades, gatherings and processions. It is the police clampdown which has been harsh in comparison, both in the State and even in Delhi. The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) may be leading the protests like the old times but has been joined by university students and even farmers and tribals. And so far they have decided to stay away from politicisation by national parties, be it the BJP or the Congress. Technology and media outreach have helped mobilise support, scale up the new law as a transnational issue and has even inducted peers in the diaspora. Student movements in India today may begin local but then draw traction in the broader context. This is the reason why the JNU fee hike agitation spread to all other institutions and became a swell of anger against fee hike in the higher education system in general. The *Hok Kolorob* movement in Jadavpur University, against the abrasive arrogance of the VC, had a domino effect with demonstrations being staged across India, including Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. But in recent times, it is the Hong Kong students' protest, with human chains, night vigils and Nelson Mandela songs, whose innovation and energy have even compelled a totalitarian China to take a step back. The good part about this non-violent resistance against the regime was that it could not be demonised by the establishment but weaponised the entire world's sympathy. In the same way, the new wave of home-grown student movements could very well capture the national imagination. Once young people have freed themselves from State fear, then we may yet reap a true democratic dividend.

## India calling

A record number of Indian-origin MPs were voted to the UK Parliament but not all might end up being friends of India



Fifteen of the newly-elected Members of Parliament (MPs) in Westminster will have Indian roots. And while 15 out of 650 MPs might not seem like much, this is an assertion of how influential the British Indian community has become. At least two or three MPs of the Conservative Party, which won a stunning victory, are expected to become members of the Cabinet, including Priti Patel and Rishi Sunak, the latter familiar to some Indians as Infosys-founder NR Narayana Murthy's son-in-law. There were several Indian-origin MPs from the

Labour Party as well and their number included Lisa Nandy, who some are pegging as a potential candidate for leading the Labour Party following the planned resignation of the current leader, Jeremy Corbyn. While most Indian-origin MPs of the Conservative Party are generally seen as pro-India — there was a concerted effort within the Indian community to consolidate behind the Conservatives after Corbyn's statements on the Kashmir issue and his previous statements sympathetic to terrorist organisations — it is not as if Labour's Indian origin MPs are anti-India. But given Labour's extreme position on some issues, it is almost certain that its MPs will be critical of the Indian Government's stance on several issues.

This is something that the Modi regime must be prepared for as such MPs, while being the biggest advocacy group for Indian interests, could also end up being the biggest critics of policies back home. The Chennai-born US Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal has been leading attacks in the US Congress against the Modi Government. Several first and second-generation Sikh immigrants in politics, particularly in Canada, have been openly advocating the Khalistani cause. Just because someone holds an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card does not make them a "friend" of India. Our diplomats and policy-makers should never forget this. At the same time, the Modi Government's overt support to certain Indian organisations that are weaponising the Indian diaspora politically is a good move. For example, many of Jayapal's constituents are from the Indian community working in the Greater Seattle area's IT industry, dominated by Amazon and Microsoft. Hundreds of them have written to her criticising her stance on Kashmir, making her realise that she cannot take the community's vote for granted. We should celebrate the success of our diaspora in every field, including politics, but we must not for one second forget that they do not owe their allegiance to India and are not "Indians."

# A broken justice system

Increasingly, rape cases have seen an outpouring of public anger where the demand for death has reached a high pitch. Only reforms in the police and judicial systems can help



KUSHAN MITRA

No matter what problems one may have with fairness of social media platforms like Twitter, posts here do make up for an interesting read and allow one to gauge the mood, if not of the country, definitely of the chattering class. Reactions to the rape and murder of a young veterinary doctor in Hyderabad were telling. Several Twitter users advocated not just death penalty but some even argued that the perpetrators be lynched. This kicked in a fevered discussion and even found its way into the Parliament where several MPs, across party lines, argued in favour of lynching of the rapists. Not a State-sanctioned death penalty but public lynching.

The irony, at a time when people are talking about bringing anti-lynching provisions into the law, was not lost on some. People's anger stemmed, in no small part, due to the fact that December 2019 marks seven years of the horrific gang-rape in South Delhi, where a young physiotherapist was brutally assaulted and left for dead. The perpetrators of this horrific crime, despite being convicted and given the death penalty, have successfully eluded the sentence that was handed down to them. This is death of our conscience by using every available aspect of the law to delay their execution.

But isn't this the right of every prisoner? The ability to use every possible means to prove his innocence or mitigate his sentence or even delay it, particularly when it is a matter of death? The only other major democracy that regularly executes prisoners is the US, which has several provisions in its statute books. Even the Governor of a State can issue a last-minute pardon to prisoners if appeals to the US Supreme Court fail. To deny them that would potentially mean convicting an innocent man or woman to death. In college and school debates, we have held discussions on justice delayed is justice denied but it is almost certain that a rushed judicial process is dangerous. It is gratifying that the Chief Justice of India, Sharad Arvind Bobde, realised this. While commenting on the murders of the four undertrials in the Hyderabad rape and murder case, he said, "Justice should not be revenge. I believe justice loses its character as justice if it becomes revenge."

Those — including not just liberal ideologues in the country but also Right-wing thought leaders — against death penalty have a simple argument. Who is a man to judge a crime? But how do you explain this in the Indian context, because at our core, we remain a deeply tribalistic society where the 18th and 21st centuries have had a troubled relationship. Anyone who has been 50 kilometres outside India's major metropolitan areas, particularly the national Capital, will understand this. When



crimes are committed in such a brutal manner and scale, there is an expectation of punishment matching the act. India is not Norway, where a mass murderer can be allowed to live and also fight the State for human rights. No, we are India, where we have a very specific set of criminal issues. We should not pretend to be a socially developed State. Indeed, it can be argued that India's social problems will likely get worse before they get better and the country will have little choice but to execute certain citizens.

We have to, however, take every single possible precautionary measure to prevent the possibility of an innocent man/woman going to the gallows. We cannot accept even one wrongful death sanctioned by the State. That said, when it is proven beyond any iota of doubt that an accused is guilty of those "rarest of rare" cases, where State-sanction is justified, then the executive and the judiciary both should ensure that the punishment is delivered swiftly. To keep a man or a woman on death row for an indefinite time is technically, cruelty. Of course, one may not sympathise with the murderers but constant appeals bouncing

**“ WE HAVE TO, HOWEVER, TAKE EVERY SINGLE POSSIBLE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE TO PREVENT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INNOCENT MAN/WOMAN GOING TO THE GALLOWES. WE CANNOT ACCEPT EVEN ONE WRONGFUL DEATH SANCTIONED BY THE STATE ”**

around the judiciary and the Union Home Ministry for years is plainly ridiculous. If someone has been sentenced to death for a heinous crime, the death penalty should not be handed out like candy by the lower judiciary. If the sentence has been confirmed by the Supreme Court, the Home Ministry and the President should get on with their jobs.

We have had Presidents who have delayed the signing of death warrants because it went against their conscience. Fair enough, but Presidents should come out and be vocal about it instead of delaying matters until the next head of the State assumes power.

This is a peculiar Indian issue — putting off tough decisions instead of acting on them. It took a century to bring natural justice to the Ayodhya case. On top of that, the fate of the Delhi rapists is still hanging in the air. This is one major reason why there is so much pendency in courts. Forget about the failure of the bureaucracy and the executive to take decisions. Of course, there are other reasons, too, such as delay in filling judicial vacancies, which coupled with the lack of education and knowledge across the board,

including that of the legal profession, has completely broken the criminal justice system in the country.

So when incidents like the Hyderabad rape case happen, there is public anger. The same sentiments run across among the local population when alleged child snatchers or cattle hustlers are lynched. We know how people get worked up over vigilantism.

Our justice system has failed us completely and needs to be revamped with meaningful implementation of processes. Increasingly, people have started taking matters into their own hands. If this isn't a sign of a banana republic, no one really knows what is. It is, therefore, imperative for the executive and the judiciary to work towards fixing this. While policing is a State subject, there needs to be a comprehensive federal re-evaluation of policing and the judiciary, just like the indirect taxation system was overhauled to the Goods and Services Tax system. But we cannot afford to bungle anymore. India needs police and judicial reforms now in sync with the severity of the emerging crime graph.

(The writer is Managing Editor, The Pioneer)

## SOUND BITE

BJP asked me to apologise for telling the truth. I am not Rahul Savarkar. I am Rahul Gandhi. I will not apologise. Nor will anyone from the Congress.



Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi

The big films that I've done and their success gave me the courage to do smaller films and take it all upon my shoulders.



Actor —Sonakshi Sinha

One of India's great strengths is its Constitution. As a fellow democracy, we respect India's institutions, but are concerned about the implications of the CAB Bill.



US diplomat —Sam Brownback

Clearly, this is not an ordinary slowdown. It is India's great slowdown, where the economy seems headed for the intensive care unit.



Former Chief Economic Advisor —Arvind Subramanian

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Assam's anxiety

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Spent force" (December 13). The hard-earned peace in Assam is now on a knife's edge with continuous violent protests in several parts of the State following the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, which seeks to grant citizenship to non-Muslim migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The passage of the CAA is an act of betrayal by the BJP, which had promised to solve the vexed foreigners' issue once and for all in accordance with the 1985 Assam Accord. The pact stipulates that all foreigners, who came to Assam on or after March 25, 1971, shall continue to be detected, deleted from the rolls and expelled in accordance with the law.

Apprehensions and fears of the Assamese were genuine and, hence, the National Register of Citizens (NRC) was necessitated by the Supreme Court. A consensus was arrived at where it was decided that the final NRC list would be a piece of legal document for identification, deletion of names from the voters' list and

### Russia will be missed on the world stage

This refers to the editorial, "Shut out Russia" (December 11). It is unfortunate that Russia has been banned for four years by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) from participating in the world's major sporting events on grounds of doping non-compliance. The WADA took this decision after concluding that Moscow had planted fake evidence and got rid of files linked to positive doping tests in laboratory, data that could have aided the process of identifying drug cheats.

It must be noted that Russia has been embroiled in performance-enhancement drug scandals since a 2015 report commissioned by the WADA found evidence of mass doping among Russian athletes. Many players were sidelined over the past two Olympics and Russia was stripped of its flag altogether at last year's winter games in Pyeongchang as punishment for State-sponsored doping cover-ups at the Sochi games in 2014. One of the conditions for the reinstatement of the Russian anti-doping agency, RUSADA, had been that Moscow would provide an authentic copy of the laboratory data. However, the punishment does still leave the door open for Russian athletes, who are clean, to compete at big international events without their flag for the coming years, something they did at the Pyeongchang Olympics. There have been



protests claiming that the WADA's decision is part of a broader Western attempt to hold Russia back from progressing in the international arena. How will Russia's absence affect the Tokyo Olympics and the World Cup in Qatar? If Russian athletes do not participate in the Olympics, then a lot of the tournament's sheen will disappear. After all, Russia is a sporting power to be reckoned with. The brilliant performances of its athletes often set new global standards in sports.

TK Nandanani Kochi

and resources and lead to conflicts between communities.

Himangka Kaushik  
New Delhi

### Temporary relief

Sir — The trade war between the US and China, which has continued for almost two years now, led to uncertainty in the way global businesses would be conducted going forward.

Investors underwent sleepless nights as they kept navigating through an environment of slowing growth and increasingly volatile markets. While US President Donald Trump slapped punitive tariffs on Chinese imports, China, too, retaliated. As a result, the global economy suffered.

With the US and China now striking a "phase one" deal to de-escalate trade war, the world can genuinely take a breath. While this is just the first step, any sign that the trade war is cooling off needs to be cheered.

Sudhanshu  
Via email

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Preserve nation's genetic wealth

We need to take our animal resources seriously and utilise them efficiently for economic and social uplift in rural areas



VK BAHUGUNA

India is endowed with huge genetic resources and is one of the 17 megadiversity nations of the world. Human-animal interactions date back to early civilisations and are not restricted to economic reasons. They have deeply impacted the cultural, spiritual and religious life of people. These genetic resources have played a critical role in our agrarian economy. In domesticated livestock and birds, the documented breeds are 30 of cattle, 10 of buffalo, 40 of sheep, 20 of goat, 18 of poultry, nine of camel and six of the horse.

World over, scientists have been seeking animal germplasm in their quest to utilise their genome for medicine and food, to feed growing populations and shore up the dwindling genetic base due to deforestation and climate change. There have been cases in India and Nepal when scientists from Western countries on a tourist visa were found trapping beetles.

We need to take our animal resources seriously and utilise them efficiently for economic and social uplift in rural areas. Traditionally, livestock had been the backbone of small farmers for nutrition, farm work as well as other activities. A whopping 21 million people are dependent on livestock for their livelihood and this sector contributes 4.11 per cent to the country's GDP. The share of animal products in agriculture is more than 25 per cent. Though the country is the largest producer of milk in the world, its production from indigenous cows is minimal. The world is tapping the genome of Indian cows for the healthy A2 milk as the A1 milk produced by foreign breeds like Holstein Friesian and Jersey is not very healthy because it contains Beta-Casein which causes hypertension, heart ailments and diabetes.

These foreign breeds are also prone to infections and need big investments for better milk output. In our quest to increase cow milk production in the past, we had indiscriminately used foreign breeds and neglected Indian cows. There was not much emphasis on research targeted at improving milk production from local breeds. However, countries like Brazil, Uruguay and New Zealand realised the genetic potential of Indian cows early on and have now emerged as world leaders in the production of A2 milk. The Giri cow and other Indian breeds in Brazil won the prize for the highest milk production in a 2014 contest. This germplasm was supplied by India to Brazil during the early and middle part of the last century.

Though the Indian Government has now taken steps for promotion indigenous cow breeds, the attempts are half-hearted at best and lack focus on integrated planning for the future. The Department of Animal Husbandry must focus on converting hybrid cows into fully domestic breeds in the next 15 years. India should initiate bilateral arrangements with Brazil and other countries to get the superior high-yielding Indian cow gene pool back to improve the productivity of bovines back home. Similarly, we should have a breeding programme with South Asian countries which are home to Indian breeds. For instance, both Pakistan and India have breeding tracks for Red Sindhi, Sahiwal and Tharparkar cows and joint programmes can be launched for enhancing milk production from these breeds and their conservation. This programme should be launched for buffaloes simultaneously as they also produce A2 milk.

Thankfully, now in India, people are working towards making world-class products from cow dung and urine and exporting them. There is also a foundation that is proving that cows can be economically reared for their entire life and is working with more than 75,000 Indian cows in 25 shelters. It offered help to Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand but is yet to get a response from the States.

There should be a plan for economic utilisation of cows when they become unfit to yield milk. At present they are let loose and stray cattle foraging on the streets and blocking traffic are a menace apart from being a big problem for Government agencies. It is well-known that the desi cow's urine and dung have great cultural, economic and medicinal value. This has been proved by several scientific studies. The Animal Welfare Board and the Kamdhenu Commission should be assigned the task of preparing projects for this, so that cows are treated well once their productive years are over. An integrated farmer-centric decentralised programme must be initiated for all other animals like horses, ducks, camels, donkeys, goats, sheep, pigs, quail and so on, with the sole aim to energise the earning potential of farmers. This will require sufficient funds, manpower and technological upgradation through research.

Stray dogs are yet another neglected species in the country. With people preferring foreign breeds, the local dogs are left to roam the streets and scavenge. There should be a complete ban on breeding pedigreed dogs and people should be encouraged to adopt strays. The management of animal wealth should get top priority if we have to bring prosperity in rural and tribal areas.

(The writer is a former civil servant)

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**

**MY NAME IS RAHUL GANDHI, NOT RAHUL SAVARKAR. I WILL NEVER APOLOGISE FOR SPEAKING THE TRUTH. BUT MODI MUST APOLOGISE FOR RUINING ECONOMY.**

—CONGRESS LEADER  
**RAHUL GANDHI**



**VIR SAVARKAR WAS A REAL PATRIOT. NO ONE BECOMES GANDHI AND A PATRIOT BY MERELY ADOPTING A SURNAME.**

—UNION MINISTER  
**GIRIRAJ SINGH**

# India's beti not nirbhaya

The overall utilisation of Nirbhaya Funds allocated to States till date is just 11 per cent, which is only ₹252 cr of the ₹2,264 cr sanctioned for ensuring the safety of women



RAKESH SENGER

Seven years ago today, the country witnessed an act of monstrosity, when a 23-year-old woman was gang-raped, had a rod inserted in her private parts and was left to die on the roadside in Delhi. Despite battling hard for many days, she couldn't survive, and, to honour her courage, was named *Nirbhaya* (fearless).

Due to the ghastliness of the crime, the citizens of the country came out on the streets demanding justice for *Nirbhaya* and safety for all women. Candle marches and protests were held all over and many PILs were filed. The protests showed results and the then Government introduced the Nirbhaya Fund in the Budget for the Financial Year 2013-14, for the safety and protection of women.

Circa 2019. It has been seven years but the situation remains unchanged and women continue to be unsafe in public spaces. On November 27, a 27-year-old veterinarian was gang-raped and burnt to death, her charred body recovered the next day. This was followed by reports of a nine-year-old girl being raped and strangled to death in Karnataka, the rape and murder of a six-year-old in Rajasthan, a 37-year-old being gang-raped in Odisha, the Unnao rape victim being burnt to death by the accused out on bail and another girl being threatened with the same fate by her tormentors if she testified against them. These are just a few among many more similar heinous crimes against women reported in recent days in the country. These cases led to another outcry in the nation and once again got everyone thinking about the safety of women in their families.

Questions were once again raised in the Parliament on the utilisation of the Nirbhaya Fund, following which, the Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani, presented data in the Lok Sabha on its use.

The Nirbhaya Fund was created with a corpus of ₹1,000 crore in 2013 and this was increased to ₹3,600 crore in the last six years. Of this, ₹2,264 crore, which is 63 per cent of the corpus, was allocated to various States and Union Territories (UTs), by various departments, including the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Home Affairs, Justice and Road Transport and Highways.

To understand the ways the disbursed money had been used, the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) carried out an analysis of its utilisation by States/UTs. It revealed that despite an increase in crimes against women and children every year, the overall utilisation of Nirbhaya Funds allocated to States/UTs till date was a mere 11 per cent, which is only ₹252 crore of the ₹2,264 crore sanctioned. It was appalling to learn that none of the States/UTs could spend more than 50 per cent of the funds allotted till the financial year 2019. Shockingly, the BJP-ruled Maharashtra had failed to use a single rupee allotted to it, while Tripura and Tamil Nadu had just spent three per cent of the funds. Manipur had spent four per cent and Daman & Diu, West Bengal, Gujarat and Delhi spent five per cent of the total funds allocated to them. Further, out of the 36 States/UTs for which data is available, the utilisation in 18 States/UTs has been less than 15 per cent, which is a testimony of their utter disregard towards women's safe-

“ DESPITE AN INCREASE IN CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN EVERY YEAR, IT WAS APPALLING TO LEARN THAT NONE OF THE STATES/UTS COULD SPEND MORE THAN 50 PER CENT OF THE FUNDS ALLOTTED TILL THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2019. SHOCKINGLY, MAHARASHTRA HAD FAILED TO USE A SINGLE RUPEE ALLOTTED TO IT, WHILE TRIPURA AND TAMIL NADU HAD JUST SPENT THREE PER CENT OF THE FUNDS. MANIPUR HAD SPENT FOUR PER CENT AND DAMAN & DIU, WEST BENGAL, GUJARAT AND DELHI SPENT FIVE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL FUNDS ALLOTTED TO THEM ”



ty. The analysis also revealed that States, including Telangana, Karnataka and Odisha, where the recent cases of crimes against women were reported, have spent only six per cent of the funds allocated to them. In Uttar Pradesh, where the Unnao rape victim was burnt to death, 79 per cent of the funds had remained unspent. The highest utilisation of funds, which was 50 per cent, was done by just two States, Mizoram and Uttarakhand, with just three States, Haryana, Nagaland and Chhattisgarh showing spending of more than 30 per cent of the funds allocated.

The report shows that crimes against women and children have been on a constant rise from 2015 to 2017. The total crimes against women reported in 2015 were 329,243 which increased to 338,954 in 2016 and 359,849 in 2017. Similarly, crimes against children went up from 94,172 to 106,958 and 129,032 in 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively. The latest annual *Crime in India, 2017* report issued by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) showed that in 2017, 32,559 cases of rape were reported, of which 17,382 (53 per cent) were those of minors. A review of the report from 2013 onwards shows that every year over 30,000 women and girls fall victim to the heinous crime.

The huge non-utilisation of the fund, especially set up for the protection of women, is a testimony to the complete lack of political will and utter disregard for the importance and seri-

ousness of the issue of women's safety. The Nirbhaya Fund was created for the implementation of projects and schemes exclusively designed for providing safety and security to women in public places. Some major schemes, where the States were supposed to use the funds, included the establishment of an Emergency Response Support System, Central Victim Compensation Fund, Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children, One Stop Centre Scheme, Mahila Police Volunteers, and Universalisation of Women Helpline Scheme.

However, meagre spending of the fund has resulted in the sub-optimal operationalisation of these schemes, with the country failing to achieve, even partially, the objectives for which it has been created.

Over the years, there have been demands for setting up special courts, appointing more women police officers, installation of CCTV cameras and street lights in every nook and corner and taking other measures to make the streets safer for the fair sex.

There is a need for strengthening the judiciary through the appointment of more judges, public prosecutors and other officials for time-bound disposal of sexual assault cases. It is imperative to train police officers to ensure timely filing of strong chargesheets against criminals with a diligent investigation to make watertight cases, among other things.

While recently, some policy developments have taken place, including

creation of special courts for speedy disposal of cases related to Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act; further strengthening of the POCSO Act; launch of the fast track special courts (FTSC) scheme for expeditious disposal of cases of rape and the POCSO Act, 2019 (which calls for establishing 1,023 FTSCs), much more needs to be done.

The KSCF has also been working relentlessly for the last several years to raise awareness against these crimes, demanding that India be made a country safer for women and children. A major step taken was the launch of Bharat Yatra, a national march against sexual abuse of children in 2017 and the Rape Free India campaign before the Lok Sabha elections, earlier this year.

The recent incidents of rape and other crimes against women are a wake-up call for State Governments. There is a need for States/UTs to formulate schemes for the safety of women and girls and implement them on a war footing. They need to utilise the Nirbhaya Fund placed at their disposal, and if necessary, allocate a budget from their funds for implementation of these schemes.

The women and children of the country have remained unsafe for long. It is high time that steps are taken to make them feel secure as they go about their daily business, at home and outside.

(The author is Executive Director, Programmes, at Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation)

# Unions allow students to let off steam

Clandestine extremist groups have been operating on Pakistani campuses in the vacuum created by the absence of unions



NADEEM PARACHA

The 'Students Solidarity March' on November 29 seems to have ruffled some feathers. It was being thought and even hoped by some that the march would draw nothing more than the kind of negligent attention candle vigils attract. But this wasn't the case and thousands of students from assorted universities and colleges poured out in almost every major city of Pakistan, mostly demanding the restoration of student unions.

Campus unions were first banned in 1984 by the General Zia dictatorship and then restored in 1989 by the first Benazir Bhutto regime. However, they were banned again in 1993, this time by the Supreme Court.

The manner in which the current Government has reacted to the recent march suggests that a lot more hap-

pened, or was perceived to have happened, than just a handful of students marching and raising slogans. Prime Minister Imran Khan tweeted that he was in favour of restoring the student unions. But by the time the tweet was posted, his own Government was arresting certain prominent student leaders and booking them for sedition. Twitter trends such as #StudentsSolidarityMarch and #StudentsMarchExposed began to compete against each other. Some commentators on TV were hailing the march; some were cynically dismissing it as an "elitist" one-off; while others were warning that the restoration of unions would again prompt violence on campuses.

The latter is the most frequently used reason against the demand for restoring the unions. In fact, Khan, even while supporting restoration, pointed out that the unions, before they got banned in 1984, had become violent. This is the perception that has overshadowed the fact that, till the late 1970s, elected student unions were bastions of well-intentioned democratic activities.

One can claim that Khan, too, was drawing his information in this con-

text from the negative perception associated with student politics. But I would like to share here an incident in which Khan actually faced the violence he was talking about. During the Indian cricket team's tour of Pakistan in 1982-83, the fifth Test match of the series at Karachi's National Stadium was repeatedly invaded by student activists agitating against the growing Government curbs on campus politics in Karachi. Khan was bowling and some students charged towards an Indian batsman on strike. Others ran towards the batsman on the non-striker's end who was standing with Khan. Khan pulled out a stump from the ground and threatened to use it against the charging students. However, before he could do this, cops entered the fray and chased away the students.

Indeed, campus politics, especially in Karachi and Lahore, had become increasingly violent. This was mainly due to the brutalisation of politics and society by the Zia dictatorship and the steady introduction of sophisticated weapons in the hands of the youth. These weapons began to arrive almost immediately after Pakistan agreed to fight the US' and Saudi Arabia's proxy battles against the Soviet Union and

Iran. During my research in 2015, findings showed that there were just three incidents of gunfire in the country's student politics between 1951 and 1977. The first was recorded at Karachi University in 1968, in which a student was arrested for possessing a pistol but one that was never actually fired. Then a pistol was used for aerial firing during a student union election at the same university in 1974. There were no casualties. A pistol was also fired during the union elections at Lahore's Punjab University in 1975 in which a student was killed.

However, between 1981 — the year Pakistan fully joined the so-called "Afghan jihad" — and 1984, all hell broke loose and dozens of students lost their lives in gunfights between opposing student outfits — both from the Left and the Right — and between students and the police. It is thus important to comprehend under what circumstances violence became a norm in student politics.

Second, ever since student activism played a major role in the movement against the Ayub regime in the late 1960s, Governments in Pakistan start to worry when students manage to exhibit an impressive show of strength.

What gets missed in this urge to keep a lid on student politics, is the important underlying fact behind student uprisings and violence. For example, most scholars who studied the global rise and fall of student activism between the 1960s and 1970s, point out that student violence and agitation mushroomed in the 1960s when universities and colleges failed to accommodate the large influx of middle-class students in that decade.

The students' anger towards the logistical and administrative problems caused by this influx boiled over and was expressed through political action. Student activism receded when, in the 1970s, colleges and universities (in the West) managed to better accommodate the students.

The same thing happened in Pakistan in the 1960s. Pakistani universities and colleges also began to receive a large-scale influx of students. Then, in the 1990s, when most students began to join private educational institutions, politicised student unions fell out of favour. But as we are now seeing, this was a stopgap arrangement.

No one is talking about the damning 2009 and 2013 reports prepared by the British Council in Pakistan. The

reports speak about a growing youth bulge in the country, with over 60 per cent of the country's population being under the age of 30.

The reports' findings warn that disillusionment among the youth would continue to grow due to political and economic instability, and this might lead many young people to adopt extreme measures.

We have already seen the growth of incidents in which educated young people have been involved in committing crimes or joining extremist organisations. The pouring out on to the streets of students on November 29 can also be explained and seen in this context.

In fact, this should actually encourage the Government to restore the unions. Because unions can once again become conduits for the students to express their aspirations and concerns in a democratic manner, rather than become despondent, cynical and desperate; or worse, join clandestine extremist groups which, ever since the late 1990s, have been surreptitiously operating on campuses in the vacuum created by the absence of student unions.

(Courtesy: Dawn)



## WE SHOULD ALL BE GRETA

Amid protests, clashes and expulsion of activists, the COP25 wound up recently, once again producing more promises and little political will that could save the planet for our children and generations to come. To make measures work, every one of us should be a Greta Thunberg. Every head of State or Government should be a Greta. By avoiding the use of plastic as much as possible, we can start this change from our homes.

(Courtesy: Daily Mirror)

# FM to hold pre-Budget consultations with stakeholders

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Beginning the customary pre-Budget consultation exercise from Monday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will seek inputs from various stakeholders including industry bodies, farmer organisations and economists for reviving consumption and boosting growth.

Sitharaman is likely to present her second Budget for the Modi 2.0 Government in Parliament on February 1.

Sources said the pre-Budget consultations starting Monday will last till December 23. They said the main focus of the Budget this time will be on boosting economic growth,

which slowed to an over six-year low of 4.5 per cent in the second quarter of 2019-20.

As per the finance ministry, Sitharaman will meet stakeholder groups of 'New Economy: Start-ups, Fintech and Digital Sector' on Monday morning, and financial sector and capital market representatives later in the day.

Industry sources said the Government has sought their views on matters like ease of doing business, regulatory environment impacting private investment, export competitiveness, role of state (delayed payments, contract enforcement), and revival of private investment and growth, among others.



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The Minister is likely to meet industry chambers on December 19.

With the government already effecting significant cut in corporate taxes, expectations are high that it would

announce some relief for the salaried class by making changes in the personal income tax structure.

Industry bodies have demanded that income up to ₹5 lakh should be exempt from

tax for individual taxpayers from the current ₹2.5 lakh to spur demand for goods and services. They are also demanding hiking the overall deduction limit to at least ₹3 lakh (from the current ₹1.5 lakh under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act) to boost investments and increase tax savings for individual taxpayers. The Finance Ministry has already started the Budget preparation exercise, with different ministries and departments making expenditure projections.

The Budget will be keenly watched by market participants for numbers on key macroeconomic indicators like fiscal deficit.

## Citizenship Act stir hits oil, gas output in Assam

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Crude oil and gas production in Assam has witnessed a drastic fall due to the ongoing state-wide protest against the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act, affecting supply of petrol, diesel and LPG in many districts.

The two major PSU fuel producers Oil India Ltd (OIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on Sunday said their gas output have totally stopped, while oil production is down by over 75 per cent after protests erupted in the State. "Our gas production has completely stopped. In the crude oil segment, we were producing 9,000 tonnes per day, which came down to just 1,000 tonnes," a senior official from the OIL told PTI from its field headquarters at Dulaijan in upper Assam. The company is operating only around 50 wells out of its about 400 oil and gas producing wells, he added.

The crude supply to Digboi has gone down to 800 tonnes instead of 1,800 tonnes of daily plan, while the same to Numaligarh refinery has totally stopped, he said.

"Besides, drilling of our wells has fully stopped for the last six days. Our oil collection stations have also been shut by people protesting against the

amended Citizenship Act. "We have not been able to send gas to our clients like NEEPCO, Namrup Thermal, BCPL and Assam Gas Company," the official said.

He also added that filled LPG cylinders and tankers are lying in OIL terminals as vehicle transport has come to a halt, thereby adding a risk factor to the terminals. "Keeping LPG inventory is always dangerous because of its highly flammable character," he said. On Saturday, the OIL appealed to people of the state in local papers to allow it to carry out day-to-day operations, which the firm said, have been "severely impacted".

An official of the ONGC said that its daily oil output has fallen to 1,650 tonnes from 2,200 tonnes.

"Our gas production has completely stopped. Drilling facilities have also come to a halt after the protests started. The situation is grim as our central tank can stock fuel only for 3-4 days," he added.

The PSU major Indian Oil Corporation said vehicle fuel and LPG supply in Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Golaghat and Jorhat districts in upper Assam have been severely affected. "As per our information, petrol depots in these five districts have dried up. LPG distribution is also affected as

transporters are not able to send their trucks," IOC Chief General Manager (IndianOil-AOD) Uttiya Bhattacharyya told PTI. However, he said that fuel supply in other districts of Assam and neighbouring states are not affected as the company is sending tankers with police escorts.

"The Guwahati and Bongaigaon refineries are functioning normally. All our tankers and trucks are moving under heavy police protection and we are not taking chances," Bhattacharyya said.

A Numaligarh Refinery spokesperson said that their employees could not go to the plant from the township as their vehicles were torched a few days ago. An official of the state-run power major NTPC's Bongaigaon plant said that coal from Margherita mines in Tinsukia district is not reaching the plant.

"However, our production is not affected as we also get coal from Raniganj in West Bengal," she added.

Violent protests had erupted in the city and other parts of the state earlier this week after the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was passed in Parliament, with agitators engaging in pitched battles with the police, forcing the administration to impose curfew.

## Centre likely to sell 28% stake in BEML through strategic disinvestment

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The Centre is likely to sell 28 per cent of its stake in BEML Ltd through strategic disinvestment and retain 26 per cent after the dilution of its shareholding in the public sector undertaking, a senior company official said.

The Government currently holds 54.03 per cent stake in the diversified engineering company.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in October, 2016 had given an in-principal approval for strategic disinvestment of 26 per cent equity shares in BEML Ltd.

"The Government will divest 28 per cent of its stake in the company through strategic disinvestment and there is no plan to demerge the business verticals," a senior company official told PTI.

The Centre has already "initiated preparatory work" for the disinvestment, he said.

BEML, a mining equipment maker, has diversified into manufacturing of rail coaches and defence production that already accounts for almost half of its current topline, the official said.

"There are private sector players who are into diversified engineering including defence

**The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in October, 2016 had given an in-principal approval for strategic disinvestment of 26 per cent equity shares in BEML Ltd**

but the number of such large corporate is not many," he said.

The government has set an all-time high disinvestment target of ₹1.05 lakh crore, up from ₹90,000 crore projected in the Interim Budget 2019-20 in February.

In 2018-19, the Centre raised ₹84,972 crore from CPSE disinvestment, while in 2017-18, the figure was ₹1,00,056 crore.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recently approved strategic disinvestment of its equity shares in five PSUs - BPCL, Shipping Corporation of India, Container Corporation of India, Tehri Hydro Development Corporation and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation.

## CAIT urges Govt to take action against e-commerce firms flouting FDI policy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Traders' body CAIT on Sunday urged the government to take action against e-commerce companies flouting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) norms and indulging in unfair practices.

Termining such firms "global economic terrorist" and "economic intruders, tax offenders and policy & law violators", the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) in a letter sent to Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal demanded early enforcement of e-commerce policy and national retail policy.

It also called for constituting an e-commerce ombudsman and a Retail Regulatory Authority.

CAIT also criticised the Ministry of MSME's reported move to join hands with some prominent e-commerce companies for onboarding of small retailers on their platforms.

This is highly deplorable and the traders of the country will not accept such collusion with these firms, it added.

Their business model is greatly hampering 'Make In India' program as domestic producers are unable to compete with their predatory pricing and deep discounting tactics, CAIT said.

## Mobile handset import duty may be kept at 20% in Budget

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is unlikely to increase the basic customs duty on import of mobile handsets from 20 per cent in the upcoming budget, according to official sources. No proposal was under consideration to increase duty, said the sources. The import of mobile phones (push button types) decreased to \$400 million in 2018-19 from \$935 million in 2019-18. Smartphone imports have also fallen from \$2,602 million in 2017-18 to \$1,216 million in 2018-19.

The production of mobile handsets has gone up from ₹18,900 crore (six crore units) in 2014-15 to ₹1,70,000 crore (29 crore units) in 2018-19, as per the commerce ministry figures.

Almost all foreign mobile phone makers — Vivo, Oppo, Nokia, Samsung and Xiaomi — have set up units in India and are manufacturing handsets and not just assembling.

According to Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Apple Inc, world's largest and most advanced telecom tech firm, has started making its latest iPhone XR in India and is also expanding operations.

In the budget 2018-19, the basic customs duty was

increased from 15 per cent to 20 per cent on cellular handsets. Handset makers three years ago had suggested imposition of duties to thwart imports of electronic products, beginning from mobile phones to its components to help build local capacities to generate volumes and exports.

The government thus imposed basic customs duty of up to 15 per cent on imports of more than half a dozen components and 20 per cent duty on fully-made phones.

In the last few years, the tariff structure has been rationalised to promote domestic manufacturing of electronic goods, including cellular handsets. Specified capital goods for manufacture of mobile handsets are permitted for import at the zero duty. To promote domestic value addition in mobile handsets and their sub-assemblies/parts manufacturing, a phased manufacturing programme was notified. As a result, India rapidly started attracting investments into this sector and significant manufacturing capacities have been created during the past four years.

The Government has permitted 100 per cent FDI for manufacture of mobile handsets and their sub-assemblies/parts.

## Over 14K prosecutions withdrawn under Companies Act

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Sunday said more than 14,000 prosecutions have been withdrawn under the Companies Act as it undertook various steps to improve the ease of doing business in the country, including de-criminalisation of various penal provisions under this law.

Listing out the measures taken, the corporate affairs ministry said it has set up the Central Registration Centre for name reservation and incorporation of companies and LLPs within 1-2 days as opposed to an average of at least 15 days earlier.

"During the last three years more than 1,25,000 companies have been incorporated every year in the country in this manner, as compared to 50-60,000 companies in earlier years," the ministry said in a release.

Among others, the ministry has made the process transparent and non-discretionary for dematerialisation of securities of unlisted public

companies. It noted that "more than 14,000 prosecutions under the Companies Act, 2013" have been withdrawn and that second phase of de-criminalisation of penal provisions under the law has been initiated.

As part of de-criminalisation of technical and procedural violations under companies law and reducing the burden on criminal courts as well as the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), the government has shifted 16 offences sections to monetary penalty regime.

India has improved its ranking on the World Bank's 'Doing Business 2020' report, moving up 14 positions to the 63rd spot.

As per the latest report on the Resolving Insolvency Index, India's ranking jumped 56 places to 52nd in 2019 from 108th in 2018, the release said.

"Recovery rate increased from 26.5 per cent in 2018 to 71.6 per cent in 2019 and time taken in recovery improved from 4.3 years in 2018 to 1.6 years in 2019," it added.

## Air India mulls launching Mumbai-London Stansted service

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mumbai: Disinvestment-bound national carrier Air India is mulling launching a flight service to London Stansted from the country's financial capital, a senior airline official said. Air India currently operates a flight to Stansted from Amritsar. It also has operations to London Heathrow from Mumbai.

British Airways and Virgin Atlantic are the two other airlines flying to London from Mumbai. Air passenger traffic on Mumbai-London route has spiked 25 per cent in the last five years. It is expected to go up by 27 per cent this fiscal following the resumption of services on the route by Virgin Atlantic in October, despite the grounding of Jet Airways which used to have three daily flights to London Heathrow from the city.

"There is a need for more traffic to London region. However, due to the slot constraint issues at the London Heathrow, we are not able to add new flights on the Mumbai-London route. PTI

## SBI may pay Essar lenders today as ArcelorMittal pays up

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The State Bank of India (SBI), the lead banker of the bankrupt Essar Steel, is likely to settle dues of other lenders as it received ₹40,000 crore on Friday from ArcelorMittal, which is going to takeover the company bringing to an end to the much-prolonged resolution process.

The SBI may settle the dues of all the other lenders on Monday.

The development followed the tabling of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019, in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, which also provides for protection of buyers from criminal proceedings against previous promoters of the bankrupt firm.

ArcelorMittal had kept the promised ₹42,000 crore in an escrow account, but didn't release it immediately after the Supreme Court's order in the case last month, as the company wanted immunity for Essar Steel's assets from probe against its previous promoters.

The SBI had the largest exposure to Essar Steel of over



₹13,000 crore, while the amount approved by the committee of creditors (CoC) stood at ₹12,161 crore. The other lenders of Essar Steel included IDBI Bank, Canara Bank and Punjab National Bank.

Both ArcelorMittal and SBI, however, are yet to respond to questions sent by FIANS.

As per the resolution proposal, banks would recover over 90 per cent of their claims against Essar Steel, amounting to over ₹40,000 crore. The operational creditors would initially get ₹196 crore, and another ₹1,000 crore later, allowed by the CoC, taking the total repayment to ₹1,196 crore.

The resolution of Essar Steel can be marked as a land-

mark in the 3-year-old Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). A major roadblock in the resolution was removed by the Supreme Court on November 15 as it set aside the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal's (NCLAT) ruling that provided for equal distribution of proceeds between financial and operational creditors.

The Essar case, which was among the first 12 cases to be referred by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for resolution, faced several hurdles as its promoter Prashant Ruia also tried to bid for the company and moved the appellate tribunal for rejection of the ArcelorMittal's ₹42,000 crore bid.

## Positive momentum in market to continue post US-China trade deal, say analysts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Equity markets are expected to sustain their positive momentum this week after the US and China reached their much-awaited trade deal, analysts said. The US-China trade truce and Boris Johnson's win in the UK general elections drove global markets higher late last week. The US and China have suspended additional tariffs on each other's goods after reaching a 'phase one' trade deal after prolonged negotiations.

"The recent developments on the global front have subsided the fear of prolonged crisis and that cheered the participants across the world markets including ours. And, we feel the positive momentum to extend further in the coming week too," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking.

The current market momentum can sustain this week as well, provided there is more clarity on the US-China trade settlement, said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

## China suspends planned tariffs on US goods

AFP ■ BEIJING

Beijing suspended additional tariffs on US products that had been due to kick in on Sunday, after Washington and Beijing announced a major thaw in their trade war Friday.

China will suspend the planned addition of 10 percent and 5 per cent tariffs on some US imports, and "continue to suspend additional tariffs on US-made autos and spare parts", China's finance ministry announced Sunday.

The move follows US President Trump's cancellation of new tariffs on Chinese products as part of a "phase one" trade deal.

China's commerce ministry said on Friday it had agreed with the US a mini-deal that includes a progressive rollback of tariffs and the protection of intellectual property rights.

The two sides have yet to sign the agreement, which represents a major breakthrough in the 21-month standoff between the world's two largest economies.

# Housing sales may rise marginally by 4% in 2019: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Housing sales are estimated to rise by mere 4 per cent to 2.58 lakh units across seven major cities during this calendar year on subdued demand because of liquidity crunch and overall economic slowdown, according to property brokerage firm Anarock.

"Indian real estate was devoid of any appreciable forward momentum in 2019. Dwindling consumption, lacklustre investment appetite and the global slowdown overshadowed all possibilities for growth," Anarock Property Consultants Chairman Anuj

Puri said. India's GDP growth rate slumped to a six-year low of 4.5 per cent in Q2 FY20.

In its yearly round-up for the real estate sector, Anarock said that collectively, all four quarters of 2019 are likely to see housing sales of 2,58,410 units (assuming 56,200 units in Q4 2019) as against 2,48,300 units sold in entire 2018.

Sales were better in the first half of this year but demand fell in the third quarter. Anarock tracks seven major cities — Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), National Capital Region (NCR), Bengaluru, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata.

**First-time homebuyers were given further tax deductions (now amounting to ₹3.5 lakh in a year) on interest amount of home loans below ₹45 lakh availed within FY 2020-end**

"The real estate sector's performance — a reliable barometer of India's overall economic health — painfully reflected the macro-economic state of affairs. The liquidity crisis did not relent and dented any 'real' growth during the year," Puri said.

"Multiple developers fell off



the grid while others still struggle to stay viable. However, strong players with healthy balance sheets — in many cases diversified beyond real estate — sailed through 2019 and recorded decent housing sales and revenue growth," he added.

For the housing sector, 2019 was a non-event in terms of sales growth and investor interest.

"Sentiments remained subdued, sustaining almost solely on end-user activity focused on ready-to-move-in or almost-complete homes. Branded developers gained ground, with some listed players performing

exceptionally well on sales and commensurate revenue growth," he said.

For the housing sector, Puri said the only light at the end of the dark financial tunnel was the announcement of the alternative investment fund (AIF) of ₹25,000 crore to facilitate the completion of stuck affordable and mid-segment homes.

In fact, affordable housing remained upbeat in 2019 thanks to multiple government sops throughout the year.

First-time homebuyers were given further tax deductions (now amounting to ₹3.5 lakh in a year) on interest

amount of home loans below ₹45 lakh availed within FY 2020-end.

Luxury and ultra-luxury segments remained limited to end-user interest, with no serious investor activity.

Co-living and student housing gained momentum during the year.

In the organised housing brokerage business, Noida-based Investors Clinic, Anarock, News Corp-backed PropTiger, Anil Ambani-led Reliance group-backed Square Yards, Quirk Realty, Gurugram-based 360 Realtors and Wealth Clinic are the leading players.

| Scheme   | NAV     | 1Yr%  | UTI Banking and Financial Services Fund-Reg(G) | 102.33 | 13.31 | UTI MEPUS  | 111.05 | 9.25  | ICICI Pru Exports & Services Fund(G)               | 57.23  | 5.86 | IDBI Nifty Junior Index Fund(G)               | 21.18  | 1.35  |
|--|---------|-------|--|--------|-------|--|--------|-------|--|--------|------|---|--------|-------|
| Kotak World Gold Fund(G)   | 10.08   | 30.48 | UTI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)                    | 79.35  | 13.28 | Edelweiss Tax Advantage Fund-Reg(G)                  | 41.80  | 9.17  | DSP Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)                         | 10.60  | 5.86 | ICICI Pru Value Discovery Fund(G)             | 140.89 | 1.32  |
| DSP World Gold Fund-Reg(G)   | 13.61   | 27.33 | Axis Long Term Equity Fund-Reg(G)              | 48.49  | 13.25 | Baroda Multi Cap Fund(G)                             | 99.55  | 9.06  | Kotak India Growth Fund-Sr 4(G)                    | 9.52   | 5.84 | UTI Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)                    | 84.41  | 1.14  |
| Sundaram Fin Serv Opp Fund(G)                                      | 47.99   | 27.09 | ICICI Pru Growth Fund-1(DP)                    | 11.83  | 13.21 | Aditya Birla SL Equity Advantage Fund(G)             | 421.28 | 9.02  | Tata India Pharma & Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)         | 9.17   | 5.82 | UTI LT Adv Fund-IV(G)                         | 10.17  | 0.98  |
| Tata Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)                      | 21.27   | 26.55 | IDFC Nifty ETF                                 | 124.96 | 13.20 | ICICI Pru S&P BSE 500 ETF                            | 158.26 | 8.96  | ICICI Pru Value Fund-16(G)                         | 11.09  | 5.82 | Sundaram Value Fund-VIII-Reg(G)               | 10.64  | 0.80  |
| Baroda Banking & Fin Serv Fund(G)                                  | 25.92   | 24.62 | DSP World Mining Fund-Reg(G)                   | 8.77   | 13.12 | Kotak Emerging Equity Fund(G)                        | 39.90  | 8.84  | Franklin India Taxshield(G)                        | 570.84 | 5.82 | HDFC Mid-Cap Opportunities Fund(G)            | 52.93  | 0.80  |
| SBI Tax Advantage Fund-III-Reg(G)                                  | 27.67   | 22.98 | IDBI India Top 100 Equity Fund(G)              | 25.69  | 13.07 | ICICI Pru Value Fund-11(G)                           | 12.89  | 8.78  | ICICI Pru FMCG Fund(G)                             | 246.87 | 5.77 | Nippon India Tax Saver (ELSS) Fund(G)         | 54.12  | 0.73  |
| SBI Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)                       | 20.01   | 22.62 | HDFC Index Fund-NIFTY 50 Plan(G)               | 110.41 | 13.01 | Canara Rob Emerg Equities Fund-Reg(G)                | 96.07  | 8.76  | Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr I-Reg(G)               | 13.88  | 5.76 | UTI Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)                   | 60.61  | 0.68  |
| Invesco India Financial Services Fund(G)                           | 63.16   | 21.95 | IDFC Nifty Fund-Reg(G)                         | 25.08  | 12.93 | Edelweiss Long Term Equity Fund (Tax Savings)-Reg(G) | 47.81  | 8.73  | Franklin India Opportunities Fund(G)               | 72.96  | 5.54 | SBI Contra Fund-Reg(G)                        | 102.58 | 0.54  |
| Franklin Asian Equity Fund(G)                                      | 24.15   | 20.67 | L&T India Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)                | 28.77  | 12.89 | Axis Emerging Opp Fund-2-Reg(G)                      | 12.47  | 8.72  | DSP World Energy Fund-Reg(G)                       | 13.27  | 5.50 | Nippon India Pharma Fund(G)                   | 150.59 | 0.52  |
| Nippon India US Equity Opp Fund(G)                                 | 17.07   | 20.45 | UTI Focussed Equity Fund-I(G)                  | 14.38  | 12.89 | Tata Mid Cap Growth Fund(G)                          | 140.65 | 8.58  | ICICI Pru Value Fund-10(G)                         | 11.71  | 5.50 | UTI Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)                       | 98.75  | 0.34  |
| Sundaram Services Fund-Reg(G)                                      | 12.34   | 20.22 | Tata Index Fund-Nifty Plan(G)                  | 73.27  | 12.85 | ICICI Pru LT Equity Fund (Tax Saving)(G)             | 386.21 | 8.54  | Baroda ELSS 96(G)                                  | 44.40  | 5.49 | SBI Magnum Midcap Fund-Reg(G)                 | 70.63  | 0.32  |
| ICICI Pru US Bluechip Equity Fund(G)                               | 31.41   | 20.21 | Canara Rob Consumer Trends Fund-Reg(G)         | 42.24  | 12.85 | PGIM India Large Cap Fund-2-Reg(G)                   | 12.97  | 8.54  | Tata Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)                    | 54.27  | 5.48 | L&T Emerging Opp Fund-4-Reg(G)                | 9.72   | 0.21  |
| Edelweiss ETF - Nifty Bank Sundaram World Brand Fund-Sr III-Reg(G) | 16.69   | 18.89 | ICICI Pru Nifty Index Fund(G)                  | 117.19 | 12.84 | ICICI Pru Growth Fund-3(DP)                          | 10.60  | 8.50  | IDBI Diversified Equity Fund(G)                    | 21.86  | 5.40 | SBI Consumption Opp Fund-Reg(G)               | 115.27 | 0.12  |
| Principal Global Opportunities Fund(G)                             | 31.11   | 18.37 | Nippon India Banking Fund(G)                   | 292.22 | 12.84 | Edelweiss Multi-Cap Fund-Reg(G)                      | 14.96  | 8.46  | Nippon India Value Fund(G)                         | 74.26  | 5.38 | HDFC Capital Builder Value Fund(G)            | 282.85 | -0.02 |
| Franklin India Feeder - Franklin U.S. Opportunities Fund(G)        | 33.40   | 18.29 | Franklin India Focused Equity Fund(G)          | 41.97  | 12.79 | ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption Fund-5(G)               | 11.08  | 8.41  | SBI Technology Opp Fund-Reg(G)                     | 65.09  | 5.37 | Sundaram Mid Cap Fund(G)                      | 452.91 | -0.05 |
| DSP Focus Fund-Reg(G)  | 25.55   | 18.27 | Mirae Asset Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)              | 54.00  | 12.79 | Aditya Birla SL Equity Fund(G)                       | 753.48 | 8.41  | L&T Business Cycle Fund-Reg(G)                     | 15.34  | 5.36 | ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption Fund-2(G)        | 9.59   | -0.10 |
| BNP Paribas India Consumption Fund-Reg(G)                          | 12.68   | 18.15 | Tata Large Cap Fund(G)                         | 230.88 | 12.71 | Aditya Birla SL Global Real Estate Fund(G)           | 20.52  | 8.40  | IDBI Equity Advantage Fund-Reg(G)                  | 27.79  | 5.34 | UTI LT Adv Fund-V(G)                          | 9.38   | -0.12 |
| SBI Tax advantage Fund-II(G)                                       | 39.49   | 18.03 | Kotak Standard Multicap Fund(G)                | 37.14  | 12.66 | HDFC Equity Fund(G)                                  | 667.05 | 8.35  | Nippon India India Opp Fund-Sr-A(G)                | 10.79  | 5.32 | HDFC Infrastructure Fund(G)                   | 15.33  | -0.18 |
| Axis Bluechip Fund-Reg(G)  | 31.80   | 18.00 | SBI LT Advantage Fund-IV-Reg(G)                | 13.88  | 12.60 | Nippon India Capital Builder Fund-IV-A(G)            | 10.16  | 8.20  | L&T Equity Fund-Reg(G)                             | 83.28  | 5.32 | Baroda Mid-cap Fund(G)                        | 8.67   | -0.23 |
| DSP Equity Fund-Reg(G)   | 42.32   | 17.26 | SBI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)                    | 104.00 | 12.57 | UTI Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)                       | 52.97  | 8.15  | HDFC Focused 30 Fund(G)                            | 76.90  | 5.28 | IDFC Equity Opportunity-5-Reg(G)              | 9.92   | -0.30 |
| ICICI Pru Banking & Fin Serv Fund(G)                               | 69.48   | 17.23 | Canara Rob Equity Diver Fund-Reg(G)            | 140.89 | 12.45 | Aditya Birla SL Frontline Equity Fund(G)             | 231.34 | 8.13  | Aditya Birla SL Digital India Fund(G)              | 53.34  | 5.27 | ICICI Pru Midcap Fund(G)                      | 94.00  | -0.36 |
| BNP Paribas Large Cap Fund(G)                                      | 96.63   | 17.20 | Motilal Oswal Long Term Equity Fund-Reg(G)     | 18.59  | 12.40 | Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India Fund-2-Reg(G)        | 12.41  | 8.10  | Mirae Asset Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)                 | 10.81  | 5.14 | Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India Fund-4-Reg(G) | 9.64   | -0.52 |
| Aditya Birla SL Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)           | 31.12   | 16.99 | Kotak Equity Opp Fund(G)                       | 125.86 | 12.40 | PGIM India LT Equity Fund-Reg(G)                     | 14.57  | 8.01  | Aditya Birla SL MNC Fund-Reg(G)                    | 783.69 | 5.26 | Templeton India Value Fund(G)                 | 239.83 | -0.69 |
| IDBI Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)                      | 11.40   | 16.80 | Aditya Birla SL Index Fund-Reg(G)              | 118.77 | 12.36 | ICICI Pru Value Fund-17(G)                           | 10.68  | 7.99  | UTI India Consumer Fund-Reg(G)                     | 26.81  | 5.22 | L&T Midcap Fund-Reg(G)                        | 130.49 | -0.84 |
| PGIM India Global Equity Opp Fund(G)                               | 19.71   | 16.77 | Nippon India Index Fund - Nifty Plan(G)        | 20.25  | 12.36 | DSP World Agriculture Fund-Reg(G)                    | 16.94  | 7.93  | Kotak Infra & Eco Reform Fund(G)                   | 19.58  | 5.22 | SBI Healthcare Opp Fund-Reg(G)                | 117.84 | -1.21 |
| SBI Focused Equity Fund-Reg(G)                                     | 151.50  | 16.72 | SBI LT Advantage Fund-I-Reg(G)                 | 13.83  | 12.35 | HDFC Growth Opp Fund-Reg(G)                          | 115.44 | 7.86  | Aditya Birla SL Tax Relief '96(G)                  | 32.25  | 5.15 | DSP Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)                     | 51.68  | -1.44 |
| Axis Multicap Fund-Reg(G)  | 12.65   | 16.70 | IDBI Nifty Index Fund(G)                       | 22.32  | 12.35 | Nippon India Large Cap Fund(G)                       | 35.27  | 7.66  | '96(ELSS U/S 80C of IT ACT)(G)                     | 32.25  | 5.15 | Nippon India Power & Infra Fund(G)            | 92.37  | -1.71 |
| Sundaram Multi Cap Fund-Sr II-Reg(G)                               | 11.01   | 16.63 | BNP Paribas Focused 25 Equity Fund-Reg(G)      | 10.14  | 12.35 | Franklin Build India Fund(G)                         | 41.38  | 7.53  | Mirae Asset Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)                 | 10.81  | 5.14 | UTI MNC Fund-Reg(G)                           | 195.33 | -1.85 |
| Invesco India Feeder - Invesco Global Equity Income Fund(G)        | 14.05   | 16.27 | BNP Paribas Multi Cap Fund(G)                  | 49.57  | 12.28 | Nippon India Consumption Fund(G)                     | 67.55  | 7.50  | JM Large Cap Fund(G)                               | 67.98  | 4.95 | SBI-ETF Sensex Next 50                        | 317.09 | -2.07 |
| Canara Rob Bluechip Equity Fund-Reg(G)                             | 27.03   | 16.01 | DSP Equity Opportunities Fund-Reg(G)           | 232.80 | 12.27 | DSP India T.I.G.E.R Fund-Reg(G)                      | 90.85  | 7.46  | Franklin India Technology Fund(G)                  | 160.19 | 4.83 | Tata India Consumer Fund-Reg(G)               | 17.29  | -2.43 |
| Sundaram Multi Cap Fund-Sr I-Reg(G)                                | 11.03   | 15.96 | Aditya Birla SL Focused Equity Fund(G)         | 62.35  | 12.26 | Invesco India Infrastructure Fund(G)                 | 17.15  | 7.46  | Nippon India Quant Fund(G)                         | 25.53  | 4.80 | IDBI Midcap Fund(G)                           | 10.25  | -2.57 |
| JM Multicap Fund(G)  | 34.48   | 15.94 | Kotak Tax Saver Fund(G)                        | 46.35  | 12.24 | IDFC Focused Equity Fund-Reg(G)                      | 37.90  | 7.24  | Invesco India Midcap Fund(G)                       | 49.35  | 4.80 | ICICI Pru Dividend Yield Fund(G)              | 15.67  | -2.79 |
| Edelweiss Emerging Markets Opp Eq. Offshore Fund-Reg(G)            | 13.70   | 15.88 | SBI Bluechip Fund-Reg(G)                       | 41.33  | 12.09 | Franklin India Index Fund-NSE Nifty(G)               | 95.66  | 12.08 | HDFC TaxSaver(G)                                   | 514.76 | 4.78 | Nippon India Capital Builder Fund-IV-B(G)     | 7.64   | -2.84 |
| Markets Opp Eq. Offshore Fund-Reg(G)                               | 13.70   | 15.88 | Franklin India Index Fund-CORE 11 Fund(G)      | 9.34   | 12.04 | Franklin India Index Fund-NSE Nifty(G)               | 95.66  | 12.08 | ICICI Pru Value Fund-13(D)                         | 10.62  | 4.73 | Sundaram Emerging Small Cap-Sr-IV-Reg(G)      | 9.13   | -2.85 |
| Nippon India Japan Equity Fund(G)                                  | 14.36   | 15.85 | JM Core 11 Fund(G)                             | 9.34   | 12.04 | ICICI Pru Value Fund-13(D)                           | 10.62  | 4.73  | BNP Paribas Mid Cap Fund(G)                        | 32.20  | 4.71 | Cap-Sr-IV-Reg(G)                              | 9.13   | -2.85 |
| Aditya Birla SL Sensex ETF   | 383.72  | 15.49 | Invesco India Growth Opp Fund(G)               | 36.12  | 12.00 | BNP Paribas Mid Cap Fund(G)                          | 32.20  | 4.71  | SBI Magnum TaxGain'93-Reg(G)                       | 142.15 | 4.70 | ICICI Pru Technology Fund(G)                  | 56.61  | -2.88 |
| DSP US Flexible Equity Fund-Reg(G)                                 | 27.36   | 15.41 | Baroda Large Cap Fund(G)                       | 15.21  | 11.92 | SBI India Multicap Fund(G)                           | 48.08  | 4.68  | Invesco India Multicap Fund(G)                     | 48.08  | 4.68 | L&T Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)                | 15.15  | -3.01 |
| HDFC Sensex ETF  | 4316.01 | 15.40 | JM Value Fund(G)                               | 33.19  | 11.91 | ICICI Pru Value Fund-8(D)                            | 10.77  | 4.66  | ICICI Pru Value Fund-8(D)                          | 10.77  | 4.66 | Aditya Birla SL Midcap Fund(G)                | 272.13 | -3.04 |
| IDFC Sensex ETF  | 423.06  | 15.14 | Kotak India Growth Fund-Sr 5(G)                | 10.27  | 11.89 | DSP Natural Res & New Energy Fund-Reg(G)             | 31.83  | 4.57  | DSP Natural Res & New Energy Fund-Reg(G)           | 31.83  | 4.57 | Aditya Birla SL Mfg. Equity Fund-Reg(G)       | 12.85  | -3.09 |
| Kotak Bluechip Fund(G)   | 251.41  | 15.10 | Parag Parikh Long Term Equity Fund-Reg(G)      | 26.28  | 11.88 | L&T India Value Fund-Reg(G)                          | 35.83  | 4.46  | L&T India Value Fund-Reg(G)                        | 35.83  | 4.46 | Sundaram Value Fund-VII-Reg(G)                | 8.28   | -3.25 |
| DSP Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)  | 51.20   | 15.07 | SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)                | 11.06  | 11.81 | Kotak Small Cap Fund(G)                              | 71.53  | 4.41  | Kotak Small Cap Fund(G)                            | 71.53  | 4.41 | Fund-VII-Reg(G)                               | 8.80   | -3.35 |
| Aditya Birla SL India GenNext Fund(G)                              | 90.84   | 15.00 | ICICI Pru LT Wealth Enhancement Fund(G)        | 11.38  | 11.79 | Canara Rob Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)                | 44.32  | 4.38  | Canara Rob Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)              | 44.32  | 4.38 | Sundaram Emerging Small Cap-Sr-III-Reg(G)     | 8.80   | -3.35 |
| Sundaram Select Focus(G)   | 192.76  | 14.99 | Enhancement Fund(G)                            | 11.06  | 11.81 | Edelweiss Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)                        | 26.54  | 4.37  | Edelweiss Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)                      | 26.54  | 4.37 | Aditya Birla SL Infrastructure Fund(G)        | 29.10  | -3.87 |
| HDFC Index Fund-Sensex(G)  | 364.86  | 14.89 | Edelweiss Large Cap Fund(G)                    | 37.40  | 11.64 | Principal Multi Cap Growth Fund(G)                   | 143.10 | 4.36  | Principal Multi Cap Growth Fund(G)                 | 143.10 | 4.36 | IDFC Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)               | 13.66  | -3.87 |
| Motilal Oswal Focused 25 Fund-Reg(G)                               | 23.86   | 14.89 | Principal Focused Multicap Fund(G)             | 68.64  | 11.46 | L&T Tax Advt Fund-Reg(G)                             | 54.91  | 4.21  | L&T Tax Advt Fund-Reg(G)                           | 54.91  | 4.21 | Sundaram Emerging Small Cap-Sr-V-Reg(G)       | 9.22   | -4.31 |
| Kotak US Equity Fund(G)  | 18.03   | 14.84 | ICICI Pru Growth Fund-2(DP)                    | 12.70  | 11.01 | Franklin India Prima Fund(G)                         | 953.60 | 4.10  | Franklin India Prima Fund(G)                       | 953.60 | 4.10 | Cap-Sr-V-Reg(G)                               | 9.22   | -4.31 |
| Tata Index Fund-Sensex Plan(G)                                     | 101.23  | 14.79 | UTI Focussed Equity Fund-V(G)                  | 10.05  | 11.24 | ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption Fund-1(G)               | 10.54  | 3.94  | ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption Fund-1(G)             | 10.54  | 3.94 | Sundaram Emerging Small Cap-Sr-II-Reg(G)      | 8.05   | -4.33 |
| Edelweiss Eur Dynamic Equity Off-shr Fund-Reg(G)                   | 11.67   | 14.78 | IDFC Equity Opportunity-6-Reg(G)               | 10.77  | 11.15 | ICICI Pru Nifty Low Vol 30 ETF                       | 90.76  | 3.77  | ICICI Pru Nifty Low Vol 30 ETF                     | 90.76  | 3.77 | L&T Emerging Opp Fund-I-Reg(D)                | 9.01   | -4.44 |
| Axis Focused 25 Fund-Reg(G)  | 30.44   | 14.78 | Sundaram Large and Mid Cap Fund(G)             | 36.56  | 11.09 | Franklin India Equity Fund(G)                        | 585.37 | 3.77  | Franklin India Equity Fund(G)                      | 585.37 | 3.77 | Nippon India Small Cap Fund(G)                | 37.73  | -4.61 |
| DSP Top 100 Equity Fund-Reg(G)                                     | 223.58  | 14.78 | ICICI Pru Growth Fund-2(DP)                    | 12.70  | 11.01 | Edelweiss ETF - Nifty 100 Quality 30                 | 283.16 | 3.71  | Edelweiss ETF - Nifty 100 Quality 30               | 283.16 | 3.71 | UTI LT Adv Fund-VII(G)                        | 8.38   | -4.85 |
| Invesco India PSU Equity Fund(G)                                   | 18.29   | 14.67 | UTI Focussed Equity Fund-VI(G)                 | 10.51  | 11.00 | Sundaram Rural and Consumption Fund(G)               | 42.18  | 3.69  | Sundaram Rural and Consumption Fund(G)             | 42.18  | 3.69 | Sundaram Emerging Small Cap-Sr-I-Reg(G)       | 7.78   | -4.99 |
| SBI Magnum Equity ESG Fund-Reg(G)                                  | 112.49  | 14.55 | SBI Equity Opp Fund-Sr IV-Reg(G)               | 15.95  | 10.95 | Principal Dividend Yield Fund(G)                     | 53.75  | 3.60  | Principal Dividend Yield Fund(G)                   | 53.75  | 3.60 | IDFC Equity Opportunity-4-Reg(G)              | 7.20   | -5.01 |
| Axis Growth Opp Fund-Reg(G)  | 11.74   | 14.54 | SBI Magnum Multicap Fund-Reg(G)                | 50.56  | 10.89 | Principal Nifty 100 Equal Weight Fund(G)             | 71.68  | 3.52  | Principal Nifty 100 Equal Weight Fund(G)           | 71.68  | 3.52 | Franklin India Smaller Cos Fund(G)            | 48.61  | -5.92 |
| ICICI Pru Sensex Index Fund(G)                                     | 12.76   | 14.47 | ICICI Pru Global Stable Equity Fund(FOF)(G)    | 16.62  | 10.73 | IDFC Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)                         | 45.31  | 3.38  | IDFC Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)                       | 45.31  | 3.38 | IDBI Small Cap Fund(G)                        | 8.81   | -6.08 |
| Tata India Tax Savings Fund-Reg(G)                                 | 19.21   | 14.32 | Kotak India Growth Fund-Sr 7(G)                | 10.85  | 10.62 | Sundaram Smart NIFTY 100 Eq Weight Fund-Reg(G)       | 11.79  | 3.32  | Sundaram Smart NIFTY 100 Eq Weight Fund-Reg(G)     | 11.79  | 3.32 | Sundaram Small Cap Fund(G)                    | 73.66  | -6.33 |
| PGIM India Large Cap Fund(G)                                       | 177.71  | 14.29 | Edelweiss Large & Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)          | 32.72  | 10.55 | UTI Dividend Yield Fund-Reg(G)                       | 64.76  | 3.30  | UTI Dividend Yield Fund-Reg(G)                     | 64.76  | 3.30 | UTI LT Adv Fund-VI(G)                         | 8.01   | -6.63 |
| Mirae Asset Emerging Bluechip-Reg(G)                               | 56.96   | 14.19 | SBI Equity Opp Fund-Sr IV-Reg(G)               | 15.95  | 10.95 | DSP Equal Nifty 50 Fund-Reg(G)                       | 9.79   | 3.23  | DSP Equal Nifty 50 Fund-Reg(G)                     | 9.79   | 3.23 | IDFC Sterling Value Fund-Reg(G)               | 46.92  | -6.87 |
| Nippon India Index Fund - Sensex Plan(G)                           | 20.17   | 14.09 | ICICI Pru Growth Fund-2(DP)                    | 12.70  | 11.01 | Invesco India Smallcap Fund-Reg(G)                   | 10.55  | 3.23  | Invesco India Smallcap Fund-Reg(G)                 | 10.55  | 3.23 | Sundaram Value Fund-IX-Reg(G)                 | 8.57   | -7.02 |
| BNP Paribas Long Term Equity Fund(G)                               | 40.88   | 14.04 | Kotak India Growth Fund-Sr 7(G)                | 10.85  | 10.62 | ICICI Pru Infrastructure Fund(G)                     | 49.20  | 3.19  | ICICI Pru Infrastructure Fund(G)                   | 49.20  | 3.19 | Sundaram Value Fund-X-Reg(G)                  | 8.53   | -7.17 |
| Aditya Birla SL Global Emerging Opp Fund(G)                        | 13.63   | 13.99 | Edelweiss Large & Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)          | 32.72  | 10.55 | HDFC Equity Opp Fund-Sr 2-1126D-May 2017(1)-Reg(G)   | 10.39  | 3.10  | HDFC Equity Opp Fund-Sr 2-1126D-May 2017(1)-Reg(G) | 10.39  | 3.10 | L&T Emerging Businesses Fund-Reg(G)           | 22.38  | -8.38 |
| Sundaram Select Small Cap Series-III-Reg(G)                        | 15.14   | 13.89 | UTI Equity Fund-Reg(G)                         | 149.19 | 10.55 | ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption Fund-3(G)               | 10.57  | 3.02  | ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption Fund-3(G)             | 10.57  | 3.02 | Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India Fund-7-Reg(G) | 7.76   | -8.92 |
| JM Tax Gain Fund(G)  | 18.18   | 13.84 | SBI Equity Opp Fund-Sr I-Reg(G)                | 16.67  | 10.51 | Tata Ethical Fund-Reg(G)                             | 159.64 | 3.01  | Tata Ethical Fund-Reg(G)                           | 159.64 | 3.01 | Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series VIII-Reg(G)  | 11.91  | -9.11 |
| Tata Large & Mid Cap Fund(G)                                       | 218.02  | 13.81 | Axis Capital Builder Fund-1-Reg(G)             | 10.84  | 10.50 | Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India Fund-3-Reg(G)        | 11.70  | 2.90  | Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India Fund-3-Reg(G)      | 11.70  | 2.90 | Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series IX-Reg(G)    | 11.91  | -9.11 |
| SBI LT Advantage Fund-V-Reg(G)                                     | 10.69   | 13.80 | Sundaram Global Brand Fund(G)                  | 17.75  | 10.44 | India Fund-3-Reg(G)                                  | 11.70  | 2.90  | India Fund-3-Reg(G)                                | 1      |      |   |        |       |

# VIOLENCE IN HONG KONG BREAKS OUT AGAIN

## Many turn out in support of police

AP ■ HONG KONG

Several thousand people, some making heart signs with their hands, turned out in Hong Kong on Sunday in an unusual display of support for the police force, even as riot officers clashed elsewhere with protesters and pepper-sprayed a crowd.



Protesters gather during a rally in Hong Kong on Sunday

Competing rallies on Hong Kong Island and wildcat protest actions, including vandalism, by black-clad youths at shopping malls dramatically exposed the deep gulf between pro-and anti-establishment camps carved out by six months of demonstrations that have shaken and split the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Truncheon-wielding riot officers fanned out at a shopping mall where demonstrators spray-painted protest slogans on the polished stone floor and smashed glass panels.

Watched by shoppers, officers pepper-sprayed bystanders and made several arrests, pinning detainees to the floor and marching them away.

Roaming groups of youths in black popped up at other shopping malls, too, shouting slogans.

At one mall, a small group adapted a Christmas carol into a protest song and a woman

played "Glory to Hong Kong," a protest anthem, on a harmonica.

The scene was completely different at a waterfront park on Hong Kong Island, where a large crowd showered love on the 30,000-strong police force, broadly criticised as heavy-handed by the protest movement.

The rally echoed the Hong Kong government's view that protesters have become unacceptably violent.

Pro-police demonstrators

described protesters as rioters and terrorists and police officers as gallant heroes. They directed thumbs-up signs and shouted words of thanks at officers who policed the sidelines of the rally.

One woman yelled that they looked handsome in uniform.

"I'm not against the protesters. It's OK for them to speak, but in a peaceful way," said Max Cheng, an IT worker who took part.

When mass anti-government demonstrations first erupted

in June against a proposed extradition law, Cheng said she was among the hundreds of thousands who marched.

But she said she later felt repulsed by violence that increasingly accompanied protests. She said she didn't demonstrate again until Sunday, when she came out to support police, who have shot 26,000 tear-gas and rubber-baton rounds and arrested more than 6,000 people during the six months of snow-balling protests.

"It has just gone too far," she said. "People are too upset, too divided and very emotional."

### Man 'missing' after crossing China bridge checkpoint

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong's immigration department said on Sunday they have received reports a man went missing on a cross-border mega bridge to the gambling hub of Macau that currently hosts a Chinese mainland police checkpoint.

The disappearance first emerged on Saturday when the man's son told local media his father had texted to say he was being detained while passing through an artificial island manned by Chinese police on his way to the semi-autonomous city of Macau.

The man, surnamed Chan, was travelling by bus on Friday afternoon along the bridge and tunnel network linking Hong Kong, Macau and mainland city Zhuhai, his son said.

# Johnson vows to repay trust of Opposition voters

AFP ■ LONDON

Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed Saturday to repay the trust of former opposition voters who gave his Conservatives a mandate to take Britain out of the European Union next month.

Johnson toured a leftist bastion once represented by former Labour leader Tony Blair in a bid to show his intent to unite the country after years of divisions over Brexit. The northeastern region fell to the Tories in a general election Thursday that turned into a re-run of the 2016 EU membership referendum in which Johnson championed the Brexit cause.

Johnson told cheering campaigners that he understood how difficult it was for traditional Labour voters to switch sides and back his right-wing government.

"I can imagine people's pencils hovering over the ballot paper and wavering before coming down for us and the Conservatives," he said.

"And I want the people of the northeast to know that we in the Conservative party -- and I -- will repay your trust."

its worst finish since before World War II.

Johnson now commands an 80-vote majority in the 650-seat House of Commons -- a margin last enjoyed by the late Tory icon Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s.

The lead assures Johnson safe passage of his divorce deal with the European Union when he re-submits it to parliament next week.

This would pave the way for

Britain's formal withdrawal from the other 27 EU nations by the January 31 deadline set by Brussels.

The sides would then set off on the tricky task of trying to reach a brand new comprehensive trade agreement by the end of 2020. Failure to meet that deadline -- which Johnson has repeatedly promised not to extend -- would have unknown repercussions for global markets and economic growth.

### PM Boris celebrates election win with spicy chicken curry

London: Following his landslide victory in the December 12 general election, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson celebrated his win by tucking into a spicy chicken curry made by his girlfriend Carrie Symonds, accompanied by a glass of wine, it was reported on Sunday.

In the December 12 election, Johnson gained a Commons majority of 80, his ruling Conservative Party's largest since 1987, and in contrast, the opposition Labour suffered its worst election result since the 1930s. IANS

### India-born MP in race to replace Corbyn after election defeat

London: Lisa Nandy, one of the Indian-origin MPs who was re-elected in Thursday's General Election amid a disastrous performance by her Labour Party, on Sunday confirmed plans to throw her hat in the ring to replace party leader Jeremy Corbyn.

The 40-year-old MP won her Wigan seat in the north-west of England, holding on to one of the key bricks in the so-called "red wall" which collapsed as Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party won over traditional Labour Party voters across the region. PTI

# Longest UN climate talks end with no deal on carbon markets

PTI ■ MADRID

The longest UN climate talks held here ended on Sunday with no deal on carbon markets as sleep-deprived delegates from almost 200 countries, after two weeks of marathon negotiations, failed to come up with more ambitious targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions to fulfil the terms of the 2015 Paris agreement.

The negotiations which extended till Sunday saw no agreement on major issues such as Article 6, loss and damage, and long term finance.

Despite clear warnings from scientists through 2019, record levels of protests and severe climate impacts, the COP25 talks held between December 2 and 13 saw major differences between countries

that are proving hard to resolve. According to experts, few countries came to this year's talks with updated plans to reach the Paris goals.

The observers blamed G20 countries for the poor outcome.

Leading economies were faulted for their complacency and their failure to deliver more support to vulnerable nations in the face of brutal impacts and push for a tougher collective response in 2020 when new climate plans are mandated under the Paris agreement.

The EU tried to play its role as bridge-builder between developing and developed countries. However, it will take a major diplomatic push and bigger leadership alliance to deliver substantial outcomes at COP26 in Glasgow next year.

COP25's final decision text "re-emphasises with serious concern the urgent need to address the significant gap between the aggregate effect of parties' mitigation efforts in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020," according to the final draft.

It also "stresses the urgency of enhanced ambition in order to ensure the highest possible mitigation and adaptation efforts by all parties".

Negotiators failed to reach an outcome on carbon markets. In the final hours of negotiations, over 30 governments joined behind the San Jose Principles in an effort to preserve the integrity of carbon market rules and prevent loopholes and the ability for double-counting carbon credits, it said.

# 14 killed, 18 injured after bus veers off road in Nepal

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

A passenger bus veered off the road and fell some 100 metres along the Araniko Highway in Nepal's Sindhupalchok on Sunday, killing at least 14 people and injuring 18 others.

The bus was heading towards Bhaktapur from Kalinchok in Dolakha district when it skidded off the highway and plunged down from Chha Kilo area, police said.

Three children and 11 adults were killed in the accident, the Kathmandu Post reported, quoting police. "Of them, 12 people died on the spot," police said.

# Home food in Iraqi square brings protesters together

AP ■ BAGHDAD

In Baghdad's Tahrir Square, there are the anti-government protesters demonstrating for a better future for Iraq, and there are the volunteers who feed them.

From stuffed lamb and fish, to the giant pots of soups and rice, to the plates of lentils and other beans, there is no shortage of food to go around. Volunteers from the capital and southern provinces cook traditional dishes that reflect the country's rich cuisine and bring protesters together.

Tahrir Square has been the focal point for the protests that have continued to roil Iraq since October 1.

The spontaneous, leaderless demonstrations were organized on social media over long-standing grievances including Government corruption, unemployment and a lack of



A volunteer chef prepares to serve free portions of the popular sweets of Awamah, fried dough balls, to protester in the center of Baghdad, Iraq

basic services. For many, the square in central Baghdad has become a miniature model for the kind of state they dream of, where factional and sectarian politics play no part and public services exist.

Services, including the near-constant supply of food, have been integral to keeping people in the square, but vol-

unteers are eyeing a gradual drop in donations with concern.

Iraqis are used to communal meals and many volunteer food. Every year, during the annual Shiite religious commemoration known as Arbaeen, volunteers prepare food for pilgrims making their way to their sects' holy shrines in the city of Karbala.

Shortly after the protests started Oct. 1, volunteers began setting up similar tents to cook and distribute traditional Iraqi dishes for the protesters in and around Tahrir Square. "We make it for the hungry people, and people in need here in Tahrir Square," said a woman who gave her name as Um Ammar, which means "Ammar's mother." She is from the southern province of Missan and was cooking Seyyah, a thick mixture of rice flour and water fried on a hot plate. Other popular dishes are lentils and beans; Tepsy, a traditional Iraqi casserole; Dolma, consisting of stuffed cabbage and grape leaves, onions and aubergines cooked in tomato sauce; and Makhlama, a mixture of potato, tomatoes, onion and egg all fried together and put in bread. It is a favorite breakfast for people in Baghdad.

# US secretly expelled two Chinese diplomats: Report

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The United States secretly expelled two Chinese embassy officials in September after they drove onto a sensitive military base in Virginia, The New York Times reported Sunday.

The newspaper, which cited people with knowledge of the episode, said it appeared to be the first time in more than 30 years that the US has expelled Chinese diplomats on suspicion of espionage.

At least one of the diplomats was believed to be an intelligence officer operating under cover, the Times said.

The Times said the diplomats, accompanied by their wives, drove up to the checkpoint at the entrance to a sensi-

tive installation near Norfolk, Virginia that includes special operations forces.

The guard saw that they didn't have permission to enter and directed them to go through the gates, turn around and exit.

The Chinese officials continued onto the base, evading military personnel pursuing them until they were forced to stop by fire trucks blocking their path, according to the Times.

It said the officials said they didn't understand the guard's instructions and got lost.

Weeks after the incident, the State Department placed restrictions on the activities of Chinese diplomats, in what it said was a response to years-old Chinese regulations limiting the movements of US diplomats.

# Tens of thousands evacuated in Italy as WWII bomb defused

AFP ■ ROME

Around 54,000 people were evacuated from the southern Italian city of Brindisi on Sunday as experts worked to defuse a World War II bomb, in the largest operation of its kind in the country, media said.

The British bomb, one-metre (three-feet) long and weighing 200 kilogrammes (440-pounds), was found on November 2 during work on a cinema.

The device was damaged by the workers' equipment, making the operation more tricky.

All residents within a 1.5-kilometre radius were evacuated, and gas supplies were cut in homes within 500 metres of the site.

Some air traffic and rail services were also suspended.

# Singapore targets Opposition party with misinformation law

AFP ■ SINGAPORE

Singapore has ordered an opposition party to correct online posts under a controversial law against misinformation, the first time the legislation has been used against a rival party, ahead of elections expected within months.

The Singapore Democratic Party (SDP), one of a host of small opposition parties in the city-state, was ordered to correct two Facebook posts and an article on its website related to employment issues, authorities said in a press release on Saturday.

The Facebook posts claimed that many Singaporeans had been displaced from white-collar jobs by foreign employees, which the authori-

ties said was false.

"These false and misleading statements by the SDP have a singular objective -- to stoke fear and anxiety among local PMETs (Professionals, Managers, Executives and Technicians). It is important to set the facts straight so that Singaporeans are not misled," the government said on its fact-checking site.

Authorities used the measure twice last month, ordering Facebook to put a correction by a post for the first time, and telling an opposition party member to correct a message.

According to the SDP, Google also cited the new regulation, which prohibits adverts seeking to influence public opinion, when it announced a ban on political ads in Singapore this month.

# Military probes possible 'white power' hand signs at Army-Navy game

Washington: US military officials said they are investigating an incident where Army and Navy students used hand signs that can signal white power during a television broadcast.

The symbol was shown by two West Point cadets and a Naval Academy midshipman during festivities televised live by ESPN Saturday before a football game in Philadelphia between the Army and Navy.

The gesture resembles the "okay" sign, with the thumb and forefinger touching to form a circle and the remaining three fingers splayed, pointing upwards. It has only recently become a white supremacist symbol, and was adopted partly because of its ambiguity, according to the Anti-Defamation League. AFP

# Iran says it's defused 2nd cyberattack in less than a week

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's telecommunications minister announced on Sunday that the country has defused a second cyberattack in less than a week, this time "aimed at spying on government intelligence."

Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi said in a short Twitter post that the alleged attack was "identified and defused by a cybersecurity shield," and that the "spying servers were identified and the hackers were also tracked." He did not elaborate.

Last Wednesday, Jahromi told the official IRNA news agency that a "massive" and "governmental" cyberattack also targeted Iran's electronic infrastructure. He provided no

specifics on the purported attack except to say it was also defused and that a report would be released.

On Tuesday, the minister dismissed reports of hacking operations targeting Iranian banks, including local media reports that accounts of millions of customers of Iranian banks were hacked.

This is not the first time Iran says it has defused a cyberattack, though it has disconnected much of its infrastructure from the internet after the Stuxnet computer virus, widely believed to be a joint US-Israeli creation, disrupted thousands of Iranian centrifuges in the country's nuclear sites in the late 2000s.

# Boko Haram kill 19 Nigeria herders in clashes: Sources

AFP ■ KANO

Boko Haram jihadists gunned down 19 cattle herders Saturday in northeast Nigeria, civilian militia sources and residents told AFP on Sunday.

Ethnic Fulani herders, besieged by a spate of armed attacks targeting their cattle, pursued Boko Haram, sparking a fierce gunfight outside Fuhe village, near Ngala close to the border with Cameroon.

"The insurgents killed 19 of the herders in the fight," anti-jihadist militia leader Umar Kachalla told AFP. Bodies of the slain herders were brought to the police by

militiamen, Kachalla said.

The herders had earlier repelled an attack by Boko Haram fighters who invaded the village to steal livestock, killing one of the militants, Mada said.

The herders then decided to pursue the jihadists and fight them "once and for all", Mada said, but were overwhelmed.

"The herdsman were subdued by the better armed Boko Haram gunmen," he said.

Jihadists then returned to Fuhe village and burnt homes and food supplies while herds fled, according to Ngala resident Abubakar Yusuf, who saw the dead bodies at the police station.

# 1 killed in Philippines 6.8-magnitude quake

IANS ■ MANILA

A six-year-old girl was killed when the house she was in collapsed during a magnitude 6.8 earthquake that struck the southern Philippine island of Mindanao.

The local government in the Davao region said the girl became trapped in the rubble of the house in the town of Matanao, reports Efe news.

The US Geological Survey (USGS), which records worldwide seismic activity, said the earthquake occurred at 2 p.m. and the hypocenter of the earthquake was at a depth of 28 km, while its epicenter was some 5 km away of southwestern region of Sinawilan.

According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and

Seismology, the earthquake's magnitude was 6.9.

The tremor was followed by an aftershock of magnitude 5 some 20 minutes later and its hypocenter was 10 km deep. According to the USGS, a second aftershock of magnitude 5.7 was recorded at 3.09 p.m.

In October, some 21 people were killed while 432 others were injured after two earthquakes of magnitude 6.6 and 6.5 had struck Mindanao.

The region has suffered several seismic activities in the last few months that have resulted in casualties.

Philippines is located along the Ring of Fire, a region of high volcanic and seismic activity that is shaken every year by some 7,000 quakes, most of them moderate.

# Stars' flares can kill potential life on exoplanets, says study

IANS ■ ABU DHABI

NASA has identified over 4,100 exoplanets -- planets that orbit stars outside the Solar System -- but space researchers at New York University in Abu Dhabi now say that not all exoplanets in habitable zones will be able to maintain hospitable conditions for life.

Exoplanets in close proximity to stars are subject to radiation bursts which can disrupt habitable conditions unless the exoplanet has significant atmospheric or magnetic shielding.

In the study, published in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society: Letters,

researcher scientist Dimitra Atri explores how flares from stars affect a planet's surface radiation dose, and if that can disrupt the planet's ability to host life.

It was concluded that flares can abruptly increase the radiation level on planetary surfaces and have the capability to disrupt potentially habitable conditions on planets.

It was also found that the atmospheric depth (column density) and planetary magnetic field are major factors in protecting planets from flares and maintaining a substantial planetary atmosphere. "As we continue to explore

the planets of the solar system and beyond, discovering if these planets have the ability to support life continues to be of immense importance," said Atri.

The discovery of terrestrial exoplanets has been one of the most significant developments in modern astronomy.

However, an exoplanet that is too close to its host star is highly sensitive to radiation bursts from the star, also known as flares.

"More progress in this area will improve our understanding of the relationship between extreme solar events, radiation dose, and planetary habitability," Atri added.

# Five Taliban militants killed in Afghanistan

IANS ■ QALAT (AFGHANISTAN)

Five militants were killed after the Afghan security forces targeted Taliban hideouts in Afghanistan's Uruzgan and Kandahar provinces on Sunday, Afghan Army said in a statement.

The security forces backed by fighter planes struck the militants' hideouts outside Tirin Kot, the capital of Uruzgan province, killing two insurgents and wounding three others, early Sunday morning, Afghanistan's Army was quoted as saying by Xinhua news agency.

# OVER THE BOUNDARY

## Trend Slazer

### I don't follow any particular plan: Anil

At 62, **ANIL KAPOOR**'s fitness level serves as a goal for youngsters. He is counted among the fittest actors in the industry and is also enthusiastic about yoga and weight training.

Opening up on his fitness secret, he said: "My trainer keeps changing my workouts so that my body doesn't get too comfortable in any one thing. But the idea is to have a good balance between cardio and weight training."

On his diet routine, the actor commented, "I don't follow any particular plan. I just eat what feels right for my body, and that's usually healthy and simple food."

The actor rose to stardom in the eighties when fitness was not a priority for actors. Quizzed if today's generation of actors is more conscious about health and fitness, the actor smiled and replied: "That's a fair assumption. Today's youth are very knowledgeable about health & fitness."



### I am very lucky to have a team which doesn't leave my side. They are very hardworking. I never have to worry about certain things which can really derail any actor from focusing on giving their 100 per cent in acting. They also ensure that nothing distracts me. More than me, they have a professional attitude towards everything.

—Aparshakti Khurrana

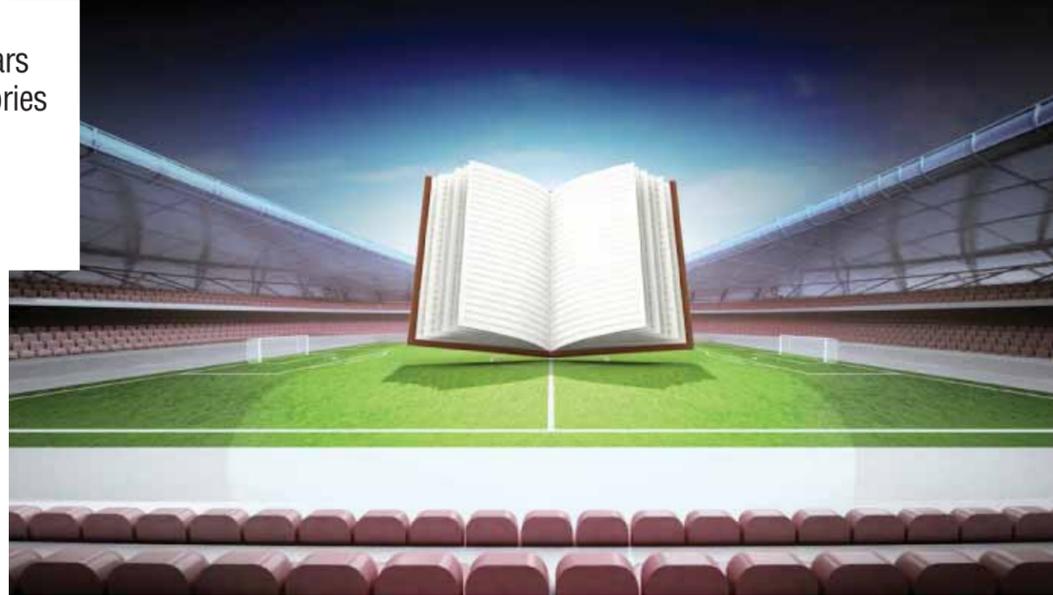


### Sports writing has evolved over the years and inspirational stories now make for an independent literary genre, says CHAHAK MITTAL

Cricket, as often said, is nothing less than a religion in India. And this is reflected not just in the fan-following that the cricketers command but even in sports literature. Be it *Wizards: The Story of Indian Spin Bowling* by Anindya Dutta, Sujit Mukherjee's *Autobiography of an Unknown Cricketer*, *Pundits From Pakistan* by Rahul Bhattacharya, *Azhar* by Harsha Bhogle, *Swami and Friends* by RK Narayan, Ramachandra Guha's *States of Indian Cricket*, there have been numerous books on the sport in India.

Other disciplines, now boosted by international wins, have equally inspirational stories. This is the gap that the Ekamra Sports Literature Festival is trying to bridge. Shireen Sethi, founder-director of the festival, said that this was the main topic of debate at this festival — Why so many books on cricket and none on other sports? She said, "We cannot even blame the writers and publishers for giving us so many books on cricket because it sells the most, especially in India. But this is why this festival was conceptualised to also make all kinds of sports and sports stories a part of mainstream literature."

The festival, that concluded yesterday, also witnessed the first-ever sports book awards in six categories — Autobiography of the Year, Biography of the Year, (authorised or unauthorised), Cricket Book of the Year, Outstanding Sports Book Award, Best Sports Book Publisher and Sports Book of the Year. Another reason which made the festival relevant was that the depiction of sports in literature, howsoever engaging, never finds the same resonance as a film. Case in point, *Lagaan* (2001) probably the first film, which documented the history of cricket in India. Through the film, the



audience realised how Indians had struggled to defeat Britishers in a game they barely knew. For them, it was like a war and the only way was to save their hard-earned crops and money. The film became a national favourite. On the contrary, a similar reference in Ramachandra Guha's *A Corner of a Foreign Field: The Indian History of a British Sport*, which presents the history of how cricket became an Indian sport, does not feature anywhere in the consciousness of Indians.

Shireen said that while conceptualising it, many sports authors, journalists and publishers agreed that writing a book is one thing and getting recognition or finding visibility is another and much tougher, which is why "we wanted to create a platform for sports writers to talk and give them more visibility in terms of readership."

Author Kristen Worley, whose book, *Women Enough*, was released in India at the festival, talked about how sports literature and writing have changed over time and said, "I think it has evolved greatly in the past several years. From the printed glossy sports editions to digital publication, the publishing world is increasingly investing in the human stories of the 'athlete experience'. However, books



always reveal more. They not only talk about the life of an athlete or a sportsperson, but also illustrate his/her relationships, the 'ins and outs' of career and develop a real authentic voice and a tactile and unique relationship between the reader and him/her. Today, unlike earlier times, magazine publications and digital stories only provide the 'high-

lights', whereas the book format is able to reveal intimate details of an athlete — on and off the field. The crucial aspects of the athlete's career are missed in these highlights which also means that his/her hard work and struggles go unrecognised." Journalist and author Tim Wigmore, whose *Cricket 2.0* was also released at the festival, said, that it's very obvious in case of journalism that sports writing has

evolved manifold with simultaneous focus on statistics. "These are not a replacement for human interest stories but a supplement to them. I think modern fans are very curious and demand more from sports writing, which is making it grow," added he. His book talks about how Twenty20 changed the face of cricket over the years. He told us the reason for writing the book. "Since its initiation in 2003, Twenty20 has upended the norms in cricket and turned what was an old, traditional game on its head. We wanted to

understand how and why it has become the most popular format of the sport, take a step back and understand the journey we have been on and where we could be headed next. We wanted to read a book telling this story. And we couldn't find it, so we thought writing it would be the next best thing," he said.

This was also the focus of what Wigmore talked about at the event where he said, "There are many ways in which T20 has changed cricket both on and off the field — encompassing everything from the rise of club cricket, hyper-commercialisation and cricket as entertainment. It has also changed the market for this sport, creating certain tensions. This festival is a great way to connect with those interested in sport on a deeper level and generate stimulating debate."

So how can we involve sports literature in education? Apart from RK Narayan's *Swami and Friends*, there is no other prominent Indian author's sports fiction that is a part of literature courses in graduation colleges. Shireen said, "For that, universities need to introduce writing courses like the ones in the US, especially Columbia, which is famous for its creative writing. I think it's time we take sports writing seriously like the rest of the arts."

Kristen added, "The festival is vitally important as it can encourage more people to tell stories and even hear the authentic voice of athletes who are willing to share their tales. It can broaden the understanding and create a system that supports sportspersons and make their stories of victory as well as struggle more inclusive."

While most of them would argue that sports is something that is best experienced live or visually rather than being read, she argued, "There is something very powerful about the written word as it is limitless and draws on our imagination with no restrictions, whereas the lived experience is limited to that moment in real-time."

Wigmore disagreed too, "It has never been an either/or. The best sports writing can enhance our enjoyment of what we see live on the field of play, providing a deeper perspective and way to appreciate the sport. Indeed, with relentless coverage, I'd say the benefits of this deeper perspective through writing are greater than ever."

## TECH TALK

### The dominant shift Here's how streaming and #MeToo shaped TV decade of change



*Game of Thrones* was both an unprecedented achievement and old-school role model in the TV decade that's rolling its final credits. Instalments of the elaborately produced hit were doled out one at a time by an established outlet, premium cable channel HBO. That was standard TV operating procedure until, suddenly, it wasn't. The new era arrived in 2013 when a full season's worth of *House of Cards* popped up amid Netflix's on-demand movies and old TV shows.

The drama's unexpected home appeared simply to be an option to the 500-channel universe born in the 1990s. But *House of Cards* foreshadowed a streaming gold rush and volume of programming dubbed Peak TV in 2015 — and with no drop in altitude in sight.

The result — nothing is the same, whether it's how much television we consume; how and where we do it; who gets to make it, and the level of respect given the creatively emboldened small screen. We don't just watch TV, we binge it until we're bleary-eyed if not sated. We still change channels with a remote control, but more often we're logging in to watch shows on our phones or other devices and on our schedules, not network-dictated appointment TV. A comic strip, *Zits*, recently summed up the current reality in three panels. "What's on?" a father asks his teenage son, who's sitting cross-legged in front of a TV set and is bracketed by a smart phone on one side and a laptop on the other. "Everything ever videotaped, filmed, recorded, photographed or otherwise documented whenever I want to watch it," the teen answers, nonchalantly tossing popcorn into his mouth. "I miss television," the downcast dad tells his wife.

**ALL HAIL STREAMING** Generational nostalgia aside, consumers have embraced the change in their media world, said Robert Thompson, director of Syracuse University's Bleier Center for Television & Popular Culture. "This was the decade that streaming became for many, many people the dominant way in which they watch television," said Thompson. It's a rapid shift that bears little relation to the previous entertainment industry revolu-

tion, cable TV. Only about a quarter of the US homes had cable in 1980 despite its availability since the mid-20th century. While growth finally exploded in the 80s, it wasn't until the tail end of the 1990s and the arrival of HBO's *The Sopranos* and *Sex and the City* that premium cable received critical praise and honours, Thompson said.

In contrast, it took less than a decade for leader Netflix to skyrocket from about 12 million US subscribers at the decade's start to 60 million this year and 158 million worldwide. The streamer reportedly lavished \$15 billion on programming for 2019 alone, and earned buzz with series including *The Crown*, *Stranger Things*, and *Orange is the New Black*. Even major films, among them Martin Scorsese's *The Irishman*, are making themselves at home on Netflix while still in theatres.

Others in the fray include Amazon Prime Video, although "streaming wars" became the aggressive phrase applied to the increasingly competitive marketplace. With newly emboldened (and sometimes mega-expanded) media companies intent on getting a piece of the streaming action, there was a growth surge that won't abate in the new decade.

Apple TV Plus launched on November 1 with Oprah Winfrey and Steven Spielberg among its

first wave of producers, and was quickly followed by Disney Plus. The latter has a storehouse of Disney movies and TV shows to draw on, along with acquired properties from Marvel Entertainment and Lucasfilm and its *Star Wars* franchise. While cord-cutting became a quest for viewers seeking to shed hefty cable bills, there is still a price tag for the gusher of riches, as much as \$14.99 monthly for HBO Max alone. A bonus for viewers as they sort through the competing options — more programming doesn't just mean more of the same.

**VARIETY STORE** If retailers can provide every type of yogurt known to humanity, why can't TV take the same eclectic approach? It has in the past 10 years, as the increasing demand for content and the growth of niche programming created opportunities for diverse and candid voices. Ongoing efforts by advocacy groups also contributed to the gradual but unmistakable shift.

Ryan Murphy, already established as a successful producer with *Nip/Tuck* and *Glee*, exercised his clout to make FX's *Pose*, set in the LGBTQ ballroom culture scene of the 1980s and 90s. Its star, Billy Porter, became the first openly gay man to win the best actor Emmy.

Even mainstream broadcasting expanded its field of vision, with ABC the first network in 20 years to air an Asian American family sitcom, *Fresh Off the Boat*, ending this season. Nahnatchka Khan was its executive producer, one of the women who gained prominence behind the camera in a sector long dominated by men.

African American women took the spotlight in creator-star Issa Rae's *Insecure*, while Jenji Kohan's *Orange is the New Black* featured characters notable for their ethnic, sexual and class diversity. Some established female producers further cemented their success. Shonda Rhimes added *Scandal* and *How to Get Away with Murder* to her body of work, with the latter's star, Viola Davis, becoming the first African American to win a best drama actress Emmy. Ava DuVernay, already a filmmaking force, spearheaded *When They See Us* and *Queen Sugar*.

Reese Witherspoon, adding producing to her portfolio, made good on her vow to bring strong female characters to the screen with the hit series *Big Little Lies* and *The Morning Show*. Statistics confirm the anecdotal evidence. Across all TV platforms in 2017-18, women accounted for a historic high of 31 per cent of those working in key behind-the-scenes jobs including directors, writers and editors, according to research by San Diego State University's Center for the Study of Women in Television & Film.

While television moved toward better reflecting the world at large, it was forced to look inward as well.

**#METOO FALLOUT** Revelations of sexual misconduct hit the TV industry hard and with more lasting effect than any other sector of Hollywood, even compared to producer Harvey Weinstein's fall from filmmaking heights. Two of media's top power-brokers were brought down in the #MeToo era — Les Moonves and Roger Ailes. Top-tier actors also lost their jobs, including Jeffrey Tambor of *Transparent* and Kevin Spacey of *House of Cards* and Louis CK, whose TV projects included *Louie*, which he starred in and produced. —AP

## WEBBED



**THE GIFT** A painter in Istanbul embarks on a personal journey as she unearths universal secrets about an Anatolian archaeological site and its link to her past. Starring Beren Saat, Mehmet Günsür and Metin Akdülger, season 1 releases on December 27 on Netflix.



**CRASH LANDING ON YOU** A paragliding mishap drops a South Korean heiress in North Korea and into the life of an army officer, who decides he will help her hide. Created by Lee Jeong-hyo and Park Ji-eun, starring Hyun Bin, Son Ye-jin and Seo Ji-hye, the show releases on December 21 on Netflix.



**AFTER THE RAID** A large immigration raid in a small town leaves emotional fallout and hard questions for its church-goers about what it means to love thy neighbour. The documentary film release on December 19 on Netflix.

Quirking up the promotional game for their forthcoming film *Good Newwz*, actors **AKSHAY KUMAR** and **DILJIT DOSANJH** tried the labour pain test to understand what expecting mothers go through during child birth.

Akshay shared a video on Instagram where he and Diljit are trying the test. He wrote: "Good Newwz... A small step to understand what mothers go through by Diljit Dosanjh and me. Respect to all the mummies out there, delivering #GoodNewwz is harder than anyone can imagine!"



### Ryan resembles Kate Beckinsale

Actor **RYAN REYNOLDS** says his resemblance to actor Kate Beckinsale is something that he has heard about for a long time.

The 43-year-old Reynolds revealed that he was aware of the talk about his resemblance to Beckinsale during an appearance on a show. "It is like looking in a mirror," Reynolds joked, adding of the gown Beckinsale was wearing in a clip the show displayed of the actor. "I mean, I was going to wear that today!" he quipped. In October, Beckinsale also talked about the uncanny resemblance to Reynolds while on a show.



Teaching at a Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) school has always filled me with a sense of purpose, joy and accomplishment. With every transfer, the experience of mentoring a new set of students has thrown up rich learnings. My stint at Subhash Nagar BMC School in Mumbai's Chembur suburb was no different. If there were challenges, then there were good times too.

I can still recall the day I took charge of the seventh graders as their class teacher. It was a bright bunch, and I was informed that they all came from impoverished homes. While the majority was from the nearby Anand Nagar slum, a few lived in the crowded *basti* across the railway line. Their parents were rag-pickers and usually set out for work before dawn to ensure they were in time to pick up the 'valuable' trash before their 'competitors' get to it. They came back well past noon, only to queue up at the trash dealer's house to earn their daily wage. Left behind to fend for themselves and their siblings, the children doubled up as household help, baby-sitters and chipped in whenever their parents needed them. Most were either too distracted or extremely exhausted to pay attention in class. There was a general sense of indifference towards education. Their parents, unfortunately, just didn't have the time or energy to pay attention to them or to their future for there were more immediate existential challenges that they faced.

But, with over 28 years of teaching experience, I was prepared to engage with my students. During the roll call, I chatted with them as they introduced themselves. Around 10 students were absent that day. Apart from three girls who were visiting their native place and were supposed to be back in school in two or three days, there were six boys, namely, Amol, Krushna, Amit, Pandhari, Prakash and Kishan, who missed the class.

Things quickly fell into a routine and the girls came back as expected. However, the boys continued skipping school. Every day, I thought they would come, only to be disappointed. I felt sad while marking them absent. When a week went by and the six didn't turn up, I decided to visit them in Anand Nagar. As I reached the slum and asked for Amol and Krushna, I was directed towards a gym in a narrow lane. They were surprised to see me but quickly assured me that they would show up in school the next day. They even apologised for not coming earlier. We had a warm interaction and I treated them to *vada pav*.

I went back home peacefully. I thought, perhaps, home visits were the answer to bringing in the absentees. But I was wrong. They didn't show up and I felt let down. I discussed their absence with my class and that's when I got to know their

SHILPA NAIK, a retired teacher at a Mumbai suburb school, transformed the lives of a few students in her class so that they metamorphosed from child labourers into a music band

## TRYST WITH TALENT



story. "They are part of *Banjo Party* (musical group). They are called for events and festivals like *Dahi Handi* on *Gokulashtami*, *Navaratri* and birthday parties in the *basti*. They are also called for playing *dhol*," said their friends from Anand Nagar. I learnt that each one earned ₹300 per event, although sometimes they were not paid the entire amount. "They earn and have a good time. Why would they attend the school?" my informants exclaimed.

What did they mean by 'good time', I asked. "Don't tell them that we have told you all this but they smoke, drink and..." they said and started giggling. I was taken aback. My children are into all this? Yes, I considered them 'my children'. They were kids, who had been forced into child labour, they had taken to substance abuse, they were truanting from school and they have a troubled life. They had been deprived of a childhood and parental care. Clearly, they were not afraid to work hard but their circumstances had denied them the chance to shape their life through education. They were carrying the cross of their life on their young shoulders.

But how could I reach out to them, earn their trust and let them know that I cared? These questions troubled me constantly. If I could just get them to come to school, I was sure I could teach them many things. The empty benches scoffed

at me. I was being defeated daily. I realised that these boys needed vocational training more than bookish knowledge. So I came up with a plan to make sure that they got both. I gathered some students and went to meet them again. "How about forming a *Banjo Party* of your own?" I suggested to Amol, Krushna and company. "But how is it possible?" asked Krushna. "You work for someone else and they don't even pay you enough. They avail all the benefits and you get hardly anything in return," I said. "Yes ma'am, but how can we go about it? We don't have enough money to buy musical instruments," he said.

"Let's discuss this in class tomorrow. We will work out a plan," I told them. Amol, Krushna and others were elated and made sure that all six came to school before the first call for morning prayers. "Ms Naik, your 'heroes' have showed up," remarked the other teachers. I felt a sense of satisfaction when I marked 'P' (present) against their names.

The whole class was eager to discuss the formation of the *Banjo Party*. After the prayer, we returned to the class. The boys started off animatedly, "Ma'am, we will have to purchase instruments from Parel and Lalbaug (South Mumbai localities). We have prepared a list of the things we require — instruments

like small and big *dhols*, *dholki*, sticks, *khanjira*, and also t-shirts and trousers. We've already prepared the budget." The boys were excellent at calculations, I discovered. "We need around ₹6,000," they announced and added, "But we don't have the cash. Making a list is okay but one needs money at the end."

I said, "Don't worry, I will give you the money. You can repay me in instalments. But I have one condition — you have to attend school every day." They agreed readily. The next day, I gave them the start-up money and a day later, they bought the instruments. The group proudly showed off their talent after class while their classmates danced to their tunes.

The boys not only started attending school regularly, they also practised music under a banyan tree near the local railway station. Many of their classmates visited them. I, too, dropped by a few times. As their peers and elders encouraged them, their confidence and self-esteem grew. The 'P' against their names in the roll call shone.

A few days later, the school had been shut for 10 days for Ganesh Chaturthi. When the school reopened, I came back to find a packet of money, a box of sweets and flowers on the table. The beaming *Banjo Party* greeted me. "You don't have to pay me back so soon. Have you received proper

payment?" I inquired.

"Ma'am, during the Ganapati festival, we were invited to play on all 10 days. In fact, we played during the procession on the first day when the Ganapati idol was placed. That honour is normally reserved for a well-known musical party. We have made so much money that even after paying you, each one of us has ₹3,000 left. Additionally, we have kept aside ₹2,000 in the group's joint kitty," they shared with delight.

The boys had brought kilos of *peda*, which were more than enough for the class of 29. Instead of distributing more than one *peda* each, I requested them to cut them into quarters and distribute them to the entire school. "While doing so, please tell them that we are talented businessmen but we are studying, too," I said.

That was one of my most rewarding days in the school. My small experiment had changed the lives of these amazing, gifted boys. From being labelled as 'absentees', 'ruffians' and 'child labourers', they had transformed themselves into shining examples of hard work and enterprise. What's more, they started attending the school regularly.

(The author is a retired BMC teacher. The article has been translated from Marathi to English by Alka Gadgil.)

—Charkha Features

## Time to bridge the age gap

Youth should be seen as an effective instrument of social change rather than of conflict, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Most of us are aware about the "generation gap," which can be defined as "wide difference in cultural norms between the younger generation and their elders." It can also be described as a situation where the older and younger generation have conflicting views because of a difference in experiences, opinions, habits and behaviour. Though the generation gap is not seen as a serious issue but it often becomes one.

It is a known fact that the youth are filled with energy, stamina, strong will and zest. But certain other valuable characteristics of youth, which can be great tools for social transformation are not fully realised or utilised by the society, as a result of which they get confused and disturbed. One such important personality trait of the youngsters is that they strongly aspire to do something new. They want to initiate change and are open to new challenges. Hence it is easier for them to adapt to any kind of change as compared to the older generation. The latter is undoubtedly more experienced but most of their ideas have already been applied to real-life situations and they may not have new concepts and enthusiasm to work for a change. So the old order has to transform, giving place to the newer generation who will play an active role in social evolution. It has, therefore, rightly been said that if the youth are awakened, the whole world will follow their lead including the generations that follow their example. They will prepare themselves mentally and physically for the dawn of new era. But have the youth's potential been utilised for national reconstruction so far? Is it given the opportunities and the guidance to fulfill their dreams of taking the world into a new era of peace and prosperity? Well, with reference to our country we can say that the youth is restless and disappointed because it is not provided enough channels for self expression. Today the youth complains about the society and people in power. It believes that its energies, both mental and physical, are not fully utilised for national development because the older generation denies the young adequate participation, thinking that they are inexperienced and immature. On one hand, the youth says that the "experience" and "maturity" of elders is, in fact, a hindrance in breaking new ground. The need of the hour is to bring forth new initiatives, ideas and innovation. On the other hand, elders feel that the youth is



indifferent to their spiritual heritage which is responsible for the crisis of morals and values. This, in turn, has created an ever-widening emotional gap and an atmosphere of violence in the society.

An impartial analysis of the present Indian conditions would lead us to the conclusion that, to some extent, both sides are right. The more relevant question here is: How can this gap be bridged? Who will work as the link between the two generations? Who will catalyse this change?

Everyone would agree that, to bridge this ever-widening gap between the two generations, the formal and informal educational centres and institutions should inculcate higher principles and ideals among the youth. The institutions should provide a new interpretation of society where there is no violence and everyone lives peacefully in the family of mankind. These educational centres should have people of noble character, pleasing manners and loving demeanour who can utilise the youth's potential and also enable the older generation to contribute in nation building. Unless the youth is given this new vision and co-operation to work towards this goal, the society will remain split by various divisive forces and acts of violence. And the youth will continue to be exploited by various sections of the society for their parochial ends and narrow objectives.

We are aware of the fact that the population of the young is higher than the middle-aged and the elderly. So they should be seen as effective instruments of social change. Otherwise they will drift towards violence and drug abuse which will result in a dark future for our society. Let us, therefore, be wiser to consider our youth to be our strength and prospective nation-builders, for, "the youth is not only the leaders of tomorrow but also the partners of today."

## BLOSSOM ALL THE WAY

Now is the time to ensure that your garden is a riot of colour even before spring sets in

Daffodils sitting on a windowsill against a backdrop of white snow make a fragrant and pretty midwinter scene. This picture, with bulbs "forced" for early bloom, takes planning that should start now. Choose plump, fresh-looking bulbs from those now on display at garden centres, hardware stores and supermarkets.

### PREP THE BULBS

Unless you buy pre-plant bulbs in pots, you have the choice of growing them in water, pebbles or soil. For growing in water, use special bulb glasses pinched in with a neck to support a single bulb

with its base in the water or support them in a drinking glass with three toothpicks stuck around its side.

Growing bulbs in pebbles is just like growing them in water except the pebbles support them (and you don't get entertained watching the roots grow).

In a flowerpot, plant bulbs shoulder to shoulder in potting soil with their tops level with the soil surface. Once planted, they are ready for the first of four stages of forcing.

### FOUR STAGES OF GROWTH

The first stage awakens the flower buds buried within the bulbs and allows for some root growth. Cool temperatures — about eight weeks' worth — are needed to fool the flower buds into feeling that winter is over and it's time to wake up. Provide those temperatures by plunging the containers into holes outdoors, then mulching with

leaves or straw, or by putting containers into an unheated garage or room. No light is needed at this point.

Cold can keep bulbs waiting in Stage One until you are ready to move on. The goal in Stage Two is to slowly draw out the stems, and the way to do this is with a little warmth and a little light. The amount of light that peeks through the drainage hole of a flower pot or a paper cone inverted over your bulb container is about right. After a couple of weeks, depending on the temperature, the bulbs are ready for Stage Three.

In this third stage, we hasten growth along with the warmer temperatures and bright light of a sunny windowsill. A daily turn of the plants toward the light prevents lopsided growth. Be careful not to coax growth along so rapidly that the blossoms blast open and fall apart.

Step Four: beautiful, fra-

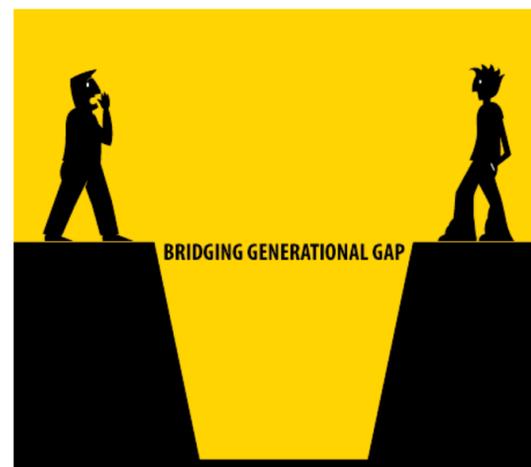
grant blossoms. We want to drag this step out the longest, so keep the bulbs where the light is bright but out of direct sun. If the indoor temperature can be maintained on the cool side, and the air humid, these harbingers of spring provide delight for two weeks or more.

### FLOWERS ALL WINTER

With good planning, you can have new pots full of blooms ready to open and waiting in the wings as old blooms fade. Or you could have mixtures of different bulbs, blooming at different times, filling each pot.

Any spring-flowering bulb can be forced indoors, although some are easier than others. Easiest of all are paper-white daffodils. Native to year-round warm climates, they start growth and flower without any cool treatment at all, so they're also the first to bloom.

—AP



“The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.” —Mahatma Gandhi

### BRAIN PROTEIN PROTECTS FROM ALZHEIMER'S

Researchers have found that a protein that regulates white blood cells in the human brain could protect against Alzheimer's disease. The results published in the journal *Communications Biology* suggest that this protein, called CD33, could have important implications in the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

"Immune cells in the brain, called microglia, play a critical role in Alzheimer's disease. They can be harmful or protective. Swaying microglia from a harmful to protective state could be the key to treating the disease," explained study co-author Matthew Macauley, Assistant Professor at University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada.

"The fact that CD33 is found on microglia suggests that immune cells can protect the brain from Alzheimer's disease under the right circumstances," said Abhishek Bhattacharjee, first author and postdoctoral fellow in the Macauley lab.



### PRESCRIPTION OF ANTIBIOTICS HIGH IN LMICs

Kids in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) are receiving an excessive amount of antibiotic prescriptions that could harm the children's ability to fight pathogens as well as increase antibiotic resistance worldwide, warns a new study.

Children in these countries received 25 antibiotic prescriptions through age five, a "remarkable" estimate, given that two antibiotic prescriptions per year is considered excessive in many high-income settings, said the study published in the journal *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*.

"We knew children in LMICs are sick more often, and we knew antibiotic prescription rates are high in many countries. What we did not know was how these elements translate into actual antibiotic exposure and the results are rather alarming," said lead author of the study Gunther Fink from Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), Basel, Switzerland.



### WHY CASUAL DRINKERS TURN INTO ALCOHOLICS

Don't just blame it on his friends if your husband has suddenly started drinking more in recent times. Scientists have found neurons that might be responsible for triggering sudden uptick in alcohol consumption.

Researchers have long known that central nucleus of the amygdala in brain (CeA) plays a role in behaviours related to alcohol. A team at University of North Carolina's school of medicine have found a specific neural circuit that, when altered, caused animal models to drink less alcohol.

"The fact that these neurons promote reward-like behaviour and that activation of these drive alcohol drinking in animals without extensive prior drinking experience, suggests that they may be important for early alcohol use," said senior author Zoe McElligott, assistant professor of psychiatry and pharmacology. "By understanding the function of this circuit, we can better predict what happens in the brains of people who transition from casual alcohol use to subsequent abuse of alcohol," professor added.



### EXERCISE WON'T HELP WOMEN WITH MIGRAINE

Despite doctors recommending regular aerobic exercise to prevent migraine, physical exercise can actually be a trigger of migraine attacks for most women because of "anxiety sensitivity" in them, find researchers. "Anxiety sensitivity" refers to one's fear of experiencing anxiety arousal due to harmful physical, cognitive and socially-observable consequences, may be related to physical activity (PA) avoidance in migraine patients.

Migraine affects around 10-15 per cent of the population around the globe and among its most common diagnosis criteria include a throbbing, unilateral head pain, hypersensitivity to lights, sounds, odour, and aggravation by activity.

The researchers assessed 100 women with probable migraine, who filled an online survey covering anxiety sensitivity scores, intentional avoidance of moderate and vigorous physical activity (PA) in the past month, as well as the self-rated perception that exercise would trigger a migraine attack and worse migraine symptoms.



### SALIVA TEST DETECTS MOUTH CANCER EARLY

A non-invasive saliva test can detect human papilloma virus-16, the strain associated with oropharyngeal cancer (OPC), showing promise for earlier and easier detection of mouth and throat cancer, report researchers.

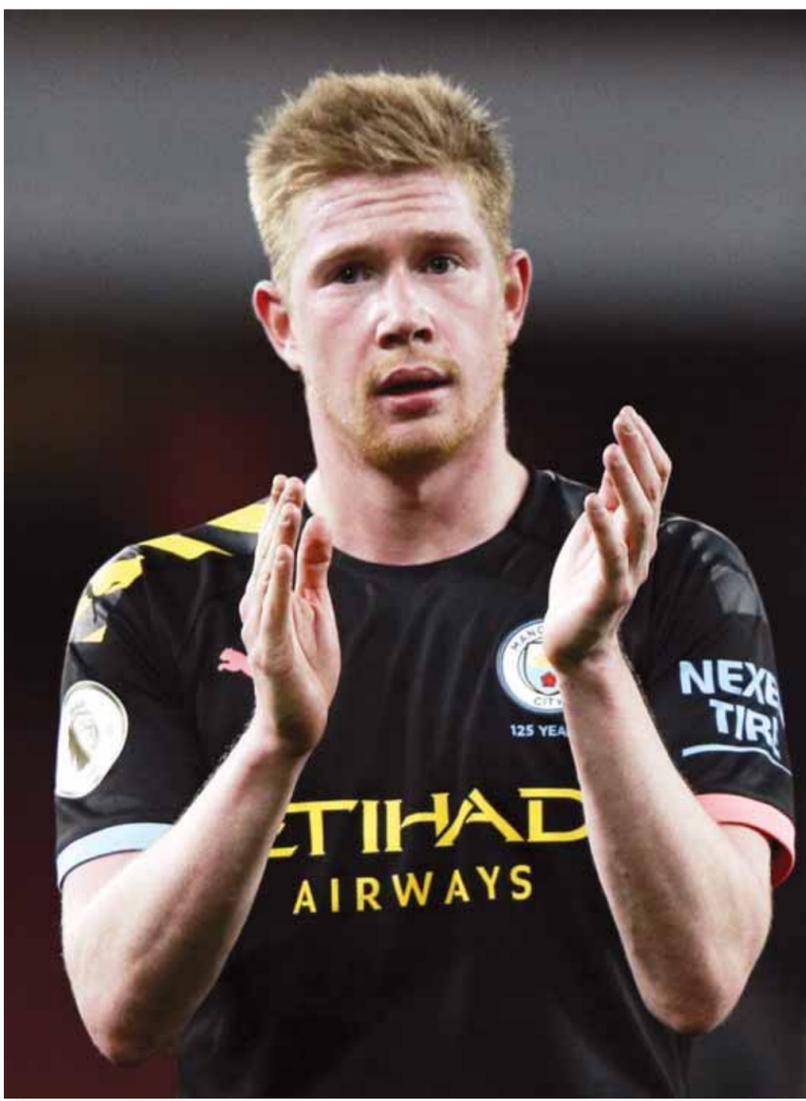
The novel technique detected OPC in whole saliva in 40 per cent of patients tested and 80 per cent of confirmed OPC patients. OPC has an approximate incidence of 1,15,000 cases per year worldwide and is one of the fastest-rising cancers owing to increasing HPV-related incidence, especially in younger patients.

Cancers that occur in the back of the mouth and upper throat are often not diagnosed until they become advanced, partly because their location makes them difficult to see. "The successful detection of HPV from salivary exosomes isolated by our acoustofluidic platform offers distinct advantages, including early detection and risk assessment," added Dr Huang in a paper published in *The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics*.



# KEVIN FLIES AT EMIRATES

De Bruyne finds brace and assists one to help City humiliate Arsenal at home; Spurs score late to win against Wolves; Toffees-Man Utd play 1-1 draw



**AFF ■ MANCHESTER**

**M**anchester City got back on track as the Premier League champions swept to a 3-0 win against woeful Arsenal, while Tottenham maintained their revival under Jose Mourinho with a dramatic 2-1 victory at Wolves on Sunday.

City's masterclass in north London and Jan Vertonghen's last-gasp winner for Tottenham shared the spotlight on a day when Manchester United's teenage striker Mason Greenwood rescued a 1-1 draw against Everton.

Kevin De Bruyne scored twice and teed up Raheem Sterling for City's other goal as Arsenal crumbled to another humiliating home defeat.

Victory sees City close the gap on runaway leaders Liverpool back to 14 points and edge to within four of second-placed Leicester, who they host next weekend.

Arsenal, on the other hand, remain ninth on the back of just one win in their last 12 games in all competitions.

City struck in the second minute when Gabriel Jesus's low cross picked out De Bruyne to fire into the roof of the net.

Pep Guardiola's men had been ruthlessly cut apart on the counter-attack in losing to Manchester United last weekend.

But the visitors doubled their lead just 15 minutes in with De Bruyne the creator as he carried the ball forward before squaring for Sterling to slot home his 16th goal of the season.

De Bruyne showed his superior quality to any other player on the pitch again five minutes before half-time as this time he curled into the bottom corner from outside the box.

At Molineux, Mourinho's men had to dig deep against in-form Wolves to inflict the hosts' first league defeat in 12 games.

Adama Traore's spectacular strike had cancelled out Tottenham winger Lucas Moura's early opener before Vertonghen stooped to guide home Christian Eriksen's corner in stoppage-time.

## SPURS ON THE RISE

Spurs can now move into the top four before Christmas if they beat Chelsea at home next weekend and Mourinho has his sights of qualifying for next season's Champions League.

"We went about a year without winning a Premier League game away and we've managed two in a short amount of time," Mourinho added.

"Now we are not looking to the bottom of



table, we're looking higher up. This game is a special game because the opponent is a special opponent."

United are one point behind Tottenham in sixth place after the momentum from their impressive recent run stalled in the Everton draw.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side fell behind to Victor Lindelof's controversial first half own-goal after United's appeals for a foul on David de Gea were ignored by VAR.

"It was a clear foul but there's no point me complaining. It (VAR) will be better next year. They'll have to look at it," Solskjaer said.

But Greenwood, introduced in the second half, underlined his vast potential with a clinical strike 13 minutes from full-time.

The 18-year-old is the third



appearance against Alkmaar in the Europa League on Thursday. It was fitting that Greenwood scored in the 4,000th senior match in succession in which at least one youth graduate was represented in United's first-team or matchday squad, an extraordinary record stretching back over nine decades.

For Duncan Ferguson, Everton's caretaker manager, this spirited performance built on the momentum from last weekend's win over Chelsea.

But Ferguson, a popular club legend, insisted he isn't the right man to lead the Toffees in the long-term.

"I think it's buying them a bit of time until they can get the right man in. That's what a couple of results does, so we can make that process more diligent," he said.

## Juve regain top spot

**AFF ■ TURIN**

**C**ristiano Ronaldo scored twice as Juventus bounced back from their first defeat of the season to beat Udinese 3-1 and move top of Serie A on Sunday.

Ronaldo struck twice in the first half to make it five goals in four games as champions Juve move one point ahead of leaders Inter Milan ahead of their trip to off-form Fiorentina later on Sunday.

Maurizio Sarri's side had taken just one point from their last two league games, falling 3-1 to Lazio in Rome last weekend after a 2-2 draw against Sassuolo the previous week.

But Portuguese star Ronaldo

tapped in his first after nine minutes at the Allianz Stadium, and burst through to finish off a Gonzalo Higuain cross on 36 minutes.

Leonardo Bonucci sealed the three points just before the break when he headed in from close range.

Ignacio Pussetto pulled a goal back for 17th-placed Udinese four minutes into injury time with his close range effort beating Gianluigi Buffon in the Juventus goal.

Juventus play their final Serie A game before the winter break at Sampdoria on Wednesday, before a rematch against Lazio in the Italian Super Cup in Saudi Arabia next weekend.

Atalanta fell 2-1 at Bologna just days after the Champions League newcomers sealed their place in the competition's last 16 despite losing their first three matches.

Rodrigo Palacio tapped in the first after 12 minutes for Bologna off a rebound after a Riccardo Orsolini effort came off the post.

Andrea Poli nodded in the second eight minutes after the break, before Ruslan Malinovskyi connected with a Musa Barrow cross to pull a goal back on the hour mark.

## AC MILAN LACK PARTY SPIRIT

Atalanta failed to take advantage of their numerical superiority



late on, as Bologna played the last five minutes a man down after Brazilian defender Danilo was sent off for two bookable offences.

Gian Piero Gasperini's side are sixth on 28 points, one point off the Champions League places, with European rivals Cagliari, Lazio and Roma still to play this weekend.

AC Milan were held to a goalless draw against Sassuolo at the San Siro as the former European giants marked their 120th anniversary in tepid style.

Theo Hernandez had a goal ruled out after half an hour following a Franck Kessie handball in the buildup, with Rafael Leao hitting the crossbar and the post.

Stefano Pioli's side failed to make it three wins in a row and sit 10th with Sassuolo four places and five points below.

Hellas Verona battled back from three goals down with all three

substitutes scoring in a 15-minute second-half spell to hold Torino 3-3.

Torino had taken a comfortable lead at the Stadio Bentegodi after Christian Ansaldi scored a brace with Alex Berenguer also on target for the visitors.

But the hosts hit back with three goals after 69 minutes from players who all came off the bench.

Giampaolo Pazzini converted a penalty on 69 minutes after Gleison Bremer was deemed to have used his elbow to block the ball.

Pazzini was then involved in the second with Valerio Verre smashing in off a rebound, before Mariusz Stepinski added a third by pouncing on a defensive error from Ola Aina to finish off.

Torino are ninth, with Verona two points back in 12th, in the hosts' final match before the winter break.

## Mumbai stop Bengaluru's unbeaten run in ISL

**PTI ■ BENGALURU**

**M**umbai City FC stopped defending champion Bengaluru FC's unbeaten run with a 3-2 win in a keenly-contested Indian Super League match at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Sunday.

Subhasish Bose's (12th minute) gave Mumbai City an early lead, but an unfortunate Matic Grgic (58th) own-goal gave the defending champions a lifeline. Diego Carlos (77th) headed in what looked like the match-winner until Sunil Chhetri (89th) converted from the spot to equalise.

However, it was Rowlin Borges who scored the winner in the 94th minute as the Mumbai side grabbed their first win since the opening game.

Mumbai climbed to the sixth spot with 10 points from eight matches, while Bengaluru's first defeat of the season pushed them to the third spot with 13 points.

The visitors broke the deadlock in the 12th minute. Larbi delivered a terrific cross into the box from the left flank and an unmarked Bose ghosted past the Bengaluru defence to head in at the far post.

Bengaluru were unable to mount an immediate response as



Mumbai pressed well. A magnificent defence-splitting pass by Erik Paartalu caught the visitors' defence unawares midway through the first half. The Australian found Udanta Singh's run into the box perfectly, but the winger failed to make use of the chance and lobbed his effort over the crossbar.

Mumbai threatened to double their lead before the break. A Modou Sougou strike on target was kept out by Gurpreet Singh Sandhu before the Senegalese striker set up Mohamed Larbi inside the box who blasted his shot over the bar.

The visitors were awarded a

penalty at the stroke of half-time when Amine Chermi and Juanan ran into each other inside the box but Larbi was denied from 12 yards by the strong gloves of Gurpreet.

The Blues started the second half as the stronger side with an intent to press higher up the field and win the second balls.

Dimas Delgado nearly found an equaliser when the Mumbai defence failed to clear a long-throw-in into the box from the right flank. The Spaniard unleashed a curling strike from outside the box that Amrinder tipped away at full stretch.



## Atletico comeback with 2-0 win over Osasuna

**IANS ■ MADRID**

**A**tletico Madrid won a La Liga victory against Osasuna as Alvaro Morata and Saul Niguez found the back of the net successfully.

Atletico's victory was postponed by Osasuna goalkeeper Sergio Herrera with some astonishing saves until well into the second half. Particularly on three occasions, Joao Felix's shots seemed unstoppable, but Herrera was like a wall on Saturday night, reports Efe news.

It was not until minute 67 when Atletico's top scorer Morata took a free kick from Kieren Trippier from the right sideline and headed it into the net that the comeback team went ahead 1-0.

The game was all over for Osasuna, because eight minutes later Saul netted the ball making the final score 2-0 at minute 75.

## Confident Punjab FC face Indian Arrows

**PTI ■ LUDHIANA**

**H**igh on confidence after their impressive win over defending champions Chennai City FC in their previous match, Punjab FC will play host to All India Football Federation developmental side's Indian Arrows in an I-League game here on Monday.

The match against the Arrows will be Punjab's third successive match at home, while for the travelling youngsters, it will be their first on the road this season.

beating Chennai City 3-1 in a thoroughly impressive performance on December 10 at home.

Reflecting on his side's impressive display, Punjab FC head coach Yan Law said, "Against Chennai, the boys showed good tactical discipline and a fantastic desire to win."

"Even after a late equaliser from Chennai, the lads showed pure class and pulled back two more goals in the dying minutes of the game. I'm very proud of each and every one of them and I know they are capable of doing much more."

He remains wary of the



threat that the Arrows possess and added, "Arrows are a good side who have tremendous quality and potential. They have given both their oppositions, Gokulam and Aizawl a tough time in their first two fixtures."

"This is a team to take very seriously and not underestimate. It is going to be a tough game as they are quite a compact and structured team."

Indian Arrows, on the other hand, have played twice at home and despite showing grit and tenacity came up short against Gokulam Kerala and Aizawl. A positive result against Punjab in an away trip

could serve as a massive boost to get their campaign.

Speaking ahead of the match, head coach Shanmugam Venkatesh said, "We know that Punjab FC won by a good margin against defending champions Chennai City in their last match and their confidence and motivation levels will be high, for sure."

"It will be their third consecutive home match and for us, we are playing away for the first time this season. We have adapted well to conditions so far and the weather has been really good and ideal for playing football. We will give our best in the game."

# Caribbeans taste the first blood

Hetmyer, Hope score hundred to guide Windies to 8 wicket win in 1st ODI

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Shimron Hetmyer smashed a career-best 139 ahead of next week's IPL auction, toying with an ordinary looking Indian attack to set up an eight-wicket win for West Indies in the ODI series opener here on Sunday.

Chasing 288 on a slow surface was expected to be a challenging task but thanks to Hetmyer (139 off 106) and opener Shai Hope (102 not out off 150), the visitors raced to victory in 47.5 overs.

The duo shared a decisive 218-run stand for the second wicket after the fall of Sunil Ambris in the fifth over.

India had recovered to 287 for eight after being put in to bat with Shreyas Iyer (70 off 88) scoring his third consecutive half-century and Rishabh Pant (71 off 69) returning to form to silence his critics.

The lack of a specialist fifth bowler hurt India as the combination of debutant Shivam Dube (0/68 in 7.5 overs) and Kedar Jadhav (0/11 in one over) leaked 79 runs in 8.5 overs.

Hetmyer was unstoppable en route to his fifth ODI century, smashing as many as seven sixes including the one that hit the roof. Most of his big hits went sailing over the deep mid-wicket boundary.



West Indies Shimron Hetmyer, left, celebrates with batting partner Shai Hope after scoring a century during the first one day international cricket match

Hope gave solid support to Hetmyer and deservingly completed his eighth ODI hundred. Another talented southpaw like Hetmyer, Nicholas Pooran (29 not out off 23), hit back-to-back boundaries to register a memorable win for West Indies.

The second game of the three-match series will be played in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday.

Earlier, Pant struck his maiden half-century at M S Dhoni's spiritual home to silence his critics as India shrugged off a poor start to post a competitive total.

Iyer, who is emerging as a solid number four, and Pant paired up for a 114-run stand for the fourth wicket after India lost opener K L Rahul (6) and skipper Virat Kohli (4) in the seventh over of the innings.

Rohit Sharma (36 off 56) too struggled on a slow surface before Iyer and Pant resurrected the innings with their gritty partnership.

A quickfire half-century partnership between Kedar Jadhav (40 off 35) and Ravindra Jadeja (21 off 21), who batted ahead of debutant Shivam Dube, provided the thrust in the slog overs.

Left-arm paceman Sheldon Cottrell (2/46 from 10 overs including 3 maidens), Keemo Paul (2/41) and Alzarri Joseph (2/45) were among the wickets for the visiting team.

The home team appeared to be in a spot of bother at 80 for three in the 19th over on a sluggish pitch when Iyer and Pant came together. After taking their time to get going, the two played some splendid shots and were not afraid to hit the ball in the air when the opportunity presented itself.

## KOHLI UNHAPPY WITH JADEJA'S EPISODE

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India captain Virat Kohli on Sunday expressed his strong displeasure at the manner in which Ravindra Jadeja was given run out following a late DRS call in the first ODI against West Indies here on Sunday.

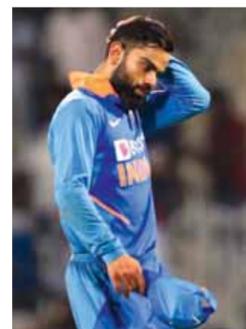
The incident took place in the 48th over when Jadeja went for a quick single and the fielder effected a direct hit at the striker's end. The on-field umpire Shaun George did not give it out though Jadeja appeared to be short of his crease and neither there was an instant appeal from the West Indies players.

However, the on-field umpire made a late referral to the third umpire after the dismissal was shown on the big screen.

Asked for his thoughts on Jadeja's dismissal, Kohli minced no words.

"The thought is simple, the fielder asked 'how is that' and the umpire said 'not out'. The dismissal ends there. The people sitting on the TV outside cannot tell the fielders to then tell the umpire to review it again. I've never seen that happen in cricket," said Kohli following India's eight-wicket loss.

"I don't know where the rules are, where the line is drawn. I think the referee and the umpires



have to take that up, see that incident again. And figure out what needs to be done in cricket. People sitting outside can't dictate what happens on the field. I think that's exactly what happened there," he added.

After Roston Chase hit the stumps from the mid-wicket region, he seemed to ask umpire to have a look at it, but he did not raise his finger.

West Indies skipper Kieron Pollard then took up the issue with umpire George, who subsequently signalled the third umpire to check.

The third umpire ruled Jadeja out after which Kohli looked miffed and rose from his seat

before having a word with the fourth umpire Anil Choudhary. However, he did not enter the field of play.

West Indies skipper Pollard said the right decision was made in the end.

"For me at the end of the day, the right decision was made, which is important. We appealed and the umpire didn't take it at that time, but eventually the right decision was made," said Pollard.

The lack of a specialist fifth bowler hurt India as West Indies chased down 288 rather comfortably. The combination of debutant Shivam Dube (0/68 in 7.5 overs) and Kedar Jadhav (0/11 in one over) leaked 79 runs in 8.5 overs.

"We thought six bowling options will be good enough, specially with the pitch being slow and Kedar as an option. But it played differently under lights. I think they batted really well, you can't take that out of the equation. But I think the ball wasn't holding enough for the fast bowlers," said Kohli.

"Hetmyer was outstanding and Shai as well. It wasn't a drastic change, but a little bit of a change," said the India skipper referring to the hundreds made by Shimron Hetmyer and Shai Hope said Kohli.

## Abid scores hundred in drawn Test

AFP ■ RAWALPINDI

Opener Abid Ali became the first batsman to score hundreds on both Test and one-day debuts as Pakistan's first home match in the long form of the game since the 2009 attack on the visiting Sri Lanka team ended in a tame draw against the same opponents Sunday.

On 95, the 32-year-old hit paceman Vishwa Fernando for a boundary and then drove him through cover for two to complete his hundred, raising his hands in jubilation before kneeling on the ground to offer a prayer of gratitude.

His hundred came in 267 minutes, laced with 11 boundaries, and was the highlight of a Test badly affected by bad weather.

Pakistan finished at 252-2, with stylish batsman Babar Azam knocking his third Test century with a boundary off spinner Dilruwan Perera.

Azam ended with 102 not out, which came in 151 minutes of punishing batting spiced by 14 crisp boundaries.

But the day belonged to Abid, one of 15 batsmen to score a hundred on their one-day international debut - against Australia in Dubai in March his year -- since the inception of limited over cricket in January 1971.

None of the others also scored a century on their debut in Test cricket, which started in 1876. Abid is the 11th Pakistani batsman to score a century on Test debut.

Abid's feat spiced up the historic Test, the first in Pakistan since the 2009 attacks on the Sri Lankan team bus left international cricket suspended in the country.

Only 91.5 overs were possible on the first four days as rain, bad light and overcast conditions affected play. The fourth day was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

But there was bright sunshine on Sunday as Sri Lanka batted for 20 minutes to declare their first innings at 308-6 with middle-order batsman Dhananjaya de Silva scoring an unbeaten 102.

With gates opened to the crowd for free, about 12,000 fans were kept entertained by Dhananjaya and then Abid.

Pakistan lost opener Shan Masood for nought when he drove a full toss from paceman Kasun Rajitha straight into the hands of Dinesh Chandimal at cover Skipper Azhar Ali scored a shaky 36 before he was caught off Lahiru Kumara.

Dhananjaya finally completed his sixth Test century in the morning.

The 28-year-old right-hander drove paceman Mohammad Abbas for his 15th boundary to bring up the hundred in his 28th Test.

De Silva remained unbeaten on 102 after 241 minutes of batting, having come in with the score on 127-4 on Thursday. Dilruwan Perera remained unbeaten on 16.

The pick of the Pakistan bowlers were 16-year-old quickie Naseem Shah, who took 2-92, and Shaheen Shah Afridi with 2-58.

The second Test is in Karachi starting December 19.



Abid Ali raises his bat

## Lyon, Starc power Aus to massive win

AFP ■ PERTH

Australia recorded one of their biggest wins over New Zealand on the fourth day of the first Test at Perth Stadium on Sunday.

Having trailed by 250 runs on the first innings the Kiwis were set a mammoth 468 to win - which would have been a record chase in Test cricket - on a deteriorating pitch after Australia declared at 217 for nine in their second innings.

The visitors were never in contention after losing their first wicket with just six runs on the board and were unable to push the match into a fifth day after Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins cleaned up the Kiwi tail under lights in Perth's first ever day-night Test.

New Zealand were dismissed for 171 and were beaten by 296 runs, the last five wickets falling in a hurry for just 17 runs.

It was just one run shy of their biggest losing margin to Australia - in runs - in a match where both teams batted twice.

Australia's biggest win, other than innings victories, was 297 runs in Auckland in 1974.

Starc (4-45), who claimed nine wickets for the match, and Cummins (2-31) used the pink ball to good effect under lights to bring the match to a quick conclusion after none of the recognised Kiwi batsmen offered significant resistance.

The chase started poorly, with opener Jeet Raval making just one before being caught at



Mitchell Starc celebrates after taking wicket of New Zealand's Neil Wagner

gully by Nathan Lyon (4-63) from the bowling of Starc.

Starc batsman and captain Kane Williamson then made just 14, before falling to Lyon's first ball of the innings.

Williamson got off to a fast start with boundaries from the first two balls he faced, but was caught at short leg fending a ball that bounced and turned sharply off his glove into the hands of Matthew Wade.

Ross Taylor was their last real hope of making a revival but on 22 he tried to pull a Starc delivery and got a bottom edge through to wicketkeeper Tim

Paine to give the left-arm quick his seventh wicket of the match.

Tom Latham showed plenty of application to face 68 balls for his 18, but was given out leg before wicket to Lyon after an Australian DRS review, with umpire Aleem Dar initially giving him not out.

BJ Watling attempted to stem the tide with a gritty 40 and enjoyed a bit of luck as Australia didn't review when he got a faint outside edge through to Paine.

Smith then dropped a tough chance off the bowling of Lyon at first slip. He was given out on review caught down leg side by

Paine off the bowling of Starc after umpire Nigel Llong had turned down the appeal - a dismissal that signalled the end of the Kiwi resistance.

Earlier, Australia's second innings fell away dramatically after being 131 for one at one stage on the third day.

The home team lost seven wickets for 58 runs, as they struggled against a sustained barrage of short-pitched bowling on another hot Perth day.

Tim Southee again impressed with 5-69, after also picking up four wickets in the first innings.

## Aussies on the rise again: Paine

AFP ■ PERTH

Skipper Tim Paine believes Australia is climbing back towards the top of Test cricket after a third successive powerhouse victory at Perth Stadium on Sunday.

The home side went into the Perth Test ranked fifth on the International Cricket Council rankings, while New Zealand were second.

"We are getting there, but we can get better," he said.

"We are still improving, but certainly over the last 18 months there has been dramatic improvement in this cricket team.

"We've got some players back, which are helping, but we have also seen some real improvement in the guys who got a chance 18 months ago, and the experienced guys have come back and put a bit of icing on top.

"We are moving in the right direction and happy with the way we've played in the last three or four Tests."

Paine said it was also pleasing to see other players stepping up, after Smith almost single-handedly retained the Ashes for Australia with his batting heroics in his first series after suspension.



Tim Paine celebrates after Kane Williamson's wicket

For the first time in his career Smith has gone three Tests without a half-century, but Paine actually views that as a positive.

"We touched on at the end of the Ashes," he said.

"We needed other guys to stand up and can't be reliant on Steve.

"Obviously Marnus (Labuschagne) has been unbelievably good, and Davey (Warner) and Joe Burns have been scoring runs.

"If we want to be one of the better teams in the world guys have got to stand up and we can't be reliant on too few.

"We are really happy with how our batting has developed."

## Lakshya wins Bangladesh international challenge

PTI ■ DHAKA



Lakshya Sen in action during Bangladesh International Challenger

Fast-rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen notched up his fifth title of the season, claiming the men's singles crown at the Bangladesh International Challenger with a straight game win over Malaysia's Leong Jun Hao in the final here on Sunday.

The 18-year-old Indian has capped a superb year with a 22-20, 21-18 win over Hao in the summit clash to clinch his fifth title in last seven tournaments.

"Happy to end the year on a winning note with my 5th international title here in Bangladesh!! Hope to continue my good form in the next year 2020. Like to thank all my sponsors @ O G Q \_ I n d i a @ Herbalifeindia @ Y o n e x I n d @Sports\_PDCSE @ppba @bai\_media," Lakshya tweeted.

## Momota wraps 11th title

AFP ■ SHANGHAI

World number one Kento Momota fought back from a game down to win a record 11th title of the year on Sunday with victory at the BWF World Tour Finals.

The peerless Japanese player defeated Indonesia's Anthony Ginting 17-21, 21-17, 21-14 in 87 high-quality minutes in the final at the season-ending showpiece in Guangzhou.

Momota celebrates a new mark in men's badminton, overtaking Malaysian great Lee Chong Wei's 10 tournament wins in 2010.

"At this World Tour Finals I played carefully from the first match partly with the aim of winning an 11th title," the 25-year-old Momota said.

"Even in tough games I did not give up."

Momota was pushed all the way by the speedy Ginting and the Japanese fell 12-5 down in the deciding third game to the world number eight.

However, the reigning two-time world champion surged back.



Kento Momota poses for a photo

Ginting was trailing 17-14 when he called the doctor on court for treatment on his right foot.

The fading Indonesian continued but Momota rammed home his advantage to seal a stellar season in style.

The 23-year-old Ginting has now tasted defeat in all five of his finals this year.

"He led (in the deciding game) but I was patient," said Momota, who was banned for a year in 2016 for illegal gambling.

"And then I got to know that he was suffering pain so all I needed to do was stay calm."

In the women's final China's Chen Yufei also roared back from a game down to defeat Taiwan's Tai Tzu-ying 12-21, 21-12, 21-17.

Chen, who will replace Tai as world number one in the latest rankings, had lost 14 of their previous 15 clashes.

"I'm very excited," said Chen.

"I didn't think much about my 1-14 record against her, I had to focus on the task today."